



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 277 FEBRUARY, 2020

Enquiries for November 2019- February 2020

Despite the holiday period, enquiries continued to come in regularly and were dealt with by our three archivists, Mary, Ann and Anne.

Daryl Williams rang from Cobram in November. He has a nameplate from an old Agricultural machine inscribed "T. Trease. Silvermines Rd. St Arnaud" and thought that it may have been from an old stripper. We were unable to help Daryl but could confirm that Thomas Trease had a foundry in St Arnaud in 1874. If anyone can help Daryl with this please contact our archives.

Brenda Sellick requested information on the Guyatt family. Leigh McKinnon from the Golden Dragon museum in Bendigo wished to view our George Ah Ling collection. Helen Ritchie (nee Onley) from Maryborough called to exchange information on the Onley family. She gave more information than she took but we were also able to connect her with other family members who have enquired over the years.

Alan To was our first enquirer in the new year. He emailed on the 3rd January. Alan and his family had visited the archives in 2014 having discovered that his ancestor Willie Dark had a market garden in Donald in the late 1920s and early 30s. Alan has recently had his family research story published in a book entitled "Journeys into Chinese Australian Family History, Edited by Sophie Couchman". He came through Donald on Saturday, January 4th and met with Anne Walsh, from the Donald Archives to present two copies of the book in appreciation of the help that he received back in 2014 from Lilian Kirk, Ron Falla and Ann Dunstan. Sophie Couchman and Alan are both members of "Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria" (CAFHOV), an association where people with Chinese Ancestry can meet other researchers and find expert help in tracing their family history.

Darren Lawry and Family called in to the archives also on the 3rd January. Darren is a descendant of Harry Goltz. Harry was in Donald from the 1920s to 1952, having grown up in St Arnaud. He was employed over the years by the three big stores_ Hannah Bros, J N Baker and Co and finally at Forers. Darren wished for information on Harry and family and also wished to find the grave at the cemetery. We were able to oblige with all of the requests.

Mary Middleton requested information on the Middleton and Vince families of Carron. Again there was plenty in the files.

Jason County emailed, requesting information on Johann Friedrich Christian Schulz, who was employed as a baker in Donald from 1918 until his retirement. Jason wished to know where the Schulz baker shop was and where he lived in his early days in Donald. There were two baker shops in Donald in at this time, G.M. Loughrey and John Lee Bales, and it is fair to assume that he worked for one or other of these. If you know anything about Johann's workplace the archives would love to hear from you. We were able to provide Jason with two houses that Johann lived in before settling at 30 Meyer St and also to tell him the location of both baker shops.

Shane O'Shea emailed from the Buloke times wanting information on the Donald Morton Plains Channel. The old channel crossed the Sunraysia Highway in front of the hospital and in recent weeks something went badly wrong and a big dip developed in the roadway, upsetting many road users. An article in the Donald Times in 1973, just before the Sproat's Lanes houses were built, told of the origins of the channel and we were able to send this to Shane along with photographs.

Karen Sheridan wished to view the map, made by Barry Golding and fellow High School students in the 1960s, showing the location of aboriginal middens in land on the east side of Lake Buloke. This map is on display in the Courthouse Museum.

The Buloke Times also asked for information on the former Watchem Post Office which was destroyed by fire 4th February.

Belinda and Matt Clarke from Avon Plains called into the archives. The Avon Plains Goldmine site is on or near to their land and they wanted information on it. Having recently researched this for another client we were able to give them all of the newspaper articles on it without any difficulty.

Blasts from the Past- February 1920

Feb. 3 **Donald Boy Decorated.** Among many soldiers to whom medals for conspicuous service were presented by General Birdwood recently was Sergeant Jack Baker of Donald who received the Military Medal.

Feb. 3 **Foxes Plentiful.** A party of three Donald sports has been making things lively for Reynard. With a couple of good dogs and guns they secured five in one day last week and two were killed in one afternoon since then. Hares are also particularly numerous and the same party is said to have bagged 36 as a result of a day's hunting.

Feb.6 **Land Sales** The following land sales have been made by Messers Falla & Pitty of Donald during the last two months Account Mr H. J. Douglas , 312 acres at Litchfield at 8 pounds 5 shillings an acre to Mr J. Melican. Account Mr J. Gardiner Half acre allotment in Woods Street to the Catholic Church Trust.

Feb. 13 **Licensing Cases.** Patrick Sweeney of the Shamrock Hotel, was proceeded against by Constable Morrison for trading after hours on 29th November. The evidence of the constable was that at 10.40 on that date he found the side door of the bar parlour open and two men with glasses of beer before them. Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 5 pounds with 13/4 costs. Arising out of the case John Evans and James Muir were charged with being on the premises during prohibited hours. Neither defendant appeared and each was fined 2 pounds with 13/4 costs.

Feb. 17 **Guard's Hand Amputated** Guard Jack Nugent , who is well known in Donald, has met with a most unfortunate accident. He was at work in the Seymour railway yards when his hand was caught between the buffers of two trucks and crushed so badly that it had to be amputated.

Feb 20 **Top of the Poll** Mr P.J. Hepworth, who headed the poll at the election of directors of the Donald Inland Freezing Works , is the son of Mr Alan Hepworth J.P. and is evidently a "chip off the old block ". As a member of the Donald Shire Council and in his public activities, Mr Hepworth snr. , proved a level-headed and able man. His son is a native of this district and took up land at Woomerlang some time back. His energy and enthusiasm will be valuable assets to the freezing works.

Feb. 20 **Election of Directors.** P.J. Hepworth (Woomerlang) 4148, W.K. Freeman (St Arnaud) 4047, Jas. Nolan (Jeffcott) 4006, E. J. Bath (Swanwater) 3999, W.H. gray (Donald) 3990, T.O. Guthrie (Avon Plains) 3966, B. Lavery (Watchem) 3865, E. Reseigh (Rich Avon West) 3717, G. K. Grewar (Donald) 3158, T. H. Burton (Carron) 2945, J. Hannah (Donald) 2655, E. Swanton (Stuart Mill) 2082.

Feb. 24 **The Duck Season** Since the opening day on the duck shooting season , some good bags have been obtained at Lake Buloke. The great difficulty in finding birds which fall in the high rushes has resulted in many being lost after they are shot. We have heard of one man who collected his "limit" bag of 15 birds as a result of two shots into a big mob of teal last Wednesday. Black, hard-head and speckled duck are particularly numerous and all are unusually fat.