



“KIRINARI”—Place of Learning

On 7th July the State Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, will officially open “Kirinari”—a hostel for young Aboriginal students. The completed first-stage hostel is the climax of four years of dedicated hard work by the Aboriginal Childrens Advancement Society.

The hostel’s 2½-acre bushland site, leased to the Society by the N.S.W. Government, is in Box Road, Sylvania (a suburb of Sydney). It was dedicated last year on National Aborigines Sunday, 10th July.

“Kirinari” has swallowed the \$32,000 raised by the Society, and a \$20,000 grant from the Aborigines Welfare Board. This is just the beginning—the first stage—but it is fully paid for.

Twelve boy students and house-parents will be accommodated in the first stage, and the second-storey second-stage bedroom wing will take twelve girls. The Society as yet has no money for the second-stage of “Kirinari”, but judging from its past efforts it will not rest till the project is complete.

Each student at “Kirinari” will cost the Society \$2,000 a year. The first students to move in will be three boys in the Sutherland Shire who are now on scholarships and living with foster parents in private homes. But the boys will find that “Kirinari” is a real home-away-from-home.

The hostel will provide extra coaching in school-work and special training in social matters as well as recreation and entertainment.

Students will be enrolled at the nearest public school, Gympie Technical College, or University. The Society will consider written requests from parents or guardians for their children to attend a private school.

Mrs H. Wilson, of the Society, said that she would send application forms to prospective students. At present there is accommodation for several boy students, but “Kirinari” will fill quickly.

Branches

Mrs Wilson said that the Aboriginal Childrens Advancement Society was formed in 1963 at a public meeting at a Miranda hall. Since then this active society has formed branches in Sutherland Shire, St George district, Fairfield, and a Newcastle branch would be launched at the end of June. The Society also has a Younger Set entertainment group, led by Miss Theresa French.

Aboriginal leaders play a prominent role in the work of the Society. Apart from Miss French, who is president of the Younger Set and secretary of “Kirinari”, other Aborigines are: Mr C. Leon, president of the Fairfield Branch, and, with his wife, a member of the Society’s Executive; Mr Charles French, a vice-president of the Executive; Mr Harry Penrith, vice-president; Mr H. Groves, J.P., trustee and field officer; and Pastor Doug. Nicholls, M.B.E., patron of the Society.