



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 330 NOVEMBER 2024**

### Enquiries for October

There has been plenty going on in October. First of all we had a visit from Jim Balmer, who had decided to stay in Donald for six weeks after travelling in his motor home for some time. Jim came in to ask to visit the Courthouse Museum and told us that he was a self-taught violinist who played mostly Irish and Scottish jigs. Jim said that he loves the opportunity to play for an audience so after he did a couple of stints at the JG Homes we booked him for two recitals at the Courthouse Museum. It proved an ideal venue for his informal performance and we hope that Jim will contact us again if and when he returns. All who attended really enjoyed Jim's repertoire and style of playing.

Gloria Sims has a partial article from a local paper written in 1958 about the Diamond Anniversary of the wedding of James Cathcart and Annie Holden held in 1898. The Cathcarts were from Laen and the wedding was reported in The Donald Times in 1898 but the 1958 article was not from The Donald Times. Gloria would like to find the whole of the 1958 article and thought that it was probably from a newspaper around here. We were unable to help and suggested papers from around Sea Lake or the St Arnaud Mercury for her to try.

Eric Miles came into the archives. Eric is the son of Joan Cave and is a great-great-grandson of George and Catherine Cave, who established the original Donald Hotel and Livery stables next door in 1878. A new hotel was built on the same site in 1913 and the Livery stables were destroyed by fire soon after. New stables were built and they eventually became a motor garage, which was most recently operated by Ron Bertalli and closed c.1994. Cave St was named after the Cave family who had contributed so much to the town. Eric found plenty in our Donald Times Indexes about his ancestors and delivered to us the exciting news that the singer, Nick Cave, is also a great-great-grandson of George and Catherine Cave.

Two couples travelling from different parts of the state to the Patchewollock Music Festival met at Donald and travelled on together. They decided to view the Courthouse Museum

and whilst being shown through, Gaye Fox from Apollo Bay played "Abide With me" on an organ donated by the Coats family. It played very well but plenty of training would be needed to pump the pedal fast and long enough.

Andrea Twell from Canberra is descended from the Eishold(t) family and visited the archives to view the various information from The Donald Times that we have on the Eisholdt and the Baensch families. Julius Christian Wilhelm Eisholdt was born in Loutenhall, Hanover, Germany in 1856 and arrived in Victoria about 1880. He married Louisa Baensch in 1881 at "The Willows", which was the original Presbyterian Manse and was built on the river, on the land behind the present-day hospital. They had 5 sons, including Otto, Oscar, William and Alfred. Oscar was killed in World War 1 and William was wounded at the Dardanelles. Alfred also enlisted but fortunately returned safely. Alfred played in the Donald Brass band and Andrea was thrilled to find and purchase two photos of him taken with the band.

A couple of new houseowners came into the archives to learn about their houses' history.

## **Blasts from the Past- November 1924.**

**November 4. Settler's Misfortune** During the progress of a severe lightning storm, which passed over the district during the early part of last week, Mr J. P. Carty of Nandaly, suffered the loss of his dwelling which was struck and burnt down. The only article in the place which was saved from the flames was a separator. Mrs Carty, who was sitting outside sewing, felt the shock of the lightning and, when she was about to enter the building and escape the storm, she discovered the house in flames. The building was only partly covered by insurance, and its contents uninsured.

**November 11. Donald Police Court.** Constable Morrison proceeded against J.W. Turnbull on charges of having failed to send Albert Caulfield to school. Defendant was fined 10/- on each charge.

**November 11. Cross-Country Line. Committee's Itinerary.** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways will arrive in Charlton on Friday next at 3.53 pm. after which it will inspect the station grounds and possibly take-off for the proposed branch line to Wooroonocke (sic), Granite Flat and Corack.

On Saturday next, November 15, it will leave Charlton at 9.50 a.m. motoring to Corack via Wooroonocke, Granite Flat, Chirrup Swamp and Dalton's Reserve. At 11 am evidence will be taken at the Corack Mechanics' hall where lunch will be given at 1 pm. The return journey will be commenced at 2 pm, and the visitors will motor to St Arnaud via Mt. Jeffcott and Gooroc. They will stay in St Arnaud on Sunday and will journey to Melbourne on the following day.

**November 14. "Gang Warily"** After acquainting councillors on Tuesday last with the financial position of the respective Ridings of the Shire, the secretary ( Mr F. W. Rigg) paused for a moment to remind them that they were "just as about as far in as they could go" in respect to their collective debit balances. He requested them to get into personal touch with ratepayers, whenever possible, asking them to pay their rates as soon as convenient, in order to relieve the position.

**November 18. Personal.** Mrs. H. S. Pope, who turned the key in the lock of the Methodist Church at East Laen on Sunday, has been a member of the congregation for the past thirty-five years.

*(This was part of the ceremony to open a new Methodist church at East Laen)*

**November 21. Donald Police Court.** Harry Andrews and D. J. Thomson, who were recently convicted of stealing sheepskins at Bangerang, appeared before the Donald Court of Petty Sessions yesterday to answer a charge of having, between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October, wilfully killed three sheep, with intent to steal the skins, the property of Thomas P. Maloney. Both were committed for trial in Ballarat in December.

**November 25. A Sensational Accident. Car Crashes into Train.** A miraculous escape from death was experienced by the occupants of a Ford motor car, driven by Mr W. Ditchburn, shortly after noon yesterday. The party, consisting of Mr and Mrs Ditchburn, Mrs Faulkner and Mr B.H. Gummow, father of Mr Gummow of Gummow and Price, had set out from Donald on the way to Ballarat and Geelong. Nothing untoward was noticed by the driver or passengers until the car was about six feet from the rails going over the railway crossing between Donald and the Freezing Works, when the engine of a goods train, travelling at about twenty-five miles an hour crossed their path with disastrous results. A crash could not be averted and the front of the car crashed into the side of the engine, the wheels of which slewed it around towards the cattle pit, tore off the radiator and cut off one of the front wheels. The car was thrown over on its side, while the radiator and portions of the front mechanism was carried along the line for about thirty yards. By some unaccountable freak of fortune, the passengers, though thrown out, were practically unhurt, although they sustained a most severe shock. The car suffered very severe damage.

**November 28. Traffic Accidents. Narrow Escapes.** As compared with its usual state of quietude, Donald has suffered, during the past week, a plethora of motor accidents. The details of the experience which befell Mr and Mrs Ditchburn and party on Monday last have already been recounted in these columns, but in two other cases serious consequences have been narrowly averted. The first took the form of a collision between Mr Arnold Cumming, who was driving along Meyer Street, and Jack Crocker who was travelling at right-angles along Blair Street. Crocker was mounted on a bicycle, and seeing that a crash was inevitable he managed to throw himself from the machine just before it was crushed and destroyed beneath the oncoming motor, in spite of the application of the brakes by Mr Cumming. Crocker himself pitched forward, narrowly escaping from being run over by the offside wheels of the car. Apart from shock, he was unhurt, although the bicycle was irreparably damaged.

On Saturday evening, between 7 and 8 o'clock, Jack Fox was driving his new single-seater Dodge car from the rear of Steward's Grand Central Hotel in Wood Street. The hooting of his horn was not heard by another driver in the person of Mr A. McDonald of Laen, who was driving up Wood Street in the direction of the bridges. The latter driver, who was coming up on his correct side, slewed his car into the centre of the road to avoid a collision, but a resounding crash announced that he had not been completely successful, although a head-on collision was averted. A crowd of onlookers quickly gathered and it was found that the near-side front mudguard of Mr Fox's car had been damaged, while the front axle had been noticeably bent. The force of the impact had dented one of the rear mudguards of Mr McDonald's car.