

GREAT DAY AT MAUDE

OPENING OF WAR MEMORIAL HALL

A MEMORABLE OCCASION.

SPLENDIDLY SUPPORTED.

On Wednesday, the Maude War Memorial Hall was formally opened. The day was made a holiday in the Maude district, and the villagers and district residents combined to make it a memorable occasion. A sports meeting was held, commencing at 11 a.m., and in the evening a ball took place in the new hall. Full details of the sports gathering appear elsewhere. The sports were entirely successful from a financial point of view and realised the most optimistic hopes of the promoters. They were, however, but the prelude to the chief event of the day, the opening of the War Memorial Hall.

The hall has been built on a fine block of land, with a frontage of two chains to the main street. It adjoins the police station, and is built on land which was reserved for public purposes and granted by the Government to the trustees. It faces the east, and is built about 20 feet back from the alignment of the footpath. The walls of the building are of "ripple" iron, and the roof of ordinary corrugated iron. The size, exclusive of the porch at the front, is 80ft. 6in. by 30ft. Of the length, 12ft. is taken up with the stage, and 10ft. 6in., at the rear of the stage, by ladies' and gentlemen's retiring rooms. This leaves the main hall with a clear floor space 50 x 30. The hall is floored with 4in. boards, and is ideal for dancing. The height of the hall from the floor to the wall plates is 12ft., but as it is not ceiled, the air space extends to the roof. The whole of the timber used is cypress pine, except the roof principals, which are of oregon. In the front of the building there is a porch 12ft. x 6ft. Underneath the raised platform and retiring rooms, the space has been utilised as store-rooms, the floors of which are concreted. The ventilation is provided by means of two roof vents, which carry off the vitiated air from the hall. There are three windows, and two

carry off the vitiated air from the hall. There are three windows, and two double doors on each side of the hall proper, and two further windows on each side of the stage and dressing rooms. The plan and specifications were prepared by Mr. J. H. Robertson, architect, of Narrandera, and approved by the departmental officers who are entrusted with the licensing of public halls. In the day time, the windows afford ample light, and hanging petrol lamps are utilised in the evening. The work has been well carried out by the contractors, Messrs. Dudley and Moran, of Hay. The cost of the building, and seating—strong forms with reversible backs—was £967/7/6. In addition a Cable Solo Player has been installed, as reported last week. The building has been well planned for the purpose for which it is to be used. It will prove of great benefit to the people of Maude and district, and it is, at the same time, a utilitarian and not unworthy memorial of the volunteers who went to the great war from the neighbourhood.

THE OPENING CEREMONIES.

For the official opening and the dance which followed, the interior of the hall was most artistically decorated by Constable Climpson, assisted by Mr. J. Reade, snr., who used coloured streamers of various hues, and balloons of different sizes and tints, to excellent effect. The same enthusiastic official prepared the floor, and put it into excellent order for dancing. The actual decorations were seen at their best in the daytime, but at night, when the lights shone down on the gay and multi-coloured gowns of the ladies, the scene was an exceedingly animated one.

The opening ceremony was to have taken place at 7.30, but at that hour, although the seats provided were all filled, people were still arriving, and further chairs and forms had to be requisitioned to accommodate them. The committee men were kept exceedingly busy providing seating accommodation, but by dint of hard work they succeeded in making everybody comfortable.

The stage had been set apart for members of the committee and invited guests, including some of the older residents of the Maude district. The attendance was most gratifying to the committee, and the hon. secre-

the committee, and the hon. secretaries, looking around, were unable to think of a family in the district which was not present or represented. When Mr. W. A. Day, the president of the committee took the chair, there could not have been less than three hundred people present. There was a good sprinkling of visitors from Hay amongst those present, including the orchestra (Miss Macleay, piano; May, drums; Jones, violin; Mackie, cornet; and Fayle, trombone). Whilst the audience was settling down Miss Macleay played a pianoforte overture, which was heartily applauded.

At 8 o'clock, the proceedings were opened.

Mr. Day, chairman, whose rising was the signal for prolonged applause, said that it gave him much pleasure, on behalf of the Maude War Memorial Committee to welcome them all. He was very pleased to see so many present on the stage to give them their support. (Applause). About thirteen months ago, it was decided to build a memorial at Maude, and now that hall, which was so useful, and so good to look at, was an accomplished fact. (Applause). Such a building had been needed for many years. The committee had worked untiringly, and he thanked them for what they had done. It had been no easy task they had set themselves, but thanks to the splendid support they received from the district, it had been accomplished. It was a pleasure to run sports or any entertainment when they were so well backed up. He had received a number of apologies for non-attendance. (List read). It also gave him great pleasure to introduce Mr. R. W. Ronald, of Nap Nap, who had kindly consented to open the hall. (Applause).

Mr. R. W. Ronald, who was received with loud and long continued applause, said: We are met here this evening to do honor to those from amongst us who went out in their glorious youth and laid down their lives in order that the world might be free and also to those, and I am thankful to say, the greater number, who were spared to return. All the States have just been celebrating Anzac Day, and so honoring the gallant deeds of our young army, when, in spite of the most appalling odds, they landed on Anzac beach, and having landed, remained in possession until commanded to evacuate their par-

commanded to evacuate their particular sector of the battle front. Anzac Day will remain for ever as a reminder of how well our soldiers acquitted themselves on their first in-

troductio[n] to serious warfare. It may not be realised that the Gallipoli campaign, in particular, and the war in general, so to speak, put Australia on the map, and showed the world that small as we yet are in the matter of population, we are able and willing to take our stand beside the mother country whenever she is threatened from outside. (Applause). The memorial hall, which we are about to open, will worthily commemorate the events of the great war, and keep ever before us the spirit of sacrifice which animated the youth of Australia, and in many cases those of more mature years, when patriotism called, and I congratulate the committee who have worked so hard, on the success of their efforts, a success which speaks in this splendid meeting to-night. (Applause). I am sure the residents of Maude and district will thoroughly recognise the great benefit such a building means to the social life of all. When I was asked to open the hall, I took it as a great compliment indeed, and I take this opportunity of thanking the committee for giving me the present opportunity. The most of us here to-night are Australian born, but it is not easy to realise that it is only a matter of about 139 years since Captain Cook landed in Botany Bay, and took possession of Australia for the British nation, and I hope we shall all never forget that our ancestors came from Great Britain and laid the foundations of the Commonwealth as it now exists. We have received a great heritage, may we never forget from whom we inherited it. (Great applause). When I came to the district, in 1879, or 48 years ago, Maude was certainly no smaller than it is to-day, and perhaps, more money was spent in the township, but although a lot of the expenditure was unproductive, still we managed to knock a lot of enjoyment out of our race

ductive, still we managed to knock a lot of enjoyment out of our race meetings, social gatherings, etc. Then we only had a pack-horse mail from Hay, and such amenities as telephones, motor cars, aeroplanes, and wireless were not even thought of. The young people of the present day have no idea of the hardships and inconveniences the earlier settlers had to put up with. However, I am sure the facilities for social gatherings are all for the good of the present generation and that the present handsome building will be availed of to the greatest extent. The hall is a better one than I imagined it possible for Maude and the district to produce. It shows what a perfect little centre Maude is, and how the people pulled together. (Applause). There are not many of us old residents left, but I am very pleased to see a younger generation growing up, which I am sure, will worthily carry on the traditions of their parents, and when they look on the Memorial Hall they will be reminded of the great sacrifice the older generation made when duty called. Hear, hear). I am told that there is still a considerable debt on the building, which the committee hope to considerably reduce as the result of this day's activities, and they hope that all present will help them in any way they can. I have been asked to make a special mention of the contractors (Messrs. Dudley and Moran), who have done their work so well. The contractors have done their work thoroughly, as all could see. The best of material and the best of workmanship have gone into it. (Applause). Moreover, they and their men have manfully stuck to the job, so that it would be ready for us this evening. (Renewed applause). It is a great pleasure to me to be here to-night and to see so many gathered together in honor of those from the district who volunteered for the great adventure, and I now declare the hall open, and hope everyone will have a most enjoyable evening. (Prolonged applause).

Before resuming his seat, Mr. Ronald formally cut a ribbon placed across the stage, to indicate that the hall was open.

The National Anthem was then sung by the entire assemblage, accompanied by the orchestra.

The Chairman called on the Mayor

The Chairman called on the Mayor of Hay, Mr. J. E. McMahon.

Mr. McMahon, who was very cordially received, thanked them, on behalf of the municipality of Hay, for inviting him and his wife to be present at that splendid gathering. That fine building was a credit to the citizens of Maude, and no doubt in years to come, that night would be regarded as a landmark in their history. There was always a time in the history of men and nations, marked as a startingpoint, and the British dated a great deal from 1914. "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide in the strife of truth and falsehood, in the good or evil side." In 1914, Australia choose rightly. (hear, hear), when she went in with Britain. She did not go in with a light heart, for she knew what she would have to face. It said something for Australia that 400,000 went abroad to uphold the honor of their country. (Applause). They regretted that 60,000 of these brave men did not come back. But they never fail who die in a righteous cause, and they could not regard what they did in the light of failure. The spirit was the same that, throughout the years, had uplifted humanity at large. The spirit of the Anzac was immortal. (Applause). He urged them to maintain the peace which had been won, at such great cost. That hall was a memorial of the blood which had been shed and the sacrifices which had been made. He urged them whenever they could put in a word to maintain the peace which they were enjoying, not to be afraid to say it. (Great applause).

The Chairman called on the President of the R.S.S.I.L.A.

Mr. Rushton, who was received with loud applause, said that as he listened to Mr. Ronald and to The Mayor of Hay, he had wondered how he should address them. He thought of the words, "Maude War Memorial Hall" in the front of the building, and he could picture a company of soldiers passing that building, and getting the command, "Eyes Right!" in honor of those to whose memory it had been erected. The memory of the men resting on the other side would always be cherished by returned soldiers, whose desire it was that the efforts made should be carried on and that some good should

ried on and that some good should result to their country. They wanted to feel that what the soldiers had done had not been in vain. Peace had been achieved and they wanted to see some good come out of it. The committee which had erected that monument in thirteen months were deserving of a great deal of credit, and the thanks of the town. (Applause). It was the small effort added to the big effort which made such a thing possible. One was struck, at Maude, by the way everyone worked. He felt sure that as long as there were returned men in the district, the upkeep of that hall would be their thought, and that when they were gone the people of the district would carry on the good work. (Applause).

The Chairman called on Mr. R. B. Ronald.

Councillor R. B. Ronald, who was very heartily received, said that on behalf of the Waradgery Shire Council, he had to apologise for the absence of the President and Deputy President, both of whom were absent from the district. It had, therefore, fallen to his lot to support the previous speakers. He had made no notes and there was nothing in his head. (Great laughter and applause). The reasons for the erection of the hall, and the sports had been referred to. He could say that if a regiment of military men were coming past that hall, they would get the command, "Eyes Right!" as they would if they were passing the flag. That expressed the feelings of the returned soldiers very completely. As a Shire Councillor he could say that the roads were never better—unfortunately—(laughter), but they had helped to bring about that fine gathering. Probably, within the next ten years, the road through Maude to Moulamein would be made a main road, or at least a developmental road, and once that road was proclaimed a bridge at Maude would have to be built. They would have a bigger township then, but they would still have that memorial hall, built by a village with a small population. He was pleased to see so many visitors present from Hay, Bal-

ranald, Moulamein, and Sydney. It must be most gratifying to the committee of the movement to be so supported. He thanked the Chairman for asking him to speak, and regretted he had not had an opportunity to prepare an address worthy of the occasion. (Loud applause).

Mr. J. Johnston, who was called on, also spoke on the object of the hall. During the course of his remarks, he eulogised the work of those who had brought about that gathering. They must have had some extra good workers, as the decorations of the hall and the preparation of the floor showed. He suspected that the joint hon. secretaries, Messrs. Nelson and Reade, and Constable Climpson, were at the head of them. (Applause). He noted that they were all returned soldiers. (Renewed applause).

Mr. R. W. Ronald said that he had mentioned before, the hall stood at the present time with a rather considerable debt upon it—not more than they could liquidate, but, at the same time, debts were better paid off quickly. He made an appeal, on behalf of the committee, for large or small contributions. He had much pleasure in handing Mr. Nelson his own cheque. (Applause).

Mr. Nelson examined the cheque and announced that it was for ten guineas, at which the applause was renewed.

Subscriptions were then handed in, and the following received, the announcement of each contribution being received with applause:—

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
R. W. Ronald	10	10	0
Jas. Anderson	10	10	0
Dr. Maclure	10	10	0
E. J. Jones	5	5	0
E. S. Nelson	5	5	0
Mrs. N. Maclure	5	5	0
Mrs. J. Anderson	5	5	0
F. G. Castles	5	5	0
A. Simpkin	5	5	0
W. J. Honeyman	5	5	0
W. Day	5	5	0
J. Steer	5	0	0
Ian Ronald	5	0	0
W. W. Fieldhouse	5	0	0
Dudley and Moran	4	4	0
Jas. McGrath	3	3	0
Archdeacon Kitchen	3	3	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Reade ..	2	2	0
Lobb & Co.	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton	2	2	0

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Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton .	2	2	0
D. C. Pagan	2	2	0
A. Jones	2	2	0
R. Perks	2	2	0
"Bucksheesh"	2	2	0
N. Rees	2	0	0
J. E. McMahon	1	1	0
Mrs. McMahon	1	1	0
J. Climpson	1	1	0
J. Rushton	1	1	0
R. Nelson	1	1	0
A. E. Griffiths	1	1	0
John Reade	1	1	0
Len Reade	1	1	0
G. Perks, snr.	1	1	0
E. Clifton	1	1	0
C. Game	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Hurle	1	1	0
E. Wright	1	1	0
G. Perks, jr.	1	1	0
F. Leonard	1	1	0
H. Jones	1	1	0
N. Copeland	1	1	0
J. Cox	1	1	0
R. Marr	1	1	0
M. Copeland	1	1	0
Jack Shaw	1	1	0
J. Johnston	1	1	0
G. D. Butterworth	1	1	0
T. Gibson	1	1	0
Mrs. Marr	1	1	0
S. Stevens	1	1	0
R. Hudson	1	1	0
G. Castles	1	1	0
Miss M. E. Reade	1	1	0
Miss M. Copeland	1	1	0
Mrs. Day	1	1	0
Henderson Bros.	1	1	0
R. Hathaway	1	1	0
John Copeland	1	1	0
J. O'Neill	1	0	0
Jas. Copeland	1	0	0
John Graham	1	0	0
Mrs. W. Stevens	1	0	0
Mrs. Keiran		10	0
M. Jones		10	0
Miss D. Simpkin		10	0
Total	153	12	0

... of the opening ceremony, including the obtaining of subscriptions did not occupy more than an hour's time.

At the conclusion of the handing in of the donations, it was announced that about £150 had been received, a statement which was received with prolonged applause. The applause was renewed when the Chairman announced that Mr. Ronald had kindly undertaken to have a suitable fence erected in front of the building.

Dancing was then entered upon, the music being supplied by the Hay Orchestra. The whole of the proceedings of the opening ceremony, including the obtaining of subscri-