

**Music of the Wagga Week Celebrations  
1927-1970**

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## **Executive Summary**

This project was funded by the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society research scholarship.

The scholarship allowed me to explore the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives, researching the collection and looking for sheet music or other artefacts to understand the music history of the area. I was interested in rediscovering lost soundscapes.

I expanded my research to look at original historic music held in the collections of the Museum of the Riverina, the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society, and the Wagga Wagga Regional Library collections. I also investigated the collections held in the National Library of Australia, the Australian National Film and Sound Archive, and the State Library of NSW for items of music related to Wagga.

The research was initially broad in scope including times and genres, but narrowed in focus to particular times that generated original music for Wagga and the surrounding region. Original music was discovered that was specifically written as part of a songwriting competition for celebrations called 'Back to Wagga' Week. These celebrations occurred in 1927 and 1970. Much of this music is either about Wagga, or has Wagga in the title.

This paper discusses how the research was approached, the methodology, and outlines the results of that research with a collation in table format of the music.

This paper may be of interest to any future music researchers, and could be used to assist planning a songwriting competition as part of any future Wagga Week celebrations.

## **Acknowledgements**

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## Introduction

In August 2017 I was recipient of a grant from the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society (WWDHS) to undertake a local history project investigating the collection of the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives (CSURA). The WWDHS and CSURA agreed that a focus on the music of Wagga Wagga in the Riverina region of NSW would be a worthwhile contribution to addressing a gap in available research.

This scholarship allowed use of the resources of the CSURA, bringing the rich potential of the archives into focus, and helping to improve our knowledge of the collection. The archives allowed me to access the original files of sheet music, programs, and broadsheet newspapers. I also conducted internet searches. Some of the sheet music collection has been digitised and is now in Trove at the National Library of Australia (NLA).

Music is a category of information which has often been neglected as a topic for researchers and writers. Music composed in and about regional areas is often overlooked and eventually lost. I identified music as a possibility of a collection to work on as the research would contribute meaningfully to local history knowledge of the area.

In a previous role with the Sydney Living Museums (SLM), I was introduced to the historical and cultural significance of sheet music from Historic Houses Trust properties and the significance of the collections. I was interested in seeing whether there was a similar collection with the WWDHS and CSURA, and in the process learning what I could after advice from archivists, museum staff and reference librarians, with the results a contribution of research information for future users.

Staff in the archive and museum made their collection known to me, providing indexes and guides after performing their work of archivists in appraising, arranging, describing and preserving archives to make them accessible for users.

During the research process I became interested in original music promoted through songwriting competitions for Wagga week celebrations held in 1927, 1938, 1956 and 1970. The topic of this paper is therefore historic sheet music local to Wagga and the surrounding district.

This paper is aimed at other researchers, or readers who are interested in music as a research topic. The purpose is to contribute to the literature on music in the history of Wagga and surrounding areas, and is relevant to current research practice in that it provides an expanded view of information currently available.

## Methodology

Archives always hold elements of our national and local history and memory, forming a connection between the past and the present. Music held in the archives are an unexpected mine of information, touching the lives of local people and providing a perspective on our past. They are also a reflection of the local cultural and artistic activity.

In this research project I focussed on the collection at CSURA of the Charles Sturt University South Campus in Wagga Wagga. The research was a completion of a 280 hour project completed within 12 months of the award. The deliverable of the project is this report, and associated slideshow for a presentation delivered to the Historical Society. These provide a description of regional music records held by CSURA with the aim to advance this aspect of the archival collection and highlighting a different aspect of the local history of the area.

This paper uses the methodology for historical research as described by Grindley (2006).<sup>1</sup> This approach combines individual research on relevant collections, with gaining access and assistance from staff who have oversight of the collections.

The structure of this paper includes the arrangement and description of sheet music currently held in CSURA, as well as several other repositories of the local history of the Riverina area including the MoR, and the Wagga Wagga City Library. I also investigated the collections in Trove at the NLA, the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA), and the State Library of New South Wales (SLNSW).

There have only been four Wagga Week celebrations identified in the collections. To see if there were any further entries I conducted refined searches online both at the SLNSW and the NLA. I spoke with archivists in the NFSA, and visited the Mitchell collection at the SLNSW. I also spoke with the Reference Librarian in the Mitchell Library about how music might be catalogued in the card manuscript catalogue. These collections did not reveal any further sheet music or evidence of other Wagga Week celebrations.

I conducted in-house investigations of collections for sheet music relevant to the topic area, as well as online searching, I spoke with archivists of the collections as well as Reference Librarians in person, over the phone, or via email. I also investigated the newspaper archives of *The Wagga Wagga Express* and *The Daily Advertiser* held in hard copy and microfilm at CSURA, as well as in digitised format in Trove.

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<sup>1</sup> Grindley, Neil. 2006. *Tools and Methods for Historical Research*. London, UK: AHRC ICT Methods Network.

I conducted a number of internet searches, but what is available on the web does not represent the richness of the collection. Some of the collection has been digitised, but digitisation programs are often constrained by costs, and therefore only offer a small fraction of a collection. During my research in Trove I created a list called 'Wagga Music' to provide easier access for future researchers, as well as correcting text related to these findings.

I followed up on sheet music of the 1970 finalists of the 'Back to Wagga' week songwriting competition via phone, and interviewed two finalists – David Kennedy, and Jill Chappelow. I also followed up with the manager of the radio station 2WG (now Triple M) about recorded tapes to see if they were still held in an archive. However, they have very little in the way of archives left due to several location changes over the years.

The format of this report highlights each of the Wagga Week programs, and associated original music. These are structured below by year. All images are identified by collection repository.

# Wagga Week Celebrations 1927

## Wagga in 1927

The 1920s was the decade in which most people in the world were recovering from the First World War (1914 to 1918) in which 25 million people were killed. The Great Depression was about to start with the Wall Street Crash in 1929. The Second World War would begin in the next decade (1939 to 1945).

In Australia in 1927 the country was suffering from years of deflation resulting in high unemployment and associated poverty, with limited opportunities for progress or development. 1927 the Monarch was King George V of England, the Prime Minister was Stanley Bruce (from the Nationalist Party (the predecessor of the current Liberal Party)), with Jack Lang (ALP) as Premier of NSW.

In Wagga the soldiers returning from the war in Europe brought with them the Spanish flu (more than 6,000 people died in NSW alone).<sup>2</sup> At the end of the War, in 1918, the Spanish Flu pandemic killed 50-100 million people worldwide. The State Government introduced the Soldier Settlement Scheme in 1916 to make land available to returning soldiers. Some land around Wagga was designated for settlement by returning soldiers, unfortunately they often lacked farming experience, or were allocated unproductive land with limited access to water. Many walked off the land after years of hardship and backbreaking work. By 1927 however, the town honoured those who served in the war, by establishing the Victory Memorial Gardens by the Wollundry Lagoon.<sup>3</sup>

The Great Depression also had a significant effect on the economic, social and political life of Wagga. Throughout the 1920s the NSW State Government provided an unemployment relief scheme of improving public works such as the road and rail, and telephone links. A new Post and Telegraph office was constructed to house the repeating centre, one of the largest in regional Australia. In 1922, electricity was provided for the town, with hydro-electric power available from Burrinjuck Dam from 1928.<sup>4</sup>

Residential growth continued with a population in 1921 of 11,631<sup>5</sup> mostly on the higher ground to the south of the railway tracks. Those experiencing dire poverty created a 'Tent Town' of tents and huts along the river, but even this area became overcrowded due to limited affordable rental accommodation.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://galleryrecords.nsw.gov.au/index.php/galleries/50-years-at-state-reords-nsw/4-06>

<sup>3</sup> Morris, Sherry (1999). *Wagga Wagga, a history*. Wagga Wagga: Bobby Graham Publishers. pp. 134-140.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 160.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 148.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 169-178.

It was in this national, state, and local context that the Local Government sponsored the first 'Back to Wagga' week. During the 1920s and 1930s there was a real focus on nationalism, and 'a craze in writing songs about places — songs about Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Woolloomooloo'.<sup>7</sup> This craze also affected Wagga with the songwriting competition on Wagga held as part of the celebrations.

### 1927 'Back to Wagga' Week (16-22 October)

The original Official Souvenir of these celebrations is held in the CSURA collection. The foreward by F.S. Middlemiss (the Mayor) states that 'The principal idea of deciding to hold the 'Back to Wagga Week' was to bring together as many of the old identities as possible, and get them back to Wagga to see the wonderful progress the town has made during the past two decades... The old pioneers are gradually thinning in numbers and much valuable early history would soon have been lost for all time.'

The Official Souvenir describes the early history of Wagga, including information on Aboriginal (Wiradjuri) people in the area. A description is given of Wagga town and the surrounding district with photos of past mayors, early settlers of pioneers to the area, and profiles of local businesses and industries including wheat milling, dairying and sheep.

In the Official Souvenir there are four entries related to music:

1. An entry on the *Wagga Eisteddfod - growth of six years*. This half page account relates the inception of a Wagga Eisteddfod as an idea from a casual conversation between two men with no previous history of Eisteddfods, but who were keen enough to push the idea.
2. An ad for the Lyric Music House, located in the School of Arts Building, and touted as the largest music house on the Southern Line. The CSURA holds information on the Lyric Music House which was also the office of the Secretary for the Wagga Eisteddfod.
3. An entry on the Wagga Wagga Brass Band. A half page entry on how it was formed, a brief history, and the names of the committee staff.
4. An ad for Dixieland described as 'Wagga's modern and beautiful open-air dance rendezvous'. Dixieland was a dancefloor sited on the riverbank under some willow trees. The floor was first built in 1923, and extended in 1925 to include a larger dancefloor and seating. Dixieland was run by the Wagga Brass Band who provided voluntary labour, with proceeds from admittance – 6p for adults and 3p

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<sup>7</sup> Thorsten Kaeding, senior sound curator, ABC News, 12 Sep 2017.



for children. This income was provided to the Band as well as other performers, such as the winner of the 1927 'Back to Wagga' songwriting competition.

## Songwriting Competition

The Museum of the Riverina (MoR) holds the originals of the following that were submitted for the 1927 songwriting competition. Digital copies and images are available from Trove.

The song 'Wagga, You're Calling Me Back' by Raimund J. Homann with lyrics by Donald F. Bertram was selected as the winning entry, and was subsequently published by W. H. Paling and Co Sydney.

Other entries into the songwriting competition included: 'To The Dawn' (Raimund J. Homann), 'Down Wagga Way' (Wallace Green and Billy Edwards), and 'Wagga (My Old Home Town)' by Russ Johnston.

Rai Homann was a member of a local musical family who were formerly from Adelong. Rai had an uncle (Ernest Homann who died in 1934) and other family living in Wagga, including an extended family of cousins from Narrandera, Gilmore and Goulburn.<sup>8</sup> He was an accomplished musician, noted for his improvisations, and was also a composer. Mr. Homann's father (EA Homann) was the founder of the Wagga City Concert Band, and the bandmaster, composing for local groups, such as marches for units of the A.I.F.<sup>9</sup>

Rai was resident in Wagga in 1924 where it was reported in the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* that he had written several dance numbers played by the Lyric Orchestra. The music is described as having 'melody, lilt and rhythm to the level of the best imported with a joyful refrain with excellent harmony, and a rhythm that is perfect for dancing'.<sup>10</sup> His compositions attracted many favourable comments in the press.

The winning lyricist in 1927, Donald F. Bertram, worked as a clerk in the Wagga Municipal Council. In 1940 (when he was 41 years old), he was charged on two counts of having stolen money from the Council (a total amount of £676). He pleaded guilty, but was exonerated with extenuating circumstances as he had lived in Wagga for many years and was known and respected in the town. He attributed his lapse to failed betting activities, and was described in the reporting of the case as a returned soldier, with good character who could make restitution.

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<sup>8</sup> *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Monday 20 August 1934, p. 2.

<sup>9</sup> The AIF was the Australian Imperial Force formed in 1914 as a volunteer army for overseas war service many of whom died in Gallipoli.

<sup>10</sup> *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* (NSW: 1896 - 1938), Friday 25 January 1924, page 17. The dance numbers include 'The Lyric One Step', 'Cuddle Up' (fox trot) and 'Palais Girls' one step).

A letter to the Editor demonstrates the support that both Rai and Donald received for their songwriting efforts.

Sir,—I will be thankful if you will kindly allow me to say a word of appreciation of the song, 'Wagga, You're Calling Me Back,' the work of two local young men. The words breathe just the right sentiment and show that the author has captured the spirit which should permeate a song of this character. The music to which these words have been set is in every way worthy of the occasion and Mr. Rai. Homann, the composer, is to be congratulated on the production of something which is certain to 'catch on' with the Wagga folk, especially, and with folks elsewhere as well. Mr. Rai Homann is a native of Wagga, and Mr. D. F. Bertram, the author of the words, is a local resident, which no doubt accounts for the fact that they have caught that elusive 'something' without which no song, dependent on local sentiment for its success, can hope to live. They both deserve well of the people of Wagga and surrounding districts, and it is to be hoped they will receive the reward which their talent and enter-prize so richly deserve. — Yours, etc., R. EMBLEN. Town Hall, Wagga Wagga, October 3, 1927.<sup>11</sup>

Donald Bertram was also the winner of the Wagga Eisteddfod Poem competition, with a theme of the progress of Wagga and the lure it has for those who have wandered to other parts of Australia.<sup>12</sup>

A number of bands were represented at the 'Back to Wagga' week including the Wagga Citizens' Band, the Salvation Army Band, the Wagga Melody Masters, and the Wagga Light Opera Society. The music program for the week was varied with Dixieland advertising dance events, Tichborne's Bridesmaid (Tuesday 18 October), Dixieland, (Wednesday 19 October), the Dances (Thursday 20 October), and other Musical Entertainment (Friday 21 October).<sup>13</sup>

The finale of the celebrations of the 'Back to Wagga' week was the Saturday night confetti battle on the carnival area which was the Memorial Gardens on the bank of the Wollundry Lagoon.<sup>14</sup> The local press described the scene as 'for an hour or more confetti was in the air like particolored snowflakes in a heavy storm. Girls screamed as whole packets of the tiny particles were showered on them and young men roared with laughter as in retaliation the girls dashed confetti in their faces and crammed handfuls down their collars. Every couple, and there were many, looked as though they had just arrived from a wedding. What discomfort may have been caused appeared to have been amply compensated for by the general amusement created'.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Tuesday 4 October 1927, p. 4.

<sup>12</sup> *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Saturday 1 October 1927, p. 4.

<sup>13</sup> *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Saturday 15 October 1927, p. 2.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Monday 24 October 1927, p. 2.

## Wagga Week Celebrations 1938

### Wagga in 1938

This year was just before the outbreak of the Second World War (1939 to 1945). Adolf Hitler, was named 'Man of the Year' by Time magazine in 1938, but was labelled the 'greatest threatening force that the democratic, freedom-loving world faces today'.<sup>16</sup>

The III British Empire Games were held in Sydney in February, to coincide with Sydney's sesquicentenary (150 years) of British settlement in Australia. The Monarch was King George VI of England (1936-1952), the Prime Minister was Joseph Lyons from the United Australia Party (Liberal), and Bertram Stevens also from the United Australia Party was Premier of NSW.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s the international collapse of demand for sheep and wool severely affected those in rural areas, with many in Wagga experiencing hardship. Local residents planted gardens to produce fruit and vegetables and bartered to share what was available. Soup kitchens were set up to feed the starving and destitute. There was increased movement of people to and from Wagga and other country areas in search of work. Suicide rates increased dramatically, particularly with the widespread unemployment of soldiers returning from war who were often still suffering the trauma of their wartime experiences.

In Wagga a water supply filtration plant was installed, and the sunken garden was built to commemorate Australia's 150th anniversary. The garden features plaques, stonework seats, and a sundial established to commemorate 'The Pioneers'. It was officially opened on 9 October 1938 in the middle of the Wagga week celebrations.

### 1938 'Back to Wagga' Week (5-15 October)

To celebrate Australia's 150th anniversary Wagga held a week of celebrations. Unfortunately, this time there was no songwriting competition. The Mayor was H.E. Gissing, and was not as enthusiastic about music as his predecessor. However, a large amount of music was still played during these celebrations, including the various local bands.

The CSURA holds an original booklet from these celebrations – the Official Programme which gives an overview of Wagga. At the time Wagga had a population of 13,000, the municipality covered an area of 4,091 acres, and describes itself as the largest, and most progressive business centre, of the southern districts.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/hitler-time-magazine-1938/>

Another original booklet the CSURA holds from these celebrations is a programme of a concert held for Australia's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration on Tuesday 11 October at the Wonderland Theatre.

The Concert was listed as a Special Vice-Regal Concert with The Lord Wakehurst in attendance. Music in the programme catered for the local choirs. Included in this was a Verse Speaking Choir featuring a number called 'They March Again' by Donald Bertram who was the lyricist for the 1927 winning entry in the songwriting competition. Others on the playlist included the Wagga Male Choir, and the Wagga Military Band. Perhaps the most curious on the Programme is Miss Winnie Sharp performing an operatic toe dance. The evening finished with a rendition of God Save the King.

## Wagga Week Celebrations 1956

### Wagga in 1956

In 1956 the monarch was Queen Elizabeth II of England, the Prime Minister was Robert Menzies (Liberal Party), and the State Premier was Joseph Cahill (ALP). On 16 September Australia's first TV station TCN-9 began regular transmission from Sydney, and the Olympics were coming to Melbourne (from 22 November).

Locally the Murray River flooded (the biggest flood in recorded history), affecting many towns near the river. Major flooding also occurred in Wagga Wagga after which the City Council protected the city area on the south flood plain through the construction of a levee. The levee was completed by 1962 and provided protection from 1 in 100-year floods. North Wagga was excluded from protection.

The Army camp at Kapooka was reopened as a recruit training centre from 1951.

### 1956 'Back to Wagga' Week (21-28 April)

These celebrations were held as a fundraiser for the Wagga Wagga War Memorial City Hall.<sup>17</sup> The *Daily Advertiser* records that a total of £2,321 was made from the 'Back to Wagga' week.<sup>18</sup>

A 'Back to Wagga' Week Programme was produced and holds two music entries. There are a number of entries in the *Daily Advertiser* advertising the 'Back to Wagga' activities, such as the concert on Friday 27 April<sup>19</sup>, and the 'Back to Wagga' carnival at the Wonderland Theatre.<sup>20</sup> Unfortunately the weather was not the best as it was unusually cold autumn.<sup>21</sup>

The two music entries in this programme are:

1. Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April

8.45pm Band Concert

Location: Memorial Gardens.

Charges: Nil.

Organised by: Wagga City Band with other local and service bands assisting.

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<sup>17</sup> Wagga Wagga War Memorial City Hall Fund 1956, 'Back to Wagga' week, 21st to 28th April, 1956: souvenir booklet & programme, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.

<sup>18</sup> Daily Advertiser, Monday April 30, 1956.

<sup>19</sup> Daily Advertiser, Saturday April 21, 1956, p. 2.

<sup>20</sup> Daily Advertiser, Saturday April 28, 1956.

<sup>21</sup> Daily Advertiser, Monday April 22, 1956, p.1.

2. Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> April:

8.00 pm Grand Concert

Location: Wonderland Theatre

Charges: 5/- booked; 4/- unbooked; 2/6 children

Organised by: Wagga Eisteddfod Society.

This is no known songwriting competition for these celebrations. Similarly, there was no original music found about Wagga, or with Wagga in the title, during this period.

## Wagga Week Celebrations 1970

### Wagga in 1970

In 1970 the Prime Minister was John Gorton (Liberal Party), and the Premier was Robert Askin (Liberal Party). Australia was involved in the Vietnam War (1955-1975). Australia's involvement was from 1962 to 1972 when the Whitlam Labor Government was elected and released all protesters who had been imprisoned.<sup>22</sup> Australia then began to finalise the withdrawal of its forces from Vietnam.

The 1970s was also a decade of music making. This was a period of music that saw all genres of music being played (including rock and roll and country and western), and a number of bands were playing successfully in Wagga and the surrounding district.<sup>23</sup>

### 1970 Centenary Festival and 'Back to Wagga' Week (14-22 March)

The 1970 celebrations were held as a combined Centenary Festival and 'Back to Wagga' Week.

As part of the Centenary celebrations the Mayor and Mayoress of Leavenworth, Kansas arrived as representatives of the sister city to Wagga. The Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler, officially opened the Wagga Centenary Celebrations. After that a ceremony was held to launch the officially commissioned book, *The History of Wagga*, by local historian and lecturer, Keith Swan, presenting autographed copies of the book at the City Council Chambers.<sup>24</sup>

The song 'Wagga, You're calling me back' which was the winning entry in the 1927 songwriting competition (by Rai Homann and Donald Bertram) was selected as the Centenary theme song for the 1970 festival. The Town Clerk, W.R Ellis created a file on the 'Back to Wagga' week activities, and the MoR holds his file with the following entries related to the theme song:

- Letter from W.R.Ellis, Town Clerk, 5 November 1969 to W.C. Kevin Klein, Bandmaster Kapooka re brass band arrangement of 'Wagga, You're Calling me Back'.
- Entry to *Daily Advertiser*, Monday 27/10/69 on 'First Public Airing of Centenary Song' at Wagga Leagues Club Auditorium by Col. Forrell's Band.
- Another entry '20's tune as Wagga song' in the *Daily Advertiser*, Thursday 11 September 1969.

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<sup>22</sup> Ham, Paul (2007). *Vietnam: The Australian War*. Sydney: Harper Collins, p.525.

<sup>23</sup> David Kennedy listed nine bands in Wagga who were playing at that time. Refer to Appendix E for a full list.

<sup>24</sup> *Daily Advertiser*, Mon, March 16, 1970, p. 1.

- Copyright of the song relinquished to the Council 1969.

A copy of the words of the theme song 'Wagga, You're calling me back' was provided on the last page of the Official Programme.

Other entries on music in the Programme include a folk music concert organised by School of Arts Folk Music Club (Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1970); a Scottish concert (Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1970); and lunch hour concerts during the week.

The celebrations also included a beard growing competition held by the Wagga Whiskers Club at the Warriors Bar in the Royal Hotel. Members were encouraged to show their whiskery jowls at the 'Back to Wagga' Garden Party. The group was formed six months prior to the event to encourage those in the competition with slow growing whiskers not to shave them off.<sup>25</sup>

### Songwriting Competition

The Town Clerk, W.R Ellis was instrumental in organising the songwriting competition for the celebrations.

In May 1969, the Council published a request in *The Advertiser* for a songwriting competition for the Centenary Festival.<sup>26</sup> The songwriting was to reflect on the 'foundations, growth and development' of Wagga as the theme, with a prize of \$100 for the most successful entrant. The winning entry to be selected by a Panel of Judges announced during the Festival. Unfortunately there is no entry in the programme as to when entries would be announced or played.<sup>27</sup>

The Competition was very successful with 26 entries received, shortlisted to five which were considered outstanding. These were:

1. 'I know Wagga Wagga' by Barry Griffiths and the winning entry.
2. 'Christmas in Wagga Wagga' by David Kennedy of Beauty Point Avenue, Wagga (a Christmas Carol) said by the judges to have high musical value, beautifully arranged and presented, and worthy of publication.
3. 'Logger Jack' was the entry which the judges commented as a folk song worthy of being considered for publication and recommended it be sent to Reg Lindsay for recording. The words were written by Mrs. Muriel Nye, and the music by Miss M.J. Gow, of Bourke Street, Wagga.
4. 'Oh, Wagga Wagga' by Jill M. Chappelow of Grove Street, Wagga. The judges commended that this anthem song is suitable for schools for piano and voice.

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<sup>25</sup> Beardoes Last Days', *The Daily Advertiser*, Sat, March 14, 1970, p. 8.

<sup>26</sup> Letter to the Council from Mrs W. Menneke (25-5-1969).

<sup>27</sup> Centenary Festival and 'Back to Wagga' Week March 14-22, 1970, pp.12-13.



5. 'Forward in Faith' composed by Mrs. E.F. Brennan of Fitzhardinge Street, Wagga, lyrics by Mr. D. Bertram of Crampton Street, Wagga. This song was described by the judges as being a lyrically beautiful anthem. 'It is a fine ballad and could be an anthem of the city. It has good spirit, musical merit, and its lyrics express thought'.<sup>28</sup>

Barry Griffiths of Lusher Avenue, Wagga had the winning entry 'I Know Wagga Wagga' and won the prize money of \$100 a significant amount of money at the time.<sup>29</sup> The award was presented on 30 April 1970 at the City Council Chambers by the Mayor RJ Harris.

The judging panel were 'pleasantly surprised and delighted with the musical talent available in the community'.<sup>30</sup> Members of the Judging Panel were:

- Miss Lorraine Winter (professional musician songwriter, Manager Palings Music Store), the convenor of the Judging Panel
- Mrs Phoebe Price (Art of speech, music and singing teacher)
- Mr Art Wheeler (professional musician, songwriter), from *The Daily Advertiser*
- Mr D.F. Jefferson (professional musician, well known Hammond organist in Albury and surrounding district).

The judging panel decided this song was most deserving of the prize money due to it being 'indicative of the present day and age as a popular song'.<sup>31</sup> The judges, all professional musicians or music teachers, recommended the song as being most worthy of publication, and that in the hands of the right publisher it would have undoubted high sale value.

There is currently no known copy of this song, and all entries remain unpublished, with no public performances recorded. However, *The Daily Advertiser* published the first verse of the winning song written for singing to a moderate pop beat:

I know a place inland from the sea,  
Just right for you, just right for me.  
The living is grand,  
Just the best in the land,  
I know Wagga Wagga.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Letter from Lorraine Winter to WR Ellis, the Town Clerk, March 16, 1970

<sup>29</sup> The minimum average wage for a male was \$51, and for a female \$37 per week (<https://www.fwc.gov.au/waltzing-matilda-and-the-sunshine-harvester-factory/historical-material/the-australian-minimum-wage>).

<sup>30</sup> Letter from Lorraine Winter to WR Ellis, the Town Clerk, March 16, 1970.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> *The Daily Advertiser*, Tuesday, March 17, 1970, p. 3.

The judging panel were amazed at the available musical and song writing talent in Wagga, but were concerned that local talent was only revealed during a promotion such as this by a municipal council and not promoters of music and arts. The fact that only one entry could be selected as the winning composition did not mean that the judges would be happy for all the other entries to be allowed to sink into oblivion. 'It is sincerely hoped that this tragedy will not be allowed to happen'.<sup>33</sup>

An entry in *The Daily Advertiser* promoted the song saying that the prize winning entry in the Wagga Centenary Song Writing Competition may be published in Australia and promoted internationally. The managing director of Paling Pty. Ltd., Mr. J.K. Bann said that his company was very interested in publishing the song, 'I Know Wagga Wagga' and congratulated the Wagga City Council for providing song writers with the opportunity of showing their talent demonstrated in the wide variety and high standard of entries received.<sup>34</sup>

The Judging Panel submitted tape recordings of the five shortlisted entries to 2WG (now Triple M) for broadcast purposes. I followed up on recorded tapes of the 1970 finalists of the 'Back to Wagga' week songwriting competition that were sent through to the radio station, and spoke over the phone with the Account Manager of Triple M. There are no longer any recordings due to physical relocations of the radio station, the merger of 2WG (as it was in 1970) to Triple M, and the supposition that the tapes were probably played for a week or two and then disposed of. They have very little in the way of archives left.

Other music for the 1970 celebrations were submitted in response to request from Council regarding Wagga songs. These include:

- A poem submitted by a member of the public- 'Dear Old Town' by Dame Mary Gilmore.
- Untitled – hand written words and music submitted by Helen Gooden 28 May 1969.
- The first line: 'I'm coming back to Wagga Wagga, to the place where I was born and I belong' (author unknown).

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<sup>33</sup> *The Daily Advertiser*, Tuesday, March 17, 1970, p. 3.

<sup>34</sup> *The Daily Advertiser*, Tuesday, March 24 1970, p. 3.

## Conclusion

Archives are selective. They are a small fraction of the total records created that are then selected for preservation. The reasons for selection vary, some are kept as part of the local records, others document the development of our local and national culture.

The main source of information for the 1970 'Back to Wagga' week is from a file by the then Town Clerk of the local government who saved the file in his personal records at home, and which was then secured by the MoR. The file is made up of carbon copies of correspondence on the 1970 songwriting competition, and offers a fascinating insight into the amount of work required to hold the competition.

Other records are held by the CSURA, particularly original copies of newspapers held in their collection. They also hold a wealth of other information in files, books, manuscripts, photographs, and ephemera.

We value archives to give us a better understanding of our community and activities which supports a diverse record of our past. Research into historical music can help foster a different sense of our community, and strengthen pride in that community, based on a shared and documented history.

Archives always hold elements of our national and local history and memory, forming a connection between the past and the present. Archives record the experiences of past events, informing our present. Music in the archives can help us learn more about who we are and where we come from. Music can help us locate ourselves in time, place and community, and engage our interest in history. Music can involve people at all stages of life, and the archives provide this opportunity for our engagement.

The 'Back to Wagga' week celebrations helped to market the community locally, intrastate and interstate, and to promote tourism using the knowledge of the community's history and strengths. Music, and music making as demonstrated by the songwriting competitions, engaged family, friends, and community, defining the community's identity and providing reassurance of continued memory.

Music is part of our collective memory bank, and reflects the diversity of local lives and stories. Music held in the archives are a mine of information providing a creative perspective on our past, and reflecting our cultural and artistic activity.

## Appendix A: List of Original Sheet Music

This section outlines the sheet music referred to in this report either on the theme of Wagga Wagga, or by a Wagga composer or lyricist. Copies are held in the NLA unless otherwise indicated.

Work	Date	Composer	Publisher	Description
The Lyric One-Step	c1920s	Raimund J. Homann	The Lyric Music House	Music for piano. Two page piece of music printed on a single folded sheet. The title is printed in colour (orange, blue, navy and white) at the top of the front cover on an art-deco inspired backdrop.
Wagga You're Calling me Back	c1927	Raimund J. Homann Lyrics by Donald F. Bertram	Wagga?	Song with piano. Performed more recently by the Von Tighe Family Singers on 14 April 2014.  YouTube - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mgo737R9o3w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mgo737R9o3w</a>
Wagga (My Old Home Town)	c1927	Russ Johnston	D. Davis & Co. Ltd., Queen Victoria Bdgs, Sydney.	Prize Winning Song to 'Back to Wagga' Week Competition, and selected as the Centenary theme song for the 1970 celebrations.
Down Wagga Way	c1923	Wallace Green & Billy Edwards	Melbourne : Allan & Co.	Featured with great success by the Two Vagabonds. A real Australian fox-trot. Arranged for dance orchestra. Includes words.  Referenced in NLA Bib ID 1998342. Smith's Weekly (Sydney, NSW: 1919-1950) / Sat 26 Jan 1924 / p.12 / Australian Songs. Reference to Harry Musgrave and 'Down Wagga Way'.
To The Dawn	c.1927	Rai. J Homann	Sydney WH Paling	Piano and violin.

<b>Work</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Composer</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Description</b>
Untitled	1969	Helen Gooden	Unpublished	Hand written words and music submitted by Helen Gooden 28 May 1969. The first line: 'I'm coming back to Wagga Wagga, to the place where I was born and I belong'. Held in the MoR collection.
I Know Wagga Wagga	c 1970	Barry Griffiths	Unpublished	The winning entry. No copy found. Reference in the MoR collection.
Christmas in Wagga Wagga	c 1970	David Kennedy	Unpublished	No copy found. Reference in the MoR collection.
Logger Jack	c 1970	M.J. Gow Lyrics by M. Nye	Unpublished	No copy found. Reference in the MoR collection.
Oh, Wagga Wagga	c 1970	Jill M. Chappelow	Unpublished	No copy found. Reference in the MoR collection.
Forward in Faith	c 1970	E.F. Brennan Lyrics by D. Bertram	Unpublished	No copy found. Reference in the MoR collection.

## Appendix B: Music Accession List from CSURA

An accession list is a chronological record of an acquisition. The accession numbers used by CSURA are alpha-numeric. The numbering system is in addition to the classification number, and to the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) assigned by publishers.

As the CSURA holds a range of items, a simpler numbering system is incorporated within a newer system. Many of the objects are unique and the original number is retained as it will have been used in old references that are still used. In particular, collections of manuscripts use the prefix 'MS', and many manuscripts are known by their old MS numbers, often incorporating a prefix for a particular collection.

My research into historic music was initially broad in scope including times and genres, looking for sheet music or other artefacts to understand the music history of the area.

I began by looking at any historic music held in the CSURA collection. This accession list documents initial findings, and may be of use to any future research providing the name of the organisation or agency, the reference number, and the box identifier for location in the archives.

Agency	Ref	Box
21 <sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment (Riverina Horse) (1923-1987) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sheet Music: "The Riverina Horse" Regimental March Song of the 21st LH Regiment</i></li> </ul>	RW1121	<i>Box 1, Item 4, n.d. B</i>
Anglican Diocese of the Riverina (1886-2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sheet music (hymns, etc)</i></li> </ul>	RW3157	<i>Box 9, Item 88, 1898 – 1951, B</i>
Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta (1860-2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Xerox Copies of Sheet Music</i></li> <li>• <i>Music Book</i></li> <li>• <i>Music</i></li> <li>• <i>Music Book - "Music for a Country Parish" [Rosemary Webber]</i></li> </ul>	RW2948	<i>Box 67, Item 827, 1996, B</i> <i>Box 80, Item 999, 2000, B</i> <i>Box 155, Item 2228, 1985, B</i> <i>Box 158, Item 2269, 1998-2003, B</i>
Australian National Choral Championship, Wagga (1990-2000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No sheet music identified</i></li> </ul>	RW2052	Listed
Cantilena Singers (1977-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sheet Music: "The Snow"</i></li> </ul>	RW1595	<i>Box 1, Item 14, n.d., B</i>

Agency	Ref	Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Cantilena Singers: Catalogue of Sheet Music</i></li> </ul>		<i>Box 1, Item 17, Mar 1986, B</i>
	RW2611	Listed
City of Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod Society (1921-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified</i></li> </ul>	RW625	Listed
	RW1329	Scrapbook
	RW2835	Programme 1946
Country Women's Association, Oura Branch (1989-2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Music (includes skits) [copies]</i></li> </ul>	RW3011	<i>Box 2, Item 26, n.d., B</i>
Dixieland Dance Hall (1921-c.1939) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified</i></li> </ul>	RW1143	Listed
Dr Roland Bannister Director of the Riverina Conservatorium of Music (1970-2000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are musical programs</i></li> </ul>	RW2403	Listed
Freemasonry Collection (1846-2001) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there is a Masonic Music Book. Music for Masonic Ceremonies also Toasts for the South. Arranged and Compiled by Wor Bro AF Hart, PGO. MMusic cards also found</i></li> </ul>	RW2463	<i>Box 45, Item 665, 1924, B</i>
Girl Guides Association (NSW), Riverina Region (1921-1999) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A range of song sheets and music books</i></li> </ul>	RW2028	<i>Box 35, Items 687-695, 1935-1967, B</i>
The Holmes Family – performance programmes (1943-1989) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are programmes of recitals, musicales, festivals and concerts for local and interstate musical and theatre groups</i></li> </ul>	RW2951	Listed
Judith Boadle, Wagga Wagga academic and weaver (1957-2007) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Scrap Book: Sheet Music</i></li> </ul>	RW3164	<i>Box 3, Item 11, n.d. OO</i>
June Dunn (1958-2008) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are programmes for local musical and theatre groups</i></li> </ul>	RW2727	Listed

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Box</b>
E & P Killen, Wokolena, Wagga Wagga (1900-2002) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are: Music Books x4:Untitled - cover missing World Famous Irish Song The Shanty Book - Part 1. Sailor Shanties The Shanty Book - Part 2. Sailor Shanties</i></li> </ul>	RW2436	<i>Box 35, Item 427, n.d. 1921; 1926, B</i>
Linden Harding (1974-2001) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are programmes for local musical and theatre groups</i></li> </ul>	RW3044	<i>Box 2, Items 11-54, 1974-1990</i>
Lockett Family, Ganmain General Store (1897-1964) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are a number of music certificates</i></li> </ul>	RW2750	<i>Boxes 29-30, Items 29-30, 1897-1921, OO</i>
Muriel Cameron Johnston family papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Sheet Music:"How Great Thou Art" No.25 Austin Music Book - "Sacred Songs". Second Series</i></li> </ul>	RW2899	<i>Box 13, Item 178, n.d; c1955, B</i>
Reginald W. Sharpless, Jackaroo, Mossgiel Station, (Ivanhoe) and author (1920s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified</i></li> </ul>	RW283	Listed
Riverina Concert Band (formerly Riverina Brass) (1972-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified</i></li> </ul>	RW452	Listed
	RW3137	Listed
Riverina Music Centre, Wagga Wagga and Albury-Wodonga (Riverina Conservatorium of Music) (1981-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are programmes for local musical and theatre groups</i></li> </ul>	RW255	<i>Boxes 34-55</i>
	RW278	Listed
	RW1598	Listed
	RW2480	Listed
	RW2873	Posters
	RW3260	Admin; Scrapbook
	RW3280	2AAA audio
Riverina Summer School for Strings (1989-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; financial records only.</i></li> </ul>	RW3262	Unlisted
Riverina Trio (1981-1986)	RW888	Listed



Agency	Ref	Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified.</i></li> </ul>		
South Wagga Public School Centenary (1882-1993) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Music Book: "Higgledy Piggledy" - Twelve Songs for Small Children</i></li> </ul>	RW1525	<i>Box 3, Item 43, 1931, B</i>
Stewart Family Papers, Bygoo Station Ardlethan (1881-1944) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Bundles of a variety of sheet music from the turn of last century</i></li> </ul>	RW1763	<i>Box 2, Items 34-38, 1880-1917</i>
Wagga Wagga Pro Musica (1979?-2005) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified.</i></li> </ul>	RW2157	Listed
	RW2455	Listed
	RW2725	Listed
Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society c.1930s-1950s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there are programmes for local musical and theatre groups</i></li> </ul>	RW5	Listed
Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society collection Keith Swan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Music Book: "Orange Songs"</i></li> </ul>	RW2893	<i>Box 5, Item 156, n.d., B</i>
Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society collection Wagga Wagga Choral Society c.1929 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified.</i></li> </ul>	RW5	Listed
Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society collection Wagga Wagga Musical Society c.1930s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified.</i></li> </ul>	RW5	Listed
Wagga Wagga Light Opera Society (Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society collection) c.1930s	RW5	Listed
Wagga Wagga Caledonian Society (1969-1975) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Collection of Sheet Music</i></li> </ul>	RW1745	<i>Box 1, Item 4, n.d., B</i>
Wagga Wagga School of Arts Community Theatre (1859-present)	RW3170	<i>Box 25-26, Items 199-209, 1945-2011, HV, B</i>

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Box</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there is information on the Music Club activities, and programmes for music and theatre events</i></li> </ul>		
Wagga Wagga Teachers' College (WWTC) (1947-1972) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>College Song Book; Song Sheet; Festival of Music Programme; Revue Programme</i></li> </ul>	SA1	<i>Box 18, Item 170, n.d., 1962-1963</i>
Wagga Wagga Youth Choir (1998-2006) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; admin; finance; and newsletters only</i></li> </ul>	RW3261	Unlisted
Wollundry Singers Inc (1977-2007) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No sheet music identified; however there is a music catalogue and song book</i></li> </ul>	RW2525	<i>Box 2, Items 14-15, B</i>
	RW2603	Listed

## Appendix C: Future Research

Other music categories that could be researched by future recipients of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society Grant include the following:

- Music programmes from interstate, intrastate, and local theatre and music groups
- Performance spaces including halls, such as community hall, the School of Arts, the Lyric Music House, and Dixieland
- Music from a particular period
- Famous artists such as Joan Sutherland who performed at the School of Arts on 17 September 1947, the Fifth Recital, and on 15 June 1949, the First Musicale 1949
- Other famous artists that have a connection to the area, such as Dame Mary Gilmore who was a teacher in Wagga
- Local musical groups including the Riverina Trio, Cantilena Singers, Wollundry Singers, and the Wagga Eisteddfod.

I conducted further online catalogue searches and found the following entry:

- NLA wish list:
  - Butcher-baronet, or, The Wagga Wagga mystery: a new and original musical burletta in three acts / by Frank Hutchinson (Wagga Wagga, NSW: Advertiser Printing Office, 1871).

The NLA has an entry for this as an item on their wish list – they do not have a copy and would like one.

## Appendix D: Wagga Bands 1970

This list was supplied by David Kennedy, a finalist in the 1970 songwriting competition.<sup>35</sup> He also provided an overview of his involvement in music at this time, as well as an overview of some of the bands he was involved with. This short musical biography is provided separately and is available from CSURA.

<b>Bands</b>	<b>Personnel</b>
Mayberry Park	Tom Loonie, John Curran
Scattered Aces	Vic Pitratis, John Rosengren, Robert Judd, Stan Wright, Peter Forrell
Riverina R.Js	Don Tuckwell, Don Crow
Riverina Jazz Band (to 1973)	John Ansell, Kevin McArthur, Neville Smith, Shirley Ansell, Pat O'Halloran, Mike McCall
The Statesmen	Trevor Garth, Daryl Forbes-Taber
Col Forrell's group	Ran occasional big bands at the Leagues Club, and had a small group the included Pat Geaghan
The Dominie Singers	Max Walker, Rod Morgan-Thomas, Pam Toohey, Rhana Glastonbury, Max Graham, John McGrath, Henry Ratnik, Marion Ratnik, Ronne Wildman, Ruth Kennedy, Leonie Collins, Erwyn Morgan-Thomas and David Kennedy
Legato	John Rosengren (Keyboard), David Kennedy (Reeds and synthesizer and drums), Heather Wall (Vocals), Doug Emery (Bass), Neville Smith (Vocals & Sax)
Townsmen	Kevin McArthur, Peter Brown, Pat O'Halloran

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<sup>35</sup> List sent via email 10 April 2018.

## Appendix E: Reading List

Ellis, W.R. 1970. Correspondence. File held in the Museum of the Riverina collection.

Grindley, Neil. 2006. *Tools and Methods for Historical Research*. London, UK: AHRC ICT Methods Network.

Samsel, Laurie J. 2012. *Music Research: A Handbook*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

The University of Chicago. 2017. *Chicago Manual of Style Online*.

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html> (often used for writing about music)

Travers, Penny. 1917. *Canberra Is Calling To You: Is Jack Lumsdaine's 1938 song still the capital's unofficial anthem?* <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-12/canberra-is-calling-to-you-still-the-capitals-song/8895174>

### Recordings

- 'Wagga, You're Calling me Back'. Song with piano. Performed by the Von Tighe Family Singers on 14 April 2014 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mgo737R9o3w>
- 'Canberra is Calling to You' soundtrack provided by the NFSA - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJfXiKfFePU>
- 'Canberra is Calling to You'. Ukelele Republic of Canberra (UROC) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIYm1mV8gY8>
- 'Christmas in Wagga Wagga' by David Kennedy available from CSURA as an mp3 file.

### Images

Images associated with this paper, of sheet music, programs, and items from broadsheet newspapers, are from the NLA online collection, with scans from hardcopies located in the CSURA collection and the Museum of the Riverina (MoR). These are available as the associated slideshow to this paper from CSURA as a PowerPoint file.