

# Memorial Hall

AT UNGARIE

OPENING BALL

Nearly 500 Attend

The Ungarie War Memorial Hall was officially opened on Tuesday night last, when a grand opening ball was held. As was confidently expected, an exceptionally large attendance resulted, about 250 couples from all parts of the district and surrounding towns being present, including a large contingent from West Wyalong. The large crowd were in good spirit, and notwithstanding the great floor space available, the hall was crowded to its utmost. Whilst dancing at times was uncomfortable, all present appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

George Hall and his Band of eight players were in rare fettle and kept the happy gathering in good spirits with a splendid programme of music, the manner in which they were continually engaged being sufficient proof of the music rendered.

The Secretary (Mr. Lance Hargreaves) and a committee consisting of Messrs A. W. Stidwill, E. E. Peterswald, J. Dodd, C. Neyland, L. C. Phillips, O. Haynes, and W. J. Baker have been working at "concert pitch" for weeks past so that the opening function would leave nothing to be desired, and the success which attended their efforts should in some way compensate these gentlemen for their work.

Mr. A. W. Stidwill carried out the duties of M.C. to the satisfaction of all.

Supper was served in the spacious supper room attached to the hall, three sittings being necessary. The ladies of the district, who formed themselves into a Committee, with Mrs. L. Hargreaves as Hon. Secretary, were responsible for all arrangements in connection with the supper. As is usually the case when the ladies take charge, a splendid repast was provided, and the Committee were most grateful for the assistance rendered by the ladies.

A large number of donations towards the supper were received, and Schweppes Ltd. donated a quantity of mineral waters to be disposed of in aid of the funds. These were on sale in front of the hall, and were in great demand. Chocolates for the novelty dances were donated by Mr. J. Simon.

Jazz caps were distributed at midnight, and these helped to brighten the proceedings.

The members of the Ungarie branch of the R.S. & S.I. League practically without exception, fell in be-

hind the Committee and rendered very valuable assistance.

A spot on a step was won by Mr. and Miss McMahon.

## THE OFFICIAL OPENING

About 10 p.m. Mr. E. E. Peterswald called the large assemblage together for the official opening of the hall. He said that this was the official opening of the hall which had been built in memory of those men who fell in the Great War. They should honor their memory, and he asked all to be upstanding and observe a two-minute silence, as a mark of respect to those who gave their lives that we might live.

Mr. Peterswald apologised for the absence of the President (Mr. H. C. Dryden) who through sickness was unable to be present. He regretted that illness should have robbed Mr. Dryden of the opportunity of acting as host that evening. He read a letter from Mr. Dryden, expressing regret at his absence, and although he was not present in person, he would be with them in spirit. He was proud that the people should have a hall in keeping with the town, and wished the Committee every success.

Mr. Peterswald, continuing, said that as this was the people's hall they should know the financial position in regard to the undertaking. By the generosity of Mr. D. N. Johns in donating two valuable blocks on which the hall and buildings now stood, the Committee were able to arrange for an advance of £1500 at 3 1/2 per cent. This was only made possible by the generosity of 10 local residents who guaranteed a sum of £500, which would remain a liability until the first £500 was paid off to the Unemployed Building Relief Committee. These arrangements were carried out by the President (Mr. Dryden) and Secretary (Mr. Hargreaves) and he assured them it was not an easy matter to bring the finance to a successful conclusion. However, they had been fully assisted in the matter by the Hon. E. A. Buttershaw, and the late Mr. Lionel Courtney. To these gentlemen and the guarantors, the public were greatly indebted. The committee had also expended about £300 on furniture and fittings. £50 had been spent for chairs, which had not yet arrived, and these would be added to as funds permitted. The R.S. and S. League had raised over £100, and the Committee wished to express appreciation of the League's effort and to the public generally. He also thanked those present for attending in such large numbers, the ladies for attending to the catering, and the proprietor of the "West Wyalong Advocate" (Mr. Parker) for the publicity given, which had been of great assistance. The speaker then introduced Mr. L. N. Johns (Patron) who had been invited to officially open

Guest Mr. L. N. Johns (Patron) who had been invited to officially open the hall.

Mr Johns, on rising, was greeted with prolonged applause. When the call went out, he said for volunteers, 550,000 young men answered it. Of these about 320,000 eventually embarked, and there was also a naval contingent and 3200 army nurses went across the sea. As a result of the manner in which these men fought, Australia was given a seat on the League of Nations. They had made Australia a nation. The British Parliament had put through legislation whereby Australia became a sister to Britain and no longer a daughter. She was equal in every respect, the only difference being the King, to whom all were in a position to appeal. 40,000 men were killed on the battlefield, 20,000 died of wounds, and since returning to Australia a further 52,000 of these men who were in the prime of life have passed away. There still remained with us 220,000 of these men, and it was our duty to see that they got a fair deal for the rest of their lives. It behoved everyone to see that they were generously treated. He had much pleasure in declaring the hall officially open. (Applause).