



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 213, JULY

The flood of queries has now dried up, and “no new messages” has been the norm for a few days. Today there was a query about a baby that apparently lived only 3 days, and his brother is coming at the end of July to see the grave. But it is not here, or Swanwater West, or Laen, so I suggested most likely St. Arnaud, as the mother probably gave birth there.

There was another “no result” on a query received about a Patrick Ryan who was a publican at Wooroonook. The enquirer was referred to Charlton in case there is something there.

Robert Broadhurst did not come last month, and although there has been no word at the Archives yet, a letter in the “Times” suggests he will be here at the end of July. He had better keep his word this time, or Lois will not be impressed. The Lewis material is waiting for him, in any case.

The Petitjean lady, Lyn McKenzie, came, though, and was suitably impressed. She was glad to have some clarity thrown on the “family stories”, and fully believed our version.

There is still material waiting here for Galvins and Sproats – “next time they come to Donald”.

I still can’t get through to Jenny Dedman about Thomas Smith by email – will just have to hope she rings again some day.

Of course, there is still plenty to do, and blank places in the index are being filled, and old books retyped in quarto, not to mention a long-overdue overhaul of the filing cabinet.

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

July 1, 1913 There was—and in some quarters there still is – a belief that women's political ideas are shallow, and that they are incapable of grasping the finer issues in politics. Such views cannot possibly be held by anyone who can put a proper construction on recent events in the Wimmera. The work of the Women's National League was largely responsible for so successful a result; the most purblind bigot can hardly fail to see.

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.

July 4: Mr W.A. Morgan, president of the Donald Coursing Club, presided over Wednesday's night's gathering. Close upon a hundred were gathered at the Royal Hotel and when coursing men get together the talk is fast and furious. The winner of the stake thought that Donald sports were the best in the world, and the cup was a "boshter".

June 13: Mr Agar Wynne, the Postmaster-General, remarked that he had received about one hundred letters and telegrams from people in all parts of Australia, expressing pleasure at the decision to cancel the "kangaroo stamp" and substitute one of a design embracing the King's head and the shields of the Australian States. The new stamp will not be issued for a week or two.

July 11: The majority of the speakers at the Donald Rifle Club's annual dinner last week drew attention to the need of steadily and perseveringly improving the defences of Australia. Patriotic words were spoken and sentiments uttered, and the young manhood of Australia were advised to speedily put their house in order and make due provision for future contingencies.

July 15: Delegates attended the farmers' Conference at Bairnsdale. They had returned quite satisfied that they were in a better part of the country than Bairnsdale. They had seen in the streets bullock teams loading Nhill flour which would have to be carted 80 miles and then packed on horseback for another 25 miles to reach some settlers. The hardships they had to undergo could hardly be believed. Some of them had been struggling for forty years and their children had never been to school.

July 25: The marriage was celebrated on June 25th of Miss Pearl Keast, third daughter of Mr & Mrs Wm. Keast of St. Arnaud, to Alfred G. Bath, third son of Mrs Bath and the late W.H. Bath of Swanwater. The bride looked charming in a frock of white charmeuse satin. The bridesmaids were Misses J. Bath and Cassie Keast.

On the same day the wedding was celebrated at Bendigo of Mr Thos Melican of Witchipool, and Miss Alice Hurley of Wychitella.

July 29: The Mystics performed on Saturday night. Zelda, the lady clairvoyant, came on the stage with the assistance of crutches. Without doubt she completely mystified her audience, descriptions of watches, and the names engraved thereon, the value and dates of coins, and even the number of a banknote, from members of the audience, being given correctly without hesitation. Professor Copeland, with his hypnotic turn, created roars of laughter.