



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 279 APRIL, 2020**

Enquiries for March: Judi Greenslade visited the archives having dealt with us electronically over the past few months. Judi is writing a history of the Spencer family, one of whom was E.G. Spencer who married Mollie Pearse from Donald during World War One. Judi met with our volunteer, Jenni Campbell, who is a Pearse descendant, to exchange information.

Ian Bailey, from Cairns, visited the archives seeking information on the Goldsmith family. Again, volunteer Jenni was able to assist as her husband Trevor was descended from the Goldsmiths. Trevor took Ian around to various Goldsmith places of interest.

Ann Mayer emailed and wanted a baptism certificate for her grandmother, Daisy McCarthy, who was born at Morton Plains. We referred Ann to the Birchip Society but not before we uncovered that the grandmother of Daisy was one of the Granite Flat Patersons, which was why she thought that they may have attended a church in our area.

Graham Drage from Lah wondered if we had any information on his ancestor, James Drage, who was a shepherd at Warranooke Station and married in 1869. This was too early for our records and Warranooke is between Marnoo and Rupanyup so just out of our area.

John Hutchinson, president of Inverloch Historical Society, called at the archives asking for information on the Tolemans, early selectors at Corack, Banyenong and Jeffcott. Douglas and Gillian Smith from Alphington requested information on specific members of the Jil Jil Harris family.

Heather and Dean Case from California had contacted the archives in 2018 year, as Heather wished to purchase the book "The Cream of Corack" which she had seen listed on our website. They called at the archives on 22 March and met with Jenni Campbell, the author of the book. Heather also wanted information on the McIntosh family of Corack, of which there was plenty in The Donald Times Indexes. Jenni Campbell has earned her keep this month.

## Blasts from the Past April 1920

**April 2.** Local Land Board. At the sitting of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Inquiry Board, held in the Court house on Tuesday last, the 14 blocks, purchased from Thomas Guthrie and Sons Rich Avon Estate were dispersed of. There were 37 applications for the 14 blocks, 27 gave evidence before the Board and 8 did not appear. The applicants who appeared before the Board were a fine, sturdy, determined-looking lot of men and will no doubt make good settlers. The following were recommended for the different blocks. Block No 1 S.T. Barber, No 2 R. Geddes, No 3 P.J.Boak, No 4 W.S. Inglis, No 5 H.T. Wood, No 6 G.R. Mortlock, No 7 J.W. Baker, No 8 F.C. Rodgers, No9 F. E. Harvey, No 10 C. O. Evans, No 11 R. McLean, No 12 J.W. Laing, No 13 J. E. McNally, No 14 F. Clifford.

**April 9.** Corack Races. Record Attendance. The above club's annual meeting was held on Monday last. The day was perfect for outdoor sport and visitors were present from all the surrounding towns and districts. Motor cars were very much in evidence. The buggy and pair will soon be a thing of the past.

**April 13.** Mr Kirmasse's Removal. School Committee Protest. Resigns in a Body. For some considerable time past the Donald School Committee has been at variance with the Education Department in consequence of the latter's determination to transfer Mr Kirmasse from Donald to Broadford. *(There were three columns of correspondence detailing the strong local support for the head teacher and the bureaucratic Departmental replies).*

**April 16.** Donald Police Court. Messers Cantwell and Crone J.P.s occupied the Bench at the police court yesterday when the following case was dealt with- James Giles (3 Charges) of failing to cause his child George Giles to attend school. Fined 10/- on each charge, in default 3 days imprisonment.

**A Splendid Record.** Madge Muir, a pupil at the Donald State School, has just completed a very commendable record of school attendance. From 1<sup>st</sup> February 1914 to 1<sup>st</sup> February 1920, a period of six years, she has not missed a single day at school, for which she has been awarded the department's certificate.

**April 20.** Wedding Bells. Sands – Barber. The Methodist Church Belmont was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>, when Colina May, daughter of Mr and Mrs Barber of "Thalia", Belmont, Geelong was married to Edward Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Sands of "Fairview", Corack East. *(There followed very detailed descriptions of the dresses worn by the bride, bridesmaid, bride's mother, groom's mother and of the speeches given at the reception)*

**April 23.** Staff Entertain Principal. The members of the staff of the Mammoth Store gave Mr and Mrs Wortley a surprise party on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> April at their home. *(Mr Wortley had sold the business and was leaving for Melbourne)*

**April 27.** Anzac Commemoration. As far as the public of Donald was concerned, there was no festivities in commemoration of the great day of Anzac. This was to be regretted, as too much prominence cannot be given to this particular day as it would tend to keep the memory of the gallant feat on Gallipoli green. *(Detailed accounts followed of services in the Church of England, Presbyterian and Methodist churches).*

**August 30.** The property known as "Woodlake Estate", Swanwater was submitted to public auction on Saturday afternoon at the office of Dalgety and Co. St Arnaud. The first lot offered was the Woodlake homestead comprising 690 acres of first-class agricultural land divided into six paddocks, the improvements comprising a nine-roomed brick residence etc. *(Full details of the bidding followed with bids of 2/6 recorded).* At 14 pounds six shillings per acre it was knocked down, amidst applause, to Mr Robert Pilgrim of Cope Cope. The price paid was a record for the district. The second lot containing 200 acres was secured by Mr Albert Bugge of Cope Cope for the satisfactory price of 11 pounds 10 shillings per acre. *(Woodlake had been owned by the Marchmont family for over 50 years).*

STOP PRESS. OUR ARCHIVISTS WILL NOT BE DEALING WITH ANY ENQUIRIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE ARCHIVES BUILDING IS CLOSED DUE TO THE COVID 19 VIRUS.