



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 233, JULY, 2015**

Not so many in this chilly month, but always someone pops up with a request of some kind. One of last month's requests that seemed to come to a dead end was that from South Africa for the Barbours, but it had a happy ending. Beth revealed that the name was part of her ancestry, and that Alys Barbour, who had been hard to find, was currently corresponding with her.

While doing my washing at home at the weekend before last I received a visit from Eric Penfold, with his son Ross and daughter-in-law. A meeting at the Archives was scheduled, and good information was exchanged.

At the Archives, some Pace relatives arrived, and were happy to take photocopies of material that had been previously researched – something that happens quite often now, as a younger generation, or one from a different branch, finds that the work has been done some years before.

Beth received a call from a lady who had found among her souvenirs a sash given for winning a “Donald Gift” and wondered what that was. But while we were researching, she found it herself on “Trove” – and it was for a Fire Brigade event.

Carolyn Olive, our confrere from Charlton, hoped that the “Donald Times” would fill in some gaps in her history of Charlton's 50 years of hockey –but alas, they were in the days of the “Donald-Birchip Times” when, if a team didn't play either of those, it didn't exist! A couple of matches with Charlton were found, however.

An interesting visitor was a great-grandson of J.A. Meyer, on his mother's side. With great enthusiasm, he took photos of those in the album of Meyers that we hold. Unfortunately Mary was not available to make prints for him -- and thus gain us some funds.

The last for the month was Bruce Munday of Mt. Torrens, S.A. who is writing a book about the effect of rabbits on the start of agriculture. He wanted to confirm dates of introduction with our own information. That was easy, as we were then re-printing Ron's “Fauna and Flora”, ornamenting it with the technology not dreamed of when Ron compiled the book. That is making it into something that we hope no field naturalist will be able to resist!

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

July 2, 1915: Cr. Sproat called a public meeting, the object of which was to "try to stimulate the somewhat backwardness of those young fellows of the district." Various suggestions were made of activities, and they thought "conscription should have been brought in long ago". Cr. Wortley will address those present at the football match on Saturday next.

Word was received from Mr Guthrie that the Richardson River was flowing a half-banker past the station property, and was flowing over the Batyo Catyo weir. The water reached Donald during Wednesday night and a splendid stream is now flowing over the local weir.

July 6: Prior to their departure for the Seymour camp, Messrs F. Lee and A. H. Giroud, who have joined the Expeditionary Forces, were yesterday made recipients of a presentation from their fellow boarders, the presentation taking place at the boarding house of Mrs Small. Mr W. Golding made the presentations and in a neat and appropriate speech eulogised the many good qualities of the recipients.

July 9: Old residents and scholars of Donald and district will regret to learn of the death of Mr Peter Dial, who for 23 years was head teacher at the Donald State School. He commenced about July 1877 and received transfer in 1900. This sad death removes one of the early and most respected pioneers of this district. In every public movement inaugurated Mr Dial was one of the leading spirits. He was a fine cricketer – in fact he was a thorough sport and every inch a gentleman.

Headlines—RECRUITING CAMPAIGN. Large Meeting at St. George's Hall. ROUSING SPEECHES!

July 13: Letter from Private Olive: (at Ypres) The odds were great. The 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion was practically wiped out, my old pals dead, wounded and missing. War like this is certainly Hell. (*He was hit on the head by bricks and metal from a house destroyed by a shell, and sent to England*) Although not at first anxious, now I would prefer returning to the front than stopping in England. The life is rough; and baths scarce. We get a few crawlers on our shirts – far from pleasant.

June 16: Since the existence of the Saturday night's entertainment in St. George's Hall, mother no longer sings, "Oh where is my wandering boy tonight?" She knows he is at the Lyric Pictures, and out of mischief. Admission is one "robert" and the public is always well catered for. Don't forget to see tomorrow night's program, which will include the following:--Tale of a Goat, Gaumont Graphic, Sheriff for an Hour; The Better Man (4,000 feet drama); and Leading Lizzie Astray (1,000 feet Keystone Comedy).

July 20: A quantity of potatoes, chaff, leggings and a pig were submitted by Mr W.A. Morgan, auctioneer, on behalf of different donors for public auction for the benefit of the Red Cross League. As expected, they realised good value, several lots having fallen to the bid of patriotic disposed persons were sold and re-sold several times. At the same yards a fat cow was sold for the record for this district of £13 5s. We can readily understand why meat is 1s per lb.

June 25: Scenes in Egypt (letter from Private Bradford to Harold Prider of Donald) "Along the road are a number of single residences, and these were made of bamboos and bushes, with one side, or sometimes only a small hole left open. These would be about ten feet square and five feet high. Horribly filthy people inhabited them, with the poultry, household donkey or buffalo as often as not occupying part of the happy home!.

July 27: Last Friday evening some valorous person had the impudence to enter the Railway Coffee Palace and loot a supply of meat, butter, bread &c from a cool chamber safe, and additionally purloined a bag of chaff from the stables. To smother suspicion and revert blame to a wandering canine, milk was spilled, goods strewn about. All very thoughtful of the contemptible person, but we have concluded that a dog does not easily open a cool chamber, and we have yet to learn of a dog, after a palatable supper of meat, bread and butter, consuming a bag of chaff!

July 30: Mr John Wren, the Melbourne sportsman, has decided to present a gold medal and £500 to Lance-Corporal Jacka, V.C. for being the first Victorian soldier to win the coveted Victoria Cross in the present war. Lance-corporal Jacka has a brother residing at St. Arnaud. Mr Wren has promised to make, through the Provincial Press Association in Victoria, a grant of money and a gold medal to each Victorian achieving a similar distinction.