

600 Residents At The Unveiling Of Lang Lang District War Memorial

IN THE PRESENCE OF 600 district residents, Lang Lang's Memorial to the district's fallen in World War 1939-45, was unveiled at an impressive ceremony on the 40th Anniversary of V.P. Day.

This was preceded by an inspiring march down the Main St., headed by the Victorian Police Band. Former members of the 1st and 2nd A.I.F., nearly 100 strong, led by Messrs. W. Coleman (1st A.I.F.) and H. Robotham (2nd A.I.F.), marched with military precision, and were followed by the Lang Lang Boy Scouts and children from the Lang Lang, Caldermeade, Heath Hill, Langview and Yannathan Schools.

At the memorial, special seating accommodation was provided for the next-of-kin of the fallen, and elderly people.

Boy Scouts mounted a Guard of Honour at the memorial.

Mr. F. M. Dale, chairman of the War Memorial Committee, said that the committee had partly carried out the wishes of the people by erecting the memorial. The Soldiers' Club Room would be erected when the money was raised and building conditions became easier. All were agreed, he said, that the noble sacrifice of their men demanded that they set aside as a memorial to them a few feet of the country for which they died, so that their service and sacrifice will not be forgotten by present or future generations. He thanked all concerned with the establishing of the memorial and after appropriate hymns had been sung, introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Jack Wiltshire, M.C.—the district's bravest soldier.

In the midst of all the midst of all the chaos of today, declared Mr. Wiltshire, the deeds of our gallant men and women in the recent conflict stood out as a beacon and guiding star.

"Today we are gathered,

"Today we are gathered, not to glory in their deeds, but to remember the price they paid, our nearest, our dearest, and our best," he proceeded.

"I unveil this monument—this simple, yet beautiful stone, which has been erected here to the Glory of God, and in memory of your Fallen and Dead Comrades. I feel that in your hearts, and mine, there is a wish that they should be with us at this solemn moment, and resolve in our hearts that great determination to preserve for ever the things for which they fought and died; to treasure and safeguard them. Let us, like future generations, assemble here on solemn occasions, perform our duty to our Fallen, and accept now, and always, our great responsibilities for these, our gallant dead, that we may always walk with clear hearts and clear minds and say truly, 'They Rest in Peace.' Engraved upon the monument are the words 'Lest We Forget'. If we do forget; if future generations forget; then we, as a nation must perish. May it please Almighty God that such should never be, and that the sacrifices of these, your dead and our comrades, shall not have been in vain. Their task is done. Ours has only

task is done. Ours has only just begun."

The address and unveiling were followed by Sgt. Taylor playing the "Last Post." Mr. F. Alloway then read the Anzac Requiem, and "The Reveille was played by Sgt. Taylor.

On behalf of the Committee and all residents of the district Mr. M. Super laid a beautiful laurel wreath on the Memorial. Next-of-kin then paid beautiful tributes, and nearly every district organisation laid floral tributes in memory of their fallen comrades. Led by the Victorian Police Band the assembly sang the Anzac Commemoration Hymn.

Lang Lang can look back with pride upon a memorable and solemn day which will long be remembered, and the Committee responsible for the organisation are to be congratulated upon the outstanding success of the day.