

# CLEAR LAKE CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

## Honor Board To Pioneers Unveiled

In the year 1878 a number of people at Clear Lake, recognising the need of a house for public worship, decided to build one. Most of the timber used in the frame work was cut with a pit-saw, situated on the edge of the lake, close to the present building.

Amongst the names of these pioneers appear the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Edmonds—who later in 1904 presented the present church building on their golden wedding day—Mr. William Scott, Mr. John Scoble, Messrs. R. and K. McRae, and others, with the then missionary, Mr. John Lee.

To commemorate their memory and preserve a record for the future, an honor board on Sunday last was unveiled. This being the 70th anniversary, it was fortunate that this ceremony could be performed by Mrs. M. A. Hobbs, who was present at the opening of the first church, and who was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Edmonds.

This board contains the following inscription: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of the Pioneers of this district, who, in 1878, first built a house to worship God—April, 1948."

After the unveiling Mrs. A. L. Wade, another daughter, publicly read the inscription. Mr. C. D. Hair, on behalf of the trustees, welcomed Mrs. Hobbs, of Horsham, Mrs. Wade, of Natimuk, Mr. E. A. Edmonds and Mrs. B. M. Hair, of Geelong, and Mrs. F. Watson and Messrs. G. and C. Edmonds, who are all the survivors of that pioneer Edmonds family, in addition to a great grand-daughter, Miss B. Edmonds, of Geelong. Also present and welcomed were Mrs. R. H. Sinclair, of Nurra-biel, and Mr. T. Scott, of the family of the late Mr. W. Scott.

The speaker then addressed words of welcome to the Rev. A. Vineer, of Melbourne, who was in charge of the anniversary services, and reminded the congregation that in 1914, just on the outbreak of World War I, Mr. Vineer arrived in Australia, fresh from Cliff College, London, having offered himself to the Methodist Church of Australia. His first appointment as a Home Missionary was to assist

at Australia. His first appointment as a Home Missionary, was to assist in the Noradjuha Circuit, and he was stationed at Clear Lake with the Edmonds family. It was a great joy, therefore, to welcome him back to the scene of his first labors.

### HALL WAS FILLED.

The weather man, whilst popular with everybody interested in their stock, had poured out over two inches of rain and, with it still raining, the prospects for a successful anniversary were not bright, but at the afternoon service the spacious church was almost filled and the offering was an all-time record.

Rev. Vineer preached appropriate sermons, and was most attentively heard, and his popularity of former days was evidenced by the happy reunions.

Special singing was provided by the choir, and at the afternoon service Miss M. Eldridge rendered "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings," and at the evening service the Eldridge family sang "Softly and Tenderly" as a quartette.

The total fall of 460 points of rain over the week-end did not augur well for the Tuesday evening's entertainment, but the weather cleared and a full house greeted the concert put on by Horsham and local artists. Rev. F. Fielding, chairman of the district, presided, and following is the programme: Pianoforte solo, Mr. F. Wrizley; song, Miss Pearl Williamson; recitation, Miss Dorothy Smith; song, Miss Marilyn Eldridge; cornet duet, Messrs. E. Eldridge and J. Muller; song, Mr. Rol and Eldridge (encore); duet, Mr. and Mrs. Clea Eldridge; song, Miss Williamson; violin solo, Mrs. Ritchie Hobbs (encore).

At this stage the chairman read greetings from Mr. H. Gunnell, a former minister, and Rev. Ugalde, minis-

mer minister, and Rev. Ugalde, minister elect. Revs. Vineer and J. Wade were in reminiscent mood in short addresses, after which Mrs. B. M. Hair, of Geelong, a former member of the church, cut the birthday cake. It was a happy coincidence that Mr E. A. Edmonds, of Geelong, was present, as this was the golden anniversary of his wedding. Mrs. Edmonds was unable to be present, but both received good

wishes from the chairman and applause from the audience.

Continuing the programme: Piano-forte solo, Mr. F. Wrigley; song, Mrs. Clem Elbridge (concoro); duet, Mr. Roland and Miss Meryn Elbridge; cornet duet, Messrs. Elbridge and Muller (concoro); song, Miss Williamson; violin duet, Mrs. Hobbs and Mr. Eddie Hair, "The Perfect Day" (concoro).

On behalf of the trustees and audience, Mr. C. D. Hair proposed a vote of thanks to all the performers, visitors and local, and remarked that every vocalist who had contributed had been pupils of Mrs. T. Cameron, of Horsham, and that neither that town nor district could estimate the value of Mrs. Cameron to the world of music. Mr. J. H. Hobbs seconded, and this was carried with acclamation. Accompaniments throughout were played by Miss Rita Hair and Mr. F. Wrigley, and their nimble fingers added to the pleasure of all items.

A coffee supper followed, and thus the curtain fell on the 70th jubilee of the church at Clear Lake.