

# Mother braves flames to save children

A young New Australian mother ran through a wall of flame to save her two young children in their burning home at St. Albans last night.

Mrs. E. Slowik was preparing tea about 6.30 p.m. in the kitchen of her four-roomed wooden bungalow in Oberon ave., when her son Ernest, 2, upset a kerosene heater.

"Within seconds the kitchen was ablaze," Mrs. Slowik said later.

"I ran to the living-room and picked up my daughter,

Erica, 3, and carried her to safety.

"Ernest had run into a corner behind the flames, and I was forced to run through them to get to him."

Mrs. Slowik and the children were severely shocked, but otherwise unharmed.

## Only trickle

Mr. Emil Mis, owner of the bungalow, who lives in a house in front, tried to save some of the family's belongings, but the flames burnt his eyebrows and hair and forced him back.

About 80 men ran to help.

Mr. Mis tried to use a garden hose to fight the flames, but the pressure was low and there was only a trickle of water.

When Footscray and Sunshine fire brigades arrived the building was gutted and the fire almost out.

Mr. Mis said last night fire safety regulations at St. Albans, where thousands of migrants lived, were very bad, and a more serious tragedy could occur if they were not improved.

Mr. Slowik, a rubber worker, who migrated from Germany with his wife six years ago, was at work when the fire occurred.

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