

*The Assimilation of
Aborigines . . .*

Healthy New Association

by Mrs. EDNA McINTOSH, *Vice President, Association
for the Assimilation of Aborigines*

If you come to Armidale on a Wednesday and go into the hall at the Literary Institute, you will be caught up in a hub of activity. There you will find brown and white children playing about, men and women in groups enjoying a chat and a cup of tea, women cutting out and machining clothes, and around a big table covered with good used clothes, women (and men too) chatting,



Mrs. Moran and Mrs. Widders in the Sewing Class

rummaging and purchasing. This, as the notice says at the door, is the Club Room of the Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines (the A.A.A.).

Started early in 1957 by the A.A.A. with the co-operation of the Armidale Council, this Club has been a very interesting and active experiment and a very successful one too, under the energetic direction of Mrs. Florence le Gay Brereton.

One of the Clubs regular activities is a fortnightly Clinic for babies and young children. Sister Nealy always finds a number of mothers waiting for her with babies to be weighed. In her gentle but firm manner she advises them on diet and health matters and now, through the Aborigine's Welfare Board's co-operation she is able to give vitamin C, etc., to the babies and young children where necessary. This is a wonderful thing because while most of the babies are very healthy, a number of them and also a number of small children need extra vitamins and other body-building foods. We are very glad to be able to supply these as the welfare of the children is very important to us.

While speaking about children I could mention that every Wednesday afternoon after school a number of older boys and girls (last week, twelve) meet in the Club room for an Art Class conducted by Mrs. Gabriel. The children seem to enjoy these lessons very much and Mrs. Gabriel thinks very highly of the work of some of the children. (Continued on page 16.)



Mrs. J. Widders enjoys the Sewing Classes



"Grannie" Widders and Mrs. McKenzie look forward to these afternoons together



"Grannie" Widders "baby sits" for young Rhonda