

HOSPITALS SECTOR 4



INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT WALLS



A BRIEF HISTORY OF
GERIATRIC SERVICES
1856 - 1985



DOREEN BAUER,
THE QUEEN ELIZABETH GERIATRIC CENTRE

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AN INSTITUTION WITHOUT WALLS

A report about the Ballarat Benevolent and Visiting Society in the "Star" in 1879 began with the words:

"We cannot all prosper in this world, and there must needs be blanks besides the prizes in its lottery."

Destitution was a frequent visitor to Ballarat throughout its first century. Dreams of momentary wealth lured people to the area in the 1850's. For hundreds of people the dreams too quickly turned to nightmares. Hope crumbled. No gold. No job. No money. No where to turn. Pathetic stories abounded. In but one instance a family was discovered "living in, or rather under, an old shed, with holes in the roof and walls, without food and without fire; the father lying ill on a heap of rags; the mother and her children with but scarcely a few rags to cover them lying huddled on the damp earthen floor..."

In 1857 organized charity didn't exist. A plea for some action was published in the Ballarat "Times" on September, 17, 1851. Signing himself "Five months ago a resident of England", the writer challenged the community's spirit:

"Can we not get some good feeling Christian to take pity on us, and prevail upon the Government to cause the roads to be repaired, or any other employment; and if it cannot be made, are there no ways or means of raising a charitable institution to provide the weary and forlorn stranger with a bed and some little refreshment, night or morning, so that he could stay for a week or even a fortnight, to see if employment could not be had. For is it not a serious thing for a man to leave a good humble home and come to this colony to be starved to death?"

The community remained silent.

Another immigrant, George Wright, came to Ballarat about July, 1857. On arrival he was, no doubt, optimistic of a splendid future as a mechanical engineer. After four months, like many another, he was still unemployed. His meagre funds were fast disappearing. A wife and two small children depended upon him. On November 26, 1857, desperate, frantic, he trudged the dusty roads to the Golden Point Lead to plead for work, any work. The

job market, though, was saturated. Utter despair forced him into momentary insanity. The huge, hissing, clanking steam engine at the head of the mine lured him to a monstrous solution to all his problems. George Wright's suicide placed him out of the reach of the grievous pain of destitution. He must have had great faith in man's willingness to pity a pretty young widow with two small children.

The Cornish community rallied to Mrs. Wright's aid. In four days a public appeal had raised funds to meet the family's immediate needs and to purchase a hat shop to give Mrs. Wright a source of future income. (It is interesting to note that about a year later Mrs. Wright met and married a Mr. Alexander, a very wealthy man with a remarkable mansion at Warrenheip. What happened to the hat shop is an unanswered question!).

On November 30, 1857 the appeal organizers met to wind up their task. Many present at the meeting spoke of the "distress to be found in Ballarat, the richest goldfield in the world." There was, they claimed, "ample room and imperative need for more extended and sympathetic operations to alleviate the destitution." These Ballarat citizens didn't even consider demanding direct State aid. Voluntary initiatives were, to them, the only solution. As a logical consequence, the Ballarat Benevolent and Visiting Society, chaired by Mr. James Oddie, was inaugurated on November 30, 1857.

The Society's objectives in the cause of charity were broad: to offer relief to the destitute, medical care to those the hospital refused to recognize, and information "to strangers and others in their endeavour to obtain employment." For 80 years this charitable service was known as "out-door relief." "Genuine and deserving cases of want" were assisted initially by regular grants of money. With the opening of the Asylum in 1860 the major portion of relief was given in the form of provisions.

The service was available to people in Ballarat and its suburbs as well as those in the region's 24 boroughs and shires. Considering the transport and communication systems of last century, the task the Society shouldered was immense. Today, many tend to suggest that regionalization is something new. In 1860 the region of responsibility of the Society included the shires of Ararat, Creswick, Clunes, Talbot, Stawell, Horsham and St. Arnaud.

Each applicant for out-door relief was examined by an appointed member of the Board, known as a Visitor. The 1874 Annual Report described the Visitor's role.

"The Visitors have patiently endeavoured to probe to the bottom of all questionable applications. In doing this thankless work they have travelled over miles and miles of ground in all weathers, and at all times of the day and night, eliciting information which has frequently proved of great value... With 385 adults and 505 children on the outdoor lists weekly to supervise, you will see that the members of your Committee have a heavy task to perform, requiring plenty of time, firmness, experience, and nice discrimination, especially in their duty as visitors."

In Ballarat, four Committee men were appointed Visitors each year. In the towns and villages of the region an agent was appointed for this purpose.

The basic schedule of rations was designed for elementary sustenance. An adult ration for one week in 1868 consisted of 6 lbs of bread or 5 lbs of flour; 2½ lbs of rice or 4 lbs. of meat; ¼ lb. of tea; ¼ lb. of coffee and ¾ lb. of sugar. The cost of such a ration was two shillings, three pence, three farthings. Upon the order of the visiting doctor so-called medical comforts could supplement these basic rations. Oatmeal, arrowroot, sago, milk, eggs, wine and spirits were dispensed to the sick.

The Society recognized that food was not the only life-sustaining requirement of the destitute. Diverse supplements could be provided according to the special needs of the applicant, determined by the visitor's assessment. Fuel was an important contribution: 1½ tons of wood being delivered to the recipient's home for the winter. Repairing the "miserable dwellings" and affording temporary accommodation in "cheap and suitable habitations" purchased by the Society in Talbot St. were essential aspects of the relief programme. Because the rules of the Ballarat District Hospital last century prevented their doctors from visiting the destitute at home, the Society assumed this responsibility. During the great depressions of the 1890s and 1930s the Society dispensed meals to thousands of passing vagrants. The severe winter of 1934 saw a vast soup programme organized and funded by the Benevolent Home for all children in state schools. Throughout the decades many people "of good character and industrious habits" were assisted to become self-supporting. Sewing machines, bootmaker's tools and dairy cows were given to many people in the hope that they would cease to be a burden on charity.

From 1858 to 1866 an average of 132 adults and 210 children received rations each week. In the 45 years from 1867 to 1911 the average was 348 adults and 383 children. There was a decline then, until 1934 when the numbers rose sharply until 1939 when the programme ceased. In 1903 some 3,660 passing vagrants were served a meal, the peak year for such activity.

Who were these people, the recipients of out-door relief?

The week ending November 1, 1873 is an illustrative answer. 396 adults and 509 children received rations. 28 women and 108 children were destitute following the deaths of men in mining accidents. Men dying from natural causes left 122 women and 156 children without support. 40 women and 160 children had been deserted. 7 women had husbands in lunatic asylums. There were 75 married couples with a total of 85 children without resources and 49 destitute single adults.

The analysis reveals a most important feature of the society's programme: this visitor's report doesn't indicate prejudice or discrimination. A significant proportion of the total number described would have been Chinese. Out-door relief saved hundreds of Chinese from starvation, especially those who were total outcasts because of the dreaded disease, leprosy. The Society accepted its humane responsibility in the face of considerable public opposition as well as general indifference on the part of the more affluent Chinese.

Changing times and conditions saw variations in the numbers assisted. The depression in mining in the 1870s created great hardship. The new Australasian mine disaster at Creswick in 1882 contributed to unemployment and consequent poverty as well as the dependency of the families of the 22 men who were drowned. Wife desertion was a continual problem, especially when gold was discovered in other places, particularly New Zealand. The two disastrous floods of 1870 added to the increase in hardship that year. A scarlet fever epidemic in 1876 and a very severe winter in 1892 caused an upswing in the numbers. The great depressions of the 1890s and 1930s contributed their share of people who turned to the out-door relief programmes.

As a charitable endeavour the out-door relief programme was vital and successful. As a conservative estimate 1.7 million weekly rations were dispensed from 1858 to 1934 plus some 30,000 meals to passing vagrants. Thousands of people were assisted in the cause of charity. Supported by public subscriptions the programme was a magnificent example of a

community caring for those in need.

The Ballarat Star provided its readers with a delightful description of the out-door relief process as observed by the reporter one Wednesday in 1873.

"Some hours before daylight several hands are busily engaged in making preparation in a room at the back of the yard, and we can answer that on yesterday morning they had not a little work to do, as witness these figures. The butcher had to hang up and get ready for cutting up 120 sides of mutton. The baker and his aids were busy building up heaps of bread, drawing one batch and putting in another until a total equal to 450 four-pound loaves had been baked or made ready for the oven. The man who serves out the flour got his nine bags of 200 lb. each ready, and the tea and sugar were placed in the boxes.

A good many children including some quite wee bairns, were among the earliest, and they wanted to get home in time to go to school. Some of the little things cast a wistful, anxious eye at the provisions, which made one think they had not broken their fast that morning, and possibly had eaten but little on the previous day. One little girl made her appearance, with say, ticket No. 15, which was handed to the master, Mr. Boughen, who thereon remembering she came for Widow Jones' rations, glanced at this list and called out 14 bread, 14 flour, and 16 meat....

But how was the very small specimen of the Jones family to carry 44 lb. of provisions? She had come armed with a perambulator, into which she placed the bags, and after waiting for another child, probably a neighbour, who stored her goods in a boxcart, they started together smartly for home....

A respectable-looking woman, rather under the middle age and dressed neatly in black, produces clean little bags for the various kinds of food, and gets rations for one adult and

five children. She is the widow of a miner who was killed in a drive, and thus for a time, until she can earn enough to keep her young ones, she is supported, while the company in whose claim her husband was killed, goes on working reckless, and takes the risk of killing a miner, the motive being economy....

One little old woman has lost all that sensitiveness, and addressing the butcher says, "Come my good man, give me a leg this time; I have not had one for ever so long". The butcher laughs, says she has always the same story, and gives her a prime leg. With a request that Heaven will bless them all, she toddles off. Not a few came a long distance, and one woman with a boy about twelve years old had walked in twelve miles by eleven o'clock, and they had to go the same distance out again....

Two pretty, interesting girls, eleven or twelve years of age, draw food for their mother and three other children. Their pleasing manner makes them appear quite little ladies, and their poor clothes neatly patched and scrupulously clean tell of a careful mother....

Thus from seven o'clock until nearly twelve there was an almost constant stream, and by that time 220 applicants had been served. Those 220 represented a far greater number of mouths, and last year the weekly average number of out-door recipients was 306 adults and 411 children."

The history of the out-door relief programme was energized by the many and varied controversies which dogged its evolution.

From the inception the public clamoured for clear rules and regulations to be published and meticulously observed. Frequently, the Committee attempted to explain that Ballarat's problems were such that flexibility was essential. The "unsettled population, personal vicissitudes, the general want of thrift, prevailing, and especially the

alterations of prosperity and adversity....created....so varied and conflicting circumstances." Every applicant was carefully assessed. Every recipient reviewed each month. If applicants could work, they were helped to do so. If the children were old enough, odd jobs were provided after school. If the mother was proved to be of "vicious and profligate character" the children were removed to the Orphan Asylum or Industrial School. Such a woman was then cast on her own resources.

This form of evidence didn't satisfy the critics. Cries of "imposition" were frequent. On January 28, 1882 the "Star" devoted the Editorial to comment on the Inspector of Charities report. "The inspector holds the out-door relief is excessive....some people loaf on charity, and other people who ought to pay for their friends do not....".

The committee impatiently countered condemning "vague insinuations.... exist(ing) only in the imagination of those who are practically ignorant..." further, "every effort has been made...to compel relatives to do their duty...(but) no legal means exist...to use compulsion".

However, many in the community continued to complain about those who imposed upon their charity.

The "Evening Post" on October 12, 1883, wrote of "drunken and profligate parents (who) habitually dispose of food supplied, and purchase intoxicating liquor with the proceeds." The Committee's secretary stressed that "...morality does not affect the question if the human being is starving". Further, "...it is better that the guilty should now and then escape, than even one innocent person should be punished." A visitor's report however, demonstrated some vigilance. A man living near the Chinese gardens claimed to be ailing and unemployed but he was in the habit of getting ddrunk. If he could find the money for this he should be struck off. Thenceforward, only his wife would receive sustenance.

In 1918 there was a report in the "Star" of unprecedented imposition. The Ballarat Trades Hall authorities were also administering a system of relief whereby orders on tradesmen were given. It was found that some of the people receiving these orders were also in receipt of rations from the Asylum. "They depended" claimed the "Star", "on the (Asylum) for necessaries and often used the Trades' Hall orders to obtain all sorts of tinned meats etc., tinned asparagus being included."

In October, 1883, the Committee was charged with "so grievously neglect (ing) its duty". One can imagine the blustering of many of reading the press report.

A short sentence at the bottom of a paragraph in yesterday's Courier was, doubtless, read by most persons with no little surprise and mortification. The paragraph gives particulars of the appearance of three dissolute women in the Town Police Court on Thursday last, when the evidence adduced was of such a revolting character that the three women were sent to goal for six months by the presiding magistrates. At the bottom of the paragraph this sentence appeared, "The prisoner HEAPHY, who kept the brothel, was in receipt of rations from the Benevolent Asylum," and it is this sentence which, we conclude, excited no little surprise and mortification when read. The house of ill-fame "burst-up" by the police was one of the lowest in the town---let us hope the very lowest. It was dirty in the extreme, two of the women were found covered with vermin and filth, and all three women were described by the police as belonging to the lowest class of prostitutes in the district. How came it to pass, then, that the presiding genius over this unsavory domicile could obtain rations from the Benevolent Asylum? How is it that the characters and pursuit of these women were not discovered before this assistance was afforded?....

No doubt the rations were supplied under some mistake as to the calling of the recipient....

Had any official of the asylum only cast his eyes through the doorway, it would have been seen at once what sort of a place the house was, and the subscribers of the Benevolent Asylum would then have been, doubtless, saved from contributing towards the support of a brothel....

These are questions which the general committee of the asylum should take up, for no subscriber will feel that his money will be rightly applied until they have been completely and satisfactorily answered. No person in want should be

allowed to starve. But the Benevolent Asylum should not supply rations to brothels".

For years the Committee harangued the mining companies and local government bodies for failing to assist the charity. In 1872, for example, the various mining companies only donated 147 pounds. The Committee, however, spent 480 pounds alone in supporting miners' widows and children.

The problem of wife desertion engendered public interest. For the first fifty years deserted wives and children were a major burden on the programme. For 1868 to 1877 the Committee agitated for government action. In 1877 the President, led a deputation to the Legislature for the Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong Asylum plus the Ladies' Melbourne Benevolent Society. They received firm promises of legislative action from the Chief Secretary Mr. (later Sir) Graham Berry. Unfortunately, a year later they learned that "the disturbed state of politics and consequent pressure on his time prevented Mr. Berry from acting on his promise".

The question of medical comforts, especially the provision of wines and spirits, raised its head frequently. The Inspector of Charities was reported in the "Star" in 1882. Mr. Neal commented on the doctors' failure to adequately prescribe and regularly review orders for alcohol. He cited a doctor's order for "a bottle of wine" but claimed no reason for it was stated. Again, in another instance, the order read: "could make out no particular disease - medical comforts for one week". In 1894 the Committee bowed to public and financial pressure and discontinued the supply of medicinal wines and spirits.

The said Inspector of Charities initiated another lengthy controversy when he suggested that a ladies' society should take over the out-door relief programme. This suggestion was applauded by the Melbourne "Argus" on February 10, 1882. Ballarat was incensed. The "Courier" editorial the next day was most clear. "The way in which the "Argus" goes on raving about the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum is one of the phenomena of the time; and it would be a real blessing, in the cause of truth and common sense, if the silly season were over, if only to end the wretched blunders.... The "Argus" article is...a farrago of errors and bad taste from beginning to end; and it is marvellous how a paper which professes to be so very astute could publish such wretched rubbish."

Neal's report was revived 6 months later but this time the "Star" agreed. Inspector Evans raised the question again in 1884. The Committee was exasperated. No-one seemed to understand that many of the cases lived where ladies just couldn't go.

"THE KERNEL OF THE WHOLE BUSINESS"

A Community Develops a Community Resource.

The Ballarat 'Star' of Saturday, January 28, 1882 at great length agreed with the case for decentralised, community control of charitable works. The Government Inspector, Mr. Neal, the previous day had issued his annual report on the Benevolent Asylum. There was general disagreement with the detail of Neal's report because it questioned the competence of the committee. The editor, however, was quite resolute in his opinion of the worth of the view point of a government official.

"... we agree that whatever changes may come in the machinery of our public charities, we must adhere in the main, to our noble system of local management and administration."

Since its inception 128 years ago the institution which began as the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum has witnessed vast changes. Two consistencies have, however remained. First, the central place of the community in its management and, secondly, the significance of the institution in the life of the community. These, claims C. J. King, are the "kernel of the whole business".

The Ballarat Benevolent and Visiting Society began in 1857 through the community's response to the needs of some of its citizens who were in severe financial distress. Although the Society was formed to provide care for people "in their own habitations" the Committee rapidly realized that many people did not have suitable houses in which to live.

In 1958 the Hon. John O'Shannassy visited Ballarat and received a deputation headed by the Society's president, Mr. Robert Smith. O'Shannassy was sympathetic to the reports which indicated clearly that there was imperative need for an asylum.

Eventually the Legislative Assembly granted 2,000 pounds toward the cost of the building. The Ballarat Council contributed 250 pounds while the Councils of East and West Ballarat found 200 pounds each for the project. The community raised 350 pounds.

The government granted five acres of crown land for the building. To-day, we are glad of the chosen site even though it is far too small. In 1859 there must have been little joy because the land was swampy, in the bush and far from town. Still, Ballarat could have fared as did Castlemaine, Beechworth and Bendigo and been forced to contend with a hill-top!

A competition for a suitable design for the 80 bed institution was won by Christopher Porter of Geelong. Builders Evans and Barker won the construction tender at 3765 pounds.

The foundation stone was laid with full Masonic honours on March 17, 1859. The descriptions of the holiday event provides delightful reading. One does not need much imagination to re-live the occasion such is the detail captured by the reporter. The story is not without humour either. The general populace had to be trooper horse-charged to force them from the dais erected for the officials!

The south wing was completed on October 4 1859. Unfortunately, the Committee had to borrow 725 pounds from the maintenance and furnishing funds to pay the builder in full. Thus, further finances had to be raised to purchase the basic furniture such as beds, chairs and tables. The first residents were admitted on February 21, 1860.

In 1862 the central wing was added. The north wing was completed in 1863 to bring the total number of beds to 224. Gradually, until 1933 building progressed according to the style of the original designers. At 389 beds in 1933 the institution was a "beautiful edifice of red-brick in that modern modification of the Elizabethan style which is at once so ornamental and so comfortable".

The people were "well lodged in wide, lofty, airy rooms of handsome proportions". "Of course there is no endeavour to make the place tempting, but then on the other hand there is nothing to render the daily lives of the poor that perpetual punishment which many well-meaning individuals appear to think should always accompany poverty."

In stark contrast to this 1880 report the 'Star', on March 16, 1897, reported the Inspector of Charities' concern that overcrowding resulted only in 500 cubic feet per bed in the men's dormitories. In 1898 there was accommodation for 336 people but 349 were in residence! By 1907 King reported: "There is accommodation for 498 inmates, but at present there are 563, of whom 350 are permanent bed cases." The overcrowding must have been appalling. Even to-day it is agreed generally that the space per bed in the nursing home is barely acceptable even though it is significantly greater than that available eight decades ago.

However, the 'Star' of September 14, 1921 reported: "In the men's section the first death for over two and a half months occurred yesterday. There are over a hundred old men there, and the average is over 80 years. Yet, apparently, the conditions are so good as to be conducive to the length of days."

1943 saw a major modernisation programme commence. This was a sad event for those who care about old building facades. Stark, square lines replaced turrets and doodads. Brown brick interior wall tiles have saved much money otherwise spent on painting. They, however, leave much to be desired aesthetically. Thousands of square metres of beautiful parquet floors are not to be equated with warmth and comfort. Still, modern facilities began to ease the burden of daily life.

Bed development reached its peak in 1968 when the institution had places for 790 people.

In 1974 approval was granted by the then Hospital and Charities Commission to erect an additional 150 nursing home and 50 hostel beds on the main site. Fortunately, sanity prevailed and a progressive bed reduction programme was instituted in 1977.

It is important to note that the proliferation of beds at the Benevolent Asylum-Home was in direct and ongoing response to the government philosophy expounded by Inspector J. Evans in a report dated December 15, 1884. "... there can be no doubt as to the wisdom of having large central establishments, for as large districts as possible, and not to have small establishments dotted about the country."

The story of the staff still needs much research. Two reports convey a great deal, though. The 'Star' of March 16, 1897 carried the story of the annual report of Inspector of Charities. "At the time of my visit," says Mr. Neal, "there were 326 inmates - 76 females and 250 males ... The staff consists of 12 paid officers and servants who have the assistance of 12 inmates.... The salaries are to be reduced this month by 10 percent all round. There are two nurses, whose hours are from 6 am to 6 pm, with an allowance of, say, three quarters of an hour for meals."

The 'Post' of September 9, 1886 had also discovered the need to reduce the cost of staff. The people who slaved for a pittance must have felt quite dismayed by the editor's comments. "In most instances, the occupation of offices of a non-professional nature upon the staff of public and charitable institutions is generally conferred upon certain favoured individuals who have been either incapable, or perhaps unfortunate, in other lines of attempted usefulness, pend their "attachment" by various means, to the "staff" of an institution, where as a rule, they fairly reckon upon being able to rest upon their oars for the rest of their days."

Although there were people in desperate need in 1860 the Committee not able to progress quickly to admit them to the Asylum because of the financial difficulties. However, Mr. W. H. Boughen was appointed Master of the Asylum on January 10, 1860 with his wife as the Matron.

The first in-mate was admitted on February 21, 1860. Mr. James Miller, a 65 year old Ballarat Miner was the first to be recorded in the original Admission Ledger. The son of William and Charlotte Miller of Larbert, Scotland, Miller had arrived in the colony in November, 1854. He was a widower with five children but there is no mention of their whereabouts. A Presbyterian, Miller was recommended by Committee Member, Mr. A. Dimant, with the diagnosis "diseased."

Miss Ann Carmichael, the 29th in-mate, was the first female admitted. A fifteen year old servant from Burrumbeet, Ann was the daughter of John and Ann Carmichael of Stirling, Scotland. She had arrived in the colony in 1851, presumably with her parents. On May 24, 1860 she was admitted with the diagnosis of paralysis. One can but speculate about the assessment skills of Mr. Lewis, the Committee man recommending her for admission. Five days later she was "discharged by giving notice".

The first death recorded was that of William Williams, a farmer whose place of residence was Hobart Town. Aged 70, Mr. Williams had arrived in the colony from London in 1854. He was admitted with the diagnosis "old and infirm" on July 11, 1860. He died on September 5, 1860 from phthisis.

The 44th admission attested to an important role the Asylum was to undertake for many decades. Mrs. Maryanne Campbell, a Ballarat housewife, was admitted on the recommendation of Mr. Lewis on July 12, 1860. Mrs. Campbell, aged 32, arrived in the colony from London in 1853. The mother of two children, Mrs. Campbell was again pregnant. She gave birth to a female child on August 3, 1860. On August 2 she was discharged - "taken out by husband". One can but wonder: did she have an unusually difficult pregnancy or had she been temporarily abandoned by her husband? Who knows? Baby Carmichael, though, was the first of hundreds of babies born in the Benevolent Asylum.

For many years the Benevolent Asylum was a haven for "many unfortunate girls in their hour of need". The admission register was designed to include the name of the committee man who undertook the assessment and recommended admission. The designer of the register must have had a sense of humour. Many a prominent citizen-cum-committeeman has been recorded for

posterity, as being the 'Person Responsible' for the admissions of "many girls who had loved not wisely, but too well"! (Spielvogel).

By the close of 1860 a school had been established to cater for the many children who had been admitted as orphans. Miss Dixie, Miss Bearpark and Miss Sanderson were the first teachers who, by 1864, had 142 children in various classes. On August 26, 1868 all the young children were transferred to the new Orphan Asylum in Victoria Street. The older children were despatched to the Industrial School in Melbourne or the Training Ship anchored in Hobson's Bay.

In the early days of the Society there was a Ladies' Committee which worked diligently on behalf of the organization. Many tributes were paid to their efforts on the day of the Laying of the Foundation Stone in 1859.

"The ladies were ever the first in the train of charity... The close of Mr. Gell's address was followed by three cheers for him and 'one for the ladies'". ("Star").

The ladies, though, became discontented when the "committee of the day thought wise to refuse" the ladies some official power within the organization. Since the dispute could not be resolved the ladies, on the advice of Mr. James Oddie "who championed the cause of the ladies," formed the Ladies Benevolent Clothing Society. "Of course the little difference has long since been healed, and both bodies work in concord with the like noble object" wrote J.C. King in 1907.

A 'Courier' report on August 20, 1921, indicated that the issue was still alive. "'We want one or two ladies on the committee', said Mr. A. Bell, M.L.C., at the committee of the Benevolent Home last night, when some members had spoken feelingly of the reluctance an applicant for relief might experience if required to attend (before the Committee). Mr. Bell said the presence of ladies would make it easier for applicants of their sex, and, he added, 'We could spare a couple of men. There was a guilty silence as each member wondered whether he was one of the superfluous two.'"

Historians, however, have yet to record the name of the first lady to win a place in this masculine domain!

The Committee of Management met at the Asylum from 1860 to 1878. Early reports note that many members walked from their homes in Victoria Street. Because people seeking admission had to appear before members of the Committee there were many complaints about the distance. So, in 1878 a Board Room was built in Camp Street.

Until 1896 the members of the Committee laboured under the firmly held belief that the Asylum was a charity for which the community should be responsible primarily. The Committee, itself, assumed an enormous level of responsibility in that it declared its members to be under a 'joint and several' bond for all liabilities incurred by the society. When Mr. David McNaught was elected to the Committee in 1896 he persuaded the majority of members to vote for incorporation. Some of the older committeemen fought against such a move considering it unnecessary, such was their faith in public charity.

Although this concept of voluntary initiatives was advocated strongly there was not aversion to requesting, demanding, agitating for government support. In 1868, for instance, the government refused to increase the grant-in-aid. The Committee had published a memo to the Chief Secretary in which they declared that they would be forced to "seriously curtail (the Asylum's) usefulness and throw hundreds of deserving people into object distress". Eventually the government capitulated and contributed grants of 7000 pounds.

Several times through the latter decades of the century attempts were made by the government through the chief Secretary Sir Graham Berry, Mr. James Service and Sir George Turner to enact Poor Laws. These would, through taxation, provide for charities. Twice Ballarat led the strident opposition. The third occasion saw Bendigo lead the crusade. Early colonists rejected the idea of state aid, perhaps realizing too well that he who holds the purse sets the rules. Even when the Victorian government introduced the Old Age Pension in 1901 there were many, the Committee included, who railed against this blatant charity believing that charity "that was raised by taxation was not charity in its highest sense."

The Committee often had strong disagreements with officialdom over matters large and small. The press tended to lend emphatic support to the Committee in these contretemps. The visit of Inspector Neal on January 28, 1882 resulted in a splendid press report. "Even had every charity been absolute perfection, it would have been Mr. Neal's cue to essay in lily-painting and violet-perfuming, by way of showing that, excellent as was the universal condition of

things eleemosynary his acute eye had enabled him to see what nobody else could see, and hence his suggestion of a few touches beyond the reach of vulgar art."

On the subject of finances it should be noted that 1880 saw the financial year end with the ledger recording 388 pounds in the black for the first time since the Society began. The Committee had not finished congratulating itself for efficiency when the government rewarded their diligence. The grant-in-aid for 1881 was slashed by 1000 pounds!

Chas. J. King in his "Historical Sketch" of 1907 summarised the financial contributions over the first fifty years.

Government assistance	249,127.15.7.
City and Town of Ballarat grants	68,303. 2.6.
Shire and Borough grants	29,586. 0.0.
Bequests, donations etc.	<u>25,096. 0.3.</u>
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>£ 372,112.18.4</u>

If Mr. King's sums are correct it is fascinating to think that these high-minded gentlemen demeaned government charity so strongly while relying upon it for some 93% of its financial support. Of course, the central point of the argument was control. The Committee, and the editors, fought most energetically to keep the government at a distance. "The committee does a work which no perfunctory official staff could possibly perform, because it requires qualities not to be found in the official mind or heart.... (The) question really involves the whole matter of local as against central control, and of voluntary philanthropy as against official how-not-to-do-it."

The Ballarat Benevolent Asylum is, today, The Queen Elizabeth Geriatric Centre. While there is little of the building, the facilities, the programmes or the staff which find parallels in the past there are many things which have not changed. The community spirit lives strongly in this institution which has no fence to form a barrier between it and its community.

The words of the founding Chairman, Mr. James Oddie, are as pertinent today as they were in 1857.

"...there is ample room and imperative need for more extended and systematic operations" to "alleviate the sorrows and distress of those around them."

ARARAT

Ararat received its impetus to development in 1857. Although the first settlers had arrived in 1841 and had discovered gold, at Pinky Point in 1854, it was not until May 1857 that the big Ararat gold rush took place. The rush however, was short-lived. By the 1870s the population settled into agricultural pursuits.

The Ararat District Hospital was inaugurated in 1860. At that time there were not many old people in Ararat. The present Manager, Mr. R. Wiltshire, searched the early records to discover in 1860 only six of 146 patients were older than 65; in 1868 the proportion was even smaller, Of 285 patients only 6 were over 65 years. By 1892 the population had changed. That year 109 of 350 patients were old. Interestingly, in those days the diagnosis was commonly "old age and debility". Many, however, were discharged from hospital "cured or relieved".

The 1871 Hospital Report indicated that "a movement was made ... for the erection of a Benevolent Asylum ... and the proceeds of the Easter Festival for that year was intended to be devoted to this object". The Royal Commission of 1871 enquiring into charitable institutions, however, recommended that "it should be compulsory on all Hospitals receiving aid from the State to have a benevolent ward attached". Thus, the hospital assumed responsibility.

The report of 1872-73 opens with the general comment: "Nothing particularly eventful has occurred in connection with the history of charity during the year just terminated". A few paragraphs later the reports notes: "... cost of erecting Benevolent Ward, £1316 9s 6d". Apparently, erecting the new ward of 20 beds for male patients was not a major event! The female hospital ward was extended to accommodate 5 female benevolent cases. Admission to the Benevolent Ward was subject to a personal application to the General Committee.

This same 1872-73 report notes the "Bye-Laws relating to the administration of Out-door Relief for Benevolent Cases". These rules were established to guide the General Committee:

- " 1. To give relief only after visitation and due enquiry.
2. To give relief strictly in accordance with the prescribed scale.
3. Not to prolong assistance beyond the necessity that calls for it.

4. To require of each beneficiary abstinence from intoxicating drink.

5. To discontinue relief to all who manifest a purpose to depend on alms, rather than upon their own exertions, for support."

The 1875-76 Report of the Ararat District Hospital and Benevolent Asylum noted the development of "tickets of leave of absence" which "enable the holders to leave the Institution with the view of endeavouring to earn their own livelihood and also permit of their return to the home if unsuccessful in their efforts." The report also indicated that twenty families, and eight travellers and discharged prisoners were recipients of out-door relief.

By 1881 the community was beginning to express concern about the number of people being admitted to Lunatic Asylums. Many of them were not insane but "have broken down in the battle of life". The clamour for an extension of the Benevolent Asylum appears to have gone unheard until 1954.

The original hospital was converted into a 27 bed Geriatric Ward in 1954. Re-named Pyrenees House its antiquity can be judged by its National Trust classification. In 1958 another nearby ward was converted into independent units.

In 1959 the Meals on Wheels Service was started. In 1968 the programme was extended to include weekends. Few Victorian communities have been able to find volunteers to assist seven days a week.

The District Nursing service was started in 1964. This was followed by a major community survey undertaken in 1966 by the hospital, the Hospitals and Charities Commission and the Rotary Club of Ararat. The survey attempted to determine the needs of the elderly citizens of Ararat until the end of the 1980s.

The Ararat Retirement Village hostel was established in 1970 as a result of the survey. Although the Retirement Village is operated by a separate organisation it and the hospital have a close working relationship.

In 1973 the Day Centre with a range of paramedical services was established in a century old building.

A most important development took place in 1974 when a Co-ordination Committee was formed to ensure that elderly people received appropriate services from the various agencies.

In 1976 staff from The Queen Elizabeth Geriatric Centre began participating in the Committee.

Ararat citizens are persistent. The move to develop an appropriate nursing home facility began in 1871. During 1986 the long hoped for building will be ready for occupancy. One hundred and fifteen years of "make-do" will then end.

An interesting footnote:

In 1871 Ararat wished to establish an organisation separate from the hospital to develop the Benevolent Asylum. The Government of the day decreed such developments to be the responsibility of the hospital. A century later the hospital was required to set up a separate organisation - the Ararat and District Nursing Home Society, to develop its new "benevolent asylum". The governments of to-day have decreed that hospitals can not be funded to develop nursing homes. "So the pendulum swings!"

BEULAH

A small town on the Henty Highway between Horsham and Mildura, Beulah is the focus of an extensive wheat farming district. The Beulah Bush Nursing Hospital was opened in 1942. Later it was renamed the Beulah and District Pioneers Memorial Bush Nursing Hospital. An active Senior Citizens Club and a Meals on Wheels programme commenced in August, 1980 to supplement the services provided by the hospital for the district's elderly people.

MINYIP

In my primary school days, every school child in Australia knew of Minyip, the home of James Farrer. Thirty-three varieties of wheat were developed in the district. The most famous was the Federation strain grown extensively from 1904 to 1925.

The Minyip Bush Nursing Society was formed in 1926. The present hospital building was constructed in 1952. It became a District Hospital in 1963. District Nursing services, from Murtoa, commenced in 1974.

MURTOA

German settlers in the 1870s saw the establishment of Murtoa as an important wheat district. A flour mill was built in 1876. To-day Murtoa has storage facilities for some 7 million bushels of wheat.

The Murtoa Annex Hospital, formerly St. Jude's Hospital, was established on October 2, 1984. It now has eight nursing home beds. The District Nursing service commenced on October 21, 1974. A month later,

on November 19, a Meals on Wheels programme was started to supplement the other services caring for Murtoa's elderly citizens.

CLUNES

Although Clunes was settled in 1839 it became another fascinating chapter in the history of mining when gold was discovered in 1851. During the 50 years of large scale mining some 50 tonnes of gold were taken, especially by the Port Phillip and Colonial Mining Company.

Clunes is a fascinating town full of relics of a glorious past.

The Clunes District Hospital was opened on October 23, 1871. It provided the primary services for elderly people until 1966 when Meals on Wheels were started. The meals for this service have been provided by the hospital since August 12, 1974. The Clunes Home for the Aged Association opened four flats in July, 1971. District Nursing services commenced on April 3, 1978. The Shire of Talbot and Clunes undertakes a Home Help programme.

KANIVA

Kaniva has a special place in the history books because of the particular method of land clearing developed by its pioneers in the 1870s. Ten bullocks pulling huge mallee red-gum rollers flattened the bush for burning.

The Kaniva District Hospital was the focus for aged care services for many years. A Meals on Wheels programme commenced in 1971. Domiciliary Home Nursing started in 1981.

The Kaniva District Nursing Home and Day Centre Society saw its endeavours come to fruition on September 10, 1984 when an eleven bed nursing home and day centre was opened.

RUPANYUP

Rupanyup and District Hospital is a vital force in the preservation of the community traditions. The town continues to be the focus of the surrounding agricultural industries.

April, 1979 saw the introduction of Meals-on-Wheels to supplement the District Nursing and Home services provided by staff from Murtoa since 1974. Happily, a ten bed nursing home is nearing completion. This will prove an important development for local citizens who wish to remain part of their own community.

GOROKE

A small commercial centre servicing a large agricultural district Goroke established a Community Health Centre in 1977-8 by transforming the Annex Hospital which had met the community's needs since 1913. A District Nursing programme commenced in January 1975. It was supplemented by Meals-on-Wheels in November, 1976. A Day Centre was started in 1977 and paramedical services were introduced in 1979. The Goroke "correspondent", Mrs. L. Pretlove described the community traditions which were important in Goroke throughout the eighty-six years of her life. Families and neighbours cared for their aged people with the assistance of the local doctor, especially Dr. Fairburn who was the first in the area. Most people remained at home until they died. For many decades the funeral services held in the home as well. Today, the Community Health Centre is a valued community resource.

BALLAN

The community of Ballan is served by the Ballan and District Soldiers Memorial Bush Nursing Hospital. The Meals-on-Wheels programme commenced in 1976 and District Nurses have been available since 1980 to assist with the home care of a large number of aged people. Because of the courage and persistence of Mrs. Mary Fox and her helpers an active Day Centre was established on October 1, 1981 in a local hall. This important community resource has developed steadily enhancing the lives of many otherwise lonely people.

DONALD

Donald is a community proud of its pioneering heritage. Although the Donald brothers took up a selection in 1844 it was not until 1863 that the community began with the establishment of that essential service, Myer's Shanty. Selectors arrived in significant numbers in the 1870s to transform the land into rich wheat fields. Bulk wheat terminals contributed to Donald's growth as an important rural community.

For many years Donald was served by a Bush Nursing Hospital. It was re-established as the Donald District Hospital in 1952.

June, 1962 saw Donald pioneer what has become a common community programme: The Lion's Club began the first Meals-on-Wheels service in the Wimmers area. This important project supplemented the Lion's Club work with the Senior Citizens Club established on December 11, 1958 and the Shire's Home Help service also commenced in 1958. The District

Nursing service was introduced in 1977 and a Day Centre was started in 1978.

On March 28, 1984 the ten bed Donald and District Nursing Home was opened to complement the 30 bed Johnson-Goodwin Hostel and twelve flats.

WARRACKNABEAL

The district was first settled in 1844 when the Scott brothers took up land on the Yarriambiak Creek. Mr Woolcock established the first community resource in 1867 when he opened a shanty. A store opened soon after. Sheep soon gave way to wheat on the vast plains. Flour mills and an agricultural implement industry soon ensured Warracknabeal's development as a rural town.

The Warracknabeal and District Hospital was opened in 1891. It has supported families in their care of aged people since that time. In 1966 Meals-on-Wheels were introduced. District Nursing services were started in 1971. Since 1978 hospital paramedical and engineering staff have been available to assist elderly people to cope at home. A 36-bed nursing home was opened 1979. The development of associated occupational therapy services provided an opportunity for day care activities.

DAYLESFORD

The "Wombat Diggings" discovered by John Egan in 1851 established Daylesford. The hospital, one of many fine public buildings, was erected in 1863. The bounty found in the mineral springs proved a rich resource for many decades, conferring upon Daylesford a reputation as a centre for natural health services.

Programmes primarily designated for aged people commenced in 1972 with Meals-on-Wheels. In 1978 a Day Centre was established with the assistance of a large band of enthusiastic volunteers. This programme was extended in 1985 when it was officially recognized and funding for a supervisor provided. The first District Nurse was appointed in 1980. Nursing home services have been provided by the hospital for many years.

AVOCA

During the decades of 1830 and 1840 Avoca was settled by a number of graziers who established extensive runs. Alluvial gold brought people flocking to the area in 1852. Sadly, Avoca's prosperity declined quickly although many delightful buildings, such as Lalor's Pharmacy, erected in 1854, remain.

The Avoca and District Bush Nursing Hospital was built in 1938. A 14 bed nursing home was established in 1984. District Nursing and Meals-on-Wheels services were started in 1977. Avoca Shire Council Home Help supplemented these services in 1983.

RAINBOW

Rainbow gained its name from the crescent-shaped ridge on the town's western boundary. Seasonally, the ridge is covered by multi-coloured wild-flowers creating a glorious vista. Albacutya Station, as Rainbow was known, was settled by John Coppock in 1846. The township was developed in the last decade of the nineteenth century. By 1909 it had become an important rail-shipping centre for the area's wheat.

A Bush Nursing Hospital was established in 1947. It has provided essential services for the elderly citizens. A ten-bed nursing home is currently under construction. In 1973 a District Nursing service, shared with Jeparit, was started as was the Meals-on-Wheels programme. Podiatry services became available in 1984.

ST. ARNAUD

Gold was discovered at the "New Bendigo" field in 1855. It was mined as alluvial gold until 1856 and as reef gold until 1926. The discovery of excellent brick-making clay was an important factor in the development of the town. From 1862 to 1876 magnificent red-brick public buildings were erected around the town square. This legacy helped ensure that St. Arnaud has maintained its status as a significant community servicing a large agricultural area.

The hospital was opened in 1873. A century later the hospital's role in aged care was established formally when 48 beds were designated for nursing home care on November, 1978. A 16 bed hostel was added in 1985 to complement the extensive nursing home programme. In 1969 a Red Cross Activity Centre was started at the hospital. This important service was expanded in 1979 when paid staff were approved. The Town Council also began its Home Help programme in 1969. Meals-on-Wheels were introduced in 1970; District Nursing on June 24, 1974; a Domiciliary Linen Service in 1977, welfare services in 1981 and paramedical home support in 1982. The Shire Council commenced Home Help services in 1982.

BACCHUS MARSH

Captain Bacchus arrived in the area in 1838. Bacchus Marsh became an important staging post for Cobb and Co; with the discovery of gold

in Ballarat, Creswick and neighbouring areas. The Border Inn was built in 1850 by Watt and Crook as the departure point for coaches to Ballarat.

Extensive orchards and market gardening acreages were developed on the rich soils of the district.

The Bacchus Marsh and District War Memorial Hospital was opened in 1956. It is a particularly interesting building in that it was pre-fabricated in England because of the serious shortage of local building materials at the time. District Nursing services were commenced in 1969; Meals on Wheels in 1975 and a Day Centre in 1980. The Providence Hostel was opened in . It was formerly the and was transferred to the community by the . A twenty-bed nursing home has been constructed in association with the hospital. It was opened on November 21, 1983.

CRESWICK

Although the Creswick brothers settled the area in 1842 it was the discovery of gold in 1854 and the development of deep lead mines in 1854 which first put the town on the map. Creswick has become famous for two prominent "sons", Prime Minister John Curtin and artist-author Norman Lindsay. The community should be as well-known for producing the first woman in the Victorian parliament, Lady Alexander Peacock who succeeded her husband, on his death, in the Legislative Assembly in 1933.

The Creswick Benevolent Society was established in 1856, a year before Ballarat. During the 1870s the population was about 27,000 including many Chinese people. Destitution resulting from death or injury was all too common on the gold-fields. The poor, the ill and the disabled were forced to depend upon the goodwill of the community.

The New Australian Mine Disaster in December, 1882 resulted in the deaths of twenty-two men, average age thirty-six years. They left eighteen widows and sixty-three dependent children. The community of Creswick and the people of Victoria responded magnificently to the call for financial assistance for these now destitute families. Controversy erupted when the government decided to use the funds raised, some 20,000 pounds, to form the "Mining Accident Relief Fund", a special fund for victims of mining accidents anywhere in Victoria. This was but one of many instances of government policy over-riding community wishes.

It is interesting to note that the Creswick Benevolent Society has continued quietly to be a community resource until today.

The Creswick Hospital was opened on December 11, 1863 on Eastern Hill. It was transferred to the Victorian School of Forestry in 1912 when a new hospital was erected on its present site across the valley.

Modern geriatric services were commenced in 1978 when District Nursing services were started, part-time in April, full-time in November. A Meals-on-Wheels programme commenced on May 7, 1979.

After many years of hard work the John Curtin Elderly Peoples Homes Society was granted approval to construct a 37 bed hostel on land below the hospital in 1985-6. This will provide a major resource for a community which may claim to have pioneered community programmes for aged and infirm people in Region 2.

HORSHAM

Controversy surrounds the origins of Horsham. Just who first decided upon the site is not yet clear. All that is certain is the geography. Horsham grew because there was a place to cross the river; it was above the anticipated flood plain and it was beside good water. Perhaps James Darlot chose the site when he arrived in August, 1842. Perhaps though, George Langlands launched the settlement when he began a store, post-office and export business in 1849. Who ever was responsible may be debated for some time yet. There can, however, be no doubt about the population census of 1854. There were 33 males and 24 females claiming Horsham as a residence. Significantly, at mid-night on census-night, 119 people were recorded travelling on the roads. This statistic clearly indicated the links with the Mount Alexander gold diggings. In the early 1850s about 1 million pounds of gold was transported by 18 Gold Escort runs through Horsham to Adelaide.

Horsham began and rode into its future as an agricultural community based chiefly on wheat and wool. Although to-day it is a thriving commercial centre its relationship with farming continues.

The Horsham Hospital began in 1874 as a community venture responding to community needs. Over the decades it has grown progressively from its original twelve beds into a sophisticated, comprehensive regional hospital.

Early records indicate that the Hospital formally assumed its responsibilities for providing benevolent services in September 1895. The extent of these services has not been discovered. However, it is anticipated that care of the

ill and aged was a primary responsibility. The relationship of the hospital to the destitute was an essential aspect of the benevolence of the hospital. A 1939 report indicates:

As of June 20, 1939 "the practice of tramps bathing at the hospital (is to) be discontinued and not allowed in future"!

Although its origins are obscure an 1882 report indicates that the Ladies Benevolent Society was an important force in Horsham. This organization has a significant place in the history of welfare services especially during the Great Depressions of the 1890s and 1930s. Many destitute aged people owed their existence to this organization prior to the Aged Pension in 1901.

During the 1920s and 1930s the Horsham Borough Nursing Association played a small role in the fledging geriatric services by providing home care. The Association was concerned primarily with maternity and infant welfare but some elderly people were assisted. The Association founded in 1932 when local funding and fees proved inadequate. The attitude of the hospital at that time was an interesting reflection. The Hospital Committee is reported to have suggested that the nurses could economise in 1932 by dispensing with their car.

"Let the Nurse try the bicycle for her work." (Brooke and Finch)

The first major step into modern geriatric services took place in April, 1966 when thirteen people received the first Meals on Wheels.

"The help for the (Meals on Wheels) service is a clear example of the change in hospital work to moving out to the community in social care and preventive medicine before a person becomes a patient". (Finch)

February 5, 1968 was another important date. The District Nursing service commenced with ten people receiving care in the first month. In 1958 twenty-one beds in a medical ward were designated for nursing home care. In 1977, after much community activity and agitation, a fifty-bed Frail Aged Unit in Robinson Street was opened. The Annual Report for that year echoes an all too common story:

"This Unit will enable the Hospital to transfer many frail aged persons requiring continuous nursing care into much more appropriate and attractive accommodation. Regrettably, these 50 beds will be filled immediately they are available, and many patients will remain

in the Old Wards until we can proceed with the second 50 bed Unit which was planned and requested but not approved in the initial three-year programme."

Regional paramedical services, commencing in 1957 with physiotherapy, have played an important role in the development of geriatric services. The opening of a comprehensive, modern Day Centre at the Wimmera Base Hospital on December 4, 1976 provided Horsham with an appropriate setting for these services.

In recent years the community has seen the development of extensive services through various local government agencies. Home Help is the most significant of these in assisting elderly people to remain at home.

An important chapter in the history of geriatric services in the Wimmera must be reserved for the Lutheran Rest Home. In December, 1948 the members of the Lutheran Church purchased the Abbotsleigh Private Hospital, opening it as a nursing home-hostel on February 27, 1949. By the 1970s this facility was inadequate. A new hostel, of forty-two beds, was built in 1978 to provide this much needed service in more suitable surroundings. A reflection of changing times and attitudes should be noted. The original Rest Home was developed by the Lutheran community with no government assistance. In 1978 the Federal government provided \$2,134,457 while the community contributed \$699,558.

NHILL

McPhersons homestead was the foundation for Nhill when it became the District's mail centre. An agricultural community, Nhill has a special claim to fame in that it was the first Victorian country town to have its street lights electrified.

For many years the Nhill Hospital was the focus of services for elderly people in the district. In 1972 the District Nursing Service commenced. It was followed with Meals on Wheels on January 4, 1979. Since 1979 a number of programmes have been instituted by the hospital and the Shire: handyman, hair-dressing, taxi, podiatry, home help, and home visiting. Avonlea Hostel and Monomeath Units provide essential accommodation services.

The Nhill Geriatric Centre was opened on August 20, 1978. It has sixteen nursing home beds and is associated with an active day centre. In April, 1984 the House Committee decided to rename the Centre, "Mira", the

name of a small private hospital functioning in Nhill at the turn of the Century. The original "Mira" is now the Nhill Hospital's Nurses Home.

As in most communities, the development of a nursing home facility required considerable local financial support. By 1974 accumulated funds amounted to \$70,000. Government grants toward the \$340,000 building left a short-fall of \$110,000. In a major effort the necessary \$40,000 was raised in a forty-day appeal in May and June, 1974.

"Mira" Nursing Home and Day Centre is now a well-established community resource providing essential services for the elderly citizens of Nhill.

MODERN GERIATRIC SERVICES

SECTOR 4

- 1911 Ballarat and District Nursing Service commenced.
- 1943 Concept of charity begins to fade as Aged Pensions paid to nursing home residents.
Q.E.G.C. : had 535 nursing home and ambulatory care beds.
- 1948 40-hour week introduced leading to impact upon staffing.
Q.E.G.C. : increased staff to 59.
- 1949 Horsham : Lutheran Rest Home.
- 1952 Q.E.G.C. : gained approval for 36 beds for fee-paying residents.
- 1954 Ararat : Pyrenees House Nursing Home.
- 1957 Q.E.G.C. : home care re-introduced - Welfare Sister, Housekeeper, "Bath" Nurse, laundry service. Day Hospital commenced. Occupational therapist appointed.
Ballarat : Kelaston Home for the Blind.
- 1958 Donald : Lion's Club sponsored Senior Citizens Club. Shire Home Help.
Horsham : Nursing Home, 21 beds.
Q.E.G.C. : 20 hostel beds. Full-time Medical Superintendent and physio-therapist appointed.
- 1959 Ararat : Meals on Wheels.
- 1960 Q.E.G.C. : F.G. Hook Rehabilitation Centre.
- 1961 Q.E.G.C. : Nursing Aide training.
- 1962 Donald : Lion's Club sponsored Meals on Wheels.
- 1963 Ballarat : Meals on Wheels sponsored by Apex Club and Q.E.G.C.
Ballarat : Ambulance service transport for Q.E.G.C. Day Hospital.
- 1964 Ararat : District Nursing.
- 1966 Clunes : Meals on Wheels.
Warracknabeal : Meals on Wheels.
Horsham : Meals on Wheels.
- 1967 Ballarat : Kelaston Day Centre.
- 1968 Q.E.G.C. : Rehabilitation ward - 44-beds. Now had 790 beds with waiting list of 262 people.
Horsham : District Nursing.
Ararat : Meals on Wheels extended to seven day service.
- 1969 St. Arnaud : Red Cross Day Centre, Town Council Home Help.
Bacchus Marsh : District Nursing.
- 1970 St. Arnaud : Meals on Wheels.
Ararat : Gorrin House Retirement Village - hostel.
- 1971 Warracknabeal : District Nursing.

- Clunes : Flats and Shire Home Help.
Kaniva : Meals on Wheels.
- 1972 Daylesford : Meals on Wheels.
Nhill : District Nursing.
- 1973 Rainbow : District Nursing, Meals on Wheels.
Ararat : Day Hospital.
- 1974 St. Arnaud : District Nursing.
Minyip : District Nursing, Meals on Wheels.
Murtoa : District Nursing, Meals on Wheels.
- 1975 Goroke : Meals on Wheels.
Horsham : Day Centre.
- 1976 Warracknabeal : paramedical and engineering staff to homes.
Goroke : Meals on Wheels.
Ballan : Meals on Wheels.
Avoca : District Nursing, Meals on Wheels.
St. Arnaud : Meals on Wheels to Senior Citizens Club, Domiciliary Linen Service.
Donald : District Nursing.
Ararat : Meals on Wheels.
Nhill : Meals on Wheels.
Q.E.G.C. : progressive bed reduction instituted.
Horsham : Geriatric Unit, 50 beds.
- 1978 Horsham : new Lutheran Rest Home, 42 beds.
St. Arnaud : Nursing Home - 48 beds.
Donald : Day Centre.
Creswick : District Nursing.
Daylseford : Day Centre organized by volunteers.
Clunes : District Nursing.
Nhill : Nursing Home and Day Centre.
- 1979 Goroke : Paramedical Services.
Warracknabeal : Nursing Home - 36 beds, Occupational Therapy Day Centre.
Rupanyup : Meals on Wheels.
Creswick : Meals on Wheels.
Nhill : Shire Handyman, Taxi, Podiatry.
Ballarat : Kelaston Day Hospital.
- 1980 Ballan : District Nursing.
Daylesford : District Nursing.
Beulah : Meals on Wheels.
Bacchus Marsh : Day Centre.
Q.E.G.C. : Assessment Ward; Midlands House Hostel and Day Centre; Post Basic Geriatric Nursing Course; amputee Programme.
- 1981 St. Arnaud : Welfare Officer.
Ballan : Day Centre.
Kaniva : District Nursing.
Q.E.G.C. : Emergency Call Service.
- 1982 St. Arnaud : Shire Home Help; paramedical services.
Q.E.G.C. : Nursing Home ward renovation programme commenced.

1983	<u>Avoca</u> : Home Help. <u>Bacchus Marsh</u> : Nursing Home - 20 beds. <u>Q.E.G.C.</u> : Home help transferred to Councils and Shires. <u>Ballarat</u> : Kelaston Law Vision Clinic.	1975
1984	<u>Avoca</u> : Nursing Home - 14 beds. <u>Donald</u> : Nursing Home - 10 beds. <u>Rainbow</u> : Podiatry. <u>Kaniva</u> : Nursing Home - 11 beds; Day Centre.	1975
1985	<u>Rupanyup</u> : Nursing Home - 10 beds. <u>St. Arnaud</u> : Hostel - 16 beds. <u>Creswick</u> : Hostel - 37 beds commenced. <u>Daylesford</u> : Day Centre programme funded. <u>Rainbow</u> : Nursing Home - 10 beds. <u>Nhill</u> Volunteer Home Visiting programme. <u>Q.E.G.C.</u> : Sebastopol Hostel and Day Centre - construction to commence.	1975
<p>*Inclusions dependent upon information provided. Apologies for unintentional omissions.</p>		

ADDENDUM

1888	<u>Ballarat:</u>	Mazareth House
1951	<u>Ballarat:</u>	City Council Home Help
1959	<u>Ballarat:</u>	Shire Council Home Help
1963	<u>Ballarat:</u>	Mercy Nursing Services
1972	<u>Sebastopol:</u>	Borough Home Help
1980	<u>Ballarat:</u>	Begonia Nursing Home
1982	<u>Ballarat:</u>	City Council Handyman
1983	<u>Ballarat:</u>	Abel Home Nursing
1984	<u>Sebastopol:</u>	Borough Handyman

ERRATA

Page 20 - Bacchus Marsh

Providence Hostel was opened on December 12, 1979. It was formerly the Netherlands Providence Children's Home and was transferred to Bacchus Marsh by the Dutch Community.