

CITY OF FOOTSCRAY.

MAYOR'S REPORT, 1916-17.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL—

Before retiring from the Office of Mayor, I desire to place on record my keen appreciation of the loyal assistance I have received from Councillors in carrying out the duties pertaining to my office.

The year which is just closing has been marked by a continuance of patriotic work, and by a steady progress in municipal and other public affairs.

Though the difficulties of these abnormal times created by the great world war have retarded the expansion of manufacturing and business, there is reason to believe that the City of Footscray is satisfactorily progressing and has a great and successful future.

The Council is fully alive to the possibilities of the District and will always be found to be a ready and willing helper in any movement or policy that has for its object the betterment of the Municipality.

PATRIOTIC.—I think that it can justly be said that this City has responded in a loyal way to the many various calls of the Empire for service in the present supreme crisis.

ENLISTMENTS.—The men of Footscray have heard the call and a comparison of the numbers enlisted with the population will show that it compares extremely well with any other Municipality. I have been unable to obtain the exact number of men who have been accepted, but from the information we have received, Footscray's contribution to the Australian Imperial Forces, about 3,000, is very high and in proportion to the total eligibles in the City above the average. It may be interesting to state that the male population is approximately 14,500. The number of men between the ages of 18 and 45, according to official estimates therefore should be 6700. Deducting from this number those unfit, it will be found on examination that at the present time about 64 per cent. of the Footscray fit eligibles have enlisted.

HONOR BOARD.—The proof of this statement is seen in the Honor Board which the Council has had erected in the Town Hall. Although this Board is larger than any yet erected in the State, the names handed in by the citizens so far cannot all be placed thereon, and provision will have to be made for its extension. The design, structure and ornamentation



C.F. J. R. JOHNSON



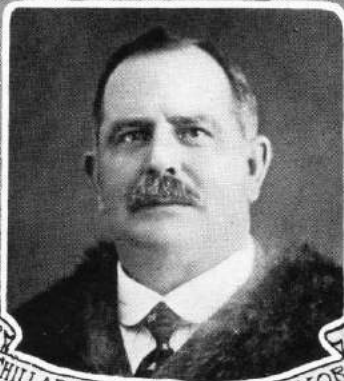
C.F. T. B. DREW



C.F. M. WALSH



C.F. A. J. PEARCE



R. E. SHILLABEER
MAYOR



C.F. A. McDONALD



C.F. A. A. HARRIS



C.F. S. M. BELL



C.F. H. JENKINS



C. NEYLON C. E.
CITY SURVEYOR



JOHN GENTAFIA
TOWN CLERK

of this Honor Board undoubtedly make it a distinctive feature of the Town Hall. In fact it is so constructed as to be a permanent part of the Town Hall. It is built exclusively of specially selected Victorian Blackwood at a cost of £150.

SOLDIERS' CERTIFICATES.—In addition to the above tribute to the Footscray volunteers the Council has now under consideration the proposal to present each man with an ornate Certificate. Designs are being examined and the intention is to get such a Certificate as will be prized and valued for all time by its valiant recipient.

RECRUITING.—The Footscray Recruiting Committee are doing their best to maintain the proud position this City has already won in the matter of enlistments. A Recruiting Depot was opened in Barkly Street, thanks to the practical support of the Council in undertaking to pay the rent of the building. Already the move has been amply justified by the enlistments that have been effected at the office.

REPATRIATION AND STATE WAR COUNCIL.—The duty to assist Returned Soldiers, and dependants of Soldiers, has received proper and consistent observance. The Footscray Repatriation Committee attends to this matter and it would not be the fault of this attentive Committee, under the chairmanship of Cr. Bell, if any case should be unfortunately overlooked.

RETURNED SOLDIERS and SAILORS IMPERIAL LEAGUE.—This League wrote to the Council suggesting that the Mayoress convene a meeting of women to form a Committee whose duty would be to get into touch with wives and mothers of soldiers and to help them in any difficulty or hardship, and to advise them generally in matters such as pensions, allowances, &c. The Mayoress accordingly convened the meeting and a Committee was formed as suggested.

RED CROSS and PATRIOTIC LEAGUE.—It is my special desire to state, on behalf of Mrs. Shillabeer and myself, how deeply we are indebted to those women of the Footscray Red Cross and Patriotic League for the splendid assistance they have been in Red Cross and Patriotic work, and how greatly we value and appreciate the excellence and success of all their efforts. It has been very gratifying to the Mayoress, especially in her capacity as President of the branch, to have the knowledge that the year's service has been harmonious, efficient and productive of good results. And this is entirely due to the way in which each and all co-operated in the grand objective to do all that was humanly possible to render aid to the sick and wounded soldiers, and to lighten the burden and make more comfortable the boys in the trenches.

To Mrs. H. C. Forge, hon. secretary, particular thanks are deserving for the systematic and businesslike manner in which she carried out her duties.

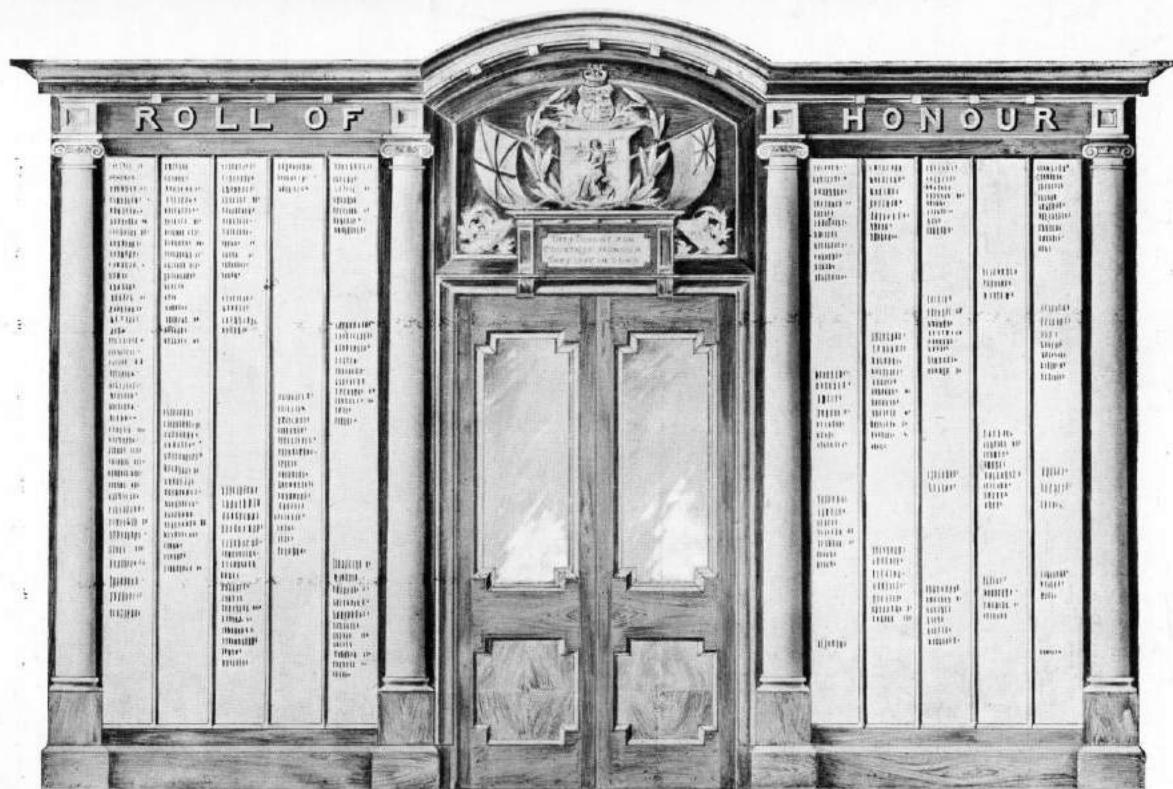
The following statements of finances will help to give an idea, though altogether inadequate, of the continuous and detail work which the Red Cross and Patriotic League managed to compass :—

BUTTON DAY.—The following were the receipts from sales of Buttons on the duly appointed days for the Commonwealth Button Fund :

French Red Cross Day	...	...	...	£365	0	0
Russian Flag Day	...	...	...	68	6	8
Wattle Day	...	...	...	111	3	7



FOOTSCRAY RED CROSS AND PATRIOTIC WORKERS.



THE MUNICIPAL HONOR BOARD AT TOWN HALL.