

Founded
Newcastle
N.S.W.
Dec. 1930

B. S. L. NOTES

Transferred
Melbourne
June 1933

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

FITZROY

JUNE, 1953

No. 100

THE SUPERIOR'S LETTER

"NOW!" and "DREAMS"

51 Royal Arcade,
MELBOURNE, C.1.
June, 1953.

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

I wonder what you think of our new paper "Now!" It has been well received by the general public and I am very hopeful as to its future. I must confess, however, that I was a little disappointed not to receive more applications for the paper from you, our Friends. For you can do so much to enlarge its circulation. We want you not only to read it but also to pass it on to others. You, our Friends, who have been such over the years know something of the war we have waged on slums. For sometime past I have realised that the war cannot be won until public opinion is on our side, and this can only be done by a paper which is read by thousands of people. Such is the objective of "Now!" I have decided that for the time being, at any rate, I shall not write to you the type of letter I have written hitherto. To do so would be to duplicate to a large extent the matters which will be dealt with in "Now!" I ask, therefore, that those of you who have been interested in my letters make a point of securing "Now!" as it is issued every two months. The annual subscription is only 3/-. In future, I shall confine my remarks to matters dealing primarily with the Brotherhood and its activities.

DO DREAMS COME TRUE?

I am not thinking of the kind of dreams we indulge in in our sleeping hours. About those I know little. I refer to another kind of dream; the dream that takes the form of hopes and plans for the future. For instance, I do not think that you can have a really beautiful garden until it begins with a dream garden. I do not think a young man can have a really successful life unless he thinks much about the kind of life he wants to lead. Of course, one must do all that is possible to make one's dreams come true. A beautiful garden does not come into being just by thinking about it, nor does a young man become successful in his calling just by imagining success.

It is just 20 years ago this month that the Brotherhood came to Melbourne. Although, as I said earlier in my letter, we have not yet won our war on slums, I think I can say with truth that much worthwhile work has been done. Twenty years ago we were penniless and unknown. To-day we own considerable property and what is of still greater value we have nearly 6,000 loyal and faithful Friends. To my mind, the progress that has been made under the hand of God is largely due to two factors. Firstly, to those loyal and faithful Friends; and, secondly, to the fact that

we have dreamed the kind of dreams I have referred to. In other words, we have pictured in our minds the Brotherhood becoming a really worthwhile organisation, and, while so picturing our Brotherhood, we have done what we could to make the picture, or the dream, a reality. Of course, all our dreams have not materialised, but space does not permit my giving details of all those that have materialised. I would, however, refer to three that have done so during the last 12 months:—

1. **Holiday Home at Mornington.** Those of you who listen to me from 3XY may remember that, some time ago, I told you of our hopes in this regard. Although we had no money for the purpose, I told you of the Brotherhood's belief in a certain kind of dream, and I asked you to join us in our dream. The Mornington Home is now not only a reality but is, I think, one of the brightest jewels in the B.S.L. crown.

2. **Cottage Hospital at Carrum Downs.** Although we realised the need for a hospital, we had not the slightest idea of how the need was to be met. We knew that we could not draw upon ordinary Brotherhood funds for the purpose. We held on to the idea, however, and out of the blue, as it were, came the offer of the Junior Chamber of Commerce to build us a much needed hospital. We now have something far superior than we dared to dream of. We had, however, dreamed!

3. **"Now!"** It is some years ago that we began to talk of a journal to deal exclusively with social service matters, but how it was to be financed and who was to edit it we had no idea. It was all rather vague, but we continued to dream our dream— now is "Now!" a reality.

I am telling you all this not only to prove my argument in regard to dreams but to seek your aid for dreams not yet realised. If we of the staff can make dreams come true, how much more could we do if reinforced by you, our Friends. Elsewhere in the Notes I give details of hopes we have for the future. Will you join us in making these, our hopes—our dreams come true? Please understand that I am not appealing for financial help from you for these hoped-for projects. As the work grows and as costs mount, we rely upon you good folk to maintain the work rather than help with new projects. For these we look for help from those not yet B.S.L. friends.

I have spoken of dreams, but those who believe in the power of prayer would use another word. I believe, however, there is a close link between what, in my letter, I have called dreams and that which is the greatest power

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of all—the power of prayer. This, however, is not a dissertation on prayer, but I do regard the dreaming I have referred to as a form of prayer. In its widest, or in its narrowest form, I commend it to you. It really does work. Thanks be to God, much has been done, but much yet remains to be done. May we all hopefully and steadfastly continue with the part which is ours.

Our greetings to you all.

I am,

On behalf of the B.S.L.,

Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker

Secretary B.S.L.

Some "Dreams" of the Future

CLUB FOR WOMEN IN FITZROY:

When we founded the Coolibah Club, we had hoped to make provision for women as well as for men. This, however, has not been possible up to the present. The need, though, is very real. This is brought home to us as our social workers visit the many lonely and aged women in our districts. Their lives are so drab and, in most cases, their dwellings are poor. The companionship, the cheery rooms, the wholesome meals, and the friendship of our good Miss Sumner which are enjoyed by the men of the Coolibah Club would make all the difference to the lives of these women who we so long to help. We have no money for the project, nor is there room for it at Headquarters, but yet dreams do come true.

PERMANENT CAMP BUILDINGS FOR MORNINGTON HOME:

The beautiful house and the still more beautiful garden are admirably suited for the aged and invalid adults that use them for holidays. During the summer months, marquees are erected in the grounds for boys

and girls who come for camping holidays. On the whole, this is satisfactory, but we look forward to the time when we shall be able to erect buildings which will be more efficient and, in the end, more economical, and which, when necessary, can be used during the colder months. We have not the slightest idea how our hopes can be realised, but yet—!

COMMUNITY CENTRE, CARRUM DOWNS:

We have a small, aged and somewhat dilapidated building which serves for the present, but our numbers continue to grow and the building is almost on its last legs. We want a building which will not only serve as library and clubroom but will be large enough for concerts and picture shows. It should also contain a canteen and industry room (see article under this heading). We have a very small sum of money as a nucleus of the sum needed. It may be that some organisation or group of people following the good example of the Junior Chamber of Commerce will give us this very much needed building. Let us all at any rate, dream about it. We look forward to inviting you to the special opening as a result of our united dreams!

BUS FOR CARRUM DOWNS:

The residents love to go into Frankston, our nearest town, but the journey in the somewhat overcrowded bus is something of an undertaking. We should also like to be able to send our folk to the beach and nearby hills for excursions. This we now sometimes do, but it is very expensive. Someday someone or some group is going to give us a bus of our own, and someday a resident, whose calling has been that of motor driver, is going to join us. All in the air, perhaps, but far more unlikely things have happened, and so we continue to dream.

GUEST HOUSE FOR CARRUM DOWNS:

We hope someday to have a house at Carrum Downs where friends and relatives of residents and others may stay for periods. This perhaps is not one of our "musts", but we believe that if we all keep it in mind it will, in due course, become a reality.

GENERAL NOTES

Mr. G. ANTHONY BISHOP:

The Brotherhood has been fortunate over the years in having the devoted services of many who have given of their best. Amongst these has been Mr. Bishop, who, after ten years, has left us. He came during the war at one of the most critical periods of our career. We wonder what we would have done without him at that time. We shall miss him much, but he will be missed even more by the people of Fitzroy whom he served so devotedly. Few men in Melbourne know more about the needs of the poor than Mr. Bishop. In expressing our appreciation of all he has meant to us and our cause, we hope for him every happiness in the work in England to which he has gone. In conclusion, in the words of the Psalmist, we wish him good luck in the Name of the Lord.

INVITATION:

Visitors are always welcome at the B.S.L. Holiday Home, "Morven", Tanti Avenue, Mornington. The garden is well worth a visit.

ST. MARK'S OPPORTUNITY SHOP:

Part of the proceeds from St. Mark's Opportunity Shop, Burke Rd., Camberwell, are being set aside for the B.S.L. Settlement. We ask B.S.L. Friends in the Camberwell-Kew district to support this very 'live' and worthwhile project.

NOW!

published by the Brotherhood of St. Laurence to stimulate thought, interest and action on social problems.

JUNE ISSUE:

"Could You Live on £3.7.6. a Week?"

Need for Pension Increase.

"A Lesson for Melbourne"

How Denmark Caters for Unemployed Youths.

"Victoria's Child Welfare System"

by American Sociologist, Professor Albert Morris.

Other articles on School Milk, Housing, the Olympic Village, Letters, Editorial.

PRICE: 4d. Subscription: 3/- for 6 issues posted.

BECOME A "NOW!" SUBSCRIBER

A New Carrum Downs Project

"CARRUM DOWNS INDUSTRIES:"

B.S.L. Friends of long standing will recall that the Brotherhood's undertaking to care for elderly people at Carrum Downs has not been so much the carrying out of a predetermined plan, as an endeavour to meet needs as they arise.

The existence of the Settlement in its present form is due to the fact that immediately after the war the B.S.L. elected to act positively in providing suitable accommodation for elderly people. Those responsible for the plan at that time wisely chose to provide individual self-contained bungalows for the elderly tenants, thus ensuring maximum independence. After some years the need arose for an alternative type of accommodation designed to provide security for the bungalow dwellers who had reached the stage where they could no longer care for themselves. The B.S.L. answered this need by erecting a group of flatettes catered for by a community dining room.

The Cottage Hospital recently completed by the Junior Chamber of Commerce answers a further need of those who become bedridden or are suffering from a temporary disability. The establishment of a Health Clinic, Community Centre and Library has been in response to the need which emerged as the number of residents grew and so the principle goes on of endeavouring to meet needs as they arise.

NEED FOR SOMETHING TO DO:

It is significant that the needs of elderly people, as revealed by the Brotherhood's undertaking at Carrum Downs, exist on a far greater scale, yet apparently remain unanswered in the community generally.

Apart from security and independence, foremost amongst those needs is the natural and healthy desire to be engaged in some profitable occupation and here, of course, profitable does not necessarily apply to the £.s.d.

The need is for activities which are profitable in providing an interest outside one's self, a service to the community and the feeling that, although one's capacity for labour may have diminished with the years, one's efforts are still appreciated and sought after.

A COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE:

This particular need has been answered at Carrum Downs by the establishment of "Carrum Downs Industries", an enterprise conducted by, and for, the good of the community itself.

Sorting, mending and selling second-hand clothes is already a well established section of the Industries. The making of felt toys, aprons and children's clothing is encouraged and directed so that mental and physical therapeutic values are derived from these activities. A most practical and stimulating answer to the desire to see results for one's labour is provided in the production and sale of plants and vegetables.

Perhaps the most encouraging step so far is the establishment of a retail grocery kiosk known as the "Tucker Box" and conducted by energetic volunteers from among the residents. Some of the menfolk hope to soon see the first cement brick building erected on the Settlement. In the meantime they are busy setting up that section of the Industries which will be responsible for the manufacture of the bricks.

It is almost traditional in this country to think of old people as "pioneers". The elderly people at Carrum Downs are still pioneering because they want to go on living, and to go on living certain needs must be met—the needs of interest, a profitable activity and a place in the community!

—L.M.W.

FITZROY NOTES

COOLIBAH CLUB:

The Coolibah Club has been one of the most successful activities at Fitzroy. Under the leadership of Miss Sumner, the Club opens from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and for its membership of approximately 60, provides comfortable club rooms, books, wireless, cards, fire in the winter months, morning and afternoon tea at a penny a time, and also an excellent two-course hot meal at midday for the cost of 1/-.

At present 35 to 40 of the members are coming for the midday meal, and, as a result, the canteen, with its accommodation for only 24, now overflows each day into the clubroom where some of the men have to eat their dinner amidst the tobacco smoke of the club. As well as this, Miss Sumner and her helper have to prepare the meal for this number in a kitchen which measures approximately 12 feet by 6 feet.

CLUB FOR WOMEN

The Coolibah Club has been so successful that it has outgrown itself and the Board has agreed that, as soon as financially possible, extensions are to be made to the canteen and the kitchen at the Club; and Miss Sumner also hopes that some provision might be made for a Club for women pensioners.

WOOD:

Thanks to the response of the 3KZ listeners, we have received sufficient donations to buy 20 tons of wood

which we will be distributing throughout the winter months to our aged pensioners and families who would, otherwise, be without the warmth that you and I will be enjoying in our own homes. Saturday morning at Fitzroy is wood morning.

MILK:

Friends will remember that prior to the Government agreeing, after much pushing from the Brotherhood, to distribute free milk to the schools, we ourselves provided milk for some 120 children most in need of it at the Fitzroy State School. Now that children again are the first to go without, we decided that there are a number at Fitzroy who just could not go without, and the day after the Government stopped its distribution, we commenced providing free milk to 180 of our children at the George Street State School.

Bus Trip to Carrum Downs

The next bus trip to Carrum Downs will be on

SATURDAY, JULY 4th

The new Enquiry Bureau and Jumble Rooms will be opened.

Tickets 6/6 are available from 51 Royal Arcade.

Will you please book early?

Welcome to B. S. L. New Friends for March and April

We extend a very warm welcome to the new Friends whose names appear here.

We are often asked "What is expected of B.S.L. Friends?"

They are asked

1. to take a sympathetic interest in B.S.L. activities.
2. to interest their friends in the B.S.L. and to endeavour to get them to become B.S.L. Friends, and perhaps to join a "B.S.L. Group," whose aim is to organise an annual function for B.S.L. funds.
3. to pay 5/- a year to help defray the expense of printing and posting the B.S.L. Notes.

Humanly speaking, the success the Brotherhood has had over the years is due to a very large extent to its Friends. As our Friends have grown so has the work grown. The effect of what we do in the future depends on our success or otherwise in gaining new Friends.

MELBOURNE

Miss M. Moran, East Melbourne
Mrs. Ellis, Essendon
Miss White, Princes Hill
Mrs. J. W. Gallandas, South Yarra
Mrs. Lilley, Canterbury
Sister Gillandes, Carlton
Mr. and Mrs. Scarlett, Malvern
Mrs. E. Wells, Sunshine
Mrs. Downe, Mentone
Mrs. Horne, H'thorn E.
Mrs. Stanley, Black Rock
Mrs. A. Clapham, S'shine
Mr. B. Emerson, East Ringwood
Mrs. J. Davison, Malvern
Mr. Ted Day, Black Rock
Mr. J. Kernohan, South Melbourne
Mrs. Mackenzie, Windsor
Mr. Eddy, Kensington

Mrs. Smith, E. Richmond
Mrs. Stafford, Toorak
Mrs. Grant, Hawthorn
Mrs. Harbig, Kew
Miss Cook, East Malvern
Mrs. Westley, St. Kilda
Miss Brown, E. Malvern
Mrs. Strong, Sth. Yarra
Mrs. Carson, Moonee Ponds
Mrs. Moran, W. Preston
Mr. and Mrs. James, Sth. Yarra
Mrs. Williams, Carrum Downs
Mrs. Dadsworth, Kew
Mrs. McLean, Surrey Hills
Mrs. Broughton, Croydon
Miss Kilby, Clifton Hill
Mrs. Craig, Carnegie
Mrs. Jones, Glen Iris
Mrs. Shands, Fitzroy
Mrs. Coster, N. W'town

DONATION SLIP

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

Please find my donation for £ : :

Name

Address

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

Mrs. Warren, Balwyn
Miss Trembath, Fairfield
Mrs. Kemp, Camberwell
Miss Alcock, Sth. Yarra
Miss Mathews, M'beena
Mrs. Kirby, Brighton
Mrs. Cunningham, M'vern
Mr. Kean, Armadale
Mrs. Calcutt, Kalorama
Mrs. Cooper, Caulfield
Miss Bishop, Canterbury
Miss O'Leary, Canterbury
Mrs. Stuckey, Toorak
Mr. Anderson, Northcote
Mrs. Lee, Glen Iris
Miss Richardson, G'huntly
Mrs. Barnes, Melbourne
Miss Clark, Hawthorn
Mrs. Sykes, Sth. Melb.
Mrs. Bettes, Sunshine
Mrs. McPherson, S'shine
Miss Timms, Sunshine
Mrs. Prestegar, W'town
Mrs. Clark, Coburg
Mr. Hawken, Brighton

COUNTRY

Miss E. Garlick, Geelong
Mr. E. Henry, Geelong
Mr. J. Garlick, Manifold Heights
Mrs. M. Hole, Ballarat
Mrs. W. Windridge, Lockington
Mrs. S. Greenham, Broadford
Miss M. Howlett, Wichcliffe
Mrs. E. Goodall, Bairnsdale
Mr. Ford, Bairnsdale
Mr. Nelson Capp, Bairnsdale
Mrs. M. Weston, Upwey
Mrs. Bryant, M'borough
Mrs. J. Fair, Boronia
Mrs. Josephson, Monbulk
Mrs. C. Fox, Dingley
Miss Smith, Hobart, Tas.
Mrs. Alford, Ravenswood, Queensland

B. S. L. GROUP NEWS

HUGHESDALE-MURRUMBEENA GROUP:

On Thursday, June 4, the above mentioned Group will meet at the home of the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Curtis, 5 Fellows St., Hughesdale, to discuss arrangements for their Jumble Sale, to be held on Thursday, June 11, at one of the Diocesan centres.

THANKS:

To all you kind people who have done such a magnificent job with your knitting, basket work, sewing, etc. for our Opportunity Shop, we send our very grateful thanks. The display of attractive articles in the window has doubled the sales over the past weeks.

Children's knitted socks and babies' first-sized singlets are always in demand. Wool and material is supplied to those who require it.

RADIO:

Remember the B.S.L. Friends session at 4.30 on Wednesdays at 3XY. With the combined support of an ever growing number of Friends, the B.S.L. carries on.

—W.R.

B.S.L. Broadcasts

3KZ, SUNDAYS at 10 p.m.,
Rev. G. Sambell conducts "Postscript".
3UL, 3YB, TUESDAYS at 3 p.m.,
Father Tucker.
3XY, WEDNESDAYS at 4.30 p.m.,
Mrs. Rogers.
3XY, THURSDAYS at 12.45.,
Father Tucker.