

Charles William Stanley McDONALD 28-11-1892 to 30-11-1968 & **Edith McDONALD, nee FORSYTH**

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Charles William Stanley was the fifth child and second son of Charlie and Ellen McDonald, and was born at Noradjuha. Four first cousins were also born that year: Ivy Mott in New South Wales, and in Victoria. Olive McDonald, Murray Raggatt, and Christina May McDonald. His grandparents were Rachel and Ewen McDonald and great-grandparents were Christina and Donald McLean.

Contemporary events which still affect our lives today were the successful canning of pineapples and the patenting of an internal combustion engine by Rudolf Diesel. In Western Australia gold was found at Coolgardie.

Charlie attended two schools, Lowan South State School which was held in the 24 feet by 12 feet wooden building leased from his father in the early 1890s, and Carchap State School on the Toolondo road about four miles south of his home. He then joined his father on the family farm *Innisvale* which he eventually inherited, becoming the third generation to hold part of the original selections.

An enthusiastic sportsman, he played football with Noradjuha, Nurrabiel and Toolondo, tennis with Nurrabiel and golf at Noradjuha and Nurrabiel. He won his marksman certificate for rifle-shooting with Noradjuha District Rifle Club in 1909, and also shot with the Nurrabiel club.

At St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Horsham, on January 27, 1915, Charlie was married to Edith Forsyth by the Reverend Thomas Gray. Their attendants were William Joseph McDonald, cousin of the groom, and Ivy McDonald, sister of the groom. Edith was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Ann Forsyth, nee McCrae, farmers of the Noradjuha district. She was born at Noradjuha on October 3, 1889 and according to the register of St Andrew's was baptised according to the rites of the Presbyterian church by the Reverend Thomas Gray on November 24, 1889, at Natimuk. Edie was the sister of David Forsyth who married Annie McDonald in 1912. Annie was the daughter of D. W. McDonald and first cousin to Charlie. The descendants of these two families, one in Western Australia, have always felt a special kinship with each other. To attend school Edie walked five miles from her home near the Darragan Creek to the Noradjuha State School No. 1930. Among other subjects she learned shorthand and dressmaking. Charlie and Edie had three daughters and one son. The whole family was active in district sporting organisations.

In 1945, Charlie helped form the present Noradjuha Football Club, was president from 1953 to 1955, and was honoured with life membership. He excelled at duck, quail and trap shooting. While still under 20 years he won a Victorian championship sheep dog trial, but gave up this interest for many years until after World War Two. Subsequently he won many trials, both Victorian and interstate, and in 1952 came second in the national championships at Canberra, only one point behind the winner, with his dog Judy. He became a well-known trials judge and officiated at Canberra one year. A sheep-release for dog trials, invented by him, is still used. Having instigated the North Wonwondah Sheep Dog Trials, he was secretary for many years and later made a life member of the club. He was also at one time a member of the Victorian Sheep Dog Trials Council.

Edie played tennis with Nurrabiel and Noradjuha clubs and won many tournaments with her daughters Ena and Edith. She was a golfer with Nurrabiel, Noradjuha, Natimuk and Horsham clubs, and won many trophies. In later years she played bowls in Horsham. During World War Two she was a tireless worker for the Australian Comforts Fund and Red Cross for which she conducted a number of benefit functions including tennis and golf tournaments at *Innisvale*.

After their son Noel married, and built a house adjoining his parents' home, one of Charlie's daily pleasures was to drive his grand-children to school.

Charlie and Edie between them won over 200 trophies during their lifetime. These were featured in a photograph in the *Wimmera Mail-Times* on the occasion of their golden wedding on January 27, 1965. An account of this celebration was published on January 29, 1965.

Among the many telegrams received by Mr. and Mrs C. W. S. McDonald of Nurrabiel for their Golden Wedding on Wednesday was one from the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. J. McEwen.

Another telegram of congratulations was received from Member for Wannan. Mr. Malcolm Fraser.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald celebrated their Golden Wedding with a dinner and social afternoon for forty relatives and friends at the Royal Hotel, Horsham, on Wednesday.

Chairman was Mr. Ian McDonald of Mockinya.

Guests came from Perth, West Australia, Kellerberrin, West Australia, Sale, Mordialloc, Hampton, Birregurra, Timboon, Woorndoo, Mockinya, Lower Norton, Noradjuha and Horsham.

Mr. Cliff Nitschke of Horsham proposed the toast to the bride and groom and their son, Mr. Noel McDonald. responded on behalf of his parents. Floral sprays were presented to Mrs. McDonald and her bridesmaid Mrs. Ivy Norman, and a buttonhole to Mr. McDonald. by Mrs. L. Pagan and Mrs. Noel McDonald.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. McDonald from her fellow members of the Horsham Ladies' Bowling Club.

Mrs. McDonald wore a blue lace frock and jacket with a bone feathered hat, bone gloves, and black shoes and bag.

The large three-tiered cake was made and iced in white by Mrs. Twaddle of Terang.

During the social afternoon, music was played by Mrs. Allan Marsh and a highland dancing exhibition was given by Miss Vivian Pagan of Woorndoo.

One month later, on February 26, 1965, Edie died of a heart attack in Wimmera Base Hospital, Horsham, aged 75 years and was buried in Nurrabiel cemetery. Her obituary appeared in the *Mail-Times* on March 2, 1965.

Charlie, who had suffered from Parkinson's disease for several years, died in Wimmera Base Hospital on November 30, 1968. He was buried with Edie in Nurrabiel cemetery. A headstone marks their grave.

His obituary appeared in the *Mail-Times* on December 2, 1968.

TRIALS FOUNDER IS DEAD

The man who founded North Wonwondah Sheep Dog Trials is dead. Mr. Charles William Stanley McDonald, 78, died at Wimmera Base Hospital on Saturday night.

He had a lifetime of passion for sheep dog trials and was acknowledged as 'the man behind the North Wonwondah trials.' He was secretary of the trials committee for many years. As a judge and trials worker Mr. McDonald appeared at trials in Victoria, NSW, Canberra and SA.

As a young man he was a prominent footballer in Noradjuha, Nurrabiel and Toolondo clubs. He played tennis and was a keen riflshooter. In later years he was Noradjuha Football Club president.

Mr. McDonald was born in the Wimmera the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McDonald. He lived his life on "Innisvale" the Noradjuha property selected by his grandfather. In 1915 he married Edith Forsyth who died a few years ago. They had a son and three daughters, Ena (Mrs Crossley, dec'd), Noel (Noradjuha), Edith (Mrs Pagan, Woorndoo) and Joan (Ballarat).

Children of Charles and Edith

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| 1. Ena McDonald | Born 29-3-1918 | Died 31-5-1945 |
| 2. Noel McDonald | Born 18-6-1919 | Died 9-4-1983 |
| 3. Edith McDonald | Born 28-6-1922 | |
| 4. Joan McDonald | Born 4-3-1925 | |

• SOURCE : This biography was from page 161 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 or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.