

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

The Brotherhood helps all in need and endeavours to arouse thought and action on social questions.

FITZROY

DECEMBER, 1956.

No. 121

The Superior writes on . . .



TV SETS FOR B.S.L. CENTRES

The week before TV began in Melbourne a man walked into a Mornington TV dealer's shop and ordered a set to be delivered to the Brotherhood's Holiday Home, "Morven."

From the first night of television, age pensioners holidaying at "Morven" have been enjoying television programmes.

At the "Coolibah" Club in Fitzroy, the members decided to save pennies and threepences to buy a set for the Club. At their rate of saving it looked as if it might be years before they could purchase a set when another anonymous donor presented the Club with a set.

These sets will give tremendous enjoyment to old people who have no money to spend on pictures or recreation of any kind and who in most cases live in bleak and cheerless rooms.

The Carrum Downs residents hope that they too can be brought into the circle of TV viewers before long.

CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS

On the road to Adelaide.

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

As I am on a country and interstate trip my letter this time can only be a mere note. With a car, a good companion and a caravan I am having the kind of break I much enjoy. The chief object of the trip is to enable me to consult with others on the formation of Settlements such as ours at Carrum Downs. It is good to know that the Settlement idea is "catching on" throughout Australia.

The chief object of the note is to thank you for all you have enabled us to do, not only during this year, but all the years that have gone before. That the Brotherhood goes on from strength to strength is under the hand of God and due to sympathy and generosity of you, our Friends.

I pray that Christmas may be a time of much happiness to you and those you love. As little as it may be deserved, God does bless and give happiness to those who give happiness to others. This you do and for this you are blessed.

Elsewhere in the "NOTES" you will learn something of our plans for Christmas. In making plans for your families and friends I know you will not forget our ever growing "family" who look to us and to you for that special ray of happiness for those who know little of the true joy of living.

Creetings to you all,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR B.S.L. FRIENDS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

THANKS BE!

The autobiography of FATHER TUCKER
On sale at 51 Royal Arcade
Melbourne.

12/6
Post Free.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN CARRYING OUT THIS CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

In a time of general prosperity it is easy to forget that there are several thousands of people to whom Christmas is a mockery unless the Brotherhood or some other welfare organisation is able to provide a hamper, a gift, a toy, a holiday, a party or some other practical expression of Christmas goodwill.

We know these people. They are the aged, the widows and deserted wives with families, the kiddies from large families with small incomes. This year we know more than ever before, and we know their need is genuine.

Our most important job is to work with and for them throughout the year, but we feel that they have a right to the "something extra" at Christmas, so on behalf of our B.S.L. Friends we hope to carry out this Christmas and holiday programme.

A BLEAK CHRISTMAS FOR THE AGED UNLESS—

It will be a bleak Christmas for many old age pensioners who must strive to live on £4 a week in the face of continually rising prices. Last year the Brotherhood touched the lives of 1,800 age pensioners, a truly remarkable number.

Of these, 600 received Brotherhood food and gift parcels, 160 sat down to Christmas dinner at the Coolibah Club, 268 attended outside functions and 40 lonely old people spent Christmas day in private homes arranged by the Brotherhood.

In addition the names of 800 other pensioners whom we could not help were passed on to the "Herald's" parcels for pensioners fund.

The Personal Touch.

We believe that indiscriminate giving is not the best way of meeting needs, and that the way in which a gift is given can be as im-

portant as the contents. Great care is taken to wrap food and gifts attractively and make up parcels to meet the needs of each particular age pensioner. The gifts are then personally delivered by our staff and voluntary helpers.

Christmas Party.

Each year our Fitzroy Shop helpers entertain elderly citizens at a Christmas party.

Club Dinner.

This year the Coolibah expects to have to cater for 160 elderly Coolibah Club members at the Christmas Dinner on December 21st.

CAMPS ARE MORE THAN A HOLIDAY

Apart from the obvious benefits of fresh air, sunshine and a change from overcrowded homes and narrow streets, holiday camps offer an opportunity of teaching youngsters how to get on with others and how to take responsibility for domestic and other tasks. Each Brotherhood camp is in charge of a senior qualified person assisted by 8 or so voluntary camp leaders. These are usually senior boys and girls from public and high schools, University or young working people who give up their holidays to staff the camps.

Each group leader is responsible for some eight children and it is the relationship that develops between the children and their young leaders that is so important.

The various groups take turns in laying tables, serving meals, washing up and keeping their tents in order. Evening entertainments such as concerts are staged by the children themselves.

This year for the first time the new recreation hut will be in use as a dining room and recreation room for the evenings and in wet weather.

The television set at "Morven" will be an added attraction this year and each night a small group of campers will be allowed to watch suitable programmes on the "Morven" TV set.

HAMPERS AND GIFTS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

For a large family with a small income Christmas can be a time of sadness for parents who are unable to provide even the smallest gift for their children or add anything to usual year round menu on Christmas day.

We know of many families with income of £14 to £16, and from 5 to 10 children. In some cases the husband has deserted or the mother is a widow or the breadwinner's income is the invalid pension. We hope to be able to provide a good hamper and toys for 200 of these families.

HERE'S WHERE MANY MELBOURNE CHILDREN WILL SPEND THEIR SUMMER HOLIDAYS—



**But with your help we will provide Camps and Beach Picnics
for 1,000 youngsters.**



Alleyway or beach? We have no doubt ourselves as to which is the healthier playground! We have the children who need the holidays, and need is the only factor in the choice of those 300 children who will enjoy a week at a beach holiday camp. The cost of sponsoring a child is £2. What wonderful value for a small investment! In addition to the camps some 700 other children will enjoy day outings to the beach.

RESULT OF SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL

The Brotherhood's Silver Jubilee Building Appeal which was carried on throughout 1956 raised a total of £21,000. The money was raised by donations and through the "Mum and Dad" Quest.

The money will be used to carry out urgently needed extensions at Fitzroy. It may not be possible to do all we had hoped but plans are being drawn up for additional office space which is badly needed and for extensions to the Youth Centre.

MARKET FAIR RAISED £555

This year's Annual Market Fair raised £555. This is less than in recent years, but it was a good amount, as the Fair had to be held in Scots Church Hall as the Melbourne Town Hall was closed for Olympic re-decorations. Our thanks to the many who worked so hard for the Fair.

CAROLS AT CARRUM DOWNS

A buffet tea and carol singing on Christmas evening will be a highlight of Christmas celebrations at Carrum Downs. B.S.L. Friends are invited to the supper and singing.

The Christmas Day service will be held at 10 a.m. and Christmas Dinner for all residents will be served in the cafeteria and community centre hall.

CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY CALENDAR

A BUSY MONTH FOR B.S.L. STAFF AND VOLUNTARY HELPERS

Saturday, 15th December.

Dinner and theatre night for senior boys and girls of the Youth Club.

Tuesday, 18th December, 6.30 p.m.

Party in St. Mary's Hall, Fitzroy, for children under 9.

Thursday, 20th December.

Party for children aged 9 to 14 in St. Mary's Hall.

Friday, 21st December.

Coolibah Club Christmas Dinner at 1 p.m.
Parcel distribution will continue to Christmas Eve.

Saturday, 22nd December.

Seven day holiday camp for senior working boys at Mornington.

Saturday, 29th December.

Eight day camp for girls.

Monday, 7th January.

Eight day camp for boys from Fitzroy.

Wednesday, 16th January.

Eight day camp for girls.

Friday, 25th January.

Eight day camp for boys.

Friday, 18th January.

Commencement of daily beach picnics for 700 children from Fitzroy, Carlton, inner suburbs and outer Housing Commission areas.

I should like my Christmas donation to go towards—

- Christmas parcels for families and pensioners.
- Christmas cheer for old folks.
- Children's party.
- Children's Holiday Camps.

● Please mark your preference.

Christmas Donation

Slip

TO THE SUPERIOR, B.S.L.,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

Please find my donation for £ :

Name MR.
MRS.
MISS

Address.....

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."