

SAN CLEMENTE MAYFIELD

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Mother Mary Imelda (Prioress).

Mother Mary Concepta (Sub-Prioress).

Sister Mary Reginald.	Sister Mary St. Mark.
Sister Mary Raphael.	Sister Mary Finbar.
Sister Mary Gertrude.	Sister Mary St. Peter.
Sister Mary Scholastica.	Sister Mary Veronica.
Sister Mary Barbara.	Sister Mary Baptist.
Sister Mary Helena.	Sister Mary Bede.

SCHOOL NOTES

Early in January this year *San Clemente* was the scene of the first Bush School to be held in the Diocese of Maitland. Sixty girls from the more remote parts, deprived of the regular religious classes given in our Catholic Schools, took advantage of the opportunity afforded by His Lordship, Bishop Gleeson of Maitland, to combine the pleasure of a sea-side holiday with the profitable reception of verbal instruction from the teachers under whose helpful guidance they had been studying Dr. Sheehan's "Religion by Letter." During

the ten days at their disposal, both teachers and pupils, despite the intense heat, worked earnestly, thus enabling many of these little ones to welcome Our Lord into their hearts for the first time, while others became soldiers of Christ by the strengthening Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Bush School was a novel experience for the children, all of whom seemed to have profited spiritually and physically.

On January 31st the boarders and day-pupils returned after the Christmas vacation, a record number being enrolled. All

1939.

CATHOLIC ACTION AT ST. MARY'S PRIORY

hailed with delight the news that the Senior Verse-Speaking Choir had gained the coveted medal, awarded by the Trinity College, for the highest marks in Australia. One pupil, Carmel Wilson, also gained the same high distinction in her grade.

Almost immediately after classes were resumed, the usual enthusiastic preparation for St. Patrick's Day Sports began. Our School sent two squads to Maitland to compete in the "March Past." Both were highly commended by keen judges, and their uniform, too, brought many favourable comments.

May 3rd was a gala day. Our picturesque grounds were the scene of a Garden Party and Outdoor Display. Again the pupils distinguished themselves at physical culture and rhythmic movements. The boys from *Star of the Sea* added to the spectacular effect by their skillful performance of the pyramids.

The Annual Frolic—postponed from St. Dominic's Day on account of an epidemic of measles—was held on September 16th. It was an outstanding success. Much amusement was derived beforehand from the arranging of fancy costumes and sets. Competition was keen as many prizes were awarded.

Although the outbreak of war cast a gloom over our country, the children at least found pleasure and quite a new interest in the practice of evacuation in case of possible air raids. First-aid classes were enthusiastically attended. But the seriousness of the situation was forgotten on one occasion when an interested pupil involuntarily gave voice to her natural repugnance for intimate association with these explosives, exclaiming, "Catch me waiting to put sand on a bomb!"

The 11th, 12th, and 13th of October were days of anxiety and tension for both teachers and pupils when the Conservatorium examinations were held. But a week later the same hearts rejoiced at the announcement of 100 per cent. passes, sprinkled lavishly with honours and credits from Grade VI to Grade I.

The Catholic Action Groups supervised by our nuns in West Maitland, have done creditable work, during 1939, for the Australian Missions. Letters from the Gilbert Island Mission Station have expressed the heartfelt thanks of Sacred Heart Sisters for the generous parcels of colourful clothing, ornaments, and articles of piety, sent frequently by the St. Catherine of Siena Mission Group.

One letter relates how the natives "danced with joy at the sight of the parcel's contents," and goes on to describe the consolation which the pious objects brought to a native woman, who, stricken with disease, was trying to be true to the Faith by refusing the services of the witch-doctors.

Generosity to the Missions, like Shakespeare's mercy, is proving itself "twice blessed," for all members of the Group feel the spiritual advantages derived from their unselfish deeds.

St. Catherine's Study Group, besides increasing its membership, has this year given lectures and held demonstration meetings in other parishes of the Maitland diocese.

It is most gratifying to the Nuns to find such an excellent spirit of leadership amongst the ex-students who undertake this work, while the girls themselves heartily enjoy the meetings conducted at the Priory where so many schoolgirl memories abound.