

SOCIAL ITEMS FROM THE CENTRAL WEATHER BUREAU.

With the arrival of Spring in Melbourne social activities took a sharp upward turn and if their subsequent spasmodic nature rather resembled the meteorological vagaries of a super-typical Melbourne Spring, that was well understandable as each little burst of jollification required its complementary period for recuperation. On the semi-official side there have been the two big end-of-the-year functions of the Social Club - first the Annual Ball, held in the Royal Room of the "Dorchester" on November 5th, when retiring President BILL GIBBS and his lady received some 110 guests, despite the counter attraction of the numerous conflagrations proper to that memorable date. A most enjoyable time was had by all and the evening passed without incident despite - or perhaps because of? - the absence of two well known "Chooffers" mentioned below.

The Second Occasion was the Children's Christmas Tree, held as usual at Christ Church Hall, South Yarra, on December 5th, when, in made-to-order weather, Father JACK NAPIER Xmas distributed presents to some 150 delighted children, including 28 guests from the Brighton Orphanage. The kids apparently enjoyed themselves, and so did at least some of the overwrought parents after their keen observational powers had led them to a most convenient hostelry, just over the road.

In between these two functions, the following new office bearers of the Social Club were "elected" for the next year :-

Patrons	- Messrs. E.W.TIMCKE & J.C.FOLEY.
President	- JOHN LILLYWHITE.
Vice-President	- HENRY PHILLPOT.
Secretary	- ALEC. SHARP.
Asst. Secretary	- Miss PAT. ARMOUR.
Treasurer	- CEDRIC FOSTER.
Asst. Treasurer	- JACK MANSFIELD.

On the less official and even lighter side of C.W.B. life there have been festivities (and how!) attendant on the departure from Central Office of three notable stalwarts - firstly ALAN ("CHOOFF-CHOOFF") MARTIN and CHARLIE JAMES, whose coincident postings to Perth and Alice Springs respectively, provided an excellent excuse (as if one was needed!) for the males of the Bureau and Essendon to have a night out at the aptly chosen Beaufort Hotel, culminating in a superb dinner. Less formal celebrations lasted for several days until A.R.M. was safely deposited on the plane to Perth, and these must have put ideas into RAY GRIFFITHS' head, since his exodus from the Branch a few weeks later was marked by very similar elbow-bending exercises.

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