

brotherhood action

The Journal of the Brotherhood of St Laurence

DECEMBER, 1969

Full health covers many things

Health has been defined as a complete state of physical, personal and social well-being. And that means almost everyone is automatically excluded from full health. Prof. Basil Hetzel, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at Monash Medical School, said this at the Brotherhood's annual meeting recently. Prof. Hetzel pointed out the contrasted pictures of rural and city family living. In country family life, support for the immediate family group and the individual was available from aunts, uncles, grandparents and others in times of stress. These family connections almost automatically knew when support was needed. In the city, the family household was far more isolated: relationships outside the family were more brief, casual and related to immediate purposes and less related to normal, long-term friendships and mutual supporting.

Impersonal city life

Friendship and support for individuals and small families was a first line of action to prevent the ills of impersonal city family life, he said. He quoted the success of the Samaritan Service in England, and the Mental Health Authority's personal emergency service in Melbourne. He said it was now hoped to extend the MHA personal emergency service with the help of volunteers to complement medical and social care for community health.

A glimpse of the alternative was seen in the problem of attempted suicide increasing in Melbourne. Of 1000 patients in the casualty wards of the Alfred Hospital last year suffering from effects of drug over-doses, 750 were young women, and half of these had not discussed their problems (which had led to their actions) with anyone. Further, they found it hard to discuss their difficulties with doctors and psychiatrists

in the hospital. In a lot of cases, it was found the communication difficulty was related to unsatisfactory family life in the past.

Real health, said Prof. Hetzel, is bound up with housing, education, problems of settling in a new country, and financial difficulties. These, in turn, are inextricably bound up with ordinary living and community facilities.



Left to right: Mr David Scott, Miss Janet Paterson and Prof. Basil Hetzel at the BSL annual meeting.

A new deal in education

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The annual Christmas party for the pensioners of the Coolibah Club of Fitzroy is always well attended. And last year was no exception. The chaplain, Fr Peter Hollingworth, presents Mrs Jessica Millott, the club's manageress, with a Christmas present from the 160 members of the club.

Christmas at the BSL

Joy and happiness at Christmas depend for a large number of people on the Brotherhood of St Laurence, and the Brotherhood in turn depends on its friends for financial support.

For most people in Australia, Christmas is a time of excitement, family gatherings, holidays and presents given and received. It is a time, too, for remembrance of the origin and significance of the festival of Christmas.

But for a large number of people it is just another day unless the Brotherhood can carry out its programme, and these depend on money.

Many low-income families will be enabled, through the Brotherhood, to enjoy Christmas; the Children's Centre

will organise outings and camps; Miss Sumner and Mrs. Millott, who work with elderly people, will see that none of their lonely friends are forgotten.

December is the critical month for the Brotherhood. At this time of giving and sharing we rely on your donations to ensure that our Christmas programme and our week-by-week service of welfare, research and community education on social needs will be maintained.

Our new journal

ACTION aims to bring you closer to the Brotherhood of St Laurence and to the needs of the community with which the Brotherhood is concerned. ACTION is a new and lively version of the journals that the Brotherhood has published for 30 years for its friends and supporters. It reflects the Brotherhood's endeavour to be topical and progressive.

ACTION will tell you what the Brotherhood is doing with the help you provide in donations, salvage goods or voluntary service.

ACTION will also publish articles by authorities outside the Brotherhood on housing and pensions, education and family welfare, town planning and social policy.

We hope you will share in ACTION—by reading it and by contributing articles or letters.

The Brotherhood is in urgent need of your help to keep its good work going. And you can help. Your old clothing, furnishings, crockery, books and jewellery are all useful. In fact anything of saleable value is useful. Your help will provide homes for elderly people... run Youth Centres... overcome family difficulties and housing problems. Back the Brotherhood.



THE BROTHERHOOD
OF ST LAURENCE
67 BRUNSWICK STREET, FITZROY
Ring 41 3183 and a van will call.

A NEW DEAL IN EDUCATION for Collingwood's people

By RONALD A. REED,
Assistant Director-General of
Education in Victoria.

An exciting new concept of education has come into being as a direct result of a seminar on the problems of inner-suburban schools arranged by the Victorian Council of School Organisations (VICCSO) in Collingwood Town Hall in September, 1967.

After this seminar the Education Department contacted VICCSO and invited it to set up an organisation to plan a new high school. This they agreed to do, and an action committee, which later became the steering committee, was established. At first the committee was concerned only with the new high school, but there was always a strong feeling that primary and technical schools should be involved also, especially as the Cromwell Street Primary School is immediately adjacent to the high school. The technical school situation is a little different, as Collingwood Technical School serves this area and is not very distant from the Vere Street site. At present, both primary and technical school representatives are on the steering committee, and the school is being planned as the Collingwood Education Centre, a combined high and primary school.

Members of the steering committee realise that they are dealing with a problem which is much more than an educational problem. The mere construction of a school will not solve it; but if the whole concept of the Collingwood Education Centre is enlarged to take into account the structure and needs of the whole community — adult as well as child — then we can get to grips with the situation.

There have been problems of a certain kind in Collingwood for many years, but the nature of them has been changed radically by such events as the demolition of the older houses and their replacement by Housing Commission tenement

buildings; the influx of migrants from many countries, and the changed industrial character of much of the area. Anybody who attempts to solve the social, economic, cultural and educational problems piecemeal is bound to failure. The educational problems, in particular, are bound up with the social, economic and cultural problems.

Contribution to culture

Nor should we think only of problems, as if we are dealing with a community that needs putting entirely to rights. Collingwood has made its contribution to the culture of Australia, using the term "culture" in its broadest sense as the way of life of the people, and it will continue to do so. Its migrant people bring their own culture with them, which adds and gives greater variety to the native culture. Those who grapple with the situation must not be carried away by reforming zeal; they are dealing with people who, despite all ministrations, will obstinately decide to remain people. They provide the starting point for the Collingwood Education Centre.

It is clear from this that the Centre must be closely identified with the district it serves, and must be seen as serving the needs of that district. Complete co-operation between parents, citizens and teachers—yes, and pupils, too—is necessary if the Centre is to fulfil its purpose. There is no greater advantage for a child starting school than to come from a home that has a "positive" attitude towards the school, and this kind of attitude is produced when the parents encourage the child to like school, support the school in its advice and decisions, and work readily and willingly with the school in what it is trying to achieve.

The school has its part to play in this process; it must respect its pupils as individuals with their own aptitudes, interests and needs, it must try to determine exactly what these are and it

Continued on Page 11



The latest in holiday camp plans

There are wide new horizons

During the month of January the Brotherhood will take 88 children and teenagers on a camping holiday. They will not all be going together to one large camp for a month's holiday, but will be going off in small groups for periods of up to a week to sites all over Victoria.

The concept of Mobile Adventure Camps was first introduced into the Brotherhood youth programme in 1967, with the purchase of a Land Rover and the necessary mobile camping equipment. The idea has proved so successful that we now have two fully equipped mobile camps which operate throughout the year on selected weekends and for longer periods in each of the school holidays.

The fact that they are in small groups of eight (the maximum size) where the wishes of the individual can be taken into consideration, is important when compared with the situation in a residential camp of 30 to 40, where a set programme must be followed. Campers also appreciate the mobility of a small group, and being able to pack up and move if they wish. From the point of view of the youth workers, the small groups give them a chance to establish relationships with the teenagers and a high leader/camper ratio of one to two is maintained.

Under the mobile camping system, it is

also possible to introduce them to a variety of holiday or recreational pursuits which they would have little chance of experiencing otherwise.

This January a total of eight mobile camps will be going to places like Lake Victoria, the Mitta Mitta River, Mount Gambier and Wilson's Promontory. The bulk of the teenagers involved in these camps will be drawn from the inner areas of Melbourne; many will be known to the Brotherhood as regular club attenders, but others will be referred by other organisations, social workers and clergy.

The Youth Department will also be running the usual day outings in January for children from five to 14 years of age. The programme, which caters for children whose parents are working or who are not able to take their children on outings themselves, is designed to get the children out of their year-round situation and give them fresh experiences and ideas. A maximum of 55 children a day will be taken on trips to the country, bayside and Geelong beaches, and theatres. There is a charge of 25 cents for each individual child and 50 cents for a family of two or more.

As with the mobile camping, youth club staff will be assisted on these outings by voluntary leaders. The ideal ratio for groups of this size is one leader to five children, but unless more male volunteers are forthcoming, we will probably have to be content with one leader to 10 children. Anyone of the male sex who is interested in volunteering to help on some of the outings should contact Miss Thea Gelpke, at telephone 41-7055.



What we've been doing

IN SEPTEMBER . . .

Mrs Marta Fischer, formerly Social Worker with the Old People's Welfare Council, was appointed to the Research and Social Action Department, to study the need for a hostel for elderly people in Fitzroy . . .

Acting Senior Social Worker, Joan Davey, spoke on "The Social Needs of the Inner City," at a general meeting called by the Melbourne Women's Council . . . An automatic slide show (extreme left

of picture) synchronised with a tape recorder describing BSL social service projects, attracted a lot of attention to the Brotherhood stand at the Homes Decor and Building Show. Another attraction was a gay wall mural painted by children at the Creative Leisure Centre.

IN OCTOBER . . .

The Executive Director David Scott, chaired a meeting organised by the Mothers' Club of West Hawthorn Central School, on "Education and its Inequalities." Guest speakers were the three candidates for the Kooyong electorate — Messrs Andrew Peacock,



MHR, Richard Dunstan and Frank Duffy, and Professor Selby-Smith, dean of the faculty of education at Monash . . . Janet Paterson (Director of Research and Social Action) addressed the staff of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at Monash on family poverty

During the month Janet also spoke to various political and university groups on poverty and family planning . . . Brotherhood material and a client witness were used in the National Wage Case, which was heard before the Full Bench of the Arbitration Court. The case, which will affect four million workers, highlights the importance of recording information in a form that can readily be made available for major purposes such as this . . .

Research Officer, Judith O'Neill, scored another trip to Canberra when she was invited back to participate in a two-day seminar on educational planning for the new satellite township of Tuggeranong (see "The Brotherhood News," September). Judith also gave a paper "The Social Aspects of High Density Living," to an advanced studies course for members of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects . . .

The new government & WELFARE

By CONCETTA BENN

As each new election looms on the horizon, those of us who spend our time in the service of the disadvantaged of our community, indulge in the fantasy that perhaps this time the politicians will produce a programme that will provide some of the opportunities our clients so sadly lack.

The election has now been fought and narrowly won and we turn to an examination of some of the social welfare proposals of our new Government. Underlying the measures which are proposed in the Prime Minister's policy speech is the same tired old "Poor Law" philosophy which has been thrust upon us for decades. Mr Gorton claims the individual should be given the "opportunity to take risks and reap rewards."

This type of statement implies that individuals have a choice about whether they will be poor, or not. It neglects the fact that the majority of people relying on social services are quite unable to improve their position through their own effort. They are either unskilled, ill, deserted, or disadvantaged. Social services are not geared to need

at all but are regarded as a supplement to previous savings. No thought is given to those people who have no savings to supplement, due to lifetimes of low-incomes, sickness or bringing up large families. The Government promises to improve pension assistance without causing inflation or increasing the tax burden. This will be done by granting pensions at standard rates, instead of the lower married rates, to pensioner couples when failing health forces them to live apart. Once again we have the incremental type of thinking geared to winning votes and not to the real needs of people.

Planning

And so the itsy-bitsy, like-"Topsy" growth of social security continues with the Government's new proposals. Half the time the situation seems to be: We don't know who we're dealing with, but let's give the noisiest a small handout to keep them quiet. Perhaps the new capital subsidy on a two-to-one basis to

approved institutions training handicapped children could also be seen in this light.

It was hoped the Government might introduce some concept of planning and research into social welfare provisions. For example, we are proud of our low divorce rate in Australia, but we have no idea of the desertion rate, both are forms of family breakdown, but one is an unknown quantity. Yet again, how are programmes for substitute child care evaluated? Is it better to pour resources into adoption, foster care, family group homes, or large institutions?

These are both questions that only social research can answer, and there are thousands of similar questions. Yet no attempt has been made to provide research facilities in social welfare. It always seems possible to provide facilities for other types of research. In fact, Mr Gorton's policy speech promises to establish an Institute of Marine Science at Townsville at a capital cost of \$3 million. The obvious question must be asked: Is marine life more important than people?

Without research we cannot plan; without planning we cannot establish welfare priorities. Mr. Gorton's gesture to the Meals on Wheels organisation (he promised a \$1 for every 10 meals served in the past year) may appeal to the voter, but is that really where the greatest need lies?

HOUSING for the ELDERLY

Since 1946 when the Brotherhood first became involved in housing schemes for the aged, progress has been made.

The Commonwealth Government subsidy available through the Aged Persons' Homes Act for the building of homes for the aged has brought about a considerable increase in accommodation built specifically for the use of independent older persons.

It is becoming more and more apparent, however, that our main concern should now be focused on the frail, elderly persons who are no longer able to fully care for themselves.

Extension of domiciliary services, such as HOME HELP and MEALS ON WHEELS can do much to assist in maintaining independence. Admittedly, in outlying country areas such schemes may not be feasible, and even in the city there comes a time when a few hours assistance is no longer sufficient.

The extension of Commonwealth subsidy for the erection of hostel type accommodation for the frail aged, and the increase in nursing-home benefits have been welcome moves and are enabling many voluntary agencies to establish

such services or to extend existing facilities and thus endeavour to fill a very real need. Unfortunately, these subsidies still leave a wide financial gap which will have to be bridged in some way by voluntary effort unless the Commonwealth and State Governments can be persuaded to shoulder a bigger share of responsibility.

The Brotherhood now provides housing of various types for some 400 elderly people. The earliest of these housing schemes for the elderly to be established was at Carrum Downs, and the Manager, Mr Ken Williams, tells the story of this village settlement which now accommodates 161 elderly people.

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It all began in 1935.

Father Tucker saw the urgent needs of unemployed families in Fitzroy.

He decided that it would be an excellent idea to remove them from the slum environment to a rural setting living partly off the land.

This continued until the early war years, when there were more employment opportunities in the metropolitan area and the families living at Carrum Downs moved back to the city.

The board of the Brotherhood of St Laurence then decided to use the area at Carrum Downs as a village settlement for elderly citizens, and the first cottages for this project were built in 1946.

The objectives of the settlement were:

- To provide suitable accommodation at a reasonable rent.
  - To keep alive the spirit of independence but at the same time providing security.
  - To provide opportunities for useful activity so that a sense of responsibility to the community was maintained.
- These objectives are still followed and, to give a more comprehensive understanding of the principles involved, I will explain them in detail:

## Housing is important

Because it is felt important that people retain their independence, we have arranged for accommodation in individual cottages. Residents therefore can continue to live in the manner to which they are accustomed. The Brotherhood makes a service charge of \$4.25 per fortnight. This is based on one-eighth of the basic pension, plus supplementary rent allowance. Residents pay their own electricity and gas bills and provide their own food. They also provide their own furnishings, so that each cottage may be furnished to their desire.

We feel that the cottage situation gives residents the independence they desire, but we also know that at this age people do worry about the time when they may become too ill or too frail to look after themselves in their own cottages. To give residents the security they need in this regard, we have hostel type accommodation to which the resident may be transferred if the need arises. In this situation the resident pays a service charge of three-quarters of the pension, including the supplementary rent allowance. However, meals are provided for them; they have nursing supervision, and domestic help when needed.

An eight-bed registered acute hospital is situated on the Settlement, where any temporary illness is treated. To help bear the cost of this service, residents are asked to join Hospital Benefits Association or an equivalent health fund





**Older people have a right to INDEPENDENCE, to a STANDARD OF LIVING they can enjoy, and to life which gives FULFILMENT — something to do tomorrow that is worth the doing.**

on Schedule "L," for which they pay 50 cents per week; then, when in need of hospitalisation, the fee is covered by membership of the health fund.

## Still needed

It is most essential that people in this age bracket realise that they are still needed by the community. The provision of individual cottages lends itself readily to the situation of a small village, and we therefore encourage residents to take an active role in the day-to-day running of the Settlement by the election of a Residents' Committee. Residents are also encouraged to help in the daily maintenance of the Settlement.

The second method of providing activity is the annual Village Fair. It is organised almost entirely by residents working in a voluntary capacity, and is held in October each year. Proceeds from this fair are not used at the Settlement but are given to the Brotherhood for use in its general funds.

So residents are helping others who are in need. Over the past six or seven years an average of \$2000 has been raised annually by this effort.

## Pocket money too

The third method of providing activity is the creation of a small commercial enterprise called Carrum Downs Industries. CDI either manufactures goods for sale through normal wholesale and retail channels, or else it contracts to commercial firms to do a certain job for them. From the proceeds of these commercial enterprises we are able to pay the residents involved in these activities, and those engaged in the service activities, some pocket money. They are paid at the rate of 20 cents per hour, and this enables them to have a little extra on top of their pension. Within the concept of this commercial activity, we also run a small general store

called the Tucker Box, which services the villagers with all their needs, with the exception of bread, milk and meat.

We also manufacture wicks from steel wool for kerosene appliances; Anti-Blur pads for wiping windscreens in dirty weather; good quality letterboxes with brass nails, screws and hinges, and other fine quality lines. We are also occupied in mailing programmes for various commercial firms.

It is most essential that people who are retired but active should lead a full and interesting life, and we feel that by giving people their independence, security in case of frailty or illness, and by the provision of useful activities (which are not compulsory) we are allowing residents their right to continue as responsible citizens.

A domiciliary care service which was introduced as an experiment to compensate for a shortage of hostel-type accommodation has proved so successful that it is now planned to include this type of care in overall services at the Brotherhood's Carrum Downs Village for the elderly.

One of the main objectives at the village has always been to provide independence and security for its residents, and the Manager, Mr Ken Williams, considers that this new service is an essential one for this type of settlement.

"Even when there is more hostel accommodation available," he says, "there are some people who prefer to remain in their own cottages as long

as possible. With domiciliary care these residents will be able to retain some independence in the surroundings to which they are accustomed."

Twenty-two residents at the Settlement are currently benefiting from the service which provides nursing care, domestic and laundry help, meals where necessary and garden help.

Visits by the nursing sister are either daily or bi-weekly depending on the need, and the domestic help required varies from one hour to four hours a week. Mrs Edna Monasso, who has been on the staff at the Settlement for eight years, visits each resident receiving the service twice a week, to do whatever cleaning is necessary. A practical woman who enjoys the company of elderly people Mrs Monasso finds she is welcomed at the cottages for the companionship she brings, as much as for the help she gives. A small charge is made for the domestic and laundry service, to help meet costs, but this does not cover the actual cost nor does it cover the nursing sister's time. Meals and garden help are provided by voluntary labour. Residents at the Settlement deliver meals to their neighbours from the hostel diningroom when necessary, and boys from the Peninsula Grammar School visit every Tuesday during term to do the gardening chores. It is estimated that when the hostel accommodation is increased at the Settlement and the need for the service automatically reduced, the actual cost of domiciliary care services at Carrum Downs to the Brotherhood will be in the vicinity of \$650 a year.

## DONATION FORM

Donations for the following purposes are deductible for Income Tax: Carrum Downs Settlement for the Aged; Children's Centre; Holiday Camps Appeal; St Laurence Park, Lara; Social Service Bureau; St Laurence Court, Bendigo.

The Secretary, Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

Please find my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to assist the work of the Brotherhood.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

During the last twelve years the Brotherhood of St Laurence has developed a highly efficient business operation, geared to provide shopping opportunities for many thousands of low income families and, at the same time, help finance specialised services for elderly people, families and youth.

The Salvage Division came into being in 1956, when the Director of the organisation at that time, Archdeacon G. T. Sambell, arrived back from America convinced that there was money to be made from people's discarded clothing and household effects. With the help of a group of interested business men, which eventually became the Salvage Committee of Management, a suitable building comprising 11,000 square feet of space was purchased and a manager appointed.

This was not the Brotherhood's first venture into the secondhand trade business. Since 1935, with the help of voluntaries, the organisation had been conducting a small salvage business and Mr Graham Walker, the manager of the new division, inherited two small shops, one in Fitzroy and the other in the Royal Arcade in the city, and a one-ton truck with a part-time driver. With a staff of two and the driver, he set out to build up a business which has proved an outstanding success. "As a business proposition," he says, "I believe there is no investment in Melbourne which will produce the same return for the capital investment involved."

## Funds for welfare

In the first year of business, the division produced a net profit of \$20,000; last year the net profit was \$56,000. These figures do not include the large amount of clothing and furniture which is distributed to pensioners and clients. This would currently be valued at about \$10,000 a year.

The basic aim of the new division was to convert donations of clothing, rags and household goods into cash to provide funds for welfare services. Everything possible was to be marketed, from milk bottle tops, rags and scrap iron, to antique silverware, furs and good second-hand clothing. Publicity in the form of radio advertisements, theatre slides and press releases brought immediate results, with an average of 30 calls a day from people wishing to make donations. Then, as now, the Brotherhood collected the clothing personally and only on request.



Mr Graham Walker (left), the Manager of the Salvage Division, discusses the distribution of clothing with Mr Jim Dwyer, purchasing officer.

# A van will call

Mr Walker still remembers the first Salvage Committee Meeting in the new premises. A group of men sitting at a huge dining-room table with a large heap of unsorted clothing beside it in the midst of 11,000 square feet of echoing space. Today the addition of a mezzanine floor has increased that space to 16,000 square feet, with every foot in use. The original two telephone lines have grown to seven, which handle from 80 to 200 calls a day.

From a group of voluntary workers sorting half-a-day a week, there are now 15 voluntaries sorting every day. The one-ton truck has grown to seven three-ton trucks, and the two shops have expanded to nine. As well as the Melbourne activities, Geelong has its own Salvage Division, operating five shops, which provide finance for St Laurence Park, Lara, and the Bendigo Salvage Division has a large shop in Hardcastle Street, Bendigo, which helps to finance St Laurence Court, Eaglehawk.

**"No investment in Melbourne will produce the same return..."**

As anticipated, the real money proved to be in the opportunity shops, and more specifically in the sale of good clothing. Figures show that only about 10 per cent of all donations is suitable for re-sale through the shops, but the shops bring in about 80 per cent of the net profit yearly. The remaining 20 per cent comes from the sale of rags and other items, which make up 90 per cent of all donations.

## Voluntary help important

A big factor contributing to the success of this venture has been the use of voluntary helpers. Melbourne Salvage Division alone requires the services of 60 voluntary helpers a day — in the office, sorting clothing, and staffing opportunity shops. Management is constantly looking for new ways of expanding this voluntary participation in a business which must of necessity carry a sizeable paid staff.

Initially, the Salvage Division kept pace with the rapid expansion of Brotherhood services, but increasing competition as other charitable organisations have realised the potential of salvage has meant that the division has not been able to keep up. In an effort to counteract this trend, the last three years has seen the development of a personal canvass programme. This involves teams of Brotherhood representatives canvassing areas telling housewives about the work of the Brotherhood and asking if they can donate clothing. This programme has proved moderately successful in maintaining existing donors and building up new support.

The policy at the moment is one of consolidation. Ironing out operational and administrative problems—improving our presentation both of goods and what we are doing with the money raised, and persuading more people to help us by donating goods they no longer need.

Miss Janet Paterson will be leaving the Brotherhood in February, after 12 years spent working with the Family Service Project, the Social Service Bureau and, since 1965, as Director of Research and Social Action.

During that time Miss Paterson has made an important contribution to the development of the Brotherhood's social services and to community and official attitudes, particularly in creating a better understanding of people in Australia who now are, even in official circles, acknowledged to be poor.

Miss Paterson is planning an overseas visit to follow up her special interest in methods of communicating welfare needs to the wider community.

She points out that although many people are eager to learn about poverty the opportunities for this are limited. It is important that this interest should be fostered by better communications between those involved in welfare and those wishing to learn.

### Less pictorial

With television the medium of the age, she says, the task is becoming more difficult as social problems become less pictorial; the problem of poverty is no longer revealed by a quick shot of a slum house. It needs to be understood, she feels, in terms of such things as over-commitment to hire purchase, unequal educational opportunities, and unskilled bread-winners in an increasingly technical and specialist age.

Miss Paterson considers that there is tremendous scope in teaching at the moment. Schools, she finds, are eager to introduce consideration of social issues into their main curriculum rather than leaving it in the "religious instruction slot."

An interest in reaching people who are not already committed by their participation in a service or church group has been encouraged by Miss Paterson's experience in talking to various community groups.

Most people, she says, are horrified at the simple facts, about inadequate social service benefits or lack of basic community facilities. And while she doesn't believe that the information alone is enough to get them acting, it is, she considers, an essential beginning.

Miss Paterson, who is well known to the public as critic and commentator on social welfare issues through press, radio and television, first joined the Brotherhood as a social worker in the Family Service Project in 1958.

# Janet Paterson is going away

She later headed this experimental project which aimed at assisting families with many problems who had been accommodated at Camp Pell and later moved to a new outer Housing Commission estate.

### Published studies

In 1961 Miss Paterson was appointed Senior Social Worker in the Social Service Bureau and left this position 4 years later to establish the Research and Social Action Department. Under her direction the Department has carried out extensive, published studies on family life in flats; the plight of low-income families; and the extent to which charges and costs limit the educational opportunities of



children in low-income families. The Department's researchers are now working on a study of the situation of families who come to the Brotherhood social workers for assistance and counselling.

## Report calls for gov't action

The number of new patients attending the Family Planning Clinic doubled in the second year of its existence.

The latest report of the Clinic, which was released in September by the Director of Research and Social Action (Miss Janet Paterson) claimed that increased attendance had proved the need for the service. It called on the Government to recognise this by making finance available.

"There is a clear responsibility for a Government that has refused an enquiry into abortion to support family planning," says the report.

A total of 492 women, 381 of them coming for the first time, were seen in the Clinic, which recorded 1067 attendances in its second year. The service includes discussion of various contraceptive methods, medical examination and cancer smear tests.

Families using the Clinic are usually in higher occupational categories than those using other Brotherhood services, but the majority still fall into the low-income bracket.

As many as 85 per cent had incomes of less than \$60, and 47 per cent were not asked for any payment after their income, rent and family size were taken into account.

It is a matter of concern that fewer than half these will qualify for the free health insurance provided for in the

1969 Federal Budget, because this has failed to recognise the vital factor of family size in fixing the cut-off point at \$39.

Two items of interest detailed in the report are sources of referral and areas in which patients live. The report welcomed the fact that word-of-mouth referral from women who have attended the Clinic heads the list of referral sources which also includes social work agencies, Baby Health Centres, and the two public maternity hospitals.

The Clinic has attracted patients from all over Victoria, a total of 38 municipalities, 7 shires and 4 country towns are represented.

This indicates not only the widespread interest but the determination of women to obtain family planning advice even if it means travelling long distances with small children.

When asked to comment on possible lines of development for family planning services, they favor maternity hospitals which they see as logical in both time and place, independent clinics such as the Brotherhood's, and clinics in local government settings. Few wanted to attend private doctors for this advice, even if the fee was not a problem; their reluctance seemed to be based on a mixture of shyness and dissatisfaction. As one mother put it, "He did not realise how important it was to me."

# Talk about AUXILIARIES

with Dyranda Prevost

Box Hill's annual social afternoon was a great success, with the Methodist Ladies' Ensemble giving a most amusing programme of songs and sketches. Several visitors from Carinya especially appreciated the send-up of "A Quiet Rest in Hospital."

The Ringwood soup 'n sandwich luncheon and hat parade at St Paul's Vicarage was voted a great success.

Auxiliary members have this year made 110 beautiful knitted patchwork rugs for the Coolibah Club, including a special one for Father Tucker.

Warrandyte held their annual meeting recently in the beautiful setting of Miss Burbidge's home. This

Auxiliary has had a busy end to the year's work with a highly successful street stall, a visit to the spring fashion parade at Chadstone, and a theatre luncheon at the Rivoli Theatre to see "The Honey Pot."

Cheltenham auxiliary has been busier than ever, not content with a plant exchange morning, a street stall, a candle and Christmas decorations demonstration, and a cooking demonstration (all in the last month): they have organised their final street stall for the year only 10 days before Christmas.

Glen Iris held a very pleasant morning coffee party, when Mrs Peck spoke on her life in Tonga and Ethiopia.

Auxiliary members also recently catered for the Ashburton Horticultural Show.

Brighton's street stalls are always good and the one held on election day was no exception. Political supporters are also cake and jam lovers, and the profit from the day was \$150.



Del McCann, Adrienne Turner and Jeanette Laurie (Bendigo YS) try a practice run with the barbecue in preparation for the "ranch nite" which was held at Belvoir Park Golf Club. Over 100 guests from as far away as Port Lincoln and Albury danced till the "wee smalls" in a traditional ranch atmosphere — hurricane lamps, candles, hay bales and roaring log fire.

Heidelberg has been busy with street stalls in September and October, and combined with Streeton to give a luncheon and fashion parade at Saltzberg Lodge. Streeton Auxiliary has only two members who haven't had a visit from the stork this year, but this hasn't deterred them from having plans well in hand for what they hope is to be an even bigger barbecue than last year, on December 6.

Many homes in the Bulleen area should have very professional flower arrangements after Koonung's Beautiflora demonstration at the home of Mrs Diane Keogh in early November. Other recent functions have been the cherry blossom festival spring fashion parade at Chadstone which several other auxiliaries have also attended, and a film night at the Cinema Centre to see "The Lion in Winter."

Lady Leggatt was the guest speaker at Mornington Auxiliary's last function at "Morven" before it is sold. At a morning coffee party, nearly 70 guests enjoyed listening to her talking about life as an Agent-General's wife.

Unfortunately, this column has to go to press before the combined auxiliaries' day on November 24, so final figures are not at hand, but we think Preston and Ormond shops have something up their sleeves for that day.

Dandenong shop had a scare several weeks ago, when burglars broke into the shop by cutting a hole in the ceiling. However, they must have been disturbed and fled, leaving the money box in the middle of the floor.

Mrs Alan Jager, Secretary of the Waverley Auxiliary, admires some articles from "A houseful of embroidery." Over 650 people including 150 girls from local schools visited the exhibition at the home of Mrs W. E. Sturrock. The collection of more than 100 pieces was the work of Mrs Sturrock and her mother Mrs E. Oates.

Eaglehawk found their first cake stall so popular that they now have one each month. The English Monarchs since Elizabeth I were portrayed in a display of dolls made by Mrs Kerr, at Eaglehawk in August.

Bendigo's luncheon and theatre party was an extremely well organised and enjoyable day, with a profit at the end of \$355 — quite a feat we feel. Another highly successful function in Bendigo was the table setting exhibition arranged by Mrs W. H. Jones at the City Family hotel, to aid the Younger Set.

## BENDIGO NEEDS \$65,000

Plans are now well in hand for the second stage of St Laurence Court, flats for the elderly at Bendigo, and the Bendigo Committee of Management recently launched an appeal for finance. The extensions will provide accommodation for an additional 30 aged persons — 20 in hostel rooms and 10 in two new blocks of flat units. The hostel rooms will be self contained with private showers and toilets. The main meal and a linen service will be provided and a dining room and common room for activities are included in the plans for the hostel.

A workshop for resident activities and a Manager's residence are also part of stage II which, when completed, will bring the total production of the Court to 53.

The estimated cost of this stage is \$215,000. After taking into account all governmental assistance, the Brotherhood will need to find \$65,000.



## EDUCATION -- NEW DEAL FOR COLLINGWOOD

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must encourage and enable each child to develop to his full potential.

All children can be successful at school, provided we are sensible enough to realise that they do not all have the same aptitude for the same sort of thing, and are prepared to measure success by comparing their actual achievements against what they can reasonably be expected to achieve.

It is when we subject them all to the same educational diet; expect them all to reach the same standard, and then compare publicly the performance of one with another by means of examination marks, that the sense of failure begins to build up in the less able pupils and goes deeper and deeper year by year.

### Environment for learning

The Collingwood Education Centre will be organised in such a way that every pupil will be given every chance of success, measured in real terms. Sub-committees, consisting mainly of teachers, parents and experts, have been working for some time on the planning, organisation, subject development and, indeed, on every aspect of school work and life. They have produced some highly original and exciting proposals, all aimed at providing the right kind of environment for children to learn and keep on learning.

For example, there will be some 1800 pupils housed in the building if we include both primary and secondary pupils; but they will not be grouped in the traditional class groups, each in its own room with its own teacher. Instead, it is planned to design the building so that it will contain five large, separate spaces, each of which will be a "school within a school"; each of these units will have its own vice-principal, supported by teachers and teacher aides, and each will deal with a particular group of children. Thus, Unit 1 will accommodate first-year children, age about 4½ to 5½ years, some 140 in all; and this unit will have a staff of eight teachers and two teacher aides, as well as the vice-principal. Most of the part of the building which houses these children will be carpeted open space, where the children can be divided into groups of any size the teachers wish for the particular activity in hand. For some activities the children will work best in larger groups; for others, in small groups of two, or four, or six; or they may need individual attention at times

and be encouraged to work on their own. How the children are grouped and how the teachers divide up their own time to work with them will be a matter for the vice-principal and his staff to determine; the only charge given to them will be to ensure, by all means within their power, that the children pass on to Unit 2 ready to undertake the work of that unit with confidence and possessed of the simple basic skills they need to be successful in this work.

Unit 2 will consist of the next three years of primary schooling, organised in the same way, and Unit 3 of the last three primary years.

Units 5 and 6 will accommodate secondary pupils.

### Centre for parents

However, it is not enough to think only of the children. The committee realises that it must involve parents as well. They must know what the school is trying to do so that they can throw their weight behind it in the education of their children. More than this, the school building must be available at night to parents for educational and cultural purposes. There is little point in designing a \$2,000,000 school to be opened only between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and never during school holidays.

In all its dealings with local people, the steering committee has tried to be sympathetic and helpful. When certain house properties had to be acquired by the Education Department to provide an area big enough to hold the school, the owners and tenants were approached; the situation explained to them, and their needs discussed. It is pleasing to be able to record that their housing problems were solved, or will be solved, and that there was no bitterness about the transaction.

We must look at the Collingwood project as a first attempt to solve, in the planning of a new school, the educational needs of a community in relation to its other needs; to its social, economic and cultural structure, and to the lives of the people who compose it. From Collingwood we must go on to bigger and, we hope, better things in other inner-suburban areas, so that the people who live there get the same opportunities in life as those who live in more favoured residential suburbs.

The Collingwood Education Centre is planned to open in 1972. A great deal of work still remains to be done if this target date is to be met.

## Brotherhood reports...

At the end of October the Brotherhood published its Annual Report for 1968-69. Presenting the report the Director (Mr David Scott) commented on the Brotherhood's role in the community, and on development and expansion within the organisation during the year. He pointed out that rapid change is taking place in the community in which the Brotherhood works. In Fitzroy, the first of several 20-storey blocks of flats literally overshadows the headquarters.

Mr. Scott sees these changes as a challenge to the Brotherhood which, he said, must be ready to make its contribution in the new situation and see that the groups it serves are not overlooked. He considers that in the future the Brotherhood is likely to place more emphasis on the work of its Research and Social Action Department in understanding needs and educating and influencing the community.

But, he pointed out, it is only its services that directly help families, old people and young people that give it a mandate to speak with understanding and force on the social issues of the day.

The report revealed that despite considerable expansion, especially in the provision of more homes for the elderly, the Brotherhood had a small surplus of \$120 at the end of the last year.

During the year the opening of St Laurence Court — flats for the elderly at Bendigo — and the completion of new cottage and flat units at Carrum Downs and St Laurence Park, Lara, increased the overall accommodation for elderly people to just over 400. Youth work also increased and the centre finished the year with approximately 115 teenagers attending each week.

In establishing an office in Broadmeadows this year, the Brotherhood recognised that poverty, either chronic or temporary, is not only found in the inner areas. During the past year, Brotherhood social workers in Fitzroy and Broadmeadows provided more than \$12,000 in aid to families with problems in areas such as housing, employment, health, education, marriage, child care and difficulties with court cases and debts.

The Research and Social Action programme for the year included a survey of the families who came to the Social Service Bureau in 1967.

Another service which was expanded during the year was the Family Planning Clinic, where it was necessary to double the number of sessions to cope with the demand for appointments.



Tucker Court at St Laurence Park, Lara, currently provides hostel accommodation for 23. Built in the shape of an H with a dining room connecting the four wings each flatette looks on to a garden and has its own private back garden.

## Fr Tucker has an idea

Dear Friends,

We are making every effort to finance the building of a hostel which will provide additional accommodation for those who have become too frail to live alone. I know it will eventuate in time—but with our present money-raising methods, it will probably take several years. In the meanwhile, many more old people are facing a cheerless future. At present, the only hope for those whom age renders, not drastically ill, but chronically disabled, is a "guest home for the aged" or dependence upon relatives. The most moderate guest home accommodation costs about \$1500 a year (about \$30 weekly).

I have an idea — and I think it might appeal to families faced with the problem of ageing parents — which is on a similar principle to the purchase of a life tenancy of a cottage. A donation of a certain amount would ensure the life tenancy of a private room with full board and nursing care in pleasant and congenial surroundings. There would be a small weekly tariff, and no more financial worries or loneliness for the remainder of one's life! I need your help and comments on the feasibility of this plan. Will you please write to me, personally, and give them freely?

May God bless you.

*G. Kennedy Tucker*

*Sister BSL*

## TOYS FOR 1,000

A hall which was built in the late 1850's will be a toy shop for a hectic two weeks this month.

Surrounded by Housing Commission flat development, the hall, which is owned by the Methodist Church, has been allowed a reprieve for a time from demolition squads.

For the last two weeks before Christmas a steady stream of parents will be visiting the hall to buy toys for their children for Christmas. The Brotherhood is convinced that it is important for parents on low incomes to be able to choose and pay for their children's presents and so avoid the impersonal "charity parcels."

The scheme caters for about 1000 children and attendance applications begin arriving as early as June.

Many voluntary groups make or repair donated toys and this year G. J. Coles and Company have generously offered to donate gifts for older children.



Members of staff (L to R): Mrs Pam Svendsen, Miss Roslyn Bates and Mrs Turid Johanson sort toys which have been prepared for the sales.

## Hard work brings results

The two big fairs held early this summer proved an unqualified success and friends of the Brotherhood who worked so hard all the year are feeling justifiably proud of the results.

For the first time the Village Fair at the Carrum Downs settlement opened in the morning and there was a steady stream of shoppers from 10.30 a.m. on. A barbecue did a roaring trade, as did the pony and hay rides for the children. Music provided by "The Copperfields" folk singing group, and the Peninsula Rhythm Club lent a holiday atmosphere to what proved a very happy day for all involved.

Toting up the takings at the end of the day they found that they had over \$1,700 and could count on having a cheque for \$2,500 to hand to the Brotherhood for their year's activities. Crowds also flocked to the Market Fair in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall in November. The takings, which amounted to over \$2,800, were an all-time record; not surprising to those who witnessed the work that had gone into ensuring that the stalls were well and attractively stocked. Special attractions were the home-made bread making demonstrations. Lady Leggatt, ably assisted by her

daughter, Mrs David Scott, and friends, gave two demonstrations of the art and then sold the results of their efforts. Ingredients were also on sale plus dozens of loaves of bread which they had made the night before.

## A gift for Christmas

Consolidated Quarries Limited are giving the Brotherhood a donation of \$2000 as a Christmas gift.

Three years ago the Chairman and Board of Directors of the Company decided that the money spent on gifts to the trade could be put to much better use. Last year they made a similar donation to the Yooralla Hospital School for Crippled Children and the year before the Children's Hospital benefited.

The money will be used by the Brotherhood to buy equipment and furnishings for Hostel extensions at the Carrum Downs settlement for the elderly.