



DONALD HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.



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Enquiries for August

There have been very few enquiries this month. Allan Pope wanted a photo of the enamel sign from the old Donald Police Station, which he had seen on display at our Old Police Camp. Allan is starting a collection of photos of the signs, and the Donald one will make his sixth. Mary Archbold, our photo expert, was able to oblige,

Donald Primary School will be celebrating 150 years since its origins in November 1874, and a "Back to School" is planned for November 15th and 16th. The "Back to" will run for Friday afternoon, evening, and Saturday morning. Former students can then remain in town and continue celebrating at the Donald Cup, held at the Racecourse on the 17th if they wish.



Donald State
School.

Photo W.H.
Whiter

c.1911.

St Mary's School, Donald, is also running a reunion, particularly for students who attended school in the 1960s, although anyone is welcome. This will be a BYO everything picnic lunch in the Donald Memorial Park on Saturday, 5th October, at 12 noon. In 1965, there were 153 students at St Mary's. The following photo shows just 41 of them.



BACK: Tony Callahan, Peter Sarteschi, Michael Melican, Laurence Young, Conrad Robb, Colleen Giles, Patricia Giles, Andrea Foletti, Jan Thomason, Paula Grassano

2ND BACK: Leonie Brennan, Sandra Hoare, Julieanne Harty, Julie Sheridan, Livia Motti, Anne Walsh, Denise Byrne, Barbara Brennan, Judy Slater

2ND FRONT: Bernard Melican, Frank Young, Kevin Moloney, Jim Jess, Kevin Donnellon, Kerin Byrne, Richard Burchell, John Burke, Danny Sheridan, Mick Sheridan

FRONT: Gabrielle Burchell, Kathleen Melican, Maree Beradsworth, Patricia Donnellon, Elizabeth Coates, Joan Walsh, Louise Warner, Joy Donnellon, Barbara Watts.

BOARD HOLDERS Kevin Darcy, Jim Callahan, Peter Melican.

Blasts from the Past- September 1924

September 2. Football. Tomorrow's Semi-final. Litchfield-Carron and Birchip will meet for the second time this year in a semi-final match, this time on the Donald Showgrounds. The match is to take place tomorrow afternoon, and a huge attendance is confidently anticipated. The necessity for replaying this game has arisen out of the disputed match which took place at Watchem on August 20. Both should be in great form, Birchip having defeated Donald at St Arnaud last week in a slashing game. Spectator trains will run from Birchip and St Arnaud, returning in the evening. The timetable relating to the special trains was not available at the time of going to press, but particulars as to their departure from Donald in the evening will appear on the scorecards, which will be on sale during the afternoon. The cards will also contain the decision of the delegates in connection with the charges against C. Connelly. *(Connelly was a Birchip player who had been reported by the League Umpire with striking Donald player M. Hogan, who was hospitalised as a result).*

September 5. Matt Hogan Kicks Seven Goals. The Association having decided that the semi-final between Birchip and Litchfield-Carron, should be replayed, the match took place on the Donald Showgrounds on Wednesday afternoon under ideal weather conditions. There was a very good attendance of enthusiasts, the sum of £117 being taken at the gate. When the final gong sounded the scores were Birchip 11.13 (78 points), Litchfield-Carron 8.10 (64). The goal-kickers were: Birchip_M. Hogan (7), C. Hogan. A. Hogan, Hampton and Wearne. Litchfield-Carron_Power (3), Arnel (2), Gilder (2) and M.Boschen.

September 9. Correspondence. Combined Sunday Schools Picnic. Dear Sir, We the undersigned were recently appointed by the representatives of the four Sunday Schools of Donald to wait upon the business people of the town with the request that all establishments be closed for the full day on Wednesday October 8, the occasion being the annual combined picnic under the auspices of the above bodies. The proprietors of the various business houses in the town have unanimously agreed to close their premises, with the result that the above date will therefore be observed as a whole holiday within the town of Donald. Through your columns we therefore wish to express our thanks for the unqualified support given to the proposal and for the courtesy extended to us. Further notification will be given at a later date.

Yours etc. For and behalf of the combined Sunday Schools. J.F. Pearse, J.A. McKay

September 12. Personal. Messrs. W. Patterson and D. Moylan made a trip to Brisbane a fortnight ago and had an excellent journey. They came in contact with Mr. L. Shewan, formerly manager of the Donald branch of the Commercial Bank and captain of the Donald Football team in 1919. Although it is only five years ago, not one member of the present team was playing when Mr. Shewan was captain. They also met Mr. Godfrey Morgan, a former proprietor of the "Donald Times".

September 16, Donald Bowling Club. Discussing Improvements. Dr. Calhoun presided over a meeting of the above body at the Memorial Hall on Friday evening, the minutes being read by the assistant secretary, Mr. Gus. Meyer, and confirmed. A letter was received from the Lands Department to the effect that the rental for the ground occupied by the green would this year be £1, which charge would be increased to £2 next year. It was decided to write to the Department and to Mr. Weaver M.L.A., pointing out that the club was doing much towards improving and beautifying the park and asking that the rental remain at £1. The question of adequate lighting was then considered and Dr. Calhoun and Mr. W.A. Morgan were appointed to interview the electrical engineer as to the best means of carrying this out, together with the probable cost. Tenders having been called for the erection of a new pavilion, incorporating a billiard room, there will be another meeting of the club on Thursday night to consider those submitted.

September 20. A popular win. The premiership of the North-Western District Football Association was annexed by Donald at Watchem on Wednesday last, when the locals defeated Birchip in the final match by 6 goals, 2 behinds. There was a very good attendance, although not as large as that which witnessed the semi-final between Litchfield- Carron and Birchip, played on the same ground on August 20. The gate receipts, however, amounted to £75/16. The win was a popular one. Players were carried shoulder-high, and many were congratulations bestowed when the contest for supremacy ended, with Donald premiers for 1924. *(It would be interesting to read how this result was reported in Birchip)*

September 23. Donald's Disinterestedness. Speaking at the opening of the new Birchip Higher elementary school buildings, Mr. F. Tate, Director of Education, stated definitely that a woodwork centre would be established at Birchip in the near future. There were suitable buildings in Donald which apparently were not wanted by the Donald people. It was of no use forcing benefits upon people, and if Donald did not show that it required those buildings, they would be in Birchip very shortly.

September 27. Obituary. The late Mrs. J. Wyllie. Mr W.A. Wyllie of Carron recently sustained a sad bereavement by the death of his mother, Mrs. Jeanetta Wyllie, who passed away at her home at Minyip on Thursday, September 11, at the age of 63 years. The deceased, by her kind and amiable disposition, was held in high esteem and the news of this sad event when made known throughout the district, was received with feelings of profound sorrow (says the "Minyip Guardian").

It was characteristic of the late Mrs. Wyllie to carry out her acts of kindness quietly, and those who knew her well would testify to her thoughtfulness and consideration for those in unfortunate circumstances, her sympathy was always with the sick and suffering, and at many a home, where there has been illness, members of the family have invariably had occasion to feel grateful for the benevolence shown by the deceased. During the great European war, she was an enthusiastic member of the Red Cross, and as the mother of one of the soldiers never ceased in helping to make up comforts for the men. She was a devout

Methodist, and in all activities connected with the church, was a splendid worker. The deceased was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Cook (who for many years carried on farming at Dunmunkle) and was born at Digby. She was married to Mr. Robert Wyllie at Dunmunkle in 1884 and settling down in their home at Carron, remained there until about eight years ago, when they retired from the farm and took up private residence in Minyip. The deceased had spent nearly the whole of her life in the district, where she won the affection of a large circle of friends.

She leaves, beside her husband, a grown-up family of two sons and one daughter:- William Angus (Carron), Robert Allan (Geelong) and Jeanetta Evelyn (Mrs T.H. Smith, Dunmunkle), and to the bereaved is extended sympathy. The remains were interred in the Minyip cemetery.

September 30 The Motor Ambulance. An important public meeting is to be held in the Donald Shire Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Friday evening next in connection with the motor ambulance recently acquired by the Shire. The object of the meeting is to formulate some scheme for the operation and control of the service, and to appoint a committee of management. A large attendance of the public is particularly requested.

An Anxious Hour. The Redbank correspondent of the St Arnaud "Times" relates the following story of a narrow escape. Two boys, Vic. Costelow and Charlie Stanley were driving fat cattle in Mr Ted Burge's place, when one of the beasts became sulky and hard to drive. It jumped a fence and, dismounting from their horses, the boys tried to get it out on the road again. The bullock, with a wild bellow, turned on them, and they fled for their lives, and scrambled up the nearest trees. Vic Costelow's tree was a small dry one with no foothold. The enraged beast butted it and caused it to shake ominously. The boy clung on and trusted to luck. Charlie Stanley was better off. His tree was stouter and had a fork in which he was able to sit. The cunning animal took up a position between the trees, and either boy's movement caused it to charge viciously. The position of the boy on the unsound tree was becoming perilous. His strength was giving out, and he would not have been able to hang on much longer. Heroically he had hung on with no foothold for an hour. Mr. Mark Johnston came along the road in a spring- cart and would do his best to rescue the boys. To his surprise the bull fled, and he lost no time in getting the lads out of their dangerous predicament.