

**His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir William John McKell GCMG**



The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir William John McKell by the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn KCMG OBE at the ceremony of conferring of honorary degrees held on 29 August 1952 as part of the University of Sydney's Centenary celebrations.

His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir William John McKell, GCMG, was Governor-General of Australia.



The Deputy Chancellor the Hon Mr Justice E D Roper (on left) presenting His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir William John McKell to the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn for the award of an Hon LL.D, (*Sydney Morning Herald photos, copies held by the University of Sydney Archives*).





His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir William John McKell and the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn leading the academic procession after the ceremony, *Sydney Morning Herald* photos, copies held by the University of Sydney Archives.

## Citation

*Presented by the Deputy Chancellor, the Honourable Mr Justice E D Roper:*

Mr Chancellor, William John McKell epitomises in its best form the career open to talents in the Australian community. From the time that he left the Public School at Surry Hills he has served the Australian way of life. From becoming Assistant Secretary of the Boilermakers' Union and graduating by his own great efforts as a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, he has occupied every post in State political life, from Member of the Legislative Assembly for Redfern in 1917 to Minister for Justice and Premier and Treasurer in the difficult years from 1941 to 1947. He was honoured by being appointed a Privy Councillor in 1948 and a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1951.

He is the second Australian-born Governor-General of Australia, his appointment being announced on the 31st January, 1947. As Governor-General he has carried out the arduous constitutional and personal obligations of that office in a way that commands respect. He has taken part in every aspect of Australian life from football and boxing, through the law and politics, to representation of the Crown. His career has been one of consistent fulfilment.

Mr Chancellor, I present to you His Excellency The Right Honourable William John McKell, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, Governor-General of Australia.

*From "The University of Sydney Centenary Celebrations August 26 - August 31, 1952" compiled by the Office of Information and Public Relations. Allan Gamble, Information and Public Relations Officer.*