

BATHURST HIGH SCHOOL'S TRIBUTE TO SERVICEMEN

IMPRESSIVE UNVEILING CEREMONY

Tributes to the gallantry of the Australian soldier and his feats on the battlefield were expressed by the speakers at the unveiling ceremony of the Honor Roll at the Bathurst High School yesterday.

The School's appreciation to its former students, who fought for their country in its hour of need, is perpetuated in an Honor Roll which occupies pride of place in the Assembly Hall.

Unveiling the Roll, a past Headmaster of the School, Mr. A. D. Fraser, spoke in feeling terms of his association with the School and the majority of the boys, whose names appear on the Roll.

The hall was packed with students, parents, friends and ex-students.

To the older ones, memories of happy childhood days were recalled with their association with the Bathurst High School.

It was an impressive ceremony, and one which was a fitting tribute to the school heroes on battlefields in many theatres of war.

The Headmaster, Mr. C. Thomas, opening the ceremony, welcomed the visitors, parents and ex-students, whom he said it was a pleasure to see present.

"We consider this function the most important one in the Education Centenary Celebrations," said Mr. Thomas. "On such a solemn occasion as this, I am pleased to see so many present to be associated with our function."

He then thanked Mr. A. D. Fraser for coming to perform the unveiling and welcomed him back to his old School. Mr. Thomas said that it was pleasing to see Mr. Fraser present as he was Headmaster when the initial work in organising the Honor Roll was commenced. Also, said Mr. Thomas, Mr. Fraser, was Headmaster during the term that most of the youths whose names appear on the Roll

whose names appear on the Roll passed through school. He concluded by thanking the speakers for coming along to address the gathering.

Taking the chair the Mayor, Alderman O. G. Parnham, expressed his appreciation of being associated with the function. He apologised for the absence of the Rev. H. T. Williams and the Rev. E. T. Walker, also Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ross, and Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins.

"Today brings to the forefront of our memories the great achievement which took place on April 25, 1915," he said. "The heroic feats of the Anzacs on that day were so glorious, through the days which have followed, they have never been forgotten."

"As is customary on all days, such as this, we remember the happenings of Anzac Day, also the great sacrifices that have been made, not only in the first world war, but in the second. The way men and women in thousands rallied to give of their all.

"We shall never be able to repay them their due, but we can seek to honor them, and our best way is by dedicating ourselves to our fellows and to our God."

"SPIRIT OF REMEMBRANCE"

"The spirit of remembrance is the most important of all," said Rev. G. Polain, opening his address.

"We must understand the remembrance brought in the days before. The younger ones must realise the sacri-

grance brought in the days before. The younger ones must realise the sacrifices in the days of your elder school fellows."

He continued by outlining the deeds of ex-Servicemen and the great things done by them, the way they faced death so that lives of freedom and liberty could be followed.

Rev. Polain said that the children in the Hall were as brave and as noble as the soldiers of the last wars, because they had been taught during their school lives to be faithful to their country.

"The teamwork, which prevailed during the war years must continue in peace," stated Rev. Polain.

He concluded by pointing out the feats of Anzacs and the women associated with the fighting forces, and their heroism "which was undaunted under the most trying conditions during the fighting."

COMMEMORATION

The Inspector of Schools, Mr. J. J. Pollock, congratulated Rev. Polain on his address, and further outlined the sacrifices and feats of the soldiers during Anzac. He concluded by saying that Anzac Day was a day of commemoration, to look back upon, a day of adoration, to look up to, and a day of dedication, to look forward to.

President of the High School P. and C. Association, Mr. Moodie, then took the chair for the unveiling ceremony. Mr. Moodie said that the money for the Honor Roll was provided by the P. and C., and work which was the culmination of the day, commenced years ago, during which time, Mr. K. Vincent was president of the Associa-

tion. He then asked Mr. Vincent to speak.

"I thank you for the invitation, and at the same time to thank the Association for the privilege of being associated with such a wonderful band of workers, that made this ceremony possible," said Mr. Vincent.

He thanked Mr. Fraser for the support he had given the Association during his term as headmaster and expressed again the regret of him being called away.

To Mesdames Norman Aubin and Tom Burke, who, said Mr. Vincent, were the prime movers in the provision of the Roll, he thanked them for their untiring efforts in seeing to its fulfilment.

He added his thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. S. Davies, and Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, for their assistance, Mr. Davey as a former Secretary and Mr. Hawkins a former Treasurer.

He added his thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. S. Davies, and Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, for their assistance, Mr. Davey as a former Secretary and Mr. Hawkins a former Treasurer.

Mr. Vincent concluded by saying that when he looked at the Roll in years to come, it would not only remind him of the service the boys gave to their country, but a reminder of the happy service with the High School P. and C. Association.

Mr. Fraser said that it was a pleasure to accept the Headmaster's invitation immediately and thanked Rev. Polain and Mr. Pollock for two stirring addresses.

"HOMAGE"

"To pay homage to 30 men, who gave their lives, and to see the name of 520 former students on the board, considering that enlistments were 990,000, and this school provided half a thousand of them, is indeed a fine effort," said Mr. Fraser.

He said he hoped that the ways of the future were not ways to war, but to peace, and felt sure the present students would do their duty to this end.

Referring to the magnificent memorial, he said that he knew 80 or 90, or perhaps more, per cent. of the boys during his term as headmaster.

Mr. Fraser said that he knew them personally. Some were not scholars. Others had their names on another roll in the hall. (He referred to the Leaving Certificate passes). Others he knew for their feats on the field of sport. But he knew all of them for their character—which school life had helped to mould.

"When I look at the board, I see varied parts of the boys," he said. "I think of their wonderful efforts in the hazards of the deserts, the sweat and toll of the jungles, the perils on the sea and in the air, and the horrors of prisoner of war camps—it is indeed, very proud for me to do them honor."

"SUNLIGHT"

He then quoted lines by Tennyson spoken by Elaine after Lancelot gave her his sword, which was hung in her bedroom, "Where the earliest rays of sunlight might strike it."

"Those lines to me, brings me to the Roll, and I shall remember it as being in a place where the western sun, as it goes down, strikes the gilded letters of the names enshrined upon it," said Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Fraser feelingly concluded by saying that "a glance at the names brings memories of days when the boys fought for the School against Dubbo and Orange in the Astley Cup matches."

Dubbo and Orange in the Astley Cup series.

"A thousand and one memories loom up before me. Wounds heal slowly, the hearts are sad of the kin of the boys who gave their lives for the grand cause of freedom, and it is pleasing to know that the School is perpetuating their memories on the Honor Roll," concluded Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Fraser then released the flag covering the Roll, which occupies the rear wall of the hall.

Following the unveiling, present students, ex-students, the P. and C. Association, City Council and R.S.L. and parents placed a beautiful array of wreaths at the foot of the Roll.

The ceremony concluded with the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille, and the National Anthem.