

Crowd of 500 at unveiling of War memorials at Cumnock

A crowd estimated at 500 attended the unveiling of the Rolls of Honour and the Memorial Gates and the opening of the new R.S.L. Memorial Club Rooms by His Excellency the Governor, Lt.-General Sir John Northcott, at Cumnock last Saturday.

His Excellency was escorted into Cumnock by a police motor cyclist and was met by Mr. C. G. Robertson, M.L.A., who introduced the Shire President, Councillor S. R. Reynolds.

Councillor Reynolds, in his address of welcome, expressed the gratitude of the people of Cumnock for the honour of having His Excellency present to perform the opening ceremony.

He also paid high tribute to the unselfish devotion to duty, both in peace and war, of His Excellency.

He paid homage to the men of Cumnock who served in the armed forces.

A generous ovation greeted Cr. Reynolds at the conclusion of his address.

In reply to the welcome, His Excellency spoke of the significance of the occasion and reminded the people of their responsibility to do all in their power to maintain freedom and peace.

He said that the people of Australia were very fortunate that their wonderful country had escaped the dreadful destruction wrought by war.

He mentioned as an example the complete destruction of the Japanese city of Hiroshima by one atom bomb—which destruction many Australian servicemen had seen after the war.

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The Governor spoke directly to the school children, reminding them of the great tradition which they have to live up to.

He told them that the men whose names appeared on the Honour Rolls were school children, just like they were, a few years ago, and one day they might be called on to make the same sacrifice and he was confident that they would answer the call.

At the conclusion of the Governor's address, the crowd applauded enthusiastically.

His Excellency unveiled the Rolls of Honour, and placed a wreath on them. He then opened the Memorial Gates.

Upon entering the gates, His Excellency was introduced to the President and Secretary of the Cumnock Sub-branch of the R.S.L., Mr. Keith Barrett and Mr. Max Reynolds. He then proceeded to inspect and shake hands with each member of the informal guard of honour, which consisted of Returned Soldiers.

He ascended the front steps of the R.S.L. Club rooms, where Mr. Keith Barrett outlined to the Governor the activities of

the Governor the activities of the sub-branch, and publicly thanked the people of Cumnock and the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary for the wonderful support they had given, financially and in other ways, to the building of the Memorial.

Mr. Barrett presented a gilded key to the building to His Excellency as a memento.

He humorously remarked that he had thought of also presenting a gilded outsize key-ring to His Excellency, as he would no doubt need one to keep all the keys which had been presented to him.

In accepting the key, His Excellency, showing a ready wit, said it was remarkable the trust people must have in him, as he had keys to many buildings all over the State.

He then opened the door and declared the building open.

He was afterwards conducted on an inspection of the building by Mr. Barrett.

During the inspection, Mr. P. Reynolds addressed the people, explaining what was hoped to be achieved in the near future.

One important aspect which was announced was that it was intended to establish a club for

all ex-servicemen of the district.

Later the Governor was the guest of the sub-branch at a luncheon.

After the Loyal toast, Mr. P. Reynolds proposed a toast to the health of the guest of honour.

In response to the toast, His Excellency congratulated the Women's Auxiliary on the manner in which they had carried out the catering arrangements.

After the luncheon, His Excellency and his staff departed for Orange to fulfill another engagement.

Representatives from Orange, Parkes, Molong, Yeoval and other R.S.L. sub-branches at

Parkes, Molong, Yeoval and other R.S.L. sub-branches attended.

It was an occasion that will live long in the memory of Cumnock.

Mr. P. Hopper acted as official photographer at the request of the R.S.L.