

KALBAR.**MEMORIAL STATUE UNVEILED.**

The Kalbar district, no less than any other, has done its share in helping in the Great War, and on Saturday afternoon there was unveiled at the Kalbar State school a memorial statue in honour of the district's fallen. There was a representative gathering on the pretty school site, the visitors from town including his Worship the Mayor (Ald. W. S. P. Gavagan) and Lieutenant Mather. Mr. J. W. Baker was the chairman, and in opening the proceedings, he said that the four boys whose names were on the memorial were loved throughout the district. The memorial had been provided by the funds raised by the ladies of the district, a function arranged by them yielding the handsome profit of £90. Of that money £30 was sent to Bundaberg and the £60 used to erect the memorial to their own boys. It was clear of debt and cost £60. The boys who left the Kalbar district for the war were among the best who left Australia, and they had been praised by entire strangers who had written of them in the southern press. He thanked the visitors for their attendance, and called on Mr. W. G. Gibson to speak.

Mr. Gibson welcomed the Bundaberg visitors and tendered an apology for Messrs. A. M. Broom and F. Haly. Proceeding, he said Bundaberg and districts were noted for their patriotic work, and the people were trying to memorialise the fine deeds of their boys by erecting memorials throughout the district. He hoped that in Bundaberg would shortly be ennumerated, and always remind them of their brave boys. The four boys whose names were on the Kalbar memorial—W. K. Wood, Lionel Tyson, P. Thygesen and Albert Taylor—he had known since their boyhood, and they were splendid boys. They had a reputation in the district of being manly men, and when the call of duty came they answered. They were splendid men, sober and respectable, boys the district could ill afford to lose. They had the parents of some of the boys present, and they respected them and sympathised with them. The venerable parents of Lionel Tyson were present—and they (the public) attended not only for the boys' sake, but also for the sake of their esteemed parents. It was said recently that some people would like to excise deeds of war from school books, but he disagreed with anyone who would stamp out the brave deeds of their boys in the past, for we were the richer because of their sacrifice. When they saw the present strife and turmoil in the world, they wondered where it was going to end, but history showed that there was always turmoil after wars, and he hoped the guiding hand of Providence would make things right. He suggested that once a year there should be an essay for the Kalbar scholars in connection with the memorial, and he would be pleased to provide the prizes. (Applause.)

His Worship the Mayor congratulated the people of Kalbar on their patriotic efforts during the war, and also on having the first memorial in the district. On behalf of the citizens of Bundaberg he extended deepest sympathy to the bereaved, who, he hoped, would be consoled by the knowledge that their sons gave their lives for justice and liberty. He also took the opportunity of extending a hearty welcome back to the returned men.

Mrs. W. G. Gibson then performed the ceremony of unveiling the memorial, which was covered with a big Union Jack. The audience remained standing, and subsequently sang the National Anthem. The memorial is in the centre of the garden in front of the school, and presents an imposing

appearance. It takes the form of a broken column, bearing military equipment, with a square base, the whole being white. The inscription is as follows:

In honoured memory of four boys, past scholars of Kalbar State School, killed in action during the Great War 1914-1918. W. K. Wood, killed 28th November, 1916, aged 19; P. A. Thygesen, killed 31st July, 1917, aged 23 years; L. G. R. Tyson, killed 16th August, 1917, aged 33 years; J. A. Taylor, killed 4th October, 1917, aged 32. "They rose responsive to their country's call, and gave for her their best—their lives—their all." Erected by the residents of Kalbar.

Situated in the pretty garden securely enclosed, the statue is one worthy of the cause, and the chairman explained that arrangements had been made with the Government by which the statue and land would remain the property of the residents if anything should happen to the school. As the memorial was uncovered, handsome wreaths were placed thereon in memory of the fallen.

Lieutenant Mather, in the course of his address, said it was not a day for sadness. If we had accomplished our mission in life what more was there to do? Such was his logic. There was a big responsibility on the rising generation. Every time they looked on that and other memorials, let it be a reminder of the past five years and an inducement to make Australia worthy of the sacrifices made. Let them regard the statue not as so much stone, but as typifying the spirits of those who gave their lives for them.

At this stage the chairman introduced the popular school teacher, Miss Duncan, to whose patriotic work Mr. Baker referred to in the very highest terms.

Dr. Gibson said he congratulated the committee in getting in ahead of those people who were endeavoring to suppress deeds that won the Empire, and

he was pleased to see that the Kalbar residents were upholders of the great British Empire. (Hear, hear.) Continuing, he paid a warm tribute to the fallen boys.

Mrs. W. G. Gibson was then called upon to present a number of peace medals to the scholars.

The ceremony of unveiling was a successful one in every way, and reflects the greatest credit upon those responsible.