

Company History: Nolan O'Rourke & Co Pty Ltd

- 1920** William Bernard Nolan establishes trading business in partnership with W. Ralph Smith.
- 1922** Company formally incorporated under the name Nolan Smith and Co. Ltd. Branches quickly established throughout Australia and New York. William J. O'Rourke joins the firm.
- 1929** Nolan Smith and Co. Changes its name to Nolan O'Rourke & Company Pty Ltd, incorporated in Sydney on 22nd July. Nolan Shannon Pty Ltd is established in Adelaide.
- 1930** The Great Depression leads to closure of all branches except Sydney and Adelaide. Shown here is the Sydney delivery truck at Circular Quay during this time.
- 1939** Second World War begins. Foreign trade ceases and local manufacture geared for war production. There are severe restrictions on the company's operations and manpower.
- 1950** The Perth branch re-opened and Nolan Shannon (W.A.) Pty Ltd was incorporated.
- 1953** Nolan Butler Pty Ltd is established in Melbourne.
- 1955** The Newcastle branch is opened on Beaumont Street, Hamilton.
- 1957** The Sydney branch relocates to Foveaux street near central railway.
- 1962** The Brisbane branch is opened.
- 1963** Fire destroys the Adelaide branch and a new warehouse re-built on the Wyatt Street site.
- 1974** A record flood inundates the Brisbane warehouse to a depth of ten feet.
- 1978** Our head office moves to a 2650sq metre warehouse in Alexandria.
- 1989** An earthquake in Newcastle causes widespread damage and substantial disruption to local business. Fortunately our building was undamaged unlike the Kent Hotel shown here, also located in Beaumont Street.
- 1995** The Company celebrates its 75th anniversary.
- 1998** The Adelaide branch moves to a new, custom designed 604sq metre warehouse in Paget Street, Ridleyton.
- 2000** The Melbourne branch moves to new 750sq metre warehouse in Allen Street, Moreland.
- 2002** The Sydney head office moves to new premises in Alexandria.
- 2005** The Melbourne branch again relocates to a custom designed 1471sq metre warehouse in Oakleigh South.
- 2006** The Newcastle branch relocates to a 954sq metre warehouse in Lambton.
- 2006** The trading divisions (Marine, Motor and Industrial) of competitor M. Simonson are acquired.

