

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence

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

FITZROY

DECEMBER, 1958

No. 133

The Superior writes on . . .

CHRISTMAS

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

Although I am not very keen on television I would like to be able to have a programme made of all our pre-Christmas activities and in some way allow you to see it as a Christmas present from us. I know you would be pleased with it, for, if it met with my requirements, it would depict the happiness and appreciation of those taking part in our various parties and other gestures of Christmas goodwill.

I wonder which of the several sections of the programme you would enjoy the most. Perhaps the pre-Christmas dinner for our Coolibah Club people. By means of good food, good presents, decorations, laughter and song, for a brief period they are able to forget the usual drabness of their lives and have a share in the prevailing spirit of goodwill. It is the feeling of being "out of things" that must be so hard to take by those who have no share in Christmas celebrations.

It is with this thought in mind that we try to see that none are forgotten. It seems to be the same every year for when we think all have been cared for, news comes that this family or that have absolutely nothing with which to celebrate — no presents for the children, nothing special for dinner, but these too must be catered for. I could enlarge upon our plans for the Christmas season. I could tell of the parcels for our old folk (I can assure you that with pensioners who are on or even below the breadline they are greatly appreciated) and of the treats for children, but it is sufficient

for me to say that what you give to enable us to make all this happiness possible is more appreciated than I can say. The T.V. programme of my imagination would be called "THANK YOU B.S.L. FRIENDS."

I know that all that I have written is on the materialistic level — food, presents, having a good time. True, but is not to provide for those in need but to follow the example of Him who came at Christmas time? When people were hungry and others in need of help He provided for their need. For this purpose He had come. From the material He would lead to the spiritual. This, too, we try to do. Our endeavour is to demonstrate Christianity in action.

FOUNDATION FESTIVAL

Will those living in or near Melbourne please take note of this date, time and place — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th, at 7 p.m. AT CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTH YARRA. With kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. S. T. Ball, we are to hold our 28th Foundation Festival in that church. The preacher will be the Rev. Alfred Bird, Chaplain of

**BROTHERHOOD
FOUNDATION FESTIVAL**
CHRIST CHURCH
SOUTH YARRA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th,
at 7 p.m.
Preacher: The Rev. A. Bird,
Chaplain of Trinity College.

Trinity College. I would dearly love to see that big church, which, incidentally, has very happy and warm memories for me, filled with B.S.L. Friends gathering together to thank God for His many blessings over the years.

Taken up so much with material things we are apt to forget that all our efforts would be in vain were it not for the blessing of Almighty God. DO TRY TO BE WITH US. There is to be a social gathering in the Parish Hall at the conclusion of the service.

My last word is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of all good things for the years to come. That God may bless you who do much to bring blessings to others is my prayer for you all. Christmas time is a busy one for our staff, but such a happy time. We realise that it could only be a happy time through your generosity, for this we all say, Thank you very much.

I am,
Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

**BROTHERHOOD
CHRISTMAS CARDS**

1/- EACH from
51 ROYAL ARCADE
OR BROTHERHOOD
OPPORTUNITY SHOP

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

Each year the number of men, women and children who turn to the Brotherhood for advice, material help and guidance steadily increases. At Christmas the Brotherhood depends on its many friends to provide the money or goods to bring something of the joys of Christmas to people to whom Christmas Day would otherwise be just another day in the year.

The people we help are all existing on meagre social service benefits. They are old people with pensions of £4/7/6 a week and usually paying high rents. There are many widows and deserted wives among our "family." A widow with two or five children receives only £5/12/6 a week with some additional help from the Children's Welfare Department. This year there are many families on our lists where the father is unemployed and receives only the benefit of £6/2/6 a week.

These people have no hope of providing any of the gifts and good things that are associated with Christmas. We ask you to share your Christmas with them through the Brotherhood.

TAKE THE CASE OF...

- Mrs. B. whose husband has been unemployed for the past three months. There are six children in the family and their income has averaged £8 a week. They look to the Brotherhood for some toys for children and a food parcel for Christmas.
- Mr. H. is an old age pensioner who is partially blind. He lives in a dingy room and pays 25/- a week out of his pension in rent. He will receive surprise parcel of food and personal gifts on Christmas Eve.
- Mrs. W. has written from the country. She has an invalid pensioner husband and seven children. She manages particularly well but has no hope of providing anything "extra" for Christmas.
- Mrs. K's husband deserted the family after a period out of work. She receives only a special benefit from the Commonwealth of £3/5/0 a week and some help from the Children's Welfare Department. A food hamper and toys will enable them to have a small measure of Christmas celebration.

● Christmas Dinner at the Coolibah Club.



1,000 CHILDREN WILL ENJOY HOLIDAYS AND DAY OUTINGS



- Sunshine and swimming are enjoyed by children from Fitzroy, inner suburbs and new housing estates. Over 600 children who cannot have holidays will benefit from the day outings in January.



- The Children's Centre sitting room is the scene for the girls' Christmas party.

CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY CALENDAR

IT'S A BUSY TIME FOR B.S.L. STAFF AND VOLUNTARY HELPERS

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th—
Dinner-Dance at Mornington Holiday Home for members of the Fitzroy Youth Club.
 - MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th—
Christmas party for boys aged 9 to 14.
 - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th—
Christmas party for girls aged 9 to 14.
 - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th—
Christmas party for boys and girls under 9. (These parties will be held in the Club rooms).
 - MONDAY, DECEMBER 22nd—
Commencement of distribution of hampers and toy parcels to families, and elderly people.
 - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd—
Christmas dinner for members of the Coolibah Club.
 - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th—
Carols at Carrum Downs.
 - CHRISTMAS DAY—
Christmas dinner in Community Centre at Carrum Downs.
 - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26th—
Commencement of Youth Club camp for boys and girls at Mornington.
 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd—
Seven day camp for girls at Mornington.
 - MONDAY, JANUARY 12th—
Second day camp for girls at Mornington.
 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 22nd—
Eight day camps for boys at Mornington.
 - JANUARY, 12th to JANUARY 30th—
Day outings and beach picnics.
- In addition children will attend camps organised by the Albury and Castlemaine Apex Clubs.

RECORD AMOUNT FROM MARKET FAIR

This year's Annual Market Fair in the Melbourne Town Hall raised the record amount of £850.

The Carrum Downs Village Fair organised by the residents raised £1,200 for the social service activities of the Brotherhood. Both these are magnificent efforts and our thanks goes to all who worked so hard to make them a success.

£2 WILL PROVIDE A CHILD'S HOLIDAY

£2 will provide a holiday for eight days for one child at the Brotherhood's Mornington holiday home camps. B.S.L. Friends who would like to provide a holiday for one or several children are asked to mark their donation for "Children's Holiday Camps."

DECEMBER BUS TRIP TO CARRUM DOWNS

The next bus trip to Carrum Downs will be on Saturday, December 13th. Tickets (6/6) are available from 51 Royal Arcade. There will be no bus trip in January.

CHRISTMAS DONATION

I should like my donation to go towards—

- Christmas parcels for families and children.
- Christmas cheer and gifts for old people.
- Children's parties.
- Children's holiday camps.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.I. MF 3011

Please find my donation £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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