



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 214, AUGUST

There has been no enquiry during the last month, until the last couple of days. Two phone callers who “wanted help with family history” were asked to send information by mail. Another left a message, “Is this the right email for the Donald Archives”? Nothing yet on those, but today two others – One for an Edwards who delivered something to Cope Cope – so, did we have the history of Cope Cope, and when did the rail come there? That one is promising, because there were Edwards shopkeepers in Cope, and Edwards in the footy team and concerts.

The other, like the Edwards, shows the difficulty of investigating common names. This man from Queensland is writing the history of the McKay name in Australia – but a particular branch of it; and he wrote to the “North Central News” and was told that “McKay was a common name in Donald” – so he emailed us. But of course it is not common, and Dot is the only current McKay, while others have been shire engineers, bank clerks and railway people, all who came from afar and did not stay after their terms of office.

There has been trouble with the internet, and answers to these two queries cannot yet be sent. Any incoming messages will also be unavailable, so more may be waiting.

No McKays, or Edwards, were pioneer selectors – and those were the people who stayed, married and multiplied, and left some history to be told.

In the meantime, the long history of the Burchell family has been completed for Helen Burchell, and received with gratitude.

Norman Sproat phoned from his retirement home and asked for his material to be sent. He had hoped to come for the 150th celebrations, but became ill – so that is why that one was left.

A few local questions have been asked and answered on the spot, as often happens.

We helped Birchip to celebrate its 30th anniversary, and inspected its archives – very neat and efficient, but perhaps it hasn’t been going long enough to be untidy!

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

August 1, 1913: In letter from "a very old member of the Jockey Club" who disapproves of suggestions of improvements to the course. "May I suggest that the Jockey Club give £100 to the P. and A. Society first, then reduce the nomination fee to the owners (poor beggars) the men who as a rule lose everything for the king of pastimes, racing.

August 5 The committee of St. George's Church of England is about to erect a w.b. parish hall 45 ft x 25ft, with an extra room 25 ft x 12 ft., on land at the rear of the church. The Ballarat Diocese will sell by public auction a piece of Church land in Houston St. between Messrs Canard and Morgan's properties and devote the proceeds to the erection of the hall.

August 8: After a long run of reverses the Imperials tasted the sweets of victory on Wednesday afternoon, scoring a victory over the Rovers by the narrow margin of 2 points. There was a fair attendance of spectators, many of whom, however, paying a "flying" visit over the showgrounds fence and thus avoiding the payment of the necessary sixpence.

August 12, 1913: The Donald Progress Association is to be commended for its action in having the University Extension Movement introduced into Donald, and securing the services of such a celebrated lecturer as Professor Tucker. The outcome of these lectures will no doubt results in the formation of a literary and debating society in Donald, which has already been advocated in these columns.

August 19: The action of the Donald Shire Council in deciding to call public meetings of the residents of Donald, Watchem and Corack in order to obtain an expression of opinion on the half holiday question is undoubtedly a wise one. As it is, Saturday is recognised as the "farmers' day" and a half holiday on that afternoon suits them admirably in many ways. On the other hand, many merchants and traders are of the opinion that if their premises were closed at 1 p.m. on Saturday, many farmers would be unable to complete their purchases before that hour, and trade would be lost. With two different interests to consider, the question is a difficult one to decide, and some section of the community is sure to be inconvenienced.

August 22: The new building for the Donald Higher Elementary School, which is admirably ventilated and lighted, has been most thoroughly equipped by the Government, there being, in addition to the usual furnishings, desks, pictures, maps etc., about £200 worth of apparatus for scientific research provided in the laboratory where the science classes are held. In the old days French, Latin, Euclid, algebra and a number of subjects were considered "extras" and were the subject of a certain charge, but now the only expense incurred by parents is in the purchase of the necessary books for the study of these subjects. The old Witchipool school building has been removed and re-erected in the grounds and will shortly be opened as a cooking school and a sloyd workshop.

August 26: Mr and Mrs Jonathan Bennett, very old residents of Watchem and district, have lately been the recipients of many congratulations on the birth of their daughter, being the sixteenth child of the marriage, 15 of whom are living, 10 sons and 5 daughters.

August 29: On Thursday a large and representative meeting assembled to discuss the half holiday question. A ballot resulted: Saturday 53, Wednesday 15.

Tomorrow night Mr Harry Craig will introduce his new company to Donald; the Howard Bros., who have won the world in thought reading and second sight entertainment, head the bill. Madame Marvello, a lady conjurer, Mr F.C. Coyne, versatile comedian, are also of the combination. A bumper house will doubtless greet Mr Craig's new venture. What is a thought wave? A Lover, Mother, Father, Sister or Brother can receive one or send one.