



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 215, SEPTEMBER

The spring time has brought some enquiries with it. The first was a plaintive email from a lady who was chasing her family tree, and knew that great grandfather John Richmond had been “somewhere in the Donald area”. Was there anything at all in the Archives?

Of course, Great Grandpa was an original selector in Laen, and having succeeded there, sold out and bought a much larger amount of land in Watchem, starting a family line that endured. The ecstatic response to that information was anything but plaintive! So that long story is under way, and will entail the sale of a couple of books as well.

Then Alison McEwen brought in a young man who wanted help with – well he insisted it was called “Trawn”, but turned out to be spelled Trewin – not immediately the Wycheproof multitude but another Laen selector who fairly quickly got a Mallee block and moved out.

Another interesting query came from a lady who, with her partner, was living on a sailing boat – whether permanently or temporarily was not clear—and going up the Queensland coast on their way to Bali. Her object was the Ibbotsons, Hugh and Alan, who had a farm in Carron for a few years in the 1920s before going broke, and that information was emailed to her, but she is now trying to find a way to pay for it, as her bank is in the USA, and she does not use a cheque book, now would they be on land to access a Bank. But she is now in port for boat repairs, so called for a postal address so that she could send a P.O. order.

A very pleasant couple called in one day concerning an ancestor, by the name of Short, a schoolteacher in Swanwater West, who married a Morley from that district, so that was another interesting one completed.

There was one visitor’s query we could not answer – not every ancestor DOES come from this area! They were referred to the Public Record Office and were grateful for even that tiny bit of help.

We had the Year 9s from Donald High School on their Community Week for 2 days, 3 one day and two the other, and they did some photo-copying and typing, and Brent Hogan even a snippet of indexing; and now we are to have Hadas Sorenson for about 3 weeks to type one of the old books in modern style for us.

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

September 2, 1913: Thursday's meeting on the half-holiday was 53 to 15 in favour of Saturday, but it must be remembered that those who are entitled to decide are the shopkeepers alone. Without doubt they will consider the convenience of the farmers and select a day most suitable to their customers. The adoption of the day will remain optional even if Parliament passes the universal Saturday half-holiday clause.

September 5, 1913: A party of football enthusiasts essayed the journey to Murtoa by means of a motor car, but it broke down about 8 miles from Minyip. An urgent wire was sent for a relief expedition, and with a zeal only equalled by the late Captain Scott's ill-fated dash to the Pole the remainder of the party essayed the journey back to home, sweet home per boot. The leader of the adventurers showed great determination and fortitude and safely led the wanderers back to Donald. The way was scanned for an approaching vehicle but alas! Fate was against them and they had to "pad the hoof" for the whole journey.

September 9: Corack: One of the noticeable features of the district is the number of horses and cattle being travelled to take advantage of the grazing of the Corack side of the north end of Lake Buloke. The trefoil is fully three feet high.

September 12, 1913: Donald Show: A Demonstrative Exhibition of the District's Agricultural Wealth. There was ample excuse for the pessimist to turn optimist at Wednesday's exhibition. At Basset's comprehensive exhibition of agricultural machinery and implements, one of Messrs Marks Bros' patent safety travelling chaffcutters attracted considerable attention. It is impossible for the feeder to get his hands caught in the rollers.

September 16: Mr H.S. Pope's "Currajong" may be pointed to with pride as one of the ideal homesteads of this district. The situation of the home buildings is more than admirable, and the view from the front verandah of the house, which Mr Pope has erected, could hardly be equalled, much less excelled throughout the whole of Australia. Here we have no mountainous scenery to lend a change of view, but what could be more attractive than the gentle slope of fertile soil put to its full use and advantage, and which stretches in all its latent verdure to the horizon.

September 19: Mr L. O'Bree, formerly of Swan Hill, who has taken over the Donald Coffee Palace and has given the premises a thorough overhauling, announces that he will carry on the establishment on the most up-to-date lines.

Messrs Onley and Bazeley announce that they are prepared to undertake the installation of electric light and accessories to anyone requiring the same in Donald

September 23: The world-famer astronomer and meteorologist, Clement Wragge, will appear in St. George's Hall on Thursday and give a grand scientific lecture on "The mighty Universe, Creation, The Seasons, and Marvellous Radium." During the lecture Mr Wragge will explain the causes and effects of present and future seasons – an opportunity for farmers and pastoralists that will never occur again. He is giving away many closely guarded scientific secrets of weather forecasting.

September 26: A very pleasing social function took place on Wednesday when the courts of the Donald Tennis Club were declared open for the season. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, the splendid weather attracting a number of the fair sex whose brilliant gowns lent quite a fascinating touch of colour to the animated scene.

September 30: On Saturday night cries of distress were heard from the vicinity of the Chinamen's old gardens, and it appears that by some unaccountable means an inebriate had found his way to the spot which is now an island. "There's nothing but water!" he yelled. He was quite right, in fact he was rather observant for a drunk. Finally he must have found a tolerably dry spot for with a final "Mr Gawd it's cold" he subsided.