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# B. S. L. NOTES

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For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

FITZROY

OCTOBER, 1953

No. 102

## THE SUPERIOR'S LETTER

### THE QUEEN AT CARRUM DOWNS? — THE LABOUR PARTY IN THE PAST AND THE LABOUR PARTY NOW

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

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

I was very honoured to learn (as I know you, our Friends, will be too) that Mr. Keith Ewert, M.P., in whose Federal Electorate (Flinders) we are at Carrum Downs, had approached the Prime Minister's Department with the suggestion that Her Majesty, the Queen, should visit the Settlement at Carrum Downs. The matter, I understand, has been referred to the State Authorities. It may well be that such a visit might be too much to hope for, but after all the Settlement is unique in Australia, and I cannot but think that our efforts to solve the housing problem for the aged is something that would appeal to Her Majesty. I fully realise that the Queen's time will be taxed to the utmost. I realise, too, that we are by no means the only organisation that is doing a worthwhile and interesting social service task. Whether Mr. Ewert's efforts on our behalf are successful or not, we are cheered to know that he considers the Settlement a project worthy of Royal patronage, and we are grateful for this further indication of his interest in the Brotherhood's work in general and that at Carrum Downs in particular.

#### NEED SUPPORT:

Mr. Ewert is one of those who has pledged himself to do all in his power to support us in our campaign for slum clearance. I do not think that we always realise our duty to back up those Members of Parliament who are really desirous of bringing about those many necessary social reforms for Australia's welfare. Let our parliamentarians know that we will stand by them if they continue to press for those reforms which they, and we, know should be brought about. Too often men have made themselves unpopular in Parliament because they have pressed for causes which for too long have been neglected by the majority. Because they have been unpopular they have lost their seats, and this because those who elected them failed to support them. Members of Parliament are not the only people who break promises. Electors in many cases are none the less guilty. I say all this irrespective of party. The party is of little concern in comparison with the welfare of Australia as a whole.

#### THE QUEEN'S HOUSE:

In my last letter you may remember that I suggested that the State should, in recognition of the Queen's visit erect some building for the housing of those in desperate need and call that building The Queen's House. You will be glad to know that plans are being made to have a Queen's House, and if all goes according to plan that house will be erected by the Brotherhood of St. Laurence. We have some £1,000 in hand for building our proposed Community Centre at Carrum Downs. It is my intention to approach Her Majesty through the right quarters and seek her permission for us to express our feeling of loyalty and affection by calling the building which will do so much for the welfare of those on the Settlement—The Queen's House. In view of the many who have expressed their approval of my previous suggestion in regard to a fitting manner of recording for all time the visit of our beloved Queen and her Consort, I feel sure that the necessary money will be forthcoming.

#### "SECOND THOUGHTS ON ROYAL BALL PLANS"

Such was the heading of a recent article in the Melbourne "Age." I am sure that all who read that article will realise, if they have not realised already, how wrong it would be to spend, as it is proposed to do, some £40,000 on a Royal Ball. It should be remembered that Her Majesty will learn all that is possible about Melbourne before she arrives. She will learn about our really beautiful city, with its stately cathedrals, its ornate State and commercial buildings, its beautiful gardens and its tree shaded streets. She will learn, too, about our filthy slums and she will learn that, for decades, efforts have been made by the few to rid Melbourne of this scandal she tries to hide. One reason why the affection for the occupants of the throne has increased over the years is that succeeding monarchs have demonstrated their personal concern for those we call the under-privileged. We will, of course, keep our slums in the background. Nothing will be said to Her Majesty of the countless hundreds of aged and infirm who cry, and cry in vain, for some corner which they can call their own, and in which they can spend their last years on earth. Do not let us delude ourselves, however, that Her Majesty will not know of these things. She would not embarrass us, her hosts, by speaking of them but she could not but be embarrassed to know that money was being squandered by way of entertainment for the favoured few while those in whom she is specially interested remain forgotten and neglected. Let us honour

Her Majesty in a manner in which she would be honoured. If those in authority were to take heed of the article in The Age to which I have referred it might well be that other States would follow Victoria's example. If such should be the case, Her Majesty's visit would indeed be a memorable event, an event, I venture to think, that would long be remembered by the Queen herself.

#### A CHANGE OF NAME IS INDICATED:

In my younger days I used to regard the Labour Party as a party whose chief concern was for the welfare of those not of the so-called capitalistic class. Of recent years I have come to the conclusion that the Party has changed its policy. After years of frustration in which I urged non-Labour Governments to undertake slum clearance, Mr. Cain and his party came into power. "At last," I thought, "something will be done," but no, Mr. Cain told me quite frankly that nothing could be done about the matter. As amazed and disappointed as I was, I was at any rate grateful to Mr. Cain for giving me an honest answer, something quite new as far as the slum problem was concerned. Again Mr. Cain is in power, and again it is "Nothing (or perhaps very little) can be done." As honest as in the "No," the reason for the "No" is not quite so honest. With money being poured out on matters of small moment, it is nothing less than humbug to talk of "no money," and after all is not the housing and welfare of the people of supreme importance? In the old days the Labour Party would have agreed with me in this contention, but now they are prepared to join in an evening's entertainment which is to cost some £40,000. Of course, that sum could not clear one mean street of its nasty hovels, but by curtailing the extravagance of the Ball and by economising in every other way possible, the government would demonstrate to the State that it really had the welfare of the people at heart. The Government's attitude in regard to the proposed State Lottery is, to my mind, a further indication of its change of policy. Over the ages the Church has been in the lead in caring for those whose welfare the Labour Party has professed to have at heart, but it would seem that the Church's protests are to be ignored, and those who can least afford to pay for the upkeep of hospitals are the ones to whom the Government is looking to do what they themselves have failed to do. It is all very sad, and very disconcerting. I began my letter by praising a member of the Labour Party. I am concluding it by criticising that Party. Such, however, is not inconsistent, for I believe in supporting those whom I believe are working for the welfare of Australia and that, quite irrespective of party.

#### A BRIGHTER NOTE:

I must conclude on a brighter note, and that is to assure you that all is going well in our various departments which care for those who are in the greatest need of help from both the Church and State. I know that you who give us your support, sympathy and understanding are happy to feel that something really worthwhile is being done to relieve the sufferings of those in our slum districts, that some hundreds of elderly folk are enjoying the peace and security of the Settlement at Carrum Downs, and that the Mornington Home is a boon to those sick and aged folk who enjoy for a time the peace and happiness of that really beautiful spot. In view of all that has to be done, what we do may not seem to be much, but it is something. For this we thank God and take courage.

When writing these letters to you I always have in mind you good folk who send us cheques, who staff our auxiliaries, who send us parcels and who work for us in

various ways. To say a mere "thank you" seems very inadequate, but our thanks are very real, for of course it is you who not only keep us going but enable us to extend our activities as the years pass by. That the comfort you help to bring to others may rebound upon yourselves is my prayer for you all. It does work out that way does it not? How true is that saying "Give and it shall be given unto you."

I am, dear B.S.L. Friends,

On behalf of the B.S.L.

Yours very sincerely,

*G. Kennedy Tucker*  
Secretary B.S.L.

## GENERAL NOTES

#### A NEW "NOW!"

The response to the first three issues of "NOW!" has been so encouraging that it has been decided to publish it monthly, starting this month, to double the size and have a drive to increase the circulation. To help pay for the cost of printing and distribution "NOW!" will carry a limited amount of advertising.

We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. R. A. Gardner to assist us with the editing and managing of "NOW!" Mr. Gardner founded the "Opportunity Clubs Digest" and has been one of the leaders in social reform work in Melbourne.

#### B.S.L. NEWSPAPER.

Another "dream" has thus been fulfilled for we have always hoped for the day when the B.S.L. would have its own newspaper to say the kind of things which are so often left unsaid in public affairs and to provide people who are interested in vitally important social problems, with the opportunity of expressing their views.

#### SUBSCRIPTION:

The annual subscription has hitherto been 3/- as only six issues were published annually. As "NOW!" is to be a monthly newspaper the annual subscription is 6/-, or 3/- for six months. We hope that those of you who are not already subscribers will support this further extension of the Brotherhood's work of "educating" the public to social needs. D. S.

#### BLANDFORD COURT:

Mr. Monty Blandford is to visit Carrum Downs on Saturday, October 31st, at 3 p.m. and will plant the first tree in the court to be named after himself. Mr. Blandford has been a good friend of the Brotherhood over the years and we are happy to feel that his name will always be associated with the Settlement in which he has always shown special interest. A certain number of trees (5/- each) will be available for those who would like to share in the tree planting.

#### DEPARTED FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS:

As is our custom these will be remembered on All Souls' Day (Monday, November 2nd), at a special celebration of the Holy Communion at Carrum Downs at 10 a.m. If the weather is favourable, the service will be held in the Garden of Peace, if unfavourable it will be in the Chapel.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday November 7th: Fair at the home of Dr. Fowke, Oliver's Hill, Frankston.

Saturday, November 21st: Fair at Carrum Downs Settlement, organised by the residents. A bus will run from the city. Tickets (6/6) to be had from 51 Royal Arcade.



**BUSINESS MAN'S LUNCH**  
TWO COURSES: 12 TO 2 P.M.  
MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEA

## COME TO THE FAIR!

### LOWER MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

**FRIDAY, November 13th.**

to be opened at 11 a.m. by

Miss EVIE HAYES

Wide range of stalls—

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| ♦ Plants and Flowers | ♦ Cakes          |
| ♦ Sweets             | ♦ Fancy Goods    |
| ♦ Produce            | ♦ White Elephant |
| ♦ General            | ♦ Dips           |

◆ CHRISTMAS TREE

◆ SPECIAL GIFTS FOR  
CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

GOODS FOR SALE AT FAIR, WELCOME NOW AT

67 BRUNSWICK STREET, FITZROY, JA 3335 OR CITY SHOP, 51 ROYAL ARCADE, CENTRAL 2721

## FITZROY NOTES

### COOLIBAH CLUB:

Work has begun on the extension to the Coolibah Club at Fitzroy, but we cannot yet tell Friends when the Opening Day will be. However, through the press and over the radio sessions we will let you know, as we want you not only to come and see the new extensions, but to have, what has become for many of you, your annual visit to Fitzroy so that you can see the Children's Centre and other Fitzroy activities.

### WOOD DISTRIBUTION:

At the end of September we will finish our distribution of wood for the winter months. Each Saturday since May, the B.S.L. truck has been loaded with wood and deliveries made to pensioners and families in need. We have been able to keep many a lonely room and family kitchen warm during the winter months.

### "MORVEN" - MORNINGTON:

It has been our privilege recently to provide two weeks holiday for invalid and convalescent people who needed that break just to lift them up.

The spring season of holidays for aged pensioners has now started and until the end of November, week by week, a party will be going to Mornington for a holiday. As the weather fines up and many of you are going for an outing, make it your business to call at our Holiday Home in Tanti Avenue. Mornington and not only see the home, but share the enjoyment of our guests.

### VISITORS DAY AT "MORVEN," MORNINGTON:

On Saturday, 5th December we will be having a Visitors Day at Morven, and hope to see many of our friends there. Buses will leave the city at 1.30 p.m. and tickets will be available in the City Office any time after 2nd November. The cost will be 8/6d. per head. We are

asking visitors to bring a gift for the pantry for use during the children's holidays at Christmas. G. T. S.

### NEW BUILDINGS AT CARRUM DOWNS:

Whilst their hopes were high, it is probably true to say that, the pioneers of the Settlement at Carrum Downs did not anticipate the rapid growth that has taken place since the end of the war. The Settlement's progress has not only outgrown early plans, but has weighed down the original system of finance whereby homes (apart from those given as a legacy or outright gift) were provided from general funds.

The proportion of money for Carrum Downs made available from the Brotherhood's general funds is now used exclusively for maintenance and the provision of services for elderly residents. Finance for further accommodation must come as a result of appeals for this undertaking or as an outright gift for this special purpose. The failure of successive governments to be forthcoming with the long promised subsidy for old people's housing has not made the situation any easier to endure. Under these conditions the number of new houses being provided is by no means keeping pace with the urgency of the need to be answered.

Another factor which becomes increasingly obvious to those engaged in the task of providing for elderly people at Carrum Downs is the fact that the needs which they are attempting to answer are by no means confined to recipients of pensions. Those people retired and with a little capital, together with superannuation, often face a lonely and insecure old age. The last few years of their lives develop into a losing battle against decreasing standards, loneliness and consequent failing health.

# Welcome to B.S.L. New Friends for July and August

**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.

## NEW FRIENDS For July and August

Miss Flentje, Burwood	Mrs. Phillips, East Kew
Mrs. Meade, Kensington	Mrs. Thomas, Coburg West
Mr. King, West Footscray	Mr. Collier, Caulfield
Mrs. Critch, Glenhuntly	Mrs. Henderson, E. Brighton
Miss Wilcock, Parkville	Mr. Sargeant, Hawthorn
Mrs. Cox, Mont Albert	Mrs. Holman, Malvern
Mrs. Kelly, Footscray	Miss Gordon, Nth. W'stown
Miss Woodland, M'stone Nth.	Mrs. Coster, Nth. W'stown.
Mrs. Fallshaw, Mentone	Mrs. Campbell, Toorak
Mr. Horsham, E. Melbourne	Mrs. Craig, W. Brunswick
Mrs. Buchanan, Toorak	Mrs. Gray, Coburg
Mrs. Thompson, Parkdale	Mrs. Warne, Hawthorn
Mrs. Green, E. Melbourne	Mrs. Harrison, S. Yarra
Mrs. Doone, Mentone	Mrs. Vernon, Frankston
Mrs. Ferguson, Ascot Vale	Mrs. Tupper, Cheltenham
Mrs. Lobban, Mentone	Mrs. Harrop, Pascoe Vale
Mrs. Ganner, Toorak	Mrs. Fay, Albert Park
Mr. K. Longdon, Caulfield	Mrs. Temple, Caulfield
Mr. Rattray, Regent	Miss Roberts, Thornbury
D. G. P. Elwood	Mrs. Hammond, Frankston
Mrs. Grassick, Kew	Mrs. Crane, Fitzroy
Miss Robinson, Toorak	Miss Walters, Hawthorn
Mrs. Denfrey, Glen Iris	Mrs. Casey, W. Brunswick

## DONATION SLIP

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

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."

Mr. Leggo, Kew  
Mrs. French, Burwood  
Miss Holland, Hawthorn  
Miss Cox, E. Melbourne  
Mrs. Meikle, Kensington  
Mrs. Gross, Glen Iris  
Mrs. Dymond, S. Yarra  
Mrs. Allen, Camberwell

Mrs. Hobson, Nyah West  
Mrs. Warr, Deniliquin, N.S.W.  
Mr. Price, Geelong  
Mrs. Jenkins, Bruce's Creek  
Mrs. Knight, Linton  
Mr. Richards, Upwey  
Mrs. Bennett, Upwey  
Mrs. Meheron, Ashburton  
Mrs. Cutler, Brighton

## B.S.L. GROUP NEWS

### HUGHESDALE - MURRUMBEENA:

There will be a meeting at 5 Fellows Street on Thursday, November 5, in preparation for the forthcoming Market Fair. As all goods are to be priced on that day will Groupers please bring along their gifts. Wool and material can still be obtained for this purpose by ringing Mrs. Curtis, UL 3128. Anyone desiring to help in any way could ring this number.

A very happy Annual Outing was spent by members of this Group at Carrum Downs in August. It was the first visit of many of the members and they were surprised by the peace and beauty of the place and the contented smiles with which they were welcomed.

### CHRISTMAS DISPLAY:

Let us end the year with an attractive window display at Royal Arcade of goods for sale at Christmas. Now is the time for spring cleaning, so keep your eyes open for suitable oddments in ornaments, linen, soft toys, pieces of material suitable for dressing dolls, etc., etc. I have dolls at the shop for anyone willing to dress them. W. R.

### NEW BUILDING AT CARRUM DOWNS (Cont.):

The B.S.L. is answering two definite and distinct needs in deciding that people so situated, may finance their own homes at Carrum Downs. Six new dwellings being built as a part of this scheme are now nearing completion, each potential resident having provided the money for the neat, self-contained home, the services and proportional share of further accommodation to be provided in Collins Court when he or she is no longer able to care for themselves. It is only possible for a very limited number of people to join this project, but those few are gratified to find that at Carrum Downs they have become part of a scheme that guarantees them both independence and security for life at a cost which would not allow them to think of building a home in the already overcrowded suburbs.

As the original cost of participation in the Carrum Downs scheme is depreciated over a period of ten years, these people can have further security in the knowledge that their investment is partly convertible if necessary during that period. The scheme envisages that in covering the cost of his home this class of person will have reduced his means to an amount which entitles him to apply for a social services pension. He will then be able to contribute the necessary service charge designed to cover rates, insurance and maintenance.

However, the two aspects which appeal most to those at present engaged in the scheme are—firstly they are joining a worthwhile, interested and active community, and secondly at some later date they will have made available a home for some person without means, and in that respect less fortunate than themselves.

Those people building homes at Carrum Downs have grasped the significance of another principle which the Brotherhood of St. Laurence has found to be effective—"In answering the needs of others, a solution is often found to one's own."

L. W.