

## I'm sorry for the teen-agers, says a reporter after a Sunday survey



A lonely stroll—nothing else to do.

# The day of the aimless

**T**HE scene was one of the art galleries in the National Museum, Swanston St. The time was about 3 p.m. yesterday, but it could have been any Sunday.

Enter five youths, darting amused glances at the paintings. One saunters over to an £8500 Dobell and runs a grubby hand across it.

"Don't touch the exhibits, please," says a uni-

formed attendant with stoic restraint, and the youth moves on.

Aside, the attendant asks me: "Do you know why they're here today?"

"It is because it's free and they have nothing else to do. They come here to try to pick up girls.

"Every Sunday is the same. They can't keep their hands off anything. We've got to have police here to keep them under control."

The attendant had my sympathy. But, after spending yesterday trying to find out how Melbourne people spend their Sun-

days, I think the youths may deserve some too.

For many young people aged between 13 and 21, this city on Sundays must be a dreary place.

Probably most children do not find it so bad. They usually have the knack of amusing themselves.

Adults, too, can often beat boredom, pottering about their gardens or escaping by car to the beach or the hills.

But where is the entertainment for restless teen-agers without a car, with limited money and with none of the responsibilities later life brings?

I saw them everywhere

by IAN  
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[he is 27]

yesterday, wandering aimlessly or lounging about — on street corners, outside milk bars, in parks, along the beach-front. But it was too cold for all but the bravest to swim.

This is where they could have gone, apart from the Museum:

● **Music for the People**, at the Myer Music Bowl.

The crowd of thousands did include a good sprinkling of teen-agers.

● **The Zoo**.

Again the attendance ran into thousands, but parents with young children predominated. There were some young couples on the lawns. But the Zoo probably isn't a place they would want to go to every week.

● **A speed-boat regatta** on Albert Park Lake, with disc jockeys and an athletic event added.

This had more appeal for the teen-agers and for older children, but again it would not have been to everyone's taste.

● **The Yarra Bank soap-box gathering**.

Here, the speakers seem to have lost their old fire and, judging by the attendance, most of their appeal.

**P**UBLIC and private sporting facilities, like golf links and ten-pin bowling alleys, were also available to those able to pay. But many young people could find the cost beyond them.

Most near-city golf courses were packed, though — suggesting we could do with more.

In the suburbs there was the great new week-end attraction, display houses. These are wonderful for engaged couples and young marrieds, but again of no interest to the problem age group.

Adolescents, it seems, on Sundays have practically nothing to do and nowhere to go.

Most seem sure to welcome the State Government's move for picture shows on Sunday nights.

They would be even more delighted if theatres were permitted to open on Sunday afternoons, as suggested on Saturday by the Lord Mayor, Cr Curtis.

And not only teen-agers would benefit — in the city and inner suburbs scores of strolling adults, especially migrants, reflected in their faces the boredom of a Melbourne Sunday afternoon.