

ONE OF GREAT LADIES OF THE C.W.A.

Death of Mrs. Lance Smith.

Former president of the Orange branch of the Country Women's Association, Mrs. E. Lance Smith, recognised as one of the most prominent and best loved members of this organisation, died at an Orange private hospital on Saturday.

She was not ill for a long period, and almost up to the day that she entered the institution she was working for the benefit of others. She did not know the meaning of the word selfishness.

Mrs. Lance Smith possessed an educated heart. By that is meant that her graciousness created, as it were, an aura about everything she did. In manner and speech there was culture and a charm that was ever inspiration to those who worked with her. And Mrs. Lance Smith was the type of person who engendered courage, determination and strength in others. She inspired others by her example, her graciousness and her kindness.

For eighteen years she occupied the presidential chair of the Orange branch of the C.W.A., and, because petrol restrictions would not allow for her to be on the spot on all occasions, she did not seek re-election, and was succeeded by one who had been a close friend and a wonderful help to Mrs. Lance Smith for many years. That person is Mrs. J. T. Paton. But Mrs. Lance Smith was elected senior vice-president of the Orange C.W.A., a position which she occupied to the time of her death, and, though she relinquished the presidency, members were being constantly reminded of her splendid achievements, and in their hearts she was never far away.

Closer to her home, in recent months, she amazed others by her energy and drive in the organisation of centres and associations having as their aim the comfort of the men of the fighting forces.

One could go on and on and still fail to adequately cover the amazing extent of the work of Mrs. Lance Smith for others.

Her name became famous throughout the whole of Australia when she instituted her protests against cocktail drinking and dog racing. Her interest in the R.S.P.C.A. and love of animals, also her love of trees and distress at their destruction, brought her into prominence.

The love she bore for Nature was evidenced (quotes Mrs. Whitmee, in a recent tribute to Mrs. Lance Smith, for the C.W.A.) when she asked permission of the Orange Council to organise a tree planting drive in National Park, Orange, on the occasion of Mrs. Matt Sawyer's visit in 1930. The trees which Mrs. Lance Smith presented were propagated from a tree originally planted at her home "Boree Cabonne" by Wentworth, the explorer.

Poor families and those stricken by the depression will remember Mrs. Lance Smith. It was through her inspiration that hundreds of garments were knitted and made for the children of people into whose homes the depression precipitated misery.

There was scarcely one organisation in Orange and its environs that had as its aim the betterment of the lives of people which did not have the wholehearted support of Mrs. Lance Smith.

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In 1930 she was presented with a life membership badge by members of the C.W.A. in Orange, and on that occasion the then Mayoress (Mrs. Arthur Colvin) declared that the grand old lady was the inspiration of the C.W.A. in the West. Her womanly conduct was a splendid example to all.

Mrs. Lance Smith did not lose her marvellous sense of humor with the advancing years. It was always a pleasure to listen to her speak, and she invariably made an audience laugh heartily before she dealt with the more serious aspects of her subject.

She was 75 years of age and had resided in this district for many years. Her funeral yesterday was a tribute to her worth. Following a service at her late home "Boree Cabonne," her remains were interred in the Church of England portion of the Cudal cemetery. Mr. P. J. McGowan directing mortuary arrangements.