

FREEMEN OF THE CITY AND HONOUR ROLL OF BENEFACTORS.

By October 1954, the granting of Freedom of the City conferred no additional rights but was conferred upon distinguished persons in England to publicly recognise their services to the community in which they lived. It was a custom of admitting Freemen in London and other cities in England and had been observed for centuries. The town clerk indicated the nature of the award in May 1961. The privileges which attach to the conferment of the Freedom of the City of Armidale are not material in nature, simply it is a tangible expression of appreciation of the civic authorities on behalf of the City, coupled with the conferment of an honour which is not lightly given.

A council minute on 2 June 1975 determined guidelines for future assessments of Freemen.

1. All discussions on submissions for conferment to be in Committee in Private and without previous reference to any other person.
2. Period of residence in the City to be at least 10 years.
3. Social and moral standards to be exemplary.
4. Substantial service to the community beyond their accepted responsibilities of a citizen for a maximum of 10 years (and beyond their job responsibility). Such service to represent a significant and comparative sacrifice.
5. Deeds which would reflect great credit on the city whether these be performed on a State, National and International level.
6. Achievement of outstanding international significance.¹

Freemen.

1954 Rt. Rev. John Stoward Moyes.
1963 General Sir John Nothcott.
1964 Hon. David Henry Drummond.
1966 Roy Leslie Blake.
1966 Sir Robert Bowden Madgwick.
1971 Most Rev. James Darcy Freeman.
1972 Hon. Davis Hughes.
1975 Dr E.M. Kent Hughes.
1978 Ald Kenneth Jones
1986 12/16 th. Hunter River Lancers.
1988 Most Rev. Henry Joseph Kennedy.

1954 Rt. Rev. John Stoward Moyes.

¹ Armidale City Council File, 125C Freedom of the City F5.

A resolution at a council meeting on Tuesday 5 October 1954 decided to confer Freedom of the City on the Rt. Rev. John Moyes, the Anglican Bishop of Armidale. Mayor Davis Hughes moved that Freedom be granted at a special meeting of council to be held on Tuesday, 30 November to mark the 25th year of his service as the Bishop of the Diocese of Armidale. The Reverend Moyes held the position of Anglican Bishop from 1929 to 1964. Hughes moved the proposal to acknowledge the role of Moyes as a citizen and as a leader in the church and in civic affairs in questions of public interest and in the trade union movement. He felt such Freedom would 'convey to Bishop Moyes the strength of our admiration, love and appreciation of his service to the community'.

A military guard of honour stood in the vestibule of the town hall where the ceremony was held on 30 November. The ceremony followed the mediaeval style of English tradition with the Mayor, clad in robes of office sitting with his fellow council aldermen and the Bishop in attendance at the duly convened Council meeting. The new Freeman took the oath of allegiance and the charter of the Freedom; a beautifully illuminated scroll of mediaeval style of language. A civic welcome to the Primate and to the Bishop of Grafton followed immediately.

Born in South Australia, he became a minister in 1908 and spent three years working as a mission worker in South-east London while a curate. He was appointed Archdeacon of Adelaide in 1925 and Bishop of Armidale four years later. He became a strong advocate and founding member of the University College and later the autonomous University of New England created in 1954. His contribution to education was recognised when he was appointed Deputy-Chancellor in 1960. Later he was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Letters.

He died in 1972 and about 400 hundred attended the funeral service held at St. James' Church, Sydney on 2 February. The funeral cortage then moved to the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. His ashes were flown to Armidale for a commemorative service in St. Peter's Cathedral on 11 February.²

1963 General Sir John Northcott.

The Armidale Legacy Club and the Armidale Ex Services Club nominated Sir John Northcott, N.S.W. governor from 1946 to 1957 for Freedom of the City in May 1963. He had 'taken a vital interest in the city and its activities, an interest that has extended far beyond what has been dictated by his official duties'.³ He opened additions to the Ex Services Club on 26 July 1958 and 4 June 1960; laid the foundation of Legacy House on Anzac Day 1959 and opened the building on 3 June 1960. By 1963 he was an honorary graduate of the University of New England and a member of the University of New England Council. The honour was conferred on 15 June 1963 and council determined it was conferred in recognition of his many kindnesses, understanding and loyal service to Armidale

² *Armidale Express*, 6 October 1954, p.4; 26 January 1972, p.1; 2 February 1972, p.1 and 4 February 1972, p.6.

³ *Armidale Express*, 22 May 1963, p.8.

as a tribute to his leadership in war, as an outstanding citizen and as a mark of affection.

The document was inscribed and ornamented on goatskin vellum. The design was created by Alan Sutherland, lecturer at the Armidale Teacher's College and the format was exactly the same as that presented to the Rt. Rev, J.S. Moyes, ten years earlier.

1964 Hon. David Henry Drummond.

A public meeting called by council and held on Wednesday 5 February 1964 asked that the Hon. D.H. Drummond be made a Freeman of Armidale. The meeting also adopted a resolution 'that those at the meeting, the City Council and Dumaresq Shire Council should organise a fund to commemorate Mr Drummond's services'.⁴ The ceremony took place on 28 February 1964 at a special council meeting at the Armidale town hall attended by several hundred residents. 'The motion to admit Mr Drummond to the Roll of Freemen as a mark of the high esteem in which Armidale holds him after 42 years in Parliament, was proposed by the Mayor'.⁵

He was born on 11 February 1890 at Lewisham, the son of Morris Cook, a Scottish migrant and Catherine McMillan. On 11 March 1913, he married Pearl Goode of Uralla and was married a second time to Amy Laing at Rose Bay on 21 December 1959. He died on 13 June 1965 and was buried in the Presbyterian section of the Armidale cemetery.

Following his education at public schools and Scotts College, Sydney, he went as a youth to the New England district where he became a farm hand and later a sharefarmer near Inverell. He then returned to Armidale where he purchased a grazing farm. He served in a number of public positions and organizations: executive member of the Farmers and Settlers Association 1925-27, 1944-46, president 1927-28 and vice-president 1948-9; active in New States and Free Library movements in establishing Junior Farmers Clubs 1928 and National Fitness Council; New England University College advisory councillor 1951-53 and councillor New England University Council 1954-65.

In 1919 he was an organiser of the Country Party; deputy leader Country Party 1932-1949 and federal councillor 1950-52. As a member of parliament, he served as MLA for Northern Tablelands March 1920-September 1927; for Armidale October 1927-October 1949 (resigned); Minister for Education October 1927-November 1930; May 1932-May 1941; deputy chairman of committees 1922-27; public works committee 1922-25 and MHR for New England 1949 until his retirement in 1963.⁶

⁴ *Armidale Express*, 7 February 1964, p.3.

⁵ *Armidale Express*, 2 March 1964, p.1.

⁶ H. Radi, P. Spearritt and E. Hinton *Biographical Register of the New South Wales Parliament 1901-1970*, ANU Press, Canberra, 1979.

1966 Roy Leslie Blake.

Mr R.L. Blake was granted the distinction of Freeman on 28 April 1966. He was editor of the *Armidale Express* for 37 years and managing director from 1938 to 1966. He contributed 44 years of service to the Armidale community prior to his departure from the city in January 1966 to retire to Avalon Beach, Sydney. Apart from his positions in journalism, he was involved in the establishment of Radio 2AD; he was a foundation member of Rotary and Governor to the District in 1949 and 1950; a member of the New England National Park Trust; a Director of the Armidale and New England Hospital; a member of the executive of the Homes for the Aged; President of the Demonstration School Parents and Citizen's Association; P.L.C. Chairman; President of the Armidale Club; the District Coroner; supporter of the Municipal Orchestra; involved in the New State Movement and a keen sportsman.

At a meeting of Council on 18 April 1966 a special resolution declared:

That the Honorary Freedom of the City of Armidale be conferred by this Council on Roy Leslie Blake, Esquire, D. Litt (UNE) in appreciation and acknowledgement of his distinguished and meritorious service to the City of Armidale, particularly in the field of community advancement over a continuous period of 44 years.

An illuminated certificate on parchment was prepared by Mr Alan Sutherland, a lecturer at the Armidale Teacher's College. Following the special meeting of council held in the council chambers at 5.45 p.m., a testimonial dinner was held in the town hall.⁷

1966 Sir Robert Bowden Madgwick.

Sir Robert Bowen Madgwick was knighted in January and was granted Freedom of the City in November before retiring to Canberra in December 1966.

Born in North Sydney, he was educated at North Sydney Boys High School, the University of Sydney and Balliol College, Oxford. During his academic career he was a school teacher, a Rockefeller research fellow, a Harbison-Higinbotham scholar as well as a senior lecturer in Economic History and secretary of the extension board at the University of Sydney, director of the Australian Education Service and a colonel commanding the Royal Australian Education Corps.

Sir Robert was appointed as warden of the new England University College in 1947 and became its first Vice-Chancellor when autonomy was granted in 1954. He became chairman of the Australian Universities Vice Chancellors's Committee and represented Australia at meetings of the British Commonwealth Council of Universities. He also served as chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

⁷ Armidale City Council File, 27E Freedom of the City Roy Leslie Blake F 8/1.

In no small way he contributed directly to community activities in Armidale by service as president of Armidale Legacy, an alderman of the City Council, member of Rotary, patron of the Caged Birds Club, a member of the Anglican Diocesan Synod and president of the Armidale Demonstration School and High School Parents and Citizen's Association.

The resolution was passed at an ordinary meeting of council on 14 November and the Honorary Freedom was presented on 22 November 1966.

That Honorary Freedom of the City of Armidale be conferred by this Council on Sir Robert Madgwick, O.B.E., M.Ec (Sydney), D. Phil (Oxford), D. Litt (Sydney and Newcastle), LL.D. (Queensland), F.A.C.E., in appreciation and acknowledgement of his valuable contribution to the advancement and progress of the City both in his capacity as Warden of the New England College of the University of New England, as a member of the Armidale Diocesan Synod, as an Alderman of the City Council and as a member of organisations in the community, in particular Armidale Legacy and the Rotary Club of Armidale, over a period of 20 years.⁸

1971 Most Rev. James Darcy Freeman.

A notice of motion that the Most Reverend James Darcy Freeman, the Catholic Bishop of Armidale, be made a freeman of the city came before Council on 3 August 1971. He was granted Freedom of the City in the Town Hall on Monday 6 December 1971 and was handed a detailed scroll in old English lettering prepared by an Armidale teacher's college lecturer and artist, J.A. Sutherland. The ceremony began when the Mayor, Ald. J.W. Failes moved the following motion:

That the Freedom of the City of Armidale be conferred by this Council on His Grace, Most Reverend James Freeman, D.D., Archbishop of Sydney, in appreciation and acknowledgement of his valuable contribution to the advancement and development of Armidale in particular, both in his capacity as Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale, and as a loyal and active townsman of the City.

He served as the Roman Catholic Bishop of Armidale from 1968 to 1971 and Cardinal Sir James Freeman, Archbishop of Sydney 1971 to 1983. At the ceremony Ald. Failes referred to two characteristics of Archbishop Freeman which had impressed him greatly. The first was his love of his fellowmen and

⁸ Armidale City Council File, 27E Freedom of the City Sir R. Madgwick F 8/1

especially of young people and his ability to communicate with them.. The second was his truly ecumenical outlook.⁹

1972 Hon. Davis Hughes.

The Hon. Davis Hughes, later Sir Davis was granted Freedom of the City on Wednesday 29 November 1972 in the Armidale town hall. The scroll in part read:

... on Hon Davis Hughes M.L.A., State Member for Armidale and Minister for Public Works for his continuing and constant services to the City, not only as State Member but also as a citizen, Alderman and Mayor of the City; and in appreciation and acknowledgement to the numerous acts of co-operation at Government level which have resulted in the advancement and development of Armidale to its present position.

After arriving in Armidale in 1947, he was elected to State Parliament in 1950 following a career as Deputy Headmaster at The Armidale School and an Armidale City Council alderman. Later he became the leader of the N.S.W. Country Party and Minister for Public Works. About 500 hundred people attended the town hall for the presentation by the Mayor Ald. D.A. Hewitt of the detailed scroll designed by Mr Alan Sutherland, a lecturer at the Armidale Teacher's College. Freedom of the City was given to mark Mr Hughes' 23 years of public life in Armidale before his retirement from parliament to take up the position as Agent-General for N.S.W. in London.¹⁰

1975 Dr E.M. Kent Hughes.

The only woman to be granted Freedom of the City was Dr Ellen Kent Hughes in 1975. A former Deputy Mayor, she served as an alderman for some thirty two years and a member of St. Peter's Cathedral Council for over forty years. She was awarded an MBE in 1968 for her community service and particularly her work with Aboriginal children. She died in 1979, aged 85 years.

The council determined:

That the Freedom of the City of Armidale be conferred by this Council on Dr E.M. Hughes for the many years of unselfish and unstinting service to the community as a medical practitioner, an Alderman of the Council, a citizen, a tireless adviser to all sections of the public, the young as well as the old, for qualities of kindness, tolerance and candid approach which have endeared her to many people over many years, and for her active participation in civic affairs contributed over a period of 30 years.

⁹ *Armidale Express*, 2 August 1971, p.1.

¹⁰ *Armidale Express*, 1 December 1972, p.8 and *Armidale Express, Centenary Feature*, 9 August 1985, p.16.

1978 Ald Kenneth Jones.

Alderman Kenneth Jones BEM received the Freedom of the City on 23 August 1978 at a public ceremony in the town hall. He was the first serving alderman to be made a Freeman and the first to have been born in the area. He served as an alderman for forty two years and had a long dedicated record of service to the community. A service which included thirty five years as chairman of the New England Electricity Council; thirty eight years as president of the Armidale Bowling Club; a thirty two year association with the Police Citizen's Youth Club; inaugural presidency of the Armidale District Handicapped Children's Centre; thirty three years as Armidale and District Chamber of Commerce president and thirteen years on the University of New England Council. He retired as president of the Chamber of Commerce in March 1976 and after thirty years of service with the New England County Council, his portrait was unveiled in the County Council chambers at a special service in December 1976. He was awarded a British Empire Medal in 1969 and in June 1982 council acknowledged his community and civic work by naming the newly constructed Markham Street bridge, the Kenneth Jones bridge.

He was born at the mining community Hillgrove in 1907 and his father was mayor of Hillgrove from 1912 to 1918. The Jones family moved to Armidale in 1918 where Ken Jones established a business in Dangar Street in 1939. It operated for the next 41 years until it closed in 1980.

The council determined:

That the Freedom of the City of Armidale be conferred by this Council on Ald. Kenneth Jones, B.E.M., O.P. for his many years of unselfish and unstinting service to the community as an Alderman of the Council, as a leader of community organisations, as a pioneer of Hillgrove and Armidale, as a staunch family man, as a sporting gentleman, as a man of vision and for his unquestioned ability, unswerving determination and strength of purpose in achieving advancement for Armidale.¹¹

1986 12/16th. Hunter River Lancers

The ceremony of granting Freedom of the City to the 12/16th. Hunter River Lancers began with a parade at Moran Oval, Armidale College of Advanced Education on Sunday 23 March 1986 at 12.45 p.m. It was followed by exercising of Freedom of Entry to the city at 2.40 p.m. in Rusden Street and a mayoral reception at 3.00 p.m. at the Civic Administration building. The initial part of the ceremony was conferred by Mayor Ald. Doug Hewitt and the traditional challenge in Rusden Street was administered by a police representative on behalf of the

¹¹ *New Englander*, July 1978; *Armidale Express*, 23 August 1977 and 25 August 1978; Armidale City Council File, 'Freedom of the City, Ald K. Jones F 5/1, 125 D, 1978. *Armidale Express*, 25 April 1984, p.5.

Police Commissioner of N.S.W. outside the Armidale Civic Administration building.

As reported by the *Armidale Express*, 24 March 1986 council 'conferred the honour in recognition of "the great traditions of the Regiment and Council's desire to recognise, cement and foster the intimate association" between the City and the Regiment'. An illuminated scroll was presented by the Mayor to Lt. Col. Colin F. Baker, the Regiment's Commanding Officer. Former commanding officers of the Regiment attended and reconnaissance vehicles, accompanied by the Royal N.S.W. Lancers Mounted Attachment wearing First World War uniforms of the Australian Light Horsemen paraded along Armidale streets.

About 200 protestors who had attended a Palm Sunday 'peace rally' in Central park demonstrated outside the Civic Administration Building because the ceremony was held on a day designated as a day of peace'.¹²

1988 Most Rev. Henry Joseph Kennedy.

Bishop Henry Kennedy was born in Balmain on 18 February 1915. He was ordained a priest at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney on 30 November 1938 and consecrated a Bishop on 23 November 1967. He was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop to the Archdiocese of Brisbane in December 1967 and transferred as Bishop of Armidale in February 1972.

He was instrumental in establishing the Priest's retiring units at Nazareth House in Tamworth and the units for retired persons at 'Coleman Court' in Armidale.

He promoted the Ministry to Priests Programme, the renew Programme at St. Peters Centre Canberra for the education of priests; supported and maintained the mission for Aborigines in East Armidale; financed St. Angela's Community in their work for Aborigines and donated the John XXIII Hall at East Armidale to the aboriginal community. After supporting for many years the mission for Aborigines at St. Pius X Centre, Moree he assisted the transfer of the Aboriginal Mission from the Daughters of Charity Congregation to the Aboriginal community itself.

A special meeting of Council was held in the Armidale Town Hall on Monday 12 December 1988. The Most Rev. Henry Joseph Kennedy D.D. attended as well as 150 invited guests and members of the public. At this meeting it was moved:

That the Freedom of the City of Armidale be conferred by this Council on most Rev. Henry Joseph Kennedy D.D., for his many years of unselfish and unstinted service to the Community as Bishop of the Diocese of Armidale, a citizen, a tireless adviser to all sections of the public, the young as well, as the old, for qualities

¹² *New Englander*, 25 March 1986, p.7.

of kindness, tolerance and candid approach which have endeared him to many people over many years.¹³

HONOUR ROLL OF BENEFACTORS

Mayor Dawson moved in November 1949 that Francis Mary White, Ella Violet Hickson OBE and James A. Glass be added to the honour roll of benefactors.

Howard Hinton 1937

Born at Croydon in Surrey on 10 November 1867, he arrived in Australia in the early 1900s. He obtained a position with W. and A. McArthur Ltd., shipping agents and retired as a director on 28 March 1928.

He developed a love for art and made his first gift to the National Art Gallery in New South Wales in 1914 and by 1948 had given 122 pictures. He commenced donating pictures to the Armidale Teacher's College in 1929 and by 1948 had given over 1000 original works of art and an extensive art library to the College. The Howard Hinton Collection is now housed at the New England Regional Art Museum.

He died on 23 January 1948 and his ashes were scattered at the Northern Suburbs crematorium.

Francis J. White

Francis J. White died at *Saumarez Station* on Monday 28 August 1934, aged 80 years. He was born at *Edinglassie*, Muswellbrook on 9 June 1854 the son of Francis and Mary Hannah Brigg White and married Maggie Fletcher, the only daughter of John Fletcher, Orundumbie, Walcha on 11 May 1880.

He served with the Armidale and New England Hospital Committee from 1894 to 1897 and rejoined in 1907 as president; a position which he held until 1931 when he was appointed patron. He was a benefactor of the Armidale and New England Hospital and the Doris White Memorial Ward for children was a gift in memory of his daughter.

For 40 years he was a member of the Armidale and New England Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Association; a president for a number of years and later patron. He was a member of the provisional council which brought in Dumaresq Shire and from 1903 to 1927 he was member of the Armidale Pastures Board. He was a member of the Diocesan Council for many years as well as being a patron of the Armidale City Tennis Club and member of the New England Rifle Union and other sporting bodies. For many years he sponsored the Saumarez Cup at the Armidale Coursing club.¹⁴

¹³ Armidale City Council File, 125D, Freedom of the City- Bishop H. Kennedy 1988 CF F5/3.

¹⁴ *Armidale Express*, 29 August 1934, p.4; 31 August 1934, p.4; 4 January 1935, p.3; 18 January 1935, p.4 and 25 May 1936, p.4.

James A. Glass 1949

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 niece 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 1933.¹⁵ In November 1949, Mayor L.E. Dawson proposed that the name of James A. Glass be added to council's roll of benefactors.

Mary F. White 1949

Mary White died in Sydney on Sunday 13 June 1948. The eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs F.J. White of Saumarez, she was educated at New England Girls' School. She became an executive member of the Country Women's Association (C.W.A.) in 1929 and an executive member of the Armidale branch and the Northern Tablelands group. Miss White was responsible for the establishment of the C.W.A. holiday cottage at Port Macquarie and played a major role in the creation of the C.W.A. House at Armidale.

Miss White travelled overseas to represent the C.W.A. in 1938 and 1947 and was a member of the New England University Advisory College. Her work for university students, particularly females was commemorated in the naming of the University College established for females, Mary White College. She was a member of the Altar Guild at St. Peter's Cathedral and a keen worker for Coventry Home in Armidale. Miss White was a member of the Armidale Hospital Women's Auxiliary and was patron of the Armidale Relief Society and a vice-president of the N.S.W. Division of the Australian Red Cross Society.

Her sporting interests was reflected in her role in the establishment of the Armidale golf course and the building of the club house where she was patron of the Armidale Golf Associates for many years. Similarly, the late Miss White was associated with the Armidale and New England P.A. and H. Association and she was a very fine horsewoman.

¹⁵ *Armidale Express*, 3 July 1933, p.4 and 24 July 1933, p.4.

Cremation took place at North Sydney Crematorium and a memorial service was held at St. Peters Cathedral.¹⁶

Ella V. Hickson 1949

The wife of R.N. Hickson the Armidale architect, she died on Saturday 29 October 1955. Born at Young, she trained as a nurse at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. From 1908 to 1912 she was Matron of the Armidale and New England hospital. In 1941 she was created a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of her outstanding public service to charitable institutions.

In 1913 she established the Armidale branch of the Red Cross in 1913 and served as secretary for many years. She was also a member and treasurer of the Ladies' Relief Society for over 40 years and a member of the Hospital Auxiliary at the time of her death. She was involved in the establishment of the St. Johns Boy's Hostel for student attending the Armidale high School and the Memorial Hostel for Girls. For some years she was honorary secretary of the Girl's Hostel. She worked for the Homes for the Aged and the C.W.A. and was a member of the St. Cathedral's Parish of the Church of England. She was a keen golfer.

She was survived by her husband and a brother, S. Bell who at one time was manager of the Armidale branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. Following a service at St. Peter's Cathedral, she was cremated at Beresfield Crematorium on Tuesday 1 November 1955.¹⁷

¹⁶ *Armidale Express*, 14 June 1948, p.6; 21 June 1948, p.6 and 2 July 1948, p.8.

¹⁷ *Armidale Express*, 8 July 1949, p.8 and 31 December 1955, p.6.