



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



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The cold weather has slowed down the queries somewhat. Early in the month there were two visitors for well-known families – Pauline O’Brien of Marong, for John Boort; and Terry Sands, of Queensland, for the Sands family. They both had fun going through the information that is on file and picking out the things most relevant to them.

Vince Colbert wanted the full details of an accident that befell Michael Darcy some years ago, and that was supplied.

Lucy Sussex is a descendant of the family of W. M. Hearn, and she was giving rather than receiving, as she wanted to know if we held the same photos that she has. Lucy, whose name was familiar as a reviewer for the “Age”, enjoyed looking through our records, but did not find anything to take away. Instead, she sent in the following week lots of most interesting photos to boost Mary’s records.

We received a request, originally sent to the Football Club, then the “Buloke Times”, from Joann Trethowan (nee Cannard), who was seeking photos of “Bluey” Cannard. Her father, who is in poor health, would love to have photos of him, either playing, or in uniform. There were no action photos at that time (1939) but Mary had Bluey, the captain of Donald, which had won the premiership, with the coach and the vice-captain. There is also a group photo of the whole team. Joann was happy with those, so they were sent on.

Anne has been having considerable exchange with the Onley relatives. A small boy left with his grandparents while the rest of the family went north meant that there were two sections of Onleys who did not know what the others were doing. Anne’s book, and the research for it, made Sharon Onley most satisfied.

And as I write, comes a lady who is descended from the family of William McLay, locomotive driver in Donald. So that is another to be investigated.

A whirlwind struck the Archives this week, as a working bee of men of the group moved rubbish and tables and whatnot and hung pictures . . .

Making news in the “Donald Times” 100 years ago

May 1, 1917: Political ABC: A is for Australia, that pledged its last man; B is the anti-conscriptionist Ban; C is the Causus, all tail and no head; D the Disgust its contortions have spread; E is the Empire that waits for our aid; F is the Fighter the Junta betrayed.

May 4, 1917: J.R. Hornsby, Donald’s Grand Old Man Dies. He was seen in the streets on Saturday afternoon, and following his usual custom he attended the Lyric Pictures in the evening. He seemed to be if anything a little quieter than usual, attributed to a misfortune when he received abrasions to his face coming in contact with a boxthorn hedge. It appears that he went home, and must have been in the act of getting into bed when he fell dead.

May 8, 1917 Mr Albany Bell, who is accompanying a troopship as a TMCA secretary, write of diverting incidents: “We had some lively times with the rough weather. One mess orderly lost his balance and capsized a Dixie of soup over a man coming up; of course he took it like a lamb (I don’t think) and the deck was blue with profanity while all the rest were screaming with laughter; but when the mess orderly told them there was no more soup the joke immediately lost its point.

May 11, 1917: A very pretty wedding was celebrated at the Roman Catholic Church, Watchem, when Mildred, eighth daughter of Mr and Mrs Stubbs, married John Lucien Belleville. The bride looked charming in a dress of white crepe de chene, trimmed with silk lace and orange blossom, the train being lined with pale pink palette silk. Two “tiny tots” were train bearers, Mary Blair and Mary Shehan, and wore quaint little dresses of white frosted crepe, with pale blue sashes, and carried basket of white cosmos and fern.

May 15, 1917: It has been authoritatively stated that a syndicate of wealthy investors has been formed to thoroughly prospect the unexplored part of the Ballarat gold field. City ground pegged out extends from Sturt Street to South Street, and Dawson Street to Errard Street. The idea will be to prospect Ballarat with the hope of picking up the old Kohinoor and other lodes which yielded so much gold years ago.

May 24, 1917: An accident befell an employee of Mr Wells, famer of Litchfield. He had occasion to come into town on Saturday, and early in the evening made a start for home. He had just reached the river when the horse got out of control and he was thrown out on the roadway. The horse continued its mad career until it ran the vehicle into a tree and kicked itself free of harness. The driver was picked up by a motor party and brought into town, suffering from painful abrasions. The vehicle was badly damaged but the horse escaped injury.

May 25, 2017: The Donald Patriotic Carnival was held in showers through the greater part of the afternoon. Nevertheless there were fully 600 to 700 people in the street, waiting for the procession. The Donald Band led it, then members of the fire brigade and Messrs Wortley’s and Byrne’s decorated cars, Mr Wortley’s a large boat, and Mr Byrne’s in pink, representing “The Pink Diamond”. Comic characters were many and varied. Most conspicuous was a couple who had a “broken-down horse”, and not the least comical was the “Waybacks”, typical of “On Our Selection”. Miss G. Prentice represented the “Donald Times” in a becoming costume of pale blue, ornamented in red, black and gold printing. Cricket could not be held in the rain, but kicking the football, decapitating the rooster, and several children’s races were run. The ladies of the Red Cross were busy disposing of various raffles and a large sum was raised in this manner. The stalls consisted of hoop-la, afternoon tea, produce and sweets. A torchlight procession, held by the Fire Brigade prior to the concert was one of the most impressive display of the whole proceedings. Coloured lights, rockets, Roman candles were imposing illumination throughout the march. All this was followed by a concert, netting £32.