



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 252, JUNE, 2017

There have been several enquiries for the month. The first was from Rosalie Lawson who wanted any information we had on the McLay family. Lil was able to oblige with quite a bit of interesting information on William McLay, a locomotive driver in Donald circa 1900. Peggy Coats wanted information on St George's Church. Margaret Fleming, a descendant of the Matheson family at Laen, has been writing a family history and requested a photo of the Laen school and a typical settler's house. Mary and Lil duly obliged. Mervynne Dunstan requested two of Ron's selection books for a person doing research on Swanwater. Siobhan McGuiness, researching the Pavilach family, wanted to contact Joan Beckham. Lil was able to make the contact for her and also supply some much appreciated information on the Pavilachs.

Leanne Onley showed me a copy of the Poole family Album some years back. It is a beautiful album but many of the people in it are not named. Descendants of the Poole girls include the Onleys, Adcocks, Smalls, and Ledermans. Clemence Poole married Jack Phillips, Donald's blacksmith. Mrs. Poole and her daughters ran a boarding house so many portraits of unknown men are probably the boarders. Descendants of another Poole daughter contacted me last year and brought me another Poole family album, again with many people unnamed. At the moment I have the Onley family who contacted the archives, Dorothy (Adcock), The Small family historian and Dorothy Onley working at identifying the photographs which will probably end up here one day.

The second family album had several photos of Donald buildings which we do not have. The one of Waddells shows part of the building next door, Costa's fruit shop, which was burnt down 100 years ago. There is also a beautiful one of the Mechanics Institute, where Mrs. Poole ran a dressmaking business and the building preceding Johnno's which was her original Dining Rooms before she moved to Hammill St. I hope to use some of these photos in my small book of corrections and updates. I have all of the photos on my personal computer if people would like to see them at any time.

Dave Lennon interviewed me on 5.94 radio last week in the history segment. I went on with the idea of promoting my books but have received no enquiries so I wasn't very successful. Word of mouth still seems to be the best advertisement.

Making news in the "Donald Times" 100 years ago

June 1, 1917: Mr. Beckley who has been manager of the Savings Bank for some time has been transferred to Echuca. His successor is G. Markman of Port Fairy.

LOST On the Sheep Hills rd. between Kelly's tank and Donald _ A ladies Grey tweed overcoat. Finder please leave at the Times office.

As head teacher and over 60% of the students are affected with mumps the Avon Plains School has been closed for 16 days.

June 5, 1917: P&A Society meeting. It was brought to the notice of the committee that in the Schoolwork Section at the Show many prizewinners were getting the prize for the same map each year.....All work must be completed in 1917. There was also discussion on the new railway charges. Mr. Green thought that the Railways were undermanned and underpaid. He saw a guard at Litchfield unload three hundred droppers while the train was delayed..... the station mistress at Litchfield works for 6 days a week for 7 shillings.

June 8, 1917: Quite a stir was caused at about 8 p.m. on Wednesday by the violent ringing of the firebell. The alarm was given through a wire fusing at the residence of Mr. Prentice in Hammill St but little damage was done and the services of the local Fire Brigade were not required.

A recruiting picture will be shown in St George's Hall tomorrow night at 8 p.m. An address from a special speaker from Melbourne will be given.

June 12, 1917: Court Case. Lorry driver, James Carroll, was proceeded against for assaulting Porter Watson on 10th April last year. It was Porter Watson's duty to see that no-one crossed the line at the mill when the flag was shown. Carroll was driving two horses in a lorry. A pilot engine was coming from the mill and the witness (Watson) showed the red flag. Carroll whipped up the horses and as he went past he made a "swipe" with his whip and had the witness not held up the flag he would have been hit in the face. The witness would not swear that it was done intentionally. Watson said that if the pilot engine had not stopped there would probably have been a collision. Wardley, the engine Driver, said that Carroll did not have time to cross the line. The charge of assault was dismissed but Carroll was fined 10 shillings for crossing the line with 23s and 6d costs.

June 19, 1917: Mr. W. Cannard of Litchfield offers a reward for the recovery of several head of cattle (all poddies).

Rabbit Trappers at Buloke are making a small fortune. Two men in one week received a cheque for £ 30.

Mr & Mrs Madder from Corack were driving home from Church when the axle on their new gig broke and the horse bolted. No injuries sustained. Mr. J Barber, also from Corack, was unloading a bag of flour from a buggy at his house when the horses bolted. He slipped under the buggy and the wheels passed over him. He was also not seriously injured.