



DONALD HISTORY
& NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 238, FEBRUARY, 2016.

Here we are again! Actually, there have been quite a few queries since we last met. As well as “drop-in” questions, such as “what colour was the original Fire Station?” there were enquiries for: Robert and Alice Gardiner (from Norman Lawson in England who follows our website); the Hoare family; Waddell; Sands; Charlie Bull; Nicholls and Goldsmith; Weinberg; Joseph and Sarah Green. Bruce Devlin, chasing his g-grandfather Joseph Devlin, who was a boundary rider, wanted details and maps showing the stations in the East Wimmera area. Carole Hampton hoped for something about the McDonalds of Banyena and other places, but there was little to find from here.

Then we had Bruce Munday, of South Australia. He is writing a book on the effect that rabbits had on agriculture, and after quite a bit of correspondence from us, said that as we had mentioned letters, could he come over and see some? He and his wife came, and visited Ron, bringing a good camera with which she photographed material --- his comment was, “What an inspiration!” We agree.

Another book is being written on “Hotels in the Wimmera” and Richard Taylor, for the author, asked for details of the Grand Central. When I said, “What about all the other hotels we have had over the years?” he wanted details of their beginning and ending, too.

The Zichy-Woinarski family is having a reunion in Melbourne on Feb. 14, and initially wanted a picture of Norm’s plaque on St, George’s Hall, which mentions him. When told what else might be available, they were happy to have that, too, and it has just been sent.

Ruth Tampling is coming next week to see what remains of the place where she was born in 1942 – the Bush Nursing. Her father was Ian Elliott, on the loco staff here, and there is a little information for her to see as well – mostly about the tins of fruit, bags of lemons and eggs that they won in the Fire Brigade euchre, which gave goods instead of money during the war, to help with rationing, presumably. However, Ian Elliott had his clothes burst into flame after handling petrol; and he was in a syndicate that won \$1000 in Tatts, so there are some exciting items for her, as well.

A recent visitor was Simon Swain, a Bendigo solicitor who was at Warracknabeal and visited Oakley and Thompson sometimes, to see what had happened to the old place. He was quite impressed.

ITEMS OF NEWS IN THE "DONALD TIMES" 100 YEARS AGO.

February 1, 1916: A splendid stream of water is now running in the new channel from Batyo Catyo to Corack. The water had passed Corack last week, flowing in a northerly direction.

Mrs Lamont, Woods street, opposite Mrs Prentice's fruit shop, wishes to inform the public that she has returned to Donald with a beautiful range of summer blouses, ladies' underclothing, fancy neckwear, aprons, calico, towels etc.

February 4, 1916: Mr J. Gilmour, of Cope Cope, claims the record for a day's stripping by taking off 302 bags in a day with a header and five horses.

Mr W. Willey has been appointed agent for "Anto" (white ant exterminator) and "Perdo" rabbit destructor). Both these articles have given universal satisfaction and are used extensively by the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales.

February 8, 1916: Saddler Simon Torney, son of Nurse Torney of Donald, has written from Alexandria concerning his wound "fighting the niggers at the western frontier". "The bullet entered my elbow without touching the bone, and into my side and came out about the centre of my stomach but never hurt any part inside me. I was very lucky. I had a rough trip till I got on the hospital boat. We were carried in stretchers 1½ miles to the beach, put on a rowing boat and rowed about a mile and were lifted on to a barge, and had about two hours sail to the hospital boat.

February 11, 1916: Among things sent to the Red Cross, Melbourne by Cope Cope: "15 suits flannelette pyjamas, five scarfs, 24 face washers, two sealskin vests, four cholera belts, six nightingales, five Balaclava caps, one pillow, 13 writing pads, two rolls stationery and envelopes, five packets matches, 10 tins cocoa, 9 tins tobacco, 143 packets cigarettes, 4 plugs tobacco, two bundles bootlaces, 35 bandages, 66 lead pencils, 30 pkts jelly crystals, 12 pkts maizena, and one bottle coffee essence."

February 15, 1916: The close season for ducks terminated this morning, and at an early hour Lake Buloke, Little Lake, and the lagoons along the Richardson River were besieged with sportsmen, and as game was in abundance, a good time was held by all. Many sportsmen from Woomelang, Birchip, and Charlton were in attendance.

February 19, 1916: **A Local Case of Mystery.** On Sunday evening Percy Moore, aged 21, disappeared from Donald and has not been seen or heard of since. He and his mother were staying at Avalon house, the residence of Mrs Wilkinson in Hammill Street and had only recently come out of the St. Arnaud Hospital. He was lying on his bed, and when his mother came back in, he was gone. The police dragged the river, as it was thought he might have committed suicide. His health is very bad and he is very weak, and without a hat or coat.

February 22, 1916: The Harvest Thanksgiving service of the Cope Cope Presbyterian church were held last Sunday. The choir led the singing, and Miss Pansy Pope rendered a solo in an effective manner. The church was tastefully decorated with wheat sheaves, fruits and vegetables, and Mr Walker selected suitable subjects.

February 25, 1916: The body of the young man who disappeared on Sunday, February 13th was found in a dam at Banyenong on Wednesday. Dr. James Calhoun said he was a chronic invalid, suffering from weak heart, weak temperament and had suicidal tendencies.

February 29, 1916: The Donald quota of 41 for the new army is now in sight. The list shows a very small percentage of local boys, the majority having come to Donald from Gippsland and other parts for the harvest..