

WE PAY GLOWING tribute to those who have pioneered this great work—firstly to Sister Primrose and her Central Committee, and her devotion to the work; to Sister Williams, who did a tremendous amount of spade work in the early years; to the Shire Council for their continued help and interest always; to the late Dr. Vera Scantlebury Brown, who was always an inspiration, urging us on and on; to the late Mr. James Tweddle for his financial help at the Spring Vale Centre; to ex-Cr. A. B. Wilson, who was a tower of strength in the early pioneering days; to the late Mr. K. McAlpin, who was Shire Secretary at the time; to the Ladies' Committees, past and present, of Dandenong, Spring Vale and Noble Park, who have so consistently worked and helped, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

SISTER REES resigned from the Centre work in May, 1951, after 12 years of sterling service, and Sister Williams completes 20 years of service with the Shire Council at the end of this year and will be giving up the work then—a work she has dearly loved and I'm sure will miss tremendously.

TO THE SISTERS who will follow on, we sincerely hope they will find the work interesting and wish them every success. We know Sister Williams will always be intensely interested in Dandenong and District, especially in the work amongst the mothers and babies there.

**PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SISTER WILLIAMS:**

TO THE present Committee of Ladies, with Mrs. C. Caithness as president, Mrs. H. Davidson as secretary, and Mrs. Edgoose as treasurer, and particularly to the new members joining this year, we would say: Carry on, and do all you can for the young generation of today. They will be our men and women of tomorrow and in their hands will be the destiny of this fair land of ours.

“Dandenong Journal” Print

# Twenty Years Of Infant Welfare Work In Dandenong



With The Compliments of the Ladies of the  
Dandenong Infant Welfare Committee.



## ‘Home & Family’ Week

OCT. 29 — NOV. 4, 1951

**TOWARDS THE END OF 1931**, Sister Maud Primrose, who was trained in Infant Welfare work under the late Truby King — the world's authority on Infant Welfare—and who worked with him at the Karitane Hospital, Dunedin, New Zealand, visited Dandenong Shire Council to consult with them on the need for Infant Welfare work in their district. She was very favorably received and it was not long before the Shire Council, with the help of Miss Primrose's Central Committee, purchased the necessary equipment and obtained the use of a room in the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Langhorne St, for two days each week. Here the Infant Welfare work commenced.

**SISTER CATHERINE WILLIAMS** was asked by Sister Primrose to take over the position of Sister-in-Charge and she commenced work there on December 1st, 1931. Sister Williams was a triple certificated Sister, having done her general training at the Castlemaine Base Hospital; midwifery training at the Women's Hospital, Carlton, and Infant Welfare training at the Tweddle Hospital for Babies, at Footscray. She also had three years with the Army Nursing Service during the 1914-18 War, and was overseas most of that time.

A COMMITTEE of local ladies was then formed to help the Shire Council, the first president being Mrs. Eric Hill, and the first secretary Mrs. P. Smale, these two ladies still being attached to the committee. Also on that committee were the late Mrs. Masters, Mrs. Brodie and Miss Hayman, who did sterling work in their time; Mesdames Godfrey, Smale, McAlpin, Roulston, Kerr-Paterson, Moore, Bence, Moyses were also early members.

**AFTER BEING** four years at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall the council had the old Tennis Pavilion in the Park converted into a nice little building and the Ladies' Committee worked hard and soon had the little place looking most attractive.

**ABOUT THAT TIME**, Spring Vale and Noble Park Progress Association had approached the council with the request that the Sister should visit these places once a week, and after calling public meetings in these places, Ladies' Committees were formed. Rooms were acquired, equipment purchased and Sister visited Spring Vale every Wednesday, and Noble Park early Monday afternoon for a number of years. The late Cr. Burden was a great help to the committee at Spring Vale in financing them in the beginning of the work there.

**THE WORK GREW** tremendously, and in 1939 another Sister—Sister Rees — was appointed and worked with Sister Williams and did wonderful work also.

*Sister Williams also attended Kilmore once a week for nearly 18 months - until a Sub. was appointed*

A NEW CENTRE was built at Spring Vale and was officially opened by Lady Irvine in 1939. The little building in the Park was transferred to Noble Park and Sister Rees took charge of that Centre and also assisted at Dandenong.

**DANDENONG CENTRE** then functioned at the Presbyterian Sunday School for over 12 months whilst a new building was being erected on the original site—the Park. This was officially opened in November, 1941, by Lady Gowrie.

**WE ALSO HAD** requests to open Centres at Upper Beaconsfield, Berwick and Carrum Downs. Sisters Primrose and Williams visited the councillors in these areas and it was not long before these Centres were in action and were worked by the Dandenong Sister for quite a long time, until the Department of Health arranged that these Shires should have their own Sister. Since then the work has gone on and on.

**PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES** were established as a continuation of the work and are now functioning at each of the Shire's Centres with trained staff in charge.