



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 278 MARCH, 2020

Associate Memberships The Annual meeting delegates decided to offer an Associate Membership scheme to people from out of the area who wish to make a contribution to the Donald History and Natural History Group. The fee for such a membership is to be \$20. Please contact the archives to find out how to pay the membership.

Enquiries for February Simone Christie wanted information on Jane Palmer who married into the Moore family at Donald. Mary Fielding called in at the archives and was interested in the Watchem Cemetery records. She was hoping to find the grave of a man who worked on their Watchem farm when she was young who was known to her as “Darkie” Jones. The Watchem Cemetery Records are available at the archives in a booklet for \$5 and we were able to find a “Jones” for Mary who might fit the bill.

“Murray Magic Tours” from Barham have made arrangements with “The Old Police Camp” committee to include it as one of the stops on their regular Tourist bus trip to the Wimmera. They emailed us their timetable, which will run 7 trips for the year, the first one being on St Patrick’s Day. Norm Hollis has it all in hand and it is a great coup for the Old Police Camp.

Judith Green found us on the Website and remarked “I hadn’t realised what an active group the Donald Historical Society is until viewing your website today. It was a delight to negotiate and filled with useful information”. Thanks Judith, we have had two excellent “webmasters” over the years and our website is in the very good hands of John Kumm at the moment. Judith is connected to the Hancock and Boon families who selected in Rich Avon East and also requested information on Robert Jefferies and family. Again, Ron Falla’s Selectors books came to the fore as well as “The Shire of Donald history 1897-1995” compiled by Ian Maroske and Lilian Kirk.

Great excitement was caused when Mary Archbold posted a photo of a "crowd" taken by the Herald Sun in 1961 on face book. The occasion was "The Sun Tour" Cycle Race and that evening local dignitaries had placed the lei around the winner's neck in front of the Donald Post Office. The winner was J X McDonough. We did find a write up of the Tour on Page 4 of the Donald Times, October 17th and also found the photo of the dignitaries (taken by the Herald Sun) in our catalogued collection. Thanks to those who contributed we can now put the article and the two photos together with names on most of the crowd.

Blasts from the Past- March 1920 **March 2.** Mr Spencer Reseigh, son of Mr R. W. Reseigh, met with a serious accident on Tuesday night. As he was riding home with some friends from Mr E. Reseigh's, his horse put a foot in a hole and fell, throwing the rider. ... Dr Calhoun was summoned but the sufferer was unconscious until Thursday. Since then he has considerably improved.

March 5. Mr V. R. Merlin met with a nasty accident on Monday last. He was engaged in his work at the mill when a flooring board broke under him and his left foot went through the hole. A very grave strain resulted and the sufferer had to keep to his bed for two days.

March 9. Council Meeting. Cr. McPherson moved that the engineer have erected at the main entrances to the town, notices warning travellers that the maximum speed allowed in this town is 12 miles per hour. Seconded Cr. Sproat. Carried

March 12. The Aeroplane arrives. On Tuesday afternoon, at about 2o'clock, the eyes of all townspeople turned skyward in search of the Armstrong-Whitworth aeroplane, the arrival of which was heralded by the muffled roar of its 160 h.p. Beardmore engine. The machine flew over the town at a height of between six and seven thousand feet and made a good landing in Sproat's paddock alongside the railway line.

Donald Court Two young men ... appeared before the Donald Court yesterday on a charge of behaving in an offensive manner. Constable Morrison gave evidence that on about 11 O'clock on race night he was sent for and went to the shop of George Poon, a Chinese, in McCulloch Street. The two accused were given in charge and he locked them up. A large parcel containing a fair-sized pumpkin and smaller vegetables and fruit was opened to the court to prove the case for the prosecution (*These being items from Mr Poon's shop which had been thrown at him by the drunken defendants*). The defendants pleaded guilty and had nothing to say in extenuation of their conduct. They were each fined one pound or seven days.