



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 275. OCTOBER. 2019

Enquiries for September: September has also been a quiet month. Glen and Susanne Pass visited Donald as planned on September 9th and met with Brian Downes and John Foott who remembered Glen's father, Bernie, very well. Bernie Pass was a Geraldton boy with farming in his blood but no farm. He visited Ballarat to compete in Fire brigade championships and made the acquaintance of Mrs. Kit Guthrie, who ran a mixed business. Kit's sister was married to Jack Foott of Litchfield. An introduction was made and Jack Foott employed Bernie on his Litchfield farm from 1948 until 1951. Glen heard this story for the first time from John Foott along with the story of using the steering wheel apparatus to crank a bulldog tractor. The steering wheel caught in the fly wheel and flew out catching Bernie on the ear. This story had made the Donald Times as it was a fairly serious injury.

Owen Coote emailed for information on the Avon Plains Mine, which started in 1894 and operated until going into liquidation in 1907. It was on private property, North East of York Plains, partly owned by the McGregors and partly by Matt Holland. Edward J. Coote, an ancestor of Owen, was at one time the mine manager. Ron Falla had collected every press reference to the mine and had pasted them on to one sheet. We simply had to find the articles and print them out for Owen. He was very pleased with what we found.

Amy Douglas emailed for information on early selectors_ John Shirley and the Douglas and Routley families. Ron Falla's selectors booklets came to the fore again and the original selections were pinpointed for Amy on the Parish maps. The entries in the Donald Times Index for Shirley, Routley and Douglas made for interesting reading.

The Litchfield Picture Show was an outstanding success with about 65 people attending. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and more old films and slides have been located and promised for another Picture Show next year.

Blasts from the Past - October 1919

October 3. Attention is drawn to the advertisement of Mr H.H. Vail, Chemist, of Donald. He has just added to his business large stocks of guns, cartridges and sportsmen's requisites of which he gained considerable experience in his former business in Gippsland. A very fine assortment of Kodaks and Cameras is now on view. The quality all round is of the best and prices are moderate. – Ad

October 14. Mr Griff. Evans, late of the A.I.F., is pushing ahead with his business as a boots salesman in Donald. The proprietor of the new shop has grown up and in trade and knows it from heel to toe.

October 17. **Robbing a Grave.** A case of theft under shockingly callous circumstances has been brought to our notice. Mr and Mrs Wm. Beggs had carefully tended the grave of their little son, who died about six years ago, and had planted a little tree on it. Owing to the attention paid to it the tree grew well and developed into a thing of beauty. On Monday last Mrs Beggs visited the cemetery and was shocked to find that someone had dug the plant out by the roots and removed it.

October 21. The hot spell of weather which commenced last Thursday had a notable effect on the crops in the district. On Sunday afternoon the atmosphere became very sultry and the sky overcast by black clouds giving hopes of rain but none fell. A good soaking fall now would revive many poor crops and immensely improve the reasonably good ones. If it fails to come, there will be many paddocks on which stock will be turned during the next fortnight. (*Falls of 20 points were reported a week later*)

October 24. Mr D. Bourke received a rude shock on Wednesday. He went out for a load of wood, and seeing a nice log, endeavoured to split it with an axe. This proved a tough job so Mr Bourke raised the log onto his shoulder and up into the dray. Arriving home he tipped the load, obtained a maul and wedges and got busy on the log which had defied his energies with the axe. Soon it split open and immediately five feet of brown snake emerged and made for a less disturbed locality. But he left his run too late and "Dinny" wiped him out in quick time.

October 28. Nuisances Inspector Donald. The Donald Shire Council invites applications for the position of Inspector of Nuisances in the township of Watchem.

October 31. **Donald Police Court. Breach of Game Laws.** Senior Constable Priestly proceeded against George Coates on a charge of illegally having in his possession certain wild game, mainly six ducks. Similar charges were laid against William Hugh Muir (14 ducks), Ernest Painter (3 ducks) and Henry Wilcox (3 ducks). They all pleaded guilty and each was fined five pounds. An additional charge of carrying firearms on a Sunday resulted in fines of two pounds each. (*The basic wage in 1919 was seven pounds per fortnight- a very expensive outing*).