



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 221, MAY 2014

A few people have been in contact with us this month, mostly visiting.

One wanted the name of Lindsay Crone's closest relative, to contact; but we were a little apprehensive, so have asked his interest.

Joanne Witney asked about the Calhouns, but has much information herself, which she said she would send, and say if she wanted what we had. Nothing further from her yet.

Mary has had correspondence with Jim Lowden about the Jeffcott Mechanics Institute, during which we found out where the actual Institute was, but it was blown down and not replaced. A new hall was built on a different site some years later, but that is not a Mechanics institute. Jim was really interested in this – he is connected with the Mechanics Institute museum in Melbourne. While checking Institutes, Mary found a photo and information about the Banyena Mechanics, and this is requested by Ken James, who is writing a book – just in the proof-reading stage now.

A request came by email about the McKeown family – it was not known if there were any selectors of that name here – but there were not. We offered McKeon, as spelling was uncertain in past days, but that was not the one.

Relatives of Waddells came from Western Australia – they were very grateful for previous information, but would like a copy for an elderly aunt, and this was provided.

Then a very pleasant couple who have previously bought many West Wimmera selectors' books, and they now want all obits. about the Byrne family – the wife, Ginny, seems to be related to many of the district's Irish families, such as Melican, Giles and Ryan and was originally a McLoughlan. And strangely, Joy Tyson was her grandmother's cousin! Quite an age-gap, of course.

We were sent about 24 photos of the Small family –very much appreciated.

Now for the Open Day – please coax anyone you know to come and see. Mary is planning “specials” on books!

ITEMS FROM THE "DONALD TIMES" OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO:

May 1, 1914: Mr Alfred Watts, who recently conducted the Cricket Club Hotel successfully, has purchased the property known as the Donald Coffee Palace, in Woods Street. The property has a baker's oven attached, which has been thoroughly renovated and overhauled. Mr Watts intends opening a refreshment room in connection with the bakery business, and sumptuous afternoon teas will be served in the spacious dining room.

May 5, 1914: Of all the amenities that make the lot of them an on the land more comfortable the railway is the chief one, and that is entirely one for the State to deal with. The station is the heart of the country district, stimulating and vivifying the whole system. If a railway train is brought near a seasoned farmer, he may be depended to bring all the comforts of the city dweller to his farm, except perhaps water supply.

May 8, 1914: A meeting of the Cope Cope District Open Coursing Club was held on Friday evening. The members are enthusiastic and it is expected that very successful meetings will be held this year. Mr H. R. Pope is the president of the club, Mr E. Bennetto hon. Secretary, Mr Jas Young judge, and Mr S. Coats slipper.

May 12, 1914: Mr W.R. Pope moved that use of the Showgrounds be allowed to the Football Club, on condition that the portions of improvements required to be removed were carefully stacked away, and replaced in good time for the next Show; that a charge of £1 1s per match be made; that trees must not be removed when ground was soft; teams or wagons not to be taken on to the trotting track.

Mr Hancock: They'll have to pull up the jumps. Mr Hepworth: Yes, we might be able later to put up improved jumps, like they have in Melbourne.

May 15, 1914: To augment the new reel fund of the Donald Fire Brigade a picture entertainment was held in St. George's Hall. An attractive programme of diverse subjects was screened by the Independent Picture Co., but they were not too well projected by the machine used, unsteadiness being a militating feature. Mr P. Prentice supplied appropriate and splendidly rendered pianoforte selections while the films were being screened. The star picture advertised, the popular "East Lynne" had been inadvertently misspent to Sea Lake, but an equal favourite, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" would be shown. This pathetic old drama was epitomised into a number of interesting scenes that effectively illustrated the tale, and the scenes were excellently acted.

May 21, 1914: One of the drawbacks of motoring was experienced by Mr Andrew Robertson of Charlton and Mr Timms on Wednesday night. They left Bendigo about 4 p.m. on Wednesday and from Wedderburn had to drive through rain squalls and sloppy roads. On the Barrakee incline the car got stuck in the soft mud and efforts to get it free proved unavailing, so the party left the motor about 11.30 p.m. and went home. Operations were resumed next morning, and some time was spent before the car was out on the hard track again.

May 22, 1914: There was a distinctively Scottish atmosphere pervading the vicinity of St. George's Hall on Wednesday night, when the Donald and District Caledonian Society's concert was held. It was redolent of Highland sentiment, of grim, warlike themes, of tender romance and irresistible humour. The programme was contributed by a medley of local and metropolitan artists. Misses Dugan, Ditchburn, Scarce and I. Muir danced a Highland Fling with great grace and abandon.

May 26, 1914: On Wednesday last a most interesting and pretty wedding took place at the residence of the bride's parents, Carron. The contracting parties were Miss Marion McKinnon and Mr Robert Ackland. There was a happy assemblage of relatives and friends. The bride's sister acted as bridesmaid and the bride's brother as best man. The young ladies were most charmingly attired, and looked the perfection of grace and sweetness. The celebrating minister was Rv. Mr Freeman, of the Donald Methodist Circuit.

May 29, 1914: Although Empire Day was actually on Sunday, 24th, it was celebrated at the Donald school on Wednesday. Eager and excited children assembled in their classrooms and carried out the Education Department's programme set for Empire Day – geography lessons on the growth and expansion of the British Empire and history lessons on the stirring deeds by the Empire Builders in various parts of the world. Lessons were interspersed with patriotic songs.