



Friday, December 30, 1938

HAPPY CHILDREN IN NEW PLAYGROUND DEMONSTRATION FOR KNIGHT

WHEN Sir James Barrett arrived at the Exhibition Gardens yesterday afternoon to open the new model playground, hundreds of children crowded around in spite of efforts to move them back while he spoke. They stayed about him, many clinging to his coat.

A number of the children thanked Sir James Barrett and afterwards followed him to a seat



Sir J. Barrett



Dr. Duras

NATIONAL VALUE IN PLAY

ties for activity, such as this playground."

Both Sir James Barrett and Dr. Duras spoke of the need for more trained play leaders. They told of plans for a school in Melbourne soon to train such leaders, whom they hope will be able to draw a living wage from funds supplied by municipal councils and other public organisations.

Sir James Barrett said that the new playground was only a four-

1938-1965
PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION
ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

THE FRITZ DURAS LECTURE

Australia Lags in Recreation

AUSTRALIA is 20 years behind America, so far as recreation programmes are concerned.

This was one of the main impressions brought back from the United States by the director of the Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria (Miss Joan Matheson), who returned yesterday from a two months' visit to America.

During her stay in the U.S.A., Miss Matheson represented Australia at the week-long International Recreation Congress, held in Philadelphia.

As well, she visited hundreds of recreation centres all over the States. includ-

and a new craft—lapidary—which involved the polishing of natural colored stones for use in rings and jewellery.

Little Vandalism

Contrary to popular belief, vandalism was not as prevalent in America as one was led to believe, said Miss Matheson.

In most big cities there, delinquency varied from 1 to 3 per cent. of the total population.

An interesting innovation, which worked well in Los Angeles, was the Youth Authority, set up to deal with what were considered to be homeless cases.



Miss Joan Matheson

ing modern units in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Springfield, Milwaukee and San Francisco.

She also attended the Institute of Recreation Administration in Philadelphia.

Chief difference between the American and Australian playground centres was in the approach, said Miss Matheson. In America, evening club activities were combined with playground activities at the one large centre.

This "right round the clock" use of the centres was more economical, and also succeeded in maintaining interest in the centre's facilities.

Adults made extensive use

with what were considered to be homeless cases.

Its officers, who were trained in social group work psychology, mingled with members of the gangs, became accepted by them and gradually worked them into youth clubs and found employment for them.

The work, which, of necessity, received little publicity, was proving successful, said Miss Matheson.

More than 2000 delegates represented over 200 countries at the congress. Its greatest achievement was the bringing together of peoples of all nationalities and the pooling of opinions regarding their common problems in connection with leisure-time activities for the masses.

It also revealed the necessity of joint planning by all people working with children, youth and adults. This was not only more effective, as already proved in America, but was also more economical.

Chairman of the congress was Lord Luke of Pavenham (he is chairman of the National Playing Fields Association of England — the Queen is patron and the Duke of Edinburgh is president), at present in Sydney to make plans for a National Playing Fields Association here. He will arrive in Melbourne shortly.

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New Playgrounds Opening

WITH two new playgrounds recently opened, a third one completed, and money in hand for a fourth, the Playgrounds and Recreation Association is having one of its most encouraging periods since it was formed.

Patterns

hful frock which could
lightweight wool for
r cotton, and a dainty
are included in this
ions.

A trim waistline and out-sized pockets are features of the casual frock, which may be made with short sleeves or in a sleeveless style.

Pattern No. 8118 comes in sizes to fit 32 in., 34 in., 36 in. and 38 in. bust measurements. Size 34 in. requires $4\frac{3}{4}$ yards of 36-inch material.

For Baby

WELCOME the new arrival with this attractive layette, which is hand-embroidered in simple stitches.

Pattern No. 5197 contains tissue patterns for the garments; hot-iron transfer for the embroidery designs and sewing and finishing directions.



5197

After having been closed for several years, the Sol Green Playground in South Melbourne, has been re-opened, and more than 200 children attend daily.

The South Melbourne council has built a new club house on the Sol Green playground, and also on another new playground, in Park Street.

Both club houses are a completely new type of building, and are proving very popular with the youngsters, said Miss Joan Matheson, director of the association.

They are built with a high, gabled roof, and look rather like a private "cubby hole," Miss Matheson said.

Each has a large central playroom, also an office, kitchen and equipment storage room, which can be reached from inside or outside the building.

An outside stable door to this room serves two purposes — it means that equipment can be handed out to the children, using the bottom half of the door as a counter, and that older children can be taught to take some responsibility, through giving out the equipment, Miss Matheson said.

A new playground on the Ashburton housing estate at Camberwell, has also opened, with an average attendance of 350 children a day.

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A new playground on the Ashburton housing estate at Camberwell, has also opened, with an average attendance of 350 children a day.

The playground is supervised from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Sunday. Altogether there are 700 children in the area.

Camberwell council built the modern, pre-fabricated concrete club house and playground, helped by an anonymous donor in Ireland, who asked that it be named for Mr. W. E. J. Craig, a former resident and pioneer of Camberwell.

Melbourne City Council is planning to enclose the Curtain Square playground at North Carlton, Miss Matheson said.

A new clubhouse will be built at Fawkner Park playground, with the Melbourne City Council and Prahran city council both contributing.

It was hoped to begin building at Sunshine this year, where £1500 has been allocated for a playground and youth club, Miss Matheson said.

Sunshine advocate 26th of Nov, 1954

An Enthusiastic Meeting on Youth Centre Proposal. Initial steps to establish a supervised playground and youth centre on land in Devonshire Road, made available by the council, were taken at a public meeting held at Sunshine Town Hall on Wednesday of last week.

More than 70 people, representing over 20 different organisations attended the meeting had been convened by the Mayor at the request of the Child Care Committee. Mr. K. Jones of Footscray kindly lent and operated his projector and screen for three splendid films showing what is being done for city children in Great Britain and America. Mr. Pat Loftus and Mr. J. S. McCreery spoke on behalf of the Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria, while Miss Joan Matheson made herself available

to answer numerous questions. Mrs. L. Schmidt, secretary of the Child Care Committee, told the gathering something of the plans the Committee had made for providing amenities for the young folk of the district. Obviously the most pressing need was a suitable hall she said, which could be made available for Youth Club activities in the evenings, while in the daytime it would serve as a Playground, Club House and Hobby Hall. Most of those present were not in favour of building a temporary structure, but hoped to be able to receive enough support from all sections of the community to make a really first class hall to be a reality before the end of next year. This will take both enthusiasm and hard work, but the project is well worthwhile, and with so many organisations displaying their interest, it is to be hoped that the Youth Centre will soon be well on the way towards completion. The Child Care Committee has £200 in hand for the Youth Centre Fund, while the Playgrounds Association has assured that there will be considerable financial support from their organisation. An Interim Committee of 20 with power to add was elected at the meeting and the Mayor will call a further meeting as soon as possible. All industries and organisations will be invited to be represented on the Youth Centre Committee and to make contributions, small or large.