



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 240, APRIL, 2016.

The WVAHS weekend seems to have been a most successful one, with most of the individual groups presenting. Robert and Merle Pole came, and Merle acquired her selector book while Robert attended to the Pole graves at Swanwater cemetery, ready for the Pole reunion next Saturday.

Somewhat of a mystery appeared about a lady whose correct name was Sarah Gilchrist, Mrs William. She is called Victoria and Mrs J. on some accounts of the Watchem graves. However, she was finally found under her right name.

During the month there were two requests that are “on hold” for the moment, although completed at our end. Diane Mountney asked about her Swanwater and Watchem families of Mitchell, McMahon and Stakelum. She is interviewing other relatives, and will then tell us how much she requires.

Cathy Johnstone is interested in the Fieldings, and particularly what happened to their “Newlands” property. She was directed first to Mary Fielding in Birchip, who is a direct descendant, and if she needs more, will return. More information is ready on the index if she needs it.

David Grant is still looking for evidence of the Elliotts who farmed in Swanwater West, supposedly next to McClellands. They have left no newspaper evidence, though both families appear in a football team. He was just too late to inquire from Allan McClelland, so we are thinking of referring him to Ivan Leeder.

Gloria Reilly wanted info about “old Richard” because Linton and Barbara are going to Ireland later this year to search for the ancestors. She found that she already had all that we gave her – but paid for it all the same.

Several members of other clubs at WVAHS complained that they had submitted information and then had not been paid for it, and are now insisting on payment before delivery. I can say that in all the years I have been at the Archives, this has not happened, and I always refuse payment in advance, even if offered.

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

April 4, 1916: Well Done! In our last issue we referred to the knitting record of Mrs Farrell, of Laen, Now we are informed that another Laen lady in the person of Mrs William Coats has knitted 46 pairs of sox, besides making a quantity of shirts, pyjama suits and pillow slips.

Mr Hepworth would like to have an expression of opinion of farmers on the question of the question of bulk handling of wheat. Mr H. S. Pope said he understood that it would be about 10 years before the scheme would be properly introduced.

April 7, 1916: A very pretty wedding took place at the Methodist Church, Watchem, on April 3rd, when Miss Louisa Marie Vogel, youngest daughter of Carl Vogel of Watchem, was married to Mr Arthur Carne, eldest son of W.E. Carne. She wore a lovely gown of white silk crepe georgette, draped Brussels net, embroidered in seed pearls and diamanté. The beautiful veil was wreathed with a circlet of orange blossoms and was richly embroidered. The wedding trousseau was made at Donald by Madame Moritz, who to old residents will be remembered as Miss Ford, of Witchipool.

April 11, 1916: Whilst returning from Watchem on Friday evening, Cr. Sproat invited Messrs Cantwell, McCracken, Morgan and Gray to inspect a new concrete weir at the extreme end of the Richardson River, which had been constructed by Mr Sproat. The work has been carried out by Mr Scown, and he has made a good job of it. The weir will not only prove beneficial to Cr. Sproat, by keeping the river a banker, but will be a boon to devotees of the rod.

April 14, 1916: The pumpkin presented by Mrs A. Bennett to Mr W.A. Morgan for the Red Cross Society made quite a little haul. Mr Morgan opened a pumpkin list, and invited the gentlemen present to have their names placed on the list, each to pay 1s for the right to do so. Forty shillings was collected in a few minutes. The pumpkin, a real beauty, weighted 50 lbs. It was then sold, and the splendid total of 43s was handed in to our loyal workers of the Red Cross Society.

April 18, 1916: But for the ever-drifting sand, the difficulty of the Water Commission in meeting the requirements of the settlers served by the Lonsdale scheme would be comparatively trifling. Before the winds blowing over the open downs the face of the landscape is changing continuously and the great sand banks break and blow down into the roads and channels.

April 21, 1916: Nurses Annie and Olive Lee Brown, of Cope Cope, who have been nursing at the Australian General Hospital at Abyssia, Egypt, write most interesting letters of their work and experiences. They have been in Egypt nine months and have been working night and day. During the last week the Misses Lee Brown sailed for London to take up work in England.

April 28, 1916: Water storage works at Black Swamp (now christened Fyans Lake) will prove a valuable adjunct to the Lake Lonsdale scheme, which is now supplying some 8,000 square miles of country. The new storage will add another 17,000 acre feet, and with the recently constructed regulator on the Richardson River, by which floods can be turned into the Batyo Catyo swamp and used as required, will do much to secure supplies to a large area of country. Storage works at Taylor's Lake are being pushed on, and these when completed will add another 30,000 acre feet. The storage provision will be almost doubled, and fear of a shortage now practically removed.