



Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor Cr A G Wales, c. 1936

Sir Alexander George Wales

Politician and Lord Mayor of Melbourne

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Alexander Wales was born at Richmond in October 1885, one of seven children of Alexander Wright Wales, contractor and quarry owner, and his wife Rosanna Poynton. For many years the family lived in Blyth Street, Brunswick. Wales attended Brunswick State School but left school at fourteen after his father was blinded in an explosion at the quarry.

He worked firstly for the railways then at a quarry before his appointment in 1903 to the Commonwealth Public Service as a clerk. In 1907 he was appointed secretary of the Albion Quarrying Company and later became its managing director and chairman. His commercial interests expanded to include building industry contractor and company director. In the 1940s, he was president of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce.

A political conservative and staunch anti-socialist, Wales became a Brunswick City Councillor in 1914 and was Mayor in 1917 and 1918. In 1924 he joined the Melbourne City Council and served three successive terms as Lord Mayor in the 1930s, for which he received a knighthood. In all, he remained on Council for twenty-nine years. He served briefly on the Victorian Legislative Council in the mid-1930s.

In 1911, Wales married Ethel Bromet at Christ Church, Brunswick. They lived firstly in 'Warrengesda', 79 Blyth Street, Brunswick, then in Davies Street, Brunswick before moving to Toorak in the 1930s. Wales died at Elsternwick on 31 May 1962 and was buried in the Church of England Section of Coburg Cemetery. His wife and daughter survived him.

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The above information is based on research conducted in 2011-2012 and is presented in good faith by the Friends of Coburg Cemetery. Should family members wish to upgrade existing monuments within this cemetery please email enquiries@gmct.com.au