

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence

*The Brotherhood helps those in need and endeavours
to arouse thought and action on social questions.*

B.S.L. Headquarters,
67 Brunswick St., Fitzroy, N.6. Phone JA 7055

OCTOBER, 1960

No. 144



FATHER G. K. TUCKER

CARRUM DOWNS VILLAGE FAIR

SATURDAY, 8th OCTOBER
Starting 1 p.m.

As announced in the last "NOTES" the Annual Village Fair will be held at Carrum Downs on Saturday, 8th October.

In error, however, we gave the wrong time. **Would Friends please note that the correct time of starting is 1 p.m.**

We hope to see many of you there and that you will enjoy the new and extended attractions and facilities.

Buses leave Batman Avenue at 1 p.m. Tickets are obtainable at 51 Royal Arcade. (Price 6/6 return).

**3XY SESSION:
WATCH FOR THE
RETURN**

of

"News and Interviews"

to the original time — 12.45
p.m. on Mondays.

Now heard at 1.45 p.m. on
Fridays.

The Superior writes on . . .

CARE OF THE SEMI-INFIRM AGED

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

I have often found over the years that after I had told you good people of my hopes for the future, those hopes have become a reality — not perhaps always at once but they have materialised nevertheless. With this thought in mind I am going to tell you of my latest "hope".

As you know we have been caring for elderly people for the last 14 years. At the time of writing, there are some 200 of these folk on our Settlements at Carrum Downs and Lara. Not very many perhaps but what has been done at Carrum Downs has been the means of encouraging others to work along the same lines. There must now be some thousands of elderly people in various parts of Australia, and perhaps overseas too, who although old are living very happy and peaceful lives. This has been brought about by you B.S.L. Friends helping to make my "hope" of years ago for the care of the aged, become a reality.

AT PRESENT WE CAN'T HELP

But to return to my latest "hope"; it is for an establishment for the care of semi-infirm old people. Hardly a day goes by that we do not have to write to some very unhappy old person to whom we have to say we can do nothing. They can no longer look after themselves and they are very fearful as to the future for they have no one to whom they can turn to help. It is true that we are caring for a certain number of people at Carrum Downs who are semi-invalids, but in nearly all cases they came to us while still active. What accommodation we have has to be reserved for such people.

I do not visualise a large establishment but rather a number of houses in various suburbs accommodating say — 10 or 12 people. Personally I cannot think of anything worse than that of being old, infirm and lonely and with that awful feeling that one has lived too long,

and that no one cares. All they can look for is kindly death, but yet all shrink from death however difficult life might be.

THIS "HOPE" SHOULD APPEAL

What I write should appeal, I think to people of my own age group, who as I am, are able to thank God every day of their lives that, as far as can be seen in these uncertain days, the infirm years, should they come, will be provided for. There will be money for the purpose. The children, the grandchildren or nephews and nieces will always take a kindly interest and do what they can to help. There are many thousands in our community who have not these blessings.

What I write should appeal also to those younger people who are in a position to know that Mum and Dad will be cared for when they can no longer care for themselves.

I have no definite plans in regard to this project of my dreams. I have not even discussed the matter with the Brotherhood Board and we most certainly have no money for the purpose except that I know the Commonwealth Government would make a substantial grant towards any worthwhile scheme. In the meantime I just pass this "hope" on to you with the hope that you will join your "hopes" with mine!

A SUITABLE HOUSE?

Perhaps you know of a suitable house whose owner might be ready, as a thank offering, to give us that house for the purpose I have indi-

(Continued on page 2)

The Superior writes...

(Continued from page 1)

cated. The owner, if elderly, might wish to remain in the home and be cared for with others, or you might know of a group of people who would be prepared to work together for the furthering of the idea.

I do not think of the Brotherhood being able to care for all the semi-invalid old people in need, but I do think of the Brotherhood setting up an establishment which might be a pattern others would follow. I realise that many are already in this field of service, but there is a pressing need for its extension. Mindful of all you have enabled us to do over the years I feel sure that if it is right that we should embark upon this new work my "hope" will become a reality.

KEBLE HOUSE

In my last letter I told you that I thought that Keble House (the flats to be erected in East Brunswick) would be ready by the end of the year, this I now fear will not be the case but I am more than pleased with the plans our Architects have prepared and the building will be well worth waiting for.

With Greetings to you all from us all,

Yours sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker

Secretary B.S.L.

FATHER TUCKER'S PUBLICATIONS

For Australia

"THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY LEFT"

*With a Commendation by
The Archbishop of Sydney
and
Primate of Australia*

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SECOND EDITION OF "THE BEST IS YET TO BE"

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Dr. E. Cunningham Dax*
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B.S.L. CENTRES

From time to time the "Notes" will try to cover the activities of each of our Centres in more detail than is possible in brief paragraphs.

This month we give Friends a review of the last year's activities of:—

THE COOLIBAH CLUB

WELFARE SERVICE

The welfare service that is part of the Club services is extended to any elderly people with personal problems, housing, health or financial difficulties. In a time of rapid social and economic change, when prices are constantly rising and when social services become more varied and complex the advisory and counselling service meets a vital need for the many old people who are bewildered by these changes and the difficulties of old age.

The problems that are brought to Miss Sumner and her voluntary assistant, Mrs. Millott, are many and varied. A neighbour telephones to tell of an old lady living alone next door who appears to be mentally ill.

A pensioner is burnt out. She must be found new accommodation and provided with clothing and furniture and helped to overcome the shock of her terrifying experiences.

A legless man who has overcome his handicap in a remarkable way, becomes ill. He lives in a tiny sub-standard room. He must be provided with meals and other needs.

An old lady who has lived in the same small cottage for 30 years has to move as the cottage has been sold. Accommodation has been found but she has to be helped through the upheaval of moving.

Accommodation presents the biggest single problem. The 1960 Rent Act increased the rentals of controlled properties and while many of the increases are justified from the point of view of the owner they have placed some accommodation beyond the means of pensioners. There has been a general tendency for all rooms and apartment rents to increase and now it is seldom that a new letting can be found at less than £3 or £3/10/0 which is more than a single pensioner on £5 a week can afford.

The welfare service provided by the Coolibah Club was carried out through 2,000 interviews and more than 2,000 home visits to provide advice, care, companionship, home help and meals.

The first elderly citizens' club established in Victoria was the Brotherhood's Coolibah Club which was opened in Fitzroy in 1946.

Today the Coolibah Club has a membership of 176 elderly men and women. The Club consists of two comfortable sitting rooms, a dining room, kitchen, shower room and offices.

The Club is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the year. Its amenities include a midday meal for 1/6, morning and afternoon tea, television, radio, library, advice and help with personal problems, a clothing service, and outings and entertainments. The Club is a place to meet old friends and to make new ones and to participate in all Club activities.

A chiropody service is available at the Club and a visiting service is available to other elderly people who may be "home-bound."

Seventy-two chiropody treatments were provided in the Club and 90 to elderly people in their own homes.

Meals at home are provided to elderly people known to be unable to leave their homes through illness or infirmity. The Club served 9,699 midday meals in the dining room and provided 1,800 meals to elderly people who were confined to their homes.

CLUB FUNCTIONS

A record number of Club functions was arranged during the year. They included 7 theatre parties which 500 elderly people attended; 6 Club concerts; 3 country trips to which 100 were invited and various luncheons, afternoon teas and outings arranged by Church groups and other organisations.

Members of the Brotherhood's Youth Centre organised 10 film nights for Coolibah Club members and an average of 40 members attended each film night.

The Coolibah Club organised a Christmas party and dance for teenagers of the Youth Centre for the second year in succession and it was so popular that it will become a regular part of Christmas activities.

Club members organised 5 Australian teas and one euchre party to raise funds towards the provision of central heating in the Club. They also stocked and staffed a stall at the Brotherhood's annual Market Fair.

B.S.L. CALENDAR**ALL SOULS DAY
COMMEMORATION****WEDNESDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER****9.30 a.m. at Carrum Downs****Preacher: Rev. Vernon Cohen.****All Brotherhood Friends are invited****30th FOUNDATION FESTIVAL****CHRIST CHURCH
SOUTH YARRA****SUNDAY, 11th DECEMBER****EVENSONG AT 7 P.M.**

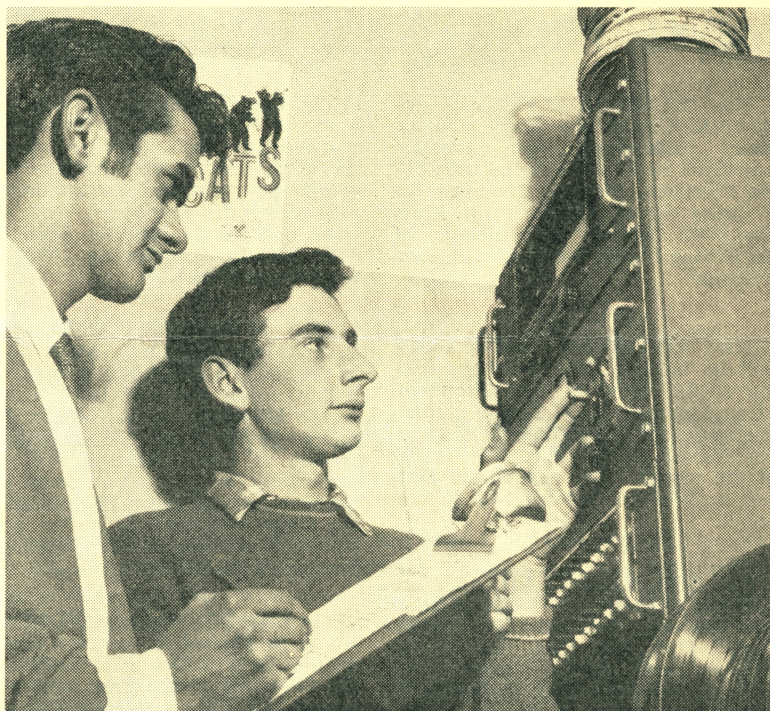
Preacher: His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne. We hope many Friends, old and new, will join with us on this occasion.

**YOUTH CENTRE
"RADIO STATION"**

The Fitzroy Youth Centre now has its own "radio station". This operates throughout the rooms of the Children's and Youth Centre.

Second-hand equipment, very cheaply acquired, was installed by Club members.

The picture at the right shows chief announcers Richard Dawson and Sonny Hudson at the controls.

**ANNUAL B.S.L.****MARKET FAIR***in the***LOWER MELBOURNE TOWN HALL***on***FRIDAY, 11th NOVEMBER, 1960****DOORS OPEN AT 10.30 A.M.****FAIR FEATURES INCLUDE:**

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| • Jewellery | • Toys | • Books and Christmas Cards |
| • Plants | • Sweets | • Aprons |
| • Home Made | • Produce | • Hats |
| Cakes and Jams | • Ornaments | • Good Cleaned Clothing |
| • Knitted Garments | • Vases | • Light Luncheon |

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS AT THE FAIR

Contributions for the Fair will be welcomed at 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy (JA 7055) — especially plants and cakes.

Country Friends could help by sending produce to Flinders or Spencer Street Stations. We can collect from there if you notify us.

NEWS FROM B.S.L. AUXILIARIES

The **HUGHESDALE-MURRUM-BEENA** Group are busy planning their forthcoming get together Luncheon to be held at the home of the President, Mrs. K. Thompson of 7 Cross Street, Ormond, on Monday, 24th October. Any member of the Sewing Group will receive a warm welcome.

The **BRIGHTON AUXILIARY** will be holding their October meeting at the home of their President, Mrs. Dobson, 2 Margarita Street, Hampton on Wednesday, 12th October instead of the third Wednesday of the month. The next Street Stall will be held on October 14th in Bay Street.

The **BOX HILL AUXILIARY** are planning a Floral Art Demonstration for Monday, October 17th at St. Peter's Hall, Box Hill. Anyone interested could obtain further details from the Secretary, Mrs. Tucker (WX-7274).

CHELTENHAM - MORDIALLOC AUXILIARY members are very busy with plans for their Garden Fete which is to be held this year at the home of Mrs. Dowse, Gulls Point, Warren Road, Parkdale on Saturday, 19th November. Entrants in the Baby Competition, which is to be judged by T.V. Personality, Miss Jocelyn Terry, are already hard at work raising funds. This group will hold their next meeting on 4th October at the home of Mrs. Christensen, 11 Herbert Street, Parkdale.

The **DANDENONG AUXILIARY** have a Floral Art Demonstration planned for their October meeting on Wednesday, 26th. Anyone who would be interested in coming to this afternoon would be very welcome and should ring the Secretary, Mrs. Moodie (Dandenong 1694) for further particulars.

The **SUNSHINE AUXILIARY** have a busy time with Stalls ahead as they have a Street Stall planned for 21st October and will be in charge of the Plant Stall at the Market Fair on November 11th. Membership increases at every meeting but they would still be glad to welcome new members along to their next meeting which will be held at the home of Mrs. P. Jensen, 15 Hertford Road, Sunshine (311 2407).

The **FORTUNAS AUXILIARY** would be pleased to welcome anyone in the Balwyn-Box Hill district to the following events they have planned — a Card Evening on Saturday, 15th October, a talk on Interior Decorating on Tuesday, 18th and Day Picnic to Seaford on November 20. Anyone interested should ring Mrs. McLachlan (85 9946) for further particulars.

The **ORMOND AUXILIARY** are very pleased with their new shop premises and are all working hard to show that last year's takings of £1,000 can be maintained. Anyone who can help with clothing or ornaments for the shop should ring Mrs. Parr at LW 1912 and she will arrange for them to be picked up.

THE MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET

The **MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET** raised the splendid sum of £3,000 at their recent Carnival.

Our thanks go to them for all their hard work.

The **PRESTON AUXILIARY** will be holding their third Annual meeting at 2 p.m. on October 10th in the Mayoress's Rooms of the Preston Town Hall. Guest Speaker will be Mr. Alex Greig, Director of the Youth Centre. At the election of Office Bearers, Mrs. Gardiner agreed to be our President for another year with the staunch support of Mrs. Grindrod as Secretary and Mrs. Ebdon as Treasurer. Mrs. Houston, the Mayoress of Preston, has kindly agreed to be our Vice-President.

We are very grateful to our newly formed **WANGARATTA AUXILIARY** for the many parcels of clothing they have collected and mailed to our Salvage Department.

CAMBERWELL AUXILIARY — The next function planned by this group will be a Musical Luncheon to be held on Thursday, 6th October at the home of Mrs. John Scarborough. Mrs. Scarborough herself will be our Guest Artist.

Father Tucker was present at the Annual meeting of the **FITZROY AUXILIARY**, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Bucknall and Miss Showers were again elected to office.

ARMADALE AUXILIARY—This group are in charge of the baby wear stall at our Annual Fair at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on November 11th. Any donations of knitting for the stall should be sent to Mrs. Thorn at 81 Kooyong Road, Armadale.

The **GLEN IRIS AUXILIARY** will hold an Australian Tea at the home of their President, Mrs. A. H. Smart, 181 Glen Street, Glen Iris on Saturday, November 12th. The group are again organising the afternoon tea at the Ashburton Horticultural Show on October 29th.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
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Please find my donation £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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