

MAV 01237

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"The fire, after burning down the fences at the back, badly scorching a tennis pavilion and consuming some out-houses, was stayed in that direction by the fire-fighters, but in the front the flames burnt up the grass on the lawns. A gardener's house attached to the estate was almost surrounded, but it was saved by a shift in the wind.

"The flames jumped the Beach Road in three places and burnt off the scrub in spots on the cliffs overlooking the Bay. The Beaumaris tram had to be suspended and no cars could pass between Black Rock and Beaumaris for two hours. At Rickett's Point Mrs. Goynan and two other lady friends, who had rented a furnished house there, had gone down to the beach early in the morning, oblivious of the existence of the fire. On ascending to the road some time later, when the smoke-laden atmosphere suggested that something unusual was happening, they found two charred chimney stacks and some glowing embers represented all that remained of their seaside home. The house was a six-roomed weather-board villa owned by Mr. McKenzie, grocer, of Hawthorn, whose furniture, valued at £150, perished with it. The furniture was not insured but the building was insured for £400. Mrs. Goynan and her friend suffered the loss of cutlery, linen and jewellery valued at £50. Backward from the road the fire encircled the hut from behind Lang's, and seized on the outbuildings of a building occupied by a family named Holding. Their stable was destroyed and at one time the house was surrounded by fire. Mr. Holding's loss is about £80."

. . . so the fire of 1907 raged on. T. H. Farrell's house at Rickett's Point had a narrow escape, the Swiss Chalet owned by Mr. W. H. Hodgetts was singed, Mr. Chipperfield's wine cafe in the bend of Beach Road had a narrow escape. After 4 p.m. the amateur fire brigade was reinforced by firemen from Brighton, Mentone and Sandringham. Melbourne central Brigade, with the chemical engine and other apparatus, also arrived and the flames were placed under control. The fire, swinging from Holdings' to the Beaumaris Hall, where it was eventually arrested, had completed the extent of its damage.

During the day the firefighters were supplied with refreshments from Mr. Chipperfield's wine cafe. Mr. Chipperfield supplied the volunteers with soft drinks and sandwiches free of charge.