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KILDONAN

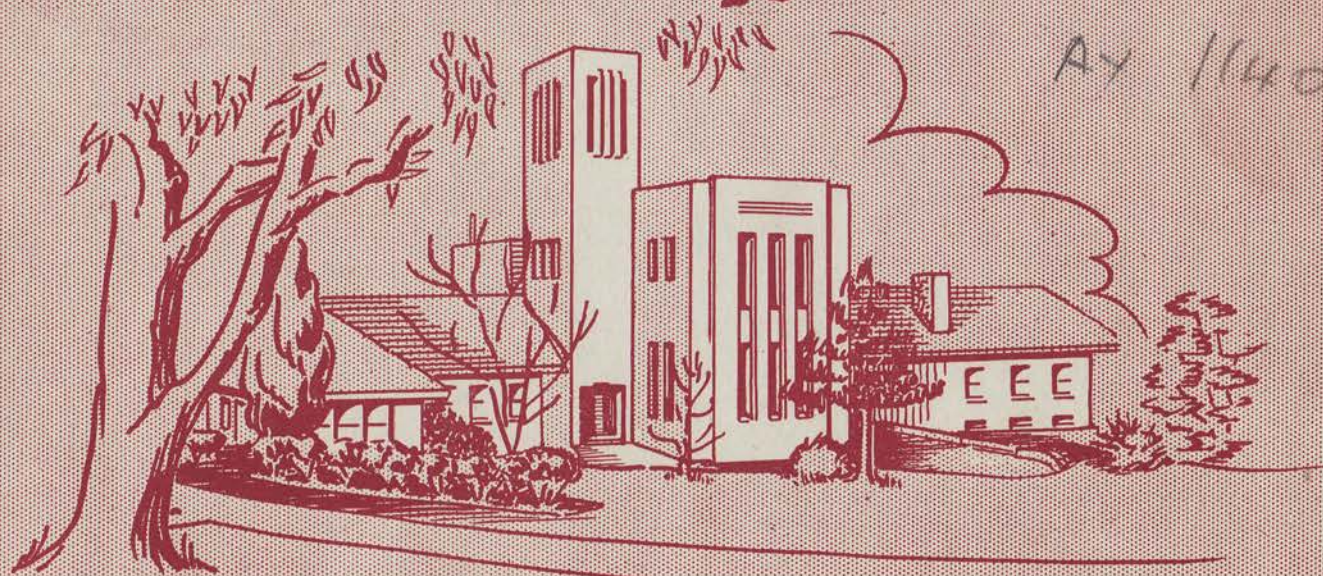
73rd Annual Report

THE PRESBYTERIAN AND SCOTS CHURCH CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY



Kildonan Home

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PRESBYTERIAN & SCOTS CHURCH CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT, 1957
70 ELGAR ROAD, BURWOOD, VICTORIA



Foreword

I am very happy to accede to the request of the Convener of Kildonan, the Rev. J. H. Price, and write a brief message.

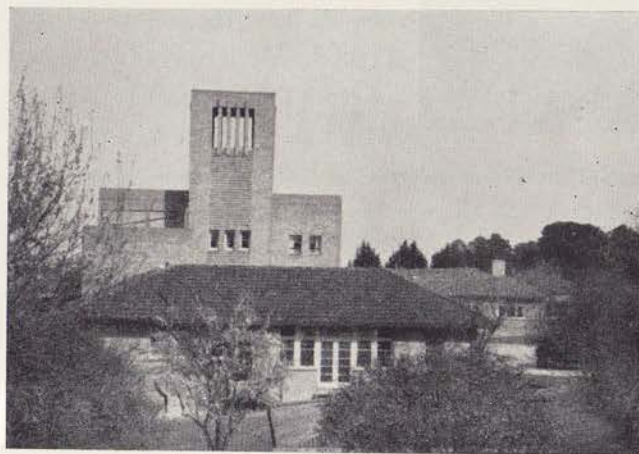
The Home is doing a splendid work, and makes its own appeal. Those on the Committee, being themselves parents, have an understanding of, and sympathy with, the needs of the children, and the bright-faced and well-cared-for boys and girls reflect the faithful discharge of duty and personal interest in every child.

The young and growing child craves for love and protection and understanding—each child has its own personality—and the Home cares for their physical health, mental training and spiritual nurture, and provides the extra and important atmosphere of a true home. To visit "Kildonan" is to see a healthy band of boys and girls contented and happy, growing up to be future citizens of which Church and State will be proud. Our thanks are due to the Convener and his faithful

Committee, also to so many loyal folk who voluntarily give time and expert knowledge in caring for our children.

May God bless those who remember in their prayers and in their giving "this" and other "Homes of our Church."

J. HADDON BATES,
Moderator.



Administrative Block (Northern Aspect)
In the foreground is the 6-bed Hospital and Dispensary.



Our New Superintendent

The Committee is glad to introduce, with this 76th Annual Report, the new Superintendent of the Kildonan Home, Mr. A. Spencer Colliver, B.A., Dip.Ed. Mr. Colliver comes to us from the teaching profession with a deep desire to undertake

social and spiritual work among under-privileged children. It is a source of great encouragement to the Committee that we have the leadership of a man so well equipped to engage in a vital social service to the community, particularly at a time when the demands of the changing character of child welfare work require careful planning. We commend Mr. Colliver to the prayer and support of our people and to all whom this report may come.

From the Superintendent

It is with great pleasure and a strong sense of vocation that I take up the duties of Managing Superintendent of the Kildonan Home. While for some 15 years I have been engaged in work of some kind amongst children, latterly the needs of deprived children have presented a great challenge.

As the social structure changes, so do the social problems. To-day there are very few true orphanages in Homes, but the number of children from broken homes—where divorce and desertion have caused a collapse of normal home life—is growing rapidly. This is a complex family problem with many facets, such as inadequate housing, economic insecurity, infidelity, unwillingness by parents to assume the responsibilities of family life and loss of personal Christian faith. Only the combined efforts of Church and State directed towards preventive measures can bring any essential change in the situation.

Till then we must do our utmost to provide for the true victims of these broken homes—the children. It is not an over-simplification to say that our aim should be to give the children a home as much like the normal home in the community as possible. If we do not, they will reach adulthood socially inadequate and emotionally immature.

One cannot but be impressed with the beauty of Kildonan and its surroundings. The Committee



Kildonan—their Home—for some the only home they have known.

has done everything to provide for the physical needs of the children, and the buildings and equipment are the very finest. It is the continuing responsibility of those of us on the staff to use these facilities and to give the children the love, affection and personal attention of which they have been deprived.

Both my wife and I have been encouraged by the many expressions of goodwill from members of committee and friends of the Home. Together we look forward to accomplishing much for the girls and boys in the coming years.

The Children

At present there are 100 children in the care of the Home. During the year, 121 have passed through; 33 have been discharged; 27 have been admitted. Every child went out for the Christmas holidays and the majority for the May and September vacation. Many enduring friendships are made in this way. The Asian 'flu affected 85 of the children, though none seriously. Nine members of the staff were also ill, and emergency conditions prevailed for two weeks. We are thankful that all recovered and are now in the best of health.

A Parcel and a Child

He was one of those children who received little attention from outside. Parents or relatives never came; pen friends were few and irregular. The prospect of his forthcoming birthday was not viewed with any great excitement, and when the day arrived it was, apart from the kindly greetings of those in the Home, just another day. Then the postman arrived.

"If," exclaimed the Office Secretary, as she struggled through the door with an armful of parcels, "the Moderator's Birthday Appeal continues at this rate, you will need to get me a shopping jeep." The parcels spilled out of her arms on to the table. The sorting began.

It was obviously "Tommy's" birthday. A postcard, two letters, and four mysterious parcels were soon put to one side, and the office staff tried to guess what form the goodness of birthday sponsors had taken this time. When "Tommy" came out of school, and was presented with this bundle, he looked somewhat stunned. Do you remember the excitement you felt when your fingers began to tug at the string of a parcel on your birthday? You will know how "Tommy" felt as he opened his parcels. His eyes gleamed with pleasure as he tore off the wrappings. There was a pair of slippers

—his others were in holes—there was a new pullover with a block of chocolate tucked in the middle, a toy which no other boy possessed, and a book.

"Tommy's" experience is typical of many of the children since the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Reverend J. H. Bates, made the Birthday Appeal. It brought a steady response from Guilds, Brotherhoods and individuals. As a result, children like "Tommy" have been given real pleasure and very useful presents.

Our sincere thanks are due to both the Moderator and all who so readily came forward as birthday sponsors.

"Look at the new shoes I got for my birthday."



"They should fit all right."




New Station Waggon

For some years a small utility was used by the Home, but this was inadequate, both for carrying goods and children. The new vehicle (a Willys station waggon) is powerful, strongly built and ideal for both passengers and the carriage of goods. Because of its versatility, its uses in the Home are many. It can take up to a dozen children for outings to Church or to the dentist at Mentone. By folding back the seats, it can be quickly converted to a truck capable of carting 1 ton of goods.

Central Office Moved to Kildonan

The Central Office of the Home, which for many years was at 99 Russell Street, and then later at 156 Collins Street, has now been moved to the Home. New office accommodation has been made for both the Manager and Miss N. D. Gilfillan. All inquiries should be directed to the Home.

➡ Matron helps some of the children into the station waggon.

Sammy, our dog, and two of his many friends. 
Sammy is the oldest member of the Home.



Foster Homes

Recently the Executive Committee agreed to the policy of providing foster homes for children wherever possible and practicable. Actually this is a re-introduction of one of Kildonan's early principles of child care, and is another way of pursuing the basic principle of providing a normal home-life for the child.

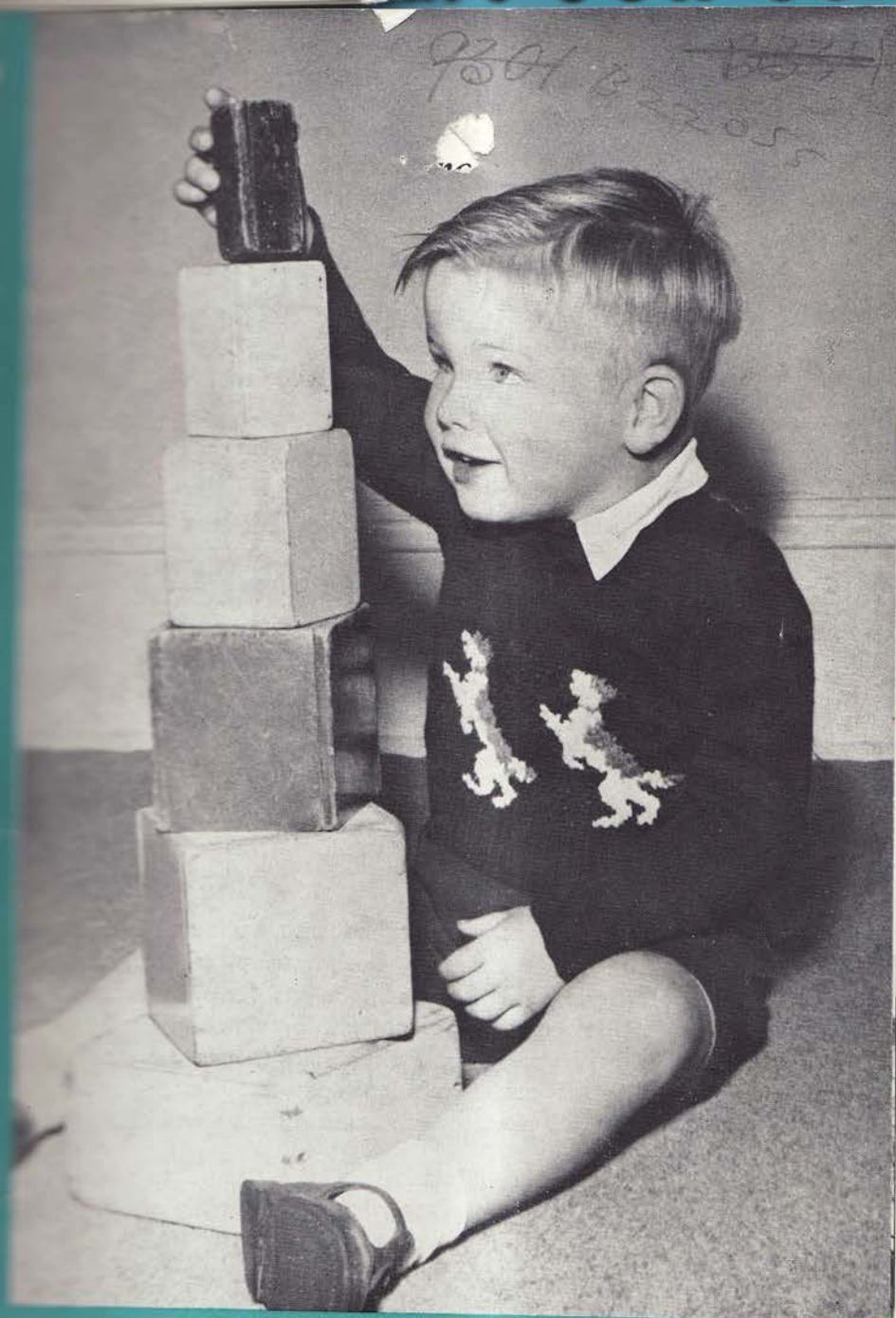
There are few children who would be available for foster-homes, but several factors need to be remembered.

- The best foster-home is one in which there are two or three other children.
- The foster child should be either older or younger than the children of foster-parents. A foster-child of the same age or sex causes friction and jealousy.
- Foster-parents should seek first the welfare of the foster-child. So often the motive is to find a companion for foster-parents child, or perhaps to give personal satisfaction to the parents. To give a private home to a child for several years helps to overcome the effects of its deprivation.

Gifts of food or clothing may be railed free if marked FOR RELIEF, "Kildonan" Presbyterian Children's Home, c/o MAYNE NICKLESS Pty. Ltd., Spencer Street, Railway Station, MELBOURNE.



Friends—two recent admissions.



BUILDING



Foreword

The finest inheritance that can be handed down to a little child is the warm security of a Christian home. Without this he is deprived of sure foundations upon which to build, and often seeks security in a gang of bad companions. The natural hazards of life and the sins of others often leave a child unsettled and ill at ease. This calls upon people of Christian goodwill to provide firm ground into which roots can sink and take hold. This the Presbyterian Church is doing admirably through Kildonan Home.

I am delighted to know of the new property that has been purchased, of the good financial management, of the family group system and of all the enterprises and advances taking place in the Home.

I should like to assure the Committee and the Staff that Kildonan has a high and honoured place in the life of the Church, and that all the members of the Church are pleased to know of the great work being done on their behalf. We should all pray for effective service given by the Home and for its continued progress. May God bless all that the Committee and Staff plan and achieve.

S. A. GODDARD, Moderator.

No. 80 ELGAR ROAD — OUR FIRST FAMILY-GROUP HOME.



to see how this method of care can be extended. Second, there is the problem of the growing number of desertions in the community and the need to re-think our services to families and children involved in this difficulty. Third, while the final operation of the new Department of Social Welfare proposed by the Government is not yet clear, it is obvious that the Government is not going to use voluntary institutions to the same degree as in the past. This means our institutions will need to be more flexible in its approach to child care, and, if possible, diversify its programme. There is a need to be of greater assistance to the parish minister in the social problems he faces in his area. These and other problems will be the concern of the Committee in the next few months.



Marj. (centre) with her brother and sister.

She was appointed Form Captain, Box Hill Girls' Technical School, this year.

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Children belong in families



KILDONAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Annual Report 1961

1881-1961 Eighty years of Caring