

# Norma Lowan RAGGATT

31-10-1887 to 23-4-1981

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Norma Lowan was the seventh child, sixth daughter of Mary and Bill Raggatt and was born at Carchap, thirteen days after the birth of her cousin Melbourne Charles Gwydir Mott in New South Wales. Her grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

This year's events included the opening of the railway between Adelaide and Melbourne, and in England, Gilbert and Sullivan's opera *Ruddigore* made its debut.

Norma's second name, Lowan is after the County of Lowan, part of which is made up of the parishes of Nurrabiel and Carchap. Lowan is named after the lowan or mallee fowl which is found in southern Australia and was once very common in the district.

Norma attended Carchap State School where she missed the merit certificate by one subject, but obtained a standard certificate at 10 years of age. She assisted at home after leaving school and later helped on district farms. When she was about 16 years of age the family moved to Polkemmet. When they moved to Baillie Street, Horsham, she lived at home and for many years was employed by Mary Tollner, nee Glover, in the sewing room behind her shop near Poon Ming's greengrocery and cafe in Firebrace Street. Mrs Tollner's daughter Anna, now Mrs Fraser of Natimuk, remembers that her mother's shop catered for ladies' clothing, millinery and dressmaking. When Mrs Tollner died in 1925, Anna remembers that among the girls working in the sewing room were Norma Raggatt, Frances Bruggy, Miss Olive Norman and Miss Richards. Frances Bruggy, now Mrs Duncan of Horsham, remembers that all the girls from the sewing room, including Norma, attended a kitchen tea at Tollner's for Miss Muriel Nisbet who was about to marry Edward 'Ted' Omant, about 1924-25. After leaving Mrs. Tollner's shop, Norma did dressmaking at home for years and always made her cousin Jessie McDonald's clothes. Apart from sewing, Norma was interested in tennis and painting in oils. A painting of hers, depicting a farmyard, a pond, fowls and geese, hung in her home and was exhibited at the McDonald family reunion in 1974. She was a staunch member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church congregation.

Norma would not have been able to live alone at her advanced age had it not been for the help of next-door neighbours Nellie and Ken Reynolds. Nellie is a sister of Val McDonald of Noradjuha. For several years Norma was a patient in the frail aged section of Wimmera Base Hospital where she was a great favourite with the nursing staff. She died on April 23, 1981, aged 93 years, and is buried in Horsham cemetery.

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 182 of "History of Ewen & Rachel McDonald & Descendants" by Jill McDonald which was originally published in 1985. It was republished as part of "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" in 1995.
- COLONIALISTS : Christina and Donald McLean and their ten children migrated from Argyllshire to South Australia in 1837. This was in the earliest years of the colony. The McLeans initially settled near Adelaide where they grew the first wheat crop in SA. Then in about 1840 they pioneered the Strathalbyn area. There are now well over 20,000 descendants spread across Australia and elsewhere.
- CHANGES : Please contact us with additions, corrections or suggestions about any part of this family tree.
- CONTACT : Visit our website [www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com) or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.