Aboriginal Family Handed Keys of Bowraville Home

A Bowraville Aboriginal family, Rod and Sandra Buchanan, with their four children, Patricia (3½), Fred (2½), Dean (1½), and Barry (8 months) accepted the keys to a new home in Carbin Street.

The home, of 12½ squares, was erected by the Christian Youth Council of N.S.W. with materials provided by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The official opening and handing over ceremony attracted more than 200 people including about 50 Youth Fellowship members who had worked on the construction since Boxing Day.

Present were Mr Ian Robinson, Federal Member for Cowper, shire president, Cr B. M. Laverty; councillors B. D. Gillett and J. Davies; the superintendent of the Aboriginal Welfare Board, Mr H. J. Green; Coff's Harbour area welfare officer, Mr Lawson; Kempsey area welfare officer, Mr Norbert Luschwitz; members of the Bowraville Aboriginal Welfare Committee, including president Allan Ussher; members of the Bowraville clergy.

Ron Junghans, camp supervisor of Sydney, was chairman of the hand over ceremony and said that when the Christian Youth Fellowship moved into the situation at Bowraville on Boxing Day it had been well organized by local people.

He extended thanks to those who had helped in making arrangements, with special reference to Mr Alan Ussher, Rev. R. Constant, Mr Ian Fairbanks, shopkeepers, and people of the town.

Mr Junghans congratulated Rod and Sandra Buchanan on being selected by the Aborigines Welfare Board to go into the home.

Misconceptions

He said there were some misconceptions he would like to correct.

The house had not been given to Rod and Sandra. They would move into the house as any couple moving into a Housing Commission home.

They would have to abide by the usual rules.

"This is not another hand out", he stressed.

He said that in choosing the family to move into the house, recommendations of the local welfare committee had been considered by the Aborigines Welfare Board.