

NEW BUILDING, 'ONE OF CITY'S BEST AMENITIES'

"I feel that this is one of the greatest amenities ever provided in this city," said Mr. S. T. Stephens, M.L.A., when performing the opening ceremony of the Lismore Water Brigade and Rowing Club's £20,000 building on Saturday.

"All know what this new building will mean to this city," he said. "It is something that has been wanted since the inception of the Water Brigade and Rowing Club.

"As the years passed, facilities were lacking for recreation and training, and the storage of boats. It must be very pleasing that this plan has been brought to fruition."

Mr. Stephens said the building would play an important part in the public utilities of the city, and for the use of the Water Brigade in flood times.

"They will now be best able to serve this city in times of crisis," he added.

Mr. Stephens said that the building was unique in N.S.W.

"It gives me great pleasure to declare this building open and to dedicate it to the benefit of the young men of this district and city, and to the public services of this area," he said.

He read several apologies, including one from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Works (Mr. J. J. Cahill), stating that the building would be a very fine acquisition to the city of Lismore and the district.

Mr. Stephens also read a cable from Mr. W. Frith, M.L.A., now in New Zealand.

New Zealand.

The Mayor (Ald. R. Granger) said it would give great satisfaction to the people of this district and city that this building had now been opened.

It was apparent to all that the city should be equipped with boats for flood purposes and a place to house them.

Ald. Granger said the council which first planned for this building had negotiated for a loan of £15,000. The State Government had also granted £2,000.

Ald. Granger paid tribute to Mr. H. E. Stratton, president of the Rowing Club, who had worked for the building for many years.

Mr. C. A. H. Dalziell, Mayor of Lismore in 1945 when negotiations for the building commenced, said that the council of his day had commenced this work, and he was now pleased that it was completed.

"I also feel that this is one of the finest amenities provided in Lismore during past years," he added. "Floods in this river are becoming more and more frequent. Flood of 1931 would be the highest on record, but there came the record floods of 1945 and 1948.

"Much damage was sustained in the 1945 flood, and it is thus necessary to have this building and equipment to save lives in times of crisis. It is necessary to have skilled men to operate the rescue

crisis. It is necessary to have skilled men to operate the rescue boats in an organised way."

● "Jack Ward" Fours Shell Christened

"People once thought that the During the regatta, the Mayoress (Mrs. Granger) performed the christening ceremony on the new carvel regulation four, "Jack Ward".

The shell is in honour of one of the club's most active members who was killed on active service overseas during the last war.

Mr. Stratton said that Jack Ward

had been one of the club's greatest supporters and members. His brother, Dick Ward, was a club member and coach, and one of the strongest supporters.

Mrs. Granger broke a bottle of champagne over the shell's bows. The four was later used in events at the regatta.

● Plaque, Tablet Unveiled

Another ceremony, performed by the Mayor (Ald. Granger), was the unveiling of a plaque in the form of a bronze book, to the members of the club who lost their lives in World War 2.

The book had the names of the members inscribed upon it. Several of the parents and relatives of those who lost their lives were present.

Ald. Granger also unveiled a tablet to the memory of the late Frederick Wicks.

The late Mr. Wicks was a keen supporter of the club, and provided the money for the purchase of the club's gymnasium equipment.