

## VIEWPOINT

by THE RIGHT REV'D  
MICHAEL CHALLEN

Executive Director

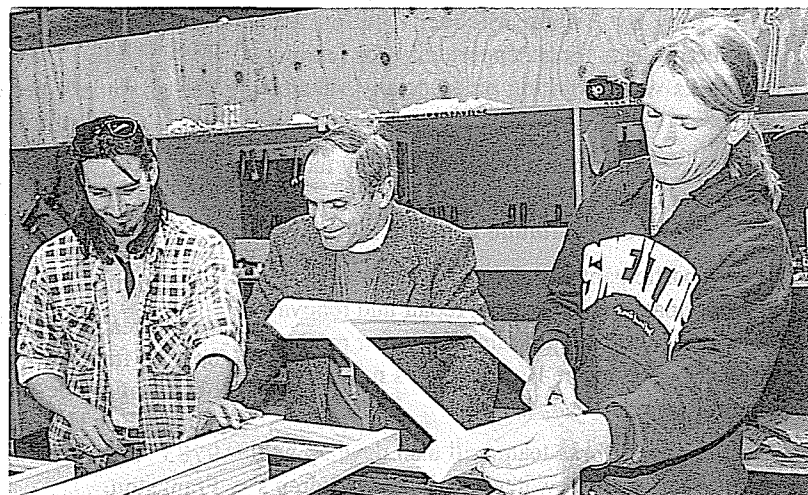
Here is some good news. We have just launched *Frankston Furniture Works*. Its purpose is to assist the employment prospects of long-term (18 months or more) unemployed men and women. Trainees will make or repair furniture for needy people and make saleable items for our shops.

I did enjoy my visit. Firstly, because I love to be among timber, wood shavings, finishes and tools. However, more important was to see the trainees so engrossed in working out designs, cutting and finishing and justifiably admiring their tables, children's chairs, toy blocks and shoe boxes. They all looked so purposeful, fulfilled and happy. I thought you would like to know of this training program, showing that the Federal Government's contributions to schemes of this type are valuable and essential—they must continue.

On 1 July this year, the Brotherhood of St Laurence spawns off its Barwon region to become a fraternally related, but legally independent agency. It will be known as St Laurence Community Services (Barwon) Inc. Commencing with the establishment of St Laurence Park in Lara in 1959, it has now become truly owned and resourced by the good people of the Geelong region.

We still share our mutual interest in better services and sound advocacy. God Bless them as they accept this worthy challenge.

Bishop Michael Challen  
Executive Director



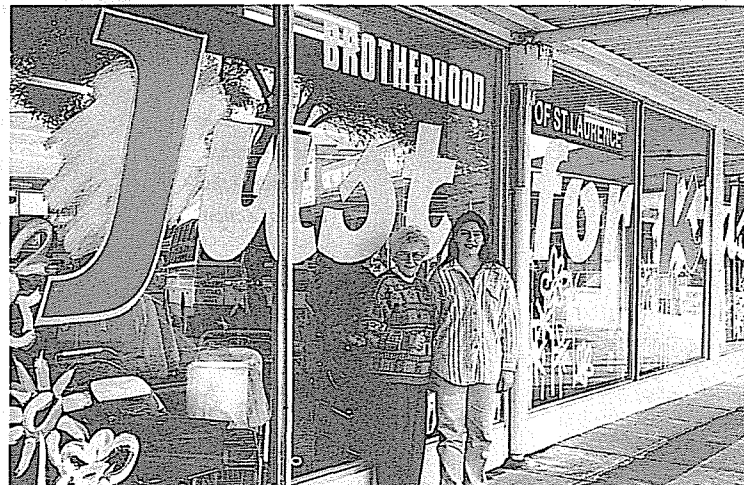
### Frankston Furniture Works

The Executive Director of the Brotherhood, Bishop Michael Challen, shares his interest in working with wood with Shane Shewan (left) and Robert Vernon (right), participants in the Brotherhood's new Furniture Works project at Frankston.

## Focus on the

*The Brotherhood has been operating on the Peninsula since 1935 when its founder, Father Gerard Tucker, established a housing settlement at Carrum Downs. Intended as an agrarian alternative for families living in the slums of Fitzroy and inner city, it had limited success until the early 1940s when the settlement was converted to provide accommodation exclusively for aged people on low incomes.*

*Today the G K Tucker Settlement is home for more than 200 people, offering a variety of accommodation styles in a friendly, village-like setting. Residents have a wide range of opportunities to contribute to the life of the settlement community with their own library, social and recreational facilities, a general store and a chapel.*



### Just for Kids

One of the six Brotherhood shops in the Peninsula region is the popular *Just for Kids* in Frankston. As the name suggests the shop specialises in children's clothing. Pictured outside the shop in Central Park, Frankston are volunteer Manager, Elva Stephens and volunteer Jacqueline Haralambous.

# PENINSULA

FEATURE THEME

*As depicted on these pages, Brotherhood activities and initiatives extend beyond the Carrum Downs settlement. Other Brotherhood services include:*

- the Linkages program providing home-based care for 160 frail older people and younger people with disabilities across the Peninsula;
- Labour market programs, Jobskills, and New Work Opportunities offering training and employment opportunities to people who are long-term unemployed;
- A no-interest loan scheme that enables families to borrow money to purchase household goods;
- An active volunteer program with more than 350 volunteers involved in the Peninsula's varied services and activities.



Program assistant Margaret O'Hara with Corey McDonald.



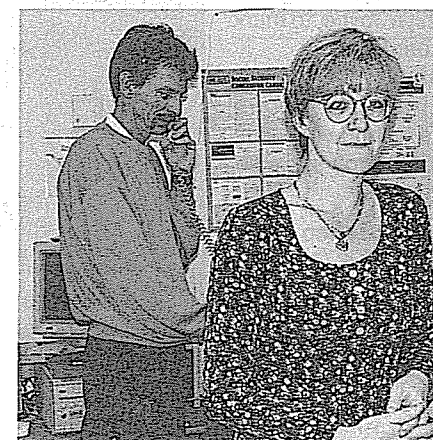
### Banksia Centre

Playing a major role in aged care in the local community, the Banksia Centre provides rest and recreation for frail older people and those with dementia. The centre has a home-like atmosphere where those in need of care and companionship can meet, share experiences and develop friendships.

The Centre provides a range of day activities, social gatherings, evening and overnight care and carer's support groups. The Banksia Centre is adjacent to the Broughton Nursing Home, a Brotherhood facility providing care to 30 residents. Pictured above are Banksia Centre members and volunteers.

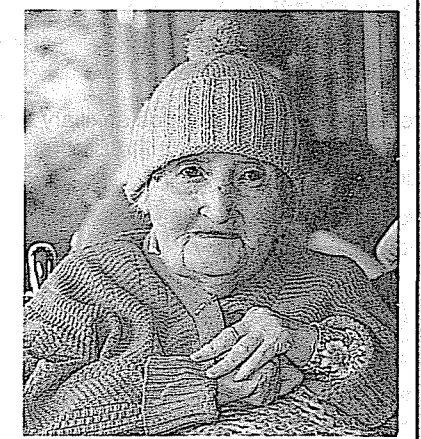
### Material Aid

The Brotherhood's material aid centres are at the frontline of the organisation's immediate relief efforts to people in need. Frankston Material Aid is one of three Brotherhood centres, the other two at Fitzroy and Whittlesea. The centres provide free clothing, blankets, linen, furniture and essential household items. Pictured below at the Frankston centre are manager Wendy Rose, and worker, David Watkins. Last year the centre's staff and volunteers distributed goods to more than 11,000 families.



### Cox/Collins Court

Mrs Gladys Schmeisser, pictured right, is a resident of Cox/Collins Court Hostel at the Brotherhood's Settlement at Carrum Downs. The hostel provides full-time and respite care for 50 frail or confused older people in a home-like setting. The hostel has an active recreation and leisure program that builds on the individual interests and preferences of residents.



### Preschool Program

A very special Brotherhood service at Peninsula is the Preschool Support Program, which provides additional assistants and consultancy support for children with severe disabilities and long term development delays within their local preschool centres. The program employs and trains staff who attend the child's preschool and provide an "extra pair of hands" for the preschool staff in working with all the children in the centre.

The Preschool Support Program works with preschool staff, parents and therapists from early intervention agencies to enable the child to maximise their developmental and educational potential within their local preschool environment. Currently there are 51 children who are being supported by the Program who attend preschools across an area extending from Port Melbourne to Pakenham and Portsea.