



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

## **Buloke Bulletin No. 270. MAY 2019**

Enquiries & News for April. Greg Wells, a grandson of Dean Wells from Traynors Lagoon, has deposited some sporting memorabilia with us. The most spectacular item is a large carved wooden shield, which was the trophy for the Premiers of the Donald Cricket Association in 1927. A named photo of the team accompanies the shield along with several engraved sporting medallions, one from the 1940 Donald Jubilee Show and an engraved silver cup.

Richard Bazeley asked for information on the Bazeley family. His forebear, William Bazeley was licensee of the Royal Hotel in 1872, at what is now 39 Wood St, and remained there for 12 years joining forces with Walter Griffiths.

Heather Norwood brought her mother to Donald for several days over the Anzac week. Her mother, the former Marty Walker, grew up in Donald and is now in her 101<sup>st</sup> year. Marty was very mobile and mentally agile. She attended the Anzac ceremony, where she won the raffle, and she visited the archives twice. Marty's parents were Lesley Walker (Railway Employee) and Marion Muir. They lived at 41 McCulloch St, on the other side of the railway line. Their former house was last lived in by Bert and Flossie Muir, before being demolished in about the 1990s.

Marty's grandparents were Alexander Hamilton Muir and Margaret McPherson. They were original selectors of the land at Section 8, allotment 3, just a few km from Donald on the Sunraysia Hwy towards Litchfield, near where Ken Rowe's house is today. Margaret died in 1913 but Sandy lived until 1938. Joe Barker then bought the land and house and it was later sold to Mullins brothers in 1950. Bouchiers owned it most recently until it was purchased by Corinella Farms in 2017.

The rate books tell us that Thomas Roper was in Watchem in 1912 so that leaves only three years unaccounted for in his life (See last newsletter).

Ten Members of the History group visited Wentworth on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May to pay a visit to Lil Kirk, our former archivist, and her family, Chris and Ian Bailey, also former residents of Donald. We had a pleasant lunch with them at the Jackpot Bakery. Ian was pleased to show us around his new town and we visited the three museums, the most spectacular being the Gaol, and the Perry Sandhills. One museum exhibits Donald's huge cast iron post box, which stood for many years in front of "Ivanhoe", not far from St Mary's School. Some members made enquiries as to the possibility of returning it to us but didn't get very far. Ian has been charged with the task of finding out how they acquired "Our" postbox and just what it would take to purchase it back.

The ten members, Mary Archbold, Beryl Pearse, Peter & Lesley Pendlebury, Norma and Beth Hollis, Keith Smith, Brian and Enid Brasier and Anne Walsh lunched and dined with the Wentworth Historical Society members and visited their Archives the following morning, which is at the rear of the very impressive Library. This was very enjoyable for both groups. Lil, Chris and Ian came to the library to say goodbye. The Donaldites then headed into Mildura for a Murray River cruise on the paddleboat, Melbourne, before heading for home. Mary Archbold did an excellent job of organizing the trip and all were very pleased with the accommodation in the Central Motel.

The Bulletin looks a little different this month as we are purchasing a new Archives computer and we are without any computers at the moment.

## **Blasts from the Past- May 1919.**

**May 6.** Mrs E.A. Fletcher of Donald has received advice that Sapper A. Fletcher of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wireless Signals Squadron is returning to Australia per transport "Eastern" which was expected to arrive in Melbourne about 8<sup>th</sup> May. Mrs W. Cannard, Litchfield, has also received word that her daughter, Nurse Cannard, is returning by the "Eastern".

### **May 6. Police Court. Non- Vaccination.**

Constable

Molony v Ernest Fallon and W. J. McNeil for failing to have children vaccinated. Constable Morrison gave evidence that both defendants did not intend to comply with the act. A fine of 20s each was imposed.

### **May 9. PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA.**

Notice is

hereby given that the Shire has secured the services of a Competent Nurse to assist in nursing Influenza Patients. Anyone requiring the services of the Nurse are requested to apply to the Health Officer, Dr Lewis, for particulars of fees.

**May 16.** On Tuesday evening a musical society was formed in Donald. (List of office bearers follows) It was decided to proceed at once with rehearsals. Already a fairly strong choir has been formed. It is hoped to get something in readiness for the Peace celebrations.

At the Shire Council on Tuesday a letter was received from the Central Peace Celebrations Committee outlining the programme. Cr Basset said that as it had been decided to grant a sum of £50 in connection with the Shire celebrations it occurred to him that it might be advisable to appoint a small committee to see that the £50 was expended to the best possible advantage. (A committee of four was approved)

**May 23.** Owing to heavy rain Mr. John Melican decided to postpone his clearing sale till Tuesday next May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**May 27. POLICE COURT.** Constable Morrison gave evidence that, in consequence of information received, he saw the accused on the bank of the river about a mile from the town in the act of rolling up his swag. There was a tin of jam, recently opened, nearby. Accused, when asked, said it was his and that he got it from the store on the left hand side of the street. Witness asked him if he had any other jam and he said no. He then told him to open his swag and inside was the goods valued at 16s 5d. Accused said he found the goods at the rubbish heap about 100 yards along the river. He afterwards admitted to taking them from a buggy in the hotel yard about 9o'clock. He pleaded guilty. He was ordered one month's imprisonment in Ballarat gaol.

**May 30.** On Tuesday the managing director of the Donald Flour Mill and the general secretary of the Federated Flour Mill Employees Union, together with employees of the Mill, had a conference and, as a result, Mr Merlin, who was ordered to stand down, was reinstated.