

PORT FOOTBALLERS' INITIATIVE

Foundation Stone Of New Clubroom Laid

Yesterday was an auspicious occasion in the history of Port Football Club, for it marked the laying of the foundation stone of the new clubhouse at the corner of Wandearah and Esmond roads, on land purchased by the club as a site for recreation grounds and a beautification centre. Despite inclement weather there was a representative attendance of players, members, and officials.

Introducing Mr. Middleton (mayor), Mr. J. Lauritsen (chairman of the club) said there was need for the utmost assistance by members and supporters to attain the goal.

On behalf of the town council the mayor congratulated the club on its initiative. A view of the ground that day gave some idea of the magnitude of the task in its preparation, he said. Port A grade team had performed creditably this season, and provision of its own clubrooms should provide added incentive.

Mr. Lauritsen then called on Mr. P. E. McMahon (president) to lay the foundation stone, which had been donated by Mr. Alick Kitson, of Adelaide.

NINE-ACRE BLOCK

In declaring the stone "well and truly laid" Mr. McMahon said that the new premises would play a vital part in the life of the club. The land to be converted to recreational purposes comprised nine acres, and the big job ahead required full co-operation from senior and junior players and supporters.

Much of the credit for inauguration of the venture must go to Mr. H. Bronnick (works manager). Both he and his committee were working tirelessly, added Mr. McMahon.

Dr. G. K. Williams said that the club had set another example of community spirit in overcoming obstacles. A fine structure was contemplated for sporting and social activities, but the endeavor was something more than building of a clubhouse. It was an attempt to provide congenial surroundings for a section of the community on what had been dismal swamp land.

Extolling community effort in Pirie, Mr. Davis, M.P., said that playgrounds in the town had no parallel in Australia. He had hoped that the club would have acquired the land at a lower price than had been paid, but values in Pirie must have risen.

COMMITTEE'S PLANS

Outlining objectives of the committee in charge of operations, Mr. Bronnick said that a football oval, turf cricket pitch, basketball courts, and children's playgrounds would be provided. Facilities would be available for social gatherings.

Incentive behind the movement was a desire to become independent. Much hard work lay ahead. For example, before grass could be sown on the oval 7,000 yds. of filling would be required. The first big hurdle had been overcome, and thanks were due to Mr. W. Blight for his assistance in regard to purchase of the land.

"Only this morning I received a donation addressed to the 'Minister of Works of Port Oval.' People may call me what they like as long as they give assistance," added Mr. Bronnick.

On behalf of the club Dr. Williams handed Mr. McMahon a silver trowel as a memento. The foundation stone, set into walls which have risen more than 4 ft., reads "Port Football Club. This stone was laid by P. E. McMahon, Esq., August 22, 1948."

Under the baton of Mr. Tom Bollen (musical director) B.H.A.S. Excelsior Band rendered selections. Afternoon tea was served by the ladies' committee.