

# THE LATE MR. W. T. SEAWARD

Great Churchman,  
Outstanding Citizen  
and Gentleman

With the passing on Thursday last of Mr. William Trotman Seaward, of "Myala," Scone, not only the town of Scone and the Upper Hunter, but the State itself lost one of its outstanding citizens, one who had carved for himself a niche blazoned with ~~his~~ purposefulness, endeavour and a replete modicum of citizenship, whose ramifications covered a wide field throughout his ultra-useful life, giving his best always for the welfare of mankind and giving of it generously and unselfishly without thought either of reward or self-aggrandisement. A pious man and indefatigable in all of his activities, he had a deep and abiding interest in his church which transcended the multifarious duties he co-ordinated in the big task he set out to perform for the well-being, promotion and enrichment of the realm in which he was a gem in a constellation which reflected complete and almost unparalleled accomplishment, and from which radiated benefits from which so many participated to the full.

Short in stature and of sparse build, he was without a dynamic force, yet kindly, sincere, friendly and companionable, all characteristics which he personified.

A scholarly and cultured gentleman, his early training for a ground which allowed of that happy medium, sought by many but attained by few, to be infused in all deliberations, more so when he found it incumbent to see that justice was balanced in the scales and that it was dispersed in his

and that it was dispersed in his deliberations at all times. At the same time, it only followed that such a keen student of problems affecting divers undertakings and offices in which he focused his interests, was at times forthright when on the offensive or in defence. He also championed his claims with facts and figures to substantiate them. And so in this way, reinforced by his tireless energy, he achieved success where others, and not excluding recognised influential public organisations, failed. To recapitulate these triumphs for the betterment of the town and district would be well nigh impossible, for William Trotman Seaward shrunk from publicity, such was his unostentatious demeanour. But what he brought about in his own inimitable way will remain a monument to his endeavour for all time, and generations of the future will also appraise his efforts at full worth.

The late Mr. Seaward was a pillar of the Presbyterian Church of Australia for very many years, and here his voice and wise counsel was often heard at the major Assembly of the Church as well as those held annually in the State, representing St. Andrew's Scone—he was an Elder and also held other offices, including that of lay-preacher—for a long span of years, right to the end almost. Here also he acquitted himself well, and his always constructive and well-matured criticisms were well received, acted on, and vindicated his judgment.

Mr. Seaward was a foundation member of the Upper Hunter Ambulance Transport Service from its inception was Chairman for the greater part of the long period and only when his health commenced to deteriorate with the burden of years, did he stand down from the more strenuous duties

from the more strenuous duties expected of him, to become Presi-

dent of the organisation, of which he was also a member of the State Board and a regular attendant at its monthly meetings. The district unit reached its peak under his capable administration and remained so. He was Scone District Coroner also for a long period of years, and in this position his capabilities, combined with his wide knowledge of the law and understanding sympathy, invariably tempered mercy with justice.

**It was he, and he alone, who was responsible for having erected in Scone the Police Court and Police Station block of buildings, claimed as probably the finest set-up of its kind in the provincial districts of the State.**

Then as Secretary and subsequently President of the Scone Parents and Citizens' Associations, he fulfilled big and worthwhile positions with the same creditable results, and largely through his endeavours had much-needed improvements brought into being in the school grounds at large, with additions to the buildings themselves. Here again the same energy, enthusiasm and zeal permeated his every endeavour, patterned as they were from his long chain of successes for the good of the town, welded. He likewise carried his activities into the field of sport, where he was President of Scone Polo Club, and vice-President of Scone Bushmen's Carnival and Show Association, each body benefiting from his useful linking up with them.

But probably his signal record of achievement, and one, no doubt, unknown to many members of the generations unborn at the period, was the dour and protracted, yet dignified fight he led at the turn of this century, and which reached consummation in later

reached consummation in later years, was with the Works Department to have the big deviations constructed to avoid the five crossings of the Page River between Scone and Gundy, with the bridge over the same stream at Gundy the coping-stone to his representations, erected. Mr. Seaward was then ensconced on his property, "Miranee," near Gundy, and as Secretary of the local Progress Association, commenced and continued his long contest with the aforesaid department, largely single-handed to have the subject important work put through. And that it was put in hand and carried to completion was just another of his many outstanding instances of his strength of power with the authorities of the time. And let it be said that all ventures, without exception, were by no means sinecures, were made gratuitously without thought of personal reward or reimbursement in any form.

Such was the real make-up the illustrious, clear-thinkink, assertive and exertive William Trotman Seaward—gentleman, man's man, and great citizen, now resting in peace on laurels richly earned by dint of hard toil. He lived for the benefit of mankind and for the enrichment and ennoblement of his district and country, of which he will be remembered along the lines of Oliver Goldsmith:

Great deeds travel with us  
afar.

But what we have been,  
make us what we are.

Mr. Seaward was in his 83rd year, and was predeceased by Mrs. Seward some years since. He is survived by one son, Mr. Roger Seaward, Terrigal, and one daughter, Miss E. M. (Molly) Seaward ("Myala," Scone). A second son,

Allen, was drowned in the river at Gundy in the years long since.

at Gundy in the years long since

### THE FUNERAL

There was an overflow congregation representative of the whole section of the Upper Hunter, at the service in St. Andrew's, Scone, on Saturday morning last. It was a remarkable demonstration and tribute to the deceased gentleman, as it also was a token of the district's sympathy for the family and an appreciation of services well and faithfully rendered. Rev. John Mallyon, Minister of Andrew's, who conducted the service, in the occasional address, stressed Mr. Seaward's churchmanship over the long period of fifty years as an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, which, he said coloured the whole of his life. Mr. Seaward was, he said, a good Presbyterian, withal he was a tolerant man, adding that he believed in the supreme sovereignty of God and God's free grace to all man.

The long cortege then proceeded to Gundy, where the remains were laid to rest in the Presbyterian portion of the General Cemetery, service at the graveside being again taken by Rev. Mallyon.

Pall-bearers were Messrs Roger Seaward (son), Mort Anderson, M. N. Campbell and P. Marks.