



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 291 MAY 2021**

Donald History Enquiries for April: An enquirer working on Onley/Poole family history wished to know the location of Jack Phillips Blacksmith's shop. Jack Phillips was married to Clemence Poole (one of the original students at the Donald Primary School). Jack and Clemence had their business and home on the corner of Woods and Blair St and also owned the shop next door. Later Jack demolished the shop and rented the vacant lot to the outdoor "Soldiers Pictures Club" in the 1920s. The Tyson family bought the Phillips house and built the current house on the block in the 1960s. Mick Tyson said that they found many horseshoes in the backyard whilst they were cleaning it up to build. The enquirer also purchased a copy of "Now and Then" Volume One, which has much history on the Onley and Poole families.

Another enquirer is doing tributes to the "Rats of Tobruk" and requested photos. We were able to round up most except for one, Richard Stanley Turvey, who may have been born at Rupanyup in 1905. If anyone can help with a photo of Richard please contact the archives.

Heather Stone, a descendant of the Coats family of Laen, finally made her visit and we were able to arrange for her to meet with Harold Flett and the Paynter family who now own the Coats land and, also Maree (Young) Sands, another Coats descendant. Heather enjoyed her visit immensely and has written a thankyou letter to president, Ann Dunstan which begins

"Dear Ann,

I came away from Donald convinced that if Prime Minister Morrison chose to stand aside you could step in and run the country ....."

Heather then went on to praise our marvellous resources. We are only too pleased that all the hard work done by our early Donald Historians in collating those resources is still being appreciated by younger generations. Heather particularly enjoyed being shown the land by the locals and meeting her cousin, Maree.

Ray and Glenn Falla asked for copies of the photograph of their ancestor, Colonel E.A Harris, which has been posted outside the archives with the "Blasts from the Past April 1921". Glenn was also interested in collecting historic photos to do with duck shooting at Lake Buloke. We do not have many so, again, if anyone has some we would love to hear from you.

Linton Reilly, Judy Postlethwaite and Wendy Harvey all asked for information on land that was or is held by their families.

One of our Archivists decided to trial opening the Courthouse Museum at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. on the three days that the archives are open. This avoids someone having to be at the courthouse for hours in the hope of attracting customers. Participants pre-book and pay their \$2 at the archives. It worked on the first day! Our first two customers were Val and Derek from Maroona. The Archivist will report her success to the Courthouse Committee at the next meeting. It is a very impressive Museum and should attract many of the tourists passing through Donald these days if we can have it open.

### **Blasts from the Past- May 1921**

**May 3. Avon Plains.** Mr F. Tate, Director of Education, accompanied by Mr H. Gill, District Inspector, paid a visit to the Avon Plains School on Thursday last, when the Soldiers' Memorial Pavilion, the enlarged photos of fallen heroes, the three Honour Rolls and the plantations around the school were inspected. The visitors were welcomed by Mr H.W. Kemmis J.P., chairman of the school committee.

**Will Take Beating.** Well done Lawler! Last week the sum of 5 pounds 1 shilling was sent by the scholars of the Lawler State School towards the fund for the starving children of Europe. Only 14 children attend the school, so this is a record to be proud of.

**May 6. Burning Accident.** Mrs Flattow, who was so badly burnt at Coonoer Bridge on Friday last through her clothes catching fire, succumbed in the St Arnaud Hospital on Monday. It transpires that she was wearing flannelette clothing at the time of the accident, and it is surmised that she was near the fire when the accident happened. No one was present at the time. Her daughter (Mrs Calcott), with whom she was living, had gone to the residence of Mr Scarce for some milk, and on

her return found her mother enveloped in flames, which she immediately extinguished. Deceased was 56 years of age and leaves two daughters.

**May 10. Military Training.** At the meeting of the Council of Public Education on Tuesday, presided over by the Director of Education Mr F. Tate, the report of the conference held between representatives of the Defence Department and the Council of Public Education concerning compulsory military training in schools was discussed. The Defence Department decided that certain organised games such as football, cricket and tennis could not be included in the approved program of compulsory drill, but that officers of the state schools, who are qualified, may take charge of the drilling in their own schools. After discussion it was decided by the Council to ask the Defence Department to reconsider the decision not to allow organised games to be included in the program of compulsory training.

**May 13 Lonsdale-Charlton Water Scheme.** A meeting was held at the Public Hall, Cope Cope, on Wednesday afternoon with reference to the proposal to construct a channel connecting Lake Lonsdale with Charlton. The feeling of the meeting was strongly against the proposal and a motion was carried objecting to the unfair manner in which the vote was taken.

**May 17 Tractor Demonstration** On Friday next, 20<sup>th</sup> May, a demonstration will be held on Mr H. Hancock's farm, Laen. The tractor engaged will be an Austin and will pull any make of plough and any description of load. For the convenience of those desirous of attending, Mr S.A. Lance, the local agent, is making arrangements for cars to leave the garage in Woods Street in time for the demonstration.

**May 20 Higher Education.** Recently at a morning assembly, Colina Tonkin was presented with her Intermediate Certificate, she being the fourth pupil of the school to gain this coveted distinction during the last twelve months. The others were Bessie Impey, Marjorie Calhoun and Rowe Basset.

**May 24 Closing of School.** Owing to the prevalence of a mild outbreak of diphtheria, the Health Officer (Dr Lewis) has considered it advisable to close the school for a week, during which time it will be thoroughly fumigated. It is not anticipated, however, that the outbreak will prove serious.

**May 27. Spurious Half-Sovereigns.** The Commonwealth Treasury Department on Tuesday issued a warning to the public against accepting spurious half-sovereigns, a large number of which have recently been manufactured in Canton, China.

*(A later article warned the locals about counterfeit florins)*

**May 31 Rainfall** The past few days have experienced a continuation of the fine general rains extending over the whole of the State. For the 24 hours ending at 3 am yesterday 77 points of rain had fallen, making 2114 points for the month and 706 points for the year so far.

**Land Sale.** A very important sale of land in the Jeffcott district was negotiated on Saturday last by Messrs Young Bros. and Falla & Pitty, Auctioneers of Donald when they sold 653 acres on account Mr J. Tonkin to Lieut. Colonel E.A. Harris, and on account Lieut. Colonel E. A. Harris, 320 acres

known as Homebush, to Messrs Tonkin Bros. and 320 acres, known as Goldings, to Messrs Beckham Bros. All places were sold at satisfactory prices.