

State Governor Opens St. Andrew's Hall

Dedication of Presbyterians' Fine War Memorial

In brilliant sunshine and in the presence of more than 400 people, the State Governor, Sir John Northcott, officially opened St. Andrew's Presbyterian War Memorial Hall on Saturday afternoon in a short, simple ceremony, which began outside the hall, and continued in the building.

The handsome honour roll was unveiled by Mrs. Mary Reid, of Narrengullen.

Soon after 2 o'clock, the Canberra Highland Society's pipe band marched down Cooma Street into Meehan Street, and to the hall.

Ex-servicemen under the president of Yass R.S.L., Dr. D. L. Graham, paraded with the band in Cliff Street, and were inspected by the Governor. The returned men formed a guard of honour for His Excellency.

Rev. C. C. Mullan, minister of St. Andrew's conducted a short religious service, assisted by Rev. Harrison, Moderator of the Presbytery of Canberra, Rev. R. L. McInnes, St. Andrew's Goulburn, and Staff Chaplain Rev. R. C. Russell, R.A.A.F., Melbourne.

In a statement on work in the parish, Mr. Mullan said the first Presbyterian service was held at Yass in 1843. The first church was erected in 1863, and the present church in 1906. The manse was originally erected on an area of 37 acres given by the Laidlaw Estate in 1865. About 17 years ago, during Rev. R. C. Russell's ministry a scheme was formulated, but for many reasons the hall was not built, and further delay was caused by the last war.

The honour roll contained the names of 77 Yass Presbyterians who served, seven giving their lives.

THANKS FOR HELP

Mr. Mullan said it was fitting that the Governor should open the hall as he had a distinguished war record, and was also the representative of the Queen who would visit Australia next year. He extended thanks to all who had assisted in the erection of the building, and expressed regret at the absence of Mr. W. F. Sheahan, M.L.A. (who was ill in hospital), and Mr. Arthur Fuller, M.H.R., Mr. Sheahan was represented by his secretary, Mr. Keith Gain.

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After the turning of the key in the front door by the Governor, the ceremony continued in the building, and Mrs. Reid in a few simple words unveiled the honour roll.

Dr. Graham recited the commemoration, and the Pipe Band played the Scottish Lament, followed by two minutes' silence.

In a short address, the Governor said it was a privilege to open the

Memorial Hall. It was fitting that every community should have such a hall to be a constant reminder of the sacrifices of men and women for their country. On the previous Wednesday Remembrance Day was celebrated throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations. On that day all traffic was hushed, and thousands of people observed two minutes' silence. He had the privilege of laying a wreath on the cenotaph in Sydney, just as the Queen had done in London. Other people in many towns, cities and villages had done the same.

THE REASON WHY

Why was it, the Governor said, that these ceremonies were held at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month? Originally it was known as Armistice Day commemorating the signing of the armistice in the first World War. It was decided that should be a day of remembrance and honour for the men and women who had served their country, and it was hoped that war would be the end of all wars. The League of Nations was formed with high hopes, but international jealousies weakened it. Then another war came, and the young men and women went out just as

another war came, and the young men and women went out just as their fathers had done before them. Because of their services Australia had been saved the distress of war on our own soil.

GAVE US FREEDOM

"The younger generation, and the boys and girls, know nothing of this," the Governor continued. "But it is well to remember because of the sacrifices of such men and women, and of those who laid down their lives, we have freedom today." We should remember that the fight for freedom goes on all the time—it never stops. That

fight has taken place in Korea, and we all hope that the Korean armistice will foreshadow a lasting peace. It is this freedom and the things we hold dearest which must be defended at all times. We should always remember these men who gave so much, some who paid the full price, for that freedom. May their service be an inspiration for others to follow on."

The Governor said recently he had seen the war cemeteries in the Owen Stanley ranges, hundreds of white crosses marking the place where a soldier laid. That was another reminder of the price that had been paid.

"Never forget that this hall stands for unselfish service. May the children remember and be inspired by the names on the honour roll, and be determined in their generation to carry on as these men did before them," the Governor concluded.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of Kipling's Recessional and the Benediction.

Afternoon tea was served in the grounds adjacent to the church by the women of St. Andrew's.

The Police under Sgt. Martin controlled all traffic in Meehan St.

The force under Sgt. Martin controlled all traffic in Meehan St. near the Presbyterian Church. Cliff Street was closed for a couple hours during the ceremony.

The Governor was escorted to and from the hall by Constables F. Creagh and J. Louis, motor cycle patrolmen.

HONOUR ROLL

The following names are inscribed on the maple polished honour roll, which bears the inscription, "Presbyterians from Yass and district who served in World War II, 1939-1945"; J. Apps, D. J. Armour, R. A. Armour, I. L. Baker, E. R. Blomley, W. A. Bouquet, J. Bryson, xG. R. Bush, K. Bush, L. C. Bush, P. Carter, xW. G. Christie, A. D. Connell, H. M. Connell, J. J. Connell, K. Doust, L. Doust, R. Doust, Rico Eccles, Ronald Eccles, H. Frost, M. Frost, T. Frost, S. E. Goslett, D. L. Graham, C. J. Hedges, T. C. Hickey, Katherine Holmes, J. Hume, R. Jones, Joan Kelly, B. Kerr, Leeta Lawrence, Elizabeth Love, R. Marion, K. Masters, xR. Masters, J. B. Moore, W. Morton, A. W. McBean, Rev. T. P. McEvoy, H. H. McIntosh, J. G. McIntosh, A. A. Melvor, S. Melvor, T. J. Melvor, G. Nicholas, R. Nicholas, R. L. Nicholas, W. E. Nicholas, G. Privett, D. H. Ratterbury, xG. T. Reid, H. H. Richards, W. R. Ryan, C. H. Shannon, D. A. Shannon, L. N. Shannon, xT. Shiel, J. G. Smith, J. O. Smith, R. G. Smith, H. M. Stewart, A. H. C. Taylor, F. A. Thomson, G. Triggs, A. J. Walmsley, Rita M. Weatherby, N. L. Weatherby, T. J. Weatherby, xW. S. Weatherby, A. K. Weston, K. Willis, N. Willis, xD. E. Winter, E. O. Woods (one additional name, W. Nicholas to be added), x denotes paid-uprime sacrifice.