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brotherhood bulletin

DECEMBER 1975

As David is at present in New York at the United Nations Headquarters, I know he would want me to say a few words by way of Christmas greetings to all staff.

It has been a difficult and uncertain year for us at the Brotherhood, yet everyone has pulled their weight and as a result life goes on. Many staff members have carried heavy loads uncomplainingly because they know how important it is. I want to take this opportunity of expressing appreciation for all those additional efforts by staff beyond the call of duty.

In the midst of a world still plagued with violence and war and a country deeply divided in its views comes the peace of Christmas. Each of us can interpret its meaning in our own way in the resolve that we can become instruments of that peace.

Perhaps it is worth saying that we are meant to be 'peacemakers' as distinct from 'peacekeepers'. This suggests not the mere absence of war or the containing of conflict, but the active effort to create dynamic new relationships that help people to grow and develop.

Most of us will be taking 're-creational' leave as distinct from a mere Christmas 'break'. May I, on behalf of fellow Directors wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

Peter Hollingworth.

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David Scott's not the only one to go international - Kath Sowry who has been cashier at the Brunswick Bazaar leaves on December 31 for Katmandu and John Cooper, ex Salvage driver, is at, or in, Loch Ness looking for Nessie!

The Family Centre has elected its first Council made up of people not employed in the Centre, and Erica Naisbett has been elected Chairperson. Almost all the professional staff have now left with the latest departures being Carol Ride, Mandy Press and Jill Williams.

Graeme Bull who since he left the Brotherhood a year ago has been running the Centre's camps under contract, is going to Queensland soon and families will go on 'The Bull's' last two camps in January.

Joan Benjamin is staying on in the Centre and has been appointed Social Action Worker. Merv Parker and Vicky Young are working part-time as link-up people to help introduce the new families joining the Centre, and Carol Sowter is working in the kindergarten. Margaret Blai is the new holiday host organiser, arranging holidays for children with private families. Judy Till who was firstly Connie, and then Hayden's secretary, is leaving to go back to school.

Tricia Johnson is the owner of the new voice greeting early callers to the Head Office switchboard. Carolyn Chalmers has joined the Accounts Department and Ann Beechey has changed jobs to take over purchasing all our goodies from Rod Moss who's departed for Queensland.

Christine Scheffer is working with Barbara Dixon as a welfare assistant in Material Aid. It was good to have Glen Alderson back with us before Christmas. Glen has just apassed first year social studies at Preston Institute of Technology and came back for a few weeks to run the Toy Club.

Phyl Tinney might just last the distance to Christmas, having finished her mammoth task in researching 'Home Away from Home', a 350 page study on family day care, and leaves the Brotherhood in December. Graeme Brewer also recently finished his research study 'Workers without Jobs' and found it necessary to go to Merimbula to recuperate.

Changes to come in the Coolibah Centre.....Discussion with various authorities have been held over the last few months to try to extend Coolibah services, as well as making them available to many more people, though it's too soon to predict just what these changes will be.

Christmas parties all over the Brotherhood ...Family Day Care and Limurru parents, children and staff had a barbecue for about 60 in Studley Park on Sunday 14th, and a party for the Limurru 'littlies' on the 19th. Bev Spiller was Mother Christmas last year but was recognized, so Bruna Bombig's husband Peter will hand out the pressies this time.

The Social Club's dinner dance was a good night despite the elections with about 70 there, and the head office 'do' turned into dinner for 80, nearly causing several breakdowns as the Toy Club was also using the same premises!

The Coolibah Centre's annual party for 200 is on December 23, and another 70 will be coming in on Christmas day itself for dinner with Jess Millott and Margaret Pelmear.

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