



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 231, MAY 2015**

Three enquiries only, this month.

Alan and Chris Betteridge called in to say that Alan was the grandson of Alan Feeney, and would like some information, on the Feeneys, and Frank Dean, whose daughter Alan Feeney married. He was Mine Host of the Grand Central Hotel for a few years. They arrived on the weekend, and were brought to my house by Stewart Hollis.

That was quite a difficult one, as it was beyond the time that our hard-working indexers have reached, and it meant searching the “Times”. Moreover, Alan Feeney did not take part in much outside his carpentry – except golf. But we found what we could, and sent a photo of the lad in Grade 2!

Next was a query about a William Anderson, born in Donald in 1930. He was there, but only briefly – his father was a railwayman and was transferred when William was 10 years old, so we could only give his school results for a few years.

However the next was a big one – Belleilles of Watchem, but as that had already been supplied to somebody else, it was only a matter of photo-copying, and sending the books that had been asked for.

On Friday came a cohort of McInerneys, looking not for information but for the books on the areas involved. The original inquirer, who was given this info in 2012, and had passed it on, held us in high regard, and brought these visiting NSW cousins down, knowing that they would be satisfied. One couple came from Moombooldool (pron.Mumbledool) which is a very familiar name to the current NSW member of the Archives – in fact, they knew her home district of Sandy Creek, but were too young to know the family.

Danny Forrest arrived with a big box – “Dondelicious” cookery books that he was giving us to sell – “We’ve done all right out of them, so thought you should have a turn”. They will be made a special on Friday’s Open Day, so if you have not bought one, or know someone who should, come this way.

Our photo-copier is running well again, after a blitz by the mechanical masters, Ray and Peter, but we are still hoping for a grant that will allow us a new one.

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

May 4, 1915: Mr C.R. Olive of Donald has two sons fighting at the front, Private Gilbert Olive of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian contingent, Canadian Scottish Machine Gun Section, 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which recently made such a glorious name for itself whilst fighting against the deadly poisonous gas and direct frontal fire in Flanders, and Private W. Olive, 14<sup>th</sup> battalion A.I.F., now in Egypt.

On Thursday Professor Godfrey and Miss Violet Godfrey with their troupe of performing monkeys and marvellous little dog acrobat, also performing cockatoos, will appear at the Lyric Theatre, Donald. According to district contemporaries this is well worth patronising.

May 7: The Royal George Hotel is undergoing a beautifying process. Mrs Meyers has decided to have green and white tiles placed all round the outside, extending 4 ft 6 in. high from the footpaths, which will undoubtedly add greatly to its already fine appearance.

In connection with Empire Day, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Queen Victoria's birthday, it has been decided that children attending State schools shall be free during the afternoon to take part in any celebration arranged locally. It is suggested that singing of the National Anthem and patriotic songs and saluting of the Union Jack should form part of the programme.

May 11: A more delightful entertainment than that provided by the Lyric theatre on Saturday would be hard to get. "The Bond of Womanhood", star drama, superbly acted; "A Dog's Good Deed", a most pathetic picture, showing the faithfulness of a dog to the memory of its little comrade; topical, "Wireless on the War"; "Nixon Chauffeur," comic; "All on Account of a Jug", comic; "The Masquerader", Keystone comedy which, with Chas Chaplin in the leading role, simply kept the house in roars. Metropolitan football results were also shown.

May 14: At Birchip on Empire Day it is understood that parents of the children will be invited to the school, where patriotic speeches will be delivered, and each child presented with a bag of lollies. In the evening probably a patriotic entertainment will be held in the Mechanics Hall, It is felt that instead of holding a picnic or sports for children the money necessary can, and should be devoted to more urgent and pressing needs this year. What about the Donald school?

May 18: .Postage on newspapers for the Australian troops in Egypt is to be reduced to 16 oz. for one penny, the same rate as that charged in the case of newspapers from the Commonwealth to the United Kingdom, by the all-sea route.

May 21: On Monday the local School Board and Mr Skewes, head teacher, have decided that the children should attend school at the ordinary time, when the teachers will instruct their classes in geography, etc., fitting to the occasion. The school will be suitably decorated. At 11.45 a.m. they will be joined by the Boy Scouts and cadets and children attending the Roman Catholic School. A procession shall be formed and headed by the Donald Brass Band shall march to the post office and salute the flag. Cr. W. Sproat, president of Donald Shire, will address the children on the meaning of Empire Day and War. The children will then take up a collection in aid of the Red Cross Fund.

May 25: To express his jubilation over the bountiful rains, a Mallee storekeeper telegraphed to Mr A. E. Kenyon, chairman of the Mallee Relief Board: "Eighty-four points, best for two years. All crops assured. Hallelujah!" Mr Kenyon sent the following reply, "Proverbs 27<sup>th</sup> chapter, 25<sup>th</sup> verse." The storekeeper read the following: "The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and the herbs of the mountain are gathered."

May 28: On Tuesday the friends of Mr Harold Beckham assembled at the Methodist Sunday School to bid him "Goodbye" on the eve of his departure for the front. Parlour games were indulged in by those assembled (numbering about 60) and quite a pleasant time was spent. Mr S. Wortley, one of the Superintendents, spoke of the many good qualities of the guest and referred to the many boys of the Sunday school who had gone to fight for King and Country, Honour and Liberty. He then presented Mr Beckham with a silver mounted pocket wallet and fountain pen, and assured him that the prayers of the members of the church and Sunday school would be for him.