



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 282 JULY 2020

Enquiries for June:

“The Buloke Times” has been printing much historical content from all of the towns during this lockdown period and have requested information on a number of topics including the Donald Shire Hall, Oakley Thompson Building and Scilleys Island Bridge.

Gillian Anderson (nee Perry) sent a Donald Agricultural Show Ribbon from 1919 for the “Merino Ewe” prize. This was won by Fred Perry and Sons, Corack. Gillian’s father, Ron, was a son of Fred Perry.

Lee Stubbs requested any information we had on the Stubbs family from Watchem. Our indexes were able to provide 14 pages of entries from the Donald Times. Lee was thrilled to find out all of the Stubbs family connections and promises to visit us when the lockdown is over.

Alice Williams Lindsay wanted information on Watkin (Walter) Williams, original selector at Laen East. Ron Falla’s “Selectors of Laen” booklet was much appreciated by Alice.

The enthusiastic new owners of the old house near the site of the former Jeffcott Hall wanted history of the house. It was originally owned by Michael and Bridget (Byrne) Donnellon and their daughter, Nora, was the last of the family to live in the house which used to be the Jeffcott North Post Office. Nora Donnellon retired to Ballarat in 1966 and the house was sold to Ian McEwen.

Laurie and Di Moore rang with news of a 1904 diary, which belonged to M.Holland of Avon Plains. They will be donating the diary to the archives.

Family historian, Sheryl Ward has just found that her grandparents, Robert John Bennett and Florence May Lilian Olsen were married in Donald in 1912

and wished to know if we had any information on them. Our Donald Times indexes revealed two of Robert's occupations and place of residence at this time.

Blasts from the Past July 1920

July 6. *Cruelty to Animals.* The fault is not always with the Railway Department. Last week a truck of horses left Ouyen for Newmarket. They were in a terribly poor condition; on arrival in Donald one animal was down in the truck and all efforts of local railwaymen to get it on its feet again were in vain. Apparently no provision had been made for feeding the horses on their long journey. The railway men put in a quantity of straw which was eaten ravenously. The consignment of starving stock on nearly a two day journey without provisioning for them in any way looks like a case for the RSPCA.

July 9. *St Arnaud Hospital Trouble. Exhaustive Enquiry. Charges not Sustained.*

The usual meeting of the St Arnaud Hospital Committee last Friday dealt very fully with the charges made by the Reverend Aeneas Macdonald against Reverend Father Doyle in which it was alleged that the latter had interfered with the religion of a patient named Bryan McSweeney and left him in a state of exhaustion. (*There was a four column report of the proceedings with direct quotes from those involved and different dictionary definitions of "exhaustion" being quoted*) Final vote of 9 to 0 (with 2 abstentions) was in favour of the motion "That Fr Doyle is entirely exonerated from the charge brought against him by Rev. Ae Macdonald."

July 13. *Watchem Progress Association.* Another subcommittee was appointed to enquire into the possibility of installing electric light in the township.

Watchem Brass Band The Watchem Band held its annual meeting and election of office bearers on Tuesday 6th. The attendance was small owing, no doubt, to the state of the weather. The secretary's report showed that the Band was in a good position with a credit balance of 16 pounds after putting in 30 pounds to help build the Fire Brigade Hall.

Accident. While riding home from Donald last Wednesday night, C. Coats (Donald's team goal sneak) met with a painful accident. His horse fell and injured the rider's ankle so badly that medical attention was sought. No bones were broken but the severe strain will take some time to get right.

July 16. A letter of apology from Rev. Aeneas Macdonald to Fr Doyle was published plus a letter from Fr Doyle to Rev Macdonald accepting the apology. Both expressing the hope that more cordial relations could be established in the future.

Lost, Stolen or Strayed From Buloke Common. 5 pound Reward.

One bay Draught Filly, rising 3 years, unbroken, branded JT near shoulder, blaze face.

One light bay Draught Filly rising 2 years, docked tail, no visible brand, light coloured hair on and under body.

One black or brown gelding, branded JT near shoulder.

The above reward will be paid to any person giving information leading to the recovery of same. J.H. Tonkin Donald