

South West Rocks Memorial.

Returned Soldiers Do Fine Job.

Thursday last, Anzac Day, 1940, the South West Rocks Sub-Branch of the R.S.S.I. League held a very interesting ceremony, when the unveiling of the new Memorial Monument there was the principal feature of the Anzac Day celebrations.

The Memorial Monument and neat flagstaff have been erected on a plot of ground provided by the Reserve Trustees, almost in front of the Police premises, just off the main entrance to South West Rocks.

The Monument is a tapered block of polished Trial Bay granite, set on terazzo stone with a terraced concrete base about three feet high. A broad walk paved with granite gravel surrounds the Monument, and the whole is enclosed with a broad, low wall of granite blocks. The whole of the granite was obtained from Trial Bay, and the great peaked stones at the entrance will be polished and lettered with the date and an appropriate inscription.

Mr. H. J. Thompson, Vice-President of the Sub-Branch, and Mr. Jack Parker, the Sub-Branch Secretary, ably supported by Mr. Bert Cooper, the President, and the many keen members of the League in and around South West Rocks, have performed an extraordinary feat in having this Monument completed, for they have secured work worth probably £300 with a sum of less than three figures. Mr. Dunn, of Frederickton, did a great deal of the stonework and lettering free of charge, and so has earned the deepest appreciation of the Executive and Sub-Branch members.

On the western face of the Monument the names of the South West Rocks soldiers who fell in the Great War, are as follows:—

In Memory of The Fallen.

Pte. A. M. Sanders.

Pte. A. M. Sanders,
Lieut. H. Thompson,
Pte. A. E. Edwards, M.M.
Pte. W. Cooper.
Driver H. Dennis,
Trooper L. Plummer,
Pte. G. Crossingham,
Pte. W. Crossingham,
Driver J. Flanagan,
Pte. S. P. Plummer,

Just above the names is the following inscription: "They died that we might live. Hail and farewell. All honor give to those who, nobly striving, nobly fell that we might live."

On the eastern face of the monument is a plain marble slab, which 'tis hoped will never be used.

At one o'clock on Thursday a procession was formed on South West Rocks Reserve and marched from the kiosk to the Monument. The procession was led by the children of South West Rocks School, carrying the Australian Flag, followed by a group of Returned Soldiers and members of the Red Cross Society. The Shire President and the Ven. Archdeacon Knox marched with the soldiers, and Mr. Robinson marshalled the children.

On arrival at the Monument wreath parties laid many beautiful wreaths at the base thereof.

A number of the wreaths were particularly noteworthy. Inspector Dudley and Const. Spicer, on behalf of the Police and Public Service, came forward with a glorious wreath entirely composed of gorgeous decorative dahlias donated by Mrs. W. Plummer, of Yarrahappinni; and arranged by Constable and Mrs. H. J. Thompson. The Red Cross wreath, carried by Mrs. Robinson, President of South West Rocks Branch, was very appropriately in the form of a cross composed of lovely red dahlias. The South West Rocks R.S. League wreath was a splendid one, donated to the Sub-Branch by Mr. Jos. T. Walker. Other fine wreaths were brought by Mrs. Parker for South West Rocks Women's Voluntary Workers, South West Rocks School Children, Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. Rafferty, Clare Parker, Kitty Coleman and many others.

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The unveiling ceremony opened with prayer led by Major Collyer.

Mr. A. H. Marriott, President of the Macleay Shire said this Anzac Day gathering had met to express appreciation of the gallantry shown by the A.I.F. in 1914-18, and to condole with the relatives of the fallen. "Although the fallen Anzacs lie covered with glory in far off lands we here have still a duty before us," said Mr. Marriott, and that is to instil into the rising generation the memories that will never die." (Applause). It was twenty-five years since Australia mourned for the first of her heroes fallen in the Great War, and the soldiers who had returned had seen many ups and downs since then. Many who had been away were still with us, though a number had passed on. It was the nation's duty to look after these men in their declining years; they must not be forgotten. (Applause). To-day was a day of glorious remembrance, not only of soldiers, but of mothers, wives and sweethearts. (Applause).

After the reading of a prayer for the League of Nations, Mr. McDonald delivered a stirring address on "The Spirit of Anzac," which he reckoned rich in independence, love of liberty, and inspiration; and yet sufficiently imbued with discipline to make the ideal soldier. The spirit of the Anzacs was well represented by the men of the new A.I.F. who had gone off to fight the same old foe. To the children he added a final word of warning to be loyal to their mates, themselves, their school, their country, and so loyal to the Empire. (Applause).

The Shire President on calling upon Mr. Bert Cooper to unveil the monument, expressed the thanks of the R.S.S.I. League Sub-Branch to the South West Rocks Reserve Trustees for giving the plot of ground for the erection of the Monument. The members of the League, he added, in their work in erecting this Monument, had

shown the same courage and determination as characterized their activities in the Great War. (Applause).

plause).

Mr. Bert Cooper, President of the South West Rocks Sub-Branch of the R.S. & S.I.L., then spoke as follows: My comrades of the South West Rocks R.S. and S.I. League have kindly bestowed upon me the honor of unveiling this Monument, a memorial to our fallen comrades, and it is with a feeling of pride I have accepted the honor. Many years have passed since the Great War, and have taken with them many who served their country, and many loyal citizens, but the passing of time has not altered our appreciation of those who gave their lives for their country; those who did not return, with those who in the service of their country gave their health and are daily meeting an untimely end. It is often said: "Let us forget!" Should we forget? Should not "lest we forget" be our watchword. Many of us will remember a national vow during those troubled times, "we will never forget!" It is not the horrors of war or deeds of valor which are foremost in our minds, but the spirit of comradeship created over there; and rows of wooden crosses marking the resting places of our pals. Inspired by that never failing loyalty to our comrades and to the British Empire we have erected this Monument as an emblem of our loyalty, and so that we and those that follow will have an assembly place on each Anzac Day to pay homage to our dead. When unveiled you will notice that the Monument has been erected of practically all local material. It bears a name plate on one side naming those fallen during the Great War, and on the other side it has a plain marble slab, and may it be the will of God that it will forever remain plain. It has been provided to bear the names of any who do not return from the present conflict. I now unveil to the citizens of South West Rocks and districts this Monument erected in sacred memory of fallen soldiers.

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The crowd applauded as Mr. Cooper released the Union Jack that veiled the Monument; and as he released it the flag ran to the top of the nearby flagpole to stream bravely in the breeze above the large assemblage.

Mr. Cooper continued:

May this Monument serve as a meeting place of all loyal citizens to pay homage to our heroic dead; may it be an inspiration to the children of to-day, and to those who follow, to be loyal to their country; and may it inspire us all to devote our energies to the promotion of peace and a better understanding between the peoples of the world.

The Rev. Fleming and the Ven. Archdeacon Knox led in a programme of prayer and in the singing of several appropriate hymns. The impressive function closed with the pronouncement of The Benediction.

Mr. A. H. Marriott took opportunity to apologise for the unavoidable non-attendance of Mr. H. E. Chapple, Mr. S. B. Lacey and other gentlemen.

A collection was taken up in aid of wives and families of soldiers in poor circumstances.

An unattended wireless set at the home of Mr. J. M. Flint, in Spring-street, Lismore, caused a fire on Thursday afternoon. The radio was destroyed and extensive damage was caused to a piano. The alarm was given by a small boy, Keith Dudgeon, who noticed smoke issuing from the house. The outbreak was soon extinguished by the Lismore Fire Brigade.
