



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 300 FEBRUARY 2022

Donald History Enquiries for January

Troy Nash found mention in one of our 2014 Newsletters that Traynors Lagoon was named after his 3x Great Grandfather, Thomas Traynor/Trainor who was a drover. Troy wished to know if we had any further information about this. We don't and Lilian Kirk, who wrote the article is no longer with us. We assume that Lilian was told this story by a local. Can anyone help us with the Origins of the name "Traynors Lagoon"?

Someone wanted a copy of the "Lockhart Morton" book and another asked to buy "Donald, Past and Present" so the old favourites are still selling. We have sold quite a few of Adam McNicol's photographic book on the Wimmera but still have some left as well as his Mallee Book.

Sharon Watson rang for information on her forebears, George Watson and Martha Willey.

Helen Ferguson (nee Walsh) rang for a report of the visit of a Sherriff of London in 1961. Alderman Adam Kennedy Kirk was a brother of Jack Kirk Senior of Donald and visited the town, causing a great deal of excitement. There was a Civic Reception at the Memorial Hall on Monday, 8th August, 1961 to which the whole town was invited. Performances were rendered by Ruth Flett on the piano and Judy and Helen Walsh on violins who performed as a trio with Mary Connellan on piano accordion. The following morning many of Donald's schoolchildren went to the Memorial Hall to listen to a presentation by the Sherriff who was resplendent in his official scarlet robe with black trimmings, fur edgings, black knee breeches and stockings, buckle shoes, white lace jabot and gold chain and pendant. Two of the school children who were present assured me recently that they had not forgotten the Sherriff. One thought that she had seen the Town Crier as she remembered the outfit very well.

Bev Gilmour (nee Bath) donated a very early Swanwater West Church Hymnal. The names of her grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. A.P. Bath, are inscribed inside the hymnal as it was a presentation to them.

A gentleman who is researching Australian Post Offices wished to know if we had heard of a place called Pimula. We were unable to help.

Craig Proctor, who has ancestral connections to Donald, Corack East and St Arnaud has donated a photograph of the original Donald Flour Mill which was built by Mr. White on a site opposite the current Swimming pool (now 145 Woods St) in 1876. We have been blown away by the existence of this historic photograph and are very pleased to have it in our hands. The mill was damaged by a storm in 1881. In 1887 much of it was transferred to Hammill St where a new mill was built. This is where Dunstan Wool is currently situated.

Kerry Free contacted us. Kerry has many ancestors from around Donald and surrounding area. She is doing family research and asked our help with various dates, names and local knowledge. Kerry was willing to make a donation and we were happy to help.

Blasts from the Past – February 1922

If some of these stories seem familiar it is because they also appeared on the February 2021 Bulletin by mistake. The Bulletin editor had mislaid the “1921 Blasts” sent to her by another member and decided to do some more herself. The 1921 and 1922 papers are in the same box. Now read them again 100 years later instead of 99.

February 3 .Stoppage of Power.

Some inconvenience was caused in the town on Thursday by the difficulty experienced in starting the gas engines at the Power Station. Although much energy, both physical and mental, was expended on the refractory engines throughout the whole of the forenoon, it wasn't until after two o'clock that the recalcitrant consented to “click” after which things went on as normal.

February 3. A Sad Fatality .

A particularly sad accident, unfortunately attended with fatal results, occurred at the home of Mr and Mrs Jno. Cannard of Litchfield on Friday last. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon, their little son, Harold William, aged 4.5 years, was seen by a member of the household, Miss Doris Merrett, to attempt to climb a large mangle, which overbalanced, and fell across his body crushing his head and chest. The mangle weighed about a hundredweight and when picked up the child was found to be unconscious. Medical aid was summoned and the child was found to be suffering from a fracture of the skull. He was speedily conveyed to Nurse Hoare's private hospital where he died at 9 pm. Both Mr and Mrs Cannard are lifelong residents of the district and the deepest and sincerest sympathy is extended to them in their sad loss.

February 7. Training Camps Cancelled.

In view of the necessity of economy in the expenditure of public funds, all camps for training have been cancelled.

February 10. Cricket: Traynor's Lagoon V Donald.

The above teams met on the Donald ground on Wednesday last and a good game resulted in a draw, both teams scoring 76 runs.

February 14. A Special Size in Ropes.

On Saturday last Mr Jas. Grogan of Jeffcott was seen carrying a very heavy manilla rope resembling in weight and thickness a ship's hawser. With him were Mr Sheridan and Coleman Conlan. Enquiries elicited the fact that the rope generally used by the tug-of-war team was useless when tested by the Jeffcott Team's trail pull. The team will compete against all comers on St Patrick's Day in Donald.

February 17. Statistics.

The local Registry of Births and Deaths reports the Vital Statistics for the district of Donald as follows – Births; Male 47, female 52, total 99. Deaths; Male 3, female 8, total 11. The above were registered for the year January 1st to December 31st, 1921.

February 24. A Narrow Escape.

A party of Donald residents had a fortunate escape last week from what might have been a serious accident. Mr Dave Muir was driving to Melbourne and had with him in his car Mrs J. Falla and Mrs R.J. Falla and children.

All went well till climbing the big hill at Bacchus Marsh, when the engine stopped before the top was reached. The brakes refused to act and the car attained considerable speed as it rolled backwards down the hill. At the first turn it came into contact with a strong fence which had been placed there to protect vehicles from the gully below. The force of the impact threw the occupants out while the car was left hanging over the gully. None of the travellers was seriously hurt, and it can only be ascribed as one of those acts of Providence which often avert fatal results.

The many friends of those concerned are happily congratulating them on their marvellous and fortunate escape.

February 28. Church News.

The Presbyterians held their annual Congregational Meeting on Thursday evening last, the Rev. J.G. Scarfe being in the chair. After some discussion it was resolved to procure a new honour board for the church and to proceed with the plans for a new building.