



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 239, MARCH, 2016.

Again a busy month. Glenda Bushell came with a photo of Loughery's Bakery, hoping to find that the building still stood! Her husband has since enhanced and sent the photo to us.

Robert and Merle Pole, of Walpeup, are interested in the career of James and Henry Pole in Rich Avon East, and quite a bit of information was given, with a suggestion that they visit to obtain the selector books – and they are coming for the WVAHS weekend.

Louise Davine has a death certificate for a Catherine McNamara, which states she was born in Donald in 1886. She was sent the address and details for BDM searching. Catherine could be the daughter of John McNamara who selected in Witchipool, and died there in 1894.

Bruce Hancock, on a brief visit from Queensland, was trying to find out about the Avon Plains gold mine, without much success. However, he was shown what we know about it, and also what we have on the Hancocks, and it is likely that when he is resettled in Queensland he will check his stored knowledge and call for something about them from us.

A most interesting visit last Friday from Vivian Bugden, down from Yass on a trail via Kerang to look for ancestors. These were John Ryan, who took over the Wooroonook Hotel, followed by his son, and married Mary Ann Clements, who came with father and brother to select in Dooboobetic. She had not been able to prove that the Clements came to this area, so Ron's proof was vital. An hour was spent examining lots of things, and she left with 3 books and a firm order for our usual story from the index.

Hard on her heels came David Elliott Grant, on a seemingly hopeless search for the Elliotts, who were supposed to be connected with the McClellands of Cope Cope in some way. His family legend says there was a block next to the McClellands, but it wasn't selected as such, and it was unfortunate that he did not come while Allan McClelland was alive. If anyone else knows about Elliotts at Cope Cope, please let us know, as he has absolutely nothing.

In between all that Harold Flett dropped in every now and then for odd bits connected with the Flett reunion, which by all accounts was a most successful and interesting event.

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

March 3, 1916: Among brief news items, recent enlistments have been Harold Warburton Oakley, William Hogg and Robert McHarrie McDowall from Donald and T.A. Bath of Traynors Lagoon; and the engineer for the Shire of Kara Kara is inviting tenders for a three span bridge over the Richardson near Mr E. Reseigh's residence.

March 7, 1916: Sapper Harold Willey writes, inter alia: "The contents of my pack: Two haversacks crammed with tobacco, two tins jam, two bottles ham and chicken, four loaves of bread, water bottle full, change of underwear, two shirts, two towels, two tins salmon, 4 tins sardines, tin cocoa, writing material, hat, eating utensils, insectibane, and other small items; three blankets, two waterproof sheets and a great coat strapped on. To finish with I had a rifle, bayonet, and 150 rounds of ammunition. That's a fair load, don't you think?"

March 10, 1916: Mainly extracts from letters, and arguments for conscription. From Mark Neyland, somewhere in France: "The people plough with their cows here, and milk them at the same time. A dog will pull quite a big load, two or three kids, and the old girl bringing up the rear, will go on a treadwheel, make butter, work a pump and a hundred other things, but after all it is, like England, a thousand years behind the times. In both places it takes two men and a boy to drive one horse in a plough."

March 14, 1916: Every farmer appears to have benefited from his experience of the last couple of years, and to have determined to save enough for at least two seasons. It is the exception to see only one haystack, and three and more stacks are common. The great wheat stacks, from 20 to 30 bags high in the railway yards are a sight worth seeing, and day by day they are growing, though carting is now drawing to a close.

March 17, 1916: The action of the Wheat Commission in reducing the price of wheat for home consumption has met with much adverse criticism in the Donald Shire. Cr. Wortley said in Melbourne they lose sight of what it costs to grow wheat, and when it is considered that some farmers paid up to £17 for horse feed, they must realise that despite the record harvest the average farmer will require three good seasons to recover from the drought.

March 21, 1916: On February 9th at the Methodist Church, Corack, Henry P. Perry was married to Miss Maryanne Kerr of Thalia. Owing to the severity of the weather the bridal party had to face the journey to the church in a dust storm. The bride was prettily attired in a cream crepe-de-chene coat and shirt, trimmed with lace, and carried a bouquet of beautiful white flowers.

March 24, 1916: Where are the Australians? It is not known exactly where the Australians are at present, but the general opinion is that they are in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Salonika. The mother of one local soldier recently received a letter from her son stating that they were leaving Egypt for – but her the censor became exasperated and used his pen very freely, robbing the epistle of much interesting matter.

March 28, 1916: Over one hundred residents of the Donald district attended the Railway Sports at Ballarat on Saturday. The special trains were crowded, and large numbers joined at Cope Cope, Swanwater and St. Arnaud. The visitors were much impressed with the military pageant and the march of the khaki clad soldiers.

March 31, 1916: For weeks now the "stink pot" under the bridges near the weir has been the asylum of five or six dead-beats, one at least of whom is both happy and a nuisance to the neighbours. The old chap has a raucous voice, which is heard during the nights in the good old ballad "I'm Off to Philadelphia".