



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 219, MARCH 2014

Two new assistants have been made very welcome at the archives. Edna Downes is assisting Mary Archbold in the photograph section by scanning photographs into the computer with their details. This was a much needed task, and it is now going smoothly and fast.

Colleen Raynes is coming to help with another much needed job, that of indexing the newspapers. One thing, that only has to be done up to 2012 – after that The Times is keeping them for us on a hard disc. ONLY 2012 – that won't be in the time of the present indexers!

Questions of all kinds continue. Frances Forrester wanted to know the maiden name of her great grandmother, who came from Swanwater. Found and advised.

Adam Finlay and his wife were interested in the Connellans of Laen and Watchem – originally Morton Plains. They visited us and were a delightful couple--paid for the information, which was lengthy, bought two other books, and gave us a good donation as well. Along those lines, a man who had bought our football book at the footy reunion, rang to ask for two other books he had seen on the website.

And Danny Forrest, always a strong supporter of this group, wanted to know the colours worn by some of the early district football teams – Laen-Litchfield, Cope Cope and Jeffcott, to use for the boys in a little footy competition he is running to take up the boys who cannot get into the town junior groups, which are over-full. While coming to see some of the old photos, he also looked for books to buy and bought two.

Two recent requests have come from West Australia. One was for the story of Samuel Craig, who of course had the Corack Station before the selections began, and that was an easy one.

The other lady wanted to get the front page of the 1984 local paper on the day one of their friends was born, as his 30th birthday celebrations are coming up. He is Tim McCulloch, and came from Birchip. Because of the difficulty of scanning pages of the paper at that size, we sent the whole edition from our “spares for photo-copying” box. There would most likely be other things in it to interest him, especially as it was the Donald/Birchip Times at that stage.

Latest request is from Bill Kirk of Sunbury, for info about the Rev. Knuckey, who was some relative of his mother. As some may remember, Rev. Mervyn Knuckey was the Methodist minister here for five years in the 1950s.

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

March 3, 1914: On Saturday night, a pair of horses bolted from the Mount Jeffcott Hotel under rather peculiar circumstances. One of the horses of a pair that was tied by the halter to a rail in the yard, pulled back and ran away with the rail, the other animal following along Woods Street with the same furious speed. One of them was not caught until he had put 8 miles between him and the town.

March 6, 1914: A pretty wedding took place at St. Matthews, Cope Cope when Miss Linda Trollop, daughter of Mr M.B. Trollop, was married to Mr Edward Humphreys. She was dressed in white silk, with embroidered veil and wreath of orange blossom. Miss Elsie Cumming of Avon Plains, her cousin, was bridesmaid, in crème silk and a black hat.

March 10, 1914: A grant of land was secured from the Railway Dept's reserve, for an Agricultural High School. Although only a Higher Elementary school was obtainable, it was decided to stick to the ground, which comprises all the land outside the highwater mark of the dam, known as the Old Railway Water Reserve, and adjoins Mr Tonkin's property on the east side of the line. A plan is to be forwarded to the Railway department for approval.

March 13, 1914: The Shire Councillors paid a visit of inspection to the High School and were entertained to afternoon tea. Tea was served in the cookery class room by about a dozen damsels in blue dresses with white aprons, under the supervision of Miss Carter. The cloths were spotless, and the tables enlivened with geraniums and pelargoniums grown in the school grounds. Excellent tea and coffee refreshed the throats of the councillors, and the class-made scones and sandwiches were in great demand. The fruit salad which was served threatened to make them forget the load of business that had been left in abeyance to visit the school.

February 17, 1914 All boys residing in Area 73b, who were born in 1900 and are therefore in their fourteenth year or have completed it, are required to attend at the Ranger's office, Donald, at 7.30 tomorrow for inspection and medical examination under the Defence Act.

March 20, 1914: Mr Andrew McClelland, Cope Cope, is going away on an extended holiday, and has given over his farm to his sons. Mr McClelland leaves Cope Cope today.

Mr Peter Falla, who has been visiting his mother, departed again for Rhodesia on Tuesday, where he had a large blacksmith business in company with Mr Wm. McIntosh, son of Mrs McIntosh, Corack East.

March 24, 1914: Three trucks were derailed at the Mill. The mill men didn't hear the signal to stand by to run alongside and operate the brakes. As the trucks were speeding down the siding, two of the yardmen attempted to catch up with them to apply the brakes, but one stumbled on a heap of ashes, and as the trucks were going at a speed exceeding 10 miles an hour the other had no chance. The three crashed into the dead end, the foremost almost standing on end. It then wrenched and flattened the mounting at the end, tearing out the heavy beams, and dislocated the rails at the end of the siding. The truck was launched on to the soft bank down into the ditch beside the main line. The other two trucks were derailed but slightly and no damage was done to them. The break-down gang had a pretty difficult task putting the first truck on the track, as it weighed close on 7 tons and was so far off, while one of the elbows of the dead end was pinned down by it.

March 27, 1914: Charlie Davison is the last hope of the man whose hair is falling out and is threatened with baldness. His electro-magnetic hair restorer, it is claimed, will make the hair take fresh root after one or two applications, restore the natural colour, and remove dandruff..

March 31, 1914: On Friday afternoon the town of Charlton was bombarded with a terrific hailstorm and a considerable amount of damage was sustained at the business places and private residences. At first it was taken as a sort of joke, but when lumps of ice the size of hen's eggs were pelted down it was regarded more seriously. A second attack did the damage, when rain gave way to lumps of ice and made a great din on the iron roofs.