

New Methodist Church at Canungra

TO OPEN ON JUNE 5th

In connection with the opening and dedication of the Canungra Methodist Memorial Church which will take place on Saturday, June 5th, the secretary of the Canungra Methodist Building Committee (Mr. G. Pitman) has furnished us with the following account of the history of the Methodist Church in Canungra.

THE WAR YEARS

In Appel Street, Canungra, just completed, stands a memorial Church which was built by Mr. A. Rhoades.

During the war 1939 to 1945 Canungra was made famous by having a jungle training centre situated about one mile out of the township. During the camp, troops, from all parts of Australia came and went. Each Sunday evening in the original School of Arts, which was destroyed by fire, many of the soldiers came in to conduct services for the Methodist Church. Everyone who attended was more than pleased with the way these men of the force gave their sermons, and always, after the service while the ladies prepared refreshments, the congregation had a sing-song, and this attracted a large number of the townspeople.

AFTER THE WAR

After the war ceased and the troops had left the Masonic Lodge very kindly lent to the Methodist Church the lower portion of their building to hold services. Under the leadership of Rev. A. E. Meadmore, who was the minister of the Beaudesert circuit, a small group of Methodist people of Canungra got together and held a meeting for the purpose of building a church in Canungra. The meeting was held on June 3rd, 1950, and from then on quite a number of obstacles had to be overcome.

Mrs. Clerke donated a piece of land for a church to be built as a memorial to

to be built as a memorial to all soldiers who had passed through this centre. This piece of land was found unsuitable to build on owing to such a lot of expense being involved. Numerous enquiries were made about land in Canungra and many different places had been selected but all found to be unsuitable. No progress was made for a couple of years, then Rev. Meadmore was unfortunate to have had an accident while driving to Beaudesert from service in Canungra and had to be confined to hospital for several months. Quite a number of clergymen came to Canungra to hold services in the absence of an appointed minister.

WORK COMMENCES

The Rev. A. L. Rose was then appointed to Beaudesert circuit, and he at once got to work with the committee of Canungra, firstly to get a piece of land and then build. Mr. Fred Day

very generously donated a suitable piece of land to the church and the committee decided to accept same. A bulldozer was hired, a site levelled and after several inquiries were made, a builder was found and work on the foundation was commenced in the early part of 1954. The Wonglepong church built by the Caswell family many years ago, was very kindly given to the Canungra committee to help make the new church more central owing to a great many of the residents leaving the district of Wonglepong. Services were held in the Wonglepong church until it was dismantled in the latter part of 1953. Mr. Rhoades, the builder, used the best of the timber and fittings from the old church, and now stands a beautiful church which will be opened and dedicated on Saturday, June 5th, 1954 at 2 p.m. by the Rev. Holland of Brisbane, and the Canungra Methodist Memorial church building committee extend to all residents of the Can-

ungra and Beaudesert district a cordial invitation to be present.