



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 322 MARCH 2024

Please note that we now have a new email address donaldhistorysociety@gmail.com

Enquiries for February

Terry Ryan rang asking for information on the Goltz and Romano families and will call in later in the year to see what we have found.

Mary Reeves and her sister, Kelly are Great granddaughters of Maggie Shearer and Harry Nicol. Maggie and Harry Nicol moved from Donald to Western Australia in 1896/97. Mary and Kelly, who are two of a family of ten girls, found Maggie's obituary from the Donald Times and were very excited to find that she came from Donald. Mary lives at Koroit and Kelly at Wagga Wagga so they decided to join forces and pay a visit to Donald to see what they could find out about their family. Their first surprise was that Harry Nicol was also from Donald and was one of the first, if not the first bootmaker in the town. Further, we were able to tell them that his bootmaker's shop was right next to the archives building_ on the site of the former ANZ bank. The girls have received a wealth of information on the Shearer family and a little on Harry as well.

Peter Dunn called into the archives. He is the son of Patricia Gleeson and he will send us a book that he has on "The Gleesons of Corack".

Merle and Robert Pole visited the Archives in preparation for the Pole reunion to be held later in the year. Mary Archbold has been helping them with their itinerary.

Wilf Dickeson rang looking for details of family weddings from the Donald Times.

The leap year gave us an extra day, so we are able to squeeze this enquiry into February as well. It came from Will and Alana Primrose who visited Donald on 29th Feb and were looking for the CBA bank. Will's grandfather, Edwin Brown Primrose, was the manager of the bank from 1900-1906. They were unable to find any sign of a CBA Bank and enquired at the Bendigo Bank. Employee, Kerry Flagg, rang the archives and found that, although it wasn't one of the opening days, the archivist was in and would happily open up for them. Perusing

“Now and Then. Volume One” Will and Alana found that the CBA bank closed in Donald many years ago but that the original building is still standing, despite losing its façade, along with that of St Georges’ Hall in 2013. Both buildings were built in 1884. In 1928, the CBA bank (at 78 Woods St) moved into a brand new two-storey building over the road at 65 Woods St. The former bank became part of Swaby’s Optician, Jewellery and Watchmakers business, which was already established next door at 80 Woods St in the same building. The CBA bank closed in Donald in 1943 and the new premises at 65 Woods St became a chemist shop for many years. It is now a private residence.

Will and Alana also found out in “Now And Then” Volume Two that Edwin Primrose and his family lived in the original house at 140 Woods St, currently the home of Shane and Rae Ann O’Shea. Will wondered if his father, born in 1903, was born at “Ivanhoe” Hospital, which was immediately next door to the Primrose home. The exact starting date of “Ivanhoe” has always been a bit fuzzy, but in 2017, John P. Brennan, in his family history entitled “Farming In Their Blood”, included the following sentence on page 74.

“On 14th July 1902, Eliza Fletcher (then aged 71) took a significant step away from her life at Jeffcott. She bought a private property in Woods St Donald and set up the “Ivanhoe Private Maternity Hospital” which she operated with her daughter, Mary Hoare, who was by then living in Donald”.

John is a very thorough Family Historian and thanks to him we have an exact starting date for the hospital, and we were able to inform Will that his father would almost certainly have been born at “Ivanhoe”.

Two of Edwin Primrose’s sons, Jack and Tremayne Primrose bought 721 acres from Mr. Crombie at Carron in 1920 and owned it for some years.

Blasts from the Past – March 1924

March 4. A Dangerous Practice. Cat shooting may be an amusing pastime, although it has its dangerous aspect when conducted with a weapon of the deadly pea-rifle species, within the confines of the town. For the sake of passing pedestrians and neighbouring residents, people wishing to deal sanguinary destruction to our feline inhabitants would be well advised to evolve some method which would be accompanied by less dangerous possibilities.

March 7. After the “Kings”. The following members of the Donald Rifle Club will take part in the Victorian Rifle Association prize meeting, which commences at the Williamstown Rifle Range tomorrow (Saturday). All have been shooting well of late and have departed in high hopes of returning to Donald with the treasured “Kings”. Those making the trip are Captain W. Sproat, B.M. Draffin, J.H. Bolden, H. Hancock, R.V. Reseigh, A. Sproat and F. Oakley. Rev.

Lines, who is also a member of the Donald Club, though now stationed at Rokewood, may also be available for the team's match.

March 11. Caught in the Act. Early yesterday morning Mr Allan Cumming caught two stray dogs in the act of killing sheep on his property. One was instantly destroyed, while the other was despatched later by Mr W. Cameron. This makes the fourth catch this week. There are still two or three "suspects" of the greyhound breed lurking about the town, but the inspector hopes to put "Paid" to their account in the very near future. It is anticipated that the sheep-killing dogs of the town will then have been exterminated, for the time being, at least.

March 14. Sewering Donald. At last Tuesday's meeting of the Donald Waterworks Trust, discussion of the above topic took place. The engineer said that he was endeavouring to collect data from several similarly situated, but larger towns in N.S.W. and could present no definite report until that was received. He anticipated, however, that the instillation of such a scheme would entail an approximate expenditure of £11 per household per annum, for the next ten years, which would prove prohibitive.

March 18. Smoking in Bed. An accident which might easily have resulted in loss of life, occurred at Mr Maloney's farm at Litchfield on Sunday. A man by the name of H. Wilmott was lying in bed in his tent, which had been pitched in the machinery shed. He was smoking in bed, and the clothes became ignited. Mr J. Tierney, an employee, noticed the flames, and dragged Wilmott out, throwing a dish of water on him to quench the flames, which had set alight to his clothes. He was brought to Donald, and later was despatched to St Arnaud Hospital suffering from burns on the face, legs and arms. The machinery shed and contents were destroyed, the loss being a fairly heavy one.

March 21 Tennis. The opening of the Donald Public Tennis Club's new concrete courts will be carried out on Wednesday next by the president, Dr W. J. Flanagan at 3 p.m. The event will also be signalled by the holding of an open tournament, which will commence at 1 p.m., and for which entries close at noon on Monday next. Further particulars are obtainable from the secretary, Mr L. Holland.

March 25. The "Single" tree. At the last meeting of the Council, a request was received from Mr R. Donoghue, on behalf of a number of ratepayers in Watchem, Donald, Morton Plains and Massey, that they be allowed to plant another tree of the Donald-Watchem Road in place of the tree hitherto known as the "Single" tree. No objection was raised by the Council.

March 28. Motoring Accident. While driving his Dodge motor car from St Arnaud to Donald recently, Dr Fleming endeavoured to pass another car, which was being driven in the same direction, and struck a bad rut. Both rear wheels collapsed and the car was badly damaged. Dr Fleming had the good fortune to be thrown clear and escaped without injury.