

A HOME FOR "OLD" AUSTRALIANS

HISTORIC PROJECT COMPLETED

THIS article tells how the living conditions of an Armidale family have been transformed by the work of Armidale Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines.

A comfortable modern home was officially opened by the Chief Secretary one afternoon just before Xmas. It was built by the Housing Committee of A.A.A. and will be occupied by Mrs. Cutmore and her family who have been living in rather horrible premises pictured.

Setting up the home occupied 14 months and it involved a tremendous amount of voluntary work.



The Old and the New

STUDENT BUILDERS

Actual building operations were begun last January by a group of students who stayed on in Armidale for that purpose after coming from all States to attend a national conference of the Student Christian Movement.

One of these students was a fully qualified carpenter and he, together with Mr. A. C. Menzies, an Armidale builder, supervised the erection of the construction of the foundations, the framework and the walls and the roof by this group.

There were several girls in the student group, which included a Fijian girl and a Malayan boy. Part of the work was the cleaning of second-hand bricks. This was done mostly by the girls despite the fact that the work brought blisters to their hands.

During the May vacation and at week-ends when there were no examinations to prepare for New England University, students fixed the lining in the rooms and prepared for the final application of paint.

At this stage proceedings had to be halted for five months while further funds were being collected.

GAVE MATERIALS AND LABOUR

People who gave materials were C. Schultz and Sons (all the floor boards for the house), Piddington's (formica for cupboards), Professor N. C. Beadle (a bath), George Ruthven (a porcelain basin), Mrs. F. Brereton (kitchen sink and laundry tubs), Mr. P. G. Love (marble slab for Warmray), Mr. B. Halstead, Mr. B. Roper and Miss E. Moore (timber), Mr. Ian Menzies and Mr. Ron Bell (additional formica), and Mr. Ken Cameron of Kenross Sawmills (load of firewood).

Those who gave their time and skill free of charge were Mr. Keith Lindsay (who drew the plans), Mr. George Ruthven (plumbing, with material provided at cost price), Mr. Halstead (who put in windows, again with material at cost price), Mr. Don Atkinson (who under the supervision of Mr. John Pearson installed the electricity), Mr. Ross Moore (light fittings), and University lecturers (painting).

The committee's work was greatly facilitated by the voluntary work of Mr. P. N. Harrison in attending the transfer of land, mortgages and other legal problems.

The family to benefit directly, the Cutmores, also did a considerable amount of work.