



State Memorial

*The Honourable
Ian Armstrong AM OBE*

17 July 1937 – 15 December 2020

*Monday 22 February 2021
at 11.00am*

*The Pavilion
Cowra Showground
Cowra*

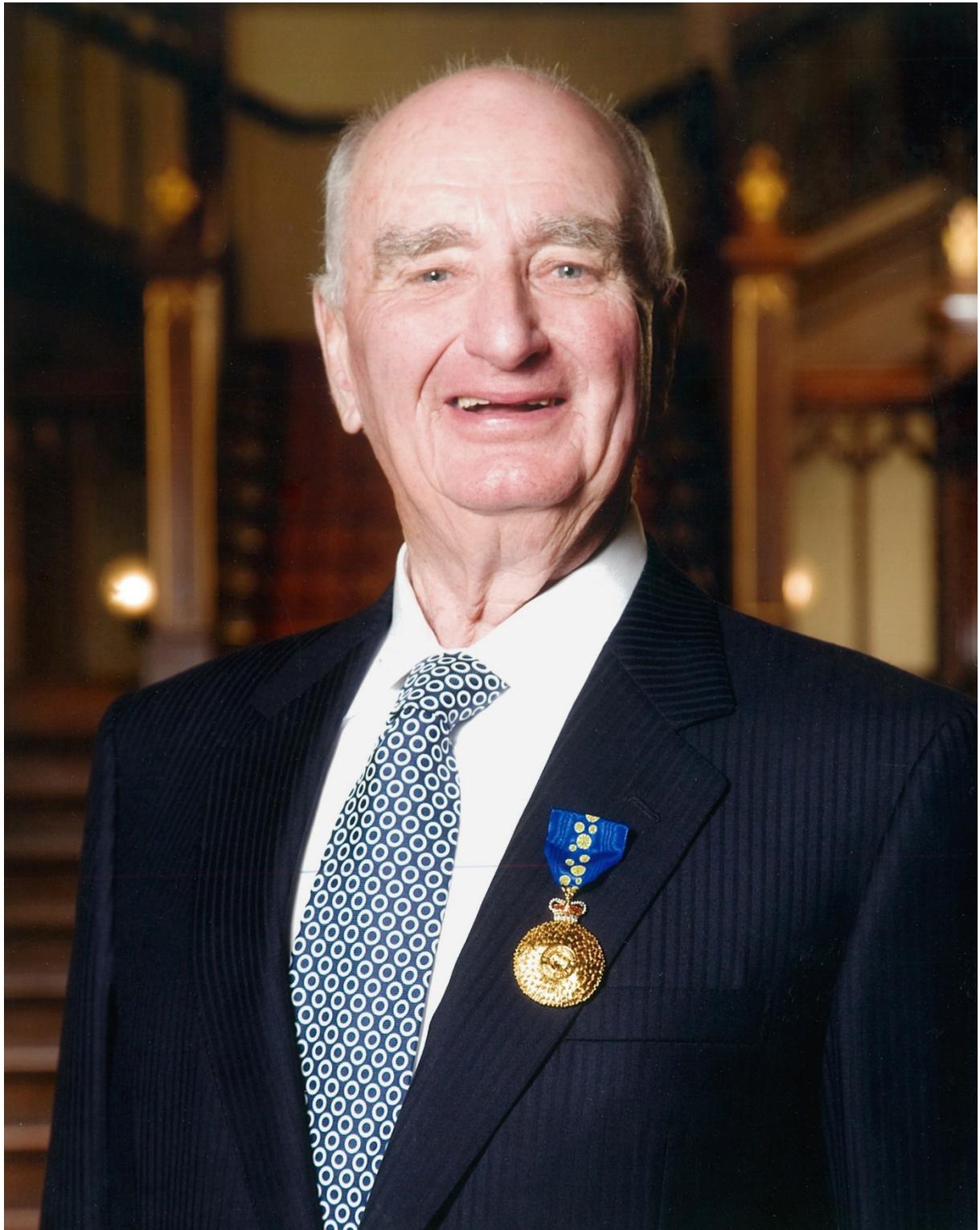


Invictus maneo
(I remain unvanquished)

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, attendees are asked not to join in singing the National Anthem.

At the conclusion of today's service, we would be grateful if you would remain in your seat until directed by an usher.

Condolences can be given through the online condolence book at nsw.gov.au/statememorial which will be printed and presented to the Armstrong family.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies

The Honourable Michael McCormack MP
*Deputy Prime Minister of Australia
and Federal Member for Riverina*

Welcome to Country

Aunty Esther Cutmore
Wiradjuri Elder

Australian National Anthem Advance Australia Fair

Performed by Seamus McCormick

Please stand

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Please be seated

Prayer

Reverend Stephen Moore
Cowra Presbyterian Church

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

Angela Sinclair

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for the prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Amazing Grace

Performed by Seamus McCormick

Tribute

Angus Armstrong

Danny Boy

Recording by Emmet Cahill

Tribute

The Honourable Michael McCormack MP
*Deputy Prime Minister of Australia
and Federal Member for Riverina*

Tribute

The Honourable Paul Toole MP
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Tribute

The Honourable Melinda Pavey MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

What A Wonderful World

Performed by Louisa Sinclair and Lucy McDonald

Family recollections from the grandchildren

Oliver Sinclair
Bronte Armstrong
Louisa Sinclair
Jock Armstrong

Irish Blessing

Jane Neale

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields.
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

When the Saints Go Marching In

Recording by Louis Armstrong

Masonic Guard of Honour



Bridge to the Bush

From early days Ian grew up, on a spartan farm of just one paddock. But with sweat, toil and a bushman's eye for natural springs, the farm became balanced & productive with stock, horses, tools & many things.

With a mix of bush logic and know-how the land was crafted to be productive and forgiving. For in the design the trees, creeks, birds and nature were ensured a place for all things living.

The rhythms of the natural order brought regular rains, strong crops and livestock. But with fire and floods and storms around the corner the resolve to protect and nurture was always, in mind -- on top.

With hard work and determination, with Jen, he cleared and cut guideposts for the Shire. And when times were tough with dust & drought and they were out of luck he carted dung to Sydney in the old Bedford truck.

Dad loved a show – it's in his blood from Morton's sheep to Doreen's cakes, he couldn't buck his pedigree. So with sheep, cattle and horses to Sydney Show he displayed his talents and those of his hand selected progeny.

But the embers of ambition began to burn when the 70s drought, oil and wool shock sent many farmers to the wall. It was keep quiet or stand up, for their treatment left the country folk appalled.

After a dry run in the seat of Hume, in Lachlan his campaign resumed with strong success. He set out to Macquarie Street for his next chapter for better rights for country folk - he would settle for no less.

In the bear pit the raw farmer's talents were forged as he ascended the ladder to Leader. He wasted no time but navigated the slime, to deliver roads and projects - like a true believer.

With his new mantle he was quick to dismantle the city slickers disdain for the bush. He said quite plainly Agriculture belonged in the bush so he relo'd the department and gave the fat cats the push.

On a dark night near Binalong he was honoured to carry the Melbourne Olympic torch with little time to rest. In one of life's full circles his team later delivered the Sydney Olympics — still considered the best.

His greatest supporter and love of his life is the consummate organiser Jenny – world's best wife. She is the glue that holds our family together, and patiently guides Ian through all kinds of weather.

His favourite things are his tools of trade and right hand talent. With Akubras, RMs, handmade stock whips and a new love for Lexus, ever so prevalent.

His true loves are his working mates with strong bonds of respect and affection. From his beloved working ponies; horses, sheep and cattle dogs of Flicka, Mona, Sandy Peta, Cecil, Ring, Nipper, angry Abbey and kid proof Winston he remembers all with warm reflection.

But to us he is just Dad who graduated from comb over to follically challenged in a few short years. He managed to keep his timeless wardrobe right for all occasions from town to beach, black tie or simply for having a few beers.

On family holidays at Hawks Nest he loved to lead, he designated himself as Captain of boating. He taught the grandkids to ski through sharks and oyster leases and somehow kept them floating.

His life has been an incredible journey for the once boundary rider and wool classer. He has travelled to every continent, met Presidents, Princes & Prime Ministers, and left them more the wiser.

For 28 years he travelled from farm to city along a winding road with wind, rain, fog & the odd kangaroo nearly landing. Looking back, he realised that in every trip he was building a shared understanding.

The country is now closer and better connected than ever. Through hard earned investments there are equal opportunities – for all to be clever.

He and Jen have raised & nurtured their kids to have lives which have taken them all round the world.

They are so proud of their grandkids as their travels, study and careers begin to unfurl.

So, after 65 years of working-- to reluctant retirement we did ever so gently push.

This allowed him reflection of a legacy of family, community and country all building a lasting — Bridge to the Bush.

Love you Dad.

Gus, Jane, Bronte, Jock & Jambo
Min, Sink, Olly, Ish & Barney
Jenny
September 2017



“A man who has done his best has done enough”

Banjo Paterson

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Armstrong family we would like to thank you for your support and presence here today as we celebrate Ian's life.

The family has requested that, in lieu of floral tributes, donations can be made to:

Dementia Australia

<https://www.dementia.org.au/make-donation>