



Methodist Homes for Children in Western Australia

The "Homes"

HERALD

NEWS FROM THOSE WHO CARE TO THOSE WHO SHARE

Secretary: Mr. L. E. Smith, Methodist Homes for Children, 97 William St., Perth
Phone: 21 7957

Christmas Edition

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TENDER-HEARTED "TOUGHIES"

"Allandale" is a fine brick and tile cottage at 149 Sussex St. in East Victoria Park, and its house-parents care for boys, over ten years of age, who come from broken and disturbed homes. Some people tend to think of these boys as little "toughies" and certainly many are real little "battlers", and quite difficult to manage. However, they can be tender-hearted too, as the following story shows.

We often have stray cats dumped over our fence at "Mofflyn" and one such cat finished up giving birth to two small kittens in thick undergrowth at the end of our yard. Two boys from neighbouring "Allandale" finally discovered them and asked Mrs. Smith if they could take the kittens to the vet for attention to their eyes. She explained that this was not necessary as the mother would quite naturally take care of this herself. Some time later one boy asked could he have a couple of empty cool drink bottles to sell, and when questioned explained he wanted the money for a phone call to his mother.

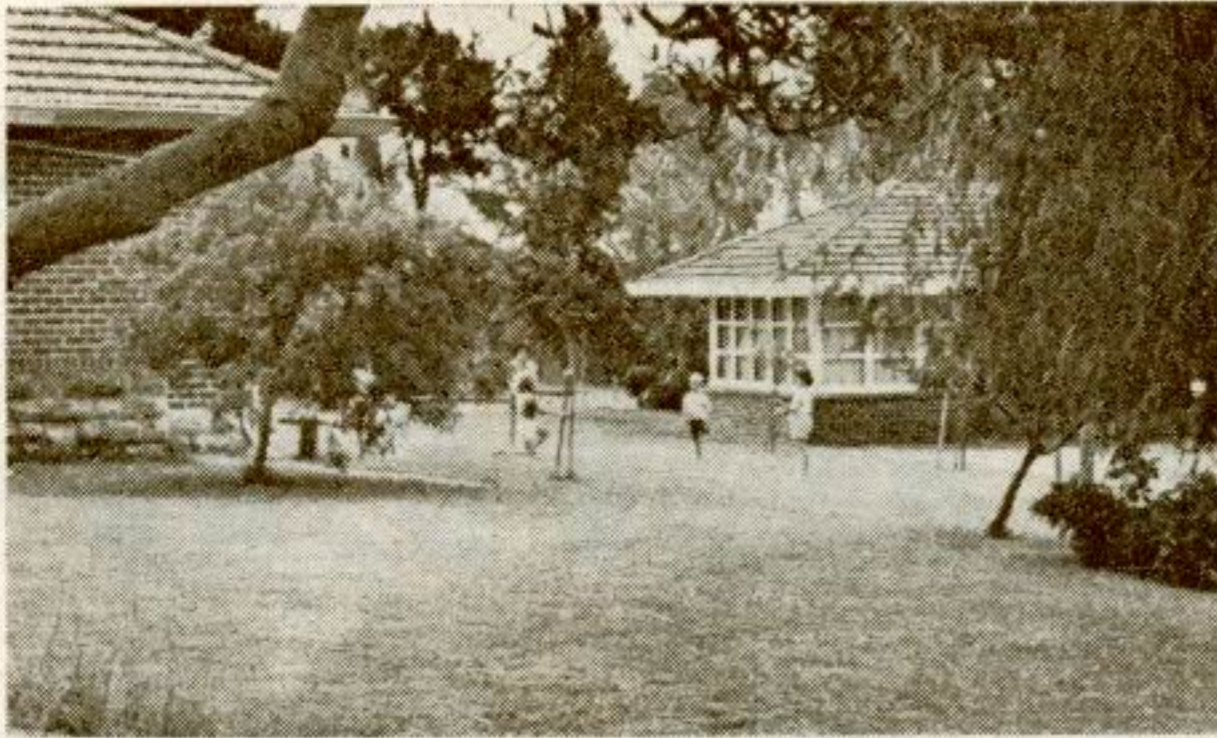
Next day she saw the two boys holding the kitten — and a tube of Golden Eye Ointment! They explained they had asked for this by 'phone, and proudly displayed the "cleaned up" kittens. Unfortunately this apparently simple story of kindness and boyish love of animals isn't as simple as it appears. Real life rarely is. The result of the boys action may have gained the kittens some temporary improvement in sight, but it certainly lost them their mother. As could be predicted, the mother finding her kittens gone left the area and did not return. However there is a special providence that looks after such boys — and kittens — and a substitute home was quickly found for them.

I only wish it was as easy to find substitute homes for the children from broken and disturbed homes that from time to time have to be turned away because we have no vacancies. That's why our Child-Care programme has had to be extended, and why it is even more important that through this Children's Homes Christmas Appeal, we receive your support. The rest of this "Homes Herald" will provide you with news and information about our work, but it will be wasted if you have missed the message behind our "tender-hearted toughies" story and do not use the final section — the opportunity to actively support this important work being done in the name of your Church.



ALLANDALE BOYS COTTAGE

L. E. SMITH (Secretary).



MOFFLYN CHILDRENS HOME
Sussex St., East Victoria Park

EXISTING

"MOFFLYN" — For most of the year all four cottages have been full, and vacancies have been scarce. Extensive replacement of curtains and fittings have improved their appearance considerably.

Kindergarten — Continues at full strength and does a very fine work. Facilities have been improved and block play section extended.

"ALLANDALE" Boys Cottage — Full all the year. House parents Mr. and Mrs. Rice left last Christmas and were replaced by Mr. and Mrs. Watson.

"WERRIBEE" Girls Cottage — also full for most of the year and doing a much needed work. This and the work at Allandale involves handling young teenagers and is a most difficult and unrewarding task, calling for competent and dedicated staff.

"COOINDA"—"WARMINDA" — These two hostels for aboriginal girls working in Perth have both functioned at almost full strength this year. For a while the inclusion of some scholarship students did upset the smooth operation of the hostels, but this has now been substantially overcome.

EXPERIMENT—Parents Meeting — In order to foster the sense of responsibility in the parents and maintain their interest in their children at a high level, we have held one parents meeting where the Secretary and parents discussed topics of mutual interest. It was held on a Sunday afternoon, and afternoon tea was served. Results were encouraging enough to warrant plans for further meetings.

A Report

TO BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
OF OUR CHILD CARE WORK

FUTURE

SCATTER HOMES. During the year the Methodist Homes for Children Council has agreed to expansion of its work by the addition of two "scatter" homes. We are at present endeavouring to purchase two large-sized houses where, after modification to our requirements the following work will be attempted:—

(I) **Ideal Type** — managed by house-parents, to care for from 8 to 10 children, both sexes, all age range, of the least disturbed type that would make the best use of such facilities. It would also be an ideal place for those children who whilst normally well behaved, are easily led astray and need a more than usually protective environment, and

(II) **Special type** — again managed by house-parents, specially trained for the job, to accommodate up to a maximum of six children of the more difficult, more emotionally disturbed type who, if left in the normal cottages would be a bad influence on the other children. Segregated in this way we are hopeful of doing a more concentrated better job on the difficult children too.

HOSTEL — Aboriginal Boys. As soon as a property in Albany is sold we hope to commence a further hostel work, this time for aboriginal boy apprentices.

MOFFLYN — Change in Policy.

The Council has agreed to reduce the number of children in each cottage from twelve to ten and this has already been put into operation at "Dowerin" Cottage.

The others will follow as soon as circumstances permit.

SOCIAL WORK FACILITIES.

It is hoped to re-organise office procedures, particularly in reference to childrens records, in order to provide better social work facilities and opportunities for more detailed statistics and research.

A Retirement

AND OTHER NEWS OF STAFF, AND
THOSE SUPPORTING OUR WORK

STAFF

MATRONS RETIREMENT.

One of the highlights of Conference this year was the presentation of Matron to the President in acknowledgement of her outstanding contribution to Methodist child care over the past thirteen years. Conference received her warmly and her few words in reply left no doubt that here was a woman who had been a real worker, prepared to soil her hands and man-handle heavy objects in the achieving of her aims. We thank God for the good work Matron has done and wish her a very happy retirement.

Her replacement Pat Chennell, is a well-known figure to many Methodists, having been Cottage Mother and Senior Cottage Mother at Mogumber for many years. We look forward to welcoming her on to our Homes team.

STAFF VACANCIES — The following will be required in 1971.

(I) **Warminda Hostel** — House parents to replace Rev. and Mrs. Treloar who transfer to circuit work at Swanbourne.

(II) **Werribee Girls Cottage** — A live-in teacher to aid girls with homework, in return for free board and lodgings.

(III) **Scatter Homes** — Two pairs of House Parents.

(IV) **Aboriginal Boys Hostel** — House Parents. Mr. and Mrs. Watson of "Allandale" will also be leaving at the end of the year, but fortunately we have likely replacements for them.

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact the Secretary.

VOLUNTARY HELP — We have secured the voluntary assistance of a qualified teacher Miss Robyn Burnett and four social work students who between them conduct weekly remedial reading classes for children with reading problems. Because of Miss Burnett's experience in this work overseas, this help has been invaluable.



MATRON ROBERTS

with Scholar Memorial Kindergarten Children

SUPPORTERS

AUXILIARIES — Both the Ladies and Mens Auxiliary have made noteworthy contributions to our work in 1970. The Ladies Fete was a great success and they also helped considerably with our Street Appeal which, at over \$2,800, was our best ever result. The mens work parties have enabled us to solve several problems tied up with the maintenance of buildings and grounds at "Mofflyn". Theirs has been outstanding support.

GIFTS — Among several very fine gifts we must mention that of a large bus for transporting children to Sunday School etc. This was a truly wonderful gesture and such gifts as this have helped us bridge the growing financial gap being caused by rising costs. It seems certain that our expenditure in 1970 will, for the first time ever, exceed \$50,000.

SOCIAL GROUPS — One Insurance Coy. Social Club has taken on the responsibility of providing birthday presents for the girls at "Werribee", a lady from a Ladies Guild sends birthday cards to the children at "Mofflyn", and many other small groups help with sewing clothing, and arranging social outings for the children. This is a great help.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. After strenuous representation by the voluntary organisations, we are pleased to advise that there has been some long overdue increase in Government support, and this has been most welcome.

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



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

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- By painstaking care and despite rising costs, we have managed to maintain our cost per child per week figure at \$11.00. Parents or relatives meet an average of about \$5 of this; we have to find the rest. (Street Appeal, Fete, etc.).
- During the year we installed a washing machine in each cottage, which means the Cottage Mother no longer has the inconvenience of having to use the central laundry facilities.
- This year our staff attended the first ever Matrons and Supts. Training Course and the Standing Committee on Child Care three day Seminar. We believe this is important if we are to raise the standards of child care.
- In the training of student social workers we co-operate with the W.A. Institute of Technology to the extent of having four students attached to us for certain aspects of their training. We've found this also benefits our children and helps us in our work.
- Sunday School and Christian Endeavour are two ways we cater for the spiritual needs of our children.
- We still take into our Kindergarten about 10% of partially handicapped children.

SOME WAYS IN WHICH YOU MAY HELP

- All donations received for our Christmas Appeal not only assist our Children's Homes but, under the Finance Board arrangement help your Local Church as they are included in the levy total the Church has to raise to pay to the Board.
- Harvest Festival gifts of fruit, vegetables, tinned goods, etc., help to keep our food cost at a reasonable figure.
- Sporting equipment is expensive. We have a resurfaced tennis Court, but few racquets. If you have any gathering dust why not donate them to "Mofflyn", "Werrabee" and "Allandale" cottages.
- By taking our children into your homes over the Christmas-New Year school holidays you save us a great deal of money and allow our staff to take their holidays without a relief being provided.
- Legacies have built up our capital assets. Please remember us in your will.
- Gifts of bikes, tools, toys, firewood and garden manure, to mention a few, have helped us considerably.
- Pray for our children and the staff that cares for them.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

**"Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of
THEM ye did it unto ME"**

I gladly forward my Christmas Donation to assist in your work for needy, deprived and neglected children.

\$

Name.....

Address.....

Circuit.....

To the Secretary,
Methodist Homes for Children,
2nd Floor, 97 William Street, Perth, W.A., 6000.

All donations over \$2 are deductible for Income Tax purposes.