

## MEMORIAL HALL AT BABINDA

### OFFICIAL OPENING

BABINDA, Nov. 1.—On Friday evening last Babinda celebrated a great achievement with the opening of the memorial hall at a largely attended ball organised by the building committee. There was no decoration as the interior of the hall is painted in pastel shades, the floor is perfect for dancing and all conveniences have been provided also a fine gallery for onlookers.

The president of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A., Babinda sub-branch (Mr. K. Johnstone) welcomed those present. He thanked the architects, Messrs. Barnes and Oribin, for the plans and specifications of the building of the memorial hall and asked Mr. Barnes to hand the hall over to the memorial hall committee.

Mr. Barnes remarked that he and Mr. Oribin were impressed with the wonderful efforts made by the committee and the public of Babinda in the raising of funds for the construction of this hall. He then gave Mr. Dowzer, the president of the hall committee, the keys of the building.

On behalf of the memorial hall committee Mr. Dowzer extended thanks to all those who had been responsible. The hall was a credit to all those concerned who worked on its construction and also to the public of Babinda and district.

It was nine years since the first meeting was called to elect a committee to be held responsible for the raising of funds to build a memorial hall in honour of the men who paid a great sacrifice in World Wars I and II. That committee worked very hard from the date of its formation to the present date. The citizens of Babinda had helped in raising funds and the farmers of this district donated one half penny a ton of cane crushed over the past few years. At last they decided to begin the building with the money in hand and extended thanks to the National Bank of Australasia Ltd. who made the job easy. Construction was commenced on September 14 last year and the contractors, Messrs. Crum and Raisin, had done a great job, shortage of labour and a wet season held things back a little.

As the senior trustee of the Babinda Sub-branch of the

R.S.S.A.I.L.A. Mr. W. M. Simmonds was given the keys of the hall to be held in trust for the people of Babinda.

Mr. W. M. Simmonds responded on behalf of his committee and himself.

The chairman of the Mulgrave Shire Council (Cr. C. E. Campbell), before opening the hall extended congratulations in that they had established something in Babinda that all could be proud of. This memorial was equal to any and he thought a great deal better than many memorials established elsewhere. He then de-

clared the Babinda memorial hall officially open.

All present rose and sang "Land of Hope and Glory" to the strains of the orchestra and dancing continued.

This function was followed on Saturday night with a *maledi gra*, when again a large and happy assembly enjoyed dancing. For many years past owing to no hall being available, these Saturday evening dances have had to be held at other centres in the district.