

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

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

FITZROY

JUNE, 1957

No. 124

The Superior writes on . . .

SECURITY AND INTERESTS FOR AGED. PENSIONS PLAN — — NEW GROUPS.

Dear B. S. L. Friends,

I find that only when one begins to tackle a problem that one realises all that there is in that problem. Such most certainly has been our experience in trying to do something about solving the problems of the aged. It is now just ten years since we began to provide at Carrum Downs for the housing needs of the aged. I think I can say that this venture has been successful.

We have visitors from all parts of the Commonwealth and many from overseas. All speak highly of what they see. I am never tired of saying however, that the success of the work is due to a very large extent to the elderly people themselves. They are not mere inmates (a hateful word) but are co-operators in a very worthwhile enterprise. Most are not only living happy lives but also productive lives.

INTERESTS

What pleases me perhaps more than anything else at Carrum Downs is that we are proving that old age in itself need not deprive the individual from being a useful member of society. We are demonstrating also that a sense of security and an interest in life do much to retard those infirmities common to advancing years.

All this is very satisfactory, but there is another side, and that is

VISITORS' HOSTEL AT CARRUM DOWNS

Accommodation is now available at Carrum Downs for visitors who would like to stay at the Settlement for a few days. It is available for friends of residents whose cottages are not large enough to accommodate visitors to stay with them and for visitors from the country or interstate who would like to see the Settlement at first hand.

The hostel is St. Stephen's House, an old cottage which has been renovated to provide accommodation for up to five single people or two married couples.

There are cooking facilities for making breakfast and other meals are available at the Settlement Cafeteria. A small charge is made for accommodation.

For further information contact Mr. Croger, the Welfare Officer at the Settlement.



A cottage at Carrum Downs. Illustration from "The Carrum Downs Story"

that literally hundreds of people apply from all parts of Australia to become members of our community. In one week I received applications from as far apart as Cairns and Perth. It is distressing to have to tell those who apply that there are no vacancies and the lot of many of those who apply is pathetic indeed. It is good to know that efforts are being made to establish settlements such as ours in all the States. We do what we can to further the efforts.

NEW SOCIETY

An organisation styled the "Society for the Promotion of Communities for Active Elderly People" has recently been formed of which Dr Straede of Bendigo

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Superior's letter—continued

is President, and I am Organiser. Part of the objective of the Society is to promote thought on the problem of the aged and to encourage people to prepare for old age before it becomes a reality. If this is done not only would old age be robbed of many of its disabilities but the end of life would be no less happy and useful than at any other period. I would advise all 'not so youngs' to think very seriously about this matter. It is a mistake to drift on until one is really old for then it might well be too late.

HELP THE NEEDIEST

There is another aspect of this matter to which I would refer and that is the question of pensions. A very interesting booklet entitled "Raising Aged Pensions" by Professor R. I. Downing has recently been published and should be read by all who have the welfare of pensioners at heart. I was specially interested in what the writer said in regard to pensioners who live alone and therefore have no one to share with them overhead costs, heating, lighting and I would add food, for a meal for two people is not double the cost of a meal for one. The Professor recommends that 7/6 per week should be added to the pensions of those living by themselves. I would make it at least 10/- per week.

He also proposes additional payments for pensioners paying high rents or having special needs.

It would seem that at least the conscience of the community is being aroused in regard to the des-

perate state of many old people. Something at last is being done but still more remains to be done. In the meantime I know we can continue to rely upon your help in our efforts to contribute towards the solving of this problem. It is of course well known that old people feel the cold more than do younger people.

This thought comes to my mind during these cold months when I think of those numbers of decent old folk who cannot afford any heating appliances in their often damp rooms, and who are often insufficiently clad to withstand the rigours of winter. It is good to know that through your co-operation we are able to relieve the suffering of some, at any rate, of those who look to the B.S.L. for help.

Our Greetings to you all and our thanks too for the encouragement you give us. It is cheering to realise that as our work grows so do the number of our Friends grow. The number of new B.S.L. Groups recently formed through the work of Miss Rawlins is most encouraging.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

P.S.

I wonder if any of you country folk would let me have some tree ferns and staghorns? We are

making what I hope will be a very attractive bush corner around which are built our Collins Court flats at Carrum Downs.

G.K.T.

ITS TIME FOR FIREWOOD

Each year the Brotherhood supplies firewood for old age and invalid pensioners who do not receive any from the local Councils. There are many hundreds of old people in the inner suburbs who are not covered by the limited Council schemes and many of these are looking to the Brotherhood now that winter is near. Already many requests have come in. Last year it was found that briquettes were more economical and effective and it is hoped that briquettes will be available again this year.

Briquettes will cost approximately 8/- a bag and we hope to be able to provide warmth for 150-200 pensioners.

WANTED

Young priest or layman for secretarial and organising duties to assist the Superior in launching new project of national importance. Reasonable salary, bachelor quarters.

Apply

the Rev. G. Kennedy Tucker,
B.S.L. Carrum Downs.

Just Out!**"THE CARRUM DOWNS STORY"**

an account of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence Village Settlement, Carrum Downs, with a Foreword by Mr. F. H. Rowe, Director-General, Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

This booklet has been prepared in response to the demand for an illustrated and informative booklet on the Settlement. "The Carrum Downs Story" is a 32 page booklet with over 20 illustrations of every phase of Settlement life. The history of the Settlement; the building programme; types of cottages; community life; resident participation; costs; management and the aims of the Settlement are described in detail.

"The Carrum Downs Story" should be of interest to B.S.L. Friends who have followed the growth of the Settlement and made it possible. You may like to send a copy to people who are interested in the housing and welfare of elderly people.

Price 2/- plus postage, 3½d. Copies available from 51 Royal Arcade, Melbourne, C.1.



The Community Centre Cafeteria.

CARRUM DOWNS NOTES

● Residents have taken on the job of placing magazines in envelopes for General Motors-Holden's of Dandenong. Recently 14,000 magazines were "enveloped" by a group of residents and more of this work has been offered by the firm.

● The Settlement Band made its first public appearance recently when it performed to a visiting group of elderly people from Alphington.

● Residents raised £67 from a Penny Drive organised in Frankston.

● The Indoor Bowls Club and the Cards Club meet regularly in the Community Centre and both have a growing and active membership.

● Visitors to the Settlement may wonder at the large heap of sand on the corner of the Frankston Highway and Tuxen Avenue. A combined residence and Enquiry Bureau will be built on this site.

● Settlement residents plan well ahead. They have already set the date for their Annual Market Fair which will be held on September 28th.

● Staff members of the Brotherhood and others from Fitzroy, Carrum Downs and Mornington attend Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m. on the first Monday of every month at the Settlement Chapel.

CHILDRENS' CENTRE LOYALTY CAMPAIGN

During the months of April, May and June, Club loyalty campaigns is operating to stimulate interest of both children and parents. Each month concludes with a Sunday evening tea and church attendance.

A Mother and Daughter night was held in April. After mothers had seen the girls engage in various club activities two of the leaders screened films of a recent trip to New Zealand.

The Father and Son Welfare Movement co-operated in arrangements for a Father and Son night.

Boys and girls are practising for a concert to be given to the members of the Coolibah Club on Friday, 7th June.

WANTED—MORE SPACE

With the opening of the Salvage Division a portion of the building known as "the shop" became vacant. Immediately the possibility of converting this area into a craft room was realized. With permission to go ahead the boys showed their keenness to expand this section of the work which has been hindered because of the lack of space. Clothing racks and cupboards were removed, ceiling and walls painted in pastel colours.

Boys will use the room on Monday and Wednesday nights for

carpentry and on Tuesday night a Home Nursing course will be commenced for a group of girls.

GOOD START WITH SALVAGE DEPT.

The Brotherhood's new Salvage Division announced in the last issue of the "Notes" has made a good start. This is due to the many offers of goods and the work of the voluntary helpers who sort and repair clothes and household articles.

There have been some headaches due to transport difficulties, and the large number of offers made at the one time but these are gradually being overcome. It is hoped that definite days will be rostered for collections of clothing in the various suburbs but this is not always possible with furniture as the Brotherhood has to depend on an outside carrier for collection.

Most of the sorting is done by ladies from the Fitzroy Shop Helpers Auxiliary who would welcome offers of further help on Wednesdays.

Groups of young people, most of them from the Church of England Fellowships, work at the Division on Monday and Thursday evenings.

With winter approaching, our social workers are asking for more children's clothing, particularly underwear for large low-income families.



The Settlement Store.

B. S. L. GROUP NEWS.

TWO MORE NEW GROUPS FORMED

Two more new groups have been formed since our last issue. Members of St. Anselm's Church met a challenge from Father Tucker when, at a meeting held in the Vicarage on May 8th, they formed a B.S.L. Auxiliary. Their first activity is to have a trip to Carrum Downs on May 25th and inspired by this visit, they will hold a meeting at the home of Mrs. Felgate of 43 Harold Street, Middle Park, at 8 p.m. on May 27th (MX 1623). Any person interested is invited to attend.

● **HELP FOR CHILDREN'S CENTRE:**

Sister Pitman of our Children's Centre Staff has formed "The Cushion Club" of young married couples. The Club held its first meeting at the home of Mrs. Pitman at North Balwyn on Saturday, May 11th. The Club aims to meet every month and to raise enough money to help provide two film nights a month for the Children's Centres at Tyler Street and Fitzroy.

● **CHELTENHAM GROUP:**

This group have made plans for a busy time ahead. On the 11th June they are holding a beetle afternoon at the home of Mrs. Edmonds, Spray Street, Parkdale. A picture night will be held at Mrs. Bird's home, Bowman Street, Mordialloc, on the 28th June. The Mentone street stall held last month raised the excellent sum of £30/15/0.

● **GLEN IRIS GROUP:**

This group had a very successful meeting on the 8th May, at which Mrs. Burnett gave a very interesting address. Further functions will be arranged at their next meeting.

● **HUGHESDALE-MURRUMBEENA GROUP:**

Father Tucker was guest speaker at an enjoyable luncheon organised by this group which

raised £21/12/0. The group is very busy helping to stock and run the Malvern Opportunity Shop in the Victory Super Market, Malvern.

● **ORMOND AUXILIARY:**

This auxiliary which was formed on March 20th, is now firmly established. Already they have had a street stall in North Road, at which they raised over £20. Each member of the auxiliary has been given "5/- Talent Money" and it is hoped that a large sum will be raised through efforts. An interesting programme has been arranged for the first Tuesday of each month at which there will also be a "bring-a-gift-and-buy-a-gift" stall. Mrs. Simpson (LW 2314) would be happy to hear from any ladies interested in the work of the Brotherhood. This auxiliary also, is helping to stock and run the new opportunity shop at St. Kilda.

● **INTERNATIONAL LUNCHESES:**

The newly-formed Camberwell Auxiliary have planned a series of monthly international luncheons. The first one was a very successful Spanish luncheon which was held at the home of Mrs. G. Hall, 2 Stoddart Avenue, Camberwell, on May 9th. Mrs. Xippel, the wife of the Spanish Vice-Consul gave an interesting address. Mr. Christensen, the Danish Consul, will be the guest speaker at a

Danish luncheon to be held at Mrs. Hall's home on June 6th. Anybody who would like to come to these luncheons, should ring Mrs. Hall at BX 4854 by June 3rd.

● **ARCHDEACON SAMBELL** will outline the work of the Brotherhood at a meeting called by Mrs. K. D. Green at her home at 226 Were Street, East Brighton, on Wednesday, June 5th at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped that an auxiliary will be formed to help support the work of the Brotherhood. Anybody interested to be at the meeting will be very welcome.—phone XB 1085.

● **MORNINGTON AUXILIARY** have been permitted the use of a cottage in the main street at Mornington, by courtesy of the A.N.Z. Bank, to open an opportunity shop. The auxiliary are working very hard to decorate and paint the place and hope to open in June. Mrs. M. McLaren, a member of the auxiliary, will be in charge. Proceeds will go towards our holiday home.

● **ESSENDON GROUP** are planning a picture night on 15th June, at the home of Mrs. Cook, Fitzgerald Street, Essendon. Anyone who would care to attend should phone Mrs. Shatock, who is the leader of the group, at FX 3469.

TIME EXHIBITION TO AID B.S.L.

The oldest clock, the latest clock, the largest clock, the smallest clock will all be on show at "The Time Exhibition" to be held in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on July 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The exhibition has been organised with the co-operation of the Horological Guild of Australia.

All leading manufacturers of time pieces will exhibit and proceeds will go to the Brotherhood. Don't miss this interesting exhibition.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.I. Central 2721

Please find my donation £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

ADDRESS.....

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

BUS TRIPS TO CARRUM DOWNS

The regular monthly bus trip to Carrum Downs will be on—

- Saturday, June 8th.
- Saturday, July 13th.
- Saturday, August 10th.

Bus tickets, 6/6 return, are available from 51 Royal Arcade.