

## HONOUR BOARD

### Duaringa Memorial Hall

#### UNVEILING CEREMONY

In spite of the threatened stormy appearance of the weather on Saturday last a large crowd of visitors and townspeople attended the unveiling of the honour board in the C.W.A. memorial hall and library at 3 p.m. The chairman of the Duaringa Shire Council (Cr. E. Adams) performed the ceremony.

The beautiful board, which is the gift of the Duaringa Shire Council, contains the names of soldiers who enlisted from within the shire of Duaringa and the work of inscribing the names was done gratuitously by Mr. Sidney Porteous of Coomoooolaroo. The lettering is in gold and many fine tributes were paid to Mr. Porteous on his artistic work. The board is of maple with three beautifully figured white cedar panels, polished a brown shade to show the gold lettering in bold relief. On each side half-turned columns of bean wood support the overhead canopy, in the centre of which is carved the C.W.A. badge. The board is the work of Mr. Stone, of Rockhampton.

Telegrams, apologising for non-attendance, were received from Mesdames D. E. A. Buchanan (divisional president), and Annie Wheeler O.B.E. (divisional vice-president), also numerous letters from returned soldiers and others.

Among those present on the stage were Mesdames J. Dunne (branch president) and John Archer (divisional vice-president), Messrs. Russell, Behr and N. Richardson, from the Rockhampton Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A.

After the singing of the National Anthem, Mrs Dunne, on behalf of the branch, extended a hearty welcome to all on the memorable occasion of the unveiling of the honour board. The memorial hall and the library were the outcome of the earnest desire of the Duaringa members to give some tangible proof of remembrance of the brave men who left the district and risked their lives in endeavouring to make the land safe for women and children. No gift could have given members greater happiness nor marked the completion of the memorial hall in a more fitting manner than the beautiful board so generously presented by the Shire Council. "Our thanks are also due to Mr. S. Porteous," remarked Mrs. Dunne, "who inscribed the names thereon and carried it out in such a fitting manner. May the thought of the valiant deeds and great sacrifice of the men whose names are perpetuated on the board be an inspiration to us at all times." Mrs. Dunne then called upon Cr. Adams to unveil the Board.

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Cr. Adams said it gave him great pleasure on behalf of the Council to hand over the board to the C.W.A. to place in this memorial hall. Even after a lapse of years it served to pay tribute to the men whose brave deeds on Gallipoli would ever remain fresh in the memory.

All present then stood in silence while Cr. Adams drew aside the curtain composed of the Union Jack and revealed the honour board in its setting on the stage surrounded by pots of gorgeous caladiums, maidenhair fern and flags of allied nations.

Mr. W. Officer supported the chairman's remarks and Dr. J. H. Blackburn, in a very fine speech, returned thanks on behalf of the local returned soldiers. He concluded with the quotation from Scripture "Greater love than this no man hath than he lay down his life for his friends." Owing to the late arrival of the western train, Mr. Parker, president of the Rockhampton branch of the R.S. & S.I.L.A., was delayed, and Mr. Russell, vice-president of the central division, R.S. & S.I.L.A., responded on behalf of the Rockhampton branch and paid a special tribute to the work of the C.W.A. throughout Queensland and the whole of Australia.

At the close of the ceremony afternoon tea was served by members of the branch to "all present and returned soldiers and their wives and mothers were invited to be the guests of the branch at the function to be held at night. Thus a very memorable day in the annals of the Duaringa branch was brought to a close for it saw the realisation of a long-cherished desire to fittingly perpetuate for all time the names of the local men who fought for their King and country and it marked their first anniversary of the building of the memorial hall and library.