

**Vale****Thomas Aloysius Maguire.**

1909 - 2007.

Thomas Maguire was one of two long standing members of the Illawarra Historical Society who were there from the start in 1944. Last year it was the passing of Dr Robert Taylor and this year Mr Tom Maguire the last of very special people whose insight and actions brought about the need for an historical society in Wollongong.

A number of young professional men attended a public meeting called by the Mayor Alderman J J Kelly for 5th December 1944 at Wollongong Town Hall where the Illawarra Historical Society was formed. It ensued that Mr Maguire was appointed to the provisional committee that evening and its task was to formulate a constitution. The first general meeting was called for 1st February 1945 and again without any competition Tom Maguire was elected onto the Committee of the Society.

At the society's Annual General meeting on 1st March 2007 those members present passed a resolution that life membership be granted to Mr Maguire. He was most delighted to receive a Honorary Life Membership.

It has come to our notice that Mr Tom Maguire passed away on 19th April last at the age of 97 years. The Society, on behalf of its members, send the Maguire, Dunne and Connolly families its condolences. To commemorate Tom Maguire's passing his daughter, Mrs Moira Dunne, has submitted the following obituary.

**THOMAS MAGUIRE**

Illawarra Historical Society Foundation and Life Member, Thomas Aloysius Maguire, was born at West Maitland in 1909, the sixth child in a family of eight. Educated first in Maitland and then at the Christian Brothers High School, Lewisham - where he was School Captain - he commenced his legal studies in 1928 when he entered into Articles of

Company, solicitors, which practised in Wollongong as well as Sydney. Admitted as a solicitor in 1933, Mr Maguire immediately purchased the Wollongong practice from Morgan, Doust and Company and commenced practice on his own.

In 1937 he was joined by his friend Tom McInerney and together they became partners in one of the district's best known legal firms, Maguire & McInerney. Very different personalities, they worked happily together as partners until 1979 when Tom Maguire became a consultant to the firm. He only severed this relationship at the age of 91 when age and ill health prevented him from attending the office on a daily basis.

Tom Maguire was always very involved in the activities of Wollongong and surrounding district. He served two years as president of the Wollongong and District Law Society, was president of Wollongong Rugby League Football Club, vice president of the Illawarra Rugby league, chairman of its judiciary committee and a delegate to Group 7 of the RL. He was a foundation committee member of Kembla Grange Race Club and later its vice president and trustee.

Mr Maguire was also on the committee of the Wollongong Surf Club, was foundation president of the Wollongong Catholic Dinner Club and a member of the Wollongong and Diocese Provident Fund. He was foundation president of the Wollongong Citizens' Junior Free Library and helped form the Wollongong Municipal Library.

During World war II he served on the Citizens' Committee, organising and administering the Comforts Fund in the area and had a long and distinguished career in Apex - elected Wollongong president 1938, national president 1947, life governor 1950 - He was chairman of Wollongong Theatres Pty Ltd for 15 years and was a foundation director of WIN 4 for more than 25 years.

In 1935 he married Eileen Hegarty whom he first met at a tennis party in Corrimal. They had two daughters, Moira (now Dunne) and Philippa (Connolly deceased). When Eileen died in 1986 Tom became less involved with public life but remained a dapper figure, always snappily

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dressed in a suit, and wearing a hat; he was on first name terms with young and old alike as he made his daily walk from his office down Crown Street Mall. After Philippa's death in 2001 he moved to Kenilworth Gardens in Bowral so he could be close to Moira.

Until shortly before his passing, he took a great interest in Wollongong, reading the Illawarra Mercury daily and thoroughly enjoying the Bulletin of the Illawarra Historical Society, which was just one of the many Wollongong organisations, he has known since inception.

Moira Dunne