

THE HEAT WAVE

TRYING CONDITIONS CONTINUE

THREE SUNSTROKE CASES AT CANBERRA

FATALITY REPORTED AT YASS

For seven consecutive days residents of Canberra have experienced temperatures in excess of the century. Yesterday's maximum of 107.4 degrees was reached at 3.30 p.m., which is just one degree below the record established on Tuesday.

The conditions last evening were made more trying by the smoke and heat which were blown over the town from the fires that had broken out at Uriarra.

Extreme heat continued until midnight and at 11 p.m. the temperature reading was 98.4 degrees, with a humidity of 67 per cent. Three persons had to receive hospital treatment consequent on the heat. One death occurred at Yass.

Despite forecasts earlier in the week that the heat wave was about to break, Canberra has experienced little relief from the trying conditions, the heat wave being the longest on record. When the thermometer recorded 102 degrees early in the afternoon, a north-easterly wind sprang up. An official at the Acton offices is reported to have watched the mercury rise two points in as many minutes.

Many extraordinary sights were witnessed in Canberra last night. Some residents, in order to escape from the intense heat, endeavoured to get cool under the water which was being sprayed on their lawns.

Occupants of cars, finding the heat unbearable, left their vehicles and, clad in singlets and shorts, stretched out on the grass plantations along Commonwealth Avenue. The baths

were fully patronised and that emphasised the need for further provision in the city.

The effects of static electricity were reported by the drivers of many cars, particularly closed vehicles where the drivers developed an opposite charge to that of the bodywork. Some drivers declared that they could not only feel the static electricity but could hear it.

Heat was largely responsible for many bicycles being disabled through the melting of solution on puncture patches on tyres.

Ice works had to restrict deliveries of ice yesterday afternoon to regular customers, and the Commonwealth Cordial Factory reported an increased demand for aerated waters, etc., while hotels also did an increased trade.

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Sunstroke Victims

Early yesterday morning a young man was overcome by the heat, and was removed from his home at Causeway to the hospital by the Canberra Ambulance. During the evening two persons were treated at hospital for heatstroke.

A young man was admitted to hospital with a broken arm, received when he slipped on a lawn near Kingston shops.

109 Degrees at Yass

A maximum temperature of 109 degrees was recorded at Yass yesterday. Several grass fires were reported from outlying districts; an extensive outbreak at Binalong was brought under control by fire fighters.

Fires in the hills to the south-west of Yass are engaging the attention of farmers and pastoralists, but details were not available last night.

John England, 45, of Walker street, Yass, and formerly of Murrumbateman, collapsed and died from a heart seizure near his home yesterday. The funeral will take place to the Yass Cemetery to-day.

MELBOURNE, Friday.

Gruelling day temperatures of 114.1 degrees were suffered by the residents of Melbourne and suburbs. The temperature created a new record, exceeding the 112.5 degrees of last Tuesday.