



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 259, APRIL, 2018

Our antiques and collectables shop is still going very well, bringing in regular money for the History group. We sell something every day that it is open and the honesty system where people come into the archives to pay is working very well. One of our exciting sales was an old push mower with a wooden handle which Mary found in the shed and had the Men's shed clean up. We were offered \$50 for it within a day of it being on display and we can report that it went to a good home in Donald and actually works.

Enquiries for the month

Roger Gabbe, the grandson of Arthur Richards, wished to investigate his ties with the Litchfield area. Arthur was a brother of George, Charles, Bert, Ethel Kirk Ada and Linda. Roger's mother was Norma Richards. He is interested in meeting his cousins. A basic Richards family tree was sent to him plus the information in the Archives Richards file.

Peter Freund from the Ballarat Art Gallery wished to know when the Cope Cope Station Homestead (Owned by R.E. Pilgrim) and the Banyenong West Homestead were demolished. He rang before Easter and wanted an immediate reply. I was unable to help at that stage but can anyone assist? I'm sure that it is probably not too late to get it right.

Photo showing some of the Richards family.



Witchipool School 1905

BACK Geo. Cannard, Arch Green, Bert Richards, Stan Cannard, Son Molony, ?

2ND BACK "Sis" Molony, Nellie Fry, Maggie Tradford, Tot Molony

2ND ROW Olive Litchfield, Linda Richards, Grace Green, Elsie Groves, Nellie Tradford, Myrtle Cannard

FRONT ROW Bert Cannard, Ern Litchfield, Bert Douglas, Jim Tradford, Andy Green, Mick Moloney.

TEACHER Mrs Walters

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

April 5, 1918: An accident which resulted in a broken leg, occurred to Mr. Frank Nolan of Jeffcott at the Corack Races on Monday. It appears Mr. Nolan was driving a plunging horse and endeavoured to get his seat in the vehicle when his foot slipped and passed through the spokes of the wheel with the result above stated. Mr. Nolan was taken to Charlton by car where he received excellent attention. It was found that the break was a bad one, which may necessitate an operation being performed.

WEDDINGS: On Wednesday last the wedding was celebrated, at the residence of the bride's mother, of Miss Ethel Tyson, daughter of Mrs. J. Tyson of Laen, to Mr. John Adams, son of the late Mrs. Hugh Adams..... promptly at 11 o'clock the bridal party entered the dining room, the proceedings opening by the singing of the bridal hymn.... Miss Tyson attended her sister and Mr. W.A. Flett was best man..... a large marquee had been erected on the ground. Mrs. Loughery and her assistants had the tables decorated to a nicety..... speeches and toasts... the bridal party afterwards motored to Donald and left by the afternoon 's express for their honeymoon.

A very pretty wedding was celebrated at the Local Presbyterian church on Wednesday last, the contracting parties being Mary, eldest daughter of Cr. And Mrs. Green of "Wood Green" Litchfield and Mr. George Dunn, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Dunn of Buloke, the officiating clergyman being Rev. J.G. Scarfe. The church was prettily decorated and as the bride entered the choir sang "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden" and Mrs. Scarfe played THE WEDDING MARCH.... After the ceremony the party adjourned to the Shamrock Hotel where a sumptuous wedding breakfast was prepared.... The happy couple left Donald by the afternoon train, for Melbourne, where the honeymoon is being spent.

The marriage was celebrated at the Methodist church on Wednesday of Miss S. Moore, second daughter of Mr and Mrs H Moore. Walker St, to Mr. Gould (a full report of this wedding will appear in our next issue).

April 9, 1918: SOLDIER RETURNS. Welcome to trooper Len Harrison. ... Trooper Harrison was with the 8th light Horse which won such glory on Gallipoli and elsewhere. ...

April 13, 1918: Messrs W.J. and D. McNeill, Farmers, garnered a record wheat yield this season from a 120 acre paddock on their property at "Fernlea", which is situated a few miles from Donald in the Litchfield district. The yield they gained from the block averaged the magnificent return of 50 bushels per acre which is said to be a record for the district. The seed used was Federation Wheat.

The bachelor tax is likely to be enforced after all. It has been roundly condemned as a class impost but what can young men expect, who form themselves into a class that will neither fight nor marry.

April 16, 1918: Mr Harry Perry of Corack has been successful in striking a good supply of beautiful fresh water on his property, near the house at a depth of 80 feet. Some time ago, a water diviner told him that there was water at the spot.... Mr. Perry intends to erect a windmill.

The federal treasurer has decided to defer the closing date of the Sixth War Loan until Wednesday, 24 inst. Over £38, 000, 000 has already been subscribed.

Mr & Mrs T W Cantwell journeyed to Melbourne to meet their son, Private Jack Cantwell, who has been on active service for four years and was badly wounded.

In view of the decision of the Imperial Govt. to raise the age limit for soldiers to 50 years and in special cases, to 53, the minister of Defence in response to an enquiry stated that the Federal Govt. was making inquiries as to whether men of a higher age were to be sent into the firing line.

April 23, 1918: Soldiers letter from Mr Jack Danaher.

April 26, 1918: A hare drive will be held this weekend on Mr. Finn's property, Donald South.

Gathering at Donald State School for Anzac day. Dr Calhoun read the list of names on the Honour roll. (The list was printed in the paper and contained about 80 names amongst them 5 Cottinghams). Children sang patriotic songs and hymns.

April 30, 1918: Laen welcomes home Gunner Alex MacDonald.... Very badly wounded in the leg. Evening of songs, supper and dancing followed.