

Memorial Plaque Unveiled at Coolangatta School

In the presence of a large gathering of citizens and pupils, a memorial plaque was unveiled in the grounds of Coolangatta State School yesterday afternoon in honor of four ex-pupils who lost their lives in the recent great war.

The men honored were Laurie and Lance Powell, Vivian Dickson and Clarrie Skelton, all members of well-known Coolangatta families.

The unveiling of the plaque was performed by Mr A. E. Powell, father of two of the deceased and member for many years of the school committee.

The headmaster, Mr V. Creagh, said that instead of the customary Arbor Day practice of planting trees the committee had decided to set up a memorial plaque in the grounds amidst trees planted many years ago by the former pupils they were honoring and their schoolmates.

The school was justly proud of the great sacrifice some of its former pupils had made in giving their lives to preserve the freedom of their fellow-men.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

After Mr Powell had performed the unveiling, the Mayor of Coolangatta, Ald L. Peak, addressed the gathering.

Ald Peak said it was a solemn and yet memorable occasion. He trusted that the sacrifices that these former pupils had made would always be a reminder to present and future pupils of their gallant action. He extended sincere sympathy to the parents of the men concerned.

Ald E. M. Budd, speaking on behalf of the chairman of the school committee, Mr G. Knowles, paid a tribute to the gallantry of the former pupils whose memory they were perpetuating that afternoon.

Mr S. W. Winders said the people of Coolangatta had every reason to feel proud of its men and women who had served their

reason to feel proud of its men and women who had served their country. Many former pupils of

the school had served in the forces and the plaque should always serve as an inspiration to present and future pupils.

By a strange coincidence, two of the boys, Laurie Powell and Clarrie Skelton, had lost their lives on the Kokoda trail on the same day in 1942.

Mr F. Stokes also spoke on behalf of the committee.

Mr H. G. Winders, president of Tweed Heads and Coolangatta RSL Sub-Branch, said that as an ex-pupil of the school and schoolmate of the men they were honoring that afternoon he was proud to be present.

The good early training they had received at the school had stood them in good stead in their later lives and he hoped that his friends had not died in vain in their fight to preserve future peace and the domestic way of life.

Mrs Anderson spoke on behalf of the ladies' auxiliary.

Mr Creagh thanked Mr Hedley Baker for erecting the base for the plaque quickly and efficiently.

The children were then dismissed and the guests were entertained at afternoon tea by the ladies' auxiliary.

Those present were Ald L. Peak (Mayor of Coolangatta), Ald and Mrs E. M. Budd, Ald J. L. Gordon, Mr and Mrs A. E. Powell, Mr and Mrs L. Skelton, Miss Skelton, Mr and Mrs S. W. Winders, Mr H. G. Winders, Mr G. Greaves, Mr and Mrs Geo Shambrook, Mrs

Mr R. G. Wingers, Mr G. Graves,
Mr and Mrs Geo Shambrook, Mrs
Windle, Mrs W. Ellis, Mr and Mrs
C. G. Simpson, Mesdames G.
Knowles, J. W. Adams, A. E. Trew
and Anderson, and Messrs W. P.
Higgins and H. Baker. Members
of the teaching staff included Mr
V. Creagh and Mr Cliff Barrett.