

A RIGHT MOVE

HOME FOR ABORIGINAL FAMILY

With the completion of the building of their new home Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Troutman, of Boggabilla, have now moved to a more central position on the Boggabilla Common.

The enterprise of the Troutmans was shown in an article of an earlier edition of *Dawn*. Gordon, a shearer, was not content to live in a tent on the Aboriginal Station. He and his wife Jean had, like most people, something better in mind—they wanted a home of their own in better surroundings, something they could call their own. So, through the manager and the Welfare Officer, Mr. Preston Walker, they sought the assistance of the Aborigines' Welfare Board who endeavour to accommodate such industrious people as well as their limited funds will allow.

The manager, who drew up the plans for the house not only had to bear this in mind but also had to keep the size of the home within the amount of Gordon's ability to make repayments. And so a small cottage was planned comprising, kitchen, bathroom and three other rooms. The western elevation is protected from the summer heat with a verandah. All window space is louvred and rain water is conserved in a thousand-gallon tank, but it is possible that Gordon will consider having a bore sunk later for a more reliable source of water.

The house is compact, but there is decent sleeping accommodation for the family, and at sometime later, as the need arises, the house could, quite simply, have additional rooms added.

The builder, Mr. Reg Moore, of Goondiwindi, is responsible for the building of this neat little cottage of which the Troutmans are very proud.

ALL MEN ARE EQUAL

A Student's Views

Apartheid, communism, education and the future of the locality were covered in interesting addresses given to the Junee Rotary Club one Tuesday night recently, by a panel of senior students from the Junee High School.

Their thoughts were provocative and realistic, evoking spontaneous acclaim and sometimes opposition from the members present.

"I have no brothers, but I have two sisters, and, if they should choose a negro as their intended husband knowing full well that he was the right person for them, I should be the last to oppose it," said Graham Elphick in reply to a question which was aimed to test his feelings on racial segregation.

"To me all men are equal; they are so in the sight of God, and thus we should accept them into our communities and treat them with all respect. Education and acceptance of responsibility will make them equal citizens with us".

TOOMELAH C.W.A. BRANCH

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The fourth anniversary of the formation of the Country Women's Association Branch at Boggabilla, known as the Toomelah Branch, was held recently.

The branch is now functioning as an all aboriginal one and was guided into this position by Mrs. R. F. Brown, president of Boggabilla Branch of the C.W.A. when both white officers had to resign. Mrs. J. Buchanan was Treasurer until her husband, Headteacher of the Aboriginal School, was transferred. Mrs. W. E. Roberson had to resign her position as Secretary due to ill health.

Mrs. Brown has given much of her time to come out to the Station for the monthly meetings of the branch held by the aboriginal women of the Station. The office bearers as elected by their members have been coached in their particular jobs, especially in that of treasurer and secretary, which up till then had been filled by white persons.

An extract from the *Goondiwindi Argus* under the heading of "The Toomelah Tea Party" describes the event. "The Aboriginal women were hostesses last Saturday at a party to celebrate the fourth anniversary of Toomelah C.W.A. Branch. Guests were members of neighbouring C.W.A. branches of Goondiwindi and Boggabilla, and the Matron of Toomelah Government Aboriginal Station, Mrs. Roberson.

"The formation of Toomelah C.W.A. was the idea of Mrs. W. E. Armstrong, a former president of the South-western Division of the Queensland Country Women's Association, and a lifelong champion of our 'original Australians'.

"She would have been proud of them last Saturday Pride was certainly reflected in the eyes of Mrs. Leila Dennison, the branch's foundation president and descendent of the patriarch Charlie Dennison who died in 1955, aged 110—one of the last of the Kamilaroi tribe.

"During the branch's first years, the offices of secretary and treasurer were held by white members, whose kindly guidance did much to kindle the enthusiasm of the group. To-day, Toomelah is the only C.W.A. branch with all-aboriginal office bearers. These leaders—the president, Mrs. Hannah Duncan, vice presidents, Mrs. Susie McGrady, Mrs. Mavis McGrady and Mrs. Leila Dennison and secretary Mrs. Phyllis Knox—form a fine nucleus of leadership to the younger members. Since 1956, the branch has equipped a library for the Station, made a contribution towards the flourishing of the Boggabilla C.W.A. Rest Room and sent delegates to the State Conference in Sydney.

"Current project at the Station is the provision of a tennis court, with the help of the Station Superintendent, Mr. Roberson, for the younger people on the settlement. But perhaps the most important achievement of these women is their victory over shyness.