

WESTERN CHILDREN HAVING GRAND TIME AT SEASIDE HOME

TORQUAY, July 11.— The monthly meeting of the Hervey Bay Committee, Bush Children's Health Scheme, was held on July 10 at the Sir Leslie Wilson Home. There were present Messrs. N. J. Anderson, W. Pearce and Leggett, Matron Taylor, Mesdames N. J. Anderson, K. McPherson, Onoprienko, Robertson and the Misses P. and M. Brind.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Davis, for her efforts in organising a dance at Jazzland, Urangan, the proceeds of which realised £25/-. Mrs. Davis also entertained the children at her home one afternoon.

Mr. Anderson reported that there had not been any meeting in Maryborough, owing to the lighting restrictions, but in speaking to Dr. Thiele, regarding funds, Dr. Thiele had mentioned writing to Brisbane for permission to raise funds, and that the Maryborough Male Choir contemplated giving one week's entertainment for the Bush Children's Scheme.

Mr. Anderson mentioned that the Sir Leslie Wilson Home at Torquay was an asset to the Bay. By bringing children from all parts of Queensland to the Home kept it always before the eye of the public.

It was decided to write to Mr. Fisher, Secretary of the Maryborough Branch, enquiring if it could be arranged to bring the Maryborough Male Choir to the Bay to give a concert in aid of the scheme, at a date suitable to the choir.

It was also decided to ask the Seafarers Progress Association to organise some function to support the Torquay Bush Children's Scheme. It was regretted that there was no representative from Seafarers on the Hervey Bay committee, as all other centres of the Bay had members on the committee.

Mr. Anderson mentioned that the day set aside for the bus picnic to Gataker's Bay had been changed, owing to Miss Coxon's request that the children be her guests for that afternoon. Miss Coxon's gesture was much appreciated by the committee, and to show its appreciation, it was decided that members of the committee meet Miss Coxon personally and express their thanks.

Mr. Anderson mentioned that he had received several letters from the St. George children and the Cunnamulla children.

Matron Taylor presented her monthly report, which gave an account of the children's activities from day to day. It was decided to forward the report to the Maryborough Branch. Matron reported that Mr. Wearin had very kindly supplied three props for the clothes line.

Matron's report revealed that the children had been to the circus. The proprietor very kindly admitted them free, and gave them a first class seat.

The children were also learning to knit. Mrs. A. E. Taylor, wife of the Rev. Taylor, Maryborough, organised the knitting class. The Pailin V.A.'s had taken the children for a picnic. Mrs. Davis had the children to her home one afternoon. Matron took them out for bush hikes, which they liked very much.

Matron took them out for bush hikes, which they liked very much, especially as the hike was always accompanied with a well laden picnic basket. The day of the bus trip to Gataker's Bay, happened to be one of the boy's birthday. George Lennig was twelve that day, and he thought that the outing was put on especially for him. Billy Perry has also celebrated his birthday since coming to the Home, and Matron arranged an outing and party for the children. One of the bigger girls, Rose Timbers, had the misfortune to run a long splinter into her foot one day while playing on the Home verandah, and as all Matron's efforts to remove it failed, the child was sent by ambulance to Dr. Thiele. The children have been free from accident, of a serious nature, but young Clarence Timms has the happy knack of cutting himself in various places. They are only minor cuts and Matron attends to them.

Matron Taylor mentioned that although these children came from very poor homes, they are all exceptionally well behaved.

Gifts of half a case of oranges from Mr. Bowd, peanuts from Mr. Hoberg and a box of sweets from the Baptist Ladies' Guild have been received.

Among the children, the oldest, Eloise Sturzaker, who will be 14 in September, had never been to the pictures. She lives at Kajabbi, sixty miles from Cloncurry, but still on the railway line. Others come from Quamby, 28 miles past Cloncurry. From the fifteen now at the Sir Leslie Wilson Home ten of them had never seen the sea before. At Quamby there are 17 scholars at the State school, there is also a hotel and hall; at Kajabbi, which is on the Leichhardt River there are 18 children at the State school, a hotel and hall, Post Office and store. Neither township has a church or Sunday school, and only one of the children now at the Home had ever been to Sunday school before coming to the Bay. Matron sends them to Sunday school and church every Sunday morning, and read Bible stories to them at night. They love singing, and there are some very nice voices among them, and when passing the Home, one may hear them singing "Jesus Loves Me" which they have learned since coming to the Bay. Mr. Brand, a Missionary, visits their township once a year.

Matron mentioned all the kindnesses showered on the children from Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Anderson, who have taken them for outings to Maryborough, and helped to entertain them in numerous ways.

The children are all putting on weight, and looking well. Eloise, who was very thin on arrival has gained several pounds in weight.