



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

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Enquiries for March: Stephen Brooks received information on Terrence Joseph McGannon. A young man called Angus Edward Donald called at the archives wondering if he is related to William Donald. He took information and will get back to us. Rebecca Moore emailed wanting information on Jane and Hugh Torney who lived in Donald during the 1880s, 90s and early 1900s. We had quite a bit on them. Hugh was a carrier and on his death in 1895 Jane set herself up as a midwife from her home at 22 Campbell St.

Vern and Ronnie Leng rang first and then called at the archives. Vern is a descendant of Thomas Stevens and Maria Callar, Jeffcott Selectors, and their daughter Mary Jane who married Charles Henry Bennett. Florence Breed had the Stevens/Callar history in her Coats family history, "A Devonshire Lad". Thomas Stevens's sisters married Samuel Coats and Francis Harris and both couples were also Jeffcott Selectors. Ron Falla's Selector's books again came to the fore, showing exactly where these people settled.

Clive Roper is a descendant of Thomas Roper and Lottie Verna Lambie. Thomas was an English migrant and a WW1 veteran. He was a carpenter in Watchem before and after the war and built several of Watchem's houses. Clive would like to know if we know of Thomas's whereabouts between 1909 when he returned from South Africa and 1916 when he enlisted.

John Buckley visited the archives wanting information on Elizabeth Buckley, a widow and an early selector, who later married Mr. Sutcliff, the founder of "The Donald Express" newspaper.

There has been lot of interest lately in the book "The Cream of Corack" compiled by Jenni Campbell. Several copies have been posted off in recent weeks

Blasts from the Past – April 1919.

April 1st. A bolting horse caused a deal of excitement in Woods Street on Friday evening. Mr O Fordham and a companion drove to the Little Lake Buloke in search of wild duck and having thought they had securely tied the wheel of the vehicle, proceeded on their hunt. The rope ,however, got loose and the “nag “fired with a racing spirit, set off with a gallop for home and negotiated all the turns with wonderful skill. It eventually made Woods Street the straight and backers had odds on a smash up but the horse turned the Catholic Church corner and never stopped till it collided with a fence near home. How the shooters fared is left to conjecture.

April 4th. The Presbyterian Church Watchem was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday January 29th when Hazel Winifred, eldest daughter of Cr and Mrs Lavery of “Rexworth “Watchem was united in the holy bands of matrimony with Ralph Marchment, second son of Mrs B. Ackland “Olinda “Watchem, officiating clergyman being Rev. Porter, Birch. *(After were descriptions of the gowns worn by the bride, bridesmaids etc and the Reception. Also a list of some 50 presents given to the couple. Some examples follow)*

Mrs Richards and family – silver mounted bread board Mr and Miss Goldsmith – cheque
Miss E. Ackland – set of brooms. Mrs A.G Campbell – silver serviette rings
Mr & Mrs W. Baird - cheque

April 8th. Constable Thos. Seymour, stationed at Wycheproof, proceeded against Stanley Beckham on a charge of having more than the statutory number of ducks (15) in his possession on the opening of the duck season.

Constable Seymour gave evidence that he saw the defendant come out of the water and on inspecting his bag found it contained 24 ducks. He seized the bag and confiscated the gun. The defence was that when he was in the water he had 14 ducks in his bag and with his last shot he had brought down five ducks and, on his way out of the water, he had picked up five wounded ducks making his total 24.

The Bench had no option but to fine the defendant 5 pounds, the penalty fixed by law, with one pound five shillings in costs.

April 11th. Corporal A. Muir, son of Mr and Mrs G. Muir of Donald returned to Donald by the evening train on Wednesday after an absence of four years on active service.

April 15th. Widespread regret was felt in this district when it became known that Nurse L. Walder, daughter of Mr and Mrs Walder of Watchem had died from an attack of pneumonic influenza after an illness of eight days. The young lady, who was deservedly popular, died on Friday and was buried privately at the Watchem cemetery on Saturday. The deceased young lady had nursed a patient, a man from Melbourne, who succumbed to an attack of the influenza. Miss Walder had been nursing at the Wycheproof Hospital for almost two years.

April 18th. Council Correspondence. From the Chief Commissioner of Police advising that the request for a policeman to be permanently stationed in Watchem cannot be acceded to. Cr. Basset said they *(the Donald Shire Council)* should renew the application as a policeman was badly needed in Watchem as the state of affairs was disgraceful.

April 25th. Victorian farmers Union – Branch formed in Cope Cope. As an outcome of the recent visit to the district of Mr J.J. Hall of the Victorian Farmers Union a branch was formed on Wednesday night last, where there was a good attendance.

Officers elected as follows; President- Mr D. Hodge, Vice Presidents – Messers A. Bugge and M. Bath, Treasurer- Mr W. Ferrier, Secretary Mr E. Leeder, Auditors – Messers E. Bennetto and H. Goldsbury, Committee – Messrs G. Morely, J. Gilmour, F. Sheehan, C. Pilgrim, C. Bath.