



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 313 APRIL 2023

The Donald History Society Inc. has recently begun to digitise the Microfilms of the Donald Times Newspapers which makes the task of Brian Brasier, our “Blaster from the Past” a lot easier. Brian has done a remarkable job listing the “swimmers” in the Blasts below as the digitised version showed a very “smudged article. The original film is obviously breaking down in some places.

Enquiries for March Elizabeth Prideaux is the daughter of Ralph Prideaux who was a contractor for the Shire of Donald throughout the 1920s, 30s and 40s. Elizabeth wished to avail herself of our Donald Times Index to collect the newspaper stories on the Prideaux family over the years. The Prideaux family lived at 197 Woods St. The house was demolished in the late 1940s and became the nursery garden for the late Gib Blay who lived at 199 Woods St.

Daryl Whelan called in looking for information on the farm owned by his forebears at Laen. He was in luck. One of our volunteers, Colleen Raynes, was in the archives that day and the Raynes family are the current owners of the Whelan land. Daryl left with a copy Ron Falla’s Laen Selectors book and a promise to be shown around the property by locals on his return.

Laura Zammit called in to the archives. She is the daughter of former Donald resident, Corinne McNally and granddaughter of the late Stuart and Isabel McNally. Laura is doing a project on Regional Towns for her tertiary studies and has chosen Donald because of her family connection. We look forward to seeing the finished project.

Anne Scott and her husband called into the archives. She is the granddaughter of George Andrew who was a dentist in Donald in the 1920s. George and his wife built a new house at 46 Walker St in 1923. Anne found much of the history of her grandfather documented in both Volumes of “Now and Then”. She enjoyed seeing the Historical plaque on the window of 5 McCulloch St, which was where the dental surgery was and was also able to see 46 Walker St, which is still standing.

Merrin Campbell is the Great-great-granddaughter of Bartholomeus Christiaan Kramer and Sophie Bolte. Kramer was a contractor, Bridge Builder and, in the 1880s, he was the second owner of the Lady Of the Lake Hotel overlooking Lake Buloke. Merrin asked for photos of any of the Kramer family. We had four and sent them, but they were not of the earliest generations.

Peter Griffiths from the Meredith Historical Society read about the Pearse family in our last newsletter. He offered some early history of William (WNL) Pearse from when Pearse was at Hardies Hill, near Buninyong, prior to selecting at Donald. The Dean Pearses and Jenni Campbell both furnished their email addresses to Peter to get the information sent.

An environmental Scientist is investigating the former Donald Meatworks site for Grain Corps. He asked for any information about the site and very happily purchased "Now and Then, Volume two" when he was told that there was a comprehensive report about the works and surrounding area in it.

Leon and Karen Richards visited Donald and were shown about by their aunt, Dot McKay (nee Richards) and History group member, Mary Archbold. They also copied much of the Richards written history from our files.

Kim Thompson, daughter of Dorothy, nee Davidson, called at the archives and bought 4 of our publications.

Blasts from the Past. April 1923

April 6. Fish-Oh! On Friday last, members of the Donald Angler's Club visited Lake Buloke, for the purpose of transferring as many fish as possible from the lake back to the river. The water in the lake is getting very low, with the result that the fish were plentiful and easily caught, 7,000 being taken and placed in the river, by a party consisting of about eight members. The fish ranged in weight from 4 ozs to 3 lbs, and were practically all tench, perch being very scarce. The thanks of the club are due to Crs. Sproat and Coats, the former lending his motor lorry for the conveyance of the fish from the lake to the river.

April 10. Mr Hunt's Prediction. Basing his calculations upon a study of meteorological conditions extending over a number of years, Mr Hunt, the Commonwealth Meteorologist, doesn't view the present relatively dry season with apprehension. On the contrary, he expresses a hopeful anticipation of an early termination of the present dry spell, and says he thinks that widespread and beneficial rains will soon be forthcoming. Mr Hunt says he considers that the present abnormally dry summer does not necessarily mean a reduced rainfall next winter.

April 13 Personal. It is with deepest regret we chronicle the news that a very old and respected resident of Donald district in the person of Mr Martin Melican is lying in a critical condition in the St John of God Hospital in Perth (W.A.). Just over twelve months ago he

had his leg amputated in Melbourne, and the trouble which caused the performance of that operation has recurred. He was operated on last week and a further operation will be performed this week. Though possessed of the heart of a lion, his great physical strength would appear to have been reduced to its lowest ebb and we regret to say that but small hopes of his recovery are held out.

April 17 Accidents. While somersaulting on the lawn in Mr Chas. Byrne's back yard, Norman Scott, son of Mr Jack Scott, sustained a broken wrist. Mrs. Goff Muir also had the misfortune to come into contact with a door, breaking her arm.

April 20. Junior Certificate. On Wednesday, 4th April, the following students passed the junior swimming certificate; Keith Morrison, Jack Falla, ? Tonkin, Norman Allen, Roy ? , Jean Mulligan and Mabel ?. from the High School. Charles McCredde, Jean Thomas and Frank Bellett and Catherine King from the convent.

(Some sections are very hard to read due to the poor condition of the microfilms)

April 24. Broken Arm. While competing in the hurdles race at Cope Cope Sports on Saturday, Vin Coats, son of Mr Sam Coats, fell heavily and sustained a fractured arm. He was driven to the St Arnaud Hospital by Mr Sellick, the arm being set after an X Ray examination.

April 27. FOX AND RABBIT SKINS

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