

ORBOST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2007

ORBOST'S WAR MEMORIAL



'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday, February 22, 1956.

Clock Tower and Fountain For Orbost's War Memorial

ORBOST'S MEMORIAL TO THE HEROES OF TWO WORLD WARS, WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A FOUNTAIN, SURMOUNTED BY A CLOCK TOWER.

This was decided by a public meeting called for the purpose and held in the shire chambers on Wednesday evening last. About 20 persons representative of the various public bodies of the town and district, were present.

The meeting favoured a monument as a memorial, where the people could gather and pay homage to the fallen, rather than a utility type of building, which they claim would be forgotten in the march of time.

OFFICIALS ELECTED

A committee consisting of Mesdames K. Lynn, B. Stevenson, M. Kerr, R. R. Johnston, C. Morgan, B. Martin, J. Somerville, Miss B. Lambert; Messrs. K. Lynn, R. R. Johnston, R. Smith, J. Ralston, A. Cameron, R. Hall, N. J. Briggs, R. H. McDonald, W. J. Gray, K. Moore and L. Walker—was appointed to discuss ways and means of raising finance and other details.

Cr. R. R. Johnston was elected president, Cr. K. Moore vice-president, Mr. L. A. Walker secretary, and Mr. N. J. Briggs, treasurer.

It was decided that organisers of any function in aid of the memorial, within ten miles of Orbost, should apply to the executive for dates to avoid clashing.

The president, Cr. R. R. Johnston, appealing for unity of purpose, said that the present appeal was the third

one that had been launched for the memorial. He said he voiced the sentiments of all concerned that the appeal this time would meet with the response deserved and be drawn to a successful conclusion.

'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday, February 22, 1956.

Orbost War Memorial Appeal Re-opened

The appeal for funds to erect a suitable war memorial where the people of Orbost and district can pay homage to their fallen heroes, has once again been launched, and the president and committee are seeking the help and co-operation of all town and district residents to bring the appeal to a successful conclusion.

The amount to be raised — possibly in the vicinity of £1500-£1800 — is not beyond the reach of a prosperous and growing area such as ours, where nature has been lavish with a succession of bountiful seasons, free from any major set-backs.

It is felt that the citizens of Orbost and district will not let the call go unheeded and will meet the challenge and erect a memorial worthy of the cause it represents.

DONATIONS TO DATE

Sir Albert Lind, M.L.A. £5/5/; Mr. Keith Lynn £10/10/; Mr E. T. Broome £1/1/; Noorinbee North State School, £1; Genoa State School £1; Miss M. Morrison £2/2/; Wairewa State School 10/6/; Mr G. E. Cameron £5/5/; F. E. Pardew and Sons £50; Orbost High School £14/15/9; Newmerella State School, £1/8/; Mr. A. E. Trewin £10/10 — Total £103/7/3.

Donations may be left at the Shire Office, with the treasurer (Mr N. Briggs) or at the "Mail" office.

'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday, February 29, 1956.

Orbost Rotary To Aid War Memorial

Orbost Rotary Club has set as its objective for 1956 to aid funds of the Orbost War Memorial and in this connection a big navigational trial and motorkhana will be held on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, March 16 and 17.

The navigational trial will be of about four hours' duration starting at approximately 7.30 p.m. on Friday, March 16.

Entry fees of £1 per car may be lodged with Mr R. B. Cope, of Nicholson Street.

An interesting programme of events has been drawn up for the motorkhana to be held on the Recreation Reserve on Saturday afternoon, March 17th.

A carnival, with merry-go-round and all incidentals will be run in conjunction by members of the R.S.L.

Trophies will be awarded to the winning driver and navigator in the trial and to all winners of motorkhana events.

Last year a similar function, with the carnival, raised £353.

'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday, February 27, 1957.

ORBOST'S MEMORIAL CLOCK EXPECTED THIS WEEK

Orbost's War Memorial clock is expected to arrive at the end of this week. The memorial tablet is on hand and will be fitted shortly.

The opening ceremony has been fixed for Anzac Day. The unveiling will be performed by Colonel J. W. F. Connan from Morwell, who will also be the guest speaker at the Anzac Day service.

The memorial is now nearing completion and the public is asked to help see that it is opened free from debt, by forwarding donations to the "Mail" office, Shire Secretary, or Mr J. Briggs, at the cordial factory.

Previously acknowledged — £1163/3/7; A. B. Nichol, Bonang £1; anonymous £1. Total £1165/3/7.



'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday, April 3, 1957.

WAR MEMORIAL OPENING ANZAC DAY

Arrangements have been made for the opening ceremony of Orbost's war memorial, to take place on Anzac Day.

The memorial committee will be called together during the second week in April, to receive a full report from the executive committee on the progress on the memorial and other matters regarding the opening ceremony.

Some difficulties have been experienced by the clock manufacturers but they have now assured the committee that the clock is almost complete, and will be installed in plenty of time for the opening ceremony.

Previously acknowledged — £1165/3/7; J. L. £5; Clara A. Cameron, Marlo, £3/3; Mrs M. Amey, £1. Total £1174/6/7.

'Snowy River Mail' — Wednesday, April 24, 1957.

District War Memorials Dedicated To-morrow

ORBOST'S WAR MEMORIAL WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED TO-MORROW (ANZAC DAY) BY COL. J. W. CONNAN, AT 2 P.M.

Other speakers at the ceremony will be Sir Albert Lind M.L.A., Mr J. G. Ralston (president Orbst branch R.S.L.) and Mr T. Parkinson (representing the State president of the R.S.L.

Following the unveiling ceremony and dedication (which will be carried out by a member of the Orbst Ministers' Fraternal) wreaths will be laid.

All returned men are asked to assemble at the Post Office at 1.45 p.m. to march to the memorial and after the unveiling ceremony the salute will be taken by Col. Connan during the march past.

Members of the public are invited to lay wreaths on the memorial after the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies at the memorial the afternoon will take the form of previous years, with a service in the Mechanics' hall. Col. J. W. Connan will deliver the address.

CANN RIVER CEREMONY

At Cann River, the Cann Valley memorial will be officially unveiled and dedicated at ceremonies to commence at 10.30 a.m.

Sir Albert Lind, M.L.A., will perform the unveiling ceremony.

'Snowy River Mail' — Wednesday, May 1, 1957

Orbst's War Memorial Dedicated

Large Numbers Attend Impressive Anzac Day Ceremonies

About 500 people gathered in Nicholson Street, on Thursday last (Anzac Day) to witness the official opening and dedication service of Orbst's first public war memorial. The majority of those present later moved to the Mechanics' hall to be present at a commemorative service to Orbst's war dead.

Over an hour before the march of returned was due to commence, people began to gather on the footpaths and at vantage points adjacent to the memorial.

The day was mainly sunny, with occasional patches of cloud, but a choppy wind made it difficult for some sections of the crowd to follow the amplified proceedings.

At 1.45 p.m. the march of returned men moved off from the place of assembly at the Post Office and were joined at the monument by contingents of Boy

Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides and Brownies.

Shire president, Councillor R. R. Johnston presided over proceedings at the memorial.

Cr Johnston, who is president of the War Memorial Committee, said the committee had been criticised somewhat for what some people claimed was the memorial's lack of architectural beauty. He said the committee had given much thought to the design of the structure, which would now be a symbol of everyone's gratitude to the men who laid down their lives in two world wars.

Councillor Johnston paid tribute to the contractor responsible for the erection of the monument, Mr H. Richter; shire engineer, S. E. Canard, and engineering assistant, M. Dryvers, for valuable help and advice. He thanked the committee, and especially its secretary, Mr L. A. Walker, for the amount of work, they had performed, and congratulated the general public, who had made it possible for the Memorial to be officially opened and dedicated practically free of debt.

Mr Herman Richter, the contractor who built the Memorial Clock Tower in Nicholson Street, Orbst.

**Photo:
Rae Wilkinson**



WELL THOUGHT OUT RESULT

Col. J. W. F. Connan expressed the pleasure and privilege he felt at being able to participate in the opening ceremony and the culmination of Orbst's effort to erect a war memorial. He set towns of a much larger size than Orbst were still arguing about the size and design of their memorials. Orbst's need had been fulfilled by the erection of its clock tower. He said it was a well thought-out result to a knotty problem.

Col. Connan said he believed a memorial should be something to earn the respect of passers-by, and he felt there were many amongst those present who would lift their hat as they passed the Cenotaph.

MANY FAMILY LOSSES

The unveiling of the plaque bearing the words "In Memory of the Fallen — Lest We Forget" was performed by Mr R. J. Mosley, who said the monument was both ornamental and serviceable, and would as the days go by, serve as a reminder of the deeds of Australia's fighting sons. Mr Mosley spoke of the part his own family had played in the last great conflict, and said he did so to illustrate the very many losses sustained by families throughout the Orbst district.

PRESENT FREEDOM MADE POSSIBLE BY SACRIFICE

President of Orbost R.S.L. Mr G. J. Ralston, and Mr T. Parkinson, a Past President, Past Secretary, and a District Councillor Orbost R.S.L. also spoke. Mr Ralston said he only recently had heard an address by an original Anzac and he felt very great work was being carried on by the present generation. To those who had lost dear ones, he hoped the memorial may prove a help to them in their sorrow.

Mr Parkinson told those present that the memorial would be a constant reminder of those gallant men who fell so that those who are left may have a free life. To the hundreds of persons who pass along the Princes Highway the structure would bring to mind that the freedom now taken for granted was only made possible by the deeds and sacrifices of those men to whom homage was paid that day.

ORBOST REMEMBERED BY ITS MEMORIAL

Sir Albert Lind, M.L.A., said he was not concerned with the shape and size of a monument. He now saw Orbost citizens happy that they had a monument to the men who gave their lives voluntarily. It was the duty of all to instil into coming generations the sacrifices made by our fighting men — not only those who gave their lives, but those who risked their lives.

When people travelled through Orbost in future, said Sir Albert, they will remember it, not because of any particular building, but for its beautiful war memorial, situated at the junction of two great highways.

The memorial was not only a monument to those good fellows of the fighting services, but also a monument to the people of Orbost, for erecting it, concluded the speaker.

MONUMENT DEDICATED

Members of Orbost's Ministers Fraternal, Rev. S. L. Chant, Rev. T. W. Hewlett and Pastor D. Tarran conducted the dedication ceremony, and after flags were lowered to half mast, wreaths were placed at the base of the memorial.

After the Last Post was sounded and the salute taken by Col. Connan, the gathering move to the Mechanics' hall where the Anzac Day commemorative service was held.

ANZAC SERVICE IN MECHANICS' HALL

The order of service at the Mechanics' hall took the form of previous years.

Following an item by Orbost High School choir, and introductory remarks by Shire President, Cr. R. R. Johnston, the hymn "O God Our Help", was sung. Mr G. Perry rendered a solo item "The Bugles of England".

The address was delivered by Col. J. W. F. Connan, of Morwell after which Sir Albert Lind spoke and stressed how privileged he felt at being able to join with Orbost in paying homage to her former fighting men.

A collection to aid distressed fund; the Lord's Prayer and the hymn "Recessional", followed.

Two minutes silence, Last Post and the National An-

them concluded the service.

Accompanists were Miss F. Cameron, Mrs D. McKenzie, and Mr Alex Cameron.



The War Memorial later in the day following the official opening ceremony.

Photo: Rae Wilkinson.

"Snowy River Mail", Wednesday, May 5, 1957:

Orbost's War Memorial

Orbost's War Memorial, officially unveiled, and dedicated on Anzac Day, is an imposing structure, ideally situated.

"When people travel through Orbost in future," said Sir Albert Lind, M.L.A., at the unveiling ceremony "they will remember the township, not because of any particular building, but for its beautiful War Memorial, situated at the junction of two great highways".

The central column and base of the memorial are of reinforced concrete. Part of the base is faced with plain surface tapestry bricks, varnished to enhance their colour.

All other exposed parts of the base and column are cement rendered, with matte finish. Wrought iron inserts incorporated in the base structure relieve the angularity of the base.

An enclosed concrete paved area is surrounded by a low wrought iron fence.

The clock movement is electrically operated from storage batteries in a recess below the monument. The unit is regulated by a pendulum in the lower part of the column and the dial is driven by a flexible drive situated in a duct in the column.