

# Junabee Memorial Hall Opening

## District Ambition Fulfilled

### Official Ceremony

A long standing ambition of Junabee district residents was fulfilled on Saturday when the Junabee Memorial Hall was officially opened. Dedicated to the memory of district servicemen of two wars, the hall is destined to play an important part in the social life of that community.

Mr R. J. Brownlie (chairman of the Hall Committee) welcomed the official party which included Mr and Mrs J. J. Kemp, senr, Mesdames M. McColm, P. Davidson, J. J. Healy, and Crs J. H. Hansen, O. O. Madsen and L. T. Mapes. Apologies were received from Hon A. W. Fadden, MHR, and Mrs Fadden, Messrs J. J. Healy, MLA, G. P. Barnes, J. J. Searl, J. Buckley, and Cr. Groves.

Mr R. J. Brownlie spoke of the building of the Junabee Memorial Hall as a happy fulfilment of the ambition of so many of the residents. When the project had first been seriously undertaken in July, 1944, the obstacles which had faced the committee had seemed almost insurmountable. Yet the work of the secretary, Mr T. Brewer and that of the committee had never flagged despite often the most discouraging setbacks. Junabee wished to acknowledge the help afforded the Hall Committee by the neighbouring districts, Swan Creek, in particular, having given much generous and practical aid, honouring an old promise made when Swan Creek Hall was first built. The hall, thanks to all these loyal friends, was not built and it was hoped soon to have a fine honour board inscribed with the names of the districts' 1914-18 servicemen and the 1939-45 servicemen. Later, it was hoped that the district could place another tablet in the hall, this to be inscribed with the names of the district pioneers.

Cr. J. H. Hansen, Chairman of Glengallan Shire, congratulated the district on the new hall, which was one of the finest country halls he had ever visited. Its design which incorporated many ideal features was a tribute to the foresight of the committee. He advised Junabee to make the new hall the nucleus of the district's

advised Junabee to make the new hall the nucleus of the district's communal life and group around it sporting grounds. Such centralisation would make this fine building even a greater asset than its founders had hoped.

Cr. O. O. Madsen also thanked the committee for his invitation and congratulated the district on a very fine building. Junabee, he said, was to be congratulated on choosing such a way to honour the district servicemen. The serviceman who was to come back to the land, marry and rear a family deserved everything a grateful country could do for him, and the speaker recommended a greater loyalty to farmers' organisations, such as the QDO, to see that ex-serviceman farmers did not go to the wall. The country had always taken a back seat where national development was concerned, city council improvements being subsidised 40 per cent against the 15 per cent country subsidy. Country folk did not ask a reversal of this procedure, though the importance of primary production to the community would justify it, but one thing the country should demand with no uncertain voice was a system of equalisation which would give the country people equal comfort and many of the amenities the city dweller takes for granted.

Cr L. T. Mapes (a stalwart of the Junabee Hall Committee) voiced his satisfaction at the completion of the hall, and the interest shown by the presence of such a large gathering. It was his hope to see the Junabee school reopened and more and more people come to enjoy the pleasure the new hall would afford.

Mrs J. J. Healy conveyed to the residents of Junabee congratulations on a very worthy achievement and best wishes that the hall would bring the greatest measure of enjoyment and happiness to its builders and patrons.

In performing the opening ceremony, Mr J. J. Kemp, senr, recalled the steps of progress made by the district since he and the late Messrs Malcolm McColm and Archie McCoist came to the district before the days of closer settlement. The 3 homes of the first settlers were along the road leading past the old Kemp home. The trips to Warwick were made by day, there was no road except a track through the timber, and there were 7 gates to open on the way. Pleasures were few and homely, but more neighbours, com-

homely, but more neighbours, coming with the throwing open of Canning Downs, meant wider interests and greater companionship. It was the generous fellowship of those early days which were full of proud and happy memories for himself, Mrs Kemp and Mrs McColm, senr. Mr and Mrs McCoist, sen, and Mr McColm, sen had now crossed the Great Divide, but if these first comers and other departed pioneers were to see Junabee to-day they would rejoice that the spirit of goodwill and kindly co-operation which had made their lives richer and fuller still inspired their descendants and the families who succeeded them. To Mr C. H. Staff, father of Messrs Herbert and Cecil Staff, the name "Junabee" was owed. Following the naming of the district the post office, school, church and the old Temperance Hall were acquired. Passing from past to

present, Mr Kemp stressed the debt owed by the district to Mr T. Brewer, whose indefatigable energy, patience and knowledge of affairs guided the hall committee in its difficult task and to Messrs R. J. Brownlie (president) and V. E. Braithwaite (treasurer) who co-ordinated the various aspects of the building project. He commended the ladies of the district for their cheerful task of caterers and stall holders, and Mr J. T. Ryan, the popular tea steward. Mr Kemp voiced his appreciation of the honour paid to him, Mrs Kemp and Mrs McColm. He then declared the Junabee Memorial Hall open.

The fete which followed was an outstanding success. All members of the committee, their wives and those in their families past school age had their set tasks and there was no lull in the afternoon's activities. Nearly every home was crowded with visitors who came from as far afield as Sydney and it was noticed that all the old pioneer families were well represented.

A long sports programme began with a series of children's races which were keenly contested. Mr. Harvey Box carried away ribbons in the horse events, while Mr. Brian Bate was a close second. Mr. E. T. Box was another able horseman. Other events resulted: Throwing at wicket, Mr R. J. Box; stepping the distance, Mr G. Campbell; ladies' stepping, Mrs W. T. Coutts and Miss Hade; broom throwing, Miss M. Fanning and Mrs R. Mapes; ladies' race, Miss W. Stephens; mystery box, Mrs C. C. Coy; sheep weight, Mrs Kim; lucky shilling, Miss Jen Hansen; seed competition, Mrs

Hansen; seed competition, Mrs Dries.

Produce, jumble, sweets, ice cream, refreshments, soft drinks stalls and publican's booth brought the day's takings to over £200. The ball at night netted £105.

The hall was flood lit inside and out for the grand opening ball and the decorations, which comprised festoons of Allied flags set off with tinsel moons and stars against a greenery background were very effective. Large bowls of flowers stood on the stage, with a silver "welcome" made by Miss D. McVeigh to catch the eye of the arrivals. Miss M. McVeigh and Miss A. Kemp made the tinsel moons and stars. Over the servery, the ACF Memory Cloth, lent by Miss Faith Brownlie, was set between the honour pennants won by the Junabee-Jingarry ACF in inter-branch money raising competitions. Mrs McCoist's work as a designer and needle-woman received the highest praise.

Mr M. J. Hade was a very capable MC, and music was provided by a full city orchestra. The ladies served nearly 500 people at a sit down supper, and the perfect organisation and full co-operation of every committee member and his family made the night as memorable an entertainment as the day.

#### NAMING OF JUNABEE

On April 29, 1903, 20 residents held a meeting to discuss the setting up of a district post office in the district. The naming of the locality became one of the greatest importance. Canning Hill was the name of the hill running through Junabee and this name and Emu Creek was sometimes used. Mr C. H. Staff wrote out several names, including Junebee. This is the name of the present Junabee-Danderoo road. Eventually Junebee was chosen and the name was altered to Junabee to avoid confusion with Junee and other localities. Mr Knowles, PM, Warwick, visited Junabee and as a result a mail service from Swan Creek was inaugurated on July 1, 1903. Mr L. Staff was first postmaster and Mr M. McColm had the first mail contract. (This information was supplied by Messrs C. R. and H. Staff from the diaries of their father.)

There is a tradition that the name Junebee first appealed to the lady members of the meeting on 29/4/1903 who took it as a favourable omen that a big percentage of the pioneer families had been born in June. Someone recalled an old country rhyme,

"A swarm of bees in May  
Is worth a load of hay,

A SWARM OF BEES IN MAY  
Is worth a load of hay,  
A swarm of bees in June  
Is worth a silver spoon."