

J C McDONALD

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Front Cover: James Christian McDonald and Maggie McDonald [nee Ryan].
Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.

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James Christian McDonald - Funeral Director.

William John McDonald [1834-1908]

The first ancestor of James Christian McDonald to arrive in Australia was his father, William John McDonald, c.1858, presumably attracted to the Australian goldfields. William was born at Carnmoney, Antrim, Northern Ireland on the 21st June 1834. He was the son of William John McDonald [senior] and Mary McDonald [nee Johnson]. William was often referred to as John McDonald.

Unlike the majority of Ireland, Antrim was majority Protestant in the 1850s, with Catholics making up some 25-30% of the population, compared to 80-85% for broader Ireland. Centuries of English suppression of, and restrictions on, Catholics, along with the Great Potato Famine [1845-1852] would have influenced William's decision to migrate to Australia.

After arriving in Australia, William tried his luck on the goldfields at Beechworth, Bendigo, Rutherglen, and Chiltern, before moving into NSW [c.1878], where he "*took up saw-milling*" at Narrandera, Coolamon, Ganmain, Matong, and other locations.

Before moving to NSW, William married Mary Kennedy at Beechworth, on the 21st June 1872 - rather belatedly, with four children born before this date.¹

William and Mary's first seven children were all born in the district of Rutherglen, Victoria [1863-1877]. James followed at Narrandera [1879], then Frank at Grong Grong [1882], Charles at Coolamon [1883], and Lavina at Berry Jerry [Coolamon, 1884].

The McDonald family moved around a lot. Several, if not all of William's sons were involved in the saw-milling business, with mills located at various locations, at different times. By 1892, John McDonald and Son, were operating a sawmill at Ganmain, with the plant about to be moved to Currawarna - to a location six miles eastward, towards Wagga Wagga [Levell's property].²

From 1901 to 1903 a McDonald family sawmill was located at Grong Grong.³

In December 1905, John McDonald and Son, were carrying on the Bolero Saw Mills.⁴

William passed away in December 1908 and was buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Narrandera Cemetery. He was survived by five sons and four daughters. Three of his sons had predeceased him.⁵ His wife died some twenty-two years later, at her residence in Ardlethan, on the 4th January 1930.⁶

¹ VIC BDMS. Marriage registration # 4012/1872.

² Wagga Wagga Express. 2nd February 1892, p2.

³ Narandera Argus. 17th June 1941, p2.

⁴ Narandera Argus. 15th December, 1905, p5.

⁵ NSW BDMS. Death registration # 2453/1909. {There is conflicting evidence regarding the death of his son William}

⁶ Daily Express. 7th January 1930, p2.

Mary McDonald [nee Kennedy] [1847-1930]

Mary McDonald [nee Kennedy] was born at Clonoulty, Tipperary, Ireland, on the 29th September 1844, the daughter of Thomas Kennedy [1826-1867] and Catherine Kennedy [nee Grant] [1824-1873].⁷

Mary migrated to Australia, with her parents and five siblings, in late January 1859, departing from Liverpool, England, on board the *Prince of the Seas*, and debarking at Melbourne on the 3rd May 1859.⁸

Mary's father, Thomas Kennedy, passed away at Melbourne in March 1867, aged 48.⁹ Her mother, Catherine, followed some six years later in January 1873, at Carlton [Melbourne], aged 50.¹⁰ Nothing is known of the couple's lives in Victoria.

When Mary passed away in January 1930, she was living in Yithan Street, Ardlethan, presumably with her daughter, Mrs Levina Breheny. One of her sons, Charles, also lived at Ardlethan. Mary was buried in the family plot, in the Catholic section of the Ardlethan Cemetery.¹¹

Following the death of William John McDonald in 1908, the family continued to carry on several saw-milling businesses. It is not clear which sons were, or were not, involved in the conduct of the businesses, but James Christian McDonald appears to have been the one most involved.

In September 1909, a Mr McDonald indicated his sawmill at Ardlethan was about to be relocated, having run out of "*pine*" where he was at that time.¹²

At some time prior to August 1910, the family had operated a sawmill close to the Mirrool Siding.¹³ In June 1911, J McDonald applied to lease a ten-acre site on travelling stock route # 17125, for the purposes of a sawmill.¹⁴

In June 1913, the McDonald family's sawmill was set up about 14 miles from Ardlethan.¹⁵

It was not only William's sons that were connected to saw-milling. One daughter, Catherine, married David Thomas at Junee in 1894.¹⁶ Thomas was connected with saw-milling at Barellan, from the very early days, and, at one time, was the manager of Roach & Co.'s sawmill, at that location.¹⁷

⁷ Daily Express. 7th January 1930, p2; Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915 [Ancestry].

⁸ Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839-1923 [Ancestry]

⁹ VIC BDMs. Death registration # 2977/1867.

¹⁰ VIC BDMs. Death registration # 1552/1873.

¹¹ Daily Express. 7th January 1930, p2.

¹² Coolamon-Ganmain Farmers' Review. 17th September 1909, p5.

¹³ Coolamon-Ganmain Farmers' Review. 5th August 1910, p4.

¹⁴ Narandera Argus. 16th June 1911, p4.

¹⁵ Coolamon Farmers' Review. 27th June 1913, p2.

¹⁶ NSW BDMs. Marriage registration # 4272/1894.

¹⁷ Narandera Argus. 14th February 1939, p2.

Family Group Sheet for William John McDonald

Husband **William John McDonald**

Birth: 21 Jun 1834 in Carnmoney, Antrim, Northern Ireland
 Marriage: 21 Jun 1872 in Beechworth, Victoria, Australia
 Death: 31 Dec 1908 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia; I have copy of death certificate
 Father: **William John McDonald**
 Mother: **Mary Johnson**




Wife **Mary Anne Kennedy**

Birth: 29 Sep 1844 in Clonoulty, Tipperary, Ireland; see various dates for different sources
 Death: 04 Jan 1930 in Ardlethan, New South Wales, Australia
 Father: **Thomas Kennedy**
 Mother: **Catherine Grant**




Children:

1 Name: **Mary McDonald**

F Birth: 14 Dec 1863 in Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia
 Marriage: 1888 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 08 Apr 1945 in Young, New South Wales, Australia
 Spouse: **Jamess Joseph Keogh**



2 Name: **William James McDonald**

M Birth: 14 Jul 1865 in Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia
 Marriage: ????



3 Name: **Thomas McDonald**

M Birth: 13 Mar 1868 in near Belvoir, Victoria, Australia
 Death: 03 Sep 1903 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia
 Marriage: ????
 Spouse: **Frances Jane Patterson**




4 Name: **John McDonald**

M Birth: 18 May 1870 in Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia
 Death: 27 Jun 1936 in West Wyalong, New South Wales, Australia
 Marriage: ???




5 Name: **Henry McDonald**

M Birth: 13 Jun 1873 in Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia
 Marriage: 1901 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 08 Jun 1953 in Oberon, New South Wales, Australia
 Spouse: **Belinda Kathleen Stockton**



6 Name: **Ellen McDonald**

F Birth: 24 Dec 1875 in Wahgunyah, Victoria, Australia
 Marriage: 1900 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 22 Feb 1957 in Katoomba, New South Wales, Australia
 Spouse: **Thomas Lockett**



7 Name: **Katherine McDonald**

F Birth: 27 Dec 1877 in Wahgunyah, Victoria, Australia
 Marriage: 1894 in Junee, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 25 Dec 1956 in Griffith, New South Wales, Australia; 34185 /1956 nil source found yet
 Spouse: **David Thomas**



Children: (cont.)		
8	Name: James Christian McDonald	
M	Birth: 24 Dec 1879 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia	
	Marriage: 04 Nov 1903 in Dookie, Victoria, Australia	
	Death: 27 Jan 1964 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia; Calvary hospital Spouse: Margaret Ryan	
9	Name: Francis McDonald	
M	Birth: 01 Jan 1882 in Grong Grong, New South Wales, Australia; Cant find certificate	
	Death: 10 Mar 1902 in Condobolin, New South Wales, Australia	
10	Name: Levina McDonald	
F	Birth: 19 Jan 1884 in Berry Jerry, New South Wales, Australia; Nil source found	
	Marriage: 1905 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia	
	Death: post 1930 Spouse: Patrick Michael Breheny	
11	Name: Charles Alphonsus McDonald	
M	Birth: 09 Aug 1885 in Coolamon, New South Wales, Australia; Can't find certificate - see funeral notice	
	Marriage: 1910 in Temora, New South Wales, Australia	
	Death: 16 Aug 1952 in Paddington, New South Wales, Australia Spouse: Mary Elizabeth Sophia Adams	

Two of William's sons died relatively young. The first, Frank [Francis] McDonald, passed away on the 10th March 1902, at Condobolin, aged twenty. Frank's was a tragic death. He was struck by lightning while working on a run owned by Mr Curr, eighteen miles from Wyalong.¹⁸

The second death was that of Thomas McDonald, whose death took place at Narrandera in September 1903, at the age of thirty-five.¹⁹

The death certificate for William John McDonald lists three deceased sons [names not listed]. The third would have to have been the second child, William James McDonald, as all other possible sons were specifically listed as being alive. The problem arises with the death registration for William's wife, Mary Anne McDonald [nee Kennedy] twenty-two years later. This lists William as one of her surviving sons, but the certificate still lists three deceased sons, making a total of twelve children, which is incorrect. The informant for both registrations was the son, James Christian McDonald. An obituary for Mary Anne lists William as a surviving son but does not record his location, which was given for every other surviving child.²⁰ Family lore is that William had a conflict with the family and "*disappeared up north*," breaking all contact with the family, which could help explain the uncertainty regarding his existence. The matter remains unresolved.

¹⁸ Wyalong Advocate. 22nd March 1902, p2.

¹⁹ NSW BDMs. Death registration # 10922/1903.

²⁰ Daily Express. 7th January 1930, p2.

The executors for the estate of William John McDonald were his sons, Charles and James Christian. In August 1911, the two executors were living at Barellan. Charles was described as a labourer, and James Christian as a saw-miller. William's will, dated the 25th November 1907, left a life interest in his farm at Grong Grong to his wife, which upon her death was to go to his son Charles [portion 31, parish of Lupton, CP.98.3]. His cottage on an acre of land in the village of Grong Grong was left to his son, Henry [section 93, volume 1231, folio 244]. To his son James Christian he left his, William's, half share in their common partnership of John McDonald & Son, saw-millers. William's main assets were his real estate, valued at £492 5s, and his interest in the partnership, which was valued at £176 4s 2d. His largest debts were a mortgage valued at £101, and the outstanding balance on his conditional purchase, valued at £115 11s 9d.²¹

The saw-milling businesses were an important part of the McDonald family's commercial success as they moved into the early 20th century.



Above: Believed to be one of McDonald's sawmill sites, in the Ardlethan area. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.

²¹ John McDonald, Probate packet. State Archives. Series NRS 13660. Item # NRS-13660-6-568-Series 4_54053.



Above: Photo c.1912 – JC McDonald's sawmill on Knight's farm, Yarrenjerry, via Beckom. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.



Above: Another sawmill site, believed to be one of JC McDonald's mills. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.



Above: Sawmill site with dam. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.

Elizabeth McDonald recorded the following extract, regarding sawmilling sites, from the memories of Henry McDonald, the grandson of John McDonald,²²

“Before they finished at a site, say there was another forest twenty miles away they would send one of the teams over with a tarpaulin and tent and he would sink a dam there and by the time they finished at the existing site the dam would be full and they would move the whole plant to the dam site to start another sawmill.”

²² Elizabeth A McDonald, *Such a Long Way: Tracking the Kennedy, Grant & Gleeson Families*, 2018, p211.

The story now follows the path of James Christian McDonald, who made the switch from saw-milling to funeral director.

James Christian McDonald

James Christian McDonald was born at Narrandera in December 1879, the son of William John McDonald and Mary McDonald [nee Kennedy].²³ His parents, both natives of Ireland, had married at Beechworth in June 1872.²⁴ James was the 8th of eleven children born to William and Mary.

On the 4th November 1903, James married Margaret [Maggie] Ryan, at Dookie, Victoria.²⁵ Dookie lies some 25km north-east of Shepparton, and in 1903 was an established agricultural service town. Maggie was a third generation Australian. Her grandparents both came out to Australia, from Tipperary, Ireland, sometime before their married at Kilmore, Victoria, in May 1859.²⁶ Maggie was born at Lancefield, Victoria, in the Macedon Mountains north of Melbourne, on the 6th June 1861, the daughter of John Ryan [1836-1918] and Margaret Ryan [nee Ryan] [1861-1941]. Her father was a farmer at Dookie, Victoria, who passed away in June 1918.²⁷ Her mother, Mary Ryan [nee Ryan] passed away at Dookie on the 2nd February 1941, the mother of fourteen children, ten of whom survived her.²⁸ The church record for James' and Maggie's wedding lists James' occupation as that of a blacksmith. Maggie was described as a resident, and native, of Yabba, which appears to be more specific than other sources.

James and Maggie had a total of eleven children, born at various locations, which reflected the family's movements around NSW. Two of the children, James [b.1905] and John Francis [b.1914] died in infancy.

Perhaps, in 1923, James Christian McDonald and his wife Maggie, may well have considered their family was complete, following the birth of Leo in February that year. The previous child, Vincent, had been born three years earlier in January 1920. Imagine their surprise some seven years later, in March 1930, when Margaret, aged 45, gave birth to twin girls – Margaret Theresa and Josephine Marie in that order.

A review of James Christian McDonald's children's birth places, and of the Australian Electoral Rolls, provides the following chronological list of places,

- 1905 – Narrandera
- 1907 – Cashel, VIC

²³ NSW BDMs. Birth registration # 26026/1880.

²⁴ VIC BDMs. Marriage registration # 4012/1872.

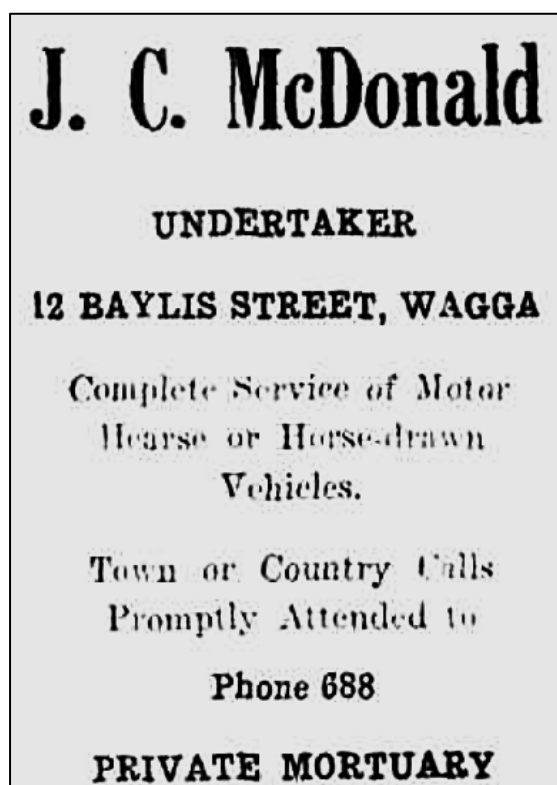
²⁵ VIC BDMs. Marriage registration # 6591/1903.

²⁶ VIC BDMs. Marriage registration # 1727/1859.

²⁷ Ballarat Star. 27th June 1918, p6.

²⁸ Shepparton Advertiser. 7th February 1941, p1.

- 1909 – Temora
- 1911 - Narrandera
- 1913 - James Christian McDonald, saw-mill proprietor, and Margaret McDonald, residing at Walleroobie [near Coolamon].
- 1914-1915 – Temora
- 1917 – Narrandera
- 1920 – Narrandera
- 1923 – Ardlethan
- The records up until 1923 suggest James was involved in various saw-milling businesses, then, in 1924, he made the move to Wagga Wagga.
- 1924 – Wagga Wagga
- 1930 – James Christian McDonald, undertaker, residing in Mason Street, Wagga Wagga.
- 1932, 1934 – James Christian McDonald, undertaker, and Margaret McDonald, residing in Mason Street, Wagga Wagga.
- 1935, 1937, 1939 - James Christian McDonald, undertaker, and Margaret McDonald, residing at 68 Best Street, Wagga Wagga.
- 1943, 1946, 1949, 1954, 1963 - James Christian McDonald, undertaker, residing at 68 Best Street, Wagga Wagga.



Left: January 1928 advertisement placed by J C McDonald.²⁹

²⁹ Daily Advertiser. 22nd January 1928, p6.

Family Group Sheet for James Christian McDonald

Husband **James Christian McDonald**

Birth: 24 Dec 1879 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia
 Marriage: 04 Nov 1903 in Dookie, Victoria, Australia
 Death: 27 Jan 1964 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia; Calvary hospital
 Father: **William John McDonald**
 Mother: **Mary Anne Kennedy**



Wife **Margaret Ryan**

Birth: 03 Jul 1885 in Dookie, Victoria, Australia
 Death: 07 Dec 1941 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Father: **John Ryan**
 Mother: **Margaret Ryan**



Children:

1 Name: **James McDonald**

M Birth: 09 Feb 1905 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia; Bolero
 Death: 09 Feb 1905 in Bolero, New South Wales, Australia



2 Name: **Christian James McDonald**

M Birth: 13 Nov 1907 in Cashel, Victoria, Australia; Dookie
 Marriage: 1929 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 26 Feb 1973 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Spouse: **Audrey Averille Arnott**



3 Name: **William John McDonald**

M Birth: 07 Dec 1909 in Temora, NSW, Australia; Hylands Flat
 Marriage: 1939 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 31 Mar 1967 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Spouse: **Margaret Nugent**



4 Name: **Thomas Joseph McDonald**

M Birth: 22 Feb 1911 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia; Brobenah
 Marriage: 1947 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 18 Nov 1982 in Tamworth, New South Wales, Australia
 Spouse: **Roxane Marie Baker**



5 Name: **John Francis McDonald**

M Birth: 13 Feb 1914 in Temora, New South Wales, Australia; Ardlethan
 Death: 07 Jun 1914 in Ardlethan, New South Wales, Australia



6 Name: **Martin Henry McDonald**

M Birth: 28 Mar 1915 in Temora, New South Wales, Australia; Ardlethan
 Death: 28 Feb 1953 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia



7 Name: **Mary Clare McDonald**

F Birth: 30 Dec 1917 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia; Ardlethan
 Marriage: 1945 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 13 Jul 1969 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Spouse: **John Reginald Mahoney**









8 Name: **Vincent Michael McDonald**

M Birth: 08 Jan 1920 in Narrandera, New South Wales, Australia; Ardlethan
 Death: 26 Sep 1980 in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia



Children: (cont.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | Name: Leo Patrick McDonald |  |
| M | Birth: 08 Feb 1923 in Ardlethan, New South Wales, Australia | |
|  | Marriage: 1948 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia | |
| | Death: 26 Feb 2004 in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia | |
| | Spouse: Muriel Jean Milligan | |
| 10 | Name: Margaret Theresa McDonald |  |
| F | Birth: 20 Mar 1930 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia | |
|  | Marriage: 1950 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia | |
| | Death: 16 May 1989 in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia | |
| | Spouse: Peter Kenneth James Loryman | |
| 11 | Name: Josephine Marie McDonald |  |
| F | Birth: 20 Mar 1930 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia | |
|  | Marriage: 1956 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia | |
| | Death: 28 Jun 2002 in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia | |
| | Spouse: Anthony Francis Kelly | |



Left: James Christian McDonald and Maggie McDonald [nee Ryan] at Dookie. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.



Above: Members of James Christian McDonald's family, c.1918. **Back Row [L to R]:** Thomas, Margaret [nee Ryan], Christian James. **Front Row [L to R]:** Martin Henry [Ted], and baby Mary Clare. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.



Above: Members of James Christian McDonald's family. **[L to R]:** William, Mary, Christian James, Martin, and Thomas. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.



Above: The family of James Christian McDonald in April 1956. Maggie had passed away in 1941. **Back - L to R:** Tom, Leo, Vince, and Bill **Front - L to R:** Jim, Mary, Tony Kelly, Josephine, James Christian, and Margaret. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.



Fifty-six-year-old Margaret McDonald [nee Ryan] passed away in December 1941, at Wagga Wagga, having just returned from Ballarat where she had visited her sisters, leaving James to raise two young girls, almost twelve-years-old. The next youngest child, Leo, would have been close to nineteen years old at that time. The only other daughter, Mary Clare was 24 years old.³⁰

Left: Maggie McDonald [nee Ryan]. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.

James Christian McDonald lived to the ripe old age of eighty-four. On the 27th January 1964 he passed away in the Calvary Hospital at Wagga Wagga.³¹

James' executors were his two eldest sons, Christian James McDonald and William John McDonald. The affidavit of death was deposed by Alan Harris, a funeral director of Wagga Wagga, who stated that he had known the deceased for twenty years [so since 1944]. Harris was not a beneficiary of McDonald's estate. William John McDonald was a builder by trade and resided at 21 Sunshine Avenue. Christian James McDonald was a funeral director who resided at 10 Baylis Street.

To each of his children – William John McDonald, Thomas Joseph McDonald, Vincent Michael McDonald, Leo Patrick McDonald, Margaret Theresa Loryman, Josephine Marie Kelly, and Mary Mahoney – James bequeathed the sum of twenty-five pounds.

To his daughter in law, Audrey Avril McDonald, the wife of Christian James McDonald, he bequeathed the premises at 8 Baylis Street, which were leased to the Commonwealth of Australia and occupied by the South Wagga Post office, valued at £8,800.

Everything else was left to his son, Christian James McDonald. Christian's component of the estate was valued at £33,479

The estate's main assets were real estate valued at £36,300; a life insurance policy for £2,097; and James' interest in a partnership valued at £3,100 [J C McDonald & Son]. Total net assets equalled £42,013. Debts were minimal at £440.

³⁰ Narandera Argus. 12th December 1941, p2.

³¹ NSW BDMs. Death registration # 9142/1964.

There was an extensive list of sundry debtors, with debts ranging from £62 to \$231, and totalling £6,718.³²

The real estate consisted of the buildings at 8-10 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga [see deeds volume 8101, folios 212 and 213], and a private dwelling at 68 Best Street [see book 1689, number 926].

The Baylis Steet properties featured a brick post office with an iron roof and an iron shed to the rear [8 Baylis Street]. Also, a brick shop and residence, iron roof, with nine rooms, a sleepout, kitchen and offices. Brick garage and workshop at rear [10 Baylis Street]

The house at 68 Best Street was located on a part of allotment 3, section 55, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga. The property had a frontage of 41ft to Best Street, a depth of 165ft, and featured a brick cottage with iron roof, five rooms, kitchen, offices, and a brick garage, valued at £4,500.

³² James Christian McDonald, Probate packet. State Archives. Series NRS 13660. Item # NRS-13660-44-18529-Seris 4_573981.

James Christian McDonald – Funeral Director

In January 1924, McDonald and Mason, funeral directors, were carrying on business in Wagga Wagga.³³ The business premises were located on the eastern side of Baylis Street, close to its intersection with Edward Street. More specifically, on a part of allotment 8, section 62. The property had a frontage of 95¼ft to Baylis Street, and a depth of 165ft.³⁴

The rate records list McDonald as the owner of the property, on a part of allotment 8, but his name does not appear on any title deeds for the property, and it is apparent McDonald leased the premises at the corner of Baylis and Edward Streets. The rate books continued to repeat this error for a number of years.

In May 1924, Mr P McCallum, undertaker, gave notice that he had taken over the undertaker business of JC McDonald at Ardlethan.³⁵ It is not known how long the business existed at Ardlethan. No other identifiable references to same could be found.



An unidentified newspaper advertisement, presumably from the early 1920s, confirmed the location of JC McDonalds's business at Ardlethan. They were next to Rath's Palace Hotel.³⁶

Left: The wording of the unidentified advertisement.

This was an extensive business that would have dovetailed neatly with the sawmilling enterprises.

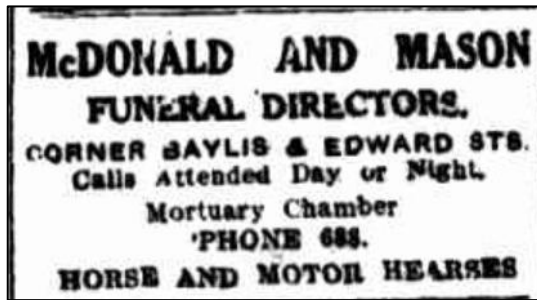
³³ Daily Advertiser. 22nd January 1924, p3.

³⁴ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1920-1931]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17646-1.

³⁵ Arian Park News. 15th May 1924, p5.

³⁶ Copy of the advertisement in possession of Carmel Carroll. Date and source unknown.

In July 1924, McDonald and Mason, funeral directors, were carrying on business at the corner of Baylis and Edward Streets.³⁷



Left: December 1924 advertisement for McDonald and Mason.³⁸

In early May 1925, JC McDonald made the move to carry on business as a sole proprietor, at the Baylis Street premises. McDonald and Mason, was no more.³⁹

In January 1927, JC McDonald, an undertaker, was still operating from premises at the corner of Baylis and Edward Streets.⁴⁰

By January 1928, JC McDonald was carrying on business [undertaker] from premises at 12 Baylis Street.⁴¹ Sometime in 1927 McDonald had moved the business from the eastern side of Baylis Street to the western side.

The rate records for the period 1926-1928 record JC McDonald as the owner of a brick garage and dwelling on allotment 8, section 62. The premises were occupied by Lonnie Peter Stinson, a garage proprietor of Wagga Wagga. The street numbers for these premises were numbers 1, 3, 5, and 7 [eastern side of Baylis Street]. As previously noted, McDonald did not own these premises. No record was recorded for McDonald at either 10 or 12 Baylis Street.⁴²

For the period 1929-1931, McDonald had sold the premises on allotment 8, section 62, to T Edmondson & Co [again noting that McDonald did not own these premises]. JC McDonald now occupied brick offices at 14 Baylis Street, owned by Jeremiah and Sarah Jane Shanahan, retired farmers.⁴³

For the period 1932-1934, the premises at 10 Baylis Street [western side], section 61, were owned by Sarah Jane and Jeremiah Shanahan, initially, then by James Christian McDonald, an undertaker of Wagga Wagga. Sarah and Jeremiah Shanahan also owned numbers 14 and 16 Baylis Street and for this period, JC McDonald occupied brick offices at either 14 or 16 Baylis Street.⁴⁴

³⁷ Daily Express. 4th July 1924, p3.

³⁸ Daily Express. 24th December 1924, p3.

³⁹ Daily Advertiser. 11th May 1925, p3.

⁴⁰ Daily Advertiser. 1st January 1927, p9.

⁴¹ Daily Advertiser. 2nd January 1928, p6.

⁴² Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1926-1928]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17646-1.

⁴³ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1929-1931]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17646-1.

⁴⁴ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1932-1934]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.

James Christian McDonald opened his new two storey premises at 10 Baylis Street in April 1934. The new building sat alongside the premises previously occupied by the business [14 Baylis Street]. The ground floor of the new building hosted offices at the front and a mortuary. A large work shed had been constructed at the rear. A rear garage accommodated two “*motor hearses*.” The first floor served as a residence, occupied by James McDonald [JC’s son] and Mrs M McDonald and family.⁴⁵

For the period 1935-1937, JC McDonald owned and occupied 10 Baylis Street [shop and brick residence] and occupied 14 Baylis Street [brick shop]. 10 Baylis Street was located on a part of allotment 7 [76ft frontage to Baylis Street]. 14 Baylis Street was located on a part of allotment 6 [no’s 14 and 16 had a combined frontage of 66ft to Baylis Street].⁴⁶

For the period 1938-1943, JC McDonald owned 6-8 Baylis Street [occupied by post office], and 10 Baylis Street, which he occupied. Both these premises were located on a part of allotment 7. In addition, McDonald leased the premises at 14 Baylis Street, which were owned by Jeremiah and Sarah Jane Shanahan. 2-4 Baylis Street were the location of the Great Southern Hotel. The hotel had a frontage of 74ft 7in [22.8M] to Baylis Street. The post office lay to the immediate north with a frontage of 37ft [11.3M] [depth of 50ft], followed by JC McDonalds brick shop and residence with a frontage of 38ft 10¾in [11.9M] [depths of 165ft and 115ft]. 14 Baylis and 16 Baylis Street followed with a combined frontage of 66ft [20.1M] to Baylis Street [depth of 165ft].⁴⁷

In 1938, the South Wagga Wagga Post Office occupied offices in the buildings at 14-16 In 1939, JC McDonald constructed a new building at 6-8 Baylis Street, which he then leased to the Commonwealth Government as the new site for the South Wagga Wagga Post office. The premises featured a “*highly polished Queensland maple counter*” and provided a full range of “*post and telegraphic facilities*.” There were two public telephones at the front of the building [outside]. Council approved the plans in April 1939, and the new post office was opened by July 1939.⁴⁸

For the period 1947-1949, JC McDonald no longer occupied premises at 14 Baylis Street. He still owned the buildings at 8 and 10 Baylis Street. 8 Baylis Street was occupied by the South Wagga Wagga Post Office. McDonald’s funeral parlour and residence occupied 10-12 Baylis Street.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ Daily Advertiser. 19th April 1934, p4.

⁴⁶ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1935-1937. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.

⁴⁷ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1938-1943. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.

⁴⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 15th April 1939, p6. Daily Advertiser. 18th July 1939, p4.

⁴⁹ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1947-1949. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.



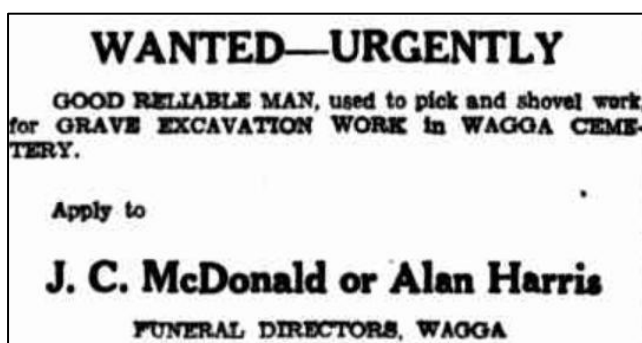
Above: The South Wagga Wagga Post Office, wedged between the Great Southern hotel and J C McDonald's funeral parlour. Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.



Left: Photograph c.1950s showing the hotel, the South Wagga Wagga Post Office and the funeral parlour of J C McDonald. Courtesy Lost Wagga Wagga.



Above: Contemporary aerial view of area where JC McDonald’s premises were located, with 1940’s premises superimposed. Courtesy Google Maps.



The firm of Alan Harris McDonald was not established until 1965, but some eleven years earlier, in March 1954, the two men placed a joint advertisement for a grave digger, suggesting they had had a working relationship.⁵⁰


Left: March 1954 advertisement.

Alan Harris had opened his new “*modern funeral parlors*” at 149 Baylis Street, back in January 1936.⁵¹ The firm was still operating from the same address in May 1954.⁵²

⁵⁰ Daily Advertiser. 3rd March 1954, p7.

⁵¹ Daily Advertiser. 25th January 1936, p4.

⁵² Daily Advertiser. 15th May 1954, p5.



immediate service
DAY OR NIGHT, PHONE
J.C. McDonald
FUNERAL DIRECTOR
BAYLIS STREET, WAGGA
Phone 2688
 District Representatives:
 Mr. L. H. Roberts
 Phone 124 Coolamon
 H. Nash, Ganmain. Tel. 26
 S. Taber. The Rock. Tel. 41

REVERENCE AND
 DIGNITY



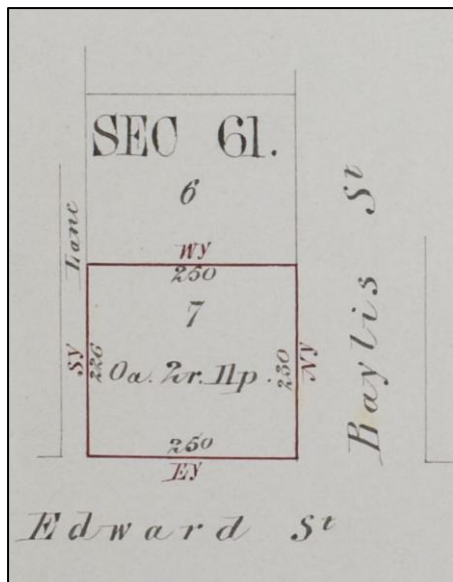
"Towards Greater Service"
ALAN HARRIS
MODERN FUNERAL
DIRECTOR
149 BAYLIS ST., WAGGA
Phone 9052
THE ROCK: A. Bramley
Phone 163.
COOLAMON: H. Vandewater. Phone 153.
GANMAIN: J. Nash. Phone 12.

Left: May 1954
 advertisements by the two
 firms.

The merger between J C McDonald & Son, and Alan Harris had to have taken place post 1964, which was when James Christian McDonald bequeathed the business to his son, Christian James McDonald. The title deeds for 8-10 Baylis Street show the premises at 10 Baylis Street were transferred to Harris McDonald & Co., Ltd in September 1965, and this spelt the end of the McDonald family's involvement with the funeral business in Wagga Wagga.

8-10 Baylis Street - Freehold

The premises at 10 Baylis Street were located on a part of what was originally allotment 7, section 61, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga. Allotment 7 was situated at the south-east corner of section 61, at the intersection of Baylis and Edward Streets.



On the 18th October 1865, Robert John [Bobby] Higgins purchased allotment 7 from the Crown, at a cost of nine pounds and fourteen shillings. The land had an area of two roods and eleven perches, with a frontage of 230 links to Baylis Street and 250 links to Edward Street.⁵³

Left: Plan of allotment 7, section 61, as purchased by Bobby Higgins in 1865. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 26th September 1871, Higgins sold the property to Patrick Ryan, a police constable of Wagga Wagga.⁵⁴ Ryan split the property in half. On the 11th June 1872, he sold the northern half to Peter McDermott, and the southern half to Patrick McGarry. Both men were described as labourers.⁵⁵

The southern component of allotment 7 had a frontage of 115 links [23.1M] to Baylis Street. This was later the site of the Carrington Hotel [aka Great Southern Hotel].

Peter McDermott held on to the northern component of allotment 7 for a period of some eleven years before selling same to Richard Frederick Horsley, a grazier of Yabtree, on the 10th March 1883.⁵⁶ This block had a frontage of 115 links [23.1M] to Baylis Street.

Transactions to follow were,⁵⁷

- 1902, 20th August – Transmission to Richard Frederick Lachlan Horsley.
- 1902, 13th December – Conveyance to Patrick Moran, a merchant of Wagga Wagga.
- 1913, 7th November – Transmission to Mary Ann Moran, a widow of Wagga Wagga.

⁵³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 26, folio 159.

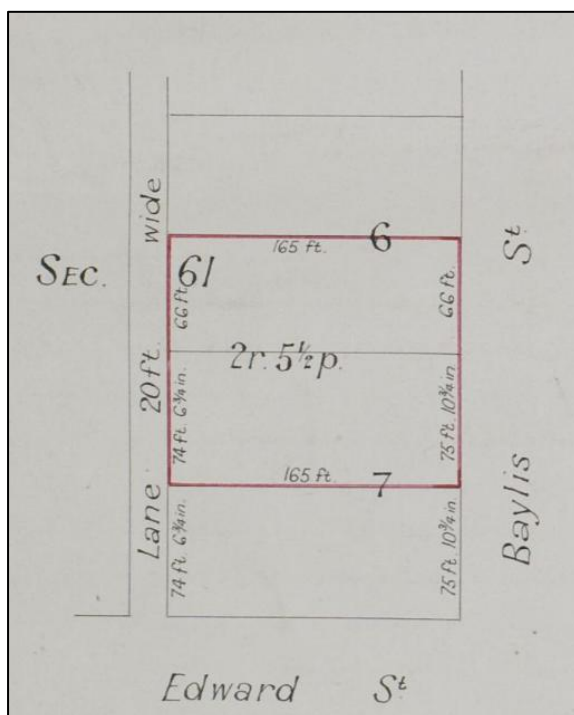
⁵⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 26, folio 159.

⁵⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 26, folio 159; Volume 142, folios 195 and 196.

⁵⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 142, folio 196.

⁵⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 142, folio 196.

- 1913, 21st October – Conveyance from Mary Ann Moran to William Cummins, a station manager of near Wagga Wagga.
- 1921, 26th October – Conveyance to William George Fitzroy Huthwaite and Felix Phillip Kirby, both merchants of Wagga Wagga.
- 1924, 22nd February – Conveyance from William George Fitzroy Huthwaite to Felix Phillip Kirby.
- 1925, 2nd March – Conveyance to John Henry Kendall, a grazier of The Rock.
- 1926, 10th May – Conveyance to Ernest John Bede Morris and Denis Cyril David Morris. On this same date the two men also purchased the southern component of allotment 6, which shared a common border with the northern component of allotment 7.⁵⁸



Left: The land owned by Ernest John Bede Morris and Denis Cyril David Morris in May 1926. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 20th September 1927, the two Morris men conveyed the property to John Francis Egan.⁵⁹

On the 7th November 1927, Egan leased a part of allotment 6 to James Christian McDonald.⁶⁰ This lease expired on the 12th February 1949.⁶¹

On the 5th February 1929, Egan sold the properties to Jeremiah Shanahan and Sarah Jane Shanahan.⁶²

⁵⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 142, folio 196, Volume 3582, folio 62.

⁵⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4067, folio 81; Title Deed. Volume 142, folio 196, Volume 3878, folios 160 and 161.

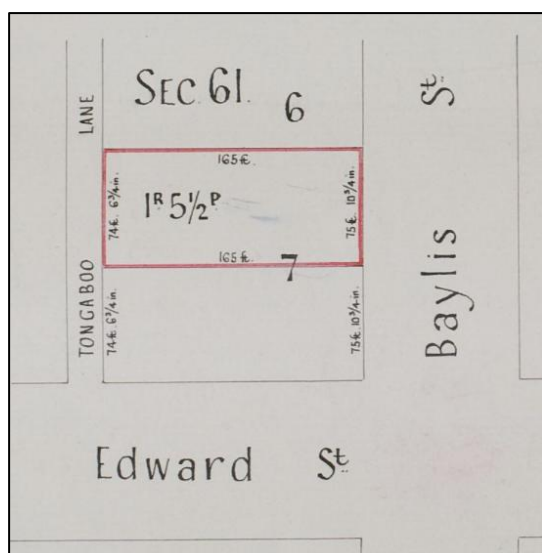
⁶⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4067, folio 81.

⁶¹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4597, folio 58.

⁶² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4067, folio 81.

On the 3rd September 1930, Shanahan leased a building on the southern side of the post office to the National Bank of Australasia.⁶³ The rate records for the period 1932-1934 record that the National Bank leased the premises at 16 Baylis Street, to the north of the post office.

Then, on the 4th August 1933, the mortgagees, JH Kendall & Sons, forced a sale of a part of the lands to James Christian McDonald.⁶⁴



James Christian McDonald had purchased the northern half of allotment 7.

Left: The property purchased by James Christian McDonald In August 1933. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

On the 9th July 1940, McDonald leased a part of his property, described as a “*shut-up shop*,” and identified as 6 Baylis Street, to the

Commonwealth Bank of Australia. This lease expired on the 7th July 1947 but an extension of the lease was entered into on the same date.⁶⁵

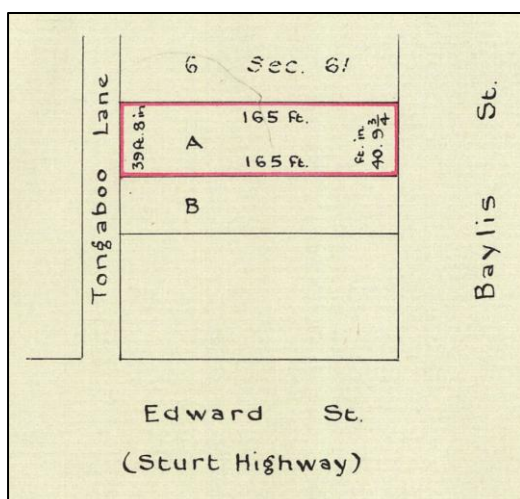
McDonald split his holding into two lots [A & B]. Lot A, with a frontage of 40ft 9³/₄in to Baylis Street, was transferred to Christian James McDonald, a funeral director of Wagga Wagga, on the 3rd June 1965. On the 20th September 1965, ownership of lot A was transferred to Harris McDonald & Co. Pty Ltd.⁶⁶

⁶³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4270, folios 31 and 32.

⁶⁴ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4270, folios 31 and 32.

⁶⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 4597, folio 41.

⁶⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 8101, folio 212.



Lot A - 10 Baylis Street.

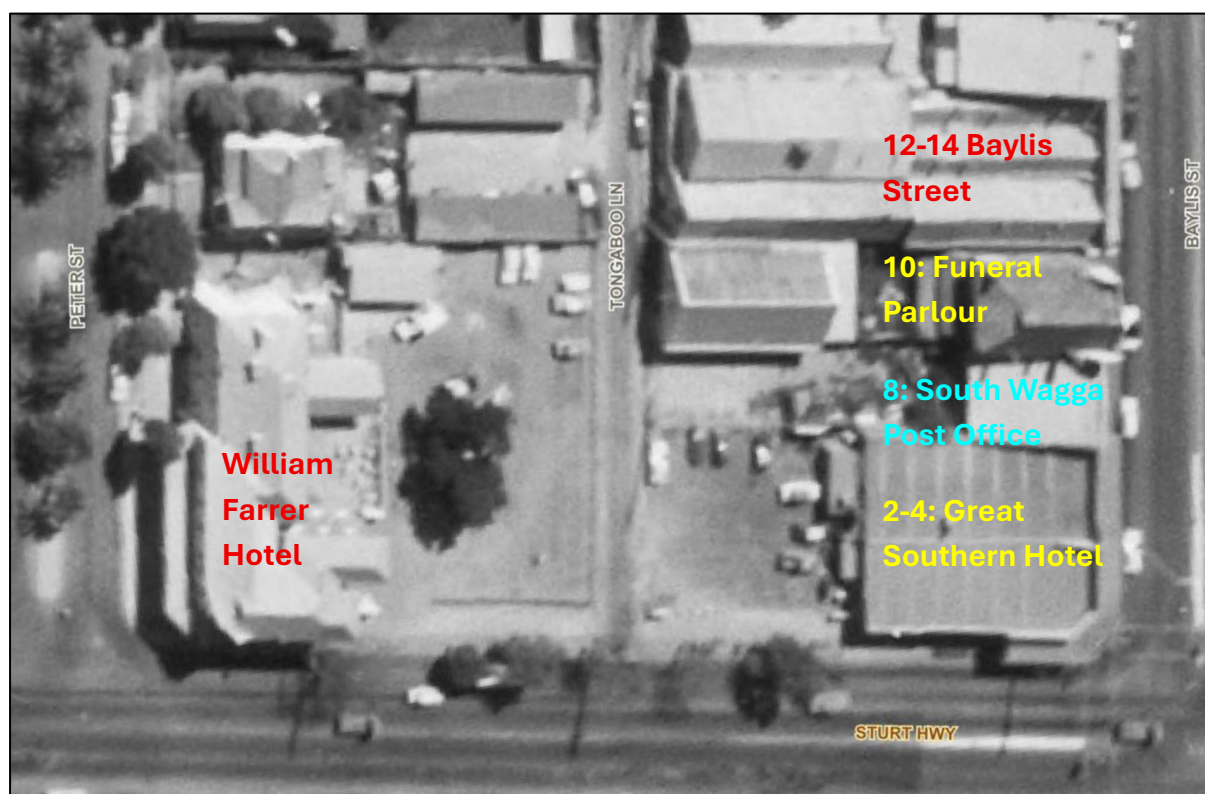
Left: Lot A of McDonald's subdivision. Courtesy NSW land Registry Services.

On the 16th September 1974, the premises at 10 Baylis Street [lot A] were leased to John Bance [insurance agent], Emily Margaret Bance [wife of John], Eric George Parmenter [insurance representative], and Melva Edna Parmenter

[wife of Eric], with an option to purchase.⁶⁷

On the 17th February 1984, Eric George Parmenter and Melva Edna Parmenter became the legal owners of the property.

Title subsequently converted to a computer folio.

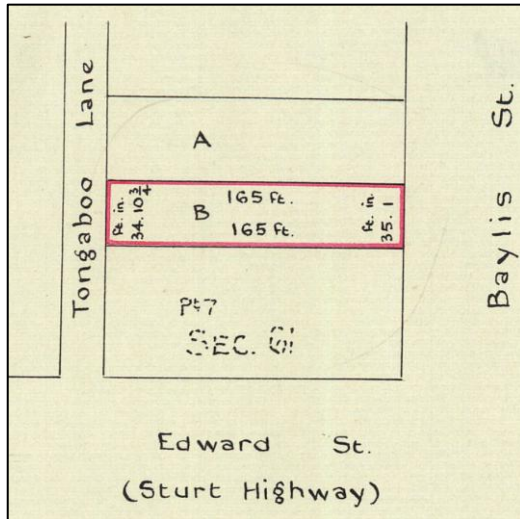


Above: 1971 aerial view showing the footprints of no's 2-4, 8, 10, and 12-14 Baylis Street. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.

⁶⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 8101, folio 212.

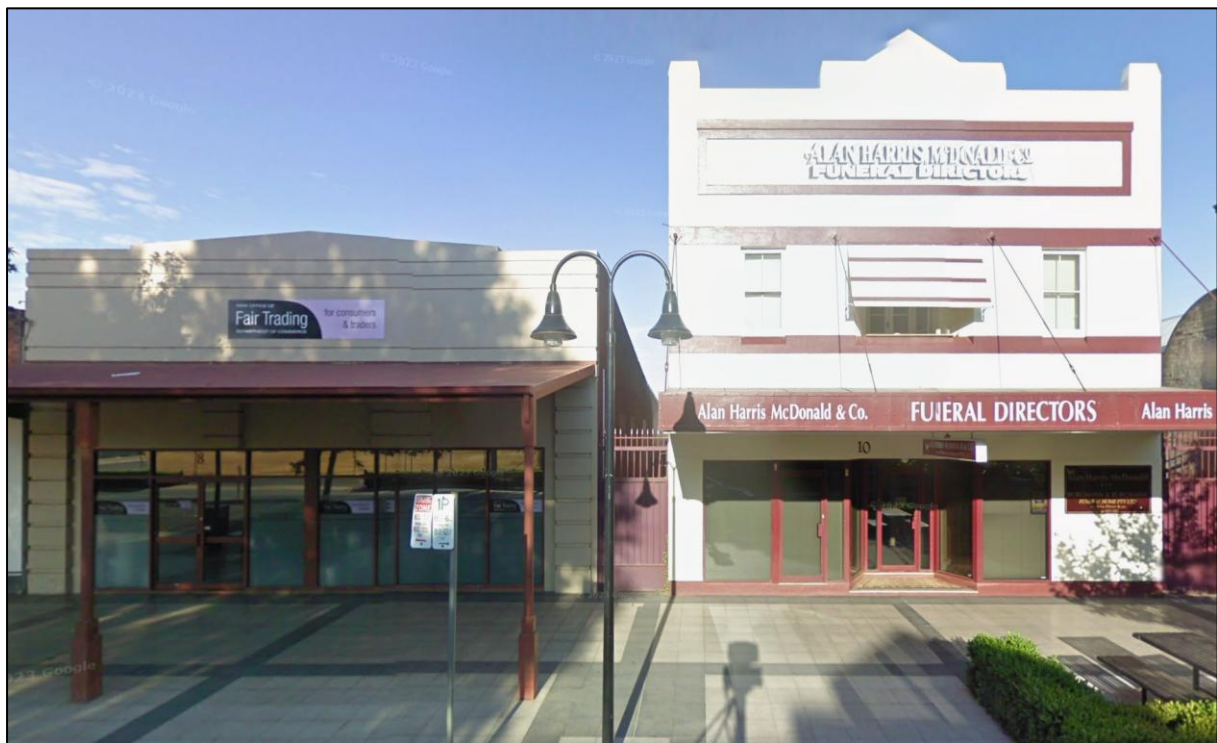
Lot B – 8 Baylis Street.

Lot B of McDonalds subdivision had a frontage of 35ft 1in to Baylis Street.

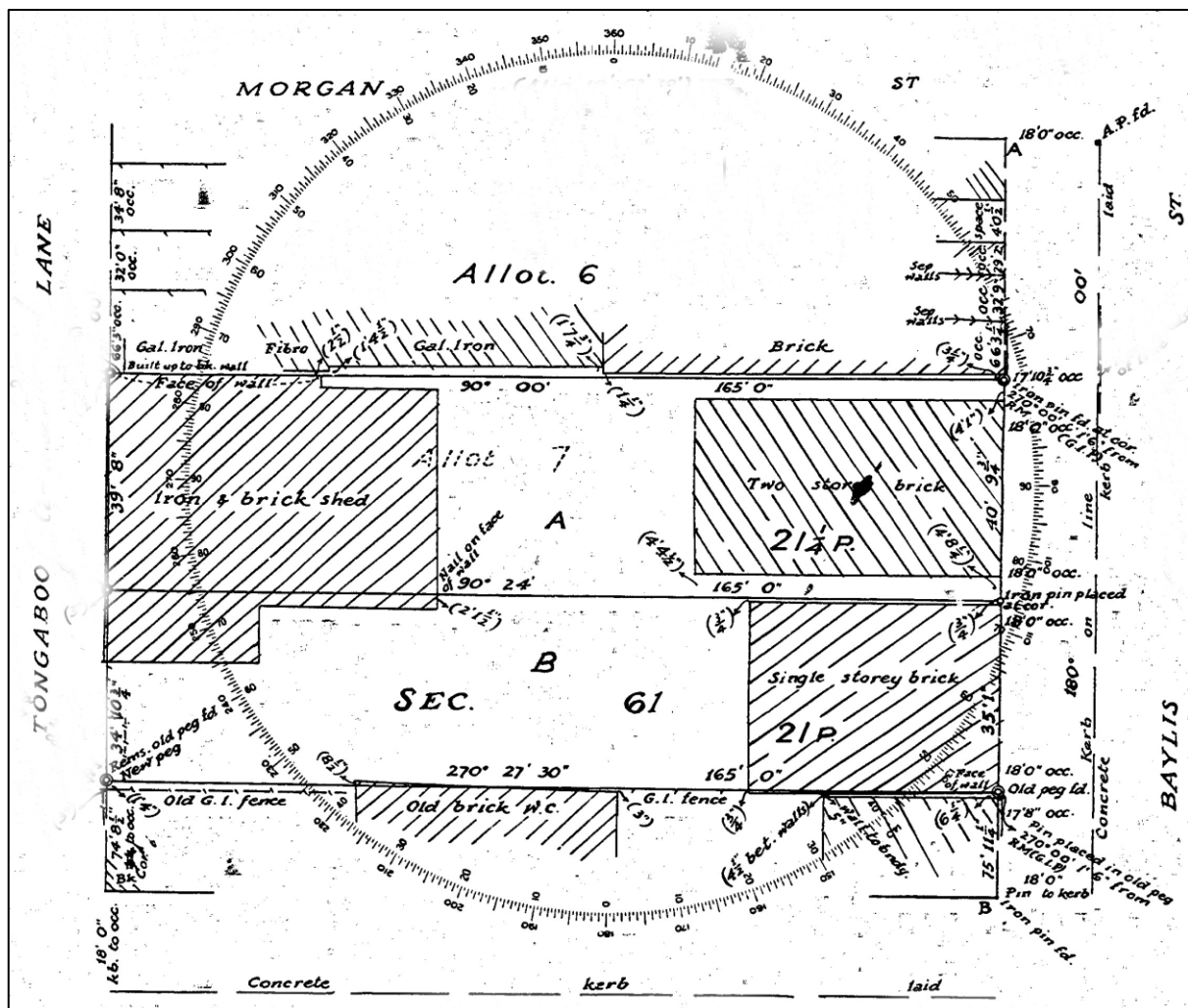


Left: Lot B of McDonald's subdivision. Courtesy NSW land Registry Services.

On the 3rd June 1965, Audrey Averill McDonald, a married woman of Wagga Wagga, assumed ownership of this property. The land was subsequently subdivided to create two lots [see DP.544670/1-2] [Volume 11464, folios 19 and 20]



Above: No's 8 [left] and 10 [right] Baylis Street in 2009. 8 Baylis Street was the site of the former South Wagga Wagga Post office. Courtesy Google Maps.



Above: An extract from a 1960s subdivision plan showing the footprints of the two buildings at 6 and 10 Baylis Street. The single-story building was the old South Wagga Wagga post office. The two-storey building was the offices and mortuary of James Christian McDonald [later Alan Harris McDonald]. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.



Above: 10 Baylis Street in 2009. Courtesy Google Maps.

The premises at 10 Baylis Street were occupied by Alan Harris McDonald in 2015 but by 2017 the premises were up for lease.⁶⁸ The premises were vacant from 2017 to 2020 but from 2022-2025 were occupied by *Beneath the Bloom Styling*.⁶⁹

In 2025, Alan Harris McDonald were located in purpose-built facilities in Copland Street, Wagga Wagga. The company was owned by the Fitzgerald family of Wagga Wagga.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ Google Maps. Street Scenes, 2015 vs 2017.

⁶⁹ Google Maps. Street Scenes, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025.

⁷⁰ Alan Harris McDonald. 'About Us', <https://alanharrismcdonald.com.au/about-us-alan-harris-mcdonald>, accessed 12th December 2025.

Christian James McDonald

Christian James McDonald was born at Cashel, Victoria, on the 13th November 1907.⁷¹ Christian was the only child of James and Maggie McDonald to be born outside of NSW. The stillbirth of James, in 1905, had caused Maggie to stay with her parents in Victoria, for the birth of her second child.

In 1929 Christian James McDonald married Audrey Averille Arnott, at Wagga Wagga.⁷² Christian and Audrey had two children – James Christian [b.1929] and Neil Keith [b.1931]. James Christian died in March 1951 at the age of 22 and was buried at Wagga Wagga.⁷³

According to the electoral rolls, in 1930, Christian James McDonald, a carpenter, was living at 12 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga.⁷⁴ In 1932 and 1934, Christian and his wife Audrey [home duties], were living at 12 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga.⁷⁵

In 1935, 1936, 1937, 1943, 1958, and 1963, Christian James McDonald, a carpenter, and his wife Audrey [home duties], were living at 10 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga.⁷⁶

In 1968, and 1972, Christian James McDonald, a grazier, and his wife Audrey [home duties], were living at 82 Urana Street, Wagga Wagga.⁷⁷

When his father passed away, in 1964, Christian became the sole proprietor of the business, J C McDonald and Son. In 1965 the business name changed to Harris McDonald Co. Christian had severed the family's links with the company his father established back in 1924.

Christian James McDonald passed away at Wagga Wagga on the 26th February 1973, aged sixty-five.⁷⁸ Audrey Averille McDonald [nee Arnott] followed some twelve years later, at Wagga Wagga, on the 8th December 1984. The couple's only surviving child was Neil Keith McDonald who was born at Wagga Wagga on the 8th May 1931.

The executors for the estate of Christian James McDonald were his wife, Audrey, of 82 Urana Street, and his son Neil, a “*shire employee*” of 11 Cook Street, Wagga Wagga. The affidavit of death [probate] was signed by John Desmond Harris, a funeral director of Wagga Wagga. Christian left all of his estate, valued at \$94,874, to be divided equally between his wife and his only surviving son. Primary assets were real estate valued at \$26,400; money in bank valued at \$30,063; and a mortgage valued at \$35,202. Total debts were valued at \$1,018.

⁷¹ VIC BDMs. Birth registration # 25448/1907.

⁷² NSW BDMs. Marriage registration # 4496/1929.

⁷³ NSW BDMs. Death registration # 9144/1951; Daily Advertiser. 2nd April 1951, p2.

⁷⁴ Australian Electoral Rolls:1903-1980 [Ancestry].

⁷⁵ Australian Electoral Rolls:1903-1980 [Ancestry].

⁷⁶ Australian Electoral Rolls:1903-1980 [Ancestry].

⁷⁷ Australian Electoral Rolls:1903-1980 [Ancestry].

⁷⁸ NSW BDMs. Death registration # 47630/1973.

The real estate consisted of two land parcels: lot 8, section 5 [volume 5009, folio 91] valued at \$10,000; and lots 16 and 17, section A [book 2819, number 74], valued at \$16,400. The mortgage was held against C H Sulley & Son Pty Ltd.



Above: Wedding photo – Christian James McDonald and Audrey Averille Arnott.
Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.

Family Group Sheet for Christian James McDonald

Husband **Christian James McDonald**

Birth: 13 Nov 1907 in Cashel, Victoria, Australia; Dookie
 Marriage: 1929 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 26 Feb 1973 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Father: **James Christian McDonald**
 Mother: **Margaret Ryan**



Wife **Audrey Averille Arnott**


Birth: 1910 in Albury, New South Wales, Australia
 Death: 08 Dec 1984 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia
 Father: **Archibald Leslie Arnott**
 Mother: **Adeline Rebecca Unnown**



Children:

1 Name: **James Christian McDonald**

M Birth: 21 Mar 1929 in Wagga Wagga; Calculated from obituary details


 Death: 31 Mar 1951 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; St Vincent's Hospital

Marriage: Nil issue



2 Name: **Neil Keith McDonald**

M Birth: 08 May 1931 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia

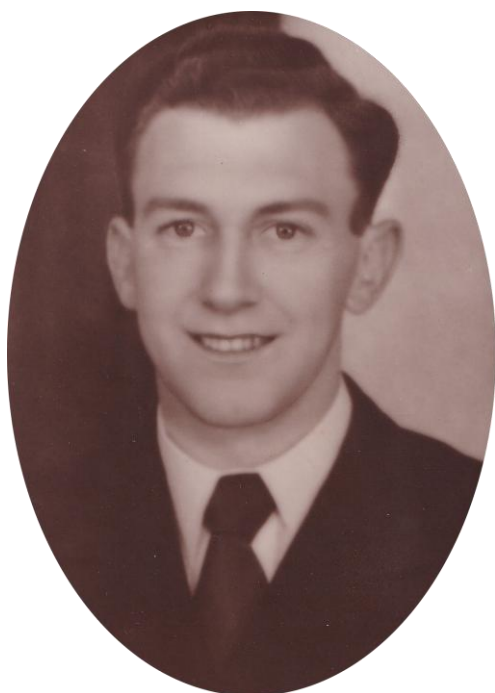
 Marriage: 1961 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia

Death: 29 Nov 2012 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia

Spouse: **Gwenneth Ann Horton**



James Christian McDonald



The eldest son, James Christian McDonald passed away on the 31st March 1951, at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. Twenty-one-year-old James had been living in Sydney for some four years, working as an accountant for a Hire Car & Service Station company.⁷⁹

Left: James Christian McDonald [1929-1951].
Courtesy Carmel Carroll and McDonald Family.

Neil Keith McDonald

In 1954 and 1958, Neil Keith McDonald, a storeman, was residing at 10 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga, along with his parents. His father's occupation was that of a carpenter.⁸⁰

Neil Keith McDonald married Gwenneth Ann Horton at Wagga Wagga, in 1961.⁸¹

In 1963, Neil Keith McDonald, a company representative, and his wife Gwenneth Anne McDonald [home duties] were residing at 129 Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga.⁸²

In 1968, 1972, 1980, Neil Keith McDonald, a manager, and his wife Gwenneth Anne McDonald [home duties] were residing at 11 Cook Street, Wagga Wagga.⁸³

Neil passed away at Wagga Wagga on the 29th November 2012.⁸⁴

Gwenneth Ann McDonald [nee Horton] passed away on the 20th November 2022.⁸⁵

The couple had three children.

⁷⁹ NSW BDMs. Death registration # 9144/1951; Daily Advertiser. 2nd April 1951, p2.

⁸⁰ Australian Electoral Rolls:1903-1980 [Ancestry]

⁸¹ NSW BDMs. Marriage registration # 26099/1961.

⁸² Australian Electoral Rolls:1903-1980 [Ancestry]

⁸³ Australian Electoral Rolls:1903-1980 [Ancestry]

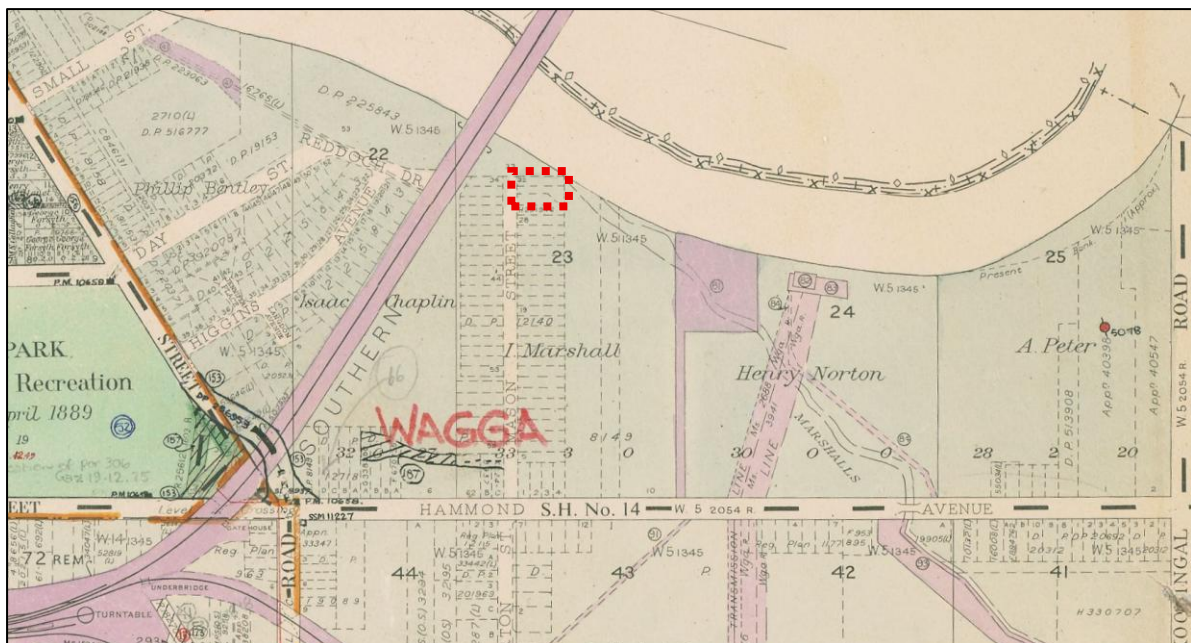
⁸⁴ Australia and New Zealand Find a Grave Index:1800s-Current [Ancestry].

⁸⁵ Daily Advertiser. 26th November 2022 [Ryerson]

McDonald Family Residences

In the period 1923-1925, James Christian McDonald was residing in a weatherboard cottage located on lot 31 of section 22 or 23, in the parish of South Wagga Wagga. McDonald owned and occupied lots 30, 31 and 32. The properties had a frontage of 135ft [41.1M] to Mason Street [eastern side] and a depth of 204ft 7in [62.4M]. [See DP.12140]. No listings could be found for Mason Street in the period 1919-1922.⁸⁶ It was in fact a new subdivision, of portions 22 and 23, developed from 1922 onwards.

Mason Street was presumably named after local builder Walter Henry Mason, who was one of the developers associated with the relevant Edward Street subdivision.⁸⁷ In October 1924 council approved a building application from Mason, for construction of a weatherboard cottage in Mason Street. In the period 1923-1925, Mason owned lots 54-59 in Mason Street, which featured a weatherboard cottage – presumably the one approved by council. Lots 54-59 lay to the south of McDonald, on the opposite side of the road.⁸⁸ An assumption is made that McDonald's weatherboard cottage was constructed in the period 1923-1924. There were no other buildings in Mason Street in the period 1923-1925.⁸⁹



Above: Extract from town plan showing location of J C McDonald's three lots, 30, 31 & 32. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. HLRV.

⁸⁶ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1919-1925]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17646-1.

⁸⁷ Daily Express. 6th October 1922, p3.

⁸⁸ Daily Advertiser. 3rd October 1924, p2.

⁸⁹ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1919-1925]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17646-1.

Walter Henry Mason and his brothers, Horace and Stanley, were builders who carried on business in Wagga Wagga, and later in Queanbeyan. The Mason family had originally moved up to NSW from Victoria following the death of the family patriarch, Denman Etherley Mason in 1906. The family moved to Queanbeyan, after Wagga Wagga, where they were both building contractors and funeral directors. According to Elizabeth McDonald, Mason & McDonald were contractors at Ardlethan, before moving to Wagga Wagga.⁹⁰ It is assumed JC McDonald's original partner back in 1924 was one of the Mason brothers.

In 2025 the land is identified as 55 Mason Street. The original weatherboard house would have been to the north of the building that occupies 55 Mason Street in 2025.

J C McDonald resided at Mason Street until 1924 when he sold the property to Florence Susan McKinley.⁹¹ In the same year, McDonald purchased a brick residence at 68 Best Street, from William John Watson.⁹² McDonald resided at this address until his death on the 27th January 1964. On the 12th May 1965, William John McDonald, a farmer, and Christian James McDonald, a funeral director, sold the property to Leslie Gordon Nugent, a station hand, for the sum of five thousand pounds.⁹³



Above: 68 Best Street in 2024. Courtesy Realestate.com

⁹⁰ Elizabeth A McDonald, *Such a Long Way: Tracking the Kennedy, Grant & Gleeson Families*, 2018, p223.

⁹¹ Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1932-1934]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.

⁹² Wagga Wagga Rate Books [1932-1934]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.

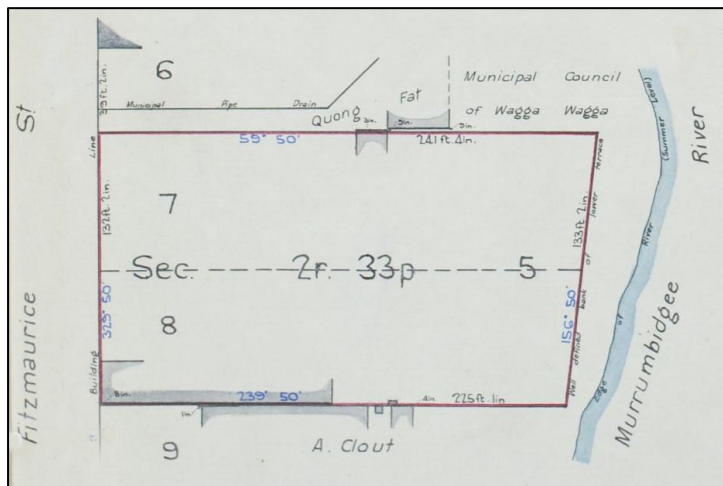
⁹³ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Book 2750, number 972.



Left: Floor plan for 68 Best Street.
Courtesy Realestate.com

151 Fitzmaurice Street

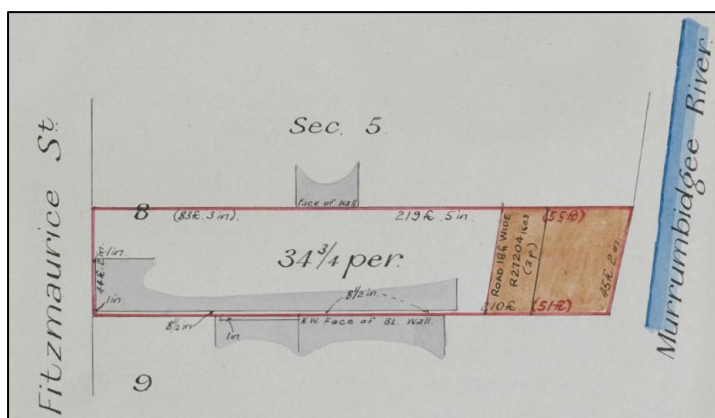
In 1932, the premises at 151 Fitzmaurice Street were spread across parts of allotments 7 & 8, of section 5, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga. They were owned and occupied by Denis Francis Coyne, a baker of Wagga Wagga. The property featured a brick shop and residence, with a frontage of 142ft [43.3M] to Fitzmaurice Street and a depth of 230ft.⁹⁴



Left: The land owned by Denis Coyne in 1932. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. HLRV.

In the period 1935-1937, Coyne sold a part of his holding to the Hartwig brothers, motor garage proprietors of Wagga Wagga. Coyne retained a frontage of 44ft 2in to Fitzmaurice Street.⁹⁵ Coyne had actually sold part of the property to John Laxton Bush, a chartered accountant of Sydney, in July 1937. Within two months Bush sold his holding to Berthold George Hartwig, Charles Frederick Hartwig, and Allen George Hartwig, as joint tenants.⁹⁶

Denis Coyne retained the southern part of his holding, which featured the brick shop and residence.



Left: The land owned by Denis Coyne in 1937. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services. HLRV.

⁹⁴ Wagga Wagga rate books [1932-1934]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.

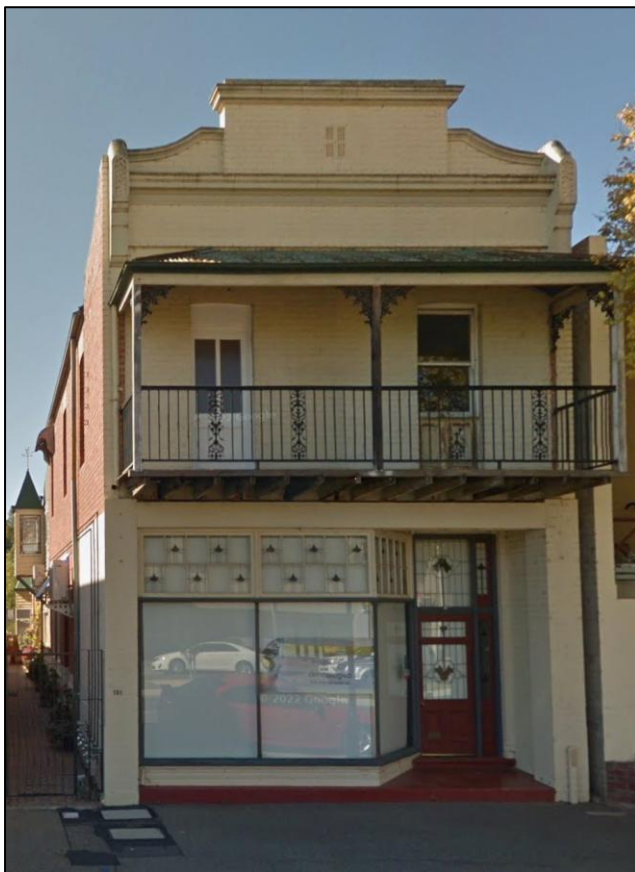
⁹⁵ Wagga Wagga rate books [1932-1934]. NSW State Archives. Series NRS.17647-1.

⁹⁶ NSW Land Registry Services, Title Deed. Volume 2529, folio 227.

In 1945, Coyne sold the property to Geoffrey Paul Turner, a chartered accountant of Wagga Wagga. Transactions to follow were,⁹⁷

- 1951, 5th August – Conveyance to John Richard Blake, an accountant of Wagga Wagga.
- 1951, 5th August – Conveyance from John Richard Blake to Benjamin Hoskings, a baker of Wagga Wagga, and his wife, Margaret Hoskings.
- 1959, 21st August – Conveyance of easement to Wagga Wagga City Council for purposes of flood mitigation [levee bank]
- 1965 – Resumption of land for purposes of a road, to rear of property.
- 1968, 16th January – Margaret Hoskings now the sole proprietor.
- 1970, 18th March – Conveyance to Christian James McDonald, a retired grazier [sic].
- 1974, 18th July – Neil Keith McDonald now the legal owner.
- 1975, 21st March – Conveyance to Francis Stephen Fountain and Trevor Forbes Booth, both sign writers of Wagga Wagga.

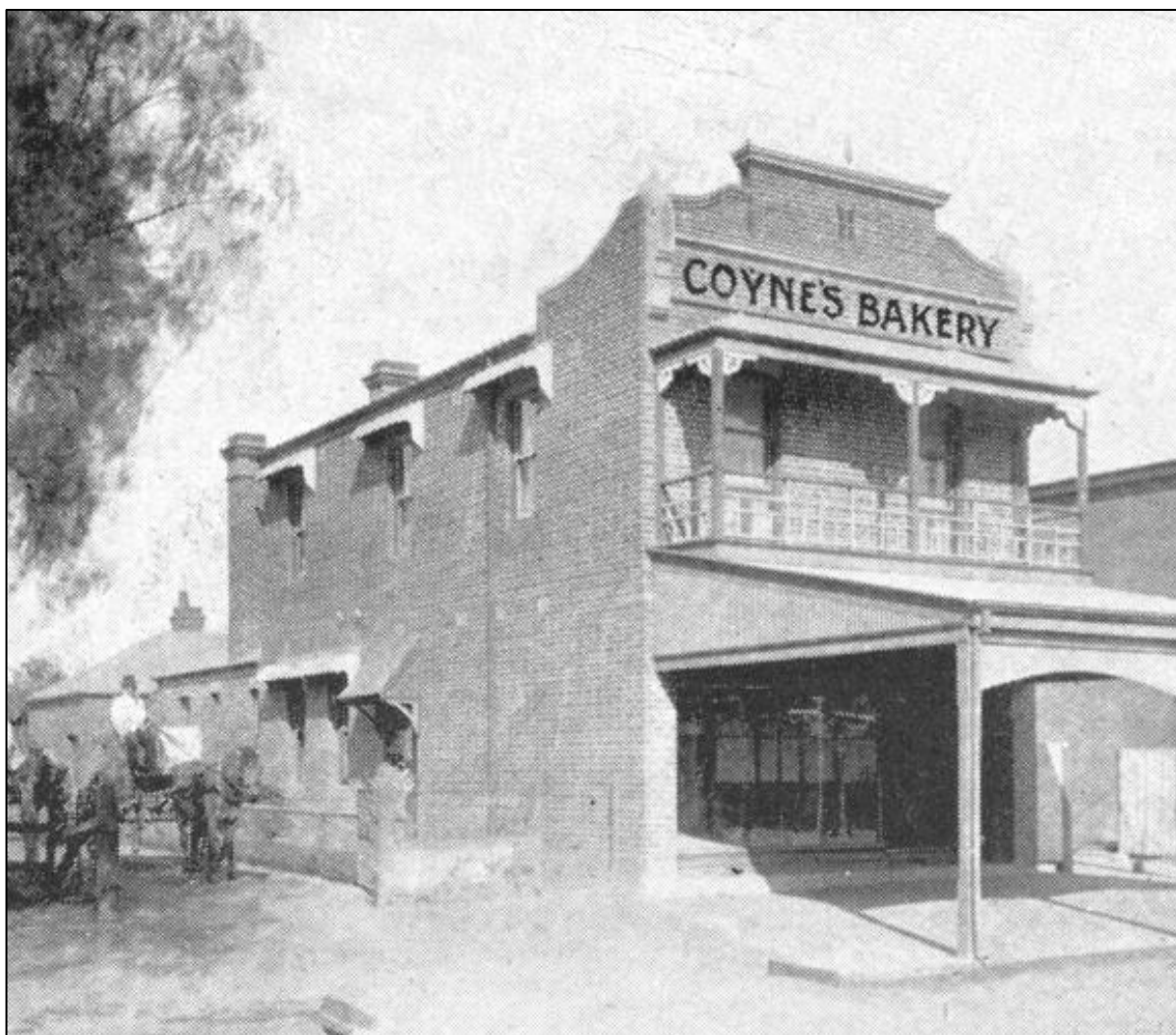
Subsequently converted to a computer folio [see volume 13070, folio 201].



Left: The beautiful historic building at 151 Baylis Street in 2015. Courtesy Google Maps.

This is the building valued at \$10,000 in Christian James McDonald's deceased estate in 1973.

⁹⁷ NSW Land Registry Services, Title Deed. Volume 5009, folio 91.



Above: Coyne's new bakery and residence at 151 Fitzmaurice Street, c1914. Courtesy Progress of Wagga Wagga.

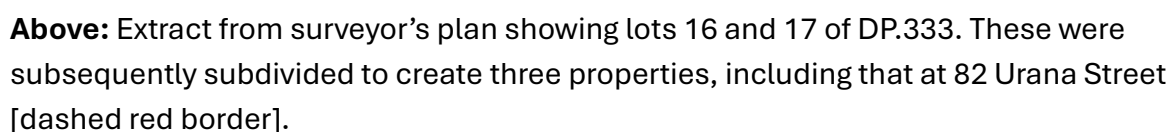
Coyne's new building was approved by council in May 1910.⁹⁸ The architect was George Sheppard.⁹⁹ On the 31st January 1911, Coyne confirmed he had moved his bakery business into the new premises in Fitzmaurice Street [no.151].¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 24th May 1910, p2.

⁹⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th May 1910, p3.

¹⁰⁰ Daily Advertiser. 31st January 1911, p3.

On the 18th November 1966, Christian James McDonald purchased the property at 82 Urana Street, from Anthony Gaunt Frow, a district manager of Wagga Wagga, and Nola Marjorie Frow, his wife, for the sum of \$16,800. The property had an area of 28¾ perches [727 square metres]. The house lay across parts of lots 16 and 17 of section A, within DP.333.¹⁰¹



¹⁰¹ NSW Land Registry Services, Title Deed. Book 2819, number 74.

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Above: The house at 82 Urana Street in 2025. Courtesy Google Maps.

NOTES:

68 Best Street - Freehold

The building at 68 Best Street is located on a part of what was originally allotment 3, section 55, in the town and parish of South Wagga Wagga. Originally purchased from the Crown by Andrew Cruikshank.

For additional history of 68 Best Street see,

- Book 2750, number 972
- Book 2797, number 741

Current title = DP.1095091

55 Mason Street - Freehold

For further details see PA.19122

And volume 2544, folios 161 & 162 [1915]

Location Records - Records of location for births, deaths, and marriages, usually list the district recorded on the original registration, unless another source provides a more precise location.

Family Histories - A descendant of the McDonalds, Elizabeth Anne McDonald, has published a number of family and local history books. Two of these are,

1. Such a Long Way: Tracking the Kennedy, Grant & Gleeson Families. 2018.
2. Tipperary Green to Victoria Gold: the Ryans of Dookie. 2017.

The first includes the McDonald family who established a funeral parlour in Wagga Wagga in 1924. The second follows the Ryan family, including Maggie Ryan who married James Christian McDonald in 1903. These books provide a much more expansive account of the two families' histories than this article does. I believe copies can still be purchased online at following links,

<https://au.blurb.com/b/9223200-such-a-long-long-way>

<https://au.blurb.com/b/8345087-tipperary-green-to-victoria-gold>

Co-author, Carmel Carroll, a McDonald descendant, has donated a copy of each book to the Wagga Wagga District & Family History Society, which can be accessed at the society's rooms.

Funeral Records

J C McDonald

Records for period 1924 to 1936 are held by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The location of the original book is not known, but it may be with the church, in a basement in Utah. The records have been microfilmed [Film # 992921] and these can be viewed at any Family Search repository, including Wagga Wagga [microfilm also available]. The original scans were taken from a hard cover book. Entries are in chronological order so it should be easy to find a particular burial. Records include some obituary type details plus funeral details.

The WWDFHS are working on compiling the records of J C McDonald for the period 1936 to 1965, with the intent to publish same. The society continues to record records for the period 1965 to the present [Alan Harris McDonald].

Alan Harris

The WWDFHS has published the records of Alan Harris for the period 1936 to 1965 [records for the period before the two firms merged in 1965]