



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 202, JUNE, 2012

First and most important, many thanks to Ann, Mary, Ron, Florence and anyone else who helped to cope with the deluge of enquiries that descended on us as soon as I left. They are all satisfied – well done.

And still they come. First was Michael Donnellon, who wanted the history of the Donnellons of Jeffcott. He actually sent his request to the “Buloke Times”, a copy of which had been given to him by Jack Donnellon. I told him to let Jack know that he should be ashamed of himself, as he should have known about us! However, that is well on the way, and answered was Mavis Barber’s request for an extension of the Barber history from 1931, which was as far as the index had gone at the time. (Thanks to Dorothy Warner, by the way, for being back on the job extending that index through the 1950s.)

Michael and Margaret Ryan have a Waterloo Cup trophy that a great grandfather’s dog won in 1912, just 100 years ago, so they are looking for the story of the win and also a short history of the Enclosure Coursing Club.

John Howley would like to know how much his father was paid by the Donald Shire for the roadworks contracts that he undertook. Not perhaps such an easy one, as the later papers did not publish amounts of contracts, but maybe we will find the Shire records in question..

Items making news in the "DONALD TIMES" 100 years ago..

June 4, 1912: Dr. Parker of Watchem reported to Council that people were being forced to take drinking water from the lake, in which dead animals had been found. Cr. Lavery agreed that State Rivers was negligent, and some dams were not fit for a dog to drink out of; a copy of Dr. Parker's report should be sent to the Commission. He advised Councillors to drink whisky with their water when in Watchem.

June 7: The first 5 months of the year have been the driest since official observations have been taken --total only 199 points.

Good value in talking machines is offered by Mr C. Davidson in the Dulcephone, which at £3 10s is an excellent investment. The "Austral" bicycle at £9 10s is worth remembering.

June 11: Mr & Mrs W. Goldsmith had a narrow escape at Little Jil Jil. The winkers of a horse harnessed to the gig in which they were seated fell off and the animal bolted, smashing the vehicle. Mrs Goldsmith was injured, needing treatment from Dr. Calhoun.

A welcome downpour set in on Sunday night. While the position was far from justifying the word drought, the conditions were causing farmers and pastoralists considerable anxiety and loss. The lambing season had been a failure in the Wimmera and Mallee. Donald recorded 51 points, and light showers continued.

June 14: Donald went to Jeffcott for a football match, losing 4.5 to 7.9. Players were provided with tea by Jeffcott ladies, for whom three cheers were given. The return home was made under difficulties and football is likely to receive a setback if an improvement cannot be effected in the travelling conditions.

June 18: 2000 starving sheep were trucked to St. Arnaud by Mr J. Burge, for boiling down. They were of fine stamp, half being NSW station bred. Over 300 had died, and the survivors are being fed by Mr Burge, who hopes to save 300-400 and these will doubtless in time amply repay him for his trouble.

June 21: Much comment has been caused by the rise in the price of beer in Donald. It is stated that numbers have changed their drinks and that the consumption of beer has been considerably lessened.

June 25: A rather severe storm was experienced in the district, and fences, shed and electric light wires suffered. There was a good downpour of rain which should dispel anxiety regarding crops -- Donald 117 points, 98 Corack, Banyenong 124.

June 28: Inspector Cameron said that one of his duties had been rather peculiar. A young lad had left information that there were three dead cats on the Corack Road, and if Mr Cameron went up he might be able to see the marks. He considered this was rather a hard nut for him to crack, but allowed the youthful aspirant 2s for removing and burying the carcasses. He was quite confident that the placing of the nuisance on the road had nothing to do with the lad in question.

Mr J.M. Harris, implement maker of Houston Street, Donald, opposite the Shire Hall, is selling his blacksmith's shop and contents in lots to suit purchasers.