

Ridgeland's Hall Memorial Wing Opened

The opening of the recently completed memorial wing of the Ridgeland's Hall attracted one of the largest gatherings ever to assemble in the hall. Buses conveyed a large number from Rockhampton and other visitors were present from Pink Lily, Alton Downs, Nine-Mile, Dalma, Morinish, Yaamba, Milman, The Caves and Yeppoon. Approximately 600 adults and children were present, and all were accommodated in the spacious building.

The War Memorial Committee, with Mr E. Hunt as chairman, Mr H. Shearman secretary, Mr R. Austin treasurer, has worked for the past eight months to achieve the aim of having this memorial wing built and to help meet the cost of £650 involved. The new wing, with the original floor space now affords a dancing floor space of 2500 sq. ft. The new electric night equipment leaves nothing to be desired in the way of lighting. The power plant installed by two Ridgeland's men, Messrs Milne, brothers, provides 23 lights.

Of a debt of £650, approximately £350 has already been raised, a truly wonderful effort considering the severe drought period in the district.

In the beautifully decorated hall the gathering heard the chairman, Mr E. Hunt, outline the work done to date by the committee and the expenditure involved. He complimented the contractor, Sgt D. Moriarty, on his fine work, and the Milne brothers on their splendid lighting plant.

The new wing was officially declared opened by Mr W. Ingram, M.I.A., who, following a short address descended the steps and unveiled the Honour Board. He read the first four names,—Pte Ken

the first four names,—Pte Ken Burton, Sgt Dan Moses, killed in action and Pte A. Richards and Pte R. Warnock, died of illness—after which the Last Post was sounded and one minute's silence observed. The hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" was sung, and Mr Ingram then read the remaining 36 names on the Honour Board. The hall then resounded to the strains of "Advance Australia Fair."

Mr Hunt then introduced the representatives of the various bodies of the district, who each spoke appropriately on behalf of their associations. The speakers were: Mrs E. G. White, Ridgeland's CWA; Mrs E. Hinz, Yaamba CWA; Mr G. Griffiths, Ridgeland's Hall Committee; Mr Hoare, Alton Downs; and Mr H. Shearman War Memorial Committee.

At the conclusion of proceedings by the chairman the first waltz was played by a five-piece orchestra from Rockhampton. Dancing, with novelties, was indulged in till early morning. A raffle was won by Mr Steve Watts and the cake by Mr Donaghey. A Monte Carlo was won by Mr and Mrs B. Lodwick. Refreshments were served and much praise is due to the committee and their many willing helpers for the manner in which this was done. Mr S. Baxter was M.C.