Wor. Bro. SIR DAVID STOREY KBE
(1856-1924)

David Storey was born on 18 August 1856 ar Aughagaw, Monaghan, Ireland. The son of a farmer, he was educated at Wattsbridge Academy, and at 14 years of age, he began and served a five year apprenticeship to John Hartley, a woollen draper, and later he worked at Belfast for Robert Lindsay & Company.

At 24 years of age, and attracted by the Sydney International Exhibition, he set sail for Sydney, arriving at Circular Quay in November 1879 and to quote his words of a few years later:

> 'When I arrived in this bright young land I was full of youthful hopefulness and determination to succeed in life's battle.
>
> I knew no person in this portion of the earth's surface and was not too heavily weighted with that most potentent of metals, but strongly fortified with a good knowledge of business affairs and a good reputation in the old land.'

He also had open credit for £10,000 from his former company.

Shortly after his arrival in Sydney, he joined Ross Morgan and Robertson where he gained his first knowledge of local trade. David storey was so impressed with the possibilities of personal advancement that he determined to start his own business.

By mid-1881, he had set up his own premises with the credit and supplies from James Lindsay of Belfast. On the dissolution of their partnership two years later in 1883, he established David Storey and Company, a softgoods warehouse and importer of hats, shirts and mercery in Barrack Street, Sydney.

At the same time David Storey married a Miss Rachel Doig, daughter of the late Captain Doig of Leith, Scotland, and he also became President of the Commercial Travellers Association, having been his own traveller in the early 1800's.

In 1894, although a political novice, he stood for the Legislative Assembly seat of Randwick as an independent leading a group of seven campaigning for free trade and against Federation. David Storey won the seat and held it until 1920, easily defeating Bro. Edmund Barton who went on to be Ausrtralia's first Prime Minister, a Justice of the High Court and later Bro. Sir Edmund Barton.

During that period, David Storey had a full political life being Honorary Secretary of the Free Trade and Land Reform League, and later Treasurer of the Liberal Party.

He refused office in the Lyne-Carruthers Ministries for party and business reasons. Independently minded, he preferred the cross benches.

He rejoined the Liberal Party during the First World War, addressing recruiting meetings and campaigning for conscription.

Three of his four sons were serving with the Australian Imperial Forces.

When Labor split over conscription, David Storey helped form the National Party, claiming to have named it.

He also claimed to have had the honour of being the first public man in the Colony who came out in the open and opposed the Constitution Bill. He also accepted office under Premier Holman as an Honorary Minister, acting as Minister for Public Health. David Storey did a great deal to put the public hospitals on a sound footing.

In 1920, he resigned his portfolio and seat and was appointed to the Legislative Council. He was still a member when he died.

David Storey was known as a picturesque and colourful speaker with flashes of twinkling humour. He was known a 'King David' or 'The Duke of York.'

In 1860, he had acquired a large building situated at 81 York Street, Sydney to accomodate his growing business. The next year, he established an agency in London, and by 1907, he had opened a branch in Brisbane. The firm also manufactured several varieties of popular hats. He was a great believer in co-operation between capital and labour, and he was fair and generous to his employees.

He was Chairman of the Insurance Office of Australia Limited, and with his sons, invested in pastoral property in Yass and Queensland.

Outside politics and business, David Storey was equally popular as a community member, being a prominent member and supporter of various organisations such as:

  * The Millions Club
  * The British Empire League
  * The Australian Jockey Club
  * The New South Wales Masonic Club
  * The Athenaeum and Civic Clubs
  * President of the Ulster Association of New South Wales
  * Foundation President of the Bronte Surf Bathing Association (1907)

He was an elder of the local Presbyterian Church, a director of the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children and took a great interest in the Randwick Asylum. He was dubbed "the Smiling Irishman," having a helping hand for everyone.

In May 1904, David Storey was afforded a public banquet by the citizens of the Randwick constituency. The banquet was attended by over one hundred and fifty people including men of all denominations, political opinion, commercial and industrial enterprises, knights, labourers, ministers of religion, mayors and aldermen.

His wife and daughter followed his example with Lady Storey being a Foundation Executive Member of the State Division of the Red Cross in 1914, and Foundation President of the Randwick Branch for fifteen years.

She also did a great deal for local schools and churches.

His daughter was also a Foundation Member of the Red Cross being awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal in 1949, and later an M.B.E.

David Storey was very patriotic and on one occasion delivered an Empire Speech at the Randwick Town Hall to the public and mayors of Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra. He was so patriotic that Paddy Crick, a colourful lawyer of those times and who lived next door at one time to David Storey, once stated that David always tottered out to his garden at dawn in his pyjamas, rain, hail or shine, to hoist the flag, standing to attention like a ramrod.

In the New Year Honours of 1923, David Storey was knighted to become Sir David Storey MLC.

David Storey died of pneumonia at his Randwick home, 'Sherbrooke', 20 Coogee Bay Road, Coogee, on 27 July 1924. He was buried at South Head Cemetery. The cortege was followed by one hundred and eleven cars.

Wor. Bro. Sir David Storey was made a Mason in Lodge John Williams No. 148, United Grand Lodge of N.S.W. on 7 April 1892. He was passed Fellowcraft on 9 June and raised a Master Mason on 9 July 1892. He proceeded through the offices of the lodge to become Worshipful Master in 1900.