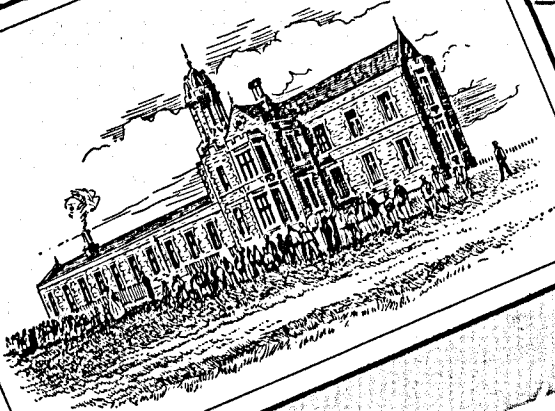
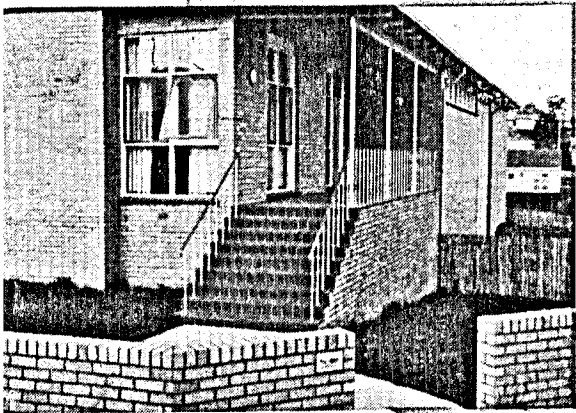


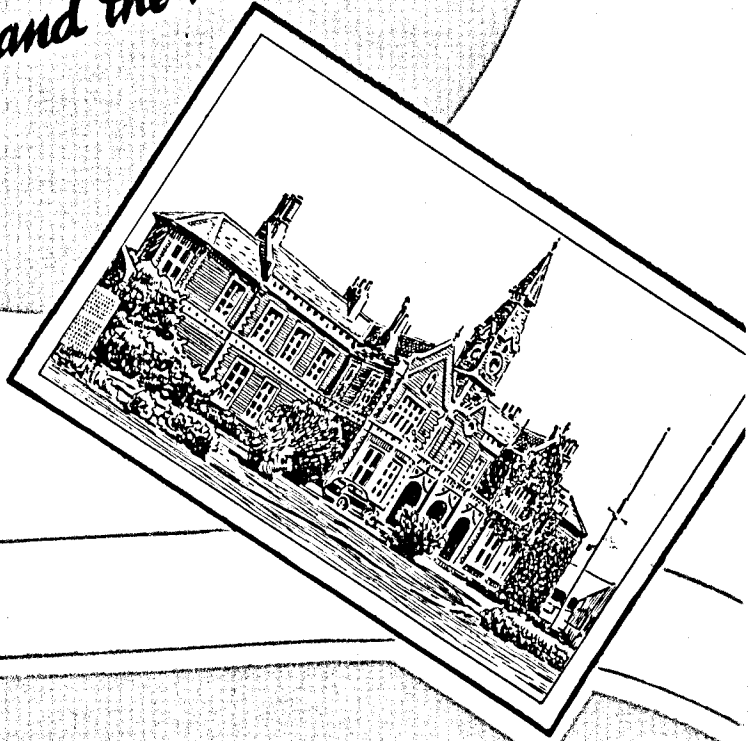
**1851**



*The FIRST*  
**100**  
**YEARS**  
*and the Next Decade*



**THE STORY OF  
THE MELBOURNE  
ORPHANAGE**



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(1961)

**1961**

Phone:  
560-0122

MELBOURNE FAMILY CARE ORGANIZATION  
FERNTREE GULLY ROAD,  
(near Springvale Road)  
GLEN WAVERLEY  
P.O. Box No. 3.

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS AND THE NEXT DECADE.

This booklet tells our story from 1851 to 1961. Since it was written a great number of changes have taken place and it is hoped that the story will again be brought up to date in 1971.

It is worth noting, however, at this time, that the old buildings at Brighton have been completely demolished to be replaced by the new Headquarters at Glen Waverley and Family Group Homes in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

In addition our preventive services have been developed to a very great extent and our work in this field now involves some hundreds of children each year.

Our name was officially changed on the 18th August, 1965, to Melbourne Family Care Organization.

J. C. JANICKE,  
Secretary & Superintendent.

**THE FIRST  
HUNDRED YEARS**

being

**A BRIEF HISTORY**

of the

**MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE**

from

**1851 to 1951**

**Compiled by J. C. Butler, J.P., Secretary and  
Superintendent of the Orphanage.**

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**THE NEXT DECADE**

**Compiled by J. C. Janicke, B.A., Dip.Ed.**

First printed 1951; reprinted 1959; reprinted with The Next Decade in 1961.

# MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE

Dendy Street, Brighton, S.5, Victoria

## OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

at the Centenary of the Orphanage

### PRESIDENT:

Brigadier The Hon. R. W. TOVELL, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., M.L.A. — 1950

### Vice-President:

Mr. A. Robertson Gordon — 1940

### Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. D. R. McLean — 1941

### Members:

Mr. Chas. S. Booth . . . . .	1946	Mrs. M. D. Battle . . . . .	1945
Cr. R. T. Breen . . . . .	1949	Mrs. A. Mackenzie Brown . .	1946
Mr. F. Bruce Kemp . . . . .	1950	Mrs. A. G. Bignell . . . . .	1949
Mr. W. H. Moule . . . . .	1941	Mrs. P. J. Kent . . . . .	1928
Rev. N. Pfeiffer . . . . .	1951	Mrs. H. Norman . . . . .	1949
Rev. J. D. Sansom . . . . .	1951	Mrs. G. Sutherland . . . . .	1928
Cr. John E. Stamp . . . . .	1945	Mrs. Trigellis-Smith . . . .	1948
Mr. Howard Wright . . . . .	1951	Mrs. A. O. Vary . . . . .	1923

### Secretary and Superintendent:

J. C. Butler, J.P. — 1922

### Hon. Medical Officers:

Dr. W. McClelland — 1912

Dr. Alan R. Tate — 1940

### Hon. Dentists:

Dr. Russell G. Shannon, L.D.S., D.D.Sc. (Chicago) — 1941

Mr. Hartley Gibson, B.D.Sc., L.D.S. — 1938

### Matron:

Miss Jean McCubbin — 1949

### Accountant:

Mr. L. G. B. Steele — 1934

### Auditors:

Messrs. G. Marquand and Son, Chartered Accountants (Aust.) — 1905

# MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE

Dendy Street, Brighton, S.5, Victoria

## OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1959

### PRESIDENT:

Brigadier The Hon. R. W. TOVELL, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D. — 1950

### Vice-Presidents:

Mr. R. T. Breen . . . . . 1949  
Mr. Howard Wright . . . . . 1951  
Mrs. B. Trigellis-Smith . . . . . 1948

### Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. Howard Wright — 1951

### Members:

Mr. T. D. Boyce . . . . .	1954	Rev. K. Roberts . . . . .	1955
Dr. T. W. Farrell . . . . .	1955	Mr. T. Thornton Ward . . . . .	1959
Mr. F. Bruce Kemp . . . . .	1950	Mrs. M. D. Battle . . . . .	1945
Mr. Kenneth Keown . . . . .	1952	Mrs. A. Mackenzie Brown . . . . .	1946
Mr. W. H. Moule . . . . .	1941	Mrs. F. Gamble . . . . .	1956
Mr. A. R. Partridge . . . . .	1957	Dr. P. J. Gladwell . . . . .	1956
Rev. N. Pfeiffer . . . . .	1951	Mrs. F. A. Hope . . . . .	1952
Mr. C. J. Pollock . . . . .	1952	Mrs. H. Norman . . . . .	1949
Mrs. E. Sutherland . . . . .	1928		

### Secretary and Superintendent:

Mr. J. C. Janicke, B.A., Dip.Ed. — 1957

### Matron:

Mrs. I. Stockman — 1958

### Accountant:

Mr. H. L. Wishart, A.A.S.A. — 1956

### Auditors:

Messrs. G. Marquand and Son, Chartered Accountants (Aust.) — 1905

# FOREWORD

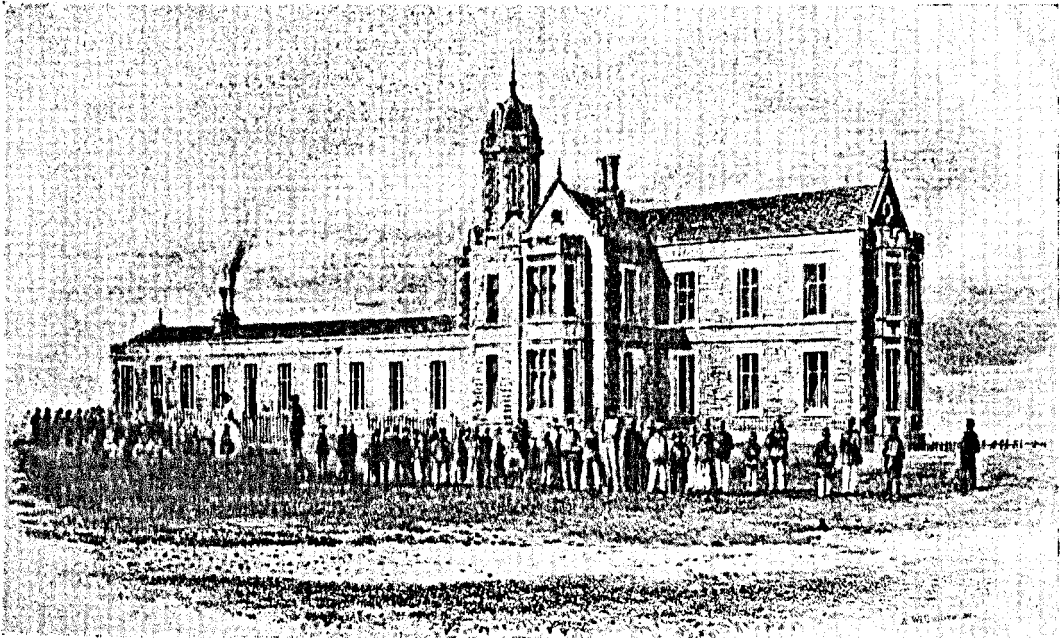
**T**HIS year the Melbourne Orphanage reaches the age of 100 years, and is modestly proud of its long record of service to the community.

It is, in spirit, still the same organisation that set out to help little children in those far-off days when Melbourne was in its infancy, for the Charter of those early days still stands.

It says: "The Institution shall be conducted on the principles of the Christian religion as held by the various branches of the Protestant Church. Its objects shall be to assist destitute children without reference to the creed or country of their parents."

This Charter, designed to meet the needs of destitute orphans in a pioneer town but 17 years old, amended only to include in its scope, children other than orphans, is, after 100 years, still broad enough for an Institution serving the under-privileged children of a metropolis with a population of over a million.

May the work in the future be carried on with a vision and an imagination equal to that of its founders, that a future equally constructive, and worthy of the community's confidence, may be assured.



Main Building of the original Asylum at Emerald Hill.

# THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

*being the story of*

## THE MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE

*from*

1851 to 1951

**1843.** Although it was in the year 1851 that the Melbourne Orphan Asylum received its name and was officially established, its genesis actually dates back to 1842-43 when a little band of women associated with St. James' Church of England in Melbourne, formed a Dorcas Society, with the Rev. A. C. Thomson as Chairman, for the purpose of visiting the sick poor of the parish.

They carried on this good work for some years, and during that period, established a small Home for destitute aged people.

**1849.** In 1849, Mr. J. T. Smith, one of the early Mayors of Melbourne, suggested to Mrs. Germain Nicholson, who was at that time Honorary Treasurer of the Dorcas Society, that the Society might extend its activities by taking charge of the children of a woman who had been killed by her husband.

The committee agreed to do so, and the children were placed in the Home which was already sheltering the old folk. Later on, the Mayor sent two more orphans to the Society, and later still, three more were added to the number. It was then that the Society decided to provide a shelter for children only. The old folk were removed to the Benevolent Asylum in North Melbourne; the children were placed in a rented cottage in Little Collins Street, under the care of a widow with children of her own.

At this time the name of the Society was changed from "Dorcas" to "St. James' Orphan and Visiting Society."

Within two months, the cottage having become overcrowded, larger premises were obtained at Flagstaff Hill, and the ladies began to direct their attention to raising funds for the erection of a still larger building.

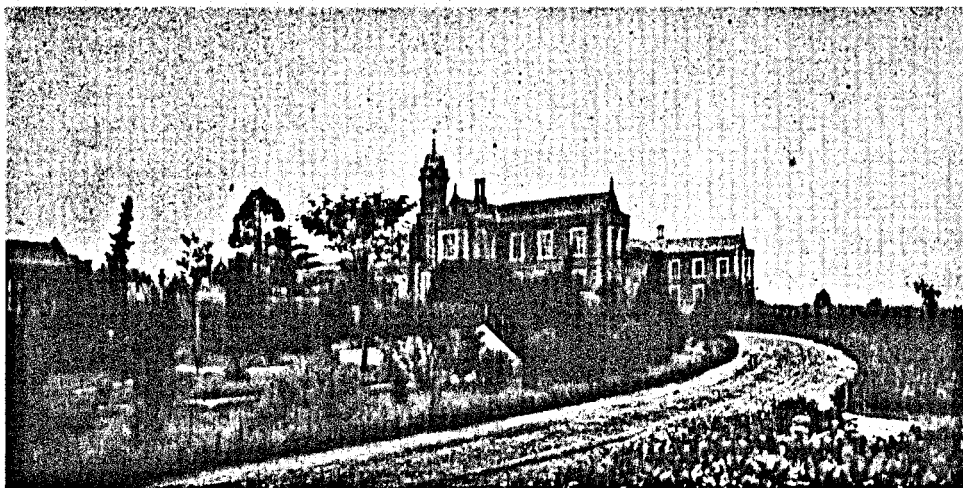
**1851.** By 1851 they had succeeded to the extent of securing finance for the erection of a wooden building at the corner of Bourke and King Streets, Melbourne, and the children were subsequently removed to this new Home. This was first named "St. James' Orphan Asylum" and later, in 1854, the Melbourne Orphan Asylum.

**1854.** In 1854, the site of the Asylum having proved unhealthy owing to the swampy nature of the ground, the children, most of whom were in ill health, were removed to tents, loaned by the Government, and erected on land adjoining the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Simpson at Kew. They remained there for some time, and in the records special mention is made of the keen personal interest Mr. and Mrs. Simpson took in the children's welfare.

### EMERALD HILL

About this time, application was made to the Government for a grant of land on which to build an Asylum which would more nearly meet the needs of the rapidly growing community. A Mrs. Badcock, who was then Honorary Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, took a prominent part in making the representations, and eventually permission was obtained for the Committee to make use of a piece of land, ten acres in extent, situated at Emerald Hill (South Melbourne). This grant was accompanied by a gift from the Government of £4,500 for building purposes.

When matters had reached this stage, the ladies decided that a number of gentlemen



Front view of Main Building of the original Asylum at Emerald Hill, 1856-1877. This building faced Park Street. The drive entrance was in Cecil Street.

should be added to the Committee as, according to the Minutes—

“it was manifestly impossible for ladies to deal effectively with matters of contract which require habits of business acquired only in the activities of commercial life.”

Accordingly six clergymen and six laymen were added to the Committee who then elected the Lord Bishop of Melbourne as President. The new Committee immediately set about planning for the new Asylum.

The Annual Report of 1854 says—

“It is hoped that an institution will hereafter be raised equal to any erected for a similar purpose in the Mother Country.”

Competitive designs were invited, with a first prize of £100 and the successful architect was Mr. Chas. Webb. The plans submitted provided for 300 children living in a barrack-type of building, the Main Building being an imposing structure with a tower.

Provision was made for the education of the children in a school which was to be part of the Asylum buildings. Trade classes were provided for, as well as a gymnasium and a hospital. Extensive cultivation of the land was also contemplated, in order that vegetables and milk might be provided.

Despite great financial difficulties the whole of this splendid scheme was eventually carried out, but the Committee had perforce to move

slowly, and it was some years before the whole of the buildings could be erected, and thus permit of the full realisation of their ambitions.

**1855.** On the Sixth of September, 1855, the Foundation Stone of the Main Building was laid by His Excellency Sir Charles Hotham, Governor of Victoria. The event was made the occasion of an official Municipal welcome. The streets were decorated, and an Address of Welcome presented to His Excellency by the Mayor.

**1856.** By March, 1856, the building was deemed sufficiently advanced for the children to enter into residence, although it would appear that there could only have been the barest necessities available.

**1857.** It was recorded in 1857 that —

“The Committee have not yet been able to carry out a satisfactory system of management by reason of the small accommodation afforded by the building in its present state, as compared with the number of inmates.”

However, with the aid of a further Government grant of £3,000 for extensions to buildings, we find that by 1859 the West Wing was completed and the school room built. A still further grant of £1,500 then made possible the building of the hospital. There were now 149 children in residence.



## APPRENTICES

**1858.** During 1858 the idea was conceived of apprenticing girls and boys to employers, partly to find homes for children of an age to leave the Asylum, and partly to make possible the admission of children for whom there would otherwise have been no room.

This plan was most successful, and all through the years to the present day, the Orphanage has continued to find suitable positions for many hundreds of children. It is interesting to note that employers were required to donate £5 to the funds of the Asylum before they were permitted to have an apprentice. The children were paid for their services at the following rates: Boys — First year, 1/- per week; second year, 2/- per week; third year, 3/- per week. Girls — First year, 6d. per week; second year, 1/- per week; third year, 2/6 per week. Little wonder that the plan was a success.

At this time all girls over eleven, and all boys over twelve were taken from school during one half of each day, and engaged in some useful work in the Asylum, their education being supplemented by attendance at Night School.

The number of children in residence at the end of this year was 308. There were seven deaths during the year, and the cost of maintenance was £21/2/6 per child per annum.

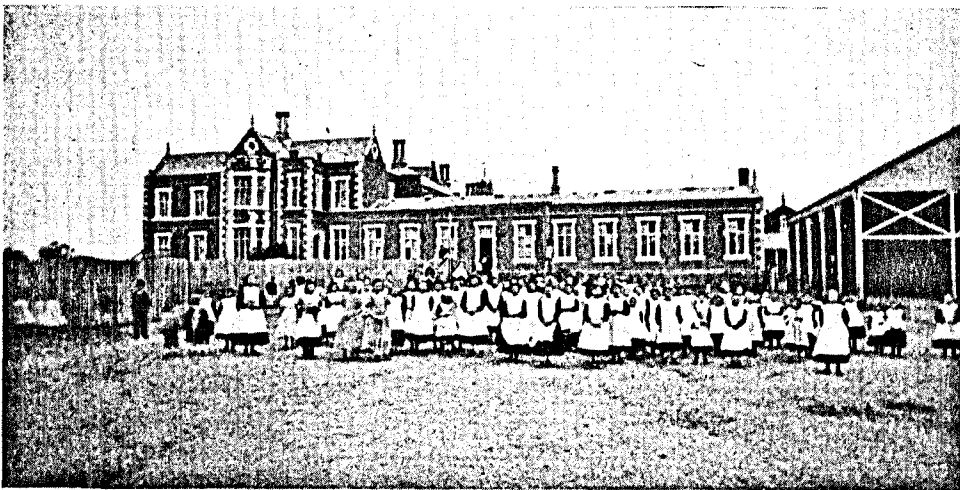
The large number of children being cared for, may be attributed to the fact that there were, at this time, no other institutions to which children could be sent and also that the rules of the Asylum provided no age limit. Children were admitted when a few months old, and, as the records show, some of them were in a very sick condition on admission. This would account for the comparatively high death rate per annum.

## Mr. EDWIN EXON

**1859.** In 1859, Mr. Edwin Exon, who was destined to play such an important part in the affairs of the Orphanage, was appointed Secretary, and Superintendent.

For 50 years he guided and directed its affairs, and it is in no small degree due to his wise and efficient management that the Institution owes its great success. Because of this, Mr. Exon is deserving of more than passing mention. He was a man of high ideals and strong purpose. He was a good disciplinarian and organiser, a shrewd business man, a born leader, and a man of high Christian principles.

Withal he was truly a "father to the fatherless" and took a deep personal interest in the welfare of the children committed to his care. Mrs. Exon, who was at the same time appointed Matron, proved in her sphere to be a worthy helpmeet to her husband. She, too, was an outstanding personality, with a deep and abiding love for children, and she left her mark on the institution during her 34 years of service.



Rear view of Emerald Hill Asylum with entrance from Dorcas Street.

