



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 296 OCTOBER 2021

Donald History Enquiries for September:

Joy Price from Hopetoun asked for any information we might have on her grandparents, Thomas and Ethel May Wiseman, who lived in Donald in 1914, when their eldest son was born. Joy thought that Thomas was working on building water towers at that time as she has a photo of him standing in front of a partially constructed one. The Donald water tower was built in 1887 which didn't match that time frame so we concluded that the Wisemans were only in Donald for a short time. Louise Heathcote asked us if we had any information on Nick and Maisie Pearse and their daughter, Shirley. We had plenty on this very active family. Shirley attended DHES from about 1925 to 1935, was quite musical and eventually trained as a nurse. She unfortunately became very ill whilst nursing and returned home to die in 1952. We had a lovely portrait of Shirley as a young woman and the Louise was very pleased with this and all that we were able to send her about her cousin.

Peter Lovett enquired if we had any information on his Great Great Great Grandfather, Charles Lovett who came to Donald from Dunolly in 1876. Charles was born in Middlesex, UK and died in Donald in 1894. He had been the sexton of the Donald Cemetery. Charles left a wife, Annie and 6 children. Two of his sons, George and Joseph worked at the Donald Flour Mill, George working at for 33 years and dying in 1924. Joseph built a house one block further out than where Graham and Thelma Boyd now live in Aitken Av. He sold this to Jim Crone and retired to Stawell in 1919.

Elizabeth Kraus wished for information on the family of Mary Anne McKellar (her distant cousin) and Edward Hill, carpenter, who lived in Donald in the 1880s. Mary Anne and Edward are both buried in the Donald Cemetery. Five of their seven surviving children married and left Donald. Charlotte (single) died in Melbourne in 1957. Another son, George Rowland became known as Roley George and married Edith Stubbs from Watchem. The Stubbs family managed Waddell's Store so Roley was possibly involved. He was the first secretary of the Watchem Fire Brigade. Rowland and Edith remained in Watchem raising

their three children, Joyceline who married Charlie Mitchell, Jessie who married Norman White and Jock. Of course, Joyce and Charlie Mitchell also remained in Watchem, and raised their family, one of who, Ken aka "Tich", ran the Watchem garage for many years. Our correspondent would probably be interested in hearing any history from descendants of the Hill or Stubbs families should they wish to contact the Donald Archives.

Blasts from the Past October 1921

October 4. **Snake Caught.** While walking in the vicinity of the racecourse on Sunday last, Mr Shepherd of Waddell and Co., Donald killed a brown snake. The reptile was over 6 feet in length and was certainly making an early appearance.

Donald Cemetery. It has been brought to our attention that some person or persons have of late been desecrating the grounds of the local cemetery. The damage is confined principally to the destruction of trees, having been especially noticeable of late, and it is to be hoped that an early effort will be made to locate the offenders or prevent the recurrence of the trouble.

October 7. **New Drapery.** Mr L. Gordon of the Stand Drapery Store Melbourne, notifies the public in this issue that he has opened a branch in Mr Mitchell's new buildings, Woods Street, offering a well assorted stock of drapery at greatly reduced prices. An opening sale will be commenced today and the firm advertises that it intends to uphold the reputation that it has earned during past years, and trusts to obtain a fair share of patronage.

October 11. **Robbery in Donald.** Mr J.A. Ritchie of the Donald Motor Garage reported on Saturday last that a robbery had occurred at his private residence in Woods Street. Investigations were at once made by Sen. Constable Power and Constable Morrison. Later in the day the missing property was recovered by Mr Ritchie and Constable Morrison, having been hidden in the vicinity of the old Racecourse Hotel. This should be a timely warning to residents and shopkeepers who have been in the habit of leaving goods exposed during the dinner hour and at other times.

A Sad Fatality. Residents of Donald, and friends of our genial Bandmaster, Mr Jas. Collins, were shocked at learning on Saturday of the death of his little daughter, Ida Eileen. The child accidentally fell into a bucket of hot water and sustained such severe burns, mainly on the back that she died about 6 p.m. on Saturday. The little girl was only two years of age and the deepest and sincerest sympathy is extended to Mr and Mrs Collins in their bereavement.

October 14. A Dangerous Practice. The attention of parents, particular those living at the river end of Woods Street, is drawn to the danger of allowing children to play in the middle of the road, especially near the street intersections. The prevalence of "alleys" is no doubt the trouble, as groups are formed in the road and the participants do not notice the approach of motors and other vehicles.

The Hammill Street intersection is a particularly bad spot, on account of incoming traffic from Watchem, Laen and Corack. Our attention has also drawn to the absence of the electric light at the corner of Woods and Hammill streets, which has been out of requisition for some considerable time.

October 18. Donald Band Leaves for Ballarat Today. The Donald Citizens' Band, which was so successful at the last Mildura Carnival leaves today by the afternoon train to compete in a bigger competition at South Street Ballarat. As is well known, the band has been practising assiduously for weeks past, and Mr "Massa" Johnson, of the Collingwood "A" Grade Band, is extremely sanguine as to the chances of our band in the "C" Grade Contest, for which there are eight entries.

The band will assemble this afternoon at 1.30 at the intersection of Woods and McCulloch streets, and will march to the station playing the contest march. The inspection of bands will take place on Thursday.

Supporters should turn out in force this afternoon to show the band that the citizens are well behind it in its endeavour. We are sure that we are echoing the sentiments of the public generally in wishing the bandsmen success and a pleasant trip.

October 25. Donald Citizens' Band. "C" Grade Champions of Australia. It is indeed gratifying to have to chronicle yet another success to the credit of the

Donald Citizens' Band, a success greater than any attained previously, and one which even the most sanguine of its supporters could hardly have prophesied at the commencement of the current year, or even three months ago.

(Detailed report of the contest at South Street and celebrations on the return to Donald complete the article)

October 28. **Late Mrs Harty.** Once again we have to chronicle the death of one of our oldest pioneers Mrs Harty of Corack East. The deceased lady was born in County Carlow, Ireland 83 years ago, arriving in Australia when quite a girl, and was married in Colac 62 years ago to the late W. Harty, who died in 1912 when 83 years of age. The late Mr and Mrs Harty selected land at Corack 46 years ago and remained on the original selection until their deaths. The late Mrs Harty was a kind-hearted, motherly woman, typical of the old-time pioneers, always ready and willing to help a neighbour in distress.

These old pioneers are gradually passing away and it is gratifying to note they are leaving behind them many acts that will long be remembered by all those who come in touch with them.

There are eight sons and three daughters left to mourn their loss William (Buangor), Robert (Noorat), Patrick (Colac), John, Michael, Edward, Thomas and Dennis (Corack), Mrs P. Donnellon (Kaniva) and Mrs Lowry (Corack). The funeral will take place today at 2 pm at the Corack cemetery.

(Present day readers may be interested to know that Mrs. Harty was formerly Mary Walsh, her husband's name was William and the missing daughter was Maria).