Courier Mail 20 Sep 1958

Gregg's home: fight still on

From . Staff Reporter

NAMBUCCA HEADS.—Plans are being made to build a home for aboriginal Gregg Davis in the heart of Nambucca's "anti-assimilation hot-bed"—the growing suburb of

Newville.

This is the basis of a proposal which has been kept a close secret by a group of Davis' supporters.

A block of land has been bought at Newville by a family keenly interested in the welfare of the Davis family.

A person associated with the purchase of the block said last night: "We are determined that Gregg Davis will have a home at Newville."

On August 18 a group of Newville residents submitted a petition protesting against a proposal that Davis should buy a home in Old Coast Road, Newville. The home was subsequently sold to a Nambucca Heads baker, Mr. Noel Schafer.

In Nambucca Heads last night 30 people attended a public meeting which officially launched a £1500 appeal to buy Davis a home.

The fund last night stood at £530.

Appeal chairman, the Rev. A. A. Smith, Anglican rector of Macksville, said the fund was the only practical way "to right a grave injustice."

FEWER AGAINST

Plans to build a home for Davis at Newville were disclosed yesterday by the supervisor of the Nambucca Heads aboriginal reserve, Mr. B. Ellem.

Mr. Ellem is a member of the committee sponsoring the Gregg Davis fund.

He said: "You can take it from me that a home will be huilt at Newville for Gregg Davis. I live at Newville myself and I would be happy to see the Davis family living in the area."

He said Newville opposition against the Davis family seemed to be easing

Meanwhile, Gregg Davis, 25, and his wife, Phyllis, 23, are still living in a rough wood and tin shanty on the southern outskirts of Nambucca.

Their plight has been increased by the birth last week of their fifth child—a daughter (Edrica).