



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 286 NOVEMBER 2020

Donald History Enquiries for OCTOBER:

Peter Mitchell sent some beautiful, historic letters written to his grandmother, Mary Dial, by her husband, Peter. Peter Dial was the second headmaster of the Donald State School.

Heather Stone intends to visit Donald soon. She is a great granddaughter of Rebecca Coats who came with 7 children to farm at Laen in 1874. Rebecca's husband, Joseph, died on a journey to the selection in 1871. Rebecca died in 1905 leaving 4 sons and one daughter, Mrs. Glen. Her eldest son, John, and his wife Hannah were the parents of Ellen (Mrs. Frank Young) and Elsie (Mrs. Walter young) who still have descendants in the area today.

"Pepper Tree Cottage", Laen, which includes "Trelawney", the original homestead of William Rowe Basset, has been sold and the new owner visited the archives to source some historical Donald photos to adorn the passage walls. He has started work and intends to restore the partially mudbrick house to its former glory.

Madonna Grehan, a Melbourne Historian, is curating an exhibition on Australian Nursing and Midwifery History at "Her Place Museum". The exhibition was to have been held in 2020 but has been postponed until next year. She asked for an image from our Bush Nursing Hospital of "a nurse at her workplace". We were able to assist with three photographs of nurses at "Ivanhoe" Hospital in Woods St, Donald.

Jim Aitken donated a fascinating old map of the Marnoo land selections printed in 1879. Martin Shanahan was the only name on it.

Brian and Marian Bayles brought in and donated the photo of Kingsford Smith which appeared in "The Buloke Times" recently. As is his custom, Brian had a story to go with it. His mother, Mabel, had started her first job that week at Linney's Bakery. She earned 7/6 (75 cents) for the week and then went out to the paddock where "Smithy" was giving joyrides. Mabel was mad keen to go up and enquired of the price. It was 7/6. Mabel declined as she didn't think that she could go home and tell her father that she had spent her first week's wages on such frivolity. She told her children that she always wished that she had spent the money and had the ride.

Our op shop has reopened and there has been a steady stream of people purchasing our many and varied donated goods.

Blasts from the Past- November 2020

November 2. Wedding Bells. Vogel – Ackland. A very pretty wedding was celebrated in the Donald Methodist Church on Wednesday 6th October, when Miss Loveday Ackland, daughter of Mrs S. Ackland of Donald and the late Mr Harry Ackland, was united in the holy bands of matrimony with Mr Harry Vogel, son of Mr and Mrs Vogel of Watchem.

(The account included a long list of the presents starting with the bride's mother's gift of "household linen and cutlery", lots of silverware, 12 cheques and a "butter knife" given by a child)

Burnt by a Rope. A remarkable accident happened to Mr Alex. Russell of Buloke on Saturday morning, resulting in a very painful injury. Mr Russell was bringing in a horse behind the buggy for the sale, and the animal led well until the town was reached. While Mr Russell was filling his pipe he let out the slack of the rope under his left arm, the rest of it being wound around his hand. This was the moment the horse chose to pull back, the result being that the rope was dragged through the driver's hand at a fast pace; it burnt deeply into the flesh all around the hand and singed the coat sleeve. Bad as the injury was, still more serious consequences were a distinct possibility of the situation.

November 5. Obituary. Mr Stephen Sellick. Another of the once sturdy pioneers of the district passed away on Sunday last when the death took place of Mr Stephen Sellick who has been a well and favourably known resident of Jeffcott South for many years. It is over 64 years since the late Mr Sellick came to Victoria and a great deal of the intervening time has been spent in the Jeffcott district where he engaged successfully in farming pursuits. The deceased leaves a widow and a family of 10 children, four sons and six daughters. The family numbered fourteen, four of them having died.

November 9. Laen. Hay cutting has started in this district chiefly among self-sown and wild oats. A very heavy storm was experienced on Thursday afternoon, the high wind twisting some of the crops rather badly. However not a great deal of damage was done as many of the crops will straighten up all right.

Beer Prices Raised. The breweries did not lose any time after the local option poll in raising the price of beer. It is significant that no mention of the contemplated rise was published prior to the vote.

November 12. The A.W.U. ultimatum to NSW farmers regarding wages for the coming harvest is going to lead to trouble unless some compromise is effected. In the Wagga district the rate offered for hands is 2/6 per day more than last year consisting of 12/6 per day for general hands and 15/- for harvest machine men. Stackers are receiving 5/- per day more than last year the rate being 20/- per day. The A.W.U. want £6 per day all around.

November 16. Fish in the Lake. The fact that the drought did not break up until May has proved unfortunate for Donald people in more than one way. Lake Buloke dried up completely apart from a few crab-holes and millions of fish fell easy prey to the natural enemies, the birds. At this time last year the lake was very well stocked with large perch and teach and fine hauls were made with nets, the townspeople being able to purchase fish as a reasonable price.

November 19. Rowdiness at Pictures. It is regrettable that a complaint has again been made about the noise being made by children at the pictures. Nobody expects small boys to remain perfectly quiet for two or three hours at a time_ no normal boy could do it_ but this is quite beyond where they should be allowed to go. Last Wednesday night the stamping of feet amongst the juveniles became so loud and continuous that the fine music provided by the orchestra was spoilt at times for people who otherwise would have enjoyed it greatly.

November 23. Strike at Freezing Works. On Friday a strike at the Donald Inland Freezing Works occurred, the labourers demanding 16/- per day instead of the 13/- now being paid. The directors took a very firm stand on the matter and refused to entertain the proposed new rate. The result was that the men resumed work at the old rate yesterday. It is stated that the man who caused all the trouble by inciting his mates to strike, quietly faded out of the town as soon as the trouble started.

November 30. New Tennis Club. The initial meeting of St Mary's Tennis Club was well attended. The membership fee was fixed at 5/- for men, 2/6 for ladies and 2/6 for players under 16 who are not attending school. The privileges of membership are open to all denominations on payment of the ordinary fee.