



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 223, JULY 2014

There have been a few unusual requests in the month since the last Bulletin. A local one asked the Group to contribute something for the Show pavilion on the theme of “Farming Families”, and this is being covered by Mary, Lois and Lesley.

First of the family history queries was one for Carruthers, a Jeffcott selector, and this was satisfied fairly easily. Dallas Mackay, from Tasmania, visited on her way to find where the Beckhams had flourished; although her branch is not quite the same as the current one here, still she visited Ken and Joan and got some good information. We photocopied some from the information we have on file, too...

Marion Bayles had been asked to supply the history of Jim Davison’s Clydesdales, and this had appeared briefly in the “Times”, so was easy.

Jenny Ross has an unusual one. She is Joan Weaver’s daughter, and thought there was an artist’s name on a painting of a soldier given to us by Ron Weaver after Joan died. Neither she nor we know the identity of the soldier, though she suspects one of the St. Arnaud connection, possibly Lorimer. But the painting does not have the artist’s name, alas. She also sent an old photo found when she was “cleaning up”, and it is of a street procession in fancy dress, commonly held here on special days; the last I think at the 1963 “back to”.

Jenny Young wanted the full account of the Harris family accident, and this was quickly emailed to her, incurring no expense – but she sent \$20 donation anyway.

One still to be answered will be found: – Tom Amos of St. Arnaud wants to know the Guernsey used by the Laen-Cope-Litchfield Football team, and that of course is one of Danny Forrest’s little teams.

Tish Will of Western Australia really wanted info about the Roberts family of Corack, and the school teacher married by one of them; but actually, there was not a great lot to give her. And another needy person was Edna Meyer of Traralgon –no, she didn’t want Meyer, but Frankland and Edmeades, names that do not appear on the index at all. She wanted to know when and where, and what they did – but I explained that they were probably tradesmen, in the town that was still young (1886), and finally found the baptism of the children in the Methodist (Wesleyan then) Church.

Workers were invisible!

Delightful visit by Michael Menzies, president of Geelong & South Western Rail Heritage Society. He wanted details of various railway leagues that wanted extensions from and to various places, and said that this could still happen during standardisation, as some suggested routes were more level than those we have. He will ring Norm Hollis about bringing a trainload of tourists here in due course, to spend money in the town.

ITEMS MAKING NEWS IN THE "DONALD TIMES" A HUNDRED YEARS AGO:

July 3, 1914: A handsome butcher's cart, built by Mr Hearn to the order of Mr W.H. Crone, is painted and decorated by Mr Carroll. The body is of white and the wheels and carriage a bright red, the gold lettering on the sides and back being shaded with heliotrope. It is fitted with patent axles and Sarben wheels and all the latest improvements.

At a meeting of the Brass Band a letter was read from Barry Jagers offering to supply a three night show in a large marquee in aid of the band, in consideration for a nominal sum of money, in the first week in November. After some discussion it was decided to accept the offer.

July 7, 1914: (Here's a name we haven't seen before) Morgan & Pitty in their sales report, mention having sold on Ac. J. Gras-Y-Fort, allotment of land in Woods Street.

Mr Tate, Director of Education, said there seemed to be confusion on the suggestion that boxing be part of the State curriculum. A Mr Baker had offered to teach 100 boys from Melbourne High School. Mr Tate said that while boxing might be a desirable form of physical training, there would be difficulty in introducing it to the curriculum.

July 14, 1914: During a discussion at Council, Cr. Green asked whether, in the event of the Council taking over the electric light, they would have power enough to switch Watchem on. The answer was a decisive "NO!"

Mr R. W. Reseigh, of Avon Plains, has been sworn in as a justice of the peace. We feel sure Mr Reseigh will prove a capable and conscientious magistrate.

July 17, 1914: At the "settling up" after the Donald Coursing Carnival, Mr Dickie, winner of the Donald Cup, said that it was not only his own experience, but the opinion all round that they were all good sports in Donald. A friend had told him the judge was most consistent. He did not think he could make a mistake (Hear, hear).

July 21, 1914: Letter from "Donaldite": Having read of improvements to Donald Park, I took a stroll in that direction and was surprised at the crude attempts at beautification. In the centre is a large rubbish heap, into which old kerosene tins and things have been carted. Probably the cavity into which these were thrown was meant as a duck pond. This so-called "Park" could be made a beauty spot by the planting of shade trees and the establishment of a rosary in place of the geranium plots, which look cheap and nasty.

July 24, 1914: At St. Mary's annual ball, the hall was tastefully decorated with evergreens, the decorations including a golden harp with the inscription Erin-G-Bragh. First prize for ladies fancy costume was won by Miss Cader ("The Darling of the Gods") and the best gent's by Mr A. Gillies as "Scotchman".

July 28, 1914: The construction of a telephone line between St. Arnaud and Banyena has been authorised, linking en route Gre Gre North, Traynor's Lagoon and Avon Plains, as which places exchanges will be established. In addition to this, telephone connections are being arranged to link Gre Gre Village and Gre Gre Central with Gre Gre North.

Ballarat is still further beautifying the city by adding another garden square and band stand in Sturt Street. The new bank rotunda is to be named after the Titanic and will be finished in time for the South Street competitions in October.

July 31, 1914: Line extensions: There will be a further effort to have the line extended from Marnoo to Litchfield, which would bring Ararat in direct touch with Mildura. And support for the line from Charlton to Donald is forthcoming from Bendigo. It is desired to connect Bendigo with the Mildura Line.

The Donald Mechanics Institute will on Friday and Saturday make its appeal to the people of Donald. A fancy dress carnival and sale of gifts will be held in St. George's Hall. It is a matter for regret that this deserving institution should have to make its big effort in a year when prospects are not too bright. A special feature is a prize for the best dressed lady and gentleman in fancy dress.