

## A New Lifestyle

When Carinya, the Brotherhood's nursing home in Box Hill, was extended some twenty years ago, a four-roomed staff flat was included in the extensions. This was done to make it easier to recruit staff.

Now times have changed and nurses prefer to live independently. The flat could have been altered so as to extend the nursing accommodation, but in line with the Brotherhood's philosophy of encouraging older people to remain independent as long as possible, it has been converted to a four bed special accommodation unit.

Of the four beds, two or three will be for permanent residents, with one or two for respite care. An elderly person who is living with relatives can move in for short periods of up to six weeks whilst they are away, or as one of the present residents has done, while her flat at her daughter's home is being extended.

"It took a little while to settle in but it's marvellous," said Marion

# The Brotherhood of St Laurence

# action

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Gyamarthy, Director of Nursing at Carinya.

"It means that older people can live independently. They go out, but we're on call if they're sick. It's a step

between shared housing such as the Brotherhood's Group Housing Project, and a hostel."

All meals, linen and laundry are provided. There's a call service and



Mrs Min Whelan lives in the special accommodation unit attached to Carinya Nursing Home.



domestic service, and residents have their own telephone.

The residents are enjoying their new lifestyle, and visiting them it's quite obvious they get on well together.

"We know the staff are there, but they don't interfere — we just get on with our own lives" says Mrs Dorothy Billing, who has lived there

since the unit opened in February. Mrs Min Whelan moved in at the same time. She has lived in the Box Hill area for 50 years and is pleased to be able to stay close to her family.

The Carinya unit started as an experiment but has soon shown the important role it will play in providing a range of choices in accommodation for older people.

in Darwin he has returned to Melbourne and has already taken up this new and interesting challenge at Carrum Downs.

We are very fortunate that as able and dedicated people move on to other things, there always seem to be new people coming forward to fill their places, and to make their own distinctive contributions to the total life of the Brotherhood.

## Dear Friends of the Brotherhood

Some important Executive changes have occurred within the Brotherhood over the past month and I want to take the opportunity of speaking to you about these matters rather than write my usual editorial comment.

At the end of September Eric Hart retired from the position of Executive Officer for the Geelong Region. Eric first came in contact with the Brotherhood in 1958 when Father Tucker convened a small meeting at Christ Church Geelong to see whether it might be possible to establish a settlement in the area similar to the one he was leaving at Carrum Downs. Eric Hart was one of the people present at that meeting and he was elected as Assistant Secretary. Over time he became Secretary and Treasurer, carrying out much of his work through his family firm. Over 27 years both in a voluntary capacity and more recently as Executive Officer, Eric Hart has served the Brotherhood with great distinction. That period has seen a remarkable development from the bare red clay soil of Lara to a thriving settlement consisting of 258 residents, hostel, a nursing home and now more recently an activities centre.

That work has of course been shared by many people but there is no doubt that the close partnership formed by Father Tucker with Eric Hart, Neville Brooke and others has been a major factor in achieving such remarkable success in a very short period.

Since 1969 Eric Hart has also served in various capacities on the Board of the Brotherhood and has made an important contribution in bridging the particular local interests of the Geelong Region with the total

concerns of the Brotherhood. Success in achieving this balance has been due in no small measure to his efforts.

He leaves still relatively youthful and with plenty of vigour and a wealth of expertise. We hope to see him around in a consultative capacity for many years to come and we wish him and his wife Jean a fulfilling and happy time ahead.

Eric Hart's position has been filled by Graeme Bound who has been for the past two years, Executive Officer of the Peninsula Region, and we wish him every success in his new duties. He comes as no stranger and his record of management at Carrum Downs has been outstanding.

We also welcome Adrian Harris who has been appointed as the Executive Officer for the Peninsula Region. Adrian too, is no stranger, because he worked for many years with Community Aid Abroad and more recently as its National Director. After a stint with the YMCA



Eric Hart

+ Peter Hollingworth

Peter Hollingworth  
Executive Director

## Two Auxiliaries Close

Two of the Brotherhood's longest established auxiliaries have disbanded.

Fortunis was formed in the North Balwyn area in 1957. Koonung Auxiliary, many of whom were friends of the Fortunis Group, followed in 1964 in the Bulleen area.

Both groups have raised money for the Brotherhood through social functions, working for the annual fair and they were most supportive when the Ivanhoe Auxiliary shop was started.

These two groups are representative of the hundreds of people who have so freely given of their time and effort since the earliest days of the Brotherhood. Our thanks go to all their members who have given so much.

## New Donors

Many 'Action' subscribers will have received an appeal letter from the Brotherhood in the last few weeks. This is additional to our other appeals and has been delivered to households in a number of Melbourne suburbs, in an attempt to gain new supporters. We are sorry that it is of course not possible to avoid the names of our regular donors. However, these special letters have cost only 7c each, including the delivery charge, so that the duplication does not in fact have a substantial cost involved.





*A third house has been purchased for the Group Housing Project. The Project now has accommodation for eleven older people who share the three houses in Moonee Ponds, Ascot Vale and Richmond (pictured).*

## Poverty Study

Fifty households around Melbourne and parts of rural Victoria, who receive government pensions and benefits or low wages, are keeping a record of their income and expenditure each month. They are part of a Social Policy and Research Department study which hopes to develop a picture of the income and expenditure patterns of low income households.

The study reflects a growing realisation that the problems of being poor are not switched on suddenly when incomes fall below an arbitrary poverty line, and switched off when income rises above it. We need therefore, to understand the dynamics of poverty to make effective public policy in this area. It is hoped that by monitoring the variations in income and expenditure of 50 low income families over a twelve month period, this study will inform such policy-making.

The study is already producing information on a range of issues of current concern. These include:

- The relative priority certain bills (rent, public utilities, food, clothing) receive in different families.
- The role of resources other than income (e.g. gifts) in maintaining a standard of living.
- The incremental costs associated with children.
- The standard of public housing.
- The billing practices and debt procedures of public utilities (e.g. SEC, Telecom).

The study has been collecting data since May and is planned to run through until June next year. The wealth of material which the study will produce will be written up in a major report and a series of issue papers.

## Gift Catalogue

Inserted in this issue of 'Action' you will find a catalogue for Community Aid Abroad's range of Christmas gifts. While the Brotherhood does not normally carry advertising for other groups, there are of course strong links with CAA.

Community Aid Abroad was founded in 1953 by Father Tucker and a group of residents at G. K. Tucker Settlement, Carrum Downs as the Food for Peace Campaign. David Scott, who was then a Brotherhood staff member, was later appointed National Director of CAA. When he returned to the Brotherhood as Executive Director, he remained on the National Executive of CAA. For the last four years, Bishop Peter Hollingworth has been Chairman of the Walk Against Want Committee in Victoria.

This close association reflects the desire of the Brotherhood and CAA to work together to alleviate poverty whether at home or abroad.



## Victorian Of The Year

Alistair Smith, who in August was presented with the Victorian of the Year Award, runs the Island Project in Fitzroy for students who have difficulties at school.

"I was a kid who didn't cope with school myself," says Alistair.

"There are a lot of kids who don't cope with the blackboard. They've got ability but can't learn in that way. It even makes them dislike school."

Five years ago Alistair started the Island to give students from local high and technical schools the chance to learn trade and craft skills. Twenty students each attend for one day, learning carpentry, garment making, screen printing, and lead-

lighting. They return to their schools for the rest of the week. Eighty students from five schools attend each week.

One of the key elements in the program is the fact that it is run and managed by trades people, so that the students feel they are in the working world and they are experiencing what it will be like when they leave school.

Alistair works closely with the Education Department and the project has one seconded teacher. Funding has come from Melbourne trusts, the Education Department and the Federal Government's Participation and Equity Program. In 1983 the project was threatened with closure through funding difficulties and the Brotherhood contributed \$10 000.



Alistair Smith assists two students at the Island Project with their carpentry.

"Even at present we're feeling no more secure than ever. We just want to run the project but it's so hard when we're continually worried about money," said Alistair.

There are no doubts in the teachers' or students' minds that the alternative ideas developed at the Island work. The Brotherhood has been closely involved in supporting Alistair Smith's work through David Green, Director of Community Services.

"The Brotherhood has played a bigger part than anyone in us being here," Alistair says.

"We just feel you've got to give kids the chance to show they *can* do something."

## Christmas Cards

Looking for Christmas cards or perhaps a small gift? Then why not try this year's Combined Charities Christmas Shop. As in past years the Victorian Council of Social Service is running a shop to sell Christmas cards and gifts on behalf of the Brotherhood and 50 other Melbourne charities.

The shop is situated on the 1st Floor, 21 Swanston Street, Melbourne, just opposite St Paul's Cathedral. Once again the premises have been provided courtesy of the Commonwealth Bank.

The shop will remain open through to the 18th December. It will be open on three Saturdays: November 30, December 7 and 14. Shop hours are 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Monday to Friday and 9a.m. to 11.30a.m. Saturdays.

## Have you renewed your subscription to Action?

We do not send subscription renewal notices due to the costs involved. All donations of \$2 and over include a year's subscription.

If you have not given for a year or longer and would like to continue to receive Action, please send your donation now.

ACTION is published bi-monthly and contains information on Brotherhood activities, including all new publications. Editorial responsibility is accepted by Dyranda Prevost, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

## brotherhood gift

Send to: Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

I am pleased to be able to share in the work of the Brotherhood and enclose my gift of \$.....

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

☐ Yes, I require a receipt. ☐ No, I do not require a receipt.

Please send me some information about making a bequest to the Brotherhood in my will. ☐

Donations of \$2 and over are deductible for income tax purposes