



R Y M I L L
C O O N A W A R R A

JOHN DOWIE

John Dowie sculpted the bronze busts of John Riddoch and John Rymill, which proudly appear in the Rymill Coonawarra cellar door.

This distinguished sculptor, who is now an octogenarian, was born in Adelaide. He served as a Rat of Tobruk in the Second World War. Appropriately, his first commission on his return was the doorway of the War Memorial Chapel at Roseworthy College.

After the war he studied sculpture in London and at the Accademia, Florence. In the course of his long life he has travelled widely to see great sculpture and famous collections.

John chose to base his career in Adelaide. A man of unique sensibility and accomplishment, he has continually enriched the city with his art and attitudes. Always generous, frequently controversial, he is a well-spring of knowledge drawn from a full life as soldier, artist, scholar, poet and sportsman, excelling as a skier.

One of Australia's most prolific sculptors, his many widely-acclaimed works include the Victor Richardson gates at the Adelaide Oval, the memorial to Ross and Keith Smith at the Adelaide Airport, and the famous Icarus sculpture at Tullamarine.

He was also responsible for the once controversial but now much-loved Victoria Square fountain in Adelaide and, in the new Canberra Houses of Parliament, the magnificent statue of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second which is amongst the most photographed in Australia.

The last life-sized statue John Dowie created was that of the founder of Penola, Alexander Cameron, which stands in the town's main street. He regards it as his best.

