No. 5 Hydro House – 1958 – 1965 Donald Muir

Information given by Donald Muir. Donald, his wife, Alice and their two children, Janis and Donald, lived at No. 5 Hydro House for seven years. The Hydro houses were newly built in 1958 for workers at the Hydro Station at Clachan. Donald was a shift change Engineer.

There were a few steps up to the front porch. I remember builder had to come and put metal rails on the steps after we had been in a while.

In front door, steps directly in front of you to upstairs. Small bedroom immediate left, not much room, after a bed placed in it. Right of front door through and through lounge/dining room, no wall between stairs and lounge, wooden vertical spars. Alice bought curtains to fit over spars and stop most of the heat escaping upstairs.

Top of stairs, bathroom, smallish bedroom to the left, and what you could call the master bedroom, right (ours).

In the back door, reasonable area going back to under the staircase. I built walls with access for the area under the stairs, to keep garden tools, etc. Wall to the right of back door, we had a large chest freezer which incidentally is still in operation in Janis’s house, 113 Belsyde Court, probably on its last legs now.

Left of back door area into the kitchen, immediate left, small pantry, kitchen ok, room for most of what we had at the time. Leading to door into dining room/lounge. That’s about all of the house.

All electric house of course, and there was underfloor heating in lounge, etc. and the kitchen. Wasn’t too successful as far as we, and I think the Lawson’s were concerned, more insulation was required.

Plumbing – near the bottom of what was our front lawn there was what they called a “Buchan Trap”. It was removed after a short period for not functioning properly. The piece of garden on the roadside of the access path, which was ours, held the septic tank for the six houses. This had to be emptied occasionally.

Television was eventually supplied to the houses, through Tommy Grants’ knowledge, and all our hard work carrying cable, steel for the arial, etc., and equipment up the hill to the site. Was a great day when we saw the first pictures.