



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



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Donald History Enquiries for September:

The State Library had come across three of our publications “Racing around the Richardson”, “William Lockhart Morton, Inventor and Explorer” and “Country Life in the 19th Century”. They had obviously been cited as references in other publications. The Library asked for a copy of the three books for their collection and any other publications that we might have. Looks like we might have a busy time ahead.

Peter Free wanted a copy of a photo of his Corack ancestor, William Free. We were unable to help although we did have photos of one other family member.

A gentleman rang on behalf of a nonagenarian neighbour who wondered if there were still any Goldsburys living around Donald. YES.

Hilary Walder has Ron Falla’s Selectors book on Watchem and wanted to know more about the early selector, John Zimmer. John Zimmer’s daughter, Mary Ann, was Hilary’s mother in law. Hilary was curious to know the name of the family that John Zimmer travelled to Donald with. We were able to tell her that it was Baensch family and also send her some articles and obituaries about the Zimmers from the Donald Times. Hilary reciprocated with the information that the German immigrant families initially congregated at “Germantown” near Geelong, now known as Grovedale, before selecting land and moving out into the country areas.

Diane Pocock ordered some Georgie Ah Ling books. There are still plenty left.

Two newcomers to Donald wished to know the history of their houses. Both houses were in the second Volume of “Now & Then” so it was simply a matter of emailing the page for a small charge.

Marj Scarce made a return visit to Donald to purchase the two volumes of “Now and Then” and to ask for copies of all of her school photos. We are unable to source the photos at the moment as our third computer became dislodged from the system when we changed over to the NBN. Hopefully, this will be rectified soon.

Blasts from the Past; October 1920

October 1. Donald Shire Council President's Allowance. The President's allowance was fixed at £60, the same as last year, on the motion of Crs. McNabb and Pearse.

October 5. Corack Sports The annual sports on land of the Corack Mechanics Institute was held last Wednesday and proved very successful, good entries being received in most events and the competition was keen. The attendance was not quite up to that of last year owing to so many being busy shearing. In the evening a concert and dance took place, the hall being crowded at both functions.

October 8. Practical Sympathy. Recently a returned soldier, Mr C. Ritchie, son of a former editor of this paper, had the misfortune to have his home destroyed by fire. There was no insurance on the furniture and the loss was a nasty blow to a man who was putting up a battle to wrest a living from a new mallee block. However, the neighbours wasted no time on useless sympathy they collected £65 and handed it over to the unfortunate Digger. This is the sort of sympathy a man needs when against troubles of this sort.

The Lawler, Carron and Areegra tennis clubs have decided to form an association for the coming season.

October 12. Footballers' Smoke Night. Over fifty supporters and players of the Donald Football Club assembled in the Parish Hall on the 4th last to celebrate at a smoke social the team's victory in the past season's competition. *(One and a half columns were devoted to speeches proposing many toasts, including one to "The Times", and responses)*

October 15. Cricket. Granite Flat (47) L. Shewan 6 for 17, defeated Donald (32) F. Lynas 5 for 25. Donald's top score was H. Hancock 9.

October 19. Local Option Poll. The ballot paper for the local option poll will contain three declarations – not questions- and the elector is required to make a cross to indicate which of the alternatives he endorses. The following will be the form of the ballot paper;
I vote that the number of licenses in this electoral district continue.
I vote that the number of licenses in this electoral district be reduced.
I vote that no licenses be granted in this electoral district.

A large advertisement urged a NO vote in favour of local prohibition of the sale of liquor.

October 22. Bowling Green Assured. Members of the bowling club who have been enthusiastically battling, in face of discouraging circumstances, to secure a revival of the great summer game in Donald appear likely to reap the reward of their unselfish efforts by the end of the year.