

Swan Hill better prepared for flash flooding

PLANNING for the flood peak in the Swan Hill area next week has been on in earnest. Shown at a meeting of the Municipal Emergency Management Flood Committee on Tuesday are (from left) Swan Hill shire councillors Bill Maher and Ken Greenham, Swan Hill city engineer Frank Smith, Agriculture Department district veterinarian Doug Harman and CFA deputy regional officer Robin Davies.

This was the first meeting to update the flood situation. Acting Regional officer James Gustus, the State Emergency Service in Swan Hill, said the bulk of Murray River floodwater entering the Echunga area would leave the combined occurrence of a high river, a severe thunderstorm and a power blackout would place parts of the city in jeopardy.

The council has requested a report on the current capacity to handle flooding in the city and, in particular, the requirements to handle flooding if there is a power blackout during a storm. Cr Peter Heighway said Murray and enter the Wakool River system. The expected peak in Swan Hill now been downgraded from 4.80 metres to 4.40 metres.

The SES on Wednesday started broadcasting flood bulletins on Radio 3SH in Swan Hill at noon and 8pm.

RESPONSE to flash flooding in Swan Hill will be quicker and more effective in future following upgrading of the city council's pumping equipment.

Deputy city engineer Frank Mann reported to the council on Tuesday that since the downpour of rain on October 3 pumping capacity had been boosted 300 percent in the city and temporary pumping points had been set up.

The council has requested a report on the current capacity to handle flooding in the city and, in particular, the requirements to handle flooding if there is a power blackout during a storm.

Cr Peter Heighway said Murray and enter the Wakool River system. The expected peak in Swan Hill now been downgraded from 4.80 metres to 4.40 metres.

The council will send letters of appreciation to the district fire brigades,

State Emergency Service, police and Red Cross which responded to the emergency situation when residences in the Milloo Street, Milloo Crescent, Naretha Street and Hastings Street area were under threat of flooding on October 3.

A message of appreciation will also be passed on to council staff members who worked for several hours on the Sunday to ensure the safety of homes.

Mr Mann said nine homes were under threat of flooding, but the danger was averted and none was breached by water. Several houses had water surrounding them.

He said the city's drainage system was stretched to its limit over that weekend.

"The Hastings Street and El Alamein Avenue pumps could not cope with

the flow and the Hastings Street drainage dam overflow caused the problem in Federal Square.

"The existing pumping station has always previously been able to keep stormwater at an acceptable level," Mr Mann said.

Cr Frank Faraci said he believed storms were becoming more intense and the council should consider getting a large portable pump which could be taken to a trouble spot.

Water saved vines from frost damage

WATER-logging in paddocks after heavy rains and flooding saved many vine plantations from frost damage this week.

Independent horticultural consultant Ross Polglase, of Swan Hill, said the water, which had a high heat-conducting capacity, had trapped enough heat during the day to stop soil temperatures from dropping to a frost-risk level.

"Wet soil won't get a frost," Mr Polglase said.

"If the soils had dried out the impact would have been far more severe," he said.

Mr Polglase said he had received one report of very slight frost damage to vines in the district.

He said low-lying areas were most susceptible to frost and their soils had been saturated of late.

The temperature dropped to 2.8 degrees on Sunday night, when there was a light frost.

The mercury fell to 4.5 degrees on Monday night and 5.3 degrees on Tuesday night.

Mr Polglase said the light frosts came too late to benefit stone fruit chilling requirements.

He said the mild winter, particularly August, might not have produced enough sufficiently cold days to meet requirements of high-chill varieties, which needed 1000 "chill days" or more.

But he said most of the stone fruits grown were the Florida varieties,

"A \$10,000 pump could save \$1 million worth of damage," Cr Faraci said.

City engineer Frank Smith said the council was continually upgrading its drainage system, spending about \$400,000 annually in recent years.

which needed only 300 "chill days" or less.

Mr Polglase said growers were worried about yellow circular spots on leaves.

"Of all the spots I've seen, none is downy or powdery mildew," he said.

Mr Polglase said a downy mildew alert had been issued by the Agriculture Department about two weeks ago.

"Oil spots aren't easy to find and growers should search hard next week for signs of the first infection," he said.

CHEST PAIN?

Call Ambulance on 11440

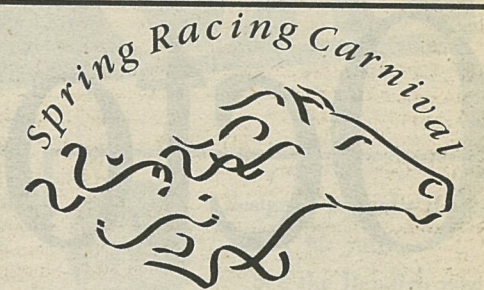
'THE WARDROBE' NEW STOCK

Shoes, handbags, jeans, denim shorts and more

OPEN ALL WEEKEND

9am-1pm Saturday
8am-1pm Sunday
See you there!

136 Curlewis Street, Swan Hill
(opposite the Big Cod)



Place your bets at the FEDERAL HOTEL

Don't forget the **Caulfield Cup**
Tomorrow, October 16

Call in for a **Counter Lunch**

and enter your losing bets in the draw for a weekend for two to MY FAIR LADY

Just Across the Bridge
Phone (050) 32-1238

Inspect Melbourne's Grandest City Apartments without leaving Swan Hill

Grand Central
APARTMENTS



The unique development of this historic landmark, represents a statement in stylish living and property investment that may never be repeated.

One, two and three bedroom apartments (with or without study)

★ Exciting split level mezzanine designs
★ Resident facilities included in price — pool, gym, sauna, spa, function room, resident caretaker.

Detailed plans, scale models and financial analysis will be on display for your inspection during a free exhibition at:—

Le Marra's Room, White Swan Hotel
Swan Hill

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28
4-8pm

Phone Wood & Co for a sneak preview

Associated Marketing Agents:

Wood & Co FIRST NATIONAL
REAL ESTATE

199 Campbell Street, Swan Hill
Phone (050) 32-2657



Pennisi FIRST NATIONAL
REAL ESTATE

255C Keilor Road, North Essendon
Phone (03) 379-5616

M. SMITH BUILDERS

Bryan & Lisa Smith
Phone (050) 30 2731
Mobile 018 500 731

es, Alterations, Extensions

QUOTES HIA Star
Murray Valley Highway, M

POST

Season's Inner Clothing Arrived

Labels in sizes to teens include:oppers, Rejo, Littleellybeans, Marquise, Osh Kosh, Lois Lane, bit, Baby JB, JB Junior / more, plus a wide nats

KOSH SUMMER S NOW IN STOCK

elcome
Safeway Plaza
32-3400

PIONEER

BRAND SEEDS
ark of Pioneer Hi-Bred International

For further information
phone your local
Pioneer Area Manager

DAVID BURCHAM,
PH: (054) 80 9277

or Local Distributor

SWAN HILL CHEMICALS
PH: (050) 32 9255