



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

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Enquiries for July: Joy Osmond contacted the archives for information on Chris Proctor, the builder. Chris built a number of lovely Donald houses, 21 and 30 Cave St and 32 Houston St amongst them, in the 1920s.

Tania Kerr emailed us on behalf of a friend in Ireland who is researching the Herlihy family. Thomas Herlihy was stationed at the Donald Police Camp for a few months in 1876 when he came to his death on a horse whilst riding back from Witchipool. He left a pregnant wife and young child.

Gale Ward, from Queensland, is the granddaughter of Rupert Clyde Onley, the 4th son of Alfred James Onley. Alfred James was one of the sons involved in the brickmaking business with the original J.H. Onley. Gale rang the archives and then called in asking for Donald Times entries of the family over the years. We have exchanged information and photographs of the Onley family and have greatly expanded our Onley file as a result. Gale purchased a copy of "Now & Then" Volume One, which contained much of the Onley History.

Tony Dickson emailed for information on John McMath, a Donald East farmer who came to the area c.1880 taking over the leases of two 1874 Selectors McMath came from Scotland, in 1861, was a carrier, Waubra farmer and Stawell miner before coming to Donald. He retired to town and died in 1916, leaving a widow, son and daughter.

Meredith Briggs asked for photos of the Mt Jeffcott Hotel c. 1915 when it was owned by Malachi Dooley.

The Donald Anglican Ladies were very taken with the Cathedral Prayer book and autograph book, which had belonged to Matilda Mitchell. They asked for some

history on Matilda. Susan Merrick, great granddaughter of Matilda, sent the books and some lovely photographs of Matilda and husband, Arthur Mitchell. The Mitchells built the three shops next to the BP Service Station and lived in the house behind. Arthur ran the barber shop next door to the three shops, which was later owned by Forrie Brown. This is now "Penfold Place".

Peter and Jennifer Mitchell called at the archives. Peter is a descendant of Peter Dial who was Head teacher at the Donald School from 1877 until the turn of the century. Peter Mitchell has a "Bible" gifted to Peter and Mary Dial by the students of the Donald School on the occasion of their wedding in 1887. He contacted Gavin Young, the principal, and was invited to speak to the students. He called to see if we had any information on his forebears and we were able to show him several Donald Times Entries.

Blasts from the Past – August 1919

August 5. A referendum is about to take place by the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Church members on the question of union of these churches.

August 8. Stone throwing damage reported here and there. Some boys will have a severe lesson taught them before long. School teachers are asked to warn boys of the danger of this practice.

August 12. The district returned soldiers want a billiard room, reading room, smoke room and lodge room. Please note – No amusement hall. (*This is part of a big controversy over the planning of the Memorial Hall*)

The Watchem Brass Band held its monthly meeting on Tuesday night when seven new members were proposed. This makes a total of 30 instruments and the townspeople are proud of the progress being made under the leadership of Mr R. Hill.

August 15. On Monday morning eleven car loads set out from Mr R.W. Reseigh's to take part in a hare drive. A large area of country was shot over, hares being fairly plentiful. At the end of the day the total was approximately 520.

August 19. Mrs E.M. Gilmour has received word that her son, Bombardier R. Gilmour of the 8th Field artillery Brigade, is returning to Australia per transport *Takada* which left England on 18th July and will probably arrive in Melbourne about 31st August.

For spring lambs the demand was unsteady and prices lower. Best sold for 19s to 23s, good from 13s 6d to 18s.

August 26. Banyena (5.9.39) defeated Burrereo (5.7.37) to be premiers at Banyena in front of about 200 onlookers.

August 29. Strangers visiting Donald by road cannot help but admire their sound construction. The good material used reflects the greatest credit upon our Shire council and their engineer.