



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



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BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 217, JANUARY 2014

Greetings, as Donald history swings into another year.

Since the last Buloke bulletin was in October, quite a few things have happened at the Donald District Archives.

Large family stories have been researched and sent to representatives of Beseler, Ackers, Dowsett, Salgram, Walker, Price, Renney, Pope, Lowry, Small, Dickeson, Hepworth, and now Arnel for Margaret, who is speaking to us about the family later in the year.

Then, of course, we have the odd quirky queries which we are glad to satisfy if we can. You will have read the story in the "Buloke Times" of the happy ending that transpired to the search for the son of Jack Roberts, who drowned in 1965. We can't claim kudos for that one, as it was just luck.

Glenda Hocking wanted a particular article from the "Times" in 1922 about R.J. Dixon; Tom Guthrie asked for the origin of a quotation he wants to use in this eagerly anticipated Guthrie history; Shirley Delapine was interested in the Traynor that Traynor's Lagoon was named for. That was interesting – Thomas Traynor was a well-known drover who made his main camp by the lagoon, which then was full of water.

Gary Lyons kept on about a very difficult one – he thinks there was a paddle steamer named "The Lady of the Lake" which paddled on Lake Buloke and went to Charlton –not so, of course. Darryl Warren wanted the history of his house – referred to Chilla Burton. Ken James, who is writing a book on all the Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria, and has had much info from us over time, asked for an article for the book which would encapsulate the history of the Donald Institute.

And now, passed on by St. Arnaud, is – when will the new CFA building at Wooroonook be erected? And what became of the material from St. Bernard's when demolished? Maree Hobbs, who was a McKew, in asking these, is looking for a suitable site for the forthcoming McKew reunion. So please, can anyone help, because we have no information.

EVENTS MAKING NEWS IN THE "DONALD TIMES" 100 YEARS AGO

February 3, 1914: A party digging out rabbits at Marlbed recently had a not unwelcome experience. The Water Commission's men shut the water off from a neighbouring channel for them, and as it receded hundreds of perch, of all sizes, from 3 lbs downward, were easily captured in the mud, among them quite a number of good-sized Murray perch. Somewhere about 150lb of the biggest and best were taken to homes where they were much enjoyed.

February 6, 1914: Report to shire of health for year: Reportable: diphtheria 2 (attributed to unsanitary premises which have been condemned and pulled down); tuberculosis, 2 (left to be treated in sanatoria); measles, an epidemic, some cases rather serious with complications, but no deaths; whooping cough, slight epidemic, no deaths; vital statistics, births 92, deaths 28.

February 10, 1914: The Sloyd class at the Donald H.E. School made a start on Friday, and notwithstanding the terrific heat, the temperature in the sloyd room being 97 degrees, the boys showed interest in their new lessons. The temperature in the science room reached a record of 105 degrees on Friday afternoon. Mr Pearse recorded on his official thermometer the maximum of 108°, the highest recorded for many years.

February 13, 1914: After the Donald Cup meeting, Mr Mick Whelan was riding a horse home. Shortly after he crossed the railway line the horse bolted and tumbled with the rider at the corner of Houston St. Mr Whelan was landed on the footpath and rendered unconscious. Mr Pope, who was coming behind, galloped for Dr. Lewis and passers-by gave first aid to the injured man, who had a bruise on the forehead and slight scalp wounds. Another man was thrown out of a motor car near the racecourse and was carried into Mr A. Muir's house, but after washing the blood and dust off his face he proceeded on his way.

February 17, 1914: Steps are to be taken to test the legality of pigeon, starling and sparrow shoot competitions on the ground that a great number of the birds, not killed outright, are subjected to cruelty. Following correspondence to the Chief Commissioner of Police, the question was placed before the Crown Solicitor, and it is likely that a test case will be brought up before the court shortly.

February 20, 1914: The marriage of Miss Eileen Basset and Mr Herbert Hepworth was celebrated in the Methodist Church, East Laen on Wednesday morning. The pretty little church was tastefully decorated with flowers, ferns and holly. The bride looked very charming in ivory paillette silk trimmed with silk lace and studded with pearl buttons. She wore a long court train trimmed with orange blossom and bows of silk ribbon, and a tulle veil, and carried a shower of white carnations and asparagus fern. Miss Lena Basset and Miss Olive Hepworth wore charming dresses of white Japanese silk trimmed with silk embroidery and studded with white glass buttons, wore white tulle hats, trimmed with a satin flower and carried pale pink hydrangeas and asparagus fern.

February 24, 1914: Mr R. Davison of East Laen, one of the pioneers of the district, set out yesterday, accompanied by Mrs Davidson, on a journey to Warrnambool. The interesting feature is that it will be done by horse and buggy, the cheerful veteran considering the train much too commonplace to travel in. He will cover about 175 miles in the three days he will take to reach the coast town where he first settled after arriving from Belfast, and where his purpose is to meet auld acquaintances.

February 27, 1914: At the Dunmunkle Shire Council on Tuesday a letter was read from Jas. Cumming, Rich Avon West, stating that a joint meeting of ratepayers had decided that the best place for the bridge across the Richardson River was on the road near the rifle range, and the council be asked to join with the Kara Kara Council in having the bridge constructed, and that the Water Supply Department be asked to assist financially.