



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 216, OCTOBER

We are just about up to date with queries for which we have to provide material. Julie Stephens is enjoying the books, photos and story of the Richmonds; the boat travellers landed in Cairns for book repairs and determinedly found a post office and paid their account.

Another family that called in were noting information from the cards and said, “We should be able to find this on line” until told gently that they would be depriving us of income, and, fortunately, they understood that because the wife had done work for a historical society and knew “how it is”. So they will email us with the questions they want answered. But as more and more newspapers go online, that is something that we have to face.

The latest big story was that of the Liddle family, who were perfect characters for a family history as they were into everything – sport, music, drama, community affairs. The couple with their ten children were in the district for a long time, so their story was balanced with the usual marriages and funerals. Their ancestors should be happy reading all that, which has just been sent to them.

Janice McEwen of Wedderburn, started by sending a photo and asking if we could verify that the couple with her grandparents, the McCormacks, were Henry and Margaret Pope. That was true, and the photo was given to us. She also bought a copy of the Pope history and the Witchipool selectors.

Bruce McGonigal has a problem; his father, aged 98, wants a photo returned to him, and had been told it was in the Group’s possession. However, that is not so. It is a photo of the Victoria Hotel in Banyena with men in front of it which included Stephen McGonigal, Bruce’s grandfather, who was very active in the early days of Banyena. The photo is in “Shanty at the Bridge”, and it is also in the little history published to commemorate 100 years of education, in which Drums were involved. It appears that Bruce’s father lent the photo to a member of the Drum family, who told him later that the Donald Group had it, and he would get it and return it. Now Mr McGonigal, senr, WANTS IT BACK! But we have it not, and Bruce is now going to follow it up with members of the Drum family.

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

October 3, 1913: On Tuesday, at the buckjumping show, an interesting display of rough riding took place. A local rider wagered that he would ride a buckjumper belonging to the show, a Queensland "brumby" that was nothing to look at, but he could buck, in fact he was a past master at the art. After a short but interesting set-to, the local rider was thrown.

October 7, 1913: It is hard to realise that the first authenticated flight in Europe took place so recently as November 1906, over the short distance of two hundred yards, when we are reminded that the English Channel has been repeatedly crossed, that the flight from Paris to London is considered as a mere nothing, and that a flight across the Atlantic from Europe to America is well within the bounds of possibility.

October 9: At the Donald Shire Council meeting yesterday, the list of duties read out that Inspector Cameron has to perform was rather appalling. He is the veritable Pooh Bah of Donald, and has to attend to anything and everything from averdupois to canines. A reconsideration of his duties was left till next meeting.

October 14, 1913: The "sneak thief" a contemptible specimen of humanity, has made his appearance in Donald. A tank at the Coursing Club's enclosure, used for storing oats, has been broached by some individual of the above persuasion, about three bags being abstracted, leaving a few bucketsful behind. It is to be hoped that the visitor to the Enclosure will be found out and duly "attended to" by some of the officials of the club

October 17, 1913: The value of township property is certainly not on the decline in Donald. At the auction sale of Crown lands on Tuesday the allotment on the old police reserve on which is erected a brick cottage brought, after spirited bidding on the part of two ladies, £182, and the price paid, together with the value of the improvements £95, and the charge for survey, brings the total purchase price up to £278, Mrs Mulligan becoming possessed of the property at that figure.

September 19: There are, or were, but two main thoroughfares out of the town across the railway line and yet the most convenient (McCulloch Street) was closed and all the traffic forced to use Hammill-street, which is practically a death trap. Pity it is that the council did not at the time decide to fight the Commissioners on the closure of McCulloch-street, which had for over twenty years been one of, if not the main, arteries of traffic.

October 24: The decision of the Licences Reduction Board was given at Castlemaine on Tuesday. The Cricket Club Hotel, Donald, was dealt with as follows, as far as compensation for delicensing is concerned:- Owners, Messrs Beckingsale and Son, £300; licensee, Mrs Watts, £125.

October 28: Cope Cope: A thunderstorm passed over the town on Sunday evening last, 83 points being registered. While the storm was at its height several men who were under the verandah at the Coffee palace received very nasty shock, owing to the telephone wires being struck. Mr Humphrey was knocked down, and Mr David Dunstan couldn't move his arm for some considerable time. The postmaster has not been able to use his phone since.

October 31: The combined Sunday schools' picnic was held on Wednesday at Lake Buloke. Undoubtedly it is a children's festival and for nonce everyone was a child again and participated gaily in the day's amusement. Sports were the order of the day. Even young ladies who could be termed grown up enjoyed the delights of a swing, and the fact that a number of the fair sex were running in "manx" races securely tethered together with the ever available pocket handkerchief accounted for the number of the sterner sex taking a livelier interest in the sports.