

Boomi Memorial Hall

CELEBRATIONS A GREAT SUCCESS

The people of Boomi have every reason to feel gratified with success attending the celebration of the opening of the Memorial Hall. Hundreds of people for miles around gathered in the township early on Tuesday last to participate in the historic event.

Mr Wearne, M.L.A., called on Mrs Campbell to proceed to the front door of the hall, turn the key, and open the door. The conclusion of this important part of the ceremony by the "Diggers' Mother" was signal for a tremendous outburst of applause. When the demonstration of appreciation had subsided, Mrs Campbell, who by this time had again ascended the stage, briefly declared the Memorial Hall officially opened. "It's a splendid hall," the grand old lady continued, "and I only wish every family had as good a one for the boys. (Hear, hear.) I hope you will long live to enjoy a happy time in it." (Applause.) Mrs Campbell then presented to the Boomi boys a photograph to be hung in the hall, of Miss Campbell the lady who met all the Australian boys at Durban going to, or coming from, the war.

Mr Wearne proceeded to say how much pleasure it gave him to be present, and particularly to see the hall opened by Mrs Campbell—"the Diggers' Mother." Knowing Mrs Campbell as he did, he could say it was indeed an honour to Boomi to have that grand old lady open the hall. (Applause.) She had earned the title of "the Diggers' Mother," and there was no woman living to-day who was more entitled to it than she. (Applause.) He would like to say what this dear old lady had done for the soldiers. In the coldest winter at Narrabri when the train arrived there from Sydney about 4 o'clock in the morning, he never once came on to the platform that he did not see her waiting to meet the Diggers. (Applause.) She had to walk in the darkness from West Narrabri—about two miles—many a time when the bus could not call for her; but, whether the bus called for her or not, she was there! Financially she reduced herself to naught, for she had given all her money to the soldiers. She was regularly corresponded with over 500 soldiers at the front. Mrs Campbell had highly honoured the people of Boomi by turning the key in the door of their Memorial Hall officially. It pleased the King to confer on a number of Britishers the Order of the British Empire, but His Majesty had missed one grand old lady—Mrs Campbell. (Hear, hear.) There could, however, be no greater title for her than that of "the Diggers' Mother." (Loud applause.) He hoped they might yet see her recognized by the King for her services to the boys. She had toured the North Western portion of New South Wales through heat and cold, to be wherever the Diggers were. Mr Wearne concluded his tribute by calling for three cheers for "the Diggers' Mother," which were heartily given.

Mr Cunningham endorsed all that Mr Wearne had said regarding the work done by Mrs Campbell, the "Diggers' Mother."