

## Timaru Herald - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1919

### AROWHENUA WELCOME HOME SOCIAL

Another of the popular welcome home socials for which the Arowhenua Pa is noted, was held in the Maori Hall on Thursday evening, to welcome Private Leslie T. Hopkinson and James P. Hopkinson<sup>i</sup>. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the attendance was good, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Excellent music was supplied by Misses V. Hopkinson, T. Gray, Mr Jack Rickus, and Master Torepe. Mr J. Solomon carried out the duties of M.C. to the satisfaction of all. The floor was in good dancing order and the supper, which was provided by the ladies, was highly appreciated.

Mr Tom. Gunnion, the Mayor of Temuka presented gold medals to the returned soldiers, who went away practicably at the beginning and had done their part nobly and well. Mr Gunnion said he never was an advocate of conscription. The plan he put forward in the early stages of the war was for every man of military age to place himself the disposal of the Government and say 'Take me when you want me.' If that had been done no conscription would have been necessary. He was proud to say that not one Maori had been conscripted, they were all volunteers. He had very great pleasure in presenting the medals, and he would ask the boys to accept them in the spirit in which they are given.

Cheers were then given for the returned soldiers and amidst the singing of "For they are jolly good fellows", the medals were pinned on the soldiers' coats by Misses Tuku, and Millie Hopkinson.

Mr Torepe's company then gave a waiata and received a double encore to which they responded with a Maori description song and "A simple Melody"; Miss Hopkinson playing the accompaniment.

Private James Hopkinson, on behalf of his cousin and himself, thanked the donors of the gifts, and assured them that their kind action was fully appreciated. More cheers were then given for all the returned men, after which supper was handed round and dancing resumed.

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<sup>i</sup> This should read "James D. Hopkinson", who was Leslie's cousin