

SKY PILOT NEWS

AUGUST, 1959

Published monthly by the Sky Pilot Fellowship Ltd., Marella Mission Farm, Acres Road, Kellyville, N.S.W. Phone YA 2427.
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SUBSCRIPTION, 2/6 per annum.

Registered at G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by post as a periodical.

SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP

RALLY and SALE of WORK

to be held (D.V.) in the grounds of

MARELLA MISSION FARM

ACRES ROAD, KELLYVILLE, N.S.W.

Saturday, 7th November, 1959

10.30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING, 2 p.m.

ALL THE USUAL STALLS: REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ALL DAY

Proceeds in aid of our work for needy aboriginal children.

Do your Christmas shopping while you enjoy a day's outing in the country; at the same time you will be helping this work for the dark children of our own land.

CHRISTMAS POULTRY: You may buy young ducklings or cockerels here and fatten them at home.

Make up a car party, including your friends. For children there will be motor boat trips on the dam and rides on Mission ponies.

If you are unable to come by car, there are buses from Parramatta to Kellyville Post Office. The Mission Farm is about one mile from the Post Office, but transport between the Mission Farm and Post Office bus stop will be arranged for the following buses:—

Depart Parramatta Station:

8.48 a.m.

11.00 a.m.

12.16 p.m. (Rouse Hill bus)

1.15 p.m.

Depart Kellyville P.O.

1.55 p.m.

4.11 p.m.

6.40 p.m.

Gifts for the stalls will be greatly appreciated. They should be railed to the "Sky Pilot", Parramatta Railway Station, or brought direct to the Mission Farm before or on the day of the Rally.

For further particulars, please 'phone Marella Mission Farm, YA 2427.



"I'M REALLY RALPH; BUT I DO LIKE DRESSING UP."

RALLY AND SALE OF WORK: A great deal depends on the success of this function, which is advertised in this leaflet. Owing to the rising costs of hiring the Sydney Town Hall and the work involved in taking all the goods from the Mission Farm to the city and bringing the balance back in the evening, it

has been decided to hold the Rally at the Mission Farm. We are much better prepared than on previous occasions, and if it is a success we hope to hold further functions here in the future. Our greatest need is for a fine day. We do ask your co-operation in praying about the weather. We also need a lot more goods for

stocking the stalls. Gifts of fruit and vegetables, jams, pickles, sweets, cakes and all articles of needlework are specially needed.

THE DARK CHILDREN: The number of children in our care averages between 15 and 20. This is the absolute maximum that we can accommodate at present, in spite of the building programme and the extra rooms being added. At the beginning we did not accept very young children, and the average age of those in our care was about 10 years; now, however, we are caring for babies and toddlers as well, and the average age of our children is only five years. As this news is written, we have nine children four years of age and under. Sometimes we are asked why we accept them at such a young age. Obviously it means a lot more work (especially with the washing); a lot more responsibility and broken nights; and, of course, extra cost. But it was very necessary. So many children who came to us were suffering the effects of malnutrition and neglect in infancy that we felt a responsibility rested on us. It was almost impossible for the dark mothers to find anyone willing to care for the infants that they were unable to attend to properly themselves if they were away at work during the day. But this does not mean that we are only caring for infants; we are still willing to keep them until they are old enough to go out to work themselves, usually at 15 years. In special cases we keep them for longer than this. Each child is different and has his or her own problems. Our job is to see that they receive the care, the advice, the individual treatment that we would give to our own children.

As it is impossible at present to accept the care of all the dark children who wish to come here, we give preference to those who seem to be in the greatest need. These are usually the infants. We look forward to the day when we shall have sufficient staff and accommodation to provide for all. Support for this work is growing steadily, but it is not yet enough to justify our launching a public appeal for the thousands of pounds that would be required to build the home we have in view. We have to meet our present commitments first. As with many other young missions, we have often been able to carry on only because of the self-denial and sacrifice of the staff. But our faith is in God. We are confident that our prayers will be answered and all our needs met.

YOUR HELP: We have pointed out previously that this work has been maintained largely by the many small donations we receive from pensioners and others who have little of this

world's goods. Some years ago we met one of our supporters who had prayed for us constantly and written to us without fail every week. We were humbled to find that she was almost blind; that she was living without any of the comforts that most of us would call necessities; that she was living quite alone on such simple food as she could prepare in her partial blindness. In spite of this, she managed to send along a donation of 10/- quite frequently. When Christmas came near we sent her an anonymous gift of a few pounds collected amongst our staff, so that she might have a little personal comfort in the closing years of her life. To our astonishment, we received a letter from her a few days later, enclosing the whole amount as a donation. Little dreaming from where the money had come, she wrote: "Some kind, unknown friend sent me this money. I have everything I need, so I am sending it to help in your work. I am so happy; it is the first time I have been able to send more than 10/- at a time." The letter was written in the large, straggling handwriting of the almost blind, but we could hardly see to read it. She has gone to her reward now. How we wish she could have lived to see the happy dark children supported by her prayers made during sleepless, pain-filled nights. Maybe she can.

Many of our friends have little of this world's goods, but there are many other ways in which they can share in caring for the dark children. Maybe there are articles in the home that are not really wanted but which could be sold on the "White Elephant" stall — those old ornaments that clutter up the mantel-piece and require constant dusting! Maybe there are clothes, outgrown by your children, but which are still good and warm and suitable for some little dark child. Perhaps there are books, still in good order but never looked at now, which would be suitable for the Book Stall. Single beds or furniture in good condition, even if a little old-fashioned, could be useful for the dark children or for use in the Youth Fellowship huts. Sawn timber, galvanised iron, bricks, flower pots — there is a use for almost anything.

And for those who have spare time, there are so many things to be done which would help forward the work. For instance, we have thousands of used postage stamps that require to be soaked off the paper, sorted and tied into bundles ready for sale. There is sewing, mending, ironing for those with an occasional day to spare; and for tradesmen there are urgent jobs waiting for carpenters, plumbers, mechanics, electricians, painters, gardeners. There are plenty

of jobs for labourers, too. Logs to be brought from the bush paddock to the saw bench, road-making, scrub and weeds to be cleared. And above all, we need prayer partners. You may have no money and little leisure, but you can remember the dark children in your daily prayers. There are many problems to be solved in this work, many difficulties to be overcome that need Divine guidance and power. If you really want to lend a hand in giving the dark children a chance in life, there is a job waiting for you here.

VISITORS: During the past year we have had a total of 3014 visitors to the Mission Farm. We are glad for visitors to come to see the dark children and what we are trying to do for them. Various Churches have held their Sunday School picnics on the Mission Farm; Youth Fellowships have held meetings here; one party of over 200 held a barbecue and rally at our picnic grounds. Yes, we welcome visitors, and we want to interest new people in our work. At the same time, there are one or two matters that are sometimes overlooked by our friends. Firstly, we have a limited staff which is already overworked, and we cannot spend as much time as we would wish in entertaining visitors. You may not realise it, but if we spent only 10 minutes in talking to each visitor that came during the past year, it would take one person, working on a 40-hour week, over three whole months doing nothing but talking to visitors! Please understand why we cannot spend very long talking to individuals. We want you to come, we want to meet you personally, but it would be appreciated if you could entertain yourselves for most of your time here.

SUNDAY VISITORS: The Council has been deeply concerned at the number of visitors who come on a Sunday. It is not a convenient day on which to call. The parents and friends of the dark children like to visit them on a Sunday. Often the children do not see their relatives frequently, and it is not right that the little time they could have together should be interrupted by white visitors, who could come on another day. Also, the children have their Sunday School at the local Church, to which they are taken by car. It takes time to wash, dress and prepare 15 or so children. The Farm assistant does not work on Sunday, but the cows have to be milked, poultry and animals fed and watered. The Sky Pilot has his deputaton work to do in various Churches; members of the staff who can be spared like to attend their own Churches when possible. This can all be disorganised by visitors coming on Sundays. We would ask you therefore to make your visit to

the Farm on a Saturday or a week day. And if you are bringing a party with you, please let us know by 'phone beforehand, if this is possible. It is a pity when a number of large parties clash. Sometimes over 100 people are here on the one day. It is disappointing for those who have come long distances specially to see the dark children to find that they cannot get near them in the crush. Though visitors are very welcome, a little thoughtfulness and consideration would make it easier for us all.

CORAL: Previously we mentioned that Coral, aged 15, had been sent out to work by the Aborigines' Welfare Board. Coral, who made her stand at the Crusade, did very well at first, and reports on her progress were most encouraging. But she was young for her age, and the temptations of the city and the influence of unsuitable companions began to have their effect. We were able to find a position for her with Christian people at Kellyville after the Board moved her from the city. Unfortunately, she made little attempt to improve, and she soon lost her second position. We took her back to the Mission Farm for a few weeks, hoping and praying that there would be an improvement. There seemed to be no sign of this, and we were at our wits' end to know what was best for her future. It is difficult to help a person who does not wish to be helped. We had to think of the possible influence she might have on our family of dark children here, and we had reached the stage when we had to admit failure, and we decided to return her to the Board. But much prayer was being offered for her, and at the last moment there was some sign of improvement. We delayed our final decision and kept her on. During the past few weeks she has made a wonderful recovery, and is gradually getting back to her old happy nature. There is still room for improvement, and it will be a considerable time before she will be able to go out to another position, but we thank God for this answer to prayer. Please continue to remember her in your own prayers. Life can be very difficult for the coloured girls. Once they begin to go wrong, the way back is rough and stony. If love and prayer can do anything, there is great hope for Coral yet.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Unless otherwise stated, all the photographs that appear in this paper are taken by Mr. Langford-Smith. If you would like copies of any of them to send to friends, it can be arranged. Post cards or bigger enlargements will be on sale at the Fete, and orders will be taken for any others that are available. These may be coloured in oils by an experienced Colourist for a few shillings extra. The profits, of course, go to the Mission Farm.