

## Unveiling Memorial Fountain

A large and enthusiastic crowd of residents and visitors, to the number of between four and five hundred people, assembled on the Esplanade on Monday afternoon to witness the unveiling of the Memorial Fountain presented to Altona by the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club. The fountain which was erected by Mr. J. Hopkins to his own design, is both ornamental and useful, and will be a lasting reminder of those to whom it was erected. Constructed of concrete, it has four alcoves, one on each side, and when completed each will have a tap to supply in unlimited quantities of the world's oldest brew, "Adam's Ale." It is surmounted by a dome top, and will be an embellishment to the town of Altona.

Cr. B. J. Maher, who presided, opened proceedings by addressing those present, and said that owing to the efforts of a patriotic body of the community they were there to receive a gift of value to the citizens and residents of other parts who visited Altona during the summer months. This gift was an inestimable boon to all. He had on the platform other gentlemen who would address them, and so would curtail his remarks.

The Rev. W. H. Edwards gave out the hymn, "Oh, God our help in ages past," which was sung soulfully by those present. At the conclusion of the hymn, Rev. Edwards gave the prayer.

Mr. J. H. Lister spoke feelingly, and stressed the generosity of Altona's returned soldiers in giving the whole of their funds in order to benefit the town in which they lived, by erecting this fine and lasting memorial to their valiant brethren overseas, and also some who had only come home to die. Not only had they erected the fountain, but they intended to carry on by building on to the present structure as opportunity offered. He said all residents, particularly the employers of labour, should stand by the returned diggers till the last of the A.I.F. was

diggers till the last of the A.I.F. was laid to rest beneath the soil from which they sprang. (Applause.)

The Rev. F. G. Hughes then read a chapter from the bible, after which Cr. Maher called upon Mrs. Fairman, the wife of the president of the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club to perform the ceremony of unveiling the fountain. This was done, and those present sang the National Anthem, the voices of the singers rolling up in planes of praise.

Cr. White, and Mr. J. Murphy, President of the Progress Association, also spoke, and both emphasised the ornamental and practical value of the gift to the citizens of Altona, who should realise how much effort it had taken the givers to raise the money which had paid for it. The town was rapidly progressing, but no matter how much it progressed the fountain was worthy of any town in Australia.

After another hymn, the assemblage remained whilst the sound of "The Last Post," splendidly sounded by Mr. A. Laird, floated on the air.

Mr. Freeman, on behalf of the club, thanked those present for attending, and those who had assisted in carrying out the ceremony, after which a flag was spread for voluntary contributions, which realised £4/6/6½.

The choral portion of the proceedings were in the hands of Mr. A. Smith, who officiated at the organ and also led the singing, both of which duties he carried out in a most efficient manner.

In the evening the Ex-Service Men and Women's Club held a most successful dance at Parham's Cafe. There was a splendid muster of dancers, and an equally good one of card players. The dance floor, which was in perfect condition, was hardly large enough to accommodate all who wished to dance. However, all difficulties were surmounted by the good humour and thorough enjoyment of those present. The successful prize winners were: Gent's prize, F. Vassie, jun.; lady's Mrs. Flood. When conclusion of the day was reached everyone went home tired but happy.