



**DONALD HISTORY**  
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 284 SEPTEMBER 2020**

### Enquiries for August:

A few enquiries have trickled in to the Archives during August and been dealt with by our workers in their reduced capacity.

A descendant of the Barbetti family wished to buy copies of “The Combine Continues”, a book written on the Watchem Corack Football Club by Vince Colbert, and “The Progress of Watchem” put together by Lilian Kirk.

Ben Beed emailed, after he was heard on ABC radio one Saturday morning talking about the “Big Cat” sightings in Rural Australia. A caller named John (who could that be?) told Ben about the “Carron Tiger” and told him to contact the Donald Archives for more detail.

Mary Archbold sent Ben a copy of Lilian Kirk’s book “Great Snakes and other tales of Wildlife”. Lil had included every newspaper article on “Big cats” from our area in the early days.

Ian Jenkin, former Donald Methodist Minister, wished to know if we had any records on his ancestor, John Donnes, ever being in the Donald area in the 1860s. There is evidence that John Donnes was in St Arnaud. We were unable to help Ian as it is too early for our records.

Every few years we have an enquiry from people bearing the surname of Donald and wondering if they are descended from the landowner, William Donald, after whom Donald was named. We had such an enquiry in August. Our archivist is collating all of the information kept in our file on William Donald and his known relations to make a basic tree so that these enquiries can be dealt with thoroughly as they arise. William Donald and his entire family moved to Cheltenham in the UK in 1865. His eldest child was only 11 years old so it is extremely unlikely that any of William’s direct descendants are in Australia. The final tree and information will be made available to enquirers when it is completed.

## **Blasts from the Past September 1920**

### **September 3. Donald Freezing Works. Annual Meeting. A Lie Nailed.**

The chairman (Mr E. Reseigh) said he had heard a report in Birchip the previous day which it was possible some in the district had heard. It was to the effect that shares in the company were selling around Donald for 3 pounds because the people thought it was a rotten business. This was not the case; only one transfer had taken place and that was in the case of a man who had sold out in the district and his successor had bought his shares . Personally, he had sold his property at Avon Plains but he was not selling his shares and was likely to be one of their best shareholders. (Hear, hear)

Premier Visits Donald. It is a long time since Donald had the pleasure of a visit from the head of the State Government prior to last Wednesday when the Hon. H.E.S. Lawson, Premier of the State, paid a visit for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the freezing works which are now nearing completion. (*Four columns devoted to the speeches delivered*)

**September 7. Voting on Church Union.** Sunday night at the Presbyterian church Rev. J.G. Scarfe announced the result of the voting on the proposed union of churches. At Cope Cope voting was unanimously in favour of the proposal, but the congregations of Donald and North Laen were adverse. The total figures for the three places being 89 for and 95 against.

A Propless Clothesline. Article described a new model clothesline designed and built by Mr G. Coates, carpenter and builder of Donald, which could be inspected at the Donald Show.

**September 10.** Court Cases. At Donald court yesterday before Mr P.J. Conlan P.M. and Mr W.A. McPherson J.P. the following cases were dealt with- C.J. Keane v P. Sweeney, claim for 20 pounds commission on sale of property in Donald. Verdict for 19 pounds 5 shillings with 8 pounds 5 shillings costs. Tim Thoong charged with having opium in his possession fit for smoking. Fined 10 pounds with 11 pounds 9 shillings costs: three months were allowed to pay the amount on finding satisfactory security.

Donald Show. Splendid Weather. Record Gate

**September 14.** The Public Works Department invites tenders for the removal of the State School at Sammy's Lake and its erection at Massey. Particulars may be obtained at the Police Station.

Rainfall. Last week's rainfall totalled 190 points in Donald.

**September 17. Shunting Accident.** Mr Charlie Devlin, while engaged in shunting in the Donald yard, had the misfortune to get his thumb crushed between the buffers of two trucks. The top of the thumb was badly crushed and it is probable that the top joint will have to be removed. The escape from a more serious injury is a remarkable one.

### **September 21. An Impressive Ceremony. Soldiers' Memorial Unveiled.**

A large number of returned soldiers, nearly all in uniform, formed up for the march to the park. Headed by the Band the parade, under the command of Lieut. Colonel E.A. Harris, marched up Woods St. to the Park. (*Three columns devoted to speeches*)

**September 24.** Donald Wins Premiership. A Tame Finish.

Final Score Donald 6 goals, 12 behinds Watchem 2 goals, 5 behinds ( *2.5 columns devoted to a detailed description of the play*)

**September 28** Combined Picnic. The time is drawing near for holding the annual picnic excursion to the Little Lake. Each denomination, as usual, will take charge of its own arrangements , and already the children are looking forward to the event which has been fixed for 13<sup>th</sup> October.