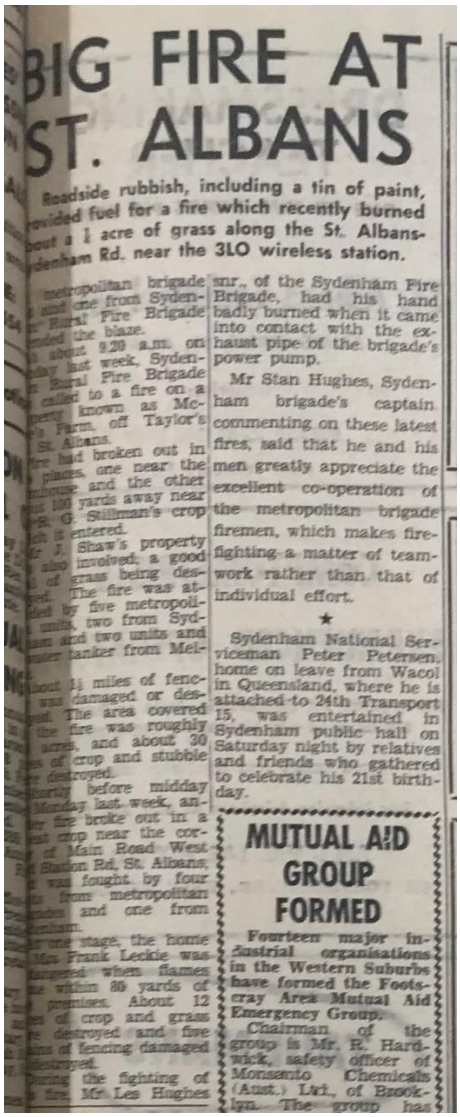
Sunshine Advocate

Big fire at St. Albans

1st February 1968 Page 15



BIG FIRE AT ST. ALBANS

Roadside rubbish, including a tin of paint, provided fuel for a fire which recently burned about a ½ acre of grass along the St. Albans-Sydenham Rd. near the 3LO wireless station.

metropolitan brigade and one from Sydenham Rural Fire Brigade attended the blaze.

At about 9.20 a.m. on Friday last week, Sydenham Rural Fire Brigade was called to a fire on a property known as McPhee's Farm, off Taylor's Rd., St. Albans.

Fire had broken out in two places, one near the farmhouse and the other about 100 yards away near Mr. G. Stillman's crop which it entered.

Mr. J. Shaw's property was also involved, a good deal of grass being destroyed. The fire was attended by five metropolitan units, two from Sydenham and two units and a water tanker from Melbourne.

About 1½ miles of fence was damaged or destroyed. The area covered by the fire was roughly 100 acres, and about 30 acres of crop and stubble were destroyed.

Shortly before midday on Monday last week, another fire broke out in a wheat crop near the corner of Main Road West and Station Rd, St. Albans. It was fought by four units from metropolitan brigades and one from Sydenham.

At one stage, the home of Mrs. Frank Leckie was endangered when flames came within 80 yards of the premises. About 12 acres of crop and grass were destroyed and five chains of fencing damaged or destroyed.

During the fighting of the fire, Mr. Les Hughes snr., of the Sydenham Fire Brigade, had his hand badly burned when it came into contact with the exhaust pipe of the brigade's power pump.

Mr Stan Hughes, Sydenham brigade's captain commenting on these latest fires, said that he and his men greatly appreciate the excellent co-operation of the metropolitan brigade firemen, which makes fire-fighting a matter of teamwork rather than that of individual effort.

★

Sydenham National Serviceman Peter Petersen, home on leave from Wacol in Queensland, where he is attached to 24th Transport 15, was entertained in Sydenham public hall on Saturday night by relatives and friends who gathered to celebrate his 21st birthday.

MUTUAL AID GROUP FORMED

Fourteen major industrial organisations in the Western Suburbs have formed the Footscray Area Mutual Aid Emergency Group.

Chairman of the group is Mr. R. Hardwick, safety officer of Monsanto Chemicals (Aust.) Ltd., of Brooklyn. The group has