

Springvale Benevolent Society

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1962-2012



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE EDITOR	2
THE PRESIDENT	3
THE FOUNDER OF THE SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY	4-5
THE PEOPLE	6-12
THE PAST & PRESENT	13-14
HONORARY AUDITOR OF THE SOCIETY AND HIS WIFE	14
PAST MEMBERS	15-16
HISTORY	17-26
CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG CITIZENS OF THE YEAR	27
THE TEAM OF THE FUTURE	28

Springvale Benevolent Society

FROM THE EDITOR

The Springvale Benevolent Society is celebrating half a century of service to the people residing in Springvale, Springvale South, Noble Park, Noble park North and Keysborough . Nobody thought that this would be possible.

The society always relies on donations given by people or organisations and is run by a group of volunteers. It will never cease to amaze me how they are always willing to go out of their way to help others in need, amongst who we occasionally find children.

It is with great satisfaction, that I, being a volunteer myself, go and deliver food vouchers to those who are struggling to make ends meet. We deal with a diversity of issues and everyone is treated with the utmost respect.

The society's contributions to the community are very well acknowledged by Offices of the Member of Parliament, the local council, The Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau, Centrelink, and other organisations.

In the 50th anniversary edition, you will read about the history of the society and its struggle to maintain its existence in the city; from newspaper articles, and the testimonies, photographs and experiences of the volunteers.

The motto of our society is "**Always be there for those in need**". Its success is measured by the various funding agencies and the vast number of community members that benefit from their generosity.

The road to now has never been easy and we owe our success and reputation to our past members. They have left behind a society that is well and truly loved and respected by all of us here in the City Of Greater Dandenong.

The society is run by volunteers and without them it would and could not exist. Our volunteers are people of diverse backgrounds.

The society has lasted 50 years and our vision is to keep it going well into the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

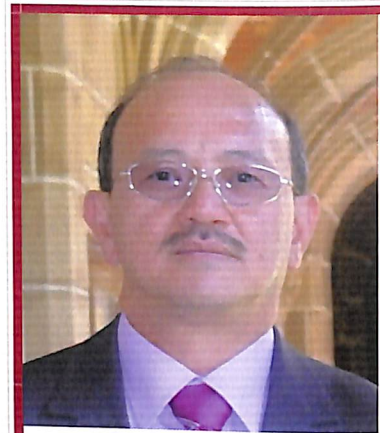
Our thanks go out to the generosity of The Dandenong Journal Archives for granting us permission to access and copy articles of the past years.

Special thanks to **Ray Schenk** for spending a couple of months photocopying these articles at the archives.

We are grateful to all our members who have generously provided personal recollections of the Society. Without the contributions of all our members and their families, this edition would not have been published.

We thank all those who have contributed to the publication of this edition.

A big thank you to all.



FRANCOIS CHUNG

Springvale Benevolent Society

PRESIDENT JOE RECHICHI

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity as president of the Springvale Benevolent Society to celebrate with you, the existence of the society over the past 50 years.

From a discussion and a meeting in 1962, the identity of the society has grown over the years and is now a much needed resource in the community which I know has been a goal that all members have strived for and achieved. Today the society covers, Springvale, Springvale South, Noble Park, Noble Park North and Keysborough.

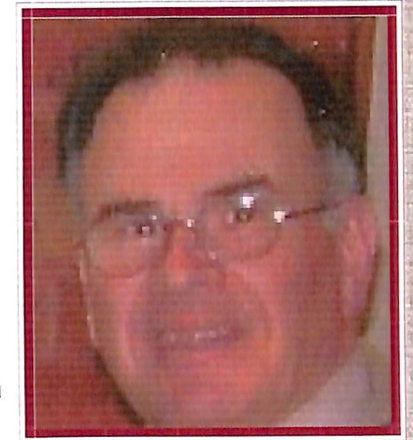
In 1962 the society commenced with approximately 11 members at a meeting held in the City Hall, with an opening donation of £50.

Today the society has over 20 members with an annual donation of approximately over \$80,000.00 per annum. In January 2011 we moved into our own fully equipped administration office, thanks to the City of Greater Dandenong.

We would not be here today without the generosity from the Commonwealth Government, City of Greater Dandenong, Department of Justice, and that of other local organizations, schools and churches.

I have been an active member of the Springvale Community for over 25 years, most of which has been with the Springvale Benevolent Society. During my time with the society, I have seen many people and organizations provide much needed support, which has grown year upon year.

None of this work could be possible without the dedication, support and commitment from the members of the Springvale Benevolent Society. The members provide the community with an excellent and much needed service. The Springvale Benevolent Society continues to be a true volunteer organization in every way. The Springvale Benevolent Society is highly regarded and recommended within the City of Greater Dandenong.



TERESA RECHICHI

I have been a member of the Springvale Benevolent Society since 1987. As a young teenager I was inspired by the welfare work carried out by John Beus and the late Wes Eggleston and the satisfaction that goes with helping others in need.

It is a privilege to be on a committee working with a group of dedicated people. I have seen at first hand how the work carried out by the society has touched the lives of many people in need. In turn they have touched my life for the better in helping me understand the many problems that are faced by them.

JOHN BEUS OAM JP FOUNDER

“Reminiscing on 50 Years Service”

When the Springvale Benevolent Society was established, on 28 February 1962, one of the founding members was John Beus, and 50 years on John is still an active member of the Society.

John recently recalled the early days of the Society and how things have changed, or stayed the same, over those 50 years.

John recalled that in 1962 “Council wrote to all the churches in Springvale and asked them to send a representative to a meeting to discuss the formation of a Benevolent Society. I was a parishioner of St Josephs and I remember the Parish Priest, Father Coughlan pointing to Terry McMahon, Dale Bruce and myself- ‘you, you and you, attend the meeting and make sure it’s a success.’ That’s how I volunteered to join the Society.”

What impressed John most about the creation of the Society was its ecumenical basis; representatives of local churches combining together to live out their faith in a practical way by helping those in need.

John smiles as he says, “and I remember the friendships that were formed as members from different walks of life worked together to help others, friendship that have endured for a lifetime.”

Notwithstanding the many changes that have occurred in the world over the past 50 years, John considers that the ecumenical, faith based approach of the Society, and the strong friendships are characteristics that have not changed. “That’s the strength of the Society”, he said with conviction.

However, what has changed since 1962 is the number of people needing help and the situations in which people find themselves in need.

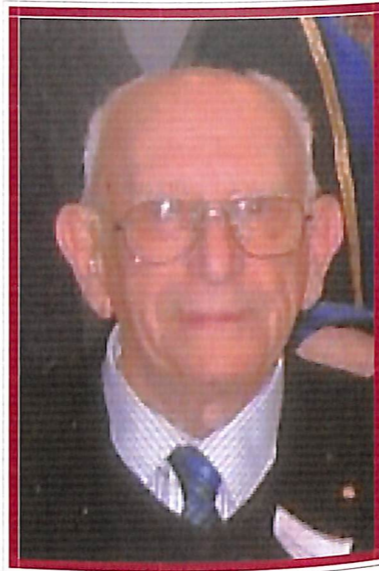
“In the early days” John recalls, “we had about 2 or 3 cases a week, mainly from families facing unemployment or serious illness which prevented employment. We would give them a food voucher for 10 shillings, and supply them with second hand clothes.”

“Today we handle about 40 cases a week and the majority of requests are from single mothers or the result of marriage break ups. The client base is very different. We still give food vouchers, but it’s for a lot more money than 10 shillings.”

John explained the source of funding has also changed over time: “Originally we held street stalls and house parties to raise funds, as well as contributions from the Poor Box at the Springvale Court. Of course, the Council gave us grants and provided physical support by making the Truby King Centre available. Volunteer fund raising is now a thing of the past and today the Society relies primarily on grants from Council and the Federal Government.”

Council support, whether the City of Springvale or the City of Greater Dandenong is another thing which has not changed over the years.

“Local need, local people helping, assisted by local government, that’s what it’s all about” added John in conclusion.



THE BEGINNING OF A SOCIETY THAT IS FOR THE PEOPLE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

FEBRUARY 1962

Benevolent Society For Springvale City

With the object of forming a Benevolent Society in the City of Springvale a public meeting has been convened by the Mayor (Cr. W. Lees) in the Springvale City Hall on Wednesday, February 28.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IS FORMED AT SPRINGVALE

The Springvale City Benevolent Society was formed at a meeting last Wednesday night in the city hall, presided over by Cr. A. Ericksen, who deputised for the Mayor (Cr. W. Lees).

Mrs. Wilkinson, president of the Victorian Association of the Benevolent Societies, addressed the meeting and outlined a society’s work and aims.

Mr. H. L. Williams, town clerk, acted as secretary and recorded minutes of the meeting.

Office-bearers elected were Cr. Ken Marriott, president; Messrs. Wain and Chadwick, vice-presidents; Mr. McMahon, secretary; Mr. Dale Bruce, treasurer; Mr. L. Williams, auditor.

The committee elected, with power to add, was: Miss E. White, Sisters M. W. Buchanan and H. Bull, Messrs. J. Beus and W. Wilson.

The first meeting will be held within a month and the society will affiliate with the association.

A welcome surprise at the inaugural meeting was the receipt of a £50 cheque from the association.

Springvale Benevolent Society



I became involved with the Springvale Benevolent Society in 1997 when I was elected to council. I became a Council Representative with the society - after about my second meeting Wes produced a Receipt Book and 'told me' I could start calling on people who requested help - no one in their right mind could refuse Wes! - so my first journey with the society really began.

A few months later the lady who did the typing for the Society retired. I offered to fill in until someone else could do the typing and photocopying - no one else volunteered - so yet a second journey began for me.

I became Secretary when Wes passed away in 2009 - my third journey in the life of the Springvale Benevolent Society.

I have gained a lot being a member - being able to give to our needy in the community is very rewarding both for the volunteer and for the clients.

There are some lovely families and singles in our community who do it extremely hard - and for the past 50 years our volunteers have helped these families survive through their toughest times.

There will always be people in our community who need help and I hope with the new generation of volunteers the Springvale Benevolent Society will survive for another 50 years.

Congratulations and a big thank you to all our past and present volunteers on a wonderful 50 year Anniversary.

Best wishes to all,

CR YVONNE HERRING - JP
SECRETARY



I joined the Springvale Benevolent Society in October 2011. I have been attending on and off due to my mum's illness. I am delighted to be a permanent member of the Springvale Benevolent Society.

Every time I watched an advertisement on TV about volunteering, I dreamt about becoming one. One day after mass, Joe and Teresa approached me and asked if I would like to help out at the Springvale Benevolent Society. That day I realized that my dream about volunteering had become a reality. Without hesitation I gladly accepted.

When I walked out of the first meeting, I was so surprised that I knew the volunteers such as Harry Gunther, Ray Schenk, Patricia Blashki and Max Anstis. I promised myself that I would do my best to help out the community. I wish all success to the Springvale Benevolent Society and hope it will continue for another 50 years.

MINH LUU
HONORARY TREASURER

Springvale Benevolent Society



'What the Society means to me'

It has been a great privilege to be a part of the Springvale Benevolent Society, working over many years alongside a dedicated and talented group of volunteers.

Even before joining the team, I had long been impressed by the society's work helping those in need. I am continually in awe of the society's ability to enter people's homes in a respectful, non-judgemental way to help people find their feet during troubled times.

That the Society's work is carried out by volunteers makes their positive impact all the more impressive. I have no hesitation in referring people to the Benevolent Society for help, and I am pleased to call myself part of the team.

Through my role as mayor last year it was an honour to host a public reception to formally acknowledge and thank the Society on behalf of the grateful Greater Dandenong Community

CR. ROZ BLADES



PAT DILLON

When I started work in a Dandenong Office in 1985 a staff member said you must get involved in the Dandenong Benevolent Society and took me along to the monthly meeting. Before long I was on the committee and it was suggested that someone from the Springvale Benevolent Society should attend our monthly meetings and as I lived in Noble Park, I was the representative to attend theirs.

In February this year when we were provided with our own office, and I had retired from work, volunteers were needed to take the phone calls coming into the office and organise the volunteers to make the house calls. We have our separate areas, mostly around the area where we live. I man the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings and

my husband does Monday and Wednesday and our president does Friday. Monday is usually busy, as a lot of messages are left on the answering machine over the week-end. We endeavour to visit people within twenty four hours of receiving the call.

People are referred from Centrelink, Springvale Citizens Aid and Advice Bureau, churches and other organisations working in the community. Our organisation visits the people in their homes, which enables us to assess their situation and any other needs. In the winter time there is a demand for blankets, we provide new ones, and keep new mattresses in stock. One of our members brings in lovely knitted jumpers and blankets which the ladies from her church knit. The knitted items for the children go very quickly. I have taken the knitted rugs to some of our elderly ladies I have visited and given them to mothers for the children and they are so grateful.

There are an increasing number of boarding houses in the Noble Park area which call upon us for assistance on a regular basis. Often these people have been homeless prior to entering the boarding house and have extra needs. They are so grateful for what we do, and how promptly we attend to them.

Springvale Benevolent Society



JUNE WHITTON

I came to the Springvale Benevolent Society through Wes Eggleston. He had asked me to join for quite a while. Then when he got sick, I decided to follow his footsteps and gave my time to help people.

I am coming up to my third year. I find it very fulfilling and you meet some lovely people.

In my group we have some very special people. They are very loyal and reliable people. We often have social outings together.

I am very proud to say Springvale Benevolent Society is my group.



MONIQUE CHUNG

I joined the Springvale Benevolent Society in 2006 and have served as Honorary Treasurer.

In the six years that I have been a member of the society, I am proud to be associated with such a devoted group of hard working people, all volunteers, who freely give of their time to members of our community in times of crisis.

I believe the society serves our community well and like to think that I play a part in this service.



RAY SCHENK

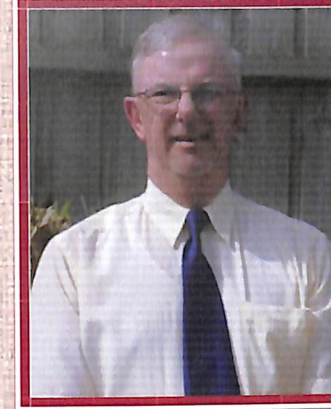
I was introduced to the Springvale Benevolent Society by Harry Gunther, a long standing member of the Society, in April 2008.

Because I live nearby I was given the job to look after a large shed given to us by the Dandenong Council, which has been filled with a great variety of furniture and clothing and other items to furnish an empty room or house. The furniture and other items have been donated from deceased estates and other donations of items which became surplus to requirement in the house.

One case stuck in my memory, a large family had been given a big house which was completely empty. The family came to our shed and selected furniture, cooking utensils carpets and other items to establish a home. Harry Gunther and I delivered two large trailers full to the house. The following day we went back to the house to deliver some food and were completely flabbergasted to find a clean beautifully furnished home of a very happy family.

When I see the thankful and smiling faces of the people we have been able to help, then it gives us a great satisfaction and purpose of life. I am so happy to be in that position to help.

Springvale Benevolent Society



ALAN GORDON

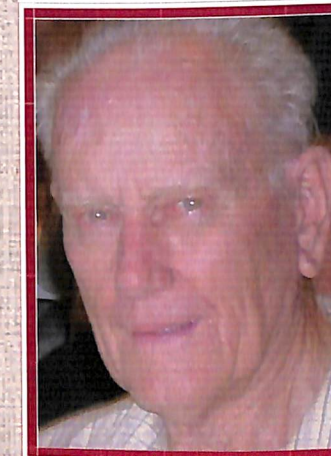
I have been Involved with this wonderful and caring organisation since 2006.

Volunteering with the Springvale Benevolent Society provides me with a positive and enriching experience, giving much needed help for those in the community who need our vital support. I find it also an opportunity to give back to the community in a very positive way.

The emergency relief we provide can usually be provided as a one off support in times of crisis. In extreme circumstances, such as having no

income at all we provide Grocery food vouchers for a local supermarket chain or a parcel of donated food. The Clients I call on, are visited on face to face basis, so it can give me an opportunity to assess their further needs. I call on Single people living in our local caravan park to families both small and large. As part of the service I provide, I phone my clients before visiting to ensure they are home, as I do my calls on my way home from work. This way they can have food on the table, for their evening meal.

Our Organisation is very lucky for the support given by the Greater City of Dandenong Council and the Federal Government.



MAX ANSTIS

My involvement in the society began back many years to about the mid— eighties . The group I joined at that time would probably have 12 members with Wesley Eggleston as secretary and John Beus as president.

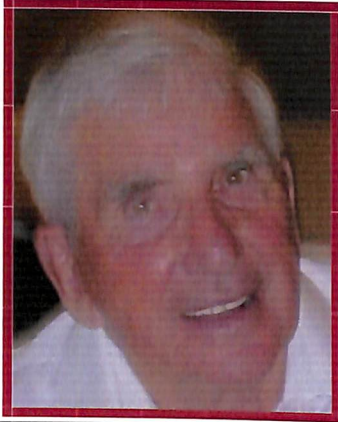
I soon recognized Wes as a competent, careful and caring person with an over-riding desire to assist those in need .Wes never varied in his belief in the importance of the society . His capable untiring efforts to raise funds was a continuing part of his dedication to the society. His old world charm and courtesy, ability to see good in each person made him unique. He remained secretary until his death in 2009. His role as secretary and organizer required the daily receiving of calls for assistance, then

contacting a society member to visit the caller to provide help usually in the form of a food voucher. 2002 saw the 40th anniversary of the society which was celebrated at the Springvale council reception centre with a large attendance of members of Parliament, Council and the local community.

Wes Eggleston's passing on confronted the society, on how to continue, who could and who would take on the daily work of organizing to maintain services to the Community?

Initially our president Joe Rechichi carried out this task allowing the work to continue. We are thankful for his energy and his expertise. Without him, the society would have ceased to function. We are indebted to the city of Greater Dandenong for the provision of office space now manned by volunteers. Pat and Paddy Dillon who daily receive the calls and organize a smooth running system, which over the years of service has helped more than 10,000 people in the Springvale/Noble Park area. Of the future? The future of the society rests with the willingness of volunteers to become part of this vital community service.

Springvale Benevolent Society



PADDY DILLON

The society established the services from the new location in February 2011. Previously the services had been accessed for a number of years by the generous use of the business facilities of our esteemed and now deceased long term president Wes Eggleton. Since Wes' departure the services had to be re organised and until that was accomplished, the point of contact with the community was undertaken by the current president Joe Rechichi and his wife Teresa.

Through the good offices of the City of Greater Dandenong Council accommodation in the current facility was arranged.

The phone service is staffed Monday to Friday for approximately 2-3 hours each day, mostly in the morning. All calls that are on the answering machine are dealt with to the best of our ability.

Basically the system works as follows:

The duty volunteer will assess the calls and allocate the clients to our closest volunteer and gives him/her the details. The main, but not the only source of help that we can offer are food parcels and or food vouchers. Each case is considered on its merit and anything outside our general guidelines are discussed with the President.

The Society has a small storage area and items like sheets, blankets, small household utensils and non-perishable food can be stored.

The clients we deal with cover quite a cross-section of our community from single youths to distressed families, and where children are involved our volunteers give extra consideration.

The 11 months of 2011 has seen us handle numerous calls for help mostly in the areas mentioned and as we are not social workers we are limited in our ability to help on occasions.

The service is in its infancy and no doubt will face many challenges in the future and one of the main ones being that we will need more volunteers.



HARRY GUNTHER

My late friend and neighbour Wes Eggleton called me one day in 1981 and asked me if I would like to become a member of the Springvale Benevolent Society. I had never heard of this society before but I went along to the meeting. There I met John Beus, Mary Bramley, the Reinhardts, Gwen Bode, Muriel Bear, Joe Barbieri and a councillor. I was very impressed with the committee and the help given to the community by the hard working unpaid members. Today being led by Joe Rechichi, the Society has grown to have many active members & local councillors serving the people of Springvale and surrounding areas with food vouchers, baby needs, some accommodation and giving respect to people when they are down. It is a privilege to work with the members of the Society and hope new members come forward and join us. It is very satisfying to know that you have helped people who are going through hard times, in a small way.

Springvale Benevolent Society



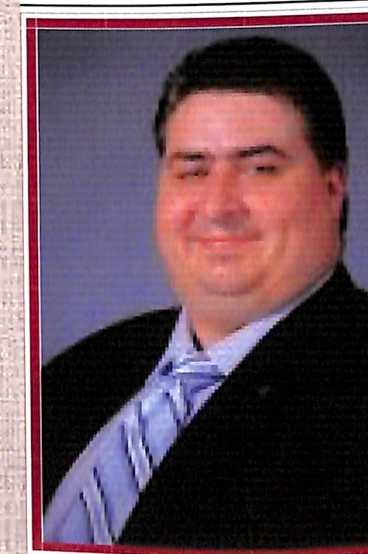
ALFRED L GOLDBURG

"My Objective is to let people know why I am a volunteer with the Springvale Benevolent Society."

I was a 10 year old child during the Great Depression and witnessed and was involved with much hardship. My father was out of work on many occasions and I went without lunch to school and also other meals. I was sent by the teacher across the road to a church soup kitchen at lunch time which gave other children and myself soup and dry bread. I have never forgotten these hard times and the suffering that took place. Wes Eggleton invited me to join the Springvale

Benevolent Society, I was pleased to be able to assist people in need.

After discussions with Noble Park RSL President Mr. Gordon Murray, we decided that the RSL could assist the local community in many ways. We organised for a goods collection point to be setup in the Noble Park RSL, tinned and packet food. This has been a great success and many people within our community have been assisted. The job of a volunteer can be very straining, but it is also extremely rewarding and brings a smile to my face when I can assist people in need. I have always hated food being wasted, right back to my child hood, in the depression days.



LEE TARLAMIS MP

It was through the office of Eddie Micallef, State Member for Springvale that I first met Wes Eggleton and got involved with the Springvale Benevolent Society back in 1997.

Wes introduced me to the important work that the Springvale Benevolent Society did and encouraged me to get actively involved. Before passing away in 2009, Wes had dedicated his life to helping others and ran the Springvale Benevolent Society from his furniture store in Springvale and served as its secretary for around 40 years. The benevolent society has a team of wonderful and hardworking volunteers with whom I have been proud to be associated. These individuals would visit local residents and families who were experiencing financial hardship to see firsthand what their needs were

so that they could provide the right kind of assistance. I remember on many of the visits I made, finding myself just sitting there listening to people, because in addition to their material needs they also needed someone to open up to a sympathetic ear. I cannot express how rewarding it was to help people in this way. Their experiences taught me so much about myself and fuelled my desire to help them. The community was weakened when Wes passed away, but the lasting memory he left behind will never be forgotten. The Springvale Benevolent Society faced many challenges at this point but the members banded together and under the leadership of Joe Rechichi continue its valuable work. I would like to congratulate the Springvale Benevolent Society on their 50th. Anniversary and thank all the members and volunteers for all the work they do. They are a wonderful, hardworking and dedicated group of people who have made a real difference to the lives of many local residents.

State Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Springvale Benevolent Society

ALBERT OAM JP & PATRICIA BLASHKI OAM

Our involvement with the Springvale Benevolent Society

Albert was approached by the late Reverend Tom Heathwood in 1981 to be involved in collecting day old bread, rolls and buns from a hot bread kitchen at Waverly Gardens. These were to be distributed through the Springvale Benevolent Society to known families in the area. He collected 2 bags twice a week and delivered them to two members of the Society to distribute.

The two members were the late Stan Lachlan in Union Grove and another member whose name I forget, from Thomas street Noble Park.

Through this venture Albert was introduced to Wes Eggleston, who invited Albert and his wife Patricia to become heavily involved with the Springvale Benevolent Society.

During his year as Mayor of Springvale in 1985, Albert and Patricia visited every school in Springvale and made a personal appeal for the support of the Benevolent Society. This resulted in some substantial support during that first year. However over the years only one school has continued with the Mayoral collection of non perishable foodstuffs prior to Christmas. That school is Coomoora Primary School which has nominated them as their official grandparents. Recently we have been supported by Haileybury College and Springvale Heights Primary

School.

Due to their connection with the Springvale South Girl Guides, they have been received foodstuffs for Christmas. Their association with the Anglican Church in Springvale has been instrumental in obtaining groceries and other items on a regular basis throughout the years.

In the year 1995 at the Australia Day Awards, Patricia was made Senior Citizens of the year for Dandenong for her work with the Springvale Benevolent Society. At the same time she was awarded the OAM in the Australia Day Awards for her voluntary work for 45 years with the Children Hospital Australia at Kooyong.

Albert's total involvement with Springvale Benevolent Society started initially with the bread run and his introduction to Wes Eggleston and the ideals of the Society. He then followed up many offers of furniture and household effects from people and families moving into retirement Villages. With Wes he organised pickups and storage of considerable items for redistribution. Albert and Patricia made many household calls to people in poor circumstances. Household items, food and food vouchers were delivered on many occasions. Albert and Pat spend time in advising and comforting them. Sometimes it is just the need for a pair of shoes for a child to go to school or a contribution towards school uniform or even formula for a baby.

Their years with the Springvale Benevolent Society have been an totally rewarding experience.

Springvale Benevolent Society

FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF PLEASE CALL 9546 5558

Past & Present



Springvale Benevolent Society



Springvale Benevolent Society

THE SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY PAYS TRIBUTE TO DECEASED MEMBERS AND ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE LEGACY THEY LEFT BEHIND.

JOE BARBIERI

Joe Barbieri was a member of the Springvale Benevolent Society since its formation in 1962. Joe Barbieri arrived in Australia from Malta in 1950. Joe met John at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Springvale.

He served the Society under the leadership of John Beus as vice President since 1981. He lived in Springvale all his life and fulfilled his desire of helping people less fortunate in the community.

He is one of the founding members of the Springvale Benevolent Society. Joe Barbieri and John Beus were known as the Benevolent duo in the City of Greater Dandenong during the 40th Anniversary of the Society. The then Prime Minister John Howard acknowledged the Society for the services rendered to the community.

Joe Barbieri ceased to be actively involved with the Society due to illness.

Joe Barbieri passed away in 2011.

The Springvale Benevolent Society thanks Joe for all his hard work and may he rest in peace.



LYNN SKEWS

Lynn has been a member until 2011.

Lynn in association with Tiny's Total Tours was always fundraising for the Springvale Benevolent Society.

She will be remembered as a long time member and friend of the Society.

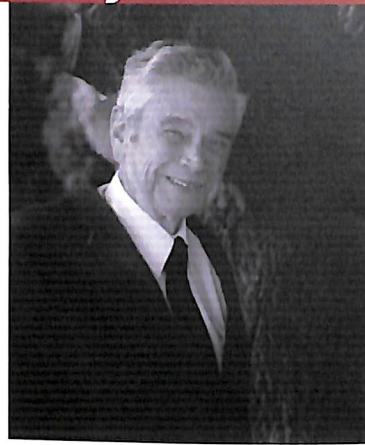
We thank her for all the money she raised for the needy of our community.



Springvale Benevolent Society

WESLEY GLEN EGGLESTON

Born in Rutherglen, Victoria in 1929 to a miner father and a devout Methodist mother, Wes Eggleston remembers his home as quite primitive. There was no power, no running water and to preserve food they used a Coolgardie; an antiquated meat safe that swung from a tree. His mother died from tuberculosis when he was only ten but her strong convictions still remain with him. With the loss of his mother he has drawn tremendous support from his extended family over the years.



Wes moved to Springvale over sixty years ago. He was a lay preacher for the Methodist Church for forty five years, something his mother would have encouraged him to do. He joined the Springvale Benevolent Society in the mid 1960s and has been Secretary for thirty eight years. The Society provides emergency aid, furniture, equipment and food vouchers. Wes receives calls for help from agencies or individuals and arranges for volunteers to visit homes and provide relief as needed. He also lobbies for funds to maintain the Society.

Wes describes himself as not really a people person, but he has an open heart and great generosity. On at least two occasions he has opened his home to a person in dire need of urgent accommodation and permitted them to stay year after year.

As a Probation Officer from 1960 to 1975, Wes regularly visited the homes of children in trouble. He is convinced children should never be taken from their homes and believes that irresponsible parents should be given the opportunity to redeem themselves. He believes it is far better approach to get involved in working with the families to resolve the problem. He resigned as a Probation Officer in 1975 as he felt it was conflicting with his role as a Justice of the Peace, which he has been since 1973. The depth of Wes's kind-heartedness and empathy is best expressed with his own simple statement 'You know, you just can't leave people'.



Service recognised: Wes Eggleston.

Charity was his calling

WES Eggleston, who died on Saturday last week, was one of Springvale's hardest working community workers.

A private, caring and compassionate man, he preferred to work quietly behind the scenes. He befriended many people of various age groups whom he took into his home.

Mr Eggleston suffered prolonged ill health which necessitated varying bouts in hospital.

He was born in Rutherglen, son of the late William and Hilda Eggleston. After his mother's death, he came to live in Springvale at the age of 13 with his stepmother, Nell, and his father William.

Wes Eggleston
1929-2009

He attended Dandenong High School then went into the furniture trade. He opened Eaton Furniture in Springvale and also had another shop in Noble Park for a time.

One of Mr Eggleston's cousins, Janette Woodward, said he was a justice of the peace for many years.

He had a 44-year association with the Springvale Benevolent Society, and was a living treasure of the City of Greater Dandenong, a centenary medalist, and a recipient of many

local and State Government awards.

His funeral service was held on February 26 in Bayly Chapel at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

City of Greater Dandenong councillor Yvonne Herring described Mr Eggleston as "a quiet achiever".

"We only have to ask the hundreds of people he has helped over the years, some with kind words, others with a meal for the night.

"I don't believe there was ever another Wes in our city and I'm sure we will never have another one like him."

Marg South



Springvale Benevolent Society

Benevolent Society For Springvale City

With the object of forming a Benevolent Society in the City of Springvale a public meeting has been convened by the Mayor (Cr. W. Lees) in the Springvale City Hall on Wednesday, February 28.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IS FORMED AT SPRINGVALE

The Springvale City Benevolent Society was formed at a meeting last Wednesday night in the city hall, presided over by Cr. A. Ericksen, who deputised for the Mayor (Cr. W. Lees).

1962

Society helps family of 13 at Springvale

A family of 13, including a sick father and 11 children, who live in two bungalows, is one of the necessitous cases the newly-formed Springvale Benevolent Society is trying to care for.

The family is using one bungalow as a common bedroom and the other as a kitchen and dining room.

The society is urgently in need of support to assist the less fortunate members of the community who include also deserted wives and neglected children.

A stall will be conducted in Noble Park shopping centre on Friday, April 13, and donations of clothing and other saleable goods will be appreciated. They may be left with Mrs. Wakefield, 30 Douglas St., Noble Park (Ph. 746 8440), or arrangements will be made to collect them by phoning Mrs. Wakefield, Mr. Peter Wain (746 8345) or Mr. Bill Chadwick (XB 4182).

Cash donations are also solicited which, with the proceeds of the stall, will be converted into orders for groceries and other necessities.

1963

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY ISSUED £236 IN FOOD ORDERS

If anybody doubted the need for the establishment of the City of Springvale Benevolent Society, figures presented at the annual meeting must have convinced them. The annual report disclosed that a total of £378 was paid out for the year—£236 of this being in the form of food orders to needy families. Sixty-nine blankets were distributed through the agency of the State Relief Committee, together with large issues of clothing from the Society's own stock.

£127 Raised From Benevolent Society Stall

Proceeds from the highly successful street stall conducted by the Springvale Benevolent Society reached the amazing sum of £127 10/-.

The Society wishes to thank all generous donors, including Messrs Kelly and Smith (piggeries) and Cester's Poultry.

Winner of the raffle was ticket No. 213 (Mr. R. Piccinin, Springvale Rd., 5th Springvale).

Springvale Benevolent Society seeks public support

The City of Springvale Benevolent Society, a committee of industrious workers formed to help underprivileged citizens in the Springvale community now urgently needs the assistance of the public to help in the campaign.

Benevolent work goes on quietly, unknown to most people. The less fortunate people in our community—perhaps victims of circumstance, sickness or accident—are assisted.

Members of the committee are: Miss B. White (Home Help Supervisor), Health Centre sisters Buchanan, Bull and Lofts, and Crs. Marriott, Luxford, Wilson and Wachter, together with some repre-

sentatives from local charitable organisations.

Assistance from the public could be in the way of food orders, clothing, blankets or any other useful commodities.

At present the committee's means of raising finance is limited and funds are derived from Council charity grants, street stalls, charity concert, donations, etc.

President Ken Marriott and secretary T. McMahon would appreciate your support for the charity concert to be presented by Noble Park branch of the C.W.A. and other artists in the Noble Park hall, on November 8. The program is an excellent one.

LIONS GIVE TO NEEDY



ABOVE — Springvale's Mayor, Cr. Leon Trambath (right), presents local Benevolent Society president Mr. John Beas with a cheque for \$600 on behalf of Noble Park Lions club. The money will help the society in its valuable work among the district's needy. Last year, it spent \$5,424, mainly on food vouchers, helping 2,300 people. In 1962, the society had an annual budget of only \$300.

1964

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY HAS HELPED MANY FAMILIES

Benevolent Society concert at Noble Park

An audience in excess of 150 was entertained at the recent charity concert presented in the Noble Park Public Hall by the Noble Park Branch of the CWA supported by guest artists. The City of Springvale Benevolent Society sponsored the concert which raised £35 for charity.

Springvale City Benevolent Society has, during the year, helped numerous residents of the city who have found themselves, through unforeseen circumstances, faced with difficulties brought on by sickness, unemployment, accident, injuries, etc.

The assistance given by means of food orders, clothing, blankets, bedding and firewood, has been much appreciated by the residents helped.

FUNDS FROM STREET STALLS

During the year two street stalls were held to raise funds—one in S'vale and one in Noble Park. Both were well supported by donations from various market gardeners and other business-people, and local residents responded very well by clearing the stalls of goods on each occasion.

A Charity Concert was held, through the combined efforts of Noble

Park and Dandenong branches of the Country Women's Association at Noble Park, on November 8, resulting in a profit of £37.

The competition for the doll, donated by Mrs. F. Wachter and Mrs J. Jessy, was so successful that the magnificent sum of £76 was raised. The winner was Mrs Woolnough, of 4 Wardale Rd., Noble Park.

The president and committee sincerely thank all those kind people who supported the society in any way during the year, and extend to them their good wishes and compliments of the season for 1964.

Sharp increase in benevolent needs

SPRINGVALE.— There was a sharp increase during the past 12 months for the services and facilities of Springvale Benevolent Society.

Details of the society's work, and suggestions to lighten it, were made at the fifth annual meeting by the president, Cr. K. Marriott, Mayor of Springvale and Mr. Des Sweeney, secretary.

They said the entire efforts of the society have been highlighted by a growing intensity of individual problems brought about by a variety of reasons. High on the list of causes of financial instability of families and individuals are the exorbitant rents that are being demanded for "second-rate dwellings", and high interest rates charged for second mortgages.

Both prevent the average wage-earner from any possibility of making provision for emergencies. "Some form of low cost homes both for families and aged couples in the city is both urgent and necessary."

More care

"More care is needed by council authorities to police the sub-standard bungalows, and in some cases, garages that are being used as dwellings."

"Problems that are consistently being encountered by the society leave no doubt that a trained social worker is needed urgently, or the early establishment of a branch of the Social Welfare Department."

"This does not reflect on the magnificent work that is being carried out by members of our own society, and many others in the city."

"Nevertheless, a city-wide appreciation is desirable of the functions of organisations in our category and the need to co-ordinate the actions of all similar groups. "The benefits that could be derived from such a discussion are obvious and soor. It is to be hoped that a group discussion can take place."

Case record

The report stated that total income received from all sources this year was \$1108.24, an increase of \$466. Expenditure dispensed to a record number of 134 cases was \$1169.50, an increase of \$633 over last year. Balance carried forward was \$399.97.

Singularly successful was a public appeal for a family in desperate circumstances with nine children, including triplets.

Housing was provided with the assistance of our patron, Mr. Len Reid, MLA, and the Housing Commission.

The society was able to get them up completely in their new home complete with furniture and furnishings.

1966

SOCIETY SEEKS SCHOOL FUNDS

SPRINGVALE. — The City of Springvale Benevolent Society will write to schools in the city seeking donations from their social service projects.

This was decided at the society's meeting where it was pointed out that many families had been assisted

with food orders and clothing.

Cr. Ken Marriott occupied the chair, the secretary, Mr. Wes Egglestone, thanked for cleaning the store room, classifying gifts of clothing, furniture, and presenting an inventory to the meeting.

The treasurer's report disclosed a credit balance of \$361.83.

This was increased when Mr. W. Cork presented a cheque to the chairman for \$65.50, the proceeds of the Christmas stocking appeal. The stocking was donated by committee man Mr. Joe Barbieri.

Mr. Norm Billing was welcomed and elected to the committee.

1967

1966

SCHOOLS AID SOCIETY

Springvale.— Schools in the Springvale area recently donated more than \$60 to Springvale Benevolent Society.

The schools are Springvale State, Heatherhill High, and Springvale High.

The chairman of the society, Cr. K. Marriott, told The Journal the society appreciated the support from the schools, and welcomed support from other schools, social clubs, and community organisations.

Cash donations food-stuffs, clothing and good used furniture are required regularly for distribution. The society has a panel of speakers to explain its work to committees. For further information, contact the secretary, Mr. W. Eggleston, 13 View Road, Springvale (546-8114).

The society will hold its next meeting in Springvale City Hall annexe on Tuesday, December 3, at 8 pm.

Cr. Ken Marriott presided and Mr. John Beus reported on the State relief committee's seminar.

Mrs. M. Johnson reported a profit of \$41.10 as the result of the society's street stall.

A further highlight was a presentation by Mesdames Goodison and Quirk to Cr. Marriott of a cheque for \$9.37.

The cheque was money raised by the Noble Park Brownie Pack, and other gifts to the society included a knitted cushion, rug, and hot water bottle cover.

Competitions netted more than \$100 and winners were — Christmas

Society's good work

Springvale.— The Springvale Benevolent Society's monthly meeting showed that it had been able to help most of the 17 distress cases which came up during the month, and that it had money in hand to supply future aid to other needy people in the district.

The society will hold its annual meeting on July 30, at the Town Hall. The secretary of the State Relief Committee, Mr. Flack, will be the guest speaker at this function.

From other reports received, it can clearly be seen that the society is doing a remarkable job in supporting and giving relief to the needy factions of the community.

1968

1969

24th. July 1969

Benevolent meeting

Springvale.— The annual meeting of the City of Springvale Benevolent Society will be held at Springvale City Hall on Tuesday, July 29, at 8 pm.

Presidential report, financial statement and election of officers will precede an address by Mr Alan Farmer, of the Education Department's Noble Park Psychology Centre. Support will be provided.

SOCIETY TO AID NEEDY

SPRINGVALE. — The Springvale Benevolent Society will not contribute parcels for pensioners this year, but instead will make up parcels for needy families in the city.

This was revealed at the society's well-attended Christmas break-up meeting in the Heatherhill Methodist Church Hall.

Break-up meeting

The society helps more than 12 cases each month and there has been a marked upsurge in appeals for help since the unemployment situation has deteriorated.

"There are 10 of us in the committee," said Mr. Wes Eggleston, leading Springvale businessman.

Mr. Eggleston has been secretary of the society for five years.

"We feel our local men and women in our service clubs are neglecting people in their own doorstep to attend to broader outside and international issues.

"There are many accident cases, deserted husbands and wives, sickness of bread winners, death of partners, and unemployment in our city.

Vital

"It is increasing, and the more cases brought to our notice, the more we need the funds to cope.

"We must keep up this vital assistance.

"Even a \$10 voucher on today's market is little enough to help a hungry family.

**BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
FACES INSOLVENCY**

— Unemployment hits the bank balance

THE SPRINGVALE Benevolent Society is in almost as dire distress as the many needy district families it has helped faithfully for 10 years.

Last month the society attended 10 distress cases in the city, and it now has a dwindling bank balance of \$35.

1972

"We provide blankets, manchester, furniture and clothing to the needy and destitute.

"The Social Service payments are just not adequate with the present inflationary trends.

"We cover a wide area, the whole of the City of Springvale, Chelsea Heights, Dingey, Noble Park, and Springvale and we'll leave no stone unturned to continue helping.

Donations

"We get a grant of \$150 from the City Council, conduct our own stalls and act on our own initiative to provide ways of fund raising.

"We appeal to local residents to join our committee, clean out the white elephants in their home as gifts of furniture and furnishings are essential for us to continue, and, where possible, make cash donations.

"Maybe some day you'll need us."

Mr. Eggleston may be contacted any time at NO. 13 View Rd., Springvale, phone 546-8114, and the treasurer of the Society is Mrs. Violet Kane, 22 Ellen St., Springvale, 546-4807.

1973

**\$1200
TO NEEDY**

thousands of dollars Ken has helped to raise, many families and countless number of children have sat down to a meal which came from Ken and Joy Marriott's market.

Councillor Wachter presented Councillor Marriott with cufflinks to mark his retirement.

Other officebearers elected: vice-presidents, Mr. J. Beus, Mr. J. Kane; secretary, Mr. Wes Eggleston; treasurer, Mrs. Vi Kane; committee, Councillors M. Bramley, R. Hetherington, R. Luxford, Mesdames E. Hetherington, M. Johnson, P. Laurence, B. Luxford, K. Randall, V. Scheunesen, W. Surdel, C. Wachter, Messrs. J. Barbieri, W. Cork, R. Goudie, H. Powell.

Mr. J. Wade of the Australian Social Security Department was guest speaker.

Councillor Marriott reported that payments in relief was about \$800 less than last year, but the society still reviewed eight to 10 cases at every monthly meeting.

SOCIETY PAYS

SPRINGVALE Benevolent Society paid out \$1253 in relief payments over the past year.

This was reported at the society's recent annual meeting.

After 12 years as president, Councillor Ken Marriott did not seek re-election. He was replaced by Councillor Fred Wachter, who has been a member of the society since its inception.

Paying tribute to Councillor Marriott, he said: "Ken was the only president the society had. What he and his wife have done for needy families in the city, no-one will ever know.

"In addition to the many

**\$1100 AID
TO NEEDY**

THE City of Springvale Benevolent Society spent \$1100 last year providing relief to district needy.

The society regularly issued food orders, and assistance was given to new settlers so they had suitable clothing and footwear to start work.

As assistance to the Social Welfare Department, the society paid board for a young man who was dependent on their support and supervision.

The society's work was revealed by acting society Mr. J. Beus, in a report at the society's 14th annual meeting.

Mr Beus took over the reins as president of the society following the resignation of Mr Fred Wachter.

Support during the year was given to the society by Noble Park Lions Club which donated \$300, Kiwanis Club of Springvale \$150 for a wheelchair, City of Springvale two donations of \$216, Social Welfare Department \$200, Combined Pensioners' Association \$20 and the Victorian Benevolent Society \$27.

Mr Beus said private citizens made generous donations; and Mr Con Estemou, of the Greek community, assisted by Mr Phillip Tarfuto, of the Pizza Parlor at Springvale, promoted the society's special Christmas effort with pleasing results.

GRANTS

Mr Beus reported that as well as making a cash grant, Springvale Council provided rooms for storage and accommodation for the society's regular meetings.

The State Government on more than one occasion made cash grants, and this year contributed \$200. Mr Norm Billing MLA, the Member for Heatherton, was also thanked for his help.

Mr Beus said local newspapers assisted with regular reports of the society's meeting, and Mrs Laurence was an able public relations officer. Mrs Laurence and Mrs Joy Perkins helped with typing, and Heatherhill Church with duplicating.

Referrals were made to the society by welfare workers attached to the Departments of Social Welfare

and Security, by social community workers, attached to hospitals, and schools, the police and churches.

Mr Beus said every monthly meeting 12 cases were discussed, action had been taken, confirmed and then further action decided upon. On most occasions a representative of the society visited the home of the person needing help.

Mr Beus said: "The changing economic climate has resulted in the society doing extra work with those who have been casualties of the change.

"We recognise that unemployment is not necessarily to be equated with poverty, but if prolonged, may lead to deep need, if managerial skills, financial prudence, and wise rationalising of resources are not practised," he said.

"We believe we have served the community well during the past year. We have served it with a minimum cost to the ratepayer for we pay no salaries, and our committee meets its own cost of operation."

1974

This was for an average of between eight and 10 cases a month.

In addition the "cases," the society also visited people who were ill, and assisted people in obtaining accommodation and clothing.

It was stated that the society is concerned at the current inflation and has already increased the value of food vouchers in extreme cases of hardship.

Office bearers elected at the meeting were — president, Mr F. Wachter; senior vice-president, Mr J. Beus; junior vice-president, Mr J. Barbieri; secretary, Mr W. Eggleston; treasurer, Mrs V. Kane.

Guest speaker was former Liberal State and Federal Parliamentarian, Mr Len Reid, who spoke of the need to alleviate poverty in India and Africa.

Anyone needing help or wishing to assist the society should phone 546 8114 or 546 0602.

1976

Benevolent society needs benefactors



1979

CITY of Springvale Benevolent Society, since it started 17 years ago, has helped accident victims, alcoholics, unemployed, deserted parents and pensioners whose grants have been delayed.

But now the benevolent society itself is in difficulty. It budgeted for \$3000 as its anticipated expenditure this year but, mainly because of an increase in unemployment and desertions, in a recent meeting it raised its anticipated expenditure to \$5000.

It is all voluntary effort, no salaries are paid, administrative expenses are negligible, all money given is spent on relief, and a 24-hour, seven day a week service is available to those in need.

Committee members and office bearers are members of churches, charities, and interested persons.

As it only expects funds worth \$2500, it is appealing to the public for aid.

A public launching of the society's appeal for funds is

Last week the tax commissioner ruled that donations of more than \$2 to the society are tax deductible. This was a major breakthrough for the

1981

NO CHIEFS, JUST Job well done INDIANS

— That's Benevolent Society's appeal

"There are no chiefs, just Indians, and that's what I like about Springvale benevolent society."

This comment by a society volunteer is probably the opinion of others who do such good work to help others, through the society.

President Mr John Beus was re-elected for a third term at the annual meeting. Treasurer Mrs M. Brandy said a record amount of \$280 had been spent on relief, compared to \$1,300 the year before.

Springvale Council had in 1981 granted a grant to \$1,000 from \$600 had the society

needed much more, so made a police appeal to which the public had responded well. Donations of \$1 and other are tax deductible.

FIRE LOSS

Society co-ordinator, Mrs W. Eggleston said major superannuation in Dandenong region. The money orders provided to needy people.

The meeting was held Springvale Council had plans to rebuild the storage shed recently destroyed by fire. The co-ordinator is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, on 561 8114.



ABOVE — Re-elected president of Mr John Beus thanks members of Springvale benevolent society appeal committee for a job well done. They are Len Coello, Stan Loughlan, Mary Bromley, Muriel Bear, Mary Johnson and Gwen Pae.



1980

Support group appeal

SPRINGVALE Benevolent Society has worked quietly in the community for the past 18 years, giving support to families and individuals in emergency situations.

In the past, the society has managed to provide its services through government and council grants, donations from local service clubs and through its own fund-raising efforts which have included street stalls, collections and garden parties.

In its early years, the society's expenditure was around 300 pounds, this year however, the club expects to spend between \$5000 and \$6000.

An increase in the number of people needing assistance, combined with a constant increase in the cost of living has meant the society will hold its first ever public appeal this year, to be launched next Tuesday night, by Springvale Mayor, Cr Bob Lufford.

In an effort to raise the much needed funds, the society has contacted all local churches, schools, politicians and businessmen.

The society hopes to raise \$5000.

Donations
President of the society, Mr John Beus stressed that donations are tax deductible.

One of the founding members of the society in Springvale, Mr Beus is devoted to helping people in need.

dividuals who are unable to provide for themselves, clothing and blankets for people in emergency situations, such as a family whose home has been destroyed by fire, and transport or petrol for job seekers.

Mr Beus blamed desertion by either a husband or wife as the main cause of an emergency situation. More than 90% of the people the society assisted were victims of desertion, he said.

Church
Needs also arise from accidents, unemployment, alcoholism, or a delay in the arrival of pension cheques.

Volunteers
Volunteers go out into the homes of those people who have been referred to the society by local churches, welfare workers, doctors or the police.

Home visits play an important part in the work of the benevolent society. The volunteer assesses the needs of families and helps them to focus on and solve their problems.

Mr Beus described the society as a bridge, helping people to cope until they receive a late pension cheque, or when they couldn't make ends meet.

The society never hands out cash to people in need. After an assessment is



SPRINGVALE City Council's 21st anniversary winter appeal is off and running.

It was launched by the mayor, Cr Barrie Stewart, who appeals for community support for the Benevolent Society.

Pictured with Cr Stewart, right, are the society's president, Mr John Beus and the senior social worker, Miss Jenny Slade.

1983

Society's value is proven

THE City of Springvale Benevolent Society had never failed to help people in trouble, the MLA for Noble Park, Mr Peter Collins, said at the launching of the society's third winter appeal.

Referring to the occasions when on behalf of constituents he had sought help from the society, Mr Collins said the society's value was proven "over and over again".

More than \$5000 was spent on food last year and if available more could have been spent.

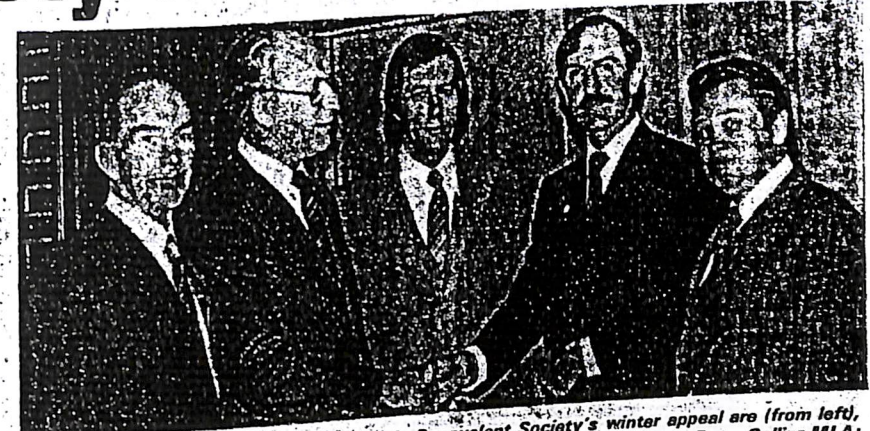
Mr Collins said: "I urge people to make cash donations to the society which requires a regular cash flow and reserves to meet unexpected emergencies."

Launching the appeal, outgoing Springvale Mayor Councillor Leon Trembath, advised prospective donors that all money received was used in relief work, and donations over \$2 were tax deductible.

Councillor Trembath said: "The society is a voluntary organisation, and donations would go straight to needy people and would not be absorbed in administrative costs."

"The society has the full support and confidence of Springvale Council."

Mr Collins supported Councillor Trembath's remarks, pointing out that "this great bunch of volunteers so ably led by John Beus and Wes Eggleston" would complete 20 years' public service next February.



PICTURED at the launching of Springvale Benevolent Society's winter appeal are (from left), patron Sid Hanson, of Springvale Rotary Club; society president John Beus; Peter Collins MLA; out-going Springvale Mayor, Councillor Leon Trembath; and society secretary-co-ordinator Wes Eggleston.

1982

Benevolent Society kept busy

CALLS for help by the community to the City of Springvale Benevolent Society continued to increase. President of the soci-

ty, Mr John Beus, reported last week.

Mr Beus said when the society started work in Springvale 23 years ago the population was 10,000... now it has escalated to 80,000.

1984

1985



Disco raises \$14,000

THE Dingley Blue Light disco which is supervised by the Springvale police has been running for just under three years.

During that time approximately \$14,000 of the profits of the disco have been donated to various charities and other worthy groups at the discretion of the committee.

At the disco of October 21, Sergeant Ray Gillespie of Springvale police made donations to representatives of the following groups — Springvale

Benevolent Society; Dingley Rotaract; Coomoora High School; Care Group; Springvale Community Youth Support Scheme; Salvation Army.

Pictured above at the presentation of the cheques were: (from left), Wes Eggleston (Benevolent Society), Gae Phillips (Care), John Beus (Benevolent Society), John Niere (Rotaract), Denis Maxwell (Coomoora), Ray Gillespie, Kevin Hudson (Salvation Army), Pauline Cunningham (CYSS) and Councillor Bob Warren of Springvale Council.

15 Sept. 1986

Benevolent meeting

DIRECTOR of Welfare Services for the City of Springvale, Jenny Slade, will be guest speaker at the Springvale Benevolent Society's annual general meeting on 23 September at 8pm in the meeting room, rear of the Springvale town hall.

The society will launch its 25th anniversary celebrations on 1 October.

18 Sept 1988

Benevolent Society meets

THE City of Springvale Benevolent Society will hold its annual general meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 September in the meeting room at the rear of Spring-

vale City Hall.

The guest speaker will be Springvale Council recreation officer Miss Deidre Anderson.

1992

Springvale Benevolent Society's proud history

A HIGHLIGHT of the recent supper party hosted by the Mayor of Springvale Cr Joan Sheen and councillors to celebrate the City of Springvale Benevolent Society's 30 years work in the municipality was the presentation of City of Springvale Certificates of Achievement to two society members.

President of the society, John Beus, and vice president, Joe Barbieri, were warmly congratulated on their three decades of dedicated service.

Tributes were also paid to the first Benevolent Society in Springvale and the work members achieved to help the less fortunate during the Great Depression also over the intervening years.

Secretary of the present society, Mr Wes Eggleston, who is also a wellknown and respected local charity worker, spent many hours painstakingly researching minutes of meetings to present a precis of the work of the society in Springvale over 60 busy years.

When he addressed guests at the 30th birthday Mr Eggleston said, in 1931, in Springvale, when the suburb was a section of the North Riding of the Shire of Dandenong, a branch was formed of a Ladies Benevolent Society.

At that time unemployment was at its peak as it was estimated 25 per cent of the workforce was unemployed. Of those who were fortunate enough to have work many were especially employed by the government to work at low rates on public works programs.

Early minutes of the Ladies Benevolent Society revealed that the first president was Mrs C. Burden, secretary, a Mrs Wahner and treasurer Mrs K Campbell of Kelvin Gv, Springvale.

Mrs Marion Billings, who has made such a significant input to the present Springvale Historical Society is a daughter of the late Mrs Burden and Mr Ron Burden of View Rd, Springvale, recently applauded his late mother for her concern for the suffering.

In those days relief was dispersed twice weekly from the Benevolent depot in the heart of Springvale's commercial area.

The first year 55 pounds 2 shillings and 11d was spent to give relief, and lengthy

Decades of service to the community



THE Mayor of Springvale, Cr Joan Sheen, presents Certificates of Achievement to Springvale Benevolent Society Workers since the inception of the new society 30 years ago John Beus and Joe Barbieri.

discussion took place concerning the purchase of a pair of boots for 10s9d. A child's pair of glasses was also among the purchases.

The second annual report showed 136 cases went through the society's hands but the society regretted it was "quite unable to meet the demand for footwear of all descriptions."

At Christmas time every family on sustenance received a Christmas cake.

As the Truby King centre was in the society's riding a pledge was made for members to do their best to co-operate with the centre to supply babies with milk and caralac, flannel, and flannelette. The flannelette was made into garments.

Another wellknown resident's name appeared frequently on the thank you list. Dr Luth was thanked for "professional services given so freely."

Mr Eggleston said it appears some of the early society's funding from the Charities Board was a "grant in common" with the Dandenong Society.

He said contention developed between Springvale and Dandenong.

In August 1934 mention was made of the Noble Park Benevolent Society, but, Mr Eggleston said, with that one exception no other mention was made of a society in Noble Park. In 1934 there was an epidemic of diphtheria and scarlet fever with extremely heavy demands on the society's funds for milk, medicine, Hypoi, clothing, footwear, and, in some cases, wood.

In 1938 needs remained for milk, calico for bandages, also wheels for a pram.

The meetings Mr Eggleston carefully traced over the years also told of the history of Springvale and Victoria mentioning the infantile paralysis epidemic and the strike by the unemployed.

The Second World War also figured largely in the minutes.

The society disbanded in 1955 when it was unable to keep up its membership.

In 1962 it again rose from the ashes when the present City of Springvale Benevolent Society was formed. Its role has not differed to the vital role played by the women of Springvale in the initial days of the society. To today's Recession of the 1990's from the Depression of the 1930's there has always been need in Springvale and, unfortunately, there always will be.

Mr Eggleston, stressed, however, he hopes the Benevolent Society will always be able to loan a helping hand.

Inquiries regarding the society can be made by phoning BH 546 8114 or AH: 546 1458.



1997

New president: Max Anstis with society stalwarts Pat and Albert Blashki.

Benevolence chief bows out

JOHN Beus has stepped down after 21 years as president of the Springvale Benevolent Society.

Mr Beus did not seek re-election at the society's annual general meeting last Tuesday and was replaced by another long-serving member of the committee, Max Anstis.

Society secretary Wes Eggleton paid tribute to Mr Beus's contribution to the organisation.

"He's served the Springvale Be-

nevolent Society since it re-formed in 1962 and he's been absolutely tireless," he said.

"He's deserving of a break."

Mayor Greg Harris, who attended the meeting, said he would arrange for Mr Beus to receive council recognition.

"He deserves a big pat on the back," Cr Harris said.

Mr Anstis, a long-time Springvale resident, said the recruitment

of more volunteers was one of his aims as the new president.

"We don't have enough of them, unfortunately, and we ask an awful lot of those we do have," he said.

The society had another busy year, receiving 1621 enquiries for emergency relief.

Almost \$48,000 worth of food vouchers were distributed to families and individuals in Springvale, Noble Park, Keysborough, South Clayton and Dingley.

2002

Benevolent duo

John Beus and Joe Barbieri were recognised for 40 years' service to Springvale

Benevolent Society at a ceremony earlier this month.

Federal Health and Ageing Minister Kay Patterson

presented them with framed letters of appreciation,

signed by Prime Minister John Howard, at her Clayton

office.

Picture: Liz Georges



