

# Glowing Tributes To Sister C. Williams

## Big Gathering At Grand Testimonial

HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS from the surrounding districts assembled in the Dandenong Town Hall last Friday night to join in the testimonial to Sister C. Williams, who has just completed 20 years' service as sister-in-charge of Infant Welfare work in the Dandenong Shire.

During her long association with the movement here, Sister rendered outstanding service to the mothers and babes throughout the district, and her kindly attitude to all, her helpful and expert advice, and her unselfish devotion to duty, won for her a legion of friends, who held for her a deep affection and inestimable esteem.

When Sister Williams announced her retirement it was the mothers she had served so well who took a leading part in the move to publicly recognise her wonderful service.

It was no wonder, then, that the Town Hall was so well filled on Friday night to pay tribute to this grand lady, who has given such noble service to her country in peace and war. (She was a nurse in the first world war).

The foyer of the hall was decorated with large bowls of flowers and there was a very effective floral display on the stage and on small tables around the hall.

When Sister Williams arrived she was met in the foyer by the Shire President (Cr. Ray Jeffers) and Mrs. Jeffers, who presented her with a lovely spray, and escorted her into the main hall, where she was given a welcoming round of applause.

The chairman (Cr. Vic. Tharle) opened proceedings and then handed over to Mr. Geoff. Ryland, who commenced the entertaining programme of singing being the Dandenong Orchestral Band under the baton of Mr. Eric McCurdy (baritone) and Mrs. McCurdy (soprano), whose efforts were much appreciated by the gathering. Miss Thelma Talbot assisted at the piano.

At the conclusion of the programme Cr. Vic. Tharle sincerely thanked the artists for providing such a bright and enjoyable entertainment, with special thanks to the Mosquito Quartet for their well-rendered numbers. Mr. Ryland suitably responded.

After a short interval Cr. Tharle, welcoming the large crowd, said he was pleased to see so many come so far to wish Sister Williams the best in her well-earned retirement.

Among those present were P. Smale, the first secretary of Dandenong Baby Welfare Centre; Mrs. Eric Hill, first president, as well as Mrs. E. Keys, Mrs. C. Codfrey, Mrs. Moysey, all members of the final Truby King Committee.

Among the speakers who paid tribute to Sister Williams were Sir Robert Boileau, Dr. Barbara Meredith (Director of Maternal and Infant Welfare in Victoria), Miss Harrison (Secretary of Truby King League), Chas. Caithness, Mr. W. Leslie Riley, president of the Nursery

School Committee; Sir Harold Luxton, Cr. A. W. Bowman, Mrs. E. Revelleigh (Girls Guides), Mrs. Philpot (St. John Ambulance), Mrs. Eric Hill and Mrs. Leo Matthews (formerly Sister Rees, who was associated with Sister Williams).

(The tributes paid by these speakers will appear in next issue)

### FLOWERS PRESENTED BY TWINS.

Spontaneous applause greeted Betty and John Crichton, the first twins to attend the Centre, as they came forward and presented Sister with some lovely flowers.

### SHIRE PRESIDENT PAYS TRIBUTE.

Adding his tribute, Cr. Ray Jeffers, Shire President, said: "We are all gathered here tonight to do honor to a very gracious lady." He then read out a letter eulogising her work that was going from Council, under seal, to Sister Williams, in official recognition of her sterling services. He also announced, amidst applause, that Sister would be the first to receive long service leave under the Council's new scheme for rewarding long service employees—a reward she richly deserved.

On behalf of the citizens of Dandenong and district, Cr. Jeffers then handed Sister Williams an attractive handbag containing more than £265 as some tangible recognition of the love and esteem in which she is held by the people of this town and district. With the gift went their sincere appreciation of all she had done for them, and their best wishes for happy days in her retirement. (Applause).

### A GRACIOUS RESPONSE.

A wonderful ovation was accorded the guest of honor as she rose to respond—a response as sincere and gracious as herself. "It has been absolutely marvellous, and this night

has been a night I shall never forget." Sister stated as she thanked everybody for their help and many acts of friendship over the years. She said she would treasure the memory of that night always and it was not without some feeling of sadness that she was going to give up her life's work, but she could not help but feel a glow of pride when she looked back at the small start they had made in the Memorial Hall. She hoped the Sisters who have taken over would have just as successful and as happy a time." (Applause).

A memorable evening was brought to a close by the serving of a delicious supper, during which Sister took the opportunity to renew friendships and to bid farewell to others with whom she had been associated with for so many happy years.



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