

## MURRIN BRIDGE FIRE FIGHTERS

Murrin Bridge residents are very thankful to the Board for its generosity in supplying a very efficient fire-fighting unit.

When the beautiful little "Riverside" and "Villiers" power unit arrived we were nonplussed at first as to how and where to mount it, being still without a truck of any kind. This was especially the case also when the Cruciform water tank arrived to go with the pump.

However, the idea then occurred of contacting car dealers in an endeavour to purchase an old Pontiac car which was practically in ruins on the Station. After a bit of dealing the firm offered the Manager the wrecked car for £5. It was Mr. James' idea to build a trailer big and strong enough to independently convey the whole unit to any fire about the Station whether it be house or grass fire.

And so the Assistant Manager and one handyman soon dismantled the car, and in spite of cracked chassis and broken springs the men, with many laborious trips to the Station junk heap, gradually built the unit complete with pine decking, side running boards, and a good substantial triangular draw bar which was made for us by a local blacksmith, and only because we did not have a forge on the Station. I must add that the trailer gradually evolved from a 2-wheeler to a 4-wheeler. Fortunately all the tyres were found on the Station, which helped to make the unit a very economical one indeed.

It was quite an event for the men when the finished article finally emerged from the assembly lines and ready for trials. At the trials the men successfully quenched an oil fire in less than a minute, and to the entire satisfaction of everyone the trials showed that it takes just on 40 minutes to empty the tank of water. This should be ample time to quench any outbreak of fire on or around the Aborigine Station.

In addition to space for the tank and motor there is plenty of room for half a dozen knapsacks as auxiliaries. The hardwood running boards supply additional footholds for fire fighting men also.

And so, with the bushfire danger period fast approaching, the residents and all concerned here now have greater feeling of safety, bearing in mind how close this Station was to being annihilated by fire in December of 1957, when a bushfire scorched the Eastern boundary and was quenched by the prompt action of our neighbours.

## ARMIDALE WEDDING



Alan Cutmore of Armidale with his bride (formerly Mary Walford) together with, from left to right, Mrs. Cutmore, Mrs. Walford, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Cutmore and a friend who took the place of Mr. Walford who was unable to attend

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Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cutmore with the Rev. Dr. J. Udy who officiated at their wedding in the Armidale Methodist Church recently