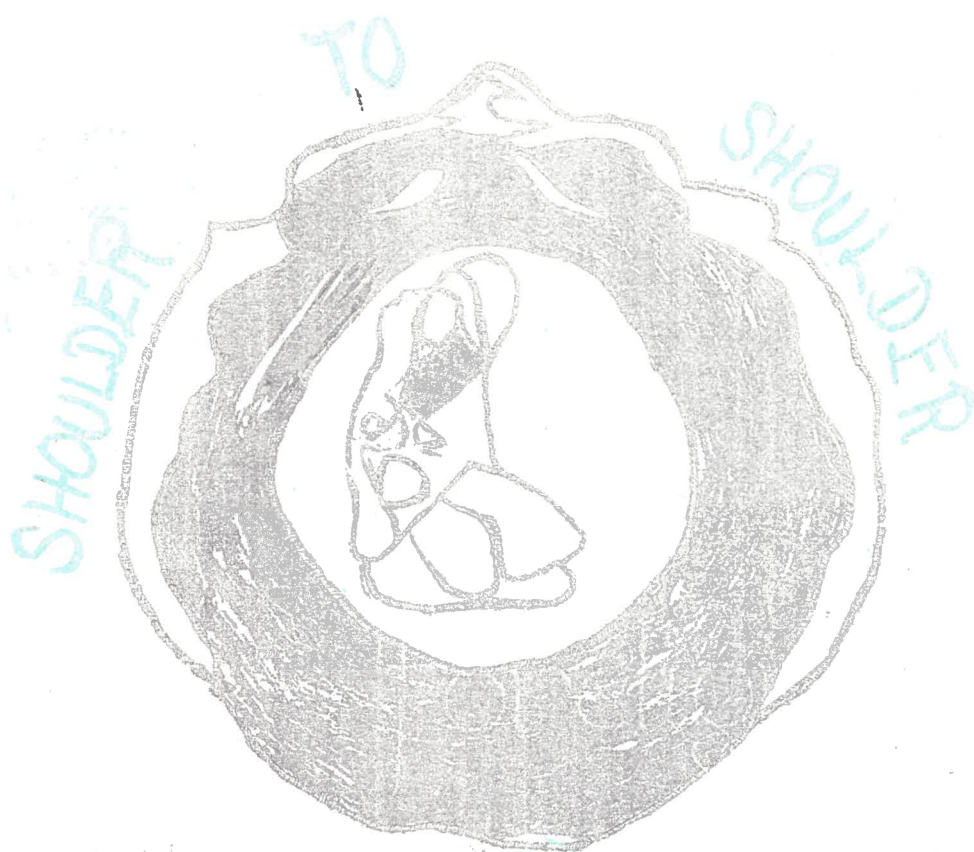


KENSINGTON WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS LETTER



CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE LTD -

89 M^cCRACKE ST., KENSINGTON

PHONE 376 7280

No. 19 1980

ON WEEKLY JOURNALISM OF 1980 or PARTS OF...

Of course there was the kids... kids... kids...
PROLOGUE - its more than a month full... (2)

On and on we go, where we stop we do not know - NEVER!! Women's group meeting, buying books and carpet, paint, everyone's painting each other, working bee, stop for lunch, children's service meeting, drama class, someone left, appointment with auditor, someone cries, screams, director meeting, newsletter group, staff meeting, talk with Gardiner group, a broken wrist in plaster, visiting woman, Flinders here we come, meeting procedure workshop (2 away) off to the theatre, over to 3 C's (community child care), a heated argument, police group meeting, loud laughter, up to country to check camping sites, CYSS group, shopping, Sunday b-b-q, general meeting, 2AC's for dinner, farewell to Denise J, hanky panky on the street, Phillip Is. trip, game of tennis, Ken. Association meeting, driver education, Women's group meeting, shopping, drama, real drama, b-b-q tea, tongue in cheek conversations, directors meeting, tennis, holiday (b-b-q), visit from Richmond group, shopping, newsletter, off to the theatre, Chassles.... Council for the single mother and her child visitors, recurrent funding forms, pay-the bills, volunteers arfo (cream cakes and tea) C.C.C. workshop (we have to talk) Jean's farewell, interviews... Interviews... interviews... newsletter group, driver ed, comp meeting, our A.M., trip to the movies, (giggles, & loud talk - embarrassing), off to the

A WEEKLY ANATOMY OF 1980

000 CONTINUED....

Dandenongs Call the kids crying came the car coned out
the Merrindindi camp.... A.M. 11:00 AM ... hat to testy
Gail, re-staff sub committee ... 2 rev staff, b-b-q,
teenage stuff, Belgium Ave trip, Eltham group visit, hysteria,
gag hanging around, angry phone calls, a heater ... phaw...
newsletter group excursion, working bee, weed the weeds, drama,
women's group, public meeting (stuffy), directors meeting, new
members, marriage breakdown, trip to Frankston (scots),
notice to quit - panic, sleep in for kids, shopping,
newsletter, finance meeting, dinner party, trash n' treasure
C.S.O. meeting, bingo, letter to M. Cullfoyle re newsletter,
N/L, to library audit, boxes for Beryl interviews..
interviews ... interviews (sat.), staff meeting, dinner
party, photography class, closeness Gail + Paul (audio
visual) art classes (divinci's anonymous) Altona St,
meeting, N.C.C.A., shopping, women's group, supper dances,
photography, quiet whispers, directors meeting (tense),
Zoo, cooking, neighborhood meeting, kids disco,
arfo tea, drop stuff to so and so, a crazy day
new worker (relief), ripple, photography, p... off,
new ideas, general meeting (free food) bingo, trash,
ABC Marian Smith, 4 corners... Office of child
Care, lunches, newsletter, FACS submission, family,
dinner party, finance group, can't think, too
cold, a happy day, Gardiner group B-B-Q,
budget workshop, movies, budget workshop. off to the

"Rock 'n Roll Dance."



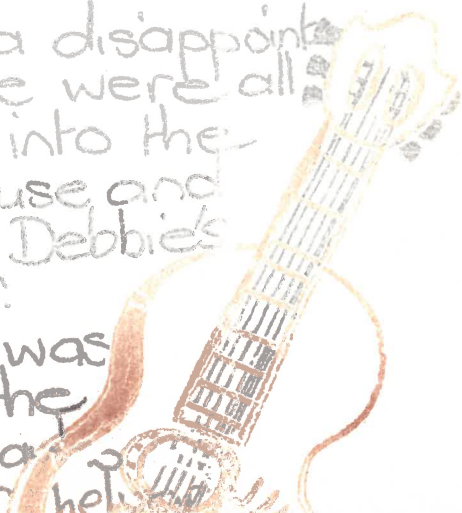
Holy Rosary Hall, Kensington, was the scene for a return to the '50's rock revival on Saturday, October 25th. The night was a great success, with 70 people attending, and proved that, when called to the muster, old rockers will come from far and wide.

Many people dressed in a variety of styles from the '50's era, and wide skirts, bobby sox, sweaters, (and even chewing gum) were the go!

Two raffles were held and were won by "locals" from the house. A door prize was also drawn. A dancing competition was held, to tunes from our genuine '50's juke box, though many of the contestants were excellent, (Naureen displayed great dexterity and skill!) Joan Bates and her husband seemed to have stepped out of a time-machine from the '50's and left us modern rockers looking like amateurs. Congratulations to them both and let's hope they'll continue to prove that rock'n roll will never die.

Unfortunately there was a disappointing side to the night. While we were all dancing madly, someone broke into the Mr Cracken St. house and stole \$100, and Debbie's tape recorder.

However \$250 was raised over the night and our thanks go to Mara and her helpers.



WHEN I COOK THE LUNCH AT THE HOUSE

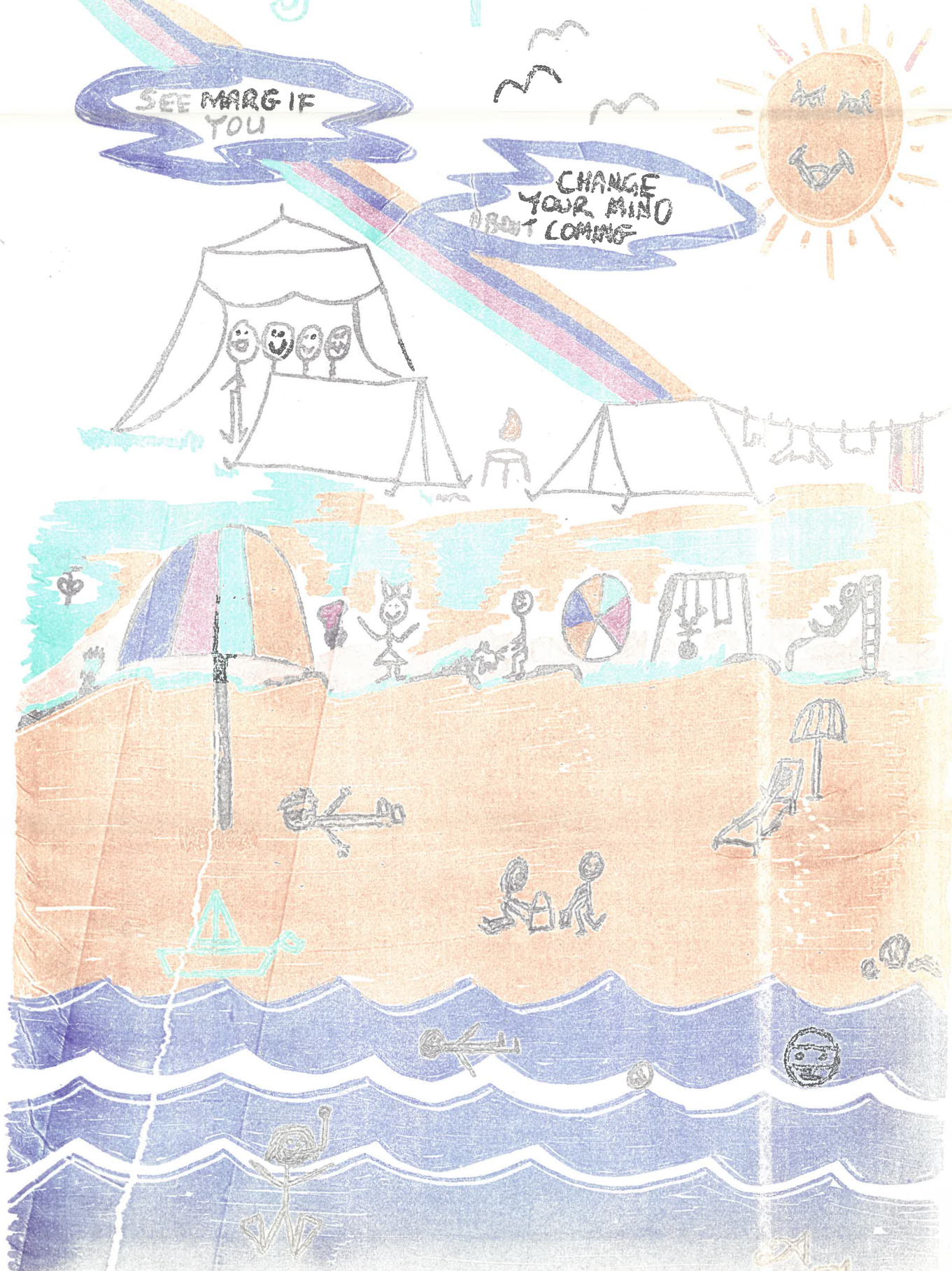
When I cook the lunch at the house. The kids drive me crazy. Sometimes I cook - Frankfurts. Sometimes it's sausages with carrots and potatoes and meat. The days I cook rice I wonder will it be throw in the bin. Most of the kids seem to enjoy the rice with the vegies and the meat. But about 2 kids just wouldn't eat the rice. I give the kids lots of vegies and meat. But it's very simple. Because I think the kids are much happy and healthier. Without too many fatty foods. And sometimes when they don't eat their meals Jenny and Michal tell them Eat up your vegies if not you won't get strong or any muscles. And you'll be like Therese.

Then each one starts showing their muscles. I enjoy cooking the lunch for the kids even though they drive me crazy and I go home with a throbbing head. I hope you like what I cook "kids" Say rice power granny and will eat the rice.



PHILLIP ISLAND

Family Camp - JAN 3-18



Interviewing our pre-school kids!

Question WHY DO YOU COME TO THE HOUSE?

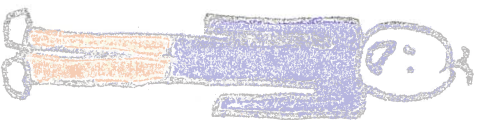
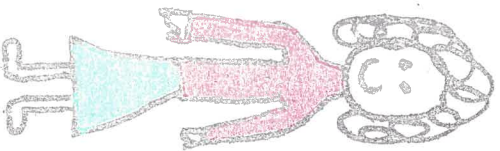
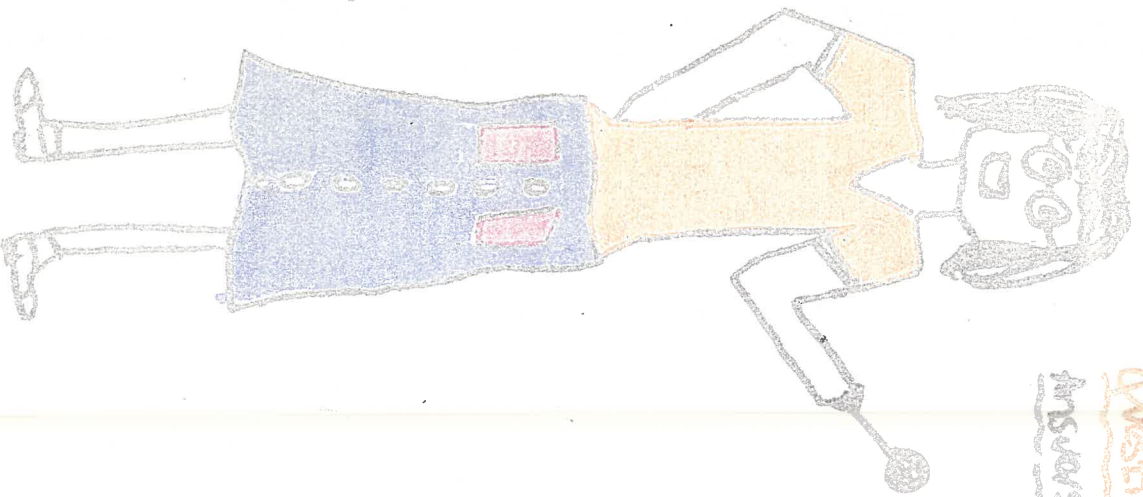
Answers: My mummies working.
Dad's know.

Cause.

Big enough to go here.

Cause I do.

Because want to play.



Question WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

Answers: Don't know.

Playing football.

Play with kids.

Play in water.

Question: WHAT'S THE BEST THING YOU LIKE?

Answers: Playing in the dolls corner.

Build blocks.

Playing house

Playing on the bikes.

Like to play with Steven

Richard.



Question: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Answers: Don't know.

Kensington.

In a flat.

Hudson Road next to

Footscray.

In my house.

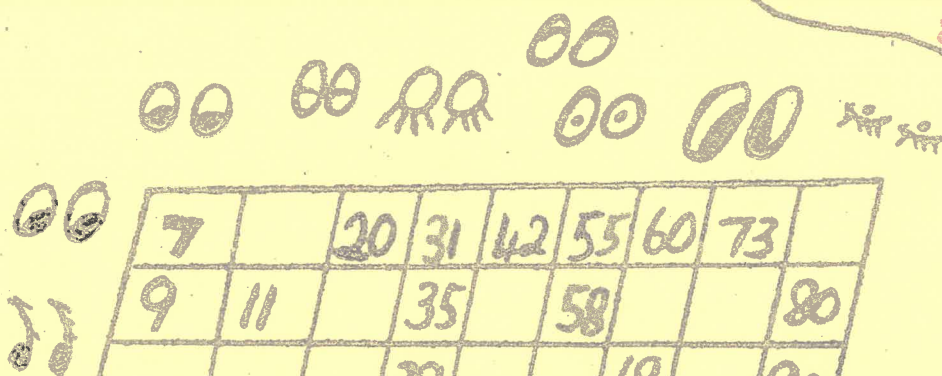
Down the hill.

BY- EDITH L. COFFEY.

BINGO AT THE WOMEN'S GROUP!!

WHAT A SCREAM WE HAVE AT OUR BINGO GAME OF A WEDNESDAY NIGHT. WE HAVE GREAT FUN LAUGH'S GALORE WE REALLY ENJOY OURSELVES TREMENDOUSLY. A COUPLE OF LADIES ARRIVE UP AT THE HOUSE A HALF AN HOUR EARLY TO SET EVERYTHING UP INCLUDING SUPPER WHICH WE HAVE BETWEEN THE FIRST AND LAST HALF OF OUR GAME. WE ALL START ARRIVING FOR OUR GAME ABOUT 7 O'CLOCK AND ONWARDS WE HAVE QUITE A CROWD. SOME OF US GO HOME BROKE SOME OF US GO HOME RICHER IF WE ARE LUCKY BUT NEVER THE LESS IT'S A NIGHT WHERE WE ALL MEET AND THOROUGHLY ENJOY OURSELVES.

TOGETHER.



Decorative elements around the table include several pairs of eyes (OO) and musical notes (♪).

7		20	31	42	55	60	73
9	11		35		58		80
			39			69	90

Eyes
down and
a...es up
girls!

Edith



GEELONG BEACH TRIP

19/11/80.

The first time I saw Geelong Beach was with a group of sixth grade primary school kids about 14 years ago. I'd enjoyed the outing then because it wasn't very often that I had trips to the beach and such, with my parents. The other children enjoyed the trip too.

The second time I went to that beach was with the Kensington Women's Group, 14 years later! As arranged, Marg Welsh called for me at my place. She drove a sea-green station wagon and we drove to Flemington so she could collect the keys for the bus. Bad luck though, Marg couldn't find the keys! She looked inside a house and then at a welfare building! Marg was angry. We commenced to drive to Camberwell to collect my children Ted and Martin so that they could also come on the outing, though Marg was rather confused as to what could be arranged

so that we wouldn't have to cancel the outing.

Back to the Women's Group House and Marg made some arrangements with Esmay to help with the transport. Soon there was Esmay, Maureen, Thelma, Maureen and her 3 kids and Ruby and another kid and woman and myself and my kids. I noticed Kathy Gibbs, Valerie Holden, and Vil Jordan weren't there coming to this trip simply

GEEELONG CONT...

because they were not there! We were all wondering what could be done, then Mary and Maureen decided to go and look for the keys again. What a relief that they had found the keys and all of us fitted in nice in that bus and off we went.

Along the trip you could see acres of dry grass land, sometimes sheep and cows, bushy green trees and new residential places. We noticed about 3 car accidents along the way. I was stunned too when I noticed an enormous Power Plant of some kind, big enough to give a person nightmares. It looked ugly!

About an hour later we arrived at Geelong beach and there was quite a crowd. The day was hot and uncomfortable and people were relaxing drinking and picnicking on the grass islands and on seats which had bright red and yellow umbrellas. I had packed a picnic for my kids and myself.

When I went to have a swim with the boys I noticed the water was so dirty? didn't like it at all, so I took the kids over to the clean swimming pool which was crowded a bit. I popped the children into the pool for a little while. However, because the pool was too crowded Ted, Martin and myself thought to give the beach ago. The kids really enjoyed the water and we splashed each other and played

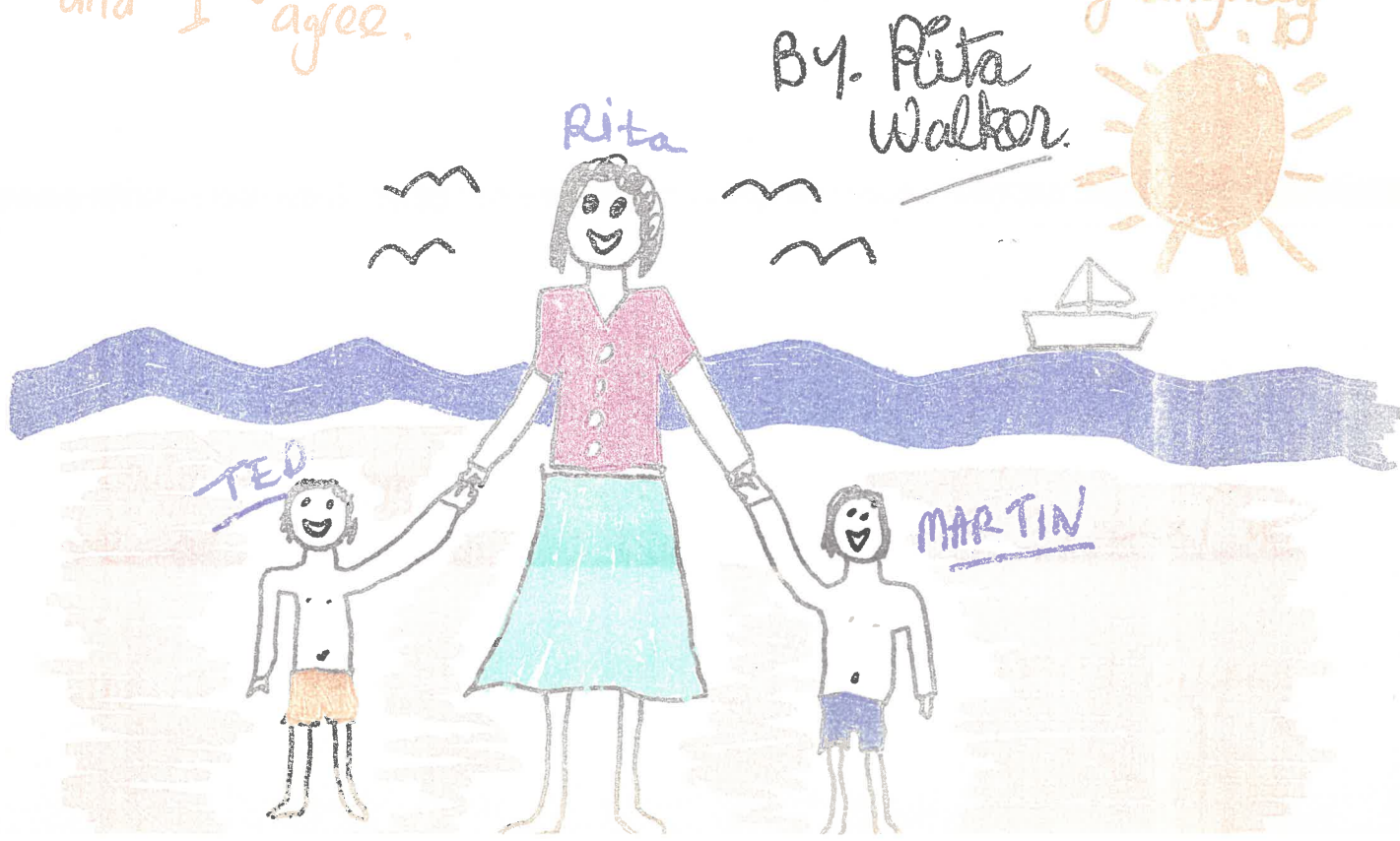
Geelong

cont...

With beach cushions; Ted had a plastic seal cushion and Martin a tiger. I love shells so I took some time to search for some, and found some nice ones too!

I'm really proud about the way the kids took to the water like they did. Our friends, Ruby, Esmay, Marg, and Maureen and her children preferred to swim around and in the pool. We were sunbaking when we were relaxing and I got sunburn't and so did Ted and Martin and the rest as well. We left Geelong at about 5.15 pm. and I took my kids by taxi when we arrived in Kensington, back to the babies home and they reckoned it was a nice outing anyway and I agree.

By. Rita Walker.



RYLL CASTLE

Sunday Oct 27th a day trip to Ryll Castle was organised, two buses and a group of families leave Kensington about 10-30.

Arrive at the castle which is up on a hill & mist around it, it really looks charming, all out of the buses, and enter castle over the draw bridge & into main entrance, where we pay our money, then inside we go.

It was just like stepping into King Arthur & knights of the round table days, we look for some where to put our picnic down, but it's so windy & cold, we find a table & some seats in a corner, put our things down & make a cup of tea, get our tea & we all fight for the corner to keep out the cold & the wind, no one sits down of course & we are all huddled in the corner to keep warm. Finish our tea & leave all our picnic things on the table, we know they will be safe, as no one will pinch our best cardboard boxes.

We walk around & there are lots of little curio shops, with all sorts of little Knick Knacks quite interesting & reasonable prices & they all fit in well, like are in & out of the shops and then we come to the loob, where it says - KNAVES - & WHENCHES. so we really are in older days we went through a maze & I follow Mary we keep going round & round & Mary says "Here we are" at the end, after the 20th

CONT.

RRYAL CASTLE

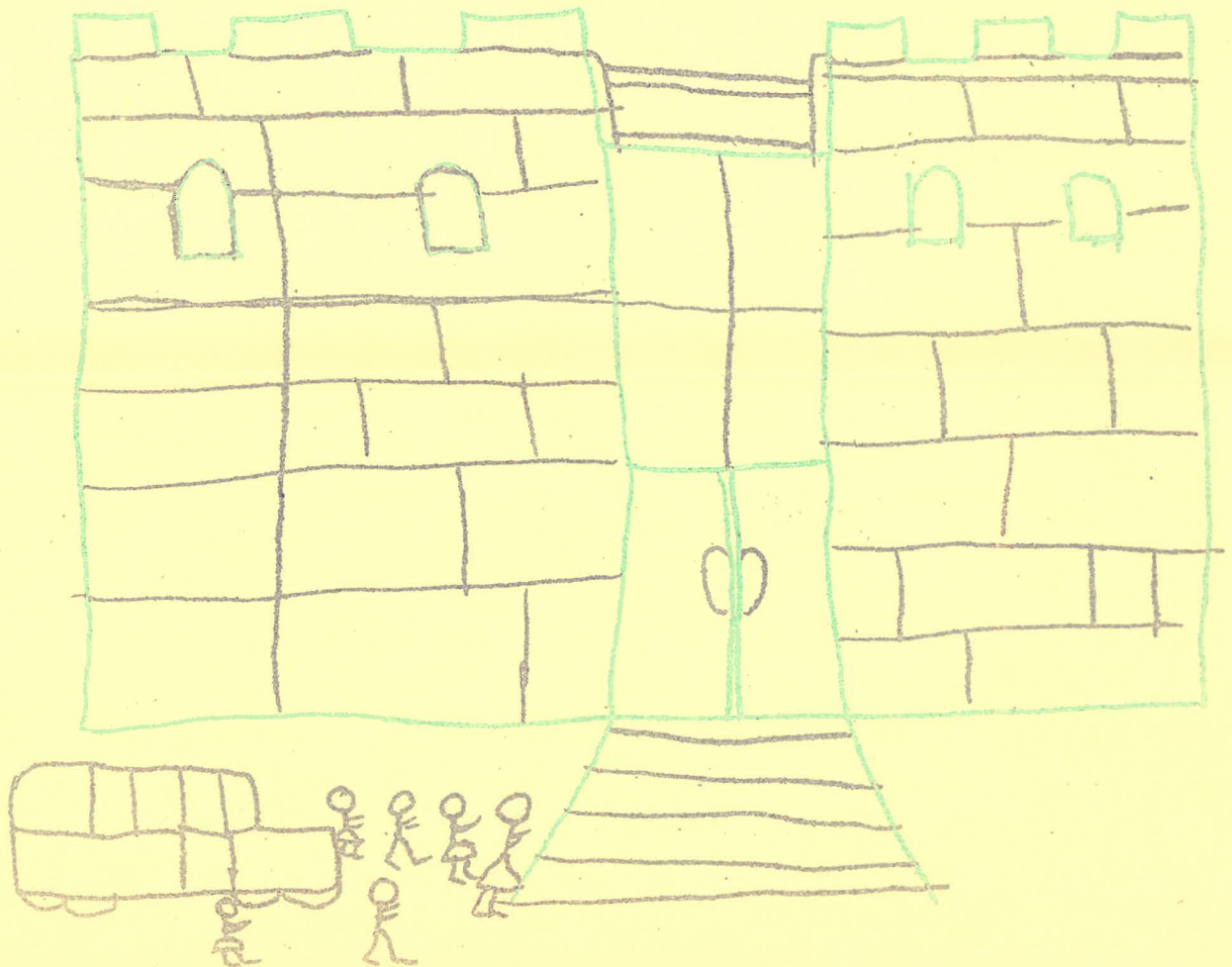
time I believed her, we all came out & were
dizzy but laughing, at 2pm the wench will be
whipped, so we decide to have lunch, round
the kids up & find somewhere to sit.

Lunch over & then a bloke in traditional
costume comes around ringing a hand bell, & rounds
the people up to follow him, so off we go, the
wench has a rope tied around her neck, & is taken
to a place where every one can see, the scroll
is opened & read out about her crimes, apparently
she spat when the Kings name was mentioned
& 8 lashes of the whip was her punishment
all the people were crowded around & really
went along with the whole scene, some young
children were upset & crying which fitted in to,
so when that was over, we went to see
the glass blowing it was really fascinating & well
worth seeing, there are lots of other things to
see, the armour, the round table & twelve chairs
the stocks, & the tavern, where we had afternoon
tea, hot scones with jam & cream & tea, lovely!

Its getting colder & windier so we debate
whether to get on our way home, or wait
for the hanging.

Sadistic lot we are were in favour
of waiting for the 4.0-clock. dead line,
we go for another walk & at about 10.15
P.T.O.

FOUR. the blake's rounding the people up again. Guess who is right behind him, big Cheesy grins at these faces, Mary & Helen making sure they don't miss out. We watch the hanging & then all start making our way out of the castle, when Mary Campbell says we will cut through the cemetery, the head stones are so funny. Its the first time I have laughed in the cemetery. Back to the bus & home, but it was a great day, If you haven't been to Kryal Castle its well worth a trip. But make sure its a warm, day.



"A LEARNING EXPERIENCE"

For those of you who didn't meet us, we are 1st year Occupational Therapy students at Lincoln Institute - Helen, Robyn and Fay - and as part of our course we spent a week at The House in McCracken Street.

We came to the Women's Group knowing very little about it or the community it serves. Now we are leaving having learnt a lot about Kensington, the people here, and the groups run by and for them.

Through visiting people in their homes and talking to those who come to the House, we have become more aware of the friendship, support and assistance offered by, and the social importance of a place such as this.

We feel that the newsletter - "Shoulder to Shoulder" - is a very valuable instrument of expression for many people to share how they feel about lots of things - the Women's Group and its associated activities, their homes, themselves, their experiences. It is the newsletter that has given us the chance to tell all of you what we have gained over the last week, and through your articles in past issues, you have shown us what the group is all about.

This afternoon we are going back to Lincoln Institute to meet all our fellow students and to swap stories and experiences about our week of community involvement. It's a pity that more of our classmates couldn't have shared this week with us and the people here at McCracken Street.

Continued

We'd just like to thank everyone here for helping us to gain as much as we did from this week. A special thankyou to Marg., a very capable and friendly person, without whom this week would not have been.

Helen McInerney

Robyn Boddycomb

Fay Townrow

HOLIDAY TIME

The house will be closed from December 23rd (evening) until Jan 5th 1981, when staff will be back. The child care re-opens on Jan. 12th at 700 a.m. However, Marg will be here on Jan 2nd as the camp starts on Jan 3rd.

See you all

66 The important thing is the women are able to get out and about, which a lot don't...??

66 I certainly love my job, and do get disheartened at times!

66 I'm glad to be able to bring Benjamin up in both worlds. He can have the advantages I never had...??

... By Es (affectionately) !... Es may Charles.

With my job I'm involved in trying to run a women's group.

We have about an average of six women each week. We tried a few things which failed and some lost interest. I guess the most important thing is the women are able to get out and about, which a lot don't, and to places where they wouldn't normally go. It's part of teaching self-confidence, which I also try to do in my role of Family Aide. You know what's involved in your women's group - ours is much the same only on a much smaller scale.

There are a lot of black women who don't want to mix with other white people. They want to stay within their own community. I guess this is not so unusual as there are the different ethnic families who are in the same boat. It is a shame though that they don't want to or feel they can't leave their own confines.

In my job as family aide, I do as the name says. "aide" the "family". This is done in lots of different ways - help with social security, if they need a curtain up and I'm there, if I know how to cut patterns, take them to doctors, hospitals and just sit and talk. I have one family who's daughter is in foster care and a stepward. She wants to take her son but is not allowed

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE - BY ES.

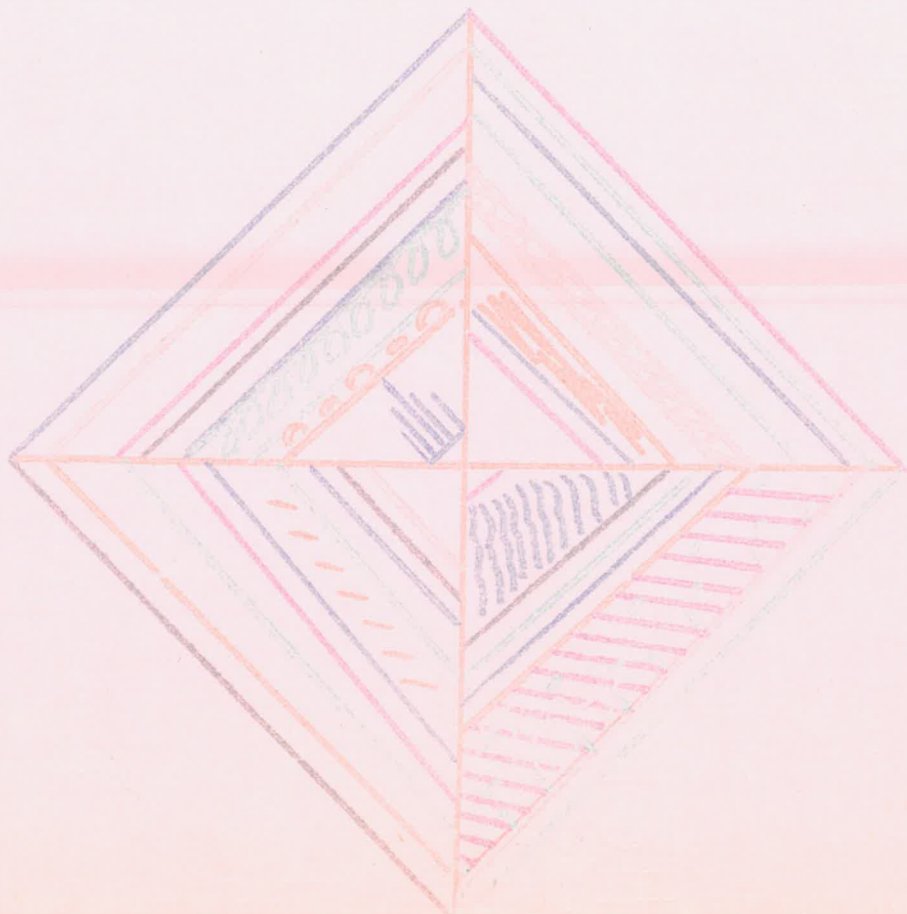
to by herself so I have to go with her on my day off once a fortnight.

I certainly love my job and I do get disheartened at times.

I'm getting to know a lot of relatives I never knew existed.

I'm also getting to know more about blackfella's themselves and I pick up bits and pieces of aboriginal lore. It's made me want to know more of aboriginal history and now I'm going to try to find out what tribe I'm from.

Nowadays there are a lot of advantages given to Koorries. I'm glad to be able to bring Benjamin up in both worlds. He can have the advantages I never had.



Merry Christmas



from all of us ~ to you.

and

happiness for the
new year.

see you in February
don't forget to subscribe
to the newsletter \$8