

BROTHERHOOD *Action*

Last minute reprieve for JPET program

A breakfast organised to mark the closure of a successful employment program for young people has led to a last-minute reprieve for the program.

Oakleigh JPET (Jobs, Placement, Employment and Training) is an employment program for disadvantaged young people, first piloted in Australia by the Brotherhood of St Laurence. It has assisted 145 homeless young people, and has had an 80 per cent success rate in placing people in employment. There are now 45 similar programs throughout Australia, including a second JPET program auspiced by the Brotherhood which operates in Barwon.

JPET provides its clients with three months of accredited training, primarily in retail work skills. They learn job search skills, computer skills, customer service, interview presentation, and interpersonal skills. After the training period, they are assisted to find and retain employment, continuing to receive both personal and work-related support.

But when the Federal Government decided to adopt a Case Management approach to employment programs, JPET seemed set to close. Workers at the Brotherhood's Employment Action Centre feared that Case Management would not meet the needs of JPET clients, many of whom are long-term unemployed.

In late June the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Simon Crean, came to a breakfast organised by EAC workers to farewell



JPET trainee Angie on the job.

the Oakleigh JPET program. He was so impressed with what he saw that he was determined to help keep it going.

'After the breakfast, the minister's office contacted us that same day, asking that we put together a proposal to extend the program,' said Deputy Manager, Maria Alibrando. 'We've now put together a new model for the program, and will be working out with the department how this could be applied.'

The new model will provide a program for disadvantaged young people who are not yet ready for the Case Management approach. Other JPET programs can also use this model when they apply for funding.

In the meantime, the Oakleigh program has received interim funding, which is also available to other JPET programs.

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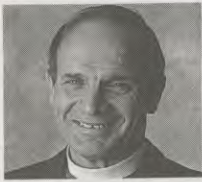
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VIEWPOINT



by
**THE RIGHT REV'D
MICHAEL
CHALLEN**
Executive Director

Many of you will recall with much pleasure the old untidy corner shop run by a wise mum who took much interest not only in your expending of threepence on tantalising but ghostly "six-a-penny" sweets but also yourself - your school results, your sport, your pet and of course your family. In her shop you were not only a valued customer, you were an important person.

But the corner shop with its human warmth has been done to death by the super- if not mega-market. By no means can the check-out assistant afford the time to be interested in your choice of sweets or your personal development. Nor do you want to linger longer than necessary in that mechanical, efficient structure.

That commercial structure has reduced your status from that of a person to that of a customer. The same process is happening within Australian Rules Football, as the drive of supporters is replaced by the drive of profits through the advent of pay television.

Maybe we can stand some diminution in our personal social connectedness by the encroachment of commercialism. But how much? I suggest that the displacement of our connectedness through the 'social contract' by the 'commercial contract', or the change in the individual's identity from that of a person to that of a customer, increases both the aridity of our society and also that of our souls.

+ MB Challen

Having a ball !



Footy stars of the future? Cindy Nguyen (left) and Danielle Palmer.

The youngsters at the Napier St Child Care Centre in Fitzroy are already in training to be tomorrow's footy stars. The centre recently received a visit from Darren Holmes and Thomas Kavanagh of the Fitzroy Football club. The boys donated footballs to the Toy Library and gave the children lessons in kicking and handballing. The Toy Library was set up in 1994 and provides toys, books and childcare equipment for children up to the age of seven.

SUPER RAFFLE Value \$150,000

You could win
*a \$130,000 dream House and Land
Package*

or

a Mazda 121, retail value \$21,160!

- First prize:** house with land to the value of \$130,000, stamp duty paid, built by an HIA-approved builder.
- Second prize:** Mazda 121 1.5 litre sedan, automatic transmission, including all on-road costs. Retail value: \$21,160. Supplied by Max Kirwan Mazda.

YES - I would like to help Victorians in need.

Tickets are \$2 each. Please send me _____ books of 10/25 tickets for \$_____.

I enclose my cheque/money order, or debit my Bankcard Visa

Mastercard Diners Amex Expiry date: _____

Number:

Name: _____ Address: _____

_____ p/c _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Return to Fundraising, Brotherhood of St Laurence,
67 Brunswick St., Fitzroy 3065. ENQUIRIES: (03) 9483 1336

No interest loans - how they can help

Barbara's washing machine badly needed replacing. She approached banks for a loan but was refused because her husband was on an invalid pension. Then she found out about the Frankston NILS scheme and, with the \$650 she borrowed through the scheme, was able to buy a new washing machine. She speaks highly of the scheme because it entrusted her with a loan when no-one else would.

No Interest Loan Schemes auspiced by the Brotherhood now operate in four areas of Melbourne - Craigieburn, Whittlesea, Barwon and Frankston. They offer loans to people on low incomes living in those areas, enabling them to buy essential household appliances such as a refrigerator or washing machine. The breakdown of these appliances can be the last straw for families and individuals already struggling to pay the bills.

Although emergency relief schemes are vital, schemes such as NILS enable people to help themselves, rather than forcing them to rely on charity or welfare. They allow those on low incomes to avoid entering the credit/poverty trap of using credit cards, with very high interest rates, to buy essential household goods, thus reducing their dependency on welfare organisations.

By offering choice about what people buy, and where they buy it, the schemes give an increased sense of personal control and self-esteem.

Strict conditions apply to ensure that the funding bases of the schemes, which tend to be small, are protected. Loan applicants need to have been resident in



NILS helped this family buy a new fridge.

the relevant area for a given time, normally six months. They need to be either eligible for a Commonwealth Government Health Care Card, or be able to prove low income.

The maximum amount available at any time varies from \$800 to \$1000. Normally the maximum loan period is 12 months, but this may be extended in exceptional circumstances, for example, if there has been a change in the family situation.

The Frankston Loan Program is a joint project between the City of Frankston and the Brotherhood of St Laurence. Since it began in April 1994 it has made a total of 49 loans with a value of \$31,750.

The scheme offers assistance with budgeting and financial management where people encounter difficulties making repayments.

Whittlesea NILS began in June 1993 and has assisted 115 borrowers. Some of these borrowers have paid out their original loans and are now in the process of paying off a second loan. The scheme

receives valuable support from the Plenty Community Credit Union.

Nearly 78 per cent of funds loaned have been for general household purchases such as refrigerators, washing machines, hot water services, beds and household repairs.

Barwon NILS was established in August 1992. From an initial loan base of \$52,000 it has loaned out \$105,207, receiving \$60,971 in loan repayments.

The majority of successful applicants are female, receive the Sole Parent Pension, and are public housing tenants. The scheme's major challenge is to distribute its limited funds in line with the high demand for the service.

Craigieburn NILS was made possible through a \$30,000 grant by the William Angliss Trust. It was launched in July this year and is run through Craigieburn Family Services. Enormous support has been offered to the scheme by the Advantage Credit Union - an example of not-for-profit organisations working effectively with community organisations.

New deputy director

The new Deputy Director of Operations has now been appointed, completing the last phase of the Brotherhood's restructure of its management framework. The restructure was carried out as part of the Brotherhood's review of its operations, *Directions 2000*.

The new Deputy Director, Ken Swanson, is the former Chief Executive Officer of St John Ambulance Australia. He began his career as a commissioned officer of the Australian Regular Army, and is a former marketing manager for Trans-Australia Airlines.



The Brotherhood's new Deputy Director of Operations, Ken Swanson.

Ken will be closely involved with examining the role of Brotherhood services in the light of *Directions 2000*. His brief is to ensure that services conform to the guiding principles for service involvement developed under *Directions 2000*.

Ken is married to Helen and has two daughters and a son. He enjoys playing golf in his spare time - when he is not chauffeuring his children around Melbourne!

An unforgettable evening



Woodward's playing thrilled the crowd.

It was billed *A Night to Remember* - and that's exactly what it was. The Design Warehouse showroom in South Yarra played host to this special event in late August, which was a fundraiser for the Brotherhood's Prevention of Youth Homelessness Project. With almost 400 guests attending, the event was a roaring success.

The night featured renowned pianist Roger Woodward and the works of artist Charles Gosford. Woodward charmed the crowd with selections from Debussy and Chopin, while Gosford's landscape paintings filled the walls with colour. Delicious food and wine were a feature of the evening, and Channel Nine's Eddy McGuire made a lively compere.

Gosford's paintings are on show at the Design Warehouse showroom, Como Gaslight Gardens, cnr Toorak Rd and Chapel St South Yarra, until the end of September; phone (03) 9827 1311 for details. A percentage of the proceeds from sales of the paintings will also go to the Prevention project.

Eric Hart Centre 10 years old

The Eric Hart Therapy Centre at Laurence Park, Lara, celebrated ten years of service in the Barwon area during Brotherhood Week.

For a decade the centre has provided support to both residents of St Laurence Park and the Lara community, assisting older people and those with permanent disabilities to maintain their independence. Today it offers a range of co-ordinated and linked services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, podiatry, speech therapy, nursing, transport and meals.

The day's activities began with a talk by Dorothy Ayrton from the Aged Care Assessment Team Services on the future of community care.

Dorothy traced the beginnings of the Community Care Program and its progress over the years, showing how it developed into the present program.

Later that day, 120 guests, clients, carers and volunteers attended an afternoon tea. There was singing, dancing and laughter as Archie Smith on organ and John Toohey on piano treated guests to a singalong of old-time music.

Mr Eric Hart and his wife, Jean, at the Eric Hart Day Therapy Centre celebrations.



Our Christmas cards the best value around

This year's selection of Brotherhood Christmas cards and gift wrap is better than ever, so don't forget to order yours nice and early! The quality is excellent and our prices competitive, starting from as little as \$4.95 for a pack of ten cards. The range is wide, varying from cards with a distinctively Australian theme to traditional designs.

Our annual Christmas card offer has been such a success in previous years that we are hoping to expand it into a training program for unemployed people, teaching skills in areas such as stock control, dispatch and banking, and offering additional goods in the new year, such as giftware, stationery and handy household or gardening implements.

A full-colour brochure is included in this edition of *Action*. We are aware of the presentation errors, but have decided against dumping as we view this as wasteful.

Another Special Brotherhood offer

...and the perfect Christmas gift for family and friends. Everyone is talking about the new Broadway musical *The Secret Garden*, with the brilliant cast of Anthony Warlow, Marina Prior and Philip Quast. The Brotherhood of St Laurence has obtained the best seats for the Opening Preview Night on Saturday 16 December at 7.30 pm

at the State Theatre Victorian Arts Centre. Seats are on sale from the Brotherhood for the very special price of \$47.25. The normal Saturday price for the same "A" Reserve seats is \$65.00.



Name: _____ Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

I enclose my Cheque / Money Order for the Brotherhood of St Laurence

or Charge my Bankcard Visa Mastercard Diners Amex

Number:

Signature: _____ Expiry: ____/____

Hurry as tickets will sell fast....ENQUIRIES: (03) 9483 1397. Return to: Bruce King, Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

Buy some great wine and help the Brotherhood

DELIVERED FREE ANYWHERE IN AUSTRALIA. Enquiries: (03) 9483 1397.

Every dozen sold will raise \$20. The wines have been supplied by one of our major sponsors, Swords Wines, and come highly recommended by Mark Shield, national wine writer and regular contributor to *The Age Epicure*. They offer excellent value and are a great idea for Christmas gifts!

OFFER ONE Mixed dozen wines at \$90.00 per dozen to comprise: 3 x Renmark 1995 Colombard & Chardonnay, 3 x Small Vineyards 1995 Chardonnay, 3 x Tinlins McLarenvale 1995 Grenache, 3 x Langhorne Creek 1995 Shiraz, Cabernet & Merlot.

OFFER TWO a) One dozen Sparkling Cuvee Brut at \$80.00 per dozen;
b) 6 Sparkling Cuvee Brut at \$45.00 per half dozen.

Offer closes on Melbourne Cup Day, Tuesday November 7, 1995.

Complete the order form and mail to Bruce King, Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

Choose offer	Quantity	
Offer 1. Mixed dozen at \$90.00	_____	\$ _____
Offer 2. a) One dozen Sparkling Cuvee at \$ 80.00	_____	\$ _____
b) Half dozen Sparkling Cuvee at \$ 45.00	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

p/c: _____ Phone (h) _____ (w) _____ Cardholder's name: _____

I enclose my cheque made out to SWORDS WINES or charge my Bankcard Visa Mastercard Diners Amex

Number Expiry ____/____ Signature _____

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is now able to accept Diners Club and American Express donations and payment for goods.

DID YOU KNOW



One of the families involved in the Family Centre Project.

In the 1960s, social workers employed by the Brotherhood used the casework method when working with disadvantaged families. This often involved handing out small amounts of money that both workers and families knew were inadequate, and spending long hours in counselling family members. The method was based on the assumption that individuals had to change - not society.

In 1972 the Brotherhood instituted the Family Centre Project, a demonstration project which aimed to show that social work should be directed at changing the structures of society, rather than disadvantaged people themselves. It did this by helping 60 poor families to improve their social and economic conditions, providing them with resources, opportunities for skill development, and a regular and stable income. The project operated on the assumption that redistribution of resources and power were vital if poverty was to be eradicated.

Within the project a whole new approach to social work and social change was generated, the developmental approach, and this approach contributed to other BSL projects.

In 1976 the Family Centre Project became a community resource and action centre for low-income people. It still operates as the Action and Resource Centre for Low-income Families - ARC.

GOOD QUALITY CLOTHING NEEDED

The Brotherhood currently has a shortage of good quality clothing. Due to increased competition and council restrictions, Brotherhood Bins are not returning sufficient clothing to meet our needs.

We would appreciate you asking your family, neighbours and friends if they could assist by taking any quality clothing no longer needed to their nearest Brotherhood bin. If home collection is needed, please call (03) 9303 4111.



FURNITURE DONATIONS

FREE CALL 1800 655 779

You can support the Brotherhood's work by donating goods at our Brotherhood shops or your local green Brotherhood bin. You may also wish to become a volunteer. Contact:

Melbourne
Manager Volunteer Services
(03) 9419 7055

Barwon Region
Volunteers Coordinator
(052) 982 1405

Peninsula Region
Volunteers Coordinator
(03) 9782 1203

Central Highlands Region
Volunteers Coordinator,
(053) 9333 818

NOTICE BOARD

Sunday, 8th October: Brotherhood of St Laurence peninsula 60th birthday celebrations and reunion at the G K Tucker Settlement, Frankston-Dandenong Rd, Carrum Downs. Ph: (03) 9782 1203.

Friday, 17 November: Drawing of the \$150,000 house and land raffle, city mall. Ph: (03) 9483 1336.

Saturday, 16 December: Opening Preview Night of exciting summer musical, *The Secret Garden*. For details phone (03) 9483 1397.

December: Christmas Toy Appeal. Donations welcome. Enquiries: (03) 9483 1397.

Brotherhood Action is the a quarterly publication of the Brotherhood of St Laurence; this edition was edited by Catherine Magree with layout by Liz McGrath. Further information about the Brotherhood and its work is available from the Library and Information Unit, Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, 3065, Tel: (03) 9483 1388 Fax: (03) 9417 2691. Articles may be reproduced but acknowledgment is requested.