



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 224, AUGUST 2014

Family history queries are becoming few and far between, as people become computer literate and consult Trove, which gives them items from newspapers. Of course, they don't get all the little bits and pieces that are provided here, but just enough to satisfy them.

A couple called in this month, looking for McDonalds of Banyena, but the ones we know are not theirs – McDonald is such a common name. They had found information from Trove, and really came here because they had heard of Rod's book, and hoped their ancestors might be in the Banyena one. They were not; Ron's general index puts them in Burrum Burrum. However, they found a couple of hints that sent them off quite happy – but the Archives only 3 cents richer for a photocopied page!

Jan Amos of the St. Arnaud group was looking for material on Avon Plains, and as this was during the messy upgrade of our computers, I could not reply to her email, but sent some material by post. I haven't heard whether that is sufficient.

The only other request was also from an Amos – Tom, who wanted to know the colours of the old Cope-Litchfield-Carron football team. He was referred back to Danny Forrest, who found them for his school competition. This info could not be given here, but through the "Times" computer!

Now we are just about back to normal in this office, although Mary's photo arrangements are still on hold. We are joined in a network, and the main improvement seems to be in security; operations are much the same, with a few things to get used to.

ITEMS FROM THE "DONALD TIMES" OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO:

August 4, 1914: The spacious buildings now being renovated and prepared as a butchering establishment for Mr W. H. Crone are now nearing completion, and provided the machinery arrives, should be open to the public by next Saturday or the beginning of next week. The new shop, when opened, will give the corner of McCulloch and Woods Streets a business appearance.

August 7, 1914: A meeting to consider the present inadequate Post Office and Court House accommodation at Donald was held in the Shire Hall. Mr Hornsby, as chairman, said the Court House was absolutely inadequate, cold and dark, and if the Post Office authorities carried out their proposal it would make it still worse. It was a jury box and nothing else. In the Post Office there was no privacy, and no room to do business in a businesslike manner. The meeting resolved to approach the State Attorney-General to approach the federal Postmaster-general with a view to transferring same to the Commonwealth, and that the Crown Law Department take immediate action to build a new court house on a new site in Donald.

August 11, 1914: At the Donald Shire Council meeting Cr. Wortley said that seeing the work now being done in the Donald Park, he intended to move that the sum of £5 be voted to give proper effect to the work. Cr. Pearse: I object to this grant while we are over £400 in debt and have so many bad streets and roads. Who is doing the work? Is it not our dayman? Cr. McNabb: In Corack we rained £35 for our park without the assistance of the Council.

August 14, 1914: The Council has received a communication from the Postmaster-General's Department that the proposal for the Post Office to take over the Court House cannot be entertained, as the building is too large for postal purposes. However approval has been given for improvements to be effected at an estimated cost of £225, such as will provide the accommodation necessary without absorbing the open space between the footpath and the Post Office.

August 18, 1914: During the past week a number of young men from Donald and surrounding districts have enlisted as volunteers to join the British forces in the European War. Messrs Sproat and Guthrie have both donated hacks for Lt. Colonel Semmens's regiment. Lt. Col. Semmens, who will command the infantry battalion, will be mounted on Mr Sproat's charger. A movement was initiated by the C. of E. Girls Friendly Society to provide garments for the soldiers of the front.

August 21, 1914: Since the commencement of the war 433 applications for naturalisation by Germans have been received by the Department for External Affairs. An idea prevails that the military authorities are commandeering requisites from citizens. The department warns people against being imposed on by persons fraudulently representing themselves as authorised Government agents.

August 25, 1914: The new Donald water storage tower is now partly completed, and the work is causing a lot of interest to be taken in its construction. Quite a number of people visit the locality every Sunday afternoon.

The inhabitants of Carron and other places have been somewhat puzzled owing to an unusual light appearing in the heavens at night time. We learn that the cause of the unusual spectacle was a powerful search-light used by a travelling company recently performing at Warracknabeal. The glare from these lights is easily visible for 15 or 20 miles.

August 28, 1914: According to an estimate made by the Commonwealth statistician, it costs 8s 7d per week to supply a male over seventeen years of age with food, as against 6s 10d for a female of the same age; and 6s 10d for a male between 13 and 16 years as against 6s for a female between the same ages.

A very popular wedding was celebrated on Wednesday afternoon at the residence of Mr and Mrs H.S. Pope "Currajong" when Mr Robert A. Adams of Laen was united to Miss Flora Evelyn Pope. The bridesmaid was Miss Lizzie Pope and the best man Mr W. Barber. The wedding breakfast was celebrated in a marquee erected for the purpose. The happy couple left for Melbourne by the afternoon train en route to the Blue Mountains, where the honeymoon will be spent.