



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 298 DECEMBER 2021

Donald History Enquiries for November:

The Covid Safety Officer paid us a visit and was suitably impressed with our compliance. She visited all of the businesses in Woods St and also left some signs for us to display.

We are to receive a box of impressive “Donald” family memorabilia from a descendant of the Donald Family. The three Donald brothers who owned Banyenong Station, and after whom Donald is named, returned to England and none of their descendants are in Australia. The brothers had a younger half-brother, however, and he came out to Australia in 1852, married and remained here. One of his descendants from Melbourne has contacted us to offer the memorabilia.

Clive Vernon is descended from Isabella McCreddin/McCredden who was born in Donald in 1867. Isabella’s mother and father were early selectors but her father William died in 1884 leaving her mother, Elizabeth, to struggle on with her family of about 6 children. Elizabeth McCreddin was running a restaurant and Boarding house at this time and it was situated in Woods St. approximately where John Richards now has his business. Clive has been trying for many years to find out more about his direct line which descends from Isabella’s eldest son, Charles Vernon. The McCreddins eventually sold their land in 1896.

Jean Shannon is the granddaughter of George Onley. She visited Donald recently and was interested to know where her family’s brickyards and other businesses were situated. Pages from “Now and Then” Volume one showed her that the brickyards were next to the current Swimming pool, then later on at the site of the Riverside Motel and finally near the Laen Bridge. George Onley owned the Cricket Club Hotel, built by his parents and he later owned a bakery on the site of Johnno’s Café. The bakery burned down in its first year of operation in 1890 and was replaced by the current “Johnno’s” building in 1891.

A Regular truck driver to PeaCo from Bendigo brought in a small wallet holding two pens. It had belonged to his father in law, Donald Wardell and it is an amazing piece of WWII memorabilia. Donald Wardell is in our Donald Times Index in 1925 where he is said to be a slaughterman. He is also mentioned as playing in the “works” cricket team. From this we deduce that he was in Donald to work at the Freezing works which were established in 1921. The works closed in 1933 but Donald

Wardell remained in the town until he enlisted in the AIF on June 18th, 1940. The pen case is labelled on the inside as a gift from "The Shire of Donald" and apparently all men who enlisted from the shire received such a gift. It is the first one seen at the Archives and we found it very exciting. We hope to find out more about Donald Wardell in Donald when we can talk to the driver.

David Francis rang and emailed, wanting information on and the location of Massey. This led to a discussion on the origins of Massey. Does anyone know why Massey was called MASSEY? We would love to hear from you.

Blasts from the Past December 1921.

December 2. Married V Singles. The above match resulted in a victory for the single men after a close and enjoyable game. The married members, evidently preferring to have some suitable excuse for probable defeat, batted only nine men and knocked up 100 runs before being dismissed. The chief contributors to this were Les Stephenson 57 and Bob Hamilton 27, the successful bowlers being Broad 2 for 14, Hay 2 for 1, Power 2 for 22 and Crocker 1 for 35. The married men were lucky to have the services of the veteran Arthur Mitchell, who while still evincing his well-known partiality for eggs (particularly duck's), did well with the ball taking three wickets for 16. The single men scored 113, batsmen to reach double figures being Broad 28, Letts 18, J. O'Brien 14, W. Hay 11 and Mills 10 (not out).

The bowling was done by Golding 4 for 19, Mitchell 3 for 16, Stephenson 1 for 18 and Andrew 1 for 25. At the conclusion of the game the captain of the married men, claiming to have certain "inside" information, expressed the opinion that their ranks could be considerably strengthened next year by the inclusion of one or two, probably more, of the opposing team.

December 6. Women in Parliament. That the presence of a woman in the House is having a sharpening effect is evident from the following incident which occurred in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly a few days ago. Mrs Cowan is not having a happy time in the Assembly. A few days ago Mr J.J. Simons denounced the system under which children were being sent to the Reformatory by the Children's Court. Mrs Cowan made some interjections. Mr Simons rebuked her for frequent interjections whilst he was speaking and wondered what sort of noise there would be in the House when nine or ten women were elected.

(Edith Cowan was the first woman elected to any Parliament in Australia. She served from 1921 to 1924 and is now featured on the \$50 note)

December 9. Donald Police Court. At the Court of Petty Sessions on Thursday last, before Messrs. A. Hepworth and W.H. Kemmis J's.P., Samuel Collins was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Woods Street. Constable Morrison said that he had found the accused drunk in Woods Street at about 3.15 on Wednesday. He had no money and had been spoken to previously. Defendant asked for a chance, explaining that he had just finished work out in the country, and would leave the town at once in search of work. Mr A.

Hepworth J.P. administered a warning, and the accused was discharged conditionally upon leaving the town at once and seeking employment.

December 13. The Salary Grab. Members of the House of Representatives were given another opportunity of discussing the reduction of their salaries in accordance with their professed desire for economy, when a motion was submitted by Mr Page, (leader of the Country Party), that the salaries of members be reduced by 200 pounds. This announcement was received with ironical laughter by members of the Labor party, and when it came to the vote it was defeated by a substantial majority, the supporters of the Ministry and the Labor party voting solidly for the continuance of the salary at 1000 pounds a year. Mr Stewart, member for Wimmera, voted for the reduction.

December 16 Tennis. The first match of the season between Church clubs was played on Wednesday when the Presbyterian Club accepted the challenge of the Methodist Club .The match was played on the Methodist Court and resulted in a win for the home team by 59 games to 41 games. An enjoyable afternoon was spent and the afternoon tea, provided by the ladies of the home club, was much appreciated. A return match will be arranged as soon as possible.

December 20. Bread Reduction. Messrs. W.R. Broughton and J.L. Bayles, bakers, have decided to reduce the price of bread to 1/- per loaf cash and 1/1 booked. It is anticipated that a further reduction will be made in January next.

December 23. Kicked by a Horse. Mr Fred T. Milne of Laen North met with a severe accident Sunday last when attending to the trotting stallion Abbey Mac. The animal struck out and kicked him on the right side, breaking two ribs which penetrated the lung. His face was badly cut by the force with which he was knocked to the ground, stiches having to be inserted by Dr J. Kirkpatrick. Mr Milne, a returned soldier, has been farming in that district for a couple of years, and the accident will considerably delay him in his work. We join with his many friends in wishing him a speedy recovery.