



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 287 DECEMBER 2020

Donald History Enquiries for November: There was a request from Jenny Pollard for information on the late John Colbert who was a councillor of the Shire of Donald for 21 years, serving three terms as president.

Robyn Campbell wished for information on the now restored old Campbell house near Batyo Catyo called “Grassy Vale”.

Dianne Koralewski, via the website, is a Great-great-granddaughter of Herbert Ernest Litchfield and wanted information on the Masonic Burnaby Lodge, No. 106, of which Herbert was a member.

Isabel Simpson, formerly of St Arnaud, visited the Archives as well as a number of her Goldsbury and Bennetto relatives. She is a great granddaughter of Theophilus “Oph” Bennetto and purchased three sporting team photos which “Oph” and his brothers were in. Isabel was thrilled to receive a copy from us of a July 24, 2020 Buloke Times newspaper, which commemorated the 145 years of The Donald Times and Buloke Times. The photo showing Godfrey Morgan with his family and staff also contained apprentice, Alexander Simpson. Isabel had researched her Simpson family history through us earlier in the year and was able to show us that Alexander Simpson left Donald and remained a newspaper man all of his life, finishing up as the owner of The Rosedale Courier.

Andrew and Carolyn Taylor called the archives on a trip around Victoria. Carolyn is a great grandniece of Thomas Montague “Monty” Burton, a very prominent citizen, Shire councillor and Carron farmer during the 1920s, 30s and 40s. We were able to provide them with a lovely photograph of Monty, as Shire president, and a number of obituaries and Donald Times entries. Andrew and Carolyn continued on their tour of Victoria and have since purchased “Litchfield Carron_ a century of Settlement” written by Ron and Honor Falla.

We told Carolyn that there are Burton descendants still in the area, i.e. the Frank and Pole families. She intends to make contact with both families at a later date.

Keith Sunderland's daughter called at the archives wishing to make contact with some family of the late Harry "Mick" Andison and we were able to help.

Anita Hook Glenn is a great granddaughter of Elizabeth Ann Buchanan who taught at the Jeffcott West School between 1885 and 1889. Anita has a photo of a large number of children in front of a rural school and hoped that we could tell us whether it was Jeffcott West School or not. We have sent her our only photo of the Jeffcott West School containing only a small group of children.

Terry Davidson, is writing a biography on Joseph Andrew Panton (1831-1913) and wanted to know if we had an advertisement for a reward for a lost horse on a trip to Morton Plains which Panton undertook in 1856. This is too early for most of the newspapers around this area. We suggested that the advertisement may have been a notice nailed to a tree.

Blasts from the Past- November - December 1920

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.

December 3. Case of Snakebite. On Monday afternoon a young man named George McLeod, while working stooking on a farm at Laen, was bitten on the finger by a snake lying under the sheaf. He was alone at the time but took prompt measures to render first-aid to himself. Undoing his boot, he promptly took out the lace, tied it below the punctures which marked the bite, he then cut the wound causing it to bleed freely and walked home. He was then brought into Donald for medical attention but required little further treatment and was able to go home a little later no serious effects having manifested themselves.

December 7. Boy's Arm Broken. A little boy, eight years old, named Dan Pollard (son of Mr and Mrs Alex. Pollard) had the misfortune to break his arm last Saturday week. He was climbing on a ladder at the State School when he slipped and fell about 15 feet with the result that a bone was broken near the wrist. The little chap is now doing well.

December 10. New Wheat Coming In. The first load of the new season's wheat comprising 51 bags has been delivered at Cope Cope by Mr James Bruce. It was a magnificent sample, beautifully cleaned and came from what is estimated as a 15 bag crop. The wheat will go full 65 lbs. to the Imperial bushel and this augurs well for the quality of this season's crop. On Wednesday afternoon Mr R. Broughton delivered the first load of the season at the Donald flour mill. It consisted of 25 bags of Federation and was of a very fair sample. Most of the crops are approaching the ripe stage and the hum of the harvesters will be general in another week or so.

SECOND HAND HARVESTERS FOR SALE

5 foot SUNSHINE in good condition. 30 pounds

6 foot SUNSHINE in good condition 35 pounds

8 foot SUNSHINE almost new 135 pounds

Apply Basset and Son McCulloch St.

December 14. Ice Supplies. An announcement of particular interest to housekeepers appears in this issue. The Donald Inland Freezing Works intends to commence deliveries of ice in the town and at the railway station on Tuesday of next week. This will be a boon to

the townspeople throughout the Xmas season particularly if the weather takes its usual blistering turn about the end of the month.

December 17. Fire at Jeffcott. Last Tuesday afternoon a fire occurred on a farm at Jeffcott owned by Mr H.G. Tonkin. The circumstances surrounding the outbreak are mysterious as it commenced in the middle of a grass paddock during a thunderstorm and it is presumed that either a fireball or flash of lightning was responsible for the blaze. Luckily a heavy shower of rain fell just at this time and the flames were effectively stopped by it after about two acres of grass had been burnt. The rain came in time to prevent what could probably have developed into a big fire and the fact that so little damage was done is a matter for congratulations to Mr Tonkin and his neighbours.

Vaccination. S. McCallum, H. Harvey and R.K. Brennan were charged with having failed to have their children vaccinated. Constable Morrison gave evidence that in each case the defendants had told him that it was not intended to have the child vaccinated. Fines of one pound each were imposed and no costs were asked for. A similar charge against O. Brown was withdrawn.

December 21. Fishing Prohibited. The Donald Urban Waterworks Trust at its meeting last Tuesday night decided to prohibit fishing in the storage reservoirs or concrete tank. The commissioners did not decide to take this step without full consideration but in view of the number of children congregating on the banks of the dams and at the tank it was considered advisable to put a stop to trespassing on the trust's area.

December 24. Bowling Green Opened. The burning heat of Wednesday afternoon did not deter bowling enthusiasts from mustering in good force at the Donald Bowling Club's green, the official opening of which had been fixed for that day.