

Skinner Rd hall remains a war memorial



A FEW comments to clarify the sale of Skinner Rd Hall to the Stratford A & P Association for \$20.

Shortly after the residents of Skinner-Bird Rds decided to close the hall last year (because of declining use) we were approached by the A & P Association wanting to purchase the hall.

Because the A & P Association offered, with the assistance of Electricity Trust, to place the hall at the showgrounds, as the Skinner Road Memorial Hall, complete with

the World War I and II plaques inside, residents voted unanimously to gift the hall.

However, because the hall and land were vested in the Stratford District Council — a requirement by Government concerning war memorial grants, SDC was powerless to regift it without Government consent. Eight months of endless requests to the minister proved fruitless until mention of Fair Go, Holmes, election year brought instant results.

But with a strong attachment — SDC had to sell the hall to make everything legal. Hence the token figure of \$20.

Tom Mason's concern that the SDC, "should have used a public tendering process to maximise returns for ratepayers", is best answered by the residents' determination that because the hall was built to commemorate people who fought and died for freedom, and in view of the fact that it will stand at the showgrounds as the Skinner Rd Memorial (serving the purpose for which it was built), neither the hall or land should be used as a money-making machine.

R. C. PATTINSON
Stratford