

Appeal Launch

The Brotherhood of St Laurence Peninsula Division is launching its first major appeal in the Peninsula Region. An appeal target of \$600,000 is vitally needed to support a major redevelopment of cottages and the Resident Activity Centre at the G. K. Tucker Settlement. It will also assist a new Material Aid Centre being opened by the Brotherhood in Frankston.

The Appeal Patron, Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, says that with the growing needs for older people in the Peninsula area and the rapidly ageing population, it is important to provide facilities for the benefit of the elderly both now, and in the future.

Dame Elizabeth has been happy to accept the position of Patron and wishes to encourage all people in the community to give their financial support to such a worthwhile undertaking.

Chairman of the Appeal is Councillor David Triplow, Mayor of Frankston. Councillor Triplow said "This Appeal is a most important one to ensure that the Brotherhood of St Laurence can continue to provide accommodation for people of limited means from the Peninsula region."

Specific targets for the Appeal include \$400,000 for the replacement of 22 old fibro-cement cottages that are beyond reasonable maintenance and below today's standards. The Commonwealth Government in a land-mark decision has agreed to provide a matching grant for this project which will cost in total \$805,000.

\$80,000 is needed for the upgrading of the Community Hall and Residents Community Centre which are now in poor condition and \$60,000 will be required for the development of internal roadways and landscaping on the settlement.

The Peninsula Division is also opening a new Material Aid Centre for people in need, primarily those relying on pensions as their sole source of income. The Centre will provide support with furniture,

The Brotherhood of St Laurence

LIBRARY
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE
67 BRUNSWICK STREET
FITZROY
VICTORIA 3065

action

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Many residents at G. K. Tucker Settlement have pets, which is uncommon in retirement villages. The Brotherhood feels they provide important companionship for older people.

clothing and information about other services.

The Appeal which will be launched on Monday 15 September will be based on seeking subscriber gifts over a period of five taxation years. The gifts will be allowable for tax deductability which for many people will mean an opportunity to provide a substantial donation at reduced cost to themselves.

Executive Officer, Adrian Harris,

says that the Appeal will be tremendously important to ensure the future of the Settlement which has just celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The G. K. Tucker Settlement has been a pioneer in many aspects of support and care for the elderly people and today has 130 cottages, a 50 bed hostel and a 12 bed hospital.

Linked with Broughton Nursing Home in Frankston, the Settlement

G. K. TUCKER SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT APPEAL

provides total care for low income people who would have great difficulty finding security and reasonable accommodation at an affordable price. The residents pay 25% of their pensions in service charges when living in cottages, and pay normal fees set by the

Government for hostel and nursing home care.

Whilst many of the old cottages are now past their useful life and are not worth spending money on, a number of other cottages are being upgraded where it is economically viable to do so.

In addition to the funds raised, the Appeal will lift the profile of the Division's work in the Peninsula. The Brotherhood wishes to develop greater community interest from people living in the area, where their support will assist low income people from their own region.

Security and Independence

In 1935 the Brotherhood set up a community for unemployed families on a property at Carrum Downs, near Frankston. After the war, the community was converted into what is now known as the G. K. Tucker Settlement for older people who were the worst affected by the acute housing shortage. Today the Settlement retains the commitment to providing services for low-income or disadvantaged older people. It aims to provide security yet encourages people to be independent and to play an active role in their society.

In its bush setting, the Settlement looks more like a country retreat than a retirement village, but it is home for over 200 elderly people who live there because they wish to be involved in a community and are able to contribute towards the life of the Settlement. Residents organise their own social events, sort and distribute the mail and tend their gardens. They also contribute towards the cost by running their own fundraising activities.

Besides having an active social committee, and various other resident-run activities such as exercise classes to music, a gardening club and lawn and indoor bowls, the residents are proud of the Art and Craft Centre on the Settlement which offers pottery, painting, metalwork and spinning.

June Ridgeway was recently appointed to the new position of Activities Officer. June co-ordinates activities for the Settlement, but she sees her role as more than just providing resources and helping with basketmaking. One of the things she is trying to do is to introduce opportunities for the residents to become involved in organisations and activities outside the Settlement, for example Amnesty

International and Meals-On-Wheels. June feels that both the general community and the Settlement would benefit from this.

The Settlement hospital is also available for non-residents. It is classed as a Category 3 private hospital and is particularly suitable for rehabilitation and convalescence. The hospital has single and double rooms, is set in rustic, restful surroundings and services include the hairdresser, library and shop, and all other facilities available on the Settlement.

Robyn Beasley, Director of Nursing at the hospital, is particularly concerned that doctors in the surrounding areas make use of its facilities for non-residents.

The Settlement's Op Shop is operated by residents and money raised goes back into the Settlement.

The Library is also run by the residents, as is "The Tucker Box", the Settlement milk bar.

Since its start, the Settlement has been a trendsetter for retirement living. One of the outstanding features of this retirement community is that residents are allowed and encouraged to have their own pets. Many of the residents have their own dogs, cats and birds.

One well known character on the Settlement is Alf Bennett's cockatoo, Joe, who is known for his 'colourful' language.

"He doesn't use rough words" explains Alf. "But when I've finished feeding him, he'll look down at his water container, look back up at me and say "I've got no bloody water, Dad!" As soon as I've fixed that up it's "Thank you Dad".

"If I didn't have Joe, I wouldn't be here now", says Alf.

"I got divorced 10 years ago and I was pretty lonely. Joe's been company and a good friend".



Mrs. Jean McCaughey, wife of the Governor of Victoria, is pictured at the recent Open Day at G. K. Tucker Settlement with the Mayor of Frankston, Councillor David Triplow, (right) who is Chairman of the Appeal, and Executive Officer of the Peninsula Division Adrian Harris.