

MEMORIAL HALL

COOROY SOLDIERS

OFFICIAL OPENING

COOROY, Friday. — The Cooroy Memorial School of Arts hall was opened this afternoon by Major E. Costello, D.S.O., M.L.A., in the presence of a large gathering, which included residents from every part of the Noosa Shire. On the occasion, where the proceedings took place, were also seated Mr. H. F. Walker, M.L.A., and Mrs. Walker, Councillor W. I. Ferguson (chairman of the Noosa Shire Council), Mr. W. R. Archdall (president of the School of Arts committee), and Mrs. Archdall, also Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker.

In introducing Major Costello, Mr. Archdall briefly explained the history of the building, which had cost roughly £2900, excluding the value of the old School of Arts, valued at £500, and which had been attached to the new structure to serve as a supper and general meeting room. There was still a matter of £200 owing on the building, and he hoped the public would again respond to the committee's call for financial assistance.

Major Costello, M.L.A., performing the opening ceremony, congratulated the residents of Cooroy on raising such a fine edifice to those who had paid the supreme sacrifice. He hoped that committee would see that the library shelves were stocked with Australian literature and records of the A.I.F.

Referring to the League of Nations, Major Costello said it had been argued that the inauguration of this body would stop wars, but history had proved there were conflicts before they were born, and there would be war after they were gone. Therefore, it behoved them to see that the great bulwark of peace—the British Empire—was always equipped with a mighty navy and an efficient army. By doing this they were also proving to the world that the sacrifices of the A.I.F. had not been in vain.

Concluding, Major Costello appealed to the residents to educate their children to respect the services of the A.I.F. so that they could be made a memory for all time. He then unveiled the honour board, which was draped with the Union Jack, and formally declared the hall opened, after which he handed the key to the chairman (Mr. W. R. Archdall).

ROLL OF HONOUR

The names of those who paid the supreme sacrifice were then read by Mr. Archdall as follows:—R. Atkinson, H. Barley, W. H. Basing, J. J. Blunt, A. B. Campbell, G. W. L. Davis, F. J. Geary, S. Kelleher, A. Mackellar, J. C. M'Grath, W. J. M'Grath, J. Meigh, P. J. Crozier, E. C. Moorhead, J. Pirie, R. Robins, E. V. Robins, W. Ronald, G. Schmidt, C. K. Snodgrass, W. Spence, C. S. Stokes, A. Ward, E. C. Westbrook, E. R. Wheelton, R. J. Crozier, and J. C. Mackenzie.

Mr. H. F. Walker, M.L.A., also spoke in the highest terms of the efforts of the residents, particularly the women, right from the commencement of the war until the present time. He thought the hall was one of the best on the North Coast, and made an appeal to the gathering for donations to wipe off the £200 owing on the hall, with the result that over £100 was subscribed.

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At the behest of the chairman, Major Costello handed to Mrs. Hughie Walker (president of the Cooroy Women's Guild) the key of a room in the hall, which has been set apart for that body for use as a rest room for the whole of the women of the district, as an appreciation for the way they had worked for the soldiers during the war, and in the building of monuments to their memory. Major Costello also spoke of the splendid services rendered to the women in the country by the Country Women's Association. He urged them to form a branch of this body in Cooroy.

In taking the key, amidst applause, Mrs. Walker said the guild was really the old Red Cross workers, who felt it a duty that they must continue their activities in assisting in any movement calculated to advance the district and its inhabitants.

Councillor W. I. Ferguson moved a vote of thanks to Major Costello and Mr. Walker, and the former responded.

The proceedings were celebrated tonight by a grand ball, at which there was a large attendance. Mr. W. McKensie acting as master of the ceremonies, while Mr. Vaughan's orchestra provided the dance music.

BUILDING DESCRIBED.

The hall is constructed on most substantial lines, and is of ornate design. The main building measures 96ft by 40ft, and attached to it is the old School of Arts hall, the interior of which has been remodelled for use as a supper and meeting room. The main hall's measurements are 60ft by 40ft, with a stage 40ft by 20ft, the latter being replete with up-to-date scenery, and also having on each side two commodious dressing rooms.

In the front of the building is located a vestibule measuring 14ft by 12ft, with ticket office in the centre, and overhead has been provided a cinematograph operating box. Two rooms, both 16ft by 16ft, one for use as a library and reading room, and the other as a rest room for the women of the district, are situated on each side of the vestibule, while approaching the main entrance is a flight of concrete steps leading on to a portico which measures 12ft by 9ft.

Over the main door hangs the handsomely designed honour board, bearing the 28 names of those from the Cooroy district who made the supreme sacrifice. Two more honour boards of suitable designs to contain all the names of those who enlisted from the district, are in the course of preparation, and when completed will be hung on each side of the existing board.

In the construction of the outer walls of the building chamfer boards have been used, while inside the walls are built of pine for a length of 5ft, and the balance, including the ceiling, of fibro cement. The flooring comprises thoroughly seasoned crow's ash, and the roof is of handsome design, being constructed with four gables in front and one at the side, and panelled off in fibro cement. Every attention has been paid to ventilation and lighting, particularly in the hall where there are eight stained glass windows hung on pulleys.

The building is lighted by electricity, and the hall contains the usual array of easy chairs and forms, these items being supplied by Mr. A. V. Lilley, who has secured a lease of the structure. Messrs. W. R. Archdall and G. Gran are respectively the president and secretary of the School of Arts Memorial Hall committee.