

Soldiers' Memorial for Kapunda

A COMPOSITE BUILDING SCHEME DECIDED ON

At a public meeting held on Tuesday evening, it was decided that the Soldiers' Memorial for Kapunda should take the form of a building containing rooms for members of the R.S.L. and Fathers' Association, rest rooms for women, and a hall of remembrance with an honour roll. There was an excellent attendance, and the Mayor (Mr. H. H. Rees) occupied the chair. The meeting opened with the National Anthem and one minute's silence in memory of the fallen, after which Mr. H. I. Bettison recited the lines, "They shall grow not old."

The Mayor said he had called the meeting to consider further the matter of a suitable memorial. At a previous meeting it had been decided to proceed with the Memorial Avenue of Trees, and £182 was in hand in that fund. Some of the subscribers wanted that scheme to be gone on with in accordance with the resolution passed at the former meeting, and that would be done, as the amount he had mentioned had been raised for the Avenue, and could not be applied to any other project without the consent of the subscribers. He hoped there would not be a split on the question of a memorial, but that they would be unanimous. He then threw the meeting open for a general discussion.

Mr. H. I. Bettison, president of the Kapunda Sub-branch of the R.S.L., said the question of a memorial had been considered by individuals and some public bodies, but he thought a fitting memorial would be club rooms for the returned men and the Fathers' Association, with a rest room for the women. The men thought something should be included in the memorial for the women who had done so much for them while they were away. At present there was no place in the town for women to rest in. The entrance to the memorial could be through an arch, and an honour roll erected in the building containing the names of those who had enlisted in

erected in the building containing the names of those who had enlisted in the Boer War, World War 1 and World War 2.

Mr. L. J. Fawcett supported Mr. Bettison's suggestion.

Dr. J. Riddell said there appeared to be a difference of opinion as to the form the memorial should take. At a previous meeting an endowed ward at the hospital had been suggested, which he thought was an excellent idea, but which would be too costly to maintain. He thought the memorial should take the form of something to remind future generations of what our men had done. Referring to the present Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Dr. Riddell said the present accommodation for the R.S.L. was most inadequate. The returned men should have all the amenities they were entitled to. He thought Mr. Bettison's suggestion was worthy of consideration, and he supported it. He favoured something in bricks and mortar, built in a suitable position in Main street, and he had had four sites pointed out to him already. There should be an archway and a garden in front planted with shrubs of remembrance. A part of the building should be a shrine or point of interest with suitable wording, and an honour roll containing the names as suggested by Mr. Bettison. It was all a matter of finance. Some one had said the district should raise £10,000, and if that sum was available they could do something. The people would not contribute unless there was a definite scheme, and the one he had suggested would be a lasting memorial.

Mr. R. H. Goerecke outlined a memorial scheme containing some of the features mentioned by Mr. Bettison and Dr. Riddell.

Other speakers were Messrs F. W. Thomas, R. H. Hughes, H. Smith, T. J. H. Schrapel (Chairman of the D.C. Kapunda), L. J. Burton, A. I. Reed, Mrs. W. R. Heuzenroeder (president C.W.A.), and Mrs. C. E. Teagle. These speakers generally supported the proposal outlined above.

After discussion had ended, Mr. H. I. Bettison moved:—"That a memorial be erected preferably on a suitable site in Main street, the entrance to be through a memorial arch built of

be through a memorial arch built of Kapunda marble. The building to consist of suitable club rooms for the R.S.L. and the Fathers' Association, women's rest room and conveniences, and to contain a shrine and hall of remembrance wherein is erected an honour roll containing the names of the Boer War, World War 1 and World War 2 personnel who had enlisted; the hall of remembrance to be permanently illuminated by a

light. The building to be fronted by a garden."

That was seconded by Dr. Riddell and carried.

Dr. Riddell proposed that two committees be formed, one for design, construction and situation of the memorial, and the other for finance. Seconded by Mr. R. H. Hughes and carried.

The committees appointed were:— Finance, Dr. J. Riddell, Messrs. E. Hambour, A. I. Reed, C. R. Giles and H. Smith, with power to add if thought necessary; Design, Construction and Situation, Messrs. D. M. Davoren, R. H. Hughes, H. I. Bettison, the President of the C.W.A. (Mrs. W. R. Heuzenroeder), and the President of the Red Cross (Mrs. H. Smith).