



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 310 DECEMBER 2022, JANUARY 2023**

### **Enquiries for November/December**

The new owners enquired about the history of their house at 218 Wood St, most recently known as Lorna Sheridan's house. This is one of Donald's lovely old houses and was built in 1930 by newly-weds, Vin Stevens and Athol Loutitt. Vin was a clerk at Oakley Thompson and Athol was a dressmaker with a shop in the main street. The late Jean Melican and her sister, Ida, both learnt their dressmaking skills at Athol's shop.

Alan Beales contacted the archives from Meredith. His next door neighbour, Don (aka as Dolf) van Beusichem had worked in Donald in 1952. Don was turning 90 and Alan wished to buy him a history of Donald, which would remind him of these days. "Now and Then, Volume One" seemed to be a perfect choice and it was immediately dispatched. Alan said that Don came to Australia from Holland after the war when he was 18 years old. We have Don on our Donald Times Index and spoke to a few people who remembered him. Don worked for Rowe Basset and there is a picture of him driving a truck. He spoke to the "Senior Young Farmers" of the day and this is what got him in the paper. Bev Gilmour has supplied a photograph of Don with a group of SYF, including Bob Gilmour and Bill Pearse. We hope that Don enjoyed his birthday and his trip down memory lane.



1952 Senior Young Farmers

BACK ROW Kevin Carne, Bill Pearse, Unknown, Dolf /Don van Beusichem, Bob Gilmour, Ron Adams

FRONT ROW Gwen Trollope, Unknown, Bonnie McDonald, Marie Gilmour, John Hollis



Don Van Beusichem driving a farm truck for Mr. Rowe Basset.

Tracey Sarney sent us some photographs of Corack and the Giles/Boorn/Impey and Anderson families and also copies of Boorn family letters that she had typed out.

Joy Bennett and Nathan Bandy visited the archives. Nathan is the son of the late Bill Bandy and Joy is Bill's sister. They brought us family memorabilia which Bill had kept for many years. William Bandy, his grandfather managed the timberyard and Morgue for JR Hornsby in the 1920s and beyond. William died in 1949 and the following year his son, Reg purchased the timberyard and undertaker's business. Reg conducted the Undertaker's business for about twenty years. Bill had kept all of the old account books whilst the businesses were in the charge of his grandfather and Father. The history in these very well kept old books is amazing and studying them will mean a far more accurate history can be written than this sketchy attempt.

Lynn O'Hara came from Perth and spent a day in Donald. She visited the archives to collect and share information on her ancestors, the Waddell Family, who were the original owners of the building that is now Weirs IGA. Lynn bought several of our publications.

Jeffrey and Jenny Mogg called at the archives, travelling though from Victor Harbour, The archives was closed that day but they managed to track down Brian Brasier and later, Mary Archbold, who were able to give them plenty of information on the Mogg family from Moggs Plains.

Ted Ryan from Nullawil and Murray Mallee Landcare is doing a field study on a bush block in Quambatook. Ted says that fifty years ago Bill Middleton, Ron Falla and Ian Maroske did a similar study on the block and he was hoping that we might have some correspondence about it. We were unable to help. If you read this and you do have information on this study please contact us.

Mark and Linda Pearse called in from Buninyong. Mark is the great grandson of Thomas (Langman?) Pearse, a brother of WNL Pearse and Joseph Pearse. Thomas settled at Dean whilst his brothers were in the Donald area. Fortunately Jenni Campbell ( a Pearse descendant) arrived in the nick of time as the archivist was trying to get her head around

the Pearse families and to sort out which branch was the closest relatives. We have no Pearse Family Tree in the archives and Jenni is hoping to get one for us.

Maureen Donnellon, rang from the Birchip Catholic Church, quite excited that she had discovered a plaque on the Baptismal font which has come to Birchip from the recently closed Watchem Church. The plaque bears the inscription "Made by R.Price, Donald". Maureen sent a photo. This is another excellent item made by the talented Rod Price to add to the list of High altars and side altars that he made for several district Catholic Churches.

Ray Ackland called on behalf of Jim Petrie, The Watchem Cemetery Caretaker who wished to find out more about a grave in the Watchem cemetery. The grave is for Anne Neilson (nee Freeland) and her brothers. Ron Falla's Obituary file on Donald people gave the necessary information. Anne had been matron of the Ballarat Hospital for 22 years but returned to live with her brothers, Thomas and Neil, in Watchem in her old age. The name was also spelt Frieland, according to Ron's file.

Another request for a house history. This time for 39 Gray St which has recently been demolished and was for many years the home of the Harry, Dorothy, Leo and Pat Allen. Gray St was a part of the Lewis estate, which saw most of the houses built in 1922 but there is some belief that this house may have been there before the subdivision. Watch this space.

Bob Small rang asking for information on his grandparents, Fred and Julia. Fred and Julia Small owned the house at 124 Woods St next to the Donald Hotel (now owned by John Motti) in the 1930s. The Small Bros. Timberyard and workshop was in the former coach factory across the road from the house. The Small Brothers were Walter and Fred.

## **Blasts from the Past December 1922.**

**December 1. First Load of Wheat.** The first load of this season's wheat passed over the Mill weighbridge on Wednesday morning, from the farm of Mr Jas. Grogan, Banyenong East. The load contained 50 bags of good average weight, and the wheat was a good sample of the Federation type, and of splendid colour. This is being stripped from an area of 100 acres, which is yielding 9 bags to the acre – a better yield than anticipated, the crop being absolutely free from wild oats. Grogan Bros. were first on the weighbridge last season with their wheat. This is remarkably early for wheat, but Mr Pace, the weighbridge-keeper, says that two years ago Messrs. Grogan Bros, delivered the first load just a few days earlier than the present. So early were the drivers at the Mill on Wednesday that they had to do their own lumping. The wheat was received by Mr Bartlett of the Burnley Flour Mills, Donald, under pool conditions.

**December 5. Obituary. The Late Mrs Jane Torney.** Yet another of our oldest residents in the person of Mrs Jane Torney has passed away. The late Mrs Torney was born in Staffordshire, England, 77 years ago, and arrived in Adelaide with her parents when 10 years of age. Later they moved to Ararat, and thence to Peter's Diggings (Carapooee). 59 years ago she married the late Mr Hugh Torney, who died in Donald 27 years ago. The family residence was situated on the spot now occupied by the railway station. The deceased lady was a well-known and highly respected pioneer, and for many years followed her profession as midwife in Donald and district. For the last 16 years she had resided at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr W. Bandy of Donald, and her kind and loving disposition had made her very popular with all whom she came in contact, particularly the children. Previous to her death she had been ailing for about two years, and leaves a family of nine to mourn their loss, the sons being Thomas (Landsborough), Jacob (Tongala) John (atchewollock), Wm. (Brim), Joseph (Temera, N.S.W.) Edward (Donald) and Samuel (Rupanyup) . The daughters are Rose (Mrs McQueen) of Rupanyup and Jane (Mrs. W. Bandy) of Donald.

**December 8. Donald Police Court.** On Thursday last before Messrs D. Grant P.M. and A. Hepworth J.P., John Turnbull was charged with having as guardian, failed to keep Albert Caulfield at School for the prescribed number of days during the week ending 12<sup>th</sup> August. Defendant said the boy had been afflicted by headaches, and had been ordered to the doctor on this account. He would keep him at school in future. He had been previously fined in 1920. A fine of 2/6 was imposed.

**December 12. More Railway Delays.** Watchem residents are complaining of the unsatisfactory arrangements at present existing in regard to the trucking of stock at Watchem, when it is desired to dispose of them at the Ballarat markets on Tuesdays. The position is that they have to be trucked at Watchem before nightfall on Sunday, when they remain in the trucks until 4 a.m. on Monday. It is problematical whether they will reach Ballarat in time for disposal at Tuesday's sales and much annoyance and inconvenience has been caused on this account.

**December 15. Personal.** James McGannon, late of Watchem, retired farmer, who died on November 10, 1922, left a will dated December 7, 1920, real estate valued at £5,622 and personal property worth £1,804 to his daughter and son.

**December 19. School Examination Results.** The December examinations of the local State school resulted as follows: Grade 6- Dux Estelle Scown and Geo. Howard equal, proxime accessit, Arch Bales. Grade 5- Gladys Marshall dux, Reg. Carter p.a., Grade 4- Constance Austin dux, Evelyn Willox p.a., Grade 3- Mavis Hamilton dux, Edith Ditchburn p.a. Nine pupils passed the qualifying examination, but unfortunately their names are not yet available. Merit certificates were gained by Rupert Tonkin, Lynda Basset, Jas. Small, Rupert Barker, Archie Louttit, Graham Cumming, Dorothy Beiske and Edna Hancock. (*proxime accessit = runner-up for an award*)

**December 22. Serious Accident.** A serious accident happened to Master Keith McGillivray, second son of Mr D.J. McGillivray of Yeungroon, at 1 p.m. on Friday last. The young lad had occasion to enter the stable, when a foal dealt him an awful kick on the forehead, causing a compound fracture of the skull. Medical aid was obtained from Charlton, and a critical operation performed. Everything humanly possible was done, and the lad is doing as well as can be expected.

**December 29. Excitement in Woods Street.** A lively bolt was narrowly averted in Woods St. yesterday morning, when one of the leaders of a five-horse team, attached to a wagon driven by Mr Bert Woods of the Soldier Settlement, commenced kicking and the team made off. The driver stuck to the reins, however, and luckily succeeded in checking them before Hammill Street was reached.