

Pot Pourri

APPOINTMENT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL



Graeme Gregory

Mr Graeme Gregory, B.A., M.S.W., has been appointed as the first Executive Director of the Child and Family Welfare Council of Australia. Mr Gregory who was formerly the Director of the Victorian and Tasmanian Methodist Department of Child Care and the Child Care Service of the Uniting Church (interim) has been in child care work for the past fifteen years.

He is probably best known in Victoria through his pioneering work in the field on intercountry adoption. He has visited Asia on several occasions to establish agency contacts.

The office of the national secretariat will be officially launched at the Annual General Meeting of the Child and Family Welfare Council of Australia, which will be held at the National Library, Canberra on Tuesday, April 11.

The office will be located in the new premises of the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria at 313 Kingsway, South Melbourne, 3205, Telephone 690-1388.

Child Care Conference

The Victorian Child Care Conference will be held this year from Friday, 21st July to Sunday, 23rd July at the Continental Hotel and Conference Centre, Cowes, Phillip Island.

This conference is usually booked out some weeks prior to the closing date and this year it is anticipated that the response may be even greater than usual as Dr. Richard Balbernie, noted author and practitioner in the field of child care from England will be leading the Conference.

Details of advance bookings may be obtained from:
Jane Waterman,
Children's Welfare Association,
313 Kingsway,
South Melbourne.
Tel. (03) 690-1388.

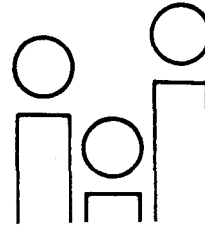
COME TO ALICE

A rare opportunity is offered to child care workers by St. Mary's Child and Family Welfare Service in Alice Springs to visit the land of the Olgers and Ayers Rock and hear distinguished author and practitioner, Richard Balbernie speak at a seminar entitled, "New Horizons in Community Care".

Richard Balbernie is the Superintendent of the Cotswold Community, Ashton Keynes in England. His work for the past ten years has been the conversion of a repressive penal institution into a therapeutic community.

The seminar will be held at the Melanka Lodge Hostel from the 10th to the 14th of July and further information can be had from Mr Bob Gaff, Director, St. Mary's Child and Family Welfare Service, P.O. Box 78, Alice Springs 5750.

An advertisement with further details appears elsewhere in this edition of the Journal.



ADOPTION CONFERENCE

Registration Forms for the Adoption Conference to be held at the University of Melbourne from the 28th of May to the 2nd of June are available.

The theme of the Conference is "Current Concerns and Alternatives for Child Placement and Parenting".

Plenary Sessions and workshops have been arranged in the following areas. National Adoption Standards; Policy and Law; Cross Cultural Adoption; Alternatives to Adoption; Children with Special Needs; Rights of Children; Original Parents and Adoptive Parents; and Research.

State bodies have been given the responsibility of arranging pre-conference seminars and preparing working papers for the conference.

Guest speakers at the conference will be Mrs Elizabeth Cole from the North America Centre for Adoption in New York, Phillida Swabridge Director of Parents for Children, a new agency specializing in recruiting parents for special needs children and Mr John Triseliotis, writer and lecturer in Social Work at the Edinburgh University.

Further information on the Conference and registration forms can be obtained from the Conference Office, C/- Royal Womens Hospital, 132 Grattan Street, Carlton. 3063 Telephone (03) 347-5338.

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ACTAC REPEAT CRITICISM

The Australian Children's Television Action Committee has expressed disappointment at the lack of new programmes for children in 1978. This was "despite assurances given in 1977" a spokesman said last week. "The old story of repeat after repeat provides no chance for children to use their imagination, to learn about the current world, the natural world or people outside the stereotyped screen culture," the public relations officer for ACTAC, Mrs Mary Murdoch said.

Children deserve the best and the industry need only to look to the BBC, the Children Theatre Workshop and sources in Canada and Europe.

Age cartoonist, Rowley, has his own feelings about the reasons for the poor quality of children's television. We thank him and the Age for the permission to reproduce.



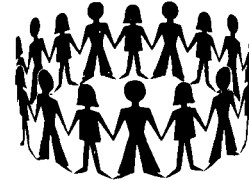
Canon Harmer Retires

One of Victoria's best known child welfare administrators Canon Guy Harmer retired on the 30th of April after 17 years as Director of the Mission of St. James and St. John.

The Mission has a large and diverse child welfare program which has in the main been developed during the Canon's years as Director.

From 1961-76 he was a member of the Children's Welfare Association Executive Committee and he has served on innumerable church and welfare bodies.

RESOURCE CENTRE FOR PRE-SCHOOL ASSOC.



The Australian Pre-School Association is to establish a Resource Information Service to help people keep up with developments in the early childhood field.

Four "options" are being offered as part of the service, and subscribers may take any combination of the four or the complete "package".

"Most people don't realize the number and variety of children's services in Australia, unless they are directly involved," says Mr Alan Holmes, the Executive Director of A.P.A. "Federal and State Governments, and voluntary agencies now spend well over \$100 million a year on pre-schools, day-care centres, family day-care schemes, toy libraries and so on. There are over 3,500 community pre-schools and 40,000 places available in commercial day-care centres.

"This means a very large number of parents, teachers, aides and volunteers are involved in one way or another, and many are finding it difficult to keep up with news and information about developments interstate and overseas. The Resource Information Service will help to overcome that problem."

The options being offered in the Service include the "Australian Journal of Early Childhood", a quarterly journal already established, with some 2,500 subscribers; and "Parents News Sheets", which cover a range of topics on child development. Nearly a quarter of a million of these are presently distributed each year.

One of two new options will be a series of "Resource Booklets" which will be mailed five times each year. These will be about 16 pages each, and cover such topics as "A Reading List for Parents" and "Activities for Home and School". The fourth option will be the "E.C. Up-Date Service", which will include Newsletters, Resource Information Bulletins, copies of press clippings, and brochures on early childhood publications and films.

The cost of the options range from \$2 to \$12, or \$25 for the total package.

Further information may be obtained by writing to A.P.A., University Avenue, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601.