

ALLORA MEMORIAL HALL OPENED

ALLORA: The newly erected Returned Soldiers' Hall and Club Rooms were officially opened before a crowd of 500.

The building which is in the form of a memorial to the men who enlisted from this district and did not return, has been built on a section of park land in Allora immediately adjacent to that portion containing the monuments to the Fallen of the 1914-18 War and the Boer War.

Its opening marked the completion of several years of planning and hard work by members of the Allora sub-branch of the R.S.L. and was almost wholly erected by voluntary labour on the part of members and friends.

It is a most attractive building and the long, low lines of the exterior are thrown into relief by the green of the willows which line the banks of the near-by Dalrymple Creek.

The interior presents a fresh, bright picture to the on-looker and provides a hall with an excellent dance floor, club rooms, a supper room and a modern and well equipped kitchen. It is painted in light colours, magnolia white, cream and light green being extensively used.

The green is used as a trim and highlights the small stage. Above this stage the initials R.S.L. are outlined.

In order to facilitate the decoration of the hall for functions, wall vases are provided at intervals round the walls. For the opening function these were filled with roses, sweet peas and early asters.

In the supper room the same flowers were used in the wall vases and on the long tables where supper was served in buffet style.

The building has been opened free of debt and this is due to some years of planning and

to some years of planning and to several "queen" competitions, the last of which was held recently and was organised by Mr. J. Hilton. This was finalised on the night of the opening ceremony and the winning queen officially proclaimed and crowned. It was announced that with the takings from the night's function the competition had made £1000.

Mr. Les Carstens, president of the Western District of the R.S.L. performed the opening ceremony and the crowning of the queen. He was officially welcomed by Mr. J. W. Deacon, president of the Allora sub-branch of the R.S.L., who said that the sub-branch was very proud of its achievements in constructing the hall which they consider was one of the finest on the Downs and a worthy memorial to those men who enlisted from this district and unfortunately never returned.

The hall had been built mainly by voluntary labour, but it could not have been done without the support and assistance of the public.

The sub-branch was deeply indebted to Mr. A. Morris who gave an excellent start by building the exterior, to Mr. Gay Neale and Mr. S. Munsie who donated their labour in roofing the hall, to Mr. J. Hall who donated most of the stumps and to Mr. Les Cooper also for stumps, to Mr. Ray Hoey who sank all holes for the sub-branch and to Mr. J. Hilton who organised the queen competition. The main thanks of the sub-branch must go however, to Mr. Gordon Gifford who was responsible for the plan, and the hall had been built under his guidance. He had devoted

hall had been built under his guidance. He had devoted practically his entire spare time to the completion of the hall and to him must go the credit for its successful conclusion. He had received outstanding help from Mr. C. M. Holmes, while Mr. Bill Ellis, Mr. Jim Gwynne and Mr. Harry Gwynne had also been outstanding helpers with assistance at various times from Messrs. M. Morris, B. Ruhle, Bill Ellis jnr., A. Morris, Les Cooper, K. Crommelin, W. H. Irving, R. T. Slatter, A. B. Neilsen, H. Dougall, F. Shooter and L. K. Northway.

Thanks were also due to the girls who consented to take part in the queen competition and to their committees.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary under the presidency of Mrs. A. E. Marshall had all ably supported the sub-branch throughout and one of their outstanding efforts has been the presentation of the piano to the sub-branch. Mr. Deacon apologised for the absence of Sir Raymond Huish and Mr. J. Hilton.

In declaring the building officially open Mr. Carstens congratulated the sub-branch on its wonderful achievement. He said that on various trips through Allora he had noticed the progress of the building with great interest and believed it reflected the greatest credit on all concerned. It would be a great asset to the community. The fact that it had been built mainly by voluntary labour was another reason for congratulation and Mr. Carstens also paid tribute to the work of the women's auxiliary.

Mr. Carstens said that Mr. Jim Gwynne, who was vice-president of the district, must be very proud of the achievement and referred to the fact that he had recently had the great honour of presenting a life membership badge to Mr. Gwynne in recognition of his fine service to the league.

Mr. Carstens said he hoped the hall would go on living and affecting the life of the community and thus providing itself a fitting memorial to the fallen.

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Mr. Jim Gwynne briefly spoke and said he was very proud to place this building before the people of Allora and he felt sure it was going to prove its worth as a community centre. The chairman of the Allora Shire Council (Cr. J. Hoey Jun.) added his congratulations.

There was a short interval and the appearance of the two small heralds, Jimmy Douglas and Greg Barnes, drew the attention of the gathering to the entrance of the queens, Miss Shirley Morris (Spring Creek Queen) and Miss Glenda Bott (Ellinthorp Queen).

Miss Morris was an attractive figure in soft blue brocade and she was attended by Misses Margaret Gibson and Isobel Mason, as ladies-in-waiting, each being frocked in blue. Little Jill Abernethy was her flower girl.

Miss Bott chose leaf green net and lace for her frock and

was attended by Misses Hazel Geck and Gloria Hansen as ladies-in-waiting. They were frocked in mauve net and tulle. Jennifer Burmister was her flower girl.

On arrival at the stage each queen was presented with a sheaf of gladioli by her flower girl and then Mr. Gordon Gifford as marshal of ceremonies, made the announcement of the winning queen. This was Miss Gloria Bott, who raised £460/16/4. The sum of £322/2/6 was raised by Miss Morris.

Hr. Carstens crowned Miss Bott as Queen of Allora R.S.L. and she was invested with her official robes. He congratulated both girls and their committee on their fine achievement.

Glenda and Shirley made charming speeches and each paid tribute to the work of their committees and the wonderful support they had received from the public. A gift from the sub-branch was presented to each queen by Mr. Carstens.

Supper was served and or-

Supper was served and organised by the women's auxiliary, of which Mrs. A. E. Marshall was president. The auxiliary was honoured by the committee when Mrs Marshall was given a seat on the stage during the ceremony.

It is understood that the surroundings of the hall are to be beautified by the planting of trees and shrubs and ornamental gates etc. erected as early as possible.