



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 302 APRIL 2022

Donald History Enquiries for March

The enquiries have dropped off for the last month as the country opens up again and people reclaim their active lives.

Two weeks after Brenda McLean had enquired about William Kelley, her ancestor and original selector at Laen, another two women called at archives on the same mission. We were unfortunately closed on that day so they went to the butcher's next door and explained their mission. They too had visited the North Laen cemetery but had the extra excitement of putting up a snake. They did not leave any name or contact details so we hope that they read this and contact us again.

Karen Simmonds emailed for information on her grandfather, Lewis Richards, who was born at Donald in 1919. We had quite a few entries from the Donald Times for Louis Richards, the son of Jim Richards and Regina Rebecca (nee McDonald) Richards who lived in the area up till the 1960s. Louis and Lewis turned out to be the same man and Karen was happy with our information.

Erin Pobar called into the archives looking for information on Thomas Ryan from Laen. Our Donald Times Index was able to supply her with the required articles.

Ruth White has contacted us before for information on her ancestor, Robert Allan, an original selector from North Laen. All of our enquiries this year have been for Laen. The Allans left Donald and went to Sea Lake and Ruth would like more information on when they actually did this. The Donald Shire rate books will give her this information.

Glenda House brought in two items of appreciation which had belonged to her great uncle, Rev. Father John Coughlin. One was for when he was at Inglewood so we forwarded that to the Inglewood Historical society. The other was a beautiful certificate to commemorate his silver jubilee in 1931 and this was also the year that he left Donald. It was beautifully presented on parchment and was from the Students of Sacred Heart High School and St Mary's School. Father Coughlin was the first resident priest in Donald and first lived in a small cottage at 12 Cave St in 1923. At this time he instigated the building of St Joan of Arc Convent and then approached "Les Dames des Notre

Mission" Nuns from Western Australia to staff it. In 1924 he moved into the first presbytery which had just been built in Woods St. This presbytery was later replaced by the current brick presbytery. Below are photos of the Certificate and Father of Coughlin who contributed much to Donald.



Blasts from the Past April 1922

April 4. Donald Freezing Coy. A straight talk by the Treasurer.

A good attendance of Shareholders and others greeted the State Treasurer (Mr McPherson) in the large grading room at the Freezing Works on Saturday afternoon last. Mr McPherson did not speak at any length, but what he said sank in, and was straight to the point. The gist of his speech was simply and clearly this – that unless the amount of 10,000 pounds, representing the sale of 2,000 further shares, was forthcoming within the next month or two, the works would be closed and the growers would have to once again place themselves at the tender mercy of the private speculators.

(There followed a very detailed account of the meeting)

April 7. Donald Police Court. (Before Messrs Chellew & Cantwell J.'s P.)

At the local police court on Thursday morning, Bernard McGowan was charged with having been drunk and disorderly in Woods Street. Constable Morrison gave evidence of arrest. A fine of 5/-, in default six hours imprisonment, was inflicted. The fine was paid.

The next case dealt with was a railway prosecution, C. Watt being charged with having, while being in possession of a second class ticket, shifted from a second class carriage to a first class lounge. Conductor Tierney gave evidence with regard to the offence, which was committed on the morning of the 18th January, between Donald and Massey. A fine of 20/- with 27/6 costs, was imposed.

April 11. A Narrow Escape.

Elva Dunn, the little daughter of Mr Archie Dunn of Donald, had a lucky escape from death on Saturday last. Mr Dunn, who was leaving home in a wagon to cart wood, took the children with him. The little child slipped accidentally, the wheel passed over her shoulder, badly dislocating it. It was rumoured at the time that the wheel had passed over and crushed her chest but we are pleased to state that such is not the case, and she is sitting up in bed, apparently little the worse for her adventure.

April 14. Watchem Without Water.

At the meeting of the Shire Council on Tuesday last, Cr Lavery drew attention to the fact that Watchem had practically been without water for about a fortnight, and asked that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission be written to requesting them to install an auxiliary engine and pump in case of breakdown in the windmill service. He thought that the residents of the town were justly entitled to ask for a more efficient service without any extra rating being imposed. It was left in the Shire Secretary's hands to communicate with the Commission on the subject.

April 21. Band Contest. Judge's Comments.

Mr John Bowden, adjudicator of the selections and band marching music at the band contest at the hospital fete sent the following report to Mr W. Bell, the Secretary, at Swan Hill.

MARCHES. Donald Band, "Great Little Army". – Bass drum opens in good tune but no side drum. Band opens fairly firm. Balance also fair. Inner parts not tuneful. Pages 5 and 6 nicely done. Eupho and baritone is amiss a few bars, but tempo is good and effects fair.

Second opening- Good attack, although cornets are a little wild at first. Cres. Fair. Troms sound well. Counter melody is pleasing and F.M. good. Quality of tone is very fair, but band not unanimous in attack. Trio- Untuneful slightly but improved.

Third opening- Best yet. Band was patchy but a good rendering generally was given. Points 67. *(The Swan Hill band scored 66 points)*

April 25. Proposed Water Channel.

Following the decision of the Government to proceed with the construction of the large supply channel from Lake Lonsdale to the Charlton district, arrangements are being made for a close survey of the proposed route. The channel will carry water to a large area, which at present is depending on the rainfall. In addition the township of Charlton will be given a satisfactory supply. Although there has been some opposition in the southern section to the construction of the channel, or at least to water charges being paid by landowners, it is believed that even the small minority which supported the opposition will, owing to the dry spell, recognise the necessity of having a permanent supply.

April 25. Personal.

We are pleased to report that Mr H. Drum, who met with a painful accident last Friday week is making satisfactory progress. His escape from a tragic ending was indeed remarkable. He was cutting chaff, when the belt came off, and after putting the engine in slow gear, he was about to rectify the belt on the engine pulley. As he was doing so the belt twisted round one of his legs, and Mr Drum was pulled on to the revolving wheel. The impact was so great that it fortunately stopped the engine, otherwise serious consequences must have resulted. Mr Drum was badly bruised and shaken but no bones were broken.- *(Minyip Guardian)*

April 28. Donald Sportsmen visit Maryborough.

On Tuesday last at Maryborough, the third Anzac Sports meeting was held. In the 440 yards handicap, D.J. Nolan was placed first at 49 and one fifth second, running from 28 yards. He also secured third place in the 880 yards, J. Howley running second.