



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 304 JUNE 2022

Donald History Enquiries for May

Ron Falla's Selector's books are still being posted out on a regular basis. Over the years, Ron would have taken many trips down to Melbourne to visit the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV), where he collected the information to compile these books. He was required to find out the folio and file numbers of the files that he wished to view and have them ordered before he arrived.

Ron once made the current archivist, Anne Walsh, do the research for her own Walsh selectors in the Swanwater Parish just to see what was involved. At that time the PROV was in Laverton (It was shifted several times over the years whilst Ron was doing his research). The pre-ordered files were brought out to the reading room and what a treasure they were. Letters written back and forth between the selector and the authorities have been kept as well as all of the paperwork for the initial selection, the improvements and the eventual gaining of the title.

Ron started by just doing the Witchipool, Banyenong and Donald Parishes but he eventually completed many of the parishes around Donald up to 100km radius. Some researchers come looking for parishes and find that are just outside the area which Ron has researched. This is a huge disappointment for them as the books are so comprehensive. The current site of the Public Record Office for looking up Land Selection Files is in North Melbourne.

Another important task we fulfil at the archives is to put different researchers for a particular family in touch with each other. We have done this three times this year already for the Watchem Mitchell family, the Cottingham family and the Findlay family. We do not give details of addresses unless both parties give permission.

David King was visiting a number of Historical societies in our area. Wycheproof referred him to us as he wished to find photos and records of his Corack East ancestors _ James and Mary Ann Carlyon. We were able to supply plenty of both with the help of Beth and Norm Hollis who are also descended from the Carlyons.

Bruce Leeder was handed an old school “copy book”, which someone had found whilst cleaning up, on Election Day. The name on the front was Ailsa Harris, Cope Cope. Ailsa is in our Donald Times index and lived in Cope Cope as a very young child between 1939-1947.

In response to our article on the Avon Plains Goldmine, the Aitken family brought in a lovely portrait photograph of Jean Holland and also an indenture form showing a map of the mining lease.

Blasts from the Past- June 1922

June 2. Alone in the City. When the Mildura train arrived in Melbourne on Thursday night the lady attendants at the Travellers' Aid Society noticed that two little girls, who had travelled on the train, appeared to be in distress. Inquiries elicited the answer that the children had come from Mildura and that their names were Olive Vinecombe (aged eight) and Dorothy Vinecombe (aged 5). The children said that they wanted to find their mother, but, as they had only a vaguely addressed letter, and no idea where to go, the Aid Society ladies took them to safe lodgings for the night. The police were notified, and enquiries made for the address of the mother. The letter the children were bearing was signed "Mrs F. Donohue", and it indicated that the children had been staying with the writer. Late advices show that the mother of the children has been located.

June 6. The Little Lake. Published below is the list of gentlemen who have donated to the fund for improvements to regulate the flow of water into the Little Lake. £25 was asked for. Should the river come down as a result of the recent rains, this work cannot be gone on with. Cr. Sproat will today endeavour to have the Little Lake recreation reserve vested in local trustees. Why our councillors did not do this when the reserve was first gazetted as a recreation reserve is hard to understand. In any case, this will be the first move by the local councillors in this important public matter.

21/- each: B.M.Basset, W.A. Morgan.

20/- each: H.S. Pope, F.T. Miller, T.Pope.

15/- :C. Dunn.

10/- each: R.Adams, W. Hegarty, E. Hancock, W.H. Gray, J. Hepworth, J. Pitty, J.N. Baker, J. Hannah.

7/6: J.A. Crone.

5/- each: A. Black, S.Coats, J. Downie, G. Grewar, W. Willey, A. Cumming.

2/- :D. McIntosh.

(This totals only about half the 25 pounds required !)

June 9. A Despicable Action. The Sheep Hills Plumpton Coursing Club has suffered a serious loss owing to the despicable action of some person or persons, who cut two holes in the netting of the plumpton and allowed 30 hares to escape. The club has gone to much expense and inconvenience in securing a number of good hares for its meetings this season, and the loss of 30 of them at this juncture is a serious matter. It would appear as if the work was deliberate, and, if so, the miscreant should be severely punished. A reward of £20 is offered for the apprehension of the offender, and the matter is in the hands of the police.

June 13. Flying. During Saturday and Sunday afternoons Lieut. Pratt of Geelong Air Services, made many trips over the town in his De Havilland aeroplane, conveying many passengers, all of whom seem to have enjoyed the sensation immensely. Although we have had fairly frequent "flying" visits of late, the sight of the machine circling the town caused much interest, particularly on Saturday afternoon.

June 16. Settled out of Court. The adjourned case of Jones v Gillahan, involving a claim of 15/6, being the value of three bags of chaff delivered by the former to the latter, and which was to have been before the court yesterday morning, has been settled out of court.

June 20. A False Alarm On Saturday last, portion of the roadway in the main street opposite Kay's newsagency, commenced to bulge continuously, which fact was noticed with concern by Mr Geo. Lovett, of the Waterworks Trust. It was not long before water was flowing from several breaks in the tar paving of the roadway, and it was feared that a break in the main might be the cause. Mr Lovett commenced the usual excavations, but the main was found to be in good order. A second opening, a few feet away, revealed the fact that the cause of the trouble, which was easily remedied, was the breaking of a small half-inch pipe, leading from the main to a vacant shop adjacent.

June 23. West Riding Election. We the undersigned electors of the West Riding of the Donald Shire request Mr R.A. ADAMS to nominate for the Seat rendered vacant by the unfortunate ill-health of Cr. C.K. Basset, who has resigned.: - C.W. Basset, Wm. Tyson, Jas. Davison, Charles Griffiths, A.T. Stephenson, T. Dickeson, R.C. Guyatt, Frank Young, A. Hepworth, jun. L.B. Basset, J.M. Primrose, W.J. Hancock, W.L. Leslie, R.T. Muir, J. Baensch. Dear Sirs :- In response to your petition, for which I tender my sincere thanks, I feel I am duty bound to offer my services to the Ratepayers of the West Riding of the Shire of Donald. The knowledge that, if elected, I will be filling the place of Cr. Basset, who has set such a high standard on Efficiency, Honour and Truth, will be an incentive to me to emulate his example. If elected it will be my one endeavour to fulfil the obligations placed on me to the best of my ability, and without fear or favour. Again thanking you, I remain, Faithfully yours Robt. A. Adams.

June 27. Soldiers' Applications. Granted. At the local court house on Friday last, Messrs. J. Bunworth's and A.W. Quirk's applications for blocks of land on the property, known as "Hobb's," purchased by the Government from Messrs. Sproat and Co. for repatriation purposes, were recommended. Mr Bunworth was recommended for Allot. 1, section 11, containing 400 acres, and valued at £2360, and Mr Quirk for Allot. 9, Section 12, containing 451 acres, valued at £2378. There is still one block left, that of allot. 6, Section 12, comprising 457 acres, valued at £2317. Returned men who want this block should apply at once.

June 30. Motor Smash. A motor accident, which might have proved very serious, occurred at Sheep Hills on Monday last week. A party, consisting of Messrs. G.Powell, D. Vaughan, M. Body and M. McDonald, were returning from Donald by car, after securing some hares for the plumpton, and when nearing Sheep Hills the lights failed just when nearing a culvert. At the same moment the car swerved on the greasy road, with the result that one of the front wheels struck the rail of the culvert, the contact throwing all the passengers out, and badly smashing the car. Fortunately none were seriously hurt, although Mr McDonald had to remain in bed for a day or two, suffering from bruises and shock.