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national

report

1962-63

NATIONAL REPORT 1962 - 1963

It is my honour and privilege to present, on behalf of the National Executive, the National Report of the Young Christian Workers' Movement, for the period from 1st August, 1962 to 31st July, 1963.

INTRODUCTION

The report is presented primarily to aid discussion at the National Council Meeting. Therefore it is framed in a manner, from a National viewpoint, which it is hoped will allow for easy reference at the Council.

Our task at Council is three-fold:-

1. Together we must re-discover the needs, problems and difficulties of the young workers in Australia.
2. To review the action of the Movement during the past year.
3. In light of the discoveries made, both successes and failures, to plan the action of the Movement for the next twelve months.

In order to do this we must examine the situation, the life of young workers. Then, with this in mind, we must consider the action and situation of the Movement at all levels. An attempt is made to this in the report.

It is hoped that all those who are interested in the work of the Y.C.W., and who share in its work will give real thought to the issues raised.

The report is presented under the following headings.

- SECTION 1. "SITUATION OF YOUNG WORKERS IN AUSTRALIA"
- SECTION 2. "THE TRUTH OF FAITH"
- SECTION 3. "THE Y.C.W. IN AUSTRALIA"
- (a) Geographical picture.
 - (b) At the Group Level.
 - (c) At the Diocesan Level.
 - (d) At the National Level.
 - (e) Our role in the International Y.C.W.

The following appendices are also included:-

- (a) Key Leaders School.
- (b) Statistical Report.
- (c) Publications.

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SECTION 1.

"SITUATION OF YOUNG WORKERS"

The effect of leaving home to begin work, on a young fellow varies with the age of the individual, but it can be safely said that the first years at work have a great bearing on his attitudes to work, home and leisure.

His experiences at this stage are either crippling his outlook, or if he can overcome them effectively, helping him to a broader understanding of life. Many fall into the first category.

Whilst at school they have lived in a somewhat sheltered world and have had most things provided for them, and they have learned to accept them. These things have been good and beneficial, but once they are away from the guidance of the home, they are readily influenced by those with whom they come in contact with.

Their advancement in their employment is usually dependent on the amount of study they do, as also, to some degree is their leisure time. With the variety of entertainment available, it is usually the study that suffers.

They feel that they are no longer in a position to be guided by their parents on such matters as saving, sex, etc. Earning good money, many rush into Hire Purchase agreements without studying the dangers involved.

The change also tends to affect their outlook. Many become discontented and suffer from "Home-sickness" and the "Blues". They can overcome these by letting off steam during leisure hours.

(Extract from paper presented to N.S.W. State Conference by Lismore Diocesan Executive.)

- Bill, a seventeen year old apprentice tossed away his apprenticeship to earn £17 a week as a labourer, only reason for doing this was to earn more money.

- Mike, migrated to Australia from England with his family five years ago. He began working for an advertising agency running messages. All went well for a while, he was promoted to junior executive. Then his family shifted to the other side of the city. Mike had to make new friends - he found them at the local fish shop. He threw in his lot with the "leather jacket brigade", as they were the only ones who would talk to him. The gangs hobbies were joy riding in stolen cars, playing chicken and starting fights at the local drive in.
- Joe spent all his wages, in one night, playing the poker machines.
- Peter has been buying many things on hire purchase, he finds now that he is unable to meet the payments.
- Many fellows soon after leaving school begin getting drunk at parties.
- Terry, who is working in a bank, gave up his studies after three months, because they were too hard and took up too much time.
- One young fellow in the district is 17, he is very lonely, his father died three years ago, his mother is an alcoholic, he is now in the first year of his apprenticeship and he has no confidence in himself.

The preceding facts have been found by National Executive Members whilst on visitation, or have come to the National Office in minutes or in reports.

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In a report of this nature it is difficult, in fact impossible, to pen a picture that will show the situation of young workers in Australia.

Whilst it is perhaps true to say that the problems, needs and difficulties of young workers are basically the same e.g. selfishness, attitude to girls, lack of suitable employment, failure to see the need to save, lack of respect for authority. It would be wrong to say that this is the situation of young workers in Australia.

This is something that must be continually re-discovered, at all levels of the Movement. Sometimes we may think that we know a young worker, but they are continually changing. One day we know him, the next day we don't, because he may have changed. He may have failed an exam, the film he saw last night has had an effect on him, he may have had a row with his father. Because of any one of these things, his life has been changed, he is now a different person.

The first essential of the Y.C.W. is to know the life of the young workers we are responsible for, those living in the district, those we work with, those we go to Tech. with, those we meet at the dance hall.

The examples of young workers given are pretty typical of the ones discovered from reports and on visitation.

Very few facts relating to the goodness that exists in young workers, their willingness to help someone in need have been discovered.

It is also true that few problems relating to preparation for marriage are being faced up to e.g. how many groups would be discovering facts like this?

- Kevin is a twenty year old apprentice printer, he has a good personality, is the third eldest in a family of seven, he is a well equipped fellow and knows what life is about. He recently spent £400 on a second hand car, and within a few months had to spend a further £30 on repairs to it. Does he realise that he will be unable to get a block of land under £1,000 or have to pay at least £10 a week for a flat?

These issues are raised in the hope that you will reflect on how well you know the life of the young workers in your area. Do we really know the young workers, do we know all of them, do we only know one section of them? Do we know the good aspects of their life, do we only know their needs? What is the situation of young workers in your area?

SECTION 2.

"THE TRUTH OF FAITH"

In previous pages we have dealt with the situation of young workers in Australia. We have discovered that the first essential of the Y.C.W. is to know the life of the young workers.

After these discoveries have been made it is always essential to look at them in the light of the Truth of Faith, because without an understanding of these Truths, so many of the small discoveries that we place so much emphasis on will have little or no meaning.

It is because the Y.C.W. is inspired by and based on the Truths of Faith taught by the Church, that we believe:-

- God has made each human being a person in the image of Himself, giving to each young worker a dignity and a value which is sacred.
- Each person has an eternal destiny, and as a consequence of this:-
- Each has a God given personal vocation and mission.
- Each is called to be a collaborator with God.

The Y.C.W. calls to each young worker and says, "Young workers you are not machines, you are not animals, you are not slaves. You are destined to be the Sons, the collaborators, the heirs of God." (Monsignor Cardijn).

- The vocation and mission of working youth and of the whole working mass is their own. In its fulfillment, they are irreplaceable.
- Little wonder then that the Y.C.W. teaches us to respect our fellow man, so important and irreplaceable is he in the plan of God.
- These young workers, who are within the Church are here and now entrusted with this mission of making Christ's life known to the young workers.

The mere stating or reading of these truths cannot be really effective. However, when we discover a situation, the concrete reality of a young workers life and then judge this in the light of these truths, we begin to realise the great contradiction that Monsignor Cardijn has so often spoken about.

It is not until we can look at a young worker and his needs, positively, i.e. to discover what he can be doing, what he has a right to be doing, that he has right to share in Christ's work of the Redemption, will we have a truly Apostolic Laity.

This of course will come from a slow, progressive formation. It must not be forced upon any young worker. They must first be led to discover, what they can do, in their own daily life, and what the needs of their fellow young workers, who they meet in their daily life are.

With this in mind, let us now look at the situation of the Y.C.W. in Australia.

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SECTION 3.

"THE Y.C.W. IN AUSTRALIA"

(a) GEOGRAPHICAL PICTURE

It is nearly twenty two years since the first Y.C.W. groups were established in Australia.

Since that time the Y.C.W. has spread into every State of Australia, and it is now established in eighteen Dioceses.

This fact in itself is living proof that the Y.C.W. is being accepted. So many of our Bishops see the Movement as a vital part in the life of the Church in their Diocese. We also have many groups, in which the members are discovering their Apostolate to their fellow young workers and accepting their place in the Church.

The Y.C.W. is established in the major cities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Perth, Brisbane, Hobart and Newcastle.

Groups are in existence in provincial cities like Townsville, Wagga, Bunbury, Bendigo and Lismore.

Further, a sign of the adaptability of the Movement is the fact that it is found in small towns like Peak Hill, Canowindra, Dardanup, Clifton and Tumut.

Australia, because it is such a vast country presents many problems to the geographical extension of the Movement.

However, we find many young workers who are making great sacrifices to overcome these problems. We have the example of a group President who travelled 600 miles each way to attend a Presidents Training Week-end, others made a round trip of over 1,500 miles to attend a State Conference. Then we have others who each year make a trip of 2,000 - 3,000 miles to attend the National Council. These sacrifices are many times overlooked, surely they show a sign of loyalty and dedication to their task of being Apostles to their fellow young workers.

Despite these difficulties, we can take pride in the fact that there is the unity in the Movement that we have today.

This unity and the strength of the Movement in so many different places, is encouraging to all who are actively engaged in the work of the Movement.

One of the highlights of the past year has been the development of the Y.C.W. in various parts of N.S.W. We refer in particular to the Lismore and Maitland Dioceses. This has been due in no small way to work of Extension Workers. Frank Barber spent six weeks in Lismore at the end of last year, and Frank Sheehan spent six months in Newcastle after the last Council. Their task in these places was not one of "teachers", rather they were there to assist Chaplains and Leaders alike to discover the needs of the young workers.

Another significant factor has been the holding of two Chaplains Days. One was held at Young during March, and another at Cowra during June. Over twenty five priests attended both of these days. The opportunity to come together and discuss their role as Chaplains was welcomed by all who attended.

Whilst we can gain satisfaction from the progress that has been made, we must always be on guard against the danger of becoming complacent.

Progress has been made and is being made in many places. In other places the Movement is at a standstill. In every Diocese there is a need for a slow progressive development, there is still new ground to be broken.

This should serve as a constant reminder to those who are responsible for the development and expansion of the Movement.

With groups established in so many places, we have a solid foundation. It is on this that we must build. There is much to be done in the way of expansion and consolidation.

If we take Monsignor Cardijn's famous phrase, "Every day we begin again", as our guide, this expansion and consolidation will come.

(b) AT THE GROUP LEVEL

The Y.C.W. begins at the group level. The first and essential unit in the Y.C.W. is the parish Leader's Group. It is from this group of young workers that everything else grows. From the discoveries that they make comes the general branch, teams, services and contact with other youth organisations. It is upon the vision that Leaders in the Parish group gain that everything else depends.

1. LEADER'S GROUP

- John is a young apprentice at a garage, he has been serving petrol for six months. After discussing this with the boss and not getting any results, he decided to leave the job. However, a Leader learning of this, spoke to John's boss, and not having any success, helped John in drafting a letter to the Apprenticeship Commission.

- A Y.C.W.'s boss often does work for a builder who does second rate work. The builder tells him that he doesn't care how rough the work is as long as it is cheap.

- "I helped a fellow at work who is earning £8 per week to work out a budget. He often comes to me with problems now and seeks my advice on various matters."

These are a few examples of discoveries being made by Leaders in different parts of Australia.

PERSONAL DISCOVERY

"It is essential that young workers make personal discoveries, arrive at personal conclusions, form personal convictions, otherwise there will be no true and lasting formation."

(Y.C.W. FUNDAMENTALS).

Sometimes, we feel that it is easy for Chaplains and experienced Leaders to be giving advice, to tell Leaders what they can do or what they must do. To do this is wrong, because it is from personal discoveries that a true and lasting formation will come.

It must be remembered that the young worker himself knows best the situation he is reporting on, he knows that he has limitations, he knows what he can do and what he can't do. Sometimes at a meeting we hear Leaders being asked to do things that are beyond them, they accept what they are asked or told to do, because they perhaps are too shy or frightened to refuse.

This example may help us to understand the importance of this:-

- Ken reported at a meeting that a migrant named Joe, had just started at his place of work. Joe couldn't speak English very well, and being a quick tempered and very exitable character, was not very well liked.

The group in discussing this, made all types of suggestions as to what Ken should do. It was not until the President asked Ken what he thought he could do, that the discussion had any effect. Ken thought that he could buy a "Coke" for Joe next day. This he did and from then on he began to build up a friendship, because, with the assistance of the group he had PERSONALLY DISCOVERED what he could do.

* This then, is the first essential. Leaders must be led to make personal discoveries.

It is not a matter of lecturing them, of telling them what they can do, it is a matter of them being led to make these discoveries for themselves.

* What is the situation in our own groups? Are we patient, do we try and lead them to make these discoveries for themselves? This is so basic that perhaps we have forgotten the importance of it.

* In our desire to help them we may often be robbing them of the opportunity to make these discoveries, this matter we feel needs to be given a lot of thought.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ACTION

After these discoveries have been made and action is resulting from them, Leaders will begin to want to know why they must keep doing them, what is the importance in them? This is also something that must not be forced on them, rather it must come in time, something that must come as they begin to realise the need for it.

We don't know if this was done or not, but on the example of Ken's discovery, what was the significance in this action? Could the group give an example of any other migrant, could not the passage of the Holy Family and their flight into Eyypt be used? How was Our Lord treated, was He accepted, was He liked? After all who is Joe, is not he Christ too?

* Is this the type of significance being given to the action and the discoveries that Leaders throughout Australia are making at the moment? Are our Leaders being shown this type of significance to their actions?

We feel that these issues are ones that Council must face up to. A great amount of emphasis is being placed at this Council on a study of the Y.C.W. at the group level, perhaps Council could consider these issues.

BASED ON LIFE

As has been stated earlier in this report, the Y.C.W. is based on life, not a life divorced from the life of a Leader, but his life and the life of those with whom he mixes, the district in which he lives, and the place in which he and his mates work.

Therefore, the Y.C.W. is to be adapted to meet the needs of the young workers in these places.

Many times we hear that a Campaign does not work in such and such a place, the Y.C.W. does not work here because we tried it and the Campaign failed.

We realise only too well the limitations of what is printed in a book, but if the life of the people in a particular town or place of work is known, could not the Campaigns that have been produced over the past few years have been adapted to suit the needs of the young workers?

- An example of this was seen during the International Campaign conducted during May. Peak Hill, a rural town with a population of 1,200 people, in mid-west N.S.W., could not form a Committee to organise the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. The local Y.C.W. group discovering this, volunteered to do the job. A combined meeting of boys and girls was called, and they discussed what they would do. It was decided to hold a dance, an admission of ten shillings would be charged and a rice supper served. They invited the members of other organisations to share in the work. To ensure the success of the dance they decided to visit every home in the town, explain the reason for the dance, what they were trying to do, and invite everyone to attend the dance.

In the process of doing this, they collected £180 for the Appeal, £70 was raised at the dance, making a total of £250 raised from 1,200 people.

From this we can learn four things:-

1. The Y.C.W. being adapted to suit the life of the town.
2. Co-operation existing between both sections of the Movement. (A matter that perhaps needs to be given consideration, that both sections of the Movement can come together not only at a social, but more important to act on the needs of the town or of young workers.

3. A bringing together of various youth Movements, not just to discuss what they are doing but share their work.
4. Making the Y.C.W. known in the town for what it is:- Creating a public image of a Movement made up of ordinary young workers who are concerned for people.

CHAPLAINS

We are very thankful for the fact that we have so many priests, who despite their many burdens give so much of their time and energy to the Y.C.W.

The role of a Chaplain in the Y.C.W. is a very difficult one to understand, Monsignor Cardijn says, "The Chaplain is everything and yet he is nothing".

His first task is to know the life of the President. In doing this he can help the President to discover what we could call "his mission field", or his apostolate.

In doing this he will be assisting the President to discover the life of the other Leaders, and the life of other young workers in the district.

The Chaplain must know the life of the people in his parish and learn from the President and Leaders the life of the people with whom they mix. I remember, being at a meeting of a new group recently, those chosen for the group were discussing a few of the problems of fellows they worked with and a few of the fellows around the district. The chaplain's remark after this was, "I don't know the problems of the young workers, I will never know them, unless you tell me".

Unless the chaplain does know their lives, won't the spiritual formation that he gives them be an artificial one? It is only through the chaplain learning the life of the young worker, and basing his guidance on that life that any progress, lasting formation or spirituality will come.

Leaders must be led to discover. After this will come the need for them to be shown some significance in these actions, no matter how small they may appear.

Are we not to hope that Leaders will discover that it is not really they, who do the actions, but rather it is Christ working in and with them?

The final aspect is that their apostolate is not only exercised for the Y.C.W., but that they have a commitment to the Church, they, the young worker apostles, are the Church.

This matter of formation and spirituality is one that we feel needs a great deal of attention. It is raised in the report, in the hope that Chaplains will see the need to get together to discuss their role in the Y.C.W. Progress is being made, reference has been made earlier in the Report to the Chaplain's Days that were held in N.S.W., others are being held in other parts of the country, it is our fervent wish that they will extend and become a more regular event in many other parts of the country.

Through these meetings and the sharing of ideas that will come, Chaplains will be able to more fully realise their important role.

Is it not the Chaplain's role to assist the Leaders to discover their role, their apostolate, and their mission field, and to ensure that their action in these areas is always in keeping with the mandate as set down by the Bishop of the Diocese?

2. GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are being held by groups in all parts of Australia. Frequency of these meetings range from weekly to quarterly. It is not intended in this report to state the pros and cons of how frequently these meetings should be held. The planning of these should be left to the discretion of the Diocesan Executive who in co-operation with the local members, know the needs of the young workers in the district best.

What we feel the Council could give consideration to, is the question:-

What is the Apostolate of the General Member?

At present we find the General Members being asked to share in the action of the Movement in the following ways:

- Sandhurst: One branch took a group of Asian Students on a tour of the factories in the district, and mixed with them at a meeting that evening.
- Lismore: General Meetings are held monthly - discussions or guest speakers on subjects treated in the Campaign.
- Adelaide: Several General branches have been involved by taking part in organising International nights.
- Melbourne: Branches often hold discussion groups and get all General Members to discuss aspects of the Campaign.

* Many reports have also been received on how general members have been asked to share in the work of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and local door-knock appeals. When asked to do this they have, from all reports, responded very well.

Another example is shown in the fact that two branches in Adelaide have combined to do any voluntary work required at an orphanage.

Still, too often it is felt, the general branch is looked upon only as a field of influence for Leaders. Often Leaders become self-satisfied when they succeed in winning a young worker to the General Branch, and their action ceases at this point.

The Y.C.W. is a Missionary Movement, too often we hear the General Meeting referred to as a club. The mission of the Y.C.W. is to take Christ to the Young Workers. General Members must be given the opportunity to share in the Apostolate of the Leaders, and led to discover their own Apostolate.

Therefore, those who are attending General Meetings, should be actively engaged in this mission of taking Christ to the young workers. It is not something that they are asked to do occasionally, during special events, but they must be continually given the opportunity to share in the work of the Movement.

The special month of action, International Month, May, 1963, gave them this opportunity. From reports, this was apparently very successful, in all places that participated in it.

* Could Council give direction on whether or not this special month of action is to become a regular feature of our work, and if so, what lines should be adopted for it during the coming year?

- The type of action the General Members can share in, must come from a knowledge of the life of the young workers who attend. If they are to keep coming they must feel that the Y.C.W. is theirs; that they can feel part of it; that they can decide on the action undertaken by their branch.

* Given the opportunity, they will accept a responsibility in anything they can feel part of, in anything they can see a need for. This was seen in the International Month, in helping at the orphanage. Other examples have been seen in Melbourne and Adelaide.

* - The gaol visitation team in Melbourne appealed through general meetings for books that they could take to prisoners, many hundreds of books were collected.

- The Catholic fellows at the Reformatory in Adelaide are allowed to go to a Y.C.W. general meeting once a month. Various branches take it in turn to entertain these fellows. As well as giving friendship to them, follow up work when they are released is often undertaken by General Members.

What is the present role of your general meeting? Can this be improved? What is the Apostolate of the General Member? Those responsible for this planning should give more thought to these matters. Already attempts are being made and small enquiries being conducted, discussions on various problems, a sharing in the action is being given. A further development of these attempts must be made.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A quick glance at appendix (b), will reveal the following:-

- Sandhurst Diocese has 80 Leaders, 25 team members, plus 100 general members, making a total of 205 who attend General Meetings, and yet the number who pay subscriptions is 97!

This Diocese is used as an example to show how few, who are claimed to be members are paying subscriptions. Why is it that so many of our members are not paying subscriptions? Is it because they are not being asked? Is it because those responsible for the collection of subscriptions do not understand the importance of them, or are afraid to ask?

This matter has been thrashed out at every National Council during the past three or four years! Is it time we gave up collecting subscriptions, and try and raise our finance through other means? Or do we continue to try and lead our members to discover the importance of his subscription?

Monsignor Cardijn has this to say about it. "They say it is better for them just to attend meetings. How many do you have at the meetings? 50 -60. How many of them are members? Ten pay subscriptions. They think they are Y.C.W.'s. We deceive them by letting them think so: we deceive the Church, youth, the working class."

Have we really thought over these words, have we ever prayed about them, or are we content to go on deceiving the young workers so that we can have large numbers at our meetings?

We have seen earlier in this report how much goodness exists in the young workers. Have we discovered how we can development this goodness?

We have come to expect young workers to give up their jobs for a few years, to give up earning good money to work full time, but we have not come to expect young workers to pay 1/- a week subscription.

The work of the Movement is being stifled at all levels because of this failure.

This Council Meeting will not be facing up to its responsibilities unless it earnestly and sincerely considers the whole matter of subscriptions.

Motion
MEMBERSHIP

The Y.C.W. as well as being a Movement, is at the same time an organisation. To carry out their mission effectively, young workers must be organised.

They do take part in meetings, but they do not have affiliation or membership cards, they do not wear the badge.

Council must also give consideration to membership. Are our members registered, do they wear the badge? A motion on this from the National Executive will aid discussion on this topic.

3. SERVICES

- Bill and a few of his mates visited Tom when he was in hospital.
- A few of the boys are carrying on the work of cleaning up yards in the homes of a few pensioners in the parish.
- "I have been going around to Paul's place one night each week, for six months now. He is now able to speak and understand English a little better."
- "That guy who is down from the country and living in the district seems to be pretty lonely. I'll go around and see him tomorrow and invite him out to bowls."

These are a few examples of personal services that are being carried out by Y.C.W.'s in different parts of the country.

This is the first and essential type of Y.C.W. service that is being carried out by Y.C.W.'s in different parts of the country.

It must be encouraged and developed. If significance is being given to this type of service, it will be continued, and motivated by the thought that it is Christ's work. Unless this significance is given to this type of service, it will only be done through goodwill, and real value from these important services will not eventuate.

As well as personal service, the Y.C.W. has many organised services at the group level. These include:

Spiritual: Retreats, Days of Recollection, Monthly Communion Sundays.

Sporting: Basketball, Football, Tennis and Cricket Teams.

Social: Picnics, Hikes, Record Evenings, Dances, etc.

It cannot be denied that these services in many places are meeting the needs of so many young workers. Leaders are given the opportunity of meeting and mixing with young workers whom they would otherwise never be able to meet.

The opportunity is also given to share some responsibility with young workers who may never be able to come to a meeting. Once this responsibility is accepted there is given the opportunity of development for the young worker. He feels wanted, he feels accepted, something that is terribly important to so many young workers. Encouragement and guidance must go hand in hand with this responsibility, so that the task of accepting responsibility in organising a service, becomes for the young worker a training in life.

Always with the organised Y.C.W. service there is a danger that a service may be started just for the sake of having it. As with all Y.C.W. work there must first be established, is there a need for it? Having discovered that such a need exists, and having young worker apostles who will be mixing with those who are participating in the service, and being able to give responsibility to other young workers, we have a true Y.C.W. service..

Because our services, for so long, have been based on the idea of offering young workers an integral part of the Y.C.W. Is it possible that we have overlooked the value in establishing services through which young workers can give something to each other?

With the prison or reformatory visitation services established in Melbourne, Ballarat and Adelaide, this type of work is being done, but because of its very nature, specialists are required.

However, the work of visiting the sick or the aged does not require trained personnel. In many places, young workers and others lie in bed for weeks without anyone visiting them.

Many groups, we feel, could give thought to this type of service. Also under this service, could be included giving of blood. In all centres blood donors are required. *New York*

This work is surely within the field of the Apostolate of the Y.C.W. Any group undertaking this work would be giving a lead to the rest of Australia, in a field in which there is a great need for work to be done.

There is still also much to be done in the field of Co-operatives. The Co-operative Movement and Housing Society under the guidance of former Y.C.W members, who have dedicated their lives to this work, continues to progress and offers not only a valuable, but an essential service to the young workers of Victoria.

Although some Dioceses may be restricted in this field because of State Legislation, investigations could be made which may lead to the establishment of such an essential service.

(c) AT THE DIOCESAN LEVEL

Through group minutes and visitation, the Diocesan Executive in Lismore discovered that the lack of apprenticeship in particular, and lack of employment for school leavers were being discussed by a few groups in the Diocese.

After making a few enquiries themselves, and reviewing the action of the groups, they decided that there was quite a problem in the Diocese on these matters. As a result, a survey form was drawn up and circulated to all groups. Results of the survey showed that in one town only, five out of sixty seven Leaving Certificate students obtained employment in their home town. Of 212 who left school last year in another town, only 73 obtained employment, most of these in casual employment.

Following this, the Lismore branch contacted the local Council, and presented facts to them. The night that the Council discussed the situation, the Chaplain and Leaders Group attended the meeting. The Mayor of the town complimented them on their work, and paid tribute to them for the fact of attending the meeting. "This", he said, "is the first time we have had anyone interested enough to attend a Council Meeting".

The results of this work of groups bringing to notice some of the problems that are being faced by young people, because work is not available in their home town, is not yet known, but efforts are still being made by the local Council and are being supported by the Y.C.W. group.

Assisting Groups with their action

* The preceding facts are presented in the Report, because they show how Diocesan Executives should be assisting groups with their action.

From Diocesan Report forms and from visitation it appears that the main concern of most of the fourteen Diocesan Executives is administration, correspondence, finance, and services, rather than assisting groups with their action.

Whilst it cannot be denied that these things constitute part of their work and require attention, they should never be given precedence over the Executive members, continual discovery and knowledge of the life of the Young Workers.

How many Executive meetings give formation to the members for their own Apostolate?

Visitation to the Area should be part of our role.

Visitation

- Garry, before going to a Leaders Group Meeting would always arrive in the parish an hour or two before the meeting was due to start. He would spend this time visiting a few of the milk bars, the billiard saloon or driving around the district to observe what was going on.

This would help him to gain some understanding of the district. Through this, he would be better equipped to assist the group to make some discoveries about the life of the young people in the area.

The role of an Executive member or Regional Organiser on visitation should be to assist the group in making discoveries, to perhaps in some instances give some significance to the action they are carrying out, and to see if their action can be carried any further.

His visit should not always be to the meeting, often times far more can be achieved by spending a couple of hours with the Chaplain or President and talking about the life of the leaders in the group, and the life of the young workers in the district.

In many Dioceses where distance is a big obstacle to regular visitation, the importance of studying minutes cannot be over emphasised. Well recorded minutes forwarded regularly to Diocesan H.Q., or if there is no Diocesan H.Q., to the National Office, can assist in following the progress of a group.

Judging by the few minutes and reports from Dioceses received at the National Office, it would appear, minutes being sent out of groups is a thing of the past. Some action on this seems most desirable.

SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING

Training houses for supplementary training are now being used by the Y.C.W. in the Dioceses of Adelaide, Ballarat, Sandhurst, Perth, Melbourne and Wagga. In Hobart, Archbishop Young agreed to the sale of the present training house in order to find one in a more convenient locality.

The use of these houses has given a great boost to supplementary training in these Dioceses.

Whilst none of the Diocesan Executives would be completely happy with the programmes that are being planned, and the type of training given, experiments are taking place. The experiments are no doubt working towards a type of training that is nearer to the life of the young workers attending.

It is not our intention in this report to give a "Blue print" for supplementary training, this must always be based on the life of the young workers who attend, and the life of the young workers with whom they mix. This is best known by the groups themselves, and those responsible for working out the programmes. Always this task must be left to them.

Supplementary training is an ideal opportunity for the launching of a Campaign. In many instances it is at Training Days/Weekends, that this is done. However, from reports, there is little done in reviewing the action that stems from a Campaign. Perhaps this could be tried at Training Days/Weekends.

Specialised training is also being experimented with. At least two Dioceses have conducted weekends for advanced Leaders. The programmes for these have been fairly flexible. This allows the participants to discuss their mission field, how they are succeeding, where they are failing, and together discover what more they can do.

One aspect still not covered to the best of our knowledge, is supplementary training for Leaders doing the same type of work. At present all our supplementary training is being geared towards the parish group.

In view of the fact that the Movement will be involved in a work Campaign next year, we could imagine some very worthwhile discoveries made and fields for action opened up by the bringing together of a group of farmers, or a group of technicians, or a group of bank officers, etc., etc. Dioceses with training centres could well consider this proposal.

Whilst this training is, as its name suggests, supplementary to the training received through performing, as well as we can, the little actions of our daily life, and the training received at the weekly leader's meeting, much more thought must be given to it, if it is to be really effective.

Dioceses without training centres, and where distances present greater problems will be considered in the report under National level - Mutual Aid.

FULL TIME WORKERS

The formation of a truly Apostolic Laity, is being assisted in four Dioceses by the dedication and work of full time workers. Their spirit of sacrifice, generosity and untiring efforts is a continual source of inspiration to all who come into contact with them.

Present day full time workers are:

Adelaide:	Garry McDonald	Secretary/Organiser.
Ballarat:	Pat Goggin	President/Organiser.
	Jim Caddy	Secretary/Organiser.
Melbourne:	Frank Barber	President/Organiser.
	Mick Wheeler	Secretary/Organiser.
Sandhurst:	Ray Gibson	Secretary/Organiser.

During the year, Peter Long, Ballarat, Bevin Wigan, Townsville and Dennis Timms, Brisbane, completed fruitful terms in various capacities as full-timers. We wish to thank them for their valuable contributions to the development of the Movement and wish them every success and blessing in their chosen futures.

The National Executive is grateful to the Melbourne Y.C.W. for allowing Frank Barber to do extension work in Lismore for six weeks during last year, and to the Sandhurst Y.C.W. Ray Gibson's duties as a member of the National Executive has meant that he has spent a lot of time out of the Diocese. The Diocesan Executive in Sandhurst has always willingly released Ray to carry out these duties.

No requests have been received during the year from Dioceses requiring the assistance of full time workers. Many Dioceses could well consider the value of having the services of a full-timer for the period of a month or so. Dioceses having their own full-timer would gain from the experience of their full-timer working in another Dioceses.

The tasks asked of full-timers are many and varied, in fact he has to be a "Jack of all trades". Unless Executives are constantly reviewing the work he is asked to do, they may find that he is spending most of his time in administrative and organisational duties. Whilst these are an important part of the Movement's work, the prime task of a full-timer should always be in the training and development of key people. This can best be done through him meeting with Chaplains, Executive members and Presidents. Through working full time a fellow gains a broader and deeper vision of the Apostolate, unless this is being passed on to others, much of the value that can come from having a full-timer is lost.

Whilst there is a need to have full-timers in many Dioceses. Those considering employing a leader to take on the task, should bear in mind the following.

The needs of the person always come before the Movement.

Careful consideration must always be given to the choice of a person to do this work. Mistakes have been made in the past. Rather than thinking, we need a full time worker, we should be thinking, "John" could give something to the young workers through working full-time for the Y.C.W.

These points are raised in the hope that they may be a guide to those people who are thinking of employing a full-time worker.

CONTACT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Progress has been made in establishing contact with other organisations in many places. Y.C.W. has representation on the Youth Councils that exist in every capital city. This contact has brought to the Movement new ideas and has given the Y.C.W. an opportunity to ask others to share in our work. An example of this is seen in the fact that in Adelaide, the Youth Council, comprising of some sixteen organisations is carrying out a survey on the type of literature being read by young people in the State. This must be more effective than the Y.C.W. working alone.

Through Conferences organised by these Councils in each State, young people from various organisations have been able to come together to discuss and share ideas and difficulties confronting young people and mutual problems within organisations, e.g. recruitment, services. An example of this contact with other organisations at the group level was given earlier in the report.

* This contact should be encouraged and developed. However, it would seem from visitation and reports that there is very little contact with the Young Catholic Students Movement at any level.

* There is at the present time, no marked follow-on from Y.C.S. to Y.C.W. Closer contact with the Y.C.S. could bring this about. Many Y.C.S. Chaplains would welcome any help from the Y.C.W.

Co-operation between the Y.C.W. and Y.C.W. (Girls) is evident in many places. However in other places there appears to be a distinct lack of co-operation.

As both sections of the Movement will next year be engaged in a Campaign on work, a sharing of ideas on the Campaign would be of benefit to both sections.

SERVICES

Services organised on a Diocesan level, by and large, follow the same pattern of those at the group level.

Pre Canas are continuing to spread throughout many Dioceses. The hundreds of engaged couples who attend Pre Canas each year, and speak so highly of them are a living witness of the value of this service.

In many places, though under the sponsorship of the Y.C.W., Pre Canas are not being made known to many engaged couples by Y.C.W. members. This may be because the engaged couples are no longer under the immediate influence of the Y.C.W., or the Y.C.W. may not have in its ranks those who know the engaged couples in their district.

Whilst the value of this service cannot be denied, Council must consider if there is a need for more to be done by the Y.C.W. to help young workers in their immediate preparation for marriage.

Accommodation and employment are very valuable services, meeting the basic needs of many young workers. With the number of school leavers, who are leaving their home town to seek work increasing each year, the need for these services is becoming greater.

These services are at the present mainly organised in the capital cities. But, with the drift taking place from town to town, as well as from town to city, there is a need for all Dioceses to consider setting in motion, a service that will assist all young workers in their need to find a home and a job.

CHAPLAINS

The Y.C.W. owes a great debt of gratitude to the number of Diocesan Chaplains, who despite their many other commitments, are so convinced and dedicated to their task of forming truly apostolic young workers.

It is this conviction and dedication which has inspired so many other priests to become interested in the work of the Y.C.W.

The role of a Diocesan Chaplain is a two fold one, to form a truly apostolic Executive and to assist other priests to discover their role as Chaplains in the Movement.

Please God we will continue to have, as we have at present, dedicated priests, filling the important role of Diocesan Chaplain.

CONCLUSION

Much thought has been given over the past few years to the role of the Diocesan Executive. Experiments have been made, progress has resulted. Still there is much to be done.

The Y.C.W. is a Missionary Movement, therefore it must not be continually turning in, rather it must be going out. Of course, we must be continually reviewing both our successes and our failures. From this we can build on our successes and learn from our failures. The result of this will be consolidation.

At the same time, we must be expanding, There is need for this in every Diocese. Progress must be slow, otherwise it will be an artificial progress and not lasting.

Great demands are being made on the time of Diocesan Executive members, through visitation, supplementary training, representing the Y.C.W. on various Committees etc. Tribute must be made to the spirit of sacrifice in which they willingly accept so many arduous tasks.

Whether these sacrifices are being channelled correctly, or whether they are being concentrated too much on the problems of the Movement, could be considered by Council.

(d) AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The National Council of the Australian Y.C.W. met in Newcastle from the 3rd to the 9th of September, 1962.

His Lordship Bishop Gallagher, Episcopal Chairman, Father Toomey, National Chaplain, fourteen priests and thirty three laymen, together with a large number of observers attended the Council.

The situation of young workers, a review of the Movement at the local, Diocesan and National level, and a study of the issues from the International Council were among the items discussed. These matters will be referred to later in the report.

1. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Fr. R. Wilkinson, Adelaide, Fr. G. Lloyd, Canberra/Goulburn, B. Armstrong, Melbourne, L.O'Dea, Toowoomba, B. Wigan, Townsville, R. Gibson, Sandhurst, B. Smiddy, National and B. Moylan, Adelaide, were elected by the Council to form together with Fr. Toomey, National Chaplain, Brian Hayes, National President and Les Kemp, National Secretary, the National Executive.

During the year, Brian Hayes, Les Kemp and Brian Smiddy resigned from the Executive. To each of these, the Movement is greatly indebted. To Brian Hayes for the inspiring leadership he gave to the Y.C.W. chaplains and members during his term of office. Brian not only left his mark on the Y.C.W.

but was of great value and assistance to people engaged in the Adult Apostolate, and to members of youth organisations with whom he had so much contact through the National Youth Council of Australia.

Les Kemp, during his two years as National Secretary, did much to improve the efficiency of the National Office, and helped many key people in the Movement to a more complete understanding of their Apostolate.

Brian Smiddy gave nearly three years to the Y.C.W. as an Extension Worker. Brian never shirked any task that was asked of him, and his dedication and enthusiasm has been an inspiration to many young workers.

To Brian Hayes, Les Kemp and Brian Smiddy, we wish each of you God's blessing on your future life and assure you of our prayers.

After eight years as National Chaplain, Father Toomey, was this year appointed to parish duties in Melbourne. Words could not describe how much is owed to Father, by priests, members and young workers for his dedicated service to the Y.C.W. The Movement will always be indebted to Father for the dedication to the Y.C.W. he instilled in so many Leaders, by his own personal example. We do not say farewell to Father Toomey, but rather welcome him into the important role of a parish chaplain and wish him a continued and happy association with the Y.C.W.

Fr. Kevin Smith, appointed as National Chaplain in January, has been of great assistance to members of the Executive, and to the many Chaplains and Leaders he has met on visitation. We welcome you as National Chaplain, Father, and trust that your association with the Movement will be a happy one.

Frank Sheehan, National Extension Worker and Greg O'Connor, Erisbane, were elected to the Executive during the year. Bill Armstrong was elected President and myself, Secretary.

During the year the Executive has been engaged in the following tasks:-

- Examining the situation of young workers.
- Considering drafts of Campaigns.
- Implementing Council decisions.
- Examining the situation of the Y.C.W.
- Planning visitation for Chaplain, Staff and Extension Worker.
- Reviewing progress of Campaigns.
- Conducting survey on Work and preparing draft of Campaign on this.

- Arranging Key Leaders School.
- Assisting in conducting the Seminarians Summer School.
- Reviewing finance of Movement.
- Informing International Y.C.W. of our work.
- Considering New Youth.
- Making plans for 1963 National Council.

National Executive meetings were held each month. As many members were not able to be present at each meeting, proxies were appointed. We are grateful to all who acted as proxies during the year. This task is another burden to those who already have too much work. Their assistance and acceptance of many tasks has helped the Executive greatly in their work.

The failings of the proxy system are only too well known to everyone who has had association with the National Executive.

The first step to overcome these failings, by holding two, three day meetings during the year, at which every Executive member was present, proved not only to be successful, but a necessity.

Although it cost £200 in fares to bring Executive members to Melbourne for each meeting, they must be continued if the Executive members, those elected by Council to represent them, are to be able to carry out their responsibilities. Whilst this idea of having two meetings each year, at which all Executive Members can attend is not seen as the complete answer, they do enable the National Executive to become a working body, and help in the creation of national unity and understanding.

Could Council approve the idea of holding two meetings at which all Executive members can attend during the coming year?

VISITATION

With a complete change in National staff during the year, a fairly comprehensive visitation programme was carried out. The two-fold aim of this was to acquaint ourselves with the situation of the Movement in various Dioceses, to learn of the problems facing young workers in these parts, and to assist Chaplains and Leaders in making discoveries of the life of the young workers.

The following, is an outline of visitation carried out:-

<u>ADELAIDE:</u>	Ten days.	Bill Armstrong.
<u>ARMIDALE:</u>	One week. Four weeks.	Fr. Smith. Frank Sheehan.
<u>BALLARAT:</u>	Three days during Executive Week.	Bill Armstrong.
<u>BRISBANE:</u>	Three Weeks.	Brian Moylan.
<u>CANBERRA/ GOULBURN:</u>	Few days.	Fr. Smith and Brian Moylan.
<u>HOBART:</u>	One month.	Fr. Smith.
<u>LISMORE:</u>	Diocesan Council. State Conference.	Frank Sheehan. Fr. Smith, Frank Sheehan and Brian Moylan.
<u>WATTLAND:</u>	Frank Sheehan. Six months as Extension Worker. Fr. Smith also spent a few days in the Diocese.	
<u>MELBOURNE:</u>	Fr. Smith, Bill Armstrong and Brian Moylan, attended Training Weekends, Executive, Council and Branch meetings.	
<u>PORT PIRIE:</u>	One week:	Bill Armstrong.
<u>ROCKHAMPTON:</u>	Two days. One week, Mackay.	Brian Moylan. Brian Moylan.
<u>SANDHURST:</u>	Training Weekend.	Brian Moylan.
<u>TOOWOOMBA:</u>	Diocesan Conference.	Frank Sheehan
<u>WAGGA:</u>	One week.	Frank Sheehan.
<u>W/FORBES:</u>	Training weekend) at Broken Hill.) Parkes, Training Weekend.	Bill Armstrong & Frank Barber. Fr. Smith, Bill Armstrong & Brian Moylan.

*Townsville
/ Nels*

Efforts have been made to meet all the requests received for visitation. Not all have been accomplished. There appears to be a need for follow up visits to many places, particularly areas with problems of isolation. Council's comments on visitation carried out, and needs for visitation during the coming year would be appreciated.

(b) STAFF

Fr. Smith, Bill Armstrong, President, Miss Alison English, Stenographer and myself, Secretary, comprise the National Staff at present.

Miss Trudy Heffernan, after four years of efficient and dedicated service as Stenographer, resigned from the staff. The Movement owes Trudy a lot for her efforts, and we wish her well in her new post.

Alison English is carrying on the work in the same efficient and competent manner, doing many tasks not necessarily hers. Without her capable assistance, the vast amount of work to be done would not be accomplished.

The tasks of the National Staff are many and varied. They include, meeting and talking with Chaplains and Leaders, contact with other organisations, visitation, correspondence, minutes, circulars, planning Key Leaders Schools, assisting preparation for Seminarian's School, editing Campaigns, publications and accounts. All these are time consuming. We apologise for any failure to meet correspondence or requests promptly.

2. COUNCIL DECISIONS

Reference has been made throughout the Report to matters that were decided by Council last year. However there are a few decisions that require special attention.

(a) CAMPAIGN

At least one section of the Campaign "Accepting Leadership" has been carried out by all Dioceses, with one exception.

Reports from Dioceses on how the Campaign has been accepted, vary. In many instances, great difficulty was experienced with the first section. Leaders found difficulty in obtaining facts, because it is hard to get young workers to talk about their home life. The action coming from the Campaign, because of its nature was limited. Many reports indicated the value of the Campaign to the Leaders themselves.

At present it is difficult to gauge how the second section of the Campaign "Accepting Leadership in the Church" is progressing. Reports to hand do indicate, however, that it has been better received than the first section, and Diocesan Executives have studied it more thoroughly, and are giving more assistance to groups and treating it more fully in Supplementary Training.

Local Campaigns have been, or are being conducted in two Dioceses. They are to be congratulated on their initiative and encouragement is to be given to more Dioceses to prepare and carry out local Campaigns. This shows that the Executive has a knowledge of the life and needs of the young workers, and can adapt the Y.C.W. to meet these needs.

As one of the roles of the National Executive is to give approval for new publications, we feel that Dioceses carrying out Local Campaigns, should as a matter of courtesy advise the Executive of their intention to carry out a local Campaign, and seek their guidance in drawing up the Campaign, by presenting a draft to the National Office. This has not always been the case in the past. Council could well keep this matter in mind and devote some attention to it.

One of the decisions of the last National Council, was that 1964 be chosen as a period in which the Australian Y.C.W. would be involved in the Work Campaign, and that the period until the next Council be used to make an intensive study of the work needs of the young workers in Australia.

To this end, the National Executive appointed a Committee to forward surveys and questionnaires to Diocesan Executives which would assist them in this study.

The response to this, from most Dioceses, was to say the least, very poor. Therefore the task of presenting to Council, a draft of the Work Campaign has, in the main, been based on the knowledge of Executive members and results of surveys from a few Dioceses.

This is the first time that the Australian Y.C.W. has attempted such a large scale Pre-Enquiry in preparation for a Campaign.

Council may like to consider if this type of approach is to be continued with future Campaigns.

CHANGE OF MEETING AGENDA

The change of meeting agenda implemented in the "Accepting Leadership" Campaign, has on the whole, been well received.

More attention is being given to Personal Enquiries, and opportunity now exists for more follow-up action from the Social Enquiry. Many leaders have experienced difficulty in trying to meditate on a Gospel for two weeks.

The God's plan section introduced into the meeting was not a Council decision. It was introduced because of the nature of the Campaign, and is not seen as a section of the meeting for all Campaigns. Council may like to direct the Executive on this matter.

(b) MONTH OF ACTION

Reference has already been made to this, earlier in the Report. The decision to hold an International Day or Week in April or May each year combined with the decision to hold a special month of action. The month was used to educate the young workers on the problems of people in other countries and on the work of the International Y.C.W.

Council must now decide whether or not a special month of action is to be carried out again next year, and if so, what lines such a month would take.

It appears that there is great value in holding such a month, because it gives many more young workers the opportunity to share in the action of the Movement.

If Council decides to hold a month of action, consideration should be given to it, concentrating efforts on some aspect of the Work Campaign.

TEAMS

For many years, teams have been one of the biggest weaknesses in the Movement. Little progress has been witnessed during the last year. However, the special month of action, has enabled many more to share in the action of the Movement. Lamenting the fact that we have so few teams, seems pointless, unless we see our failures as resulting from a lack of understanding in leaders of their own Apostolate.

Is a team only necessary to the Leader, that his work might be more effective? Doesn't every young worker have a right to his share in the Apostolate?

Perhaps Council could consider whether the existence of teams is, or is not, a measure of the genuine training of Leaders.

3. MUTUAL AID

We have at all levels of the Movement, examples of Leaders helping Leaders from other groups, groups helping other groups e.g. In many instances groups have invited young workers from parishes where the Y.C.W. is non-existent, to join a group. This has resulted in fellows with some training going back to their own parishes and starting a group. This type of development must be encouraged by Diocesan Executives. However, this type of mutual aid has not been so evident in other Dioceses, but contact and mutual aid between Dioceses can be extended.

This extension can take place particularly in Supplementary Training. Examples of this were experienced during the year with Training Weekends held at Broken Hill and Parkes in the Wilcannia/Forbes Diocese. Branches in other Dioceses were invited to both of these Training Weekends.

The Branches that conducted these weekends, working in co-operation with the National Office, did a great deal to help isolated groups, through giving them the opportunity to share ideas with members of other groups.

Diocesan Executives in places that have Training Centres could help other Dioceses to overcome deficiencies in Supplementary Training, e.g. Adelaide assisting Pirie Diocese, Wagga assisting other Dioceses in N.S.W.

The idea of an Executive running Training Weekends at places on the border of its Diocese and inviting groups from neighbouring Dioceses, would also have much value.

The National Movement would be willing to attend such training days/weekends, if any Dioceses consider they could undertake this type of Mutual Aid. Permission from the Diocesan Chaplain or the Diocesan Executive where it exists, would be the only requirement necessary to plan such a project.

It is disturbing to often find that when a fellow, who is in contact with the Y.C.W., leaves a town or district, contact with him is lost. With so many fellows leaving country towns in particular, the Y.C.W. does not offer him any help in finding accommodation, or friends in his new environment. With so many Dioceses now running accommodation services, it is a pity that Leaders in country areas do not contact the Y.C.W. and ask them to help these fellows in their new environment.

These points are raised in the hope that Council members will consider them, and if applicable to their situation, give some thought to implementing them.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

This body, comprising of the National Chaplains, National Presidents and National Secretaries, of both sections of the Movement meets monthly.

The main tasks of the Committee during the year have been planning of International Months:- Campaign and Appeal. Sharing ideas on Campaigns, implementing policy on New Youth, discussion on visitation programmes, contact with International Y.C.W., and preparations for the National Council.

A combined study day in preparation for the Work Campaign, was held during June. Forty one Leaders, representing five Dioceses, attended this day. Discussions were held on the problems of young workers and on the value of work to the individual.

This is the first time that a study day of this kind has been conducted. The coming together and sharing ideas was of benefit to both section of the Movement, and it is hoped that it was the forerunner of many more such days.

CONTACT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The task of keeping contact with members of other organisations is important. It allows the Movement to work with, and share ideas with the members of other organisations.


This task rests, mainly with the National Staff. Because of so many commitments it is difficult to keep contact with all organisations. Contact has been maintained with the Y.C.S., through preparations for the Annual Seminarians Summer School, and where possible supplying speakers for their training days.

Bill Armstrong was elected to the Executive of the National Youth Council of Australia at their Council Meeting held in March. His main task is that of Chairman of the Young Worker Commission. This Commission, set up by N.Y.C.A. is presently carrying out a survey on the difficulties confronting young workers throughout Australia, many youth organisations are engaged in the task of carrying out this survey.

The Secretary is a member of the International Committee of N.Y.C.A. This Committee, is currently engaged in inviting a youth delegation from Indonesia to tour Australia, and investigating the possibility of establishing a Committee of N.Y.C.A. in New Guinea.

The Y.C.W. was represented, by the Secretary at the Annual Citizenship Convention, convened by the Department of Immigration. This Convention, held in Canberra, was attended by three hundred delegates. Here the opportunity was given to meet representatives from various organisations and express ideas on the theme of the Convention, "Migrant Youth in our Community".

NEEDS OF THE MOVEMENT



What are the needs, problems and difficulties of young workers in the over twenty age group. A paper to be presented to Council by the Adelaide Y.C.W. will aid discussion at the Council on this matter.

From visitation, minutes and reports, it appears as though the Movement is not facing up to the needs of young workers in this age group.

First we must determine if there is a need for an Apostolate amongst these fellows. Having faced up to this, we must examine whether or not the Movement is carrying out this Apostolate. Statistics show that at present there are very few Leaders in the Y.C.W. over the age of twenty. We have, in responsible positions, many who are in this age group, but of those who are active at the group level, there are very few.

Efforts have been made in a couple of Dioceses to hold Supplementary Training events for advanced Leaders, and for those over twenty who have dropped out of the Y.C.W. and are at present not actively engaged in any organised Apostolic Movement.

This whole question of why so many leave the Movement when they reach the age of twenty or twenty one, should be faced up to by the Council.

The answer lies in no simple solution. Would it be in Campaigns that are based on the needs of young workers at this time of life? Does it lie in holding more Supplementary Training events for advanced Leaders? Or does it lie in starting a few groups with fellows who are in this age group and still active in the Movement? Is it perhaps a more fundamental problem, the vision of the Apostolate that the Leaders in our groups at present are being led to discover?

If Council finds that there is a need for an Apostolate among fellows of this twenty and over age group, then the need to have Apostles in this field becomes an urgent need of the Movement.

(e) OUR ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL Y.C.W.

- Peter is a young new Australian whose mother died some years ago. At the present time, he has to spend evenings at home translating T.V. programmes to his Father. The Leader trying to help Peter has been working on this for a few months.

- Ron didn't care much about his old home. A Leader who works with Ron, tried to get him interested in his home. He asked Ron to help him do some painting, talked about painting his own home. From this, Ron got the idea to paint his own room, then painted the kitchen for his mother.

- The Y.C.W.'s from Boro have decided to build themselves new houses. After an Enquiry, they realised that their present huts, with no ventilation, in which families of six to eight persons all slept together in one room, were not suitable. Sometimes too, the huts were too close together, so that fire in one invariably spread to all the other.

These are three examples of what Young Christian Workers are doing in their daily life. These are the actions that make up the International Y.C.W. Take these three examples, and thousands of other similar actions away, and we have no International Y.C.W.

For the Y.C.W. is a family. In this family, some millions of young workers from every country, are united in common ideals, common action. We are working, perhaps unconsciously, with young workers of every race, colour and culture to make Christ known amongst all workers.

The Australian Y.C.W. can be proud of its achievements, of the part it has played and is continuing to play as a member of the International Y.C.W.

Each Diocese in some way contributed to the success of the International Month. Through talks, discussion, films and reading, many hundreds of young workers were brought to a greater understanding of the problems and needs of young workers in other countries and their role in the International Y.C.W.

Although, not finalised yet, it appears that we will be able to make a contribution to the International Y.C.W. from the funds raised from various functions, and the proceeds from the sales of the Special Edition of New Youth.

A further result of International Month is that many groups have commenced writing to groups and Leaders in other countries. Still, we have many questions to think about. What does the International Y.C.W. mean to most of our members? Do they realise that the International Y.C.W. is not overseas, but that they are the International Y.C.W.? Are they growing in an understanding of the Mystical Body, through their knowledge of young workers in other countries?

Some aspects of our responsibilities as members of the International Y.C.W. need further consideration.

EXTENSION WORKERS

Bernie Docherty, after two and a half years of dedicated work, has finished working as an Extension Worker.

Bernie left Australia in December, 1961, and worked with the Indian Y.C.W. in Bangalore, Madras and Kerala, until June of this year.

None of us could appreciate the sacrifices that Bernie made to carry out this task. Being the first Australian to take on overseas Extension work, Bernie has led the way for others to follow.

In a report to the Australian Y.C.W., Fr. D'Silva, National Chaplain, and Leo Canute, National President of the Y.C.W. in India, conveyed their sincere thanks and high praise of the work Bernie has done.

In the same report, the Indian Y.C.W. spoke of the great work of Betty King, former National Secretary of the Y.C.W. (Girls).

LAY MISSIONARIES

Since it was announced at last year's Council that the Y.C.W. had been requested to assist in finding young workers to spend a year in New Guinea, working for the missions on particular projects, many young workers have made themselves available for this work.

To date, six have commenced this work. They are Dennis and Michael Healy, Tom Hogg, John Beasley and Peter Dea, from Melbourne and John Walker from Gunnedah. The sacrifices of these fellows is a living proof of the generosity of Australian young workers. It is hoped that many more will follow their fine example.

Apart from these fellows there are many more Y.C.W.'s working in various fields of mission work in New Guinea.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Australia, has been asked by the International Secretariat to pay particular attention to, and assist in the development of the Y.C.W. in Oceania.

In a letter received from Fr. Meaney, M.S.C., we were advised that a Y.C.W. group had been started in Port Moresby. Actual details regarding the group were not to hand at the time of writing this Report. However, the National Executive has promised to give any assistance that may be required, and Fr. Smith is corresponding with Fr. Meaney, M.S.C.

Since the visit to Australia during last year, of Gavin Fitzgerald, a Regional President of the C.Y.M. in New Zealand, a closer liaison has existed between the National Office and the C.Y.M. An exchange of programmes, and regular correspondence is being carried out.

The C.Y.M. were invited to send a representative to attend the National Council, unfortunately this could not be arranged.

Early in the year, the Melbourne Y.C.W. were hosts for a fortnight to four Seminarians from New Caledonia, who were spending their holidays in Australia. This contact with the Y.C.W. has given them some understanding of our Apostolate.

CONCLUSION

The acceptance of our responsibility as members of the International Y.C.W. is evident. However there is still much to be done. The responsibilities taken and goodwill created, must be built upon.

The understanding of the International Y.C.W. by many of our members must be furthered.

The need for extension workers, and the need for development of the Y.C.W. in our neighbouring countries are great.

We cannot rest until these tasks have been accomplished.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The number of young workers and Chaplains who are giving so much of their time and energy to the task of taking Christ to the young workers, through the Y.C.W. are deserving of our gratitude. It is impossible to list all these here. I therefore, on behalf of the National Executive extend thanks to all those who have contributed to the development of the Y.C.W. this year. I must also extend special thanks to the following.

THE AUSTRALIAN HIERARCHY on whom our whole Movement depends. We pledge to them our continued loyalty. Their continued interest, support and encouragement is an inspiration.

HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP GALLAGHER, EPISCOPAL CHAIRMAN. His guidance, and interest in developments is a continual help in our task. Despite his many commitments, he willingly accepts any task asked of him. We deeply appreciate his encouragement.

FATHER SMITH, who has accepted his heavy responsibilities so generously. His great faith in the young workers is an inspiration to all of us.

BILL ARMSTRONG AND THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, who have given so much encouragement and assistance in an untiring manner. I am personally indebted to them for their assistance and encouragement.

PROXY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE, who have generously given so much of their time.

BERT DE LUCA, FR. BRIGLIA AND EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OF NEW YOUTH, who work tirelessly to produce a better and effective paper, despite many difficulties.

FRANK SHEEHAN, who has made many personal sacrifices in carrying out his role as National Extension Worker, throughout New South Wales.

FATHER BURKE AND Y.C.W. GIRLS, particularly Pat Mason and Margaret Moore, for their assistance and co-operation on so many matters.

ALL THOSE GENEROUS PEOPLE who have offered hospitality to the National Staff, on visitation. Without their kindness it would be impossible to carry out effective visitation.

MELBOURNE Y.C.W. who continue to provide offices, rent free for the National Movement.

FATHER WILLY, FRANK BARBER, MICK WHEELER, and members of the Melbourne Y.C.W., who have given support and assistance on so many matters.

MR. AND MRS. DE LUCA, who as caretakers of Maiya Wamba have looked after staff and visitors on many occasions.

THE NATIONAL STAFF with whom it has been a pleasure to work.

CONCLUSION:

The first characteristic of the Y.C.W. is that it must be based on life - to study and know life.

This report has attempted to do this, to examine the life of the young worker, to look at this, in the light of the truth of Faith, and then to examine how the Movement at all levels is geared to the life of the young worker.

We can be happy with the progress that is being made. At the same time we must not become complacent.

Ever increasing problems and difficulties are arising. They present to us a new challenge. A challenge that we must accept.

We shall accept this challenge, through accepting the call of Christ, to share in the work of the Church, through the Y.C.W.

In the words of Monsignor Cardijn -

"Forward! With the grace of Christ, under the direction of the Church, we shall save the young workers of the world."

BRIAN MOYLAN

NATIONAL SECRETARY

ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

APPENDIX A.

The fourth Annual Key Leaders School was held at the Melbourne Training Centre, "Maiya Wamba" from the 4th to the 10th of January, 1963. Nineteen Leaders from nine Dioceses attended this school.

The programme of the seven day school included a day of recollection and discussion on subjects such as the following:-

- The mission of a Leader.
- The Gospel.
- The Enquiry.
- The National Campaign (Accepting Leadership)
- The International Y.C.W.
- The Eucuminical Council.
- The Mass in our lives.
- New Youth.
- Motions from the National Council.

The speakers included Chaplains, past members, present day full-timers and Executive members.

It would be very true to say that all participants benefited a great deal from this week, but by virtue of their positions in the Movement, it was felt that this school could not truly be called a KEY Leaders school. Perhaps a better way to describe it would be as a Training Week run by the National Movement for a few Leaders from throughout Australia. Those who participated, varied from a full-time worker to a Leader who had been in the Movement only 8 months.

Also it must be noted that there was a considerable drop in the number who attended this school compared to previous years.

I feel that this Council has now to decide the future of such schools.

In the beginning it was thought that every two years the National Movement should hold a school for those Leaders who were regarded as the Key Leaders in their Diocese. Then it was decided to hold another school on the alternate year for potential Key Leaders. Hence the name, National Leaders School. With both of these schools in operation, there has been confusion and we have found Key Leaders and in some areas new Leaders attending both schools.

Now with the introduction of a two day Key Leaders School following this Council things have changed. Also during the past twelve months there have been a couple of very successful inter-Diocesan Training Weekends and the National Staff has assisted in these.

The question now is, is there a need for a National School for Key Leaders and potential Key Leaders? Or would our time and energy be better spent organising training on an inter-Diocesan basis in various parts of Australia? Thus giving all Leaders of Diocese, who otherwise would receive no supplementary training, the opportunity of benefiting from such schools.

This I leave in your hands, and not for one moment do I doubt the good that has been done by our Key Leaders and National Leaders Schools, but perhaps the time has come for us to take this training to those who at present are not in the position to organise their own.

BILL ARMSTRONG

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

APPENDIX "B" STATISTICAL REPORT.

DIOCESE	DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE	EXECUTIVE MEETINGS	SUPPL. TRAIN.	BRANCHES	NUMBER OF		GENERAL BRANCHES	BRANCHES		LEADERS	NUMBER OF			NO. IN SERVICES	
					LEADERS GROUPS	TEAMS		FORMED SINCE 1/8/62	CEASED SINCE 1/8/62		TEAM MEMBERS	G. MEM. INCL. TEAMS & LEADERS	NO. PAYING SUBS.		NO. AT SUPPL. TRAIN.
ADELAIDE	YES	FORTNIGHTLY	REG.	24	22		17	1	3	144		485	371	122	1300
+ ARMIDALE	YES	QUARTERLY	OCCAS.	5	5		5			30					
BALLARAT	YES	WEEKLY	REG.	30	30	15	19	6	4	234	38	650	356	174	950
+ BRISBANE	YES	FORTNIGHTLY	OCCAS.	22	20		10			125					
BUNBURY	YES	MONTHLY	OCCAS.	7	7	1		2	2	40	6	46	40	40	200
CANBERRA	YES	QUARTERLY	OCCAS.	2	2		2	-	1	10		77	77	10	160
+ HOBART	YES	FORTNIGHTLY	OCCAS.	11	11		8	1		62					
LISMORE	YES	MONTHLY	OCCAS.	9	8	2	5	1		82	9	165	100	74	550
MITLAND	YES	MONTHLY	OCCAS.	6	6	2	1	2	-	32	5	50	20	30	150
MELBOURNE	YES	MONTHLY	REG.	84	71	55	70	14	7	515	275	2395	1824	934	9300
PERTH	YES	FORTNIGHTLY	REG.	21	21	10	5	2	2	133	40	233	133	100	900
+ PORT PIRIE	NO.			3	3					12					
+ ROCKHAMPTON	NO.		OCCAS.	6	6			1		30				23	
SANDHURST	YES	MONTHLY	REG.	11	12	6	8	2	5	80	25	205	97	92	650
TOOWOOMBA	YES	MONTHLY	OCCAS.	16	14	6	16	1		88	20	180	100	40	1200
+ TOWNSVILLE	YES	MONTHLY	OCCAS.	5	5					45					
+ WAGGA	NO.		OCCAS.	7	7	4	6	3		45	22	110	80	45	
W/FORBES	NO.		OCCAS.	5	5		5	1		35		100	90	50	400
TOTALS.				272	255	101	177	37	24	1742	440	4696	3288	1734	15760

+ These figures are estimated.
Reports were not returned.

APPENDIX C.

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available from the National Headquarters:-

STOCK PUBLICATIONS

1. Towards an Apostolic Laity.
2. The Young Worker Faces Life.
3. Cardijn Speaks on Person, Family and Education.
4. Cardijn Story.
5. Rio Bulletin (Report on International Council).
6. The Hour of the Working Class.
7. The Dignity of the Young Worker.
8. Youth's Ideals.

PERIODICALS

1. New Youth (Monthly).
2. Campaign Bulletins.

FUTURE NEEDS

The need for a short booklet, portraying the life of the Movement, has been expressed at previous Council Meetings. To date, we have been unable to find someone who has time to undertake such a task.

At the last Council, it was decided that Catholic Action Chaplain should be discontinued. Since then, the need for some type of publication for Chaplains has been further recognised. As a result, two news letters for Chaplains have been prepared by the National Chaplains. Reports indicate that these news letters have been well received.

At the moment, the future of a publication for Chaplains is not known. It would appear that there is a need for some type of publication, this matter for all practical purposes could well be left to the National Committee, if Council decides that a publication for Chaplain is necessary.

BILL ARMSTRONG.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

