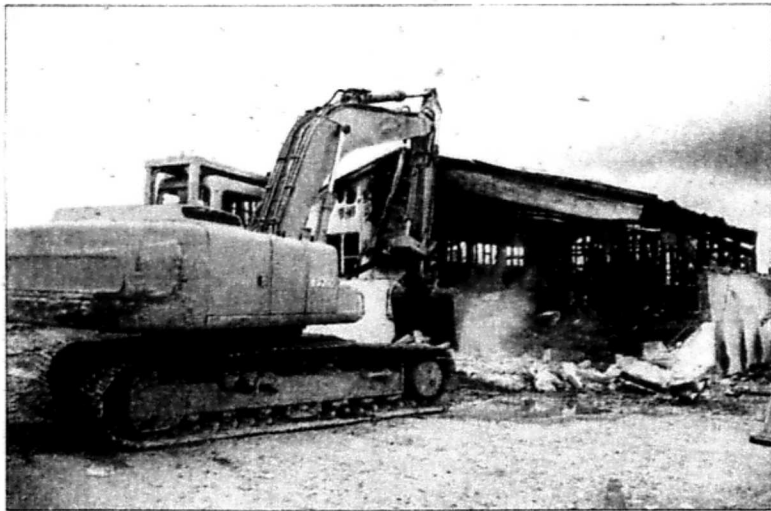




Normanby Town Hall is pulled down due to the risk from loose building material.

Photo: MIKE SCOTT

Club gear also lost in blaze

Normanby hall fire costs organisation thousands

By GRETA CLEARY

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MORE than just a hall has been lost because of the fire in Normanby this week.

Some of about 10 community groups and clubs who used the venue regularly lost gear that was stored inside.

Normanby Athletics Club secretary Karen Brooks said she had managed to sift through the remains yesterday to see what was salvageable.

"We had everything in there. We thought it would all be gone but not all

was lost." While some things can be cleaned up, the club's sound system melted in the blaze and some equipment is irreparable.

"We're devastated but we'll get on and order replacements. Some things might arrive straight away and some things might take months but we start again in the first week of October."

She hasn't tallied the figures but estimates the damage will cost the club thousands of dollars — and the worst part is she's not sure the club was insured.

"I checked when the hall was burning and premiums were paid up until 2005 but I haven't been able to find anything beyond that."

There may be a reprieve for the club and other groups in a similar position.

Maria Ramsey from TSB Community Trust said although applications closed last week for funding, late ones would be accepted next week for groups affected by the fire.

"It's not guaranteed they will get the grant but we're willing to accept applications. These are exceptional circumstances."

Gladioli Society president Spud Brogden said they had been using the hall for about 52 years.

Timber staging, roles of cloth, vases and shields awarded to their champions were gone.

"I understand a couple of things might be salvageable but I don't hold much hope."

Like the athletics club, the society wasn't insured.