



DONALD HISTORICAL
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Enquiries for February.

Claire Vanderlinde and Marion Mitchell are sisters and they are researching their maternal grandmother's family, the Beckhams. Their mother was Marjorie Moore who married Arthur Lelean, the Rev. Lelean's son in 1946. Claire and Marion called at the archives and were very pleased with the amount of information on the Beckhams in our files.

Claire (Barbetti) Matheson has contacted us a few times as she is researching the family of her great great grandfather, Patrick Donohue of Morton plains. Claire's Parents were Con Barbetti and Pauline Donohue. Claire wondered if we could give her a better photograph of the St Arnaud Shire Council in 1887, of which her great grandfather, Robert Donohue, was a member. She only had a photocopy from "Past and Present". We were able to oblige with the original photograph. We decided to look for other Donohue family photos and Claire was "blown away" when we found a studio photo of Robert and his wife soon after their marriage. She had never seen it before. The Photo had come from the Donald Times Collection and was obviously handed in for use in producing "Past and Present" and not reclaimed. Claire's "Donohue history" is ready for the publishers and we look forward to seeing the finished volume.

Sue and Peter Fitch called at the archives. They are researching Lou, Mary and Betty Linke. Lou was an electric light engineer and was appointed to the Donald Shire to manage the Donald Power Station in 1945. He did this for 4 years and lived at 40 Campbell St. (This was not recorded in "Now and Then" Volume two and can now be added to the history of that house). Sue and Peter would like a photo of the Power Station in its heyday. We only have one as it is today, as the Bullock's Head Apartments in Byrne St. If anyone has an earlier photo of the Donald Power House we would love a copy. Betty Linke married Charles Fitch in 1954. She has the honour of being the captain of the sports team at DHES to win the first W.A. Morgan cup. The cup, from around 1947, bears an inscription of Betty's name.

Reg and Michelle Ball wanted information on their ancestor, Thomas Martin Williams, who was Sr Constable in Donald from 1903-1905. They also visited the Police camp.

Several Members of the Goltz Family, including Kerry Lawry, were in Donald to inter the ashes of their mother, Leona. Leona died recently, aged 94. The family visited the archives and one asked to see an old photograph of Leona in a Maypole Dance as a young girl. We were unable to find the photo but would love to hear from anyone who has a copy.

Amanda Bullock wished for confirmation of a report of gold being found in the Dooboobetic Area i.e. “~3800 ounces of gold between 1931 and 1934”. We were unable to help with Dooboobetic but did have information on a gold nugget being found at Mt Jeffcott in 1885 and a company being formed to prospect Mt Jeffcott in 1894 _ apparently to no avail.

Blasts from the Past March 1923

March 2. “ In Again. Out Again, Gone Again –“The above observation, containing the oft-related vagaries of one by the name of Finnigan, seems to be peculiarly applicable to the moves which have been made in connection with the filling of the vacancy caused by the death of our late shire secretary and engineer, Mr J.C. McCracken. Applications were called for, and considered, with the result that Mr Rigg, of the Karkarooc Shire was chosen for the position. Subsequent to being informed of his appointment, Mr Rigg was granted a substantial increase in salary by the Karkarooc Shire Council, with the result that he tendered his resignation to the Donald Shire. Another meeting was held and Mr Kelly, of Preston was appointed to fill the position in Donald, and duly arrived, meeting the civic fathers and taking charge of the January meeting of the Council, with the understanding that he was to return and take up his duties towards the end of February. Since that meeting, Mr Kelly has also tendered his resignation, stating that owing to certain developments, which had arisen, he was unable to take the position. The resignation was received and accepted by the Council on Tuesday last. In the meantime, certain ratepayers of the Karkarooc Shire, aggrieved by the action of the Council in having presented Mr Rigg with additional inducements to remain in occupancy of his position there, called an indignation meeting, at which the attendance numbered forty. At this meeting it was decided to request the council to reconsider the decision as to the increase granted, and, in consequence of the fact that the Donald Shire Council had again found itself without an engineer, Mr Rigg made further application for the position, which he had previously resigned. At last Tuesday’s meeting Cr. Lavery intimated that Mr Rigg’s application had again been accepted, and that he would take up his duties here as soon as possible. On the motion of Crs. Sproat and McPherson, certain governing clauses were suspended to enable adjustments to be made in connection with the salary to be offered to the incoming secretary, this being fixed at £650 per annum in place of £600.

March 6. 10 Ton Limit. A matter of special interest to farmers, was brought forward on Tuesday last by Cr. Adams, who moved that the Donald Shire Council have placed on the

agenda paper for the next municipal conference a motion for the amendment of the Local Government Act, providing for an increase in the limit of weights allowed on the roads. He personally considered that practically any load could be placed on a wagon with wide tyres without any harm coming to the road. With the present limit standing at 10 tons farmers would not go in for wider tyred wagons and were forced to use the narrower wheels, which caused considerable damage. He would move that the council recommend that the limit be raised to at least 12 tons.

March 9 Obituary. Just before going to press, we received the news of the death on Mrs Emilia Baensch of Donald. The late lady was one of the oldest residents in the district, having been here for about 50 years, and will be remembered as the late landlady of the old Racecourse Hotel, which was built by her late husband. The funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon, in the Church of England portion of the Donald Cemetery, at 2.30 o'clock.

March 13 Traffic Accident. A collision, fortunately unattended by serious consequences, occurred at the intersection of Woods and McCulloch Streets on Friday evening at about 6.25 o'clock. A motor car, driven by Mr A. Johnson of Watchem, came into contact with a buggy and pair, driven by Mr W.G. Pope. As before stated, no serious consequences resulted, the only damage being the breakage on one of the headlights on Mr Johnson's car.

March 16. Riding Accident. While bringing in horses from the paddock on Saturday morning, Master Bernhard Schultz, son of Mr R. Schultz of Hillcroft, Sheep Hills ,was thrown from his horse , and in falling struck his arm against a stump, severely dislocating the limb above the elbow. The little sufferer was taken to /Warracknabeal for medical treatment and is progressing favourably.

March 20. Water Supply. On Messrs Pearse Bros' property at Jeffcott, efforts to locate water have recently been made. At a depth of about 30 feet a layer of rock was struck, proving to be about 7 feet in thickness, and having to be penetrated by blasting. A bore was then put down and water was struck. On examination, however, it was found to be salt. From now onwards water will have to be carted from Donald to this and adjoining properties.

March 23. Social. On Monday last, a pleasant function took place at Laen, the residents of which district entertained Miss Mary Lang, prior to her marriage to Mr Stan Westerland. The social was arranged by the many young friends of the young couple and who put forward their best efforts to make the function the success it was. The stage was beautifully decorated with coloured streamers, pot plants etc. and was appropriately finished off with large true lovers knots in the background. The decorations were much admired and the wish expressed that the ladies would continue to lend their aid in beautifying the hall on future occasions. There was a very large gathering present and, better still, a fine collection of handsome presents. These were handed over by Mr D. Griffiths to the prospective bride,

and Mr Stan Westerland acknowledged receipt of same in grateful terms. Eulogistic remarks were also made by Mr J. Whelan. Cr R. Adams capably fulfilled the duties of chairman, and vocal items and duets were pleasingly rendered by Mr Inglis and Miss R. Adams, Miss Lavery, Miss Delladevoda, Mrs F. Clifford and Mr Tyrell. After a tasty supper had been partaken of, dancing was indulged in, the music for which was supplied by Messrs S. Bibby, J. Henderson and Dellavedova.

March 27. Direct Communication. For many a long day the request for direct telephone connection between Donald and Minyip has fallen on deaf ears, and the attitude of passive resistance adopted by the authorities, resulting in extreme annoyance and inconvenience to subscribers, not only in these two towns, but in other places along the trunk lines on which they are situated. To speak to Minyip, Warracknabeal or similarly situated places it has been necessary to ring through Ballarat and the result in nine cases out of ten may be better imagined than described. On many occasions communication is impossible, in addition to which the absurdity of the position made the position more irritating. However, everything comes to those who wait, and the new P.M.G. Mr Gibson has given his assurance that an officer will be dispatched to enquire into the position. Telephone users will hail this as good news, as the business and social requirements of the Wimmera and Mallee farming towns are not what they were ten, or even five years ago, but they are deserving of due consideration.

March 30 Easter Holidays. Postal arrangements for the Easter Holidays show that today (Good Friday) postal and money order business will be entirely suspended. In telegraph offices the same arrangements will be observed as on Sunday. Mails will not be made up, nor will delivery of letters be affected. On Saturday and Easter Monday country post and telegraph offices will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 pm. for all classes of postal and telegraph business except money order transactions. Shops of traders will be closed on Saturday and will reopen on Tuesday.