



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 208, FEBRUARY, 2013**

Welcome to a very historic year – Donald’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

There have been so many requests since my last bulletin that I will simply put them in point form:

Dohertys and Darcy families – done.

M. Kean and family – done.

Tom Guthrie – questions regarding the Guthrie history he is writing – ongoing.

W.H. Lewis – done.

Byrne and Donnellon – done.

Walter Williams of Laen – done.

Perrys of Corack – a big one! – done.

Ryans of Corack – including an unsolved murder! – done.

Photos and information of Laen for Ivan Landwehr – done.

Belleilles – done.

Racing career of Mart and Greg Hogan – done.

Family of Robert O’Shannessy – done.

Items to proof-read and add re Donald and Corack Mechanics Institutes – done.

Sophie Couchman, curator of the Chinese Museum, Melbourne, came with a Chinese helper to translate and very carefully photograph the phrasebook that is among “Georgie’s” belongings, which turned out to be two books – a Tallyman’s Handbook and list of useful words and phrases.

The museum is working with Culture Australia to use these phrasebooks to make lesson plans for students of the Chinese language. DHNHG will be credited and the book “Georgie” advertised on Culture Australia website.

Bush Nursing Hospital – under way.

Warren family – to be done.

John Clark – to be done

James Fitzgerald – to be done.

Plus various on-the-spot answers that could be given; and assistance to Anne Walsh for her book.

The second edition of “Country for Heroes – Rich Avon Soldiers Settlement and Rich Avon Cricket Club” and a new one called “Donald’s Football Fortunes” are both at their respective printers, and will be available for the “Back-to”.

## EVENTS MAKING NEWS IN THE "DONALD TIMES" 100 YEARS AGO

February 2, 1913: The opening of the duck season attracted an even larger number of sportsmen to Donald than usual. Birds were far from plentiful. Mr M. J. Bourke and party, of Donald, secured 62 ducks with five guns. One party lost a horse which dropped dead through the effects of the heat.

Mr W.A. Morgan's horse "Wallace" sired four of the winners of the Watchem Jockey Club's annual meeting on Monday. This is something of a record, and speaks volumes for the Wallace strain.

February 6: Several little incidents at last Donald Council meeting went to show that councillors are but human after all. In view of the heat Cr. Green proposed that coats and even other garments should be removed if necessary. As the mercury gradually climbed upwards the suggestion was universally adopted. Despite the weather, dinner was not overlooked, and Cr. Pearse pointed out that the president had stated that in his devotion to duck shooting and council work he had gone without breakfast – a sacrifice which was duly appreciated.

February 9: The first Cup meeting of the Donald District Jockey Club was held on Wednesday under conditions that were not altogether favourable. Before the opening race the big crowd that thronged the enclosure had their enjoyment somewhat marred by a thunderstorm which temporarily silenced the layers of odds. Hundreds of feminine enthusiasts rested and escaped much mud and water under the shelter of the grandstand, which as the clouds sent down their showers became packed like a crowded sardine tin.

February 13: The Shamrock Hotel, Donald flourishes exceedingly under its new management. Mrs R. Mathew, well-known through her connection with the Royal George, is specially catering for the farming and travelling folk. It was only recently that the hotel was reconstructed and re-equipped throughout, making it one of the most commodious and convenient houses in the Wimmera.

February 16: A six-roomed house weighing 20 tons was brought into Donald on Tuesday by Mr Patterson of Bet Bet for Mr Barker, of Traynor's Lagoon. The journey commenced on Saturday and was effected with the aid of a jinker and traction engine.

A branch of the State Savings Bank is to be opened in Donald instead of the present post office agency arrangement. Premises in McCulloch owned by Mr Shearer have been rented for this purpose.

February 20: A large grass fire occurred at Jeffcott on Friday resulting in the destruction of some thousand acres of grass and miles of fencing. Damage was done on the properties of Messrs L. Rowe, Tonkin, Hearn, Peverill and Clements. A large number of beaters was at work but the fire was not extinguished until Saturday. The origin appears to be unknown.

February 23: Another star series of Sun pictures will be shown in St. George's Hall tonight. St. George's Hall, Monday, February 26: C.L. Naylor's Comedy Company, with a refined comedian and a somewhat different comedian, a dancer, pianist, ventriloquist, gifted soprano, Neil sister, duettists, Seelrno Bros, jugglers and equilibrists and Naylor himself, tenor vocalist

Preparations are being made to celebrate the centenary of Methodism in Australia in 1915. Three organisers will be appointed in connection with the raising of a centenary fund of £50,000.

February 27: Without any flourish of trumpets the Donald Elementary High School was opened yesterday in the Fire Brigade Hall, which building has been secured as temporary premises till the erection of the two rooms required by the Department. Twenty-three pupils were in attendance and the classes were conducted by two capable teachers. Residents should paste in their hats that pupils are not charged one penny in fees.

