

# Pot Pourri



**CLIFF PICTON  
CHAIRMAN  
OF ADOPTION  
COMMITTEE**

Mr Cliff Picton, Lecturer of Social Work at Monash University has been elected Chairman of the newly formed Victorian Standing Committee of Adoption.

At the inaugural meeting held at the Social Welfare Department offices, representatives from fifteen organizations involved with and interested in the care and welfare of adopted children met and appointed office bearers.

The formation of the Standing Committee had its origins in the First Australian Conference on Adoption held in Sydney in February 1976.

The task group on Adoption standards and Practice recommended the formation of a national body to draw up standards for adoption practice. It was however felt necessary to establish state committees who would provide the impetus for the development of a national body.

## PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

The Proceedings of the First Australian Conference on Adoption, edited by Cliff Picton are now available.

You can obtain your copy by writing to:

Mr Cliff Picton  
Social Work Department,  
Monash University,  
Wellington Road,  
CLAYTON. 3168.

and enclosing a cheque for \$5.00 (plus 60 cents postage).

## DIET AND DISORDER

Medical researchers in Sydney have established a link between hyperactive children and artificially coloured and flavoured foods.

The research was conducted by Dr Peter Cook from the NSW Health Commission and Dr Joan Woodhill from the Prince Henry Hospital. It was found that when all foods with artificial flavouring or colouring were eliminated from the diet and those containing salicylates (which includes many fruits, tomatoes, apples, oranges) then drugs that were prescribed for the symptoms could be significantly reduced, in some cases stopped altogether.

The study supports the findings of Dr Ben Feingold from the Kaiser Research Institute in San Francisco. A grant has been received from the National Health and Medical Research Council to carry out more controlled research into this problem.

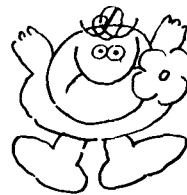
## MONASH RESEARCH

Researchers at the Monash University in Melbourne claim that they have developed new ways of detecting learning difficulties in pre school children.

Co-ordinator of the Unit, Dr. G. Best, said that a special centre at the campus using intensive screening techniques concentrated on the detection of reading, language and muscular co-ordination problems.

In the past children with these problems often have not been detected until they are quite old. By that time the problem is well entrenched and the chance of recovery diminished.

The centre, which has about 100 therapists, doctors and students attached to it, has been running about two years. About sixty five children are at present being treated at the centre, most of them in the pre school age range.



## CHILDREN'S WEEK

**(1st-7th August)**

More than 400 people turned out to the "Paint In" which was to celebrate the opening of Children's Week, 1976, in Victoria.

The "Paint In" however, was postponed a week due to inclement weather and it, in fact, marked the closing.

The building constructors fence which surrounds the building works of the New Arts Centre provided the canvas for the large group of budding artists that participated.

By the end of the afternoon's painting, nearly half a mile of fence had been decorated.

The slogan for Children's Week 1976 (known until this year as Child Care Week),

"Make it a fun one", was carried through into many activities and functions for the week.

Councils, schools and other organizations arranged activities for children — some councils made it a special day in council for children, others organized barbecues, puppet shows, etc.

Child Care Week will be celebrated in New South Wales beginning the 19th September.



## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE — CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL**

The Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital are planning a National Conference to be held at the University of Sydney from the 26th May to the 29th May, 1977.

The conference will focus on the theme "The emotional needs of infants and young children — implications for policy and practice".

The main speakers at the conference will be James and Joyce Robertson of the Tavistock Child Research Unit, London.

Mr Robertson is the author of the book, *Young Children in Hospital* and has produced films on the problems of children in Hospital and in foster care.

There will be four sub conferences which will relate to the main theme,

1. The young child in the family.
2. The young child in care.
3. The young child in hospital and health care.
4. The young child and the law.

It is envisaged that the recommendation of the conference will provide a basis of future Australian policies and practices concerned with meeting the needs of young children.

Enquiries regarding the conference can be directed to the Conference Secretary, Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital, 5 Union Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150. Telephone (02) 633 1180.

## **NEW COURSE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS**

The NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN are attempting to find a solution to meet the problem of finding adequately trained personnel who can give skilled help to social workers responsible for families and children in situations of high risk. Under a new scheme for post qualifying studies in England the NATIONAL Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to children, School of Social Work is offering a course which leads to a post qualifying certificate in Child/Family Protective Social Work following a four month course of integrated theory and practice. The course has been approved by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work.

Further information regarding this course may be obtained from Mr Bob Fenton Headquarters, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Riding House, London. W1P8AA. Tel. 01-580-8812.

## **PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS**

A survey conducted by Parents without partners has come up with some interesting figures.

The membership of PWP is concentrated in the 25-40 years age bracket. 75 per cent of the membership have custody of their children and 80 per cent of the membership believe that they have benefited from membership. The survey covered housing, the emotional and behavioural problems of children. A majority of lone fathers surveyed preferred to have assisted housekeeping services rather than receive a pension. Senator Guilfoyle, Minister of Social Security has asked state departments to make a list of priorities on the needs of lone fathers.

## **-9TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS — MELBOURNE 19TH-26TH AUGUST, 1978**

The International Association for Child Psychiatry and Allied Professions is planning to hold its 9th International Congress in Melbourne from the 19th - 26th August, 1978.

Main speakers at the Congress will be Dr Albert J. Slonit, Professor of Paediatrics and Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine. Director, Child Study Centre, Yale University, President, International Association for Child Psychiatry and Allied Professions (I.A.C.A.P.)

Dr Peter Neubauer, Clinical Professor, Downstate Medical Center State University, New York, Director, Child Development Center, Jewish Board of Guardians, Brooklyn, New York. Secretary-General International Association for Child Psychiatry and Allied Professions (I.A.C.P.A.P.)

Information regarding the Congress can be obtained from Mr John Williams, Department of Psychiatry, Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

## **CHILD ABUSE — CONFERENCE**

An international conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 20th - 22nd September 1976. Four main topics will be discussed: 1. Predictions and Prevention; 2. Family Diagnosis and development of a treatment plan; 3. Newer treatment modalities; 4. Rights of Children — law.

All enquiries should be addressed to Pierre E. Ferrier M.D. Clinique Universitaire de Pediatrie, 30 bd de la Cluse, 1211 Geneva 4 Switzerland.



## **O.M.E.P. — WORLD CONGRESS**

**(22-27 August, 1977)**

## **ORGANISATION MONDIALE POUR L'EDUCATION PRESCOLAIRE**

### **WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

The Polish Committee are organizing the WORLD CONGRESS OMEP in Warsaw to be held from the 22nd to the 26th August, 1977, on the theme "TO THE GREATEST BENEFIT OF CHILDREN".

A Comprehensive program has been arranged under two broad headings:

1. Children and the Law
2. The Rights of Children to Full Development and a Happy Childhood.

Further information on the Congress can be obtained by contacting Mrs E. V. Pullen M.B.E., 20 Mullum Road, Ringwood, Vic. 3143.

