

# DAVIS FAMILY RECEIVE KEY TO NEWVILLE HOME

A PLEASANT three bedroom home, situated in Newville on the outskirts of Nambucca Heads, was officially handed over to the Greg Davis family one day recently by the Greg Davis Nambucca Heads Aboriginal Assimilation Fund Appeal Committee.

The house, which included, in addition to the bedrooms, a large kitchen-dining-lounge room and bathroom, is attractively painted in pastel shades, with water and electricity laid on. It is the culmination of a dream of the Davis family, who some 12 months ago resided in a humpy on the Mission Station at Bellwood.

Greg, in seeking to find suitable accommodation in which to raise his family of four girls (Angeline, Roslyn, Carmel and Christine), had attempted to purchase a home in Newville.

With his attempts to purchase a home frustrated, his case was taken up by the committee, who collected donations from all over Australia, and together with a loan of £500 from the Chief Secretary's Department, had built this cottage.

## OFFICIAL OPENING

In accepting the key from the chairman of the committee, Mr. J. H. Brown (who officially handed over the building to Greg Davis), said he did so in all humility.

"This is a Christian act," he said, "and I feel, a very humble experience."

Praising the enunciation of principles by Rev. R. G. Pearson, he said our duty in this matter was clear.

"The principle was laid down 2000 years ago by our Master when he told the disciples to go into the world and teach all people.

"There are many wonderful stories in the Grand Book of experiences of the disciples in the early days," he continued.

"I am grateful that I was raised in a strong Christian home," he said, "as Christian teaching gives us a wonderful insight into our fellow man."

Mr. Brown said that a tremendous responsibility had been placed on Mr. and Mrs. Davis, but he was sure this would be carried out to the full.

"No doubt Mr. Davis realises that the way he reacts to this responsibility means a lot to his people," he continued.

"The people of Nambucca Heads and the committee can hold their heads high, knowing they have acted in the highest principles of human nature," he said.

He asked Greg to live a normal life—to make everyone proud of having him as a neighbour.

Handing him the key to the door, Mr. Brown continued: "With this key goes the best wishes of the people of Australia and the world."

Greg Davis in an emotional voice thanked the committee and Mr. Brown. "I can't tell you how happy I am. I'm just full up. I am very pleased to have a home and will try to make a go of it."

## HOME COST £1400

Addressing the assembly, the acting treasurer of the committee, Mr. Jock Kennedy, said that the home had cost £1418.

Donations had amounted to £968 1s. 2d., and £500 had been loaned by the Chief Secretary's Department.

He stressed that the appeal was still open, to enable the family to obtain furnishings for their home, and donations of money or furniture would be welcome.

Rev. A. A. Smith, before introducing the speakers, said that the bulk of the donations to the fund had come from outside the district, mainly as a result of publicity given in support of the committee and the Davis family.

It was also explained that the Davis family would be responsible for the repayment of loan money, in the same manner as any other citizen who borrowed money from an organisation to build a home.

## UNIQUE EFFORT

The Deputy President of the Nambucca Shire Council, Mr. L. B. Connors, apologised for the absence of the Shire President, Mr. C. H. Piggott, who is ill in hospital in Sydney.

In congratulating the committee and the Davis family, he said that this effort was unique in New South Wales.

He said there was no other occasion when responsible people had taken on the responsibility of housing an aboriginal family.