



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 204, AUGUST 2012

Not too many requests from afar this month, although some questions for locals were answered on the spot.

Bryan Hogan of Corowa wanted some information about Georgie, and Frances Forrester came in with a beautifully engraved cup trophy which had been given to her great-grandfather Patrick Grogan in 1884 for his thoroughbred stallion at the Donald Show. She was definitely not going to leave the trophy with us, but wanted information about the occasion, and about the horse, which we could supply, as it was standing at stud.

Margaret Flood is coming next week for information about James Peace Flett – related to the current Fletts, but he selected in Rich Avon West and Dunmunkle, and became Shire president of Dunmunkle Shire. He later got a large block of mallee land in Carron. Ray Flett is coming to meet her, and will be able to show her the country where the Fletts selected.

One we couldn't help was Jenny Webb, who has a graduation book from Avon Plains School in 1903, and would like to know who left the school in that year. Unfortunately, although we have registers of the second school that opened in 1915, after the first had been closed for about 15 months, there is no information about the first.

A couple – Ian and Sandra Jolly -- who have received information about the Verney family called in to meet us and see where the info. came from. They were impressed and appreciative.

Another request we know is coming, from a daughter of Het Cooper, who has a book she thought to have belonged to her grandmother, but has found it is too old, and thinks it might have belonged to a great aunt who was older by some years.

ITEMS MAKING NEWS IN THE "DONALD TIMES" 100 YEARS AGO

July 2, 1912: Good progress has been made with the erection of the Donald Elementary High School, which is of a substantial character. Sloyd benches and cookery apparatus have been forwarded by the Department, and it is probable additional provision will be made for them.

July 9: The health officer of a Melbourne suburb attributes the increase in diphtheria to an undue fear of the truancy clauses of the Education Act. Mothers instead of keeping their children home for nursing, send them to school at the risk of spreading infectious disease.

July 12: Arrangements have been made for the enlargement of the "Donald Times", celebrating 37 years, and it will be issued twice a week as a six-page paper, with 16 columns of reading matter, special features of which will be a column for women, a Melbourne letter commenting on current events, up-to-date turf topics and a weekly review of the markets. Readers of fiction will be catered for by an interesting novel in serial form.

July 16: The Richardson River has risen to a considerable extent since recent rains, but there is no present danger of flooding. The water is flowing in the Donald-Morton Plains channel, and immediate action is to be taken to fill the three railway reservoirs.

July 19: The Commonwealth Bank has been opened, and the worker has little left but to gape and wonder what it has to do with him, and the serious section of the electors to consider whether Australia would not have been wiser to have adopted the old advice to stick to the staples and leave the fads alone. The Donald Post Office was opened as a branch of the Commonwealth Bank. There were no depositors, but an account was opened on Monday.

July 23: Mr J. M. Harris, make of the well-known "Clinker" plough, is leaving Donald for Drouin. He came to Donald in 1878 and witnessed the growth of the town from very small dimensions. When he arrived there were no houses in the neighbourhood of his business, and he built his first premises himself. His implement works and private residence were sold to Mr W.M. Hearn for 595 pounds.

July 26: The Donald Catholic Ball was a brilliant assemblage and the combination of beautifully costumed dancers, appropriate floral decorations of greenery and poppies and glowing lights made a picturesque scene. Femininity came forth in all the glory of new costumes and the colours of artistic dresses flowed in and out with dazzling effect.

July 29: A wheel of a dray belonging to Mr H, Muir, while passing the Colonial Bank, Donald, sank in the ground, and the horse was thrown over.

A social evening was tendered by a number of friends to Mr W. Allan, of Melbourne, who was the contractor for the plastering work at the new Donald Hotel. Musical and vocal items added to the enjoyment of a pleasant gathering