

A Derrinallum & District Farewell

Mr and Mrs R. Rawson Honored

A Public Service Appreciated

The large and enthusiastic attendance, people being present from Lismore, Cressy, Foxhow and all parts of the district, was the highlight of the public send-off tendered to Mr and Mrs R. Rawson and family, at the Derrinallum Mechanics' last Monday night. Courteous, obliging and efficient were the tenets of Mr and Mrs Rawson and this applied more particularly to Mr Rawson (more familiarly known as 'Dick') in his capacity as postmaster at Derrinallum and who for over 14 years, had also taken a keen interest in the town and district's public affairs. Mr and Mrs Rawson were first-class citizens and what will be Derrinallum's loss will be Boort's splendid gain.

Cr T. G. Borbidge was chairman and Mr A. Smith carried out the secretarial work. The guests were given a warm welcome on their entry into the hall and Mrs Rawson was presented with a posy of flowers by Mrs A. Smith.

Dancing was kept merrily going to music supplied by Messrs G. Heard, R. Drake, R. Leemon and Miss McKay. Among those present was Mr W. M. Stone snr. who, although 91½ years old, sat through to the finish and enjoyed himself. Numerous apologies were received.

The chairman, Cr. T. Borbidge, said that they had assembled to say farewell to a family that had interested themselves in every public function in Derrinallum and district. The large gathering present spoke more than his words could speak. Mr and Mrs Rawson had given their whole-hearted support to all movements and Mr Rawson in the football sphere had been a delegate, a good clubman and had been appointed to the tribunal of the Western Plains Football League. It was men of his calibre that had made the League rank so high. As a postmaster, he was under the public eye every day and the appreciation of his tact, courtesy, and ability was shown by the large attendance of friends present. (Applause.)

On behalf of the Derrinallum football club, Mr Harry Stone apologised for Mr Stout, the president's absence. Mr Rawson had been the club's vice-president and a better clubman and helper could not be found. He gave very sound advice and was respected by all. On the ladies' committee Mrs Rawson had been a tower of strength. The speaker wished them the best of good health, wealth and prosperity. (Applause.)

Mr T. Liston, on behalf of the Lismore football club, congratulated Mr Rawson on his promotion to a larger office. Mr Liston said there was no fairer man ever sat in a delegate's chair than Mr Rawson and it was the unanimous opinion of all the clubs for his appointment on the Tribunal. It was the wish of all that he be long spared and that he would gain still further promotion and even be the Postmaster-general. (Applause.)

Mr Lang Gibson spoke on behalf of the W.P. Football League and said he was sad that Dick was going as they had been together since the League started. Delegates could always rely on Mr Rawson for being fair and not putting one over. They would need men like him after the war. All wished him every success and prosperity wherever he may be. (Applause.)

Mr. W. Baxter said it was with feelings of regret that he, on behalf of the State School and Mother's Club, rose to say farewell. Mr Rawson had been the committee's chairman for years and Mrs Rawson had been an active worker with the Mothers' Club. Their long and valuable help to the school's many improvements was appreciated. He wished Mr and Mrs Rawson and family the very, very best in the future. (Hear, Hear.)

Rev. W. Howden said that as chairman of the school committee, Mr Rawson was always a kindly and courteous gentleman and all wished the guests the best of good things. (Applause.)

Mr G. S. Primrose, on behalf of the Hall and The Park, caused not end of merriment by his wittisms. Mr Rawson had been a great worker in the interests of the Hall and Park. They were going to a hotter place but Dick was quite capable of filling the position. He had never made any bad friends and he was always kind and courteous. All would miss him and all wished them

every success, happy and healthy lives. (Applause.)

Mrs W. D. Stewart, on behalf of the Hospital Auxiliary and the P.W.M.U., expressed regret at Mrs Rawson's departure and wished them every success. Mrs A. Smith did likewise and on behalf of the C.W.A. presented Mrs Rawson with a beautiful posy of flowers.

On behalf of the general public, Cr. T. G. Borbridge presented Mr and Mrs Rawson with a handsome cheque with which they could select a suitable present for their new home at Boort, to remind them of their many friends in Derrinallum and district.

On rising to respond, Mr Rawson was given an ovation. Landing in Derrinallum some 14½ years ago on a wet day, Mr Rawson said that the prospect did not look bright. He soon made friends, however, and now he did not know of a single person who bore them any ill-will (Hear, hear) He was the same. It would be a wrench to leave Derrinallum but it was gratifying to see so many present as an expression of goodwill to his wife, his family and self. They were grateful to the various speakers for the kind words spoken and for the gifts received. He had been chairman of the school committee for ten years and it had been a pleasure to help the school and education. Such liberal-hearted people they would never forget and if any were ever in Boort they must call upon and visit them. Again thanking them, Mr Rawson wished them all good health and prosperity in the future (Prolonged applause.)