



RETURNED SAILORS & SOLDIERS IMPERIAL
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

HISTORY of the
GOSFORD-SUB BRANCH

THE EARLY YEARS

1919-1929

AS RECORDED IN THE *GOSFORD TIMES*

Volume One

Compiled by Dr Richard G. Van Wirdum

Minutes are dated and written verbatim as appeared. All articles are written in historical format.

Acknowledgement

The following records of Minutes are taken as printed from the *Gosford Times 1919-1929*

I wish to thank Mr Geoff Potter, Local History, Gosford Library for his assistance as without whom there would be no records dealing with the history of the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned & Services League. I would also like to thank the staff of the Gosford Library for their assistance. Mr Greg Mawson, President of the Gosford Sub-Branch and his Committee for giving me the opportunity to record the early history of these minutes and to the members of the Sub-branch for wanting to know about the early history of their Sub-branch

Dr Richard G. Van Wirdum

Monday, March 25, 2013.

Contents

1919.....	1
1920.....	3
1921.....	36
1922.....	80
1923.....	96
1924.....	118
1925.....	119
1926.....	134
1927.....	169
1928.....	196
1929.....	237
Appendix One	
Committee Members Gosford Sub-Branch	257
Appendix Two	
Committee Members Brisbane Water District Club.....	263

CHAPTER ONE

The Early Years

Introduction

World War 1 left behind a vast legacy of sorrow. The loss of sixty thousand (60,000) Australians meant that scarcely a family in Australia was left untouched. Yet for many, the sadness was delayed or unresolved. There was a lasting grief. The lack of details about the fate of more than twenty-three thousand (23,000) missing soldiers delayed the grief for their families.¹ The R. S. & S. I. L. A. (Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia) was formed in 1916 by troops returning from the First World War with the aim of continuing the camaraderie, concern and mateship shown amongst the Australian Diggers.² The R. S. & S. I. L. A. was formed in New South Wales in 1917.³

November 25, 1919

RETURNED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS, ASSOCIATION

A meeting of local returned soldiers was held at the Drill Hall, Gosford on Tuesday night last, for the purpose of forming a Sub-branch of the above Association. Captain E. K. White was elected to the chair. Mr G. Yeats, the Assistant Organiser, was present from headquarters and explained the aims and objects of the League, which was a purely non-political body, aiming at getting a fair deal for the returned soldiers and sailors. At the conclusion of the address it was decided to form a Sub-branch in Erina Shire and the officers elected were; President, Mr E. K. White; Vice-Presidents, Messrs W. Moase, R. J. Bosanquet and L. O. Millar; Treasurer, Mr C. H. Davis; Secretary, Mr W. E. Bendry.

Messes White, Moase and Davis were appointed to represent the branch at the Soldiers, Memorial Meeting at the Shire Office and place the suggestions of the League, as to what form the Memorial would take, before that meeting. Meetings of the Branch are

¹ National Archives of Australia, 2008, *Shell-Shocked, Australia After Armistice*, national Archives of Australia

² 2013, *History of the R. S. L.*, www.anzacappeal.com.au/history-and-events/rslhistory

³ Returned and Services League of New South Wales, 2013, *History of R. S. L. in New South Wales*, www.rslnsw.org.au

to be held on alternate Friday evenings, commencing on 5th December. The Shire Council is to be asked for the use of the Shire Meeting Room for the purpose of holding League meetings. About 30 members were in attendance and the movement promises to be enthusiastically taken up.⁴

December 5, 1919

The fortnightly meeting of the local Branch of the above League was held at the Shire Chambers on Friday night last.

Present: Messrs E. K. White (President), W. Moase (Vice-President, H. C. Davis (Treasurer), W. E. Bendry (Secretary) and about 20 members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Several good suggestions were put forward for the raising of funds in connection with the building of a Memorial Club and a rough plan of the proposed building was submitted. A number of new members were enrolled. It was unanimously decided to write and thank the Shire for kindly granting the use of the Shire Hall for League meetings. A resolution was carried that the League was unanimously in favour of the candidature of Mr W. M. Fleming, the Nationalist candidate. Proceedings then terminated in order to allow members to attend a political meeting. The next meeting will be held at the Shire Chambers on Friday, December 19th at 7 45 p.m.⁵

December 19, 1919

The fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Branch of the above League was held in the Shire Hall, Gosford on Friday night. An apology was received from the President, Captain E. K. White. Suggested by Mr Moase and supported by Mr Davis that a circular be sent out to all returned soldiers explaining the objects of the League and urging them to join up. Several names were mentioned in connection with the forthcoming Shire Election and the Secretary was instructed to interview the members in question with the object of securing a candidate for F Riding.

⁴ Baker Robert James, 1919. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, November 27. Mann St. Gosford
⁵ Baker Robert James, 1919. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 11. Mann St. Gosford

It was decided to run a moonlight excursion about the end of the year and promote a combined Art Union-grass-fed race meeting and sports on the Showground on Anniversary Day. Special Committees were formed in connection therewith. With regard to the moonlight excursion, it was unanimously decided to distribute complimentary tickets to the ladies of the local Red Cross in order to show our appreciation of the splendid way in which they have stuck to the boys. The question of holding meetings once a month in lieu of every fortnight was deferred. The next meeting will be held in the Shire Hall on Friday night, January 2nd.⁶

1920

January 30, 1920

The usually fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia was held at the Shire Office on Friday night, January 30, and there was a record attendance. Several new members were enrolled and judging by the tone of the meeting there are many more to follow. The minutes and correspondence were read and received and the Secretary was instructed to write and thank the A. and H. Association for granting the use of the Showground for the purpose of the Sports meeting.

The question of representation on the Erina Shire Repatriation Committee was finally discussed and the League President (E. K. Wright) was nominated to replace Mr Wilkinson of Wyong, in the event of that gentleman tendering his resignation as suggested by the League. Appreciation was expressed at the action of Mr R. J. Baker, who voluntarily offered to resign in favour of a returned man if the League so desired. Mr L. O. Millar, Repatriation Secretary, promised to write to the Repatriation Department in connection with the nomination of Mr E. K. White. A fuller discussion of Repatriation matters will take place at the next meeting on February 13.

The date of the proposed Sports was altered from March 13th to Saturday, April 17th, in order to allow the Sports Committee adequate time to dispose of the six thousand (6,000) art union tickets, which are being issued within the next few days. This art union

⁶ Baker Robert James, 1919. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 11. Mann St. Gosford

is in aid of the proposed Gosford Soldiers' Club and the League earnestly solicits the support of the public in the disposal of the tickets. The meeting was closed earlier than usual in order to allow the Sports Committee to hold a special meeting. Since the above had been written, the Erina Shire Election results have come to hand, and the League heartily congratulates Mr Baker on his splendid win.

W. E. BENDREY

Hon. Secretary.⁷

February 13, 1920

The Gosford Sub-Branch held its usual fortnightly meeting on Friday 13, and there was a good attendance. Sixteen new members have been enrolled since the last meeting, and many others are waking up to the fact that the League is a good proposition. The membership has passed the fifty mark and we hope to see it well on towards one hundred before the close of 1920.

Minutes of the previous meeting and voluminous correspondence were read and received. The alien question will be the subject of discussion at the Annual Congress in April when some definite policy will no doubt be enunciated.

Messrs E. K. White, H. B. Smith and R. G. Bosanquet were selected to represent this Sub-Branch at the Reception which is being tendered to General Birdwood on April 6 and Messrs C. H. Davies and E. K. White were selected to attend the Annual Congress on April 7. Invitations were received and accepted from the Gosford Girls' Patriotic Society and the Wyong Sub-Branch of the League.

Several copies of the proposed "Newcastle Diggers' Journal" were passed around for inspection and it was unanimously decided to inform the Newcastle Branch "that the Journal meets with our approval and should prove a good investment for the League."

Repatriation matters were fully discussed and the following course was decided on

1. That every effort be made to ensure the removal of Mr A. Wilkinson from the Executive Committee.

⁷ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, February 5. Mann St. Gosford

2. That the individual members of the Executive be written to and asked whether in the event of a vacancy occurring on the Executive that they are prepared to support the Returned Soldier nominee
3. To place the facts fully before the "Gosford Times" and "Smith's Weekly"
4. To bring the matter before the Minister for Repatriation. If the above action fails to ensure the desired representation, a public campaign will be launched and it is hoped that the weight of public opinion will route the enemy and give the Diggers that which they desire above all things "A Square Deal."

A moonlight harbour excursion will be run on Wednesday night, March 3 and the launch (to hold 150) will leave the Gosford Wharf at 7 30 p.m., returning at 10 30 p.m. There will be a piano on board, so get in early and obtain a ticket from the League Secretary. Tickets are 2/- each and admission on board is by ticket only.

Will all returned men please note that the old "War Service Leave Gratuity" which was previously paid up to and including the date of disembarkation is now payable up to within fourteen days of discharge. Therefore, thousands of Diggers who were not discharged shortly after landing in Australia will benefit. Forms of application may be obtained at the local Post Office.

The next meeting of the League will be held on Friday night at 8 p.m., in the Shire Hall.

W.E.BENDREY
Hon. Secretary.⁸

To the Editor

I have been instructed by the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. L. I. A. to ask you to publish the following letter in order that the people of Erina Shire may clearly understand the position in relation to Repatriation matters and how all the powers of the local Committee have been delegated to an Executive of seven members, who sit and observe the utmost secrecy as to their doings and presumably will continue to sit till Doomsday (irrespective of their eligibility or otherwise) unless removed by force of

⁸ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, February, 19. Mann St. Gosford

public opinion which, please God for the sake of the returned soldiers, will (in the case of at least two or three of its members) be soon.

Briefly, I understand that when the Repatriation was introduced, a public meeting was held at Gosford and those present constituted the local Committee. This Committee was then required to elect five out of the seven members of the Executive and the following were duly elected. Messrs Renwick, Stayner, Baker, Wilkinson and Davies. Then came the question of Government nominees and the Shire being the Local Government body of the area, was communicated with and through some tortuous process or other the Shire President (Councillor F. R. Archbold) who was rejected at the public meeting ballot and therefore disapproved, was, with the local Bank Manager, Mr C. Hills, elected two Government nominees. And thus we find the Shire President in due course, but not by the voice of the people, filling the position of President of the Repatriation Executive.

At a later stage Mr Davies, owing to leaving the district, resigned his position on the Executive. And then some more smart work was put in. Who was to be appointed to succeed Mr Davies. Information was obtained from the Repatriation Department to the effect that any vacancy on the Executive must be filled by the same public meeting that elected the original Committee. Mr Ogden resigns his position as Secretary.

Then a public meeting is held at the Shire Office, the object being to confer on the Executive the powers alleged to be held by those who attended the original meeting. Well, this meeting was held it would have lapsed for want of a quorum had not one of the local doctors (who was passing at the time) been called in to complete the quorum. I am told that this meeting was conducted by five persons, including the Shire President, Shire Clerk, Assistant Shire Clerk, a newspaper man and a doctor, the powers possessed by the public were handed over to the Executive, among the powers being the sole right of recommending any person who was to be appointed to the Executive to fill any vacancy.

The public had ceased to have any say in the matter. They had sold their birth right. The Regulations certainly permit the local Committee to take such action, but surely, it was never intended that FIVE men should hand over all the powers of Repatriation for

the whole of the Shire for an indefinite period and we consider that the Repatriation Executive should not have accepted those powers from such an unrepresentative meeting. As a matter of course Mr Ogden was appointed by the Executive to fill the vacancy by the resignation of Mr Davies.

Having received numerous complaints relative to matters of Repatriation we decided that our best course would be to secure one or more direct representatives on the Executive and after perusing the names of the members of the Executive we unanimously decided to ask Mr Alex Wilkinson to resign in favour of our soldier nominee. After ten days delay Mr Wilkinson condescended to reply to the effect that he would ascertain from the Comptroller of Repatriation his ideas as to the desirability or otherwise of the returned soldiers having such representation Mr Wilkinson also asked for the name of the Soldiers nominee which was duly supplied, after the President (E. K. White) had reluctantly agreed to have his name submitted.

The Repatriation Executive was also written to and asked what would be its attitude towards the returned soldier's nominee and a reply was received from the Secretary containing the following motion. "In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Executive of the Erina Shire Repatriation Committee, the Executive would be glad to consider the claims of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers League of Gosford and Wyong." But is it not reasonable to think that this Executive (which outwardly and individually expresses all possible consideration to returned men) would have exceeded this motion and without equivocation emphatically endorsed the Returned Soldiers nominee?

We therefore doubt the sincerity of the motion and believe that the members of the Executive passed it with the firm belief that there would NOT be any vacancy if they, as individual members, could possibly avoid it. This League has a definite promise from Mr Baker that he is prepared to resign in favour of our nominee but we do not desire his resignation as he has given ample evidence of his sympathy for returned men and his ability as a member of the Executive.

The position therefore is this The Returned Soldiers of Erina Shire are denied representation on the Repatriation Executive on no moral or logical grounds. We are apparently considered fit to fight, suffer and die for our country, but this secretive

Executive considers that we are NOT eligible to adjudicate and decide the claims of our brother soldiers. Evidently these PUBLICITY SYMPATHETIC members opine that such duties are quite beyond our mentality and far-mindedness. Having practically been refused representation the following has been decided upon.

1. That Mr Wilkinson, for good and sufficient reasons, was asked to resign and failed to do so, steps will be taken to secure his removal.
2. To write to the individual members of the Executive and ask whether in the event of a vacancy they will support the Returned Soldiers nominee.
3. To place the fact of the case before "Smiths Weekly" and other papers.
4. To bring the matter before the Minister for Repatriation.

If the above actions to secure the desired representation among this secretive junta of seven (among whom there are men who could have fought but did not and men who could have given, but did not) then we will continue to fight and by virtue of public sympathy (which we are sure to enlist) and the weight of public opinion we hope to secure that representation.

In conclusion I would like to state that our President (who is our nominee for the first vacancy) has indicated that he is prepared to stand down in favour of a representation from the Wyong Branch. But it is deemed advisable to have a representative for the Gosford and Woy Woy as well as from Wyong.

Yours, and so on
W. E. BENDREY
Hon. Secretary⁹

27 February, 1920

The Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. Imperial League held its fortnightly meeting in the Shire Hall on Friday evening and there was a record attendance. The correspondence and minutes of the previous meeting were read and received.

⁹ *Ibid*

Some eleven months ago Mr Stockdale applied for a block of land near Matcham, but up to date nothing definite has been done despite the fact that repeated applications (both personal and written) have been made to the Repatriation Department and the Close Settlement Board. In view of the foregoing the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr Ashford, Minister for Lands and the Sydney Branch of the League, urging them to take immediate action in order to prevent the reversion of the land to the present owner.

Repatriation matters were extensively discussed, especially in connection with the policy of the League. The chief aim of the League was and is direct representation on the Erina Shire Repatriation Executive and until certain members of the present Executive modify their present attitude, it will be a case of "gloves off."

On the 15th instant, six members of the Erina Shire Executive were circulated and asked if they would be prepared (in the event of a vacancy on the Repatriation Committee) to support the League's nominee, Mr E. K. White. Satisfactory replies were received from four members, but Messrs Archbold and Ogden evidently considered the matter beneath their notice. These gentlemen might have had the courtesy to at least acknowledge receipt of the letter, but as they did not we leave the public to judge for themselves.

A proposal from Parramatta to reduce the yearly membership fee was allowed to stand over.

The local Riffle Committee will be asked for the date of their annual meeting in order to allow League members to be present and discuss the advisability or otherwise of infusing new life into the Club, which owing to the lack of enthusiasm and support is in danger of becoming non-existent.

In connection with the proposed sports meeting on April 17, it was decided to run a second day's sports in the Waterside Park on Anzac Day and obtain the necessary permission for same

W. E. BENDREY

March 11, 1920

The Gosford Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers League held its usual fortnightly meeting on Friday night last, and the roll up was as usual good. The minutes and correspondence for the past fortnight were read and received.

The question of Mr Stockdale's land application was mentioned and unless it is finalised prior to the State Congress on April 7, it will (if possible) be placed before the Minister.

Repatriation matters were fully explained by the President and the Secretary was instructed to write to the "Gosford Times" giving a clear statement of the facts and also to the Federal Member, Mr W. M. Fleming, with reference to the League's representation on the Repatriation Executive.

A letter from the Editor of "Aussie" (the well-known Diggers monthly magazine) was discussed and the League will undertake to boost it to the best of its ability. Intending subscribers should get in touch with the League Secretary.

The question of "Preference to Returned Men" was discussed; mention being made of the present Millions Club test case and existing vacancies on the local Shire Council.

As the Art Union tickets are not selling as they should it will be necessary to organise a local "drive." In the majority of towns the townspeople take a prominent part in raising funds for "Memorials" purpose, but in Gosford there is (if not complete apathy) a certain amount of that "why worry now the war is over feeling.) In Guyra (a town not as big as Gosford) the amount already raised by the public is something like fifteen hundred pounds (£1,500), three hundred pounds (£300) of which was obtained at the last day of the local show.

¹⁰ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 4. Mann St. Gosford

The Secretary was instructed to get in touch with the “Fathers Association” on Repatriation and other matters and ask that, if possible, they nominate a member to be present at the next League meeting on March 26.

W. E. BENDREY

Hon. Secretary.¹¹

Mr W. E. Bendrey, Secretary of the R. S. & S. I. League is in receipt of the following letter.

In order to be of assistance to all returned soldiers the military authorities particularly invite all not in possession of the Returned Soldiers Badges and Forms of Commissions, in the case of officers and returned soldiers and badges and certificates of discharge in the case of other ranks, to at once communicate with the Assistant Adjutant General, Victoria Barracks, Sydney and set out in the form of a statutory declaration the circumstances under which either or both of these items have been lost.

It will facilitate matters considerably if the applicant will obtain endorsement of some Government official (Police, Postmaster, &c.), to whom they are known and who can subscribe to their identity as a returned soldier. Regimental numbers rank and units must also be shown. On receipt of this declaration the applicant will, all being in order, be issued with an official form setting out his full military history.

It is further requested by the authorities that action as above indicated be taken by all concerned with the minimum of delay. It is in the personal interest of returned soldiers that they should have in their possession both the returned soldiers badge and form of commission or certificate of discharge of the history for which the authorities propose to issue.¹²

March 26, 1920

The Gosford Sub-Branch of the above league held its fortnightly meeting in the School of Arts and the attendance as usual was good. The minutes and correspondence for the preceding fortnight were read and received.

¹¹ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 18. Mann St. Gosford

¹² *Ibid*

Repatriation matters were again the subject of a lengthy discussion and it was decided that in the event of nothing further being received from the secretary of the Executive in connection with a meeting of the local Committee that the matter be reported to the Repatriation Department. In the event of a meeting of the local Committee being convened all "Diggers" are requested to be present.

At the annual State Congress on April 7, the League will be requested to take action to secure direct League representation on all Repatriation Executive Committees. As the Federal Government has decided to appoint one soldier on the Commonwealth Repatriation Committee there should be at least one soldier on each Repatriation Executive. The following motion was put and carried unanimously: "That no land agent should be allowed to hold the position of member of any Repatriation Executive.

Mr W. Moase offered to canvass for orders for "Aussie", the new Diggers Monthly Magazine.

New Members: At the forthcoming sports on April 17 and 26. A table (in charge of a number of the League) will be placed in a prominent position and all Diggers who are not members of the League are urged to hand in their names and help to strengthen the only organisation which is fighting solely for their interest.

The President (Mr E. K. White) will represent this Sub-Branch at the Official League Dinner, which is being tendered to General Birdwood on April 6.

As nothing further has been received from the School of Arts Committee in conjunction with the site for the proposed Memorial Club, it was decided to write to the Secretary.

Several members have unsuccessfully applied to the Repatriation and Lands Department for a copy of the *Soldiers Closer Settlement Act* and action will be taken to secure same. Evidently the Repatriation and Lands Department are doing their utmost to keep soldier settlers in the dark as much as possible.

The West Australian League is running a big sweep on the same lines as Tattersall's and those present at the meeting decided to send for a couple of tickets, the proceeds if any, to be placed in the League funds.

All Diggers are reminded that suit lengths of pure Marrickville tweeds may be purchased at the League Rooms, 118 Pitt Street in Sydney at about half the usual costs and several reliable firms in Sydney are prepared to make up the material for about three pounds three shillings (£3/3/-). This means that a tip-top suit will only cost five pounds ten shillings (£5/10/-) instead of ten or eleven guineas. The local league Secretary will give full particulars.

W. E. BENDREY
Hon. Secretary.¹³

April 9, 1920

The Gosford Sub-Branch held its fortnightly meeting at the Shire Hall on April 9 and the attendance, as usual, was good. The minutes and correspondence for the preceding fortnight was read and received.

Much regret was manifested when the Secretary, Mr W. E. Bendry, handed in his resignation due to his temporary departure from the district.

Repatriation was again discussed, Mr E. K. Wright (President) stated that he had interviewed Mr W. M. Fleming, our Federal member, in re. to Repatriation and that several matters of vital importance will be brought forward in the House when the Repatriation Bill is being discussed.

It is expected that on Saturday, weather permitting, Sports will be well patronised.

We regret to say that the tickets for the Lady War Workers' Social are not selling nearly as well as they should. The War Workers have done a great deal for the Soldiers and it is felt that it would be a pity to pay them so poor a compliment as to tender them a poorly attended social.

¹³ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, April 1. Mann St. Gosford

G. H. Moir

Hon. Sec.¹⁴

April 7, 1920

A meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League was held at the Shire Hall on April 7, at which there was a good attendance. The minutes and correspondence for the preceding fortnight were read and received.

Several interesting and important matters were again discussed. Owing to the books and so on not being returned in time, the Art Union Drawing had to be postponed till April 14. Meetings will now be held at the Shire Hall on the first Friday in every month at 7 45. p. m.

This Sub-branch has procured a number of copies of illuminated Addresses by the Bishop of Amiens and we are disposing of them at one shilling each (plus postage). They are well worth a frame. Same may be had on application to

G. H. Moir

Secretary¹⁵

June 3, 1920

The monthly meeting of the above Sub-Branch was held at the Shire Hall on Friday night, an exceptionally large number of members being in attendance. The minutes and correspondence were read and received.

Mr O. A. Vescay (Corner Stores) was appointed Distributing Agent for Federal Government Tweeds, which are now being issued by this Sub-Branch. This tweed is obtainable in three shades viz. (a) Two patterns, grey tweed, 14ozs per yard at seven shillings per yard; (b) 14 patterns brown, 16 ozs per yard, eight shillings per yard; (c) one pattern, 16 ozs per yard, nine shillings per yard. All members are requested to avoid unnecessary trouble and delay to make a second choice; also they must produce Discharge Certificates. In the event of members no being able to personally apply for this tweed, we think it would be advisable for them to register their Discharge Certificates to out "agent", who will, when he had taken a record of same, return them

¹⁴ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, April 15. Mann St. Gosford

¹⁵ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, May 13. Mann St. Gosford

in the same manner, to their respective owners. This tweed is available for members of the A. I. F. only. The estimated quantity of material required monthly by this Sub-Branch will be twenty-five suit lengths.

It was unanimously decided that our President, Mr E. K. White attend a luncheon which is being tendered to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, in Sydney.

In reference to a claim submitted by Mr Helsham of Narara, it was decided that this matter should be settled without further delay.

Returned Soldiers and Single Farms: A letter was received from the Erina S. S. fathers Association, urging this Sub-Branch to take the steps in reference to the following matter. On or about May 15, the Minister for lands (it is reported) proposed wiping out assistance to the returned soldiers in reference to the Single Farms. This, we consider is a matter for a good deal of consideration and a Committee was elected to make enquiries into the matter and at the same time the State Members are to be written to. A full report from our Committee is expected at our next meeting.

Art Union: The Secretary was advised to lodge an application for War Bonds for payment of prizes in connection with the recent Art Union as soon as possible.

Balance Sheets: Moved by Mr Helsham and seconded by Mr Stockdale that the Balance Sheets be received.

Deportation of Disloyal People &c: In reference to deportation the following motion was carried. "That this Sub-Branch of the R. S. S. I. League heartily supports the Commonwealth Government in its policy of deporting all those who have proved themselves disloyal to the Empire during the late war and the soldiers urge the Government to continue its policy energetically, irrespective of class, creed or financial status. This Branch further urges that the Government take some definite action to suppress disloyal utterances of a certain section of the Australian community and the transference of old world troubles to Australia, which as a whole is and should not wish them."

The Prince of Wales Visit to Gosford: Decided that the Secretary get in touch with the Wyong Sub-Branch, also with the returned men from Penang, Somersby, Woy Woy, Erina, Matcham, Ourimbah, Tumby Umbi, Kincumber and so on asking them to co-operate with the local Branch in the above function. It was decided that uniform would NOT be worn. It is also decided that the Gosford Band would be asked to lead a procession, consisting of returned men from the above places. The march would be from the School of Arts to Waterside Park.

Trading Concern: In reference to the Trading Concern, the following Committee were elected to inquire into the possibilities of the above. Messrs E. K. White, A. W. Helsham, C. H. Davies, D. E. Mobbs, L. P. Millar, W. Moase. F. Warmoll and J. Kirkness. A meeting of the above Committee will be held in the School of Arts next Saturday night, 7.30 being the stipulated time.

Recent Sports: Decided to write to Messrs A. A. Gollan and H. G. White thanking them for their valuable assistance given in connection with the recent Sports.

Gratuity Forms: The following paragraph is taken from "The Soldier" and may be of interest to any of the local "Diggers" who have lost their Discharge Certificate and cannot get their Gratuity Forms filled up. "It was recently noticed that the Military Authorities desired all ex-officers of the A. I. F. who were not in possession of a form of Commission and returned soldiers badge and other ranks of the A. I. F., who were not in possession of a returned soldiers badge and certificate of discharge, should communicate with the A. A. C., Victoria barracks, Sydney and in the Form of a Statutory Declaration, set out the circumstances under which either of both of these items had been lost; and as the intentions made of this announcement was to assist returned soldiers when the payment of War Gratuity was being . *At this point there is no further writing in the "Gosford Times"*.¹⁶

July 2, 1920

The monthly meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch was held at the School of Arts on Friday Night.

¹⁶ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 10. Mann St. Gosford

Resignation of President: Mr E. K. White handed in his resignation as President, stating that while his work required his undivided attention at present, he still hoped to take an active part in any function that may be organised by this Sub-branch and would attend meetings whenever possible. The resignation was accepted with regret.¹⁷

August 2, 1920

The general monthly meeting of the local Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' League was held at the School of Arts on Monday night. There was a very large attendance, representative of the S and S fathers' Association (Wamberal-Erina Branch) also being present.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

On the motion of Mr Davis, seconded by Mr Veesev, Mr E. K. White was re-elected President

CO-OPERATIVE TRADING CONCERN

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the establishment of a local co-operative trading concern and many solid suggestions were advanced, after which the following resolution was unanimously carried "That the Returned Men of this District form a Co-Operative Concern, to enable them to procure goods at a reduced rate." Instances were given by Padre Walker and Mr J. D. Kirkness regarding the successful manner in which the fruit growers were conducting their co-operative business.

Mr H. C. Woods (Boy's Industrial Home) spoke of the possibilities of the proposed co-operative concern at Gosford and referred to the Cessnock Co-operative Society as an instance of what could be done. Mr W. Beveridge, of Erina supported Mr Wood and suggested that the Cessnock Society be written to for particulars regarding rules and regulations, &c. The suggestion was adopted. Messes Bendrey, Kirkness, Wood, Walker, Millar, Davis and Mobbs were appointed a sub-committee to go further into the matter and report to the next meeting.

¹⁷ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, July 8. Mann St. Gosford

LOCAL AGENT

Mr O. A Veesey of the Corner Stores, has been appointed local agent for the Association

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL CROSS

A letter has been received from Rev. A. Renwick, Rector of Christ Church, inviting all Returned Men to take part in the above, which will take place in the Church Grounds at 3 p.m. on the 29th August. The invitation was accepted and all members are requested to attend the function.

DISLOYAL SUBJECTS

Regarding resolutions carried at our recent meetings in regard to disloyal subject, and so on a reply was received from the Prime Minister stating “that the representations made therein have been noted.”

CONGRESS

Messes Beveridge and Bromley (Dads' Association) placed two cases before the meeting and these will be forwarded to the District Secretary as soon as possible, so as to be placed before the Congress at Newcastle on 23rd August.

SUIT LENGTHS

Orders for June have been received by the Local Agent and all members who have received their material appear to be well satisfied. The order for July has been despatched and the consignment is expected to arrive in about a fortnight's time. It has been rumoured that parents of deceased soldiers, sailors or nurses are entitled to receive an amount of material, but the District Secretary, on being communicated with, states that no provision is made for this at the present time, but is of the opinion that in a few months' time material will be made available for them.

MEMBERS ROLE

Since last meeting a number of new members have been enrolled.

HELD OVER

Owing to the heavy business sheet before the meeting, a number of matters had to be held over, including organisation of sports to be held in aid of proposed Memorial Hall.

Election of Memorial Hall Trustees, Election of Committee, &c. These matters will be discussed at next meeting to be held on 3rd September.

G. MOIR, Secretary.¹⁸

September 3, 1920

The General Monthly Meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch was held in the School of Arts on Friday night, but owing to a very small attendance and as the business is of vital importance to the Branch, we were unable to deal with any of the business. An apology was received from the President, Mr E. K. White and Mr H. C. Wood was appointed to take the chair in his absence. The Chairman stated that it was a great pity that a lot of the local members would not take more interest in the League, as some of its members travel five or six miles to attend and then sometimes on account of such a small attendance, nothing of importance could be gone through. Several of the local members have not missed a meeting since the Sub-branch has started and in many instances go to considerable inconvenience to attend. Mr Wood stated that something should be done immediately to liven (*sic*) the enthusiasm of the members.

A resignation had been received from Mr C. H. Davis (Vice President) and stating that he was leaving the district at an early date. The Sub-branch fully appreciates the great work done by Vice President Davis and we wish him "The best of luck" wherever he goes.

A communication had been received from Colonel Dowse (2nd Military District) stating that the greater proportion of the 1914/15 Stars are now on hand and further suggesting that we organise a Dance, Social or some suitable function at which these Stars could be presented. All members are requested to forward in their full regimental particulars to the Secretary without further delay giving date of enlistment, date of embarkation and date of discharge so that a list can be sent down to Headquarters.

Tweeds: In reference to Suit Lengths, several enquiries have been made in reference to the delay of the July order. The General Secretary, Mr Hastings, has been written to

¹⁸ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, August 5. Mann St. Gosford

and in no doubt in a few days a satisfactory reply will be on hand. Orders for Suit Lengths for August have been despatched.

A Special General Meeting will be held in the School of Arts on Monday week, 13th September at 7.30 p.m. sharp. Members are earnestly requested to “roll up” and make it a success. The larger the attendance the more successful the meeting will be.

Business to date:

- (a) Election of Vice President
- (b) Re-election of Sports Committee 1920-21
- (c) Election of Memorial Hall Trustees
- (d) Organisation of Sports in aid of proposed Soldiers' Memorial Hall
- (e) Co-Operative Trading Concern
- (f) Re East Kogarah Proposition
- (g) Repatriation
- (h) General Meetings
- (i) 1914-1915 Stars
- (j) Soldier Settlements

Owing to having such a big Business List it is necessary for the members to come in early.

The Chairman read a preliminary report of the Co-operative Investigating Committee and fully explained the objects to the members, who are very much impressed, stating further that by forming Co-operative Companies we would be able to greatly reduce the present high costs of living. The one great feature in the proposal is that any person or persons may become members. A full report of the Committee will appear in the “Times” after our next General Meeting, 13th September.

It was suggested that our meetings take place on Monday night instead of Friday nights. We beg to report that the Committee appointed to enquire into the above Proposal, decided to urge the League to commence operations on the same basis as the Railway and Tramway Co-operative Society; a copy of the Balance Sheet and Report for the quarter ending 31/3/20 are herewith attached.

The special features of the proposal are:

- (a) Members pay a preliminary fee of 5/- (five shillings)
- (b) No additional capital over and above the entrance fee is required.
- (c) Orders can be placed for all commodities included on the list, once a month, by merely paying the present retail prices of the articles
- (d) All purchase will be made at from 10 per cent to 20 per cent below retail prices and the surplus occurring therefrom would either be refunded to the members or to their credit for their next order.
- (e) Mr J. D. Kirkness has very kindly agreed to do the necessary purchasing and distributing of the goods for a period of three months.

In conclusion, we urge the League to adopt the proposal as it will be a means of cheapening their daily requirements and we have no doubt that in a short time this will easily materialise into a huge Co-operative Trading Concern. Price Lists may be obtained from the Agent or Secretary on application after next meeting.

G. H. MOIR,
Sub-branch Secretary.¹⁹

September 13, 1920

The special general meeting held at the School of Arts on Monday night was largely attended and great interest was evinced in the proceedings.

Resignation: Mr C. H. Davis resigned as Vice President owing to leaving the district at an early date and Mr H. C. Wood was elected to fill the vacancy. Special reference was made to the assistance rendered in the past by Mr Davis.

Sports Committee: The following Sports Committee was elected for 1920-21; Messrs W. Moase (Secretary), Mobbs, Wood, Kirkness, Warmoll, Smith, Mould, Tucker, Stockdale, Frewin, Millar, Helsham, Howett, Bonsanquet and King. A meeting of this Committee will be held on Monday night next. Mr Moase (Sports Secretary) gave a full account of the trotting events held on the Showground on 17th April last. A programme

¹⁹ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, September 9. Mann St. Gosford

of proposed sports, and so on was handed over to the Committee for report and a selection of definite dates

- (a) Dance at which the 1914-15 Stars will be presented.
- (b) Day's Sports at Terrigal.
- (c) Day's Athletic Sports at Gosford.
- (d) Moonlight Excursion.
- (e) Day's Horse Races.
- (f) Day's Boxing.

The "Dad's Association": Regarding letter received from the "Dad's Association" it was decided to give them the League's full support. This Sub-branch fully appreciates the way in which the "Dad's" have come forward and offered to assist in any way possible. Further the Minister for Lands is to be written to.

1914-15 Stars: Decided that list be compiled and despatched to Headquarters as soon as possible and that Colonel Tedder (Wamberal) be written to asking if he would be able to attend the function and present these Stars to the members. All members who are entitled to the issue of this Star are requested to forward their full regimental particulars to the Secretary not later than 18th September

Suit length: Official advice has been received from the General Secretary, Mr R. O. Hastings stating "that owing to none of the blues material being available the ordered had been unavoidably delayed." He expects to be able to forward us the two consignments this week (orders for July and August).

General Meetings: Decided to alter the dates of our General Meetings from the first Friday night in every month to every alternate Monday night. Our next General Meeting will be held on Monday night, September 27, at 7. 30 o'clock.

Circulars: Mr Hastings, who has taken over the General Secretaryship from Mr A. G. Potter, is one selected out of over 60 applicants to fill the position. Mr Hastings sends us circulars every month, giving a full account of the business of the State Sub-branch. We wish him every success in his new enterprise.

Gosford Co-operative Society: The above was fully explained by the President, Mr E. K. White. Orders will be taken from now on and will be despatched after our next General Meeting on the 27th September. A good many members paid their fee at the meeting and the rest of the members fully intend becoming members of the Society. Persons may have a printed price list (retail) on application to the Secretary. A full report of the objects of the Co-operative Society will be inserted in the "Times and Soldier" (the official newspaper of the above League). This Society will be temporarily known as "The Gosford Co-operative Society". All money will be handled by the Agent and the Hon. Treasurer only.

Resignation of Distributing Agent: A resignation has been received from Mr A. O. Veesev, who has been Agent for suit lengths. The Branch fully appreciates the good work carried out by Mr Veesev in this capacity and regrets the loss of a capable agent. Mr A. Sterland has been appointed to take the place of Mr Veesev, therefore all applications for suit lengths should be sent to Mr Sterland, Mann St, Gosford.

The Secretary: Decided that the Secretary should be paid a salary from now forward.

State President' Manifesto: Manifesto.-In conclusion the President read a manifesto from the State President Mr E. F. McDonald and asked that it be published in the "Times".

G. H. MOIR, Secretary.²⁰

October 11, 1920

There was a good attendance (including several new members) at the usual meeting held on Monday. In the unavoidable absence of Mr E. K. White, president, the chair was occupied by Mr H. C. Wood, V. P.

Closer Settlement: In reference to a letter received some time ago from the "Dads' Association", it was decided to write to the Minister for Lands and represent the League's case. A reply has been received and the Hon. Secretary of the above Association has been advised accordingly.

²⁰ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, September 16. Mann St. Gosford

Co-operative Society: The Chairman fully explained the advantages of the local proposal (for the benefit of the various new members who were in attendance) with the result that a good many men joined up. Price lists may be obtained from the Secretary or the Co-operative Agent, Mr J. D. Kirkness. These price lists are only a guide and as soon as the first goods come to hand we will have other price lists and so on printed. Orders are to be received by the Agent no later than the 18th October. Cash must accompany all orders and to save delay the public are specially requested to forward all orders, money, and so on direct to the Agent. Further decided that an advertisement be inserted in the "Times" to this effect.

Sports Committee: Mr R. Tucker having resigned, owing to being unable to attend meetings, Mr R. E. Weeks was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Representation on Local Repatriation Committee: Decided that a certain member of the local Committee be communicated with asking him if he would be prepared to stand to his agreement to resign in the event of a representative being nominated by the Sub-branch.

Distributing Agent: The Sub-branch Distributing Agent, Mr Alf Sterland applied to have a small cupboard for the purpose of storing tweeds, and so on in his shop. Request complied with. The following are now at liberty to apply for material through the local Branch,

- (a) Ex-members of the A.I.F.
- (b) Ex-nurses of the A.A.N.S.
- (c) Members or ex-members of the R.A.N. who have seen active service
- (d) Imperial Reservists resident in Australia at the outbreak of war
- (e) Australians who served with the Imperial Armies
- (f) War Widows of deceased A.I.F. men and,
- (g) Widowed Mothers of deceased A.I.F. men.

Balance Sheet: A final Balance sheet will (if possible) be inserted in next week's "Times" and "The Soldier".

Church Social Campaign: A memo was received from the President, Mr E. F. MacDonald and Chaplain Richmond, appealing to every Sub- Branch for assistance. This matter will be dealt with at our next meeting, which will be held in the School of Arts on the 25th of this month. We hope to see a good attendance and hope that any new members will come along and assist us. Members are reminded that the Sub-branch can be greatly assisted merely by the attendance to the meetings.

New Members: During the past fortnight 15 nomination forms have been despatched to various returned men who are desirous of becoming members. Within the next two months we expect (including transfers) about 25 new members.

Sports Secretary: Mr D. E. Mobbs (late Social Secretary) has been appointed Sports Secretary and we all hope to be able to assist him in his onerous duties in regard to the forthcoming sports.

Suit length: Those men who have given in their orders for material during the months of July and August are requested to call on Mr Sterland and obtain their material as soon as possible. Applications for material for September have been despatched and a reply received stating that this matter will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Euchre Party and Dance: Decided that a Euchre Party and Dance at which the 1914-15 Star are to be presented, take place (if possible) on 5th November. Colonel Tedder, Wamberal, has very kindly offered to present these medals.

G. H. MOIR, Secretary.²¹

October 24, 1920

The general monthly meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch was held in the School of Arts on Monday evening, but owing to heavy rain the attendance was comparatively small. In the absence of President and Vice-Presidents Mr Bendry acted as chairman.

²¹ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, September 16. Mann St. Gosford

Repatriation: Reported that this case had been settled in a satisfactory way by the Repatriation Committee.

Presentation of 1914-15 Stars: Stars: Official advice is to hand to the effect that the stars are ready for the following; Messrs Mobbs, Weeks, Kirkness, King, Rigelsford, Moase, Sullivan, Mrs M. E. Scaysbrook (on behalf of deceased), Pickett, Bendrey, Howett and Campbell. These Stars will be presented at the dace and euchre party by Colonel J. G. Tedder on November 12. All other applicants who have made application are advised that their Stars are not yet ready, though we hope to have them by the time the presentation is made.

Repatriation Executive Committee: Decided that the Secretary get into touch with the President (Mr E. K. White) and asked him to submit his name for nomination.

Tweeds: (remnant lengths). A consignment of remnant length of material is now on view at the Agent's shop, consisting of length from one to 2½ yards of material and is handed to the Sub-Branch for distribution on behalf of the wives and children of returned men. This material will be sold at 10/6 per yard and intending purchasers should get their orders in immediately. Cash must accompany applications. "First come first served." All men who have given their applications in for suit length during September are advised that this material is not on hand as yet. Orders for October will be despatched on the 28th October. In the event of widowed mothers of deceased A.I.F. men or war widows of deceased A.I.F. applying for material, they are requested to produce their pension card to the Distributing Agent.

Gratuity Bonds: In some cases it is reported soldiers have got their bonds, but they find there is a deficiency; in such cases all men, whether members of this League or otherwise, are requested to communicate with their Branch Secretary without delay. This information will be forwarded to Head Office and placed before the Committee. Any men who have not received their bonds are advised to word Head Quarters at once and enquire into the delay.

Any member desiring to be transferred to this Sub-branch should communicate with the Secretary giving full Regimental particulars, &c. New members are still joining up.

General Sub-branch and Sports Committee meetings will be held in the School of Arts, Gosford (till further notice), on every alternate Monday night. The next meeting will be on November 8.

Gosford Co-operative Society: The agent had despatched the first order for the above and the goods are expected soon.

G. H. MOIR, Hon. Secretary.²²

November 8, 1920

The fortnightly general meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch was held in the School of Arts on Monday night. The attendance again was very good and a very enthusiastic meeting ensued. In the absence of the President (Mr E. K. White) and Vice-President (Mr H. C. Wood), who is at present ill and Mr W. Moase, Mr G. I. Adcock was appointed chairman.

Extraordinary Congress: In accordance with the States Secretaries' communication, asking for two delegates to attend from each Sub-branch, it was finally decided that Mr G. I. Adcock and Mr E. K. White would attend, or provided the latter could not attend, Mr E. E. Muir was appointed to take his place. The Congress will sit from 10 a.m. on the 30th November till 12.30 and from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. and similar sessions will be arranged for December 1, if necessary. The business of the Congress is; the better organisations of the Sub-branches, to cut down a great deal of the extra ordinary expenses of the League in general, Sub-branches will be grouped geographically into districts so that each Sub-branch at the commencement of the year 1921 will be included in one of the following districts; Central Northern, Illawarra, Metropolitan, Northern, Southern, South-Western and Western. The Gosford Sub-branch is at present attached to the Central Northern Branch (Newcastle)

Reception of Major General Sir Charles Rosenthal K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.: Arrangement have been made for the above mentioned General to be present at the Social on Friday, 12th, instant, for the purpose of presenting 1914-15 Stars. Accompanied by Lady Rosenthal he will be (by courtesy of the railway authorities)

²² Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, October 28. Mann St. Gosford

allowed to travel by the Brisbane Mail, leaving Sydney at 2 p.m. and will arrive at Gosford at 3. 42 p.m. All returned men are cordially invited to attend at the railway station and give them a cordial reception. They will be met at the station with a car and will then be shown some of the sites of this incomparable district. Decided to ask Colonel Tedder whether his car would be available on this occasion. In the event of the Colonel's car being unavailable, Mr G. I. Adcock has offered to place his car at the disposal of the local Sub-branch. The General and his wife will return to Sydney early on the morning on the 13th.

New Arrivals: Recently Captain G. I. Adcock was transferred to this Sub-branch from Rutherglen (Victoria). Since then his parents, Mr and Mrs G. H. Adcock have moved to Gosford. A letter was despatched from the Rutherglen Secretary to the effect that Mr and Mrs Adcock were due to arrive at Gosford on or about October 5. This letter was sent on September 27th and was received by the local Secretary on the 18th October, so that we did not know of their arrival till some time later. This matter was placed before the last general meeting, but due to the heavy rain at the time of the meeting there was not a large enough attendance to deal with the matter. Mr Adcock, F.L.S. being the foundation member of the Fathers' Association, naturally has taken a very keen interest in the R.S.S.I. League. We wish Mr and Mrs Adcock the best of luck.

Reception of "Fighting Mac.": Decided that as many returned men as possible should turn out at the station on the 16th and give "Fighting Mac" a hearty reception, also that we attend the lecture on the night of the 16th.

Remnant Lengths: One consignment of remnant lengths of tweed had been sold and for the benefit of those people who live a distance out of town, or in any case, who have not had a chance to obtain these, a second lot has been invoiced this week. A number of members have been making enquiries concerning Patt. No. 19 (serge). The State Secretary has been communicated with and will endeavor (*sic*) to forward as much as possible with the next consignment. At the same time any one (*sic*) wanting this material is advised to "hop in," as this material will hardly "hit the ground." Pattern No. 19 will be 11/6 per yard, while the other patterns will be sold for 10/6. CASH must accompany all applications. The last consignment, consisting of 89 yards of material was sold in three days. It will be in lengths ranging from 1 to 2½ yards in each piece.

Suit Lengths: Official advice is to hand from the State Secretary to the effect that a second issue is likely soon and by order of the Defence Department, all those men who have obtained their material (1st issue) will be entitled to another issue, but those men who have not (when this order comes through) already received their first issue, or who have not ordered their first issue, they will still only be entitled to one issue. Orders for November will be despatched on the 25th instant, if possible.

Repatriation Executive Committee: Decided to let this matter stand over till our next meeting, which will take place on the 22nd November.

Band: Decided that the local Brass Band be approached in reference to the reception of Major General Rosenthal and "Fighting Mac", also to play a selection on the night of the 12th at the Gosford Hall.

Co-operative Society: The local Co-operative Society will be known temporarily as "The Gosford Soldiers and Citizens' Co-operative Society," Mr J. Kirkness stated that the initial start had been an uphill fight from the very start, but that the goods were now on hand and may be procured from the Mill (opposite the Goods Railway yards). The price list that was sent out to various people has been cancelled. The main features of the Co-operative Society are;

- (a) Members pay a preliminary fee of 5/-
- (b) No additional capital over and above this amount is required
- (c) Orders may be placed on all groceries and so on by merely paying the same price they pay at the local leading stores.
- (d) All purchases will be made from 10 to 20 per cent below these prices and the surplus accruing therefrom will either be refunded to the various members or placed to their credit for the next month's orders.
- (e) Orders must be addressed to Mr Jas. D. Kirkness, Agent, c/o Gosford Post Office and must reach him by the 15th of each month.
- (f) Cash must accompany all orders.
- (g) Mr J. D. Kirkness has very kindly agreed to do all the necessary purchasing and distributing for a period not exceeding three months.

(h) When ready the goods will be available at the Saw Mill, opposite the Railway Goods Yards, Gosford.

The Chairman stated that the larger the orders were the cheaper we would obtain the goods. In the course of a month or so we will handle benzene, kerosene, and so on in large quantities. No concession can be had on orders for sugar unless we can make up an order of half-a-ton or more. A number of the members have kindly offered to canvass their district for new members. It was decided that all expenses be paid out of the profits and not out of the membership fees, which stand only as a reserve fund.

Presentation of 1914-15 Stars: Stars now ready for the following, Messes D. E. Mobbs (Sports Secretary), R. E. Weeks, J. D. Kirkness, J. E. King, A. J. Ringsford, W. M. Moase, Mrs M. Scaysbrook (on behalf of M. E. Scaysbrook, deceased), J. S. Sullivan and J. E. Pickett. Applications have been forwarded for a number of other members, but were not ready when the last communication was received from headquarters. However, they have been urged to endeavor (*sic*) to have all the Stars ready by the 12th instant.

Euchre Party and Dance: Decided that uniform would not be worn.

New Members: New members are still enrolling and transfers are still coming in, four being enrolled inside the last three weeks.

Sub-branch meetings: General and Committee meetings of the above will (till further notice) be (*sic*) held in the School of Arts, Gosford, every alternate Monday night at 7.45 o'clock. Our next meeting will be held on the 22nd November, 1920.

Balance Sheets: Balance sheets have now been placed before the auditors and as soon as they are finalised they will be published in the "Times" and "The Soldier".

G. H. MOIR Hon. Sec.²³

November 15, 1920

²³ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, November 11. Mann St. Gosford

The general meeting of the local Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' League was held in the School of Arts on the 15th instant. Owing to the short notice given for the meeting, there was not a very large attendance. An incomplete balance sheet for the social (held 12/11/20) was tendered by the Secretary (Mr D. E. Mobbs) amounting to £26/15/- and it is expected that the profits will amount to somewhere in the vicinity of £30. The next general meeting will be held on Monday night 29th instant, at 7.30 o'clock sharp and the Sports Committee meeting will take place immediately afterwards. The business of the general meeting to date is,

- (a) Local Shire Matters
- (b) Co-operative Society

A large attendance is specially requested

G. H. MOIR
Sub-branch Secretary.²⁴

November 30, 1920

The general fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial league was held in the School of Arts, Gosford on Monday night. Considering the wet night the attendance was fairly large.

Resignations: The resignation was received from Vice-President W. M. Moase, who is leaving the district. On a motion by Mr Frewin, seconded by Mr Weeks, the resignation was received. The President (Mr E. K. White) stated that Mr Moase had worked hard for the Branch and hopes that he would "carry on" in the same satisfactory manner wherever he went. Further, the President suggested that Mr Moase be written to thanking him for his valuable assistance in the past.

Shire Election: In reference to a letter forwarded by Mr A. W. Helsham (Narara) relative to the above it was resolved that no further action be taken in the matter.

Suit Lengths: Official advice is to hand from the State Secretary, Mr R. Hastings, to the effect that all returned sailors, soldiers and nurses, and so on may now obtain a second issue of material at reduced rates. All those entitled to the issue and have not previously

²⁴ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, November 25. Mann St. Gosford

obtained material, may, if they desire, obtain the two lengths at once. The price is now Grade (a) 7/- per yard, (b) 8/- per yard and (c) 9/- per yard. The blue material is available, but only one application out of every four will be accepted.

Cash must accompany all applications, which are despatched about the end of each month. This material usually arrives about three weeks later. All men who ordered material during October are advised that this material has been on hand for some time and they are respectively requested to call at the agents and obtain their order as soon as possible. Another lot of remnant lengths are available, including patterns No. 14 is 10/6 and No. 19 11/6 per yard. All intending purchases are requested to "get in early" as it is expected that this lot will go as nearly as fast as the first consignment, which consisted of 89 yards and sold in about three days.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the local Sub-branch will be held on the second Monday in January, 1921, at the School of Arts, Gosford. Full business sheet will be advertised later.

Balance Sheet: The Soldiers' Memorial Fund's Balance-sheet-complete to 14/11/20- shows a credit balance of £97/13/8. This amount does not include the General Sub-branch Account, nor does it include the account of the social held on the 12th instant.

The Gosford and Citizens' Co-operative Society: Resolved that Mr Kirkness be asked to forward report giving the actual position of the Society. It was further resolved to allow Mr Kirkness to deduct two per cent from the gross turnover for his time. All orders will be received up till the 15th of each month and may be sent to the Secretary or direct to the Agent, Mr J. D. Kirkness. All orders being sent to the Agent should be addressed to him c/o Gosford Post Office.

Moonlight Excursion: A Moonlight Excursion will be run on the 18th December. Watch for advertisement.

Carnival at Terrigal: The Carnival that was to be held at Terrigal on the 18th December has now been postponed and will take place on Anniversary Day, January 26, 1921.

Full particulars will be advertised by the Sports Secretary, Mr D. E. Mobbs, at a later date.

Roll (Sub-branch): Over 170 members are attached to the Gosford Sub-branch and over 20 more are expected along any time.

Extraordinary Congress: Messrs I. Adcock and E. E. Muir have been appointed to attend the Congress which will take place at the King's Hall, Sydney, on November 30, December 1.

Orders will be taken for the "Soldier", the official newspaper of the League at, and after the next meeting. Copies are on view at the Sub-branch Distributing Agent's Mr A. Sterland. This paper deals with "everything that concerns the returned men."

G. H. MOIR

Sub-branch Secretary.²⁵

December 13, 1920

The general fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia was held in the School of Arts, Gosford, on the 13th instant. Considering the uncertain condition of the weather the attendance was good. In the absence of the President, Mr G. I. Adcock was appointed chairman. The minutes and correspondence for the preceding fortnight were read and received...

Congress Delegates' Report: Mr E. E. Muir fully explained the reason of the Congress and read over the reports. Mr Adcock stated that this Congress was a most satisfactory meeting and in future the League, general, would be conducted on a better footing.

Co-operative Society Agent's Report: Mr J. D. Kirkness submitted a full report as requested at last general meeting, showing that the Society was becoming stronger. On an average the purchases made in the last consignment were 18 per cents below the local retail prices. It appears that it has been the general opinion that only returned men could become members. Any one may become a member by merely paying the small

²⁵ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 2. Mann St. Gosford

some of 5/-. All orders will be despatched as soon as possible after the 15th and it is fully expected that the goods will be on hand before Christmas.

Owing to his wife's illness Mr Kirkness has been away on and off for some time, thus causing the delay of the dockets. In future all dockets will be despatched as soon as the invoice comes to hand. All members who have purchased their goods through the Gosford Soldiers and Citizens' Co-operative Society appear to be very well satisfied. It was decided that Mr Kirkness carry (*sic*) on as Agent until February 1, 1921, when Mr Muir will take over. All orders, money, and so on may be forwarded to the Agent, direct, or to the Secretary. In the event of their being sent to the later they will be handed to the Agent as soon as possible.

Agent's Report: A report was tendered by the Tweed Distributing Agent, Mr Alf Sterling showing that (*unreadable*) yards of remnant material had been sold. It had previously decided to ask a carpenter to make a small cupboard for storing material. As the carpenter could not finish the job for some time, the matter was left in the hands of the agent.

Wyong Dramatic Society: Decided that the Hon. Secretary of the Wyong Dramatic Society be communicated with.

Memorial Baths: The meeting considered the proposal for the erection of Memorial Baths an excellent one and resolved that provided the scheme was started in a satisfactory manner, this Sub-branch would give the project solid support.

General Organisation: Mr G. I. Adcock explained the necessary for obtaining a large attendance at meetings. Although this Sub-branch is one of the largest in the State, only a small percentage of members attend the meetings. He suggested that we ask the outlying Sub-branches to have delegates attend our meetings, thus assisting the smaller Branches and making the local Branch much stronger. Decided that the State Executive be approached with a view to making arrangements for one of the Organisers to come to Gosford and endeavor (*sic*) to obtain new members. In the event of this proposal being favorably (*sic*) considered Messrs Mobbs, Adcock and Muir agreed to convey the

Organiser to the various centres in order to stimulate the enthusiasm of the returned men.

Illness: Due to the illness of Mr H. C. Wood, V. P., it was decided to write to Mr and Mrs Wood expressing sympathy.

Supper: Decided that a light supper be provided at future meetings. Mr Mobbs agreed to attend to this matter at the next meeting.

Pension, Gratuity, &c: A number of cases have been reported of trouble or delay in the payment of Pensions and Gratuity. In all cases placed before the Head Secretary (Mr Hastings) a satisfactory reply had been received, Any person who have complaints in regard to either of the above are kindly requested to communicate with me at once, as we can -in nine cases out of ten- guarantee complete satisfaction. Complaints are coming to hand every few days and are being dealt with in a speedy and satisfactory manner

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch will be held on January 10, 1921. Business to date is, Election of President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditors and Sub-branch or Sports Committee. The meeting will be held in the School of Arts and will commence at 7.30 sharp. A report will be tendered from the Tweed Distributing Agent, Sports Secretary, Co-operative Agent and Branch Secretary. This meeting will be fully advertised at a later date. No other meeting will be held until 10th January.

Sale Official War Photographs: A catalogue containing description of nearly 6000 photos is now on hand and may be seen at Mr Millar's Pharmacy, Mann St, Gosford. These photos were taken for the Commonwealth Government by the official photographers abroad. The sale of photos is not restricted to ex-soldiers. Mr Millar will take orders for all photos and they will be despatched as soon as possible. To avoid unnecessary delay and inconvenience, we ask that all purchases will produce cash when ordering. Posters may be seen at the local Post Office and in different prominent places.

G. H. MOIR

1921

9 January, 1921

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The first annual meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers League was held at the School of Arts on Monday night. There was a large attendance, one of the largest meetings in the history of the Branch. In his Presidential address Mr E. K. White referred to the work of the past twelve months and congratulated the Branch on its increasing membership. It was, said that the President, a disgrace to the town that people thought so little of the great sacrifices made by fallen soldiers that two years had elapsed since the termination of war and they were still talking about a War Memorial instead of erecting one. While as a whole the townspeople had failed to give practical evidence of their appreciation, it was pleasing to note that some have remembered and that in Christ Church grounds there stood a fine Memorial to the memory of local members of the Church of England who had given their lives for their country.

The President also paid tribute to the excellent work performed by the League's secretaries. Mr White explained that he did not seek re-election as President, being of the opinion that this honour should go round, particularly when they had so many members capable of discharging the duties. He thanked them for the hearty support accorded him while acting as President and hoped that the same assistance and loyalty would be extended to his successor who would, he felt sure, do his best to guide the Branch on the same constructional lines of observance of law and order, upholding the League's splendid objects, viz., the guarding of the mothers, widows and children of fallen men, loyalty to the King and Empire and freedom from any form of sectarian strife. At the conclusion of his address the President was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for the way he had filled the position during the past year

²⁶ Baker Robert James, 1920. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 16. Mann St. Gosford

Secretary's Report: The Branch Secretary G. H. Moir submitted a report of the past year's work showing that 15 major cases had been dealt with, 13 of which had been satisfactorily finalised. In addition to this 4 other cases were being inquired into. The membership totalled 173, over 50 having joined or affiliated since 1st June last. The expenditure during the year was (£25/18/4).

Election of Officers: The following officers were elected for 1921: President, G. I. Adcock; Vice-Presidents, Messrs E. K. White, P. C. White and H. C. Wood (re-elected); Sub-Branch secretary G. H. Moir (re-elected); Assistant Secretary E. E. Muir; Hon. Auditors Messrs Tucker and H. B. Smith (re-elected); Hon. Treasurer L. O. Millar (re-elected); Tweed Distributing Agent Sterland Bros. (re-elected); Sports Committee Secretary D. E. Mobbs (re-elected) Messrs Millar, McDonald, Woods, Weeks, Frewin, Foster, Stockdale, Howett, Warmoll, Sterland, Smith, Bendrey and Cox.

The President, Mr Adcock brought forward a few suggestions relative to the Government of the Sub-Branch. He suggested that various centres including Matcham, Penang and Wamberal nominate delegates to attend quarterly meeting and bring forward any complaints they may have to be dealt with. With the co-operation of these centres the strength of the Branch would be largely increased and mutual benefit results. In this connection the State Secretary had been approached with a view to obtaining an organiser and a reply had been received that an organiser would be available about the end of January.²⁷

Tweed Agent's Report: Sterland Bros., stated that at present the suit lengths were not selling as well as they should and after submitting the report he asked that members who have not already had an issue to get the application in right away and those who had already had one and are desirous of obtaining a second length to bring along their discharges and make the second application. This material is still selling at 7/-, 8/- and 9/- per yard. One application out of every four only will be received for pattern No. 19 (blue serge). A vote of thanks was passed to the agents for the way the work had been carried out.

²⁷ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 13. Mann St. Gosford

Boy's suit: It is proposed to introduce a new feature in connection with the distribution of tweeds. These will be sold at a price far below the ordinary market prices and the quality of the material will be at least three times better than the usual grade of boy's suits now on the market. Fuller particulars may be obtained from the agents or the assistant secretary, Mr E. E. Muir.

Soldier Dependents: The following paragraph may be of use to some Soldier dependents. An aged widowed mother, who had her pension cut down from £2/2/- to £1 per week has received the following reply from the Deputy Commissioner "The new scale of allowances came into force under the new *Repatriation Act* on the 1st July, but as it was realised at the time that the new *Act* would adversely affect the number of beneficiaries through the living allowance of the old *Act* being cancelled, payment was continued till every case was considered on its merits. A new scale of allowance has been now devised and the widows and mothers are entitled to an allowance totalling £1/15/- per week." This would mean £1 pension and 15/- from the Old Age Pensions.

Found: Silver "G. R. I." Badge. Any person having lost same should call on Sergeant Morris and obtain same.

Co-operative Agent's Report: Mr J. D. Kirkness stated that the Co-operative Society had been steadily increasing in strength and regretted that he had not the time to devote to the management of same to carry everything better. He stated that practically all goods had been purchased 18 per cent below the local retail prices and that within a very short time the Society would be a big success. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr Kirkness for the way in which he carried out the work. Mr Kirkness asked to be relieved of his duties as agent and Messrs E. E. Muir, R. E. Weeks and R. G. Frewin were appointed to take his work.

Supper: Mr Mobbs was complimented on the way in which he laid out the supper.

Sub-Branch meetings: General Sub-Branch meetings will be held as usual (on every alternate Monday night) in the Shire Board room, provided necessary arrangements can be finally settled.

Renewals: All members who joined prior to the 1st of June are reminded that their renewal for 1920-21 is again due and members are respectfully requested to renew their subs. A table will be on the Showground on the 29th instant at which members may renew or men may join the League. Any members who have any complaints are requested to bring them along. Full particulars in regard to the Co-operative Society will be available and members enrolled.

Balance Sheets: Held over till next meeting. In future balance sheets will be completed every three months.

G. H. MOIR
Sub-Branch Secretary.²⁸

January 24, 1921

The general fortnightly meeting of the local Branch was held in the School of Arts on Monday night last. The attendance, as usual, was good. Minutes and correspondence for the preceding fortnight were read and received.

City Tailors: In accordance with the number of enquiries in regard to obtaining a list of city tailors and their prices, it was decided to communicate with the State Secretary.

League Table: decided that a League Table would be on hand on the Showground next Saturday for the purpose of obtaining new members and the renewal subs., for the ensuing year, also for the distribution of handbills (Co-operative Society) and enrolling new members. The table will be attended by Branch Secretary and Mr V. Rose. Any members or returned men who have any complaints are asked to let us hear from them.

Employment: In reference to a case of a returned man who has been working at Davistown on a wage of 30/- per week, without keep. Decided that the employer be written to disapproving of his action. This member of the A. I. F. was offered two jobs by members present and would be able to start work on Tuesday morning. While speaking on this matter, the President (Mr G. I. Adcock) stated that all men similarly situated should get in touch with us at once.

²⁸ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 20. Mann St. Gosford

Shire Board Room: In reference to previous application for use of Board room to hold meetings at, it was resolved "That no further action be taken in the matter."

Soldiers & Citizens Co-operative Society, Committee of Management: The following members were duly elected as Committee of Management Messrs G. H. Adcock, R. G. Frewin, R. E. Weeks and E. E. Muir.

Business Directory (Local): It was decided to start a local Business Directory for League members. The President stated that in this, all things would be equal to returned men. All members who are in business are asked to forward their names, name of business, address, and so on to the Secretary of this Branch.

Repatriation Secretary: The following resolution was unanimously carried. "That we, the members of the local Sub-Branch of the R. S. S. I. L. A., desire to place on record our appreciation of the services of Mr H. G. Parry in capacity of Secretary to the local Repatriation Committee. We recognise that he always shown the utmost consideration for returned soldiers and has carried out a difficult and onerous position in such a manner to greatly assist soldier settlers." Decided that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Soldiers Settlement Branch and the Department of Repatriation.

Erina-Wamberal Dads: Decided to have a number of the members of the above Association attend our next meeting on the 7th February, if possible, with a view to amalgamating with us; and with a view to forming a Branch of the "Dads" Association at Gosford.

Mr McDonald has started dairying at Wyoming, Narara. We understand that he has taken over from Mrs Campbell. As a preference should be given to return men, we hope that the public will at least give Mr McDonald a trial.

Co-operative Business: The Co-operative Society Committee were instructed to make enquiries into the following matters.

(a) The advisability of starting a jam factory at Gosford

(b) The advisability of starting a Co-operative Fruit growers Market in one of the suburbs of Sydney.

(c) The advisability of having barrowmen or stalls in Sydney or in the suburbs for the purpose of disposing all ripe or over-ripe fruit.

Soldiers Memorial: Mr Adcock was instructed to make arrangements with the Shire President with a view to calling a public meeting at an early date to expedite the erection of a suitable Soldiers Memorial. The majority of the public appear to be of the opinion that this is a matter for the returned men to deal with. We wish them to understand we only represent a certain section of the public and it is not for us to say what we will have erected, but the idea of the public meeting is to test the feeling as to what sort of a Memorial the public prefer to have erected Provided that there is a suitable Memorial started, then we will give our solid support

G. H. Moir
Hon. Sec.²⁹

7 February 1921

The last general meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held in the School of Arts, Gosford immediately after the public meeting on Thursday night last. The attendance as usual was very fair. A number of the Erina-Wamberal Branch of the Dads Association was in attendance, though we regret we have to report the apparent lack of enthusiasm amongst the local Dads.”

State Organiser: The State Organiser, Mr McConaghy was present. During the morning he was met at the local Station by the President and Secretary Messrs Adcock and Moir. Soon after this the roles were checked. Previous to this our roll totalled roughly 174. As a result of the Organiser’s visit about 40 more members were attached to this Branch, as well as a number of local transfers. During the afternoon the President drove Mr McConaghy and Mr Stockdale to Matcham for the purpose of seeing a number of returned men and Dads.

²⁹ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 27. Mann St. Gosford

Suit Lengths: Owing to the strike the delivery of suit lengths has been held up, but members are advised that this material will be despatched as soon as possible.

“Coming Over”: Underclothing &c. For League members only. The following are now being handled by the League: Underpants 13/6 per pair. Undershirts 12/6. Socks 3/6. Cardigan Jackets 15/- each. These articles are made of the best material and come directly from the factories. Applicants, when ordering, are requested to forward cash with orders, which will be despatched at the end of each month. Applications for suit lengths will still be received; members who have not already had their issue are advised to “get in for their cut” before it is too late.

Local “Dads” Association: Apologies were received from Mr W. M. Fleming, the Federal Member, Mr Scaysbeok and Mr F. Ruff (Secretary, Erina-Wamberal Branch), who was unable to attend on account of having had an accident. Mr W. H. Weiss (President, Erina-Wamberal Branch, who stated he was surprised to see so few of the local “Dads” present, but anything that his Branch could do to assist the movement would be a real work of pleasure. Only 10 members are required to start a Branch here. There were 4 members present and another 6 or more will be secured in a very short time.

Mr McConaghy while speaking on the subject said he sincerely hoped that the local “Dads: would get the Branch going without delay. The S & S Fathers Association was one of the finest going and well worthy of support. Mr W. Smally supported the remark of Messrs Weiss and Beveridge. Mr G. H. Adcock, F. L. S. who is one of or practically the founder of the whole movement in Victoria, stated that he was surprised to be in a place like Gosford and find that there was not a “Dads” Association Branch, or that there had been practically no arrangement made to form one. He was sure that if the movement was properly started it would soon be a strong Association and would be able to amalgamate with the Erina-Wamberal Branch.

Sailors & Soldiers Mothers, Wives and Widows Association: In accordance with a number of enquiries relative to the above by the local mothers, full particulars have been applied for and we hope to see the above Branch started in the near future.

An appeal: The Organiser spoke on several matters, which included War Gratuity, Canteen Funds, Soldier Settlement Board and so on and gave an account of what the League had done, especially within the last six or seven months and the work it will undertake in the future. Our State objective is 50,000 financial members for 1921. The objective for Gosford is at least 240 members. We feel certain that by the end of the year we will be well over our quota. Any member or returned men, who had a genuine complaint, please bring it to us. We will only be too please to deal with it.

That is what we are here for, nothing is too much trouble, and we can practically guarantee satisfaction. We have successfully dealt with 15 cases during the past twelve months and other cases, a very fine Executive to whom no genuine case is too much trouble. We are quite prepared to tell returned men what they can get for their 10/-. To carry on the activities of the League it is necessary to have a certain amount of money on hand, but money is not such an important factor as MEMBERS. By giving reasonable notice, appointments can be made with the Secretary at any place in the town at any time.

Subs: A number of enquiries have come in from members as to the procedure to be adopted in connection with the members who subscriptions terminate on the 30/6/21. These men are naturally desirous of being supplied with 1921 "clips" and it has been decided that clips for 1921 are not to be issued to members unless they are financial to the 31/12/21. These members whose subscription expires on the 30th June will not be asked for their half-yearly subscription till the end of the year, but should they prefer to pay the extra 5/- (which will make them financial to the 31/12/21) now, they will be issued with the 1921 "clip" at once.

State returned Soldiers Business Directory: Any returned men in business who are desirous of having their name or names placed on the above are asked to let us have a guarantee in writing that they are prepared to pay £1 for same. It has of course been decided that insertions in this Directory would be restricted to members of the League who are sole proprietors, or own at least one-half of the existing business. Prices for publishing 10,000 Directories of an attractive type have been obtained and those desirous of being subscribers are asked to let us have names and addresses as soon as

possible as it is intended to have these Directories published not later than the 1st of July, 1921.

Organiser: Mr McConaghy will again be passing through Gosford to Penang Branch at an early date and we expect to have him pay another visit. Further arrangements will be made at the general meeting to be held on Monday night next.

Balance Sheets: (Incomplete) to date we have an incomplete balance sheet (showing a credit of £167/12/5½.) from this total there are two or three small accounts (not yet to hand) to be paid. In any case, independent from the dance tendered us by the Red Cross, we will have well over £160 on hand and fully expect with the sports already booked to have over £200 by the end of April. The above amount includes the Sub-Branch account. These accounts will be finalised as soon as possible and handed over to the Soldiers Memorial Secretary and Treasurer Messrs Mobbs and Hills

Committee (Soldiers Memorial): The following members were elected by ballot to represent the League on the Memorial Committee, Messers G. I. Adcock, E. K. White, G. Frewin and F. C. Warmol.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Organiser congratulated the Sub-Branch Committee on the work it had carried out. Mr McConaghy said he could see that they mean “business” and were carrying on an up-to-date scale. He wished to thank the President, Secretary, Mr Stockdale and other members of the Committee who assisted in making the meeting the success that it was

G. H. Moir
Hon. Sec.³⁰

February 21, 1921

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held in the Gosford School of Arts on Monday night. Though the attendance was not near

³⁰ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, February 7. Mann St. Gosford

as good as it had been for some months the meeting was at times most enthusiastic. Correspondence and minutes were adopted.

League Cards: The Secretary was instructed to have 100 cards printed as soon as possible. The object of having these cards is when a member renews, or when a new man joins or gets transferred, he may be issued with one of these cards which will show dates of general meetings till about the end of July; also will give the names of all the office bearers. On the back of the cards "ads" will be printed showing returned soldiers in business &c. These cards will be ready for issue; it is expected, in about a week's time.

League Drive: The League's offensive is still being carried on, with new members being enrolled at a great rate. Gosford's quota is 240-250 members. Decided that every member be asked to do his best to enrol or to have members transferred to this Branch. Decided that Messrs A. Marshall and E. C. Tanner be thanked for their offer of assistance and asked to endeavour to enrol members for the League of Co-operative Society.

Co-operative Society: Suggested the Mr Moir (agent) be instructed to make an appointment with Mr J. D. Kirkness in reference to taking over the duties of agent from him. Mr Kirkness to furnish a full report. Mr Adcock (President) to make enquiries and report at next meeting.

Sports and Art Union: Provisionally decided that a day's sports would be organised for Anzac Day, the 25th April. In addition to this an art union will be run. The prizes (War Bonds) consisting of £100 will be paid as follows: 1st Prize £50, 2nd £25 3rd £15, 4th £5, 5th £5. Messrs R. G. Frewin and R. E. Weeks were appointed as Assistant Sports Secretaries in connection with the above.

Resolutions: The following resolutions were unanimously carried:

(a) This Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. wished to register its emphatic protest against the action taken by the City Council in refusing the use of the Town Hall for Services on Anzac Day. Further decided that this Sub-Branch will give H. O. solid support and that other Branches be asked for support.

(b) That this Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. request the State Executive to take every step possible to combat the efforts of the Government as regards the reduction of pensions & c., of maimed soldiers, sailors and their dependants. We regard this matter not wholly in connection with returned men, but as a national matter.

British War Medals: Supplies of the British War Medal are expected to arrive in this District shortly and all ex-members of the A. I. F., who consider they are eligible to receive this medal are asked to notify the A. A. G., 2nd Military District and give their full particulars with the A. I. F. (Reg. No., Rank and Unit and state whether they wish to receive the medal):

- (a) At a public presentation or,
- (b) By registered post.

When the medal is actually ready for issue, a post card of advice to that effect will be sent to the persons concerned and personal applications prior to the receipt of their post card will not be of any avail. All concerned are also asked to notify any subsequent change of address.

G.H.MOIR
Hon. Secretary.³¹

The Sub-branch received a notice from the military authorities notifying returned soldiers that their pay books were available to those who desired to have them. Those who wished to have possession of their books were to make either a personal or written application to the District Finance Officer, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, as early as possible, as it was not proposed that the offer to return the pay books would hold good for an indefinite period. Approval for the return of pay books referred only to those belonging to returned soldiers. Deceased soldier's pay books would not be handed to the next-of-kin under any circumstances.³²

March 7, 1921

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch of the League was held at the Gosford School of Arts on Monday evening, Mr G. I. Adcock (President) presiding.

³¹ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, February 24. Mann St. Gosford
³² *Ibid*

Art Union: The drawing for the wristlet watch, tickets for which had been sold by Mrs Dermody took place under the supervision of Mr Baker, Shire President. The winner proved to be J. Jenette (Ticket No. 518.) Mr W. Eaton senior was also in attendance and assisted at the drawing. Mrs Dermody handed over the handsome sum of £25, which means a clear profit on the art union of £20. A hearty vote of thanks for Mrs Dermody for her excellent work was carried by acclamation on the motion of the President and also thanks to Messrs Baker and Eaton. Mrs Dermody in responding stated that it was a pleasure to be able to do anything for the returned soldiers who had done so much for Australia. While life lasted she would go on doing what she could for the people (applause).

Mr Baker remarked that the vote accorded to Mrs Dermody was richly deserved by that lady for she had ever been to the fore right throughout the war in every patriotic movement and wherever the object was worthy or a charitable one. The self-sacrificing manner in which she so freely gave her services for the good of the country and the men, women and children in it, was an object lesson that could be learned with advantage by many other members of the community. Mr Eaton also acknowledges the vote of thanks accorded to him. The winner of the watch is requested to call on the Sports Secretary Mr D. E. Mobbs.

Advice Cards: The Secretary asked for the authority to have 100 advice cards printed. The object of the cards is this: That when a member orders his material and wishes to be advised on the arrival of same, by placing a stamp on the advice card, it will be forwarded to him without delay after the arrival of the goods. Under ordinary circumstances a member would either have to wait for a week till the advt. appeared in the "Gosford Times". Resolved that the Secretary be instructed to have 100 cards printed as soon as possible.

New Members: Five new members have been registered this week and a number expected to come in next week.

United Church Services: Resolved that the Padres of all dominations be approached to holding United Services on Anzac Day, 25th April.

Cycle Road Race: Some time ago a 12 mile Road Race from Gosford to Ourimbah Railway Station and back was suggested and a donation has been offered by Messrs Bennett & Barkell through their local agent, Mr F. J. Buscombe for first prize. This matter will be dealt with at the next meeting.

Wyong Dramatic Society: Mr C. H. Chapman, Hon. Secretary on behalf of the Wyong Dramatic and Musical Society has offered to stage a programme at Gosford on Monday 21st march, in aid of the Memorial Fund and the offer has been greatly accepted.

Distributing Agents: Mr E. E. Muir had been appointed Distributing Agent for boy's suits, underclothes &c. Mr A. Sterland will carry on as usual with the tweeds. Mr Muir had been forwarded a list of financial members so that it is useless for any member applying for material that is not financial for 1921. When lodging an application members are requested to forward the No. of their League Badge, together with their Discharge Certificate. A supplementary list of financial members will be forwarded to Mr Muir every week or oftener if necessary.

G.H.MOIR
Sub-Branch Secretary.³³

March 13, 1921

Organisation: The new features regarding the distribution of underclothes, hosiery and so on as set out hereunder have been finalised and orders will be received by the agents without further delay. There are 270 Branches of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. throughout the State. This material is being handled by each Sub-Branch, a co-operative business that may well be envied by any of the leading warehouses in Sydney. No sale of Boy's suits or hosiery will be made to anyone but financial members of the League under any circumstances. The sale of tweed however, will be carried on with as previously. In the past, returned soldiers, though not members of the League, have benefited by the activities of the League and in proportion to their benefits have apparently hardened their determination not to contribute to the support of the Organisation, which had benefited them in these matters.

³³ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 10. Mann St. Gosford

Although the past policy of the League not to discriminate between non-members and members may have been justified, the time has now come when returned men should understand that such men who are not members of the League, or who fail to keep themselves financial, the League will not provide benefits for those men who will not support it. In addition to this as regards men who have been unfinancial for 2 and 3 years, who further have been asked to renew their subscriptions, but who have apparently ignored all communications, who are still only too willing to wear the League Badge. A miniature League Badge has been designed and all members joining this week will be issued with this new pattern Badge. Any other member, who is a financial member to the 31/12/21, may also obtain one of these badges in place of their present Badges.

To obtain these it is necessary for a member to forward his old Badge to the Secretary together with stamps to the value of 1/-. The old Badge will then be cancelled and a miniature Badge issued in lieu of same. A number of members are unfinancial from the 31/12/20; we will be pleased to receive their subs at their earliest convenience. We are confident that 99 per cent of these members, whose subscription fell due on that date will renew as soon as possible.

British War Medals: All men who are desirous of obtaining their issue of the British War Medals (provided they are members of this Branch) and that they have been financial to the 31/12/20) should apply to the local Secretary without delay, forwarding full Reg., particulars together with the date of their embarkation. These applications will be treated in much the same manner as the applications for the 1914-15 Stars were. The first presentation will take place on or about Anzac Day, 25th April, 1921. The first issue will be made only to men, who embarked before the 31st March, 1916. All applications for this issue must be lodged not later than the 30th March. The local Committee have provisionally decided to organise a Dance and Presentation. Members when making an application are requested to state whether they will attend the function on that night to receive their medals.

Pay Books: All members who are interested in this movement (provided they are financial to the 31/6/21, or 30/12/21) may, if they so desire, forward the Reg.,

particulars so that a list can be forwarded to Head Quarters asking for the return of pay books.

Trading Extensions: The necessary order forms to hand and the Organisation are complete for the new trading extensions that have been outlined in previous reports.

There are now three distinct trading departments,

(a) Commonwealth Tweed

(b) Boy's Suits, Boy's Knickers and Men's Trousers

(c) Coat Sweaters, Singlets, Underpants and socks (for prices see advertisement). In reference to the Commonwealth Tweed (suit lengths), we intend to carry on much the same as we have previously. The second and third items will be available for financial members of the League only. This material may be ordered at once. Applicants when ordering must produce their Discharged Certificate and League Badge. Cash must accompany all orders, which will be collected from the Agents not later than the 27th of each month and will be dispatched on the 30th of every month.

The Agents will, on receiving a Discharge Certificate, stamp, date and initial it before returning it to the owner. In the case of members ordering their material by post, they are requested to forward their orders with their Discharge under registered post. All cheques, money orders, postal notes and so on should be made payable to the Secretary of the local Branch. Discharge Certificates when inspected will always be returned under registered post. No actual definite limit is placed on the amount of material as regards boy's suits, or the amount of hosiery which a financial member may possess. We intend, however, to exercise discrimination and to prevent any member from procuring more material than he can reasonably be expected to use and every step will be taken to prevent members from procuring this material for re-sale.

Boy's Suits and Men's Trousers: Boy's suits and men's trousers will be made up from any of the following Patterns 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14 and No. 19. Samples of these patterns are now held by the Distributing Agents, The proportion of suits manufactured from pattern No. 19, which will be supplied, is strictly one in every eight: and that one must be the eighth order. The Branch will adhere strictly to this rule, so that no dissatisfaction will be the result. It is necessary for the applicants to take notice of the

size, class, style and so on on the poster so that the forms may be filled in without any inconvenience to either the applicant or the agents.

Hosiery and Underwear: The above is “Made in Australia, from Australian wool, by Australian workmen and is equal to any material of its kind sold in Australia.” As Distributing Agents are honorary officials and while thanking members before-hand for their intended patronage, we hope that when members are making an application for their goods they will not delay the Agents any longer than possible.

G. H. MOIR
Secretary.³⁴

The Australian Imperial Force, Australia’s Army in the Great War officially ceased to exist on March 31, 1921. It sprang into life a little more than six and a half years earlier and during the war 416,809 persons belonging to it, with 164,930 from New South Wales. With a few exceptions those who remained members of this great volunteer army were still in hospital. The transference of those patients the next day from the control of the Defence Department to that of the Repatriation Department marked the end of the A. I. F.³⁵

April 4, 1921

The usual general meeting was held in the School of Arts, Gosford, on Monday night, 4th instant. In attendance were a number of clergymen. Mr Adcock (President) presided. The minutes and correspondence for the preceding month were read and confirmed. The rev. gentlemen present expressed their willingness to assist us with the United Church Service on Anzac morning and put forward a number of suggestions.

Parade: It was resolved that the parade will fall in at 11 a.m. at the Drill Hall. The O. C. of the Senior Cadets and Militia has been asked to assist us by having a party of cadets taking part in the procession. All returned men are to wear uniform and every man is requested to cover the third button of his tunic with black. The parade will be if possible led by the Gosford Brass Band and will proceed from the Drill Hall to the

³⁴ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 17. Mann St. Gosford

³⁵ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 31. Mann St. Gosford

Gosford Park (opposite the Church of England grounds.) The service will take place at 11.30 a.m. sharp. Plain laurel wreaths will be placed on the monument in the Church of England grounds, also on the monument in the Park. It was further decided that the bugler will sound the "Last Post" on each occasion. The public are specially invited to attend the ceremony. It should be hardly necessary to remind the public that this is a day above all that should be kept sacred in commemoration of the 60,000 who still remain "over there". Our object is to keep before the public the principles that we fought for.

War Trophies: During the afternoon a large sports programme will be put through, which will include the handing over of Gosford's War Trophy. Cr. Baker, Shire President, has been asked to preside. A general invitation has been extended to the Shire Council and general public. Invitations have also been forwarded to the Erina-Wamberal Branch of the "Dads" Association. The Headmasters of the Schools have also been asked to co-operate. The afternoon will be given to jubilation and "The Birth of a Nation" generally.

Grand Military and Fancy Dress Ball: A Grand Military and Fancy Dress Ball will take place on the same night at which the presentation of 25 British War Medals will take place and probably a few 1914-15 Stars. Two prizes have been donated for the best fancy dress &c. failing any definite word from Headquarters referring to the presentation of these Medals, Mr Baker will be asked to make the presentation.

War Trophies: The following resolution was unanimously carried. "That the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. wishes to express its astonishment and contempt at the petty and narrow-minded attitude of the Minister for Education (Mr Mutch) in not allowing War Trophies to be located in schools and consider the exhibition of these trophies would tend to keep before the future citizens of Australia the principles for which we fought, as the study of which would tend to circulate the highest ideals of citizenship."

Balance Sheet: The Branch Secretary submitted a Memorial Fund balance sheet showing a credit balance of £161/6/4½ to the 31st of March, 1921. This amount does not include the social by the Wyong Dramatic Company raffle of a wristlet watch, moonlight excursion and refreshment stall conducted by the Red Cross at the Regatta,

or the refund on tax on the social on the 12/11/20. We estimate the total at £200 collected by the local Branch.

Trading Concern: It was resolved that this matter be allowed to stand over till the next meeting, which will take place on Monday night, 18th instant.

Notice Board: Resolved that, if possible, a notice board be placed at the local Repatriation Office. As is often the case, urgent matters come to hand and it is too late to advertise same in the local paper. In this case these notices and so on will be placed on the board.

Delay of Tweeds: Mr Stanton (Manager, Tweed Department) states that the delay of the issuing of material has been caused through the strike and so on but every step is now being taken to expedite the despatch of this material

G. H. MOIR
Secretary.³⁶

April 18, 1921

The general fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held in the School of Arts, Gosford on Monday night the 18th instant. The attendance was a large one and included a number of new members. Mr Adcock (President) presided. This was the most enthusiastic meeting of this Branch on record. The minutes and correspondence for the preceding fortnight were read and confirmed.

United Church Parade: It was resolved that a parade consisting of soldiers and sailors, cadets and militia will take place on the morning of the 25th instant. All returned men desirous of participating in this parade are requested to be at the Drill Hall, Mann St, at 10.45 a.m. The parade will “fall in” at 11 a.m. sharp and will move off at 11.10 a.m. led by the Gosford Brass Band. It will then proceed to the Gosford Park where the services will take place at 11.30 a.m. sharp. Returned men who are wearing uniforms

³⁶ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, April 7. Mann St. Gosford

are especially asked to have the third button of their tunic covered in black. All returned men are asked to take part. In the event of them being unable to procure uniforms, they are quite in order in appearing in mufti. Decorations should be worn.

The parade will be represented by the Army (including the Boar War men) and Navy. Following is a list of officers, N. C. O.'s and men detailed for duty: O. C. Parade, Captain G. I. Adcock; Orderly Officer, Flight Lieut. J. Lloyd; Orderly Sergeant, Staff Sergeant R. E. Weeks; Colour Party, Corporals Stockdale and Upton; Standard Bearers, Army, Mr G. Frewin; Navy, Mr H. H. Foster; Wreath Bearers, Boar War, Mr G. Fletcher; A. I. F, Mr A. F. McDonald; Bugler, A. Hitchcock. The public of Gosford and district are specially invited to join in. Immediate after the service the parade will move off. Local hotels have agreed to close from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Afternoon Athletic Sports: At 2 p.m. sharp a programme, comprising a £5 Handicap (100 yards) Novelty Band Race and so on will eventuate. Entries for the former close Saturday, 23 instant. The programme will include numerous other events, also a Motor Driving Competition. At 3 p.m. there will take place the official handing over of Gosford's war trophy to the Citizen's Trustees.

Evening: At 8 p.m. the Grand and Plain Fancy Dress Military Ball will commence at which will be the presentation of over 20 British War Medals.

Cycle Race: Resolved that a 12 mile Cycle Race take place on the 11th of June. The first prize will be a pair of Dunlop Covers and Tubes, second prize a gold medal. The first prize has been donated by the Dunlop Rubber Company and the second by Messrs Bennett and Barkell through their agent Mr F. J. Buscombe. The race will be from Gosford to Ourimbah Railway Station and back. The Sub-committee consisting of Messrs R. E. Weeks, G. H. Moir and W. H. Stockdale, have the matter in hand and full particulars will be advertised at a later date. The proceeds will go to the Soldiers Memorial Funds.

Ballot for Auditor: As a result of a ballot for Sub-Branch and Memorial Fund Auditor the President, Mr Adcock, declared Mr J. Lloyd duly elected.

Distributing Agent: In future anyone desirous of taking advantage of the new Trading Extensions are requested to lodge all orders for boy's suits and men's trousers, underclothes, and so on to Mr R. E. Weeks, Mann St, or Mr R. G. Frewin, residence in Hill St. Mr Muir is leaving the district. In connecting with making applications returned men are reminded that the extensions are for financial members only. In the event of applications being lodged by post by new members, they are asked to forward their Discharge Certificates and Subs. Certificates or receipts for Subs., under registered post. These will be returned in the same way when the necessary particulars are taken.

Motor Driving Competition: resolved that a Motor Driving Competition take place on Anzac Day in the Waterside Park, time permitting. Next General meeting: School of Arts, Monday night, 2nd May, at 8 o'clock.

G. H. MOIR
Sub-Branch Secretary³⁷

May 2, 1921

The general fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held in the School of Arts, Gosford on Monday night last. There was a record attendance, which included a number of new members. Mr G. I. Adcock presided.

Resignations: A resignation was received from the President, Mr G. I. Adcock, on account of the little unpleasantness which occurred at the Ball on 25th April. A number of the members of the Committee and public seemed to have the opinion that the President and the Sports and Memorial Fund Secretary (Mr Mobbs) were trying to form "cliques", a thing that the League, generally is against. Mr Adcock stated that by all accounts he had practically failed to carry out the duties of President in a satisfactory manner and was resigning so as to give members a chance to elect a President who would better supervise the activities of the League. He explained matters fully.

Mr D. E. Mobbs (Secretary to the R. S. & S. I. L. A. Sports and Soldiers Memorial Funds Committee) tendered his resignation much on the same grounds that he had failed to carry out the duties of Secretary to these in a satisfactory manner. Mr E. K. White, Vice-President, stated that he was very sorry to hear that this little incident had cropped

³⁷ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, April 21. Mann St. Gosford

up and he thought it very unwise to receive the resignations. The members were aware of the splendid work carried out by the President and Secretary, both in connection with the Sub-Branch and the Memorial Committee. It was a pity that some of the returned men who were (in a lot of cases) only too free in their criticism, were possibly not members of the Branch, or who never attended meetings in any case.

He did not allude to members who were present; he was glad to see them in attendance to argue the matter out. Great credit was due to the Committee generally for the way in which the work was carried out. Undoubtedly most of the credit was due to Mr Mobbs, whose organisation has always proved successful. In conclusion Mr White moved a motion to the effect that the resignations of President and Secretary not be received. Mr F. C. Warmoll said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion and supported Mr White's statements. In his opinion everything had been explained in a most satisfactory manner and great credit was due to the Committee generally.

Though he was not often in attendance at the meetings, he could see that the Branch was going ahead by leaps and bounds. He was convinced that no harm was intended and considering the matter more as a "family matter", hoped it would go no further. Mr J. Lloyd also supported Mr Warmoll. Everything had been explained in a satisfactory manner. The motion that the resignation be not received was carried unanimously. Mr Adcock, in responding, that there was nothing personal intended in his resignation. He resigned for the good of the League.

All members should pull together and be prepared to make some small sacrifice. The Committee had a lot to think about in the organisation of sport and if a slight mistake had been made (which, under the circumstances, he doubted) it should be overlooked. Any member wishing to make any complaints, at any time, should place their complaints before the Committee, at the meeting, that was what we were there for and not talk openly. The President was pleased that everything was explained in a satisfactory manner and he would still continue to carry on to the best of his ability.

Preference to Returned Soldiers: With reference to a case where a local member had made an application for employment and his application had been turned down and apparently the work was given to a man who was not qualified for the work and was not a returned man, the President was instructed to make enquiries into the case and to

report. Failing a satisfactory explanation, further action would be taken by this Sub-Branch.

May Day: the following resolutions were carried unanimously “That in connection with the May Day incidents, the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A., representing all shades of political opinion, deplores the fact that the Government does not protect the loyal majority against the insults of a noisy and fanatical minority, who seem to be able, with impunity, to trample on the Flag and desecrate the memory of our dead comrades.” “That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the N. S. W. Executive of the League and that they be asked to take some united action to bring the matter before the public in order that further occurrences of a similar nature are prevented.” “That the N. S. W. Executive be asked to circularise to all Sub-Branches and request their co-operation in this matter.”

Cyanide Gang: resolved “that the Secretary be instructed to communicate with Head Office and enquire as to what steps have been taken to prevent the reducing of pensions of soldiers, sailors, widows, dependents and so on and whether the statements in a certain city paper are true.”

Sports Committee: Resolved “that in future, all Committeemen taking part in any sports will be supplied with a Badge.” Secretary D. E. Mobbs reported that all the moneys from Anzac Day were not yet received, but he expected that over £50 would be netted.

Cycle Club Meeting: There will be a meeting at the School of Arts on Monday night for those interested in forming a Cycle Club at Gosford.

British War Medals: All medals forwarded for presentation on Anzac Night, but not claimed, have been returned to Headquarters.

Miniature Badges: Miniature Badges are available for members, who are financial to the 31st December, 1921. Members who are desirous of obtaining a Miniature Badge are requested (provided they are financial to the above date) to forward their old Badge and stamps to the value of 1/6. Kindly forward full regimental particulars and address.

Gosford Band: Resolved that £1 be voted to the Gosford Band towards the Uniform Fund, same to be paid out of Sub- Branch account.

G. H. MOIR

Sub-Branch Secretary³⁸

The Sub-branch received notice from the Secretary of the Gosford Local Repatriation Committee that he had received forms for the members for applications in regard to the assistance which was being granted to the children of deceased and totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers to enable them to secure higher education or special training in various trades. The children eligible under this scheme were the children over thirteen years of age of soldiers who died as a result of war injuries and of soldiers who were permanently disabled to such an extent that they were permanently unable to earn more than a negligible portion of a living wage.

The assistance was at the rate of twenty-six pounds (£26) per annum for children between the ages of thirteen and sixteen who were living at home, making with their pension a total of fifty-two pounds (£52) per annum. After sixteen years an allowance of fifty-two (£52) per annum was made and if it was necessary to continue the assistance after the age of eighteen years for professional courses, an allowance of from seventy-eight pounds (£78) to one hundred and thirty pounds (£130) could be granted. In the cases of children under the age of sixteen years who were compelled to live away from home either to secure higher educational facilities, or for reasons of health or personal benefit, an extra living away from home allowance at the rate of twenty-six pounds (£26) per annum was grantable.

The rates were varied in regard to apprentices and agriculture students, apprentices receiving assistance at the rate of thirty-nine pounds (£39) in the first year, increasing year by year to sixty-five pounds (£65) per annum in the final year of apprenticeship. Agricultural students receiving fifty-two pounds (£52) in the first year, sixty-five pounds (£65) in the second year and seventy-one pounds ten shillings (£71/10/-) in the third and may be granted at extra thirteen pounds (£13) if an outfit was necessary. The whole scheme was devised for the purpose of inducing guardians to give the children

³⁸ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, May 5. Mann St. Gosford

opportunities for training in skilled callings rather than placing them immediately in avocations where larger wages may be earned in the first instance, but the future prospects were very limited.³⁹

June 13, 1921

The general meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held at the School of Arts, Gosford, on the 13th instant. The attendance was good and taken right through, the meeting was enthusiastic. Mr G. I. Adcock (President) presided. The minutes and correspondence, as read, was adopted.

Soldiers Memorial: This was the main item on the programme. Lengthy and solid arguments were brought forward from both sides. A letter from the General Secretary (Mr W. G. Humphrey) of the Erina and District Progress Association was read. The Secretary asked to be advised as to whether the League still intended to carry on with the present proposal, that is a Memorial Baths. At the same time they intended to support the Hospital. Following is a copy of a letter, submitted to the meeting, a copy of which has been forwarded to the General Secretary of the Progress Association. It was resolved that this letter fully expresses the attitude of those members present.

Mr W. G. Humphries,
General Secretary,
Erina Progress Association.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 7th instant, requesting the views of the Sub-Branch regarding the respective merits of a Hospital and Baths as a "Soldiers Memorial." I am instructed to inform you that, almost without exception, members consider the idea of a Memorial Hospital as worthy of the cause, and greatly superior to Baths. We consider, however, that the realisation of the project in a proper manner presents many difficulties. If these can be overcome, we will give the project our solid support.

You will recollect some time ago the Shire President, at our request, called a meeting, so that we could obtain an

* One pound =two Australian dollars

³⁹ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 9. Mann St. Gosford

indication of the wishes of the public in this matter. As a body, we took neither one side nor the other. Such of the public as cared to attend, decided in favour of the Baths, and it would possibly establish a dangerous precedent to call another meeting to upset the decision of the last one. However, we are not the ones to quibble.

We would further point out that, at the above mention meeting, most of our members, voted in favour of the Baths, as being self-supporting, while the Hospital is certain to be, as elsewhere, a constant drain on the charity of the community. If, however, you can bring forward a sound and practical scheme for financing the proposed institution, you may count on our support. It is our earnest desire to see a Memorial erected, which will in every way be worthy, and we would protest it taking the form of an institution, whether Hospital or otherwise, which might be either in debt, or dependent on charity.

We would rather have no Memorial at all than to see in future years, the usual sickening round of collection boxes, entertainments, and so on in order to scrape together enough money to perpetuate the memory of our glorious dead. Rather than face such a possibility, we would even go to the extent of erecting a monument purely by our own efforts.

For a Memorial, Messrs H. G. Parry (Repatriation Secretary) and M. J. Maddy (Shire Office), forwarded a proposition, which will be brought before the public meeting.

Miniature Badges: In future, when a member renews his subscription, instead of being supplied with a 1921 "Clip." He will be issued with a Miniature Badge, free of costs. When forwarding their subs., they may, if they so desire, forward their old Badge. This must be forwarded under registered post.

Subscriptions: Members of the League, who have been unfinancial for a year or so, are requested to forward 10/-; this will make them financial till the end of the year (1921). Members who are unfinancial only from the 30th June, 1921, are requested to forward 5/-. After the list of January, 1922, they will remit 10/-. Returned men who are desirous of joining the League, are advised that after the 30th June, instead of paying 10/- nomination fee, they are requested to pay 6/6 for 1921 and 10/- from 1st January, 1922 to 31st December, 1922.

Masked Ball: The Committee wish to thank Mr W. J. Eaton senior (Dads Association) for his assistance as acting M. C. on the night of the dance, 6th June, 1921.

R. V. Association: Resolved "That the Hon. Secretary be asked to state the number of R. V. A. members attached to the Gosford Branch and if it would be possible to do something to get the Branch going." A number of these members have asked if the local Branch of the League had any objection to their attending our meetings. The matter was allowed to stand over till we had a reply from the R. V. A. Secretary.

Exchange on Cheques: members when forwarding in any money by cheque (when necessary) are asked to kindly add exchange to same.

Sections: The local Executive for the past few months have been trying to get local Sections started in the outlying centres around Gosford. The objects in doing this are to bring members into closer contact with one another and the doings of the League generally. Any member who has been in touch with the League for the past 15 or 18 months realises what a fine thing it is for the returned men. It is the only protection against disloyalists &c. Another of our many reasons is to enable members to take advantage of the material, and so on made available to them by the League so that they will eventually see that their 10/- subscription is a good investment. The Executive fully realises that when a member has to travel a number of miles to attend a meeting, he is not going to be in attendance at every meeting.

In the event of the Sections being formed, members can hold their own meetings in their nearest centre, but at least one delegate from each centre to attend meetings of the Sub-Branch once a fortnight. Members wishing to procure material would not have to come to Gosford to lodge their orders for the material. Each Section would have a Secretary, who would take all orders and who would be constantly in touch with the Secretary of this Sub-Branch. It is up to every member to do his best to get these Sections formed as soon as possible. It is to every member's own interest. Circulars dealing with this matter have already been dispatched to various members and a number will be despatched in the course of a few days.

Public Meeting in reference to Memorial: The Shire President, Cr. Baker, in accordance with the request of a number of people, who have signed a petition against the erection of the proposed Memorial Baths, have convened another public meeting, which will take place on Monday, the 20th instant. Every returned man is asked to be in attendance if possible.

Cycle Race: the cycle race from Gosford to Ourimbah and back will take place on Saturday, 25th instant. Entries close with R. E. Weeks, or G. H. Moir not later than Saturday, 18th instant. Time of starting, and so on will be advertised in the "Times" on the 16th.

Soldiers Butchering Coy., Ltd: Mr R. E. Weeks, Managing Director, stated that a number of applications for shares had been received and that things were progressing favourably. The next general meeting will be held in the School of Arts on Monday week, 27th instant

G. H. MOIR
Sub-Branch Secretary.⁴⁰

The Sub-branch received the following notice concerning headstones for A.I.F. graves. The Department of Works and Railways had taken in hand the matter of providing headstones for the graves of all members of the Australian Imperial Forces and Navel and Military Expeditionary Force who died prior to the termination of the war and were buried in Australia. The next-of-kin of all members and ex-members of the A. I. F. and Navel and Military Expeditionary Force who died prior to June 28, 1919 and were buried in New South Wales, were requested to communicate with the staff officer, 2nd District Base, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, giving full Christian and surname and regimental particulars of the deceased soldier, also the date and place of death and place of burial. Envelopes were to be marked "Headstones."⁴¹

June 27, 1921

⁴⁰ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 16. Mann St. Gosford

⁴¹ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 23. Mann St. Gosford

The general meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held at the School of Arts, Gosford, on Monday night, 27th instant. Owing to the prevailing uncertain climatic conditions, the attendance was small compared with other meetings. Mr G. I. Adcock (President) occupied the chair. The minutes and correspondence for the previous fortnight was read and dealt with.

King's War Certificates: Resolved "That this matter be allowed to stand over till the next meeting and the Secretary to make enquiries.

Northern Roads Association: A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary, Northern Road Association. After the matter was discussed it was resolved "that Mr G. I. Adcock (President) be appointed as a delegate to represent this Sub-Branch." It was further resolved "that Mr Mobbs be instructed to interview the Secretary with a view to this Sub-Branch's affiliation with their Association." Suggested "that every member should become a member of this Association."

Social Evening: Under the auspices of Gosford Sub-Branch, R. S. & S. I. L. A., it was resolved "that a Social Evening take place at Wamberal on Monday night, 18th July." This is being organised with a view for forming a local Section combining the returned soldiers of Wamberal and Terrigal. All returned men or non-members of the League are cordially invited to be in attendance. Full particulars will be advertised at a later date by the Sports Secretary.

Resignation: A resignation to take effect from 25/7/21 was subltitted by the Branch Secretary. Resolved "that this resignation be not received."

Cycle Race: Despite the wet weather that prevailed on Saturday last, the cycle race from Gosford to Ourimbah was run off. Only two riders put in all appearance. Results: Ward (Granville), 1st and T. Grigg (Gosford) 2nd. The distance was covered in 57 minutes.

Tweed, Hosiery and &c. The State Secretary, Mr R. Hastings, advises that for some months past the Mills have not been able to cope with sale of material. For the first time since the new trading extnesions started, shipments of material are arriving

satisfactorily. Applicants)provided this material comes to hand from the woollen mills)can rest assured that their orders will receive prompt attention by head office.

Mother's Badge: Perhaps some of the local deceased soldiers's mothers have lost their badge. In the event of this, another badge may be obtained. {"In Memoriam.}") To do this, it is necessary for the applicant to make a statutory declaration and forward the sum of 6/3 to Victoria Barracks.

Subscriptions: Unfinancial members when forwarding their subscriptions, may if they desire, forward in their old badge for cancellation. A miniature badge will then be issued upon receipt of same from Head Office. In this respect, badges must be forwarded under registered post. To expedite the despatch of the miniature badges, members are requested to give full regimental particulars when forwarding their old badge, or renewal subscriptions.

Strength: At the 1st of June, 1920 our roll totalled 129 members. Till the 25th June, 1921, 215 have been enrolled, showing an increase of 86 members. This does not include 10 members who have been transferred out to various Sub-Branches.

Gosford Brass Band: Resolved "that £1 be paid over to the Band as a donation towards the Uniform Fund for their assistance at the Sports on 18th instant, same to be paid from proceeds of sports.

Memorial Fund: Resolved "that the Branch signifies its willingness to hand over Memorial Funds to be used in the erection of the proposed Memorial Arch.:

Old Soldiers: Resolved "that the State Executive be communicated with asking them to accept as members of the League any man who actually saw fighting and served in any war under the British Flag. A number of local men are veterans of the Boar War and would be an acquisition to any Branch was it was possible for them to become members. They were not eligible for this war, or were in stressing circumstances. The Branch urges headquarters to accept these men, irrespective of whether volunteers for this war or eligible."

G. H. MOIR

July 11, 1921

The half-yearly meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch, R. S. & S. I. L. A., was held in the School of Arts, Gosford, on Monday night, the 11 instant. There were a large number of men in attendance including Mr H. C. Wood (Vice-President). Mr G. I. Adcock (President) presided. The minutes and correspondence were read and adopted.

Secretary's Report: A report on the activities of the Branch was submitted by the Branch Secretary, embodying suggestions with reference to the formation of local Sections and giving a number of members attached to this Branch, &c. This report included a complete statement of accounts, from the 1st of January, together with a statement from the Tweed distributing agent, Mr J. A. Sterland.

Extension Agent's Report: Messrs R. E. Weeks and R. G. Frewin submitted a detailed statement of accounts in connection with the trading extensions. This included numerous suggestions re the proposed Sections.

Delay of Material: Resolved that the State Executive be communicated with relative to the above pointing out the delay of the despatch of material and asking that efforts be made to forward this material at once.

General Meetings: General meetings of this Sub-Branch will be held on every alternate Monday night. The next meeting will be held on Monday night, 25th instant. Cards giving the dates of meetings will be despatched at a later date.⁴³

Social Evening: Owing to the unforeseen happening the Social Evening for which arrangement had been made previously to take place in the Wamberal Hall on the 18th instant has now been postponed. This function is in aid of the general funds of the Sub-Branch and is being organised with a view to starting a local Section at Wamberal or

⁴² Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 30. Mann St. Gosford

⁴³ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, July 14. Mann St. Gosford

Terrigal for the benefit of all the returned men in that area. The function will now take place on the 1st August. All returned men are cordially invited to “roll up.”

Secretary’s Office: A suggestion was put forward by the League Secretary and Mr R. E. Weeks urging the local Executive to take over the office (formerly the Repatriation office) in Mann Street. The object of having the office is so that the main officials of the League can always be at hand. It was suggested that for a start the office be open about 3 nights a week and every Saturday morning. This will be general and all work in connection with the Branch and so on will be carried on.

Local Sections: It has been the object of the local Executive for some considerable time past to formulate a scheme whereby local Sections could be formed in the outlying centres of this district. It is hardly fair to expect, when we have a roll number of 211 members, to let a small percentage carry the responsibility of the government of the Branch on their shoulders any longer, when, with a little extra work and co-operation of all outside members, over 90 per cent of our members can be brought into close contact with one another and can have a live say in the government of their Section and of this Branch generally.

It is not our desire to have the whole say; though the government of the Branch has for the past 18 months fallen on the shoulders of almost 30 members, who have carried out the work to the very best of their ability and have made the Branch what it is today. We realise the fact that where our members have to travel, in some cases from 6 to 20 miles to attend a meeting they are not going to come along too often and with a view of simplifying matters we have decided to start “local Sections” in which over 90 per cent of the members would be included.

Sections formed in this way would be controlled by this Branch which would be the General Headquarters. Members would then be able to take advantage of every privilege extended to them by the State Executive without being put to any unnecessary inconvenience. Each Section would have a local Secretary, who would always be in close touch with the Branch Secretary and would be able to advise his members of anything that was going on in the League. There are a lot of members who have joined

up, but under the present conditions they are right out of touch with the League and have derived no or very little benefit from their membership.

In some cases, these members consider the League is dead. The League is far from being dead, as has been proved dozens of times by this Branch, not to mention the thousands of cases that are being handled and that have been handled by the State Executive satisfactorily. Under the present stressing times it is up to every returned man to link up with us and take an interest in the doing of the local Branch or Section. We can and have proved that the 10/- subscription is a good investment. In the event of the Section being formed their Secretary would be able to handle the "Trading Extensions" &c. Will every member or non-member, who is interested in this movement and has not already done so, kindly communicate with the undersigned, at the same time forwarding a list of names of returned men who reside in their locality and advise of their opinion of the advisability of starting a Section in their locality.

We are now in receipt of a number of remnant lengths of soldier's suiting's. These include 4 different patterns; two of which are of the new or fancy material. The price of this material is set down at 9/- per yard. Intending purchasers are requested to lodge their applications as soon as possible. Cash must accompany all applications; the agent will not be held responsible for any material left at the shop unpaid for. The lengths vary from 1½ to 2½ yards in length. This material is available to sailors, soldiers and their immediate dependants.

G. H. MOIR
Sub-Branch Secretary.⁴⁴

August 8, 1921

The general fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch, R. S. & S. I. League was held in the League Room on Monday night, 8th instant. The attendance was fairly good. Mr G. I. Adcock presided.

School of Arts, Wamberal: Resolved "that the secretary be written to pointing out that our representative was written to informing him that all of our artists were down with

⁴⁴ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, July 21. Mann St. Gosford

the “flu” and that we were under the impression that the Secretary was advised of the postponement.” This dance and social will now take place on the 29th instant.

Club Room {League}: All members of the League are invited to make use of this room when in town. Secretary’s hours; Tuesday nights 7 till 9.30; Friday nights 7.30 till 10; Saturday morning 10 till noon.

League Office: In future all meeting and so on of this Branch will be held in this office, which has been furnished from Mr Vecsey’s Furniture Department. Orders for boy’s suits, underclothes and so on may be lodged here any Friday night or Saturday morning. Orders may also be lodged for the “Wizard” Light. Full information with regard to any of the above may be had on application to the undersigned.

Sections: We are pleased to report that a number of returned men from the Mountains are now busy endeavouring to start a “Local Section.” A meeting will be called in the near future to make final arrangements. These Sections will be controlled by this Branch and will be run on the same system. The Secretary submitted a circular dealing with the organisation of these Sections.

Issue of Miniature Badges: All financial members of this Branch are advised that they will be issued with the Miniature Badge as soon as possible. These badges have been ordered and will be forwarded to members were possible per medium of the sub or local Sections. All local men who have not received this issue are advised that same will be available at this office any Friday night or Saturday morning. To expedite the issue of these Badges, will all financial members hand over to their Section Secretary or bring along with them their old League Badges for cancellation. In future, when a member renews he will be issued with a small Badge as soon as possible.

Tweeds: Customers are advised that all material is now to hand and is available on application to the District Agent, J. A. Sterland.

G. H. MOIR
Sub-Branch Secretary.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, August 11. Mann St. Gosford

August 22, 1921

The usual general meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch, R. S. & S. I. L. was held in the Soldiers Club Rooms in Mann Street, Gosford on Monday night, 22nd instant. Mr G. I. Adcock (President) presided. The minutes and correspondence for the proceeding fortnight were confirmed.

Gratuity: With reference to a claim lodged by one of the members for his gratuity, it was resolved "that a further appeal be made and a copy of the rejection be forwarded to the Federal Member, Mr W. M. Fleming and the State Executive."

Social Evening-Wamberal: Resolved that the Secretary be instructed to have 100 dodgers printed and distributed. This function is to take place on Monday night, 29th instant in the School of Arts, Wamberal. The function was organised by a member of Wamberal and Terrigal returned men together with a number of the local Executive, with a view to the formation of a Section of the League in that centre. All returned men, irrespective of whether members of the League or not, are cordially invited to come along and bring their friends. The Social will commence at 8 o'clock sharp and the dance will start at 10 p.m.

Sports: Another large sports meeting will take place in Waterside Park on 8-Hour Day, 2nd October. This will comprise numerous foot races &c. The programme will start at 11 a.m. At night a dance and presentation of Medals will take place. All returned men desirous of having their Medals obtained for them are therefore requested to forward their full regimental particulars to the General Secretary as soon as possible. The date of embarkation should be also given. Hot water, refreshments, cool drinks and so on will be available on the grounds during the day. In the morning Gosford's war trophies will be unveiled.

New Settlement League: This matter was allowed to stand over.

"The Soldier": A letter was received from the editor of "The Soldier". This matter was also allowed to stand over till our next meeting.

Miniature badges: All financial members of this Branch are advised that Miniature Badges are available at this Office. In future, if possible, these will be issued to members instead of 1921 clips.

Section Meeting: A meeting of the Diggers from the Mountain is set down for Wednesday night at their Somersby Hall. This meeting had been called with a view to the forming of a Section in that centre. This will include the election of office bearers, the names of which will, if possible, be advertised in this issue.

Underclothes: The following advice has just come to hand from Head Office of the Gosford Sub-Branch, R. S. & S. I. L. concerning the reduction in price of a few items in connection with the new trading ventures. Cardigan jackets 12/6 each, underpants 11/6 each, under shirts 10/6 each, socks (black cashmere) 2/6 a pair, grey wool socks 3/- a pair. The second feature is the announcement that the third issue of tweed is now available and in this connection agents may proceed and accept applications. The following are eligible to apply. Ex-members of the A. I. F., up to 4 yards; members or ex-members of the R. A. N., who saw active service, up to 4 yards. Imperial reservist who were in Australia at the outbreak of war, up to 4 yards. Australians who served in the Imperial Armies, up to 4 yards; ex-nurses of the A. A. N. A., up to 5 yards; war widows of deceased A. I. F., up to 5 yards; widowed mothers of deceased A. I. F. men, up to 5 yards.

Trousering Material: A limited quantity of stripped trousering, single width (30in) has been acquired. The materials are priced at 2/6 per yard. Ordinarily it takes about 3 yards on the single width to make a pair of trousers. Applicants may buy any quantity of the new trouser line and the purchase does not interfere with the Commonwealth Tweed Issue.

The next general meeting of this Branch will take place at this room at 8 o'clock on 5th September.

Special Meeting: A special meeting of this Sub-Branch will be held in this room on Friday night at 8 o'clock sharp to consider a circular which has been forwarded to the

various Sub-Branches of N. S. W., with reference to the proposed State Congress. This is an urgent matter and all members are asked to come along.

G. H. MOIR
Secretary.⁴⁶

The general belief is that World War I finished on the eleventh hour of 11 November, 1918. However, that was just an armistice, an agreement between the Axis and Allied powers to cease firing on one another. The following notice in the *Gosford Times* shows the following; In the Senate on Tuesday afternoon 23 August, the Minister for Defence, Senator Pearce, in reply to Senator Gardiner (NSW) said that action was being taken to proclaim midnight, 31 August, 1921 as the time of the termination of the present war between the Commonwealth and all countries, other than the Ottoman Empire, with which the British Empire continued to be at war until the ratification of the Treaty of Peace was exchanged and deposited.⁴⁷ This meant that Australia was still at war with Turkey on this date.

September 5, 1921

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held in the Soldier's Club Rooms, Gosford, on Monday night, 5th instant. Mr G. I. Adcock (President) occupied the chair. The attendance was exceptionally good and also present were the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Somersby Section. The meeting was most enthusiastic. The minutes and correspondence for the previous fortnight were read and confirmed.

In accordance with a resolution passed by the Somersby Sub-Section of this Branch Mr B. A. Reddall (Chairman) stated that a great deal of inconvenience was experienced by soldier settlers on account of being unable to obtain manures under the £625 advance. At the first meeting of the Somersby Sub-Section the following resolutions were unanimously carried:

⁴⁶ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, August 25. Mann St. Gosford

⁴⁷ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, August 25. Mann St. Gosford

(a) That this Sub-Section draws attention to the very unsatisfactory conditions now existing relative to the purchase of manures under the £625 advance of soldier settlers and,

(b) That this Sub-Section be instructed to write to the others drawing attention to the disgraceful condition of the mountain road, at the 4½ mile peg (Pile's Creek) and a culvert at the 5½ mile peg.

In accordance with the above resolution it was unanimously resolved:

(a) That the Branch Secretary be instructed to communicate with the R. S. & S. I. L. A. Head Office, asking the State Secretary to make inquiries into the purchase of manures under the £625 advance and,

(b) That the Branch Secretary be instructed to write to the Erina Shire Council drawing attention to the very unsatisfactory condition of the new mountain road and ask that some steps be taken to have these places repaired as soon as possible.

“The Soldier”: Resolved “that “The Soldier” remain the official organ of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. “

Sports Secretary's Resignation: Resolved “that Mr D. E. Mobbs' resignation be temporarily accepted and a hearty vote of thanks be tendered for the work in connection with the Sub-Branch and Memorial Committee carried out by him. Messrs R. E. Weeks and R. G. Frewin were appointed Joint Hon. Secretaries as his successors.

Moonlight Excursion: on the 20th instant a Moonlight Excursion will be run in aid of the General Funds of the Branch. Full particulars later.

Wamberal-Terrigal Section: On the 29th instant a Sub-Section of the Gosford Branch was partly formed at Wamberal. A further meeting was set down for Wednesday night, but owing to the fact that no definite advice having come to hand from the Hon. Secretary as to place or meeting, it was resolved “that this matter be allowed to stand over.”

Woy Woy: The local Executive are booked to go to a Monster Rally of returned men at Woy Woy on Thursday 29th instant with a view to the formation of a Section of this Branch in that centre.

Wamberal Social: Resolved "that the Secretary be instructed to convey the thanks and appreciation of all members to the artists for their kind support and assistance and to the motor drivers for the kind way in which they made their cars available in connection with the function at Wamberal on 29th August.

Direct Trading Co.: Resolved "that no action be taken in this matter and the Secretary be instructed to communicate with Head Office asking for their opinion in the matter."

The last general meeting of this Sub-Branch will be held on Monday night 19th instant in the Soldiers Club Rooms.

G. H. MOIR
Secretary.

An afternoon's sports under the auspices of Gosford Sub-branch were held on Monday, 3 October, on Waterside Park, which is now called Bluetongue Stadium. The attendance, owing doubtless to the many attractions associated with Eight Hour Day, was not large and one of the results was that several events on the programme were held over. The Gosford Brass Band rendered a musical programme, which was much appreciated.

During the afternoon Gosford's war trophies consisting of a 77 millimetre field gun and heavy minenwerfer, used in trench warfare, were officially handed over by the Trustees by Lieut. J. Lloyd, representing the War Trophies Committee. The Trustees were R. J. Baker and C. K. Adrian (citizens) and Captain I. A. Adcock (A. I. F.).

Lieut. Lloyd explained that owing to urgent business, the officer deputed to hand the trophies over was unable to visit Gosford that afternoon and Captain Adcock, being one of the Trustees, was also debarred from performing the ceremony. Lieut. Lloyd said that he was no hand at public speaking, but he had to obey orders.

Councillor Baker accepted the care and control of the war trophies on behalf of the Trustees and said that the afternoon's ceremony was merely a formal one, the object being to make arrangements for the proper housing of the guns. The unveiling ceremony was to take place in a few months' time when the Memorial Arch was erected on Waterside Park. The trophies consisted of a 77 millimetre field gun, German old type carriage, with 1918 barrel, range six thousand (6,000) yards and a heavy minenwerfer used in trench warfare and which fired a 90lb shell. Both guns were captured by the Australians in the last big offensive which commenced in France on 8 August, 1918, and so far as could be ascertained were captured at Bullcourt.

A Ball was held in the evening at which General Brand presented British War Medals to the following. Staff sergeant R. E. Weeks, Corporal A. E. Upham, Corporal L. O. Millar, Driver A. Grant and Trooper P. W. Townsend. Nine other returned men listed for presentation were unavoidably absent Reginald Harrison and C. Staunton acted as Master of Ceremonies and Miss Doris Benson supplied excellent dance music. Supper was provided by lady members of the Red Cross Society.⁴⁸

October 16, 1921

Special Committee Meeting

In accordance with a resolution carried at the Federal Congress, held at Brisbane recently, it has been resolved by the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League to proclaim Armistice Day, the 11th November next as "Poppy Day". With this end in view a facsimile of a Red Flanders Poppy will be worn by all on that day as an emblem and such poppies will be on sale throughout the Commonwealth through the channels of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. The poppies are made by the women and children of the devastated areas of France and are the exact facsimile of the little red flower familiar to the returned men who fought in the fields in Flanders.

The poppy has already been adopted by Britain and other allied countries and the returned sailors and soldiers of this country now join their comrades from other parts of the world in asking the people of Australia to wear the poppy for the three following reasons. Firstly, in memory of our sacred dead, who rest in Flanders fields. Secondly,

⁴⁸ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, August 25. Mann St. Gosford

to keep alive the memories of the sacred cause for which they laid down their lives and thirdly as a bond of esteem and affection between the soldiers of the allied nations. For these reasons every loyal British subject will be asked to wear the poppy on Armistice Day.

Supplies of these poppies will be available in the near future, the quota for the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League for N. S. W. being 400,000, which will be sold at 1/- each; sixpence of this amount will be paid to the makers of the poppies. The poppy of Flanders has been immortalised in Colonel John McCrae's poem:

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We are dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you with failing hands we throw
The torch. Be yours to lift it high!
If you break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies blow
In Flanders Fields.

An extraordinary State Congress of the N. S. W. Branch of the R. S. S. I. L. A. will be held commencing on the 28th November, 1921. The business to be dealt with shall include: Election of a new Council for a period of twelve months, or such less period as Congress shall decide and any other business of which the Branches have given notice, together with any other business as placed on the agenda paper by the State Executive.

The next general meeting of this Sub-Branch will be held on Monday night next, 31st instant. Every available member is asked to come along and bring his complaints (if he

has any) along with him. Any member wishing to bring any matter under notice of this Congress must hand same in, so as to reach the State Secretary not later than the 14th November. The Secretaries of the Sections are specifically requested to bring this matter before their members as soon as possible so that their Section may be represented at this meeting. The business set down for the meeting to date is:

- 1) State Congress
- 2) Sale of Poppies
- 3) Re action of Mr Dooley
- 4) Election of Delegates to attend Congress
- 5) Sports

A special Committee meeting of the above was called for Monday night 24th instant, to consider circular from Headquarters re sale of poppies on Armistice Day, 11th November, 1921. Present: Messrs A. W. Helsham (Chair), R. G. Frewin, R. E. Weeks, A. Cheater, A. E. Upham, G. I. Adcock, V. R. McDonald, Mr Muir and G. H. Moir.

The following resolution was carried: That 2,000 poppies be ordered and suggested that the local stores be approached with a view to making window displays and the Red Cross be approached with a view to conducting sale of poppies through the town &c.

G. H. MOIR
Secretary.⁴⁹

October 31, 1921

In the unavoidable absence of the President (Mr G. I. Adcock) last meeting of the above was presided by Mr R. E. Weeks. Messrs B. A. Reddall and A. Grant (Chairman and Secretary of Somersby Section) were present.

State Congress: Resolved that this Sub-Branch supports the resolution and suggestions passed by the Somersby Sections and that the State Secretary be asked to place same on the agenda for the forthcoming extraordinary State Congress.

⁴⁹ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, October 27. Mann St. Gosford

Delegates: Resolved that Mr B. A. Reddall (Chairman Somersby Section) be nominated as delegate to attend Congress for the first day. Mr G. I. Adcock (President Gosford Branch) delegate for the second day and Mr R. E. Weeks delegate for the third day.

Public Meeting: Resolved that the President (Mr Adcock) be instructed to interview the Shire President, with a view to the convening of a public meeting with reference to the sale of poppies on Armistice Day, November 11th, 1921.

Committee Meeting: Resolved that a Committee meeting be called for Thursday night, the 10th November, business to include the final arrangements for Poppy Day and Sports.

Resignation: A resignation was received from the Tweed Distributing Agent. Resolved that this matter be allowed to stand over till the next meeting.

Posters: Resolved that the Secretary be instructed to have 30 posters bearing the words "Wear a poppy on Armistice Day" printed and displayed as soon as possible.

Tennis Dance: A tennis dance will be held in the Terrigal Hall (under the auspices of the Gosford Branch (R. S. S. I. L. A.) on Armistice Night, 11th instant.

Moonlight Excursion: A moonlight excursion will be run on 15th November, 1921, from Gosford to Wagstaff, leaving Gosford 7.45 p.m., calling at Point Clare and Woy Woy.

Erina Shire Certificates: At the recent official opening of the Soldiers Club Rooms, Cr. R. J. Baker, on behalf of the Shire Council, sated that there were a number of the abovementioned Certificates unclaimed. It was the wish of the Council that every returned soldier (who enlisted in this district) should possess one of these fine Certificates. The "Diggers" had not taken advantage of the opportunity as yet and with a view to better distribution, Cr Baker offered to make arrangements for the local Branch to take over the distribution. To this end all returned men who enlisted in this Shire, and who have not taken advantage of the offer made by the Council, are requested to forward their names and addresses to the Branch without delay.

Dependents are respectfully asked to forward their deceased son's particulars also, and when these Certificates are available they will be forwarded to the applicants where possible, per medium of their Section. Where there is no Section these Certificates will be available at the Club Rooms in Gosford. This matter had unavoidably been held over for some considerable time and we hope that the returned men or their dependents will now take advantage of the fine offer made by their local Council.

“The Soldier”: “The Soldier” the only official organ of the New South Wales Branch of the League, instead of being any longer a weekly paper has now been converted into a very fine monthly magazine. The first issue is just now to hand. This journal is also the official organ of the R. V. A., the Mothers and Wives Association, the Voluntary Workers Association, Sailors and Soldiers Fathers Association and Legion of Frontiersmen. “The Soldier” contains everything of interest to returned men and their dependents and they are well advised to become subscribers, thus not only helping themselves, but the cause generally. We wish to congratulate the editor (Mr G. A. Taylor) and the Staff on the brilliant success they have made of this venture. The price of the subscription is 6/- per annum (12 issues) to League members or 12/- per annum to civilians.

General Meetings: General meetings of this Branch will be held every alternate Monday night as shown here under; November 14, November 28, December 12, December 26 and on January 16, 1922, the annual meeting will take place.

G. H. MOIR
Secretary.⁵⁰

The Sub-branch received the following communication from the Chairman of the A. I. F. Canteens Funds Trust;

The Trustees beg to bring under the notice of your Committee the munificent bequest under the will of the late Sir Samuel McCaughey, a large proportion of which has been set apart for the education of the children of our soldiers who, as a result of service abroad, were killed or died of wounds, and of children of those who have been totally and permanently disabled.

A sum of about £250,000 is available for this purpose.

⁵⁰ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, November 3. Mann St. Gosford

A memorandum is herewith enclosed, affording information as to the character of education which will be provided, and also as to the class of children who are eligible to receive assistance.

The Trustees confidently seek the generous help and interest of your Committee in order that these educational facilities may be brought under the notice of those who are eligible, and who may desire to take advantage of same.

It would be esteemed a favour if you will advise parents and guardians who desire further information or forms of application, to apply direct to the Trustees, A. I. F. Canteens Funds Trust, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.⁵¹

1922

January 9, 1922

On Monday night last, a most enthusiastic and interesting meeting of this Branch was held in the Soldiers Club Rooms. There would have been a larger attendance, but for the somewhat uncertain weather conditions

Soldiers Club Rooms: With reference to a letter from Mr R. Hill, Narara, who had offered the room free to the League for the next three months, it was resolved on a motion moved by Mr Upham and seconded by Mr Weeks that Mr Hill be communicated with and thanked for his generous offer and that the League accepts same for the period stated free of charge.

Collection of subscriptions and so on 1922: A circular submitted by Secretary contained suggestions for the collections of the above mentioned. It was resolved that these suggestions be adopted as from the 10th January, 1922. The suggestions were;

- (a) Instead of circularising all financial members that certain ----- members who were Insurance ----- and so on be appointed as collectors. ----- pay moneys in to the -----.
- (b) ----- collectors be allowed a commission of 5 per cent.
- (c) That the collectors be provided with proper certificates, signed by the President and Secretary.

⁵¹ Baker Robert James, 1921. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 1. Mann St. Gosford

(d) The aforesaid collectors be (sic) thoroughly conversant with the ideals and objects of the R. S. S. I. L. A. and that they endeavour to effect the formation of Local Sections were possible.

(e) That the collectors make notes of any genuine complaints lodged by members and that he takes steps to have the matter brought before the local Executive with the least possible delay

(f) That the collectors be (sic) empowered to carry with them patterns of Trading Extensions and so on and that they try and effect sales of same.

(g) That in the event of collectors being able to effect sale of same, they be allowed to retain 50 per cent commission.

(h) That, with the permission of the State Executive, members be (sic) allowed to make a half yearly payment of subscription, same to be made after 30th June and 31st December.

(i) That no quarterly payments be without an extra charge of 1/- per annum be made (threepence per quarter.) By making quarterly payments to a certain extent means upsetting the present system and the extra 1/- per annum would go to the League to defray costs of other stationery &c.

(j) That Mr H. L. Marshall (Agent representing A. M. P. Society) be (sic) appointed collector and organiser for the current year. A further collector to be appointed at the annual meeting.

Unfinancial members are now asked to pay annually 10/-, half-yearly 5/- and quarterly 2/9 per quarter.

Annual Meeting: Resolved that the annual meeting is to take the form of a Smoke Concert of the Sub-Branch take place on Monday night week, 23rd January, 1922. The matter was fully discussed and the following resolutions were carried unanimously; That, if possible Mr F. J. Buscombe's offer be accepted and that the function be held in the Gosford Hall. That all returned sailors and soldiers, irrespective of whether members or non-members are cordially invited to attend. That returned men be asked to come along to the election of officers and so on which will take place just before the Smoke Concert.

That Messrs A. R. McDonald and R. G. Frewin be (sic) appointed organisers for this function. That the following citizens be invited; Mr R. J. Baker (President of Erina Shire

Council), Mr G. H. Adcock, F. L. S. and so on Mr F. J. Buscombe (Secretary Gosford Band), Mr Lovell, (Bandmaster), Mr H. G. Parry (President School of Arts and Secretary A. H. Association), Mr Chas. Hills (Bank Manager), Mr L. Bryce, Sergeant Morris, Mr Stan Moore, Mr M. J. Maddy and Mr George May.

In addition to this, it was resolved that an invitation be extended to the Mangrove and Wyong Sub-Branches of the R. S. S. I. L. A. and a special invitation to the Erina-Wamberal “Dads” Association. That it should be clearly understood by the public in general that this is wholly a League Function; that it concerns the interest of returned men and no others will be admitted with the exception of those who have received a special invitation.

That an invitation be extended to a representative of the local Press. That the business of the annual meeting shall consist of the President’s Address, Branch and Sports Secretary’s Reports and Statements of Accounts, Agents and Collectors Reports, Complete Installation of Officers and any other business that may be placed on the agenda paper at a later date. That all business to be transacted be in the Secretary’s hand no later the 20th January.

That any man who had been expelled from this League be refused admittance to the annual meeting or to any other meeting of the Branch. That the first meeting take place at 7.30 p.m. sharp and the Smoko commence at 8.30 p.m. sharp. That this function be advertised in the “Times” and per medium of local Picture Show.

General: A number of complaints have come to hand from members, directly or indirectly, concerning meetings and places of same. This has been the first meeting for some time and for the future meeting will be held in the Soldiers Club Rooms. Dates of same will be decided at the annual meeting.

G. H. MOIR
Secretary.⁵²

⁵² Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 12. Mann St. Gosford

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

January 23, 1922

On Monday night last the Gosford Sub-Branch of the R. S. and S. L. League held its second annual meeting followed by a Smoke Concert in Gosford Hall, kindly placed at the disposal of the Branch by Mr Frank Buscombe. Captain A. I. Adcock occupied the chair. Messrs Weeks and Frewin, Hon. Secretaries of the Sports Committee, presented a report showing that six entertainments had been held during the year as a result of which £23/12/9 had been paid into the League funds. An appeal was made for League members to attend excursions, and so on in larger numbers.

The annual report furnished by the Secretary Mr G. H. Moir was adopted. (Report will be published next issue.

It was decided that the allotment to local Sub-Branches be increased to 1/-. Mr Marshall was appointed organiser, collector and agent for tweeds and other goods sold by the League.

The following officers were elected for the current term;

President, A. I. Adcock; Vice-Presidents, Messrs A. W. Helsham, H. L. Marshall and G. H. Moir; Secretary, Mr A. E. Upham; Assistant Secretary, Mr E. E. Muir; Treasurer, Mr G. H. Moir; Sports Secretaries, Messrs R. E. Weeks and R. G. Frewin; Auditors, Messrs A. E. Cheater and J. Lloyd; General Committee, all officers ex-officio. The Executive Committee will consist of the President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Sports Secretaries and Treasurer.

Smoke Concert: The Smoke Concert was a most successful affair and shows that the spirit of comradeship still exists among our returned men. A number of citizens were present by invitation. Captain Adcock presided and Mr R. Cox, a member of the State Executive, was also in attendance. The latter, in responding to a toast of the Executive (proposed by Mr Helsham), gave a very interesting discourse on the advantages to be

gained by being a member of the League and also supplied a deal of valuable information regarding the Executive's work on behalf of returned soldiers.

A number of toasts were proposed and responded to, the President specifically referring to the generous offer of Mr Hill to supply a room for the Committee free of charge. Special reference was also made to the services rendered by the ladies of the Red Cross and Gosford Brass Band. In responding to the latter, Mr Frank Buscombe suggested that a Debating Society should be formed in connection with the League. During the evening Captain Adcock addressed the members on the urgent necessity existing for closer co-operation and a firm determination to remain banded together for the safeguarding of the own interest. He also submitted a verbal report of the League's progress during the past year. Mr Adcock senior and Mr W. Eaton, responded to the toast of the "Dads" Association. Mr Adcock was one of the founders of the Victorian Dads Association. Several other toasts were proposed and responded to and proceedings terminated with Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.

The musicians for the evening were Messrs Mr Mae and A. Hitchcock (coronets). C. Metyard (piano) and Mr Pike (bones.)⁵³

The annual report adopted at the annual meeting of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia, read as follows: I have to advise that to date we have 225 members. Out of every 10/- now paid in by members, we retain 5/- instead of 4/- as in 1921. The extra 1/- obtained this year will mean a considerable difference in our state of accounts. I have every hope that the scheme, which I submitted and which you were good enough to adopt, will bring a lot more members, both new men and renewals. I am perfectly satisfied that it is absolutely useless circularising members (this was proved last year) and I am satisfied that the present system will be far more expeditious and more satisfactory to all concerned

The collector has his work sheets and can carry on. I would suggest that, however, the Sub or Local Sections be now allowed to retail 1/- per member per annum, instead of sixpence as previously temporarily arranged and that they also be allowed to retain one

⁵³ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 26. Mann St. Gosford

half of the proceeds derived from the sale of underclothes and so on and any other trading venture that the League may see its way to undertake. Should this be decided, I would suggest that the Sections treat the matter the same way in which we have done whilst we were handling same in any quantity; that is, that they be supplied with the necessary forms and so on and that the Hon. Secretary be asked to complete same; one to be retained by this Branch, one to be retained by the Section. These could then be copied into our books and the original forwarded to Head Office and that Head Office be asked to forward the material to the Section direct, instead of us, thus saving double handling and at the same time saving a deal of inconvenience, time &c.

As far as I can see the chief reason why members do not take advantage of the offers which we have extended them is because there appears to have been a fair amount of delay in Head Office; but it is satisfactory to note that the last two orders we sent in arrived in about a week's time. This is reasonable, but the members are frightened of again being held up as they were on one other occasion, when the mills were not turning the materials out. The State Executive could not help that and when they got the material same was forwarded as soon as possible. However, now that you have been appointed a collector, or a man to act as a collector and general organiser, Mr A. H. L. Marshall, (Agent representing the A. M. P. Society) patterns of material and so on can be carried around the district.

This I understand, is his ultimate intention and is a good idea. It will bring the matter right home to the members in the scattered districts that we cannot get to, and further, he has been instructed, or will be, instructed to endeavour to affect the formation of Sub or Local Sections wherever possible. Further, he has been asked to take note of any complaints that members have and place same before the following meeting of the Branch and that they be asked to come along. I have not been able to interview the collector, Mr Marshall, since the last meeting, so that I am not at present to say how my scheme is working, but will expect him to come along to the annual meeting.

For the last quarter, the Branch to all appearances has been non-existent. This is, however, to a certain extent, my own fault, though same has been unavoidable, as I have not had the necessary time to spare and keep things rolling. The progress of the Branch is due, as much as anyone to Messrs R. J. Baker, H. G. Parry, P. J. Buscombe,

R. Hill and a great number of men who have come forward, in more than one case putting up with a deal of inconvenience for returned men. These actions may not have seemed of such importance during the last year to them, but they proved of great assistance to this Sub-Branch.

I have to report that the lately formed Wamberal Local Section has been closed down for some time, through no fault of the officers, who did their best to continue, but with such a small attendance such as 1, 2, 3 or 4 turning up to the meeting, it was useless for them keeping the Branch going; not only this, but members would not even go to the Secretary to take delivery of their material in some instances. The Secretary of that Section (Mr William Archibald) worked very hard to try and make a success of this Branch and I would suggest that a special note be made of the matter and a letter of thanks forwarded to him for the trouble he took in that connection.

With reference to the advertising of general meetings, I would point out that, since the end of July, the attendance to our meetings has been going back considerably. To that time you had adopted my suggestion and had a number of cards printed giving our members a free adv., on the back thereof. A number of members in business were pleased with the idea and enquiries have been often made since as to why fresh cards were not printed. This has not been possible owing to the fact that we were not financial enough. However, I would now suggest that a few members in business be approached and asked to advertise on the back. Failing returned men, there are men who would only be too pleased to advertise and the ad., coming out on our cards, would most probably further their business.

I would suggest that 200 of these be ordered right away and that the collector be supplied with a number of these, so that a member pays his subscription he will be issued with a card; they need only to small, so that they will fit in the pocket without doubling up. Ever since these cards were out of date the attendance at the meetings has been falling off and I think that if the old idea is re-adopted, members will again come along to a meeting when they are in town. It may be possible to have a few say six, large cards printed at the local printers; those to forward out to outlying centres where they could be posted up in some conspicuous place.

In conclusion, Mr President and gentlemen, I wish to thank you for your solid support and especially Messrs R. E. Weeks and R. G. Frewin together with a number of the citizens who will be present here to-night, not forgetting the Gosford Brass Band and the Red Cross Society, who have been amongst the first to come along and offer us assistance. I regret to say that I am unable to carry on any longer as Secretary. Whilst I have been in office, the work has been a pleasure and under the same circumstances I would be willingly undertake the position again.

However, as I have had no time to yet attend to correspondence from the last meeting, I do not think it is fair to hold the Branch back in this way and trust that you will see your way clear to elect someone who would be able to keep things moving; preferably someone who lives in town, or a bit nearer than I do at the present time, or someone who has the 'phone attached to their premises. Wishing the Gosford Branch every success and assuring you of my best support at all times,

Yours faithfully,
G. H. MORE
Secretary.⁵⁴

February 20, 1922

Mr G. I. Adcock presided at the regular meeting held on Monday evening and 12 members were present. The following resolutions were submitted and carried:

That the invitation tendered to members of the League by the Narara War Trophy Trustees to be present at the unveiling of the Narara trophy be accepted with thanks.

That the Secretary of the Gosford War Memorial Committee be written to, with a view to obtaining his Committee's approval of the putting into effect by the League of the following suggestions emanating therefrom;

- 1) Communicating with the Rector of St John's Church of England, Parramatta, asking for particulars of the Memorial Arch erected at said church.
- 2) Getting into touch with the State President of the League asking his assistance in reference to plans and suggestions.

⁵⁴ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, February 2. Mann St. Gosford

That the following events take place on the dates specified; Daylight Launch Excursion on Sunday, March 5; Smoke Concert on March 13; Horse Sports on Saturday, March 18.

That the State Secretary be informed of our proposed Anzac Day arrangements.

That the clergy representing the different denominations be asked to co-operate with us on Anzac Day (25th April.)

Re to the Repatriation Act Amendment, 1921: Returned men are notified that under the above mentioned amendment, any member of the forces that has had his pension either refused, cancelled, or reduced owing to what was termed a “prior to enlistment disability,” may have his claim considered by communicating with the Deputy Commissioner, Department of Repatriation, Sydney, setting out the circumstances of the case, or such can be forwarded through the undersigned to League Headquarters, when the League Officials will appeal on his behalf. The term “Members of the Forces” includes members of the A. I. F. who served abroad and Home Service men who served not less than six months in camp after joining the A. I. F.

A. E. UPHAM
Hon. Sec.⁵⁵

March 6, 1922

A general meeting of the Returned Soldiers League, presided over by Mr G. I. Adcock, was held on Monday last when the following resolutions were carried:

That money outstanding from Benefit be (sic) made over to the Children’s Hospital, per medium of the local Red Cross Society.

That a partition be drawn up and circularised to members and non-members, also neighbouring sub-branches, with a view to having representations made to the Minister for Lands, re the advisability of having money due under Clause 7, Class C, of the Soldiers Settlement Act, added to general debt.

⁵⁵ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, February 23. Mann St. Gosford

That a copy of the above memorandum be forwarded to the "Soldier" for publication, asking sub-branches to co-operate.

That a sub-committee be appointed to deal with the above, to be composed of Messrs Adcock, Helsham and Bosanquet.

That a number of questions relative to the interest of returned men generally, be mailed to each candidate standing for this Electorate, with an object of obtaining his views on same.

That the Secretary pay accounts at his discretion.

The next meeting was fixed for Monday, March 20, at 8 p.m.

A. E. UPHAM

Hon. Sec.⁵⁶

March 20, 1922

The monthly meeting of the Returned Soldiers League was held on Monday. Captain Adcock presided.

At the meeting previous to this, the Secretary was instructed to put certain questions to the candidates for the Maitland Electorate. Below are the questions, followed by the answers received from Messrs O'Hearn, Bennett and Cameron respectively;

Question 1 Do you propose, if elected, to proceed with the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Employment Act? If willing to keep the Act on the Statute Book, are you willing to have the prescribed Board appointed to carry out the Act? And are you willing to amend any defects found to exist in the Act?

Answers With regard to No. 1, I am rather puzzled, as the Returned Soldiers Executive, Sydney, wish the Act to be extended to June 30, 1922. In my opinion the soldiers want justice before preference (Mr O'Hearn). Yes (Mr Bennett.) Yes (Mr Cameron.)

⁵⁶ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 9. Mann St. Gosford

Question 2 Will you do all in your power to urge the prompt commencement of the work of making efficient the lines of communication in Australia, by unifying railways and linking up strategic points?

Answer Yes (Mr O'Hearn). Yes (Mr Bennett). This is largely a Federal matter, but all the same I support the principle suggested in question (Mr Cameron).

With the approval of the Secretary of the Gosford War Memorial Committee a letter was forwarded from this Branch to Rector of St John's Church. Parramatta, with a view of obtaining information as to costs, and so on of the Memorial Arch erected at that Church. It was decided to send a copy of the reply received to War Memorial Committee, requesting their views and co-operation re contents.

On account of the near approach of Anzac Day, the Secretary was instructed to ring up the State Secretary in view of the proposed proclamation of Anzac Day being a public holiday in order to obtain a definite decision from him as to advisability of holding the Anzac Ball on that day, as we have no desire to run counter to the League's adopted policy. This was done and elicited the reply that our arrangements were quite in order. It was decided that the Sub-Branch Secretary be given power to act on reply from State Secretary and proceed with the arrangements.

Having in mind the kindness displayed by the ladies of the Red Cross, both during the war and since the cessation of hostilities, it was proposed and unanimously carried that invitations to the Ball be extended to them. An animated controversy centred round the subject as to what form the advertisement for the Ball should take. Ultimately a calico sign across the street won the day, subject to the permission of Police and Council. In addition, smaller notices to be displayed throughout the district and on launches, buses &c.

The arrangements for Anzac Day will be substantially the same as last year. A muster parade of returned men will fall-in at Drill Hall with Band in attendance, from whence they will march to the Park to attend the Memorial Service. It is requested that as many returned men as possible will wear uniform, full dress, with medals and decorations, officers wearing swords.

A conference of Soldier Settlers from Gosford District, Matcham, Somersby and Penang Mountain was held at the Sub-branch's Soldiers Club Rooms in Gosford on Friday night, 19 May. Captain G. I. Adcock occupied the chair. It was pointed out by numerous speakers that the position of settlers was becoming increasingly serious and that a call for a Royal Commission should be appointed without delay to go into the whole question. The most immediate requirement was a more efficient and sympathetic administration by practical men.

The point was emphasised that returned soldiers had no desire to be a drain on the State and that, given proper consideration; the majority would make a success of their holdings. Under the present conditions however, the majority were quite unable to carry on, with the result that the properties would revert to the Soldiers Settlement Branch in a depreciated condition and the settlers themselves would be forced into the ranks of the unemployed. The present mortgage system was strongly criticised and it was held to be unfair that the Soldiers Settlement Branch should insist in mortgage being given over private property and improvements effected by the settlers with their own capital. It was also held that orchardist settlers should not be required to repay loans until the trees became into bearing in the case of a new orchard that was about five years.

The breach of contract committed by the Government in connection with the repayment of loans was the cause of extreme dissatisfaction. The majority of settlers took up land on the understanding that if the improvements to the value of the annual rental were effected each year such rental would be remitted for three years. Further, it was stated on Departmental forms that payments under *clause (C) (fertiliser seed, &c.)* were to be made in full at the end of the first year, without interest, otherwise the amount could be added to the general debt. Recently the officers of the Soldiers Settlement Branch had amended the forms, in pencil, to read: To be repaid in full at the end of the year with interest. There is now no option of adding the amount to the general debt. Further, settlers were now being billed every three months instead of annually. In cases of

⁵⁷ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 23. Mann St. Gosford

default, the Department can, at the expiration of three months, evict the settler without notice.

The following motions were carried unanimously;

That this meeting, representative of the soldier settlers of Gosford and surrounding districts, makes representation to the Government with a vow of reforming the administration of the Soldiers Settlement Branch, and the demands of an immediate Royal Commission to go to the matter without delay. That those present affirm their determination to make no further payments ending a satisfactory reply to these presentations.⁵⁸

April 3, 1922

The fortnightly meeting of this Sub-branch was held on the night of 3rd April instant. Mr G. I. Adcock presided. Correspondence was received and dealt with.

A number of memorandums dealing with soldier settlement were returned from different parts of the district, with signatures attached as requested when despatched from this Sub-branch. Owing however, to the absence from the meeting of the soldier settlement members of the League, it was decided to let this matter stand over.

The Head Office was requested, during the week, to supply this Sub-branch with miniature badge block for printing purposes on Ball programmes and &c. The Sub-branch Secretary was notified from the State Secretary that same had been forwarded.

On the night of 10th instant, a meeting of the Anzac Day Committee and the representatives of the various religious bodies in Gosford will take place in the rooms, with the object of making definite arrangements with regard to the United Services on the morning of Anzac Day.

Major-General Brand, commanding 1st Infantry Division, Australian Military Forces, was communicated with a few days ago, suggesting that he use his best endeavours at Military Headquarters to make available a Senior Officer to be present in Gosford in

⁵⁸ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, May 25. Mann St. Gosford

the afternoon of April 25th to officiate at the distribution of medals at that time. It was further decided that failing a satisfactory reply, that Mr Marshall be authorised to interview Military Officers of field rank in Newcastle, with the above end in view.

It was considered necessary to publish a separate report dealing with the League's position and efforts on behalf of the Memorial Arch. The composition of the report to be left in the hands of the Secretary, also the League's attitude with regard to Anzac Day to be inserted in the form of a leader. The League's representatives on the War Memorial Committee were instructed to call a meeting to discuss recent developments.

Following is a programme of the Anzac Day Demonstrations: A muster parade will be held, to fall-in at the Drill Hall, Gosford, at 10.a.m. for the purpose of attending the United Memorial Services to be held in commemoration of our fallen comrades. With the Gosford Band in attendance, the Parade will move off via Mann Street to the Park, where the Service will be held. The Sub-branch requests that as many men as possible attend in uniform, medal and decorations to be worn. In the afternoon a distribution of medals will take place. The Secretary will forward a list of the men desiring these, to Victoria Barracks, on receipt of particulars, such as Regimental No., Rank, Unit &c. It is requested that these details be returned as expeditiously as possible. The Second Grand Military Plain and Fancy Dress Ball will be held at night.⁵⁹

May 29, 1922

Report of General Meeting Held My 29th, 1922. The correspondence was received and dealt with. The Secretary's action in replying to the Deputy Commissioner, War Services Homes Commission, re R. Tucker was endorsed.

With regard to a letter received from the Manager of the Disabled Soldiers Basket and Sea Grass Furniture Industry, Mr H. Marshall was authorised to interview local shopkeepers with a view to bringing this industry under their notice.

Following upon a request from the T. B. Sailors and Soldiers Association, it was decided to requisition 12 books of tickets for the purpose of sale in connection with the

⁵⁹ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, April 6. Mann St. Gosford

Art Union launched by that body. Further, that the commission allowed to be donated to the funds of this Sub-branch of the League.

The following delegates were appointed to attend the meeting of the National Roads Association, to be held on June 3rd, Messrs Helsham, Rose and Cheater.

In connection with the Ball to be held on June 23rd, it was decided that advertising should be carried out in a similar manner as on the occasion of the Anzac Ball. Prices of admission to be as follows: Ladies 5/-, gents 6/-. Double 10/6. Warmesley's Orchestra will be engaged. A programme drawn up by the M. C. is to be submitted to the Committee, which will meet on Monday next. An invitation to the Ball is to be issued to the Band. Their services are also requested for this purpose of playing outside the Hall. Onlookers will be allowed entrance to the gallery at 1/6 per head.

The Secretary is in possession of General Service and Victory Medals for the undermentioned men: L. J. Albon, W. Archibald, W. Boyce. M. T. Campbell, H. L. Cassell, C. D. P. Campbell, K. M. Cohen, G. Cronin, A. E. Cureen, A. H. Decent, M. Denham, E. G. Dunnage, E. R. Fiddick, H. E. Gossip, D. H. Green, H. Hastings, C. F. Howard, L. H. Humphries, C. Judge, J. D. Kirkness, A. A. Krumin, C. G. McPherson, C. McDowell, E. Peak, G. Punch, W. Quale, J. P. Reilly, W. Settree, T. G. Spencer, C. Studds, N. F. Staunton, P. W. Townsend, J. C. White, P. G. White, P. J. D. Wilson. Same may be obtained upon application to the Secretary at the League Rooms (over Vecsey's) after 8 p.m. on Mondays June 3rd or 10th and any alternate Monday night thereafter

A. E. UPHAM
Hon. Sec.⁶⁰

The following letter was received by the Gosford Sub-branch from the Kentucky Soldiers Settlers Association:

Kentucky, June 20, 1922
Dear Sir,

⁶⁰ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 1. Mann St. Gosford

Your letter was read at a meeting of the above Association, held here on the 18th instant, when the following resolution was carried unanimously:

That this meeting of the soldier settlers of Kentucky endorses the action of the soldier settlers of Gosford and district as disclosed in the minutes of a meeting held at Gosford on the 12th June, 1922, and that this meeting is entirely in accord with the principles and objects they are fighting for, and we will render them any assistance in our power in any manner that may require it.

In acquainting you with the above I would add that the conclusions you have arrived at are the convictions of the settlers at Kentucky, and we have already asked that an enquiry be instituted. Outside a few minor domestic matters our grievances are the grievances of every settlement in New South Wales, and nothing, but a thorough re-organisation of the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Branch will have any effect. Recently the Assistant Manager for Lands, accompanied by the Director, visited the settlement, and many matters of extreme and urgent importance were placed before him.

Some matters he deferred for consideration, to others more urgent he promised relief in various ways. Although six weeks have elapsed since his visit, nothing has been done, as far as we can discover, has been taken to give effect to the Ministerial promises. This has been our experience in the past, we get promises enough, but no effort is made to fulfil them. In regard to *Clause 7 of the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Act* we feel that an amendment of the *Act* in the direction you mention is imperative as the power of evicting a settler from his holding should not rest with the Department.

Under present conditions, the settler' accuser is also the settlers' judge and jury, and perhaps executioner. My Association is of the opinion that the time has now arrived when the various settlements should unite in some way so that any soldier settler in N. S. W. could speak with one voice through a common spokesman. We suggest an Association of Council comprising delegates from all soldier settlements, who would formulate a policy for the redress of the many grievances at present existing.

Such a body, speaking as it would with the combined voice of the whole of the soldier settler of N. S. W., would surely carry more weight than the present system of allowing ourselves to be dealt with as separate units and allowing the Department to play one against the other. We would be glad of your views on the subject. I would again assure you of the heartiest co-

operation of the seventy settlers on Kentucky, as we recognise your fight for justice is not about your fight but the fight of every settler in New South Wales who has to carry that "old man of the sea" (the R. S. S. Branch) on his shoulders

D. J. TOOMEY. Hon. Sec.

At the time of the letter the only ministerial reply to the Gosford representations had been a memo to the effect that the matter was under consideration and that further information would be available at a later time.⁶¹

1923

February 15, 1923

Meetings General: 1st Monday night in the month, Financial, 3rd Monday night in the month; Club Room, Mann St, Gosford. Next meeting (financial), Monday 19th February at 8 p.m.

The first general meeting of the year took place in the Club Rooms on Monday, 8th February. There was a good attendance of the new Executive and members generally. It was pleasing to not that subscribers are coming in freely. Members are advised that an entirely new range of clothing in the way of shirts, underclothing and suiting are now available.

A lively discussion cantered around the Anzac Day functions, which promise to eclipse anything held previously. A programme has been arranged and may be outlined as follows: March combined Church Service, placing of wreaths on monuments, sports, grand Anzac Ball. The Anzac Ball, it is certain will again lead the season. Arrangements are already being made to have the Hall suitably decorated and no efforts are to be spared in this direction. Novelty dances are being gone into, with a view to having something different placed before the dancing public. Success in this respect is assured under the direction of a suitable Committee.

Re medals: Efforts are being made to have medals available for presentation on Anzac Day and those desirous of being recipients are requested to send to the Secretary,

⁶¹ Baker Robert James, 1922. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, July 6. Mann St. Gosford

without delay, their registered number, rank and name, also date of embarkation so that ample time may be given to the Secretary in the compilation of returns &c. Members are asked to co-operate in this respect, as very little time remains in which medals may be procurable.

Re Gratuity Bonds: Returned men are advised that their bonds may now be cashed, practically unconditionally on presentation to the Sub-Treasury of the Commonwealth Bank.

It was decided to make inquiry into the possibility of forming a Radio Station at Gosford for the purpose of holding radio telephone concerts &c. Much interest attended the reading of a lengthy letter from Headquarters regarding radio telephony resulting in the above decision being made.

The Secretary wished to advise all returned men that their subs are now due for the year 1923 and that same are payable in advance.

The following delegates have been chosen to attend State Congress which meets in Sydney on March 27, and succeeding days: Captain G. I. Adcock, A. W. Helsham and H. L. Marshall. The good wishes of the Sub-branch go with them

H. L. MARSHALL

Org. Sec.⁶²

Plans were nearly completed for the campaign to raise funds for the erection of a Soldiers Club House on the Gosford site donated by Dr Paul. The *Gosford Five Art Union*, organised by the Sub-branch, which was launched a few weeks later was to offer prizes totalling five thousand pounds (£5,000*). The project had been approved by the State Attorney-General, who had granted permission for tickets to be sold up to four hundred (400) per cent in excess of the total prize value. The prizes included several motor cars, a motor bike, motor lorry, spraying plant, wireless outfit, furniture, sulky, necklet, watches and a long list of other articles, all of which, as far as possible, were of British manufacture. The Executive Committee of Captain G. I. Adcock, R. E. Weeks

⁶² Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, February 15. Mann St. Gosford

and H. L. Marshall, with Major F. A. Stutfield as promoter, wished to make this effort a great advertisement for the district and the tickets, the first issue of which was a million, would each bear some attractive local view.

In addition, the organisers, who by the way, had been in consultation with the controllers of all the big art unions of the State, intended to adopt what may be called the Monte Carlo principle, “none gone out, all come in. At Monte Carlo, no inhabitant of the Principality was allowed to enter the Casino to play. The authorities want the money which came from other parts, to stay there. Similarly, it was not intended to push the sale of tickets in the Gosford district, but outside, the campaign was wide and thorough. Besides covering all Australia and New Zealand, the sale of the tickets was extended round the borders of the Pacific and up into the nearer Asiatic lands on the one side and across to South Africa on the other.

The head office was in Gosford, the premises were being negotiated at the time, and as far as possible the staff were chosen locally. It was stated that the art union would make a great change in Gosford Post Office conditions. The amount of mail, money and postal notes items to be handled was imagined and as stated that Katoomba Post Office was advanced by two grades as a result of the art union that was established there. It was anticipated at the time that the date of drawing would be some time about next Christmas. The Committee whose duty was to carry it out had not been selected at the time, but about twenty leading citizens of the district was to be asked to act.

In order to avoid one cause of complaint in respect of previous art unions, the Committee wished to have an interval of a month between the closing date for the sale of tickets and the drawing. This would allow every ticket, wherever purchased, participating in the drawing. Certainly it was envisioned that the Executive could not be charged with narrowness of vision. The campaign, as planned was broad enough, but the organisers saw further possible conquests. They spoke of a second art union to erect an Anzac memorial Hospital in the district and yet another to endow the institution.⁶³

One pound =two Australian dollars

⁶³ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, March 6. Mann St. Gosford

April 9, 1923

At the Sub-branch meetings lately the main topic has centred on Anzac Day and arrangements for this day being well in hand promise to bring out the best that the organisation can boast of. We expect that the public in general will appreciate the celebrations which have been framed to take place which includes the following: Ceremonial parade and march to Combined Church Services in Gosford Park head by the local band: the placing of wreaths on Memorials in the Church of England Grounds and the South African Memorial in the Park.

A children's grand sports have been arranged for the afternoon when parents with their children can obtain hot water free on the grounds at Waterside Park after which a programme of children's sports will be conducted by the League. Some of the events will include: Throwing at wicket, catching greasy pig, potato races &c. Children will be admitted to the Park free after taking part in the military procession from the Railway Station to Gosford Park. Arrangements are being made for the school children to take part in the procession and parents are asked to foster the spirit of Anzac Day by allowing their children to assemble at the Railway Station at 11 a.m. on that date to march in the procession, then later attend the sports and picnic in Waterside Park when they would be under the League's control.

The evening is being devoted to the third Grand Anzac Ball, which event is looked forward to by the whole district to surpass any previous function of a similar nature. The League can confidentially mention that all previous efforts will be eclipsed by this year's Ball, which has many new and novel attractions, both in the first and second half. Gallery seats may be obtained at 2/- each, while the charge for the Ball has been fixed at, gentleman 7/6 and ladies 5/- each, respectively. The prizes this year are well worth anyone's attempt to capture and will be offered for the best dress of the evening and the best advertising dress. Prizes will also be granted to the winners of the novelty dances of which there are no fewer than five, whilst the twilight waltz can be recommended as a real stunner.

During the evening a number of medals will be presented by Mrs C. J. Staples, wife of the Shire President, who will also be in attendance. An excellent supper is being arranged and will take place in the annexe which is to be gorgeously decorated. The Hall decorations are in the hands of a Committee under the supervision of Mrs Muir, of Point Clare and patrons can look forward to something special being placed before them.

With reference to the Day, a general invitation is extended to all returned soldiers to assemble in uniform and medals at the Railway Station at 11 a.m. Mention might be made of the fact that the local Club Rooms will be open all day for all soldiers for a wash and brush-up. We stress this fact as it is something that has been felt wanting in the past. This should enable all soldiers to turn up from near and far and we expect that the news will be spread by members. Members are invited to attend from Mangrove Mountain, Somersby, Terrigal &c. As this is the Diggers Day we hope to see the Diggers themselves help it along.

A meeting of the League has been summoned for Monday next when the Clergy are asked to attend to finalise matters concerning the United Church Service. This will be held in the Club Rooms, Hill's Chambers at 8 p.m.

Re War Memorial. This matter again came up for discussion at the last meeting and the following motion was passed. "That the Secretary of the War Memorial Committee be asked to take immediate steps to convene a public meeting to decide on a War Memorial." We feel that this matter should be pushed ahead as most other places have long since constructed Memorials, while Gosford, with its go-ahead people, are so far among the also rans and people are wanting to know when are they going to put the "Go" in Gosford.

Reference to the programme for Anzac Day should be looked for amongst the advertising columns of this paper. Tickets for the Ball are now obtainable everywhere and should be secured at an early date to avoid disappointment as only a limited number can be sold

H. L. MARSHALL

Special meetings to finalise matters for Anzac Day have been well attended and the soldiers of this district are expected to attend in full force and make their day what it should be. The following arrangements should be observed on that day in regard to dress &c. Full uniform to be worn with medals and decorations. The third button from the top to be draped in memory of Anzac Day and our fallen comrades. Fall in will be sounded at 11 a.m. at the Railway Station. The order of March will be as follows: First, Police; second, Drum Major; third, Band; fourth, Colour Party, consisting of two officers of Navy, South African veteran, N. C. O. of Mounted Troops; N. C. O. of infantry; fifth, Soldiers in uniform; sixth, soldiers in civvies; seventh, school children.

It is announced that soldiers who have not yet received their medals and who will require same for the parade on this day, should make application to the Secretary at "Olivet", William Street, Gosford, some evening. It is mentioned however, that these medals are required for presentation purposes at the third Grand Anzac Ball and must be returned to the Secretary after the parade for that purpose. The following medals, held by the Secretary, for the undermentioned soldiers are available: 3576 G. E. Atkinson, 2491 T. H. Bannister, 1903 W. Boyce, 3729 C. G. Brandis, 715 B. W. A. Budden, 524 S. L. Bunn, 3290 A. M. Cannon, 4474 J. Cardwell, 773 S. A. Follett, 3659 R. G. Frewin, 1099 A. J. Hitchcock, 468 C. F. Howard, 425 T. H. Humphries, Lieut. T. F. Humphrey, 124 H. L. Marshall, 364 T. S. McDonald, 2226 L. W. Turner and 1698 R. E. Weeks.

With reference to the sports during the afternoon, mention must be made of the facts that the Parents and Citizen's Association have been asked to co-operate with the League. It is regretted that no mention was made of this matter in the previous report. In addition to children's athletic events, there will be numerous sideshows, such as throwing at wicket, quoits, coconut shies, shooting gallery, greasy pig, hoop-la, house and many others. We want the public to realise that those men who went "west" over the other side were great sportsmen and while we mourn for them till mid-day on Anzac Day, we wish to foster clean sport in the younger generation.

⁶⁴ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, April 12. Mann St. Gosford

The league is confident from the way tickets are selling, that the third Grand Anzac Ball is going to be the wonder show of Gosford and intending patrons are asked to make early purchase of their tickets as only 200 all told are available. Gallery seats may be obtained for 2/- each from the Secretary, or Sports Secretary, R. E. Weeks. Tickets for the Ball are available from M. J. Savage and Noel Harris of Gosford and Bert London of Woy Woy, also the Secretaries.

Re unveiling of War Memorial, Wyong, this sub-branch is in receipt of an invitation to attend the unveiling ceremony and intending participants are requested to meet at the corner of Mann and Donnison Streets on Saturday at 12.30 in uniform with decorations, prepared to motor to Wyong. Two cars will be leaving and we hope to fill them and thus help are nearest sub-branch

H. L. MARSHALL
Organising Secretary.⁶⁵

The Third Anzac Ball organised by the Gosford Sub-branch was said to have been a brilliant and successful affair. The Ball was held on Wednesday night, Anzac Day and the weather may said to have been favourable insofar as there was no rain close to the hour of assembling and the very heavy showers later came when they were all safely under cover. The attendance was excellent, being estimated at upwards of two hundred and fifty (250) people. Among those present were Councillor C. J. Staples, Shire President and Mrs Staples and Padre Walker. R. J. Baker, ex-Shire President, sent a letter explaining that serious illness prevented him attending and regret and sympathy at Mr Baker's absence and the reason for it were freely expressed.

The beautiful effect of the decoration done in the Hall richly deserved the many flattering comments heard, according to the article in the *Gosford Times*. The paper went on to say that the delightful groundwork was provided by a lavish use of streamers and flowers in wattle and gold, varied with flags, balloons and set pieces. The whole was flanked by a broad band of palm fronde extending around the Hall. The stage was a pretty set bower and the green background at the other end threw into prominence the

⁶⁵ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, April 19. Mann St. Gosford

two huge national flags. The ladies, who so pleasingly exercised their good taste, were Mrs E. Muir (in charge), Miss Dyson, Miss R. Martin and Miss J. Kennedy. Lighting effects were cleverly introduced and full use was made of streamers and so on, in many novelty dances introduced throughout the evening.

The fancy dresses, together with military uniforms and handsome evening dresses, made the scintillating scene on the floor a notable one and happy enjoyment was evident everywhere noted the local paper. C. Metyard, represented in a Drum Major's uniform, marshalled the fancy dress wearers. There was one unrehearsed event which threatened to disrupt the programme, but fortunately that also passed off happily. A blaze which sprang up at the rear of the Hall for a time threatened danger, and the Master of Ceremonies, Sergeant Marshall, very wisely directed all in the building to quietly make for the Mann Street exits. Very soon however, the blaze was put out and things were quickly normal again.

The music was provided by the Woy Woy Orchestra, extras being volunteered by Miss Banyard and Mr Metyard. The Gosford Band, under the Deputy Bandmaster, Lance Mason played outside the Hall. The presentation of medals was supervised by Captain G. I. Adcock. The recipient's names were announced by Sergeant L. W. Turner and the presentations made by Mrs C. J. Staples. The Diggers of the Sub-branch were very grateful to a host of friends who assisted them in various ways to again bring the Ball to a success. Among those was F. J. Buscombe, whose action in making the Hall available on a regular picture night was much appreciated.

The supper, provided by the Committee of lady helpers, was a profusion of the most appetising and dainty fare and was enthusiastically appreciated on all lips according to the writings in the local paper. The ladies responsible for the notable successful result were Mesdames Fielder, Fenton, Parr, Adrian, Mason, Margin, Mortimer, Porritt and Mr Parr. Misses Coulter (3), Davison (2) Fenton, Margin, Conroy, Tubman and Braithwaite, assisted by Private J. Fagan and Mr A. E. Emerson. The officials were busy, during and after the Ball and were certainly not wanting in energy. The success of the affair was their justification and reward and they had reason to be proud.

The Honorary Secretary was Sergeant H. L. Marshall, M. M., who was also Master of Ceremonies at the Ball and Sergeant L. W. Turner was President. They had the able assistance of the Sports Secretary, Mr Weeks and a very active Committee; Captain G. I. Adcock, Sergeant L. W. Turner, Sergeant A. E. Helsham, Driver A. R. McDonald, Private R. Tucker, Corporal R. G. Frewin, Trooper W. M. Moore and Corporal E. E. Muir.⁶⁶

May 4, 1923

The general extraordinary meeting called for May 4th met with ready response from members who were anxious to hear the good news of the financial success of the Anzac Ball. The meeting was the best attended held this year, there being a few new members registered and also the appearance again of some of the older members whose responsibilities had kept them from attending regularly. There were no Vice-Presidents in attendance, but an apology was received from Captain G. I. Adcock, who was away on important business.

The President Mr L. W. Turner occupied the chair and opened the business paper immediately after the reading and confirmation of minutes and reading and receiving of the correspondence. This latter item took a little time and much regret was expressed after the reading of a letter from Mr R. J. Baker, who through illness had been unable to attend the Anzac Day functions The Secretary was instructed to convey the League's sympathy and hope for a speedy recovery. There was no doubt that Mr Baker had been missed from these celebrations as his figure was always a familiar one where the League was concerned and particularly on Anzac Day. The meeting expressed its gratification at the outcome of the day's work which proved successful from every aspect.

Particular thanks is given to all those who helped with cash or kind for the fulfilment of a great day which truly belongs to the soldiers and the League generally realises that without the assistance of so many able workers that success would not have been so great. The response for assistance was instantaneous and no difficulty was met with in

⁶⁶ Edward James Phillips, 1923, April 26. at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

securing crockery or cutlery the latter item coming from Wyong. Reports would indicate that the Anzac Ball was the biggest in the district, while the functions during the day were worthy of the work entailed in bringing them to a successful issue and enough cannot be said of the ladies who so excellently prepared and attended to the supper tables at night.

The financial position of the League was closely studied and all accounts for Anzac Day were passed for payment. A further review of the accounts of the League generally will take place at the meeting of the Finance Committee which meets on May 21st at 8 p.m.

The general meeting takes place on the first Monday night in every month, but owing to the Masonic Ball, the next general meeting will be held over till 11th June.

H. L. MARSHALL
Organising Secretary.⁶⁷

The question rose again about preference given to returned soldiers and employment. The case of a returned soldier employee of the Erina Shire Council was again under notice at Monday's June 11 meeting of Councillors, when Mr Fenton, Shire Engineer, stated that he had taken steps on the day following the previous discussion to see that work was found for the man Klumpp. He had not been able to see the man, but had sent a message. The reply he received was that Klumpp did not wish to be re-employed till the end of June as he had other work to do, as formerly stated. Councillor Staples was glad the matter had come up again. He had been asked why the Council was against returned soldiers and he had stated emphatically that they were not. This latest development went to prove, if proof was needed, that the Council had not gone back on the principle of preference to soldiers; and man in question wanted to stand off.

The Engineer remarked that a lot of wild statements were made in connection with returned soldiers and some of them had been made about this case. The man went off to suit his own convenience. Councillor Mobbs said the case was complicated by ties

⁶⁷ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, May 10. Mann St. Gosford

of relationship between certain of the parties, but his direct information had been that Klumpp was simply put off, without option of opportunity to arrange re-employment. The Engineer said that if his information was not reliable it was a very serious thing as he would never again be able to trust the man through whom it came. He failed to understand why, if the man had not gone off on his own convenience, he wanted to stay off till the end of June.

Councillor Chapman reminded Councillors that the matter had already been settled once. The President agreed, but said it had been brought afresh by the Engineer's reference. He wanted it clearly understood by all concerned that the Council was not in any way opposed to giving full and effective preference to returned men. Councillors agreed that Klumpp should be communicated with direct on the matter.⁶⁸

July 16, 1923

Members though being few in number have had to have late sittings for the past few meetings consequent upon the arranging and much detail work thrust upon the few attending for the Queen Carnival and its attendant functions. This is to be regretted since the district boasts of hundreds of returned men, but few League members. If there are any Diggers who have anything to say against the functions of the League and are interested in any way for their welfare, it would be as well for them to state their case and give us the chance of eliminating some of their imaginative grievances because the League will stand the test. Come to the next meeting being held in the Club Rooms on Monday, 6th August and have your say in the administrations and doings of Anzac Day and other functions.

The President and six members were in attendance at Monday's meeting and apologies were received from Vice-President Adcock, who had been recently laid up with a bad cold. The President reported that the Committee met on Saturday afternoon at the School of Arts, armed to the teeth with streamers, balloons and palms and suitably decorated the hall for Mrs Lance Mason's dance in honour of the League's popular Queen Mrs E. Fielder. The event was a very successful one and much comment was made upon the decorative scheme of red which took the form of a grand job bell,

⁶⁸ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 14. Mann St. Gosford

relieved with balloons of the same colour emblematic of the colour chosen by their Queen.

Owing to the severity of the night, the ladies who it was anticipated would be in attendance to further details concerning the Queen Carnival were not present, with the exception of Mrs Fenton, who apologised for the absence of the other ladies who were Mesdames T. Campbell, Kennedy, Renwick, Adrian, Porritt, Eley, Parr and Mason. These ladies however, stated their willingness to assist in whatever movement was being promoted for the welfare of the League's Queen and we know only too well that what they have said will be carried out to the letter. The popularity of Mrs Fielder would appear to be for one conclusion and the ladies can depend upon the League for material assistance and co-operation in anything they may undertake.

Correspondence received was soon dealt with, same being an application for employment and which the Secretary endeavoured to fill for the applicant without success. Indignation was expressed at the apathy some employers showed regarding the employment of ex-soldiers and that one firm at least would not be again approached from the League.

The League's thanks are due to the President for giving temporary employment to one Digger and to Mr F. Wheeler for finding permanent employment for the same man, whose employer reports that he is doing well and is in every way satisfactory.

Upon a motion by the Secretary the Vice-Presidency of Mr T. S. McDonald was declared vacant consequent upon his non-attendance at any meetings this year. To this position Mr Stutfield was elected Vice-President. Stutfield, a member of the sub-committee elected to arrange entertainments for the Queen's candidature of Mrs Fielder, moved that we hold a Café Chantant on August 17th in the Gosford Hall for that purpose. Same to commence with a picture "Beyond the Rocks", starring Rudolph Valentino and Gloria Swanson followed by a concert, cards and dancing until 2 a.m. A refreshment buffet would be made available with tables suitably arranged and decorated. The price of admission for this unique and high social event was fixed at five shillings per head.

At the request of the donor of the wristlet watch, it was decided that same be sealed and a time guessing competition be arranged and that books of tickets be printed to be sold in conjunction with the Queen Carnival as an offset to argument funds for same. Another was to be obtained for the best seller of tickets for our candidature.

The Committee meeting set down for Friday night is now cancelled owing to the Woman's Guild Dance, to be held on the same night. This will take place in the Club Rooms on Monday night at 8 p.m. All ladies interested are specifically invited.

The President reported having had brought under his notice a Euchre Party and Dance now being organised by the Railway Refreshment Rooms staff in aid of the Gosford War Memorial. The meeting generally approved of their fine action and strong support was asked from the League by him. It was decided that the League could not do otherwise since the girls of this establishment were mostly strangers and deserved the support and encouragement of everybody with ideas in common regarding the Memorial. This is something the public should back up. The date is set down for August 3rd.

Two renewals were received, being from Mr C. Cohen and Mr Bennie. Mr McKenzie from the Mangrove Sub-Branch was a very welcome visitor at the sitting. The meeting closed at 11.20 p.m., a late hour, but with much done.

The next general meeting takes place on Monday, August 6th, at 8 p.m. Diggers, may we see your faces again

H. L. MARSHALL
Sub-Branch Secretary.⁶⁹

December 3, 1923

The annual meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. takes place in the Club Rooms situated at the School of Arts on 10th December (Monday next) at 7.30

⁶⁹ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, July 19. Mann St. Gosford

p.m. The business of the evening will consist of election of officers for year 1924, presentation and reading of President's, Secretary's and Sports Secretary's reports, also presentation of balance sheet. Notice of motion "That this Sub-branch disbands as from the end of the financial year, December 10th, was given by Mr G. Frewin.

It is regretted that such notice of motion should have been given, but the grounds for some are good ones and if the League is to continue, it will be necessary for those returned men interested to make an appearance and battle for the existence, the same as those few members have who, during the last few years have given their best to hold together the strands of comradeship to which existed on the other side. A delegate from the Headquarters of the N. S. W. Branch of the League will be in attendance at the annual meeting with information regarding the working of other sub-branches and also what the League, generally, been doing.

Immediately following the annual meeting a Basket Social in the main hall of the School of Arts is being tendered to Mrs Edith Fielder, commencing about 8 30 p.m. This will enable Diggers to bring their wives and families with them at 7 30 p.m. Diggers to attend first the annual meeting and then again joining their wives in the main hall for social, which will follow. A good musical evening, with dancing, is assured the friends both of Mrs Fielder and the League, all of whom are cordially invited to attend. Ladies attending are required to hand their baskets in to the many workers of the Red Cross, who will be there as usual, Give a Diggers a hand in what is going on in their interests. Our friends are also invited to bring their music and songs, and so help towards making the evening a pleasant one.

H. L. MARSHALL
Secretary.⁷⁰

THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING December 10, 1923

⁷⁰ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 6. Mann St. Gosford

The annual meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Soldiers League was held at the School of Arts on Monday evening Mr L. W. Turner (President) occupied the chair and there were about 30 members present

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the term of my office as President of your league, it affords me pleasure to be in a position to be able to state that very considerable activity displayed by your Executive Committee. The membership for the year is most disappointingly small, totalling less than thirty strong. Various appeals have been met with little or no response. When it is taken into consideration that practically no members outside of the Executive Committee have rendered any material assistance and the number of active workers is condensed to about one-fourth of the total membership, the resultant efforts of this handful is somewhat gratifying and should make an appeal to those who hang back. The exercise of a little reasoning power and a simple sum in proportion would illustrate what could be done if the Diggers would whole-heartedly enter the team and continue to "do their bit"

It is not expected of course that general members should ever assist in the routine work of the Committee, but if the majority of returned soldiers do not think the continuance of the League warrants an annual subscription on ten shillings then its days are numbered. It is not possible for the few who at present carry the burden for the majority, to carry on any further unaided. If then, there is not a very substantial increase in the membership for the year 1924; the local Branch had better cease to exist. By strenuous and continuous effort on the part of the handful mentioned, coupled with much assistance by the ladies of the Red Cross, the Branch has been successful in liquidating its liabilities, and now stands with a credit balance

The matter of continuing the effort or allowing the Branch to disband lies entirely in the hands of the Diggers, but I would repeat that, unless an especial effort is made resulting in a large membership, it is impossible to continue. To allow the local League to expire should at once appeal to every serious minded Digger, as being a drastic step indeed. A motion will be put to this meeting that the local Branch disbands forthwith. Your earnest attention is directed to the passage of this, because once the Branch is

disorganised, it is unlikely that sufficient enthusiasm will be evinced for its reinstatement at any further date.

L. W. TURNER
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The League's activities for the year were marked by brilliant progress, both by finance and prestige, the latter being upheld by high-class entertainment held from time to time and patronise in a worthy manner by the townspeople.

Membership: This stands at 24 for the year of 1924 and is a decrease on previous years. Efforts at canvassing have been made with little or no success and I have no suggestions to make as a means to stimulate recruiting; as it is not from want of trying by me and members to enlist others that we have failed in this respect. Practically every effort has been made, but the results have not warranted the time involved. Efforts however, must be continued by canvassing &c.

Meetings: These have been held regularly twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, the first being a general meeting and the third a Committee meeting.

Attendance: The attendance has been very poor and averaged seven throughout the year, both for general and committee meetings.

Assistance: Monetary assistance has been granted at the discretion of the Secretary to returned sailors and soldiers whose credentials were satisfactory.

War Memorials: The local movement at the beginning of the year seemed to lack interest and with keeping with the League's policy, it was decided to make an effort to finalise this grand work, with the result that more League members were elected to the Committee and then pushed things to such an extent that the Memorial is now in course of construction and will be completed early in the New Year.

War Memorial Erina: The League had the pleasure of assisting in a military manner at the unveiling of this memorial, Colonel Vernon D. S. O. accepted the Sub-Branch's

invitation to be the League's representative on this occasion and after being entertained by the League Executive and the Erina War Memorial Committee at dinner, unveiled the Memorial during the afternoon.

Military Funeral: A funeral with full military honours was accorded Pte. E. Parkinson from Gosford to Point Clare Cemetery. Smart organisation was shown by the Executive on this occasion, especially Messrs McDonald and Tucker, Mr Golan was responsible for the execution of the A. I. F. wreath.

Other Activities: Many other activities in the way of entertainments are worthy of mention and they are briefly as follows: Launch excursion December 10, 1922, Anzac Ball April 25th, Queen Carnival entertainments which included the Café Chantant and various dances, all of which were a success financially.

Queen Carnival: I regret to state that the League's candidate, Mrs E. Fielder, was unsuccessful on this occasion, however, I am content, by virtue of the fact that it was not lack of organisation which brought about the defeat. Mr R. E. Weeks deserves much praise for his efforts during the Competition as Secretary for the League candidate.

Poppy Day: The sales of poppies this year far exceeded those of last year consequent upon the activities of Mrs H. Patemen and the shop-owners who responded to our call to assist in the sales; also the people of Erina who sold and bought more than any other people.

Financial: The financial position of the League has only just emerged from below the line of debt, having been in an unsatisfactory position for over two years. This is entirely due to the results of the Queen Carnival and perhaps in the first place to Vice-President Stutfield who mooted the idea and assisted in carrying through the movement to a financial success both for the League's candidate and the movement generally. Vice-President Stutfield was the donor of a gold wristlet watch, which was used to raise funds for the League candidate.

This position now attained is very satisfactory since so many debts, some of two years standing, have been cleared. The League is very grateful and indebted to the many

friends and business people who have stood by them and no doubt will be pleased to know that having gained a foothold once more we will continue to remain as active as ever. Many names might here be mentioned, as having shown signal service to the League. Some of these are: Mrs E. Fielder, the Red Cross, R. J. Baker, R. Hill, the Gosford Band and the School of Arts.

Club Room: Owing to the Sub-Branch having been requested to vacate the room rent free for two years by Mr R. Hill of Narara to whom we are greatly indebted, the Sub-branch was for a time without any official headquarters. Mr R. E. Weeks, a very solid member, gave us the use of a room at his residence until such time as the School of Arts devoted to our use exclusively one of their rooms at a rental of a penny a month. For this service we cannot bestow enough praise, as I think it is in keeping with the town that our headquarters should be located at its civic centre.

Executive: I must here say that at all times the Committee and members generally have shown great enthusiasm in all things attempted and I now desire to thank them for their invaluable assistance. I must make particular mention of the Sports Secretary for his assistance and energy.

Notice of Motion: That this Sub-Branch disbands at the end of 1923." I regret that it was thought necessary to give notice of this motion which I sincerely trust will not be passed. The question involved is a big one, and I venture to say that the town would suffer as a result if such a measure was found necessary.

Cancellation of Honorary Secretaryship: In consideration of the work involved in connection with the Sub-Branch, I welcome the paying of a salary for the Secretary who has to devote much of his time, and as a consequence lose time from his calling, which even with the present arrangement will hardly compensate him for his labour.

Flags: The League has at all times had the pleasure of being able to call on the Shire Office and the Boys Home for flags for decorating purposes and Anzac Day. We are now, however, in possession of two very fine flags of our own, they being the Union Jack and the Australian.

General: Generally this has been a very hard and strenuous year owing to the small number of active members, all of whom have been overworked on account of the number of entertainments held. They, however, have the satisfaction of knowing that any efforts or sacrifice they may have made, has been rewarded in seeing the League rise out of debt. The passing through Gosford of Miss Ethel Campbell (the Angel of Durban), on Sunday, 30th September created much interest with the League; members and citizens turning up well to see her. Breakfast was served for 17, with Miss Campbell and her parents as our guests.

Previous to the departure of the train, Miss Campbell was presented with a very large bouquet of native flowers and we were pleased to hear her say that amongst them was the first waratah she had seen. Also Captain Adcock made a presentation of perfume, locally manufactured. It is with this infinite gratitude that the Red Cross is mentioned as being the staunchest friends the League has and under the leadership of their worthy President, Mrs E. Fielder, they have at all times shown their eagerness and ability in assisting us in every direction possible, chief among which I mentioned the 3rd Grand Anzac Ball held on Anzac Night, April 25th, 1923.

Some misapprehension concerning this day was evident as some members of the Red Cross would not assist for sentimental reasons; but the League is satisfied that having the morning devoted to reverence and sentiment, the afternoon and night should be devoted to joyous entertainment in celebrating the birth of a nation. This is quite a rational view to take of the day and in Australia quite universal and a point upheld the R. S. & S. I. L. A. there is no doubt that the Anzac Day arrangements here are well established, and the League can look ahead with every confidence to repeat the operations of previous years.

Nothing seemed to mar the proceedings of last Anzac Day when a large number of uniformed men displaying medals and decorations paraded and headed by the local Band followed by a colour party, marched from the Station to the Park overlooking Brisbane Water, then holding Divine Service of all denominations and placing wreaths in remembrance of the fallen on the various monuments accompanied by the usual military procedure of blowing the "Last Post" and "*Reveille*". The wreaths on this

occasion (as on previous ones) have been supplied by Mrs Bennett and Mr Golan of the State Nursery, for which we are very grateful.

The Ball at night was truly a brilliant success and reflected much credit on the Committee and members the ladies of the Red Cross and Mrs Muir, who worked overtime arranging things satisfactorily. Also the Band on this day gave their services gratis both at the parade and the Ball at night. Out of fairness to myself it is with regret that I feel obliged for business reasons not to sit for nominations for office of Secretary for the ensuing year having now held for a period of eighteen months; and also for the betterment of the movement I think an infusion of new blood should be sought after for this office and all other offices.

H. L. MARSHALL
Sub-branch Secretary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected:

President, Mr F. A. Stutfield; Vice-Presidents, Messrs L. W. Turner, G. I. Adcock and R. E. Weeks; Secretary, Mr H. L. Marshall; Treasurer, Mr Wallace Moore; Committee, Messrs Hadfield, Cohen, McDonald, Brandis, Tucker, Helsham, Bennie, Fletcher, Bourke, Muir and Reddall (with power to add.)⁷¹

On Monday evening, December 10 Mrs E. Fielder was the guest of the Gosford Sub-branch at the School of Arts, the occasion being a Basket Social and presentation to that good lady in recognition of her splendid work for and on behalf of the returned soldiers and for the years of patriotic effort as President of the Red Cross Society. Right from the time that Australia's sons started across the seas to fight in the Empire's cause, Mrs Fielding was the Returned Soldiers Candidate in the Recent Queen Competition and polled 19,292 votes.

⁷¹ Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 13. Mann St. Gosford

The presentation to Mrs Fielder was a framed illuminated address in the following words;

Mrs Edith Fielder, Gosford.

Dear Madame,

We the undersigned, representing the Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia, wish to tender you our sincere thanks and express our great appreciation of your splendid services in connection with the Returned Soldiers of this State and District. During the war your untiring efforts as President of the Red Cross Society won the admiration of all classes of the community, and the love of all soldiers who came in contact with you. Since the termination of hostilities your activity has not lessened, notwithstanding severe indisposition uncomplainingly borne. This renders more worthy your loyal services to our great Empire. The Returned Soldiers of the District, to whom you have always been a true friend, desire you to accept this token of their esteem gratitude and affection.

We are dear Madam, yours sincerely, L. W. Turner (President), A. W. Helsham, F. A. Stutfield, G. I. Adcock (Vice-Presidents), R. E. Weeks, R. G. Frewin, E. Muir, Angus A. McDonald, R. Tucker (Committee), Wallace M. Moore (Hon. Treasurer, H. L. Marshall (Hon. Secretary).

The address was a work of art, the illuminator being J. W. Reid, of 45 Clarence Street, Sydney. It was handed to Mrs Fielder by President Turner, who said that every word in the address was sincere and came from the hearts of the Diggers. In acknowledgement Mrs Fielder said;

I am too overcome with all the nice things you have said about me, and in your kindness in giving me this beautiful address, to know what to say to you dear Diggers. I do not deserve this at all; I have only done what any other woman would do, placed in similar circumstances. I do thank you so much for your goodness to me to-night; whether it be a short or long time, the memory of this evening will live in my heart for all time. Anything I have done has been for the love of the men who have done so much for us. While speaking now, I would like to say that you soldiers went to the front and made no end of sacrifices for love of your country, your people, and love of humanity, in fact, for all you hold dear.

Now as returned soldiers, do let that love keep all you men of the district together. Union is strength. Pull together. Let yours be a brotherhood of love, there is nothing so powerful as love. If you keep together I think a piece of

land will be given for a Hall or Club Room, and I am sure that the people of Gosford and district will do all they can to help build it. The members of the Red Cross, whom I love so dearly, will help in every way. We work so well together that when the call of duty comes, one has only to say the word and we are there. I thank you all again for your kindness to me.

Mrs Harris on behalf of the Red Cross Society, presented Mrs Fielder with a “Red Cross Cake,” and on behalf of Mrs Frost and herself she handed Mrs Fielder a beautiful basket or red roses. The members of the Red Cross had the greatest love and respect for Mrs Fielder. They were a loving and happy band of workers and the members fervently prayed to God would spare Mrs Fielder to be with them for many years to come. Captain Stutfield said that Mrs Fielder would always be the local Diggers Queen. He thoroughly endorsed every word printed in the address and said that every returned soldier had nothing but feelings of admiration, gratitude and respect for the lady who had done so much for them. Mrs Fielder thanked the Soldiers League and other for their support in Queen Competition. Now that the event was over she hoped there would be no ill-feeling.

A magnificent bunch of Christmas Bells was handed by Bob Weeks to Mrs Fielder as President of the Red Cross Society. A. W. Helsham spoke of the splendid work performed by the Red Cross ladies. “Every Digger in the district, and out of it, would cherish as long as he lived the memory of the Red Cross” he said. Gold pencils were presented to R. Hill and R. J. Baker by the Soldiers League, for services rendered, and both recipients responded. Mr Hill, it was stated, had provided a meeting room for the League for eighteen months free of charge.

H. H. Blunden, a member of the State Executive, was introduced by Captain Adcock, and in his address Mr Blunden urged the returned men to stick together for their own good and for the benefit of the men who had been incapacitated through injuries received in the war. He suggested that a lady organiser be appointed to round up the returned men of the town and district who were not members of the League. Mrs Harry Pateman was handed a cheque for having sold the most tickets, (over five hundred (500) for the soldier’s candidate in the recent Queen Competition. Cheques were also handed to Secretary Marshall and Weeks for honorary services rendered. The presentations over,

refreshments were handed round, after which the evening was devoted to dancing and harmony.⁷²

1924

The Gosford Sub-branch received the following correspondence from the Returned Soldiers League's Secretary W. L. Stagg. It was about the question of employment of partially incapacitated returned soldiers which was a matter that had for some time received the very close attention of the Returned Soldiers League in this State. They had found that a very large number of those men had been employed, but owing to a recurrence of war disabilities, it had been found impossible, in a number of cases, for them to hold the position for any length of time.

The League contended that it was primarily the duty of the Federal and State Governments to take over the responsibilities of employing these men. And with a view to placing before the Ministers concerned figures as to the number of men affected, the League desired to invite every partially incapacitated return soldier to leave particulars of his capabilities and his war disabilities with the League, to obtain for them at an earlier date, it is hoped, employment by the Public Service. The Secretary wanted to point out that at the present time the League had not any positions to offer them, but hoped when the information asked for was in hand, to get the Governments to provide employment. The correspondence was signed J. N. Cusack, Hon. Publicity Officer.⁷³

Parents of all boys over the age of fourteen were reminded that they had to register in January, or February, 1925, for drilling purposes. If the lads failed in their duty to register then the onus was on the parents and guardians who were responsible for registration. Failure to "sign-on" involved a penalty not exceeding ten pounds (£10*). Boys living more than five miles from a training centre were exempt from training.⁷⁴

⁷² Baker Robert James, 1923. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 13. Mann St. Gosford

⁷³ Baker Robert James, 1924. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, August 21. Mann St. Gosford

⁷⁴ Baker Robert James, 1924. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, December 18. Mann St. Gosford

1925

The following correspondence was received at Gosford Sub-branch from the State Executive;

The State Executive of the Returned Soldiers League noted that they could not let this opportunity pass without wishing all the war veterans in New South Wales the greatest measure of happiness and prosperity during the New Year. It felt, they said, that the League would share in the general prosperity, as indications pointed to a considerable gain in membership. Diggers in every centre, big or small, could best show their pride in the League by boosting their Sub-branches and by encouraging their comrades to join. The traditions of the A. I. F. were embodied in the work of the League. It was the official mouthpiece of the Digger, they said. Its achievements were the natural result of its power and influence among those who count. It maintained the admiration and respect of the general public because it recognised the enforced doctrine that no man should escape his obligations as a citizen simply because he had been a soldier.

The League, they said, rendered untiring help to those who really deserved it, the sick, the genuine out-of-work and the dependents of the dead being well massed in the front line. It would be impossible to discuss, they said, even in small detail, what the League had accomplished for the thousands of returned men and for their relatives. It is when they said, they were in distress, or in need of advice and assistance that they made haste to the League, which never bothered to ask a soldier whether or not he is a member. The League they said recognises that it had a responsibility by all. Though membership was kept on a satisfactory level during the year of 1924, the State Executive did not disguise from itself the fact that in a number of districts interest in the League had been allowed to languish.

The Diggers should not tolerate, they said, this state of affairs, and they could profit from the virile feeling manifested in several South Australian Branches, notably Clare and Salisbury, where the financial members was one hundred per cent of those eligible to join. Sub-branch officials were urged by the League to promote a vigorous drive for new members during the coming year and to press the social side at Digger gatherings. With the establishment of women's auxiliaries, this was an easy task they said. Sub-branches were reminded that sometimes a song was more effective than a speech.

In order to facilitate the establishment of Sub-branches, where it is not practicable to merge returned men into those which already exist, the General Secretary of the League, W. J. Stagg of 309 George Street, Sydney would give all information and assistance, while it even may be possible to arrange for the attendance of a member of the State Executive to launch the organisation under the most promising circumstances, and any returned man interested who resides in a centre where there does not exist a Sub-branch was asked to communicate with the General Secretary.⁷⁵

The “Gosford Five” Art Union organised and promoted by the Gosford Sub-branch was drawn and the undersigned hereby certified that the drawing was conducted in their presence, and under their supervision, at the School of Arts, Gosford on January 9, 1925. The document was signed Walter Bennett, M. L. A., Chairman of the Drawing Committee; W. C. Toohill, Sergeant of Police; R. J. Baker, Newspaper Proprietor; G. I. Adcock, Chairman Executive Committee; E. Rowlands, Hon. Secretary, Executive Committee; F. A. Stutfield, President of the Gosford Sub-branch, R. S. S. I. L. A., and Promoter.

The following notice was also printed.

Prizes could be obtained by presenting winning tickets to the Promoter, 178 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, or by posting tickets, under registered cover, to the Promoter, Art Union Offices, Gosford. N. S. W. Please note the letter of the alphabet in front of the number and compare with yours.

Prizes not claimed within three months sold by Public Auction
F. A. STUTFIELD, Promoter.⁷⁶

The School of Arts Hall, Gosford, was crowded to the doors in seating and standing accommodation on Friday, January 9, when the “Gosford Five” Art Union was drawn. The local Committee had arrangements well in hand. At a preliminary meeting of the Drawing Committee and Gosford Sub-branch Executive, the system of drawing was explained and the Honourable Walter Bennett, M. L. A., was elected Chairman of the proceedings

⁷⁵ Baker Robert James, 1925. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 8. Mann St. Gosford

⁷⁶ Baker Robert James, 1925. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 15. Mann St. Gosford

In the main Hall the “Pomona Pierrots” from Sydney, gave a concert programme after which Mr Bennett briefly reviewed the position of the Art Union, Stating that a profit of approximately seven thousand five hundred (£7,500) was anticipated. The heads of the “Gosford Five” organisation were congratulated on the splendid result achieved. It would easily provide for the erection of the Club, which was the object of the effort. He understood that the organisation was to be placed at the disposal of the Shire Hospital Committee and no doubt this effort would be another signal success. Ticket buyers, he said, might have every confidence that the “Gosford Five” was fairly run and he had a certificate that the butt of every ticket sold was in the barrel to be drawn.

Presentations were made by Captain Adcock of the first ticket printed to Dr Paul in recognition of his donation of the site for the Club House and other kindnesses; and by C. Hann, of a writer’s desk companion to Captain Adcock, Chairman of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Art Union Staffs. Captain Adcock read his report as follows;

As Chairman of the Executive Committee, I have the honour to submit the following report. At the outset I would like to express the appreciation of the Committee for the loyal service of the staff. Few people have an idea of the magnitude of an Art Union, and the complex organisation necessary, involving as it does, the building up of an enormous mail order and agency business in a short time, and the fact that this venture has been brought to a successful conclusion reflects great credit on the whole of the staff.

We would particularly commend the ability and business acumen of the promoter, Major F. A. Stutfield, to whom the greater part of the credit must be ascribed, and on whose shoulders much of the responsibilities rested. He has carried out his work with conspicuous success, and deserves our warm appreciation. The credit must also be given to the Gosford and Sydney Managers, H. L. Marshall and C. Hann, who have been directly in charge of the handling of office routine, and who have devised the many necessary systems for dealing with the enormous bulk of mail matter without confusion, checking and counter-checking all entries and keeping a record of every ticket.

The whole work has been so well carried out that the Committee feel sure that the “Gosford Five” is the best Art Union to date and that the public have never had their interest better safeguarded. There is no doubt that this Art Union has been of great benefit to our town by the publicity obtained all over Australia and by the large sums expended locally as

salaries and incidental expenses amounted to two thousand eight hundred and thirty-two pounds seventeen shillings and eight pence £2,832/17/8*.

In connection with the Art Union generally, I have the pleasure in stating that over six hundred thousand (638,640) tickets had been sold and that our Bank balances now stand at nine thousand six hundred and sixty-two pounds (£9662*). It is estimated that in the final balance a net profit of approximately seven thousand five hundred pounds (£7,500) will be realised. This will be sufficient to build and endow a Club worthy of the town in every way.

G. I. Adcock

Chairman Executive Committee "Gosford Five" Art Union.

The actual drawing then commenced at a few minutes to nine and continued till half past eleven. From the audience, four ladies were chosen, Mrs J. Mulligan, Mrs Tom King, Miss Ross and Miss Crummack. A huge galvanised iron barrel, specially constructed by Sterland Bros., and mounted by the By-products people, was turned by R. Tucker, J. J. Cooke. A. McFarland and J. Cook junior, who had a heavy job through two and a half hours of the sultry night. A door (there were a number of them) on the barrel was unlocked by L. E. Moody and one of the three ladies took from the barrel a butt bearing the number of a ticket. This she handed to Sergeant of Police Toohill, who inspected it and handed it to the Chairman.

The number was announced in clear tones by H. L. Marshall. Then the door of a smaller barrel, on the platform, was unlocked by the Sergeant and Miss Crummack drew therefrom a marble. The number on this, which was verified and announced in the same way, was that of the prize drawn. The figures were recorded by Miss E. Hughes and Miss D. Dyson. This process was supervised by representatives of the Press and members of the Drawing Committee and Executive of the Gosford Sub-branch on the platform, who included the Hon. Walter Bennett, Chairman; R. J. Baker, Charles Hill, Dr Paul, Wallace Moore, R. E. Weeks, F. Hadfield, L. W. Turner, E. E. Muir, Mr Rowlands, Mr Pickett, Sergeant Toohill, First Class Constable Cummins, Major Stutfield, Captain Adcock, H. L. Marshall, C. Hann and Mr Saddler.

The first butt drawn from the large barrel by Mrs Mulligan bore the number 89239C. The corresponding marble drawn from the small barrel assigned to it was 44. The fourth number drawn was that of the sixth prize, but "back numbers" had the call for most of

the early part of the drawing. The seventh prize was the fourteenth to be drawn and the fifth was the seventeenth. The third prize (Studebaker Light Six) came out at the thirty-first dip and went to Sydney. The fourth prize was drawn on the sixty-fourth attempt and went to Newmarket in Melbourne. It was the eighty-fourth draw that the second prize (Studebaker Special Six Touring Car) was drawn and the eagerly-awaited first prize, the Studebaker sedan Big Six, did not come out till the ninety-fourth draw.

One man in the Hall caused a sensation by asking the announcer to repeat the number, while he closely scrutinised his ticket, but this humourist was having a little joke at the expense of the audience. There was nothing to indicate where the first or second prize had gone. Much amusement was also caused by the fact that many of the prizes most suitable for male winners seemed to go to ladies and vice versa. But the best joke in this connection was that the winner of the fifth prize was announced as Mr Albert Yates, of Glen Innes, a dentist and that prize was a Ford truck. One wag suggested that this winner would now be able quickly shift the most refractory molar by hitching the Ford truck to it. At the conclusion of the drawing, votes of thanks were recorded to the artist (Mrs T. West and party, who had given their services, the ladies who assisted in the drawing and the Chairman. Subsequently the Committee and officials met in the supper room and felicitations on the success of the undertaking as a whole were exchanged.⁷⁷

The President of the Gosford Sub-branch wrote a letter to all the Diggers in the Sub-branch district in 1925, asking why the returned men had not as yet become members of the Sub-branch. The letter which was printed in the *Gosford Times* of 22 January, 1925 was as followed.

The President of the Gosford Sub-branch wrote a letter to all the Diggers in the Sub-branch district in 1925, asking why the returned men had not as yet become members of the Sub-branch. The letter which was printed in the *Gosford Times* of 22 January, 1925 was as followed.

R.S.S.I.L.A.

⁷⁷ Baker Robert James, 1925. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, June 15. Mann St. Gosford

* One pound =two Australian dollars

* £2,832/17/8= 5,665-78 cents

OPEN LETTERS TO DIGGERS IN THE GOSFORD SUB-BRANCH DISTRICT

I cannot allow my term as President of this Sub-branch to pass without a few words to comrades in the district. There are a large number of you round about here who are not yet enrolled as members of the League. Why? Personally, as a member since 1917, I cannot see any legitimate reason for not joining up, while, on the other hand, the reason for doing so are numerous that it would take up pages of this paper to enlarge on them.

I must, however, touch on one or two, and the most important that occurs to me is the necessity for having a really strong body to look after the needs of those who are unable to fight for themselves.

As time goes on the number of men who will become more or less dependent on the League for support is bound to increase.

Time and circumstances any place any one of us in that position at any moment and how diffident we might be of asking for assistance in our distress from a body from whom in our good times we had held aloof.

But, putting aside this aspect of the matter, how much greater a respect for ourselves we should feel could we be assured that by even a small effort on our part we could be certain that no distressed Digger should want for aught. With a strong and united body we could be sure of this. But unfortunately this is impossible unless you all join up.

As far as this district is concerned, and thanks to Dr Paul, and the present Committee, matter are now well on the way to providing a permanent meeting house for members and a hostel for all Diggers passing through in need of a little assistance.

Finance has hitherto detracted from the efforts of our Sub-branch, but that difficulty is, I hope, now permanently overcome.

But while we may now look forward confidently to a prosperous future for the Sub-branch, we will, I am sure, never forget the assistance always so freely extended to us by the members of the local Red Cross Society and other friends in the district and particularly by one who, since our last annual meeting, had crossed the "Great Divide." I refer, of course, to Mrs Fielder, whose kindly efforts on behalf of the Diggers will always remain green in our memories.

Every Digger in the district is invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the League, which will be held at the School of Arts to-morrow evening at 8 p.m., whether he is a member or not.

Remember the new Club will be run by Diggers for Diggers. Join up and have a say in the management, a proposition in regard to the same will be tabled at the meeting.

In conclusion I would like to extend to the Committee in general and to those members of itin particular who have been on the Committee of the Art Union, to our worthy Treasurer, Mr Wallace Moore, and to our energetic Secretary, Mr H. L. Marshall, my heartfelt thanks for the assistance and comradeship they have rendered to me during during my term in office.

To the Sub-branch as a whole, I feel that I owe an apology for my frequent absence both from general and committee meetings, which has been due to my enforced absence in Sydney on Art Union work, and this must act as my excuse.

To the incoming President and Committee I tender my best wishes for a successful year, it is sure to be s strenuous one. You will have control of a large sum of money, and I would say, use wisdom and discretion in handling the same. I know that the Committee with whom I have been keenly associated during the past year are in favour of expending a reasonable sum in building the new Club House, and putting the rest of the money into an endowment fund, and I sincerely trust that the new Committee will be of the same opinion.

F. A. STUTFIELD
President Gosford Sub-branch
R.S.S.I.L.A.⁷⁸

FORTH ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1924

January 26, 1925

There was an attendance of 25 at the annual meeting of Gosford Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League. The President, Major F. A. Stutfield, occupied the chair; Messrs Macdermott, Stevenson, Rodgie and McDonald were enrolled as new members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's report was given in the form of "a talk to members," similar to that which appeared in the last issue of the "Times".

⁷⁸ Baker Robert James, 1925. *The Gosford Times*, Thursday Afternoon, January 22. Mann St. Gosford

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary, Mr H. L. Marshall reported that during the year the League had done little, yet much; the work being of a different nature during the last year, inasmuch that an Art Union had been run with great success; and owing to the time it took up, little effort had been expended on entertainments, with the exception of the Annual Ball, which unfortunately was not a financial success. The membership of the League had not increased to any great extent, the total for the year being 27, with one affiliation member, viz., Col. Vernon.

During the year the Memorial Cenotaph had been unveiled, but the surroundings were not in keeping with same, and it was understood that this was to be rectified. Assistance had been granted in a monetary way to a few individual returned men out of work, or in destitute circumstances. Owing to Dr Paul's generosity it was found necessary at the beginning of the year, to devise some ways and means of raising funds for the erection of a Soldiers Club on the land donated by him. This had since led to the purchase of an adjoining block to enable the building to stand in larger surroundings and for the building of a tennis court; the whole of this purchase had been arranged from the funds derived from the Art Union.

ART UNION COMMITTEE

Captain G. I. Adcock, Chairman of the Executive Committee reported that the Art Union had been highly successful financially and that the effort put forward had been worthwhile. He explained that there had been much hard work for all concerned and his congratulations went out to those who had been more directly concerned in the direction and management. The estimated net profits would be in the vicinity of £7,500. The Chairman's report was accepted with acclamation. On the motion of Messrs Macdermott and Cohen, a vote of thanks was accorded to Captain Adcock, Major Stutfield, Secretary Marshall and the Committee.

PROPOSED CLUB

Regarding the proposed Club, Captain Adcock intimated it was to be confined principally to League members and a letter was read from Messrs Leonard, Gibson and

Helsham regarding the Articles and Memorandum of Association. After discussion the following resolution was carried "That a Company be formed, limited by guarantee on the lines laid down by Captain Adcock under *Act 52* for the purpose of directing funds coming into the possession of the League from the Gosford Five Art Union." A ballot result resulted in the election of the following Provisional Directors; Messrs Adcock, Stuttfield, Marshall, Muir, Weeks, Rowlands and Macdermott.

It was decided to name the Club "The Brisbane Water District Club," and membership subscriptions were fixed as follows; League members ten shillings per annum, returned soldiers (not League members) one pound one shilling per annum, civilians two pounds two shillings per annum, parents, wives, sons and daughters of members half fees, rejected volunteers one pound per annum.

ELLECTION OF OFFICERS

The following members were elected for the ensuing year; President, Mr R. E. Weeks; Vice-Presidents, Messrs Muir and Frewin; Secretary, Mr H. L. Marshall; Treasurer, Mr Wallace Moore; Committee, Messrs A. McDonald, L. McDonald, Stevenson, Cohen, Rodgie, Moodie, Tucker and Helsham.

GOSFORD "TEN" ART UNION

Messrs Adcock, Marshall, Muir, Weeks and Rowlands were appointed to the Committee to run the Gosford "Ten" Art Union, the honorarium to be paid being one pound one shilling per meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Colonel Vernon was appointed Architect for erection of Club buildings. In future monthly meetings will be held on the first Friday in each month, with committee meetings on the third Friday or as required.

H. L. Marshall, Hon. Secretary.⁷⁹

⁷⁹ Edward James Phillips, 1925, January 26, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

More criticism had been made about the “Gosford Five” Art Union resulting in another letter being printed in the *Gosford Times* by F. A. Stutfield as follows

Sir,

Referring to the destructive criticism which has appeared in the press regarding the conduct and expenses of the Gosford “Five” Art Union, I should be glad if you would grant me space for the following comments. In the first place I should like to point out that an Art Union starting from scratch has to build up in the course of a few, very few months, a mail order connection which the average firm handling that class of work takes years to accomplish.

This naturally cannot be done without the expenditure of a large sum of money in advertising, printing, postage, wages and so on. While on the subject of advertising, I note that one paper referred to the large amount of money spent in advertising in “obscure” country papers.

It might interest the writer of that article to know that the “obscure” country papers with an average contract advertising rate of about two shillings per inch, produced results at least three times as great as the metropolitan papers with an average advertising rate of twelve shillings per inch. Before proceeding any further, I should like to make a brief analysis of the expenses in connection with the Gosford “Five” Art Union.

To start with, the gross receipts are shown as thirty-four thousand seven hundred and eighty-six pounds (£34,786). This is somewhat misleading as the commission amounting to five thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine pounds (£5,989) is never handled by the Art Union at all, and the gross amount really handled by the Art Union was, therefore, twenty-eight thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven pounds (£28,797).

From this sum must be deducted five thousand pounds (£5,000) for the prizes and five thousand nine hundred and fifty-three pounds (£5,953) being the net profit, leaving a balance of seventeen thousand eight hundred and forty-four pounds (£17,844). The next large amount for consideration is the advertising, five thousand seven hundred and fifty-one pounds (£5,751). This amount covers the whole of the advertising in approximately two hundred (200) newspapers, covering New South Wales, Queensland, West Australia and Tasmania. It also includes cost of design for posters, window cards, letter heads and all the books, stereos, matts and so on incidental to the advertising.

Allowing the gross receipts as thirty-four thousand seven hundred and eighty-six pounds (£34,786) the advertising than

worked at approximately sixteen and a half (16.5) per cent of the gross receipts, which any business man would consider a good proposition. The item five thousand one hundred and fifty-eight pounds (£5158) covers wages for over one hundred (100) employees and this, based on a period of twenty (20) weeks, only shows an average of two pounds eleven shillings and sixpence (£2/11/6) per employee. The highest salary paid was seven pounds (£7) per week.

Here I might mention that owing to Christmas and the New Year holidays, occurring during the period of greatest work towards the conclusion of the Art Union, a considerable amount of overtime had to be worked in order to cope with the tremendous amount of mail matter and book entries which had to be kept up to date. Postage and telephone charges are responsible for two thousand two hundred and seventy-four pounds (£2,274). This covers the costs of despatch of some three hundred thousand (300,000) circulars, books of tickets, receipts and result slips, as well as cost of installation of telephones, call and so on.

Coming to the item of one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five pounds (£1,955) for printing and stationery, the costs of printing for the tickets alone amounts approximately six hundred and seventy-five pounds (£675), while in addition to this, we have catalogues, prize lists, posters, window cards, circulars, letters, letter paper, envelopes, receipts and account books, result slips and so on, comprising altogether some millions of separate items.

Travelling expenses of one thousand two hundred pounds (£1,200) seems a large amount at first sight, but it must be remembered that this sum includes periodical visits to Melbourne and Brisbane offices, by the promoter and the auditors, as well as auditors' continuous journeys from Sydney to Gosford in connection with the audit work. It also includes travelling expenses of local organisers in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales and tram and train fares to city and suburban canvassers in the surrounding districts of Sydney.

The item four hundred and sixty-six dollars (£466) rent, cleaning and lighting, covers officers in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Gosford for from nine to twelve months and cannot be considered excessive, covering as it does the operations of some one hundred (100) employees. The amount of three hundred and thirty-three pounds (£333) for audit and legal expenses may appear high, but it must be remembered that the Art Union was subject to continuous audit from its inception, thus guarding the public against any malpractices on the part of the employees.

The legal expenses included this amount were not great and were mostly incurred in the drawing of agreements for offices and with employees, in the defence of untrue allegations made against the conduct of the Art Union, in relation to certain matters, and legal advice generally. Offices expenses five hundred and seventy-two pounds (£572) covers costs of furniture and equipment for some twelve to fifteen rooms in the various offices occupied by the Art Union, most of which was taken over by the Gosford "Ten" Art Union at a fair valuation.

Bank charges of seventy-one pounds (£71) covers exchange on cheques, money orders, interest on overdraft and so on, while freight and cartage was sixty pounds (£60) covers distribution of advertising matter to centres in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, West Australia and New Zealand. With regard to prizes I might mention that only seven minor prizes were unclaimed at the end of three months stipulated by the Attorney-General as the period during which prizes must be claimed.

These have since been sold by public auction and the proceeds credited to the Art Union funds. This speaks well for the records kept by the Art Union as only forty per cent of the names and addresses of prize winners appeared on the butts of tickets. No Art Union has ever kept faith with the public as did the Gosford "Five". Nearly a quarter of a million result slips were despatched altogether while every person who purchased a book of six tickets received one by post.

In addition the result was published in practically every paper that carried the Art Union advertisements. When it is recalled that the Art Union started practically from scratch with a five hundred pounds (£500) overdraft from its bankers and realised a net profit of just on six thousand pounds (£6,000*) it seems to me that a lot of energy has been wasted by armchair critics in denoting it as a failure, Attention should also be drawn to the fact that neither the promoter, nor any member of the Committee had ever had any previous experience in Art Unions.

Not one charge of malpractice in the conduct of the Art Union could be fairly made and if made, it could be easily refuted. Let the public consider this aspect. Unless the Attorney-General was convinced that everything had been fair and above board, would he have granted a permit for another Art Union on a much larger scale, to wit, the Gosford "Ten"? In conclusion, may I point out that anyone can pose as a destructive critic? It requires neither brains nor common sense.

On the other hand, the constructive critic, albeit they are few and far between, must be a person of considerable ability, with a sound knowledge of his subject. I invite a contradiction of the following assertion. Every expense in connection with the Gosford "Five" was genuinely incurred as vouched for by the auditors. If the expenses were heavy, it must at any rate be remembered that what money came from the public was returned to them again for practically every item of expenditure of any sort, resolves itself in the long run into wages.

There is no doubt in my mind that the sporting element of an Art Union is what really appears to the public; the chance of winning something worthwhile for a minute expenditure which they never miss, and small blame to them, if it adds a little piquancy to the ordinary hum-drum every day existence. Thanking you for the courtesy in affording me space for these remarks

Yours, &c.,

F. A. STUTFIELD Promoter

Gosford "Five Art Union. "Irunga," Gosford, N. S. W.⁸⁰

As previously noted the Gosford Sub-branch had decided to build a Soldiers' Club not only for the members of the Sub-branch itself, but for all citizens of the district. By August 1925, the handsome building which was to house the Club was beginning to take shape and promised to be an ornament to the district. In order to make a commencement on the organisation of the Club, a meeting of those interested was held and the following explanation made of its proposed activities. As stated the Club would not be confined to return soldiers only, it being the desire of the organisers that it should be in every way the "Brisbane Water District Club."

The qualification for membership was to be of good character and the approval of fellow members. Applicants for membership would require proposing and seconding and approving by the House Committee in a similar manner to other Clubs. The subscription rates will be kept as low as consistent with the considerable benefits to be conferred by membership and it was hoped that a large membership roll would result from the policy. Special arrangements were under consideration at the time for lady members and it was hoped to obtain the active co-operation of the ladies in organising,

* One pound =two Australian dollars

⁸⁰ Edward James Phillips, 1925, June, 25, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

equipping and running the Club. A scheme had been outlined for afternoon teas, light refreshments, music, and radio and so on, which would enable the ladies to spend enjoyable afternoons and evenings, while their menfolk were occupied with more masculine attractions of the Club.

It was envisioned that tennis and dancing would be provided for and facilities for reading and writing would be provided, while for the convenience of outlying members or shoppers, lockers would be provided so that parcels may be left in safety. The Club it thought would be a boon to such members, giving them a comfortable headquarters in the town where they may rest and meet their friends. On this account there was little doubt that the membership from the surrounding district would be very large.

The provisional Directors of the Club were anxious to enlist the active co-operation of all ladies and gentlemen willing to assist in making the Club an unqualified success. Everyone was welcome and all suggestions would be carefully considered. Committees were being formed to go into the matter of by-laws, furnishing and so on. And the Directors were especially anxious to get in touch with ladies and gentlemen from all parts of the district that would make themselves familiar with the aims and objectives of the Club and would pass the information on to others with a view to obtaining the support and a healthy membership roll. Do not wait to be asked, come along and help. The slogan of the Club was “This is your Club, work for it.” Don’t stand aloof and criticise. If you have any ideas they said, let us have them.

In order to preserve the conditions of the Trust and the gift and the site, the administration of the funds and other assets of the Club were to be vested in a small non-profit Company. This Company would be composed primarily of returned soldiers, to who will be added other responsible citizens. This Company will elect Directors annually and these Directors will assist and coordinate the activities of House, entertainment and other Committees elected from the members of the Club. This system of a Trustee Company had been adopted in place of individual Trustees to ensure continuity and a policy in accordance with the wishes of the majority. The name of the Company was the “Gosford Returned Sailors and Soldiers Trustees. It was anticipated that the Club would be ready for the opening ceremony by Australia Day, January 26

next, and the possibility of either the Governor-General or State Governor performing the opening ceremony had been mentioned.

A scheme was being formulated to obtain affiliation with leading metropolitan Clubs, so that members visiting this district can make it their Headquarters. For the benefit of those who had not inspected the plans, it was mentioned that a very fine type of building was to be provided for. Accommodation included ladies and gentlemen's lounges, billiard room, card and committee room, kitchen and servery, bathrooms, reception hall, caretaker's quarters, stores and a very large verandah commanding a magnificent view over Brisbane Water. A floor suitable for dancing would be constructed in the principal room and on the verandah and an arrangement of folding doors would allow space for a reasonable number of couples. The architect responsible for the design of the building was H. Venables Vernon F. I. A. and the work was carried out by W. A. Buscombe of Gosford.⁸¹

Members of Gosford Sub-branch who were members or whose relatives were members of friendly societies and inmates of military hospitals complained that the hospitals refused to grant them fortnightly medical progress reports that they needed to secure the benefits of the societies to which they belonged. The societies which pointed out that their rules, as registered under the *Friendly Societies Act* demanded fortnightly reports as a condition of the payment of benefits and that, through their inability to secure these reports, their returned soldier members were suffering a distinct loss, attribute responsibility for the complications to the State Repatriation authorities and would bring the matter under the notice of the Minister for Repatriation.⁸²

1926

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1925

January 11, 1926

There was a big muster at the annual meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch of the R. S.

⁸¹ Edward James Phillips, 1925, August 20, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

⁸² *Ibid*

& S. I. L. A. at the School of Arts on Monday night. After a portion of the business had been transacted, the remainder was moistened with the free and easy conviviality of a smoke social. The official language of the evening was A. I. F. Aussie which ensured that the speeches on matters of League welfare interspersed with the toasts and other items were featured by brevity and a certain blunt emphasis. There were present Messrs R. E. Weeks (President), G. I. Adcock, A. W. Helsham, W. Moore, A. D. Hickey, F. D. Crosthwaite, A. McDonald, M. Wilson, P. S. Macdermott, H. K. Wood, C. Hills, R. Bennie, L. McDonald, E. E. Muir, K. Cohen, A. S. Croll, E. Ironmonger, Mr Cahill, R. Tucker, R. G. Frewin, H. Newsham, Mr Ayres, H. L. Mosse-Robinson, J. D. Stevenson and L. G. Moody (Secretary).

ANNUAL REPORTS

The reports submitted proved that good progress was being made and they were adopted in terms which showed appreciation of the officer's work throughout the year. Some "knocks" were given in the reports, but in such breezy fashion that members took them all in good part. The President reported;

There will be no need for me to tell you the excellent work done by the Secretary, Mr Moody, the Treasurer, Mr Moore and the Executive Committee as a whole, who have with few exceptions attended approximately 22 meetings in the year. The year was commenced at a disadvantage with the Sub-branch heavily in debt, but happily the debt had decreased considerably and the membership has increased. We had approximately 25 financial members at the date of last annual meeting and we have now about 40, showing an increase of 15, with excellent prospect of additional members enrolling.

Approximately £6,000 was received from the Gosford Five Art Union Committee and Trustees were appointed to control this, pending the formation of the Trustee Company. £5,000 was placed on fixed deposit with the C. B. A., but it has been drawn on now to pay instalments to the contractor for the building of the Club House, which is being erected on ground generously donated to this Sub-branch by Dr Paul. A piece of land adjoining this block and owned by Mr Milligan was then purchased for £300*, which enhanced the value of the main block considerably. The Club House should be completed next month or early in March and be ready for opening not later than April. In passing, it is suggested to the Trustees that consideration should be given to a

proposal advance by Vice-President Frewin for a turning basin for cars which will not necessitate cutting into our own frontage.

The Sub-branch had a motion on the agenda paper at the State Congress re the re-appraisal of Soldier Settlements and through the efforts of Mr Helsham, our delegate to the Congress, the measure was carried and has met with some success. The Anzac Day celebrations were on a large scale and were entirely held at Gosford, Ourimbah and Wyong with the Lancers Band assisting. For the first time since its inception the Anzac Ball was held on Anzac eve, the reason for this was because Anzac Day fell on Saturday and dancing would therefore have to cease at midnight. Another reason was to test the feeling of the public as to whether the Ball should be held on Anzac night, or not, but as far as could be ascertained, it made no difference as the majority of the public view this event as we do, viz., celebrating the Birth of a Nation.

During the year the Sub-branch suffered considerably in the loss of several good friends who were active workers for the Red Cross and returned soldiers generally. I refer to Mrs Harris, Mrs Porritt and our very good friend Mr Baker, who have all gone West and Mrs Dermondy, who has left the district. On the eve of her departure Mrs Dermondy was made a presentation on behalf of the Sub-branch. The Trustee Company has now been registered and thanks are due to Captain Adcock for his efforts in this direction. In response to an invitation from Woy Woy, the Sub-branch was represented at the unveiling of the War Memorial there. During the year several Diggers were helped on their way with cash and several others were found work. In conclusion I have to thank all members with their assistance and co-operation and to wish the incoming officers and committee every success and to ensure them of my support at all times

R. E. WEEKS President.⁸³

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary submitted a refreshingly breezy report from which the following are extracted;

At the last annual meeting the strength of this Sub-branch was 27, with one affiliated member. Our membership is now 40 with one affiliated member (Col. Vernon) and two honorary members. This is an improvement and one which must sustain and accelerate.

* One pound =two Australian dollars

There are at least 120 returned soldiers in the district this Sub-branch serves, if not more; so don't sit down and say "What a lovely lot of men we got." Rake them in gentlemen we need them all.

A year ago the Gosford "Five" Art Union was just completing its splendid work and the Gosford "Ten" was a happy little boy with a smiling face and golden hair and a bright future and five affectionate and confident god-fathers. Since then the little boy became old, his hair turned white and his god-fathers became old and their hair turned grey; and at last the little boy died with tears of sorrow for his god-fathers on his face and a deep and unsatisfied lust for vengeance on Parliament House in his heart. But his god-fathers did not die, though they were old and very weary; and now they are trying again and it is up to you gentlemen to correct false and misleading rumours and make the Erina Shire Memorial Art Union as big a success as was the Gosford "Five" and incidentally to right a rank injustice.

Our Padre, the Rev. Greg MacGregor, carried out his duties admirably. He is a staunch supporter of the League and a member of this Sub-branch and had expressed the desire to help us in any way and at any time. With regard to the Ball, which was held on the evening of the 24th April, while the attendance was not nearly a record, it was undoubtedly much enjoyed by the 150 who came. As regards the financial aspect, the result was by no means satisfactory. The assistance given by members to the Sub-committee in charge of the arrangements was practically nil. The Hall decorations were good and that "goodness" was due entirely to the Sub-committee and nobody else. And in this connection I must mention Mrs L. McDonald who help very considerably with the decorations), Mr L. Rodgie, the Ball Secretary and Mr Wallace Moore, who did a very great deal of work both for the Ball and Anzac Day.

During April, Mr Helsham attended Congress in Sydney and our thanks are due to him for his report. It is the only time we are brought into personal touch with the State Branch and full use should be taken of the opportunity. Positions on the State Executive had to be filled during the year and we nominated Captain Adcock, when he accepted the nomination, was unaware that the meetings were so frequent and in consequence we did not press the election. On the 22nd May, at the Boys Training Home, a presentation of a set of vases suitably inscribed was made to Mrs Dermody by your

President. Mrs Dermondy did some very fine work, as many of you know, during the war for the fellows on service and she has always been a firm friend to returned men.

The sale of poppies on Armistice Day was an unqualified success. Owing to the White Train being here, we continued the sale on Thursday and the result was an easy record. The sum of £24/3/9) was collected, which goes towards the various Returned Soldiers Institutions, a proportion being retained by this Sub-branch. That splendid result was due entirely to the very willing and able help we received from the ladies who collected in the streets and from other sources. The President, in his report, has enumerated those who assisted us and I can only add from a personal point of view my very sincere and appreciative thanks, particularly to Miss Ironmonger, Mrs L. McDonald and Mrs G. I. Adcock, whose assistance was invaluable.

Regarding the general observance of Armistice Day in Gosford, I was not impressed. Some people remembered that there was a war and quite a lot forgot to remember. Three people put their flags out on the 11th November to commemorate the signing of the Armistice and the end of a bitter period of suffering and self-sacrifice. The rest put their flags out on the following day to welcome the Great White Train. Of course the Armistice is of the past and the Train of the present, but still had there not been the Armistice and all that it meant, that Train might have been carrying German goods. It causes one furiously to think.

On August 23rd, a Memorial was unveiled at Woy Woy and several members of the League attended. The Gosford Troop of the 1st Light Horse, New South Wales Lancers also went down and contributed very largely to the proceedings. During the year two great Red Cross workers in Mrs Harris and Mrs Porritt passed away. The toll of death has been very heavy during the last year or two on that fine band of women who unselfishly and willingly gave of their best during the war for the men at the front. And now quite recently we have lost a true friend in Mr R. J. Baker a kindly gentleman, a fine townsman and a staunch friend, every institution in the district mourns his loss and we not the least. The League never asked for his assistance without meeting a ready response and no returned man ever went to him for help in vain. His loss we shall always regret, his memory we shall always honour.

We have on several occasions rendered assistance to returned men in the way of railway fares and money for meals and in various other ways we have done what we could to assist our comrades. And now we come to the Club. At the last annual meeting you heard of the successful result of the Art Union to raise funds for the building and equipment of a Club for the returned soldiers and the citizens of Gosford district. To-night you can see the Brisbane Water District Club near its completion. The Trustee Co., the Gosford Returned Sailors and Soldiers Trustees has after considerable delay, been registered. You will have very shortly a building second to none in Gosford. It is largely up to you to see that the institution is worthy of its home. We need a big membership roll and there seems to be much misconception, particularly among the civilian population of this district as to whom and what the Club is for. By talking about the Club you can make it known that it is not merely for returned men, but a Club for the citizens of Gosford.

I appeal to members of the League to induce those returned men who are not members to join and to give your officers and your committee the benefit of your presence and your advice at the League meetings. As the State Secretary said, the League after all is really the A .I. F. dressed in civilian clothes and surely that great old spirit lives. Don't try and keep it down with a featherweight of trifling annoyances and imaginary grievances.

L. G. MOODY Secretary.

NEW YEAR'S OFFICERS

Election of officers for the year now commencing resulted, President, Mr R. E. Weeks; three Vice-Presidents, Messrs R. G. Frewin, L. McDonald, P. S. Macdermott Secretary, Mr L. G. Moody; Treasurer Mr Wallace Moore; Committee, Messrs K. Cohen, A. McDonald, F. D. Crosthwaite, E. E. Muir, J. D. Stevenson, E. Ironmonger, R. Tucker, C. Wroe, A. S. Croll, A. W. Helsham, G. I. Adcock; Auditors, Messrs C. Hills and A. D. Hickey; League's Solicitor, Mr A. D. Hickey; Messrs Frewin, E. Ironmonger and J. D. Stevenson were added to the Art Union Committee.

MERCI, M'ISEURS

On the motion of Messrs Muir and Macdermott, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the retiring officers for the splendid work done during the past year. It was also decided

that a photo of the President be hung in the League Room as a permanent record of the League's appreciation.

THE TOASTS

Several toasts were honoured while business was continued between whiles. "The King" was honoured at the instance of Mr Adcock. Next in precedence was proposed the health of the "latest addition to the legal fraternity" a toast humorously proposed by Mr A. McDonald and responded in a like manner by Mr Hickey on behalf of young Hickey as yet not able to (understandingly) address the Court. Mr Adcock explained the constitution of the League and the Club, the latter being conducted as a district organisation by League members as Trustees. Club membership was open to any reputable citizen male or female, ex-soldier or citizen, over the age of 18 years. It was desired to consider applications from persons wishing to join in order that the foundation membership list would be fully representative of the responsible residents of the district.

A number of additions were made to the lists of Trustees and several nominations for Club membership were submitted. A "Silent Toast" was honoured to the memory of the men who had "gone west." Mr Cohen and Mr Macdermott emphasised the wish of the League that all returned men of the district would join up. If all eligible men would come along the League would be a very strong body and powerful to assist in all worthy objects. Messrs Helsham, Adcock, Ayres, Moore and Stevenson also spoke on this matter. The last named urged that all members) apart from the few who always helped) make a special resolution at the beginning of the Club's year to do more for the good of the league than they had in the past.

Mr L. McDonald proposed the health of "the Secretary" and voiced member's keen appreciation of the consistent good work done for the League by Mr Moody. The Secretary (after being duly baptised "a jolly good fellow") suitably responded and said his only regret was that some good soldiers for some imaginary reason did not come along to the League. Mr Hickey proposed "Success to Club." He said that the secret of success was for all Diggers in the district to take a genuine active interest in the Club. This institution, which would soon be open, would offer advantages which should draw a very full membership and should be soundly established.

FIELD PUNISHMENT NO

During the evening volunteers interrupted the speeches and more serious business of the evening with several items. Mr Hills recited with fine effect Robert Service's "Carry On." Mr Ironmonger sang in good voice "Mandalay." Mr A. McDonald gave some anecdotes (in the vernacular) of camp life, which "brought down the house." Mr Moody recited "The Grimble Grubs," which as an "epic" of war description is something special. Mr Wroe sang the Welsh National Anthem in Welsh and English.

The refreshments were deftly dispensed by "the two Macs," who provided capable impromptu mess orderlies. That good Gosford product, Justfrute, was in strong supply as a welcome variant to the staple diet of justops and there were tasty sandwiches in plenty. It was remarked that thanks were due to the Buffalo Lodge for the use of the piano.⁸⁴

Some idea of what an asset the Brisbane Water Club was to the district was gained by the number of prominent citizens on Saturday afternoon, February 6, when by invitation of the Trustees and Directors there was a gathering of visitors who inspected the premises at Gosford. The erection of the building was practically completed by this time and the rooms were ready for fitting and furnishing. Included among those present were representatives of local and city firms who were given particulars to assist them in tendering for the furnishings.

The building as recorded in the *Gosford Times* described the building as a substantial one of brick stone foundations and had a fine appearance. The position was a splendid one commanding a view right across the Broadwater and the hills on either side. The view took in Woy Woy and its surroundings and even on a day like Saturday when the heated and smoky atmosphere carried an obscuring haze, with such landmarks round Broken Bay as Lion Island and Barrenjoey could be seen. The situation was elevated too, and even on that steamy day there was a breeze on the balconies. Members and their friends were interested in inspecting the building, which included a hall, passages,

⁸⁴ Edward James Phillips, 1925, December 13, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

committee rooms, cloak rooms, kitchen, locker closet, billiard room, general ladies lounge and very large balconies, one closed in with glass and one open.

It was hoped to open the Club with due ceremony in April and in the meantime the members were being enrolled. As previously explained the privileges of the Club were not to be confined to returned soldiers, who civilian's friends were to be welcomed. At the time there was no constituted body of members to elect others to their number, so the list was being compiled by individual nomination, it being left to any person who had submitted his name for membership to suggest, with the nominee's consent, any reputable friend as a Club member.

The subscription fees at the time were published as being; Civilian and wife three pounds three shillings (£3/3/-) annual, this converts to six dollars and thirty cents, or seventeen shillings and sixpence (17/6), which converts to one dollar and seventy cents for the quarter. Sub-branch member and wife was one pound eleven shillings and sixpence (£1/11/6), which converts to three dollars and fifteen cents, or ten shillings (10/-), which converts to one dollar for the quarter. Soldier non-member and wife was two pounds twelve shillings and sixpence (£2/12/6), which converts to five dollars and twenty-five cents annual, or fifteen shillings (15/-), which converts to one dollar and fifty cents a quarter.

Civilian two pounds two shillings (£2/2/-), which converts to four dollars and twenty cents annual, or twelve shillings (12/-), which converts to one dollar and twenty cents a quarter. Associate, which were ladies at one pound one shilling (£1/1/-), which converts to two dollars and ten cents annual, or six shillings a quarter (6/-), which converts to sixty cents a quarter. Sub-branch member one pound one shilling and sixpence (£1/1/6), which converts to two dollars and fifteen cents. Soldier non-member one pound eleven shillings and sixpence (£1/11/6), which converts to three dollars and fifteen cents annual, or ten shillings (10/-), which converts to one dollar a quarter. Nurse with overseas service fifteen shillings (15/-), which converts to one dollar and sixty cents annual, or four shillings and sixpence (4/6), which converts to forty-five cents a quarter.

Temporary member for one month was (10/6), which converts to one dollar and five cents. Life Member was twenty five guineas (£27/5/-), which converts to fifty-four dollars and fifty cents. Country Member outside the five miles radius was half rates. For entrance fees, for the first six months after opening was nil and after six months, civilians two pounds two shillings (£2/2/-), which converts to four dollars and twenty cents.

The local paper noted that those interested would be pleased for any friends to go along and look at the Club premises, which they rightly regarded as a thorough justification for the organising of the "Gosford Five" art union and a very solid proof that the enterprise was a beneficial one for the district. Sub-branch and Club members were actively supporting the Shire Memorial Hospital art union being promoted and to quote the Club House as a striking example of the permanent good that could be done by the art union method, which penalised nobody. It was expected that the Club, conveniently situated just round the well-known "Dr Paul's corner" in Gosford, would be a pleasant rendezvous for district citizens generally. It was, the paper noted, a splendid institution and should well serve the varied uses its Directors hoped to make of it for the benefit of soldiers and civilians alike.⁸⁵

A meeting of Trustees of the Brisbane Water Club was held at the Gosford School of Arts on Friday night, February 26, Later in the evening this merged into a general meeting of members when there were present Captain Adcock, presiding, C. K. Adrian, F. D. Crossthwaite, Dr G. M. Duncan, R. G. Frewin, C. Hills, E. H. Ironmonger, P. S. Macdermott, A. McDonald, C. Marsden, L. McDonald, L. G. Moody, Wallace Moore, E. E. Muir, J. D. Stevenson, G. A. Walpole, R. E. Weeks, W. F. Wilkinson and K. H. Wood.

It was pointed out by several speakers that there was no intention as had been supposed in one or two quarters, to confine the Club's privileges, or any of them to ex-soldiers. A considered decision had been made to make it a general Club; and civilians including ladies would be welcome to full membership. Attention was given by the Trustees to

⁸⁵ Edward James Phillips, 1926, February 11, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

several problems of organisation and headway was made in settling details. The conditions of the caretaker's position were further considered and some of the big batch of applications already received was reviewed. It was decided to obtain a flagpole for the Club grounds.

It was decided that the Provisional House Committee be elected for six months from date and consist of nine members. It was also resolved to elect provisionally a President and two Vice-Presidents for the same period. Dr Duncan and Mr Adrian were scrutineers. For the position of Provisional President, Mr C. Hills was promptly nominated. He said it appeared to him that the first President at least, should be a returned soldier, but left it to the members to decide. Mr P. S. Macdermott was also nominated and the ballot resulted in his election. Captain Adcock vacated the chair in favour of Mr Macdermott.

For the Vice-Presidents, C. Hills, Dr Paul, Dr Duncan and R. E. Weeks were nominated. Mr Hills and Dr Duncan were elected. For the remaining six seats on the House Committee, the nominations were A. D. Hickey, H. K. Wood, Dr Paul, G. A. Walpole, A. L. Fell, E. H. Ironmonger, Rev. A. Renwick, W. F. Wilkinson, R. R. Mortimer, S. G. Parr, J. D. Stevenson and Wallace Moore. On the first ballot Hickey, Walpole, Ironmonger, Parr and Stevenson were elected, with Dr Paul, Mortimer and Wood level for sixth place. Another ballot was taken and Mr Mortimer was elected.

It was decided that the Club Secretary, who would be appointed by the House Committee would be paid one guinea (£1/1/-), which converts to two dollars and ten cents per meeting. His income from this source was not to exceed the rate of fifty pounds (£50*) per annum, with a commission of ten per cent on subscriptions received. Those of the newly elected House Committee who were present went into session at once.⁸⁶

The House Committee of the Brisbane Water District Club met on Saturday, March 12, to interview candidates for the position of caretaker and steward. The selected applicant

* One pound =two Australian dollars

⁸⁶ Edward James Phillips, 1926, March 4, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

was a man with a large and varied experience of the kind of work needed and the Committee had every confidence that the catering department was in capable hands. It was the intention to hold weekly socials, dances and so on and provision was to be made so that lady members would be able to make use of the Club for bridge, teas and other activities. A full-sized billiard table was purchased and a player piano would also be installed. The Committee wanted to make the initial opening a big feature and it was hoped that all intending members would arrange to have their applications in before that date.

Applications forms were available from any member of the House Committee, or the Club Secretary, L. G. Moody. The Committee wanted it to be distinctly understood that membership of the Club was open to all and again was not restricted to returned soldiers only. The membership at the time was well over fifty (50) and consisted of representatives of all sections of the community. It was hoped that the Club would be a means of breaking down the old stumbling blocks of sectarian, political and social intolerance and help to revive that fine spirit of camaraderie which existed among those in whose memory the Club was erected.⁸⁷ But, aborigine ex-servicemen who served at Gallipoli and France were barred from entering most R. S & S. I. L. A. Clubs in Australia up to the late 1960's. Some Clubs allowed aborigine ex-soldiers to enter on Anzac Day only.

The Hotel Gosford management, the local paper noted, again proved that its catering was perfectly done. This occasion was that of the visit of Major-General Ryrie to open the Brisbane Water District Club and after the distinguished officer had been taken to Terrigal after his arrival by the late morning train, he and other visitors were entertained at luncheon at the Hotel Gosford. Mr P. S. Macdermott, President of the Club, was in the chair and had Major-General Sir Granville de L. Ryrie, K. C. M. G., C. B., V. D., M. H. R., on his right. Other who were present were; L. C. Elliott, N. S. W. President of the R. S. & S. I. L. A., Dr J. H. Paul, Colonel Vernon, D. S. O., W. J. Stagg, N. S. W. Secretary of the R. S. & S. I. L. A., W. S. Bourke of Sydney, A. D. Hickey, G. A. Walpole, C. Hills, Lieut. R. E. Weeks, Major Wikner, Capt. G. I.

⁸⁷ Edward James Phillips, 1926, March 18, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Adcock, Farrier Quarter Master Sergeant R. G. Frewin, L. G. Moody, Hon. Sec. Gosford Sub-branch, E. Ironmonger, H. K. Wood, E. E. Muir, Sergeant J. D. Stevenson, W. A. Buscombe, Dr G. M. Duncan, Wallace Moore, R. R. Mortimer and A. Page.

There were but two toasts and speeches were rigidly barred; thus was the occasion a doubly pleasant one. The Chairman proposed "the King", which the toast was heartedly honoured. Major-General Ryrie proposed "Success to our Club" in the fewest possible words and the sentiment was enthusiastically endorsed. The General then asked that all present stand for half a minute in silence in memory of the boys who had "gone West"; and this tribute was reverently paid, while the lights were dimmed.

The ground floor dining room was most tastefully set out for the luncheon, draping's of blue and white (General's colours and also of the local Light Horse) being used effectively in conjunction with a laurel wreath, national flags, streamers and ferns with roses presented by Mrs J. Canning of Gosford. The whole scheme was in excellent taste and was effective without being obtrusive. The catering was quite in keeping with the perfect service and the proprietor (H. F. Rowe), the management in general and the chef (H. Altman) and staff in particular, thoroughly deserved the complimentary remarks which were passed concerning their supervision and the resources of the Hotel, which in particular surprised city visitors, who had not yet seen the new house.

General Ryrie warmly complimented the management on the quality of the luncheon and upon the superior manner in which it was served. The appetising dishes of the meal were set out on a specially printed menu and appeared under such designations as "Suvia Bay Oysters", "Bream a la Pozieres", "Sandbag Pudding", "Issue Cheese", "Anzac Wafers", "Dugout Coffee" and so on. These appropriate references caused considerable amusements as did the inscriptions on the wafers, each one being reminiscent of some familiar phase of the Great War, from the General's campaign on Gallipoli to the gentle attentions of the "jacks" in Horseferry Road, in London.⁸⁸

⁸⁸ Edward James Phillips, 1926, May 6, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

An official statement was made available on Saturday, May 1, included the following passages. About two years earlier Dr J. H. Paul of Gosford, a local doctor, who had always been a staunch friend of returned soldiers, donated the land on which the Club had been built by the Gosford Sub-branch for the erection of a Club House. This land was one of the best sites in Gosford and was exceedingly valuable. In order to build a Club House worthy of such a magnificent gift, the Sub-branch organised an art union and raised the money to build and equip the present building.

To administer the funds so obtained, the Sub-branch organised a non-profit Trustee Company called, "The Gosford Returned Soldiers Trustees." Provision had been made so that as the number of returned soldiers' decreased, their places as members of the Company would be taken by their children. In this way a perpetual trusteeship had been created which would ensure that the control of the Club would be vested in sympathetic hands for some generations at least. This Trustee Company had complete control of its assets. It elected its Directors annually. In this way democratic control was assured, without any legal difficulties which would occur in changing Trustees from time to time under the usual system.

The Directors of the Club, who had been responsible for its erection and equipment, were Captain G. I. Adcock, President (A. I. F. and 1st Light Horse); Lieut. R. E. Weeks, Vice-President (A. I. F. and 1st Light Horse); Lieut. P. S. Macdermott, Treasurer (A. I. F.); Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant W. M. Moore (S. A. and 1st Light Horse); Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant R. G. Freewin (A. I. F. and 1st Light Horse); Sergeant E. E. Muir (A. I. F. and 1st Light Horse); Sergeant J. D. Stevenson (A. I. F. and 1st Light Horse); Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant L. G. Moody, Secretary (A. I. F.).

The returned soldiers of Gosford had a strong civic spirit and had always worked hard for the betterment of their town. In this Club they had seen an opportunity to do something big and had accordingly decided to throw the Club open to soldiers and civilians alike. Not only were they doing this, but they were allowing citizens a share in running the Club. This was being affected by the Directors of the Trustee Company laying down certain regulations. Within the scope of these regulations the members of

the Club, soldiers and civilians alike, could elect a House Committee to conduct the Club.

The following were the members of the Provisional House Committee.

Lieut. P. S. Macdermott, Club President; C. Hills and Dr G. M. Duncan, Vice-Presidents, G. Walpole, A. D. Hickey, E. Ironmonger, J. D. Stevenson, G. Parr and R. Mortimer. The members of the various committees pulled together and worked hard in the organisation of the Club, ably assisted by the ladies of the town. A notable feature about the Club was that it opened clear of debt and with funds in hand. The furnishing was not quite complete, the billiard table and other items were held back to allow more space at the opening ceremony. The furnishings were carried out by the Gosford store of Vacy's Ltd.

The architect was Lieut. Col. Vernon, D. S. O., V. P., late of the 1st Light Horse, and a member of the Gosford Sub-branch. The builder was W. A. Buscombe of Gosford. A Stewart, returned soldier and his wife were resident on the premises and would supply light refreshments, afternoon teas and so on. Dances, card parties and entertainment were organised by the House Committee. Membership was open to respectable citizens over the age of eighteen years, proposed and seconded and approved by an Election Committee. Ladies were admitted as associates. The membership fees were very light and returned soldiers obtained concessions. Members who resided more than five miles from the Club were classified as country members and paid half rate only.⁸⁹

May 10, 1926

The monthly meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch was held in the Committee Room of the Brisbane Water Club on Monday night. R. E. Weeks presided, and there were also present Messrs L. G. Moody, R. G. Frewin, Wallace Moore, J. D. Stevenson, A. McDonald, R. Tucker, E. Ironmonger, H. Altman, L. McDonald, F. D. Crosthwaite, E. E. Muir, H. K. Wood.

Correspondence included a letter forwarded by the State Sec. from a writer at Ocean Beach, Woy Woy, who stated that a milk vendor in that district was unwarrantably

⁸⁹ *Ibid*

using the letters A. I. F. on his cart. A member was deputed to investigate the circumstances, and his report will be communicated to the State Secretary.

A letter from Woy Woy asked for assistance for an ex-soldier who said he was in temporary stringent circumstances. Inquiries are being made.

Messrs H. Altman, C. Howard, T. Humphreys, S. S. Vidal, L. W. Mason, and Rev. D. R. May were proposed, seconded and approved as new members of the League. It was noted that interest in League matters generally, as well as the membership list, was increasing in a gratifying manner.

Mr Moody stated that Trumpeter Josephs, who came from Parramatta on Anzac Day, had declined to accept payment of his expenses. It was decided to write in appreciation of his action.

Appreciation was also expressed of the action of the Rev. D. R. May in taking the Anzac Day service at very short notice; also for Padre McGregor's thoughtfulness in sending a donation and good wishes.

It was decided to ask the Club Trustees to share the cost of the luncheon for Band and official parties going to Kulnura and Woy Woy on Anzac Day; also to refer an account from Mr Bandmaster Lovell, for writing hymn parts for the Band, to the Band Hon. Secretary.

Further correspondence was read regarding the case of Mr J. W. Steward, who had again been taken seriously ill after coming home from Prince Alfred Hospital. It was shown that the Gosford Sub-branch, as well as individual members, had done what they could in the case, and had moved the State Branch, also, to give assistance in addition. Statements by members indicated that the Repatriation Department would probably increase Digger Steward's pension at last. It was stated that besides the Gosford Sub-branch, and members, Mr and Mrs Golan, the Anzac Fellowship, Mr T. S. McDonald and others had helped the family in various ways. Appreciation of help given was expressed, and it was decided to thank State Secretary Stagg for prompt action.

Some resentment was expressed at criticism of League members by outsiders who wanted to know why the soldiers didn't help their comrade. League members do not parade their deeds, but the needs of the Stewart family have never been lost sight of, and constant attention has been given to the duty of giving assistance which, it is held, might have been taken as primarily the duty of civilians.

It was resolved that the guard from B Squadron, 1st A. L. H., be thanked for their very smart turnout at the opening of the Club.

Mr Muir reminded members that Mrs Sotzenback wished to run a carnival for the Hospital art union. Members expressed an intention to do all in their power to help, and a small sub-committee was appointed to confer with Mrs Sotzenback as to details.

It was mentioned that Mrs M. Sotzenback is the Hospital Committee's candidate in the popular lady competition, in aid of the Hospital art union. League members will do all they can on her behalf.⁹⁰

Easily the most enjoyable fixture held at the Brisbane Water District Club as written in the *Gosford Times* was the "Back to Childhood" Ball held there on Saturday night, July 2. The event was the first of its kind held in Gosford. There was a good attendance despite the fact that much rain had fallen for days and the night of the Ball was wet. Over ninety members and friends were present. Very many were in fancy dress, all more or less representing children or ideas associated with childhood. For the four hours the merry throng indulged in games reminiscent of childhood days. A ballot for the most original fancy dress costumes resulted in awards going to Madame Adcock "Red Riding Hood" and Len Moody, "Sailor Boy". At twelve o'clock, after a dainty supper, the singing of Auld Lang Syne brought to close a very pleasant evening according to the local paper.⁹¹

⁹⁰ Edward James Phillips, 1926, May 13, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

⁹¹ Edward James Phillips, 1926, July 8, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Quite a lot was said about the somewhat involved relations of the Trustees of Gosford Sub-branch with the Committees of the various Art Unions in the case heard by D. F. Parker, Police Magistrate, F. R. Archbold and H. Wilcox, Justices of the Peace in Gosford Court on Friday, September 17. The informant body, the Trustees, said that Major F. A. Stutfield had sold a necklace, which was part of the security covered by a bill of sale for the loan of two hundred pounds (£200).

Stutfield on the other hand, said the Trustees had owed him money and in consequence he was compelled to raise the loan; also he said, he had permission to sell any of the assets, if he accounted for the proceeds. Stutfield said he had been prevented from making good in the latter respect by illness, which drained his resources. The Bench found in favour of the Trustees and gave a verdict carrying a small fine and an order for restitution. L. G. Moody, Sub-branch Secretary charged F. A. Stutfield, ex-President of the Gosford Sub-branch of larceny as a bailee. C. K. Adrian, solicitor, appeared for Moody and R. C. Kemp, solicitor, appeared for Stutfield.

The case for the Trustees of the Gosford ‘Five’ Art Union was as follows; Leonard Garfield Moody, clerk, Gosford, deposed that he was Secretary of the Gosford Sub-branch and Trustees, an incorporated company and was appearing on their behalf. There was a transaction with F. A. Stutfield in reference to a loan in which a bill of sale, produced in Court, was given over certain property. The schedule included a pearl necklace. The Trustees took action for recovery, but possession was not taken of the necklace. No authority had been given to Stutfield to dispose of the necklace, which had not been delivered to the Trustees. Moody stated that he had no personal conversation with Stutfield on the matter.

In reply to Mr Kemp, Moody stated that he had been Secretary since the statutory meeting; prior to that he was connected with the Trustees only as an Assistant Secretary. He said he was familiar with their proceedings however. He was connected with the Gosford ‘Five’ Art Union, of which Stutfield was the promoter. The art union was for the Returned Soldiers Club, of which he was Secretary. After that there was another art union, the Gosford ‘Ten’, of which he was an employee.

Moody stated that he may have heard that Stutfield lent the Gosford “Ten” two hundred pounds (£200), but he was not in a position to know if it was true. He did not know that Trustees or promoters of the Gosford “Ten” gave Stutfield a personal note for two hundred pounds (£200). He said he was also connected with the Erina Shire Memorial Art Union and knew nothing of this art union giving Stutfield two personal notes for one hundred pounds (£100) each. He knew nothing about the negotiations which led up to the bill of sale transaction. He was not Secretary of the Trustees at the time.

Adrian Dennis Hickey, solicitor, Gosford stated that in December last he was the solicitor for the Gosford Sub-branch Trustees and prepared the bill of sale, produced in Court. It was signed by him on December 5, at his office. One hundred and four pounds (£104) was paid to Stutfield on the bill of sale by him, by cheque. A pearl necklace was among the goods mentioned. He said that he had not seen it. He said that he had a number of conversations with Stutfield and on July 24, Stutfield told him that the bailiff had been in and taken the furniture. He said “What about the necklace? Did they get that?” Stutfield said “No, I sold it to a man on the racecourse for forty-five pounds (£45). Stutfield said he did not know the man. Hickey subsequently demanded the necklace and Stutfield had not accounted for it. Stutfield said he would be able to repay the amount when he got some money from New Zealand.

Stutfield told Hickey that the necklace was worth one hundred pounds (£100) and mentioned a wireless set as worth sixty pounds (£60). The bill of sale was signed by Stutfield and Mrs Stutfield. In reply to the bill of sale was made out in Mrs Stutfield’s name as well as his and it was signed by both at the same time, 10 a.m. on December 5. Mrs Stutfield later, on December 23, signed a stock mortgage. There were some financial transactions between Stutfield and the art union. Hickey understood and he believed Stutfield lent the Gosford “Ten” two hundred pounds (£200).

Hickey stated that he did not know if the Erina Shire Memorial Art Union’s personal notes were dishonoured. The Trustees and the art union were not all the same people. Some of them were. The business of the two bodies was not mixed up. Stutfield had asked on December 4, for an urgent advance to prevent him being sold up. Hickey did not know of any arrangement between the Gosford Sub-branch and the art union and

that when the personal notes were met the money was to be paid back to the Sub-branch. This concluded the case for the Trustees.

The case for the defence was as follows;

Francis Antony Stutfield, defendant, deposed that he was an orchardist residing in Gosford. He was the promoter of the Gosford "Five" Art Union. When that wound up, another was started, called the Gosford "Ten" and run in the interest of the Erina Shire Hospital. There was some trouble over this, it was too big and the N. S. W. Attorney-General stopped it. The promoters had incurred financial obligations and Stutfield was one of the guarantors for an overdraft of one thousand pounds (£1,000). He said he lent the committee of the Gosford "Ten" two hundred pounds (£200). The Erina Shire Memorial Art Union subsequently took over their liabilities.

The first personal note was dishonoured. Later the committee gave him two fresh personal notes for one hundred pounds (£100) each. The bill of sale was decided on December 4. He was than one of the provisional directors of the Sub-branch Trustees. The arrangement was that he, having asked for a repayment of the two hundred pounds (£200) the art union owed him, the committee said they could not pay him and that they would try and borrow the money from the Trustees. The latter said they would give the art union the money to pay him if he would give a bill of sale. Stutfield did not dispute the bill of sale or the liability

When Stutfield sold the necklace, the two personal notes had not been met. One of them had been dishonoured. He said he sold the necklace in the middle or towards the end of January. At the meeting which decided on the bill of sale, Stutfield said to the Chairman, Captain Adcock "If I want to sell any of these things I suppose it will be alright if I pay the money to the committee." The Chairman had replied that it would be all right. Later, Stutfield was sick, from the middle to the end of April. He had financial difficulties and the money which he should have paid back had gone in consequence. When he sold the necklace, Stutfield said he intended to pay the committee when the whole thing was settled.

In reply to Mr Adrian, Stutfield stated that on the day he signed the bill of sale he received a cheque from Hickey for about one hundred and four pounds (£104). The next

day Hickey's agent in Sydney paid over to a Mr Samuels a cheque for one hundred and six pounds (£106), on his behalf. Stutfield thus got value for his two hundred and ten pounds (£210). The two personal notes were given to him by the same people in a different capacity. "It was sort of a family affair" he said. The Sub-branch Trustees and the art union committee were separate and distinct bodies, but practically all the personal was the same.

The bill of sale was security given by Stutfield and his wife to the Sub-branch Trustees. He also had the personal notes and they were negotiated by him who made use of them with a man named Beesley. Stutfield did not know, but understood both had been paid. Stutfield thus had the benefit of them with Beesley and with the Sib-branch Trustees. He did not know to whom he sold the necklace to and had been trying for some time to sell it and finally disposed of it to one of three or four men who were talking at a bar at Randwick racecourse. He said he thought it was a summer meeting. He knew by name some of the men who were present, but did not know the buyer's name. Stutfield received forty-five pounds (£45) for the necklace.

Stutfield never offered to give this amount to the Trustees. They or the art union committee then owed him two hundred pounds (£200). He did not tell the art union people that he had sold the necklace. His first intimation of the sale was to Hickey in response to questions the day after the bailiff took possession. The only authority Stutfield quoted for the sale was what he said Captain Adcock had said. The personal note money due to him was paid.

In reply to Mr Kemp, Stutfield stated that the personnel of the Trustees and the art union committee was the same except for one person. He gave twenty-five pounds (for the necklace. In reply to Mr Adrian, Stutfield stated that was the same necklace which was advertised as a prize worth round about two hundred pounds (£200). He said he was the promoter for that art union and as such he was a paid servant of the committee and knew what they were doing.

In reply to the Police Magistrate, Stutfield stated that the members, who were present at the meeting and insisted on security being given by a bill of sale, were the same as those who he said, concurred in a verbal permission to him to sell any of the assets. It

was after the sale of the necklace that Mr Beesley took over the personal notes. Stutfield had told Hickey on July 24, about the permission to sell the assets, Hickey then said “That is evidently a point that has been missed.” Stutfield added that he brought the necklace from a firm, to whom the man who won the prize had sold it. Mr Kemps said this was Stutfield’s case.

Mr Adrian re-called Hickey, who said that he was present at the meeting on December 4. He said he heard nothing said by Captain Adcock relative to Stutfield disposing of the assets. When Stutfield spoke to him of this matter in July, he did not say that he recollected such a statement by Captain Adcock, nor did he say “That is a point that has been missed,” or anything like it, either then or at any other time. In reply to Mr Kemp, Hickey stated that he heard nothing about a sale of assets at the meeting. It would of course be possible for some conversation addressed to Stutfield to be missed by him. The Police Magistrate said “As an attorney, you would naturally have been very greatly interested in such a statement or permission.”

Mr Kemp submitted that there was no fraudulent intention on Stutfield’s part. There had been a financial mix-up between two practically identical bodies of each of which Stutfield was a member. He said that Stutfield had lent the Art Union money and subsequently in difficulty was granted a loan as his personal note was still unpaid. If he paid back the loan and his personal notes still dishonoured he would be at a loss and it was in this view of the position that he had sold the necklace fully intending that the forty-five pounds (£45) should be allowed for in the final settlement. Then he had been taken ill, so ill that the Department had doubled his pension, which was a very rare occurrence.

Later his farm had been taken from him by the Repatriation Department and generally he was in such a position that he could do nothing. There had never been any fraudulent intent. Mr Adrian said Stutfield had been paid two hundred pounds (£200) in cash by the Trustees. The art union committee gave him personal notes for the amount owing to him. It was an argument of the defence that one debt should be used by Stutfield to cancel the other, that to the Trustees, but even if this had not been done. Stutfield had benefited in several ways in the transaction, but had failed to honour his part and not even notified the sale of the necklace. Mr Adrian claimed that no verbal authority was

given to Stutfield to sell anything and if such had been given as described, it was valueless, being only the statement of one unit in a meeting. Stutfield had deliberately converted to his own use goods which were the subject of a bill of sale and so had brought on the present action which the Trustees had to take.

The Bench retired for a few minutes and on re-entering the Police Magistrate said "The defendant is convicted." He asked how much the Trustees were losing and Mr Adrian said the loss in direct evidence was forty-five pounds (£45). Stutfield was fined two pounds (£2*), with Court costs of eight shillings (8/-), which converts to eighty cents and professional costs of two pounds two shillings, which converts to four dollars and twenty cents, in default fourteen days imprisonment. An order was made for payment of forty-five pounds (£45) in default two months imprisonment. Fourteen days was allowed for payment of the fine and costs and compensation was to be paid at the rate of three pounds (£3*) per month.⁹²

Brisbane Water Club

First Annual Report

October 22, 1926

A general meeting of members of the Brisbane Water District Club was held at the Club on Friday, where there was a moderate attendance.

President's Report

Mr P. S. Macdermott, President, presented his report, as follows.

The Club was officially opened on the 1st May last by Major-General Sir Granville Ryrie, and from that date the membership had steadily grown, and at the present moment stands at two hundred and twenty-five (225). This can be regarded as very satisfactory indeed, when it is considered that there was an undercurrent of feeling against us, but which has now, I think passed.

* One pound =two Australian dollars

⁹² Edward James Phillips, 1926, September 23, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

The Club has been a definite success in every way right from its inception, and had proved that there was a need for such an institution in Gosford. I feel sure you will admit that your House Committee have carried out their duties to the satisfaction of all. Their task was by no means an easy one. The formation of a Club of our nature was a new idea, and your Committee had no previous experience to guide them; new ground had to be broken all the time. The position of Steward was not an easy one to fill, and our first attempt was not attended by the best results. However, the experience gained will be of assistance in the future, and we were fortunate in having Mr Stevenson step into the breach. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the action of Mr and Mrs Stevenson at the time when the Club was without a Steward.

I would like to make a very earnest appeal to Members for their full support during the coming year. Even without obtaining any new Members, there is a sufficient number at present to make the Club a financial success if they will patronise it more frequently. It can be stated that almost without exception, every new Club has commenced its life with a heavy liability as regards building and furnishings, necessitating a high membership fee.

Thanks to the efforts of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers League, our Club has not this liability, but we naturally have to face a depreciation charge on building and furniture. This has been fixed at the lowest possible rate, but even at that it requires all the subscription fees to meet it and the Club has therefore to rely on the patronage of its Members. The only other alternative would be increased rates of subscription. Our rate of subscription is indeed very low when one considers the advantages to be derived, but at the same time I feel certain when Members realise that there will not be the slightest need to raise it, provided that they give a little support then they are giving now, then our support will be more fore coming.

Our average takings are twelve pounds (£12) and we need sixteen pounds (£16*) per week to meet expenses, or approximately four pence per week per Member more than at present. We have a Club to be proud of, and to which we can invite a guest at any time with a feeling of pleasure, and it is also a splendid advertisement for our district. Before leaving this subject, I would like to make a special appeal to Members to keep our Club free from all feuds, cliques, political, or religious differences, and in general,

keep it as a pleasant rendezvous where we can all meet socially in happy surroundings for the better welfare of Members.

Soon after the Club opened, the Trustees arranged the lease of the tennis court, thus further improving the advantages of the Club, but Members have failed to make use of them as we anticipated, and I would appeal to you all to get behind your tennis committee and make this side of the Club as popular as any other.

In thanking the House Committee for their loyal support and assistance, I hardly like to single out any individual, but feel that I must especially thank Me Eric Ironmonger for his efforts on the entertainment committee. He has been most unselfish and hard worker in this direction and the success of all our large functions is due in no small measure to him.

The success or failure of any Club depends, on a large degree, on its Secretary, and we have indeed been very fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr Len Moody. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr Moody has been wrapped up, body and soul, in our Club. He has given of his best and has not spared himself in any way, and I do not think that it is possible to give him too much credit for what he has done, both to get the Club started, and to make a success of it after it opened. Members may not have the opportunity of judging the work done by the Secretary, but the House Committee and myself know and very much appreciate his invaluable efforts.

In conclusion I would like to express my regret that owing to the illness of my wife and myself, I was not able to give the time that I would have liked and that would have been a pleasure to me to do further the efforts to make our Club the best of its kind in Australia. I would like to assure the incoming President of my support and help and trust that the Club will have a most prosperous future.

The report was adopted on the motion of Messrs J. Lawn and A. D. Hickey.

Secretary's Report

Mr L. G. Moody, Secretary, reported;

I don't propose to give you any cut and dried report at this meeting. If I live long enough, and if I still have the honour to be the Club Secretary, I shall probably have a detailed report to inflict on you at the annual meeting in May next. But there are one or two matters I should like to touch on and a few figures may perhaps be interesting to you. The House Committee attendances were as follows; Out of twenty-five meetings, Mr Walpole attended twenty-one, Mr Ironmonger, twenty, Mr Macdermott eighteen, Mr Hickey seventeen, Mr Hills sixteen, Mr Duncan 10, Mr Stevenson, ten out of sixteen, Mr Muir nine out of twelve, Mr Bosanquet six out of six; of the ex-officio members, Mr Weeks twelve out of twenty-five, Capt. Adcock eighteen out of twenty-five, Dr Paul two out of ten. The meetings have average about three per month and I think, considering the activities in which most of these gentlemen are engaged in other directions, the attendances has shown how very keen their interest has been in the Club.

When the Club opened in May our membership was forty-one (41). It is now two hundred and thirty-four (234), i.e., one hundred and nineteen (119) members and one hundred and fifteen (115) associates. I think these figures are excellent and speak wonderfully well for the Club. At least three hundred (300) visitors introduced by members have visited the Club. Visitors came from various parts of the State and even further afield, and the comments on the Club, have been very gratifying.

With regard to the use of the Club by members, there is certainly room for improvement. The attendance has been very good when any special fixtures has been arranged (the average Saturday night attendance has been about forty-two), but the trouble is that a large number of members don't avail themselves of the Club except on state occasions. What we want to see is the Club used every night. There had certainly been improvement lately, but we want more.

Our "extra special" evening seems to have been Saturday night. We have made a point of having a costume dance once a month and these have been very successful. Our record attendance is one hundred and three (103), on the occasion of the poster dance. Several mah jongg afternoons have been held by the ladies and proved, I think, highly successful. The Club is beautifully situated, the chairs are comfortable, the decorative scheme is tasteful, the tucker is satisfactory, and the price reasonable, so why not? These afternoons are capable of expansion.

About coupons and the use thereof, you can obtain those from the Stewart in any denomination of sixpence and up to any amount. When you pay for your supper you simply hand in two sixpenny coupons and keep or destroy the butts. If you haven't got any coupons you can buy as many as you require. They are not at all difficult about it, and the method is more satisfactory to the Steward and the Secretary, and I imagined to the members.

This is your Club gentlemen. The officers and committee you are going to elect to-night will run the Club for you. Give them your help, your support, your suggestions. Honest criticism, constructive not destructive criticism, and helpful suggestions, I am sure, will be welcomed and acted upon.

I am convinced that there is a great future in front of this Club. It is up to you. Carry on gentlemen.

The Secretary's report was adopted, on the motion of Mr R. C. Frewin and Mr R. E. Weeks.

President, Board of Directors

The President of the Board of Directors, Capt. G. I. Adcock, read his report as follows;

The present occasion is an important one, as it marks the completion of the first six months of the life of the Club. The period during which its success or otherwise would be determined. Thanks to the co-operation of all concerned, the results has been a conspicuous success, and I feel sure it will be agreed that Gosford is never likely to achieve a finer institution than the Club.

The Provisional House Committee, originally elected for six months, finish their term of office to-night, and I have great pleasure in stating that the Directors of the Trustee Company, to whom the House Committee have rendered an account of their stewardship, have placed on record a motion expressing their great satisfaction at what has been accomplished, and complimenting the President, Secretary and Provisional

House Committee on the spirit and energy shown in building up the Club to its present position.

As representatives of the owners, the Trustee Directors have kept a close and anxious eye on the affairs of the Club, right from its inception. The experimental nature of the organisation has caused them much anxious thought, but the results have amply justified their decision.

At the beginning the Trustees were subjected to much criticism, some of which may have been persons who acquainted themselves of the position, although this is open to doubt. It was contended, by those who did not attend meetings to assist us, that as the Club was owned by returned soldiers, it should be for their enjoyment alone. Leaving out the selfish aspect, this was easier in theory than in practice, as the Trustees were faced with the problem of supporting a Club on the revenue of a dozen soldiers. They reasoned that rules could be framed which would still retain absolute ownership of the Club to returned soldiers, and give them adequate control, while at the same time the public generally could enjoy the Club and make its financial success possible. These rules were framed and have stood the test. The Club has a large civilian membership and is managed by a House Committee comprising both soldiers and civilians, but in spite of the fears of our critics, returned soldiers still have all the say they could possibly require. They lay down the rules and the Club is managed within these rules, by a democratic House Committee elected by members generally.

It is this Committee you are to elect for the next six months or until the ordinary general meeting in May next. The following gentlemen are already ex-officio members' viz., Dr J. H. Paul, as Patron and the President and Vice-President (Mr R. E. Weeks) of Directors of the Trustee Company. It should be your aim to elect gentlemen to this committee, irrespective of their social status, creed or politics, who will throw their whole energy into the work of the Committee, and who will be sympathetic with the aims and ideals of the Club. No committee can afford to carry "passengers" least of all a House Committee of this nature.

I will make one earnest appeal to members. This Club is dedicated to "The Spirit of the A. I. F." Do not therefore let it be desecrated by quarrels, snobbery, ill feeling or

pettiness of any sort. The Trustees have noted with pleasure that such troubles have been most totally absent to date. Although the House Committee have done their part in a highly creditable manner there is still room for members to assist them by using the Club to a greater extent. To maintain the service and facilities of the Club at their present high standard requires a considerable outlay. At the present time most of the subscriptions are required towards running expenses. The Club should be self-supporting, thus enabling subscriptions to be used for replacements, extensions, and the provisions of new attractions.

It is noticeable that members are not yet making a habit of dropping into the Club at any time and making it a "home from home." They are rather inclined only to attend when entertainments are in progress and facilities the Club offers, and a little thought will show they can be taken advantage of to mutual benefit. Drop in at all hours, not necessarily to spend money, but to keep the Club peopled.

You can assist in other ways. One is by introducing your friends as members and another is to tell everyone about the Club and contradict erroneous statements which may come to your ears regarding the Club. Gosford is possibly no worse than any other town in this respect, but from time to time persons, some more irresponsible than vicious, and others more vicious than irresponsible, have circulated incorrect statements to the detriment of the Club. We trust you will not tolerate anything of this nature, and will assist your Committee in having it stopped. The report was adopted, on the motion of Mr P. S. Macdermott and Mr Wallace Moore.

Thanks to Officers

Mr S. G. Parr moved a vote of thanks to the retiring officers. The result of their work was an eloquent testimony to the capable energy they had put into Club affairs.

Mr Lawn said the good results gained were just as much due to civilian as to returned soldiers. He urges that those who had criticism to make of the Club should be told to take them to the proper place, the Committee. He seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr Macdermott in reply, said no matter how good the House Committee was, they could do little without members' support and the contrary was also the case. There was a distinct need for more support, and as the members present that night were the ones who did in general stick to the Club, he asked them to pass on to absentees the appeal for a more general patronage.

Mr C. Hills said that it had been a pleasure to attend the meetings of the House Committee, though the work had been difficult, being as it was very much in the nature of an experiment. There was a lot to do yet and the Club could not be regarded as a total success till it was paying its way, and it was not doing so now. They had heard a lot about "putting Gosford on the map," and undoubtedly the Club was doing a lot of sound work to that desirable end. The Club had an excellent reputation, which no doubt the incoming Committee would jealously guard and maintain.

Election of Officers

The election of officials to hold office until next May resulted;

President: Mr C. Hills (unopposed).

Vice Presidents: Mr R. Bossanquet and Mr Wallace Moore. Messrs E. H. Ironmonger and Dr G. M. Duncan were also nominated. Mr Bosanquet was elected outright; Messrs Moore and Ironmonger tied for second place, and another ballot was necessary.

House Committee: Messrs E. E. Muir, G. A. Walpole, E. Ironmonger, A. D. Hickey, R. R. Mortimer and P. S. Macdermott. Other nominations were those of Dr Duncan and Mr M. C. Ogden.

Mr Hills in returning thanks congratulated the retiring President on his most successful term in office. He trusted all members would stand behind the committee and assist them to "carry on."

Other elected officers also thanked members for the confidence shown.

Mr Macdermott appealed for greater patronage for the tennis courts and said he would give a trophy for the tournament it was proposed to commence.

Captain Adcock announced that the Club would be closed on Armistice Day, November 11.

Mr Hills said the Governor would visit the Club on November 6, en route to The Entrance.

On the motion of Mr Hills, seconded by Mr Walpole, a vote of thanks to the Chairman was carried, together with a motion of congratulations to Mr Moody on his excellent work as Secretary.⁹³

The Gosford Sub-branch decided to celebrate Armistice Day with an A. I. F. Reunion Dinner and this gathering was held with conspicuous success at the Brisbane Water District Club on Thursday evening, November 11.

Lieut. R. E. Weeks, President of the Sub-branch was Chairman and had on his right Lieut. Col. A. W. Hyman. O. B. E., V. D., President of the N. S. W. Branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A., who represented the Executive. Among others that were present were A. A. Anderson, A. J. Baines, O. M. Barker, R. G. Bosequet, J. Boyers, C. G. Brandis, H. A. Brown, F. Burnap, Mr Burns, S. Compton, A. J. Cresswell, F. D. Crosthwaite, E. H. Ferguson, R. G. Frewin, J. S. Gardiner, C. H. Grant, J. A. Hand, A. Hodgkiss, T. F. Humphries, E. H. Ironmonger, W. J. Kilpatrick, A. Kinghorn, J. Lawn, C. Linden, B. M. Newton, D. Malcolm, R. McL., Maroney, L. W. Mason, T. Mitchell, L. G. Moody, L. H. Mosse Robinson, E. E. Muir, P. S. Macdermott, A. M. McClure, A. R. McDonald, L. McDonald, Mr Pepper, J. D. Power, B. A. Reddall, L. C. Reeves, S. Sealy-Vidal, W. Shorrocks, J. D. Stevenson, N. J. Thompson, B. Topple, R. Tuckey, G. Wood and H. K. Wood.

The tables were appropriately and effectively, decorated in a scheme in which poppies were prominent. The dinner was a good one, excellently served and the men were fittingly disguised in such reminiscence-prompting terms as the following; Kut Ham,

* One pound =two Australian dollars

⁹³ Edward James Phillips, 1926, October, 28, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Somme Tongue, Bullicourt Beef, Pozieres Salad, Wazir Trifle, Salonika Jelly, Gazza Fruits, Anzac Biscuits, Verdun Cheese, Zeebrugge Celery, Café au Rhum.

The proceedings were commenced at the instance of the President by the company standing, while the words “Lest We Forget” were uttered. The toast list was opened with “The King” given by the President and marked with honoured enthusiasm. The toast of the Navy was proposed by Lieut. P. S. Mcdermott. Who paid sincere tribute to the personnel and work of that great service. There was no finer or more inspiring record in the world than the history of the British Navy, of which the whole Empire had reason to be proud.

Without the Navy, the winning of the Great War would have been impossible, wrote the local paper. It watched over and fought over the seven seas, it did not rush out of a hole, claim a victory out of a snap engagement and then scuttle back never again to be tempted to fight. It had been said with truth that the people of Australia, or many of them, did not recognise what they owed the Navy, but this country was practically dependent upon it for safety, and in the war kept Australia safe from invasion, a duty in which our own R. A. N. carried out a very responsible and successful part.

A fitting example of the achievements of the wonderful personnel of the Navy was the storming of Zeebrugge. The speaker had been especially interested in inspecting this place because of that epic sortie and he was amazed and could only marvel that such an enterprise had ever been attempted. The place was bristling with fortifications, great guns jostled each other and every possible point of attack was covered by a point blank fire of smashing weight. It would seem impossible to approach the place, let alone affect a landing on the Mole. Yet the splendid men of the British Navy had faced that almost annihilating storm of metal from all descriptions of massed guns had forced the port, landed on the Mole and affected their purpose.

It was a glorious achievement and a wonderful thought that the men of the Navy went cheerfully and eagerly into such an apparently hopeless hazard. This was only one of many such deeds which made up the history of the Navy, but it, with other epics of the Great War showed that the glories of the Navy were not past; that it was still a Navy of heroes; the finest in the world. The Navy had another wonderful record that despite

every effort of the enemy with his myriad submarines, not one man had been lost of the millions who crossed the Channel. With regards to prospect on this side of the world, he was convinced, from his experience, that someday there would be a war with the East, and if this continent meant to stick to its White Australia policy, the need the protection of the Navy. The Australian section of the British Navy should be fostered in every way and they should never forget that now, as in decades which had passed, the British Navy was their one great safeguard.

Petty Officer H. A. Brown responded and said that with twelve years' experience in the Royal Navy and eleven years in the Australian Navy, he could appreciate what Lieut. Macdermott had said. He paid a tribute to the standard of the Australian section; our own lads developed an efficient smartness which was well up to the best British traditions. He agreed there was a danger to be apprehended from the East and predicted that "before long there would be another big splash, "which would bring about another "big reunion."

Lieut. Col. L. M. Mosse-Robinson proposed "The A. I. F.," whose deeds, he said, were an inspiration to the children of the country. The achievements of the A. I. F. could be likened to those of the Crusaders. Both had made a name in history in a glorious fight for ideals. The task of the A. I. F. was not yet finished. It was theirs to teach loyalty and honour to people, some of them in high places, who openly preached doctrines which savoured of disloyalty and sedition. Sergeant C. G. Brandis responded and said wars were not to be prevented by forgetting about them. "Let us remember the last war and its lessons and be prepared for the next" he said.

Lieut. W. J. Kilpatrick proposed "Allied Comrades in Arms" stating that a very great measure of credit for winning the war should be given to our Belgian and French comrades who bore the hard brunt of the cruel early days. It was also the case; however, that each of the countries associated as Allies deserved credit for good work done in some sphere. Lieut. Macdermott supported and said a special tribute was due to the heroes of the British Army who, like the "Old Contemptible" at Mons, fought the enemy inch by inch and so stemmed his first rush. It was often forgotten by critics of the later British armies that England lost the flower of her manhood in the early years of the war. Lieut. F. D. Crosthwaite responded remarking that the English people had

it brought home to them all too tragically that the war was their own concern, but they had always considered it a wonderful thing that the Australians should come 12,000 miles across the world to give their aid.

Sergeant J. S. Gardiner reminded those present of the appeal made when men returned to join up with the Soldiers League and stated that it had been amply proved since then that the League could and did do a lot for ex-service men and was well worth supporting. He spoke from executive experience of the work done by the State branches and urged non-members to join up and so strengthen the League to do further good.

Lieut. Col. Hyman responded and commented upon the splendid spirit shown at the recent Melbourne Congress. Work (which he particularised) had been done in many directions to serve the interest of returned men, sick or well, but the executive could not get a full measure of justice for ex-soldiers till they could claim to represent the whole body. Returned men who stood outside the League were weakening the efforts put forth on their behalf and he appealed to all present members to influence outsiders to join and asked all non-members to willingly join up so that they might all stand together and speak with a united voice. The speaker said one of the most successful efforts made in Melbourne to impress the public was a march of many thousands of men through the streets on Anzac Day. This was to be followed in Sydney and he hoped 25,000 would march next Anzac Day.

Driver A. R. McDonald proposed "The Red Cross" speaking in very appreciative terms of the great work done for the men throughout the war by the devoted women of the organisation. C.Q.M.S. L. McDonald responded with similar praise for the efforts of the Red Cross organisation. He also indicated in plain terms what he and Diggers generally thought of the very occasional person who refused to buy a flower on Poppy Day.

Captain R. G. Bosanquet proposed "The Veterans", emphasising the honour due to the men who had fought through the Sudan Matabelo and Boar wars, not to mention "other little disturbances" in between. Major J. D. Power, M. C. responded. He had served in the South African war twenty-six years earlier in the Natal rising," and also in the late little war" and knowing many old soldiers of the Empire, fully appreciated the

references to the veterans. He wished to take the opportunity to thank all who had helped with the successful war memorial unveiling by the Governor at The Entrance.

Sergeant R. McL. Maroney proposed “The Brisbane Water District Club” and said all credit was due to the splendid band of men and woman who had overcome difficulties and made this a real club, a happy family, free from parochialism and small-townitis, “the most human institution in Gosford.”

Sergeant E. E. Muir responded and remarked that while there had been some erroneous ideas disseminated about the Club; they were successfully proving them false. It was a real soldier’s Club and the admission of civilian members had resulted in mutual benefits to all concerned. Sergeant L. G. Moody in a witty speech interposed a toast, that to “Mademoiselle from Armentieres” In his remarks he aroused a host of recollections, tender and otherwise, and ending on a serious note he had no doubt if Mademoiselle could have sent a message it would be “Stick together boys and carry on.” The toast was of course honoured to the air well known to every member of the A. I. F., with various versions as to words.

Lieut. R. E. Weeks proposed “The Visitors” and said all members of the Gosford Sub-branch were pleased to see other centres, and especially the Mountain, Wyong and The Entrance so well represented. Sergeant L. C. Reeves of Wyong responded and proposed “The Gosford Sub-branch.” He admired the enthusiasm shown by the Gosford members and hoped the Wyong Sub-branch would grow and justify the hard work put into it by a faithful few.

Mr W Malcolm of Hornsby, in responding for visitors, invited district members to attend the opening of the Soldiers Club there on November 18 and the “house-warming” on the 27th. Lieut. Weeks responded for Gosford Sub-branch and said members here could heartily endorse the remarks of Mr Malcolm as to the good qualities of Mr L. McDonald as a worker. They had been very sorry to lose him, but were glad Hornsby appreciated the gain. The toast of “The Chairman” proposed by Lieut. Col. Hyman and supported by Mr C. Linden concluded the list.

Songs were contributed by E. H. Ironmonger, A. J. Cresswell and C. Linden. A coronet solo by Mr L. W. Mason and recitations by L. G. Moody. R. McL. Maroney, A. R. McDonald and R. S. Weeks. Mr T. Mitchell played accompaniment and incidental music.⁹⁴

1927

SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 17, 1927

Mr L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary of Gosford Sub-branch, R. S. & S. I. L. A. reported in his own inimitable style to the annual general meeting held on Jan. 17;

At the last annual meeting the strength of this Sub-branch was forty (40), with one affiliated member (Col. Vernon) and two honorary members. Our membership is now forty-four (44), with one affiliated member and two honorary members. We have lost quite a number of our members, who have left the district. Mt Helsham, whom we are very glad to have with us to-night; Mr Rowlands, who had gone to Wentworth (where they run thirsty temperatures of 123); Mr McDonald to Hornsby, where he is just as energetic in League matters as he was here; Mr Rodgie to Wyong and several others. In all twelve (12) have left us or not renewed their membership from one cause and another. Our membership is not what it should be. There is room for much improvement. We ought to have a very strong branch here, and a little more propaganda work out among the many returned soldiers who are not members would not do any harm.

There have been twelve (12) general meetings held during the year and the average attendance has been ten (10). This is slightly better than last year, but still leaves much to be desired. Surely gentleman, one a month is not too much to ask you to come along and help with your advice and support, and incidentally spend a pleasant evening. Your committee held nine (9) meetings with an average of eight (8).

⁹⁴ Edward James Phillips, 1926, November 18, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

The Erina Shire Memorial Art Union concluded last June. A sum of four hundred pound (£400*) odd was handed over to the Hospital Committee. The majority of you gentlemen probably have no conception of the uphill fight the art union committee had. I know a little of the very anxious and discouraging struggle, and I think every credit should be given to them for handing such a sum over in face of almost unsurmountable odds.

In connection with the combined Soldiers Fund, we sold buttons here on March 5th, and ten pounds and ten pence (£10/-/10) was collected and sent on to the Director. To the ladies who helped us on this occasion we are sincerely grateful.

Anzac Day fell on Sunday last year and the times of the service were altered slightly in consequence. In spite of a very high wind, which somewhat spoilt the ceremony, everything passed off very well. Our Padre, the Rev. D. R. May had charge of the review and as they always do, the C of E, Methodist and Presbyterian clergymen and the Salvation Army assisted. The Gosford Band once again supplied the music and Trumpeter Joseph very kindly came up from Parramatta and played the "Last Post." The Gosford Troop of the Light Horse supplied the guard. Our thanks are due to all these institutions and individuals who are always ready to help on Anzac Day.

The general public turned up well, but the section of returned fellows who marched in the procession had far too many blank files. Why is it Gentlemen? Not that we forget. Is it just we cannot be bothered, or has the old A. I. F., become shy? Sydney is making an effort to have a very big parade this year. Can't we follow suit? It's up to the League to lead. They didn't do it last year. It has been suggested to me by one of our members that it might well be during the service to read the names on the Memorial and I think it would be a great idea. Several of us went up to Kulnura after our service and assisted in the service up there.

The 6th Anzac Ball was held on Tuesday, 27th April. For some reason the attendance was not up to the last one, but those who did attend undoubtedly enjoyed it. The decorations were something quite out of the ordinary and the supper, I think, was all it could be desired. The Ball Sub-committee put in a lot of hard work and was assisted in the decorations of the Hall by several of the League members, but at the same time

members generally could give very much more help if they would. It's rather discouraging to those "too-few" who are left with all the work before the Ball and all the criticism after it. There are two gentlemen in connection with the Anzac Ball I feel must be mentioned. The Ball Secretary, Mr Eric Ironmonger who, with the assistance of his always willing family, put in weeks of work on the shields; and Mr Lewis McDonald, who with the very considerable assistance of Mrs McDonald, was responsible for the supper. Both these gentlemen put in very hard work and much of the credit of the success is theirs. From a social point of view it was undoubtedly a success, but the time has come, in my opinion, when either it must pay or be dropped. It is obviously foolish to put in all the strenuous work that must be put into these fixtures and then lose money. Another twenty (20) people would have made all the difference, but they weren't there and that was that.

During August, Colonel Vernon attended the State Conference on our behalf and our thanks are due to him for his very clear and concise report. The vacant seats on the State Executive were filled by Dr E. M. Brissenden and Mr E. H. Sargent at the election in October. Our relationship with the State Branch is of a very cordial nature, and I have always found Mr Stagg, the State Secretary, ready and willing to help me in any way within his power.

On Armistice Night we held our first A. I. F. dinner at the Club. There were fifty-one (51) present and I think it was a decidedly successful fixture. The State President, Colonel Hyman, attended and we had representatives from the Mangrove, Wyong and Hornsby Sub-branches, and from The Entrance. There were many toasts, several really fine speeches and songs and recitations were pleasurably interspersed. This will, I think, be an annual fixture and should become a night which no returned man will miss.

His Excellency the Governor unveiled the Memorial Gun at The Entrance on Nov. 6th and paid a visit to the Club, at the League's invitation en route. His Excellency expressed himself as very pleased with the arrangement made here and incidentally had a "cabstand" with your President. Several of us went to The Entrance afterwards to the unveiling and everything under the direction of Mr Power, the very energetic Director of Ceremonies passed off well.

The fatal motor smash on the mountain last month claimed one of our members Mr Sid Spencer. Although Mr Spencer was unable to attend our meetings, he was well known and very highly respected by most of the members, and our very sincere sympathy goes out to Mrs Spencer in her loss.

We have on several occasions rendered assistance to returned men passing through the district, in the way of railway fares and money for meals and in other ways we have done what we could to assist our comrades.

Regarding the Club, since the last annual meeting it had been open and is now in full swing. That it has been wonderfully successful no one can deny. League members pay only one half the ordinary subscriptions and no entrance fee is charged for returned men. Their nominations are balloted on only by returned soldier members of the Election Committee and in other ways they enjoy privileges There are about two hundred and fifty (250) members and associates, of whom about eighty (80) are returned soldiers and their wives.

I would like to express my personal appreciation of the ever ready help given to me by the President, Mr Weeks, in anything I liked to put to him. It has always been a pleasure to work with him. Once again gentlemen, I appeal for more help. The membership of this Sub-branch is not at all what it should be. There are fellows who have dropped out, perhaps because in the pass things have happened which they don't agree. But that is no reason why they should keep outside. Every general meeting is open, and every man has a tongue and is given the opportunity of using it.

One hears very determined opinions outside the League, but where those opinion are wanted is inside, at the meetings. If five men turn up at meetings time after time, they may be apt to look at matters too much from one angle, but if a sixth man turns up with quiet different ideas, he may show them a point of view that hadn't occurred to them. There are many men eligible but have not joined. Can't you try and persuade them to come in and help? We want this League to hold the position it should do in the State.

The League should be capable of so much if properly supported. To keep alive the memories of those who have gone (and there are many) who are unable to help

themselves, to be publicly spirited and help the district. Gentlemen, for us two days in the year stand out, Anzac Day and Armistice Day. On these days we cannot help but think of those fellows who went out to it over there, great pals, fine comrades. Anzac Day, when we think how they died. Armistice Day when we think why they died. Gentlemen on Armistice Day I saw three flags in Gosford and at eleven o'clock, how many observed the two minutes silence? The public memory is so short and it's very easy to forget. The league is surely necessary if only to keep the memory alive. Gentlemen I am convince there is no reason why this Sub-branch should not move forward. I am convinced there is every reason why it should. But it won't move on its own "At the double gentlemen."⁹⁵

February 10, 1927

Gosford Sub-branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A., held its monthly meeting at the Brisbane Water District Club on Monday night. There were present E. G. Frewin, President, R. E. Weeks, W. M. Moore, E. E. Muir, R. G. Bosanquet, J. D. Stevenson, B. M. Newton, Bruce Beddall, P. C. Winch, A. R. McDonald, J. Stewart, R. Tuckey, H. K. Wood and L. G. Moody (Hon. Secretary). Mr P. C. Winch was proposed and seconded as a member.

Correspondence

Correspondence included a notification from the State Branch Secretary that the State Executive was entertaining the Duke of York on March 29th. Two delegates would be invited (to pay their expenses, other than rail fares) from each Sub-Branch. The President and Hon. Secretary were nominated and approved as representatives of Gosford, their expenses to be paid by the Sub-branch on the motion of Messrs Stevenson and Newton.

Graythwaite Sub-branch wrote in reference expulsion of a member.

The State Secretary wrote in reference associate members, it having been proposed that sons of soldiers, who were ineligible for service during the war, but had now reached

* One pound =two Australian dollars

⁹⁵ Edward James Phillips, 1927, January 27, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

military age, should be admitted to League membership. Messrs Newton, Muir, Tucker, Weeks and others spoke against the proposal. On the motion of Messrs Muir and Bosanquet, the Sub-branch decided to inform the State Branch that it opposed the alteration.

Gosford Band (F. J. Buscombe, Hon. Secretary) acknowledged the receipt of a donation of one pound one shilling £1/1/-) received.

The Soldiers Day Appeals Committee, Sydney, wrote in reference to arrangements for the day's collection on Friday, March 4, pointing out the urgency of the need. It was decided on the motion of Messrs Stevenson and Seward to take two hundred and fifty (250) buttons fifty (50) more than last year.

Mr F. J. Buscombe wrote in reference to his attraction coming on February 12, "Mademoiselle from Armentries," and enclosing complimentary tickets for two executive officers. Mr Buscombe said it had been his intention to make seats available for all returned men, but extraordinary bookings had rendered this impracticable at this date, though he should be able to invite ex-soldiers a returned screening. The letter and tickets were received with thanks.

The Anzac Ball

Mr Moody presented the report of the Anzac Ball Committee which recommended that the Ball be held on a night near April 25th, but not on that night and that it be held in Buscombe's Hall. That the supper be purchased in Gosford and served by voluntary labour. That the Ball be kept up to the standard of recent years regarding decorations, music and general arrangements. That tenders be called for an orchestra of five instruments. That the House Committee be asked to have a celebratory gathering at the Club on Anzac Night (a Monday), with a lecture by some prominent military man and community singing. Mr Newton proposed that the proposals submitted be approved generally. Mr Bosanquet seconded. Carried. Details in connection with the Ball were discussed at lengths and it was decided that the fixture be held on April 22, the Friday night before Anzac Day.

The Committee elected to conduct arrangements comprised Messrs Ironmonger, Newton, Bosanquet and Moore with the President and Secretary ex-officio and with the power to add lady helpers.

Memorial Services

Mr Tucker moved that the War Memorial Committee use the money to its credit in the bank, to finish off the memorial base with an appropriate stone-set railing. Also that grass and so on is cleared up around the Memorial, which he was willing to do if necessary. Mr Bosenquet seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Rev. D. R. May (Rector, Terrigal) will be asked to again fill the office of Padre on Anzac Day. Further details were to be left, as usual, to the President, Vice-Presidents and Hon. Secretary of the League. It was hoped that the memorial service at Erina Memorial be resumed this year when the co-operation of the Gosford members would be cheerfully accorded. It was suggested that if both Ourimbah and Erina desired Gosford's co-operation, a party be detailed to attend whichever service was held in the morning and that as many as possible attend Gosford service at noon and also the afternoon service elsewhere.

Canberra Reunion

Mr McDonald suggested that the opportunity, perhaps the last for a number of years, be taken to make the gathering at Canberra a rendezvous for ex-soldiers, who could meet under their respective banners and renew friendships with old unit pals. This he thought, would result in a big membership gain to the League, besides assisting to keep ex-service men together. Arrangements could be made and expenses borne by the State Branch. He moved that this proposal be made a commendation to the State Executive. Mr Weeks seconded the motion, which was carried. Mr Frewin, whose first meeting was congratulated on the attendance and spirit shown.⁹⁶

April 4, 1927

The monthly meeting was held on Monday night when there was present Messers R. G. Frewin (President), L. G. Moody (Hon. Secretary, G. I. Adcock, F. D. Crossthwaite,

⁹⁶ Edward James Phillips, 1927, February 10, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

L. W. Mason, A. R. McDonald, B. M. Newton, J. Seward, J. D. Stevenson, R. Tucker, R. E. Weeks and H. K. Wood.

The position in respect of resignation from the State Executive was discussed and action was postponed till an extraordinary general meeting, which it was suggested should be held on Monday next.

Matters in connection with the Anzac Ball on April 22 were reported upon and it was agreed that the work of the committee in charge was preparing the way for a record success.

Mr Moody reported on the luncheon to the Duke of York in Sydney, at which Mr Frewin (President) and he attended as sub-branch representative. The gathering was described as a notable and successful one.

It was stated that the trophy presentation by Mrs Wikner (wife of Colonel Wikner, O. C., 1st A. L. H.) for best turn-out in the recent camp was won by Cpl. J. Jones.

A letter from the Shire Clerk intimated that the Council will do up the Park and Memorial for Anzac Day. All arrangements were reported to be well in hand for the Day, which will be commemorated with the customary impressiveness.⁹⁷

The Gosford Sub-branch received a letter from W. J. Stagg, State Secretary, of the Soldiers League which met in Sydney in April after expressing regret at the resignation of Colonel A. W. Hyman from the State Presidency and decided that his successor, F. Davidson should remain in office until the annual congress of the League in August when the circumstances of Colonel Hyman's resignation may be re-opened. The Country Vice-President, A. C. Marshall of Singleton, resenting the motion passed by the State Executive against Col. Hyman and the Federal President, Capt. J. G. C. Dyett, he contended that they were censure motions, pure and simple, handed in his resignation and R. Hutchinson of Harden, councillor for the south-western district was appointed

⁹⁷ Edward James Phillips, 1927, April 7, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

in his place. The State Council also confirmed the appointment of Mr Robb as Metropolitan Vice-President, he having succeeded Mr Davidson to that position when the later moved up to the presidency.

When the debate was opened on the causes which led to Col. Hyman's resignation, the State Council expressed a wish that Col. Hyman should attend. He arrived before the debate was re-opened and in a brief statement expressed the hope that the Council would find a means by which the hatchet could be buried, resulting in a restoration of the old harmonious relations. Apart from R. Hutchinson, who moved to the effect that the State Executive should not have accepted the resignation without first having consulted the State Council, A. C. Marshall was one of the principle supporters of the motion. As co-delegate with Col. Hyman to the Federal Congress, Mr Marshall declared he was convinced that Col. Hyman was on unassailable ground in holding that he was bound first of all by the Federal decisions. Consequently, he had no option but to resign in fact of the drastic resolutions adopted by the State Executive against himself and the Federal President. F. Davidson submitted that the State Executive had not censured Col. Hyman and his resignation was opposed to its wishes. He had been asked to withdraw it.

The position was that when Col. Hyman left the State Executive he did not tender his resignation in writing. It was only in his written resignation from subsidiary committees that Col. Hyman mentioned his resignation from the State presidency of the R. S. L. Legal opinion was that Col. Hyman's resignation was absolute and there was no loophole in the League's constitution which permitted them the reinstatement of a President who had resigned. Though the constitution provided that Mr Davidson, by virtue of his position as Metropolitan Vice-President, should automatically succeed to the presidency, he, before accepting, stipulated that he should only hold office until the State Council had ratified it.

Mr L. C. Elliott, a former State President, replying to the assertions of several country councillors that the State Executive had ignored its superior body, the State Council, declared that these arguments were mistaken. It would be foolish, he declared, if the Council adopted a resolution which might tend to divide members of the League into different camps. Mr R. F. H. Green, M. H. R., councillor for the Northern Rivers, said

that the issue stripped of all trimmings solved itself into an interpretation of the League's constitution. In this connection he moved that the State Council express regret at the resignation of Col. Hyman. This amendment, in place of the motion, was agreed to, so the dispute ended until it was revived at the annual congress of sub-branches.⁹⁸

11 April, 1927

An extraordinary meeting of Gosford Sub-branch, R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held at the Brisbane Water Club on Monday night. There were present Messrs R. G. Frewin (President), R. G. Bosanquet, F. D. Crosthwaite, A. R. McDonald, L. G. Moody (Hon. Secretary), Wallace Moore, R. Tucker, R. E. Weeks and H. K. Wood.

The action of the State Executive Secretary in sending to the provincial press a letter on the controversy which has been proceeding in connection with resignations from office was discussed, this being the special purpose of the meeting. It was agreed that while little exception could be taken to the contents of the letter, it was considered a copy of same should have been sent to sub-branches at least at the same time as it was forwarded to newspapers in the districts, in common courtesy. It was resolved that a protest to this effect be forwarded to the Executive. In regard to the executive position itself, it was agreed no good purpose could be served by taking any action to the conference in August

ANZAC DAY

Prior to the general meeting arrangements for the procession and service at Gosford on Anzac Day were further considered and various decisions were made for a fitting commemoration. The order for the day will in the main follow the procedure observed in former years. A procession will assemble at the railway station at 11 a.m. and the service at the Memorials in Gosford Park will commence at 11. 45. A wreath will be placed in the grounds of Christ Church. It is hoped that all returned men will attend, in uniform where possible, and with decorations.⁹⁹

⁹⁸ *Ibid*

⁹⁹ Edward James Phillips, 1927, April 14, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

THE BRISBANE WATER DISTRICT CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 25, 1927
OFFICERS REPORT

The President of Trustees, President of the Club and Secretary presented reports at the annual meeting of Brisbane Water District Club held at the Club on Wednesday evening, May 25.

Those reports, which were adopted as noted in last issue, are summarised below;

President of Trustees

Mr G. I. Adcock said the Directors noted many points in the year's operations upon which the House Committee and members were to be congratulated. There were other matters which called for comments and this was made with the sole object of promoting the increased success of the Club.

From a social point of view, the Club had been an undoubted success, though the attendance of members had perhaps fallen off recently. If the facilities provided lacked anything of attractiveness, this was solely the fault of the members, for the House Committee was constantly pleading for suggestions and any made were sympathetically considered, and generally given effect to. Those who had not yet replied to the questionnaire were asked to do so at once, and any suggestions at all would be welcomed by the officers.

An excellent spirit permeated the Club and there was an absence of snobbery and cliquism "we would sooner see the Club closed than tainted with such pettiness." It was regretted that the Club was not more used by returned soldiers, of whom there must be a number not yet members, who would be very welcome. The fact that the Club was largely supported by civilians in no sense debarred the ex-soldiers, but made available additional facilities not otherwise practicable. Returned men were balloted for by their ex-service fellows only and were charged no entrance fee. Members would assist if they handed to the Committee addresses of returned men who were non-members.

One or two special “Diggers Nights” had been held with great success, and it was suggested that these be arranged more frequently and that all returned men be invited. “They should realise that this is their Club, where they will be welcomed by soldiers and civilians alike. After all, we are nearly all civilians now, and while we will cherish our experiences, we are of no different clay to those who were not privileged, for various reasons, to serve overseas. Those who might have gone freely, but did not, do not join a Club of this nature; and our returned friends who have not yet joined need not fear that they will meet anyone at the Club whom they cannot respect. Our visit will quickly convince them that their privileges are in no wise endangered by the present membership or controlled by the House Committee, who have shown themselves anxious to stand by the Diggers to the greatest possible extent. This is a fact which soldiers should realise.”

The report reviewed at length the general control of the Club and its finances, and outlined action taken, in conjunction with the House Committee, to reduce running expenses and (it was anticipated) do away with a loss which had been shown on the trading account. It was urged that members take thought of many methods by which they could, to their own profit in comfort and convenience, divert patronage to the Club and so strengthen its ability to offer even better service. And the best help any member could give was to attend at the Club as often as he or she possibly could. It was mentioned that very satisfactory catering arrangements were operating and members might with advantage entertain friends at the Club instead of in their homes, thus saving themselves trouble. In conclusion, the desirability was pointed out of electing to the House Committee gentlemen who could give their duties active attention.

President of the Club

Mr C. Hills said the financial statement might be regarded as satisfactory, it covered an experimental and “try-out” Club. Certain changes had recently been made which would, it was anticipated, reduce running costs by a considerable sum per annum, without sacrificing efficiency. Still, there were further problems to be met, and much depended on how the members rallied to the assistance of those elected to the Committee. More frequent attendance and a greater proportion of members were most needed, and it would be the first duty of the Committee to see that inducements were increased with

this in view. Several valuable suggestions to this end had been received, and other would be welcomed.

Billiards had been a successful department, both as to financial results and sporting interest; and bridge filled many hours. The tennis club had been the subject of much consideration, and arrangements had been made which it hoped would make this department popular and beneficial. Members were invited to patronise their own delightfully and favourably situated courts and in so doing help promote the social activities of the Club.

Various special occasions at the Club including the visit of the State Governor and his family when his Excellency expressed keen admiration of the determination were recalled with pleasure and it was hoped that such visits by outside people would continue. In conclusion, Mr Hills said he would not be a candidate for the Office of President this year, but would give every possible assistance to the operations of the elected officers. He regretted that a measure of ill health had prevented him doing all that he wished to do during his term and trusted they would choose a President who could attend the Club regularly and frequently. "I wish the incoming Chief and his Committee all possible success and trust that they, with the whole-hearted co-operation of every member of the Club will be able to place this important institution where it should be foremost in Gosford."

The Secretary's

Mr L. G. Moody stated that the Club membership on 30th April was two hundred and sixty-one (261). One hundred and ten (110) members of whom forty-six (46) are returned soldiers, and one hundred and twenty-one (121) associates. This is really very good and I think exceeded the Committee's expectation. There have been a few resignations since the beginning of the month and there are bound to be others who will not continue their membership. On the other hand, there are a number who wish to join up and I don't think the drop will be very great.

The House Committee has held thirty-seven (37) meetings. Considering the number of activities these men are engaged in outside the Club, the attendances show keen interest.

The Club was officially opened on the 1st May last year, by Major-General Sir Granville Ryrrie. Everything passed off well, although during the morning myself and several members of the House Committee were bordering on hysteria.

The billiard table has been a very successful feature and is the only adjunct of the amusement side of the Club, for which a charge is made. The open tournament was won by Mr L. W. Mason and a “mugs” tournament by Mr J. D. Hutchinson. Another tournament is now in progress. (Rather slow progress, but still progress.) Billiard playing members could assist if they would arrange their own games as quickly as possible. There are several lady billiard players in the Club and it has been suggested that a tournament might be arranged.

Bridge has been another very successful side of the Club. Wednesday evening has been the bridge date and tournaments have been arranged. Thanks are due to Mr A. J. McDonald and Mr Gilbert Ironmonger for so successfully conducting these evenings.

In tennis we have had a lot of bad luck, but I think it would be great pity if the courts had to be dropped. It is a matter which requires the co-operation of all members.

The Saturday night special evenings have been a feature of the Club and I think have been much enjoyed. Our first evening on the opening night drew an attendance of close on a hundred (100) and on one or two occasions since then we have exceeded the century mark. The average has been around about sixty (60) for these special evenings. Evenings of note were I think, the “Back to Childhood” evening, the “Poster” evening and the “Gipsy” evening run by the ladies. The fancy dress ball on New Year’s Night was a great success and the fancy costumes at all those evenings have really been excellent.

On the 22nd December we had a Christmas tree for all the children, which was well carried out and I am sure the kiddies loved it, as most certainly did the grown-up kiddies. There has been an entire absence of stiffness at those evenings with the result everybody has been happy, a state of affairs most desirable and highly to be commended. Other Saturday evenings saw quite a number of members here during the first six months, but there has been a noticeable falling off recently. It seems to me that

so long as something special is arranged, people will come; but you must remember that this is a Club, and not a Tivoli, or an Empire, or a Palais Royal. Members are expected to make their own enjoyment and while the Entertainment Committee will do its best, there are limits, both to one's inventive powers and one's time. Any suggestions would be welcomed and appreciated by the Committee.

One or two lectures could very well be arranged. Community singing has been suggested and might be a good idea. There are also in the Club a number of chess players and it is proposed to run a chess tournament in the near future.

We have had many visitors to the Club during the year, no less than four hundred (400) being introduced by members. We welcome visitors and members should take advantage of the opportunities to bring their visiting guests along.

Our thanks are due to Mr G. H. Adcock and Mr G. I. Adcock for the very fine gifts of books for the war library; to Mr Crosthwaite for the donation of a book to the library and many magazines; to Mr Sergeant for the fine picture of the Crimea war; to Colonel Wikner for the gift of a picture; to Mrs Paul for a Mah Jongg set and vase and to Mrs Muir, who also donated a vase. To Mrs Shaw for the gift of the chess set; to Mr Thomas and Mr Kilpatrick for cues for the billiard tournament.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of one of our members, Mr S. Spencer, who was killed in an accident on the Mountain. I am sure the sincere sympathy of all our members goes out to Mrs Spencer in her bereavement.

We have completed the first year of this Club's existence. On the whole it has been a very successful first year. We have certainly showed a loss, but it must be remembered that it is entirely a new venture in this district. There was nothing to guide the Committee and the changes system now in operation will make further loss unlikely. May I introduce a personal note just for a minute? I was elected Secretary to the Club at the first meeting of the House Committee. I have been Secretary to a number of Institutions in my time, but I can honestly say that with the exception of the League, out of which the Club had its being, no position which I have held has given me more pride than that of being Secretary to this Club. I am appreciative of the honour the

Committee did me in electing me and although I realise that in many ways I have failed, it has not been for want of trying.

Perhaps about forty (40) out of two hundred and sixty (260) members of the Club use it regularly. Of the other two hundred (200) odd, some use it very little; many do not use it at all. Admittedly some country members have not the opportunity to come very often, but many could and don't. The Committee want to know why. If there is something lacking that would interest, let the Committee know.

I have heard many expressions of opinion from visitors from the "great big world outside," and they have all been most gratifying. You have a Club here you cannot help but be proud of; a Club with nothing stiff about it, but with a prevailing feeling of homelessness; a Club where you can meet and talk and laugh; where you can dance and sing and play; where you can play games to your taste; a Club where in the future you will be able to hear something instructive in lectures. Such a place you can have pride in using and profit by so using.

One of the replier's to questions sent out said that the aspect of the Club which he appreciated most was the spirit of comradeship which existed among the members. So long as you let that spirit prevail, so long as you establish a club esprit de corps, the Club must be a success. If you will all do your share, the members of the Committee, the Sub-committees, if you pull when a pull is required and push when you are not pulling, then this Club will be a Club of unlimited possibilities. A Club of which not only you and Gosford, will be proud of, but a Club to which other towns will point and say "That's what we want." And when they'll ask "How did you do it?" we'll point to the tablet on our wall and say "We just all; ALL carried on."¹⁰⁰

August 1, 1927

The monthly meeting of the Gosford District Sub-branch was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Monday night. The agenda paper for the State Congress opening

¹⁰⁰ Edward James Phillips, 1927, June 2, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

in Sydney on Tuesday next, August 9th, provoked prolonged discussion on many matters of interest to ex-service men and the meeting lasted till 11.30 p.m.

There were present Messrs R. G. Frewin (President), L. G. Moody (Hon. Secretary), G. I. Adcock, R. G. Bosanquet, C. G. Brandis, F. D. Crosthwaite, E. Ironmonger, P. Marsh, W. M. Moore, B. M. Newton, J. D. Stevenson, R. Tucker, R. E. Weeks and H. K. Wood.

The State Secretary wrote that membership fee of Mr F. Hartle, now in the Gosford district had been received. It was resolved that the name of Mr Hartle (who it was understood was engaged on the main road) be entered on the membership list of the Gosford Sub-branch.

Mr P. Marsh (Gosford) was elected a member of the Sub-branch on the motion of Messrs Weeks and Newton.

The congratulations of the Sub-branch were extended to Mr A. R. McDonald on the recent arrival of a little Field Artillery recruit.

Reports were made of assistance given to returned men passing through. The action of the Hon. Secretary and others was endorsed.

Stamp duties on the Service Homes contracts has been waived it was stated and will be refunded to those who have paid it.

State Congress

It was stated that Mr Adcock would be prevented by other engagements from attending the State Congress; therefore the office of delegate for the Sub-branch would fall upon Mr Moody. The agenda paper for the Congress on August 9th was read and considered. Some of the decisions were;

To support the motion that in the event of conscription for another war, manpower and wealth be conscripted simultaneously;

That on the matter of the circumstances arising from the resignation of Colonel Hyman (President), the delegate be instructed to exercise his own discretion

That the proposal to term all League members "comrade" be opposed.

That the suggestion that local medical officers be empowered to order sick ex-soldiers straight into hospital are supported, also that the best available travel accommodation be given to such patients.

That concessions available to limbless A. I. F. men be extended to Imperial ex-service men, also that medical treatment facilities generally be extended to Imperial men on the same footing as to ex-A. I. F. men.

Those proposals to enforce the proper observance of the preference to soldiers' law are strongly supported.

That a proposal for a conference to be held between the Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Manufactures and the Leagues, with regard to employment, be supported.

That a motion protesting against the influx of an undesirable class of Southern Europeans be supported

That the Sub-branch favours closing of hotels till 1 p.m. on Anzac Day.

That no support be given to a proposal to abolish the trading department of the League.

That soldiers' memorial halls and so on be free of Shire and Municipal rates be supported.

That W. M. Hughes be invited to become the patron of the League supported (two members dissenting).

That no Member of Parliament holds office on the State League Executive supported.

That the proportion of members' subscription going to head office be reduced from fifty (50) per cent to twenty-five (25) per cent opposed.

That a change in branch representation to give a delegate for every fifty (50) members or part thereof, instead of one delegate from each Sub-branch as at present be opposed.

That a proposal to hold the annual congress at towns other than Sydney be opposed.

Many resolutions of minor importance were considered. The business paper was a very long one.

Poppy Day

Mr Stevenson suggested that available information as to allocation and dispersal of Poppy Day funds be acquired so that all reasonable questions could be answered readily on the next occasion, also that a copy of the balance sheet be sent to Sub-branches. This was approved and opinions were expressed that this year's effort should see even better results than the very creditable total put up in 1926.

Armistice Day Dinner

Regarding the Sub-branch's annual dinner on Armistice Day, November 11, it was decided that the State President be invited to preside. The League Executive Committee will supervise arrangements.¹⁰¹

On November 11, 1926, the Gosford Sub-branch inaugurated an annual A. I. F. Reunion Dinner, to be held every Armistice Day. That first gathering was very successful being attended by fifty-one (51) ex-service men. It was made an objective for 1927, however, to eclipse the former year and on Friday night, November 11, undoubtedly achieved this aim. Over sixty (60) attended and the fixture was in every way an outstanding success. The Gosford Sub-branch executive officers, of whom Mr L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary are to be heartily congratulated. It had been hoped to entertain more visitors from other Leagues, particularly from Hornsby, Wyong and The Entrance, but at the last moment illness and other causes prevented many who had desired to do so from making the trip.

Mr R. G. Frewin, President of the Gosford Sub-branch, presided, and had beside him Alderman W. F. Henderson (Mosman), a member of the League State Executive and Signor M. Carosi, Italian Consul in N. S. W. Among the other ex-servicemen present were D. E. Daly (32nd Btn. W. A.); Mr Falkiner (28th Btn); Angus R McDonald 2nd D. A. C.); Frank R. Atkins (2nd Btn.); Wallace M. Moore (No. 85, N.S.W., M. R., South Africa); J. S. Gardiner (12th A. L. H.); J. Lawn (1st Tunnel Bgde); H. Knight (13th Btn.); Leslie H. Mosse-Robinson (13th Btn.); R. G. Frewin; R. E. Weeks; E. Rowlands (7th Btn.); B. M. Newton (3rd Btn.); G. I. Adcock (1st Tunnel Co.); J. B. Shand; R. G. Bosanquet; E. E. Muir; L. G. Moody; C. L. Bettson (1st M. G. Bgde); H. K. Wood; G. H. White; N. Pinkstone 3rd and 55th Btn.).

R. B. Hinder (1st Tunnel Co.); Eric H. Ironmonger (1st F. A. B.); P. Marsh (54th Btn.); C. E. Chapman; F. G. Fuller (R. A. N.); T. F. Humphries (7th A. L. H.); F. Van Hemelryck (17th Btn.); W. McDougall (12th A. L. H.); R. B. Wilson (2nd Sqd Aust. Flying Corps); H. P. Leaves (Inst. Staff Imperial Army); B. Topple (R. A. N.); W. A.

¹⁰¹ Edward James Phillips, 1927, August 4, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Smith (59th Btn.); G. Wood (1st Btn.); A. J. Bains (1st Btn.); R. A. Brown (R. A. N.); George T. Hunt (7th A. L. H.); C. F. Howard (36th Btn.); C. R. Burns (7th A. L. H.); W. Mills (25th Btn., Qld); R. McL. Maroney (1st M.T.C.); L. C. Reeves 20th Btn.); A. Kinghorn (Lovat's Scouts); C. Kinghorn (5th Q. O. C. H.); A. H. Cook (33 R.F.A.); R. Tucker; C. Wroe, J. A. Haines; R. J. Young; Mr Adams; Mr Cousins; Mr Whitehouse and C. Lees.

The dinner itself was a fine repast and well laid out. In this department Mr A. R. McDonald O. C'd. the attendant staff and invaluable assistance was given by lady friends, including Mesdames Stevenson, Hinder, Weeks and McDonald. Mr H. F. Rowe, of the Hotel Gosford and others gave considerable help by lending crockery and so on. With a good dinner efficiently served in the very pleasant precincts of the Brisbane Water Club, everything was "well set" for a happy time and the evening was very thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The spirit was a generally fraternal one and this annual reunion will be anticipated with greater keenness every year. The work of the League in organising the gathering was recognised, as was the necessity of joining up with this body which is fighting for ex-soldiers' interest; and at the close, every person in the room was either a member or had been proposed for membership.

Major G. I. Adcock was Toastmaster and carried the programme along in happy style. The toast list as set forth, with the cleverly phased menu, on cards neatly printed at the *Gosford Times* office was a long one and some grouping into "column of lumps" was necessary towards the end. In connection with the more important toasts there were some fine speeches and it is regrettable that this report spins out to a pretty considerable length as it is and it is not possible to devote much space to any one address. Items of harmony were contributed by Messrs Eric Ironmonger, A. H. Cook (Hornsby) and Mr Cousins and Mr R. McL. Maroney contributed a very fine elocutionary number.

Lest We Forget

The proceedings commenced with the customary League observance, the repetition of the words "Lest We Forget" while the company stood with bowed heads. The toast of "The King" was honoured and the National Anthem sung. The toast of "Sister Services" was proposed by Major R. B. Hinder, M. C., who traced in entertaining style the growth of the Royal Australian Navy from a very humble beginning to a strength which did

much during the Great War to prevent Australia knowing the horrors of enemy attack. The British Navy, of which The R. A. N. was a branch, was a wonderful organisation as was proved in the Great War.

The Royal Air Force was another efficient arm which did splendid works in connection with its sister service, the Navy. There was no doubt it was the strangle-hold attained by the Navy which was a primary factor in the winning of the war. But a marvellous part was taken by the Air Force, which like the R. A. N. started from small things and all through the hottest part did outstanding service. The Air Force did wonderful things for the men of the air were a wonderful crowd. The toast was drunk to some original and cleverly appropriate honours originated by the Major.

Mr P. G. Fuller, who served through the war in H. M. A. S. Melbourne, responded for the Navy and said all Navy men had considered it an honour to serve in that branch of the service which did so much to protect the countries of the Empire from the invasion. Mr R. B. Wilson, Australian Flying Corps, responded for the Air Force and said the good work done by that arm would not have been possible but for the efficient and loyal co-operation of the land and water forces. Sergeant J. S. Gardiner proposed eloquently "The A. I. F." expressing in stirring periods sentiments which brought poignant memories of the spirit of service and sacrifice which characterised the war years.

The feats of which Gallipoli was the best known were sketched in telling phrases, reviving mental pictures of heroic achievements at the Dardanelles, in France and in Palestine. There was no desire to glorify war, no one who had the interests of the race at heart could do that; but should the clarion call to defend their rights at arms again come over the seas, there was no doubt as to what the response would be under the Southern Cross. "Officers and men of the A. I. F., 'shun!" was the climax of a fine speech. Major J. B. Shand responded and paid able tribute to the manner in which the spirit of the race had risen to and met the unprecedented call of an extraordinary situation. Australia had reason to be proud of the part played in the Great War drama by the comparatively small army known as the A. I. F. and it should be kept alive and potent the splendid spirit which permeated that army and made it the wonderful fighting force it was.

The League

Lieut. Cmdr. L. H. Mosse-Robinson proposed “The League” and said it was the one visible and continuing link that bound together the men who suffered so much in the awful years of the war. They all knew the splendid work the League had done and the fight it had for most of the concessions won. It must never be allowed to die, but must be heartily supported in carrying on its great work in the interest of those who were suffering in the aftermath of sacrifices made for their country. Another important work of the League was to counteract the evil influence of a certain small section which in the black days of the conflict was willing to turn down Australia and Empire.

Alderman W. F. Henderson, State Executive, responded in enlightening fashion to the efforts being made in various directions to ensure that returned men, other things being equal, were appointed to vacant positions. The League was the watchdog for the interest of ex-servicemen and their dependants and every returned man should join up and give the League at least that minimum of support. A large membership was the source of strength in working for the interest of returned men.

Lieut. R. E. Weeks proposed “Empire Comrades in Arms”, outlining the worthy part taken in the war by the British, Canadian, South African and other divisions of the Empire. Sergeant A. P. Leeves responded and said his personal experience of the Aussies and Enzedders in France and England was such as to prompt the keenest admiration of their qualities.

Our Allies

Sergeant E. H. Ironmonger proposed “Our Allies”, stating there were eighteen (18) nations actively taking part in the war, while nine (9) others broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. Some of the eighteen (18) through no fault of their own, did not take a great part, but among those which did great things in the struggle were Belgium, who put up a splendid fight in defence of her neutrality and was overrun by an invading nation, as she had been many times in her tragic history. France bore the brunt of the fighting in the onset and during the war lost one and a half million (1,500,000), with several millions of casualties, out of a population of forty million (40,000,000) besides having large areas of her territories ravaged. Her defence of Verdun was an epic.

Russia was first in the field, declaring war on Germany some days before the other Allies; and her losses in some respects were greatest of any. Japan stood shoulder to shoulder with Britain and gave valuable help, especially in relieving the latter of convoy duty. Italy conducted heavy fighting on the northern frontier and eventually drove the Austrians back in confusion, compelling them to seek an armistice before the general armistice. Montenegro had put up a wonderful fight and sacrificed her independence. The U. S. A. brought large resources to the aid of the Allies and hastened the close of the war.

The toast was honoured in association with the name of Signor Carosi. He was received with prolonged applause. He said there was no doubt that Britain and all the Allied nations did their best in the war, and deserved every honour for the part they took. The position of Italy at the outbreak was difficult, both diplomatically and in a military sense, but there was a strong current of opinion favouring participation on the side of the Allies, though there was also influential opposition to such a course. He was very young at this time, but took part in demonstrations favouring entering the war for the Allies and had been arrested for these activities. The Italians had most difficult fronts on which to fight and their operations there kept a lot of enemy troops engaged. The final Italian victory had made it impossible for Germany to carry on, as their rear would have been threatened by the Italian armies. As an infantry man he was particularly grateful for the invitation extended to him by the Sub-branch and pleased to be with his comrades.

Mr F. van Hemelrych, a native of Belgium, also responded and said the keenest appreciation was felt for the men of Australia who threw down their sporting kits and joined up to go to the help of Belgium, the cockpit of Europe and the other Allies and fight for the protection of woman and children. Naturally, he too, felt the appeal and joined up with the 17th Battalion and he considered it an honour to be with the A. I. F.

The Veterans

Company Quarter Master Sergeant L. G. Moody proposed “Veterans of Other Wars” and said there were thirty-eight (38) units represented in the room. There was one soldier who was at Mons. Nearly every Infantry Regiment was represented with the

Light Horse, Cameron Highlanders, Lovatt's Scouts and various others, also the R. A. N. and R. N. The speaker referred to outstanding features of previous wars in South Africa (first and second wars, Sudan, Indian Mutiny, Crimean and others. The name of Quarter Master Sergeant Wallace Moore (South Africa) was coupled with the toast. Q. M. Sgt. Moore responded and said it was 33 years since he first joined up with a unit, the 6th Australian Rifles at Hornsby Junction, Speaking of Australian conditions, Mr Moore said he doubted if there was much danger from Bolshevism as the returned men might be counted upon as quite able to counter any move from that direction.

Mr Alf Cook (Hornsby), one of the Old Contemptibles of Mons was called upon to speak and said the old hands were mighty glad to see the men from Australia and New Zealand, who were fine fighters and the best pals a soldier could have. Lieut. T. F. Humphries (South African) also spoke and urged the returned man to keep going in League activities. Warrant Officer J. D. Stevenson proposed "Our Guest" and said the local League members were pleased to welcome friends from other centres at their annual reunion, which was planned to afford an opportunity of fraternal meetings of "old soldiers" at least once a year.

Mr L. C. Reeves (Wyang Sub-branch) responded and said that he had that night met a cobbler of the old platoon, Mr Adams of Norfolk Island, a descendant of the Bounty men, now of Kincumber and this illustrated on good feature of these reunions. Mr Whitehouse (Hornsby Sub-branch) tendered good wishes from that centre. Mr N. Pinkstone (Mangrove Mountain) said Mangrove Mountain members intended to throw in their lot with Gosford Sub-branch. Mr D. E. Daly said an accession of strength could be expected from Matcham. Mr H. Knight said several others of the Training School staff had wished to be present, but it was impossible for them all to be away from duty.

The Club

Mr Charles E. Chapman proposed "The Club" and said the encomiums passed upon it by visitors showed what outside people thought of the Gosford League member's home. He was glad to hear the sentiments expressed in the toast to the Veterans and said it was the spirit of Britain that she must not be beaten, she could not afford to be beaten and we could not afford to see her beaten. The splendid ceremony at the Cenotaph that morning might be taken as an indication of a return to sanity in a patriotic sense. Reverting to the Club, the speaker said it was a splendid institution and soldiers and

their friends should make more use of it so that large, as it was, it might soon be found too small for its purpose. Captain R. G. Bosanquet (President) responded for the Club and invited all present to join it as they had joined the League.

Other toasts were the C. M. F. and A. L. H., the Red Cross, the Press, the Merchant Services and the Rising Generation. As the hour was late, these were briefly referred to by Major Adcock and proposed en bloc by Sergeant E. E. Muir, who said every credit and encouragement was due to the men who voluntarily enlisted in such valuable units as the A. L. H.

Major Hinder also had a bloc of toasts, those of the President of the League, the President of the Club Trustees, the Hon. Secretary of the Club and the Ladies and Gentlemen who had assisted in making the dinner the great success it was. The toasts were enthusiastically honoured and the proceedings terminated with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.¹⁰²

December 12, 1927

Members of the Gosford Sub-branch held their December meeting at the Brisbane Water Club on Monday night in circumstances which made the gathering a very pleasant one. There were present: Messrs R. G. Frewin (President), J. D. Stevenson, E. E. Muir, A. R. McDonald, R. Milikin, B. M. Newton, F. Van Hemelryck, R. Tucker, R. B. Hinder, A. K. Jamieson and H. K. Wood.

Correspondence mostly dealing with matters which had been attended to was read. The State Executive wrote in reference to donations for providing six soldiers without pensions in hospital with cigarettes and tobacco since the Red Cross Society had relinquished this work several years ago, stating that the Sub-branches had responded well to appeals, but funds were again running low. The League resolved to donate a guinea.

¹⁰² Edward James Phillips, 1927, November 17, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

A number of new members were approved including Messrs D. E. Daly, P. G. Fuller, R. B. Wilson, H. P. Leeves, F. Van Memelryck, T. Atkins and C. Kinghorn.

The committee for the Ugly Men's competition in aid of the Limbless Soldiers Association sent books of tickets. A number were purchased in the room.

The Poppy Day list of receipts was read (as published previously showing a total proceeds of sixty-three pounds seventeen shillings and seven pence (£63/17/7*) of which twenty pounds (£20) odd was the share of the local Sub-branch. Mr Hinder, as a young member congratulated the organisers of the result achieved, which he considered was a credit to all concerned. The most valuable help had been given by the League's friends in district centres.

Mr Stevenson proposed that as a mark of appreciation of the services of the Rev. D. R. May in this connection of this and former Poppy Days, a voluntary Church parade be held at the Church of England at Terrigal, where Padre May is Rector. It was also proposed by Mr McDonald that if practicable, the show "A Night in Flanders" be repeated at Terrigal and this was favourably received.

A letter from the Poppy Day executive thanked the Sub-branch for the splendid manner in which the Gosford and district had organised their effort and asked that thanks be conveyed to all who assisted to achieve the notable success.

It was resolved that a letter of sympathy be sent from the League to Mrs A. Renwick from the members of the League. The motion was passed in the customary commemorative manner.

Details were furnished of efforts being made on behalf of distressed ex-soldiers in respect of increased pension and other matters.

The annual meeting of the Sub-branch will be held on Monday, January 16th. The January committee meeting will be held on January 9th.

A photograph of the retiring President (Mr Frewin) will be added to the gallery of enlargements in the League room.

Tickets will be put on sale for the Collingridge benefit in Gosford Hall on January 24th. The entertainment will consist of the League members sketch "A Night in Flanders" followed by a dance.

A list was read of amounts granted to ex-soldiers passing through town since the last meeting.

The League's customary donation of a guinea will be forwarded to Gosford Band.

Mr R. Tucker, who has for some time past attended to the surroundings of the memorial prior to Anzac Day, was appointed custodian of the Memorial, and it was decided to ask the Shire Council to sanction the suggestion.¹⁰³

1928

EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members of the Gosford Sub-branch, R. S. & S. I. L. A., held their annual meeting at the Brisbane Water District Club on Monday night, January 16, 1928. Tables were set out on the Club House balcony and a very pleasant evening was spent. There were present: Messrs R. G. Frewin (President in the chair), R. E. Weeks and R. G. Bosanquet (Vice-Presidents), W. M. Moore (Treasurer), E. Ironmonger, A. R. McDonald, R. Tucker, A. K. Jamieson, B. M. Newton, E. E. Muir, G. I. Adcock, P. C. Winch, C. G. Brandis, Rev. D. R. May, F. Hadfield, J. Parry, H. K. Wood and L. G. Moody (Hon. Secretary). The proposition of Mr L. Rayner as a member was made.

Reports Adopted

Mr Frewin, President, submitted his report for the year.

* One pound =two Australian dollars

¹⁰³ Edward James Phillips, 1927, December 15, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Mr Moore (Treasurer) reported that the Sub-branch best financial statement yet: Receipts one hundred and ten pounds twelve shillings and eleven pence (£110/12/11), expenditure eighty-one pounds seventeen shilling and one penny (£81/17/1), credit twenty-eight pounds fifteen shillings and ten pence (£28/15/10). For the Anzac Ball, receipts were thirty-five pounds and six shillings (£35/6/-) and expenses thirty-nine pounds nineteen shillings (£39/19/-), showing a debit of four pounds thirteen shillings (£4/13/-). The fixture was the usual social success, but unfortunately again showed a loss.

Mr Moody read the eighth report of a Hon. Secretary and the third by himself. President's and Secretary's reports are given elsewhere.

Mr Weeks moved that the reports be adopted and congratulated the officers concerned on the general satisfactory state of affairs they presented. He did not think the Anzac Ball was a real loss, though it was a monetary one and this annual fixture should be carried on. Mr Muir seconded the motion and stressed the necessity for a special effort to make the League membership as wide as possible. Mr Moore in supporting the motion agreed that any debit on the Ball should not be regarded as a real loss and said he would be sorry to see it abandoned. Mr Newton Hon. Secretary of the Ball Committee was of the opinion that if the Ball was to show a loss every year, a gathering of some other nature should be substituted. The reports were adopted unanimously.

Officers for 1928

Election of officers was proceeded with: For President, Mr L. G. Moody was nominated by Mr Muir, Mr Muir by Mr Newton supported by Mr Bosanquet and Mr Brandis by Mr McDonald supported by Mr Hadfield. Mr Muir wished to withdraw, stating that he was unable to devote the time to the office, but was prevailed upon to stand. Mr Moody's possible removal from the Secretaryship was regarded with considerable dismay. Though League members realised that no honour was too high for such a fine worker and he solved a rather knotty problem by retiring from the contest. Mr Brandis

was elected at the ballot and stated that though the position had been rather “sprung on him” he would do his best.

For Vice-Presidents, Messrs Frewin, Muir, Tucker, McDonald, Wood , Bosanquet and Rev. May were nominated. Rev. May and Mr Wood declined the honour and at ballot Messrs Frewin, Muir, McDonald and Bosanquet were elected. The chosen Vice-Presidents responded.

For the Secretaryship, Mr Moody was enthusiastically re-elected and in response said it was his only wish to serve the League to the very best of his ability in any office members chose for him. With the assistance of members, other officers and he looked forward to a big year’s work upon an increase of membership. Regarding the Ball, he saw no reason why it should be run at a loss, if more tickets were sold beforehand. With Poppy Day too, they hoped to make an even greater success this year. The League as a whole was going ahead, especially since Congress and ten or twelve new sub-branches had been formed in New South Wales.

For Treasurer, Messrs Moore, Ironmonger, Jamieson and Weeks were nominated. Ironmonger declined and Mr Moore wished to be relieved of the job, which, as members stated, he had been very efficiently carried out for a number of years. Mr Jamieson was elected.

For the Committee Messrs Ironmonger, Adcock, Tucker, Wood, Winch and Weeks were nominated. Mr Tucker declined and the other nominees were elected. It was mentioned that all League members who so desired were welcome to attend committee meetings.

Mr Newton proposed a vote of appreciation to the retiring officers who had conducted the League’s affairs so successfully during the past year. This was supported by Messrs Adcock, Jamieson, Muir, Brandis, Hadfield and Rev. May. Messrs Frewin, Moody, Weeks and Moore responded.

The incoming officers were toasted on the proposal of Mr Weeks. Mr A. D. Hickey was elected Hon. Solicitor and Messrs C. Hills and Hickey Hon. Auditors. Mr Ironmonger was re-elected Publicity Officer.

The Collingridge Benefit

Members and friends were urged to give all possible support to the benefit on January 24, for Digger Bill Collingridge an entertainment at the Valencia Theatre to be followed by a dance, with the Troubadour Orchestra at Buscombe Hall.

The Trustee Company

Mr Adcock reported on behalf of Club Trustees of which body he is President. There are twenty-six (26) members and it was desired that Sub-branch members not already enrolled should join up. The liability, if ever called up, was one pound (£1) with no subscription and the duty of the Trustee was to control the assets and finances of the Club and also to see that the institution was conducted in the proper spirit, that of the A. I. F. All concerned should become members, by which course any criticism, or suggestion; they had to offer could become constructive and helpful, which could never be the case when merely expressed outside. The Company had two hundred and fifty pounds (£250) on fixed deposit, which much more than covered existing liabilities.

The purpose of the company form of Trusteeship was to provide a properly representative and continuing body in control of assets and operations, which obviated many disabilities attendant upon the alternative system of a limited number of individual trustees. A Board of Directors was elected by the company members and acted as an executive to meet requirements of the law, govern the Club and make rules under which the House Committee acted. In the first instance, returned soldiers alone were eligible for membership in the company. As to finances, the Club was holding its own, but to meet interest charges further support was necessary. Every member of the League should be a member of the Trustee Company as of the Club.

Assistance for Those in Need

Mr Frewin directed attention to the Secretary's suggestion that a fund be established for assistance of Diggers. Mr Ironmonger suggested that chits be issued for meals and

accommodation for men passing through. Messrs Muir and Newton considered arrangements should also be made to help local members who genuinely needed temporary assistance. The suggestion of chits was endorsed on the motion of Messrs Ironmonger and Winch. It was moved by Major Adcock and seconded by Mr Winch that fifteen pounds (£15*) be set aside in a separate account for the relief of distressed Diggers; this was carried.

Anzac Ball to be Continued

On the question whether the Anzac Ball should again be held, Major Adcock doubted the efficacy of the fixture as a re-union of ex- A. I. F. men and their relatives. The night at the Club was far more desirable and enjoyable as a fitting celebration of Anzac Day. He moved that the Anzac Ball be discontinued and that in lieu of a re-union be held at the Club. Mr Brandis seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr Newton. Mr Weeks advocated continuing the Ball, as a desirable public celebration of the birth of a nation. Over its several years record the Ball had not loss money, Messrs Ironmonger, Muir, McDonald and Tucker spoke in support. The motion to discontinue was lost. Mr Ironmonger moved that the Ball be held in conjunction with the Light Horse; Mr Winch seconded this, which was carried. Mr Moody proposed that, as last year, a reunion be held at the Club on Anzac night, this was agreed to.

Mr Jamieson suggested that a permanent ladies committee be formed to assist with Sub-branch projects and this was supported by Mr Muir and others and agreed to.

New and Old Officers

Mr Frewin conveyed to Mr Brandis members congratulations on his election and Mr Weeks moved a vote of appreciation of the retiring President, Mr Frewin. Mr Brandis was then installed in the President's chair and thanked members for their confidence in him and the honour accorded.

It was decided to add Mr Moody's photograph to those already hanging in the Board Room. Mr Moody expressed his thanks for the compliment.

Farewell to Mr Newton

Mr Frewin mentioned that the Sub-branch was losing another member in the person of Mr Newton and Mr Bandis asked his acceptance of a pipe in case as a token of the member's appreciation of his good work for the League. Mr Newton thanked the members and said when he went to Griffith he would tell people of the good work done in the Gosford district by the League and the Club.

Other Matters

Lieut. Weeks speaking for Gosford Troop, Light Horse, expressed the appreciation of his "boys" in being selected for colour guard and guard on the memorial on Anzac Day, also for the two pounds two shillings (£2/2/-) prize for best turned out man at Camp, which was won last year by Corporal Jones. They would be pleased to serve in the capacities names as long as their assistance was desired.

Mr Moody drew attention to the existence of the League newspaper *Reveille* which should contain news items from Gosford Sub-branch. It contained a quantity of matter of special interest to ex-service men.¹⁰⁴

President's Report

At the annual meeting on January 16, Mr R. G. Frewin, the retiring President, submitted the following report which was adopted in complimentary terms;

This has been a very successful year. Not one fixture that was organised has been a failure and this is due mainly to the splendid efforts and co-operation on the Hon. Secretary and the executive committee. We started the year with approximately six shillings to our credit and about forty members (40). Today we have twenty-eight pounds (£28*) in the bank and still forty (40) financial members. The increase in finance is due mainly to the splendid work of the Poppy Day Committee, with the assistance of several willing lady helpers and a donation from the Repatriation Committee, which had disbanded and which before disbanding realised that the League could handle the funds and use them to advantage in the way of assisting disabled soldiers and their dependants and stranded soldiers who, by no fault of their own, find

* One pound =two Australian dollars

¹⁰⁴ Edward James Phillips, 1928, January 19, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

themselves in want of a meal or train fare. Quite a number of Diggers have been assisted in this way during the past year.

Representatives of the Sub-branch attended several gatherings outside the district during the year, some of which were; the State Branch's luncheon to His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, Wyong Sub-branch Annual Dinner, Hornsby Sub-branch Annual Social and a social at Woy Woy. At the last mentioned a new Sub-branch was formed and a very creditable membership was reached.

Anzac Day celebrations were very successfully carried out and largely attended, which goes to show that Our Day is by no means being forgotten. Several members journeyed to Kulnura and their presence was very much appreciated by the Mountain people who, as usual, supplied the visitors with refreshments and so on and also means of conveyance to and from the service. As is usually the case, the Anzac Ball was held in unsettled weather conditions, but notwithstanding same it was, as usual, declared a success by all present. Very good work was put into the movement by the Hon. Secretary, Mr Newton and his willing hand of helpers. On Anzac Night at the Club, advantage was taken of the House Committee's action in throwing the Club open to all returned men and their dependents and all present spent a very enjoyable evening singing community songs and so on.

A social was run in aid of one of our most energetic members (who was down on his luck) during the year and the result was very satisfactory and was most appreciated by our old friend Mac.

An effort was made to get the Memorial Committee to finalise the memorial some time ago. Our meeting was held, but no headway has been made. I would like to see the Sub-branch co-operate with the Memorial Committee and see if this cannot be finalised before Anzac Day. There is a good sum of money in hand for this job and I feel sure something satisfactory can be done without much delay.

A further attempt was made to try and induce members to come to the League meetings during the year. A circular letter was sent to all the members and a suggestion was adopted to run meetings more on the social side, but the effort has not been successful,

I am sorry to say. Surely one night a month is not too much for members to come along and try to help those who cannot help themselves.

Congress was attended by Mr Moody this year and he carried out his duties, as he always does, in a very satisfactory manner.

Poppy Day was a huge success, our takings more than doubling those of the previous years. The Reunion Dinner was another very successful gathering, the attendance being in advance of the first years. All present declared it the best and stated that they would come again.

Arrangements are well in hand for a benefit concert and dance in aid of Digger Bill Colinridge. This is a very deserving case and I would ask all present to push it for all it is worth. A very fine entertainment is being organised and I see no reason why we should not get a bumper house.

We lost a very good worker for the League last month in the person of Mr J. D. Stevenson, one who was always ready to assist in everything that was doing. Mr Macdermott, another sticker, has also been missed at our meetings. Although we are sorry to lose such members, we are pleased to have their assurance that they are carrying on the good work elsewhere. Major Hinder, although only a new member of the Sub-branch, is about to leave us. The Major has been a splendid worker for the branch and we will all be very sorry to lose him.

In recognition of the splendid work Rev. D. R. May, Rector of Terrigal has done for the League and especially for his organising abilities on Poppy Day, a voluntary church parade was held at Terrigal and was very well attended by members and much appreciated by Rev. May.

I assure the incoming committee of my loyal support and have to thank all members for the loyal support and assistance during my term of office, especially Mr Weeks, Major Adcock and Major Hinder and Mr Moody.

Hon. Secretary's Report

Mr L. G. Moody, as usual, an originally phased and well thought out report, which was adopted amid applause. Some extracts stated that the strength of this Sub-branch at the last annual meeting was forty-four (44), it is now forty-five (45). We have thus held our own, members may have left the district, but we have enrolled a larger number of new members than before. I feel very much hopeful for the future as regards membership than I have at any previous annual meeting since I was honoured by being elected your Secretary three years ago. But we must not in any way relax in our efforts, rather we must increase them by active personal propaganda induce the many returned servicemen who still remain outside the fold to come inside.

There have been twelve (12) meetings held during the year and the average attendance has been eleven (11), one better than last year. This is still nothing like it should be. I realise the difficulties in a place like Gosford, where there must be an average of six (6) meetings per night (including Sundays). Also, I know many of you live a long way out, but still, once a month is not very much to ask of you to benefit yourselves. The evenings are usually enjoyable, I think, and though our business papers are increasing there is always plenty of humour to enliven the meetings.

Anzac Day, with our usual service at the memorial passed off very well. An innovation last year was the reading out of names on the memorial. I think this could well be included in the service in future. Our Padre, the Rev. D. R. May had charge of the service and the Church of England, Methodist and Presbyterian Church and the Salvation Army assisted and Messrs Marsden, Short and Joseph (who again came up from Parramatta) played the Last Post. The Gosford Troop of the 1st Light Horse supplied the Colour Guard. To all these thanks are due. The general public turned up very well. There were a much larger number of returned fellows in the procession than in the last few years and this was very pleasing to see. Several of us went to Erina in the afternoon to the ceremony conducted by Rev. D. R. May and participated in a very nice little service at the memorial there. Also, a lorry took several up to Kulnura on the Sunday to assist in their service at the Hall.

The seventh Anzac Ball was held on Friday, 22nd of April. The weather was very unfortunate. The roads were in a very bad condition owing to the severe storm at Easter. The result was that our attendance suffered. We showed a loss of over four pounds (£4*). The only possible way to make it pay is to increase the sale of tickets beforehand by an organised drive. Mr Newton had earned our thanks by the way he tackled a rather thankless job of Hon. Secretary and it was certainly no fault of his that the attendance was not what it should have been. He put in a lot of hard work, as also did Mr Ironmonger on the catering, and to these gentlemen, to the Ball Sub-committee and to the many helpers our sincere thanks are offered.

During August I attended the annual State Congress in Sydney as your delegate. The Congress was very prolonged mainly on account of considerable discussion of the position created by Colonel Hyman's resignation as State President. After a good deal of very plain speaking, the matter was settled. Good work was done and I was much struck by the level-headed, forceful speaking of the delegates. An election took place in October for two vacant seats on the State Executive and Dr Brissenden and Mr C. M. Wilson were elected. I desire to record my appreciation of the ever ready and willing help I have received from the State Secretary.

The sale of Poppies on Armistice Day amounted to sixty-three pounds, seventeen shillings and seven pence (£63/17/7). This is an increase of twenty-eight pounds five shillings and five pence (£28/5/5) on the previous year. I am particularly grateful at this splendid result made possible by the wonderful help given by the ladies who collected; by Rev. D. R. May, who organised a considerable area round Terrigal and the great assistance given by several of the League members.

For the first time we held a very brief ceremony at the memorial on Armistice Day. The school children came from the High, Primary and Convent schools and made the ceremony what it should be, very simple, very beautiful and very impressive. Many people forget on Armistice Day, but after all, there is a lot who remembered. We held our second A. I. F. dinner on Armistice Night and it was without doubt a most successful gathering. There were many fine speeches, not the least being the response of the Italian Vice Consul, Signor Carosi. We look forward this year to a very large attendance and a reunion better than ever.

We have assisted a number of returned servicemen passing through the district in the way of money, meals, beds and fares. The need for our help is increasing and it is a question whether it might not be advisable to put into an account solely for relief purposes a portion of our bank balance.

Several of our members went down to Woy Woy and assisted at the formation of a Sub-branch there. There is room for a branch at Woy Woy and we should do anything in our power to help them along. Several of us also went to Hornsby to their smoke social there and to Wyong to their dinner.

I would draw your attention to the fact that League members are eligible for Club membership at half fees and no entrance fee is charged. Nominees are balloted for only by returned servicemen members of the Election Committee. No one can deny the usefulness of the Club and I would strongly ask you to consider whether it is not worthwhile.

We lost quite recently a very good friend in the later Rector, Rev. A. Renwick. He was always ready to give advice and help those returned men who went to him and we regret very deeply the loss of a kindly gentleman and a sincere friend. We also wish to record out very real sympathy with our Vice-President Mr Weeks in his recent loss.

The outlook for this Sub-branch is more hopeful than it has been for the last three years. Our financial position is very much better and this means that we shall have the opportunity to assist where we consider assistance is necessary and deserving. Our membership will, I think, be much increased during the ensuing year. Some of our old members are coming back. This is particularly hopeful sign. Organised unity is going to be the whole keynote of the League's success. Individually we can do nothing; collectively we can do a lot. As the years go on, the League becomes more and more necessary. Disabilities, necessity, the chance to put a reasonable case to the proper authority, to right wrongs and inequalities and lighten burdens where ignorance or short-sightedness or red tape or even deliberate intent have occasioned them that's what your State Branch in Sydney and your Head Office are for.

And if they know that where, before, from Gosford they had ten behind them, now they have got twenty, isn't it going to increase their power and confidence considerably? When they go to ask this or that be remedied, to ask, not to beg, won't they know that behind them is a backing that no authority, however high it may be, can ignore. Don't rest content to let the next man do it. Support your Sub-branch yourself to the best of your ability; induce new members to come in. Make this Sub-branch as it should be one of the strongest in the State. Let 1928 be a great and record breaking year and go for the century in membership.

Don't let your vision be clouded by small grievances and misunderstandings. A grievance only becomes bigger and bigger by nursing. If you consider you have room for complaint come to the meetings and have it out. Let us present a united front, out to help our comrades who are unfortunate and the dependents of those comrades who are no longer here; and out to assist in anything of benefit to our district. It is unthinkable that we should go back; it is pitifully weak to stand still. Let's go forward gentlemen, in step.¹⁰⁵

February 6, 1928

A meeting of members was held on Monday, February 6th, at the Brisbane Water District Club when the President, Mr C. G. Brandis took the chair for the first occasion. There was a good attendance. New members welcomed were Mr Cottew and Mr McDougall. In reference to the Collingridge benefit, the Treasurer reported a credit balance of sixty-eight pounds (£68*), with still a few tickets outstanding.

It was decided to hold a combined A.I.F. and Light Horse Ball to be called the Annual Military Ball. The Ball Secretary appointed was Mr E. E. Muir; caterers, Messrs E. Ironmonger, A. R. McDonald; committee, Messrs R. G. Bosanquet, A. K. Jamieson, R. E. Weeks (A. I. F.), Corporals Stephenson, Jones and Walsh (Light Horse). The date of the Ball will be Friday, April 27 and tickets will be twelve shillings and sixpence (12/6) a double.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid*

It was decided to hold the usual Anzac Day Celebrations and preliminary arrangements are to be carried out.

The League will write to the War Memorial Committee and ask them to have same completed by the fixing of rails around the monument.

The question of help for the widow of a returned soldier who died recently in a local hospital from the effects of gas was raised and the Secretary was instructed to write to the proper authorities regarding a widow's pension.

The next meeting will be held on the first Monday in March.¹⁰⁶

On Friday night last, a number of visitors were entertained by members of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. The guests being those who assisted the committee of the League in the recent Collingridge benefit. There were also several Club members present. There were also several Club members present. An enjoyable time was spent by all in dancing and other amusements. For the dancing, music was supplied by Mrs Dodd, Mr Eric Ironmonger and Mr Dodd and was greatly appreciated. At intervals during the dancing, vocal items were contributed by Mr Len Wade, Mr G. H. Dodd, Miss Ironmonger and Mrs Hinder and "Madelon" was sung by a trio consisting of Madame Adcock, Mr R. M. Maroney and Mr Len Wade. Mr J. K. Jamieson efficiently handled the duties of Master of Ceremonies.

Extra were played by Mrs R. B. Hinder. Mr Chris Brandis, President of the League in a brief address welcomed the visitors. Mr Eric Ironmonger thanked on behalf of the committee all who so willingly and generously assisted in the production of "A Night in Flanders" by the League in aid of Mr W. Collingridge, a member who had been injured in a motor cycle accident in Gosford Showground some two years ago and was still suffering the effects of the mishap.

* One pound =two Australian dollars

¹⁰⁶ Edward James Phillips, 1928, February 9, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Mr L. G. Moody supported the previous speakers remarks and stated that as a result of the efforts, with the co-operation of some of the local people, the benefit raised in the vicinity of seventy pounds (£70*) clear. This was apart from an account owed by Mr Collingridge to Dr Paul for medical treatment for which Dr Paul has generously given a clear receipt. Mr G. H. Dodd on behalf of the visitors responded and stated that he and Mrs Dodd were pleased to assist in so worthy a cause and thought that all helpers entertained the same sentiments.

The following names were mentioned by Mr E. Ironmonger as those of helpers in the benefit; Mr F. J. and Miss M. Buscombe, Mr and Mrs G. H. Dodd, Miss Dixon, Mr C. Hills, Mr Sid James, Mrs Hinder, Mrs Winch, Mrs Adcock, Miss McCabe, Miss Barbara Ironmonger, Miss Dora Rowe, Mr H. F. Rowe, Mr A. J. Cresswell and assistant and the *Gosford Times*.

Towards the termination of the happy evening a “decorated” address touching wittily on the humorous side of recently attempted and accomplished expeditions by the League Hon. Secretary to Queanbeyan were read and presented by Mrs Len Moody by Mr R. E. Weeks and Major Adcock. Mr Len Moody appropriately responded.¹⁰⁷

March 5, 1928

The monthly meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Monday night, March 5. Mr C. G. Brandis, President was in the chair and there was also present; Messrs Len Moody (Hon. Secretary), A. K. Jamieson (Treasurer), R. G. Bosanquet, R. E. Weeks, G. I. Adcock, D. A. Prentis, R. G. Frewin, Rev. D. R. May, W. A. Sullens, W. Mills, J. V. Parry, L. Wade, G. Wood, Mr McMahon, A. R. McDonald, P. C. Winch, Rev. J. B. Masson, R. Tucker and H. K. Wood.

Mr Adcock moved that Counsellor Paul be requested to ascertain what the Council was prepared to do with regard to flood-lighting the War Memorial and cleaning up round

* One pound =two Australian dollars

¹⁰⁷ Edward James Phillips, 1928, March 1, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

it, if possible, before Anzac Day. Seconded by Mr Weeks and carried. The War Memorial Committee also, will be further written to on the subject.

Messrs J. S. Gardiner, Rev. J. B. Masson, W. Mills and G. Wood were proposed for membership and approved on the motion of Messrs H. K. Wood and Moody for the first named and Messrs Jamieson and Frewin for the others.

In the case of s wounded returned soldier's pension, which it is desired to have raised from eight shillings and threepence (8/3*) per fortnight, correspondence was read, including a very prompt reply from the State Branch. It was decided, on the motion of Messrs McDonald and Jamieson to endeavour to secure a medical certificate and protest against the Repatriation decision disallowing the appeal for an increase.

A parent wrote seeking the League's assistance in securing a pension in respect of a deceased soldier. It was resolved to place the correspondence in a position to forward the application.

The State Branch wrote that a dinner was to be given to Aviator Bert Hinkler in Sydney Town Hall on Saturday night. The Sub-branch decided to send delegates and also communicate with Mr Hinkler, conveying congratulations and asking him to fly low when passing over the district so that residents might see his plane.

League members were glad to hear that Captain Hunter, an ex-service officer, would deliver one of his interesting lectures on a date to be announced.

Arrangements for Anzac Day were reported and directions were given in regard to matters not yet finalised. Rev. May said he wished to go to Condobolin on next Anzac Day. The League regretted this, but was glad to learn that Rev. Masson would act as Padre if necessary. Rev. May was asked to prepare a copy of the order of service for each year. The various Church ministers will be requested to have their choirs practice the hymns so that the volume of singing may be increased.¹⁰⁸

* Eight shillings and threepence (8/3), converts to eighty-three cents

¹⁰⁸ Edward James Phillips, 1928, March 15, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

On Saturday afternoon, March 10, at about 3 p.m. the people of Gosford was favoured with a view of Australia's man of the hour, Bert Hinkler, the airman wonder who made another great record for Australia throughout the world. Through the medium of the Gosford Sub-branch of the R. S. and S. I. League, Hinkler promised, if at all possible, to fly low over Gosford. A final reminder, by way of a telegram sent by *The Gosford Times* on account of the returned soldiers, which message was delivered whilst Hinkler was at the Newcastle Racecourse.

A huge white cross was made out on Waterside Park, in white canvas sheets and here a large crowd of people gathered while numbers were at other vantage points. The first view obtained of the famous machine and flier was as they flew over the mountain from the east and across the town. Over Waterside Park at an altitude of about two hundred (200) feet, he circled once, while the crowd cheered and waved greetings and then proceeded on his way to the city. Flying across Woy Woy, he was eagerly watched by the large crowds till his machine and the accompanying planes were lost to view. Hinkler's action in agreeing to fly low over the Park was keenly appreciated.¹⁰⁹

In a blaze of glorious sunshine, Anzac Day of 1928 was celebrated in this district on Wednesday, 25th April. The Gosford Sub-branch had charge of the central celebrations and carried them out with complete success according to the local paper. There was a larger muster of returned men than ever before, with about sixty (60) taking part and the attendance of the public at the service was also a record. The troops and other bodies constituting the procession were called to muster at the railway station at 10.45 a.m. and the Light Horse, Returned Men, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and so on, formed up in a parade of which Major G. I. Adcock, with Lieut. R. E. Weeks was Officer in Command.

The parade was headed by the Gosford Band under Bandmaster R. Wells and led by Captain J. V. Parry. The Colour Party and other Light Horsemen lent to the occasion the spick-and-span touch without which the procession would have been very ineffective and the returned men marched in extra strength. Scouts and Cubs under

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid*

Scoutmaster J. R. Bennie, made a brave showing as did the Guides under Miss I. Gollan (Captain) and Brownies in charge of Miss M. Gollan (Brown Owl). Several representatives of the district Lodges attended and many of the general public followed in cars and other vehicles.

The procession marched through a street decked with a few flags and lined with many people. At the Memorial in Gosford Park, there was gathered a congregation larger than in former years. The service at the Cenotaph reverently followed by the large number of people gathered was conducted by the Rev. David R. May, an active serviceman and a League member and Padre for the day. When the procession arrived at the Gosford Park, the Colour Party placed laurel wreaths upon the Memorial in Christ Church grounds and on the South African Memorial. Standard bearers were Sergeants R. G. Frewin and Eric Ironmonger. A guard was posted on the corners of the Memorial steps comprising Sergeant Stevenson, Sergeant Walsh, Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant Jones and Corporal Walsh and the men carried out their trying duties splendidly wrote the local paper.

The order of service opened with the National Anthem for which an accompaniment was played by the Band. Music for several well-known hymns was also played effectively by the Band. Prayers were offered by the Rev. A. E. Saxon, Rector of Christ Church, Gosford, as the Rev. G. A. Bailey was prevented from being present, and the people repeated the Lord's Prayer. Scripture passages were read by Ensign Hooper of the Salvation Army and Mr John Lang of the Presbyterian Church. The address was delivered by Rev. D. R. May, who spoke with his customary earnestness and sincerity on the lessons to be drawn from the day and its associations.

Anzac Day commemorated the baptism of blood of the Australian nation, which went into the war with clean hands voluntarily and in the defence of right. Their record from the conflict was one of victory achieved and freedom guarded. They had much to remember and much to be proud of and their part now was to live worthily of the heritage of glory bequeathed them by the heroes who fell. The war was not over in a sense; as long as they lived they must fight the battle as good soldiers for God, for Country and for Home. The Last Post was sounded by Sergeant C. Masden and Trumpeter W. C. Short and wreaths were placed upon the steps of the Cenotaph.

The names of the faithful departed were read in solemn commutation as under the names inscribed. The *Reveille* was sounded and after singing the final hymn, the benediction was pronounced by the Rector of Gosford. A collection at the service towards defraying the cost of a railing around the Cenotaph raised sixteen pounds seven shillings and five pence halfpenny (£16/7/5½).¹¹⁰

May 4, 1928

At the May meeting held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night there were present C. G. Brandis, President, L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary, E. E. Muir, R. G. Frewin, A. K. Jamieson, R. G. Bosanquet, R. E. Weeks, C. Ironmonger, W. M. Moore, L. Rayner, G. Wood, I. Farrant, C. Jackson, W. C. Kelly, A. B. McDonald, J. V. Parry, H. K. Wood, Rev. D. R. May, R. Tucker and J. Rolls.

Mr Frewin reported in reference to the War Memorial Committee meeting.

The State Secretary forwarded a circular from the British Legion, the U. K. ex-servicemen's organisation, suggesting methods of fostering consumption of goods produced within the Empire. It was resolved to hand the circular to Justfruit Ltd., the Packing House and the Fruitgrower's Federation, with a request that they supply the information needed.

The State Secretary wrote referring to nominations for the position on the Repatriation Board. Too late.

The State Secretary wrote stating that more support, particularly by advertisers, was needed for the League journal, *The Reveille*, the meeting did not see what action should be taken.

The State Secretary wrote in reference to the Congress to be held on August 7, and following days. He was also asking for name of the delegate and reference to business. The Hon. Secretary, Mr Moody was appointed delegate and the President, Mr Brandis

¹¹⁰ Edward James Phillips, 1928, April 26, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

was also asked to attend and consented to do so. The business for the agenda will be considered later.

Mr J. Bruce Masson wrote tendering his resignation and was accepted.

The action of the Rev. D. R. May in breaking his holiday and sacrificing a special Anzac Day celebration at Condobolin in order to serve the League as Padre at Gosford district services was commented on by the President, whose remarks were endorsed by applause by those present.

The Secretary reported that Anzac Day celebrations had passed off successfully and the collection of sixteen pounds (£16*) odd, less the net expenses of the day would be handed to the Memorial Committee. Mr H. F. Rowe had donated some interested photographs he had taken and some taken by him and Mr C. Hills in former years were also given to the League. Mr Moore also had some photos of the opening of the Club. Mr Moody suggested that an album be established to keep these and similar records of interest to the League and this was approved.

Appreciation was recorded of the services of the Gosford Band, which were regarded as excellent by a new organisation. Thanks were also expressed to the Light Horsemen, Trumpeters (Messrs Marsden and Short), Scouts, Guides and Brownies, Mr A. A. Golan, the Council and Mr A. J. Cresswell for lighting, the Rev. J. Lang for help cheerfully given, and to the Ourimbah Committee for the invitation and donation towards improvement of the Memorial surrounding.

The approaching marriage of Mr Jamieson, the League's Treasurer and a fine worker, was mentioned and it was resolved to mark the occasion with a members gathering on Friday, May 18th.

Mr Weeks attended on behalf of the Light Horseman, an invitation to members and their friends to attend the bivouac at Chinamen's Bay at the week-end camp, which was voluntarily attended by the troops and of which they paid the expenses.

Mr Ironmonger submitted several suggestions prompted by Anzac Day experience, including endorsement of the Prime Minister's declaration that Anzac Day should not be treated at least in the morning as a holiday and that school children should assemble and attend a service, that community singing be better organised for the services, with the special help of Church choirs and school children. Messrs Brandis, Moore, Moody, Rev. May and Kelly endorsed and elaborated these suggestions. The necessity for district organisations of the various services was emphasised. It was resolved to place the matter of better planned schools celebration of the Day on the agenda paper for the State Conference.

Mr Jamieson proposed that a social evening be held on or about August 8, to celebrate the "Big Push" which was the beginning of the end of the war. The idea was enthusiastically received and members resolved to make it a real "Diggers Night". It will be further considered at the next meeting.

Rev. May suggested that the League signify its support of the Ambulance movement, which was a fine thing. Messrs Jamieson, Brandis, Wood and Rayner supported this and explained the free and universal service given by the ambulance. The meeting agreed to give its support.

Messrs Jamieson and Brandis stressed the need for urging non-member Diggers the reason why they should be members of the League. The membership list was growing, but there were still many ex-servicemen in the district who should be enrolled. Mr Frewin suggested that parties of members could go out to other centres and secure members and Mr Jamieson mentioned recent instances which had amply justified the existence of the League to fight for the rights of ex-service men and their dependants. The suggestion to visit outlying centres was adopted, the campaign to commence on the Mountain and at Terrigal. Arrangements are to be made by Messrs R. McL. Maroney, G. Wood, Rev. May and Mr Parry respectively.¹¹¹

Brisbane Water District Club

* One pound =two Australian dollars+

¹¹¹ Edward James Phillips, 1928, May 10, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Annual Report

May 26, 1928

There was a record attendance at the Brisbane Water District Club on Saturday evening, when the annual meeting was held. Captain G. I. Adcock, President of Trustees occupied the chair. The officer's annual reports were read and adopted. The first being that of retiring President, R. G. Bosanquet,

President's Report

Mr Bosanquet said there were two hundred and one (201) members, a satisfactory tally. The House Committee had realised that its duty was to make the year an economic one, as sources of revenue apart from subscriptions were limited. As fresh arrangement had been made as to catering, members were asked to help in this and other departments by making to the Committee any suggestions which occurred to them. The tennis courts had not attracted a payable membership and unless the position considerably improved, the lease would not be renewed after August. Special nights had been successful, especially the Hawaiian night and the Dutch night and Mr Hickey and the amusement committee merited thanks for their efforts. Major Adcock with psychological tests and Mr Muir with lectures and the debates had made an interesting and educational side. In the general work of the Club, Mr Cresswell, Mr White and "other silent workers" had done much to assist the President, who hoped the same help would be given to his successor.

Mr S. G. Parr congratulated the retiring President on his successful year of office. It was a particularly hard year, but Mr Bosanquet, they knew, was a silent worker and many things were done that very few knew about. Mr Parr's remarked were supported by Mr G. H. Dodd, who said the majority of members did not realise the responsibility incident to running a concern like the Club as it was no easy task. The Club was a very valuable asset to Gosford. He hoped members would rally round and give every support to the new Committee as they had done in the past. He was sorry to see that the debates held during the past year were not better attended.

Prior to reading his report the Secretary, Mr L. G. Moody said it was one of the few occasions on which “he could get something off his chest.” Major Adcock read the annual balance sheet and the Trustees Report.

Secretary’s Report

Mr L. G. Moody, Secretary to the Club read a characteristic report. There were two hundred and four (204) members (three had paid up since the President made out his figures) one hundred and eleven (111) full members and ninety-three (93) associates. Some former members had not renewed their subscriptions or resigned. It was hoped that these would if possible re-join, but in any case it would simplify matters if they let the Committee know of their intentions. The lost to the Club by the death of Rev. A. Renwick and the departure of Mr R. B. Hinder was referred to with regret.

On the amusement side, the billiard table had once again proved popular and tournaments were won by Mr Stevenson, Dr Duncan and Mr Mortimer. Members would help these fixtures by playing their games promptly as drawn. It was hoped to promote a ladies tournament. Bridge had not been quite such a feature as formerly. Wednesday was not recognised in the same measure as a card evening and this was a pity. The lecture of Mr Martin and other features on the educational side had been valuable and it was proposed to quicken interest by a fixed syllabus for say three months ahead.

The special Saturday nights had attracted an attendance average of fifty (50) and thanks were due to the Amusement Committee, who had a difficult task in thinking up and carrying into effect new ideas. Members were asked to help by entering into the spirit of the different evenings organised. The outside amusements had not been so satisfactory. Tennis had not been a success and unless a concrete scheme of reform, bringing in some real hard cash was adopted, the Club could not carry on this adjunct. Mr Newton and Mr Curtis had done good work in this department. Apparently not so many visitors had come to the Club this year, but this was difficult to estimate, as unfortunately members did not always see the names of visiting friends were entered in the book. This should be done always.

The Club was not as freely used during the afternoons as it should be. Members should realise that it was open at such times and offered an ideal place for friendly meetings and entertainment. The service was excellent and every effort was being made to improve it in any way which suggested itself and to follow up any suggestions made. Members were asked to remember that the Club's phone number was 224 and that dinners, lunches, teas or suppers could be provided for any number at any time and that it was to the advantage of all concerned that reasonable notice be given. With regards to complaints if any member considered there was occasion for them, it was particularly asked that they be made in the Club and to an officer or member of the House Committee and not somebody down the street.

Any representation made in the proper quarter would be quickly investigated and satisfaction given, but criticisms broadcasted among the general public did not do good, but harm all round. Mr Moody concluded by assuring members that progress, if steady, had been made during the year and the rate of progress could be greatly quickened if members would determine to work in the closest co-operation with the House Committee and give the latter the benefit of their opinions and suggestions on all phases of the Club's activities as well as their practical support by attending as often as possible.

They had a Club of which they could be justly proud and which had made for itself a place of considerable importance in the town and district. They must preserve their great asset, an atmosphere of genuine cordiality, with no slightest suspicion of aloofness or snobbery and foster the feeling among all members that the Club belongs to them and that on their interest depends its success, then the future would be assured. There could be no better closing words than those on the Dedication Plate and he asked them all to individually, collectively and (to coin a word) friendly "Carry On."

Trustee President's Report

Major Adcock, President of the Board of Directors, Trustee Company, reported that during the year progress had been made in many directions, with necessary adjustments and alterations. A tribute was paid to the House Committee headed by Mr Bosanquet, the President. The necessity for close co-operation between members generally and the

House Committee was emphasised. Any committeeman would be pleased to give prompt consideration or complaint should there be an occasion for the latter. It was hoped that increased attention might be paid to the trading facilities of the Club and to the intellectual activities.

The financial year started with a deficit and also heavy commitments, but with a scheme of reorganisation, hard work and close attention to the economy, it had been possible to show not the large debit which had been feared, but a greatly reduced deficit compared with last year. The need was apparent however for an increased income. Interest and depreciation must be provided for and it must be remembered that renewals would be needed in furnishings and so on. The Trustees had reluctantly concluded, after examining every proposal for a remedy, that an increase in subscription rates was necessary, for the present scale was notably low in relation to other similar Clubs, or to service given.

In the various classes the Club was available to members at a cost which ranged from a penny to twopence per day, and few would dispute that its privileges were worth far more than that. The soldier members had led the way by suggesting unanimously at a meeting that they, at any rate, were willing to pay more. The Trustees suggested a new scale, showing a few shillings increase in each of the several classes of membership.

Members Remarks

The proposal included in the report regarding increasing fees was generally regarded as indicating a necessary course. Mr Millikan suggested that the five mile (5) radius which entitled members to fifty (50) per cent reduction be increased to ten (10) or fifteen (15) miles. Dr Paul said that he supposed the matter of increasing fees had received the Committee's careful consideration. He was assured by the Chairman that it had and there seemed no alternative. Mr A. K. Jamieson said that every member should seek new Cub members. There were plenty in the district who were eligible and should join up. It was up to the members to assist the Committee in this matter.

Mr A. C. Morris stated that Gosford was the only country town in New South Wales that possessed a Club of this nature. Gosford people were lucky to have in their mist

such a fine concern. He was surprised however to find that, though it was a Returned Soldiers Club only thirty-eight (38) out of two hundred (200) members were Diggers. He was going to try to obtain more returned men as members in his Shire's travels.

Sister Ricketts suggested that one of the tennis courts be converted to a croquet court for the benefit of some members who would follow the game. Some of the males saw humorous possibilities opened up by this suggestion and one proposed the opening of tin hare coursing on the other court, but another voice informed him "they'd get rusty." Mrs Stevens suggested that tennis players decide definitely whether they would use both courts so that the ladies could get on with croquet.

Proposals Adopted

The various reports were cordially received by members as earnest efforts for the welfare of the Club. The various suggestions made were approved by the general meeting and with others advanced by members will be carefully considered by the House Committee.

The Election of Officers

The election of officers was the next business. Messrs C. T. Pile and Austin were appointed scrutineers. Mr E. E. Muir, after a ballot with Mr A. D. Hickey was elected President for the ensuing year and as Vice-Presidents, Messrs Bosanquet and Hickey were elected. The following were elected to the House Committee Messrs S. G. Parr, A. K. Jamieson, A. C. Morris, C. G. Brandis, A. J. Cresswell and R. Millikin..

Suggestions

Mr Parr suggested that to add to the enjoyment of members the wireless set should be used more frequently, say once or twice a week and that one night be devoted to wireless music only. The set was a good one and splendid programmes were frequently broadcast. The Chairman said the Committee would consider this and other suggestions made. Mr Jamieson proposed that lady associates be given the privilege of voting at

annual meetings. Mr Cresswell seconded. After discussion during which Mr Millikin pointed out that in England woman did not vote under the age of thirty (30) and Mr Ironmonger suggested that if woman voted they would presumably pay the full fees and not half and the lady members had indicated by ten (10) to eight (8) that they did not desire the vote, a vote of male members decided that lady associate members should not vote.

Votes of Thanks

Mr Dodd proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring officials, who had carried out their arduous duties very creditably. He thought everyone was satisfied with their work. This was carried by acclamation. On behalf of the retiring officials Mr Bosanquet responded. He said he was pleased to see their work had not been for naught. Mr Millikin moved a vote of thanks to the press. *The Gosford Times* he stated, had all along helped the Club considerably with publicity given to special evenings, meetings and so on. Mr H. G. Baker, on behalf of the family of the late Mr R. J. Baker, proprietors of *The Gosford Times* and *Woy Woy Herald* responded. Mr Jamieson moved a vote of thanks to Mrs Stephens for the promotion of mah-jongg parties throughout the year. Mr Millikin, a vote of thanks to unelected candidates and Mr Muir to the Chairman.¹¹²

June 1, 1928

The monthly meeting was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night, there being present Messrs C. G. Brandis, President, L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary, R. E. Weeks, A. C. Morris, R. G. Frewin, J. A. Haines of Woy Woy, R. G. Bosanquet, Rev. D. R. May, L. Farrant, P. C. Winch, H. K. Wood, L. K. Kelman, A. B. Vercoe, F. Atkins, W. Kelly, G. Wood, R. Burns, Mr Kinghorn, H. A. Baines and A. R. McDonald.

The proceedings commenced with the customary ceremony of standing while the words "Lest We Forget" were pronounced by all.

Mr Weeks for the Light Horse thanked the League for the letter of appreciation in reference on Anzac Day and also for the interest shown in the recent bivouac.

¹¹² Edward James Phillips, 1928, May 31, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

In connection with the "Lazy Loafers" subscription movement, it had been decided to make Mr H. K. Wood a Vice-President of the Squadron Association.

Mr J. Lang wrote acknowledging thanks for services on Anzac Day and expressing his willingness to help in any way.

The Rev. D. R. May, League Padre, also wrote in appreciation of the thanks tendered.

The Rev. A. E. Saxon wrote in similar strain and also suggested a community commemoration gathering indoors on Anzac Night. The interest displayed by these gentlemen was appreciated and the Rev. Saxon's suggestion was held for consideration before next Anzac Day.

In reference to the album of commemorative photos to be compiled, several members reported the progress and it was stated that Mr H. F. Rowe had offered to donate the album. Thanks were expressed for this.

A resolution of sympathy with Madam Adcock in her recent accident was carried.

Messrs L. K. Kelman, J. A. Hill and A. B. Vercoe were nominated for membership. This was approved and the two present were welcomed.

Assistance given to Diggers passing through by order for meals and accommodation was reported on and approved.

The Anzac Ball accounts showed a credit of five pounds nineteen shillings and nine pence (£5/19/9) which was promptly made up to six pounds (£6*). This will be divided equally between the Light Horse and League funds. A motion of congratulations to the Ball Committee was passed.

The date for a meeting of returned men on the Mountain was fixed for Friday, June 15, when a number of members will make the trip to confer with comrades up that way.

The meeting will be held at Mr McL. Maroney's residence and the party from the Lowlands will meet at the Union corner at 7 p.m. on the 15th.

A welcome was extended to Mr Jack Haines, Hon. Secretary of the Woy Woy Sub-branch, who responded and tendered an invitation to members to a smoko at Woy Woy on Thursday, June 7.¹¹³

July 6, 1928

The July meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch, R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night, 6th inst. There was a fair attendance which included Messrs C. G. Brandis, President, L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary, R. E. Weeks, R. G. Frewin, E. E. Muir, A. K. Jamieson, E. Ironmonger, R. G. Bosanquet, W. C. Short, L. Rayner, A. R. McDonald, L. K. Kelman, W. C. Kelly, A. B. Vercoe, H. K. Wood, G. Cronin, Rev. D. R. May, A. C. Morris, G. Wood and C. I. Jackson. Messrs W. C. Short of Gosford, W. A. Smith of Somersby and G. Cronin of Gosford were accepted as new members and the two present were welcomed.

Correspondence

The publishers wrote again in reference to advertising support for the League paper *Reveille*. It was decided to try and get some local advertisements.

The State Branch wrote (before their arrival) in reference to subscriptions for Kingsford-Smith and Ulm, Pacific flyers. No action was taken as the situation in regard to the fliers finance had changed since their arrival.

Cootamundra Sub-branch requested their support for a resolution at the State Conference in August in reference to immigration, with a view to preventing promiscuous entry by a quota system. To be informed that Gosford Sub-branch would heartily support restriction of entry of undesirable immigrants.

* One pound =two Australian dollars

¹¹³ Edward James Phillips, 1928, June 7, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Arrangements in connection with the A. I. F. Dinner in Sydney on August 8 were detailed by the State Branch.

Further correspondence was received regarding a member's pension.

An appeal was made by the State Branch for reading material for ex-soldiers in Callan Park. Members will leave books; magazines and so on at the Club and the Secretary will forward them on.

An acknowledgement was received of a congratulatory wire sent by the Hon. Secretary for the Sub-branch to Kingsford-Smith and his crew. To be framed and hung in the Board Room when autographed by the fliers.

The action of the Secretary in distributing certain assistance to Diggers passing through was endorsed.

The President and Secretary reported on a visit to the Mountain. Visits will be made to other centres as soon as arrangements can be made.

It was stated the election committee had agreed that children of League and Club members would be admitted to the premises on League meeting nights and a resolution of appreciation of this action was recorded.

Memorial Lighting

Mr Frewin reported that it had been decided to ask Councillor Taylor and Councillor Paul to attend a ceremony at the Gosford War Memorial on August 4 at 7.15 p.m. when Mrs Dermody as the senior lady on the War Memorial Committee would switch on the flood lights erected by Mr A. J. Cresswell. After the short ceremony, those concerned would be invited to attend the Brisbane Water District Club. The Gosford Band will be asked to assist. Mr Frewin added that he and Mr A. A. Gollan, Trustee of the Park would be glad to know the League's wishes as to the disposal of a sum of money in hand, about twenty-five pounds (£25*). It was decided to ask Mr Gollan to confer with

Mr Morris and others to the end that a scheme of beautification of the Memorial Park is prepared and that Shire assistance is asked for.

Other Matters

The meeting resolved to send to Mr R. McL Maroney of the Mountain a message congratulating him on the success of an operation he had undergone in Randwick Military Hospital.

Mr Short thanked the League for its letter of appreciation of his services as trumpeter and stated he was always pleased to take part in Anzac Day celebrations.

Surprise was expressed at the action of the Defence Department in declining to make available a bugler to blow "Retreat" every evening at the Cenotaph in Sydney.¹¹⁴

September 7, 1928

The monthly meeting was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night. There were present; Messrs C. G. Brandis, President, R. G. Frewin, R. E. Weeks, Rev. D. R. May, D. A. Prentice, G. H. Hannaford, E. Ironmonger, J. White, I. Farrant, L. Rayner, G. Cronin, L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary. G. Wood, C. J. B. Kinghorn, H. T. May, A. K. Jamieson, Treasurer, C. I. Jackson, R. Tucker, A. R. McDonald, J. E. Sleeman, A. C. Morris and H. K. Wood. Apologies were made for Messrs V. Parry, W. Short and A. Kinghorn. The following new members were proposed; Messrs A. S. May, H. T. May of Gosford, N. S. Denning of Terrigal, L. H. Banister of Wamberal, J. Cardwell of Terrigal, J. E. Sleeman and W. J. Goodsir of Gosford. All were approved. Mr H. T. May and J. E. Sleeman were present and were welcomed.

Mr J. A. Haines, Hon. Secretary, Woy Woy Sub-branch, notified transfer of members from that Sub-branch to Gosford and they were Messrs G. A. Brown and J. G. Riley.

In the Mail

* One pound =two Australian dollars

¹¹⁴ Edward James Phillips, 1928, July 12, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

The publishers of *Reveille*, the League magazine wrote in reference to subscriptions. The State Secretary wrote on the same subject. The Sub-branch will subscribe the sum asked for twelve shillings (12/-). Mr Cronin donated the amount.

Poppy Day, November 9

The Poppy Day Appeal Committee wrote notifying arrangements for the Friday, November 9 collection. Mr Jamieson and Mr Frewin seconded that a Committee be appointed to organise the Sub-branch's effort this year. The Committee chosen was Messrs Prentice, Weeks, Frewin, with the President, Secretary and Treasurer ex-officio. It was decided to order one thousand (1,000) poppies; last year's order was six hundred (600). Mr Cronin said he would pay for any poppies unsold out of the one thousand (1,000).

The State Secretary wrote in reference to C. E. Jacobsen's pension, which as a result of representation had been substantially increased, dating back to 1921. This was noted with satisfaction.

Soldier Settlers Meeting, September 20

The State Secretary wrote to the Conference of representatives of soldier settlers to discuss disabilities and to formulate requests to the Government. Mr Ironmonger moved and Mr Cronin seconded that a meeting of all soldier settlers interested be called for Thursday afternoon, September 20, at 2 p.m. was fixed as the date on the motion of Messrs Rayner and Prentice.

Recent Congress

The State Secretary forwarded the resolutions passed at Congress. Mr Moody our delegate, reported on the proceedings at Congress. Eighty-five (85) Sub-branches were represented. All the proposals which Gosford Sub-branch had recommended were carried. Twenty-five (25) new Sub-branches had been established during the year and the membership of old Sub-branches was considerably improved. A motion appreciative of Mr Moody's services as delegate and lucid account of the business was carried with acclamation.

Other Letters

The State Secretary wrote in reference to State wide ballot for executive positions. No nominations will be made from this Sub-branch.

The State Secretary wrote thanking the Sub-branch for the parcel of reading matter for Callan Park. Parcel was received and further parcels to be sent.

A “Monthly Talk” from the State Secretary was read, giving an outline of the League progress in the State and indicating directions in which the efforts could with advantage be made.

It was agreed to make a special effort to get the sixteen (16) more members required to bring the tally to one hundred (100).

The Annual Dinner

The annual A. I. F. Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 10th, at 5.30 p.m. November 11th, Armistice Day, falls on Sunday this year. The Committee in charge will be Messrs Frewin, Ironmonger, Weeks, Morris with the President, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer ex-officio. They will formulate plans and report to the next Sub-branch meeting.

Meeting on the Mountain

Mr Jamieson moved that a special general meeting of the Sub-branch be held on the Mountain on Friday, September 21.

It was suggested that a valedictory be tendered to Mr W. Short, who is under notice of transfer to Oxford Street Post Office on the same night.

“In Everlasting Light”

It was resolved to ask the Shire Council if it was not feasible to have the Cenotaph illuminated directly at dark, instead of sometime later; it being held that the sentiment attached to the provision of light was that the Memorial should never be in the darkness.

It was suggested by Mr Frewin that an annual picnic be held by the Sub-branch. Details will be considered at the December meeting.

The action of the Secretary and Treasurer in expending amounts for "Diggers" relief was endorsed.¹¹⁵

October 5, 1928

The Monthly meeting was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night. President C. G. Brandis was in the chair, also present were; Messrs L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary. R. E. Weeks, R. G. Frewin, R. G. Bosanquet, Rev. D. R. May, I. Farrant, W. Short, G. Wood, A. K. Jamieson, R. K. Payne, L. Rayner, G. Cronin, J. White, R. Tucker, A. R. McDonald, A. Kinghorn, Mr Mitchell, C. Kinghorn, J. E. Sleeman, N. Pinkstone, G. A. Brown and H. K. Wood. Apologies were from Messrs F. Atkins, W. Kelly and D. A. Prentice.

Everlasting Light

Members were pleased to note that the lights and the Cenotaph were now turned on at dusk, and appreciation was expressed at the action of the Shire Council and Electrical Engineer, Mr A. J. Cresswell in this regard. Regret was felt however, at a statement that the lights were cut off at midnight; this is quite spoiling, in the view of members, the fine thought associated with the lighting of the Memorial that "their names shall never see darkness". It was thought that if the extra current required to continue the lighting from midnight to daylight was a consideration, some satisfactory adjustment could be made.

Buy a Poppy on November 9

The number of poppies disposed of last year was one thousand (1,000), it was remarked in a corrected statement and one thousand four hundred (1,400) had been ordered for this year, a total it was keenly desired to see sold. With the aid of enthusiastic workers it was regarded as quite likely the objective would be achieved.

¹¹⁵ Edward James Phillips, 1928, September 13, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

New Members

The following were proposed and approved; Messrs A. S. Brown, R. Mackenzie, A. A. Anderson, R. Phelps, J. Coglin, R. K. Payne, Mr Roach and G. Holme. Mr Payne was present and was welcomed.

Correspondence

Mr C. E. Jacobson of Woy Woy thanked the League for action taken on his behalf for his pension and stated he desired to remain with Gosford District Sub-branch, received.

The State Branch wrote in reference to the election for two seats on the New South Wales executive. Another letter on behalf of a candidate Mr E. Clarke was received.

It was asked that all members and men eligible to become members should get a ballot paper from the Hon. Secretary and record a vote. The poll closes on October 31st.

City Sub-branch acknowledged with appreciation the hospitality extended to Mr George Brown, their Vice-President and was received.

The Annual Dinner

Mr Moody reported that tentative arrangements for the Armistice Dinner on November 10, Saturday, were being made. A decision for the location was desired as the Club was too small and neither Buscombe's nor the Masonic Hall was available but, White's was. It was decided to engage White's Hall.

Armistice Day Service

It was decided to again have a short commemorative service at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day, Sunday, November 11th. The meeting resolved to hold the commemorative, which is a very brief service, at 10.45 requesting the respective clergymen to delay the commencement of their regular services till 11.15. Teachers at schools will be asked to co-operate in making the occasion known to the children and if possible coaching them in singing as last year. The 1927 service was regarded as very

effective in its simplicity and very well worth while perpetuating. The League recommends members to attend the service at their respective churches before or after the commemoration on Armistice Day.

The Mountain Meeting

The President reported in happy vein on the meeting held on the Mountain on September 21st and stated that those not present missed a treat.

Rev. May stated that the promised meeting at Terrigal had not been forgotten and was likely to be held in the near future.

The President said it was desired also to hold a meeting at Matcham.

A Moral Obligation

Mr Weeks spoke of the debt remaining in the Hospital Art Union enterprise, which was still causing a lot of worry and anxiety to members of that committee and was a burden they should not be left to bear. He suggested that the Returned Services League might see fit to put its whole weight behind a movement to again place the plight of the men concerned before the Hospital Committee. A statement of the position recounted that Mr E. E. Muir, Chairman, at the request of the League, of the Art Union Committee, had been visited by a representative of the firm to which an amount of seventy-two pounds (£72) was still owing on a debt which had been one hundred (£100), of which twenty-eight pounds (£28) had been paid as a result of an entertainment.

In January, 1925, a full meeting of the Hospital Committee was held and an agreement was reached with the Gosford Sub-branch that the latter would conduct an art union in aid of Hospital funds. In consideration of the League supplying the organisation ready for use as created by the Gosford Five Art Union, the Hospital Committee agreed to pay the League seven and a half per cent on the gross takings of the Hospital Art Union. A change of government after the start caused great difficulty delay and loss and only four hundred pounds (£400) was handed to the Hospital Committee and the Art Union was left heavily in debt, which had been reduced by heavy contributions from the private pockets of members of the Art Union Committee.

As the amount handed to the Hospital Committee was less than the amount due to the League on the seven and a half per cent arrangement, the League offered to waive the seven and a half per cent payment in consideration of the Hospital Committee undertaking to pay off the one hundred pounds (£100) owing to the Sydney printing firm. Arrangements were in hand for the Hospital Committee to pay this debt out of the four hundred pounds (£400*) handed to them when, on account of the action of a person in this district, the then Minister was forced to disallow the payment, in spite of it being obviously a moral obligation.

When this occurred the Hospital Committee, who felt the position as keenly as did members of the League decided to run entertainments to clear the debt. It was felt that perhaps the urgency of the case had been lost sight of during recent months, but it was thought that the Hospital Committee, being reminded of the position, would give the same active and practical help as in the past. A number of members endorsed the proposal to communicate with the Hospital Committee on this long delayed matter and it was resolved to represent to that body the position as outlined above.

Other Items

A letter will be sent to Mr D. A. Prentice expressing sympathy necessitating operations in a Sydney Hospital.

Mr Cronin mentioned that he had lost his League badge and would be glad to hear from anyone who had found it.¹¹⁶

November 2, 1928

The November meeting held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday was well attended. Mr C. G. Brandis, President was in the chair and there were also present; Messrs R. G. Frewin, R. E. Weeks, A. K. Jamieson, E. Ironmonger, A. C. Morris, R. G. Bosanquet, G. Cronin, J. White, G. Hannaford, R. Tucker, L. Rayner, I. Farrant, E.

* One pound =two Australian dollars

¹¹⁶ Edward James Phillips, 1928, October 11, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

M. Faulkner, Rev. D. R. May, Kinghorn, Jackson, Atkins, Mitchell, T. Marshall, A. R. McDonald, G Wood and H. K. Wood. Apologies were received from Messrs L. G. Moody, A. McL. Maroney, J. E. Sleeman, J. Coglan, Denning, D. A. Prentice, D. Daly and Martin. In the absence of Mr Len Moody through illness, Mr Jamieson, Treasurer, carried out the secretarial duties. New Members were approved, Messrs A. Tait, E. Edwards, R. Shorrocks and T. Marshall. Their accession was noted with satisfaction. The last named was present and welcomed.

Correspondence

Minutes were tabled of the conference of representatives of soldier settlements.

Manly Sub-branch wrote in reference to an art union to pay for a hall and stating tickets would be forwarded. It was held over as tickets were not to hand.

New South Wales Branch sent Mr Stagg's monthly talk, this time on Family Endowment.

Members were asked to support Mrs Bryant's Poppy Day dance at Mangrove Mountain on November 24th.

Poppy Day

It was reported that fifteen hundred (1,500) poppies had been received and it was hoped to sell all these. Arrangements were made for advertising the day, tomorrow November 9th.

The Entrance will be included in the effort this year with the assistance of local workers.

Terrigal, Wamberal, Kincumber, Matcham, Erina, Ourimbah, Mangrove Mountain and other centres will be worked with the assistance of various friends. Anzac Fellowship of Woman members will supervise the ladies assistance in Gosford and adjacent places.

Church Parade at Terrigal

A special service will be held at Terrigal Church of England by the Rector Rev. D. R. May on Armistice Night, which is Sunday. Cars and Lorries will take ex-servicemen and their friends out and it is hoped there will be a big muster. Gosford people will meet at the Union Corner at 6.45 p.m.

The Reunion Dinner

Arrangements are well in hand for the A. I. F. Reunion Dinner this Saturday, November 10th, in White's Hall. It is probable that the famous aviators Kingsford-Smith and Charles Ulm will be among the distinguished visitors. Referring to the use of the Club on Armistice Night, it was resolved after considerable discussion that the House Committee be notified that the League will as usual require the use of the Club on that night for the wives of Diggers, but the Committee might keep the Club open for members if so desired.

On Saturday, November 10th, members will meet at the Cenotaph at 5.30 and place a wreath thereon.

General

Preliminary suggestions were made for a special social fixture for lady friends including, Nurses, Red Cross workers, Poppy Day and other helpers.

A vote of sympathy with Mr Moody in his illness was carried.

Mr Weeks proposed that a special war film to be shown in Sydney be procured for showing in Gosford at the Valencia Theatre if possible and proceeds to go towards liquidating the art union debt.

The League's hearty thanks were tendered to Mr Ironmonger for illumination in handsome scroll form the famous address of the Bishop of Amiens from a copy which

had been in the treasured possession of the Late R. J. Baker and was made available by Mr R. G. Baker.¹¹⁷

December 7, 1928

The last regular meeting for 1928 of the Gosford District Sub-branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A. was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night. There were present C. G. Brandis, President, L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary, A. K. Jamieson, Treasurer, R. G. Frewin, R. E. Weeks, E. E. Muir, G. Wood, I. Farrant, G. Cronin, L. Rayner, R. Tucker, A. R. McDonald, A. C. Morris, J. E. Sleeman, Mitchell, Jackson, Rev. D. R. May and H. K. Wood. Apologies came from Messrs F. Atkins and J. White.

New Members

Messrs A. J. Woodward, J. A. Sterland and J. Gibson were proposed as new members and accepted. The first named was present and was welcomed.

Correspondence

The State Executive asked for support in pressing for the conferring of a Knighthood on Kingsford-Smith and C. Ulm. Members mentioned Bert Hinkler and it was received, it being held that the Sub-branch was not called upon to pronounce on the comparative values to the country of the respective flights.

The State Executive wrote in reference to the time for the Anzac Day march, morning or afternoon. The Sub-branch favoured metropolitan branches being released from a resolution of the Congress fixing the march in the afternoon as it was considered a matter for the city League's to decide.

Picton Lakes T. B. Settlement wrote referring to a military ball in Sydney on November 27, and was received.

The State Executive advised that Messrs Brissenden and Hyman had been elected to the executive in the State ballot and it was received.

¹¹⁷ Edward James Phillips, 1928, November 8, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

The Australian War Museum had written various letters referring to slides and was received.

The State Executive wrote that the Government was still being pressed for a favourable decision on request by soldiers settles and was received.

Poppy Day Success

Mr Jamieson, Treasurer, presented a balance sheet of Poppy Day showing a total of receipts representing seventeen hundred (1,700) poppies, though fourteen hundred (1,400) was obtained from headquarters. The difference was made by donations and proceeds of the Mountain dance. It was decided to forward to the central fund seven and a half pence each on the full receipts (representing seventeen hundred (1,700) shillings, the local Sub-branch keeping its customary proportion of four and half pence each.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent, in addition to the acknowledgement already sent by the Secretary, from the Sub-branch to Mrs Bryant expressing thanks to her and her helpers. It was also resolved to send a letter to Mrs Dean at The Entrance explaining that it was because Wyong League stepped in at the last minute to work The Entrance that Gosford League did not take advantage of his kind offer to sell and provide assistance to sell, poppies. Mr Moody in responding, said there certainly was room for improvement in the organisation of Gosford where over one hundred pounds (£100) should be raised instead of eighty-five pounds (£85*).

He explained that seven and a half pence of each one shilling went to Headquarters and was divided between the Limbless Soldiers, T. B. soldiers and the League. The other four and half pence were retained by the Sub-branch for its own purposes. The proportion which went to the State League was spent in various ways to further its work for the benefit of returned men and their dependents.

The Dinner

Mr Moody said some comment should be made on the conduct of a few men, which in a measure spoiled the occasion for the great majority. Mr McDonald said much criticism of the Committee heard outside was unwarranted; the members had arranged the dinner for a time and place which they thought would best suit all. Like any other body, they learn by experience. A motion was passed that the League deplored the unseemly conduct of a few of those present at the dinner. Thanks were expressed to Mr Bert Coulter for framing the signs displayed at the dinner. These have been preserved for future use.

Help to Diggers

The record of assistance given to Diggers passing through was read and approved. In connection with the help given to one man and his family, thanks were recorded to the Salvation Army for their share.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Friday, January 18th.

Cross on the Cenotaph

Rev. May suggested that the addition of a cross on the Cenotaph would be an improvement and a fitting and appropriate symbol. This was deferred for further consideration

Light Horse Bivouac

Lieut. Weeks reminded members that the annual bivouac would be held at Chinaman's Bay during the holidays and visitors would be welcome. On one day the squadron flag, donated by Dr Paul and the "Lazy Loafers" subscriptions would be presented. The President hoped that as many members as possible would visit the camp.

Proposed Picnic

The proposal to hold a picnic of League members and friends was discussed and it was decided to defer a decision till a later meeting

Digger Polling Officials

Rev. May mentioned the matter of preference to returned men in appointing election officials. Members generally considered preference was given to a satisfactory extent. They recognised the difficulties a Returning Officer faced, but agreed with Rev. May that if a competent Digger was available in any locality it was unnecessary to bring someone from a distance.

Mrs Dermody Ill

Mr McDonald mentioned the illness of Mrs Dermody, a noted worker for the Diggers and it was resolved to forward a letter of sympathy.

A Reminder

Mr Muir said it had been decided to have an inscription placed on the building showing that it had been built by returned soldiers.¹¹⁸

1929

NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, January 18

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Gosford District Sub-branch of the R. S. & S. I. L. A., at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night, January 18th, including Messrs C. G. Brandis, President, G. Frewin, E. E. Muir, A. R. McDonald, Vice-Presidents, L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary, A. K. Jamieson, Treasurer, R. E. Weeks, T. S. McDonald, I. Farrant, J. White, R. Tucker, L. Rayner, G. Cronin, Rev. D. R. May, A. C. Morris, R. F. Toomey, E. Falkner, E. Ironmonger, K. M. Cohen, D. A. Prentice, G. H. Hannaford, George Wood, J. D. Power, G. J. Morgan, Mr Woodward, W. Kelly, K. Pyne, R. Mitchell, T. Marshall, F. Atkins, R. T. Olive, R. H. Sumner, C. H. Morris, S. W. White, J. Lawn, C. Wroe, Don E Daly, R. Millikin, W. S.

* One pound=two Australian dollars

¹¹⁸ Edward James Phillips, 1928, December 13, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

Cottew, E. R. Grone, S. Martin and H. K. Wood. Apologies were tendered for Messrs J. V. Parry, H. Tinkler, B. Topple, G. I. Adcock and R. B. Hinder.

Proceedings commenced with the customary "Lest We Forget" repetition. New members were proposed and approved, they being Messrs R. F. Toomey, S. W. White, G. J. Morgan, Clement H. Morris, Hugh Tinkler, R. H. Sumner, Mrs Sumner and C. J. Allen. Several were present and were welcomed by the President.

Dungog Sub-branch forwarded an invitation to their annual meeting on January 30. It was resolved that Gosford Sub-branch appreciated the fraternal invitation and would send two delegates. Messrs Moody and Weeks were requested to go.

President's Report

Mr C. G. Brandis, President made the following report;

In presenting to you my report for the year ending January 18, 1929, I do not proposed to go into figures, as these will be given in the Secretary's report, but to give you a general resume of the activities of the Gosford Sub-branch. Our first fixture was a skit "A Night in Flanders" organised by the League at which some sixty pounds (£60) was raised for Mr Collingridge, who met with an accident whilst riding his motor bike.

Our Anzac Day ceremony was a great success, both here and at Ourimbah with more Diggers taking part than for some years past.

The Military Ball held on April 27, was one of the finest social events of the year in Gosford. We showed a small profit, but it was a night to remember by all who attended.

On August 4, we had a very pleasing little ceremony, that of turning on the lights at the Cenotaph, that honour being allotted to Mrs Dermody, one of our oldest Red Cross workers.

Poppy Day eclipsed all previous records in this centre and I am sure that with a little better organisation this record will be broken next year. Great credit is due to the ladies who so ably assisted on this day. Mrs Bryant and her band of workers deserve special

mention for their great effort in organising the Poppy Day dance on the Mountain, which was such a success both socially and financially.

Our usual little ceremony was held at the Cenotaph on Armistice Sunday.

Our Annual Dinner on November 10 was a record in regard to numbers. It was a pity that we could not go right through with our toast lists. I do not attach any blame to anyone on this; the trouble was that the dinner being held on a Saturday, we had too much time to spend in toasting one another before the dinner commenced.

We have paid two visits to the Mountain, one to Matcham and one to Terrigal. The Sub-branches at these centres having become defunct our object was to get them to join up with the Gosford Sub-branch and in this we were not disappointed, all Diggers present who were not already members joining up in a body.

Your Sub-branch had been represented by me and the Secretary and on some occasions we were accompanied by other members as at Hinkler's dinner at the Town Hall in Sydney, the Annual Meeting of Hornsby Sub-branch and Smoko Social tendered by the Woy Woy Sub-branch. Also at the Diggers Reunion Dinner at the Town Hall and a Smoko Concert tendered to the Federal Delegates held at Sydney. At the last event your Sub-branch was allotted the honour of responding to the toast of the Sub-branches.

Our membership during the year increased from about forty (40) to somewhere in the vicinity of one hundred (100), which is very gratifying indeed. I think this increase is due to the fact as time rolls on and a new generation is springing up, both the war and the Digger, as far as the general public are concerned, are becoming things of the past. The Diggers, realising this, are hanging together for mutual assistance is gaining many things to which they are justly entitled.

This report would not be complete without a word of praise and thanks to my executive officers and the members of the Sub-branch for their loyal support during my term in office. I would like to specially mention our energetic Secretary, Mr Moody. As far as the League is concerned he has his whole heart in it and nothing is too big or too small for him to tackle as long as it is a benefit to the League

Treasurer's Report

Mr A. K. Jamieson, Hon. Treasurer stated;

I have pleasure in presenting my report and balance sheet for 1928. As you will see from the balance sheet your League has experienced a very successful year. Financial members have increased from forty-five (45) to ninety-eight (98) and there are still several subscriptions outstanding, which we hoped to collect.

Poppy Day returns were a record for your Sub-branch and very materially assisted to build up funds. For the first time in several years the Annual Ball showed a credit balance and although not large, it justified the holding of this event.

Regarding the annual dinner, it will be noticed that no mention of this function is made in the balance sheet the reason being that there a good number of tickets not yet accounted for. However, from the return to hand, there is every indication that there will be a small profit to be added to the present balance.

You're Secretary and I during the year assisted thirty (30) returned men travelling through Gosford. This assistance is mostly given by orders of necessities on local stores and rail tickets and in a few cases cash.

A benefit entertainment held early in the year to assist Mr Collingridge was proof that the public are ever willing to assist the league in a worthy cause. In conclusion I would like to say a word of appreciation for your Secretary, whose business like methods have made my work a light one.

Mr Jamieson submitted financial statements in detail of the various activities of the League. Briefly summarised these showed;

The Sub-branch

Receipts: Subscriptions:

Subscriptions, Thirty-seven pounds five shillings	£37/5/-
Gross receipts Poppy Day, Eighty-five pounds three shillings	£85/3/-

Profit Military Ball, two pounds thirteen shillings and nine pence	£2/13/9
Gross collection Anzac Day, sixteen pounds seven shillings	£16/7/-
Balance at 16/1/28, Twenty-eight pounds fifteen shillings and ten pence	£28/15/10
Total, one hundred seventy pounds four shillings and seven pence	£170/4/7

Expenditure:

Proportion Subs., to State Branch, Sixteen pounds ten shillings and sixpence	£16/10/6
Proportion sales Poppy Day, Fifty-three pounds eighteen shillings and sixpence	£53/18/6
Photographs, five pounds	£5
Relief, seven pounds nineteen shillings and a penny	£7/19/1
Congress expenses, three pounds five shillings	£3/5/-
Exes., Sydney Delegate, twelve shillings and sixpence	12/6
Posters Poppy Day, two pounds four shillings and two pence	£2/4/2
Presentation, fifteen shillings	15/-
Printing and Adverts., eight pounds four shillings and nine pence	£8/4/9
Secretary's Honorarium, four pounds fifteen shillings	£4/15/-
Petty Cash, stamps and so on, two pounds three shillings	£2/3/-
Anzac Day Exes., three pounds fourteen shillings	£3/14/-
Park Trust Fund, twelve pounds thirteen shillings	£12/13/-
Balance in hand, forty-eight pounds ten shillings and a penny	£48/10/1
Total, one hundred seventy pounds four shillings and seven pence	£170/4/7

Military Ball

Receipts, forty-seven pounds eighteen shillings and nine pence	£47/18/9
Expenditure, forty-two pounds eleven shillings and threepence	£42/11/3
Balance, five pounds seven shillings and sixpence	£5/7/6
Less half profits to Light Horse, two pounds thirteen shillings and nine pence	£2/13/9

Collingridge Benefit

Receipts, eighty-one pounds two shillings and eight pence	£81/2/8
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Expenditure, thirteen pounds one shilling and ten pence	£13/1/10
Balance, sixty-eight pounds and ten pence	£68/0/10

Secretary's Report

Mr L. G. Moody's report, as usual, was couched in unorthodox terms. It stated that; In presenting the 10th annual report I feel somewhat at a lost. Hitherto I have had no difficulty in framing my report because there has always been a lot to growl about. I have been able, quite conscientiously, to be optimistically pessimistic about things, which many of you know, means I am being natural. Well, this year, I can't growl much; I've found a few things, but I had to look for them. I certainly can't be pessimistic. Gentlemen, we have done wonderfully well. We started the year with a membership of forty-five (45) and we finished with ninety-eight (98) financial members. In this I am not including the members elected to-night. Our membership roll is over one hundred (100), well Mr President that is a wonderful result.

We have held eleven (11) meetings and the average attendance had been twenty-one (21), an increase of ten (10) per meeting over the last year. We regret very much losing several of our members during the year who have left the district, Mr Newton, Major Hinder, Mr Short, Mr Jackson and Mr Winch. These moves must occur, but we trust wherever these fellows go they will prosper. Wherever they are we hope there is a Sub-branch of the League nearly as good as Gosford. Your Committee held four meetings, with an average attendance of ten (10).

Our Anzac Day service passed of very well. We had a record number of returned fellows in the march and the general public turned up very well at the Memorial. I think the general arrangements were better than usual. We had a definite order of march, which was sent out to the various bodies and although there is still room for improvement there were few hitches. The Gosford Band played well and every praise is due to Mr Wells and his band for the really good music they put over so early in their career. Our thanks are tendered to the Band and to all those outside the League who helped to make the service a fitting memorial to our pals who "aren't here." Inside the ranks what we do on that day we do just as a matter of course, but there is one whose help on that day I think we should recognise and that is Rev. May, who came to our

help at a difficult time and at a great deal of inconvenience was right on the spot when we wanted him.

The Light Horse boys as usual were with us and gave the military touch which perhaps some of us old grey and bald heads are losing a little as the years roll on, I knew my pessimism would bubble up. A number went to Ourimbah in the afternoon and attended a service there, which was very successful. The Military Ball, run in conjunction with the Light Horse was at last a financial success. It has always been socially a success, but last year we managed to not only square the ledger but we came out a couple of pounds to the good. A lot of credit is due to the organising Secretary, Mr Muir and the many willing and ready helpers. As the Pork and Beans used to say, Nil Desperandum.

Floodlights were fixed and officially switched on by Mrs Dermody at the Cenotaph during the year. There is no doubt this is a big improvement. Dr Paul, Mr Cresswell and the Council are to be congratulated on getting the lights installed. During August I attended the State Congress as your delegate. Congress lasted the whole week and much good work was done. There was a record attendance and a note of optimism was very evident through all the deliberations.

Poppy day saw another record go by the hour, due largely to the wonderful effort on the Mountain organised by Mrs Bryant. This year with better organisation, I see no reason why the one hundred pounds (£100*) mark should not be reached. Our very grateful thanks are due to the ladies who so willingly assist us on Poppy Day.

Several of our members attended the Reunion A. I. F. Dinner in the Sydney Town Hall on the 8th August. There were fifteen hundred (1,500) returned men present on the floor of the Town Hall and it was an experience not to be forgotten. None of us heard much of the speeches or items, but that did not matter. This brings me to our own Dinner here on the 10th of November, that quite little affair we had down in White's Hall. There were one hundred and fourteen (114) present and if only a few had curtailed their exuberance a little bit more at the beginning it would have been more successful. I am sorry if what I have said at the last meeting has occasioned any feelings. I still think that the big majority would like to have heard more of the speeches than they were able to and I still think it was hard for a speaker, who prepared his speech at considerable

trouble, being unable to hear his own voice, but in saying that I am hitting at no one in particular. It was Saturday and there were one hundred and fourteen (114) of us there. Well it just happened, that's all.

During the year members from the Sub-branch have paid visits to the Mountain, Matcham, Terrigal and Hornsby. I think these visits are an excellent idea and should be encouraged. Your President and myself tendered the Smoke Concert tendered to the Federal Delegates when the Federal Congress was sitting in Sydney. We had the opportunity of hearing all the delegates speak, men of ability from every State who were well worth listening to.

And now gentlemen, having achieved the apparently impossible and reached the one hundred (100) membership mark, are you going to rest on your laurels? Now we know that nothing is impossible, aren't we going on? What is this League of ours for? To help those of our pals who can't help themselves to give a hand to a fellow and help him on his way when he's down and out; to assist the fellow who is seeking justice and has no hope of getting it unaided and in a larger way to throw our weight behind anything for the good of our town and our State and our Nation. The League is probably stronger now than ever it was. Not only here but everywhere throughout the State has the membership increased. With increased membership your State Branch carries more weight and the more weight its carries the better chance we have of getting any just application considered.

Our relationship with Headquarters is of the most cordial. The League should be a force in this town, not merely as a League of returned soldiers, but as a League of returned soldier citizens behind any movement for the good of the town and the Shire. Gentlemen, you are electing your officers to-night. Give them your solid help. If somebody slips or something annoys you, just don't stop away. Everybody makes mistakes, even Secretaries. I know I've made many, but remember the work in the League is growing. I don't think some of you realise how much there is. Remember with your next Secretary and at least give him a chance to explain if you think he has done something you don't agree with. Go your hardest gentlemen. You've reached the century, you're a force to be reckoned with, Use that force wisely and well.

Election of Officers

Messrs Frewin and Ironmonger moved that Mr Brandis be re-elected President and this was endorsed with a unanimous "Carry On." Four Vice-Presidents were needed and eleven members were nominated; Messrs A. C. Morris, H. K. Wood, D. A. Prentice, Rev. May, R. E. Weeks, E. Falkner, R. G. Frewin, E. Ironmonger, George Wood, L. Rayner and A. R. McDonald. A ballot was taken and the following was successful. Rev. D. R. May thirty-three (33) votes Senior Vice-President, H. K. Wood, twenty-five (25) votes, A. C. Morris, seventeen (17) votes, R. E. Weeks, sixteen (16) votes.

For re-election as Hon. Secretary, Messrs A. R. McDonald and A. C. Morris nominated Mr Moody and this was approved unanimously with more or less musical honours. Messrs Cronin and G. Wood nominated Mr Jamieson as Hon. Treasurer and he was also re-elected unanimously. As Committee members the nominations were; Messrs D. A. Prentice, R. G. Frewin, G. Wood, R. Tucker, E. Ironmonger, A. B. McDonald and R. Falkner and these were appointed. Mr A. D. Hickey was re-appointed League solicitor. Messrs T. S. McDonald and W. S. Cottew satisfactorily carried out the duties of scrutineers.

The Ball

Mr Morris moved that the Military Ball be held again on a date about Anzac Day. Mr Weeks seconded. Mr Jamieson supported this. The three speakers were pleased to say that the fixture, though always a social success had last year at last proved successful financially and it was an event which should not be allowed to lapse. The President and Messrs Falkner, A. R. McDonald, Frewin, Lawn, Ironmonger, Millikin, Tucker and others discussed the motion, which was carried. Messrs A. C. Morris and Jamieson moved that the Ball be held on the same basis as last year, 50/50 with the Light Horse and was carried.

The date mentioned as a recommendation to the Ball Committee was April 19th, the Friday before Anzac Day. With the President, Secretary and Treasurer ex-officio the following were appointed to the Ball Committee; Messrs Ironmonger, Muir, A. R. McDonald, Lawn and Morris with power to add more members. The Light Horse was to appoint their representatives.

Light Horse Trophy

It was decided on the motion of Messrs Lawn and Prentice to repeat the donation of a two guinea trophy for competition at the Light Horse Camp on points for general efficiency and conduct. Last year Troopers Small of Ourimbah and Cyril Moore of Gosford scored equal points and on a draw Trooper Small was the winner. Mr Cronin said he would add a guinea making the value three pounds three shillings (£3/3/-. Mr Tucker proposed that a prize be given for best kept tent. Mr Cronin said he would give another half guinea for this. Mr Weeks expressed the thanks of the Light Horse for these donations.

Further Donations

Rev. May moved that a donation be made for a prize for Scout work. This was approved and one guinea was decided on. Mr Weeks moved and Mr H. K. Wood seconded that an annual donation of a guinea be made to the Ambulance and it was carried. An annual donation will be made to the Gosford Band as usual.

League Picnic

Messrs Frewin and Kelly moved that an annual League picnic be held. This was approved. A committee was appointed to make recommendations to the next general meeting. Messrs Frewin (convener) Weeks, Kelly, McDonald, Hannaford and Rayner to meet this Friday night.

Anzac Day

Rev. D. R. May suggested that a speaker, Rev. D. C. Wilson or Rev. McAuley be secured for next Anzac Day service. The meeting left it to the mover to arrange this.

The Secretary's Work

Mr T. S. McDonald proposed and Mr Morris seconded that an honorarium of ten pounds (£10*) be voted to the Secretary in view of the exceptionally successful year's work which was largely due to the work of Mr Moody. Messrs Weeks, Prentice, Brandis and others supported this. Mr Moody said there was an understanding that the honorarium should be one shilling per member and he wished it to remain at that. For

once Mr Moody's remarks received scant consideration and he was no longer heard and the motion was carried vociferously.

Thanks

A vote of thanks was carried to the scrutineers at the instance of Mr Prentice. Mr A. C. Morris proposed a resolution of appreciation and good wishes to the retiring officers which was carried by acclamation. A vote of thanks was carried to *The Gosford Times* and its staff for the help given to the League and its objects.

The Club

At the request of Messrs Daly, Hannaford and T. S. McDonald, Mr Muir, Club President, explained several matters in connection with the Club, stating that it was controlled by returned soldiers and offered to them material concessions in membership fees, with no entrance fee. It had been found impracticable to make it solely a returned soldiers Club and it had indeed been found beneficial to mingle ex-service and other citizens in such a desirable institution. In the case of returned soldier nominees, only returned soldiers voted on the question of their admission. No returned soldier had ever been refused.

Messrs Weeks, Vice-president, Millikin, Treasurer, Lawn, Morris, Cohen, Rev. May, Jamieson and others spoke. The impression was general that the membership fee was very reasonable for the privileges given and that the interest of returned men were adequately provided for.

Till We Meet Again

Refreshments were served at intervals and the reunion was a happy one, business not being allowed to interfere too much with sociability. After a few songs, proceedings terminated with Auld Lang Syne. The Sub-branch holds a general meeting on the first Friday in each month. The next one on February 1 and every ex-serviceman is welcome.¹¹⁹

* One pound=two Australian dollars

¹¹⁹ Edward James Phillips, 1929, January 24, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

February 1, 1928

The February meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch was held at the Brisbane Water District Club on Friday night. There were present Messrs C. G. Brandis, President, L. G. Moody, Hon. Secretary, Rev. D. R. May, Vice-President, A. G. Morris, R. E. Weeks, R. G. Frewin, G. I. Adcock, D. Daley, A. E. McDonald, R. F. Toomey, R. Tucker, I. Farrant, K. M. Cohen, G. Croath, G. H. Hannaford, G. Wood, D. A. Prentice, W. A. Sullens, E. Falkner, R. G. Bosenquet, E. E. Muir, A. K. Jamieson, T. S. McDonald, A. J. Cresswell, E. Roberts, Mr Woodward, B. H. Sumner, Mr Morgan, E. Mitchell, C. Morris, and H. K. Wood. Apologies were from Messrs Kelly, Atkins and Martin.

League Picnic

Mr Frewin reported that the Sub-Committee had met and recommended that a launch picnic be held at Ettalong on Sunday, February 24th. There was a long discussion and voting on several motions and amendments including proposals that the date should be Saturday, February 23rd, or Easter Monday and that it stand over. Eventually it was decided to adopt the recommendation of the Sub-Committee for Sunday, February 24. Members were urged to give the picnic their united support and make it a thoroughly happy and successful reunion of ex-servicemen and their families. Those present paid their two shillings fares in advance. Eating arrangements will be on the "basket picnic" basis and soft drinks and ice cream will be available on the launch. Major Adcock's offer to donate a quantity of Justfrute drinks was greatly accepted.

Friends at Dungog

President Brandis reported in happy vein on the trip to Dungog when he and other members attended the annual meeting of the Sub-branch there. The business meeting and the social and incidental hospitality had been most enjoyable. The President of the Dungog Sub-branch had proposed that a district conference be held before the State Conference and this seemed a good idea. Mr Moody said the trip had done a good deal in extending fellowship and opening up avenues for co-operation in action for the Diggers welfare. Rev. May added that associate civilian friends attended the social after the League meeting and a very good spirit was shown. It was mentioned that a

contingent from the north was likely to attend future gatherings of Gosford District Sub-branch.

Various

The State Branch forwards a schedule of information requested by the British Empire Service League. It is to be supplied.

The Secretary and Treasurer reported on the assistance in medicine, groceries and fares given to Diggers passing through. Their actions were endorsed.

Mention was made of the proposal to pay a League visit to The Entrance and it was left to the Hon. Secretary to arrange a suitable date.

Arrangements for Anzac Day were shortly discussed and it was agreed that the usual procedure of holding one service in Gosford and another in a district centre, not yet visited, probably Terrigal, would be adhered to.

Again the Club

Major Adcock, President of the Trustee Company, at the request of several members outlined the position of returned soldiers with regard to the Brisbane Water District Club. He said the League had no separate legal existence so had to appoint Trustees to deal in any way with the property. The only practicable method was found to be the registering of a Trustee Company under the non-profit-distributing section of the *Act* which held the Club and other assets in trust. This company consisting of ex-servicemen, League members only, if and when these died out, their power would pass to their relatives. The Company held in its hands the full control of the Club, this being provided for in its constitution. It was desirable that all interested League members should be members of the Trust Company.

For Club membership only returned soldiers balloted on an application by a returned soldier. It had been found impossible to conduct the Club on returned soldiers support alone, so civilians were admitted, but the latter paid considerably higher subscription rates than those charged to soldiers and in addition paid entrance fees, which soldiers

and their wives did not. The civilians were given a voice on the House Committee, which was required to run the Club on the lines laid down by the Trustee Company, this conserving the control by ex-servicemen.

The Trustee Company functioned through seven elected Directors, at present the Company's membership was thirty-two (32). The limit, without an increase of capital formalities, was forty-nine (49). Any League members could become a member of the Trustee Company by undertaking a liability of one pound (£1*) to be paid in certain unlikely contingencies, but it was now under consideration whether it would not be fair to require any ex-soldier who intended thus to share in the control of the Club should be a member of that institution. This was yet to be decided.

It was felt that after two or three years work that not enough interest was shown in the Club by returned men. To improve this state of affairs, the Directors decided to add to the building so that large billiard and storage rooms would be available for the men, who could join in other amusements in other parts of the Club or not, just as they wished. The costs of this addition was being met on very favourable terms and the enterprise was well justified in making the Club more attractive for all concerned.

It had occasionally been said that there was cliquism in the Club. If this was so, there was very little of it and probably any supposed manifestations of it were more fancied than real. It was a difficult matter for the House Committee to deal with, but every effort was made to discourage any tendency to cliquism or snobbery. The best way however was for all to join the Club.

Discussion which followed was frank and several points were cleared up in remarks from various points of view by Messrs Daly, T. S. McDonald, Jamieson, Cresswell, A. C. Morris, Muir, Cronin, Prentice, Brandis, Adcock and Moody. It was emphasised that criticism by outsiders, on hearsay, was hardly fair. The Club authorities were anxious that every eligible person should join and confident that any person would find nothing to complain of and would never regret his or her action. Another point stressed was that there was nothing but the most cordial feeling between Diggers and civilians and the Club was largely responsible for the happy understanding which existed. A vote of

thanks to Major Adcock was passed by acclamation and the meeting concluded at 11.15 p.m. The next meeting was for Friday, March 1st.¹²⁰

March 1, 1929

The monthly meeting was held at the Brisbane Water District Club of Friday night. Present were Rev. D. R. May, Messrs R. E. Weeks, E. G. Frewin, R. Tucker, G. H. Hannaford, R. Mitchell, E. Falkner, G. Cronin, J. White, A. K. Jamieson, L. G. Moody, G. Wood, Leslie Humphreys, J. Lawn, A. T. Elliott, Denning, C. G. Brandis, E. E. Muir and Sumner. Mr Brandis was absent at the beginning of the meeting and Rev. May, Senior Vice-President took the chair.

League Picnic

On the motion to confirm minutes of the previous meeting, Rev. May said they contained no record of his opinion to Sunday as a day for a League picnic. The minutes were amended to show that Rev. May had moved against Sunday as a picnic day, but the majority had been against him and then confirmed. Members were reminded that the picnic would take place on Sunday March 10, when all ex-servicemen and their families and friends would be welcome.

New Members

New members accepted and welcomed were Messrs A. T. Elliot, W. E. Sterland and Leslie Humphreys. There is always a hearty welcome and it is hoped to enrol many more before long.

Anzac Day, April 25

The Anzac Day programme was discussed and it was decided that Gosford Sub-branch would visit the centre which first sent a request if distance and so on was practicable. Arrangements for the dawn service were left in the hands of the President, Mr Brandis, Padre, Rev. May and the Hon. Secretary, Mr Moody. The suggestion by Rev. A. E. Saxon that a public demonstration be held on Anzac night in a hall was brought forward. It had been made just after last Anzac Day and noted for consideration later. The

¹²⁰ Edward James Phillips, 1929, February 7, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

proposal was discussed at length and the meeting decided that the customary arrangements should stand, having been found best after several years' experience and that the Rev. Saxon be thanked for his interest and suggestion. Mr Jamieson proposed that proceeds of collections on Anzac Day be devoted to the relief of great need which existed among down-and-out Diggers.

The Predicament of Jones

Mr Moody reported that a new and private players' organisation would on March 16 produce the comedy "What Happened to Jones". Proceeds were to go equally to the Ambulance and the Returned Service League and it was suggested that the latter portion be devoted to relief of Diggers who had suffered by the recent bush fires. It was decided that the organisers of the play be thanked for their action and that a sub-committee be appointed to investigate cases requiring relief, when the funds were available. Messrs Brandis, Jamieson and Cohen were appointed to the sub-committee to report to the April meeting.

Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Messrs C. G. Brandis and H. K. Wood on the appointment as Justices of the Peace.

Thanks to Mrs Dermody

Mr Brandis moved that Mrs Dermody, a great worker for the soldiers be invited to attend a League fixture at Gosford when convenient to her to receive an expression of the members' gratitude.

Relief to Diggers

Mr Jamieson said quite a number of Diggers genuine and in real distress was passing through. These were assisted, but he asked for in addition to endorsement of amounts already paid for food and fares, the authority to give a little more cash assistance than in the past. It was agreed that such matters could be left to the discretion of the executive officers. Vouchers for goods and other relief given to ex-soldiers were approved and passed for payment.

Motion of Sympathy

Mr Brandis mentioned the loss sustained by the League and returned men generally in the death of Mr F. R. Archbold, who had given great service to the soldiers cause. The meeting unanimously recorded the great regret of members and their sympathy with the bereaved relatives and a letter of condolence will be forwarded to Mrs Archbold.

It was decided to send a letter of sympathy with Mrs R. J. Baker and family in their bereavement by the death of little "Sonny" Baker. The Late Mr Baker's patriotic work would always keep his memory green with ex-servicemen, who sincerely regretted that his family had suffered such sorrow.

Cenotaph Lights

Mr Tucker mentioned that the lights at the Cenotaph had not been on for several nights recently. It was resolved that the Council's attention be drawn to this. Mr Jamieson said that probably there was difficulty at present in finding current at all times, but this draw back would be removed when the bulk current became available.

Anzac Ball

Mr J. Lawn was asked to convene a meeting of the Anzac Ball Committee, with League and Light Horse representatives, to select an organising Secretary. This committee would carry out the detailed arrangements for the Ball.

Ourimbah Diggers

A deputation was authorised to attend the public meeting at Ourimbah on Tuesday night, March 5th, and endeavour to arrange a meeting of Diggers for a later date to advance League objects.

Next meeting of the Gosford Sub-branch will be held on Friday, April 5th.¹²¹

¹²¹ Edward James Phillips, 1929, March 7, at "The Gosford Times" Office, Mann Street, Gosford, for the Executor in the Estate of the Late Robert James Baker

There was a large attendance at the Brisbane Water District Club on Saturday, March 2 when a foundation plate was unveiled and the additions consisting of the new billiard room was officially opened by Dr J. H. Paul. The speakers were seated in front of the handsome curtain of the new stage at the rear of the former billiard room and members generally found accommodation in the main rooms and lounges made much more spacious as a result of the new additions. Mr E. E. Muir, President of the Club was Chairman and had with him Dr Paul as Patron, Mr C. G. Brandis, President of the Gosford District Sub-branch and Mr R. E. Weeks, Vice- President of the Trustee Company in the absence of Mr G. I. Adcock, the President.

Mr Muir suitably introduced Dr Paul and outlined the object of the gathering. He said it was due to Dr Paul that they had the Club, a good and useful institution worthy of every support. Mr Weeks dealt with the position regarding the additions and said that on a revised estimate the Trustee Company felt justified in going ahead with the project and had authorised the additions on their own responsibility. This was a forward move in which they warranted in looking for members practical and whole-hearted support. And as there had been no foundation stone recording the genesis of the Club, the Trustees had thought fit to have a plate erected and unveiled when the additions were opened.

Towards the costs of the additions several friends had already tendered donations, including Dr Paul with five guineas, Messrs G. I. Adcock, E. E. Muir, A. C. Morris and a donor, who desired to remain anonymous, who had handed in a cheque for ten pounds (£10) on condition it was covered by nine other donors or groups of donors for the like amount. These helpers were heartily thanked as were Mr Barclay Millar, honorary architect and supervisor. Mrs Muir, who had given and made the curtains and assisted in other directions, Messrs A. D. Hickey, A. J. Cresswell, Rae and Curtis and many others who had assisted in various ways.

Mr Brandis said League members were pleased that Dr Paul had been allotted the duty of performing the ceremony, for it was his donation of a portion of land commanding one of the finest views in the district that made the Club possible. He had been a tower of strength to the League and to soldiers before there was a League, in war time. The

speaker knew because they had gone through his hands of cases in which Diggers had been helped by the presentation of receipted accounts from Dr Paul.

The Club was a fine institution if for one reason only, that it would help to break down cliqueism and the returned soldier, if he only knew it, was often the cliqueist of individuals, though he sometimes complained of that defect in others. Soldiers and their civilian friends should fraternise on the best of terms and the Club was a great agent in promoting that desirable spirit. It stood on its own among institutions of the kind anywhere and one good feature was that they had lady members. As Mr Weeks had said, it was up to every member to do its best to introduce others to join and they would soon wipe out their overdraft.

Dr Paul in his customary effective style gratified his audience and interloped a humorous story. In a more serious strain he paid a tribute of admiration to the silent and consistent work of the Trustee Company whose members had planned the additions and now had assets worth some six thousand pounds (£6,000) while their indebtedness was only somewhere about six hundred pounds (£600) or seven hundred pounds (£700*). This was a wonderful achievement. The great feature of the Club was that it was a common meeting ground where differences could be dissolved, hostilities could be broken down and people of all shades of thought could meet in an atmosphere of cordial sociability.

He was pleased to declare open an extended building which was a masterpiece of handsome usefulness and a credit to the builders. He was also honoured to be called upon the foundation plate, which bore the inscription;

Brisbane Water District Club.
This Club was Erected
By the Gosford Sub-branch
Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League
To Keep Forever Bright
The Memory of the A. I. F.
1914-1918

This Plate was Unveiled by Dr Paul, Donor of the Land and Club Patron

After Dr Paul had unveiled the plate by drawing aside the Club banner which had covered it, he moved to the billiard room entrance and threw open the swinging doors

to the accompaniment of applause. This concluded the ceremonies, which were followed by the presentation on the new stage of a dramatic sketch “Packing Up’ by Mrs Muir and Mr Cresswell and other diversions in the form of instrumental and vocal items and dancing.

The added wing provides a spacious billiard room with verandah and store room. The billiard room contains two good tables; there was only one in the old room, with all the fittings and ample seating accommodation. There is a large fireplace and lighting arrangements were excellent. In the original portion of the premises the removal of the billiard table gives additional space which makes a great difference for the better. A stage had been erected, in itself a great asset to the amusements activities of the Club, raised from the floor level and fitted with excellent lightning arrangements by Mr Cresswell and a fine curtain for which Mrs Muir was practically responsible. There was a separate entrance to the new wing the addition of which must greatly increase the attractions and popularity of the Club members of which are particularly grateful to Mr Millar for his gratuitous services as architect and clerk of work and to the Directors and others who had worked so hard for so long to bring the project to a successful issue. The Club by their efforts was more than ever a credit to Gosford.¹²²

* One pound=two Australian dollars
¹²² *Ibid*

Appendix One
Gosford Sub-Branch
Committee Members 1919-1929

1919

Mr E. K. White	President
W. Moase	Vice-President
R. J. Bosanquet	Vice-President
L. O. Millar	Vice-President
C. H. Davis	Treasurer
W. E. Bendry	Secretary

1920

Mr E. K. White (Resigned July 2) (Re-elected August 2)	President
W. Moase (Resigned Nov. 30)	Vice-President
H. C. Wood (Elected Nov. 30)	Vice-President
R. J. Bosanquet	Vice-President
L. O. Millar	Vice-President

W. E. Bendry (Resigned April 9)	Secretary
G. Moir (Elected April 9)	Secretary
C. H. Davis (Resigned Sept 3)	Treasurer
H. B. Smith (Elected Sept.3)	Treasurer
A. Sterland	Tweed Distributing Agent
D. E. Mobbs	Sports Secretary
R. G. Frewin	Assistant Secretary
R. E. Weeks	Assistant Secretary
J. D. Kirkness	Co-operative Secretary

1921

G. I. Adcock	President
E. K. White	Vice-President
P. C. White	Vice-President
H. C. Wood	Vice-President
G. Moir	Secretary
E. E. Muir (resigned 18 April)	Assistant Secretary
Mr Tucker	Hon. Auditor
H. B. Smith	Hon. Auditor
J. Lloyd (from 18 April)	Sub-Branch/Memorial Funds Auditor
D. E. Mobbs (resigned 5 September)	Secretary Memorial Committee
R. E. Weeks (elected 5 September)	Secretary Memorial Committee
R. G. Frewin (elected 5 September)	Secretary Memorial Committee
G. I. Addcock	Memorial Committee
E. K. White	Memorial Committee
G. Frewin	Memorial Committee

F. C. Warmoll
A. Sterling.
D. E. Mobbs

Memorial Committee
Tweed Distributing Agent
Sports Committee Secretary

1922

A. I. Adcock
A. W. Helsham
H. L. Marshall
G. H. Moir
A. E. Upham
E. E. Muir
G. H. Moir
R. E. Weeks
R. G. Frewin
A. E. Cheater
J. Lloyd
A. H. L. Marshall

President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Sports Secretary
Sports Secretary
Auditor
Auditor
Tweed Distributing Agent

1923

L. W. Turner
G. I. Adcock
T. S. McDonald (resigned July 16)
F. A. Stutfield (elected July 16)
A. W. Helsham
A. H. L. Marshall
Wallace M. Moore
R. E. Weeks
F. A. Stutfield
R. G. Frewin
E. Muir
Angus R. MacDonald
R. Tucker

President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Sports Secretary
Committeeman
Committeeman
Committeeman
Committeeman
Committeeman

1924

F. A. Stutfield	President
L. W. Turner	Vice-President
G. I. Adcock	Vice-President
R. E. Weeks	Vice-President
H. L. Marshall	Secretary
Wallace M. Moore	Treasurer
Mr Hadfield	Committeeman
Mr Cohen	Committeeman
Angus R. MacDonald	Committeeman
Mr Brandis	Committeeman
Mr Tucker	Committeeman
A. W. Helsham	Committeeman
Mr Bennie	Committeeman
Mr Fletcher	Committeeman
Mr Bourke	Committeeman
E. E. Muir	Committeeman
Mr Reddall	Committeeman

1925

F. A. Stutfield	President
E. E. Muir	Vice-President
R. G. Frewin	Vice-President
H. L. Marshall	Secretary
Wallace Moore	Treasurer
R. Tucker	Committeeman
A. W. Helsham	Committeeman
A. McDonald	Committeeman
L. McDonald	Committeeman
K. Cohen	Committeeman
J. D. Stevenson	Committeeman
L. Rodgie	Committeeman

R. G. Frewin	Vice-President
E. E. Muir	Vice-President
A. R. McDonald	Vice-President
R. G. Bosanquet	Vice-President
A. K. Jamieson	Treasurer
L. G. Moody	Secretary
E. Ironmonger	Committeeman
R. E. Weeks	Committeeman
G. I. Adcock	Committeeman
P. C. Winch	Committeeman
H. K. Wood	Committeeman
A. D. Hickey	Hon. Solicitor
C. Hills	Hon. Auditor

1929

C. G. Brandis	President
Rev. D. R. May	Vice-President
H. K. Wood	Vice-President
A. C. Morris	Vice-President
R. E. Weeks	Vice-President
L. G. Moody	Secretary
A. K. Jamieson	Treasurer
D. A. Prentice	Committeeman
R. G. Frewin	Committeeman
G. Wood	Committeeman
R. Tucker	Committeeman
E. Ironmonger	Committeeman
A. R. McDonald	Committeeman
E. Falkner	Committeeman
A. D. Hickey	Hon. Solicitor

Appendix Two
Brisbane Water District Club
Committee Members 1926-1929
1926-27

P. S. Macdermott	President
C. Hills	Vice-President
Dr G. M. Duncan	Vice-President
L. G. Moody	Club Secretary
A. D. Hickey	Committeeman
G. A. Walpole	Committeeman
E. H. Ironmonger	Committeeman
S. G. Parr	Committeeman
J. D. Stevenson	Committeeman
R. R. Mortimer	Committeeman

1927-28

C. Hills	President
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R. Bosanquet	Vice-President
Wallace Moore	Vice-President
E. E. Muir	House Committee
G. A. Walpole	House Committee
E. Ironmonger	House Committee
A. D. Hickey	House Committee
E. E. Mortimer	House Committee
P. S. Macdermott	House Committee

1928-29

E. E. Muir	President
R. Bosanquet	Vice-President
A. D. Hickey	Vice President
S. G. Parr	House Committee
A. K. Jamieson	House Committee
A. C. Morris	House Committee
C. G. Brandis	House Committee
A. J. Cresswell	House Committee