



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 205, SEPTEMBER, 2012

The Spring time has brought out the queries, and they have been quite numerous. Margaret Flood came, as indicated last month, so Ray Flett was able to show her where the old Flett lands were, and she was most happy with the information given.

Graham Dunstan, who now lives in Donald, wanted the Jeffcott Dunstans, and is to call for the info this week.

Sheila Pye of West Australia, a relative of the O'Learys, asked if there was anything on the family of Mrs O'Leary, the Deneheys, but they did not come to Donald.

Dianne Pocock (Stevens) wondered if we had indexed Don Stevens and his family – but the index has not reached them yet, unfortunately. She was talking to Chris Bailey at the Stevens funeral – has kept in touch with her since schooldays.

Emily Cheah is interested in “Georgie’s” “Tallyman’s Directory”, giving the Chinese for English words, and now that this computer upgrade is done, that is an early job, to scan the title and next pages.

Laura Dalgamo-Platt of Scotland, asked about an ancestor who was a photographer, and visited Donald briefly in 1869. Although there was only an advertisement, and he did not stay, she was delighted to be able to track him a little further.

Peter Flanagan has been buying a heap of “Selector” books where his Ryans and Donnellons dwelt; and Annette Wesley is interested in the Corries of Watchem and Corack – that is currently being worked on; while this morning Pamela Smith, having bought an “Introduction to Donald”, emailed that she would like all about the Moores.

Never a dull moment! And meanwhile Dorothy Warner is indexing 1956 and the “gap years” of 1946 and 1947 are being filled in. Plus work on the new edition of the Rich Avon book. Plus odd local queries which come in. . . .

ITEMS WHICH MADE NEWS IN THE "DONALD TIMES" A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

August 2, 1912: [*In the Court House*] a new jury room is being built besides other conveniences, and the work necessitated pulling down a porch erected about 20 years ago by Mr Hornsby. Underneath the floor was found in excellent preservation a jack plane which was the property of one of the workmen, Mr Nicholas, now a resident in Maryborough.

August 9: The freakish conduct in Woods Street of an individual named James Doyle, in which a billycan and a swag figured prominently, led to his arrest on a drunk and disorderly charge. The charge was dismissed, but he was fined 20s or 3 days for obscene language. The Golf Ball is one of the most successful and brilliant of Donald's functions. The attendance was about sixty couples, including many from other centres. The decorations included peach blossoms on boughs suspended from the ceiling, and the stage was fitted as a drawing room, nicely ornamented with foliage plants.

August 13: Yesterday evening for the first time the darkness of the Donald railway station was dispersed by the glow of electricity, and the old kerosene glimmers relegated to their long home on the departmental scrap-heap. The installation comprises about twelve lights.

August 16: The Coursing Carnival: Some excitement was caused at the close of the meeting by the arrest of a defaulting bookmaker. A number of punters were unable to obtain their money, and it looked as if there would be a disturbance. The bookmaker was escorted off in charge of the police, but is understood to have left for Melbourne by the early train yesterday.

August 20: To feed the hares, the president of the Coursing Club offered to interview persons with gardens and ask them to grow lucerne or carrots. He would provide them with seed. News: Constable Thomson (a native of Tarnagulla), two black trackers, and Mr. McMillan of Broughton station near Kaniva, are believed to have been lost somewhere on the 200 square miles of desert known as the Ninety-mile Plains, out west, while looking for stolen sheep..

August 23: Messrs Kean and Scott, Donald coachbuilders, have made a milk cart for Mr Sherwell of the Hilltop Dairy, equal to anything produced in the State, with white painted body and gold lettering and nickel driving rail, bands and handles, exceptionally decorative.

August 27: An event which caused some interest was the opening of the new Donald hotel on Thursday. The new structure is a handsome, commodious and convenient brick building of 23 rooms, built for the Ballarat Brewing Co, at a cost of about £2500 by Mr J. R. Hornsby. Some 36 feet of counter room are made available by the circular bar, and the dining room can accommodate from 60 to 70 people.

August 30: Nothing in amusement has developed with such rapidity as the picture show. Since the advent of the biograph theatres have become a settled feature of cities, and in every country centre the regular exhibition is firmly established. It must be admitted that many of the scenes depicted are of a corrupting character, and as such their influence on boys and girls of an impressionable age cannot be otherwise than harmful.

