

WELFARE IN THE FCT THE SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

By Ann Gugler

Mr John Butters, the First Commissioner of the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) called a meeting in May 1925 with the purpose of forming a Social Service Association. Attending the meeting were representatives from all the camps and settlements with the exception of Oaks Estate, Hall and other old villages in the district. The SSA was eventually formed and replaced the numerous Progress Associations already in operation. Following the withdrawal of finances in 1929 the SSA closed. The reason may be related to the call by the people for civil rights and the autocratic rule by the First Commissioner. The Progress Associations reformed themselves. Following are a number of documents in Australian Archives on the Social Service Association that give an indication of its rise and fall.

(Australian Archives A6266/1 G27/4505)

FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
14.2.1925
MEMORANDUM for
Mr Waterman
Welfare

I meant to have a chat with you on the subject of Welfare before I left, but missed the opportunity. I am anxious to get something going without delay in connection with welfare conditions among the workmen employed by the Commission and their families and think probably the best initial step will to call a meeting of representatives of the unions and camps; men in the first instance to be followed by the women later on. I think a letter somewhat in the following terms may serve to initiate the matter. Will you draft the letter and send it out to such people as you think would be representative of the best interests, and I will then have a further chat with you on my return...[followed with a draft letter].
Signed John Butters,
First Commissioner.

John Butters was the first Commissioner and took up duties at the beginning of 1925. The Commission took over from the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) 1920-1924. Butters prime objective was to erect sufficient buildings, infrastructure etc to move the Federal Parliament from Melbourne to Canberra.

(Australian Archives A6266/1 G27/4505)

FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
11.5.1925

MEMORANDUM TO THE TRANSPORT OFFICER

The Commissioner has decided to hold a meeting of various persons representatives of all communities of employees at Canberra, at the Acton Recreation Hall at 8 pm on Monday 18th May, 1925, for the purpose of a general discussion upon proposals for the development of the general well being of the several committees.

A list is attached of those who have been directly invited to attend, and it is desired that you make arrangements for their motor transport (gratis) to and from the Hall, informing them direct of times and picking up places. You may of course, find that some living in outlying places (e.g. Foreman Ryan of Mugga Quarry) will have and prefer their own means of transport. Details are left to your discretion.

A debit will be "Secretary's Department: Contingencies." A formal order will follow. Secretary

Acton

Lands & Survey Mess	14
15 Portable cottages	60
8 Officers' Quarters	25
Bachelors Quarters	60
[Total]	160

White City 80

Civic Centre

32 Cottages, brick	128
Hotel Ainslie (later Gorman House)	80
[Total]	200

Westlake

51 Portable Cottages	250
Hotel Camp single men	50 [Hotel Camp was also known as Hostel Camp]
Contractor Howies 20 families	80
Tradesmen's Mess	110
No 1 Daniels Mess	150
No 3 Sewer Camp Men's Labourers on top of Gap	100
	Say 700

Eastlake

15 Tenements	60
37 Brick Cottages	148
Labourers' Camp	60
Engineers Mess	50
	Say 300

No 4 Sewer Camp (Opp Parliament House) 120

Scott's Camp (awn drays) 60

Red Hill 200

Mugga Mess 17

Molonglo

120 Tenements	600
Trademen's Mess	150
	[750]

Blandfordia

19 Brick Cottages 95

Westridge

6 Brick Cottages	25
Single Tenements	19

Following is a copy of the Minutes of the meeting. (Australian Archives A6265/1 25/1445)

Notes of portion of Proceedings at a meeting of Union and Camp representatives convened by the Commission at Acton Hall on Monday evening, 18th May, 1925, to consider proposals for the advancement of the welfare of the Commission's employees.

The Commissioner presided and explained the purpose of the meeting, emphasizing that the movement had no connection with the problems of industrialism.

Mr J Kirk, representing the Operative Union of Painters and Decorators, considered that the complaints regarding the condition of the camps should be considered. That was the reason for his attendance. Repeated applications, personal and written, had been made for the improvement of conditions at the Tradesmen's Mess.

The Chairman indicated that the discussion would lead nowhere.

Mr D Kelly of Red Hill Camp, on a point of order, considered the discussion of camp conditions should not continue, and that the welfare problem should engage the attention of the meeting.

Mr L O'Neill, Workmen's representative on the Industrial Board, supported Mr Kirk. Conditions in the camp were the basis of efforts directed toward improvement of living conditions.

Mr McConnell, Contractor, moved that the meeting co-operate with the Chairman in his effort to improve conditions.

Mr W Wright seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr L O'Neill moved that sufficient housing accommodation be provided for the married employees of the Commission. The housing problem was a burning question. The Molonglo tenements were a disgrace to the Commonwealth and complaints were continually made of their verminous condition.

Mr R Cashman seconded the motion.

The Chairman observed that the meeting was convened for the express purpose of considering their views on welfare. He had given an undertaking that the Commission would deal immediately with camping conditions. Quite three or four men among those present had interviewed him in his office and had received his definite assurance (Mr O'Neill among them) that the Commission would as early as possible initiate a large workmen's housing scheme, which could not be done in a minute. The Commission had to do its job. It had been given a certain task, that of completing the Parliament House and staff accommodation with a view to the removal of the seat of Government to Canberra.

Action would then be taken to build a large number of workmen's houses. A large contract had been let for the erection of a Tradesmen's Mess, upon completion of which the number of men at present in the mess previously mentioned by Mr Kirk, would be reduced. Unfortunately unemployment was rife throughout Australia. Only a few months previously a letter had been addressed to the Prime Minister by the Trades Hall begging the Commonwealth Government to insist upon all its Departments employing as many men as possible to relieve unemployment. Compliance with that policy unfortunately involved overcrowding of certain messes, the alternative being the refusal of employment to applicants. He would ask the meeting which course was preferable - to put up with some inconvenience for a short period of a few weeks, or to ask the Commission to turn away the fellows who asked for work and tell them to go back

to Broken Hill or whence they came. The Commission had acted in the best interests of all. [Mr Butters, wife and family had just moved from Hotel Canberra to a refurbished Canberra House at Acton].

The workmen's housing scheme now being designed embraced 100 cottages [Causeway]. These cottages could not be erected by the waving of a wand. If the meeting desired to talk of housing the welfare proposition could be dropped and they could have a good old talk on the former question; but where that discussion would lead he did not know, because he had told them exactly what was being done.

On the other hand it was feasible to proceed contemporaneously with a welfare scheme. He would put the motion as a test of feeling of the meeting as to whether welfare should be discussed or should be deferred until the housing problem had been completely settled.

Mr F Irons, representing the Bricklayers, suggested that, as had been mentioned by the Chairman previously, a deputation might wait upon him separately, but that welfare question be dealt with that evening by the meeting. [Mr Irons had a Westlake cottage].

Mr L O'Neill said they were present to have a heart-to-heart talk with the Commissioner, and he did not desire to be side tracked. Housing was one of the most vital needs of the industrial community at Canberra.

The Chairman remarked that he agreed with the last statement.

Mr O'Neill stated that the Chairman had intimated his intention to improve their conditions, and he accepted his word. The welfare of the people of the Territory meant the welfare the majority and the families of the majority were in other districts.

The Chairman said that the interpretation of Mr O'Neill's motion was that there was nothing to be gained by consideration of welfare until all housing requirements had been met. He desired to make it clear that there was not the slightest hope of every married man on the job being accommodated in a cottage. To do so would occupy as much time as would suffice to build three or four capitals. If it were necessary to await the completion of say one thousand houses for workmen before carrying on, the construction programme would be a physical impossibility. The Commission were carefully balancing the accommodation problem with the raison d'être for the existence of the Commission, namely, the erection of Parliament House and official and residential accommodation for public servants, and would push on with other accommodation consistently with its main object.

Mr Kirk enquired whether the new Tradesmen's Mess was to take the place of the existing Tradesmen's Mess, or to accommodate plasterers.

The Chairman explained that the new Mess was additional provision intended to reduce the pressure in the existing Mess. He would ask the meeting to be a little patient with those who were voicing their views so vigorously as the latter were obviously in earnest in their remarks. He was allowing much more license in discussion than could be permissible in general public meeting.

Mr F O'Sullivan [brick cottage in Blandfordia] suggested that Mr O'Neill's motion be adopted, after which he proposed to move that the meeting accept the assurance of the Commission that it is dealing forthwith with the housing problem. The main business of the evening could then be proceeded with.

Mr L O'Neill mentioned that if it were fair to erect 100 houses for 100 men, it was equally fair that 1,000 cottages should be provided for 1,000 men.

The Chairman said that, in other words, Mr O'Neill desired to shut his eyes to the main object for the appointment of all workmen in Canberra. Mr O'Neill said that his point of view was that he was addressing the man who had the show in his own hands.

The Chairman informed Mr O'Neill that was not the case.

Mr O'Neill intimated that he did not desire to withdraw his motion.

The Chairman said that if the motion were carried he could not expect the co-operation in the provision of amenities other than housing until all the married men in the community were housed in cottages.

Mr Dorman said that no doubt the meeting would consider with Mr F O'Neill that many more houses could be built at Canberra and the meeting could accept the Chairman's assurance that that provision would be made. The meeting was placed in a peculiar position. Would it be concluded that, if the meeting adopted Mr O'Neill's motion the development of welfare could not proceed, while if the motion were rejected, that action would amount to a declaration that there was sufficient housing for workmen in the Territory?

Mr F Irons reminded the meeting that the Commission was willing to meet a deputation on the question of housing and camping conditions. He thought it would be an advantage if representatives could get together and arrange a deputation, if Mr O'Neill would agree to that course.

Mr O'Neill said that suggestion was quite all right. His motion was not intended to exclude the consideration of welfare from that evening's proceedings. His desire was to obtain a definite expression of opinion from the meeting.

Mr JA O'Sullivan moved and Mr F Okeley seconded that the motion be now put.

Mr C Patrick moved and amendment that the meeting accept the Chairman's assurance upon the housing question and that no further discussion in connection therewith be permitted. Mr W Wright seconded the motion which was then carried.

The meeting then proceeded with the consideration of welfare proposals.

[Within a couple of years both Mr Okeley of 45 Westlake and Mr Irons of 24 Westlake were dead - the former from TB and the latter from cancer].

Report of a welfare section of a meeting [May, 1925] follows (Australian Archives A6266/G27/4505)

NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS of a Meeting convened by the Commissioner at 8pm Monday 18th May, 1925 at the Acton Recreation Hall, for the purpose of considering proposals for the advancement of Welfare of the several workmen's communities at Canberra.

The Commissioner presided. The Chief Lands Officer, Accountant, and Mr Waterman (representing the Secretary) attended. Apologies were received from the Chief Engineer and the Secretary who were unable to attend owing to pressure of official business and indisposition respectively.

By Invitation also Messrs Brackenreg, Richmond, O'Sullivan, O'Neill, Edwards and McGuire attended.

The following representatives of Unions and Workmen's Communities also attended by invitation:-

TP McCormack - representing Daniel's Mess, Eastlake

*T McGovern & D Smith - representing Red Hill Camp
D Kelly - representing Red Hill Camp
W Rushton - representing Scott's Camp
L O'Neill- Workmen's representative of the Industrial Board in the Territory for the seat of Government.*

*W Findlay - representing the Engineers' Mess, Eastlake
Foreman J Ryan - representing Mugga Quarry employees
Mr A H Woodlands - representing married tenants, Westridge
Mr T Apps - representing single men Westridge
Mr J Callaghan - representing Lands & Survey Mess Acton
Mr F Dorman - representing the community of portable cottages Acton
Messrs Marguels & Marshall - representing the Acton community
Mr DS Fraser - representing the Westlake Progress Association
Mr JE Gibbs - representing Eastlake Progress Association
Mr RF Brown - representing the Married Community Molonglo Settlement
Mr W Wright - representing Trademen's Mess Molonglo Settlement
Messrs FD Brown and Knudson - representing the Tradesmen's Mess near Hotel Canberra.
J Kirk - representing Painters & Decorators Union
HL Noble - representing Federated Brick Tile and Pottery Industrial Union of Australia
Max Hazeledene - representing Plasterers Union
W Palmen - representing Federated Engine-drivers and Fireman's Association
J Hamsley & T O'Connor - representing No 4 Sewer Camp
R Cashman - representing No 3 Sewer Camp
Representing Contractors - Mr JS McConnell
Representing Contractor's Camp at Westlake - Messrs C Patrick and Walter Scott.*

The following were invited to attend but were unable to do so:

*Mr J O'Brien Ainslie Camp
Col Walker Contractor
W Eastwell representing Amalgamated Society of Engineers
T Skerry representing Australian Builders Labourers' Federation*

The Chairman opened the proceedings with an outline of his proposal. After indicating the general disability of social life in Canberra, he exhorted the audience to throw their energies into co-operation with the Commission with a view to improving the general condition of the industrial community at Canberra. He instanced the amazing and rapid results of constructive effort of such a nature at other places, notably at Port Pirie in South Australia and expressed his faith in the outcome of the campaign now proposed for Canberra. He emphasized the absence of any connection of the welfare question with the general problem of industrialism. The audience were then invited to submit their suggestions for the consideration of the meeting.

Several speakers at the outset dealt vigorously and at length with camping conditions, but the meeting, at the instance of the Chairman, finally decided that this matter should be not further discussed in view of the statement made by the Commissioner that the Commission was at the moment engaged in solving the problem to the best advantage. Details of the discussion are dealt with separately. [See previous Notes]

The following suggestions were submitted:

*Proposal
Amusement & Recreation Halls.
Fire places on each side for warmth in winter
One suggestion for two halls – one at Molonglo and the other mid-way between Acton and Eastlake. One suggestion that, pending erection a room at the school [Telopea Park] be set apart for meetings.*

Suggestor

Messrs Wright, Hazeldene, Gibbs, L O'Neill, J Kirk, O'Connor, McKinnon, Kelly, Palmer

*One suggestion for one large central hall
Mr Irons*

*One suggestion for hall to include provision for dancing, boxing, gymnasium, trade union and other meetings. Several small halls would be too small for picture shows or big dances
Mr Irons*

*Billiard Room
Mr O'Neill*

Continuation School & Transport therefore (including Trades). To afford lads opportunity of securing technical education. One suggestion that residents of Canberra in every walk of life might donate services for tuition.

*Statement by the Chairman -
Commission considered technical school a matter for attention. Junior Technical School would be provided.*

*Mr Wright reported that Mr Henry [headmaster of Telopea Park School] had informed him that 50 boys would be sufficient in remuneration to run a class three times a week at sixpence per head per week
Messrs Wright, McKinnon, B Kelly, D Kelly (of Red Hill), T McGovern*

*Public Park & Children's Playground with Swings
Messrs Wright, Gibbs, Dorman*

Public Oval and Sports Ground

Sports oval for each camp and not in one district, to avoid travelling, and provide facilities for a greater number to participate on the same day, thus providing social intercourse between camps.

*One suggestion that modern conveniences and enclosure be provided and admission fees levied
One suggestion that portion of nursery area in front of Eastlake Tenements be set apart.
Messrs Wright, Patrick, McKinnon, Gibbs*

*Public Tennis Court Suggested by Mr Findlay that tennis courts be allotted to Tennis Associations for promotion of fixtures of a general nature. Courts to be provided for school children and a coach provided to give lessons
Messrs Wright, Gibbs, Dorman, Fraser, Mr Findlay*

*Circulating Libraries (including works of reference)
Messrs Brown, Foreman, J Ryan, Gibbs, Kirk, O'Connor, L O'Neill
Registry Office*

*Note: Chief Lands Officer advised matter under consideration but legislation would be necessary.
Present location Queanbeyan.
Mr Brown*

Transport.

Commission to make available two chara-a-banc on Saturday afternoon and Sundays for conveying sportsmen and followers. Fees to cover running expenses. Fares collected on a ticket system - suggested reduction of fares. Also available on Sundays for church services. Suggestion that a school bus call for Westlake Children [It did from around 1955]. Available to Queanbeyan on one day other than Saturday or Sunday.

Messrs Moss & Fraser

Lectures. Suggested that perhaps Duntroon professors might be induced to deliver.

Messrs McKinnon, Gibbs

Swimming Pool for Children. (in close proximity to the school) [The swimming pool now called Manuka Pool was built in 1930 - near Telopea Park].

Mr McKinnon

Rifle Range.

Mr McKinnon

Picture Shows One suggestion that profits should be devoted to erection of billiard room, then library, reading and writing rooms

Messrs. McKinnon, Gibbs, Okely, O'Connor

Canteens similar to AIF (wet) from 7pm to 8.30pm [FCT was dry from 1913 until the end of 1928]

Mr Hazeldene

Community Singing

Mr Gibbs

Medical & Hospital Benefits Fund

Suggestion that Canteen Fund surplus should contribute to this.

Statement by Mr O'Neill (formerly concerned with the tentative scheme finally abandoned – rejected by a majority of 40 or 50 in a minority meeting so far as the Territory was concerned. It was hoped to revive it but Commission could do nothing unless workmen were unanimous. In the latter event the Commission would gladly co-operate within reason.

Messrs Hazeldene, Okely, O'Connor, D Kelly, O'Neill

Dental and Medical Clinics

Messrs Gibbs, Dorman, Irons

Physical Culture Special teachers to be appointed at Telopea Park School

Messrs Gibbs, Dorman, B Kelly

Cricket Suggestion that coach be engaged to encourage game amongst school children

Mr Findlay

Postage Facilities Suggestion these be increased Mugga was instanced, located 3 or 4 miles from Eastlake.

Mention was made that men in camps pay 6d a week to obtain mail.

Foreman J Ryan, Mr J Kirk

First Aid Class Suggestion that doctor perambulate the camps delivering lectures

Messrs. Brown, L O'Neill

Street Lighting

Messrs Dorman, Iron, Fraser

*Roads round Settlements Attention for the coming winter
Mr Irons*

*Stormwater Channel round Westlake cottages
Mr Fraser*

*Retail Trade One suggestion for Commission to open at Westlake - nearest shop three miles distant
Mr Fraser*

*Horse Racing One suggestion that new course be provided with the regulation dimension and curves
Mr Kelly (Red Hill)*

Brass Band and Band Rotunda Suggestion that a levy of one and halfpenny per week upon residents would provide 650 pounds pa at least for raising and maintenance. Would Commission subsidise? Band available for public functions and enlivening sports fixtures, and useful on summer evenings.

*Chairman indicated that he hoped to secure a donation of instruments for a brass band for the city of Canberra and the Chief Lands Officer was developing a scheme for a park.
Mr T McGovern*

*Licensing of Hawkers Conditional upon round including all centres. At present they concentrate on the larger centres of population.
Mr O'Sullivan*

Rates for parcel carrying on railway Suggestion for reduction between Queanbeyan and Canberra

The Chairman thanked the meeting for the suggestions offered. So far as the Medical Fund was concerned the Commission would gladly co-operate with the men, subject to the unanimity of the latter, to any extent within reason.

None of the suggestions offered could be given effect without the expenditure of money and effort. Some speakers had inquired as to what the Commission was prepared to do. The Commission would do as much as would be permitted by its masters who provided the funds; but he could commit the Commission to say that for every pound's worth of effort one pound would be made available by the Commission for the provision of material up to 5,000 pounds each way. Some might consider that was a large figure, but he repeated that the Commission would not hesitate to act to that extent. Nothing was worth having which could be obtained without effort. If the representatives present were prepared to commit the people they represented to effort, the discharge of the Commission's promise, which he had just laid before them, would be simple. He would suggest that the meeting now proceed to appoint committees to organise proposals.

Mr Palmer moved and Mr Wright seconded that the Chairman's suggestion be adopted and that committees be appointed forthwith to formulate welfare schemes. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then invited nominations for membership of the committees enumerated below, indicating that the divisions of labour. Persons consenting to nomination would understand that some sustained work would be entailed. He would ask that nominees indicate their preference so far as the committees were concerned.

Nominations were received and accepted for membership detailed below:-

- 1. Recreation - Indoor*

*Mr T O'Connor No 4 Sewer Camp
Mr F Okely Westlake
Mr G O'Neill
Mr F Irons Westlake*

2. Recreation - Outdoor

*Mr A Fleetwood c/o Chief Engineer
Mr W Findlay Engineers Mess, Eastlake
Mr W Wright Molonglo Settlement
Mr D Kelly Red Hill Camp*

3. Education

*Mr JE Gibbs Eastlake
Mr RF Brown Molonglo Settlement
Mr T McGovern Red Hill Camp*

4. Libraries

*Mr J Kirk Canberra
Mr JA O'Sullivan c/o Federal Cap Commission
Mr F Dorman Acton
Mr L O'Neill Queanbeyan*

5. Children's Welfare (to co-operate with Women's and Children's Welfare Committee

*Mr Walter Scott Contractor's Camp, Westlake
Mr C Patrick Contractor's Camp Westlake
Mr R McKinnon Westlake
Mr Marshall Acton*

The Chairman raised the question of whether the committee should be formed forthwith or later to deal with Women & Children's Welfare. Mr Wright suggested that the formation of the last mentioned committee be deferred until the general committees be organised.

Mr Patrick moved and Mr B Kelly seconded that the Women's and Children's Welfare Committee be formed forthwith as the assistance of the women would be necessary in developing every phase of the problem.

Mr Kelly considered that until the spade work was completed it would be preferable not to appoint a Women's Committee. Mr J Kirk supported the motion which was then carried.

Nominations were then received and accepted for the following

6. Women's & Children's Welfare Committee to co-operate with Committee No 5.

*Mrs WS Brownless Blandfordia
Mrs J Kennedy Ainslie PO
Mrs P Douglas Eastlake
Mrs W Scott Howie's Camp*

These nominations were made in absentia upon the undertaking of the nominators that the ladies elected would consent to act.

At the suggestion of the Chairman it was decided that Committees 1 to 5 have the power to add two to their number and that Committee No 6 be given power to add four to their number, and that all committees elect their own chairman or chairwoman.

The Chairman indicated that it would be an assistance to have a staff representative on each committee and to convene meetings with a view to speeding up the procedure. In the meantime various settlements might discuss among themselves methods of arranging working bees or other forthcoming efforts.

Mr B Kelly suggested that the Progress Association meetings in the various settlements continue.

The Chairman suggested that the committee men appointed that evening should act as local representatives and convene meetings in their own communities.

At this stage Mr J Kirk inquired whether anybody could make a statement of the position of the tentative Medical Benefit Fund and Mr F Irons complied with the request.

Mr Hazeldene inquired whether the institution of such a fund would interfere with the establishment and progress of lodges.

The Chairman suggested that Mr Hazeldene discuss that question with representatives of the unions.

Mr L O'Neill informed Mr Hazeldene that it was understood from Dr Cumston that if the Fund were established lodge members could continue to pay benefit funds to their lodges, but those benefits would be confined to lodge members and not medical members.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman, who suitably acknowledged it. The meeting closed at 11 pm.

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CANBERRA SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Association shall be "The Canberra Social Service Association."

2. The objects of the Association shall be

- a. To promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of Canberra.*
- b. To collect and distribute information regarding the activities of the Association per medium of a Social Service Journal [The Canberra Community News] to be issued monthly in conjunction with the Federal Capital Commission.*

3. The headquarters of the Association shall be the Social Service Building Canberra.

4. The affairs of the Association shall be administered by a Council consisting of Councilors, one from each district branch, together with the President, Vice President, Hon Treasurer and General Secretary, ex-official, and such officers shall be elected annually by a combined meeting of District Committees called for that purpose during the month of June each year.

a. The Council and officers elected as provided in sub-clause (a) shall take office at the Annual General Meeting of the Association immediately following the adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

b. At the combined meeting of District Committees referred to in sub-clause (a) one representative from three quarters of the District Committees shall form a quorum.

c. Failing such quorum, the Council and officers of the Association shall be appointed by the Commission.

d. The first Council of the Association at present in office shall continue in office until the appointment or election of a Council in June, 1927.

5. The attainment of the object described in Clause 2 (a) shall be assisted by District Branches of the Association administered by District Committees, whose link with the Council shall be the General Secretary.

6. The Council shall at its first meeting after taking office in each year appoint Standing Committees as follows:-

Outdoor Recreation Committee
Indoor Recreation Committee
Children's Committee
Libraries Committee
Education Committee
Women's and Infants' Welfare Committee
Affiliated Societies Committee
Fixtures Committee

b) In making appointments to such Standing Committees the Council may appoint any member of the Association thereto, and shall ensure that each District Branch is represented on each Committee, and that one representative of each affiliated sporting body is appointed to the Outdoor Recreation Committee.

c) On the appointment of each Standing Committee existing Social Service Committee shall be dissolved.

7. The District Committees shall be elected annually by the members of the Association residing in the districts of Canberra as prescribed in clause 8 in accordance with the District Branch Constitution.

8. The Districts of the Association for the current year shall be:-

Acton
Ainslie
White City
Westlake
Westridge
Red Hill
Blandfordia
Eastlake
Causeway
Molonglo
Central

And thereafter as may be prescribed in the month of June in each year by the Chief Commissioner.

9. The District Council shall establish a Constitution and Standing Orders for each District Branch.

10.(a) Any resident over the age of 16 years shall be eligible for membership of the Association upon payment of a subscription fee of 2/6d per annum to the District Committee.

b. Any approved club, society or association or branch thereof which is established in Canberra may be affiliated to the Association on payment of one pound one shilling per annum.

c. Any member or affiliated club may be removed from membership or affiliation by a unanimous vote of the Council.

11..The officers of the Association shall consist of Patron, Vice Patrons, Vice President, Hon Treasurer and General Secretary. The Social Service Officer of the Federal Capital Commission shall be the General Secretary of the Association [Joe Honeysett].

12.The President shall act as Chairman of the Council for the year.

13. .The Council and its Standing Committees each have power to appoint Sub-Committees to deal with any matter coming within its scope, and to appoint a member of the Association to such Sub-Committee.

14.The Council shall have power to admit or exclude strangers from its meetings.

16.(a) If an official position in the Association becomes vacant in the interval between the Annual General Meetings, the Council shall appoint some qualified person to fill it.

(b) Any vacancy in the Council to be filled by the respective District Committee.

17..The meetings held by the Association shall be the Annual General and Special General Meetings.

18.The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 20th July of each year, and fourteen days notice of the date and place of meeting shall be given by circular to the Hon Secretary of each District Association.

19.The ordinary business to be transacted at the Annual General Meetings shall be the consideration and adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, duly audited; the adoption of a resolution transmitting the Report and Balance Sheet to the Federal Capital Commission; the election of officers (other than the General Secretary), and such other business as may be properly brought forward in accordance with the Constitution. Nominations of officers of the Association shall be lodged in writing with the General Secretary not less than 7 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, and nominations so received shall on receipt be posted on the Notice Board of the Social Service Building.

20.Members of the Association only shall be allowed to vote at any General Meeting.

21.The voting at all General Meetings shall be by show of hands, (excepting in the case of election of officers, which shall be by exhaustive ballot), when there are more than one candidate for each office, and by simple majority. The declaration of the result by the Chairman shall be final.

22. .Notice in writing shall be given to the General Secretary of any motion to alter, amend, or add to the Constitution at least seven days before the meeting. Such alteration, amendment or addition shall be considered only at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting and shall require a majority vote of two-thirds of those present.

23..No Special General Meeting can be called unless by the Council or by a requisition signed by not less than 15 members of the Association, providing that such requisition must state the particular object of such meeting, of which seven days' notice has been given, and that no business other than that stated in the requisition shall be entered into at such meeting.

24..At any General or Special Meeting of the Association 30 shall form a quorum, and at Council Meetings 7 shall form a quorum.

25. .Should any member of the Council, having received due notice of meetings, absent himself from three consecutive meetings without an explanation satisfactory to the Council, his office shall be declared vacant, and the Committee of the District which such delegate represents, shall be asked to fill his place, and shall do so at its first meeting thereafter.

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Australian Archives CP464/5 10/15 Example of one of the meetings held in a district to form a branch of Social Service Association.

CANBERRA SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

*MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WESTLAKE ON 15th MAY, 1926 FOR THE
PURPOSE OF FORMING A DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION AT
WESTLAKE*

Mr S Champ, President of the Westlake Progress Association occupied the chair.

The Chairman in welcoming the General Secretary, Mr JH Honeysett, to the meeting regretted the falling off in interest and attendance at meetings of the Progress Association, and thought that unless residents took interest in their own affairs very little progress would be made towards the wellbeing of residents of Westlake. The existing hall was not at all suitable, and there were many ways in which the social well being of the residents could be improved. He consequently favoured the idea of forming a District Social Service Association at Westlake, more particularly to enable the views of residents to be placed before the Council per medium of a delegate.

The General Secretary, Mr JH Honeysett, then explained the objects of the meeting, and the benefits that would accrue to residents of Westlake by linking up with the Social Service Organisation.

Messrs Brill and Meyers forcibly pointed out that it was impossible for residents of Westlake to take an interest in the progress of the district when they had been informed by the Commission that the settlement was only of a temporary nature [It was supposed to be moved around 1929 - it stayed until 1965].

*Mr Brill then moved, seconded by Mr Williams Senr the following resolution:-
That the residents of Westlake were willing to fall in with the Social Service Organisation, provided that a guarantee can be given by the Federal Capital of some permanency of the settlement.*

The motion was carried unanimously.

The General Secretary promised to bring the resolution before the notice of the Chairman of the Commission and to advise the Chairman of the Progress Association in due course.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Honeysett for his attendance at the meeting

Chairman

Mr Honeysett made a report back to the Commissioner on 15th May, 1926. The body of the letter is as follows:

I have to report having visited Westlake yesterday evening, 14th inst for the purpose of establishing a District Social Service Association at this centre.

As at Molonlgo, and Eastlake, consideration had to be given to the existing Progress Association, in fact all those present at the meeting were members of that organisation. From the tone of the meeting it may be safely assumed that the residents of Westlake are quite prepared to fall in with the Social Service organisation and in fact welcome the opportunity for so doing, but a practically unanimous opinion was

expressed by various speakers that the Commission should give the residents of Westlake some indication as to the life of that Settlement.

Several speakers forcibly pointed out that a number of requests had been placed before the Commission for improvements in conditions of living at Westlake, but they had met with the invariable reply that "very little could be done as Westlake was only a temporary settlement.

[The last cottage was not removed from Westlake until 1965 and the excuse was used up until that time]

A case in point, it was stated that the application had been made six months ago for the provision of some wire netting for those persons who were putting in work on their gardens A list was taken and forwarded to the Commission, but nothing had eventuated.

The inadequacy of the existing hall [the old Mess of No 3 Sewer Camp] was also stressed, one speaker referring to it as an "ice box". From personal experience of last night's meeting, which lasted about two and half hours, I can substantiate this statement. In the event, however, of residents receiving an intimation that it is not proposed to do away with this Settlement at an early date, they are quite prepared to build a new hall under the voluntary scheme, or enlarge and improve the existing building. [The voluntary scheme refers to the 50/50 system - men supplied the labour free and the Commission the materials.]

The present inadequate means of access by road to the Settlement, was also forcibly commented upon. In fact one speaker was kind enough to say that he watched me coming down the hill in the car, and wished that I might have broken a spring as he had done during the previous week.

I am bringing these matters under your notice more particularly to show the feeling that exists at Westlake in regard to the Social Service movement. The matter may be summed up in the following resolution which was unanimously carried as follows:-

"That the residents of Westlake are willing to fall in with the Social Service organisation and to form a District Association at Westlake provided that some guarantee can be given by the Commission of a sufficient permanency of the life of the Settlement."



Above: Photograph taken in the early 1940s of Westlake children leaving the Westlake Hall. The doors and part of the corrugated iron walls can be seen in the background. This was the improved hall. Photograph courtesy of Lionel Haines.

The following document in Australian Archives CP464/5 10/15 - are the problems mentioned to the Commission.

Deputation from The Gap [Westlake] Progress Association Tuesday Evening 25th November, 1924

Subject

- 1. Guttering to front of cottages*
- 2. Plugs for troughs sinks etc*
- 3. Stormwater drains*
- 4. Gravelling road track*
- 5. Supply of brick etc for verandahs*
- 6. Power Plugs*
- 7. Street lighting*
- 8. Netting for fences*
- 9. Hoses in Hydrant hose box*
- 10. Volunteer Fire Brigade*
- 11. Post Office additional accommodation*

Decision

To be considered when cost of back guttering ascertained
Agreed to make good
Will be put in hand as soon as possible
Will be done in conjunction with stormwater drains
Bricks will be supplied to every applicant
Will be installed when tenant applies and agrees to pay 1/- pw
Work will be put in hand
Can not be provided by this Department
Will see Mr Douglas re same
Will see Mr Douglas re same
Will ring up Mr O'Connor Acton R/S 2 weeks
Instructions issued to Mr Jackson
Memo to Mr Nish
Memo to Mr Nish
Secretary will furnish complete list by 2/12/24

Secretary will furnish list by 2/12/24
Memorandum to Mr Fraser for estimate

Mr Douglas advises hoses had been on order for 2 months. Mr Douglas will see the Secretary [Percy Douglas was the Fire Chief and came to Canberra around 1913. He lived at Briar Farm House for a time and later in the early 1920s was allocated one of the brick cottages opposite the Power House.]

WD to ring up Mr O'Connor

12. Control of cottage used by the Progress Association [29] To be under the control of the Progress Association who accept responsibility regarding the conduct of meetings etc *Advise*
Corey re key

13. Use of Sewer Mess on Christmas Eve Granted
Foreman Dillon advised [he was the Sewer Foreman]

14. Regulations re dogs
Enquiries will be made regarding Dog ordinance
H & T advise expect ordinance to be gazetted within next few weeks

15. Tennis Court

*Department will provide the material if workmen carry out labor.
Secretary will advise if labor will be carried out by the Association.*

16. *Amusement Hall [in fact the sewer mess was used until 1926 when a slightly bigger hall built on the site.] Fresh plans to be prepared. Probably erection started early in 1925.
W.D. to instruct. Supervising Architect re plans.*

...oOo....

SOCIAL SERVICE REPORTS (Australian Archives A6266/1 G27/2731)

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT 1926-27

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Second Annual Report of the Association your Council has pleasure in recording a further most successful period of progress in the development of projects having for their object the advancement of the social well-being of residents of Canberra.

The Constitution of the Association adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 21st October, 1926, provided that the future Annual General Meeting of the Association should be held no later than 20th July of each year, consequently the period under review covered by this report extends to the 30th June, 1927.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATION

A feature of the past years activities of the Association has been the undoubted success of the schemes of District representation which came into operation last year.

The establishment of strong Branches of the various districts of the city area, as presented by the Constitution, has been the means of not only benefiting the movement as a whole, but of stimulating local interest in matters pertaining to the general welfare of the residents. Generally speaking, it has been found that the various districts as originally determined, have resulted in fair and equitable representation for all concerned.

As a result of the first year's working under the district basis it has been found necessary only to prescribe one additional district, viz Russell Hill, which settlement has assumed considerable proportions during the past twelve months.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

It is not possible to embody in this report a comprehensive survey of the past year's activities of the eleven District Branches, but it is considered that this report would be incomplete without a brief resume of the varying degrees of success attained in the promotion of social service projects by the various branches of the association.

ACTON

Under the energetic guidance of the Chairman (Mr JH Saunders) and the Hon Secretary (Mr S Margules) the Acton Branch has every reason to be satisfied with the operation of the period under review. The Committee of the Branch organised the whole of the labour necessary for the construction of the Acton

Park Tennis Court, which was officially opened on 2nd April, 1927. Since that date the court has proved a boon to residents in the vicinity.

The recreation needs of the children of the district are amply catered for by two well equipped playgrounds, both of which were constructed by voluntary labour under the usual basis. During the coming year, it is anticipated that the membership of the Branch will considerably increase, and that residents of the Bachelors Quarters and houses in the locality will give their whole hearted support to the Branch Committee.

Mr Saunders ably represented the Acton Branch on the Council of the Association.

AINSLIE

The Ainslie Branch has jurisdiction over by far the largest district in the Social Service Association. The active development of this suburb and the continual influx of new residents calls for a particularly progressive social service policy in the past of the local Branch Committee. The absence of a suitable hall in the district has not been conducive to an active programme of indoor recreation, more particularly in the winter months, but it is satisfactory to record that the Branch is now formulating a scheme for the erection of a suitable and commodious premises as early as possible.

The position was somewhat alleviated through the action of the Federal Capital Commission in placing a cottage at North Ainslie at the disposal of the District Branch for Social Service Meetings etc. A young men's club has been formed and a billiard table installed at the temporary Social Service headquarters.

Application has been made for six new tennis courts in the district to be constructed on the usual 5- 50 in order to relieve the congestion on the two existing courts. It is anticipated however ,pending a decision as to the method of control of the courts. It is anticipated however that work will be commenced on this project in the near future.

Through the instrumentality of the Northbourne Cricket Club an attractive pavilion has been constructed at the Northbourne Sport's Ground. The whole of the work carried out by members of the club by voluntary labour, and their efforts are worthy of the warmest commendation.

Picturesquely situated Children's Playgrounds at Ainslie and North Ainslie are a testimony to the responsive sympathy extended by residents to appeals for assistance in the way of voluntary labour [One of the men who helped build the Children's Playgrounds was HLB Lasseter.] Drinking fountains will be installed at both playgrounds before the advent of warmer weather.

The district has suffered a loss in the departure from Canberra of Mr E Knox, Chairman of the Branch Committee. At the Annual General Meeting of the Branch the opportunity was taken of making a suitable presentation to Mr Knox in recognition of his valuable services in the district.

Mr PT McNamara proved a most energetic Branch Hon Secretary and upon his resignation Mr T Gillard was elected to the office, and again at the Annual General Meeting.

BLANDFORDIA [Forrest]

With the continual advent of new members to the district and the rapid expansion of the business centre at Manuka Circle, there will arise a greatly increased necessity for a continuous and efficient policy of social service at Blandfordia. The comparatively few people hitherto residing in the district has not called for considerable effort on the part of residents, but nevertheless the needs of this community have been closely watched by in particular by Mr L Marriott (delegate to the Council of the Association) and Mrs WL

Brownless, who has been closely identified with the social service movement in Canberra since its inception.

The request for a children's playground at Blandfordia will be considered by the Council of the Association at its next meeting. [Blandfordia later became Forrest and South Blandfordia - Griffith].

CAUSEWAY

A glance at the commodious recreation reserve at Causeway is ample evidence of the whole hearted manner in which residents have provided for the recreational needs, not only of themselves, but the children of the settlement as well.

The Reserve is divided into three sections, one of which contains the hall (incidentally the largest hall of its kind south of Goulburn) and the remainder of the Reserve taken up by the children's playground and tennis court.

The Commission supplied the whole of the material for these projects, the local residents doing the necessary constructional work by voluntary effort. The hall reserve has been suitably fenced, and the area laid out with attractive shrubs and hedges, which in the course of time will considerably enhance the appearance of the Causeway.

The provision of a suitable hall adjacent to the reserve, for the sole use of the Boy Scout Association provided a boon to the local scouts.

During the summer months a cricket pitch near the old C-Operative Store was constructed by members of the Causeway Cricket Club on the usual 50 - 50 basis. The Causeway Branch has now applied for a suitable recreation ground more adjacent to the settlement.

The Chairman of the Branch Committee (Mr S Horne) and the Hon Secretary (Mr ET Sorenson) have been untiring in their effort towards the general welfare of the community, and Mr Horne also represented the Branch on the Council of the Association.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Of the eleven Social Service Districts of Canberra as prescribed in the Constitution last year, it is a matter for regret that the Central District only did not actively function. This district comprises those camps in the vicinity of Parliament House, and includes Capitol Hill Mess, No 1 Camp and Tradesmen's Mess. Several efforts were made to induce the men at these camps to link up with the movement, but meetings were sparsely attended. There has been a continual coming and going of men in the camps which has not been conducive to a settled form of welfare administration in this district. Nevertheless one of the best efforts being the laying down of a cricket pitch, and the building of a cricket pavilion, which work was performed entirely by voluntary labour by the residents of Capitol Hill Mess. The activity of the Library Committee in this district proved of great benefit to the men in the camps. [Parliament House now sits on Capital Hill]

EASTLAKE

Taking into consideration the importance of Eastlake as a business and residential centre, the local Branch of the Association did not function as actively as anticipated. At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Branch, however, a strong Committee was elected to watch over the social service needs of the District for the ensuing 12 months.

As was the case of the leading suburb on the Northern side of the river (Ainslie) the question of a central amusement hall did not reach finality, although the position of a lodge hall at Eastlake [Kingston], which has been freely utilized by the United Friendly Societies Council for lodge meetings. A suitable recreational

hall at the Fire Brigade Headquarters was also made available to the Fire Brigade Recreational Club, an organisation which is of great value to the community in promoting boxing, swimming, and other branches of clean sport.

As a result of the efforts of Eastlake Cricketers a new cricket ground was opened below the Printers Quarters. Members of the club laid down a cement wicket and constructed a pavilion on the ground by voluntary labour.

Mr R McR Dunn proved an energetic Chairman of the Branch Committee and Mr G Gordon was responsible for the secretarial duties. As Eastlake delegate to the Council of the Association Mr TJ Coy proved a keen representative, and his sound advice on matters pertaining to the general welfare were at all times appreciated by the Council.

MOLONGLO

The Molonglo Branch was fortunate in possessing a live Secretary in Mr RF Brown, who also represented the Branch on the Council of the Association. Mr Brown also acted as Trustee of the Molonglo hall in conjunction with Mr PJ Quigley, another keen worker in the cause of social service. Representations were forwarded by the Branch for the adaptation of the Molonglo Hall for moving picture performances. Plans and specifications for this service have now been completed and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Council of the Association for a determination as to the means of performing the necessary labour entailed on the alterations to the hall. [It was never converted - it burnt down].

A number of projects were taken in hand by voluntary labour, including the construction of a Tennis Court at Riverbourne Camp, which settlement is included in the Molonglo district. A pavilion was erected on the Molonglo Football ground, and minor improvements were effected at the tennis court.

Thanks to the untiring energy of Mrs Bland, Mrs Parker and other ladies of the Canberra Mothercraft Society is functioning with splendid success at Molonglo.

RED HILL

During the past year the activities of this district were confined to Red Hill Mess, Monolyte Mess and the Labourers camp. With the gradual occupation however, of the many houses in this locality, it may be anticipated that the Red Hill district will occupy a place of importance in future deliberations of the Association.

Mr B Quine, as the Secretary of the Red Hill Branch and delegate of the Council of the Association and also delegate to the Library Council gave a great deal of his leisure time towards the welfare of the men resident in three camps above mentioned.

Red Hill sportsmen worked hard on the erection of a cricket pavilion on the local cricket ground, which was completed by voluntary labour well within the scheduled time.

WESTLAKE

One of the liveliest units in the organisation of the Association the Westlake Branch has participated keenly in matters pertaining to the social welfare of the residents of the locality known as the "Gap". The construction of a children's playground in the Post Office Reserve and a tennis court adjacent to the hall are testimony to a statement contained in the preceding paragraph.

It is to be much regretted however, that vandalism has taken place at the children's playground by outsiders, which deplorable conduct militates very seriously against efforts of residents in providing healthy recreation for their children.

The dilapidated state of the Westlake Hall has impaired the efforts of the Branch Committee in conducting an efficient programme of social entertainment, but with the provision of lavatory accommodation and the adjustment of a number of minor details, the position is not quite so acute as it was hitherto.

This Branch in common with many others has submitted numerous matters to your Council which may be constructed as "Municipal" and pending a decision on this vexed question, your Council was in many cases unable to assist as desired.

In Mr Les Dwyer, the Westlake Branch was fortunate in possessing one of the most energetic Branch Secretaries in the Association, and Mr S Champ, as Chairman of the Branch and delegate to the Councils of your Association, and the Community Library, is untiring in his zeal for the progress of the Branch.

WESTRIDGE

The most western suburb of the city area is a community which has always evidenced a keen desire to participate in all matters affecting the welfare of residents. Lack of transport has not always been conducive to regular attendance at Council Meetings, but frequent and continuous correspondence had proved the desire of the residents to maintain their rightful place in the social service organisation.

As a result of recent visits to Westridge by the General Secretary of the Association a number of matters have been discussed, and will be submitted to Council for consideration.

Mr J Dillon representing the district as Trustees for the Westridge Hall, has been untiring in his efforts in this regard, and a number of minor improvements have been effected as a result of representations made by him.

The local tennis courts have been somewhat neglected but arrangements have now been completed for both courts to be put into good working order on the 50 - 50 basis.

Mr E P Corey has well-filled his post of Branch Secretary, and has also represented Westridge as a delegate to the Council of the Association and the Community Library.

Mrs Turbit has taken an active interest in the Canberra Mothercraft Society and it is anticipated that a strong branch of the Society will be formed at Westridge in the near future.

WHITE CITY

Although considerable sums of money have been made available by the Commission to the men in this large settlement both for the purpose of providing the recreation hall and tennis courts, there is existing a certain apathy so far as the self help principle is concerned.

That the men, however, are alive to the possibility of the movement is shown by the voluntary effort which was made in the provision of a suitable cricket ground, on which a concrete pitch was laid down, and a pavilion erected.

Mr T O'Gorman who has continuously represented White City on the Council of the Association has submitted from time to time matters pertaining to the general welfare of the settlement, and it is pleasing to record that arrangements have been completed for general meeting to be held at which the whole

question of White City's participation in Social Service Projects will be discussed and a programme formulated.

**STANDING COMMITTEES
WOMEN & INFANTS WELFA
CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY**

In requesting the Council of the Canberra Mothercraft Society to act as the Standing Committee on Women's and Infants Welfare, your Council realised that this important phase of welfare work in our community was in safe hands. The degree of success attained by the Society during the past twelve months is an outstanding feature of this report.

During the comparatively short period these public spirited women of Canberra have not only raised several hundred pounds by public appeal, but have actually established in full working order the first baby health centre in our national capital.

Strong Branch Committees of the Society are established at Ainslie, Acton, Causeway and Eastlake, delegates from these centres, together with officers of the Society, comprising the Council.

Much of the success of the earlier efforts of the Society were due to the first Hon Secretary (Mrs PT McNamara) and President (Mrs PJ Sheldon) and the good work has since been carried on under the capable administration of the present secretary (Mrs DG Woodyer) and President (Mrs WT Duffield).

The first baby health centre was officially opened by Lady Butters at Eastlake on 2nd July, 1927 and the Sister-in-Charge, Sister Whiting has already interviewed a large number of mothers seeking advice regarding their infants.

The Society is greatly appreciative of the Federal Capital Commission having provided free of charge, central premises for the clinic, and subsidising the nurse's salary for two years.

WOMEN'S CLUB

In March 1927 the Commission made available premises at Blandfordia as a club for women workers. Known as the Lady Hopetoun Club, the facilities offered have been freely utilized by all sections of the community. Miss DM Hawkins, who is Matron in Charge of the Club, was lately appointed as Women's Social Service Officer, and is actively engaged in formulating proposals for the advancement of healthy recreation for the women of Canberra. In this regard hockey clubs have been established and an association with be formed herewith.

In realising the necessity for safeguarding the reservation of sports grounds for exclusive use of women of Canberra, your Council has recently made recommendations to the Commission that a ground should be allocated [it was at Acton] for such purposes on each side of the river.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Constitution of the Association provides that the Outdoor Recreation Committee shall be composed of one representative of each affiliated sporting body, and generally speaking this proviso has produced efficient and equitable results. The various sporting organisations in Canberra were represented on the Committee by the following delegates:-

*J Ryan , Canberra Racing Club
L Barker, Canberra Highland Society & Burns Club
CD Dawkins, Canberra Golf Club
W H Loughrey, Canberra Bowling Club
CM Murden, Canberra Tennis Association
FH Rowe, Canberra Rifle Club
S Senior, Canberra Gun Club
L Rowlands, Canberra City Band
W Cottingham, Federal Territory Cricket Association
JM Orr, Federal Territory Australian Rules Football League
EA Swane, Federal Territory Soccer Football Association
SJ Addison, Canberra Rugby League
N Newton, Canberra Rugby Union
JH Tootell, Canberra Cycling Club*

The general question of the provision of adequate facilities for outdoor recreation has received the serious consideration of the Committee, and a comprehensive report embracing the needs of districts, and of the various sporting bodies is now receiving consideration by the Commission.

Various grounds in the city area have been allocated by the Committee to various Clubs and Associations and the Manuka Circle ground has now been made available as an association ground for the various codes of football.

Space does not permit in this report to give a resume of the activities of the many sporting bodies in Canberra, but the keenness and enthusiasm displayed and the large increase in membership in the various clubs in the Association is an indication that our national city, may, in the future become a mecca for sportsmen throughout Australia.

CANBERRA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A striking testimony to the popularity of the Canberra Community Library is contained in the fact that since the last Annual Report membership has trebled (from 100 to 300) and the number of volumes doubles (from 1000 to 2000). This splendid degree of progress has been attained entirely by voluntary efforts of members of the Library Council and in particular, the Chairman, (Mr TP McNamara) and the Hon Secretary (Mr WK Hunt).

Library headquarters at the Social Service Building have proved a suitable central location for the operation of the Committee, but owing to the greatly increased development over the past few months, the question of more commodious premises will necessitate consideration in the near future.

THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

Duly appreciative of the valuable services rendered to the community by the Telopea Park Parents & Citizens' Association in the cause of children's welfare, your Council has unanimously decided to request that body to act as the Association's Standing Committee on this important branch of the Social Service work. This invitation was cordially accepted by the Council of the Parents & Citizens' Association. The Association has disbursed large sums of money in providing sporting and other material for the children of Canberra. During the past year members of the Association had constructed by voluntary labour two splendidly equipped tennis courts in the school grounds - the material being made available by the Commission on the usual grounds.

The usual Annual Sports for children on the whole of the Territory was an outstanding event of the year, and was a testimony to the untiring efforts of the Secretary (Mr AK Murray) and members of the Parents & Citizens' Association.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In view of the general scheme of education as introduced in the activities of the Federal Capital Commission, the Education Committee of the Association was not required to function to any considerable extent. A report for the need for the establishment of continuation classes and the general question of technical education was submitted to the Commission by your Council, and an early commencement of these classes is anticipated.

The following gentlemen were appointed as members of the Education Committee:-

Primary Education - Messrs CL Henry and CF Francis

Secondary Education - Messrs C Daley and TJ Coy]

Technical Education - Messrs PT McNamara and JM McDowell

Communications were received from the Telopea Park Parents & Citizens' Association indicating the desire of that body to act as your Association's Standing Committee on Education.

Your Council, whilst appreciative of the necessity for undivided application to the important question of education, is of the opinion that the sphere of activity of the Parents & Citizens' Association is not sufficiently wide to embrace all forms of education and every district of Canberra.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

It is not possible in the space limited to this Report to embody a comprehensive survey of the various bodies in Canberra working in conjunction with your Association, but the following brief summary will indicate the lines upon which these bodies have been operating.

CANBERRA CITY BAND

Members of the Canberra City Band have given up a large amount of their leisure hours in providing musical service to the Community.

During the past year the Band has made twenty-six public appearances, and a total number of seventy-nine practices at the Acton Hall, which makes a total of forty-five attendances. As the band has been in recess during the winter months these figures constitute an average of over two engagements per week.

At the recent bi-annual support without which the Band cannot hope to cater for the musical needs of Canberra. Thanks to the general subsidisation by the Commission, now instruments are being made available to the Band and the question of uniforms is one which should be solved in the near future.

Much of the past success of the band has been to the untiring efforts of the Bandmaster (Mr L Rowlands) and the Secretary (Mr TW White).

THE CANBERRA PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

The concerts of the Philharmonic Society are always eagerly anticipated by the music lovers of Canberra. Throughout the winter months the Society has assiduously practiced every week, which speaks volumes for the enthusiasm of members. Preparations are being made in the history of music in Canberra as a result of the Society's intention of competing at the Eistedfodd at Wagga.

In Mr A Doig, the Society is fortunate in possessing a popular conductor of considerable musical ability. The recently formed Canberra Orchestral Society should prove a district asset in assisting the Philharmonic Society to popularise good music in Canberra.



Above is a detail from a photograph loaned by Arthur Freeman who was one of the Scouts on duty at the opening of Parliament on 9th May 1927.

BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

This splendid movement in the interests of our boys is firmly established in the Federal Capital Territory and five troops are affiliated with the Association, with Headquarters in the following centres:- Acton, Causeway, Molonglo, Duntroon and Westridge.

The Principle Executive Officers of the Federal Capital Boy Scouts' Association are:- Dr RN Alcorn (District Commissioner), Mr CW Guthrie (District Scoutmaster) and Mr AJ Paynting (General Secretary).

CANBERRA HIGHLAND SOCIETY & BURNS CLUB

That the Scots of Canberra are deeply imbued with the true spirit of Social Service is evidenced by the splendid degree of success attained by the Society in organising both outdoor and indoor functions, invariably having for their object the benefit of some worthy cause. The Society's Annual Highland Gathering was one of the events of the year, and the necessary organisation is now complete for the grand social and dance by which it is anticipated to raise sufficient funds to establish a wireless receiving set and the Canberra Hospital. The Chief Executive Officers of the Society are Messrs T McKinnon (President) and A Stuart (Hon Secretary). [NB the Burns Club was founded in the Mess Hall of Howie's Hostel Camp in 1924.]

CAUSEWAY HALL

The commodious amusement hall built at Causeway by voluntary labour has proved a boon to all sections of the community, the hall having been freely utilized by all classes of entertainment with regular moving picture shows on two nights of the week.

As a result of revenue derived from the hall the Trustees have been enabled to provide numerous improvements for the comfort of patrons. The Trustees of the hall are:- Messrs AE Dorrell (Causeway), PJ Quigley (SS Association) and JH Honeysett (Federal Capital Commission).

CANBERRA COMMUNITY NEWS

The object of the journal are to collect and distribute information regarding the Social Service activities, and it is issued monthly by your Association in conjunction with the Federal Capital Commission.

*The size of the journal has increased twofold since the first issue, and increased sales indicate the popularity of our Welfare Magazine. The thanks of the editor to all those who have forwarded contributions for publication, and especially Messrs J O'Sullivan, J McColl, and J Martin whose humorous cartoons have become a popular feature of the "News". [Australian Archives, the Heritage Library and National Trust have copies of the originals as well as photocopies of the magazines. Another important newspaper and magazine is the Federal Capital Pioneer and the Christmas issue of the *Canberra Illustrated*.]*

COUNCIL MEETING

Ten meetings of the Council of your Association were held during the period under review at which attendances of delegates were invariably satisfactory.



E A SWANE



Left: AE Swane President of Soccer Association & right CS Daley.



THANKS

In conclusion your Council desires to place on record the whole hearted support afforded by the Federal Capital Commission toward the activities of your Association and particularly to express a deep sense of gratitude to your patron, Sir John Butters, CMG, MBE, who at all times will lend sympathetic assistance and advice to the representatives of your Council. It is also desired to place on record the splendid publicity given to the activities of your Association by the "Canberra Times". Your Council trusts that members will review with approval, this record of the past year's activities, and hopes also, that the coming year will disclose a similar degree of achievement as a result of the co-operation of the people of Canberra towards the realization of an ideal worthy of our CAPITAL CITY.

On behalf of the Council (signed) JH Honeysett, GENERAL SECRETARY

The end of the Social Service Association came in 1929. Following is a transcription of notes of a meeting held in Acton house, Social Service Association building on 28th May, 1929.

I think it's demise came about because the FCC headed by Sir John Butters was unable to grant the civil rights that many were continuing to demand. Once the Social Service completed (using the 50/50 system) its building of the children's playgrounds, tennis courts, cricket pitches, the Causeway Hall etc there seemed no where for it to go. In its last year Joe Honeysett who was the General Secretary appears to have been replaced by Major D'Arcy who was a paid Secretary. His contract was abruptly terminated when the Association terminated itself. Sir John Butters withdrew financial support for the Association. The First Commissioner, Sir John Butters along with his wife and family left Canberra at the end of 1929. The Federal Capital Commission continued for another few months and was ended in March 1930.

Present: Messrs Davis (President), Broinowski (Vice-President), Mulrooney (Hon Treasurer), Swane, Kelly, Chap, Rogers, Gee, Sorensen, Saunders, White and the General Secretary Major D'Arcy.

The President opened the meeting at 8pm and advised the councillors present of the receipt of a letter from the Chief Commissioner, which in point of view of the urgency of the matter contained therein, he proposed to read to the Council immediately.

The Chairman then proceeded to read the letter from the Chief Commissioner which advised that the administrative subsidy to the Canberra Social Service Association would be withdrawn as from June 30th 1929, and that the Association would surrender Acton House on that date, together with the reasons for this action being taken by the Commission.

Mr DAVIS stated that in his opinion if the money was not forthcoming the Social Service Association would cease to function. He asked for a motion on the matter.

MR SAUNDERS moved as follows:-

That the Council wind up the affairs of the Social Service Association

MR KELLY seconded the motion. He thought there was no alternative owing to the lack of public support. In the early days they had obtained some material results in the building of the Causeway Hall; in the construction of the children's playgrounds, and cricket pitches. He had understood from the inception of the Social Service they were to utilise their spare time in the interests of the community. In his opinion since the appointment of a paid Secretary the public had taken no interest in the Social Service Association. Mr Honeysett had worked very hard organising the District branches of the Association. As President of the Indoor Committee and member of the Outdoor Committee he had given Mr Honeysett all the information he could, and Mr Honeysett had a very favorable impression of the work being done.

He further said that the introduction of paid officers was the death knell of the Association. He had been one of the foundation members of the Association when Sir John Butters had instituted it, and they had done a lot of work under the conditions laid down, and he knew if they had continued the work as it had been commenced (on a voluntary basis) it would have been a wonderful thing for Canberra, and an example to the whole of Australia. Immediately paid officers came into the Association through no fault of theirs, but through the lack of interest taken, the Social Service had failed to achieve any material results.

He claimed to have been a successful social service worker previously in that he had organised all the labour for the building of the Causeway Hall, yet during the past month he had canvassed the people he was supposed to represent and could not get anyone to pay a shilling to the Association. He had been quite willing to resign and let someone else have a go.

MR BROINOWSKI said he had listened attentively to Mr Kelly's speech. He regarded this action as typical of the Commission. He considered it was a distinct breach of faith with the people of Canberra. It was one more of a series. The motion before them should read "That we should at once hand in our resignations pending the abolition of the Commission". The Commission had made certain promises to them. Some of them had gone up for election by the people; others were elected by certain organisations here. They gave up their time to this organisation night after night. For that they had not expected, nor had they received, any thanks. He further said it was quite wrong to say the Social Service Association did not represent the people of Canberra; they represented sporting bodies which took up a considerable portion of the population.

(At the commencement of Mr Broinowski's speech Mr Saunders and Mr Champ by permission of the President had withdrawn from the meeting and at this point the speaker himself was called away to the telephone).

Moved by Mr Kelly, seconded by Mr Sorensen, that they wait until Mr Broinowski's return.
CARRIED

Mr Broinowski, resuming, said that the Council had tried to do their work to the best of their ability in the face of the attacks made on them by various interested parties here in Canberra. For instance the "Canberra Times" made a serious statement which a letter from the Secretary showed was absolutely false, and based on misconception. To show that the Secretary's assertions were true the Canberra Times had shut up about it. Other influences had also been against the Social Service Association. Many affiliated with the Social Service to get something, no so they could give something.

By asking in that letter to the Association for the surrender of "Acton House", he reaffirmed the Commission had broken faith. He had, on several occasions been a member of a delegation which had waited on the Chief Commissioner. They had been received with utmost courtesy, and had found the Chief Commissioner most sympathetic with regard to the matters brought before him. But they found out afterwards that the statements made by him were not correct. On one occasion he had made a definite promise that he would place the matter of the Children's Bus Fares before the Minister, and would have the fares taken off. On other occasions they saw him about the Swimming Baths, and had been told that for two years estimates had been put before the Government for Swimming Baths. When Dr Watson became the Third Commissioner he asked for these estimates to find they had never been prepared at all. This Council went into this work to help the people of Canberra, and they had received from certain people in the community nothing but misrepresentation and abuse.

Under the circumstances, Mr Broinowski continued, the only thing to do was to go out of office until such time as the Commission was abolished, which they hoped and trusted would be before the end of the year. [Butters left in late 1929 and the Commission was abolished in March, 1930.] He would then do all he could to get the Social Service active once more under a different kind of governing body. They would get the sympathy of the people, and the sympathy of the press then. "One of the chief reasons why the press does not like the Social Service Association," Mr Broinowski stated emphatically, "is because it smacks and smells of the Commission, and therefore they would never support it." In his reply to Mr Kelly, he said of course it was a wrong attitude, but it was what many people in Canberra say now if one mentions the Social Service. A Branch of the Society of Arts and Literature broke away because that Society had affiliated with the Social Service Association. There had been too much of that kind of thing in Canberra, and it was time it ended. It could only end, however, when this very unpopular system of civic government disappeared, then he hoped they would get a Social Service Organisation that would do the work, which was very necessary, and there set out for them to do. He had no alternative but to support the motion to send their resignations to the Commission. The Commission had turned its back on them. Various people in the community were against them through misunderstanding. "Look what it means at the present time," Mr Broinowski emphasized, "The Council has certain schemes in hand.

Matters connected with the Hospital, the Mothercraft Society, sporting matters, the Benevolent Society. This work all ends now, and will be taken over by the Commission, which by its autocratic methods is making Canberra unbearable to the people of Canberra."

MR DAVIS said they had the support of the Bishop of Goulburn in his recent speech with regard to the conditions under which the residents of Canberra were living which were imposed on them by the Federal Capital Commission.

MR MULROONEY apologised for being late. He had pleasure in supporting the motion and he congratulated the Commission on the step it was taking. Mr Broinowski had accused the Commission of making and breaking promises. Eighteen months ago at a Meeting Sir John Butters had called at the Albert Hall, he had said that if the Association did not obtain the support of the people it would have to be abolished. On that evening half a dozen people had been appointed to draw up a Constitution. It was strange that every one of those prominent people had cut the painter and dropped out of the Social Service. He considered that in the early stages the Social Service had been of some assistance for the community to obtain their social ends. As Canberra had developed the Association had become unnecessary. He likened the Social Service Association to a toothache. No one wanted it. Toothache made itself felt, which he averred Social Service failed to do. They had done nothing. They did not assist in any Sporting Associations, which would be in existence despite the Social Service Association. He considered some of them would have been stronger except for the retardation by Social Service. He quoted the instance of the request made through Recreation Committee's Budget requirements for the marking of Sports Grounds, which had been turned down by the Social Service Council. He further said that a member of the association had approached Sir John Butters, and the sporting bodies now had their grounds marked out, and this had therefore been achieved in spite of the Social Service. He again congratulated the Commission on abolishing the Social Service Association which was a waste of public money, and was costing 1500 pounds per year to run for administrative charges. If it cost 1000 pounds it was a waste. He referred to the deficit faced by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth at the present time, and the necessity for a rigid restriction on public expenditure while the Commission was throwing away 1500 pounds on a moribund Association. He objected to the Social Service as it was a means by which the Commission aimed to achieve complete control over Canberra. He admitted to Mr Kelly that the construction of the Causeway Hall, whereby people in the early days were able to obtain their amusement for 4/- in lieu of 25/- which it cost them to go into Queanbeyan, was an achievement. Continuing he said there was no doubt about the attitude of the people and the press, or the apathy of their members. The Council had difficulty in obtaining its quorum, and every one of the Sub-Committees connected with this Association had difficulty in getting their meetings, all of which was an indication to the Chief Commissioner that the people did not want Social Service. They had achieved nothing, and the Federal Capital Commission was justified in abolishing the Social Service Association. Mr Broinowski a few weeks previously had referred him to the budget as an indication of what had been done.

MR KELLY said they had not restricted their energies to the Budget.

MR MULROONEY asked what the Association had done to establish a Band! He said the Band was a useful organisation and quoted --- "The man that has not music in his soul, or is not moved by a concord of sweet sounds...."but they had done nothing to establish the Band, or any other organisation.

MR BROINOWSKI pointed out that by means of the Budget the Council had made suggestions to the Commission of how the money was to be allocated.

MR MULROONEY claimed they had done nothing and had only spent the money. He was not convinced that the statements contained in that Budget was any indication that the Council had done anything on behalf of this Association. If they wanted any assistance it was not the Social Service but to the Federal Capital Commission, or any Administrative body in existence, when the Commission had sung its Swan Song. In reply to Mr Davis he said that only Bands were subsidised by Municipal Authorities.

MR BROINOWSKI stated that it was quite a usual thing for Public Libraries, Swimming Baths, and various other institutions to be subsidised by Municipal bodies.

MR MULROONEY continuing said that if this Council was representative of the people, it was a very good indication of the lack of interest in Social Service. He could not recollect any Social Service movement this body had initiated. He was speaking about the present organisation which he thought should be wound up. He considered it an indication that the Federal Capital Commission realise that the people of Canberra know what they are talking about. If the Federal Capital Commission had considered these points earlier they would have received congratulation instead of odium around its very young head. Mr Mulrooney then desired to make an explanation in regard to the matter of the Secretary's car discussed at the last meeting, but deferred to the President's ruling on the matter.

In conclusion Mr Mulrooney said the Council knew they were singing their last lay; and they would do it cheerfully, and congratulate themselves that they had attempted to do something, but had achieved nothing.

MR SORENSEN referred to his experience as one of the original members of the first Progress Associations formed at the Causeway, and although at the request of the Chief Commissioner they had changed their name to Social Service Association they did not change their ideals, in that, where the present Constitution forbids anything municipal nature being discussed by meetings, at that time they were able to bring any District matters before the Social Service Officer. The field of the Social Service at that time was Causeway Hall which was built on the 50-50 basis, but when the Commission had taken over the Hall they received all the revenue, and no return had been made for the amount of time and labour expended. They found after this that it was generally held that if a man lost his opinion as far as the Social Service was concerned, he lost his job and they did not join up with the movement. However the Social Service Association at that time did a great deal, and only for the Social Service in the early days, things would not have been as bright as they were. Since the inauguration of this Council nothing had been done, but it was difficult to organise a district which has a floating population.

In conclusion he stated that the best thing to do was for the Council to wind up and send in their resignations.

MR DAVIS stated that he was in rather a unique position. He was the first President under the newly constituted body, and apparently would be the last. He took the opportunity of congratulating the Federal Capital Commission in abolishing the Social Service Association, which they were doing for the simple reason that they did not find the people in accord with the Commission's views. Some people looked upon the Commission as the oppressor of the Territory, and he considered an old Association would synchronise with the abolition of the Federal Capital Commission itself. Canberra was making a start to grow into a city at places in other parts of Australia had done. They had a new atmosphere, quite different to what obtained a few years back. Anyone then discontented or hostile to Commission rule had to make his exit.

MR KELLY:- "Not unless he was undesirable."

MR DAVIS quoted an instance of tyrannical nature. However, he felt sure that those who sat round the table would welcome the letter received about the abolition of the Association. He asked why they should be controlled by the Federal Capital Commission. If a certain section of the people desired to run an Arts & Literature Society or a Show or any other organisation, it was the duty of those interested to put in their cash, and then, if they failed to achieve their object, it would be the duty of the Commission to subsidise the organisation direct. If requests were reasonable, grants were made by Municipal bodies. The ratepayers of the Territory were heavily taxed, and they were entitled to sporting grounds being built. The Commission was only fulfilling an obligation imposed upon it. He agreed with the Commission that the

money spent here during the last six months had not been warranted by results. In his opinion the Federal Capital Commission had shown wisdom in abolishing this Association. He regretted that by leaving that table that evening he would be dissociated with those he had met for a number of months. He considered it was for the good of the whole community, not only as sporting bodies, but as taxpayers.

MR KELLY obtained leave to speak to the motion in the absence of the mover (Mr Saunders). He desired to express most definitely his regret, as the oldest member of the Association present, at the step that had to be taken. He was present at the first meeting called by Sir John, then Mr Butters, when the properly known "Welfare" movement had commenced. He held that something had been achieved at that time, and had the community got behind Mr Butters in his idea of the welfare of the community as started on the 50 - 50 basis, it would have been one of the best achievements ever seen. It went well for about five months. They provided a hall by which they could get cheap amusement. Material for the hall had cost 1500 pounds - the people providing 1200 pounds in labour. Sir John Butters had congratulated them on the night of the opening but saying that we had not quite fulfilled the requirements but even that was an achievement. At that time it cost 16/- to go to Queanbeyan and back by car. It cost that amount to go into the train to go to Sydney or Melbourne. Now they were going out of office he did not think there should be any regrets at the money spent here on Social service. He candidly admitted they had not done much during the last two and half years. He desired to be fair, and when Sir John Butters had inaugurated the scheme he had called every phase of the community together to discuss matters. At that time it was a wonderful institution to the people of the Territory. At the inception of the movement, he re-iterated something had been accomplished, and as far as the scheme is inaugurated at that time, if it had been carried on, it would have been one of the most wonderful schemes the world ever produced.

MR DAVIS then put the motion which was carried unanimously.

MR BROINOWSKI then moved - seconded by Mr Mulrooney

"That the President be authorised by the Council to hand in his resignation, together with the resignation of the whole of the Council, to date from 30th June, 1929."

BUDGET: After a debate with reference to the purpose for which the meeting was called, it was decided that as the Budget requirements affected the year following the resignation of the Council, the Council would not have authority to make recommendations regarding them.

ACCOUNTS:-

At the suggestion of the President the following resolution was passed on the motion of Mr Mulrooney, seconded by Mr Kelly:-

"That the secretary (Major D'Arcy) be reimbursed to the amount of seven pounds, ten shillings for the period he stayed at the Bachelors' Quarters over which he was entitled to ten shillings per week Living Allowance, and order for that amount to be passed for payment."

THE GENERAL SECRETARY drew attention to the Out-of-pocket expenses of the Secretaries of the Standing Committees, and after discussion it was moved by Mr Kelly and seconded by Mr Broinowski:-

"That the matter of adjustment of petty cash, and settlement of outstanding accounts be left in the hands of the President and Treasurer."

MR BROINOWSKI in proposing a vote of thanks to the President said that they had as citizens of Canberra resolved to do their best for their fellow citizens on this Council from its inception. Unfortunate things may have happened personally there was nothing he liked better than a good old tussle - but they had all emerged from these little arguments better friends with no trace of any ill-feeling left. Their President had presided over their deliberations and altercations with admirable coolness. He had at times a difficult task but had always conducted the meetings with impartiality. Mr Broinowski related the story of the Mayor who declared he had endeavored to show neither "partiality" nor 'impartiality". (Laughter) He was very sorry to say goodbye to Mr Davis in this capacity. He expressed the hope that they would get together under different circumstances. The Constitution was apparently not a suitable one for the people of Canberra, whom he thought were in a peculiar state of mind. He had never lived in any community where there was so much discontent. He hoped later on to meet and discuss matters for the good of the community. He now desired to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr Davis for the manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Society.

MR MULROONEY said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion. He said he hoped they had seen the last of the Social Service Association. Mr Davis had carried out his duties with strict impartiality. What appealed to him most was the measure of impartiality displayed. He said Mr Davis had agreed in his (Mr Mulrooney's) viewpoint out in the street, but at the table he had to fight his own case. He referred to the friendly relations created by their meetings, and he felt the friendships would be lasting ones. (Some interjection and reminiscences by Mr Kelly occurred here).

THE GENERAL SECRETARY then put the motion. CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION.

MR DAVIS thanked the Councillors for their kind expression of thanks, he acknowledged the help and assistance rendered by the individual members of the Council. Mr Kelly had spoken of himself as a refractory element. He regarded both Mr Mulrooney and Mr Kelly as progressive elements. He desired whilst thanking the Councillors for what they said, to acknowledge the services of the Secretary, Major D'Arcy, and the Stenographer, Mrs Ives. Major D'Arcy had shown to the Councillors and the citizens of Canberra that he possessed the ability to a first class organising Secretary. He hoped that at the expiration of twelve months the Commission would see fit, or the powers that be, would see fit to find him a position for say perhaps, "the term of his natural life" in Canberra. He hoped the Major would long remain with them, and with regard to Mrs Ives, Major D'Arcy had said he considered Mrs Ives one of the best stenographers he had ever had. Again he thanked them for their kind words, and for the motion passed by acclamation.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

Certified by me as a true report of the proceedings of the final meeting of the Canberra Social Service Association Council held at the Social Service Building ("Acton House") on Tuesday 28th May, 1929.

(J A Davis)

PRESIDENT

*Signed at
Canberra FCT
on 7/6/1929*

ARTICLES FROM THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY NEWS

This magazine was published between late 1925 and 1927. The issue dated December, 11, 1925 has a list of Honorary Reporters who were:-

Sport Progress Associations

Tennis: W Findlay Eastlake Eastlake: TH Trevillian

Football: JM Orr, Canberra Causeway: E Drewett

Cricket: WL Cottingham, Canberra Westlake: R Law

Golf: LG Fussell, Canberra Westridge: H Woodlands

Racing: AC Fleetwood, Canberra Molonglo: R Ashton

Molonglo (Welfare Club): J McCarroll

This issue also had Volume 1, No 3 hence one may presume that the first issue was October, 1925. The Annual Subscription was 2/6 payable in advance. The front page has a picture of the Provisional Parliament House (not yet completed - but this *photograph* is of a *finished* building with trees and palms drawn on it. The first article is entitled *Organised Sunday Sport*. On page ten under the heading of Correspondence is a letter from JH Butters, Chairman, Federal Capital Commission. It was written to Mr CE Pike, Acting Secretary, Indoor Recreation Committee, Canberra. It is as follows:

Dear Sir:- Your letter of yesterday's date addressed to the Secretary of the Commission under the heading "Prohibition of Sunday Sport" has been placed before me, from which I notice that your committee passed a resolution at its last meeting to the following effect:

"That this meeting protests against the attitude adopted by the Commission with regard to Sunday sport as it seriously hampers the activities of this Committee and militates against the objectives and principles of the welfare movement."

Indicating also that Mr Irons, your Committee's Secretary has resigned as a personal protest. I am quite certain that your Committee is under the misapprehension about this matter, and a little of this misapprehension may be indicated in the heading of your letter which is not in accordance with the fact.

The Commission has not prohibited Sunday sport. What it has prohibited is ORGANISED sport on Sunday. I definitely join issue with your Committee in regard to the suggestion that the Commission's decision hampers your Committee's activities, and I am absolutely convinced that in no way can it possibly militate against the objectives and principles of the welfare movement inaugurated with the Commission itself.

I should like to assure your Committee in regard to the suggestion that the Commission is not "adopting an attitude." It has come to the decision after very careful thought and deliberation that it is in the interests of Canberra and its present and future residents that ORGANISED sports, test matches which draw a crowd engender excitement, and turn Sunday from a day of worship, quiet meditation, recreation or amusement, in accordance with taste, into a day, which as a matter of fact might be a Saturday.

The Commission has come to the determination to stand to the observance of Sunday as a "day of rest" in the widest possible interpretation but cannot contemplate turning Sunday into Saturday. I would ask you to remind your Committee that there are many sides to consider in this matter. So far as the necessity for recreation exists, assuming that a sufficiency can only be obtained as a result of Sunday recreation and

exercise, then this can be obtained by a quiet game of any form of sport or exercise which is not of the organised character which has been mentioned.

A game of cricket within a club or a community can be played; a game of tennis, golf, football and so on.

Then there is the question of the children. The members of the Commission are all "old fashioned" enough to think that there is some virtue in the inculcation in their early years of at least a modern interpretation of Sabbath Day observance, and I am quite certain that the very small restriction which the Commission has felt its duty to impose will be to the benefit of the moral and religious development of the children and will have some advantageous effect on their future lives.

May I also say that the nations composing the great British Empire have so far not seen fit to scrap the Sabbath Day, and whilst I think Canberra should, and will give a lead perhaps to the rest of the Empire in many directions I sincerely hope that it will not attempt to lead the Empire in the direction of turning Sunday into a day when cricket matches, golf and tennis tournaments and so on are a part of the regular Sunday programme.

We are in Canberra, laying the foundations of not only in regard to the City fabric, but also in regard to a tradition and City spirit.

The considered opinion of the Commission is that whether or not the "fabric" of the City may be imperfect as a result of Sunday organised sport, the spirit and tradition of the place would be inevitably be spoilt thereby.

No appreciable effort of a community welfare character was made in Canberra until the Commission gave the lead, and this lead it gave gladly, feeling that it was its duty to do so. It now feels that it is its duty to take a lead in the direction which has been indicated above, and I feel that it may rely upon the good sense and considered opinion of its Committees to support its lead and to follow it.

The Commission has made itself perfectly clear by its action that it is whole-heartedly trying to improve the conditions of life as perfect as it is in its means to do so.

Now the Commission's Social Service movement has been launched with most encouraging results, and in order to keep the movement afloat and moving it has established a Social Service Department and appointed a new officer in the person of Captain JJ Honeysett, MC, a man who has made a special study of such activities, in charge of that Department as its Social Service Officer, and his sole duty will be to help all the Social Service Committees, Social Service movements, and generally to act as the link between the Commission's organisation and the movement as a whole.

In sincerely hope that on Mr Honeysett's arrival he will find nothing half-hearted in the Committees.

This matter is one which I understand is exercising the minds of a number of the Committees, and in order to get the best publicity in connection with the whole matter I have asked the editor of the "Canberra Community News" to publish this letter in his next issue and I sincerely hope that the Committees will as a result of further consideration stand behind the Commission in this important matter and where resolutions and objection have been passed to have them rescinded so that the Commission may feel that we are all pulling on the same rope and in the same direction.

Our Social Service activities at Canberra are surely too valuable to us all to be lightly put aside and surely they are worth even a little sacrifice.

*I am, Yours faithfully
JH Butters,*

Diggers take Big Part in Building of Canberra.

A fine parade of ex-servicemen at the recent Anzac Memorial Service at Canberra was a striking testimony to the large number of returned men in the Federal Capital Territory. A considerable proportion of the men engaged in the construction of the capital city are "diggers" and thanks to the energy displayed by certain enthusiastic members a strong branch of the league has been established in the Territory.

As a result of the 11th Federal Congress of the League held in Melbourne last August, the organisation in the Federal Capital Territory was granted self-governing rights. The measure of independence granted includes representation on the Federal Executive, but without voting power. In all other respects the rights and privileges of the Federal Territory Branch are similar to those of any other State.

The RSSILA will be making new history at Canberra on Tuesday next, when a special meeting of the Federal Congress will be held at Parliament House. His Royal Highness the Duke of York will take afternoon tea with the "Diggers" representatives after his tour of inspection of the city area on that afternoon.

Canberra ex-servicemen will play an important part in the grand review on Monday afternoon, and 200 "Diggers" from the various sub branches of the League of the Territory will head the march past the Royal dais. The following sub-branches will be represented on this historic occasion.

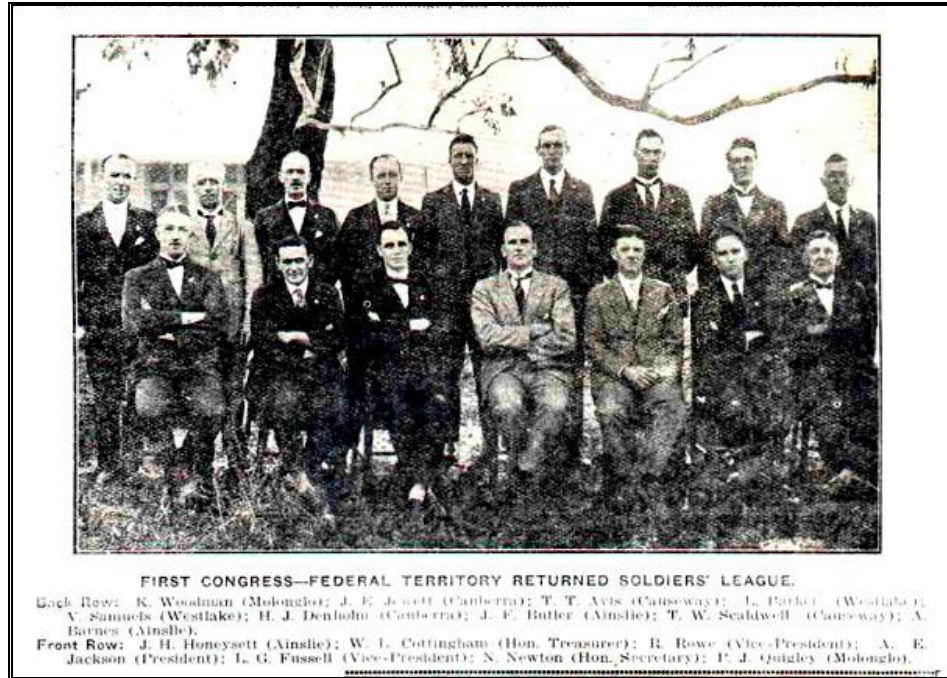
Ainslie, Canberra, Causeway, Duntroon, Molonglo and Westlake.

It is very satisfactory to record that the Federal Capital Commission at all times lends a sympathetic ear to returned men in Canberra, for the Commission sets a fine example in its interpretation of the preference policy in so far as the employment of ex-servicemen is concerned.

The President of the Federal Capital Territory Branch of the League is Mr AE Jackson, who represented the branch so successfully at the last Federal Congress. Another guide mentor and friend to the "Diggers" is Mr R Rowe, who, as first Secretary of the branch did an enormous amount of work in placing its affairs on a sound basis.

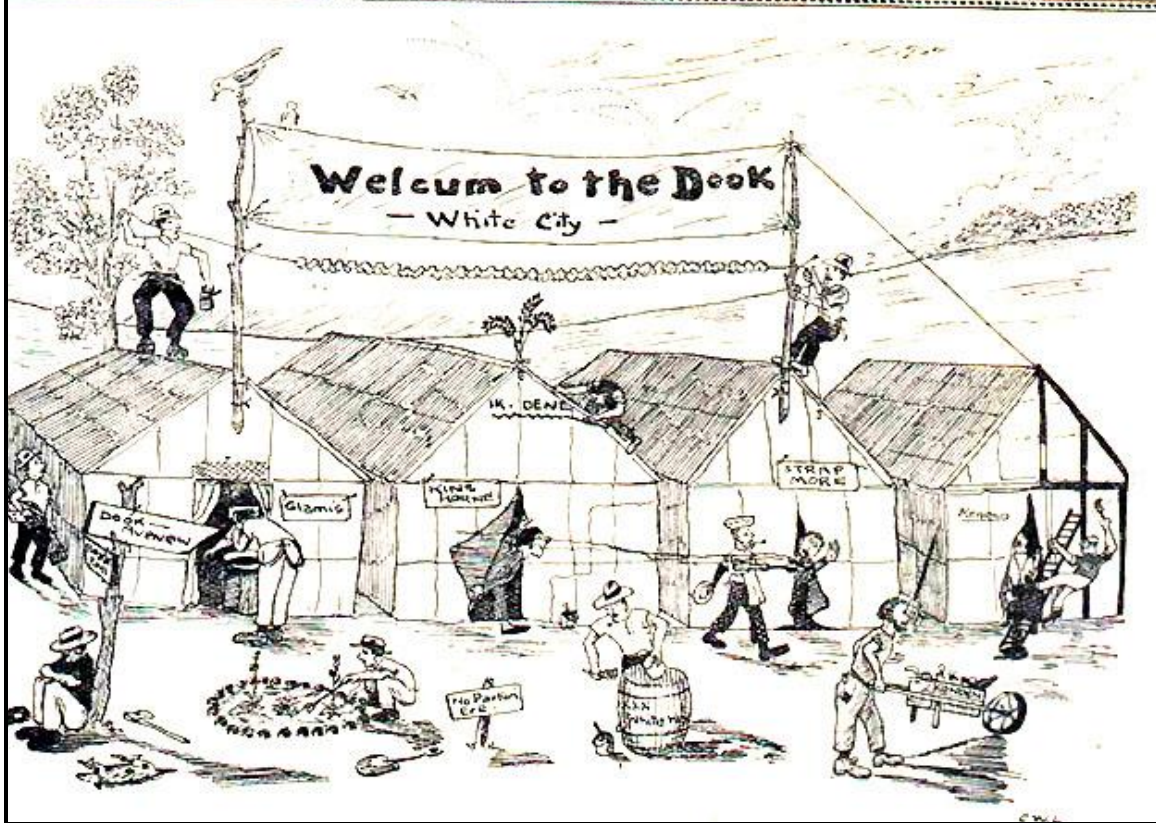
Mr Rowe recently relinquished the Secretaryship, which is now in the able hands of Mr N Newton.

This article also has a photograph of First Congress - Federal Territory Returned Soldiers League. The names of the men are K Woodman (Molonglo), JE Jewett (Canberra), TT Avis (Causeway), L Barker (Westlake), V Samuels (Westlake), HJ Denholm (Canberra), JF Butler (Ainslie), TW Scaldwell (Causeway), A Barnes (Ainslie), JH Honeysett (Ainslie), WL Cottingham (Hon Treasurer), R Rowe (Vice President), AE Jackson (President), LG Fussell (Vice President), N Newton (Hon Secretary), PJ Quigley (Molonglo).



Below: Below: The Commission Office at Acton – front entrance 1926. The headquarters of the Social Service Association was at Acton. Cartoon in the *Canberra Community News* 1927.





White City Camp was near Civic Centre in the area now part of the Australian National University Art School and the School of Music (former Canberra High School). The last Mess Caterer was Bill Mitchell, who like Mrs Stanley of Capitol Hill Mess, went broke because the men could not pay their bills – cause – the Great Depression which began in the FCT (Federal Capital Territory) after May 1927 and in the other parts of Australia in 1929.