

## MAYORS.

Following the election of aldermen by a show of hands at a court house meeting on Tuesday 22 December 1863, the six elected aldermen met in the court house on Monday 4 January 1864 to elect a mayor. The *Armidale Express*, January 1864 reported 'the proceedings were conducted with closed doors, the public and the press being excluded'. On the motion of Aldermen John Moore and John Trim, George Allingham was elected unanimously as Armidale's first mayor.

In February 1864 Armidale Borough Council discussed proposed by-laws with particular reference to the voting power of the mayor. The mayor used a vote and a casting vote to support a motion which gave the mayor power to cast a regular and casting vote. Prior to this council meeting, the mayor had only used a casting vote. Council also determined the salary of the town clerk at £50 per annum with five per cent per annum for collecting the rates.

An amazing election occurred in February 1867 as different factions appeared in council; Aldermen Trim, Ross and McLean vote as one faction and Aldermen Moore, Fitzgerald and Tysoe the other. The six aldermen became deadlocked on the election of the mayor and on the method of his election. Following the deadlock on Thursday 15 February 1867, the aldermen remained on the premises for the next two days. The *Armidale Express*, reported in detail the dramatic events on the Friday and Saturday evenings 'when a considerable number of ratepayers were present, very strong language was at times exchanged between members of the opposite sides'.<sup>1</sup> The matter was resolved when Ald. Thomas B. Fitzgerald voted for himself. He was elected mayor in 1865 and 'denied he had not been tampered with in the least'. He was re-elected in 1868.

A further amazing election was held on Friday 11 February 1870. A motion from Ald. Fitzgerald was passed which stated 'that any candidates could neither vote for nor against their nomination, and that every such proposal must be seconded'.<sup>2</sup> A farcical situation developed so that every alderman was nominated and a deadlock occurred. Consequently Ald. Fitzgerald successfully moved 'that the motion restraining candidates from voting should be rescinded'. The newspaper correspondent also commented 'there was a large amount of useless talk and vituperation during the proceedings'. On the Saturday evening, council elected Ald. Oliver as mayor; the only dissidents being Aldermen Salmon and Brown. Ald. Oliver died in office in September 1870 and he was in turn replaced by Ald. Naughten.

In June 1872 problems emerged between the Mayor Ald. Naughten and council concerning an earlier meeting of the library committee. Some aldermen claimed the resolutions referring to the mayor had not been put to the meeting and

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<sup>1</sup> *Armidale Express*, 23 February 1867, p.2.

<sup>2</sup> *Armidale Express*, 12 February 1870, p.2.

'prevented the Council recognising the Mayor till their intention was carried out'.<sup>3</sup> The mayor believed council's action was 'irregular and unjustifiable as the alleged offences were of a private nature'. He was not prepared to resign but claimed he would have done so if privately asked. Two weeks later, six aldermen attended the council meeting but the aldermen were not prepared to conduct any business apart from reading some minutes. The action was taken 'owing to the majority present objecting for reasons referred to in the report of a previous meeting to sit under him'.<sup>4</sup> The relationship between the mayor and aldermen affected council business that year.

In September 1888 Ald. Apps moved that the mayor's salary be £30 per year but the motion was withdrawn after discussion. Council accepted the motion in January 1892 'that at the next election of aldermen a vote of the ratepayers be taken as to whether an allowance should be made to the Mayor'.<sup>5</sup> That February, two questions concerning the mayoral allowance and sewerage were put to voters at the council elections. Voting on the mayoral allowance was 88 yes and 142 no. In February 1902 Ald. Makin moved successfully that an allowance of £25 be granted to the mayor.

When council approved an allowance the amounts paid were 1903 £25; 1908 £25; 1909 £50; 1923 £50; 1940 £100; 1941 £100; 1948 £125; 1949 £150; 1953 £200; 1954 £250; 1957 £300; 1958 £350; 1962 £500; 1963 £500; 1966 £500; 1967 \$1500 and 1971 \$1500. The annual allowance was set at \$2000 in 1972 and changed to \$2500 in September 1976.

In September 1904 council considered some record should be kept in a conspicuous place with the names of all present and past mayors. The information was to be painted on a board or tablet and placed in the town hall or council chambers. In August 1927 the mayor was granted approval to arrange the purchase of an Honour Board, 5 feet 6 inches high and 4 feet wide. At that time, photographs of the mayors was being prepared for the walls of the council chambers. The honour roll was unveiled in the council chambers on Monday 24 October 1927 by the Hon. D.H. Drummond, Minister for Education. The occasion was attended by a number of former mayors including William Butler (Maitland), W.J. Hawke, William Curtis, H.W. Lane as well as a number of sons.

Following the State Governor Lord Chelmsford's recent visit to Armidale, the Reverend J. Auchinleck-Ross of Hillgrove suggested to council in November 1909 that a mayoral robe should be purchased for official functions. Although the Mayor Ald. W.J. Hawke felt that the mayor and town clerk should be robed, council voted against the proposal.

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<sup>3</sup> *Armidale Express*, 29 June 1872, p.2.

<sup>4</sup> *Armidale Express*, 13 July 1872, p.2.

<sup>5</sup> *Armidale Express*, 29 January 1892, p.7.

A gold mayoral chain was purchased in November 1925 at a cost of £40. Council contributed £20 and the remainder was contributed by the mayor, aldermen and other prominent residents.<sup>6</sup>

In September 1938 council decided 'to purchase a mayoral robe, at a cost of £10 and a Town clerk's gown at a cost of £4/10-'.<sup>7</sup> The matter had arisen because of the number of civic functions planned in conjunction with the 'Back to Armidale' celebrations.

The Department of Local Government advised council in September 1943 'that the Act had been altered to provide for open voting for the election of Mayor'.<sup>8</sup> Council determined to protest to the minister and moved that the matter be discussed at the next Local Government conference. That December, Ald. Leonard E. Dawson was elected unanimously by open voting.

In September 1953 council took action to have the mayoral chain repaired. The existing chain consisted of thirty six shields 'bearing the names of Mayors of Armidale since the Armidale Municipality was first proclaimed in 1863'.<sup>9</sup> Council also announced its intention to add six additional shields in the near future. The mayoral robe was made of crimson ribbed black material and the chain consisted of gold shields on a blue satin circlet. The shields represented the leaves of a Waratah and were joined by the letter A. A gold pendant presented to council by Charles G. Wilson on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee in 1923 hung from the chain.

Mayor W.P. Ryan suggested in his annual report to council in November 1953 that the mayor should be provided with a car. In December 1958, Mayor Percy Love introduced a Christmas innovation message.

The Premier announced in July 1959 that fifteen municipalities would elect their mayors by popular vote for three year terms and Armidale was selected as one of those municipalities. An attempt to ask the electors of Armidale to vote at the February 1962 referendum whether they preferred election of the mayor by popular vote, was defeated in council in December 1961.

In February 1964 following a complaint about the robes of the mayor, council voted £500 for new robes, a new mayoral chain and a design in the city's coat of arms.

In September 1976 council opposed a move to introduce direct election of mayors each year rather than the election by aldermen. The subject arose during

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<sup>6</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 25 November 1925, p.8.

<sup>7</sup> *Armidale Express*, 14 September 1938, p.7.

<sup>8</sup> *Armidale Express*, 22 September 1943, p.8.

<sup>9</sup> *Armidale Express*, 11 September 1953, p.8.

discussions held with members of the Grants Commission and presidents of Local Government and Shires Association in Glen Innes.

A collection of photographs of Armidale's mayors was assembled and permanently displayed in the foyer of the Civic Administration Building as part of council's project for Australia Day 1990.

#### **George Allingham (Mayor 1863-1864)**

The eldest son of Edward and Elizabeth Allingham (nee Morrow), he was born on 6 March 1829 in Ireland. He arrived with the family on the ship 'Percy' on 28 August 1841. He was educated at Dixon's school at Maitland and came to Armidale at about the age of 12 years to join his family who had come directly to New England. He married Margaret Coventry at Oban in 1853.

His father Edward established a mill in Beardy Street, opposite the street named after him. Edward was the licensee of the Rose Inn in 1850 and once owned the blocks where the gasworks and Olympic Pool now stand as well the Union Store. After retiring he recommenced business as an auctioneer and commission agent and took over the business of Lewis Markham on the latter's death in 1881. He became the first Armidale mayor. Aged 69 years, George died on 6 April or 8 April 1898. He was a magistrate for many years and had a long association with the Armidale and New England Hospital, P.A. Society and the licensing bench.

#### **James Pillians Bonnar (Mayor 1907)**

Mary Winifred Bonnar, the wife of the mayor died suddenly on 23 May 1907. Mrs Bonnar was the daughter of the late John Trim and left a husband and three children. Following a requiem mass in the Roman Catholic Church, she was buried in the Armidale cemetery. James Bonnar, the son of John J. and Lucy Bonnar resigned in October because of the death of his wife earlier that year.

The *Armidale Express*, 29 September 1922 announced the death of James Bonnar in the Murwillumbah Hospital on 24 September. A resident of Tweed Heads, he had been a representative of Silk Bros., Sydney for many years. He left two daughters and one son.

#### **William Butler (Mayor 1888)**

William Butler was born in 1856, the son of William and Mary Butler at Lemon Grove on the Paterson River. Aged 17 years, he became an apprentice blacksmith with the firm Capper and Sons, Maitland. He married Sara, the third daughter of Henry Harris in 1879 and arrived in Armidale to start a business in 1880. In 1884 he entered council as an alderman and was chairman of the improvement committee on several occasions. He was greatly involved in the purchase of the gasworks by council as well as the improvements to streets involving their levelling and the provision of concrete guttering. He was a protectionist, a

member of the Church of England and the New South Wales Constitution of Freemasons.<sup>10</sup>

At the time of the unveiling of the Mayoral Honour Roll at Armidale in October 1927, he was a resident of Maitland. He died a resident of Lorn at Maitland West on 4 August 1933. Following a service at St. Mary's church, he was buried at the Church of England cemetery at Campbell's Hill. He left a daughter and two sons.<sup>11</sup>

### **Claude Cainero (Mayor 1980-1983)**

Claude Cainero served as alderman from 1974 to 1983 and deputy mayor from 1976 to 1979. He became mayor in September 1979 and served until 1983. He was a delegate to the New England (Noxious Plants) County Council in 1978. He became Chairman of the N.S.W. Country Mayor's Association in 1983 and was a founder member of Armidale Central Rotary Club in that same year. A qualified television technician, he came to Armidale in 1964 to open his own electronic business but gave up the business to become a grazier.

### **Cyril Carey (Mayor 1957, 1962)**

Born at Attunga, Cyril Carey was one of nine children. He was educated at Attunga Primary, Tamworth High School and Armidale Teacher's College. He was one of the first students who enrolled at the New England University College when it opened in 1938. With the interruption of the war, it was not until 1952 he eventually graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

During the war, he served from 1941 to 1946 at various Australian stations including Darwin and eventually became a Captain in the 43rd Infantry Battalion. He joined the Armidale City Council as an alderman in December 1947. He was a foundation member of the library committee from December 1948 and served as a member of the council's library committee from January 1950 until August 1982.

Before the war he played representative sport in rugby league and cricket. Before joining council he was an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. As a teacher, he worked at West Armidale and Uralla, before joining the staff of the Armidale's Teacher College as a junior lecturer in April 1936. Aged 70 years, he died on 23 August 1982.<sup>12</sup>

### **David P. Claverie (Mayor 1900-1901, 1905)**

Aged 42, he died in Armidale on Wednesday 29 April 1914 at his residence 'Ellora' after a brief illness. As a solicitor, he commenced his practice in Armidale twenty one years ago. He was born in Armidale in 1872, the fourth son of Henry and Ann Claverie and received his education at the local Catholic school. He

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<sup>10</sup> *Armidale Express*, 31 July 1888, p.4.

<sup>11</sup> *Maitland Daily Mercury*, 4 August 1933, p.8 and 8 August 1933, p.4.

<sup>12</sup> *Armidale Express*, 4 October 1957, p.6 and 25 August 1982, p.2.

served his articles with A.W. Simpson in Armidale. When elected to the position of mayor in 1900, he was only 28 years of age. In politics, he was an ardent Protectionist and for many years served his party as secretary. He was a sportsman; a Vice President and chairman of the committee in the Armidale and New Jockey Club; a committee member of the Armidale Coursing Club; a prominent member of the Irish National Association as well as being a practising member of the Roman Catholic Church.

He was twice married; his first wife being Lucy McKinlay, daughter of William McKinlay of Armidale and Annie Stevens, daughter of Mr A. Stevens of Uralla, his second. His wife Annie and a twelve year old daughter from his first marriage, survived him.

He was buried in the Armidale cemetery on Friday 1 May 1914 following Requiem Mass in the St. Mary's Cathedral. His legal business was purchased in May 1914 by Mr C.L. Mackenzie of Mackenzie and Mackenzie, Sydney and continued its operation in Armidale as Mackenzie and Biddulph.<sup>13</sup>

#### **William Curtis (Mayor 1910, 1916-1917, 1920)**

The senior member and founder of W. Curtis Ltd. of Armidale, he died at his Armidale residence 'Cotswold', Marsh Street, Armidale on Thursday 14 June 1934. Born at Cirencester, England in on 8 December 1858, he learnt his trade at Bristol and at an early age went to United States where he worked at Oregon and other centres. Upon the death of his father, he returned to England and shortly afterwards went to South Africa.

Accompanied by a friend, he travelled to Port Augusta and after a time in South Australia, he moved to N.S.W. and worked for a time at Anthony Hordens. His next move was to Armidale in 1892 where he established a small draper's shop in Beardy Street. He gradually expanded his business and was able to move into large premises. A branch was also formed at Hillgrove and later an Uralla store. In Armidale he married Miss Fry of West Maitland in . She predeceased him in 1921 and there were two sons of the marriage; A.B. Curtis and Harry W. Curtis both of whom became involved in the business. In 1933 he married again and his widow survived him.

He served as an alderman for thirty years. His association with the Armidale and New England Hospital Committee extended over twenty two years and for the past two years was Chairman of the Board of Directors. The avenue of willows along the Dumaresq Creek and the trees in Armidale Streets was a tribute to his love of beauty. This was also reflected in the magnificent gardens surrounding his family home, 'Cotswold', now the Cotswold Motel. In describing the property in 1905, the *Armidale Argus*, 25 November reported 'in its commanding outlook and beautiful gardens it stands as a model residence and on every side displays evidence of architectural taste and studied care'.

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<sup>13</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 2 May 1914.

He was also connected for nearly thirty years with the Armidale and New England P.A. and H. Association and the Armidale Literary Institute. He was a member of the New England State executive and was a keen supporter of the movement. He was a foundation member of the Armidale Bowling Club where he was president from 1919 to 1923. He was also a foundation member and president of the Armidale Parents and Citizen's Association as well being a trustee of the Dangar scholarship made available for the youth of the district.

He was a trustee of the Armidale sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldier's Imperial League as well as being a keen war worker. Both Mr and Mrs Curtis were involved in extensive charity work and the Wesley Church where Mr Curtis was a trustee.<sup>14</sup> Present day Curtis Park was named after the man and a see memorial at church.

### **Leonard E. Dawson (Mayor 1943-1944, 1949-1950)**

Born in Armidale in 1889, he moved to Hillgrove with his parents as an infant and was there for the first twenty years of his life. He became a blacksmith at Hillgrove with his father and then moved to Bellingen, Guyra and Walcha.

At Guyra, he conducted the brass band and later moved to Walcha as the bandmaster. He entered the service of the Railway Department in 1916 as a cleaner and rose to the position of a driver. In July 1949 he retired after 33 years of service.

He entered council in December 1928 and was mayor for four terms: 1943, 1944, 1949 and 1950. He was an advocate of council ownership of electricity in 1936 and in 1944 was appointed to the Local Government Executive but was forced to resign because of ill-health in 1945. He served on a Number 8 Regional Development Advisory Committee from 1945 until December 1949.

He was a member of the Country Party and was involved in the Chamber of Commerce, Bowling Club and Police Boy's Club. He was instrumental in the formation of the Armidale Orchestral Society in 1943.<sup>15</sup> He was farewelled from Armidale in August 1951 and the *Armidale Express* 29 August announced that he had taken up residence in Marbouna. This edition also announced that he was to receive a Local Government Certificate of Service.

### **Deakin, Anthony C. (Mayor 1987)**

### **William Drew (Mayor 1891-1892)**

Following a request, the Mayor Ald. James Bonnar convened a public meeting in the council chambers in January 1907 to recognise the community service of William Drew to the Armidale community. He had given service to the

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<sup>14</sup> *Armidale Express*, 15 June 1934, p.4.

<sup>15</sup> *Armidale Express*, 15 July 1949, p.6 and 22 August 1951, p.6.

community for the past forty years but retired that month because of ill health. For twenty years he held the post of treasurer to the Armidale P. and A. Association. At the meeting, eulogistic speeches were presented in praise of his contribution and it was moved that an illuminated address and sovereigns be presented to him at a later function.<sup>16</sup>

He originally came from Maitland to Armidale and worked with his uncle, Robert Drew in a saddlery business. He conducted the saddlery business until his departure for Sydney with his wife and family. He died at his home in Sydney in 1914, aged 75 years leaving a widow as well as three sons and three daughters.

During his life in Armidale, he took an active role in the Freetrade-Protection campaign and fought for the Protectionist cause. He became the first president of the Liberal League in Armidale and worked for the Federation of the States. As a supporter of education, he served on the Public School Board and played a role in the establishment of The Armidale School Ltd.<sup>17</sup>

#### **John Failes (Mayor 1969-1972)**

John Failes arrived in Armidale as a medical practitioner in 1957. He was elected an alderman in September 1969 and served on council until 1980. In 1973 to 1974 he was deputy mayor and mayor from 1969 to 1971. He was mayor during the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in 1970 and the John Failes Cycleway along the Dumaresq Creek, named in his honour was opened on 3 July 1983.

#### **Dalrymple D.H. Fayle (Mayor 1942, 1945-1948)**

Born at Sydney, he came to Armidale from Ballina in 1927 for health reasons. He was first elected to council in 1937 and campaigned with four issues in mind: a hydro electro scheme, an aerodrome, a public library and a town planning authority. He helped establish the V.D.C. in Armidale and was re-elected in December 1941. In July 1942, he enlisted and was gazetted as an acting Lieutenant and posted to one of the divisions which recently returned from the Middle East. He also served in the Great War with the First Regiment of Light Horse in the Middle East as a trooper.<sup>18</sup>

He was one of the first representatives of council on the New England County Council and worked with the Hon. D.H. Drummond to establish a public library. He was an inaugural member of the Armidale Beautification Committee formed at a public meeting. He served with a number of community organisations: a foundation member and president of the Legacy Club; a foundation member of the Repatriation Committee; president and life member of the R.S.L., Armidale branch; committee member of the Golf Club; member and treasurer of N.E.G.'s School Council; foundation committeeman of the Armidale Club as well as being a member and chairman of the Technical College. He served as treasurer for 12

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<sup>16</sup> *Armidale Express*, 15 January 1907, p.4 and *Armidale Chronicle*, 16 January 1907, p.2.

<sup>17</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 5 December 1914, p.4.

<sup>18</sup> *Armidale Express*, 29 July 1942, p.4.



years and member of the Hospital Board; life member and head steward of the Armidale P.A. and H. Association and foundation chairman of the Armidale and New England Co-operative Building society. He was elected patron of the Save the Children Fund and Senior Citizen's Association and as long serving member of the Rotary Club he was club president in 1940 and 1941 and district governor. In October 1951 he was presented with a Local Government Long Service certificate.

#### **John B. Fitzgerald (Mayor 1898-1899)**

Aged 70 years, he passed away at his residence in Barney Street on 26 October 1923 after a period of prolonged illness. Born in Armidale the son of Thomas Bryan and Margaret Fitzgerald, he was connected with numerous Armidale institutions. His association with the Jockey Club, of which he was secretary, dated back to 1870. He also helped inaugurate the hospital day at the local race meeting. An alderman for 24 years, he was also president of the Irish National Association, treasurer of the P. and A. Society, a member of the local Land Board and a trustee of the School of Arts and racecourse. He was survived by his mother and two daughters.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Thomas Bryan Fitzgerald (Mayor 1865, 1867-1868)**

The son of Thomas and Margaret Fitzgerald, he came to the colony in 1844 with letters of introduction to Captain O'Connell, then the owner of Guyra Station. Afterwards he accompanied Major Parke to Guy Fawkes, when the major took up that station in 1845. Following a period in agriculture, he moved to Armidale where he resided until his death on Monday 27 May 1889. He took a keen interest in matters affecting the welfare of Armidale and he was one of the first aldermen elected to council in 1864. The deceased left a widow and grown up family residing in Armidale.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Alleine Horner Fletcher (Mayor 1928)**

Alleine Horner Fletcher died at his Armidale residence on 15 June 1957. Born in Armidale, he attended school in Sydney and served with the 33rd Battalion of the A.I.F. in World War One. He held a commissioned rank and at the end of the war he studied optometry and returned to Armidale to join his father's firm. Elected to the Armidale City Council in 1923, he served four terms in council. Aged 33 years, he was elected to the position of mayor and was mayor at the time of the opening of the Teacher's College in 1928.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Armidale and New England Hospital for many years and was honorary treasurer at the time of his death. He was also chairman of the Ambulance for a number of years. He was foundation member and office member of the Armidale Rotary Club and was a director of the Armidale Co-operative Building Societies. During World War Two, he joined the Volunteer Defence Corps and became Lieutenant- Colonel in charge of the

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<sup>19</sup> *Armidale Express*, 30 October 1923, p.3.

<sup>20</sup> *Armidale Express*, 28 May 1889, p.4.

district. For more than forty years, he was treasurer of the Wesley Church Trust and was a leading figure in the establishment of the Methodist Girls' Hostel.

He was twice married. His first wife formerly Miss Edna Marjorie Brown of Auburn, died in September 1927. She left two young children and was buried in the Armidale Methodist cemetery. Later he married Miss Florence M. Glass from a grazing family of Gara. He left a widow and four sons. Following a funeral service in the Wesley Church, he was buried in the Armidale cemetery.<sup>21</sup>

### **James A. Glass (Mayor 1912)**

James Glass died in Armidale on Sunday 2 July 1933, aged 80 years. Born in Armidale, the son of the late Mr and Mrs Andrew Glass, he followed the occupation of a conveyancer for many years but retired about ten years earlier to live with his neice in Armidale. He was a former alderman for twenty five years and shared the position of mayor of Armidale with Walter D. Solomons in 1912. For forty years he was secretary of the Armidale and New England Hospital and retired from that position only a few years prior to his death. He held the position of trustee and auditor of the Ladies Relief Society for forty six years. He was secretary of the Armidale School of Arts for over twenty years and for half a century held the position of secretary and treasurer of the Sons of Temperance. His association as treasurer of the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church extended over a long time and he resigned only a few months prior to his death as secretary of the Armidale cemetery trust.

After a short service at his residence, he was buried in the Presbyterian portion of the Armidale cemetery on Monday 3 July 1933.<sup>22</sup> In November 1949, Mayor L.E. Dawson proposed that the name of James A. Glass be added to council's roll of benefactors.

### **Joe Harrold, Joe (Mayor 1994-1995)**

### **Walter J. Hawke (Mayor 1909, 1919)**

Following a short illness, he died in the Armidale and New England Hospital on 26 May 1942, aged 84 years. He established the firm of Walter J. Hawke and Co. in Armidale about 1896 and had carried it on since then until shortly before his death. He was a member of the City Council for many years and took an active part in public affairs. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Armidale saleyards and performed the opening ceremony in 1909. He was a member of the Armidale and New England Jockey Club committee for many years and was made a life member for his services rendered. He was a member of the council of the Country Stock and Station Agent's Association and held an auctioneer's license for many years. Mrs Hawke predeceased her husband by three years and five sons and three daughters survive. The funeral took place in Armidale

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<sup>21</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 24 September 1927, p.6 and *Armidale Express*, 17 June 1957, p.6.

<sup>22</sup> *Armidale Express*, 3 July 1933, p.4 and 24 July 1933, p.4.

following a service at St. Presbyterian's Church.<sup>23</sup> In February 1964 the City Council announced a new street between the New England Highway and Rockvale Road will be named Hawke street.

#### **Douglas Hewitt (Mayor 1973-1974)**

A fellow of the Real Estate and Stock Institute of Australia and member of the Armidale Building Society he served on council from 1962 to 1968; 1971 to 1974; 1977 to 1980 and from 1983 to 1987. He was elected deputy mayor from 1964 to 1966 and in 1972. He served as Mayor in 1973 to 1974; 1978 to 1979; 1983 to 1984 and from 1985 to 1986. He was a delegate to the New England County Council from 1966 to 1968.

Married to Jeanette in December 1954, he has a family of three children. From 1963 to 1964 he was president of the Armidale Apex club, a District Governor from 1968 to 1969 and retired as a life member in 1970. He was president of the Armidale Rotary 1975 to 1976 and became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1982. He was the inaugural chairman of the Autumn Lodge Retirement Village Committee 1972 to 1982 and became a member of the Council of the Armidale College of Advanced in 1972 and served as deputy chairman until his retirement in 1984. Other community interests included membership of the Armidale Bowling Club, Ex-Services Club, Armidale Club, Theatre Club and Musical Society.

#### **William Cyril Higinbotham (Mayor 1904)**

Aged 80 years, William Cyril Higinbotham died on 28 February 1940 at his residence at McMahan's Point, North Sydney; the son of William Howard and Selina Higinbotham. The *Armidale Express*, 4 March 1940 commented, the 'deceased was prominent in the public life of Armidale some years ago, and was a member of the City Council for some time'.

#### **George W. Holmes (Mayor 1887)**

He was born at Birmingham in 1843, the son of John and Ellen Proctor and attended St. Thomas's School in that city. In 1864 he arrived in South Australia and worked in his saddlery trade. Following a period in Goulburn, he arrived in Armidale in the early 1870s. He established a saddlery business and married Mary Doak on 11 February 1872. In 1884 he became the landlord of the New England Hotel. Apart from his municipal and business matters, he also became a member of the Armidale Amateur Dramatic Company.<sup>24</sup> He died in 1926 at Kogarah.

#### **Davis Hughes (Mayor 1954-1956)**

The son of F. Hughes he was educated at Launceston High School and served with the Tasmanian Education Department from 1927 to 1935. He was a Squadron Leader in the R.A.A.F from 1939 to 1945 and was Deputy Headmaster of The Armidale School from 1947 to 1950. Davis Hghes was an alderman of

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<sup>23</sup> *Armidale Express*, 27 May 1942, p.4.

<sup>24</sup> *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 3 September 1887, p.487.

council from 1948 until his election to the Legislative Assembly in a 1950 by-election caused by the election of D.H. Drummond, a former Minister of Education to the House of Representatives. Defeated in 1954 by Cahill???? he was re-elected to council that year and served a term of almost three years as mayor. He resigned as mayor in April prior to his re-election in 1956. He was appointed N.S.W. Public Works Minister in 1965 and served in that role until 1973. He was a member of the Council of the University College and the University of New England. He was leader of the N.S.W. Country Party in 1958 and 1959 and Agent-General for N.S.W. from 1973-1978. He was granted Freeman of the City on 29 November 1972.

### **James Jones (Mayor 1906, 1907)**

Aged 71 years of age, he died in Sydney on 20 September 1910 whilst accompanying Mayor Ald. Curtis to attend the Municipal Annual Conference. He suffered a fall from a Sydney tram and did not recover from his injuries.

He was born in 1839 and for some years was engaged in pastoral pursuits before arriving in Armidale. In Armidale he conducted business as an auctioneer and commission agent. He was President of the Liberal League; Vice-President of the Armidale City Band and a member of the Armidale and New England Hospital Committee.

He left a widow and family of four; including one son, Thomas (Council Clerk) and four daughters. The funeral took place on Thursday 22 September where he was buried in the Methodist cemetery, Armidale.<sup>25</sup>

### **Sydney John Kearney (Mayor 1913)**

The eldest son of the late Timothy J. Kearney, he died on Monday 16 April 1923, aged 52 years. He was educated at the New England Grammar School and St. Joseph's College Sydney, followed the profession of his father and trained as a solicitor. He left a widow and six children, the eldest 19 years of age.

For nearly nine years, he was an alderman and the mayor in Armidale's Jubilee year of celebrations in 1913 before his retirement in 1917. He was joint editor with Joseph Scholes and the Reverend A.H. Garnsey with the 1913 souvenir booklet. He served for many years as secretary of the Armidale and New England Hospital and the City Band. He was the first secretary of the Rugby Union and president of the League since its inception. He also served on the committees of the Coursing Club, the New England Cricket Association, Irish National Association, P. and A. Association, Eight Hour Association, School of Arts, Catholic Debating Society, Church Club and a number of the war service institutions.

As a Labor candidate he defeated Mr Charles G. Wilson and Ald. W. Watson in a by-election in 1903. At the 1904 election, he was again successful and defeated

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<sup>25</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 24 September 1910, p.

Mr McMahon of Uralla but then retired at the end of the term. At the next Federal election he again tried to enter politics but was defeated by Mr V.C. Thompson.<sup>26</sup>

### **Herbert William Lane (Mayor 1914-15)**

The *Armidale Argus*, 25 November 1905 announced 'in politics Mr Lane has been a tower of strength to the Free-trade cause'. The report also referred to his 'commonsense and capable interpretation of the land laws' demonstrated on the local Land Board. In May 1915 he announced his intention to stand for Liberal selection for the Armidale seat and he entered Parliament as a M.L.A. in November. After forty years's residence in Armidale, he left for Sydney on Friday 24 August 1928. During that time, he served as an alderman, mayor, State Parliamentary Representative, member of the Land Board and in many honorary public positions.

H.W. Lane died at a private hospital at Bondi on Wednesday 16 February 1938, aged 85 years. Late of 1 Ocean Street, Bondi he was survived by his wife, Kate Eliza and a daughter, Phyllis. Conducted a furniture business in Armidale then constructed by A.T. Neill in 1938. He was an alderman for several years, mayor during 1914 and 1915 and a member of almost every public body in the town.<sup>27</sup> The City Council announced its intention in February 1964 to name Lane Place in a new housing estate south of Galloway Street in South Armidale.

### **Rosemary Leitch (Mayor 1988-1993)**

Rosemary Leitch was the first female mayor of council elected in council's 125 years of history. Born in Sydney and a graduate of the Sydney University, she came to Armidale in 1960 with her husband Dr David Leitch, (a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, Edinburgh and Melbourne). Her husband served for several years as the National Party member for Armidale before being defeated by Mr Bill McCarthy of the Labor Party in 1978. She was first elected to council in 1983 and served for many years as chairman of the Presbyterian Ladies College in Armidale.<sup>28</sup>

### **Percy G. Love (Mayor 1958-1961)**

Percy Graham Love, aged 66, died at Armidale on 10 January 1965. Born in Guyra on 5 March 1899, he moved to Armidale in 1905 when his family was forced off the land by bad seasons. He was elected to council in 1953 and became mayor in 1958. He was mayor for four successive years until he resigned from council in 1961. In January 1959 he was selected as the A.L.P. candidate for the 1959 state elections. He was the first vice-chairman of the New England Abattoir County Council in 1961; its inaugural year.

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<sup>26</sup> *Armidale Express*, 20 April 1923, pp. 3-4 and *Armidale Chronicle*, 18 April 1923, p.4.

<sup>27</sup> *Armidale Express*, 18 February 1938, p.4 and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 February 1938, p.10.

<sup>28</sup> *Armidale Express*, 9 October 1987, p.2.

He was educated at Ben Venue and the High School at the Demonstration School. After he left school, he worked at the drapery store of W. Curtis Ltd. for twenty years. When the firm sold out, he transferred to Braunds where he worked in the furniture department until shortly before World War II. Then he went into his own business as an estate agent and second hand dealer.

He joined the trade union movement at the age of 16 as a member of the Shop Assistant's Union. At the time of his death, he was the Australian Labour Party president; a position he had held for eighteen years. He was also Armidale Electorate Council vice president and New England Electorate Council president. Apart from local government, he was much remembered for his involvement in sport. He was Armidale League secretary and Group 5 secretary for five years and one of the founder members of the N.S.W. Country Rugby League. As a member and trainer, he was interested in horse and greyhound racing. As a member of the Armidale and New England Jockey Club committee, he was an active chairman of the grounds committee.

He was survived by his widow Eileen May and daughters, Marie and Margaret. Burial took place in Armidale after a Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral.<sup>29</sup>

#### **William Henry McBean (Mayor 1938-1941)**

William H. McBean died in the Armidale and New England Hospital on Saturday March 1961 aged nearly seventy three years. He was the third son of the late Mr and Mrs G.H. McBean of Flowerburn, Armidale. Born in Melbourne on 31 March 1888, he came to Armidale with his family in 1892. He graduated in dentistry in Sydney when he was 20 and returned to Armidale. First elected in 1929, he was a member of council for fifteen years and mayor for four years.

He was first elected to council in 1929 and was mayor during Armidale's celebrations in 1938 on the 75th anniversary of its incorporation as a municipality. During World War II, he served as Chief Warden and was responsible for the creation and operation of the city's National Emergency Service. He was chairman of the P.L.C. Council for 20 years and also served as past president of Rotary; clerk of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and chieftain of the Caledonian Society. McBean House at P.L.C. was dedicated in memory of him in July 1961. In October 1951 he was presented with the Local Government Long Service certificate.

Following a service at St. Paul's church he was buried in the Armidale cemetery. He left a widow, formerly Miss Marion Pearson of Wood Park, Armidale and a daughter.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> *Armidale Express*, 13 December 1957, p.8, 21 January 1959, p.8 and 11 January 1965, p.6.

<sup>30</sup> *Armidale Express*, 15 November 1950, p.3, 24 October 1951, p.6 and 20 March 1961, p.6.

### **James McLean (Mayor 1869)**

James McLean died on 8 April 1912, aged 89 years following a long period of illness and was buried in the Presbyterian cemetery at Armidale. His wife died several months earlier. Born at Castle Bar of Scottish parents in 1823, he arrived in the colony at the age of 20 years. Initially he moved to Wollongong but sixty five years ago moved to Armidale. His first business venture was manager at a flour milling plant. Later he became a shop keeper.

He took part in many matters concerning the welfare of the town and the *Armidale Express*, **9 April 1912** commented: 'he filled the (mayoral) office with dignity and intelligence'. He was a Justice of the Peace and filled the office for coroner for some twenty years. He also served the Presbyterian Church; donated a bell to the congregation and was a member of the Old Age Pension Board as well as a member of the Licensing Board. The brethren of the Masonic Lodge formed a Lodge of Sorrow at the ceremony and the officers and member so the Loyal Orange Lodge accompanied the funeral cortage.<sup>31</sup>

### **Thomas Monckton (Mayor 1952)**

Thomas Monckton was born at Manilla and moved to Armidale. After suffering for some time from illness, he died on Saturday 1 March 1969, aged 68 years.

The business of Monckton and Son was dissolved in January 1924 with James Henry to carry on the business as a car proprietor and Thomas to commence business as storekeeper.<sup>32</sup> In 1926 he purchased the Olympic Swimming Pool and conducted this business until he sold it to the Armidale City Council in 1956. He also devoted a great deal of his life to the development of Albion Park in the vicinity of the pool. He was well known for his community service and dedication to the development of Armidale's swimmers.

He was awarded the Royal Life Saving Society's highest award, the Diploma in 1933. He was presented with a Long Service Medal of the Society in October 1951 and the Monckton Shield, a swimming trophy was conducted for many years in his honour. In June 1968 he was presented with a further award by the Society which entitled him to use the Society's letters R.L.S.S. after his name- a rare honour at the time. He had also been honoured by the London Head Office in other ways and he was especially commended for training 12 000 students over a twenty six year period.

He left a wife, Mrs Millie Monckton and three sons, John (Sydney), Don (Toowoomba) and Bruce (Toowoomba). Following a St. Peter's Cathedral, he was buried in the Church of England section, Armidale cemetery.<sup>33</sup>

### **John Moore (Mayor 1866, 1873-1875, 1882-1885)**

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<sup>31</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 10 April 1912, p.4.

<sup>32</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 16 January 1924, p.2.

<sup>33</sup> *Armidale Express*, 5 June 1968 and 3 March 1969, p.3.

He arrived in Armidale about 1848, married Miss Purves and later gained a position as clerk in the store owned by Gilchrist and Mather on the site where the Richardson store was established. He entered into the business with Robert Scholes, took over the store in the late 1850s and sold it to John Richardson and Company in 1872. Following a retirement period, he opened a business on the opposite side of the street, and kept the new business running until 1888 when he retired. This store later became Braund's store. He accepted a seat on the Local Land Board and died on 27 April 1892, aged 65 years. In reporting his death, the *Armidale Express*, stated he was 'charitable in the extreme, naturally kind hearted, prone to make warm friends and warm enemies and the most energetic man who ever saw New England'.

He was noted for the role that he took in the coming of the railway to Armidale. Supported by petitions, deputations and the press, he fought for the railway to not only come north through New England but also ensured that it did not by-pass Armidale through Saumarez Ponds to the west of the town. He was mayor to welcome the first train to Armidale in February 1883. He was treasurer of the hospital for forty years; a church warden of the Anglican Cathedral; Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge and president of the P.A. and H. Association as well as being involved in the movement for the coming of the railway. He left a widow and grown-up family.

A committee, chaired by the mayor was formed. It was decided to erect a memorial ward at the Armidale and New England Hospital to be called the 'John Moore Ward'. Advertisements were to be placed in the newspaper inviting subscriptions to the fund.<sup>34</sup>

### **William Murray (Mayor 1893)**

Dr William Murray was born on 16 September 1848 at Portland, in Limerick, Ireland. He was educated at Scotland and Ireland. He graduated as Bachelor of Medicine at Dublin University. He later became a member of the College of Surgeons, England. After a period at Newcastle, he came to Armidale about 1885. He was elected to council in 1892 and became mayor in 1893. At various time he was associated with The Armidale School, the local Freetrade Association, New England Hospital, New England Rugby Football Union, the Armidale Band Committee, New England Jockey Club, Armidale Mutual Benefit Society, and the Oddfellows and Forester's Lodges. He was a trustee of the Armidale Mutual Help Benefit Building Society, a surgeon to the Oddfellows' and Foresters' Lodges and Surgeon Captain of 1 Company 4th Regiment.

He died on Sunday 14 February 1897 at Herbert Park, Armidale, the residence of Mr. G.H.V. Jenkins. Following a service at St. Peter's Cathedral, he was buried in the Church of England section of the Armidale cemetery. There is a memorial

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<sup>34</sup> *Armidale Express*, 29 April 1892, p.4; 3 May 1892, p.4; 13 May 1892, p.4; 28 April 1976, p.7 and *Armidale Express Centenary Feature*, 9 August 1985, p.13.



dedicated to William Murray in Central Park and a water trough in his memory was placed in Beardy Street, outside the court house.<sup>35</sup>

### **Bernard Naughten (Mayor 1870 and 1872)**

His wife Mary, aged 61 years died at their residence in Barney Street, Armidale on 12 May 1876. At the end of the month, he indicated his intention to move from Armidale after a residence of twenty years and advertised his house to let. Aged 78 years, he died at Retreat Station, Bendemeer on Monday 17 July 1876 where he had been visiting his son.

A native of Stokestown Co. Roscommon, Leinster Province, Ireland, he emigrated to Australia in 1840 with his family on the *Crusader*. After a short residence in Sydney, he and his family moved to the Clarence district and lived where present day South Grafton is established. He contributed greatly to the development of north and south Grafton before he left for New England about 1855 and later became the publican of the Royal Hotel, Armidale. In April 1856 he purchased four blocks of land in Kirkwood Street. He served for many years as a member of council and took a great interest in the various institutions in Armidale. He was interred in the Roman Catholic cemetery, Armidale on Thursday 20 July 1876.<sup>36</sup>

### **Moses Henry O'Connor (Mayor 1933-1937)**

Moses H. O'Connor was the youngest child of John O'Connor and Mary Murphy born at Uralla on 22 May 1868. He became a builder in Uralla and on 4 April 1894 married Mary Josephine Hyde. Initially he built shops and accommodation for miners in Hillgrove and then took his wife and family there. He was involved in the construction of the tramway at the Eleanora Gold mine and also the Styx River hydro-electric scheme commenced in 1907. He served Hillgrove for sixteen years as an alderman and mayor in 1909 and 1910. Because of the decline of mining at Hillgrove, he moved to Armidale in 1920 where he was employed by G.F. Nott and found employment on the construction of Ursuline Convent Chapel and the Armidale High School. He retired in December 1941 after thirty six years of public life and at that stage had been mayor of two municipalities covering seven years. He was mayor of Armidale City Council for five consecutive years and during his term in office the radio station 2AD opened; the museum was opened and Armidale's new hospital was opened. He died on 17 August 1947. His wife had pre-deceased him on 5 June 1942.<sup>37</sup>

### **Thomas John Oliver (Mayor 1870)**

He married Elizabeth Scholes on 31 March 1862 in St. Peters Church, Armidale and in April 1866 he advertised his services as a certified licensed surveyor.

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<sup>35</sup> L.A. Gilbert, 'Armidale Central Park and its Monuments', *Armidale and District Historical Society Journal*, No 27, March 1984, pp. 83-86; *Armidale Express*, 16 February 1897, p.5.

<sup>36</sup> *Armidale Express*, 26 July 1876, p.5.

<sup>37</sup> *Armidale Express*, 3 December 1941, p.8; *Armidale Express*, 20 August 1947, p.8. R. King, *Probable Usefulness*, Rydalmere, pp. 56-59.

Elected to council in 1869, he died as mayor in Sydney on Sunday 4 September 1870. The funeral left his late residence, the Post Office Hotel in York Street for the Necropolis and a former Armidale minister performed the funeral service in Sydney.<sup>38</sup>

### **Lloyd St. C. Piddington (Mayor 1963-1968)**

He was the grandson of the late George William Piddington who retired from council a few years before World War 11 and the son of Harley William and Jessie Lavina (nee Mackay). Born in Armidale, he attended Armidale High School and became the third generation to continue the business of Funeral Directors established in 1899. Following outbreak of war, he was mobilised into the 12th Australina Light Horse, transferred into the 12th Motor Regiment and later served with the 3rd Armoured Division. He served in the Australian Army for three years and was discharged in 1944 on occupational grounds. He joined the Armidale chamber of Commerce in 1945 and was the foundation secretary in 1949 of the organisation which eventually became the Ex-Services Club. In 1943 he joined the Masonry Lodge Armidale and the Grand Lodge rank was conferred on him in 1975. He is a life member of the Armidale and new England caged bird club; was president of the Armidale High School Parents and Citizen's Association; president of the Road Safety Council and member of the Armidale Apex and the Lions Clubs. Since 1940 he has been a member of the Australian Funeral Director's Association. He was elected an alderman from 1957 to 1971 inclusive and was a member of the executive of the Local Government Association from 1968 to 1971.<sup>39</sup>

### **Peter Poggioli (Mayor 1975-77)**

Ald Poggioli was first elected to council in a by-election in 1967. He served as deputy mayor from 1970 to 1971 and was a vice-chairman of council's finance committee and gas committee for two years prior to his election as mayor. He was a real estate agent with one of the city's biggest firms.

Married with three children, he was president of the Armidale Cricket Association and St. Peter's Cricket Club. He was also a committeeman of the Armidale Ex-Services Club.<sup>40</sup>

### **William C. Proctor (Mayor 1877-1879)**

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 November 1905 announced the death of 'William Consett Proctor, solicitor, ex-M.L.A. for New England, aged 55 years' at Ryde. He was born in 1850 in Leicester, England the son of John and Ellen Proctor. He arrived in NSW in c.1852 and married Kathleen Roberts at Woolharra on 30 October 1878. Following his divorce in October 1897, he married Julia Cusack in Sydney on 24 August 1903.

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<sup>38</sup> *Armidale Express*, 10 September 1870, p.2 and *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 September 1870, p.10.

<sup>39</sup> *Armidale Express*, 7 November 1958, p.8 and 5 December 1962, p.1.

<sup>40</sup> *Armidale Express*, 18 September 1974, p.3 and 22 September 1976, p.1.

A resident of Dulwich Hill, he died after an illness extending over a period of two years at Ryde. He spent most of his whole youth in Armidale and in January 1874 was farewelled from Armidale 'owing to his intended departure from Armidale ... for the purpose of comp[leting his legal education'.<sup>41</sup>In his twenties he commenced business in Armidale as an attorney and lawyer by 1877 and later entered a partnership with Mr J.A. McDonald. After several years, McDonald purchased the business and Proctor moved to Sydney to establish a business. By 1886 he was also director of the Mercantile, Land and Investment Society and Universal Land Building and Investment Society. In the early eighties, he contested the seat for New England and served as MLA for New England from 2 December 1880 until 26 January 1887. His parliamentary duties interfered with his private practice and he was compelled to leave Sydney for Lismore. The business was not successful and he returned to Sydney where he remained until his death.<sup>42</sup>

#### **Alfred H. Purkiss (Mayor 1917-1918, 1921-1922)**

Alfred Purkiss, the former manager of the *Armidale Chronicle*, left Armidale with his wife and Miss Gwen Purkiss in November 1929. Seventy citizens farewelled him at a function held on Wednesday 13 November presided over by the Mayor, Ald. W.H. Watson. He informed the gathering that he was leaving Armidale for a better climate in Brisbane because of his wife's health. He was also taking a position of secretary to the McCormack Building and Construction Company with a seat on the Board.

At the function he was presented with a wallet of notes and an illustrated address executed by the Sisters of Mercy at the Armidale orphanage. Tributes were paid to his work in many public bodies. He was involved in the New State Movement, president of the Country Party, president of the Armidale and New England Jockey Club and an executive member of the Literary Institute, Armidale Bowling and Golf Clubs, Chamber of Commerce and the Parents and Citizen's Association. Because of his interest in promoting the district, he became the unofficial tourist manager during his periods as mayor.

#### **Alexander Richardson (Mayor 1880-1881)**

Alexander Richardson, 'a gentleman of independent means' was elected to council in 1879. He was born the second son to John and Janet Richardson in Brisbane in 1852. His father, the Hon. John Richardson MLC established business and property interests in Brisbane and Queensland but 'ill luck and depression resulted in heavy losses in the 1860s. He came to Armidale in 1872, bought John Moore's

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<sup>41</sup> *Armidale Express*, 24 January 1874, p.4.

<sup>42</sup> *Sydney Mail*, 18 May 1878, p. 699; *Armidale Express*, 28 November 1905, p.4; *Armidale Chronicle*, 29 November 1905, p.4; *Town and Country Journal*, 6 December 1905, p.9; C.N. Connolly, *Biographical Register of the New South Wales Parliament 1856-1901*, A.N.U. Press, Canberra, 1983, p.273.

store and began again'.<sup>43</sup> The firm J. Richardson and Co. was established that year and Alexander became manager. After serving as mayor for two years, he resigned from council in March 1882.

Unmarried, he passed away at the Hotel Metropole in Sydney on Sunday 23 October. He left two brothers Russell (Armidale), Arthur (Sydney) and two sisters Mesdames C. Higinbotham and J. Slade. On Tuesday 25 October, he was buried in the Waverley Cemetery.

### **William P. Ryan (Mayor 1951, 1953, 1956)**

He was mayor for three terms in 1951, 1953 and 1956 and finance committee vice chairman for most of his term in council. When elected to the position of mayor in December 1950, he was the youngest mayor at the age of twenty eight years. He conducted a cordial manufacturing plant but health and business reasons forced his resignation. Elected to council in 1947, he served until 1959. Following Davis Hughes' resignation as mayor, he was elected as mayor in April 1956. Ill-health caused his resignation in October 1958, but he was re-elected to council in 1963 but resigned from council in January 1965. He served as vice-chairman of the finance committee for most of his term in council. He was one of the first members of the New England Electricity County Council from 1954 to 1958 and for 1963 to 1964. He was much involved in the West Armidale Progress Association.

Born in Armidale to Mr and Mrs T.O. Ryan, he was educated at Armidale High School. After leaving school, he worked four years in the ironmongery department of F. Braund and Son. In September 1939 he enlisted in the 2nd A.I.F. and served in the Middle East. He was wounded in New Guinea and invalided to Tamworth. Following his transfer to the Reserve, he was discharged medically unfit in 1943.

On his discharge, he married Miss McNamara of Parramatta and entered into a partnership with his father who had been conducting a cordial factory at the corner of Beardy and Butler Streets.<sup>44</sup>

### **James E. Salmon (Mayor 1876)**

James Salmon died at his home in Brown Street, Armidale on Thursday 4 February 1897. His wife Amelia Salmon, nee Taylor died on 31 May 1877, aged 43 years.<sup>45</sup>

For many years he was a partner in the firm of J. Richardson and Company, during which time he was also mayor. Failing health caused by rheumatism, forced him to retire from his public functions in Armidale. Because he was a life

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<sup>43</sup> J. Stewart. 'The Brisbane Career of John Richardson', *Armidale and District Historical Society Journal*, No. 36, 1993, p.17

<sup>44</sup> *Armidale Express*, 29 January 1965, p.4.

<sup>45</sup> *Armidale Express*, 1 June 1877, p.5 and 8 June 1877, p.6.

member of the old Armidale Masonic Lodge under the English Constitution, the members of Lodge Unity met under special dispensation granted by the N.S.W. Grand Lodge to accord his remains the rite of Masonic burial. He was buried on Friday 5 February 1897 in the Church of England section, Armidale following a service in St. Peter's Cathedral.<sup>46</sup>

#### **Albert Whitby Simpson (Mayor 1886)**

As a young solicitor formerly articled to Mr Minter of Armidale, he arrived in Armidale in November 1863 for a court case. He returned in 1864 aged 24 years and set up business in a small shop in Beardy Street near to the court house. Later he moved to a larger cottage in Faulkner Street and as the business grew, he built the present offices opposite the War Memorial Library. He was an alderman for many years and mayor in 1886.

His wife was Miss Emily Bedwell whom he married at Paterson on 11 June 1872. Their first home in Barney Street opposite Central Park, was a Teacher's College residence by November 1963. They had twelve children. He was a life-long trustee and eventual patron of the Jockey Club. His other interests included the Anglican Diocesan Synod, the Cathedral Parish and The Armidale School. At different times, he was a trustee and solicitor of the Armidale Building Society.

He died on 14 July 1910, aged 71 years. Following a service at St. Peter's cathedral, he was buried in the Anglican section of the Armidale cemetery.<sup>47</sup>

#### **Walter David Solomons (Mayor 1911-1912)**

He died at Manly on Sunday 18 September 1949, aged 90 years. A photographer in Armidale for many years, he succeeded his brother H.B. Solomons in the business. He was a member of the New England Jockey Club for many years. Following his retirement thirty years ago, he went to live at Strathfield and later he moved to Manly where he lived for twenty five years until his death.<sup>48</sup>

#### **Peter Speare (Mayor 1871)**

Peter Speare was an immigrant from Malmo in Sweden. He became a butcher in the late 1850s and invested in tin mining and later gold mining at Hillgrove. Because of his business background, he was appointed treasurer of council in February 1870. He built the home in Armidale which was later purchased by the St. Ursuline order in 1882. He died in 1897 in Sydney and at that time was a resident of Ashfield. He owned a large brickworks at St. Peters.

#### **Morgan Stephens (Mayor 1923-1927)**

Morgan Stephens died on Saturday 8 July 1939 at his Armidale residence. Aged 72 years, he was born at Beaconsfield, South Australia the son of the late Mr and

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<sup>46</sup> *Armidale Express*, 5 February 1897, p.4 and 9 February 1897, p.4; *Armidale Chronicle*, 6 February 1897.

<sup>47</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 16 July 1910, p.4 and *Armidale Express*, 29 November 1963, p.14.

<sup>48</sup> *Armidale Express*, 18 September 1949, p.8.

Mrs Edward J. Stephens, who were natives of Cornwall, England. His father was a schoolteacher. He arrived in the Hillgrove mining town as a young man and he conducted a printery, stationery and auctioneer's business there for some thirty years. With the decline of the mining town, he moved to Armidale in February 1917 to establish his business there.

He entered council in January 1920 and served until December 1929 when ill health caused him to resign. He was mayor for five terms from 1923 to 1927. Stephens Bridge in Marsh Street on the New England Highway was named in his honor.

He was a long serving member of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows and held all the offices in his lodge, district and society. He was the senior Past Grand Master in New South Wales and district secretary at the time of his death; a position he had held since the inception of the district 29 years ago. He had 50 years of active service in the society.

He was also a prominent member of the Masonic Lodge. He joined the Hillgrove Lodge in October 1903 and became Workshipful Master (WM) in 1908 and 1914 also Grand District Inspector of Workings (GDIW) for New England in 1914 and 1915. He also became a member of the Lodge Unity No 6, Armidale. He was a foundation member of the New England Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No 40, and Armidale Royal Arch Chapter No 40, being WM of the Mark Lodge in 1915 and 1916 and First Principal of the Armidale Chapter in 1923 and 1924. He was appointed director of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows for N.S.W. for twelve months in May 1917 and was also a past GDIW of the Mark and Royal Arch Lodge of New England.

He was an enthusiastic bowler, having been a member of the Armidale Club for the past 19 years and took a leading role in the administrative and playing activities of the club. He was president for six terms in 1926 and from 1935 until the time of his death. President of the New England Bowling Association in 1938-1939.

He was deeply involved in St. Peter's church and was a member of the Church of England Cathedral Council, a lay canon, warden of St. Peter's Cathedral and a member of the Diocesan Council and Synod. He was a past president and member of the Church of England Men's Society.

He was buried in the Church of England portion of the Armidale cemetery a service at St. Peter's Cathedral. He was survived by his wife, two sons and daughter.<sup>49</sup>

### **Torbay, Richard (Mayor 1996-2000)**

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<sup>49</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 20 August 1924 and *Armidale Express*, 10 July 1939, p.4.

### **John Trim (Mayor 1889)**

John Trim, born in Bristol in February 1813 was tried by the judge at Somerset Quarter Session in October 1836, found guilty of stealing blacking and sentenced to fourteen years transportation. Described as a groom and waiter, he had previously served a month's sentence for some minor offence. He arrived on the ship Charles Kerr on 9 October 1837 and by 1839 had been assigned to Crown Land Commissioner Macdonald of New England. He was recommended for a ticket of leave by the commissioner in 1843 and returned to Armidale in or about 1846. By the late 1840s he had built a store near a ford over Dumaresq Creek and also built a bridge, called Trim's bridge near the premises. Further stores were opened by the family in Beardy Street and the Great Northern Road (now Crescent Street).

Following a long illness, he died in November 1892 aged 79 years. He married three times and fathered three children by his first marriage; five children by his second marriage and nine by his third marriage. At the time of his death, thirteen children were still living. By 1892 he was a city alderman and held an estate of £12 000.<sup>50</sup>

### **William H. Watson (Mayor 1929-1932)**

A butcher, he was elected to council in 1923 and served in council until his death on 13 February 1939. Ald. and Mrs W.H. Watson celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in October 1936. They had been married at Dumaresq.<sup>51</sup> He was re-elected as vice-president of the Local Government Association executive in November 1938. A private man, notices of sympathy received by council and published in the *Armidale Express*, 1 March 1939 indicated 'he was a highly respected, virile and well informed man in Local Government work' as well as being 'a champion of Local Government and its extension'.

### **George Wigan (Mayor 1896-1897)**

He was the owner and first occupant of 'Southall' at 98 Barney Street, built in 1886. He suffered a seizure on 22 February 1909 and died, aged 58 years of age after practising his profession in Armidale for about thirty four or thirty five years. He was the local Government Medical Officer appointed in May 1900 and doctor at the Armidale and New England Hospital. Among other community offices he held were: member of St. Peter's Cathedral Council; member and honorary secretary of the Armidale School Directorate; president of the Armidale School of Arts and member of the local bench of magistrates.

He was twice married, his second marriage being only a couple of year's duration and he was survived by his widow and grown-up family. He had practised his profession in Armidale since 1875 and was the son of Dr. George Wigan of Maitland, formerly of England.

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<sup>50</sup> *Armidale Express*, 4 November 1892, p.5.

<sup>51</sup> *Armidale Express*, 14 October 1936, p.4.

He was buried in the Church of England cemetery, Armidale after a special service at St. Peter's Cathedral.<sup>52</sup>

**Charles G. Wilson (Mayor 1890, 1894-1895, 1897, 1901-1902, 1908)**

He died, aged 84 years in Scotland in August 1926. Born near Armagh, Ireland he came as a young man to to join his brothers on the grazing and farming property 'Ullathorne' near Warwick, Queensland. Following a marriage to a daughter of Thomas George McBride, a distinguished engineer of Belfast they moved to Armidale in 1868 to join his uncle, John Moore in business. Some years later he became council clerk to the Armidale municipality, a position he held for some eighteen years, resigning eventually to seek election as an alderman. Following his election to council in 1890, he was elected mayor that year.

Apart from his civic duties, he was also associated with the P. and A. Society, the New England Jockey Club, Irish National Association, the Armidale and New England Hospital and other community institutions. He took a special interest in the New England Building and Investment Society for some forty years. He took a keen interest in politics and was an ardent Protectionist and he succeeded the late Hon Harry Copeland. He sat as a member of Parliament for New England for a number of years.

He established a successful auctioneer and financial agent business and made many visits to England, America and other countries.

He was survived by two married daughters, Mrs Reg Routh and Mrs Sterling Craig both living in England and two sons, Stanley C. Wilson and Dr T.G. Wilson of Armidale. His wife predeceased him by ten years and Mr Wilson was buried beside her at the cemetery at Kilgoaquhar, Firth of Forth, Scotland.

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<sup>52</sup> *Armidale Chronicle*, 24 February 1909, p.4.