

# JUNCTION INN METHUL



**Front Cover:** Junction Inn, Methul, c.1894. Courtesy Coolamon & District History Group. Max & Mary Robertson Collection.

**Geoff Burch ©September 2021**

## Introduction

The catalyst for this article was the posting of a photo of the old hotel, on the Facebook page of the Coolamon & District History Group. It is a rare photo that immediately caught my attention.

The hotel was first licensed in 1884, and continued to be licensed up until April 1902, when it was destroyed by fire.

Congratulations are due to whoever organised the plaques and sign that now mark the location., although the start date for the hotel is incorrect



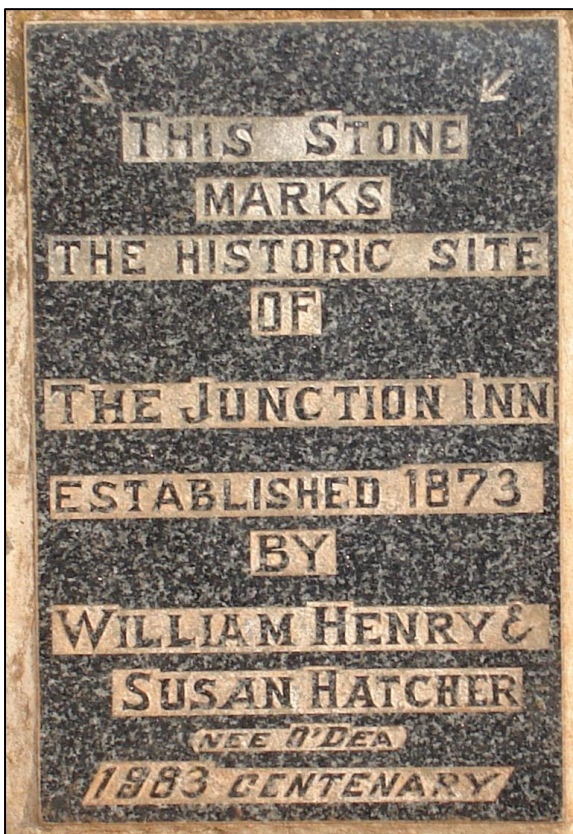
**Left:** The sign that identifies the site.

**Below:** The sign and the two stones with plaques that identify the site of the hotel and the blacksmith's shop.





Above and below: The plaque that identifies the site of the old hotel



**Notes:**

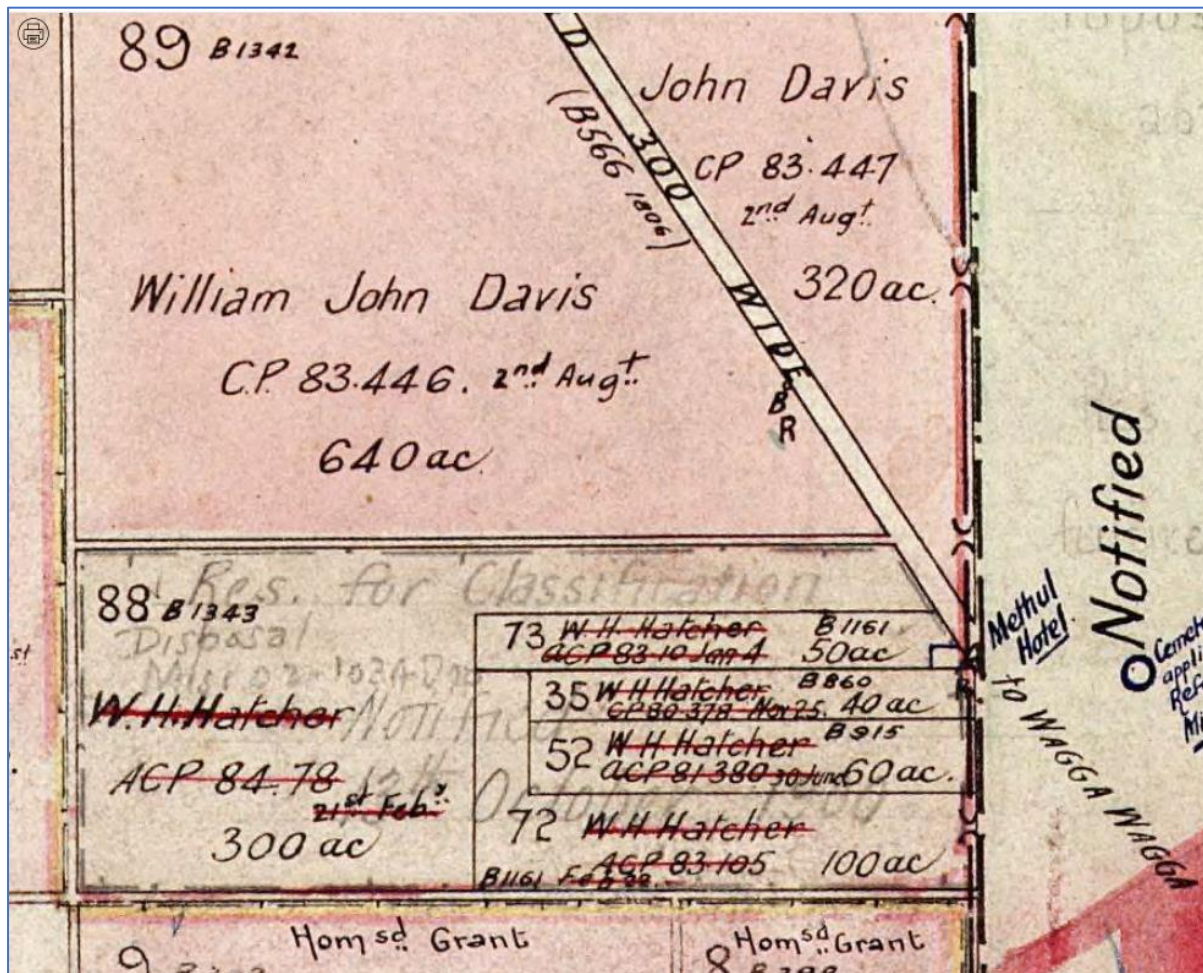
I acknowledge the value of Trove and thank all of those who were, and are, responsible for its existence.

Locations quoted for births, deaths and marriages, are usually the district in which they were registered. For example, a birth at Methul, would be registered as Wagga Wagga.

## The Junction Inn at Methul

The Junction Inn at Methul was located on portion 73, parish of Methul. This was a 50 acre lot situated where the old road from Ariaiah to Wagga Wagga cut the road from Coolamon.

W H Hatcher owned portions 35, 52, 72, 73 and 88, a total of 550 acres



**Above:** Extract from Methul parish map showing portions 35, 52, 72, 73 and 88, as selected by William Henry Hatcher. The location of the hotel is also shown as is the old road from Ariaiah to Wagga Wagga. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

With the death of William Henry Hatcher, in January 1886, his wife Susan, presumably, assumed ownership of these lots.

In November 1894, it was reported that portions 35 [40 acres, CP80-378], 52 [60 acres, CP81-380], 72 [100 acres, CP83-105], 73 [50 acres, CP83-10], and 88 [300 acres, CP84-78], all in the parish of Methul, were to be transferred to PJB & EW Donnelly, from WH Hatcher. All five conditional purchases had been forfeited due to non-payment of monies due.<sup>1</sup> The notice allowed thirty days before the order took effect, and Susan must have remedied the situation as a notice in December stated that the order had been “provisionally reversed.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15<sup>th</sup> November 1894, p4.

<sup>2</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4<sup>th</sup> December 1894, p4.

Susan's financial woes continued in January 1895, when the Sheriff listed various properties belonging to Susan, for sale by public auction.<sup>3</sup> These were the five portions at Methul.

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**

Sheriff's Office, Sydney,  
10th January, 1895.

**McINTYRE & ANOTHER V. HATCHER.**  
**SHAW & ANOTHER V. HATCHER.**

**ON FRIDAY, the 25th JANUARY, 1895, at 12 o'clock, unless the writ of *Fieri Facias* herein be previously satisfied, the Sheriff will cause to be sold by Public Auction, at the COURT HOUSE, WAGGA WAGGA,**

**All the Right, Title, and Interest (if any) of the defendant, Susan Hatcher, of, in and to all those pieces or parcels of CONDITIONALLY PURCHASED LAND, the particulars whereof are set out in the following schedule :—**

Area.	County.	Parish.	Selected by.	Selected at	Date.	C.P. No.
a. r. p.						
40 0 0	Bourke	Mitchell	W. H. Hatcher	Wagga Wagga	25 Nov. 1880	80 378
60 0 0	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	30 June 1881	81 380
50 0 0	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	4 Jan. 1883	83 10
100 0 0	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	22 Feb. 1883	83 105
300 0 0	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	21 Feb. 1884	84 78

**And in and to all CONDITIONAL LEASES and Rights of Conditional Leases (if any), held or applied for in virtue of above described Conditionally Purchased Lands.**

**TERMS—CASH. CHEQUES NOT TAKEN,**

**JOSEPH H. POWELL,**  
Sheriff's Officer,  
Wagga Wagga.

**HEATH AND MITCHELMORE,**  
**E. E. MORGAN,**  
Plaintiffs' Attorneys,  
Wagga Wagga.

**By J. R. GARLAND,**  
Sydney.

fj

Above: The Methul properties of Susan Hatcher up for sale, in January 1895, by order of the Sheriff.

<sup>3</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 24<sup>th</sup> January 1895, p3.

In May 1901, the Methul properties were once more up for sale.<sup>4</sup>

**FOR SALE OR TO LET,**

**T**HAT valuable Hotel Property at Methul known as the the **JUNCTION INN**, situate at the junction of the five roads leading to Ariah, Big Mimosa, Coolamon, Broken Dam, and Narandera, standing on **550 ACRES** of C.P LAND, of which 300 acres are cleared. Terms on application to

**TOMPSON, JEREMY & CO.**

**Left:** Notice of sale for Junction Inn property at Methul in May 1901.

It appears that the property did not sell, as it was advertised again, in September 1901.<sup>5</sup>

**A Fine Opportunity for Investors.**

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**JUNCTION INN & LANDS.**

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AT METHUL.

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**T**OMPSON, JEREMY & CO. have received instructions to submit (in conjunction with Messrs. BARNES and STINSON, Coolamon) to public auction, at an early date—

The well-known

**FARMING and HOTEL PROPERTY,** situate at Methul, and known as the "**JUNCTION INN**," the land having an area of 550 acres C.P.

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Further particulars in future issues.

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**TOMPSON, JEREMY & CO.,**  
Auctioneers.

**Left:** The September 1901, notice of sale.

The sale was originally scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> October, but was subsequently pushed back to the 29<sup>th</sup> October. No sale result could be found, and it is assumed the property was not sold.

John Donnelly, of Gumly Gumly, died in November 1879.<sup>6</sup> It took years for his estate to be settled, but in December 1904, the Junction Inn property, which included 550 acres of CP lands, was advertised for sale, on behalf of his deceased estate.<sup>7</sup> When the old hotel was destroyed by fire in April 1902, it was stated that Susan Hatcher owned the property, a claim that appears to be incorrect.

<sup>4</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18<sup>th</sup> May 1901, p5.

<sup>5</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26<sup>th</sup> September 1901, p3.

<sup>6</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 15<sup>th</sup> November 1879, p4.

<sup>7</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1904, p3.

**UN-RESERVED SALE OF  
COUNTRY LANDS.**

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES

**Pastoral Hotel, Wagga.**

ON TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 1905,  
At 3 p.m.

**J. JEREMY & CO.** have been favored with instructions by the Trustees of John Donnelly, deceased, to submit to public auction, as above—

The Property known as

**The Old Junction Inn Property,  
Methul,**

Comprising—

550 Acres of C.P. Land, situated Parish **Methul**, County Bourke, on the Warri road, only 21 miles from Coolamon.

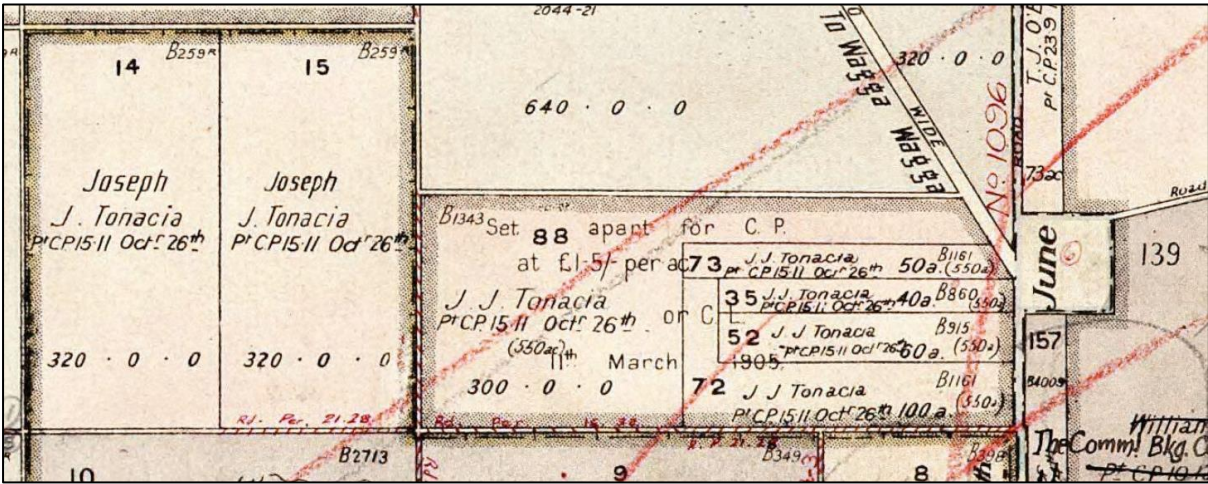
It has been decided to sell this Property  
**ENTIRELY WITHOUT RESERVE.**

Left: Sale notice for Junction Inn property in January 1905, on account the estate of John Donnelly.

In March 1905, the government set aside land within the resumed area of Cowabee Holding no.575. This consisted of portions 35, 52, 72, 73 and 88, which had a total area of 550 acres.<sup>8</sup>

In 1897, Joseph Julia Tonacia selected portions 14 and 15, in the parish of Methul, under the homestead selection category. These two lots had an area of 320 acres each, making a total of 640 acres.

In 1915, Joseph Julia Tonacia, owned portions 14, 15, 35, 52, 72, 73, and 88, in the parish of Methul, in the form of a conditional purchase. This was CP.15-11, with a total area of 1,190 acres.

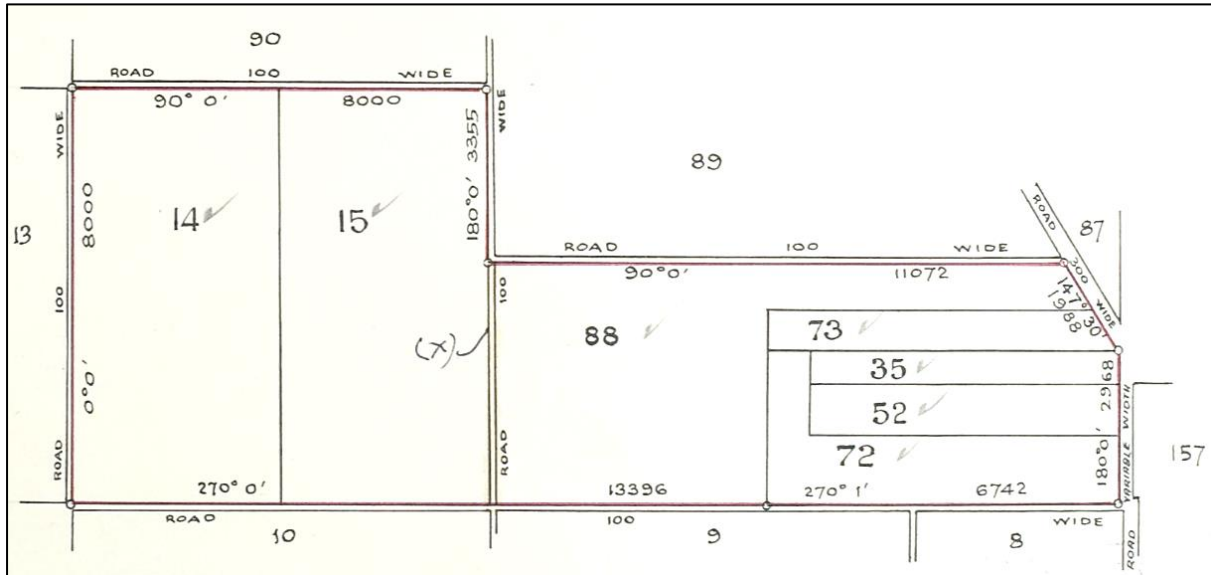


Above: The CP holding of Joseph Tonacia in 1915. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

<sup>8</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1905, p1769.



In February 1964 the Rural Bank of NSW paid all monies due on a number of conditional purchases, consolidating seven different portions under a single Torrens Title. The title covered portions 14, 15, 35, 52, 72, 73, and 88, in the parish of Methul, which had a total area of 1,190 acres.<sup>9</sup>



**Above:** The portions consolidated by the Rural Bank of NSW in 1964. Courtesy NSW Land Registry Services.

In July 1973, Bruce Murray Irvine, a farmer of Methul, and Beth Yvonne Irvine, his wife, became the legal owners of the property, as tenants in common. In February 1974, the property was conveyed to Samuel Murray Irvine, a farmer of Methul.<sup>10</sup> Both of these transactions were registered on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1974.

The title was subsequently converted to a computer folio [after 1978] and ownership has not been traced past this date.

Current plan > DP.73.750855

Prior title > Volume 8494, folio 58

<sup>9</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 8494, folio 58.

<sup>10</sup> NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deed. Volume 8494, folio 58.

## **The Family of William Henry Hatcher [senior]**

William Henry Hatcher was born at Wells, Somerset, England, on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1846,<sup>11</sup> the son of John Hatcher and Eliza Hatcher [nee Webb]. William was baptised in St Cuthbert's, Wells, on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1846.<sup>12</sup>

The 1861 England census lists a fourteen year old William Hatcher, a native of Wells, living in Shepton Mallet, working as an apprentice boot and shoe maker.

It is not known when William arrived in Australia, but in 1872, William Henry Hatcher married Susan O'Dea, in Victoria.<sup>13</sup>

William and Susan had five children.

### **Eliza M Hatcher**

Susan and William's first child, Eliza, was born at Geelong in 1872.<sup>14</sup> Eliza died, at Wagga Wagga, in 1878.<sup>15</sup>

### **William Henry Hatcher**

The couple's second child, William Henry Hatcher, was born at Grenfell in June 1874.<sup>16</sup> William was baptised in St Michael's Church, Wagga Wagga, on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1878. His birth date was recorded as 24<sup>th</sup> November 1877,<sup>17</sup> but this is clearly incorrect. His WW1 records confirm his birth year as June 1874.

William Henry Hatcher, junior, passed away in 1961, at Newtown, Sydney.<sup>18</sup>

### **John Joseph Hatcher**

A third child, was John Joseph Hatcher, born on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1876. John was baptised in St Michael's Church, Wagga Wagga, on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1878.<sup>19</sup> John's birth registration could not be found. John Joseph Hatcher passed away at the Wyalong District Hospital on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1945.

His obituary provided some interesting details,<sup>20</sup>

"The death of Mr. John Joseph Hatcher, which occurred in the Wyalong restrict Hospital on the 3rd instant, removes another grand old pioneer of this and adjoining districts. Mr. Hatcher, who had reached the advanced age of 68 years, had not enjoyed good health for the past two years, although it was only eight days prior to his death that he was admitted to the District, Hospital. The late Mr. Hatcher was a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Hatcher, who played an important part in pioneering land settlement in this State. His father was one of the early small settlers in the Methul district, at a time when the large

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<sup>11</sup> England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index: 1837-1915 [Vol.10, p472] [ancestry.com]

<sup>12</sup> England, Select Births and Christenings: 1538-1975. [FHL # 1526763, p171] [ancestry.com]

<sup>13</sup> VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 904.

<sup>14</sup> VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 23515.

<sup>15</sup> NSW BDM's. Death registration # 9954.

<sup>16</sup> NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 8979.

<sup>17</sup> Australia, Births and Baptisms: 1792-1981 [ancestry.com]

<sup>18</sup> NSW BDM's. Death registration # 23338.

<sup>19</sup> Australia, Births and Baptisms: 1792-1981 [ancestry.com] {FHL # 992911}

<sup>20</sup> West Wyalong Advocate. 9<sup>th</sup> April 1945, p2.

landholders frowned on those who sought to acquire land in their vicinity. William Hatcher had a thorough knowledge of land, and acted as guide and friend to those who came to that district in search of land. He erected the Junction Hotel and general store on his property, which was at the junction of what was then known, as the Aria Park and Cowabbi Roads. He carried on business there up to the time, of his death, which occurred at a comparatively early age, leaving his young wife and family of four to carry on the pioneering work, which they did successfully for many years.

Mr. John Hatcher spent most of his early life in the Coolamon district, where he enjoyed the high esteem of a wide circle of friends. He married Miss Edith Dowsing, after which they came to West Wyalong in 1922, when he purchased a small Property known as 'The Glen,' where he lived up to the time of his death. He was a man of sterling qualities, industrious and trustworthy. and was noted for his good neighbourly qualities.

He is survived by Mrs. Hatcher, four sons and one daughter. The sons are Driver D. J. Hatcher (who took part with the AIF in the Middle East campaign and in other theatres of war). Sapper William Hatcher (who is with the Royal Australian Engineers in New Guinea), Harry (who is on the electricity staff of the Picton Council), and Eric, of West Wyalong. The daughter is Mrs. Stan Main, of Manly. Mrs. C. J. M. Thomas, of "Winderera." West Wyalong. is a sister of the deceased, and Mr William Hatcher, of Sydney, is a brother."

#### **Eva Honor Hatcher**

Susan and William 's 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter was, Eva Honor, born at Wagga Wagga, in 1879.<sup>21</sup> Eva was baptised in St Michael's Church Wagga Wagga, on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1881. Her birth was recorded as the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1880, which clearly contradicts her birth registration record.<sup>22</sup> In 1909, Eva married Charles James Mason Thomas, at Narrandera.<sup>23</sup> Eva passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1979, at Newcastle. She was buried at West Wyalong.<sup>24</sup>

#### **Bernard George Hatcher**

On the 9th March 1881, Susan and William's last child, Bernard George Hatcher, was born. He was christened in St Michael's Church, Wagga Wagga, on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1886.<sup>25</sup> Bernard's birth registration could not be found.

Fourteen year old Bernard died at Coolamon in August 1896.<sup>26</sup> The saddle girth broke while he was riding a horse that he was training, causing him to be thrown from the horse. He was taken to be treated by Dr Gorrick, but he passed away that evening from a concussion to the brain.<sup>27</sup>

#### **William Henry Hatcher**

William Henry Hatcher, senior, passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1886, at Junee, aged thirty nine years.<sup>28</sup> No references to his death could be found in any of the online newspapers, which was unusual, given his status.

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<sup>21</sup> NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 24765.

<sup>22</sup> Australia, Births and Baptisms: 1792-1981 [ancestry.com] {FHL # 992911}

<sup>23</sup> NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 1989.

<sup>24</sup> Australia & New Zealand. Find a Grave [ancestry.com]

<sup>25</sup> Australia, Births and Baptisms: 1792-1981 [ancestry.com] {FHL # 992911}

<sup>26</sup> NSW BDM's. Death registration # 10175.

<sup>27</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 18<sup>th</sup> August 1896, p2.

<sup>28</sup> NSW BDM's. Death registration # 11918.

### **Susan Hatcher [nee O'Dea]**

In September 1896, Susan Hatcher appeared in the Wagga Wagga Court, on remand from Coolamon, charged with being insane and unfit to be at large. Susan had been arrested at Coolamon, on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, due to her violent behaviour on the previous night. Susan was examined by Dr Wren, at Wagga Wagga, who testified that she was not a lunatic and that she was fit to be at large. Susan was, accordingly, discharged.<sup>29</sup> Presumably the recent death of her son, and her financial difficulties were factors in play.

Susan Hatcher [nee O'Dea] passed away, on the 8th September 1928, at West Wyalong.<sup>30</sup> She was survived by her daughter, Mrs CJM Thomas, of *Winderera*, West Wyalong, and by one other daughter, and a son. Seventy two year old Susan was a native of Clare, Ireland, and came to Australia at the age of eighteen, with her parents.<sup>31</sup>

An obituary provided some additional details,<sup>32</sup>

“She was 72 years of age and came to Australia from County Clare, Ireland, when a girl of 16 years of age, and at 20 years of age she married Mr. W.H. Hatcher, who also came to Australia from Somerset, England. Mr. Hatcher, with his young wife selected a farm at Methul, 18 miles from Coolamon on the Ariah Park Road, and there built a hotel known as the Junction Inn. He also built a store which he ran in conjunction with his hotel business, and was the mainstay of that district for many years. He also acted as guide to the new settlers who came to that district in search of land, and there were many who came from other states. He was successful in getting such men established on the land as Messrs. Fisher, Gemmel, Boyd, McKegs, Heares and many others who pioneered the wheat growing industry in and around and around that district. Mr. Hatcher's name stands out as a living monument in the minds of those old pioneers for the yeoman service he had rendered them in the early days. Many of those old pioneers have crossed the Divide, but their work will remain for all times.

Mr. Hatcher died when a comparatively young man, leaving Mrs. Hatcher to fight the battle of life with a family of four young children. She successfully carried on the good work of her husband for many years before retiring into private life when she leased her property and went to Wagga to educate her family. She remained there for many years and then came to Coolamon where she lived until 1908. when her only daughter married Mr. C. J. Thomas then of Ravine and now of Wyalong, and whom she continuously lived with from that time up to the day of her death. Mrs. Hatcher leaves a family of three children to mourn her sad loss - William Hatcher of Condobolin, John Hatcher of Wyalong and Mrs. C. J. Thomas of "*Winderera*" West Wyalong.”

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<sup>29</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 29<sup>th</sup> September 1896, p2.

<sup>30</sup> NSW BDM's. Death registration # 16018.

<sup>31</sup> West Wyalong Advocate. 11<sup>th</sup> September 1928, p8.

<sup>32</sup> West Wyalong Advocate. 14<sup>th</sup> September 1928, p1.

## Licensees

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1883, William Hatcher was granted a colonial wine license, by the Wagga Wagga Licensing Bench, for premises at North Berry Jerry.<sup>33</sup> William had selected land at Methul as early as November 1880, and it can be assumed that he built a house on portion 73, between November 1880 and May 1883. It seems he did not renew his wine license in 1884. The latter inaction may have been influenced by an event in August 1883. Two men, professional informers, visited Hatcher, with the specific objective of obtaining evidence to secure a conviction, for a violation of the Licensing Act. One of the men, named Gleeson, had been acting as an informer for the past four months, and in that time had prosecuted sixteen people, for sly grog selling. Hatcher was convicted, on the evidence of Gleeson, and fined fifty pounds, half of which went to the informers.<sup>34</sup>

During the trial the court heard that John Gleeson and his associate, Edward Nixon [a man of colour, born near Bourke, on the Darling], went to Hatcher's place at Berry Jerry, on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 1883, and that while there he and Nixon were served whiskey. Hatcher denied this, saying he knew the two men were informers, and he only served wine. The judge noted that one side or the other had committed gross perjury. He accepted the version given by Gleeson and Nixon, and accordingly convicted Hatcher.

Gleeson testified that they were served wine and whiskey in the bar, but that they stayed overnight, in a separate building. It seems there may have been more than drinking going on at the house. Gleeson testified that "*our slumbers were somewhat disturbed by Wilson [another guest at the house] making an unseemly noise; he was with some man named Jack. Defendant [Hatcher] came down and brought them away, and reprovved them for their dissolute habits.*"<sup>35</sup>

## First License

Hatcher confirmed to the court that he had applied for a publican's license. Hatcher's conviction may well have quashed his chances of obtaining a publican's license, which may explain why the first license issued for the Junction Inn, was to Bridget Mooney, for the twelve month period commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1884. The hotel was said to be located at the junction of the Arianah and Wagga Wagga Roads, near Coolamon.<sup>36</sup> Mooney renewed the license in January 1885,<sup>37</sup> but in 1886, it was Henry Lampe who renewed the license.<sup>38</sup> Mooney had transferred the license to Lampe on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1885.<sup>39</sup>

Some time during 1886, Lampe was succeeded by James Winters, and the latter renewed the license in January 1887,<sup>40</sup> and in January 1888.<sup>41</sup>

In January 1889,<sup>42</sup> and January 1890,<sup>43</sup> Charles Howard was listed as the licensee. In April 1890, Howard sold the business and license to Donald McRae, and the license was transferred on the 29<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> NSW Police Gazette. 1883, p240.

<sup>34</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25<sup>th</sup> August 1883, p2.

<sup>35</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25<sup>th</sup> August 1883, p2.

<sup>36</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1884, p1981.

<sup>37</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1885, p1409. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10<sup>th</sup> January 1885, p2.

<sup>38</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1886, p1197.

<sup>39</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1885, p2.

<sup>40</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1887, p841.

<sup>41</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1888, p1198. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12<sup>th</sup> January 1888, p2.

<sup>42</sup> NSW Government Gazettes. 1889, p1469. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12<sup>th</sup> January 1889, p2.

<sup>43</sup> NSW Government Gazettes. 1890 p1282. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12<sup>th</sup> January 1889, p2.

of that month.<sup>44</sup> It appears that by June 1890, Howard had moved to Cootamundra, to take over the license of the Royal hotel.<sup>45</sup>

McRae renewed the license in 1891,<sup>46</sup> but in January 1892, it was Ernest J Holloway who renewed the license.<sup>47</sup> Holloway renewed again in January 1893.<sup>48</sup>

On the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1893, Holloway transferred the license to Susan Hatcher.<sup>49</sup> Susan immediately advertised her presence at the hotel.<sup>50</sup>



**Left:** A notice from Susan Hatcher in February 1893. This advertisement ran continuously throughout 1893 and 1894.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1893, Susan hosted a race meeting, in a paddock adjoining the hotel, which drew a good crowd.<sup>51</sup>

In May 1893 Susan completed some additions to the hotel, and also carried out a number of general repairs to the building.<sup>52</sup>

In June 1893, it was reported in the Wagga Wagga press that the hotel had burnt down, but this was subsequently denied by Susan, who assured travellers that they would receive *“as good accommodation as could be found at any hotel in the country.”*<sup>53</sup>

In January 1894, Susan renewed the hotel license,<sup>54</sup> and shortly after that she made arrangements for Mr TJ Webster of Coolamon, to take over the business and the license,<sup>55</sup> but within a week the deal fell through and Susan continued to conduct the business.<sup>56</sup>

An annual race meeting was held at Methul in February 1894, with Mrs Hatcher hosting the *“settlement”* in the evening. Three small races were held on the next day, followed by a cricket match between the Methul Cricket Club and a team chosen by the Menzies brothers.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26<sup>th</sup> April 1890, p3.

<sup>45</sup> Cootamundra Herald. 25<sup>th</sup> June 1890, p5.

<sup>46</sup> NSW Government Gazettes. 1891, p1482. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 1<sup>st</sup> May 1890, p2.

<sup>47</sup> NSW Government Gazettes. 1892, p1616.

<sup>48</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1893, p1682.

<sup>49</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 19<sup>th</sup> January 1893, p2.

<sup>50</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4<sup>th</sup> February 1893, p3.

<sup>51</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 2<sup>1st</sup> March 1893, p3.

<sup>52</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 16<sup>th</sup> May 1893, p2.

<sup>53</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 24<sup>th</sup> June 1893, p4.

<sup>54</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6<sup>th</sup> January 1894, p2. / NSW Government Gazette. 1894, p1292.

<sup>55</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 25<sup>th</sup> January 1894, p4.

<sup>56</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1894, p3.

<sup>57</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 8<sup>th</sup> February 1894, p4.

In June 1894, Susan Hatcher offered for sale, a property in the town of Coolamon. It was block no.223, which had an area of one acre and thirty four perches, and featured a two bedroom weatherboard cottage.

In the same month, Susan Hatcher was convicted of a number of offences under the Licensing Act. Specifically, selling alcohol during prohibited hours, allowing dice to be played on licensed premises, and allowing music to be played on the premises. She was fined a total of five pounds plus costs of some seventeen shillings.<sup>58</sup>

### **Some District Farms**

It was in the month of May 1894 that Socrates, a roving reporter, visited Methul, and provided the following details,<sup>59</sup>

"But "Where is Methul?" is a query that I have had to answer a good many times lately. For the information of those who are not acquainted with the topography of the place I may mention that Methul lies about 18 miles to the north-west of Coolamon, bounded on the west by Cowabbee, on the north by Broken Dam, and on the east by Berry Jerry. The capital I take to be Mrs. Hatcher's Junction Inn, the proverbial blacksmith's shop (Mr. John Dunn proprietor) completing the town. It might be mentioned also that the aforesaid inn is also the local post-office. But if this place comprised within the limited area stated has not been heard of in the past, I feel certain that it will be in the future. And for this reason a splendid class of farmers from Victoria, particularly the Goulburn Valley, have dumped themselves down here, bringing with them some capital and a thorough knowledge of farming in all its branches. Added to this there have also come several farmers' sons from the neigh boring colony, sturdy and resolute young fellows who bid fair to bring Methul into further prominence by their prowess in the football field, they having defeated all competitors last year and from all accounts are likely to do the same this year. As some little time has elapsed since my visit to Methul, and having only taken mental notes, I will be enabled merely to give a general account as far as my memory serves me. My first port of call was Pine Lodge, the home of Mr. T. McCaig, a genial, warm hearted, shrewd, and worthy representative of the Campbell Clan from which he springs. Mr. McCaig, since settling down here, has had some uphill work in improving his land, the scrub being so dense when he first came on the place that they could not see a hundred yards beyond the house. But by dint of hard work on the part of himself and his sons this was surmounted, and Mr. McCaig, besides having a first-class residence, has also a splendid orchard and very pretty garden surrounding the place, the soil being so good as to enable him to grow anything, and he has achieved results here, he told me, with fruit trees and vines that were not possible where he lived in Victoria. Last season Mr. McCaig had 1000 acres under wheat, obtaining a good yield. This year, however, they are only putting in 800 acres, but the low prices prevailing have made the owner of Pine Lodge think very seriously of turning his attention to other means of making farming pay, such as vines, etc. Pine Lodge consists of 3500 acres, and Mr. McCaig has also Methul Downs, consisting of about 3000 acres, so that he has a good area to work on. It is at Pine Lodge that the bachelors of the village hold their annual ball, in the woolshed kindly lent to them by Mr. McCaig, which

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<sup>58</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12<sup>th</sup> June 1894, p2.

<sup>59</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21<sup>st</sup> June 1894, p4.

is a fine roomy building, with a splendid floor, and well adapted for the purpose. It is said there have been over 250 persons of both sexes at these gatherings, but, despite all these social festivities, the bachelors here seem to fight shy of converting themselves into benedicts, and as in no place have I seen so many eligible young girls who would make admirable housewives, I think the bachelors here are open to censure. I was twitting one on his selfishness the other day, when he turned on me, " Why," he said, " don't you marry one of them yourself ?" "Ah, well—yes— but—It's a lovely evening. Who do you think will be returned for the next general election?"

At not a great distance from Pine Lodge you come upon " Rocky Hills," the home of another Victorian. Mr. Tonacia and his family reside here, having secured about 2000 acres of first-class country. The house commands a fine aspect on the rise of the hill, and as there is a very nice flower garden and about ten acres of vines, the whole surroundings present a very pretty appearance.

The vines were all in full bearing last year, a great quantity of the grapes being left to rot on them, owing to Mr. Tonacia not being prepared to convert the same into wine, which is his intention next year; and as he has had a good experience of viticulture in Victoria, I am sure that he will meet with success here. I also saw a few acres of the Gordo Blanco variety of grape, so well adapted for raisins, and having tasted some raisins cured by Miss Tonacia, I could not help remarking on their excellence, and as this young lady thoroughly understands the whole process of curing, she will, no doubt, contribute largely to sending this industry ahead here. The Tonacia boys were busy ploughing, and thought they would get nearly 400 acres in this year. Altogether, considering the very short time they have been in this district, the Tonacias have done exceedingly well, and deserve to be commended for their efforts.

A short walk through the scrub from here and Mr. Hewitt's place is reached, that is the new house, for he has two places, but as he was ploughing at the old place I had not time to see him. To judge, however, by a cursory glance at the new house and garden and the other improvements around, and the fact that he possesses about 1500 acres Mr. Hewitt will have a very nice home here in the near future. From here I struck across to Niblett's. Mr. Niblett, who has leased 1100 acres of land, appears to be a young man with plenty of energy, and should get on well on this side, for he hails from Victoria. His two sisters keep house for him, and are now becoming quite inured to seeing the festive kangaroo and wallabies having a point to point steeplechase across the front garden, and occasionally sallying forth in the form of a surprise party into the best parlor. Mr. Niblett intended getting about 300 acres under wheat this year, and has also a fair amount of sheep, so that the two should work well together. I intended visiting Cassidy's and Martin's places, but did not have time. Each one as a special area, and were getting in I heard a fair amount of crop. I, however, came across Mr. Swanson, of Pineleigh, who struck me as being a good practical farmer. He was putting in about 350 acres, and had some 600 cleared, so that he will be able to work and spell the land alternately by putting in 300 acres each year. Last year, considering the season, he had a splendid crop, which I have no doubt will be repeated this year.

Across the stock route, and Mr. Payne's is reached. Tara Park, I think is the name of the place, and having been invited to stay,

I spent a very pleasant time with these hospitable people. Mr. Payne and his sons have 640 acres amongst them, and will have about 200 acres under wheat



this season. Miss Payne has a very pretty flower garden, which she appears to take great care of, and Mr. Payne has also the nucleus of a good orchard. Although I called at Mr. Hare's place, I had not the pleasure of meeting that gentle man at home, but I met him subsequently. A typical Irishman is he, ever ready for a bit of fun, but withal has found time to secure a good quantity of land, about 700 acres of which is cleared for the plough, and a good portion of which will be under cultivation this year. Mr. McKinnon, of Pine Grove, has a selection adjoining Mr. Hare's, which is going under wheat this year. I was not able to call on the latter, having put my visit off till too late, which I regretted for I hear Mr. McKinnon is successfully combining grazing with farming, and has a suitable area for the purpose, namely, 2000 acres. I called, however at Mrs. Chant's or the Chant Bros., for the two places, Maydale and Dullah are practically left in their hands. The boys seem to be going the right way to make farming pay, as, combined with the farming, they have 13½ acres of orchard, mostly vines, however. They have already, with the valuable assistance of the Misses Chant, produced good results from the drying of fruit, and I saw fully fifty large tins of different kinds of fruit which had been dried, and which, I was informed, had been much used out back. The dried apples, especially, I found to be excellent. Examples like these I have mentioned should help to make this very desirable industry thrive. And I must not forget to mention that the Chants are making a good start with poultry raising, having over 200 of the best breeds of fowls, including Leghorns and Wyandottes. If the Government could only be persuaded to build a light line of railway to tap this portion of the district, so that people could get their products to market, there would be a great increase in production of all commodities around here, it would benefit not only themselves, but the country at large.

On the road from Methul to Coolamon is the home of Mr. Chas. Furner, and no article relating to the district would be complete without a reference to him. I spent a couple of days at his place, and discussed the various questions of the day, and land matters in particular, with Mr. Furner. He is a thorough free trader, and unlike a good many of his compeers, who are struggling about, like a cat on hot bricks, is staunch to his principles, and has apparently given the question deep thought. The farmers, as is well known, are nearly all protectionists, yet if a delegate is required to go to a conference or do anything for them in Sydney, Mr. Furner is always selected. He is also of an inventive turn of mind, and does not believe in getting anything done if he can do it himself. I was shown a wool-press which he erected, and it is certainly a model of ingenuity, and in addition, to my great surprise, I found that the homestead, which is a handsome weatherboard structure with a verandah extending all round, was built by Mr. Furner himself, and he now intends adding still further to it, Mr. Furner has been going in mostly for grazing, but has turned his attention to farming of late, and will have a good bit under crop this year, or, at least, the boys will, for they do all the ploughing. I was very much pleased at meeting Mr. Furner and his family, who did all in their power to make my visit a pleasant one. I regretted not being able to pay a visit to a son of Mr. Furner, who I heard has a nice orchard, but I did not have time."

By November 1894, Susan Hatcher was in serious financial trouble. With the authority of a court order, the Sheriff's Office gave notice of intent to auction off a number of her assets, as can be seen

in the following notice.<sup>60</sup> Susan Hatcher continued to conduct the hotel, so the debts must have been settled prior to the sale.

**In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.**  
Sheriff's Office,  
October, 1894.

**M'INTYRE AND ANOTHER  
V.  
HATCHER, SUSAN.**

**ON WEDNESDAY** the seventh day of November, 1894, at 12 o'clock, unless the writ of *fi. i. facias* herein be previously satisfied, the Sheriff will cause to be sold by public auction, at the residence of Susan Hatcher, Hotelkeeper, Methul, near Coolamon.

The Stock-in-trade of an Hotel-keeper  
Household Furniture and Effects

Also,

1 Stripper, 1 Winnower  
1 Double Furrow Plough  
Set of Harrows, 1 Sulky, 1 Buggy  
1 Dray, 1 Roller, 3 Iron Tanks  
Quantity of Harness,  
3 Horses, 6 Head of Cattle, 8 Pigs  
All the right, title, and interest of the defendant, in and to the growing crop of wheat and oats, containing about 250 acres adjoining the said defendant's residence.

Terms Cash.

**CHEQUES NOT TAKEN.**

**JOSEPH H. POWELL,**  
Sheriff's Officer,  
Wagga Wagga.

**MESSRS. HEATH AND MITCHELMORE,**  
Plaintiff's Attorney.  
By **J. R. GARLAND,**  
56 Elizabeth Street,  
Sydney.

Left: The Sheriff's Office notice detailing the assets of Susan Hatcher that were to be sold by public auction.

Susan continued to advertise the Junction Inn, throughout 1894, up until about the 8<sup>th</sup> December, when she ceased to do so.

In January 1895, the license was transferred to William Carabott,<sup>61</sup> who promptly advertising himself as the new licensee of the Junction Inn, at Methul.

**THE JUNCTION INN,  
METHUL.**

Travellers to and from Coolamon and the Merool, will find at the above all the Comfort and Accommodation they can require. Excellent Stabling and Good Paddock. The Table, Wines, Ales, and Spirits, supplied under the management of the undersigned new licensee, will leave nothing to be desired.

**WILLIAM CARABOTT.**

Carabott ran this advertisement throughout 1895, and into 1896. His last advertisement appeared on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1896. By June 1896, Carabott was bankrupt.<sup>62</sup>

On the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1896,<sup>63</sup> Abner Mynott, became the new licensee of the Junction Inn at Methul, and he conducted the hotel for the next five years. He had previously been the licensee of the hotel at Downside and was well known in the district.<sup>64</sup>

Mynott's period of occupation was uneventful. There doesn't appear to have been any problems with the conduct of the hotel, and it is assumed he was a good publican, who involved himself in community activities – sport, cultural and other.

<sup>60</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertisers. 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1894, p3.

<sup>61</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1895, p1326.

<sup>62</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1896, p3904.

<sup>63</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1896, p3474.

<sup>64</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 11<sup>th</sup> April 1896, p4.

In April 1901 the license was renewed by Robert G Rogers.<sup>65</sup>

**Auction Clearance Sale.**

**JUNCTION INN, METHUL.**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD, 1902.**

**BARNES & STINSON** are instructed by  
**Mr. R. G. Rogers,** to sell by auction  
on above date, on the premises at Junction  
Inn, Methul,

the whole of the

**Household Furniture, Effects,  
Cooking Utensils, Etc.,**

in the above hotel, including—

3 Good Double Bedsteads, 9 Single Bed-  
steads, 7 Washstands and Ware,  
6 Dressing Tables, 2 Chests of  
Drawers, 5 Safes, 1 Sideboard, 1  
Cheffonier, 1 Lounge, Front Room  
Table, Sofa, Couch, 6 Mirrors, 5  
Tables, 12 Chairs, Pictures, 1  
Reaper and Binder, 1 Horse Dray,  
13 Pigs, 2 Water Tanks, Large  
Sausage Machine, Wheelbarrow,  
Grindstone, Pully Blocks, Large  
Cooking Stove, Large Lot of Cook-  
ing Utensils, and numerous Sun-  
dries.

—  
Sale at 12 o'clock sharp.

—  
The lot for Positive Sale, as Mr. Rogers  
is leaving the premises immediately.

—  
**LUNCHEON PROVIDED.**

**BARNES & STINSON,**  
Agents.

Roberts saw out the year but did not renew the license in 1902.

In April 1902 he advertised the sale of the furniture and effects of the hotel.

A sale, by public auction was schedule to take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of that month,<sup>66</sup> but on the evening of Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1902, the Junction hotel at Methul was totally destroyed by fire.

A report stated that Rogers was the licensee, and that Mrs Hatcher, of Coolamon, was the owner of the property. The furniture and buildings were insured.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>65</sup> NSW Government Gazette. 1901, p4762.

<sup>66</sup> Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 19<sup>th</sup> April 1902, p5.

<sup>67</sup> Wagga Wagga Express. 24<sup>th</sup> April 1902, p4.