



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 236, OCTOBER, 2015.

The most exciting event that has taken place in the Archives this month is the arrival of the new photocopier, with a grant and a wonderful discount from the supplier. The old machine has done good service for many years, but the quality was not so good, and with this one, colour can be copied. And with a small addition that will arrive shortly, it will link up with the other machines, and will scan, and print from the computers. Yoohoo!

Almost as soon as it arrived, the copier was able to solve a real problem for “Soapy” Vallance, who needed a number of copies made for an RSL reunion. He had heard at Lions about the arrival of our machine, and came over in trepidation, not knowing if it was set up to go. It performed beautifully.

Early in the month was a visit from John Stevens, a descendant of Thomas Stevens, an original selector in Jeffcott. The Beckhams also came into his family history. He was very happy with copies of the information that had been given to another descendant some time ago, and he bought the Jeffcott selectors and “A View from the Mount”.

Another visitor was “Dusty” Carter from Rupanyup. Of course his ancestors were outside our scope, but he had heard about Ron’s West Wimmera selector books, and with the Lallat selector book and his knowledge of the country, was able to pinpoint the original selection.

Another visitor was interested in the family of Briggs, a name that simply does not occur in our records, although he thought there was some early connection with Donald. We did find from Anne’s 2nd book that a family of that name lived at 31 Cave St. for 2 years, 1942-3. However, the inquirer did not come back to hear that.

Two relatives of our members came in this month. Jenny, a delightful young lady who is a descendant of the Perrys of Corack, did not know until recently that she was also connected to the Fallas, so she was able to find much information from Ron himself as well as the Archives.

Then came two sisters who were about second cousins of Florence, through the Moyles. They already had the family information, and just came to catch up with her. Florence had never met them, and it was not until they had left that she realised that she has been sending them Christmas cards each year!

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

October 1, 1915: At the North Melbourne Tramway card sheds on 21st September, in the presence of a large number of fellow employees of the Tramway Company, a presentation was made to Sapper Harold Willey, son of Mr and Mr W. Willey of Donald, who has left Melbourne for Sydney, prior to going to the front. They all referred in felicitous terms of the highest esteem of their departing comrade and gave him two pipes, a pair of leggings, tobacco pouch and money belt and also a pair of knitted socks and mittens.

October 5, 1915: The work of reconstructing the embankment along the Richardson River, which was destroyed to some extent during the recent heavy floods is proceeding under supervision of the officials of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. It will be some considerable time before the embankment has been restored to its customary utility.

October 8, 1915: Mr D.M. Dooley, who hails from Smeaton, has taken possession of the Mount Jeffcott Hotel, which has been conducted by Mr Frank Scarce for some years. It is said that the genial "Jipper" Ford is included in the goodwill and fixtures taken over by the new Boniface, and the public is elated to know that the services of Mr Ford are to be retained. Mr Scarce does not propose leaving Donald, but is turning his attention to other business in our midst.

October 12, 1915: It is said that the private vegetable garden plots have been a great success this season, and that there promises to be an abundance of all kinds of fruits. Incidentally, a meed of praise is due the scholars of the Donald school for the manner in which they have conducted their garden of late.

October 15, 1915: Mr W. Willey has received a letter from Sapper V. Willey, from Gallipoli: "After being here for 18 weeks and seeing the same thing day after day, it gets monotonous. It would not be so bad if we could get some decent food, but we get nothing but bully beef and biscuits as hard as bricks, Half a loaf of bread has to last two days. I managed to get a couple dozen of eggs some time back, and we had a bona feed. I don't think I will ever kill another fowl for all the tea in China as I am longing for another feed of eggs."

October 22, 1915: Mr Bright, the Deputy Postmaster-General, has informed the Donald Shire Council that the trees growing in Woods Street, between McCulloch Street and the residence of Mr G.F. Oakley, and between Hammill Street and Banyena Road, are likely to interfere with the working of the telegraph lines, and it is the intention to have them cut of lopped.

October 26, 1915: Mr N.E. Proctor of Corack has had the Gloria light installed in his establishment, and this brilliant light has proven a vast improvement on the former lighting system.

October 29, 1915: A grand "jumble fair" will be held at the new Methodist Young Men's Hall on Friday, when the new edifice will be opened by Cr. C. R. Bassett. There will be several musical and elocutionary tests, and many other competitions. The proceedings are in aid of the new Sunday school building and organ funds.