

The Morans Move to Town

It was a great day for Mr and Mrs Arthur Moran, with their daughter and twin sons, when they moved into their new \$8,000 house in Armidale's Rusden Street.

The story made front-page news in the *Armidale Express* earlier this year, and was a success story about this attractive, intelligent Aboriginal couple.

Mr D. G. Yates, Armidale area welfare officer, said that the Morans had great faith in their ability to settle down successfully within the town community. They had approached the matter with forethought and planning, and not in the haphazard manner adopted by many Aboriginals who grabbed at a chance to leave reserves for town houses without thought of the subsequent economic problems.

Mr and Mrs Moran's new house is fully carpeted and in an area of good homes. It is opposite West Armidale Public School, connected to all facilities, and rent for it is \$7.90 a week. Rental for similar cottages on the open market in Armidale would be more than twice the Moran's rental.

The Morans have the option of buying their house from the Aborigines Welfare Board in two years, and the money paid in rent during that time will be deducted from the price of the house.

Other Welfare Board cottages provided in New England area under this tenancy scheme are at Tamworth (1), Inverell (2), Glen Innes (1), Tenterfield (1) and Quirindi (1). Apart from the Moran's Armidale house, two others have been purchased in Armidale.

Rentals

Mr Yates said that weekly rentals for the average \$8,000-house varied from \$7 to \$8.

"These are economic rentals," Mr Yates told the *Armidale Express*. "The tenants who are going into these cottages have shown they can handle the economics of ordinary rented premises. This is progress.

"There has obviously been some talk at the reserve about the selection of tenants. Those who cannot keep up with their \$1.75 a week would obviously find it hard to pay \$8 a week rent, and the quarterly gas and electricity bills and so on."

Mr Yates said he had found all the neighbours of the town cottages the Board had bought to be most co-operative.

Change

Mr and Mrs Moran and their three children lived on the Armidale Aboriginal Reserve before moving into their new home. It must have been quite a change. They lived with Mr Moran's father and six of his twelve children. Mr James Moran is the Reserve handyman. Later, Arthur and his wife and children moved to his wife's parents' home in Tamworth.

Mrs Moran, formerly Wilga Munro of Tamworth, is a trained telephonist, and has served in the Womens Auxiliary Air Force.

Arthur Moran is a bench foreman at the Walcha Case and Saw Mill, Armidale, and his boss holds a high opinion of him, and was glad that Arthur obtained the house so that he could continue to work at the mill.

Mrs Moran holds her eighteen-months-old daughter Catherine, and Mr Moran his twin six-months-old sons Michael and Wayne. With them outside their new home early in June is Mr D. G. Yates, Armidale area welfare officer (photo courtesy The Armidale Express)

