

Culcairn Public Meeting Discusses

War Memorial

Swimming Pool To Be Investigated

A public meeting at the Council Chambers, Culcairn, on Wednesday night discussed the question of a war memorial for Culcairn in respect of World War II.

The meeting decided that any memorial be to perpetuate the memory of those who fell in that war, and decided to make investigations about the cost of a swimming pool; and also the cost of improving the present pool in the creek.

Mr. W. J. Conley called the meeting in to order, and explained that it was a meeting adjourned from August 18, when a similar meeting was held, but it was adjourned, as those present felt it was not sufficiently representative to decide on the subject.

Mr. J. Ritchie was elected to the chair, and he referred to suggestions for a memorial that had been made at the previous meeting. These were: Additions to the present Memorial Hall; improvements to the Memorial Park; a memorial fence at the Recreation Ground; a swimming pool; a scholarship; the establishment of beds at the hospital; a fund for necessitous servicemen and their dependents; an da Shire of Remembrance. Mr. Ritchie said the meeting was fairly representative, and should be able to make some decision. He asked for discussion.

Mr. K. Dobson asked what was the body at present managing the Memorial Hall. Mr. Conley (who acted

body at present managing the Memorial Hall. Mr. Conley (who acted as secretary to the meeting) said it was controlled by a committee elected each year.

Mr. Dobson: Is it managed by the School of Arts Committee?

Mr. Conley: Yes.

Mr. P. E. A. Holmes considered that the meeting should decide whether the memorial should be for all who served, or merely those who fell.

Mr. G. Swan said the foundation stone of the present Memorial Hall stated it was in memory of those who served and those who fell.

Mr. Conley drew attention to the advertisement calling the meeting, which mentioned a memorial to those who served.

Dr. G. C. Middleton was informed by Mr. Conley in answer to a question, that the Memorial Hall cost about £5,000, and the Memorial Committee contributed about £700 or

mittee contributed about £700 or £88. Dr. Middleton said that building costs were much greater now and double that amount would need to be subscribed for a memorial. He said that anything chosen as a memorial should be such that it would provide amenities for the people of Culcairn and attract people there.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FELL

A motion was moved to the effect that any memorial erected be in memory of those who fell in the second World War.

An amendment by Messrs F. P. Alldis and P. Schultz, that whatever form a memorial take, it should honor those who served and those who fell, was defeated, 13 votes to 11, and the motion carried.

Much discussion occurred on the form a memorial should take. Mr. Holmes considered that although the town needed many amenities, such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, etc., these should not be provided as a memorial. He suggested that a fund be provided to found a bed or a ward at the hospital for cases of hardship.

Considering the list of suggestions

made at the previous meeting. Mr. M. Baz opposed the erection of a fence and memorial gates at the Showground, and Mr. M. Daley opposed additions to the present hall.

Mr. J. T. Hines supported Mr. Holmes' contention that the town should supply amenities apart from a memorial.

Messrs P. F. Schultz and G. Swan opposed building a useless memorial and Dr. Middleton spoke in favor of memorial of a utilitarian nature. Mrs. D. Cox suggested erecting a memorial in the form of a clock at the end of the plantation in the main street.

Mr. Conley suggested a scholarship for children of fallen soldiers. He claimed that the sum of money needed for this would be within the reach of the town.

Mr. J. Hepburn pointed out that £1,000 would provide a scholarship worth about £35 per year. This would be enough for only one child every five years. He suggested that it would be advisable to make an estimate of the money likely to be avail-

able before any decision was made as to the form the memorial should take.

Sgt. Sanders spoke at length in favour of a swimming pool, and Mr. Conley estimated a pool would cost £15,000 to £20,000.

Dr. Middleton quoted figures for the estimated cost of a pool at Holbrook. It was estimated to cost £13,000 to £15,000, but Dr. Middleton pointed out that a lot of items could be omitted and still leave a pool and filtration plant. Of the estimated cost, £3,000 was for buildings, £3,000 for tiling, £150 for land, £750 for sewerage, £300 lighting and fencing. These could be omitted. The sum of £400 for excavation could be greatly reduced by voluntary labour, and he considered that a pool and filtration plant could be obtained for about £5,000.

Mr. Holmes asked would there be sufficient water for a pool of this nature, and was informed that very little water was needed.

Rev. Father Gallagher spoke of the useless nature of some memorials. He claimed a swimming pool would make an ideal memorial. He thought Culcairn Shire Council should give a lead in the matter, and that perhaps it would be possible to get some help from the Government. He moved, seconded by Mr. Hensel, that this meeting ask Culcairn Shire Council to make investigations into the possibility of establishing swimming baths at Culcairn. The motion was carried.

Mr. E. Thomas spoke of plans made by Mr. T. B. Sheppard (ex-Shire engineer) to improve the present swimming pool in the Billabong.

Mr. Swan and Mr. Thomas moved a successful motion that Mr. Sheppard be contacted in regard to the matter.

The calling of the next meeting was left in Mr. Conley's hands.