

CONFIDENTIAL.FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION.BAYSWATER BOYS' HOME.

This Home was briefly visited by myself and Mr. Stella, Headmaster of Turana Junior State School, on 23.6.66. The purpose of Mr. Stella's visit was for him to meet his opposite number at the school attached to the institution and to discuss ways of ensuring closer co-operation between the two schools.

Physical conditions remain the same as at my last visit but there have been several staff changes, accompanied in one case by some degree of unpleasantness. Captain Swift has gone elsewhere, his place being taken by a Captain May, who has had prior experience in this field at Box Hill and Bayswater. The Salvation Army officer couple who were formerly in charge of the cottage and were thought to be poor managers and immature personalities left under a cloud, pursued by debt collectors, and have gone out of both the State and Salvation Army work. A more suitable lay couple are now installed in the cottage - quite an innovation. Mrs. Kirkham has been officially posted as Matron, a time-consuming job which is making solid inroads into the Kirkham's own family life, which is worrying as they have school-age children.

Certain innovations have taken place in the activity field. A scout troop has been started and a cub group is about to start. A regular monthly weekend leave scheme has been operating all this year with some teething problems connected with lads not returning when due back. This problem was discussed.

Clothing has improved - lads are wearing (and enjoying) suits for school.

Relations with the Department remain cordial, though the usual requests for brighter boys and no epileptics were made. On the former point I was glad to have Mr. Stella reinforce my statement that very few bright boys are available for placement from "Turana". The Home would also like to start taking younger lads than they have to date - say in the 8-10 age group. On the whole I am inclined to think this is a good idea as it would provide an outlet for some of the more disturbed and generally difficult "Allambie" boys.

Incidentally, Captain Kirkham has hopes of doing the Social Studies Diploma Course at some time. Generally, I think Bayswater is doing some pretty sound work with some of our most limited and difficult lads, though "Turana" staff suspect that Captain Kirkham lacks Major Francis's capacity to carry on indefinitely with unresponsive lads.

Seen
to P. Douglas
14/7/66

Jaggs

(D. Jaggs),
Social Worker,
Children's Homes Section.
7.7.66.

The Director

Seen
to P. Douglas
15/7/66

Off Children's Homes