

brotherhood action



50 years for people

1930~1980

The fiftieth or Jubilee year was a special time for justice and redistribution according to ancient Levitical law. Debts were written off, slaves were released, old obligations discharged and land returned to the former holders. The Jubilee year was thus an important device for regulating public welfare.

Past practices sometimes offer insights about how we should proceed in the future.

Looking back on our own past, in 50 short but eventful years we have evolved from being a small, tenuously based Brotherhood to a large, modern, influential multi-purpose organisation.

This remarkable development is probably due to the clear vision held by former Brotherhood leadership — a vision of what a good and just society should be like. This has helped us to identify new social problems, make prompt and flexible responses, effectively marshal community resources, communicate to the public by word and practical demonstration both the problem and the solution. The vision of a just and caring society has on occasions been expressed in many practical ways throughout the community.

To those of you who have shared in that vision of a better world and made contributions to the cause, may we express our gratitude for your efforts.

Peter Hollingworth
Executive Director

The Jubilee Luncheon at the Victoria Hotel on October 17 brought together friends of the Brotherhood as individuals, from business and welfare, federal and state government.

Hugh Stretton, Reader in History at Adelaide University was guest speaker. In his talk, entitled 'Brotherhood in the 80's' he explored the so-called 'resources-boom' and whether or not this growth would lead to an increase in living standards or would widen the poor-rich gap which has been growing steadily in the past few years.

Hugh Stretton said of the Brotherhood:

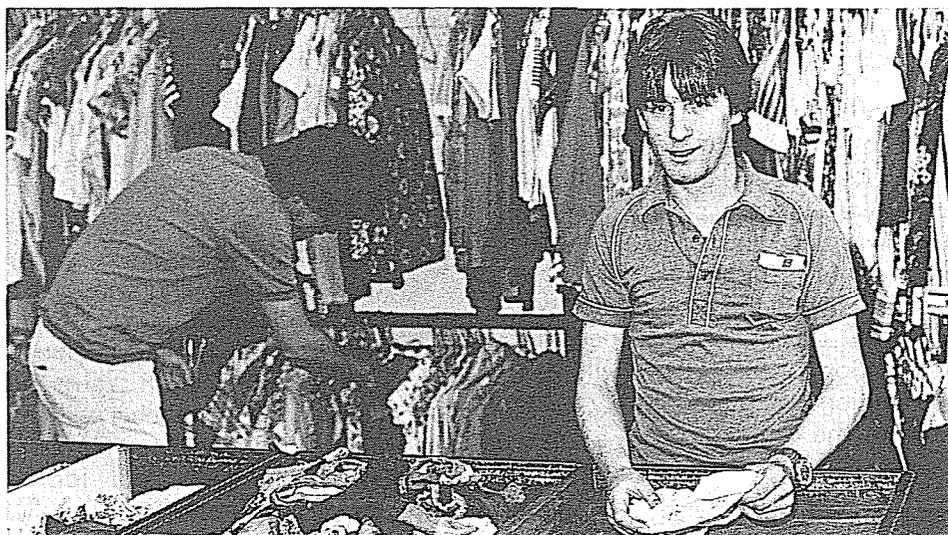
"For decades past, the Brotherhood, more than any other public or private institution in this country, has succeeded in telling us what is wrong with our society and its cruelties to those at the bottom end. It has told us this in an insistent, effec-

tive, reasonable and compassionate way, not just 'preaching' but actually doing. Moreover, it tries out its own research by establishing models to see how they work.

These findings are reported to the world, sometimes angrily, because people who watch this sort of suffering every day of their lives of course get angry about it. Yet at the same time they never lose their cool or the non-doctrinaire, non-party, constructive and inventive frame of mind needed to do this kind of work.

I don't think we could look to a better model of how to go about coping in a co-operative way with urgent social problems, keeping your head despite wide disagreements and above all, keeping your compassion."

A full transcript of Hugh Stretton's address is available from the Brotherhood.

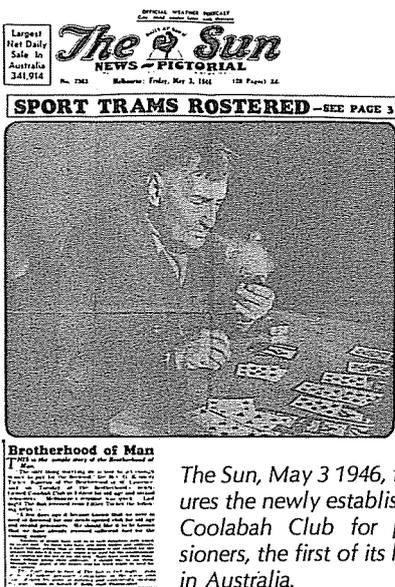


Gary Gosewinckle helps at the Material Aid Service two days a week. Gary is aware of the hardships faced by most unemployed people, as he has been looking for a job himself for over a year.

LEADERS OF VISION

The Brotherhood today bears the stamp of the three men who have guided it through its first 50 years. During the middle years of the fifties and sixties they worked together, consolidating its position in the community, basing the organisation on the Christian vision of a good society.

Each brought to the Brotherhood different gifts and skills to achieve remarkable things in the face of considerable difficulty. This is now the right time to pay tribute to each of them in turn.



Gerard Kennedy Tucker — the founder and Superior of the Brotherhood was a practical mystic. Though his attempts to establish a Religious Order foundered, he turned his spiritual energies into campaigning for justice and social reform. His ideas were ahead of their time and often he was on to new schemes before others had caught up with him.

In 1954 he moved to Carrum Downs to run the settlement and at the age of 75 founded St Laurence Park, Lara where he eventually died in 1974 aged 89. His later years were a personal witness to the fact that older people can make a great contribution to society.

Geoffrey Tremayne Sambell — the organiser and entrepreneur. As Director of the Melbourne Diocesan Centre he took on additional unpaid responsibilities first as Bursar, then as Director of Social Services and finally as Director, a post which he held till 1969 when he became Archbishop of Perth.

“The Boss” as he was affectionately known, built up the Brotherhood’s family welfare and aged services programs. In addition he estab-

lished the Donated Goods Division, being one of the first to recognise the value of recycling clothing and furniture for welfare purposes.

David Scott — the policy developer and social activist. He came to the Brotherhood in 1953 to assist his uncle Fr Tucker in organising the slum abolition campaign, eventually becoming Associate Director. Throughout the 1960’s he spent much of his time in developing CAA as its first Director.

In 1969 he became the first lay Director of the Brotherhood. Under him a number of new service innovations were developed. More resources were placed into social policy and research so that the Brotherhood’s contribution to welfare policy and decision making was further acknowledged throughout the community.

This has been a case of “differences of administration, but the same spirit.” Under their guidance and inspiration, the Brotherhood has become a unique, multi-purpose organisation involved in activities including aged accommodation, child and family services, social policy, community education, research and fund raising ventures.

‘Age’ Supplement

A special eight page feature on the Brotherhood will be published as a supplement by the ‘Age’ on Thursday, December 11. Additional copies will be available from the Brotherhood’s main office.

Church Appointment

The Revd Peter Hollingworth, the Executive Director of the Brotherhood, has been elected to a Canonry of St Paul’s Cathedral. All those associated with the Brotherhood will see that this is both a personal recognition of Peter, as well as a recognition by the Church of the work of the Brotherhood.

New Board Members

There are two new appointments to the Board of Directors of the Brotherhood. Social worker Barbara Spalding is well known to the

Brotherhood, having pioneered our Family Day Care program. She is a previous Executive Director of the Victorian Council of Social Service. Daryl Jackson is a leading architect whose firm is based in Fitzroy. He has been a member of the Council of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and former Director of the Victorian Chapter Housing Service.

Jubilee Eucharist

Over 500 friends and supporters from all denominations will attend the Brotherhood’s Jubilee Eucharist at Christ Church South Yarra on December 7. The preacher will be the Most Revd Geoffrey Sambell, Archbishop of Perth and former Director of the Brotherhood.

Christmas Cards

Brotherhood cards are available from most of our shops and from the

Combined Charities Shop, 177 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Jubilee Park

At the Family Day held at St Laurence Park, Lara, on Sunday November 16, over 500 families and friends of residents joined in a barbecue and the naming of Jubilee Park, a new recreation area.

Walking the Poverty Line

The Poverty Education Project has produced a broadsheet, available free to all interested people. ‘Walking the Poverty Line’ consists of a series of short articles on how people can be sentenced to lack of income, housing rights, education and health services. It also includes action which concerned people might want to take about poverty in Australia.

If you would like a copy, please contact Jill Ponting, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, telephone 419 7055.