Reference number: MS 5612

Guide to the Papers of Roger McDonald

National Library of Australia

Canberra
2000

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Date completed:

1990 and last amended January 2000

Encoded by:

Allette Systems

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**Summary**

Creator: McDonald, Roger, 1941-

Title: Papers of Roger McDonald

Date range: 1954-94

Reference number: MS 5612

Extent: 9.38m (67 boxes) + 1 folio

Repository: National Library of Australia Canberra

Location: Manuscript Reading Room

**Scope and Content**

These papers document McDonald's activities as an editor, poet and novelist and his relations with publishers, film producers, the Australian Broadcasting Commission and literary editors.

The bulk of the collection comprises papers relating to most of McDonald's published works, dating from his first publication in 1968 up until 1994. Papers include research material, edited drafts, correspondence with editors and publishers and reviews. They provide a good insight into the development of his published writings.

During the course of his career, McDonald has corresponded with many other writers and included in the papers are letters from Murray Bail, Bruce Beaver, Gary Catalano, Iain Crichton Smith, Bruce Dawe, Geoffrey Dutton, Kevin Gilbert, Jamie Grant, Robert Gray, Gwen Harwood, Shirley Hazzard, Jack Hodgins, David Malouf, James Morgan, Les Murray, Geoff Page, Peter Porter, Judith Rodriguez, Thomas Shapcott, R.A. Simpson, Ray Smith, Mark Strand, Andrew Taylor, Robin Thurston and Judith Wright.

Also included in the collection is research material for a number of McDonald's literary projects, business papers and papers relating to his work as poetry editor for University of Queensland Press from 1969 to 1976. There are also personal papers, photographs and newspaper clippings.
Biographical Note

Roger Hugh McDonald is an author, poet, screenplay writer, literary editor and literary reviewer. Born in Young, New South Wales on 23 June 1941, he married the poet Rhyll McMaster in 1967 and they have three children.

McDonald was educated at Temora and Bourke primary schools and The Scots College, Bellevue Hill, Sydney. He completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Diploma of Education at Sydney University in 1962. In 1970, McDonald completed a course in 'Indonesian Elementary Special' from the University of Queensland, Institute of Modern Languages.

After completing his degree, McDonald worked as a teacher with the New South Wales Education Department, before joining the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC), where he trained as a producer and director of schools’ radio and television. He went on to direct television, including studio, outside broadcast and film programmes with ABC Education in Hobart and Brisbane.

McDonald joined the University of Queensland Press in Brisbane in 1969 as poetry editor, a position he held until 1976. During his time there he was responsible for the Paperback Poets series. In 1977 he moved to Canberra in order take up writing full-time, but continued as part-time poetry editor until the early 1980s.

McDonald moved to a farm near Braidwood, NSW in 1981.

McDonald's first book, Citizens of mist - a collection of his poetry - was published in 1968. Since then, he has gone on to publish a number of works in a variety of genres including both fiction and non-fiction, poetry and short stories, as well as writing scripts for television mini-series and documentaries. Although the genres are varied, his works reflect his love of Australia, depicting as they do various aspects of Australian life, culture and history.

During the course of his career, McDonald has received a number of grants and fellowships from the Literature Board of the Australia Council. These have helped him to pursue his career as a full-time writer.

Other literary activities McDonald has been involved in include:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Australian representative at the Hari Sastra Literature Congress in Sabah, Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Writer-in-residence: Department of Language and Literature, Faculty of Military Studies, Royal Military College, Duntroon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Writer-in-residence: Geelong College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Australian representative at an International Conference on Australian Literature in Berne, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Judge, Vogel Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Chair, NSW Writers' Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

McDonald left Braidwood in 1992 and now lives in Sydney.

McDonald's published works include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td><em>Citizens of mist</em>, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td><em>The first paperback poets anthology</em>, edited by McDonald, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td><em>Airship</em>, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td><em>1915: a novel</em>, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td><em>Slipstream</em>, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td><em>Melba, the novel</em>, Sydney, Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td><em>Michael Willesee's Australians</em>, text by McDonald, Sydney, Bantam Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td><em>Rough wallaby</em>, Sydney, Bantam Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td><em>Gone Bush</em>, edited by McDonald, Sydney, Bantam Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1991</td>
<td><em>Reflecting Labor: images of myth and origin over 100 years</em>, Canberra, National Library of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td><em>Shearers' motel</em>, Sydney, Picador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td><em>Water man</em>, Sydney, Picador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td><em>Australia's flying doctors: the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia</em>, Sydney, Pan Macmillan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1996  *The slap*, Sydney, Picador
1998  *Mr Darwin's shooter*, Sydney, Knopf
1999  *Barry Humphries' flashbacks*, text by McDonald, London, HarperCollins
2000  *To the night sky*, Sydney, Random House

McDonald's screenplay credits include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Television mini-series based on McDonald's book <em>1915: a novel</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Television documentary 'Simpson and his donkey' for the series <em>Mike Willesee's Australians</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Television mini-series <em>Melba</em> based on the life of Nellie Melba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Television documentary 'A kiwi shed' for ABC-TV series <em>A big country</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td><em>Cross turning over</em>, television adaptation of McDonald's book <em>Shearers' motel</em> for ABC-TV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Information**

**Access**
Collection is restricted.

**Restrictions on Use**

**Preferred Citation**

**Provenance**
The papers of Roger McDonald have been purchased by the Library in a number of instalments during the period October 1976 to May 1996.
Access Terms

Personal Names
- Bail, Murray, 1941-
- Beaver, Bruce
- Catalano, Gary, 1947-
- Crighton Smith, Iain, 1928-
- Dawe, Bruce, 1930-
- Dutton, Geoffrey, 1922-1998
- Gilbert, Kevin, 1933-1993
- Grant, Jamie, 1949-
- Gray, Robert, 1945-
- Harwood, Gwen, 1920-1995
- Hazzard, Shirley, 1931-
- Hodgins, Jack, 1938-
- Malouf, David, 1934-
- Morgan, James
- Murray, Les, 1945-
- Page, Geoff, 1940-
- Porter, Peter, 1929-
- Rodriguez, Judith, 1936-
- Shapcott, Thomas W. (Thomas William), 1935-
- Simpson, R.A. (Ronald Albert), 1929-
- Smith, Ray
- Strand, Mark, 1934-
- Taylor, Andrew
- Thurston, Robin
- Wright, Judith, 1915-2000

Corporate Names
- Australian Broadcasting Commission
- University of Queensland Press
Series List and Descriptions

Series 1: Correspondence 1963-92

During the course of his career, McDonald has corresponded with many other writers. The correspondents in this series include Murray Bail, Bruce Beaver, Gary Catalano, Iain Crichton Smith, Bruce Dawe, Geoffrey Dutton, Jamie Grant, Gwen Harwood, Shirley Hazzard, David Malouf, Les Murray, Geoff Page, Peter Porter, Judith Rodriquez, Thomas Shapcott, R.A. Simpson, Ray Smith, Mark Strand, Andrew Taylor, Robin Thurston and Judith Wright. There are also a number of letters from McDonald's mother, the historian Lorna McDonald.

Also included is correspondence with Frank Thompson, manager and publisher of University of Queensland Press in 1958-83, who was an influential figure in McDonald's life.

Folder 1-4
Indexed personal and business correspondence 1965-76

Correspondents include Murray Bail, Bruce Beaver, Bruce Dawe, Gwen Harwood, David Malouf, Les Murray, Geoff Page, Peter Porter, Thomas Shapcott, John Tranter, Robin Thurston and Judith Wright. (McDonald's index to this correspondence is found in Folder 1)

Folder 5
Correspondence 1968-71

Correspondents include John Gleeson (ABC), Neil McPherson, Frank Thompson (UQP) and Michael Wilding (University of Sydney).

Folder 6
Correspondence 1963-75

Mostly from McDonald's mother

Folder 7
Letter from David Malouf 1991

Folder 8
Miscellaneous correspondence 1973-92
Correspondents include Geoffrey Dutton, Geoff Page, Judith Rodriguez and Thomas Shapcott.

Folder 9  
Correspondence with Barbara Blackman and Scottish poet Iain Crichton Smith 1976-77 and 1980-91

Folder 10-11  
Correspondence with poet Gary Catalono 1977-86

Folder 12  
Correspondence with Jamie Grant 1976-84 Gwen Harwood 1976-77 and Shirley Hazzard 1984

Folder 13  
Correspondence with poet R.A. Simpson 1977-84 and Canadian writer Ray Smith 1986-87

Folder 14  
Correspondence with American poet Mark Strand 1977-79 and Andrew Taylor 1977-81

Folder 15  
Correspondence with Judith Wright 1977-82 and Frank W. Thompson 1984

**Series 2: Business papers 1964-92**

This series comprises general business papers, mostly relating to McDonald's work as an author. They include correspondence with publishers and with the Literature Board of the Australia Council relating to applications for various grants and diaries and notes kept while on official overseas visits.

Folder 1  
Correspondence with publishers, mostly relating to McDonald's poetry 1964-75

Folder 2  
General correspondence relating to employment 1966-69

Folder 3  
Application for an Australian Council for the Arts, Literature Board Grant 1975
Folder 4
General correspondence, including with University of Queensland Press and the National Book Council 1990-91

Folder 5
General correspondence, including with the Australia Council, Rosemary Creswell, Fremantle Arts Centre, Geelong College, Pan MacMillan Publishing, University of New South Wales and University of Queensland Press 1975-92

Folder 6
Diary notes of a trip to Malaysia as a visiting writer 1973

Folder 7
Correspondence with Craig Munro, University of Queensland Press 1977-79

Folder 8
Correspondence relating to overseas literary agents 1981-87

Folder 9
Correspondence with William Collins (Fontana) regarding paperback editions of *1915: a novel* and *Melba, the novel* 1983-87

Folder 10
Correspondence with Faber and Faber regarding the UK publication of *1915: a novel* and *Slipstream* 1982-84

Folder 11-12
Correspondence, papers and diary relating to McDonald's 1982 visit to Canada as winner of the Australia/Canada award 1981-85

Folder 13
Royalty statements 1980-90

Folder 14
Correspondence and papers relating to applications made by McDonald for grants from the Literature Board of the Australia Council 1975-91

Folder 15
Correspondence, papers and diary relating to a trip to Europe to attend an International Conference on Australian Literature in Berne, Switzerland. 1984-85

McDonald received a grant from the Literature Board of the Australia Council for the trip.
Series 3: Editorial work and reader's reports 1967-93

McDonald was poetry editor for University of Queensland Press from 1969 to 1976 while living in Brisbane, and part-time poetry editor from 1977 to the early 1980s while living in Canberra. The bulk of this series comprises editorial correspondence and reader’s reports relating to McDonald's work for University of Queensland Press. There are also reader's reports written by McDonald after this time, for Allen and Unwin.

Folder 1
Reader's reports and correspondence with University of Queensland Press and ANU Press 1977-84

Included are reports on books by Jessica Anderson, Julian Croft, T.M. Couper and Philip Martin.

Folder 2
Correspondence 1969-78

Included is correspondence relating to the start of the University of Queensland Press paperback poets anthology series, part one of which was edited by McDonald. There is also correspondence with Tom Keneally, Richard Packer, Grace Perry and Richard Walsh.

Folder 3
Correspondence with prison poet Robin Thurston (Believed dangerous, University of Queensland Press, 1975). 1976

'Enid' was a prisons visitor who took up Thurston's case. Correspondence and editing material relating to John Manifold's poetry collection, 1976-77

Folder 4
Correspondence with Bruce Beaver regarding the editing of his book of prose As it was (University of Queensland Press, 1979) 1977-79

Papers, 1976-79, regarding the editing of a Peter Kocan manuscript which eventually became The Treatment (Angus and Robertson, 1980) and The cure (Angus and Robertson, 1983)

Folder 5-6
Correspondence with Tom Shapcott regarding the editing of his book Selected poems, 1956-88 (University of Queensland Press, 1989) 1977-85
Folder 7
Correspondence with Rodney Hall regarding editing of his book *Black Bagatelles* (University of Queensland Press, 1978) 1977-78

Correspondence regarding the editing of a collection of Michael Dransfield's work, 1977-78

Folder 8
Correspondence and notes relating to Geoffrey Lehmann's writing 1977

Correspondence regarding a proposed book by Judith Rodriguez, 1977

Folder 9
Correspondence regarding editing of work by Alan Gould 1977

Folder 10
Correspondence regarding editing of work by Robert Gray 1977-78

Correspondence, 1977-78, with Kevin Gilbert regarding editing of his book *People are legends: aboriginal poems* (University of Queensland Press, 1978)

Folder 11
Correspondence and papers relating to *Seven Russian poets* (University of Queensland Press, 1979) edited by Rosemary Dobson and David Campbell 1979


Folder 12-13
Reader's reports for Allen and Unwin. 1990

Included are reports for works by Lissa Benyon, Scott Bernard, Bob Brissenden, C. Inglis, Jeri Kroll and Renata Yates

Folder 14
Reader's report for James Scott's manuscript (medical student who was lost in Nepal). 1993

Series 4: *Citizens of mist* 1967

McDonald's first book of poetry, *Citizens of mist*, was published by University of Queensland Press, Brisbane in 1968. This series consists of drafts of poems for the book.

Series 5: *1915: a novel* 1975-88

McDonald's first book of prose, a semi-historical work entitled *1915: a novel*, was published by University of Queensland Press, Brisbane in 1979. The book received much acclaim, winning the *The Age* Book of the Year Award and the South Australian Government Biennial Literature Prize. This series comprises manuscripts and typescripts, research notes, correspondence, publicity material and photographs relating to the book.

McDonald scripted a television mini-series based on the book for ABC-TV, which was released in 1982. Also included in this series is correspondence relating to the development of the series, contracts and a copy of the script.

Folder 1-27
Manuscripts and typescripts.

Included are bound notebooks, an early draft (100,000 words), 2nd draft (150,000 words), corrected typescript and 'final' typescript with revisions.

Folder 28-37
Research notes

Folder 38-39
Correspondence relating to 1915: a novel 1975-79

Included are research enquiries, correspondence with publishers, launch arrangements and letters of congratulation about the book.

Folder 40-42
Corrected manuscripts of two short stories which were later incorporated into the book: 'The scaffold', published in the *National Times*, and 'Pigs run', published in *Makar: magazine of new writing*. 1976

Also included is correspondence with the *National Times*

Folder 43
Photographs and publicity material
Folder 44-51 + folio
Typescripts and page and galley proofs

Folder 52
Earliest versions of ideas that led to the book 1975-76

Folder 53
Letters of congratulation about the book, advertisements for the television series and photographs from the launch of the book in Canberra. 24 April 1979

Folder 54-58
Newspapers clippings and reviews of the book 1979-87

Folder 59-60
Reviews of the television series 1982

Folder 61
Correspondence, mostly with University of Queensland Press, regarding royalty payments, reprints of the book and the paperback edition of the book. 1980-88

Folder 62-64
Papers relating to an earlier abortive attempt to make a television series of the book. 1980

They include correspondence with various film companies, research notes, typescripts and a copy of the series treatment by McDonald and Ian Hart.

Folder 64-66
Papers relating to the ABC-TV mini-series. 1980-88

They include a copy of the contract and correspondence with the ABC, the Australian Film Commission, University of Queensland Press and William Collins.

Folder 67
ABC-TV script 1981

Folder 68
Miscellaneous correspondence. Correspondents include George Braziller (US publisher), Geoffrey Dutton and University of Queensland Press. 1978-83
Folder 69

Research notes, 1976-77

Folder 70
Copies of two addresses given by McDonald on 'Sources of 1915: a novel': for a history seminar at the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1982 and one at a conference in Switzerland in 1984.

**Series 6: Slipstream 1981-89**

McDonald's novel about aviation, *Slipstream*, was published by University of Queensland Press, Brisbane in 1982. The papers in this series include notebooks, typescripts, correspondence, reviews and photographs relating to the novel.

Folder 1-2
6 volumes of notebooks.

Notebook A contains background notes; B-C the first draft; D-E a redraft; F completely redrafted version.

Folder 3-4
Rejected typescript pages

Folder 5
First typescript, with corrections

Folder 6
First typescript with Geoffrey Lehmann's comments

Folder 7
Versions of chapter 13

Folder 8-9
Photocopies of final typescript version, with corrections

Folder 10
Final typescript version used by University of Queensland Press for typesetters
Folder 11
Deletions

Folder 12
Galley proofs

Folder 13
Extract from *Slipstream*, which appeared in the National Times Dec-Jan 1982

Folder 14
Correspondence 1982-84

Correspondents include Elizabeth Riddell and University of New South Wales.

Folder 15-16
Reviews and press advertisements 1981-83

Folder 17-18
Editorial correspondence and contractual dealings with University of Queensland Press 1981-86

Folder 19
Correspondence with Little, Brown and Company regarding the American edition of the novel 1982-83

Folder 20
Personal correspondence with novelist James Morgan. 1980-89

Morgan was the basis of the character Leonard Baxter in the novel.

Folder 21
Launch photographs. 1982

The novel was launched by Frank Moorhouse at the University Co-Op Bookshop, Canberra in 1982.

**Series 7: Yacker 2: Australian writers talk about their work 1986**

An interview with McDonald was included in Candida Baker's book *Yacker 2: Australian writers talk about their work*, published by Pan MacMillan, Sydney in 1987. This series contains transcripts, with deletions and alterations, of McDonald's interview for the book.
In 1986 McDonald was approached by Roadshow, Coote and Carroll to write one of the episodes for a thirteen-part drama anthology series for the Australian Bicentennial, called *Michael Willesee's Australians*. 'Simpson and his donkey' was McDonald's contribution to the series. McDonald went on to compile a book of the series entitled *Michael Willesee's Australians*, which was published by Bantam Books, Sydney in 1988. This series comprises research notes, typescripts of the screenplay and correspondence, mainly with Roadshow, Coote and Carroll regarding McDonald's involvement in the project.

Folder 1
Typescript of McDonald's chapter for the book of the series

Folder 2-3
Research notes

Folder 4
Notecards

Folder 5
Working drafts of the screenplay

Folder 6-8
Typescript of 2nd draft of screenplay

Folder 9
Typescript of 3rd draft of screenplay

Folder 10-11
Typescript of final draft of screenplay

Folder 12-13
Correspondence, mainly regarding a dispute with Roadshow, Coote and Carroll over outstanding royalty payments 1988-89

Newspaper clippings about the book, 1989

Folder 14
Correspondence 1986-87
Correspondents include Hilary Linstead and Associates and Roadshow, Coote and Carroll.

**Series 9: Melba 1983-88**

With Sue Masters, McDonald co-wrote the script for a 4-part television mini-series on the life of Nellie Melba entitled *Melba*. The series, which screened in 1988, was based on the book *Melba: a biography*, written by John Hetherington. It was directed by Rodney Fisher and produced by Errol Sullivan for CB Films. Following on from his research for the television mini-series, McDonald also wrote a book entitled *Melba, the novel*, which was published by William Collins, Sydney in 1988.

The papers in this series include research notes, drafts of the script and the book, newspaper clippings and correspondence with CB Films and publishers. Also included is correspondence with Pamela Vestey, Nellie Melba's granddaughter.

Folder 1-5
- Photocopies of music, articles and newspaper clippings relating to Nellie Melba

Folder 6-9
- Notecards and research notes

Folder 10-12
- 3-part outline of the series 1984

Folder 13-14
- Miscellaneous edited manuscripts and typescripts for the mini-series

Folder 15-24
- Various draft versions of part 1 of the series 1985

Folder 25-34
- Various draft versions of part 2 of the series 1985-86

Folder 35-45
- Various draft versions of part 3 of the series 1986

Folder 46-51
- Various draft versions of part 4 of the series 1986
Folder 52-55  
Typescripts of the book

Folder 56  
Galley proofs of part 1 of the book

Folder 57  
4 VHS tapes, one for each part of the mini-series

Folder 58  
1 audio tape of Rodney Fisher's comments for part 4 of the mini-series. 1 copy of the book *Melba, the novel*

Folder 59  
Newspaper clippings relating to the television mini-series 1988

Folder 60  
Correspondence, financial records and research notes relating to the television series. 1983-88

Correspondents included Holding Redich & Co. (solicitors), Errol Sullivan and Pamela Vestey.

Folder 61  
2 notebooks of research notes

Folder 62  
Notebook containing manuscript of the book 1985

Folder 63  
Correspondence regarding the American edition of the book 1988

**Series 10: *Rough wallaby* 1989-92**

McDonald's novel about horse racing, *Rough wallaby*, was published by Bantam Books, Sydney in 1989. In 1990 he wrote a screenplay adaptation of the novel for Southern Star Sullivan Films, but the film was never produced. This series consists of drafts of the novel, research papers and correspondence with publishers and with the Canadian author Jack Hodgins.

Folder 1-3  
Typescripts of versions 1, 2 and 4 of the novel
Folder 4
Typescript, with major revisions, after comments by Jack Hodgins

Folder 5
Typescript read by Jacqueline Kent (Transworld Publishers)

Folder 6
Typescript of later revisions of the novel, following comments by Sally McInerny

Folder 7
Sub-final typescript

Folder 8
Final draft, edited by Jacqueline Kent

Folder 9
Page proofs 1989

Folder 10
Cuttings used for horse racing research

Folder 11
Correspondence, editing notes and contractual papers. 1988-90
Correspondents include Transworld Publishers and Pan Books.

Folder 12
Correspondence with Jack Hodgins 1989

Folder 13
Copy edited version of the novel 1989

Folder 14
Typescript of McDonald's screenplay adaptation of the novel 1992

Folder 15
Book cover and press advertisement for the book

A copy of the 1963 novel *The spurs are rusty* by R.H Conquest, which contains a reference to the term 'rough wallaby'.
Series 11: Gone bush 1988-90

McDonald edited a collection of stories by twelve Australian authors, who were asked to write on a part of Australia that held a special meaning for them. Entitled Gone bush: Australian writers take a walk, the book was published by Bantam Books, Sydney in 1990. Apart from McDonald, contributors to the book were Jack Davis, Geoffrey Dutton, Helen Garner, Elizabeth Jolley, Frank Moorhouse, Les Murray, Mudrooroo Narogin, Bruce Pascoe, Barney Roberts, Sue Woolfe and Judith Wright.

The papers in this series include correspondence with contributing authors, drafts of some contributions and reviews of the book.

Folder 1
Summary of a proposed ABC-TV documentary based on the book 1991

Folder 2-3
Correspondence, mainly with contributing authors.1988-89

Included are biographical details and drafts of some of the contributions.

Folder 4
Typescripts of McDonald's chapter for the book and his 'Editor's introduction'

Folder 5
Proof of the cover for the book 1990

Reviews

Series 12: Shearers' motel 1989-93

In 1989 McDonald worked as a shearers' cook for a team of New Zealand shearers, travelling through New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. In 1990, he undertook a six-week outback trip with Canadian author Jack Hodgins, during which he interviewed many of the people he had worked with the previous year. McDonald recounted his experiences as a shearers' cook in his book Shearers' motel, published by Pan Macmillan, Sydney in 1992. This book was awarded the CUB Banjo Award for non-fiction in 1993. McDonald also wrote the television adaptation of the book for ABC-TV, entitled Cross turning over, which was screened in 1996.
The papers in this series include research material, notebooks, transcripts of interviews, audio tapes of the book, reviews, photographs and correspondence, mainly with Hodgins.

Jack Hodgins published a non-fiction book based on his trip with McDonald. Entitled *Over forty in Broken Hill*, it was published by University of Queensland Press in 1992. Included in this series are reviews and a copy of the book.

Folder 1
   Early typescript of cooking chapter 1989

Folder 2-4
   Early drafts 1991-92

Folder 5
   Sub-final draft 1992

Folder 6
   Typescript incorporating comments made by Sally McInerney

Folder 7
   Typescript with alterations made after editorial discussions with Jane Palfreyman (Pan MacMillan) 1992

Folder 8
   Final draft: includes notes and comments by Rhyll McMaster 1992

Folder 9
   Typescript, edited by Jane Palfreyman

Folder 10-11
   Page proofs incorporating author's and proof readers' comments and corrections

Folder 12
   Research material, comprising maps, newspaper articles and two notebooks of McDonald's 1990 trip with Jack Hodgins.

Folder 13-14
   Photographs taken by McDonald while working as a shearers' cook.

   Also included are publicity photographs of McDonald taken by Virginia Wallace-Crabbe.
Folder 15
Publicity material.

Included are a booklet of extracts from the book, a pre-publication copy of the book and a poster.

Folder 16
Typescript of an article McDonald wrote about New Zealand shearer for *The Independent Monthly*. November 1990

This article was used as the basis for 'A Kiwi shed', an ABC-TV documentary scripted by McDonald for the program *A big country* in 1991. Extracts from the article were also incorporated into the book.

Folder 17
 Transcript of a 1990 interview McDonald recorded with Paul and Marlene Rowe (Davo and Barbara in the book) 1990

Folder 18
 Transcript of a 1991 interview McDonald recorded with Susie McIlveen, elements of whose character are incorporated into the cook Hazel in the book.

Folder 19
Miscellaneous material.

Included are McDonald's Australian Workers' Union membership ticket, Pastoral Award pay rates, a notebook of recipes and menus and a notebook containing interviews, some of which were incorporated into the book.

Folder 20
Correspondence 1990-93

Correspondents include Jack Hodgins, Robin Lucas, the National Book Council and Tim Winton.

Folder 21
Typescript of a chapter entitled 'Good Places', which was dropped from early drafts of the book.

Folder 22
Third draft and final draft of *Cross Turning Over*
Folder 23

A sequel to events in the book, it relates to the death of Erina Scia Scia, who was killed by her boyfriend in 1992. The character 'Rosie' in the book was based in Erina.

Folder 24
A copy of the speech by Eric Rolls at the launch of the book at the Brisbane Warana Writers' Festival. 1992

Reviews of the book

Folder 25
7 audio tapes of the book, narrated by Bill Conn for the Royal Blind Society 1993

Folder 26
Photographs taken by McDonald in 1989, while working as a shearers' cook, and while on his 1990 trip with Jack Hodgins. 1989-1990

Folder 27
A copy of Jack Hodgins' Over forty in Broken Hill and a review of the book.

Series 13: Water man 1989-93

A 1989 article in The New Yorker about water divining was the inspiration for McDonald's novel Water Man, which was published by Picador, Sydney in 1993. This series consists mainly of drafts of the novel.

Folder 1
Copy of the The New Yorker article.

McDonald has marked the passages used.

Folder 2-3
Early drafts of the novel 'Shelter', which later became Water man 1990

Folder 4
Early drafts and notes for the final part of the novel 1992

Folder 5
Typescript 1992
In 1993 McDonald undertook several trips with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. These trips were the basis for his book *Australia's flying doctors: the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia*, which was published by Pan Macmillan, Sydney in 1994. McDonald wrote the text, and the photographs were taken by Richard Woldendorp.

This small series consists of journals kept by McDonald of his trips, a journal article by McDonald about the Royal Flying Doctors and correspondence with the Royal Flying Doctor Service regarding a reader's complaint about the book.

Series 15: *Men love sex* 1995

McDonald contributed a story entitled 'Surrender' for a collection of short stories entitled *Men love sex*, edited by Alan Close and published by
Vintage, Sydney in 1995. This series consists of typescripts of McDonald's contribution to the collection (1 folder).

**Series 16: To the islands 1990**

In 1990 McDonald prepared a film treatment of Randolph Stow's 1958 book *To the islands* for Titus Films. This series comprises research notes, typescript of McDonald's film treatment and correspondence relating to the project.

Folder 1
Research notes 1990
Typescript of the film treatment

Folder 2
Correspondence with Titus Films and the Australian Film Commission 1990

Folder 3
Application for funding submitted to the Australian Film Commission by Titus Films 1990

**Series 17: Australian Broadcasting Commission 1967-73**

In the 1960s McDonald joined the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC), where he trained as a producer and director of schools' radio and television. He directed television, including studio, outside broadcast and film programs for ABC Education.

This series consists of drafts of scripts written by McDonald and correspondence relating to his work for the ABC.

Folder 1
Correspondence with the ABC regarding material McDonald scripted for ABC programs 1967-76

Folder 2-3
Scripts written by McDonald for ABC broadcasts on poets 1969-73

Folder 4-5
Drafts of McDonald's script and transcript of an interview with Gwen Harwood for an ABC program 'Meet the writer Gwen Harwood' 1968
Series 18: Drafts of McDonald’s poetry 1961-78

Poetry was the genre in which McDonald first established a reputation for himself, with his first two published books being collections of poetry. As well as this, he has had a number of his poems published in newspapers and journals and was poetry editor for University of Queensland Press for a number of years.

This series contains a large collection of drafts of poems by McDonald, mostly undated and many never published.

Folder 1-5
  Early drafts 1961-68

Folder 6-12
  Drafts late 1960s to early 1970s

Folder 13-16
  Drafts 1970-76

Folder 17
  Drafts 1975-78

Folder 18
  Unpublished poems early 1970s

Folder 19
  Drafts late 1970s

Series 19: Drafts of McDonald’s unpublished books and short stories 1982-94

This series consists of drafts of unpublished books and short stories by McDonald.

Folder 1
  Drafts of two stories 1990

Folder 2-3
  Notebooks containing drafts of unpublished books 1980s
Folder 4
Typescript for a work entitled 'Ballad novel' 1980
Outline for a book entitled 'Country blood' 1977

Folder 5
Outline for a book entitled 'Southern tooth' 1992

Folder 6-8
Drafts of an untitled book 1982-83

Folder 9-11
Drafts of five stories 1990-94

Series 20: Other writings by McDonald 1962-94

As well as his published books, McDonald has had poetry, literary reviews and short stories published in a number of newspapers, journals and magazines. He has also written several screenplays and has appeared as a guest speaker at literary events.

This series comprises drafts of McDonald's writings and copies of newspapers, journals and magazines containing items written by him.

Folder 1
Newspaper clippings containing items written by McDonald 1962-75

Folder 2

Folder 3
McDonald's proposal for the remake of the movie of Jon Cleary's book *The Sundowners*, prepared for CB Films 1987 Copies of *MDH* magazine containing articles written by McDonald while acting editor May-June 1991

Folder 4
Drafts of reviews of two books by Tom Cole 1992

Folder 5
Folder 6

Folder 7
Typescripts of 'Super tree' and 'For life', tributes to McDonald's friend Wilf Crane 1992

Folder 8
Transcript of an interview with Tom Wyatt and draft of an article about him 1992

Folder 9
Typescript of an autobiographical essay 'The burnt-out chimneyplace' 1993

Folder 10
Copies of the *Times Literary Supplement*, *National Times*, and *Nation Review* (1976), and *Quadrant* and *Good Weekend* (1994) containing items written by McDonald. 1976 and 1994

**Series 21: Scrapbooks and newspaper clippings 1963-75**

McDonald compiled a collection of newspaper and magazine items, mostly works of other poets, which are contained in this series.

Folder 1-2
Scrapbooks 1968-69

Folder 3
Newspaper clippings of poetry 1965-75

Folder 4
Newspaper clippings of news items 1963-74

**Series 22: Personal papers 1954-88**

Personal papers and memorabilia accumulated by McDonald are contained in this series. They include McDonald's maternal family tree, school and university papers, travel diaries and newspaper clippings.
Folder 1-3
School and University essays and exam papers 1954-69

Folder 4-5
Miscellaneous memorabilia. Included are tourist brochures, church newsletters, newspaper clippings, theatre programs and correspondence and cards from family. 1959-75

Folder 6
McDonald's maternal family tree

Folder 7
Travel diaries, European trip 1971-72

Folder 8
Diary kept by McDonald while learning to fly 1978-80

Folder 9
Travel diary and notes of a trip to the Kimberleys 1988

Folder 10
Miscellaneous papers.

Included are a statement of McDonald's University results (1962), international driver's licence, program for the 1991 New South Wales State Literary Awards and newspaper clippings.

**Series 23: Miscellaneous photographs 1970s-1990**

This series comprises mainly black and white publicity photographs of McDonald.

Folder 1
Black and white publicity photographs of McDonald 1979-90

Folder 2
Proof sheet of photographs taken of McDonald at 'Jinglemoney', Braidwood in 1981, and two photographs of Judith Wright taken by McDonald in the 1970s.
Series 24: Miscellaneous papers 1956-93

A miscellaneous collection of papers accumulated by McDonald are contained in this series.

Folder 1-2
Papers from the 1973 Hari Sastra Literature Congress in Sabah, which McDonald attended as an official Australian representative. 1973

Folder 3
Miscellaneous papers.
Included are copies of various journals (1956-69), papers from a conference on Teaching of Australian Literature (1971) and entry forms for various literary competitions.

Folder 4
McDonald's notes as a judge for the 1987 and 1992 Vogel Awards

Folder 5
VHS video recording of an interview with McDonald conducted by Peter Ross for Book chat 1993

Folder 6
Papers relating to an accusation of plagiarism against McDonald made by Gerard Lee 1976

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