



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 227, NOVEMBER 2014**

Most of the month was taken up in checking every issue of the “Times” from the date the index has reached, to 1992 for information on the Nichols family of Watchem. That has now been sent. Incidentally Karyl Griemink, nee Nichols, was able to supply all the missing names on one of the school photos that Mary has in the Archives window.

On the subject of photos, we have been given by Debbie McLachlan a collection of photos left by Davy Rivett, nearly all with names. There is even an “extract of death” certificate.

There is now a query from the North Central Umpires Group for any information about the beginning of the Group and any further information – but there is not much – umpires do not exist . . .! At least we have found the Group’s beginning. It is finishing up at the end of this month, and wants a historical survey. I will send what we have, but they might have done better checking the “Recorder”.

There is another request for family information – from Brendan Hogan for information on Paddy Galvin. That will be the next job, but it is probably on file already. While he was here, Anne Walsh came in, and he was able to solve three problems for her of who lived where.

James Boddington, whose mother was a Hannah, came for Hannah info, but that was already on file, so could be photo-copied for him. The same thing happened for Lyn Foster, who was interested in the Beckhams. This saves much effort and time – but of course is not as lucrative as researching from scratch!

## ITEMS OF NEWS IN THE "DONALD TIMES" 100 YEARS AGO.

November 3, 1914: Emus are making their appearance in the Minyip district. On the farms of Mr A. Midgeley and Mr Allan Boyd two nice birds were seen, apparently being driven down south in search of food and water.

The scholars of the Mount Jeffcott Methodist Sunday School who were entitled to prizes this year decided to go without their prizes, and instead to donate their money that would have been spent on the books to the Belgian Relief Fund.

Nov. 6, 1914: The weather during the past few days has been most oppressive. On Wednesday the glass registered 98, but the heat was more disagreeable than the figures would imply. Although there appeared to be every indication of rain during the past few days, it did not eventuate. The fall for October in Donald was 6 points.

The Melbourne Cup, run on Tuesday last, was witnessed by an enormous crowd. The race was one of the best ever seen at Flemington, being won by a neck by Kingsburgh in a record time for the distance.

Nov. 10, 1914: Mr T. Bellett of Lake Buloke, who has been boring for water in that locality, struck water at 15ft recently, which rose 8ft in the bore. Continuing the bore to 30ft. the water rose 10 ft. The water is said to be of excellent quality. The situation of the bore is near the middle of Lake Buloke, and the fresh water is no doubt due to soakage.

Mr R. Pilgrim of Cope Cope has also struck good water at 35ft and is pumping 500 gallons per day.

Nov. 13, 1914: The residents of the district surrounding the Jil Jil Lake are much concerned as to whether that supply will last out the summer. Mr J. B. Tonkin, whose land adjoins the lake, has put down a 5000 yard tank and it is reported, intends pumping the water out of the lake and running it along a channel for about half a mile to his dam. At present there is only about 4 feet of water in Jil Jil, which constitutes the only supply now available for residents of Jeffcott and the surrounding district. A petition has been signed and is being sent to the minister of Water Supply with the object of prohibiting Mr Tonkin from taking the water.

Nov. 17, 1914: The remarkable progress in the Victorian railway system is indicated by official figures just published. In 1862 there were only 195-1/4 miles of railways with a gross revenue of £408,000. At the end of June of the present year, there were 1834 miles of railways, and the gross revenue for 1913-14 was £5, 560,958.

At Special meeting of Donald Shire Council: Cr. Pearse: I find that Mr Tonkin wants water to fill a tank of 8000 yards. He says he is going to take the water for his house.

Letter from Mr Tonkin: I am at present scooping out a large tank of about 7000 or 8000 cubic yards, but the idea has not yet occurred to me to pump it full, but like some of my neighbours, I will depend on Providence sending the water. I have provided storage room when it does come.

Nov. 20, 1914: Letter from Mr j. B. Tonkin: I am confident, Sir, that Cr. Pearse would not be guilty of a deliberate falsehood, so perhaps, Sir, it may be the result of imagination, following on a bad nightmare.

Nov. 23, 1914: Millers are experiencing difficulty in securing wheat supplies for their requirements, and it is due to farmers declining to sell that mills are closing down. The Charlton mill, having exhausted its supply, has temporarily closed. Mr Foreman intends working the Wycheproof mill while the supply lasts – probably till near Christmas. By that time it is hoped millers will be able to purchase wheat for their requirements.

Nov. 27, 1914:

Two young men waited on the Mayor of St. Arnaud and asked for enlistment papers. When signing the attestation form one of them remarked that he found a difficulty in signing his name, owing to weakness from hunger. The young fellows had not had a bit to eat that day. They said they went to Mildura from Melbourne looking for work but found none. They started to tramp back. They found people sympathetic but unable to help them to any extent. The pangs of hunger were promptly relieved by the mayor, who sent the men to Lennon's hotel where they had dinner, bed and breakfast and took their departure for Broadmeadows camp on Saturday.

