



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 323 APRIL 2024**

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

### Enquiries for March

Robyn Pike rang from Carrachool in New South Wales. She has been continuing her mother's family research on ancestors Henry Wells and Sarah Ann Blackmore who were buried at the Watchem Cemetery in the 1890s. Robyn wished to enquire about checking some of the family history that has been lodged there and also about the possibility of putting a commemorative plaque on the grave. She had been struggling to find out who to contact, so we put her on to Jim Petrie. Jim, a stonemason, has done a lot of work at the cemetery and he was only too pleased to talk to Robyn as he was aware of this historical grave. Henry Wells' daughter, Hannah married John Coats in Avoca in 1878. These are the grandparents of the late "Digger" and Ron Young, as well as Lindsay Young and their sisters so there is a local connection to the grave as well.

The Hackett family are trying to find out where their ancestor, Mary or Margaret Hackett, is buried. Their ancestors were briefly in Donald in 1896 as "Dr Fleming reported on March 27<sup>th</sup> that Theodore Hackett, aged 29, and Margaret Hackett, aged 26, residing two miles from Donald on the Sheep Hills Road, were suffering from typhoid". No other records were found so the family believe that the couple must have returned to South Australia soon after this.

Norma and David Wilkinson and his sister, Ethel Hardeman, called into the archives. David and Ethel were aware that their grandfather once lived and worked in Donald. Their father was Bernie, so it didn't take much effort to find that their grandfather was Edward Charles and Ethel remembered that her grandmother's name was Ball. We found Edward Charles in our Donald Times Index and there were quite a few articles on him during his seven years in Donald. He came from Swan Hill to buy the garage owned by A.P. Jones (most recently known as Bertalli's garage and now demolished). It was sold in 1927 and he then ran the business and car hire from his private residence in Campbell St. This site is now the home of

John and Maureen Howley. Edward did this until 1933 when he left Donald. David and Ethel were not related to the other Wilkinsons in Donald and Watchem.

Barham Koondrook Historical Society sent us three letters from their collection which they thought were of more use to us. Two of the letters were handwritten and were from Mr. Alex Tyson of Laen, written in 1943 to the Barham Timber Company, requesting a price for wood for fence posts that they had advertised. The third letter was the reply from the timber company.

## **Blasts from the Past - April 1924**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>. A Good Cook.** Not a little amusement was caused on Saturday last by the fact that a Len T. Muir, had succeeded in taking the prize for scones in a section which had been set apart for girls. Mr W. G. Pearse, when apprised of the fact when opening the Bazaar, advised the girls to "keep an eye on that boy". He was also successful in the "toffee" section, and judging by his exploits in the culinary line, he will be handy to any wife to have about the home in future years.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Late Mr Patrick Grogan.** Exceptionally sad circumstances surround the death of Mr Patrick Grogan of Watchem, in which district he followed the occupation of contractor. On Saturday he was sent to the St Arnaud Hospital for the purpose of undergoing an operation, and on Monday, after having his dinner at that institution, he suddenly collapsed and died on the same day. Deceased was a man in the prime of life and leaves a widow and ten children, the eldest being about 16 years of age and the youngest a baby. His mother and father reside in the Curyo district. The body was brought from St Arnaud by motor hearse, and the funeral took place from the Watchem Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, the cortege being a very large one.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>. Hospital Sunday at Jeffcott.** The band gave its last recital of this year in support of Hospital Appeal, Mt Jeffcott being visited. Cr. J. Brennan occupied the position of chairman, while Mr G.H. Osborne spoke on behalf of the Committee of Management. The collectors, Messrs. J. Conlon and J. Donnellon, reported that the sum of £40 had been collected, the amount being £11 in excess of that raised last year.

**April 11<sup>th</sup>. Correspondence.** Dear Sir,

It was with mingled feelings that I read in the last issue of your paper of my appointment as one of the auditors of the Donald Coursing Club. Whilst I acknowledge with thanks the honour conferred on me, I could not be a party to a body whose interests and influence are to those of the Christian Church; and under whose name is carried out, during the season, such a flagrant desecration of the Lord's Day.

I wish to state that:-

- (a) I have never been to any meeting of the Coursing Club.
- (b) The appointment as auditor has been made without any reference to myself, and

(c) I respectfully decline to accept the offer.

Seeing that the appointment has been published abroad through your columns, I shall be grateful if you will publish this letter in your next issue.

Yours faithfully, J. A. McKay (*Mr. McKay was the Shire Secretary*).

**April 15. Horsebreaking (Ad.)** R. Gillahan wishes to announce to the Public of Donald and District that he is again starting Horsebreaking, Clipping, Castration etc. in Donald.

All horses will be broken in until thoroughly quiet.

All care taken, but no responsibility.

For further particulars apply R. Gillahan. Watchem Road, Donald

**April 18<sup>th</sup>. Another Step Forward.** Notification has been received by Mr James Conlon, secretary of the Wooroonook Railway League, from Mr T. J. Weaver M.L.A., to the effect that the Chief Engineer and Traffic Officers of the railway department will visit the district to be served by the proposed Granite Flat Corack line about the middle of May. Information as to the exact date will be made known later.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>. Personal.** While alighting from a car for the purpose of recovering his hat which had blown off on the return journey from Corack on Monday, Mr A. W. Cox had the misfortune to miss his footing and come into contact with a piece of broken glass. He sustained a nasty gash to his hand which required medical attention.

**April 29<sup>th</sup> Carron Post Office.** The attention of the Council has been drawn by Cr. Burton to the state of the road in front of the Carron Post Office during the winter months. So bad was it (he declared) that residents had to use stilts to get their mail. It was one of those jobs which was "to be attended to" for the past thirty years. He had a man who could do the job at a very trifling cost, and he would like authority to proceed with the work. The necessary sanction was given.

**April 29<sup>th</sup>. Three in One Blow.** Messrs. Cameron Bros. (lessees of Mr A. Green's farm at Litchfield), were fortunate enough on Saturday last to find three full-grown foxes in one log on their holding. These foxes had been seen regularly, but had always evaded capture. In view of the impending lambing, the discovery must be considered a lucky one for the whole neighbourhood.