



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 281 JUNE 2020

Enquiries for April May:

The Donald Archives has been closed for several weeks for the Covid 19 virus lockdown. The Archivists have not been in attendance to answer the phone so there were no enquiries or visitors for all of April and most of May. Surprisingly, there were no emails either but a couple trickled through in the last couple of weeks.

One email was from Isabel Simpson, great niece of Robert Simpson who was one of Donald's early butchers. Isabel grew up in the St Arnaud area and is connected to the Bennetto and Goldsbury families. We had a few items on Robert Simpson in our Donald Times Index but Isabel was especially thrilled to receive the two photos in our collection of his ACTUAL shop. One photo is of very good quality and shows Robert and his children standing in front of the shop in 1877. Isabel is researching her family history and was able to furnish the names of the children.



SIMPSON'S BUTCHER SHOP 1877. This site is now the house at 144 Woods St, between the former hospital, "Ivanhoe" and the Donald Swimming pool.

Left to right: Alexander Simpson 7, Robert Alexander Simpson 10, Probably Robert Simpson, their father, Emily Elizabeth Simpson 8, Mary Ann Simpson 5, Annie Simpson 3. The man in the background may be Robert's brother, George, who supposedly spent a lot of time with the family in his young days before settling in the St Arnaud area. George is buried at Navarre.

Robert Simpson died in 1881 leaving his wife, Mary Ann nee Bazeley, and the five children. Mary Ann married Henry Powell (aka as Harry Powles) in Melbourne in 1888 and they lived in Donald for about 20 years and also Waubra for some time. Two of the Simpson girls married in Donald. Emma (Emily?) married W L Payne in 1883 and Annie married Henry Eastgate in 1890. Mary Ann Powles

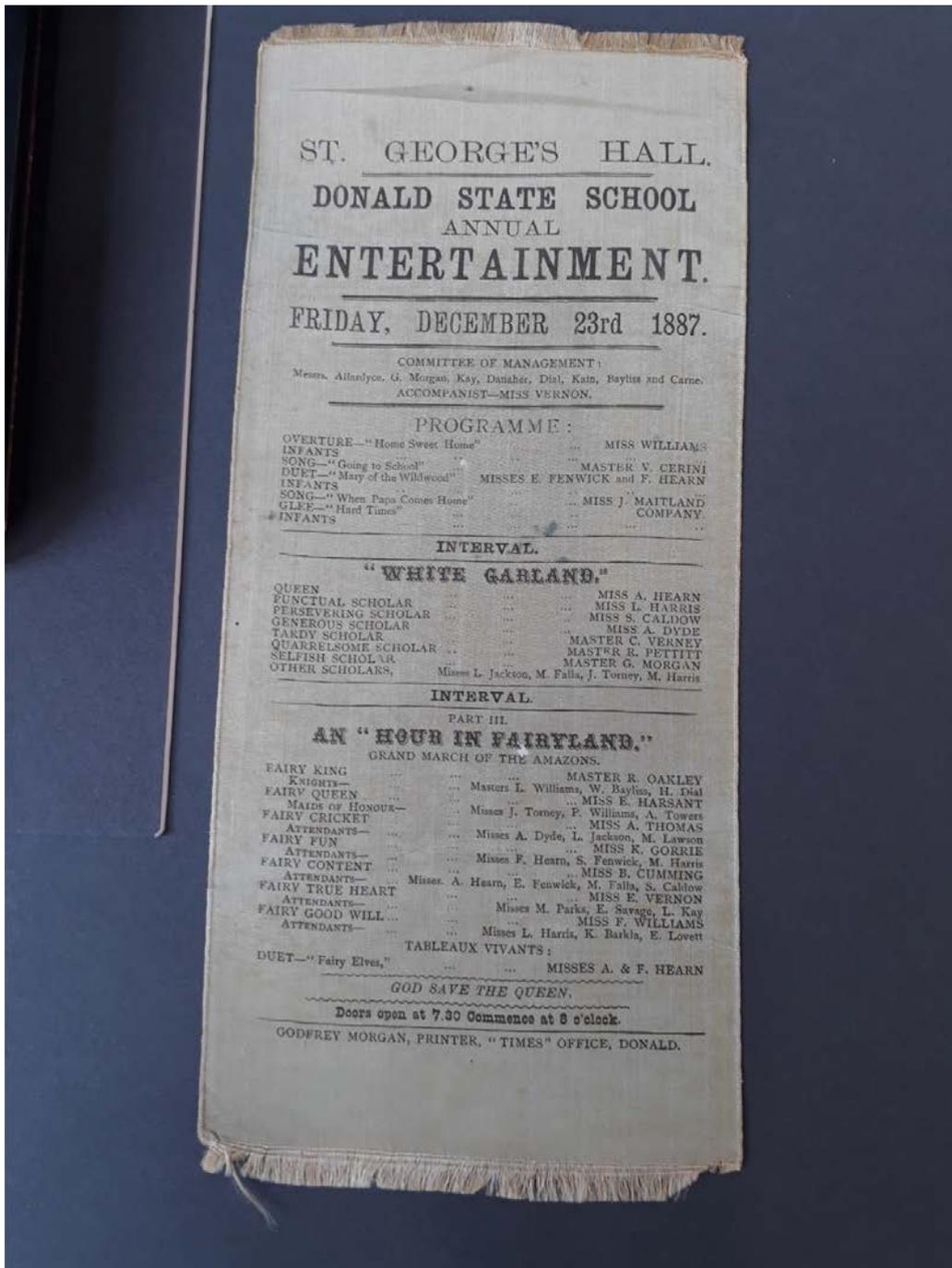
was back in Donald, living in Park St in 1920 when she died. Harry Powles died in 1924. In a footnote to the whole story Isabel found the death notice of Alexander Simpson (the younger boy in the photo) on "Trove" from The Argus, January, 1837.

Mr. Alexander Simpson
The death has occurred of Mr. Alexander Simpson, proprietor of the "Rose-dale Courier," at the age of 66 years. Mr. Simpson began his career as an apprentice in the office of the "Donald Times" and later joined the staff of the "Wimmera Star" at Horsham. With the late E. S. Morgan and T. Horan he acquired a lease of the "Shepparton News," and when the lease expired six years later Messrs. Simpson and Horan launched the "Goulburn Valley Stock and Station Journal," which they disposed of later. After a period in New South Wales, Mr. Simpson 14 years ago acquired the "Rose-dale Courier," which he carried on until his death. He is survived by a widow and four sons and two daughters.

Isabel Simpson says that her grandfather, Alexander John (A.J.) Simpson, was the son of George Simpson who was the brother of Robert, Donald's butcher. A.J. is therefore a first cousin to the Alexander who was the newspaperman. A.J. Simpson had a Stock and Station business St Arnaud.



A J Simpson's Stock and Station Agency in Napier St, St Arnaud where "Peaches Fruit Market" is now situated. The elderly man at the back on the left is thought to be George Simpson. The couple in front of him is probably A.J Simpson and his wife. The boy on the bicycle is possibly their son who is the father of Isabel Simpson. The other people in the photograph are unknown. Please let us know if you can name anyone



The other email was from Peter Mitchell, great grandson of Peter Dial, the second principal of the Donald State School. Peter Mitchell visited the Donald Primary School last year at the invitation of acting principal, Gavan Young, and spoke to the students. Peter has been sorting through family memorabilia and found the silken banner (above) which he thought may be of interest to us. He photographed and emailed it, stating at the same time that he has many other items and photographs that could be of interest. The archives said "Yes please!" to anything that Peter is willing to offer us.

Members of the Prideaux family also requested and received information during this lockdown period and we had another request for three of Ron Falla's Selection booklets, which were duly posted. Our volunteer indexers are staring again this week but the Donald archives and the Op shop will remain closed for the time being.

Blasts from the Past May 2020

Tuesday, May 4 Mr. Albert V. Dear who has commenced a dental practice in Donald and has fixed up premises opposite the Mechanics Institute... will visit Watchem monthly.

Freezing works. The ground is already being prepared for commencement of the operations and a 6800 yd dam is in the course of construction..... five teams busily scooping out this large dam.... Railway to the works will be commenced in the next fortnight..... Arrangements made with the firm Metcalf and Co. to build the works on a fixed fee basis....If the cost is exceeded the fee is lessened. If the works are erected under the estimated cost the fee is lessened.

Friday, May 7 Watchem Storekeeper. Salgram bros, Watchem, advertise that they are cash buyers of all farm produce.

Ball at Litchfield. The ball which was held at the Litchfield grain shed on Wednesday last proved a very successful function..... The music for the dancing was supplied by Mr. Gus Jones of Donald while Mr. Geo Chisolm acted as M C Mr. W. J. McNeill carried out his duties as secretary in a very capable manner.

Tuesday, May 11 In this issue, Miss Hawkins intimates that she is opening a confectionery business at shop no. 4, Centreway Buildings, recently remodeled by W.H. Gray.

Golf season opens. The Donald Golf Club will open the season on Wednesday (tomorrow) with stroke competitions, Ladies handicap (9 Holes) and Men's handicap (9 holes).

Professional Miss Elsie Harse, teacher of singing and voice production, visiting Donald on 18th may be interviewed at the Donald Hotel during the morning.

Tuesday May 18 Country schools are to be closed for seven clear days during the visit of the Prince of Wales and discretion has been allowed in the choice of the holidays to be observed. The Donald State School will be closed on Monday, 24th May and will reopen on Wednesday, 2nd June.

Friday May 21 BOLTING HORSES The few people who were about the street just before 6 o'clock on Monday evening last witnessed a bolt which provided some exciting incidents. Mr. Bert Smith, driver for Mammoth stores, was in charge of a lorry and two horses, and when near the Post Office one of the traces broke or came loose, the horses immediately took fright and set off at a gallop down Woods St. When the intersection of Hammill and Woods St was reached, the bolters had complete charge of the outfit, and at the driver's suggestion a little boy named Eddie Smith, who had mounted the lorry for a joy ride and was not getting it, hopped off. He landed in a large pool of mud and water but luckily escaped injury. Mr. Smith finding he had no chance of pulling up the runaways also jumped off.....after crossing the two bridges they turned into Downey's paddock where they were recaptured.

Friday May 28th. Another unwelcome visitor. A certain hotel in Donald is making a name for itself by reason of the fact that it is becoming popular with uninvited guests. Recently it was set on record that a cow had invaded the premises during the night with unpleasant consequences for one of the lodgers. Last Sunday night another sensation occurred, the principal actor being the same as on the previous occasion. He had just been wafted away into dreamland when he was rudely awakened by an imaginary cat_ luckily it was not a cow this time _ jumping through the open window onto his bed. The already shattered nerves of the inmate could not stand this further strain and flinging himself from his bed, he paced around the room as rapidly as a newly caged lion; this scare conducing more to the hot passion of his previously distempered blood. Later his nerves having become tranquilised, he quietly repaired to his now welcome bed, unconscious of the fact that all the other sleepers had been roused by his imaginary catastrophe.

The engagement is announced of Miss Myrtle Lillian Cannard , only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J Cannard of "Bellevue", Litchfield to Mr. Norman Timms, second eldest son of Mr & Mrs A. S. Timms of Minyip