



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

## **Buloke Bulletin No. 271. JUNE 2019**

Enquiries & News for May: Gail Ward rang from Queensland, saying that she would be coming through Donald in late May and would be interested in gathering information on the Onley family, most specifically the original John Henry Onley and his wife Jane, nee Pittard and their son Alfred James. Our Donald Times Index has quite a deal of information on the Onley family and Gail was also happy to purchase a copy of "Now & Then" Volume One, which detailed many of the businesses run by J.H. and Jane in the early days of Donald. J.H and his sons ran the first brick making business in Donald c. 1880. Soon after, the family built and ran the Cricket Club Hotel and Jane Onley also owned and rented 6 cottages in Hammill St.

Lindy (O'Callaghan) Ashe also rang saying that she would be calling through Donald in May. She wanted information on Daniel and Bridget O'Callaghan, original selectors in Witchipool in 1873. Ron Falla's selector's book showed exactly where the selection was, which is virtually opposite the front gate of the writer of this newsletter. The O'Callaghans left Witchipool in 1908, going on to buying land at Massey. Their Witchipool land was owned by Hepworths for many years and is now owned by Daryl Hollis. The last O Callaghans left Massey in 1920, taking over the Lascelles Hotel, which was previously run by their brother.

Susan Walker emailed. She sent a letter, dated 1877, from her ancestor, Thomas George Suter, to his wife, Rebecca Coburn. Thomas and a fellow worker were working and camping a few miles from Donald, as road builders. He wrote to his wife who was living in St Arnaud and had been left looking after small children and the responsibility of packing up and selling their house. It was a very gentle and touching letter. Susan believes that the family then came to Donald where two of their children were born in 1884 and 1886. She was hoping that we might have an idea where the Suters lived in or near Donald and some information on them. So far we have been unable to help.

James Rogers emailed. He is the son of John Rogers and the grandson of Fred and Winifred Rogers who were soldier Settlers at Rich Avon after the First World War. John Rogers died on New Year's Eve, 2018 and James and his family wanted instructions to visit the old farm at Rich Avon and see the plaque erected to the Soldier Settlers. James will be coming through Donald in early June. He reports that John's brother, Bob, recently retired from Radio Broadcasting, aged 92.

We were saddened to hear of the death of our former archivist and stalwart member, Lilian Kirk, who died in Wentworth on the 31<sup>st</sup> May. Lil was 96 years old and did so much over the years for us.

## **Blasts from the Past; June 1919**

**June 3.** It is pleasing to report that through the prompt action of the local Shire Council and the health officer, nurses and the loyal local volunteer band of local Red Cross volunteers, the outbreak of influenza in Watchem has been checked. The latest report to the Shire Secretary was that there were 14 patients in the temporary hospital and these were progressing favourably.

**June 6.** At the committee meeting of the Donald Football Club on Monday evening, Mr D. Dooley was appointed president and Mr W. Golding, vice president. Permission was granted to Mr McConville as representative of the Queen of Soldiers to sell sags and rolls at all matches and to Mr Bicknell as representative of the Queen of Peace to sell lucky bags.

**June 10.** For some considerable time past rehearsals for a great dramatic effort entitled "Caste" have been held and this will be produced on Monday evening next at St George's Hall. The performers include some of Donald's artists, who can be relied on to do justice to the drama. The proceeds will go to the Donald Brass Band. Admission 2s and 1s.

**June 13.** As a result of a sitting of the Licenses Reduction Board it has been decided to close 14 hotels in country district, including the Racecourse Hotel, Donald and the Railway Hotel, Barakee.

**June 17.** During Thursday evening last one of the loose boxes at the Royal George Hotel stables was broken into and the hurdle racehorse "John's Fancy" was removed. In order to do this the lock was forced. The horse was unrugged and the rug left in the box. The matter was placed in the hands of the police and Constable W. D. Morrison was entrusted to investigate the case. He picked up the tracks from the stable and after the recent showers of rain was able to trace the animal along the Minyip road to a farm 3 miles beyond Boolite where, it is alleged, it was left by Dave Blakley. The horse, which was in the possession of Mr William Howick, was taken in charge by the police and Blakley will be proceeded against by summons. It is stated that there is a law suit proceeding regarding ownership of this horse.

**June 20.** On Monday evening by the 5 O'clock train Trooper Victor Dunstan of Jeffcott arrived and was motored to the post office where, the usual decorations were in evidence adding greatly to the festiveness of the welcome extended by a large crowd of people. On Tuesday evening Second Air Mechanics John and Archie Green, sons of Cr. And Mrs Green of Litchfield were motored to the post office where a large crowd assembled to welcome them home.

**June 27.** PEACE Germany agrees to sign.

The following announcement was made by the Donald Shire on Tuesday last. Mr Watt, the acting Prime Minister, today received from the Governor General Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson the following message from the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Lord Milner) dated June 23. "Foreign Office has received intimation from Paris that the Germans have agreed to sign Treaty unconditionally. "

This news was celebrated by a closure of all shops and a general assembly of school children and a great crowd of Donald citizens at the intersection of Wood and McCulloch Streets. The Donald Brass Band played "several rousing selections".

Cr Wortley, the acting Shire President, spoke to the crowd from the balcony of the Royal George, and expressed his hope “that these boys would never be called upon to go through what our soldier lads had gone through “. The gathering was concluded by lusty cheers for the King, the Empire, the Allies and our soldiers.

(Footnote BB. World War 2 started twenty years and two months later).