DONALD HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Enquiries for May

Barry Donnellon has mailed us further information on Bob Paino's war service. Barry writes "It is interesting to note that Bob was called up for Australian service in 1934, having served two years in the Italian navy 1926/27 aged 17/18. Following his discharge in 1946, he was not well. I understand from the Paino family that he required several sessions of treatment at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Eventually the treatment was successful and he was well enough to obtain employment on the assembly line at GMH near Dandenong. Bob worked at GMH for 20/30 years before his retirement and returned to live in Donald to be near family". He then ran a fish and chip shop at 40 Woods St (now Spud's Café) from 1954-1968.

Toni McClure called at the Archives. She is a descendant of James Donald and Rebecca Anstee from the Alexandra area. In the days before it was easy to obtain BDM certificates this family believed that James may have been a son of "our" William Donald, who was the squatter owning the land on which the town of Donald is situated. It can now be proved that this is not true.

John Marriott is a descendent of the Hannah family and asked for some photos to put in his family tree. We had two lovely postcards off Robert Campbell Hannah , from one of which he b=could probably get a good likeness. We aslo had two photos pf Alice Hannah, RC's daughter. One was a delightful group standing around a Maypole. The photo was said to be taken at Granite Flat around 1900.

Ken Eason brought in a Boer War medal that he found with his metal detector on a farm at Burrum Burrum.

Missing Buloke Magazines from the Donald High School. 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1996, 1998, 1999. We have not had any since 2019, if there is a store of them somewhere. We have multiple copies of many other years.

Blasts from the Past. June 1926.

June 1. Traffic Prosecutions. At the Donald Court of Petty Sessions on Thursday, May 20, before Mr. H. R. McDonald PM, Constable Morrison proceeded against William Cockfield having failed to have the tail light of his car alight as required by the provisions of the Act. Constable Morrison said that on Saturday May 8, at about 8.15 pm, he noticed the defendant's car in front of the Mt Jeffcott Hotel. There was no rear light burning. Defendant was standing close by, the witness asked him why the light was not alight. He said it would not work and defendant thereupon went and turned it on. A fine of £1 was imposed.

June 4. Football. On Wednesday last, previous to the match between Litchfield-Carron and Donald, Cr. Burton, president of the home club, entered the dressing room and extended a cordial welcome to the Donald team on the occasion of its first visit to Litchfield for the year. He trusted that the same friendly spirit which had characterised previous games between these teams would again prevail, and that if Litchfield-Carron were not able to carry off the honours for the season, Donald would be successful. Players and supporters of the Donald team heartily appreciated the sportsmanlike action of the home club president.

June 11. District Intelligence. At the last meeting of the Charlton Shire Council it was decided to make application to the proper authorities at Ballarat for a supply of fish to be liberated in the lakes at Wooroonooke, that the fish be sent to St Arnaud and that arrangements be made for their being met in St Arnaud and being taken straight to the lake and liberated without delay.

June 15, Premier's Visit. The State Premier (Mr John Allan) visited Donald on Thursday last and was accorded a civic reception by the Shire President (Cr R. A. Adams) immediately after the arrival of the train from Melbourne. In the evening he addressed a fairly large gathering in the Memorial Hall. Mr Allan spoke in a clear manner, his voice filling the large hall and was accorded an uninterrupted and attentive hearing.

June 18. Personal. Mrs J.R. Williams, organising secretary of the Women's Christian Temperance League of Victoria, is now on a visit to Donald. She will speak at the Presbyterian Church next Sunday evening, and at the Methodist Church in the morning . She will also address a meeting of ladies in St. Andrew's Hall on Tuesday afternoon next.

June 22. Auctioneers' Report. W.H. Gray and Son and Dalgety and Co., acting in conjunction, report that at their Donald stock sale on June 12 last, 1143 sheep were yarded and a total clearance was effected at prices satisfactory to the vendors.:-Dry ewes, rising 4 tooth made 29/3; wethers, 2,4, and 6 tooth 26/6; weaners, 2/16/6, 26/- and 24/-. The same firms report that, at the Donald Stock Sale on Saturday last, 317 ewes and weaners were yarded and these were all sold. Weaners made 27/- and 24/7 and ewes rising 4 tooth made 34/6.

June 25. Jeffcott. The opening ball in the Jeffcott Hall last Monday evening proved a huge success, both financially and socially. The event attracted trippers of the “light fantastic “ from all parts of the district, while visitors were also present from Charlton, Wycheproof, Woomelang and Donald, a good many making the trip from the last-mentioned town. There were between 300 and 400 present necessitating six settings for supper, which had been sumptuously prepared by the energetic ladies' committee, the members of which are to be commended for the fine display of delicacies. The hall had been tastefully decorated for the occasion and the Donald Merrymakers’ Band provided excellent music which considerably enlivened the proceedings. Dancing was indulged in till the early hours of Tuesday morning and practically all present left in time to reach their destinations before the heavy rain set in. Dancing was at times hampered by the crowding which took place on the part of the non-dancers near the entrance. The future attention of the committee to this little matter will mean that a great deal of extra floor space will be made available for dancing.