

# **J. C. McFarlane Memorial Tablet.**

## **Unveiling Ceremony,**

A large concourse of people assembled outside the Franklin Harbour Institute on Thursday afternoon, to witness the unveiling of a tablet erected to the memory of the late J. C. McFarlane.

Seated with Mrs McFarlane before the tablet were Mrs J N McFarlane, Mr and Mrs W M McFarlane and Misses G Zibell and E Miller (two members of the staff of McFarlane's Limited of long service).

Mr E E Main, who acted as chairman, opened the proceedings as follows:—As you are all aware we assemble here today to pay a solemn tribute to one of our departed townsmen and fellow citizens, in the late J C. McFarlane. After Mr McFarlane's death, which occurred in Adelaide on 16th July 1943 it was felt by his many friends in the Franklin Harbour, Kimba and Cleve districts, that some sort of permanent memorial should be established to perpetuate his memory and to also serve as a reminder to future generations of his great service to the public and as a benefactor to many pioneering families in newly settled areas. A fund was started with a very nominal fee, so that as many of his friends as desired could contribute and thus have an interest in the tablet to his memory that we are about to unveil. The programme is short. Mr Ferry, chairman of the District Council of Kimba, will speak

District Council of Kimba, will speak on behalf of friends in that district, after which Mr T A Wilson, an old and esteemed friend of Mr McFarlane, will address you and unveil the tablet. You then will be asked to observe one minute's silence, after which the benediction will be pronounced and thus conclude the ceremony.

Apologies were received from Messrs G W and Don Cant, E J Haskett and Bruce and Wylie Scott (Kimba), Mrs E M Mitchell and W H Pearce (Cleve), and G A Nicolson (Roopena).

Mr Ferry said that he was pleased to have the opportunity to be present to speak on behalf of the Kimba residents. The late Mr McFarlane had been a wonderful benefactor to many residents of that district, particularly in the early days of its settlement and was responsible for many of the present residents remaining on the land. Mr Ferry outlined Mr McFarlane's keen interest in its residents and public institutions and said that he had been greatly missed.

Mr Wilson said, I feel honoured and yet unequal to the task of doing full and deserving honour to a very worthy man, in memory of whom we meet here today. Our friend was born at Strathalbyn in 1883 the third boy of four. In 1889 his father died, and the widowed mother was left with the upbringing of 4 sturdy sons, a task nobly and wisely fulfilled. The principals of probity, unselfishness and self reliance, were truly instilled and were marked characteristics in our friend, in later years. He went first to Elliston for the firm, later on was transferred to the Lincoln branch where he was in charge of the shipping agency. In 1907 he was sent to the Cowell branch as manager and there he found his life's work as well

the Cowell branch as manager and there he found his life's work, as well as life partner, for in 1909 he married Miss M M Hyde, a worthy help meet to him in all his future efforts. His worth was speedily seen by the Cowell pioneers and he became a valued helper in everything set on foot for the development of the town and district, and so it was adown the years. The while he developed the Firm's business into a very solid, dependable concern, which soon became known as a help and support to all in need. To mention a few of the projects he helped. This Institute he worked hard and ceaselessly for in its early stages, and if in the later years he became more of a critic, it was always constructive and helpful criticism. He was always a member and supporter of the Library. Other bodies such as the Band, Rifle Club, Agricultural Show, were liberally supported. Australia Days held during the 1914-18 war, owed their great success largely to him. In later days he was foremost in launching the Cowell Electric Supply Co, giving fully of his business knowledge and ability. He helped to promote the Lucky Bay venture as a Picnic and Health Resort and to equip it. It seems incomplete now, lacking his presence on New Year's Day. As a J.P. he was very helpful in our Local and Police Court. Firm and just, yet lenient to transgressors. He also helped all charitable appeals. The local Hospital claimed his support. He presented an up to date bed

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and helped in other ways. The influence of McFarlane's is our friend's influence, extended to Jleva, Darke's Peak and Kimba and beyond, and

Peak and Kimba and beyond, and these districts will agree with our action here today, for he befriended so many in the depression years with both financial aid and sound advice, encouraging all to further effort to carry on, for the tide would turn. Methinks he must have given his firm many moments of suspense and misgiving, as he strove to make it see things as he saw them. Fortunately his view prevailed, and the district today is where it is because of the firm's help at a critical period. But we think of Clyde McFarlane today as our personal friend, so true and reliable, always ready to listen to our difficulties and never failing to give help and encouragement, and strengthening us out of his own robust personality, and we thank God for him whose gift he was to us

**He was a man who**

Marched breast forward  
Never doubted clouds would break.  
Nor thought, tho' right were wrosted,  
wrong would triumph.  
Held, we fall to rise,  
Are baffled to fight better,  
Sleep to wake.

God send us more men who gave not count  
the cost, who fight nor heed the wounds

The motto 'Ich Dien'—I serve—  
might have been his. He did good by  
stealth, sought no credit nor praise,  
only the approval of his own con-  
science. May I reverently touch  
on his home life as I knew it—of  
his tender, all embracing care of his  
mother in her declining years noth-  
ing too good for her. He might have  
been thought too spartan a father,  
but he ever sought the highest good  
of his children and the end justified  
the means for you could not find a  
choicer soul, a more loveable person-  
ality, or one so entirely devoted to  
the service of others than Sieter Mary  
McFarlane of hallowed memory, who

McFarlane of hallowed memory, who gave her all. We know too, of the strong robust personality of son John, imbued with the same urge to serve his fellows. We look forward to the day when he will return and take up his father's work. We are highly favoured to still have with us Mrs McFarlane, who continues her helpful ministrations to all, but especially to the sick and those in need of comfort and sympathy. Our friend had his weaknesses, and who has not. We leave them in the hands of a Higher Judge, who knowing all, forgives all. So I unveil this tablet to our friend's memory, to last as long as the building endures, inspiring future generations to noble, unselfish deeds, for though they may live under a New Order, yet unselfish, whole hearted service, such as he gave, will still be the hall mark of a true man."

One minute's silence was then observed and the pronouncement of the benediction concluded the ceremony

The tablet is of bronze, measuring 24in. x 16in, with the wording in raised brass lettering "To Perpetuate the memory of John Clyde McFarlane, who died July 16th, 1943. This tablet was erected by his friends."