

## **OFFICIAL OPENING SOLDIERS'**

### **MEMORIAL BAND ROTUNDA.**

The rain which fell in the early part of the afternoon somewhat marred proceedings, and the procession which had been arranged, had to be abandoned. However, the Band, Returned Soldiers and Scouts braved the elements and marched from the Commercial Hotel corner to the Soldiers' Memorial Avenue, when, during a lull in the "deluge," the program was proceeded with. A large fleet of motor cars, other vehicles and pedestrians assembled, and the long discarded umbrella helped materially to lessen the discomfort caused by the rain. A Guard of Honor was formed by local returned soldiers on both sides of the steps leading to the Rotunda, and Capt. C. S. Hawker (Vice-president of the R.S.S.L.A.) accompanied by the Chairman (Mr P. J. Edwards) mounted the steps, and in declaring the Rotunda open, congratulated the people of Pinnaroo and the local band upon securing such a fine home for the band, and also expressed pleasure that the building was dedicated to the memory of the brave men from this district who had fallen in the late war. Capt. Hawker also made reference to the Pinnaroo Hospital, which is also a grand memorial to Pinnaroo's fallen heroes. In making reference to league matters, the Speaker explained some of its

Speaker explained some of its objects and the work actually being done to help the returned man. He said its value was under-estimated in the country districts, some of which are under the impression that it is an organization for extorting money only, and lose sight of the many much-needed reforms and concessions to returned men gained through the influence and work of the League. But for the activities of this organization, the lot on the land would undoubtedly be a harder one. In concluding, the Speaker asked that people when visiting the Soldiers' Memorial Rotunda, would think of the great sacrifice made by Australia's gallant men, whose memory this fine memorial perpetuates.

The Chairman then called for three cheers, which were lustily given, and the Rotunda was declared officially open.

The band (under Bandmaster Koch) then marched in single file on to the Rotunda and played their first piece of music from the platform.

Capt. Bickford, of Parilla, then addressed the gathering, and emphasized the recognition and claims of returned men. People do not realise he said, the great suffering and sacrifices Australia's men had made in the recent war. In the building of such a fine memorial—the Band Rotunda—their memory of those brave lads will be preserved from oblivion. The speaker then today is "Let

will be preserved from oblivion. The popular cry to-day is "Let us forget war," and rightly so, but at the same time, do not let us forget the great sacrifices made by the soldiers who left these shores to defend the country.

Another item by the band provided a pleasing variation.

Sergt. Mjor. Whittle (President of the local Branch R.S.A.) congratulated the band and residents upon the building of such a substantial Rotunda, and erecting same to the memory of the fallen men from this district. He expressed the opinion that it was a great thought to officially declare the building open on Anzac Day—Australia's National Day.

Mr R. W. T. Correll expressed his pleasure and thanks for being allowed to take part in the celebrations and congratulated the residents and band upon their success in erecting such a fine Band Rotunda and Practice Room, and also referred to the capabilities of the local band. "In all sincerity" he said, there is not another town in S.A. of the same size as Pinnaroo whose band can compare with yours." On arriving at Pinnaroo on Monday evening, he heard the band practising and was astounded at the progress they had made since last he heard them—on the occasion of Mildura contest. Music, continued the speaker, is an art which should be fostered and encouraged in every community. It tends to

every community. It tends to improve social life, and is a direct aid in inducing people to seek the higher aims of life. Mr Correll also imparted a wealth of important advice to bandsmen and in doing so made reference to the arduous duties of a Bandmaster, and in passing, mentioned the great services rendered the Pinnaroo Band during the past 12 years by Mr J. W. T. Koch, who had worked very hard to secure and maintain the present standard attained by the band. Mr Koch will shortly be leaving Pinnaroo, and his departure will mean a decided loss to the band. The assistance and encouragement of the public generally will therefore be essential to keep the band together and keep up the present high standard of efficiency it has attained. In conclusion the speaker hoped that the band would continue to progress, and carry on its good work.

Mr John Gray (Chairman of Pinnaroo District Council) also congratulated the residents on the erection of such a fine memorial and the band committee on the possession of such a substantial Rotunda and Practice Room. Most of us, said the speaker, including the Council, take a particular interest in the Soldiers' Memorial Park, and later on, hope to see it used as the principals' recreation ground of Pinnaroo, and that the Band would often entertain the

**Band would often entertain the public here at concerts, etc.**

**The Chairman (Mr P. J. Edwards) supplied an exhaustive account of this constructional work in connection with the Rotunda, and explained that the whole of the woodwork had been erected by "working bees." The band had been fortunate in having such a lot of staunch helpers, and in this connection, especially mentioned Messrs W. Venning, T. Koch, S. A. Bone [in charge], P. Brittain, G. Lyons [carpenters], G. Malpus, H. Lake and R. Matthews [plumbers]. Numerous others had also helped materially, and he extended to all the thanks of the Committee for the excellent services they had rendered. The following ladies had supplied afternoon tea at every Saturday afternoon:—Mesdames W. Venning, S. A. Bone, J. W. T. Koch, G. J. Blay, A. B. Jones, and ladies of the W.C. F.U. The aeroplane placed on top of the Rotunda had been made by Mr D. Farrell, and presented to Morna and Huntly Koch, who in turn, presented it to the Band Committee to place on the Rotunda. Some four or five years ago said the Speaker, a committee was formed with the object of making a Soldiers' Memorial Park. A request made to the Council to have the present avenue grubbed and planted was successful, but nothing further was done, and if the band had not stepped in, the**

**the band had not stepped in, the chances are, movements for the improvement of this park would still have remained dormant. In time to come we hope to see the Soldiers' Memorial Park the beauty spot of Pinnaroo. The addition of such buildings as the Band Rotunda to the town, considerably enhances the value of property and is a splendid advertisement. Surely then, continued Mr Edwards it is not too much to ask for support in clearing the present debt off the building. The total cost is about £350. The amounts paid off to date amount to about £180, leaving a sum of about £160 to be raised. In conclusion Mr Edwards extended to all who had helped in any way the thanks of the committee.**

**Mr M. McIntosh M.P. moved a hearty vote of thanks to the visitors and in doing so referred to the discomfiture they had experienced in travelling to Pinnaroo by the goods train on Monday.**