

## Wang Wauk Memorial Church.

### OFFICIAL OPENING.

(From our correspondent.)

One of the most successful functions ever held in this district was the official opening of Wang Wauk Soldiers' Memorial Church on Anzac Day. The weather was perfect and a large crowd of people attended from all parts of the district.

The committee wish to heartily thank all who helped to make the day a success—all who attended and the speakers.

Apologies were received from Rev. S. P. Stewart, Evangelist W. J. Crossman, Messrs. Theo. Hill, R. S. Vincent and J. J. Fitzgerald, M's.L.A., and Cr. H. E. Milligan, President of Manning Shire Council.

Mrs. James Mitchell was organist.

The programme commenced with the hymn, "All people that on earth do dwell," and prayer by Rev. J. W. McCredie. Rev. C. W. Nicholls gave a reading from the Bible.

Mrs. McKnight and Mrs. Munro, mothers of fallen soldiers, then unveiled the memorial tablet, on which is inscribed, "To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Sgt. G. S. Lamborn, 6th Light Horse, died of wounds July 25, 1915; Pte. C. McKnight, 3rd Batt., killed in action, July 23, 1916; Driver R. C. McKnight, 13th F.A.B., died of wounds, Sept. 29, 1917."

The Prayer of Dedication was offered by Rev. C. W. Nicholls, and the hymn, "O God our Help in ages past" was sung.

Mr. T. H. Williams read the following presidential address:—"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—On behalf of the residents, I heartily welcome you to the opening of this Soldiers' Memorial Church. We are very pleased at such a nice gathering of people to witness and take part in this opening and unveiling ceremony. This building has been erected in memory of those young soldiers (Sgt. G. Lamborn, Pte. C. McKnight and Driver R. McKnight, sons of Mrs. Monro and Mr. and Mrs. McKnight) who left this river and Australia's shores to help and to fight in the last colossal war of nations, when ten million soldiers, the prime of the manhood of those fighting nations, gave their lives. Amongst these were those young men, full of health and hope and will, with a purpose to help pull their country and Empire out of its catastrophic difficulty. Unfortunately, the hand of fate intervened, and their lives and help were cut short by the deadly missiles of

cut short by the deadly missiles of the opposing foe, much to our sorrow and very much to the sorrow of their parents. To keep in memory the life of these boys, the residents here clubbed together, had meetings and elected officers, collectors and committees. Collecting was started with a will by the direct or straight-out canvass for donations. This was successful and made all concerned very hopeful. It was then decided to start the semi-direct collecting by means of a popular girl competition. This was still more successful than the direct or straight-out collecting. It was then decided to try the indirect mode of gathering in funds, and the holding of a village fair and concert at night was decided upon. Both these were successful and augmented the funds so much that this building will be opened free of debt and a small balance is in hand for any other necessities. Whilst the collectors were busy seeking for more funds, the building committee called for tenders for the construction of the church building. The successful tenderer was Mr. Alf. Woodward, of Nabiac. The material having been purchased by the committee, work was immediately started, and finished, as you now see it. The painting of the building was let to Mr. Buderus, of Taree, the colors being chosen by the building committee. The construction and painting has been faithfully done by both contractors. Now, I wish to thank the subscribing public for their generosity. The whole of this memorial work has only been made possible by the generosity of a liberal public. I most sincerely thank them for their donations and for the willing way it was given. I also thank all those ladies who gave their time and help to collect the donations and gifts. I will now give you some idea as to how our funds stand. The whole amount collected to date is £486. The expenditure to date amounts to £395. The balance in hand is £91; out of this amount there will come the completion of the fence, purchase of more furniture, insurance and cost of conversion of the land and deeds. The officials were: Messrs. T. H. Williams (chairman), D. Cameron (treasurer), J. Ready, and afterwards C. T. Harwood (secretary), Don Worth, C. T. Harwood and J. T. Worth (trustees); H. McKnight, J. T. Worth, C. T. Harwood and D. Cameron (building committee). Popular girls: Misses W. McKnight, E. Mitchell, G. Newell, N. Slater and M. Carter. Secretary to popular girls and village fair, Mrs. T. H. Williams. Collectors, Miss Rene Mitchell, Mrs. F. Bunt and Mrs. T. Williams, Messrs. R. Worth, D. Worth and D. Cameron. The architect for the building was Mr. J. Maybury. You now have the history of this memorial, which has taken 15 months to

now have the history of this memorial, which has taken 15 months to collect the funds for, and complete the building."

Rev. C. W. Nicholls congratulated the people on their effort. He thought a church was the right kind of memorial, as through the church we would cultivate the right spirit that our soldiers set us throughout the war. The example of those soldiers who died to make the world better and brighter left a duty to those remaining to see that this sacrificing effort was continued until their aim was fully accomplished.

Mr. Ernest Wright thanked the committee for the invitation extended to him and congratulated the people of Wang Wauk on their effort. Not many years ago, he said, the place was standing bush, and now there was a memorial church in a lovely position on a flat. He also thought a church was the very best memorial that could be erected.

Mr. Hanna thanked the committee for their invitation and congratulated them upon building a memorial

church. He counselled the parents to send their children early to Sunday school, and to accompany them to church, and to start as early as possible to bring up the children in the christian faith. "Very many times have I held service at Wang Wauk, and in the district," he added, "and it is with the greatest pleasure that I welcome, with the residents, the church building, both as a memorial to these fallen soldiers and as a place where religious services can be held. It is much different now to the olden days, when pad and track were the only way to get to these places, which now can be reached by motor car.

Mr. Horace Bowers said it was very pleasant to find that the soldiers were still remembered, and the feeling shown by the public towards them was most gratifying. The Australian soldier was comparatively a new chum, alongside the conscripted soldier of the European nations, but he had stood the test and stood it well, and had come out of that long-lived war as one of the best and the picked of the British forces. The fearlessness and endurance of the Australian soldier had no doubt been due to his having so much of the open air, and the variety of his work here in Australia. This, with his home life, school life, social and religious callings, made him a most valuable fighting unit, as well as a good citizen. On behalf of the soldiers, he expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Wang Wauk residents in erecting this church building in memory of the three A.I.F. men who met death at the front doing their duty.

who met death at the front doing their duty.

Rev. J. W. McCredie thanked the committee for their invitation. He said he was surprised to see such a fine gathering. When he got the invitation he did not think he would be able to come, but his way was made clear. This was one of the nicest functions he had ever been at. There were plenty of memorials, he added, some of which would last longer than this one; but none was so valuable, as a church would always grow. He was very pleased indeed that the people had decided on a memorial church. He impressed upon the men that they should go to church as well as women and children.

The hymn, "The Church's one Foundation," was sung, and Rev. C. W. Nicholls pronounced the benediction.

The ladies provided afternoon tea and lunch for the long distance visitors, and were kept extremely busy.

During tea time another very pleasing function took place, when Rev. C. W. Nicholls made the presentation address to all those assembled, and to the popular girls. He congratulated the girls on working so hard and so well together and gathering in the sum of £251/13/9. The object was a worthy one, and he knew they would not forget the happy days when they helped to swell the funds for the Soldiers' Memorial Church. He called upon Mrs. T. Williams (secretary for popular girls) to present the gifts to Miss W. McKnight (gold wristlet watch), Miss E. Mitchell (gold bangle and prayer and hymn book combined), Miss G. Newell (figured enamel clock), Miss N. Slater (gold chain and pendant) and Miss M. Carter (gold bangle and thimble). Mr. Horace Bowers responded for the girls, who, he said, had done their best to accomplish the work they had taken in hand. Their presents would always remind them of the happy days when they all worked together for the Soldiers' Memorial Church.