

Another successful year

For the Brotherhood's fifteen fundraising auxiliaries and twelve auxiliaries who run their own shops, the 1983/84 financial year has been a highly successful one, despite the increasing difficulty in obtaining good stock, the high cost of collecting donated goods and the greater competition in the second-hand market.

For members of the Clayton Shop Auxiliary, things have been extremely busy. During the year they moved from a shop at 286A Clayton Road which they had occupied for a number of years into a smaller shop at 309 Clayton Road (entrance from Carinish Road).

The auxiliary, with the help of their families and friends, managed to complete the entire move in less

The Brotherhood of St Laurence

action

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Mrs Thelma Davey (far right) a regular customer at the Malvern Shop, is assisted by Janet Roberts (left), co-ordinator of the shop and auxiliary member Mrs Gwen Hunt (centre).

than a week. In this time, all stock and shelving was moved, carpets laid and a mountain of other tasks completed so that their shop could be open for business in as short a time as possible.

Most of the regular customers have followed the shop to its new premises and since the move business has become better and better each week.

'Everybody is enjoying working together to achieve the aim of being an auxiliary-run shop,' said Mrs Dulcie Bowen, Secretary of the Clayton Auxiliary. 'Everyone is willing to chip in and we're working as a team.'

The Clayton Auxiliary has 23 volunteers who work in the shop for half a day or more each week. As if the enormous workload of operating the shop and moving premises is not enough, the members also insisted on manning their stall at the Clayton Festival in early October. Pot-pourri, decorated coat hangers, lavender bags, jams and other handcrafts were made by members for their stall.

They also plan to participate again in the Parade that accompanies the Festival, which last year saw the Secretary ride a decorated bike through the streets of Clayton!

The members also made a number of hand knitted "football dolls" in each of the teams colours, and these proved to be a resounding success.

During the year the management of the Malvern Shop was changed from the Donated Goods Division. It has always had a team of volunteers and is now run by the auxiliary, with the assistance of a part-time co-ordinator. At the shop thirty volunteers work arranging stock, organising displays, sorting and pricing goods, serving in the shop and a variety of other tasks.

So far the auxiliary has received many positive comments from their regular customers, as well as from people discovering the shop for the first time. All of these comments are a reflection of the hard work and the pride that the members have in their shop.

'The reason that the shop runs so well is because the members all work together,' says Janet Roberts, part-time Co-ordinator. 'The shop

wouldn't be the same without them, they're absolutely marvellous!'

The work of the Clayton and Malvern Auxiliaries is indicative of the support given by the Brotherhood's auxiliaries. In the 1983/84 year, the auxiliaries raised a combined total of \$295 662. It appears the more difficult it

becomes to raise funds, the more determined the Brotherhood's auxiliaries and volunteers become.

Anyone who has half a day a week or more to spare, and would like to join one of the Brotherhood's auxiliaries, should contact the Auxiliaries Organiser, Mrs Thelma Tuxen on 419 7055.



Mrs Kath Lemon (left), President of the Clayton Auxiliary, and Mrs Mollie Skinner (far right) assist a customer in the new Clayton Shop.

Dear Friends of the Brotherhood

The "Open Letter to the Prime Minister" published in "The Age" attracted considerable interest and support from most sections of the community, mainly because most people will not accept the idea of 750,000 children living in poverty.

It was particularly helpful to have had the full support and backing of the Brotherhood's Patron, Archbishop David Penman who wrote a letter to "The Age" and then did a tour of services provided for low income and disadvantaged people in Fitzroy.

We had called for six modest reforms to the income security system which would have alleviated the worst excesses of family poverty. However, the subsequent Federal Budget provided only half of what we sought.

Since then, there have been a series of meetings among church and welfare people in Victoria and

other States with a view to establishing a national campaign to tackle poverty in the run up to the forthcoming Federal elections.

I hope that this will be the forerunner to a review of the present and future directions of our society, to coincide with the bicentenary celebrations. This event seems to offer the best prospect for significant changes and improvements in the condition of the Australian people.

Meanwhile, there is every indication that the "Open Letter" will evoke strong responses from bodies like the churches, who, like the welfare bodies, seek to approach the issue from a basic ethical standpoint.

The national campaign will aim to challenge all the political parties as to how they propose to tackle three important and interrelated policies regarding income security, taxation and employment.

At present we have an income security system which prescribes poverty for many families, a taxation

system which is inefficient, regressive and inequitable and an employment strategy which still does not address the structural problems of long-term unemployment.

Continuance of the present trends can only lead to continuing hardship and growing social division. It is in no one's interests for this to happen. The time has come to call for our leaders to exert the political will to rectify these matters as soon as economic circumstances allow.

Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Hollingworth,
Executive Director.

AFFIRMATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

As part of its long-standing commitment to improve employment opportunities for disadvantaged workers, the Brotherhood is establishing a special research and demonstration project. Funds for the project are being provided by the Victorian Ministry of Employment and Training as part of its overall employment strategy.

Over the next two years the new affirmative employment project aims to:

- increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged workers within the Brotherhood,
- assist other interested community service organisations increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged workers, and implement equal employment opportunity within their organisations,
- develop and implement an equal employment opportunity plan within the Brotherhood, and
- develop a broadly based strategy for improving employment opportunities for disadvantaged workers within the community services sector as a whole.

Over the past 15 years the Brotherhood has been directly involved in a number of projects designed to improve employment opportunities for disadvantaged workers. Overall, this work has demonstrated, in the words of the second progress report of the

Neighbourhood Employment Development Programme, that "People currently unemployed and disadvantaged in their capacity to enter the workforce . . . possess the capacity to undertake work for which needs currently exist in the human services. Given this knowledge, new career options could be opened up with confidence in such a way that employers, employees and the community at large will benefit."

Alongside its commitment to develop job opportunities for disadvantaged workers, the Brotherhood has pursued equal opportunity and, wherever appropriate, affirmative action within its own operations. These operations have attempted to ensure compliance with the most stringent equal opportunity/anti-discrimination legislation operating in Australia.

The new unit, which will begin work in November, will be staffed by a co-ordinator, two project officers and an administrative assistant.

Fair Time

Springtime is synonymous with Fair time and once again residents at the Brotherhood's two village settlements, G. K. Tucker Park at Carrum Downs and St Laurence Park at Lara, will stage their annual 'Village Fairs'.

Carrum Downs will hold their Fair on Saturday October 20, commencing at 9.00 a.m., and Lara's Fair will be held on the following weekend, Saturday October 27, commencing with a barbecue at 11.30 a.m.

As usual there will be a wide variety of stalls and bargains galore, as well as some very special attractions to see.

The Brotherhood will also be participating once again in the World Trade Centre's 'Charity Fair' on Sunday December 2. The Fair will be held in the Galleria area of the Trade Centre which is on the corner of Flinders and Spencer Streets, and will be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be a large selection of goods to purchase and activities to see and participate in.

Festival

The Brotherhood of St Laurence celebrates its 54th Foundation Festival at Christ Church, South Yarra on Sunday 9th December at 7.00 p.m.

You are invited to attend this Service, during which the Fourth G. T. Sambell Memorial Oration will be given. This year the Oration will be delivered by Mrs Jean McCaughey, who has been working with the Institute of Family Studies, is a member of the Brotherhood's Board of Directors, and was a co-author of "Who Cares: family problems, community links and helping services" published in 1977.

Carpet Bowls

Football fever may reach a high at Grand Final time, but it hardly compares to the fever of friendly competition and rivalry between the teams of carpet bowlers at the Brotherhood's village settlements, G. K. Tucker Park at Carrum Downs and St Laurence Park at Lara.

Two challenges have so far taken place between the two sides and in both cases the home ground advantage has won the day! As an added incentive to the teams, the Brotherhood Board has donated a perpetual trophy.

Christmas Cards

The Brotherhood's 1984 Christmas Cards are once again available from the Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop, which will be open from October 1 until December 15 at 21 Swanston Street (opposite St Paul's). The cards can also be obtained from most Brotherhood shops and from Head Office, 67 Brunswick Street Fitzroy.

In 1983 the sale of Christmas Cards raised over \$3 000 for the Brotherhood and the purchase of these cards is a practical way of supporting our work.

For further details regarding the cards please contact Neil Foster on 419 7055.

Back To The Movies

Thanks to a generous donation, Coolibah Day Centre members now spend Friday afternoons watching their favourite old films.

Television reception in the Fitzroy area is notoriously bad because of the high rise buildings. When a Brotherhood supporter rang, asking if there was a particular item they could give, a video cassette recorder was suggested. Not only was the video given, but a collection of cassettes.

Now the Day Centre, Sumner House and Sambell Lodge hostels for the frail aged in Fitzroy and Clifton Hill have regular shows, much appreciated by the residents who for the first time in years are able to see a film without reception problems. First on the list of requests were the Marx Brothers and Charlie Chaplin and much of the older people's enjoyment comes from the discussions around the week's choice.

From Our Donors

Enclosed is a cheque. I'm sure it will be able to help in some way.

I would like to donate a little more but due to illness I have been unemployed five months so far. I too, now more than ever appreciate the need for help when times are low. What you do for the community is of the utmost importance. Keep up the good work.

Home Style Meals

Whilst tripe, lambs fry and ox tail would not be included as food favourites with some people, residents at the Brotherhood's hostels for the elderly, Sumner House in Fitzroy and Sambell Lodge at Clifton Hill, overwhelmingly vote these dishes as top priority on the menu.

Since late 1983 the hostels have been preparing their own meals for residents. Before this, meals were prepared at the Brotherhood's Coolibah Day Centre kitchen and then delivered to the hostels.

Now, as a result of this change, all the residents get an opportunity of having their favourite food as they take an active part in deciding and planning the menus. Residents also assist in the dining room handing out meals and helping with the cleaning up.

The 'home style' meals have been a huge success as the smells of the cooking waft through the hostels, and are also a reflection of the Brotherhood's philosophy that older people should be encouraged to be as involved and active as possible.



Henry Thornton, who lives at Sumner House hostel for the frail aged in Fitzroy, helps to set the table for lunch.

brotherhood gift

Send to: Brotherhood of St Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065.

I am pleased to be able to share in the work of the Brotherhood and enclose my gift of \$.....

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms)

Address

Postcode

Yes, I require a receipt. No, I do not require a receipt.

Please send me some information about making my will.

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ACTION is published bi-monthly and contains information on Brotherhood activities, including all new publications. Editorial responsibility is accepted by Dyranda Prevost, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.