



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 264. SEPTEMBER 2018

Enquiries for August: Shirley Jakawenko had a photo of a Cope Cope Humphries Wedding. There were 2 bridesmaids, one best man, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Humphreys and the father of the new in-law. Shirley sent us the approximate time frame and 4 weddings that it could have been. Our wonderful Donald times Index was able to solve the mystery. The photo was of the wedding of Caroline Humphreys and Alex Matheson in 1905. There was an extensive and entertaining write up in the Times of the wedding.

The Donald Schools Music Festival was run for the 60th year and St Mary's School requested some information on the beginnings of the festival. We were able to oblige and were intrigued to see that the first secretary of the "Junior Choral festival" was Miss Nell O'Connell.

Judy Hastings requested information on Mrs. Molly Spencer, nee Pearse.

Teacher, Carling McEvoy, brought a group of her St Mary's Students to look at our Museum. Peter Pendlebury was thrilled to have the task of showing what was available to the young people.

We had an email enquiry as follows

"I am researching a family tree on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) for an elderly friend. Her name is Anita Black nee Richards. Her Grandmother was Louis Maude Richards nee Meyer. Jurgen H Meyer is her 2 x Great Grandfather and Johann is her 2 x Great Uncle. I was wondering if you have any information on either of these gentleman. Anita has the book "Shanty on the Bridge" by C E Sayers which is quite informative but I was wondering if you have any more info. Like_ Is the Mt Jeffcott Hotel, the original Mt Jeffcott store that Johann set up and is the Royal George Hotel still there in Donald and what is the date of the picture of it on your website? I believe Jurgen had a hand in running that one. Is there any info on his second marriage to Jane Goldsmith and his daughter Annie Matilda Meyer, step sister to Jurgen Heinrich Meyer, Anita's Great Grandfather?"

This led me in alarm to my Book "Now & Then" Volume One, where I had recorded that the Royal George was built by **J.A. Meyer**. Fortunately, Ron Falla

had it right in his “Businesses and Buildings”. It was definitely **J.H. Meyer**. So, having consumed a great big slice of humble pie, I ask everyone to please alter J.A. to J. H. on page 151 of their copies of “Now and Then”. I have asked our new website manager, John Kumm, to make note of this correction near the picture of the Royal George on the website. We estimate that the photo was taken in about the 1920s.

We have sent a good deal of information and Meyer photos to the email correspondent and received some interesting photos in return. One is allegedly of Jane Goldsmith and Jurgen Meyer. Goldsmith or Meyer family members are invited to the archives to verify (or not) the people in this photo.

Elizabeth Thompson wanted a copy of an August, 1938 Donald Times to present to a friend, a former Watchem resident who was celebrating his 80th birthday on the 27th. We were able to email digital photographs of pages of the broadsheet paper which would have been readable on computer. Incidentally Woomelang played Watchem-Litchfield in the Second semi-final in August 1938. I just had to check the results in the following paper to find that Woomelang won and that my father and uncle, Frank and Bill Walsh, were in the losing team.

The Ballarat Caravan club spent a night in Donald on 16th August. The next day a couple came to the archives, buying several books on Donald History.

Loretto Campbell, a granddaughter of Stan and Noreen Stafford, was chuffed to see that Stan was mentioned in the May Buloke Bulletin. She emailed for further information on Stan’s building business and we were able to oblige.

Michelle Butler called at the archives wanting information on George and Ann Bull and descendants. We were able to give her several obituaries and a report of the Bull Reunion held at the Jeffcott Public Hall in 1977. Donald’s Cumming family are descendants of George and Ann Bull and featured in the write up. The Donald Times Index had one alarming entry for G. Bull.

“22.02.1935; 2g, Shot at Buloke on Duck Opening.”

We looked up the offending paper and found that George was part of a party who had shot ducks at Lake Buloke. Michelle Butler was also a descendant of the Tomichael’s, early selectors at East Charlton.

John Cleary, a descendant of Sinon (or Simon) Cleary who farmed in Watchem in the late 1890s, called into the archives. He was interested in finding just where the farm land was. Again we were able to oblige. One of Sinon’s sons was Albert Cleary, Auctioneer of Donald and later St Arnaud.

Blasts from the past; "Donald Times" September 1918

September 3. "The Military Medal has been awarded to Australian Staff Nurse Pearl Corkhill. During an enemy air raid she attended the wounded regardless of her own safety, though the enemy were overhead. Her example was of great value in allaying alarm amongst the patients". Probably the nurse referred to in the above cable message is the daughter of the late Mr Thomas Corkhill, inspector of police, who was at one time stationed in Donald when holding the rank of senior constable.

At the Donald court Friday last Percy Cameron was charged with breaking in and stealing from the military stores department. Accused pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. The sentence was suspended on his entering into a bond to be of good behaviour for 12 months. Constable Morrison prosecuted.

Sept. 6 Mrs W.A. Morgan received word last week that her husband, Gunner W.A. Morgan was shortly returning.

The relatives of Privates Ike Zimmer and Herb Baird have received word that they have been wounded and it is seriously hoped that their wounds are not serious.

Shearing is proceeding in the district and already J.L.Colbert, "Mona Vale" and W.Fraser, "Clifton" have cut out.

Sept.10: The Acting Prime Minister received word on Wednesday that Lord Forrest of Bunbury, had died at sea on the previous day. Lord Forrest, who was probably one of the most prominent figures of Australia, had a record of nearly 27 years as a Minister of the Crown and, as an explorer, he was known throughout the world.

Sept.20: An accident happened to a car load of Donaldites en route to the Charlton show on Wednesday. The steering gear broke and the car turned over, throwing the occupants (Misses Lemecke, Sylvia Bourke, Mr W. Hegarty and the driver Mr W.A. Hearn) out on the road. Luckily everyone escaped injury, and a broken windscreen was the only damage the car received.

Sept 24 Whirily defeated Watchem in the grand final football match at Birchip on Saturday last and are, therefore, the premier in the Birchip competition.

Once more gloom has been cast over our town and district through this cruel war. On Thursday last the sad news was conveyed to Mr and Mrs Zimmer that their noble son, Cpl. Roy Zimmer, had been killed in action.

Sept.27 The Hon. Secretary of the local Seventh War Loan committee (Mr C. McCracken) reports that the amount of £3,100 has been subscribed to date. Everyone is earnestly requested to do their share and make up the quota (£20,000) and to prove the loyalty of the Shire of Donald in helping the boys at the front.