

New Minister to open annual fete

The Minister for Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, Mr. Steven Mauger, will officially open this year's North Coast Children's Home annual fete tomorrow.

Mr. Mauger was appointed to the Cabinet in January by the new Premier, Mr. Tom Lewis.

In his new portfolio, Mr. Mauger has inherited sections of several other departments.

From Mr. Dick Healey, now Minister for Health, Mr. Mauger inherited the job of looking after the welfare of the State's youth, including the running of some 40 institutions.

Mr. Mauger will be accompanied by his wife to the fete which will be held in St. Andrew's Parish Centre.

A buffet luncheon for Mr. and Mrs. Mauger and other official guests will be organised by the women of St. Thomas' Church at Fernside.

All the usual stalls will be in operation by the various

women's groups throughout the parish.

Special attractions have been arranged for the children including a ghost house and a pet show.

There will also be a treasure map contest being staged by Jaycettes and will be staged in two sessions, morning and after lunch.

The members of the YAF are planning a Ducking Stool, where contestants will aim to "duck" volunteers in a pool of water.

A special feature this year will be a bag stall conducted by the auxiliary.

Each year the auxiliary plan a different type of stall and this year they guarantee to feature every bag imaginable from children's marble bags and library bags, to shoulder bags for teenagers and shopping bags for mum, and even a feed bag for the horse.

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See and help

THE CALENDAR of North Coast charity and community fixtures has few separate occasions of such direct appeal to public understanding and generosity as today's fete for Children's Home in Lismore.

It has been given a practical widening of its appeal by the decision to hold an open day in the home in conjunction with the fete, which, on its record, makes an essential contribution to the two-thirds of income received from the public for the home's functioning.

Photographs in The Northern Star during the week showed a setting that, through simplicity, charm and homeliness, are delightfully different from many of the visions of institutionalised accommodation that have been the concept of many.

The North Coast Children's Home is, as its name defines, a home in which 42 children of all ages from all parts of the North Coast and of all denominations live and share, as a family, the affection and unity that comes from a common bond.

The open day is a chance for everyone to see the facilities and know, in the most personal way, the spirit of the home, through Matron O'Neill, the staff and the children themselves.

Open days have been held on other occasions. Its association with the fete cannot fail to give practical and humane understanding to the purpose for which the fete is being held.

Today's fete has the further significance of marking the first official visit by the Minister of the newly formed Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs Department, Mr. Mauger. In opening the fete he is giving a personal example of his understanding of the welfare and humane work of the homes which have come into closer contact by inclusion within the new portfolio.