Along Fitzmaurice

be first article in this current series recognised
some of the Baylis Street businesses which were in
The Daily Advertiser’s list of “Who’s Who in
Wagga Wagga” deserving of praise during World
War II.

The list was part of the
government’s campaign “Business as
Usual” and was supported by the Prime Minister
Robert Menzies in his appeal on September 5,
1939.

Some of the Fitzmaurice Street businesses on
the same list included the following:

— Anstace and Mackay’s, Store for Men,
Mercy and clothing, boots and tailoring.

Noted for its hats.

In 1913, when Mr WW Anstace and Mr J Mackay
returned from World War I, they opened their “b"
business to supply the Wagga community with
the latest styles giving detail to customer service.

In 1922, a branch was opened in Sydney and
was managed by Mr Mackay.

Mr Anstace contributed to Wagga’s progress
and was always interested in the welfare of the
town. High standard and quality determined the
prices.

— Bank’s Cycle Store

WJ and RJ Bank principals.

BANC Bankers were cycle specialists
having supplied and serviced cycles from circa
1917.

Their agency at 27 Fitzmaurice Street was
renowned for bicycles and motorcycles. The
optimum of all bicycles in 1941 was Malvern
Star, which was credited with many world
records. Bank’s was in the position to assist all
young enthusiasts, because much of the staff’s
time was devoted to the study of cycles and
cycling. They liked people to remember, “you are
never too old or too young to ride a bike”.

— CD Cooper — Grocer and ironmonger

SITUATED at 156 Fitzmaurice Street, CD Cooper —
Grocer and Ironmonger was established circa
1922.

Instead of cutting his prices for local
housewives, he aimed at providing the highest
quality and his stock included a comprehensive
range of grocery and ironmongery with leading
Australian manufacturers.

A delivery service was made available for the
convenience of his customers.

Mr Cooper served with the AIF in the Great
War and was popularly known as “Digger
Groc”.

He was also an avid supporter of any
movement for the advancement of Wagga.

— The Pastoral Hotel

Leonard Lavery, Proprietor.

THIS Fitzmaurice Street hotel was a family-
owned business, with Mr Lavery assisted by
his wife and three daughters.

The first stock sales in Wagga were held at the
rear of this historical hotel and it became the
meeting place of stock buyers, farmers and horse
racing patrons.

It was claimed that the Pastoral had
more accommodation for horses and motor cars
than any other hotel in Wagga.

The “Welcome” doormat created an inviting
atmosphere.

— Popular Cafe: Psaltis Bros and Co

POPULAR Cafe at 94 Fitzmaurice Street began
business circa 1921, with Mr Spiros Psaltis as
manager. He quickly established a reputation for
friendliness, cleanliness and service, which was
enjoyed by a large clientele.

The cafe was modern and served light
refreshments, grills, fish, oysters, lobsters as well
as three-course meals. There was a milk bar and
confectionery section. Mr Psaltis was a “loyal
member of the community and a highly
respected citizen”.

— Purcell and Berrigan Pty Ltd

Leading footwear specialists

THIS Fitzmaurice Street firm was established by
Mr J Purcell and Mr HL Berrigan in circa 1921,
with the express purpose of providing stylish,
but correct fitting footwear for adults as well to
children.

They also sold suits, school cases, and sole
leather and had a special shoe repairing
department. Many years of specialising taught
them that most foot problems were caused by ill-
fitting shoes. They felt that the best form of
advertising was through their satisfied
customers.

— References:
The Sydney Morning Herald, September 8, 1939.
The Daily Advertiser, March 24, 1941.
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