

The 'Age' is supporting the Centre with a weekly Job Centre column and the 'Sun' with a job seekers column. Employers have been both interested and helpful and an early visitor was Mr. J. D. Norgard, Chairman of the Commonwealth Employment Service Review Committee. It is difficult to say anything of significance in these early stages, but two facts are already very apparent. The number of jobs available is far less than the number of unemployed, and the requirements of these jobs and the skills of the unemployed do not match. It is not a question of any person for any job but the right person for the right job.

SAVINGS AND LOANS FOR ARC

The Action and Resource Centre for low income families or ARC is run and staffed in the main, by low income people. Among its activities, ARC provides help and information on housing, employment, social security and financial planning to help people to make decisions about their own affairs. A Savings and Loan Project has started with several objectives: to introduce ARC members to a pattern of saving; to counter the strong influences of the media to spend; and to encourage group savings, akin to credit union principles. Each family participating saves \$2 per week for 16 weeks and then becomes eligible for a loan of \$100 including their own \$32. This loan is then repaid at \$2 per week. Two supporters of the scheme are needed for each loan and as repayments are made, this money is returned. There are no interest payments involved in any part of the project.

Dear Brotherhood Friends,

I would like to thank you for the generous support you have given to the work of the Brotherhood, particularly over the Christmas period.

Our Christmas Appeal for clothing and household goods received a record response. In the month of December, we received the extraordinarily high number of 13,000 phone calls inviting us to pick up donations. The staff and particularly the drivers of the Salvage Division responded magnificently. In one day the drivers and their assistants made over 900 calls for donated goods. Of course, we always need more donations to Salvage, but the goods received at Christmas give us a good start for the year in stocking our Material Aid Service which gives clothing and household goods to low-income people and also in providing goods for our shops which produce a very important proportion of funds for the Brotherhood's social welfare services. Some \$27,000 was donated to our Christmas Appeal which helps to finance our Material Aid Service, Day Care Services for children of working mothers and the Action and Resource Centre for low-income families.

Two new projects, the King Street Job Centre and Sumner House hostel for frail aged, will come into operation in February. These projects will add considerably to our financial commitments, but the history of the Brotherhood shows that whenever we have set out to establish a new service that meets a real and demonstrated need, we will in some way or another receive the support that is required.

David Scott

DAVID SCOTT
Executive Director

As an incentive to save, a lucky draw for \$5 is made each week, and this money has been donated by three ARC supporters. Sixteen families have become eligible for loans so far, with twelve supporters lending \$32 each. The families involved are learning more about managing their finances, and the project is helping ARC move into new areas

of group buying, discounts, financial counselling in small groups and credit union principles.

More supporters are needed for the project who are prepared to lend \$32 for a period of six months, interest free. If you are interested and would like to help, please ring Judy Cassar or Patrick Murphy at ARC on 41 4151.



ARC support worker Patrick Murphy hands the Savings Project's first loan cheque to Maureen O'Connor, watched by ARC member Ian Carter.



Miss Edith Jack (seated) and her niece Miss Dorothy Brewin, in the garden at 'Carinya'.

A HUNDRED, NOT OUT

Miss Edith Jack, a resident at 'Carinya', the Brotherhood's nursing home in Box Hill, was 100 years old on January 5. She celebrated her birthday with many telegrams including one from the Queen, and several parties. Miss Jack's new dress for the occasion came from the 'Young Sophisticate's' section of a department store. Quite appropriate for someone who only gave up work at the age of 86 and says she's 'a hundred, but not out'.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

THE FAMILY CENTRE PROJECT: A THIRD OVERVIEW

The Action and Resource Centre is now a well established and active force in the welfare field. With its programme of self-help and social action for the low-income community, and its large staff team, many of whom were themselves members of the Family Centre Project, the Centre has come a long way since the Project was first set up late in 1972. During the Family Centre's third year, 1975, many dramatic changes occurred, culminating in the establishment of the Action and Resource Centre, as an independent and self-governing organization. These changes are described in detail in the Project's most recent research report, 'A Third