

# ARMIDALE SERVICEMEN'S CLUB AND MEMORIAL

## Diversity of Two Separate Projects

W. S. Forsyth writes to the Editor.—Sir: The recent announcement that the local sub-branches of R.S.S. and A.I.L.A. and Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women are planning to establish a Memorial Club for ex-servicemen in Armidale is of considerable interest.

The "club" project is, of course, distinct from the public war memorial scheme for Armidale and district which originated at a public meeting and has since been examined and developed by a series of conferences between representatives of the City Council, the Dumaresq Shire Council, Armidale Literary Institute and Armidale sub-branch of the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A.

The two schemes, which find their inspiration in the experiences and memories of the war years, have different objectives and, to a certain degree, arise from different sentiments.

The club idea is based on the natural desire of ex-servicemen to have a means of perpetuating the comradeship of their service days and to have a rallying point for their social enjoyment.

To that extent it is sectional in character although it is broad enough to include everyone who wore a uniform within the meaning on which membership of the League or the Legion is established.

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For its permanent economic survival in a centre of limited population, and for the recognition of the splendid war effort of many Armidalians who did not wear a uniform or carry a paybook, regret is expressed in some quarters that the club scheme is not more broadly based.

However, the ex-service associations' desire to have a club for the recreation of their members will be sympathetically received by many citizens, and no doubt fuller details will be published before the appeal for public subscriptions is made.

The "public war memorial" scheme belongs, of course, to the whole of the citizens and will represent their tribute to the memory of the fallen. It will be the perpetual symbol of gratitude to all who gave or offered their lives in our defence; the dedicated structure available at all times to the widows and orphans, the relatives, comrades and friends of those who made the final sacrifice.

It should be, therefore, of a nature which will endure—something which will carry the tradition of service and sacrifice to future generations—something to help those who will follow us.

Up to the present the scheme which has received a great deal of consideration is that of a public library with a comprehensive educational section, a juvenile section, and a department for popular literature. A building which, it is thought, might cost, with its contents about £10,000 is expected to contain a memorial vestibule in which the Roll of the Fallen will be placed.

The City Council is now arranging for an architect from a panel of returned soldier architects to visit Armidale and prepare sketch plans and estimates, and it is understood that when these are available the joint committee which has been working on the project will submit

The joint committee which has been working on the project will submit the complete scheme to a public meeting for consideration.

The Armidale sub-branch of the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A., which is interesting itself in the ex-servicemen's club project, has also unanimously endorsed the public memorial library scheme, thus indicating that it appreciates the different functions of the two projects and is prepared to support both.

The foregoing is written in the hope that it will help to clarify the position regarding Armidale's War Memorial plans.

If I may make a personal suggestion, it is that the two committees should confer with a view to co-ordinating the two proposals from the financial angle with a view to presenting a clear-cut issue to the public and possibly a joint appeal which would be more economical and less confusing than two distinct efforts.