



Methodist Homes for Children in Western Australia

The "Homes"

HERALD

NEWS FROM THOSE WHO CARE TO THOSE WHO SHARE

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Christmas Edition

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"JUST BE A WORKER"

"What are you going to be when you grow up" I said to my small "Mofflyn" workmate. He looked down at the freshly turned earth for a moment, and then said rather slowly, "I don't know. I 'spose I'll just be a worker."

It was hard to tell whether this was just a modest assessment of his own capabilities, or an awareness, already, of the gulf that still exists between the "haves" and the "have nots", and I felt a surge of belligerent pity for this young lad who already expected to be "just a worker". Then, of course, I cooled down and remembered such things as the dignity of labour and the satisfaction that can come to any worker after a job well done. After all Christ was a carpenter! And these children are given a real chance to achieve quite a worthwhile future through the care of our Children's Homes Department. To name only a few our children after leaving us have become a part owner in a garage, a minister of religion, a State Government officer, an electrical appliances salesman, a nurse, and believe it or not—an engine driver! There's real adventure and opportunity in that list of occupations. My thoughts next turned to the many "workers" who make it possible for us to look after these children and prepare them for such interesting positions. People who carry out dedicated work as members of our staff, or as voluntary "workers" through their Ladies' Guilds, etc., provide clothing, or, in the case of Men's Societies, through busy bees do painting and other maintenance work at "Mofflyn". Many others unable to participate in this manner, make outright donations or organise functions which provide the finance so necessary for our work.

Yes the word "worker" is an honoured one in the Children's Homes Department and we thank God for the hundreds who do help. Elsewhere in this news sheet you will find details of some of the help given by our workers. You will read also of the extensions to our work which will call for more friends and funds if our plans are to materialise. Perhaps you might like to join this band. If so then read on and you too might sense the honour and privilege that lies behind the supporting of this work of caring for children from broken and disturbed homes.

As far as my little friend is concerned, may God bless him and though "just a worker" may he be a good one.



A HELPING HAND WITH THE HEDGE CLIPPINGS.
Happy healthy minds and bodies make for decent citizens.

L. E. SMITH,
Secretary.



WESLEY COTTAGE

One of four brick and tile cottages at "Mofflyn".

EXISTING

"Mofflyn" consists of four cottages, the Scholar Memorial Kindergarten, and other buildings which house kitchen, laundry, storerooms, staff, etc.

Over the twelve months we have cared for 48 children in these cottages and our home is constantly full. Again we have had to turn away many seeking admission because of the lack of vacancies. In the Kindergarten, besides our own pre-school children, we have provided kindergarten training for a further 24 children from surrounding private homes. Included amongst our kindergarten numbers are a few partially handicapped children referred to us by such organisations as the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Child Guidance Clinic and we have welcomed this challenging new trend.

The staff, enumerated in our newsletter last Christmas, has remained unchanged. It is probable that this is the first time we have gone twelve months without losing some staff and I give thanks to God for this stability which cannot help but produce a more satisfactory standard of work. This year more than any before can I claim a staff of outstanding ability. From our excellent matron down to our part-time handyman who, in Matron's own words, "is a real treasure" we have a staff worthy of the highest traditions of this work on behalf of underprivileged children. It is not surprising therefore that the results of their labours have caused our Council intense satisfaction and I believe, enhanced our reputation in the community as a home that seeks to treat children as individuals, and provides "family-home" environment second to none.

THE WORK

FUTURE

As a direct result of the long protracted negotiations on the realisation of the assets of Werribee we have had to mark time with our plans for the two additional cottages at "Mofflyn". However, we feel we can now proceed and working drawings and specifications will shortly be presented to the Conference Property Board for approval. Tenders will then be called and it is hoped that building will commence early in the new year.

Recently we were challenged with a new work—that of providing hostel facilities for native girls working in Perth. Good work by the Native Welfare Department in obtaining employment for these girls was being undermined by the lack of suitable accommodation. Would we help?—Our Council has fully investigated the matter and believes the need is genuine and urgent. As a result of negotiations the Native Welfare Department is to provide the funds for a large-sized house capable of comfortably housing twelve native girls and modify it ready for occupancy. We will then staff and maintain the hostel and of course provide the funds to do this. The board we charge the girls should recoup most of this, but if we are to do the quality job intended then, to be realistic, we must budget for a deficit for at least the first two or three years. This we will gladly do to help these teen-age native girls to a better way of life.

Our biggest problem will be to suitably staff such a place and we are looking primarily for a mature married couple interested in, and if possible experienced in such work.

The Children's Homes has been richly blessed in its work for white children. Please pray it may be equally blessed in its new work for our darker sisters.

**Christmas Day
Collections
are for
Children's
Homes**



"AWAY IN A MANGER".

Children of the Scholar Memorial Kindergarten enact the wondrous story of Christmas in their Annual Nativity Play.

**CHRISTMAS is
your OPPORTUNITY
to help
OUR Children**

INTERESTING ITEMS

- During the year we have installed a small refrigerator in each cottage at Mofflyn.
- One lady very generously donated one small refrigerator, while another donated a television set—much to the pleasure and excitement of our children.
- Our new boys' cottage will be known as "Allandale" to perpetuate the memory of the late Rev. Tom Allan and the Werribee property.
- In the financial year to 31st March, 1965, our Werribee Farm made a profit of £1,022. Following on last year's profit of £448 this was a pleasing result.
- Sporting activity for our children this year took the form of basketball for our older girls and football for the boys, and in this we received great assistance from a metropolitan Church and a local Youth Organisation.
- Despite rising costs our cost figure per child per week over the last four years has **dropped** from £5/2/- to £5 !! Don't just say fantastic! Give our staff the credit for really working on the problem of economising, and our "workers" your thanks for the way in which they have helped us to achieve such a remarkable record.
- One big factor in bringing about such economies has been the renewed interest of Guilds in sewing and making clothes for our children. Write or ring (61 1067) Matron Roberts and ask her what kind of clothing she needs.
- Another factor was the help received from many swimming pools' authorities, who responded to our request for unclaimed lost property. Towels in particular were a welcome addition to the linen cupboard.
- Without legacies we could not balance our budget each year. Please remember us in your will.