

PICNICS AND PRE-SCHOOLS

Northlen Women's Circle in Phoenix are going ahead strongly. In SPEAK number 3 we heard about how they started their organisation. In this issue we read about their latest happenings

Women from Unit 15 asked the Northlen Women's Circle to help them set up a group there. House meetings were held in Unit 15, and soon Sunford Women's Circle had been established. Pre-schools were started, and Northlen Women's Circle helped with the training of the pre-school teachers. Now Sunford and Northlen Women's Circles are like sisters, and often consult each other.

Pre-school teachers are women chosen from the Women's Circle who are keen and good with children. The teachers are taken to see how the other pre-schools are run. There is no formal

training, but the teachers go to monthly workshops where they learn useful skills for working with children. The workshops are run by the Coastal Society for Early Childhood Education.

The Women's Circle organised an end-of-year graduation of the pre-schools. Both Northlen and Sunford Women's Circles participated. To raise funds for the graduation they arranged a trip for women and children to the Hazelmere Dam. Even though it had been raining, everyone insisted on carrying on with the trip. Games were planned for the day, starting off with a three-legged race for both the women and children. Then there was a game where the women had to find and put on their shoes from a bundle while blind-folded. There was much laughter! Another game was musical chairs. There were prizes for winners of all games. There was also a singing



IN PHOENIX

and dancing competition.

"While we were there it rained and we had to shelter under the mango trees at the dam. But we carried on with the fun!"

It was a day enjoyed by all.

Many more events have taken place. The Annual General Meeting was held in February at which the Secretary, Treasurers and other office bearers are elected. Then in May there was a jumble sale which raised R50.00. Handwork groups and keep-fit classes continue, and yet another areas has come to ask for help in setting up pre-schools.

As one can see, there is always work to do - but it has big rewards!



WORKERS, BUT MOTHERS TOO

Monica works in a factory. She is a single woman, living on her own in town since she arrived to look for a job. She started work as a cleaner in a clothing factory and was working well so that she could be promoted to a machinist. The pay was very low and she just managed to make ends meet. She was lonely in town but soon made a few friends. She became friendly with a man who lived near her rented room.

In a few months Monica found she was pregnant. She told the man, but he just laughed and said it was not his business. He had asked Monica to marry him, but once he learnt of her pregnancy he stopped visiting her.

Monica saw that she would have to care for the baby on her own. But she didn't mind. She was a working woman and would not have to worry about money since she could earn. But as the months went on and Monica began to grow bigger the supervisor at the factory came up to her and asked her when she was going to leave work. Monica said: "I'm not leaving work - I'm going to leave my baby



by Käthe Kollwitz