

MINISTER'S HIGH PRAISE FOR WORK OF ARMIDALE A.A.A.

“Example to Rest of Australia and World”

THE voluntary welfare work among aborigines at Armidale surpasses anything of a similar nature in N.S.W. The Minister in charge of Aborigine Welfare described it recently as “an example to the rest of Australia”.

The Minister is Mr. C. A. Kelly, Chief Secretary, who flew at considerable inconvenience to Armidale in order to take part in the opening of the home for a local aborigine family built principally by voluntary labour and donations by the Armidale Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines.

On his arrival at the cottage in Chapel Street the Minister started the garden, planting a Japanese maple tree.

A large party of wellwishers and supporters attended, and among those who were presented to the Minister was Mr. Frank Archibald, head of one of the largest coloured families in the district.

The Mayor, Ald. P. G. Love (who is one of the Trustees of the house), Mr. Davis Hughes, M.L.A., Mr. Des Murray (president of Apex), Mr. Ken Long (President of the A.A.A.A.), and Mrs. Stock (Building Committee convener), were in the official party.

The handing over of the key of the new house to the head of the family, Mrs. Cutmore, was in the Minister's opinion, a small ceremony, a minor detail, in comparison to the work of the Association.

“ASTOUNDED”

“I was astounded to learn of its work: many of its activities are of even greater value than the building of this house”, said the Minister. “Congratulations on the generous Christian spirit you have shown in dealing with this problem”, he added.

By their regular communication with the aborigine families, the local association was making them realise they could all work together for a better future, that the aborigines were not outcasts.

“I am not saying this because I am your guest here today, but I have never been to any function with more pleasure, with more delight and more pride than I have in this one,” said the Chief Secretary.

“This is an example that could be followed in every walk of life and in every activity. Today people are growing apart from each other, and in the world we find ourselves with a crisis every five minutes because of the lack of tolerance towards our fellow creatures.”

“BLESS THIS HOUSE”

Handing the key to Mrs. Cutmore the Minister hoped that the words of the old song, “Bless this House”, would remain true in this instance.



Mr. C. A. Kelly, M.L.A., hands over the keys to Mrs. Cutmore

Mr. Ken Long, President of the Association, recalled the principal events in the construction of the home—the start made on the foundations by a half a dozen volunteers a little over a year ago, the donations of money and materials by organisations and individuals, “the shot in the arm” given by the alliance of the Apex Club, the Easter holiday work of the Student Christian Movement members. Of the many individuals who have assisted in the work he mentioned in particular Mrs. S. Stock (convener of the Building Committee), and Mr. P. N. Harrison (hon. solicitor).

CIVIC RECEPTION

At the civic reception at midday the Mayor referred to Mr. Kelly's 30 years service in the Legislative Assembly as a member, and as Minister for Health and Housing and more recently as Chief Secretary.

The Dumaresq Shire President, Cr. Don Cameron, and Mr. Murray (Apex), endorsed the welcome.

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