



“Should old acquaintance be forgot.”

Heathers family would like to thank everyone for helping to celebrate her life.

The Committal will take place at the Hamilton Lawn Cemetery following the service.

All are welcome to join us at the Hamilton Golf Club for refreshments and reflection following the committal.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



HEATHER *Elizabeth Willis*

7TH APRIL 1928 ~ 28TH DECEMBER 2025

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH HAMILTON

8TH JANUARY 2026



EULOGY

Heather Elizabeth McDonald was born in Hamilton on 7th April 1928 youngest daughter of Andrew & Bessie McDonald and sister to Mary and Jean. The 3 girls had a wonderful childhood on the family farm, where Heather gained her love for fishing and an outdoor life. Farm life was hard during her childhood, her father was a keen hunter and fisherman and would leave the running of the farm and milking the cows to the girls, Heather said that her father would disappear whenever there was work to be done, but they were always well fed and clothed.

During the war when she was around 15 years old, she was employed as a boundary rider by some of the local farming families whose men had gone to war, she enjoyed the freedom of riding around checking fences and livestock.

Heather married Jack Willis on the 3rd of September 1947 in Merino. This was the beginning of a long happy marriage, where they welcomed 7 girls and 1 boy into their life. She continued a life of hard work on their 1st World War Soldier Settlers farm on Sheep Wash Rd in Paschendale, A move to Hamilton in 1958 started a new chapter, where ultimately Heather and Jack farmed for Mr Bob Strachan. This continued for 35 years. Regardless of how busy life was, Heather would support her children with their own individual love of sport or activities.

Semi-retirement saw them purchase their own farm at Croxton East breeding Charolais cattle with help from their only son Ricky. Finally, they could relax and spend time travelling and sharing moments with family and friends. Including trips on the Murray River, a loved destination.

Heather moved to an independent living unit at Eventide in 2014, her family and friends remained important to her. She lived a full, healthy and independent life for 97 + years, she had a fall at home in mid-December, followed by a short stay in hospital. Unfortunately, her health rapidly declined, and she was transferred to palliative care; this was an opportunity for all her family to visit and spend the last precious days with her. She passed away peacefully on Sunday 28th while listening to the bagpipes with one of her daughters beside her.

We farewell

A loving wife who shared a wonderful 65 years with Jack

A great Mum to 8 Children who learnt to work, cook, knit sew, horse ride and then work some more. A mum who was always there for her children and it didn't matter how far away they were.

Nanny to 20 Grandchildren

Great Nan to 39 Great Grandchildren

Great Great Nan to 9 Grandchildren + a couple more on the way.

A wonderful mother in-law. (Just as well as there were 7 sons in laws.)

"H" to many of her friends.

Doing the math Heather has left a good herd of 78 direct descendants.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN - AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures,
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been here ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first began.

PSALM

BIBLE READINGS

Lamentations 3 v22-33 read by Bryce Cameron

1st Corinthians v 1-13 read by Meg McArthur

EULOGY

Presented by Bob Cadden

VISUALS

REFLECTION

PRAYERS

SONG - AULD LANG SYNE

Should old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot
In the days of Auld Lang Syne

Chorus
For Auld Lang Syne, my dear
For Auld Lang Syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of Auld Lang Syne

And surely, you will buy your cup
And surely I'll buy mine
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of Auld Lang Syne

Chorus
For Auld Lang Syne, my dear
For Auld Lang Syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of Auld Lang Syne

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

Piped by Ken Crozier

PALL BEARERS

Ricky Willis | Robert Parker | Aaron Spong
Mathew Schurmann | Lachlan Cameron | James McArthur