



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 319 OCTOBER 2023

Please note that we now have a new email address [**donaldhistorysociety@gmail.com**](mailto:donaldhistorysociety@gmail.com)

Enquiries for September

Andrew Bird contacted us with news that he had photos of the “Little Diesel” at the Donald Station in the 1960s. The photos are two of many from the collection of Norma and Murray Bird and we look forward to many other treasures coming to light as Andrew sorts through them.

The photo was taken when Andrew’s sister, Barbara, and her classmates headed off for Somers Camp. Traditionally it was grade 5 and 6 students who made the trip so this makes the year between 1963 and 1965. Andrew says that the boy on the station is Neil McSwain, but he cannot name anyone else.

I wonder if the two boys peering out the window can recognize themselves, not to mention the driver. We look forward to people identifying themselves or their parents on the station.





Neville Davidson from Melbourne has an interest in visiting old cemeteries. He has his eye on the McLachlan Grave at Glengar, the Swanwater West and Swanwater homestead cemeteries and the Lawler graves. We told him to finalise his trip and we would see what we could do. Three of these sites require owner permission.

Former Donald resident, Phillip Smith, now living in California, called at the archives and asked for history on his parent's families, the Boldens and the Smiths. We were able to oblige; and he also bought a copy of that wonderful book "Donald, Past and Present".

Michael Crone also walked in off the street and was interested in sourcing our Crone history. He will send more detail in an email so that we can work out which is his family branch.

The Grand final day holiday attracted a visit from former Donald resident, Graeme Bolden and his two sons, Chris and Brett. Chris is also a former Donald resident as he worked as a solicitor at Oakley Thompson in 1992 and 1993. Graeme's father, Alan Bolden, along with Allan Lane, ran what is now known as "Bertalli's Garage" at 128 Woods St from 1948 to 1951. Graeme attended DHES, doing his intermediate. As no further education was available in Donald at the time he joined the CBC bank and made that his lifelong career. Graeme now lives at Queensland in Coolumb where he has met several Donald people over the years, including Colleen and Peter Raynes and Alan and Marilyn Frank.

Blasts from the Past October 1923

2nd October. Payment According to Worth. Speaking at a luncheon to 1500 farmers who attended the Sunshine Harvester Works during last week, Mr H. V. McKay said that the vast quantities of machinery they had seen were factors in bringing Australia along the lines of progress. He attributed the high cost of living to the Government's interference in businesses with the workings of which they were not familiar. He believed in the American method of bartering labour for what it was worth, instead of wages coming under the jurisdiction of an individual who could not be familiar with the working conditions.

(The Harvester Case of 1909 led to the creation of the Basic Wage which was a basic feature of Australian life from that time.)

5th October. Donation to Band. Pointing out the charitable nature of much of the work done by the Donald Citizens' Band, the secretary of that institution applied to the Shire Council on Tuesday for a donation of \$10. On the motion of Crs. McPherson and Coats the grant was made.

9th October. Cruelty to Animals. A letter was received by the Donald Shire Council on Tuesday last from the Society for the Protection of Animals, requesting a donation, and pointing out the increasingly good work which was being done in the country by honorary agents of the Society. Cr. Sproat said that, in his opinion, this was a matter in which they should take some action. There were certain glaring cases in the Shire which should be brought under notice. He understood that Mr W. Cameron was the honorary representative of the Society in the district and he, for one, would be very pleased to bring beneath his notice any cases calling for special attention. In view of the finances no donation was made to the Society's funds.

12th October. High Tea. Immediately after the conclusion of the picture entertainment, the Hall was cleared, and tables set out and tastefully laid for the High Tea. Despite the unpropitious weather conditions, the attendance was a large one, necessitating two sittings. The catering arrangements were in the very capable hands of Mr H. Platt who is a returned soldier and has commenced business in one of the shops incorporated in the construction of the new Hall. His fare left nothing to be desired and was the subject of much favourable comment, particularly from visitors. A measure of praise is also due to him for his handling of the supper in connection with the Hall at night as the work was carried out at short notice. The thanks of the committee is also due to Mr F.C. Jacka who assisted Mr Platt in his arrangement. *(This event was part of the celebrations around the opening of the Hall)*

16th October. Exciting Incident. When motoring on the Donald-Morton Plains Road yesterday, Mr Albert Cannard had a startling experience which nearly resulted in the loss of his car. Owing, it is assumed, to a short-circuit, a vivid flame leapt from the front portion of the car, and the occupants hurriedly disembarked. By disconnecting the ignition wires, Mr

Cannard was able to avert further trouble, but not before the car had been threatened with destruction by fire. The vehicle was later towed to Donald for repairs.

19th October. Qualifying for Tattersalls? A miraculous escape from a serious motor accident happened on Sunday last near Carapooee West. Mr J.J. Grewar, with two friends, was returning from a church service at Stuart Mill. One of the passengers, who was at the wheel, swerved around a pothole in the road, and in turning the wheel to regain the road his finger caught in the throttle, pulling it wide open, greatly accelerating the speed of the car. Owing to the slope of the road to the bridge approach and the high speed attained, the car was unable to clear the bridge railing, and although the engine was switched off the momentum gained carried the car to the post which snapped, and the motor was precipitated into the creek below. The car in falling turned turtle, landing on the hood with the wheels uppermost, pinning the occupants beneath. Luckily two were able to extricate themselves and they lifted the car enough for the third to get out. The forepart of the motor was badly damaged as was the hood which broke the fall. Beyond a severe shaking the party escaped unhurt. The following morning the car was driven back to St Arnaud after a few roadside repairs. The engine and body of the car were undamaged.

23rd October. Are Battleships Obsolete? Arguing on the assumption that battleships are useless against modern defensive weapons like airships, aeroplanes, mines, torpedoes and submarines, Admiral Sir Percy Scott, addressing the Australian Natives' Association at the Colonial Institute, described the Singapore base as a wicked scheme. He expressed the opinion that the Dominions should not contribute a penny towards it and that they should rather append money on modern defence methods. He advocated the keeping of a large number of cruisers and destroyers all over the world to guard Dominion trade.

26th October. Funeral. A very large cortege attended the funeral of the late Mr D. M. Dooley on Tuesday last, the remains being interred in the Roman Catholic portion of the Donald Cemetery. Requiem Mass for the soul of the deceased was celebrated in St Mary's Church in the forenoon. The coffin bearers were Messrs. P. Tellefson, P. Loughrey, W. Hegarty, B. Crooks, V. Bourke and J. Slattery. The pallbearers were Messrs. W.A. Morgan, J. Sullivan, J. Downes, J. Nolan, M. Bolger, W. Mitchell, R. Falla, and P. Muschialli. The Rev. Father Coughlan officiated at the graveside and Mr W. Bandy had charge of the funeral arrangements. (*Mr Dooley had previously been licensee of the Mt Jeffcott Hotel*)

30th October. The Rainfall. The total rainfall for the month of October, up to 9 a.m. yesterday morning as recorded at the Bank of Victoria, Donald, was 107 points.