

Mr McBride said that they were very pleased to have their Excellencies present—Lord Ranfurly to give out the prizes, and Lady Ranfurly to unveil the tablet in memory of an old boy of the school. They were unfortunate in having such bad weather, but they were all the more thankful for having their Excellencies' presence on this account. He then asked Lady Ranfurly to unveil the tablet. Mr Greaves having formed the children up in front of the school, Lord and Lady Ranfurly went outside, but owing to the rain which was falling at the time, the proceedings were considerably curtailed.

Lord Ranfurly, on behalf of Lady Ranfurly, said that he wished to express her pleasure at being present to take part in the ceremony. It was always most pleasing to see that those who had lost their lives are remembered in their own districts, and he was sure that the tablet will be pointed out to the children at Wai-iti for a long time to come in remembrance of one who had left the school and lost his life fighting for his country. He then asked Lady Ranfurly to unveil the tablet, which Her Ladyship did by pulling a halyard and letting the New Zealand ensign which covered it fall to the side.

The tablet, which is placed between the two doors in front and on the outside of the school, is a very handsome one. It is of marble. On the top are fern leaves, and at the bottom are two flags crossed, with a gun lying between them, while above this is a helmet. Inscribed on the tablet are the words—"In honoured memory of **William Matthews**, who was drowned in crossing the Caldor river while on active service in South Africa, September 27th, 1901, aged 19 years. Honour the brave." At the very bottom are the words, "Erected by the residents." The tablet was made at the establishment of Mr S. McBride, Timaru, and the workmanship is a great credit to him.