



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 303 MAY 2022

Donald History Enquiries for April

A number of interesting items have come in over the last few months_ a badge for “Back to Donald 1926” and a Jeffcott Premiership Football badge from the same era were exciting finds which came from the Jeffcott Brennan family. There were also a number of war medals and war memorabilia from the Hose and Male families. A local family has donated a Bertie Muir painting of the Bullock’s Head which we are thrilled with. We would like to hear from the donors.

Leigh Hart emailed. He would like to visit the land of William R. and Alexander Farrell, his ancestors, at Laen. Our man from Laen, Harold Flett has been assigned the task for when Leigh makes his journey to Donald. This is not the Carron/Areegra William Farrell who invented the Farrell harvester.

Paul Prideaux wished to know the location of the Prideaux house in Woods St.

“Now and Then, Vol 2” has it at 197 Woods St. It was demolished in 1950 and became Gib Blay’s nursery yard. Gib demolished the house and moved to the larger house next door. In later years Bernie Hadfield built a very stylish workshop on the site which is still in existence.

Ken Peverill obtained a lot of information from us last year about the Peverill family of Jeffcott and the McIntosh family of Corack East. Ken and wife, Wendy finally made the pilgrimage to the Wimmera, visiting Charlton, St Arnaud, Birchip and Donald Archives. The Peverill family lived at “Oaklands”, Jeffcott which was later purchased by Geddie Pearse in about 1920 when he returned from WW1. Ken and Wendy were lucky to have Margaret Pearse as one of their guides on a tour of Jeffcott. Margaret and Tom Pearse lived at “Oaklands” and it was handed on to their son, Phillip, who still lives there with his wife, Tracey. Mary Archbold was the other tour guide and her knowledge of Jeffcott was also appreciated by the Peverills. Caroline Peverill (nee McIntosh) was Ken’s grandmother and on the death of her husband, Bert, just 4 years after their marriage she came to Donald and started the Bon Accord Café where Johnno’s Diner is now situated in 1922.

Blasts from the Past; May 1922

May 2. Donald Police Court. (Before Messrs A. Hepworth and T.W. Cantwell Js.P)

On Saturday morning William Jas. Batten, aged 52 appeared on a charge of drunkenness. Senior Constable Power said that Batten had been a passenger on the afternoon train from Woomelang, and that he had been locked up partly for his own protection, as he was incapable of looking after himself. He had work to go to in Woomelang, and a remand until word was received therewith would be sufficient. Defendant was remanded until the departure of the afternoon train north.

May 2. Council Elections. To fill the vacancy in the North Riding of the Dunmunkle Shire, caused by the death of Cr J.S. Loats, an election took place last Thursday. The candidates were Mr F. Westerland (Laen) and Mr R. Burchell, Banyena). The first mentioned gentleman was returned with a majority of 85 votes.

May 5. Donald Athlete's Success. On Saturday last, D.J. Nolan of Donald visited the Warracknabeal Sports and was successful in carrying off first prizes in both the 880 yds. and the High Jump in which he cleared 5 ft. 10 inches.

May 9 Swimming. Good Results at Local School. The following pupils gained the Education Department's Junior Swimming Certificate at the examination held at the end of the swimming season:

Girls- Florie Jones, Lily Schultz, Ena Moore, Kathleen Jackson, Isabel Prentice

Boys – Harold Bath, George Small, Gordon Jones, Charlie Bicknell, Don Pollard, Willie Pope, Reg Carter and George Howard.

The candidates ranged in age from 8 to 15.

The conditions were:- Enter the water by fairly neat dive, to be able to float for one minute, swim 50 yards by one stroke or strokes, and have a practical knowledge of the Schafer method of resuscitation

May 12. Tree Planting on Roads. A Neglected Opportunity. We would like to call attention to the fact that some years ago the Shire Council gave permission to all persons having their holdings on three chain roads to plough and sow trees along their boundary fences. We are not aware that this fact is generally known to landowners. If it is, very little advantage is being taken of the permission given.

Those willing to plant belts of trees along their holdings should prepare the ground at once, and have it well worked by August. Sugar gum seeds can be obtained for 2/6 per pound at any seed merchants, and one pound, sown along a boundary fence, would cover a lot of ground. When established the trees could be thinned out and planted to advantage in other parts of the town. There is not the slightest doubt that nothing improves the appearance of the town and country roads than well grown and looked after avenues of ornamental trees.

May 16 Health Officer's Report. The health officer, Dr Flanagan reported as follows:

1. Infectious Diseases – Since the last report two cases have been notified both being girls. One was a case of Scarlet Fever from Watchem and one case of Typhoid in Donald. All necessary precautions have been taken and fumigation carried out in each case.
2. Latrines. Some of the Hotel latrines were not in good condition, but this is being rectified.
3. With the above exceptions the health of the district is excellent. No other cases of infectious diseases were notified, but I am unofficially informed that three cases of diphtheria from Corack and one other case of Typhoid from Donald had gone to St Arnaud Hospital.

May 19. Changing the Half Holiday. Many towns in the Wimmera are now observing Saturday as the business half-holiday. Warracknabeal have recently adopted this day and also Minyip. The Coachbuilders and Farriers of Donald recently went round with a petition to determine the feelings of employers and employees on the question, and as a result the great majority favoured Saturday. Consequently the day will be observed as the weekly half-holiday, commencing on Saturday 27th May.

May 23. Accident to Mr Pearse. The many friends of Mr J.L. Pearse will regret to hear that the gentleman had met with a rather serious accident. Although full particulars are not to hand, we understand he fell from a dray, and sustained several broken ribs. This would be serious enough for a young man, but Mr Pearse has reached the ripe age of over four score years.

May 26. The Uniform Gauge. A pamphlet has been prepared by the Prime Minister's department and circulated with the object of reviving interest in the proposal of unifying the railway gauges on the mainland of Australia.

A draft agreement has been prepared, which it is desired the Federal Government and the Parliaments of the five States should sign. It provides for the formation of a railway council composed of the Commonwealth Minister of Works (who would be chairman) and the Ministers of Railways of Victoria and New South Wales. The Council would appoint a director of unification of railway gauges, who would have entire control of the work and the expenditure which would be 21,600,000 pounds. The expense is proposed to be provided by the Commonwealth and four-fifths of the money advanced would be refunded by the States on a population basis. The interest on the loan would be similarly distributed.

May 30. Accident. Whilst engaged on the rebuilding of Mr E.A. Perry's residence at Corack East on Thursday of last week, Chas. Baker fell from a ladder and met with painful injuries. He was conveyed to the Wycheproof Hospital, where he was attended by Dr. Duncan (locum tenens for Dr. Rall) and Matron Stafford, who found that 3 ribs were broken.