

FOR PRESS :

P.M. No. 64/1965

KNIGHTHOOD FOR THE LATE L. C. ROBSON

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the honour of Knighthood should be conferred upon the late Mr. Leonard Charles Robson, C.B.E., M.C., E.D., in the New Year Honours List, 1965, for his services in the field of education in Australia.

Mr. Robson died on the 5th December, 1964. Her Majesty has approved that Mrs. Robson be granted the style, title, place and precedence to which she would have been entitled had her husband survived to receive the honour of Knighthood.

---

CANBERRA,  
31st August, 1965.

BACKGROUND

Leonard Charles Robson was in early life a distinguished student and Rhodes Scholar for New South Wales.

He served with the First A.I.F. and won the Military Cross.

The service for which he would be most remembered was that which he gave to the independent schools of Australia in a variety of ways for more than 40 years. He was one of the outstanding headmasters in recent times in Australia, his period of leadership at Shore (Church of England Grammar School, North Sydney) extending from 1923 to 1958. He was awarded a C.B.E. in 1955. He was one of the moving spirits in the formation of the Headmasters' Conference. His years of formal retirement saw no slackening in his work for the independent schools. It was largely because of his initiative and enterprise that the Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Education in Schools was established; The Fund's income is contributed by industry and commerce and has been used to help a considerable number of Conference schools. When the Commonwealth initiated its own scheme in 1964 for science grants to schools, Mr. Robson became the first Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Standards for Science Facilities in Independent Secondary Schools which the Government set up to aid it in the administration of the new scheme.

Mr. Robson's services to education included, at the same time, his work as a member of three boards - the Soldiers' Children Education Board, the Board of Secondary School Studies and a contribution for which the Commonwealth was particularly grateful, the Commonwealth Scholarships Board.

---