



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 212, JUNE

Work continues on the “back-to” list. Now done are Meddings, Bray, Alfred Hamilton, most of the Crones, but waiting now till John Fraser comes back, as he is going to pay for and sent it on; the Moores, William Sutcliff and the Greenwood family.

More information has been requested on Forers and Willis, but not yet received.

And some new ones – the ones for the Moores and for William Sutcliffe were since the last meeting, and also for the Bolgers, and for Robert Broadhurst on Dennis Ryan, and from Maureen Lucas on Daniel O’Leary. And some very interesting requests – Robert Broadhurst again, who collects soft drink bottles, for details of W.H. Lewis –also breweries, hotels and their owners, wine shanties, coffee palaces....! When we said, Hey, that is overload, he explained that three friends who are writing books about different things have decided to pool their research. But we will stop at Lewis for the time being! Robert will be here next Thursday, and on the 16th, Georgie Perry to collect the Perry story.

And Jenny Dedman wanted to know, did Thomas Smith own or lease the Richardson Hotel and Hay and Corn store in 1881? Answered, but once again rejected – a scheme is being put in place to send these rejected things from a different email and see what happens.

And from a real cityite, obviously – the Petitjeans; August Henri died in 1905 in Melbourne, but his daughter Louise in Donald in 1937 after their house burnt down, so the family story goes. But why would two unmarried girls come to Donald after their father died? And where would she find a newspaper that would give information; and did Donald by any chance have a paper? Well, she was soon told about the paper And all that family story is wrong; Petitjean pere died in 1905 in Donald after living here for 15 years as a jeweller, and his daughters just took over the shop but sold different things. And Louise died as a result of burns received some time previously, but the house didn’t burn down. Maybe she was burned when putting wood in the stove or on an open fire, or a spark caught her clothes; and she treated it herself inefficiently and bloodpoisoning set in. I could imagine something like that – but of course it is guesswork. It goes to show that we must be very cautious about accepting “family stories”. However, there is quite a bit of interesting stuff about the family to give her when she comes on the 20th.

Books are still selling, and Mary and Florence are still photo-copying!

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

June 3, 1913: A Licensing Reduction Board was held in Donald to hear evidence why four hotels, the Cricket Club, Racecourse, Grant Central and Shamrock, should not be closed. The Superintendent said the district was entitled to 11 hotels, but it had 7 in Donald, 7 in Charlton, and one each at Barrakee, Buckrabanyule, Wooroonook and Coonooer Bridge. Much evidence was taken, but no decision made at the time.

June 6: The new engine to be installed at the local Electric Light Plant has arrived in Donald. This engine order is estimated to double the lighting power of the present plant.

The Licensing Board announced that Mrs Watt's Cricket Club Hotel, Donald, and O'Neill's Albion Hotel, Charlton, were to be closed.

June 10: The composite steam train imported some months ago by the Railway Department has proved satisfactory, and it is likely that this class of train will be in demand in the future for light and branch lines in rural districts. It is running at present between Maryborough and St. Arnaud.

The weather for the past week has been bitterly cold, but a timely rainfall of nearly an inch has just been what was required to perfect the ground for sowing. All the farmers are busy sowing and jubilant at the excellent prospects.

June 13: The half-yearly conference of the St. Arnaud District Grand Lodge M.U.I.O.O.F. was held at Donald. At its conclusion a Purple lecture was delivered and Purple degrees conferred upon Bros. Wilton (St. Arnaud), Prior (Dunolly), Merrett (Watchem) and Cocks and Jackson (Donald). In the evening was a banquet at Bro. Ditchburn's Donald Hotel.

On Arbor Day at Watchem West school about a dozen trees and shrubs were planted, and a very nice little concert was given by the children, who were briefly addressed by Mr J.H. Walder.

June 17: The St. Arnaud "Times" says something of a record in motor driving was put up on Wednesday on the part of P.G. W. Steward of the M.U. Lodge. In his Overland car he kindly ran a party of delegates to Donald in an hour.

In anticipation of a busy time ahead Mr Dan Byrne of the Royal George Hotel is having extensive alterations made. An entirely new set of fittings of a circular shape will replace the existing arrangements, making the bar more commodious and allowing the present back bar to be turned into a snugger.

June 20: On Tuesday a wagon, heavily laden with timber and drawn by six horses, the property of Mr Wm. Whelan of Laen, was coming down Hammill Street and at the intersection of Woods Street the horses were startled by a motor car. They swerved suddenly and for a while there was a general mix-up in the team, but the driver John Johnson straightened affairs and no damage was done.

June 24: The past year had been the most successful in the history of the Rifle Club, 24 new members joining and 62 members passing their musketry course. 35 secured marksmen's badges, Messrs J.H. Bolden and W.G. Pearse tying for pride of place with a score of 183.

Mr Richard James Bourke of Carron was on Wednesday last at St. Mary's, Minyip, married to Miss Gertrude Dorothy Merrett, of Sheep Hills.

June 27: Police Court: In consequence of complaints, Snr Constable Curtain and Const. Teese visited an empty house in Woods street, which was condemned by the authorities, and there found nine men and 20 empty beer bottles. They ordered the men to leave, but when they visited at 10.20 p.m. there were two on the premises, whom they arrested. The prosecution asked the bench to assist the police in their efforts to rid the town of undesirables. The bench sentenced the men to one month's imprisonment each.