

QUEANBEYAN MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTRE OPENED THIS MONTH

The Queanbeyan Memorial Youth Centre will be officially opened on October 30. The centre, for which more than 40,000 bricks have been donated, has been constructed largely by voluntary labour at a cost of about £7,000.

It was really started by a loose paling or two on the front fence of the church. Someone remarked that it wasn't much use patching that old fence up, and someone else suggested it would be wise to let the

matter rest until something was done about the more urgent problem of additional accommodation. By natural sequence, the suggestion then came forward that, if a new building were contemplated, the fence might be renewed to tone with the new work.

The existing proposal for a large and elaborate youth centre standing on the trust's excellent site (a beautifully planted corner block of an acre, only one street from the heart of Queanbeyan's business centre), had somewhat worried those of the church who felt that this grand site should be reserved for the erection, at some future date, of a fine church, really worthy of this rapidly expanding daughter of the Federal Capital City.

Behind the decaying front fence was a neglected portion of the property smothered by a tall hedge, a thick overgrowth of boxthorn, and a huge, spreading pine tree well past the age of three score years and ten. In a flash of inspiration, we saw this as the site for the new building. At the next meeting of the trust one of the members confronted his

At the next meeting of the trust one of the members confronted his fellow trustees with this proposition: "Would you build it in brick if I gave you the bricks?" Now, who could possibly say "no" to such a grand offer? Another member brought along soon afterwards a most obliging and courteous New Australian architect who, though himself of another worshipping communion, soon proved that he was heart and soul in our new venture by offering his services gratis to the trust.

The church found within its membership men who were able to compass every task required from lopping, grubbing and clearing the site to the most delicate pieces of joinery in the memorial shrine, glazing, carpentry, plumbing, electrical fitting, and the whole gamut of joinery. To push the job ahead somewhat, bricklayers were employed, but the complete supervision of the whole job was undertaken gratis by a master builder, himself one of the trustees of the building. Upon his advice, in the early stages, it was decided not to press urgently for an early completion of the job, for it was realised by all present that, with such a fine array of tradesmen ready to give their spare time to the job, if it were pressed forward steadily Saturday by Saturday a very considerable saving would result. For over a year these men have pressed

over a year these men have pressed steadily on, and have stuck to their task with a zeal and tenacity which has been an inspiration both to church people and many others having no such connection who look in from the sidewalk. It has al-

ready become clear that the labour contributed voluntarily to date has saved the trust a sum well in advance of £2,000, a figure which is likely to advance to approximately £3,000 by the date of the official opening.

In addition to building a beautiful hall, 60ft. x 25ft., with a most up-to-date stage and appointments, with three useful rooms in addition, one of which is being fitted as the last word in a modern kitchen for the convenience of the church's womenfolk, a complete new front fence has been added both to the new building and the existing church, with three convenient entrances, and special motor approach.

With all this additional work the total bricks in use has soared far beyond first estimates, until now a total of almost 40,000 have been laid. This big increase has not daunted the original donor, whose generosity has been reflected throughout the church and circuit by sacrificial giving for this essential equipment in caring for the spiritual well-being of youth.

Now the long-awaited day, October 30, fast approaches, when the building will be officially opened by the Chairman of the Goulburn District, Rev. G. L. Walker, and the memorial shrine and book of honour within the entrance foyer will be dedicated by the Chairman of the

dedicated by the Chairman of the A.B.C., Mr. R. J. F. Boyer, himself a past minister at the Queanbeyan Church.

This beautiful new building, shown in the drawing above, valued with its surrounding improvements at approximately £7,000, is a source of great joy to those who have worked for it and built it, and it is the earnest desire of the Methodists of Queanbeyan that as many as possible of those who have worshipped in the circuit in the past return again on October 30 for the dedication of the memorial youth centre, and for the church anniversary which follows on October 31. If accommodation is required, a note to the minister, Rev. Merrick Webb, is suggested. Thus has there been brought to this vision the substance of reality.

