



# **Pte. Keith Cameron Wilson**



**Played with Adelaide University**



**Cricket Club: B Grade (1919/20 - 1922/23)**

**Degree: LLB (1922)**

## ***Background***

***Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.***

***On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.***


***The following documentation relates to the life of Keith Cameron Wilson. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.***

***(Those men who enlisted, but either because of cessation of hostilities or other reasons did not serve overseas are still included in the list of AUFC & AUCC players recognised as serving their Country. Our men who enlisted later in 1918 were not to know that Germany would surrender on 11th November 1918 and so their courage and commitment to serve should still be recognised.)***

# Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=2013313>


A.M. Form A. 5 (a).

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name { Surname Wilson  
in full { Christian Name KEITH CAMERON  
Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Joined on OCT 19 1918



**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.

1. What is your Name? Keith Cameron Wilson

2. In or near what Town were you born? East Adelaide  
In the State or Country of South Australia

3. Are you a natural-born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Natural Born

4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated) 18 1/2 years  
3/9/1900

5. What is your Trade or Calling? Student

6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No

7. Are you married, single, or widower? Single

8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) (Father) WILSON ALGERNON THEODORE  
53 6<sup>th</sup> AV. ST. PETERS

The answer to this question shall not be construed as in the nature of a Will.

9. What is your permanent address in Australia? AS ABOVE

10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge 4 years S.C. 783

11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? yes

12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No

13. Have you ever suffered from:—

1. Consumption, tubercular disease, or chronic cough? No

2. Fits of any kind? No

3. Rheumatism or asthma? No

4. Mental or nervous disease? No

5. Has any member of your family suffered from any of the above diseases? If so, state particulars. No

14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—  
Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day?

15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? yes

16. Keith Cameron Wilson do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

17. And I further agree to allot not less than ~~two-fifths~~ three-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date OCT 19 1918 K. C. Wilson Signature of Person Enlisted.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

D.1182/2.18.—C.1272.—70M.

## Published Biography

The Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate ([biography.senate.gov.au](http://biography.senate.gov.au))

### **WILSON, Sir Keith Cameron (1900–1987)**

Senator for South Australia, 1938–44 (United Australia Party)

Judith Brown

Keith Cameron (K. C.) Wilson was born on 3 September 1900 at East Adelaide, South Australia, to Algernon Theodore King Wilson and his wife, Lillian Charlotte, née Laurence. Keith Cameron's great-grandfather, Thomas Wilson, who migrated to South Australia from England, was a solicitor, as were his grandfather and father. K. C. himself, and his two sons, would enter the law. The family were also staunch supporters of the Church of England. Wilson was educated at The Collegiate School of St Peter, where his great-uncle, the Reverend Theodore Percival Wilson, had been the first headmaster. Determined to fight for his country, Wilson enlisted in the AIF on 19 October 1918, shortly after his eighteenth birthday, but was demobilised a month later, following the armistice. He then sat for, and passed, the Leaving Honours examination, going on to study law at the University of Adelaide, which he was able to do only with the financial assistance of a bursary. Articled to his father's law firm for the sum of ten shillings a week on which, it seems, he had to live; Wilson took on a measure of responsibility for the firm when his father became ill for six months. In 1922 he graduated and was admitted to the South Australian Bar. He then went into partnership with his father, developing the practice in country areas.<sup>[1]</sup>

Wilson became interested in politics following the waterfront strike of 1928. When Premier Richard Butler called for volunteers to load ships and serve as special constables, Wilson became an organiser of the Essential Services Industrial Volunteers, and at a golf club dance jumped on a table, replete in white tie and tails, to rally friends to the cause. After the strike collapsed, Wilson and some like-minded companions felt that politics was one way in which they could continue to serve their country. They considered the formation of a new political party but chose instead to join the Liberal Federation and reform it from within. So began in 1929 the Political Reform League with Wilson as its first president. On 24 May 1930 at St John's Anglican Church, Adelaide, Wilson married Elizabeth (Betty) Hornabrook Bonython, chairwoman of the women's section of the Political Reform League, and daughter of the Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

The following year Wilson became part of the new Emergency Committee which helped unite non-Labor candidates for the March election. By 1932 the Political Reform League was renamed the Young Liberal League, and joined with the Liberal Federation and the Country Party to form the Liberal and Country League (LCL). As chairman of the Young Liberals' Industrial Committee, Wilson was instrumental in the creation of the Industries Assistance Corporation in South Australia, of which he was a member. He was also an ex-officio member of the Young Liberals' Housing Committee, established to investigate the problems of housing, since the average worker had difficulty in finding the money to rent, let alone buy, a house. The Committee's greatest achievement was its proposal for what became Australia's first public housing authority, the South Australian Housing Trust, established in 1936. In 1934 Wilson became vice-president of the LCL and chairman of its organising committee. He would hold these positions until 1937, and again from 1944 to 1946.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1934 he was invited to contest LCL preselection for the federal seat of Boothby, then held by the former Labor man, John Price. When the two candidates tied for preselection, the LCL endorsed both. Price won the seat, Wilson writing: 'Having become "blooded" for Parliament, I had to go on'. His next opportunity came in 1937 when he stood for the Senate. Successful, he took up his seat on 1 July 1938, but even before that had made several trips to Canberra to acquaint himself with the National Health and Pensions Insurance Bill. The bill proposed to abolish the means test for old age and invalid pensions, a development that Wilson supported strongly, and to introduce a national compulsory contributory insurance scheme. Soon after his entry to the Senate, Wilson and fellow South Australian, Senator Uppill, proposed the formation of a voluntary wheat stabilisation scheme designed to provide price stability for the wheat industry. Wilson introduced the scheme as a private senator's bill—the Wheat Industry Insurance Bill—in December 1938, but the legislation made little progress and lapsed with the prorogation of Parliament in December 1939.<sup>[3]</sup>

War was declared on 3 September 1939—Wilson's thirty-ninth birthday. When the age limit for enlistment was increased from thirty-five to forty in May 1940, Wilson transferred from the Militia Forces (in which he had enlisted in December 1938) to the AIF. On taking leave from the Senate, the Labor Party provided him with a pair, but as Wilson later discovered the arrangement did not cover secret ballots, normally used in the chamber only for the election of officers of the Senate: in July 1941 Labor's James Cunningham owed his election as President of the Senate in part to Wilson's absence.

Farewelled as the 'young chap' by his fellow senators, Wilson became the 'old chap' to his mates in the 2/7 Field Regiment in the Middle East. Beginning as a gunner, he was soon promoted to lance-sergeant. Commissioned in January 1942, he became a courts-martial officer and later judge advocate at AIF Headquarters, was promoted to captain in March and to major in December. He returned to Australia in February 1943 and to the Senate the following month, but continued to serve in the army as a legal officer in Melbourne. From April 1944 until his discharge in October 1945, he was chief legal officer in Adelaide. During his absence overseas his wife attended to his parliamentary correspondence.[\[4\]](#)

Wilson had returned to Australia with an enhanced social conscience, but also with a strong conviction that people must be given the opportunity to help themselves. He had been impressed by the calibre of the men he fought with: 'I am satisfied that magnificent men are produced in this country. With men such as we send overseas, there is nothing that we cannot do in Australia'. In 1943 he donated £1300 to establish the K. C. Wilson Housing and Welfare Fund, which continued until May 2000 to give grants and loans to 2/7 Field Regiment members. Wilson believed that members of the AIF should receive due recognition for their sacrifice, arguing that 'no member of our fighting forces should be discharged until a job can be provided for him'. His motion to that effect won Senate support in June 1943. His view that a soldier's war pension of 25 shillings a week should not be classed as income when determining eligibility for pension benefits eventually prevailed in 1950. He would become chairman of the War Blinded Welfare Fund, president of the Legacy Club of Adelaide, vice-president of the Burnside Returned Soldiers' League, and first president of the Units Clubs Association.[\[5\]](#)

Wilson lost his seat at the August 1943 election, his term in the Senate ending in June 1944, commenting, like so many other parliamentarians before and since, 'that those things which one imagines that he can get done quickly very often take a great many years before they are fulfilled'. Uneasy about returning to a desk job in his law firm after several years away, Wilson (with his wife) invested in a small farm at Cockatoo Valley. Unsuccessful as the LCL candidate for the federal seat of Boothby in September 1946, in December 1949 he won the newly created seat of Sturt.

Wilson was re-elected at the election of April 1951, following the simultaneous dissolution. In 1952 he seized the opportunity to work on the newly established Liberal Party policy committees, which he described as 'Government Members Parliamentary Committees', and which served to keep Menzies' spirited backbenchers usefully employed. Concerned by his Government's continued failure to fulfil its promise to introduce a contributory insurance scheme, he urged the abolition of the means test on pensions. But the Government went to the 1954 elections proposing not abolition but liberalisation of the means test. Labor, once opposed to abolition, now supported it to win the election. The Government was returned with the loss of five seats including that of Sturt. Wilson felt he had been placed in an impossible position.[\[6\]](#)

When the Aged Persons Homes Bill became law later in 1954, Wilson had the satisfaction of knowing that it had been the product of his initiative. The Act provided a federal grant for private organisations across Australia to build homes for the aged. An active leader of many charitable and benevolent organisations, in 1951 Wilson had been honorary solicitor to the South Australian branch of the Australian Pensioners' League. As chairman of the board of Aged Cottage Homes from its establishment in 1952 (until 1972) Wilson sought a £1 for £1 government subsidy to match funds raised by pensioner volunteers to build flats for pensioners in need. Aged Cottage Homes publicised the plight of pensioners by inviting the Prime Minister to lay the foundation stone for the first 'cottages' in December 1953. In 1954 Menzies made a federal subsidy for aged housing part of his election policy, implementing the scheme on his return to government. With this assistance, Aged Cottage Homes built some six hundred houses over the next fifteen years. Menzies believed that none of the Government's schemes 'was ever more widely welcomed by the public or gave us a deeper satisfaction'. Wilson's Aged Cottage Homes provided a model for Richard Cleaver, MHR, who established Swan Cottage Homes in Western Australia in 1960.[\[7\]](#)



Wilson's return to his legal practice after his 1954 defeat was brief as he regained Sturt at the federal election of December 1955. He realised even more that he and his colleagues must specialise and organise if they were to gain Cabinet's attention and influence Government policy. He pressed the Government on a range of social issues, including further liberalisation of the means test and increased welfare benefits. He worked through the Government Members Social Services Committee, which he would chair for more than ten years, and claimed some success in having his recommendations accepted by the Cabinet. For Wilson, the committee's success demonstrated his belief that backbenchers 'can play a most effective part in the legislation of the country'.

With the same philanthropic attitude he had shown to the aged, Wilson had taken up the cause of migrants. On his own telling, in the early 1950s at Gepps Cross Hostel in Adelaide he ensured, with the assistance of the Housing Trust, that communal dining was replaced with individual kitchenettes for the hostel's 1600 migrants. Appointed in 1958 as chairman of the Immigration Advisory Council, which assisted the Minister for Immigration, he later became president of the Good Neighbour Council. As far back as his first speech in the Senate in October 1938, he had welcomed 'the right type of migrants', urging the Government to 'seize every opportunity to get [them]'. Now he found such New Australians within his own electorate.<sup>[8]</sup>

In January 1966 Wilson was appointed KB for his public service and social welfare work. Deciding not to stand at the 1966 election, he had envisaged a retirement doing charitable work with time at his farm tending his land and reading books. But in 1968 he headed the Investigating Committee set up by the LCL to examine (in the light of much disputation) its own structure and function. The committee's recommendations had a belated impact with the emergence of the Liberal Movement within the LCL in 1972.<sup>[9]</sup>

Sir Keith Wilson, a man of grace and charm, unfailing courtesy and the highest principles, died on 28 September 1987 and was buried at the Centennial Park Cemetery after a memorial service at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Marryatville. The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Fred Chaney, extended his sympathy to Wilson's widow, Lady Wilson, and to the three children of the marriage, sons Ian and Andrew, and daughter Elizabeth. Senator Chaney said that Wilson's success would 'be emulated by few of us in this place—in terms of the very substantial improvement in the lives of many Australians that he affected'. Wilson had kept closely in touch with members of his old regiment, whose tribute was headed 'There Was a Man'.

Ian Wilson succeeded his father as MHR for Sturt in 1966 and, apart from the years between 1969 and 1972, held the seat until 1993. He too developed an interest in migrants and the aged, was a reformer in the Liberal Party, and became chairman of the Federal Parliamentary Liberal Party Social Services Committee (1968–69). At various times between 1981 and 1983, Ian Wilson was Minister of Home Affairs and Environment, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, also serving as Minister Assisting the Minister for Social Security.<sup>[10]</sup>

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[1] S. C. Wilson and K. C. Borrow, *The Bridge over the Ocean: Thomas Wilson (1787–1863) Art Collector and Mayor of Adelaide*, Adelaide, 1973, pp. 36–7, 85, 229; K. C. Wilson, *Memoirs of Keith Cameron Wilson: Reminiscences of a Backbencher*, (in possession of Wilson's son, Ian Wilson); John Tregenza, *Collegiate School of St Peter Adelaide: The Founding Years 1847–1878*, Collegiate School of St Peter, St Peters, SA, 1996, pp. 55–7; Wilson, K. C.—War Service Record, B2455, NAA.

[2] *Advertiser* (Adel.), 28 Sept. 1928, p. 15, 29 Sept. 1928, p. 15; A. Grenfell Price, 'The Emergency Committee of South Australia and the Origin of the Premiers' Plan, 1931–2', *South Australiana*, Mar. 1978, pp. 5–47, and photograph; Muriel Farr (comp.), *Origins of the Liberal and Country League of South Australia*, Griffin Press, Adelaide, 1957, pp. 14–16; *Advertiser* (Adel.), 30 Nov. 1937, p. 19; *SAPD*, 1 Dec. 1937, p. 2049; Susan Marsden, *Business, Charity and Sentiment: The South Australian Housing Trust 1936–1986*, Wakefield Press, Netley, SA, 1986, pp. v, 16–21; *Advertiser* (Adel.), 29 Sept. 1987, p. 5.

[3] K. C. Wilson and O. Uppill, *A Wheat Equalization Scheme*, Commercial Printing House, Adelaide, 1938; *CPD*, 7 Dec. 1938, p. 2779, 8 Dec. 1938, pp. 2971–5, 30 Nov. 1939, pp. 1794–8.

[4] Wilson, K. C.—War Service Record, B883, NAA; *CPD*, 30 Mar. 1944, p. 2324, 1 July 1941, pp. 565–6; Harry Evans (ed.), *Odgers' Australian Senate Practice*, 10th edn, Department of the Senate, Canberra, 2001, p. 247; Senate Registry File, A8161, S286, NAA.

[5] *CPD*, 7 Oct. 1987, p. 736, 30 Mar. 1944, p. 2327; David Goodhart, *The History of the 2/7 Australian Field Regiment*, Rigby, Adelaide, 1952, p. 274; Letter, C. S. McArthur to Lady Wilson, 27 May 2000, Wilson Papers (in possession of Ian Wilson); *CPD*, 23 Mar. 1943, p. 2159, 25 June 1943, pp. 356–61, 1 July 1943, pp. 636–8, 17 Feb. 1944, pp. 268–71, 18 Feb. 1944, p. 331, 25 Oct. 1950, p. 1360, 21 Nov. 1950, p. 2734; T. H. Kewley, *Social Security in Australia 1900–72*, 2nd edn, SUP, Sydney, 1973, p. 274; *Advertiser* (Adel.), 1 Jan. 1966, p. 5.

[6] *CPD*, 30 Mar. 1944, pp. 2327–8; *Advertiser* (Adel.), 16 May 1952, p. 2; *CPD*, 25 Oct. 1950, pp. 1359–60, 21 June 1951, pp. 242–4, 14 Nov. 1951, pp. 1986–7; *SMH*, 4 May 1954, p. 2, 20 May 1954, p. 5; A. W. Martin, *Robert Menzies: A Life*, vol. 2, MUP, Carlton, Vic., 1999, pp. 261–3.

[7] *CPD*, 7 Oct. 1987, pp. 733–5, 15 Oct. 1952, p. 3131; Interview, Senator Gordon Davidson, 11 July 1984, TRC 4900/41, NLA; *Advertiser* (Adel.), 15 Dec. 1953, p. 3; *SMH*, 5 May 1954, p. 1; *CPD*, 4 Aug. 1954 (R), p. 13, 3 Nov. 1954 (R), p. 2553; Kewley, *Social Security in Australia*, pp. 315–16; Robert Gordon Menzies, *The Measure of the Years*, Cassell Australia, North Melbourne, Vic., 1970, p. 125; Letter, Wilson to Richard Cleaver, MHR, 22 Oct. 1981, Notes for a speech in WA, Wilson Papers.

[8] *CPD*, 13 Sept. 1966 (R), pp. 808–10, 14 May 1952, p. 344, 19 Feb. 1953, pp. 136–7, 7 Oct. 1987, pp. 733, 736, 5 Oct. 1938, p. 361.

[9] *Advertiser* (Adel.), 1 Jan. 1966, pp. 1, 5; Information provided by Ian Wilson; Dean Jaensch and Joan Bullock, *Liberals in Limbo: Non-Labor Politics in South Australia 1970–1978*, Drummond, Richmond, Vic., 1978, pp. 38–9, 50–5; Allan Perryman, 'More than a Myth', in *A Liberal Awakening: The LM Story*, Investigator Press, Leabrook, SA, 1973, pp. 82–9.

[10] *CPD*, 7 Oct. 1987, pp. 733–6, 26 Oct. 1987 (R), pp. 1465–6; *Advertiser* (Adel.), 29 Sept. 1987, p. 5; *Dial Sight* (SA), Jan. 1988, p. 3; Jaensch and Bullock, *Liberals in Limbo*, pp. 61–2; Murray Hill, 'Reaction and Reform', in *A Liberal Awakening*, pp. 51–3.

This biography was first published in *The Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate*, vol. 2, 1929–1962, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Vic., 2004, pp. 294–298.

## Additional Biography

The biography above is comprehensive but with a focus on Keith's political career. The additional information below has a focus on education, sport, family and other activities in Keith's life.

## Early Life

Keith Cameron Wilson was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1900, the son of Algernon Theodore King Wilson and Lillian Charlotte Laurence. His grandfather Charles Algernon Wilson (1818 - 1884) had arrived in South Australia in April 1838 on board the *Duke of Roxburgh*.



**Algernon Theodore King Wilson QC**

Keith's father was a solicitor and a partner in the firm Wilson and Genders.

He shared a birthday with his brother Laurence Algernon Wilson who was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1896. The family lived at 53 Sixth Avenue, St Peters, Adelaide.

## Schooling

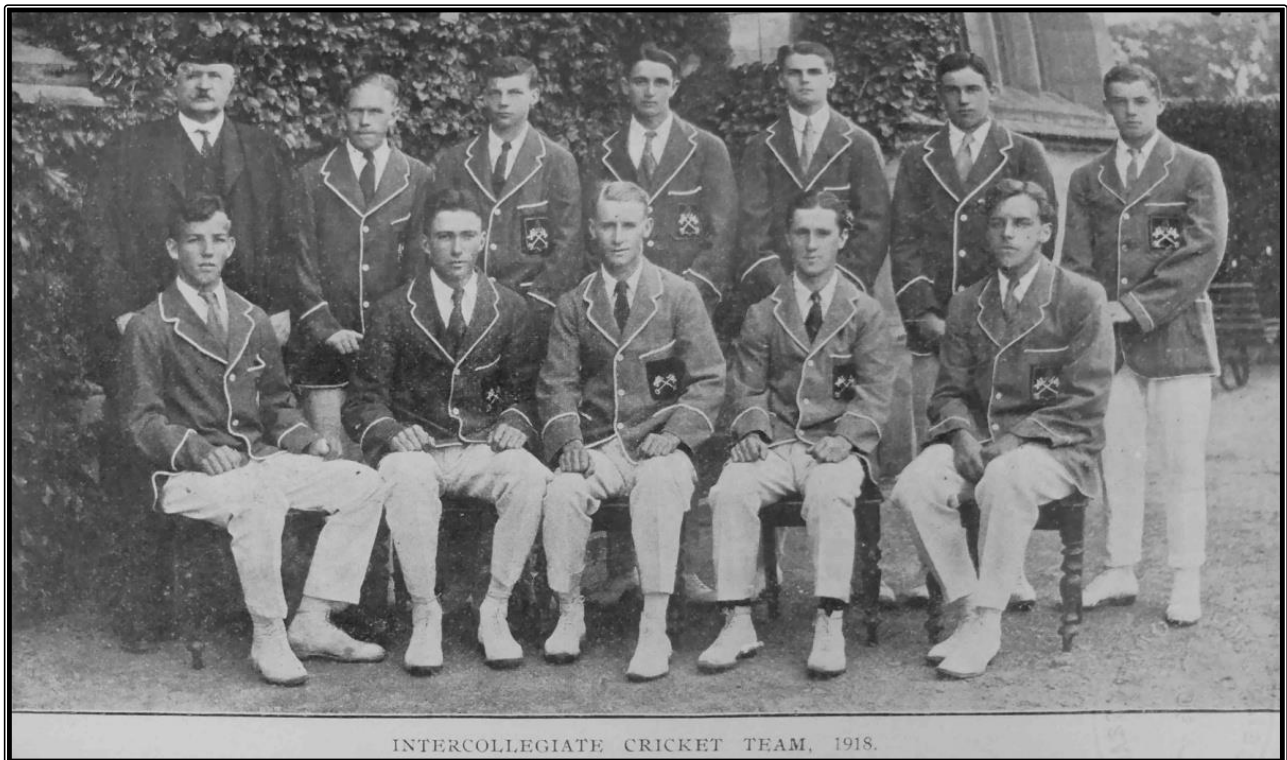
Keith attended St Peter's College, Adelaide where he completed his Junior Examinations in December 1915.

In 1916, Keith represented St Peter's at the Intercollegiate tennis match against Prince Alfred College. He completed his Senior Examinations in December 1916.

While at St Peter's College, Keith spent four years in the Senior Cadets. In December 1918, having completed his Higher Public examinations, Keith gained a government bursary to study law at Adelaide University.

He played Intercollegiate Cricket in December 1918.

### 1918 – Intercollegiate Cricket St Peters



*K.C. Wilson – Back Row Third from Left*

### World War I

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1918, aged 18 years and one month, Keith enlisted for WWI. He was 5'6½", 115 lbs, with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He was granted a leave pass from the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1919 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1919. While no reason has been given for the leave pass, it was probably granted to allow Keith to complete his examinations. Keith required his parents' permission to enlist. Keith was discharged on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 1918, not having been called up for duty due to the cessation of hostilities.

Original.  
Duplicate.

**APPLICATION TO ENLIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

To the Recruiting Officer \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_

I, Keith Cameron Wilson

hereby offer myself for Enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service Abroad, and undertake to enlist in the manner prescribed, if I am accepted by the Military Authorities, within one month from date hereof.

Postal Address: St. Peters Signature: K. C. Wilson

Occupation: Student Date: 19/10/18

(For Identification purposes the above space should be filled in personally by the Applicant.)

**CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS. (For Persons under 21 years of age.)**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I approve of the above application, and consent to the enlistment of my (son) for Active Service Abroad. We further certify that we have seen and approved the application of the applicant.

Statement regarding Death or Absence of either or both Parents.

Father's Signature: W. C. Wilson Date: 19/10/18

Mother's Signature: L. C. Wilson

or

Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Adelaide University

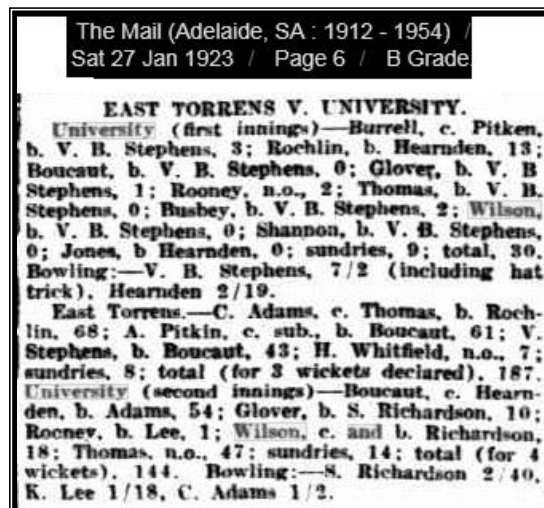
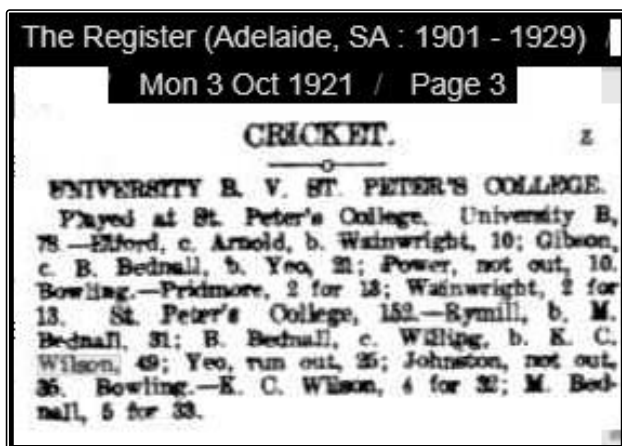
Having gained a bursary, Keith commenced studying law at Adelaide University in 1919. He was actively involved in University life and was on the committee to organise the "Black and White Ball" in 1919 and again in 1923. He was a member of the Law Students' Society and was involved in debates held by the society. Keith graduated LLB in 1922.



## University Sport

### Cricket

Keith played four seasons of cricket for Adelaide University from 1919/20 through to 1922/23. Playing in the B Grade team, probably his most pleasing memory would have been his performance against his old school in October 1921, when he had the bowling figures of 4 for 32. A match to forget was in his final season, when in January 1923, his side was dismissed for 30 runs.



### Athletics

Keith competed in the Adelaide University Sports coming third in the Mile Handicap in 1921 and second in the same event in 1922.

### Career and Family Life

In addition to his University sports, Keith competed in the SA Lawn Tennis Carnivals in 1921 and 1922. In November 1922 while still living with his parents at Sixth Avenue, St Peters he registered a 27.3 Buick motor vehicle.

In December 1922, Keith was admitted to the Bar.



*K.C. Wilson – Back Row – Fourth from Left*

Keith became a partner in his father's firm of solicitors, Wilson and Genders. He remained actively involved in both his old College and University.

As a graduate, in March 1924, he put on the cricket gear again to play in a match for the graduates against the students. The graduates, including Keith, succumbed to the spin of law student and returned WW1 Serviceman Pat Ohlstrom, who had played for South Australia and was the leading A Grade wicket taker in the State in the 1923/4 season.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929)  
 Thu 27 Mar 1924 / Page 3  
**GRADUATES V. STUDENTS.**

The Adelaide University Oval was the scene on Wednesday afternoon of the annual cricket and tennis contests between the graduates and undergraduates. The graduates were successful at tennis, but the students at cricket avenged that defeat. Dolling (captain of the graduates) won the toss, and elected to have first use of a fairly soft wicket. The results of the day's sports were:—

**Cricket.**  
 Graduates, first innings, 133.—L. C. Lindon, c. Fuller b. Ohlstrom, 23; H. J. Edwards, c. Glover, b. Harbison, 4; C. E. Dolling, c. Beadnall, b. Finney, 22; J. P. Astley, c. Finney, b. Ohlstrom, 27; J. B. Jose, b. Ohlstrom, 1; C. H. Symon, not out, 39; H. O. Giles, l.b.w., b. Harbison, 0; R. A. Goode, c. Harbison, b. Ohlstrom, 3; N. Hargrave, c. Krantz, b. Ohlstrom, 1; K. C. Wilson, c. Glover, b. Ohlstrom, 0; K. Gault, b. Ohlstrom, 9; sundries, 4. Bowling.—E. J. Harbison, 2 for 46; P. A. Ohlstrom, 7 for 55; T. D. Finney, 1 for 12; S. Lewis, 0 for 16. Undergraduates, first innings, 207.—D. Boucaut, c. Jose, b. Symon, 31; W. G. Fuller, b. Edwards, 4; M. W. Beadnall, c. Wilson, b. Edwards, 4; P. A. Ohlstrom, b. Edwards, 56; E. J. Harbison, retired, 57; T. D. Finney, c. sub., b. Edwards, 9; S. Lewis c. Gault, b. Edwards, 0; B. Goode, not out, 24; S. Krantz, st. Gault, b. Jose, 8; C. J. Glover st. Gault, b. Jose, 2; R. V. Pridmore, c. Beadnall b. Astley, 7; sundries, 5. Bowling.—H. J. Edwards, 5 for 63; J. F. Astley, 1 for 34; I. B. Jose, 2 for 32; K. C. Wilson, 0 for 18; C. H. Symon, 1 for 35; N. Hargrave, 0 for 20.

By 1925, Keith was on the committee of the St Peter's College Old Scholars Association. He also was a keen golfer playing golf at both Kooyonga and Victor Harbor.

In August 1925, Keith's father passed away leaving a widow and two sons, Laurence and Keith.

Death this morning removed from the legal profession one of its oldest and most respected members in Mr. A. T. K. Wilson, who was 62 years old: He was a son of Mr. C. A. Wilson (Registrar of Probates many years ago), and was educated at St. Peter's College. He was admitted to the Bar in July, 1886, and was a member of the firm of Wilson & Genders at the time of his death. Mr. Wilson was absorbed in his profession, being of the old school of family lawyers, and his advice and judgment upon questions of probate and succession duties were valued by solicitors. Mr. Wilson has left a widow and two sons, Dr. J. A. Wilson, of Unley, and Mr. K. C. Wilson, of the firm of Wilson and Genders.

By 1930, Keith was involved in the Political Reform League and is pictured below in March 1930, recruiting canvassers for the upcoming election and greeting Mr R.G. Menzies.



*K.C. Wilson – At Table*



*K.C. Wilson – Third from Right*

On Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 1930, Keith married Elizabeth (Betty) Hornabrook Bonython, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Lavington Bonython at St John's Church, Halifax Street, Adelaide.



*Mr and Mrs K.C. Wilson*



***April 1931***



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1932, Keith and Betty's son, Ian Bonython Cameron Wilson, was born. The couple were then living at Tusmore. In 1933, Keith gained a credit in Public Finance at Adelaide University. Keith and Betty's daughter, Elizabeth Cameron Wilson was born in February 1934.

In 1934, after a tie at pre-selection, the Liberal party endorsed two candidates for the seat of Boothby. Keith lost the poll to J.L. Price, the other L.C.L. (Liberal and Country League) candidate in October 1934.



*K.C. Wilson – At Right*

By March 1935, Keith was chairman of the committee of the Young Liberal League and is pictured below meeting Mr McCall, M.H.R. and in April 1935, he was among the attendees at the Easter School of Political Economy.



*K.C. Wilson – At Right*



## Prominent People at School of Political Economy



THE EASTER SCHOOL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY was opened at Mount Barker yesterday. In this group photographed today are (from left) Messrs. G. T. Clarke (secretary Taxpayers' Association), H. C. Hogben, M.P. (secretary Young Liberal League), W. S. Hanson (Mayor of Kensington and Norwood), K. C. Wilson (president of school), J. W. Wainwright (State Auditor-General), the Speaker (Mr. E. D. Nicholls), and Mr. A. W. Robinson, M.P.

*K.C. Wilson – Fourth from Left*

In August 1937, Keith Wilson and Eric Bonython travelled on the Innamincka Track to Birdsville and back to Adelaide, a journey of over 2,000 miles. Keith and Betty's second son, Andrew Bray Cameron Wilson was born in late 1937.

Keith was endorsed as an L.C.L. candidate for the Senate in the 1937 elections and the newspaper article below was part of his campaign material. He was described as noted for his courage and determination. Keith was successful in gaining a seat in the Senate from 1 July 1938.

**MR. K. C. WILSON** is one of the outstanding young men in the Liberal and Country League. He had a brilliant scholastic career, winning two scholarships at St. Peter's College, passing the Higher Public Examination with honours, and winning a Government Bursary. He graduated at the University in 1922 with the degree of LL.B. Continuing his studies, he continued in 1933 the first place in Public Finance.

He has been chairman of the Organising Committee and a Vice-President of the Liberal and Country League.

The Senate is the "State's House," the House in which the rights of South Australia must be protected. Mr. Wilson is trained for the task. He has taken a prominent part in the public and political life of the State. He was chairman of the Honorary Committee which assisted the Government of South Australia in the preparation of its case for the Constitutional Conference called to consider the arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States.

Mr. Wilson was the first in South Australia to advocate the establishment of an Industrial Corporation to assist small industries. His knowledge of public finance and the Australian Constitution will be of invaluable service to South Australia in the Senate in its fight to secure for this State justice under Federation. He is noted for his courage and determination.

(Authorised by A. S. Dunk, 175 North Terrace, Adelaide.)

In March 1938, Betty travelled to England and was presented at Court. She arrived back in Australia in September 1938. Keith travelled to Perth to meet Betty and the couple returned home to Adelaide on the East-West Express.

Who's Who in Australia (1938) provides the following details on Keith's life to that stage.

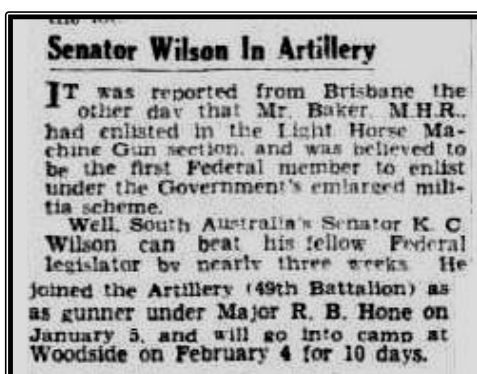
**WILSON, Senator Keith Cameron**, Senator for S.A., elected Oct. 23, 1937, to take seat from July 1, 1938: son of A. T. K. Wilson, solicitor, and great grandson of Thomas Wilson, 2nd Mayor Adelaide; b. Sept. 3, 1900, St. Peter's Adel.; ed. Collegiate Sch. of St. Peter and Univ. Adel.; LL.B. 1922; chrmn. of cttee. Young Liberal League 1928-1937; vice-pres. Liberal & Country League and chrm. of Organising Cttee, 1934-1937; chrmn. of Hon. Cttee. which assisted S.A. Govt. in preparation of its case for the constitutional conference called to consider the financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and the State; m. 1930, Elizabeth Hornabrook, daughter of Sir Lavington Bonython, Adelaide, 2 s., 1 d.; address: Tusmore, Adel., S.A.



*K.C. Wilson*

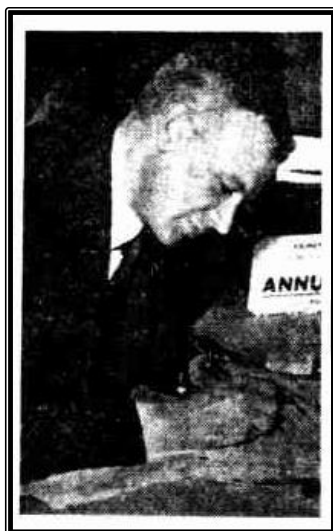
## World War II

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1939, Keith joined the Artillery (49<sup>th</sup> Battalion) as a gunner under Major R.B. Hone and went into camp on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1939 for ten days.



In March 1940, Betty was appointed commanding officer of the Volunteer Services Detachments of the Red Cross Society. At that time, Ian was seven years of age and was attending St Peter's College, Elizabeth was six and Andrew was three year of age.

On the 30 May 1940 Keith enlisted for service in Australia or abroad in WWII (SN- SX4061).




*K.C. Wilson - Signing Enlistment Papers*

# Service Record

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=6656377>

COPY TO  
2nd ECHELON  
6 - MAR 1942

M.P. O.K. W.H. A.A. Form A.200.

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES

**ATTESTATION FORM**

FOR SPECIAL FORCES RAISED FOR SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA OR ABROAD.

Army No. 4061

Surname WILSON (BLOCK CAPITALS) Other Names Kurt Cameron

Unit 2/7 Army Fld Regt. A.I.F.

Enlisted for service at ADELAIDE (Place)

South Australia (State) (Date)

**A**

Questions to be put to persons called out or presenting themselves for voluntary enlistment.\*

- What is your name? { 1. Surname WILSON (BLOCK LETTERS)  
Other names Kurt Cameron
- Where were you born? { 2. In or near the town of Adelaide  
in the state or country of S Aus
- Are you a natural born or a naturalized British Subject? If the latter, papers are to be produced { 3. N.B.
- What is your age and date of birth? { 4. Age 39 8/12 Years  
Date of Birth 3/9/1900
- What is your trade or occupation? { 5. Senator
- Are you married, single or widower? { 6. Married
- Have you previously served on active service? If so, where and in what arm? { 7. (Serving) 49 Fld Bty A.I.F. 2 years U.K.
- Who is your actual next of kin? (Order of relationship:—wife, eldest son, eldest daughter, father, mother, eldest brother, eldest sister, eldest half-brother, eldest half-sister) { 8. Name Elizabeth Hornabrook  
Address 79 Tusmore Wilson  
Tusmore  
Relationship Wife
- What is your permanent address? { 9. 49 Tusmore Ave  
Tusmore S.A.
- What is your religious denomination? (This question need not be answered if the man has a conscientious objection to doing so) { 10. 6 of 8

I, Kurt Cameron Wilson do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true and that I am willing to serve in the Australian Military Forces within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

Witnessed by J. D. Wells (Signature of Attesting or Witnessing Officer)

K. Cameron Wilson 20 MA Signature.

\* The person will be warned that should he give false answers to any of these questions he will be liable to heavy penalties under the Defence Act.



***K.C. Wilson – Enlistment Photographs***

**August 1940**



***Mrs and Mr K.C. Wilson***

Keith was appointed a temporary Lance Sergeant in October 1940. On 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1940, he embarked on the *H.M.T Strathmore* for overseas service with the 2/7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, disembarking in the Middle East in December 1940.



1941



The following extract from a letter from Sergeant (Senator) K.C. Wilson was published in The Advertiser on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1941.

**'T WAS ONLY A FLEA**

**A**MUSING extract from a letter from Sergeant (Senator) K. C. Wilson, serving with the A.I.F. Abroad:—"I could not help laughing last night. I was awakened by the noise of fire-works. At times the sky was electric, and things were dropping everywhere with terrific blasts, all very costly to Fritz and ineffective.

"I could hear Foster grovelling in the dark, saying, 'You —; you wait till I get you.' I thought he must have seen a Hun. When I put my head out of my bag, I saw him with a spray trying to douse a flea, which had crawled into his pyjamas."

Keith was promoted to Lieutenant on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 1942 and appointed the Court Marshall Officer; he was then promoted to Captain on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1942. Keith was then appointed Judge Advocate in May 1942 and promoted to Major on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1942.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1943, Keith embarked from the Middle East and returned to Sydney. He then transferred from the Australian Army Legal Department (A.I.F. Middle East), to the Australian Army Legal Department in Australia.

In May 1944 Keith was appointed to the role of Legal Officer HQ SA. Keith was discharged 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1945 and transferred to the Reserve of Officers on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 1946. He continued to regularly attend camp until June 1949.



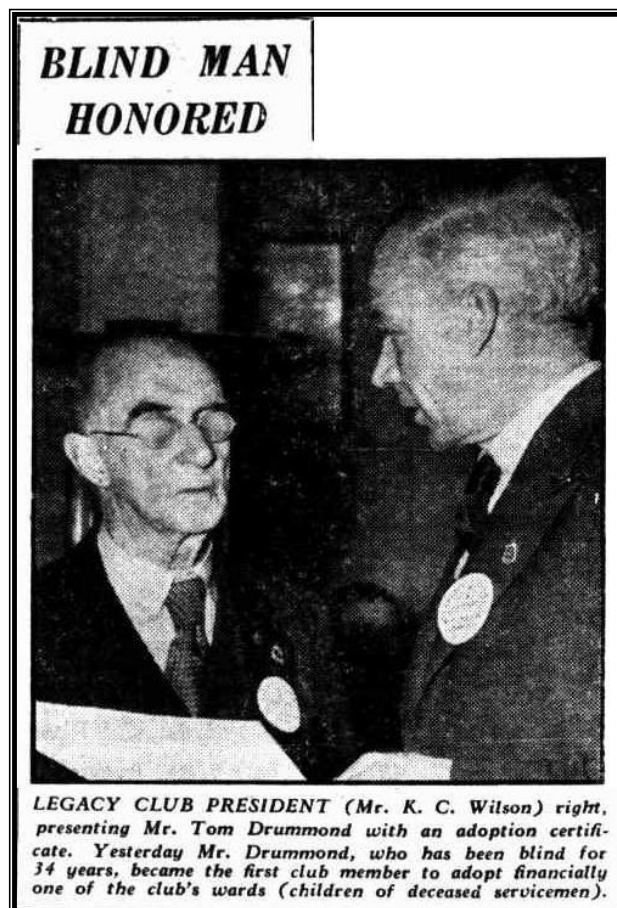
## Post WWII



*K.C. Wilson – Post WWII*

In March 1948, Keith was appointed a director of the Enterprise Shoe Co. Ltd. He was already a foundation member and director of Alma Shoes Ltd. Keith also became the President of the Adelaide Legacy Club.

July 1949



**LEGACY CLUB PRESIDENT (Mr. K. C. Wilson) right,**  
**presenting Mr. Tom Drummond with an adoption certificate.** Yesterday Mr. Drummond, who has been blind for 34 years, became the first club member to adopt financially one of the club's wards (children of deceased servicemen).

*K.C. Wilson – At Right*

August 1949

**£291 cheque for  
Legacy Club**



*HANDING OVER a cheque for £291 raised for Legacy are (from left):—Messrs. E. B. Povey, chairman of the Banks' Sports and Social Committee, and O. B. Beatty, president of the Public Service Association. The money was raised by an ugly man competition and a football match between the two organisations. Mr. K. C. Wilson, president of Adelaide Legacy Club (right) received the money.*

**K.C. Wilson at Right**

September 1949



**Cartoon of K.C. Wilson by Lionel Coventry**

1950



*K.C. Wilson*

By 1953, Ian, Keith and Betty's eldest son, was studying Law at Adelaide University. Ian was the Bakewell Law Scholar at St Peter's College and went on to win both the Stow Prize and the R.W. Bennett Prize three times and thus became a Stow Scholar and a R.W. Bennett Scholar. Ian's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party in May 1953 was attended by the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Menzies. Ian gained his LLB from Adelaide University in 1955.

November 1953



*K.C. Wilson – on left*

**South Australian profile No. 87**

**By FRANK SHAW**

# Born to the Law

**I**T would have been out of keeping with family tradition for Keith Cameron Wilson to have become anything but a legal man.

For legal careers in the Wilson family date back to the very first solicitor to take up practice in South Australia.

But today politics takes far more of Mr. Wilson's time than lawyering. He has been House of Representatives member for Sturt for the past 4½ years.

Thomas Wilson, "KC's" great grandfather, migrated from Wales—although Scots born—in 1838, to take up practice two years after South Australia was proclaimed.

One of his sons, Percy Wilson, was the first headmaster of St. Peter's College, and Charles Wilson, a son of Percy was Registrar of Probates in SA.

KC's father, A. T. K. Wilson, founded the present firm of Genders, Wilson, and Bray, and his son, Ian, who achieved a brilliant scholastic record at Adelaide University Law School this year, is articled to Dr. J. J. Bray, one of the firm's partners.

## Birthplace

Keith Wilson was born at St. Peter's on September 3, 1900, attended St. Peter's College from 1909 to 1918 and enlisted in the 1st AIF as soon as he turned 18.

World War I ended before he got away.

He turned to Adelaide University for the next four years graduating LL.B. in 1922, with fellow students, L. V. Pellew, now President of the State Industrial Court,

and F. E. Piper, now chairman of the SA Lawn Tennis Association.

Keith Wilson practised law for the next seven years until the political bug first bit him in 1929. He helped organise and became president of the Political Reform League, a group of young and active anti-Socialist people who later formed themselves into the Young Liberal League.

## Landslide

This group, with four other bodies organised the political campaign in SA which in 1931 swept the Scullin Government of the early depression years to the bitterest Labor defeat of all time.

The Lyons Government, which succeeded Scullin, won every one of the six Senate seats, and only Hindmarsh remained to Labor of the six House of Representatives seats.

It was ironic that 23 years later, KC, then a senator, was one of those who were swept out of office in the greatest anti-Liberal vote of all time.

That was the 1944 Labor landslide, when, of the 12 Senate and Representative seats in SA, only Archie Cameron retained his seat of Barker for the Government.



*Mr. Wilson as seen by  
by Lionel Coventry.*

In the entire Senate of 36 members only three Liberal members took their place. They were from Queensland.

Keith Wilson entered the political arena when he was elected to the Senate in 1938, the youngest Government Senator in that Chamber.

Two years later he enlisted as a gunner in the 2/7th Field Regiment and sailed for the Middle East in November, 1940.

He served at Sidi Barani and Sollum and other desert campaigns before being commissioned as lieutenant and later rising to major in the Legal Corps.

He was one of the few Members of Parliament to sit in the House in soldier's uniform.

Defeated in 1944 election, he remained in

uniform until discharged in 1945 after 5½ years' service.

His postwar record on behalf of servicemen and women is a tribute to him. He founded the 2nd AIF Unit Clubs' Association, was first president of the 2/7th Field Regiment Unit Club, vice-president of Burnside RSL sub-branch, president of Legacy from 1949 to 1950, chairman of the War Blinded Welfare Fund, and was SA member on the Canteen Fund Widows and Orphans' Panel.

Today one of his keenest interests is the Aged Cottage Homes Inc., which recently started work on the first three cottages for aged couples of 18 proposed to be built.

## Lead campaign

Keith Wilson re-entered Federal politics in 1949, when he gained the newly created seat of Sturt for the Menzies Government with a majority of 800 over Labor's L. J. McMullin.

Two years later, against the same opponent, he held the seat with a majority of 2,000.

Social services, improved pensions, and the elimination of the means test have been his forte in Parliament in recent years.

He led the campaign for the liberalisation of the means test, provided for in the last Federal Budget, and complete abolition is his ultimate aim.

## Death

Keith Cameron Wilson died on 28 September 1987 and was buried at the Centennial Park Cemetery after a memorial service at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Marryatville. Elizabeth (Betty) Hornabrook Wilson passed away on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 and was buried at Centennial Park Cemetery.



***Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee***

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