



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 276 NOVEMBER, 2019**

### **Enquiries for October:**

Liz Drinan was passing through Donald and called in on spec. She said that her grandfather, Fred West, had lived in Donald and had been the band master. Fred West was here for about a year in 1926/27 and we were able to show Liz a photo of him in the Donald Brass Band which she duly copied. "Now & Then" Volume One showed that he was a boot repairer at the back of William James's Bootmaker shop. This is now at 46 Woods St and is half of Donald Motor cycles. "Now & Then" Volume Two showed that Fred lived in one of the small Byrne St houses behind the doctor's surgery on the corner of Woods and Blair St. A 1909 Flood photo showed the house in the distance so Liz got a great deal of information for a man who was only here for a year.

Patsy East asked for information on the O'Connor family at Watchem, Warmur and Morton Plains. There was a wealth of Information in the indexes starting from when widower, John O'Connor arrived in the Watchem area in 1883 with his seven children Cornelius, Daniel, John Phillip, Ellis (Later Mrs. Naughton) and Catherine. His wife had died in Ireland.

Sue Simpson emailed. Her father, Allan James Young, late of St Arnaud had somehow come into possession of a silver cup from the Donald 1883 Horse Show. The cup was for "Best Thoroughbred" and was presented to W.H. Gray by J.A Meyer at the show. The horse was "Flying Jib" and Daniel O'Leary editor of the Donald Express in 1895 wrote "Many the good old yarn Billy Gray, his one-time rider and trainer, could tell about him" (The flying jib). According to O'Leary the horse came 4th in a Caulfield cup and ran in the first 6 in the Melbourne Cup in the same year.

We now know that this was probably about 1883 when the "Flying Jib" was obviously in his prime. Sue wished to know about the two men involved and

we obliged. She would like to hand the cup onto family members or donate it to the History group. We have said that we would love to have it.

Judi Greenslade is writing a book on the History of the Spencer family. E. G. Spencer, a Presbyterian Home Missionary at Laen and Lawler churches in 1913 and then again in 1917, had returned from the first World War, married Miss Amelia Geake "Mollie" Pearse and then left his calling and new wife to return to the front. His daughter was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> June and he was fatally wounded and died on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Judi asked for photos of E. G. and some background on Mollie Pearse for her publication and we were able to oblige. A second Amelia Geake Pearse, six years younger than Mollie, remained in Donald all her life and became Mrs. Walter Golding.

Brothers, Kevin and Peter Neumann, contacted the archives within days of each other, wanting information on their grandfather, Jim Neumann/Newman, who was a butcher at Cronos in the period 1928-1942. Jim left Donald to enlist. The brothers wished to know the number of the house that he rented in Woods St and "Now and Then" Volume 2 was able to provide the answer. Jim rented two houses - 36 Walker St for the first two years and then 179 Woods St. They also purchased copies of three photos of Jim from the archives collection.

Danyel Walker, great granddaughter of Les and Marion Walker who lived in Donald 1917-1935, came to Donald as a speaker for "Breastscreen Australia" for the Morning tea on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Danyel called into the archives to see if there was any information on her ancestors and, of course, there was a huge amount in the Donald Times Indexes. Marion Walker was a Muir which meant going back even one more generation in the indexes.

Glenys Rickard from Birchip called at the archives for information on Thomas, William and Charles Power who selected land in the area, during the 1870s. Ron Falla's Selectors Books were again very much appreciated.

Gerry Rantfl from Wilby, near Wangaratta, called at the archives wanting information on Caves Hotel. This is now the Donald Hotel and the Cave family established it in 1878, building the current building in 1913.

Local, Peter Gherardi requested the Donald Times articles on his brother, Phil O'Brien. These were prolific as Phil was a big part of Donald in his youth.

Paul Sweeney sourced Ivan Landwehr's Oral history on Laen from the website and wished to be put in touch with Ivan. John Kumm has been uploading all of our oral histories and guest speakers onto the website and this is the first feedback we have received about it.

Kurt Margetts wished for photos of W.H and Agnes Lewis and the Lewis Cordial factory which was located at 161-163 Woods St.

We could not oblige and would be grateful if anyone could help with Lewis photos as we would like them for our collection as well.

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

**November 7** Miss Florence Black, of Banyena, aged 17 years was carrying a loaded pea rifle on Tuesday and put it down inside the stable door. As she closed the door, the rifle fell against it and went off, striking the young lady in the chest and entering the left lung. She was taken to Minyip for medical attention and thence to the Horsham Hospital. By the aid of X rays the bullet was found in the lung but has not been removed.

**ORANGE BLOSSOMS** A very pretty wedding at Corack East.... the contracting parties being Miss Stella Lavery , 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of Mr & Mrs W.H.Lavery of "Linda Vale", Corack East and Mr. Arnold Louis Mepstead, 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Mrs. Mepstead of Melbourne and the late Mr. Mepstead, a well-known Veterinary Surgeon of Horsham.

**COLLISION WITH A COW.** While driving his car up Woods St at about six o'clock on Wednesday evening, Mr. J.P. Morgan collided with a cow owned by Mrs. Peverill.

**CARRON CRICKET ASSOCIATION.** Meeting held at Carron on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> October. After much discussion it was it was agreed that an association be formed, the competing teams to be Carron, Bangerang and Litchfield, with a place left open in the event of a 4<sup>th</sup> team entering.

**SENATE ELECTIONS** J.F. Guthrie, one of the Candidates, will address the electors in St Georges Hall at 6 p.m. on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1919.

**NATIONAL SENATE THREE:** Brigadier General Elliot, J. F. Guthrie, Senator E. J. Russell. (A separate article gives Brig. General Elliot his nickname, "Pompey". J. F. Guthrie, known as Frank, was a brother of T.O. Guthrie, and he did eventually become a senator).

**November 14** **ANOTHER SOLDIER RETURNS.** By special request , no public welcome was accorded Private Ted Pearse when he arrived in Donald on Tuesday with his wife and child..... Flags were flying at the corner posts of his farm, adjoining the railway line, as the train came along on Tuesday.

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** **CALEDONIAN SOCIETY QUILTS.** The closing scene in the life of the Donald Caledonian Society was set at the Mt Jeffcott Hotel on Saturday afternoon. Chieftan J. McNabb presided over the small attendance. George Muir moved that the Society be wound up. Mr. Alex Muir seconded. ...Society had just managed to rub along before the war and then the war knocked all the interest out of it.

**WEDDING BELLS.** Contracting parties Miss Ruth Boorn, daughter of Mr & Mrs. J. Boorn, of Corack East and Albert Youens, who spent three years with the AIF, of Ballarat.

**TO SOLDIERS AND RELATIVES.** ... Forms are obtainable at the Post office entitling them to benefits....These include application for the reissue of a military great coat or the refund of the amount charged for the same: application for war leave payments in respect to deceased soldiers: Application for the issue of medals to the nearest female relative of a soldier who has left Australia for active service: Application for badges by mothers and widows of the soldiers killed in action or died of wounds while serving or after discharge.

**WELCOME HOME.** Duncan Keith. The Soldier and his mother were motored from the station to the Post Office and as the car drew up the band played "Home Sweet Home".

**November 21** A NASTY ACCIDENT Mr John O'Connell of Hammill St ....While unloading wood at the flour mill, Mr. O'Connell's horse took fright as the whistle blew and swerving around it pinned him between the dray and the stack of wood. The horse then bolted with the dray but was recaptured before much damage was done. Mr. O'Connell sustained a bad gash in his head and a deep cut over the eye, both of which required stitching.

**November 24** A PROLIFIC EWE. Mr B. Glen, of Boolite, has a crossbred ewe, 4 years old, which in April last gave birth to four lambs. With a little extra feeding on a barley patch the lambs have all done well and they have since been sold as freezers.