

Woongarra School

HONOUR BOARD UNVEILED.

At the Woongarra School yesterday afternoon, an Honour Roll, bearing the names of 13 past scholars of the school, who enlisted for active service, five of whom have since made the great sacrifice, was unveiled by Rev. Canon Beasley, in the absence of the Minister for Public Instruction (Hon. H. F. Hardacre) in the presence of a large attendance of parents and residents of the locality. The Honour Board which is attractively designed in polished oak is hung on the southern wall of the school, and the names inscribed thereon are—A. Plant, H. Plant, H. Elvery, F. J. Bui steeorth, A. J. Hall, W. Greathead, R. H. Stalton, A. Dahl, W. Peters, W. Hay and E. Westwood.

Mr. P. A. Jorgensen, Chairman of the School Committee presided, and in opening the proceedings delivered a brief but singularly appropriate address. He pointed out that life was made up of a constant round of duties—some small, some great, and the greatest of all was the duty of rallying to the defence of one's country in periods of danger. The past scholars of the Woongarra School had in large numbers, proportionately, nobly responded to this great call to duty and of the twelve who had volunteered he regretted deeply to say that no fewer than five of them had been called upon to lay down their bright young lives, but in doing so they had won imperishable memory in the minds of all who knew them and they had won for themselves an immortal place among the sons of the Empire who had rallied to her side in her hour of great peril in defence of the liberties of the world. They, who had remained behind had a high duty to perform and that was to see to it that the valour of their boys would never be forgotten and that as far as they possibly could they should ensure for them due reward on their home-coming when a victorious and lasting peace had been secured. He invited Canon Beasley to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Canon Beasley who was received with applause, voiced his sincere regret that Canon Garland who had consented to perform the ceremony in the unavoidable absence of the Minister for Education, had been unable to be present with them that day and tendered an apology on his behalf. Continuing, he said that it was in these circumstances that the privilege of unveiling the Board had fallen to him. As they doubtless knew the purpose of such boards was to perpetuate the names of those brave young fellows who had lived in that district and had been pupils at the Woongarra School and whom they deemed worthy of honor. They were worthy of honor, why? Because they had offered their lives for their King and Country. They realised when they enlisted that they were offering their lives; they knew the war was no picnic; the real sacrifice was made when a man decided to enlist. What was meant by dying for one's King? The King did not want them to die for him; not at all; but what was meant was that when a man died for his King he died for one who personified the whole Empire. After voicing words of sincere sympathy with the afflicted families, Canon Beasley unveiled the board.

The National Anthem was rendered by the children under the leadership

of the head teacher (Mr. J. J. Davies) after which Mr. Fried. Courtice moved a vote of thanks to Canon Beasley for performing the ceremony and said while they were all sincerely desirous of seeing the war brought to a successful conclusion for the Allies they would none the less unite in the hope that the present would be the last war, and that the nations of the world would evolve a means of settling their quarrels that was more in keeping with their claims to civilisation.

The motion was carried by acclamation. Thereafter the afternoon was given up to picnicking, the committee and the head teacher (Mr. Davies) with Miss Younger (assistant teacher) also Mrs. Davies and the ladies of the District looking well after the entertainment of the little ones. The catering arrangements were in the hands of a band of enthusiastic ladies. Prior to the gathering breaking up the children were formed in lines by Mr. Davies and Mr. T. G. Arnfield, M.L.A.—who arrived shortly after four o'clock, having previously performed the opening ceremony at Thabeban School—briskly addressed them in terms appropriate to the occasion. Cheers were then upon given by the children for Mr. Arnfield, also for the ladies who were responsible for the catering and for Mr. R. Brown, stationer and tradesman of Bourkes-street, for a donation of garden seeds. Before separating the children sang the National Anthem.