



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULKE BULLETIN NO. 256, OCTOBER, 2017

First since the last meeting was Joan Giles's son, whose ancestors were Stubbs, and he asked us to send information to his mother, which was done. He had bought books and gained some photocopied info, so he gave \$100 – the Archives does not often see a note of that size! He was happy to give any change to what he considered was a worthy cause.

This was also the opinion of Peter Schofield, who was asking about Breen and Blencowes. We had thought Blencowe solely a Birchip name, but there was quite a bit of useful information on the index. Peter gave \$50 in advance, so there was some change for us there, too. There was some difficulty in sending the information at first, as his email address was written down wrongly, and was the only address we had; but a little judicious guessing found the right one.

Dorothy Thomas came in with her daughter, who was originally Lois Adcock, and they, too, thought the Archives was a Good Thing. They bought one of Anne Walsh's books, which showed the Adcock house and listed its previous owners. Although she did not specially ask for more, she would probably enjoy some of the anecdotes of Adcock life which could be supplied.

Anne Walsh has found much of interest in Ron Falla's notes on all kinds of subjects, and is entering them on the computer index to make them available to all.

Michelle has entered nearly all the Group's photos on computer so that they can be scanned and made into attractive prints; and the current owner of the Convent is making good use of that facility.

Michelle is now extending the obituaries and biographies, which are so useful for family histories.

Currently being indexed is 1981, the year snow fell in Donald!

Items from the "Donald Times" a hundred years ago:

October 2, 1917: The flood waters from Bennetto's Lake, which overflowed, covering the road on the east side of the station, are gradually subsiding, but it will be many months before these roads are fit for heavy traffic. The road in front of the school has been a miniature river for weeks past. If heavy rain occurs in the immediate future, several homes at Cope Cope will be flooded.

October 5, 1917: The committee has arranged a really marvellous week's program for the Patriotic Carnival, which takes place at the M.C.C. grounds from October 20th to 27th in aid of returned soldiers and their dependants. One of the finest items will be a terrific battle of flowers, with beautifully decorated motor cars. This will develop the real carnival spirit. Another item is a miniature hunt all over and around the M.C.C. grounds. Fireworks and fire brigade display are among the features that promise to make this the biggest event of its kind ever held in Victoria, and should immensely benefit the fund for soldiers.

October 9, 1917: Snakes are very prevalent in and around Donald this season. On Saturday last Mr D. Bourke, employed at Murray's Royal George Hotel, captured a splendid sample. The reptile, which was up to 7 ft. in length, was evidently brought by woodcarters to the yard..

October 12, 1917: Royal George Hotel, Donald.

Under new Management. The Leading Commercial and Farmers House
Mr J. Murray wishes to inform the Public that he has taken over the above Hotel,
and will endeavour with personal attention to please all.

Commercial and Farmers Dining Rooms. Electric Light throughout. Hot and Cold
Baths. Careful Yardsman always in attendance. Alcock Billiard Table. Only best
of Wines and Spirits stocked. Special line of Good Wine for Xmas.

Cabs meet all trains. Phone 7, Donald.

October 16, 1917: A Novel Afternoon will be held at the State School on
Wednesday next, one of the preliminary efforts for Children's Flower Day. Each
lady will represent a well-known novel, and a prize is offered for the lady
who can tell the greatest number of novels represented.

October 19, 1917: The Tanks, the most wonderful destructive weapons of the
war, are themselves worth going many miles to see. Wonderful views of these
metal monsters are shown in the authentic War Office pictures to be shown in
Donald on the 26th inst.

October 26, 1917: Two feeble attempts at suicide have been made during the
weekend by a labourer named William John Adams, who has been employed by
Mr Martin Watts of Jeffcott. Adams, who is 53 years old, appears to be of weak
intellect, and has no relatives in the district, as far as is known.

October 30, 1917: Typical anecdotes continue to circulate about Australians, who
appear to appeal to popular imagination more than other of our numerous
Allies. During a brief furlough in England, an Australian soldier heard the
following conversation: "Father, I have met fine looking soldiers who have gold
filled teeth, wear golden rings and wrist watches, and call each other awful
names. Who are they?" "They must be Australians, my son", came the reply.

