



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 289 MARCH 2021

Donald History Enquiries for February: We had an enquiry from the son of a former Donald resident who was born in the fifties. He wanted the front page of “The Donald Times” in the week of the year that his father was born. A quick snap with a phone camera and an email and we were able to oblige, along with the actual announcement of the birth a week or so later. We can’t tell you his name in case we spoil the surprise.

Diane Jacobsen wished for information on her ancestor, Thomas Crombie, who gave his occupation as “Farmer of Donald, St Arnaud, Victoria” when he married in Clunes in 1874. We were unable to help Diane as we have no records of Thomas and he was here before there was a newspaper. There was a Crombie family who selected at Corack but no Thomas.

Leon Hogan had a football trophy which was given to his grandfather, Mart, when he played for Jeffcott. The trophy was inscribed D.C.C. 1915 and Leon wished to know what D.D.C. stood for. Our guess was Donald District Competition and an inspection of the Donald Times revealed that in 1915 Jeffcott defeated Donald to win the premiership in the Donald District Association.

Barry Giles phoned looking for information on the Stubbs family of Cope Cope and Watchem.

Frank Carland’s Grandfather, who bore the same name, worked at Dunns and Archibald Loutitt’s farm, “Bon Accord” at Corack. Frank wished to find any information on him. His enlistment is his only record in the Donald Times and he is on the Corack Hall Honour Board.

Alice Williams Lindsay had written earlier in the year re her ancestor, Walter Williams and finally paid her promised visit. Harold Flett had found that the Williams land, Allot. 32 Sec D in Laen is the eastern portion of the block Alex

Adams passed on to his son "Ginge" Adams and the 232 acres is now the property of the Bernie and Virginia Clark family. Alice's Travelling companion was a connection of the Swanton family and was thrilled to see the grandfather clock, given to the Society by Pixie (Swanton) Crone displayed in the Archives building.

Terry O'Brien wanted particular excerpts from the "Donald Express", 1882, 1893 and 1894 showing the selection and then sale of land in the Parish of Marlbed of his ancestor, Catherine Honan and her subsequent application to obtain a licence to build a hotel in Sea Lake. An iPad was used to photograph the required excerpts from the microfiche and they were emailed to him. The print was so poor in the transfer document that it was worth a trip up the ladder to the huge volumes of the Victorian Government Gazette in 1893 (a first for this archivist) The reward was a lovely clear photograph of the land transfer record and several more relevant land transfers that Terry hadn't asked for. Terry was very appreciative of the information, particularly the page from the Gazette. We are both wondering if Catherine Honan had anything to do with the current "Royal Hotel" in Sea Lake, which was established in 1898.

Esther Milne, daughter of Rex Boschen and granddaughter of Mark and Minna Boschen, requested a copy of our publication "Shire of Donald 1897-1995". Mark and Minna Boschen owned the lovely farmhouse where the bitumen stops at the T intersection on the Sheep Hills Road just short of Boolite, now owned by Neville Barber. Mark was on the Donald Shire Council from 1958-62 and the president of the Donald Shire in 1962. Esther saw the book on the shire listed on our Donald History and Natural History Website.

Rob Law, the visiting Microgrid meeting convenor, looked at our website and was intrigued by William Morgan calling a public meeting in 1905 to discuss installation of electric lighting for the town. Rob wished to know more details of the scheme and we were able to point him towards our publication "Past and Present" which contains exactly what he wanted_ Four pages of all the steps taken by Morgan and the people he engaged with. It is well worth a read.

Les Atwell rang for information on the Edelsten family of Cope Cope.

Blasts From the Past_ March 1921

March 3 A DEPARTING BANDSMAN It is with regret we announce the impending departure of Mr. Jack Valli who has been connected with the Donald Citizens Brass band for the past two and a half years.... has rendered valuable service with both cornet and tenor horn.

AN OLD DISTRICT RESIDENT DEPARTS. With the departure of Mr. T.C. Leslie of Laen on 27th March next, the district loses an old and highly esteemed resident of over 30 years standing. He goes to take possession of a property purchased from Mr Gus. Walsgott of Dimboola

March 7 ADVERTISING Dr Lewis has announced that he has disposed of his practice to Dr W. J. Flanagan of Melbourne and all accounts owing must be settled by the end of the month.

TARRING THE STREETS For some days past the council employees have been busily engaged in tarring and doing up the main street, which will be completed as far as the bridges during the week. Upon completion of Woods St a start will be made upon McCulloch St ...from the main street to the Railway station. The Waterworks Trust employees are also engaged in running the water pipe under the main street through three inch pipes in order that they will last longer and save the tearing up of the road except at long intervals.

March 10

SPORTING NOTES. High School Sport. On Wednesday afternoon.... Birchip High School boys .. at local Cricket Ground in Opposition to the Donald High School Boys. A good game resulted leaving the local boys winners by 23 runs. *There followed a description of the best batters and bowlers, which included Harold Bath, Harry Basset, Cliff Coats, Howard Watts, Oscar Muir, Harold Barber and John Davies. For Birchip_Jim Hogan, Warrin Porter and Stevens. In the same article it was reported that a Birchip basketball team under the care of Miss Lavery came to Donald "by the same train .The Donald girls established a big lead in the beginning and although the visitors made a determined finish they were unable to catch up. (None of the girls was named in the article). Under the supervision of Miss Roberts and Miss McCarthy , the visitors were entertained in the High School Cookery centre after the contests.....*

March 14 RAILWAY PICNIC BALLARAT: Special Trains will run from Melbourne and country towns, including Birchip, and will pick up passengers

en route. ...Tickets available from Railways Stations. Day return 6/6. Week return 7/6. The picnic takes place next Saturday, March 25th.

A "SNORTER". In the matter of disagreeable weather conditions, Saturday last was just about the limit, within the town confines, at any rate. The dust fiend was rampant with a vengeance, taking hold of every conceivable patch of dust and swirling it with blinding insistence into every nook and corner until this usually clean and sober town of ours rivalled Kalgoorlie, at it's best, or worst. Choosing his time well, he made the most of the opportunity presented by the loose covering of red sand which had been spread over the tar in the main St, with the result that the day was one of the worst ever experienced here. Friday's temp was 95 degrees, Saturday's was 88 but there was no comparison in the discomfort experienced. Towards evening a cool change set in and a slight shower of rain fell, considerably affecting the attendance at the Soldiers open air pictures. The heavy wind had a bad effect on the electric wires and the lights were out in the shops off and on.....

March 21 A SAD FATALITY. MAN DROWNED IN THE JIL JIL SWAMP. News was received yesterday afternoon at the Police Station to the effect that a man had been drowned in the Jil Jil Swamp, near the Channel bridge on Tonkin's property. The name of the deceased was Theo Green, (*the later inquest stated Leo Lawrence Green*) who was with his father, brother and mate and was engaged in cleaning out the channel. They had come from Maryborough and it was only a few days ago that the father and brother went home. They will be returning by tonight's train. It appears that Green and his mate had shot a duck on the swamp..... in their efforts to retrieve ithe ventured too far out and was unable to get back, the water being about twelve feet where he drowned.

LAEN NOTES. It has become the custom in Laen to entertain every local girl about to be married with a kitchen gift evening. Last Friday one was held in honor of Miss Janet Leng, who is to be married to Mr. Jack Hutchins on Wednesday, 22nd inst. A musical programme was submitted first, including songs by the Misses Lavery and R. Westerland, Mrs. Robert Adams, Messrs Hugh Flett and J. Westerland, after which games were played until supper time. **OBITUARY** Mr. W. Summerhayes, an old and respected resident of Laen, died very suddenly on March 11th. The deceased, who was 64 years of age, had a stroke on Saturday morning ... death supervened at midnight.

WEDDING BELLS MCKAY –PACE A very pretty wedding was celebrated at the Donald Methodist Church on the 8th February, when Mr. John Alexander McKay, eldest son of Rev. Alexander McKay of Belmont, Geelong and Ivy

Patricia, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Young Pace of Donald were united in the bonds of Matrimony

March 24 THE LATE MR. J.LOVETT. Quite a gloom was spread over Donald on Sunday Last when it became known that Mr. Joseph Lovett had died in Bendigo on Saturday night. The deceased gentleman came to reside in Donald with his parents in the "seventies". After leaving school he began to learn the printing trade.... The confinement of indoor life did not suit Joe and for many years he was employed at the local Flourmill. Twenty five years ago he purchased 50 acres of land on the Witchipool road , where he built a fine residence. ... A giant of a man, He was 6'2 and 18 stone. (*Lovett's house is marked by the pepper tree on the property to the right of Graeme and Thelma Boyd's house*).

SOCIAL The engagement is announced of Mr. George Pyers, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Pyers of "Break O Day" and Miss Doris Leggo, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leggo of "Mayfort", Wattle St Bendigo.

BREACHES OF WIDTH OF TYRES ACT. Fifty two cases under the Width of Tyres Act will be heard at the Minyip court of petty sessions. The prosecutions are being carried out by the Country Roads Board, to which the total fines will go.

Two of the districts most worthy and highly respected citizens, in the persons of Mr. and Mrs James Carroll, recently left the town for other parts. "Jim" .. a carrier with E.S Moore and sons for 38 years... 35 years ago when carting pipes for laying of mains in Donald.. had both legs broken. Mrs Carroll had a ladies hospital in Walker St.

SNAKE At about 1 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon Mr. W. A. McPherson, on coming out of Young Bros' premises in the main street, noticed a small snake on the footpath. He stepped inside to procure a stick with which to dispatch the reptile, but on returning it had disappeared down the passageway at the side of the Union Bank and a protracted search was made without result.

March 28 MISS ANNIE HOARE

In view of her approaching marriage to Mr. Charles McNally, the friends of Miss Annie Hoare tendered her "Kitchen Tea" in St Mary's schoolroom on Tuesday evening last. The function took the form of a social evening and Dance. The hall was packed and a table placed just inside the door was loaded with gifts suitable to the occasion. It was a striking testimony to the young lady's popularity.