



Gurwood Street in the 1960s, looking south-west from the roof of Romano's Hotel in Fitzmaurice Street (Lennon Collection, RW1574).
INSERT: Some well-remembered businesses and offices in Gurwood Street from the 1960s not named in our article included Minny's Motor Garage, the Southern Riverina County Council, the Capitol Theatre, Fulham Gardens, Edmonson's, Rockmans, and J.J. Spliers. Romano's can be seen at the very end of the street (Lennon Collection, RW1574).

What you need to know

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It's business as usual in 1939



at the archives
Wayne Doubleclay

his is the third article in our series on Wagga businesses from the "Who's Who in Wagga Wagga" list, compiled by SP Madden and staff of *The Daily Advertiser*. As mentioned previously, the purpose of this list was to advertise those businesses deserving of patronage during World War II, as part of the government's "Business as Usual" campaign, which was supported by Prime Minister Robert Menzies in his appeal on September 5, 1939.

■ **Blake's Busy Book Bazaar – JC Waterston, principal**

THIS establishment was one of the oldest newsagencies in Wagga and was founded circa 1915 in Baylis Street. As well as all the daily newspapers, magazines and books, there was stationery, office supplies and writing material to choose from. Blake's Book Bazaar also stocked crockery and glassware, with children being catered for with model aeroplanes, trains and Meccano sets. Friendliness was the main atmosphere enabling readers to browse.

■ **HC Buckman – Master builder**
AFTER having extensive experience in Sydney

and many larger centres, Mr HC Buckman started building in Wagga circa 1923. His son, Harold, assisted in the administrative side of the business and their office was in Capitol Buildings, Gurwood Street. Mr Buckman employed skilled tradesmen and had modern ideas of planning and construction. Society demanded revolutionary designs in housing and, with his knowledge and expertise together with the modern facilities, he was able to assist his customers with their property investment.

■ **Commercial Service Station**

MR HOPE OXLEY, great grandson of the famous explorer, was the principal of this service station in Sturt Street. He established the business circa 1928 and specialised in all the needs of motorists. As well as petrol sales, he supplied an up-to-date service to his clients by offering motor trimming, mechanical repairs and electrical work. Stock included all reliable spare parts and accessories for cars and trucks to ensure complete satisfaction at a reasonable cost.

■ **EW Cook – Beauty salon**

THE latest styles in hairdressing and permanent waving was available here. Mr Cook was a noted hair stylist and started the Glamis Court Salon in Gurwood Street in 1939 after 14 years of experience in assisting "maids and matrons" in the latest methods of hair care to prevent dullness. He advised on all types of waving methods from overseas, shampooing, resetting and scalp treatment; satisfaction was always assured.

■ **JA Harrison – Estate agent, valuer and auctioneer**
MR HARRISON established his land agency circa

1922 and being a Fellow of the Commonwealth Institute of Valuers, his clients were assured of "unbroken policy of straightforward dealing". Returning from World War I, he became a resident of Wagga in 1918; he was an elected alderman and he had a reputation for honesty and integrity in arranging finance and insurance for town or country properties.

■ **J & RA Speirs – Optometrists**

THE founder of this practice was Mr J Spliers and was joined by RA Speirs after Optic House was completed in June 1936. Mr J Melville then entered the practice and each of three optometrists had their own consulting rooms, which had the latest equipment necessary to provide expert diagnosis to correct human sight. Since the early 1900s, advancement in optometry had been revolutionary and the professionals in this practice had the policy of keeping abreast of new technology.

■ **Wright's Fish Saloon – Fish supply and modern cafe**

THIS modern Gurwood Street fish cafe had upstairs seating for 100 people. Wright's had catered for residents who enjoyed late suppers, luncheons and meals since circa 1925. As the menu was for everyone's budget, housewives found it convenient to take home Wright's freshly cooked fish and chips; alternatively, fresh seafood was also available. Mr Jack Wright was a physical culture instructor to the Air Force at Forest Hill and the NSW Police Force, as well as being an expert in the art of ju-jitsu.

■ **References:** *The Sydney Morning Herald*, September 8, 1939; *The Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga), March 24, 1941.
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