



R &amp; R PROPERTY'S

# THE ALUM

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## Bulahdelah's Iconic Wade Family Store



This article will explore the history of Wade's Store, as told by Adele Wade, neé Stork.

Wade's Store was built in 1904 and was located where R & R Property are today, in Stroud Street Bulahdelah.

Mr Ridgeway was the first proprietor.

The business was like an old-fashioned general store with produce out the back. They sold everything from building materials to food and groceries, haberdashery, and you could buy whatever was required to set up your home.

A few years later, Adele's father-in-law, John Forbes Wade, took over the business. Mr Wade was the son of John Wade who owned Wade's Corn Flour Mill in Dungog. John Forbes Wade's wife was Jessie Clara Wade, and they had seven children, one of which was Adele's husband, Keith Wade, better known as Peter Wade. Peter was born in 1928 and his father passed away in the early 1930s.

On the death of John F Wade, the business was passed to his wife, Jessie. However, Adele recalled that it was, effectively, run by eldest son, John Wade, at the age of fourteen years. Adele remembered the Wade family as one of high intelligence.

Jessie died in 1944 and her son, John, became the business owner.

In 1952, John died from a massive stroke at the age of forty-two years, and the business was taken on by his brother, Bill Wade, after having worked in the business since the end of World War Two.

Peter had served in the Navy for ten years and during this time Adele and Peter lived in Sydney with their family. In 1959, after Peter left the Navy, he and Adele returned to Bulahdelah and lived in the family home.

The shop key was kept beside the shop door, on the outside! Adele said that this was done "for convenience". The shop was adjacent to the family home and the shop door was close to the bedroom of the house which meant that "Peter could easily go in and out of the shop and the house".

There was a cash and carry business attached to the family home on the top side. Adele recalled a "little old ramshackle building" that was built to stop another business coming to town. This was operated by two daughters of John Forbes Wade, Peter's sisters.

After a year in Bulahdelah, Peter and Adele returned to Sydney to pursue other careers.

Bill retired from the family business in 1974 and Peter became the proprietor of the store, with Adele. They were now back in Bulahdelah permanently.

In the 1980s the Wades closed the food section as Peter had developed the hardware arm of the business and the Schultz family had a grocery store in town.

In 1990 Peter and Adele retired from the store and the business was sold. Peter had had a triple by-pass and felt it was time to retire.



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We would like to thank Adele Wade for her willingness to be interviewed and contribution of photographs.