

Australian Poet onored

UNVEILING OF C. J. DEN-
NIS MEMORIAL CAIRN
AT TOOLANGI

Toolangi welcomed a large influx of visitors last Sunday for the unveiling of a memorial cairn surmounted by a bronze plaque to honor the Australian poet, the late C. J. Dennis, in the garden of his former home, "Arden," now the property of Mrs. F. W. Thring. The memorial was designed and erected by the Meet Your Writers Organisation, whose president, Miss Myra Roper, and secretary, Mrs. W. McAlpin, arranged the unveiling ceremony.

The beautiful gardens of "Arden" and of "Wirilda," Mr. L. Wood's property opposite, were open for public inspection, a collection being taken by the Toolangi auxiliary of the Healesville District Hospital with good results both on this Sunday and the previous one.

The public enjoyed wandering through the grounds of these two lovely mountain homes, admiring the display of rhododendrons and other choice specimens of horticulture. Rain fell at unwelcome intervals and interrupted the ceremony at the cairn, which is situated close to the front boundary of the estate, in a position where it is easily discernible from the roadway.

Among the speakers and others present were Mrs. Thring, Miss Roper, Mrs. McAlpin, Mr. Walter Pym (the well-known radio personality) Mr. J. K. Moir (Bread and

Mr. J. K. Moir (Bread and Cheese Club), Mr. Pat Hanna (who was associated with C. J. Dennis in Australian film productions), Mr. J. Leckie, M.L.A., Crs. Pollard (shire president), Ewart and Boswell.

The cairn — a rugged pylon of local stone — was built by Mr. Watson, of Toolangi, and before it was unveiled Miss Roper spoke of the poet it commemorated, much of

whose work had been written in this beautiful setting. She spoke of the recognition that should be accorded Australian writers, particularly during their lifetime. She outlined the objectives of the Meet Your Writers Organisation, which strives to stimulate a wider appreciation of Australian literature.

Mrs. Thring then unveiled the memorial with appropriate remarks. Speaking in the idiom used by Dennis in some of his writings, she said, "I dips me lid to a dinkum bloke."

Extracts from the poet's works were read by Mr. Pym and Mrs. McAlpin. "Arden" inspired the poet's verses, "The Singing Garden," and it is stated on the plaque that the "Sentimental Bloke" was written there also.