



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 209, MARCH, 2013

All the requests on last month's list have been dealt with and treated with glad responses. Two new ones were received and unusually, not a thing could be done to help, but at least one of them gave us a hearty laugh, which is always a good counter to all the hard honest endeavour.

First query concerned an Irish great-aunt, thought to have married a Galvin and to have lived on a farm – somewhere, hopefully in Donald district. She didn't marry any of our Galvins, and in fact, I could not trace her on the official BDMs of Victoria or South Australia, and suggested that she might not have come out from Ireland. Response: Fervent thanks for going to all the trouble, and he will now start from the Irish end.

Second query: Great-great-grandfather John Henry O'Donnell had at least some of his children in Witchipool, including enquirer Darren's great-great-grandfather William in 1900. Darren thought John Henry had "brought up his family in the Donald district" and wanted details. Unfortunately, although John Henry had his first 3 children registered in Donald, the rest were registered in Rushworth and Learmonth, so he wasn't in the district long enough for him or his children to be recorded in the index or school records. I explained this at some length, saying that we did have O'Donnells in the district, but they had different names from his children, and came from a different area – Gooroc. I finished by giving him the address of Rushworth and Learmonth historical Societies. Response: I have no idea what the hell you are on about, and I don't care. Regards, Darren." Point taken, Darren!

We have sold some Selector books during the month, and Mary had some success at the Market. She has built up stocks of some of our old books, in the hope that returnees will be generous, and I am reprinting "Farmers in Unity" in quarto. But I have my doubts about sales. The football book ran into trouble because Anne Walsh's book was being done at the same time, and the Horsham printer has placed the photos in the wrong places, but that will be fixed, of course. "Rich Avon" has been proof-read and is under way.

A man living in Melbourne in the house to which John King, coach-builder retired has his ledger and a hand-written list of all the people he dealt with. He will come up and give us the list – wants to keep the ledger but we can copy it if necessary. And in cleaning up my office at the "Times" I found wonderful invoices and programs of coursing and Litchfield sports meetings from 1940s and '50s – good stuff for Mary's box of letterheads.

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

March 4, 1913: There is no necessity for our local tradespeople to worry over the subject of the Saturday half-holiday for some time yet. The Act has not been gazetted for the simple reason that it did not pass the Upper house, and therefore it has not become law. It was received too late for consideration, and was therefore struck out, and the position as regards the half-holiday remains as before.

At the farewell to Rev. and Mrs Jessop by members of the Church of England, concert items were contributed: Mr Hebbard, songs "Out of the Deep" and "A Hundred Fathoms Deep"; Miss Vera Lamplough, song, "A Red Rosebud"; Miss Rhoda Meyer, song, "Rendezvous"; Miss E. Schafer, song, "Eyes that Used to Gaze in Mine"; Miss Ada Meyer and Miss E. Schafer, duet, "Nocturne".

March 7: One of the prettiest and most fashionable weddings the district has seen eventuated at "Milford Hill", charming residence of Mr & Mrs W.R. Pope, when their second daughter Alice was united in the bonds of matrimony to Mr Charles Henry Leeder, son of Mr and Mrs John Leeder of Cope Cope. The bride looked charming indeed, her naturally graceful and supple figure being enhanced by a beautiful gown of Oriental satin, trimmed with silk lace and pearl drops, the skirt draped at the side and caught up with pearl ornaments. Bridesmaids were Miss Mary Pope and Miss Ruby Leeder, and Miss Eliza Pope the trainbearer.

A remarkable incident occurred on the property of Messrs Holland Bros, Avon Plains, during the thunderstorm on Tuesday evening. The lightning was very close, and flashing everywhere. Mr A. Holland saw a blaze of fire leap up as the result of a flash of lightning in a stubble paddock. Owing to the heavy wind driving the fire on to a bare road, Mr Holland, with the aid of four men, was soon able to beat it out.

March 11: Cr. Lederman presided over a largely-attended meeting at the Shire Offices last night, when the subject of establishing swimming baths in Donald was discussed. The meeting was unanimously in favour, and it was decided to ask the Donald Waterworks Trust and the Water Supply Commission if they had any objection to the proposed site. A swimming club was formed, with Mr W. Pitty as secretary.

March 14: While returning home early on Thursday morning from Mr W. Pope's residence after the wedding, Mr and Mrs J.R. Crosbie had an exciting experience. The night being very dark and obstacles hard to see, the wheel of the gig struck a post, and the horse started to kick violently. Mrs Crosbie reluctantly jumped out, and beyond a wrenched ankle, escaped injury. Both shafts were broken off the gig, and although the mishap was unfortunate, Mr and Mrs Crosbie were lucky to escape bodily injury.

March 18: Messrs "Andy" Reilly and Jack McIntosh, formerly residents of Corack, in company with Mr Godfrey Morgan and Mr Sands, went to Queensland some years ago to take up land, and are at present on a brief visit to their Corack friends. Both gentlemen speak enthusiastically of the facilities offered to settlers in the part of the State where they reside, also of the climate, the general life and their own prosperity.

March 21: At the end of the meeting about swimming baths for Donald, it was decided to grant the deputation's request in reference to the application to the Railway Department for permission to use the old railway dam for public baths. The Shire council will lend financial assistance when a definite scheme is placed before it.

March 28: The annual race meeting of the Corack Race Club held on Easter Monday outweighs all district attractions. Since the club's last meeting, seating accommodation and a fine lot of sugar gums has been placed in the members' reserve, and one of the principal improvements, which was greatly appreciated by those driving from a distance, is that of a large dam of splendid water, about four chains from the publican's booth.