

## **BSL family and friends day**

**A social get-together, a fun day and a celebration of the Brotherhood's past, present and future.**

**Come along and be part of the fun as the Brotherhood approaches its 70th year!**

**Sunday 17 October**

**11.00am to 4.00pm**

**Collingwood Children's Farm**

**St. Heliers St, Abbotsford**

(Melways 2D, D9)

**An invitation to all who are, or have been, involved with the Brotherhood of St Laurence - our supporters, friends, donors, volunteers and staff - and members of the public.**

**Admission is free to all who bring along a copy of this newsletter!**

**BYO picnic**

**or purchase food on the day**

### **Lots to see and do!**

- \* **Brotherhood displays and activities**
- \* **Music, dance and drama**
- \* **Team games and competitions**
- \* **Historic storytime**

**Hear renowned author and futurist Robert Theobald discuss social justice and quality of life issues with Brotherhood**

**Executive Director, Fr Nic Frances and Aboriginal educationalist, Lillian Holt.**

Collingwood Children's Farm is set in a bush setting on the banks of the Yarra. It features hayrides, horse rides, garden and farm tours, milking and damper-making.

*This event is being held during "Australia Connects: A People's Vision" - a nationwide event of people coming together to express their visions for Australia's future.*

## **Building Better Lives appeal update**

The \$4.7 million raised so far from corporate and individual supporters, as part of our **Building Better Lives Appeal**, is not just for 'bricks and mortar', but will help people build better lives. The appeal will benefit a range of innovative Brotherhood programs including the Home Instruction Program for Pre-school Youngsters; 'Transitions', which helps early school leavers get off to a better start; and a loans scheme offering access to finance for unemployed people with a viable idea for a business venture.

### **Redevelopment on the way**

As soon as the building permit is issued, construction work will commence on both Sumner and Millott Houses in Fitzroy. The major transformations costing more than \$5 million will ensure new government standards are met and enable the residents to live in dignity.

**Millott House** is possibly Australia's only independent rooming house for disadvantaged people aged over 60. Its 23 residents belong to a community, instead of the isolation and loneliness so many elderly people experience.

Previously known as St Mary's Mission House, Millott House has been at the heart of the Brotherhood's presence in Fitzroy for close on 70 years. It has undergone many changes since Brotherhood founder, Fr Tucker, lived there when he first came to Melbourne in the early 1930s.

**Sumner House** was the first hostel of its kind to be built in the Fitzroy area. A 40-bed hostel, it is home to frail elderly people who may need intensive 'hands-on' care.

For residents of both Sumner and Millott, safety, security and quiet are vital. Many residents had previously lived on the streets or in rooming houses and hotels now being converted to apartments. One man came to us from a city hotel where he paid exorbitant prices to share a room with five others. The improvements to both houses will ensure that the residents can continue to live in comfort, and as part of a supportive community.

### **'The Torch' - shining a light on the issues**

For nearly 40 years, the Ecumenical Migration Centre (EMC) has been helping migrants and refugees settle in Australia with support, information and advice. The Centre has acted as a strong voice so that migrants may enjoy the same benefits and opportunities as those born in Australia.

A part of the Brotherhood since July this year, the EMC, together with other community organisations is developing an exciting and thought provoking new play, 'The Torch', exploring Aboriginal rights, racism and our nation as a fair and just society.

Featuring a multicultural cast, seven performances will be held at the Fitzroy Town Hall from 24-28 November before touring regional Victoria. Tickets are available from Ticketek on 132 849.

Further information is available from Basil Varghese at the Brotherhood on 9483 1329 or Sarina Greco at EMC on 9416 0044. The production's web site is at: [www.thetorch.asn.au](http://www.thetorch.asn.au)