



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 241, MAY, 20

For a change this month, the queries have been from local sources rather than from afar. But first, some information was sent about the Griffiths and Cannards, and there is still more to be found about the Hearn and Grogans.

Gathering this has been interrupted by the immediacy of the local requirements. The Race Club wishes to update its honour board, which had not been attended to since 1995, when Wimmera Racing took over. Then the presidents became for some years merely the Chairmen of the Local Area Committee; the club now has its own authority again and presidents have returned. This information is now in its hands.

Margaret Adcock was looking for history of the Pace family for a friend, and this was satisfied from material already in our files. Joan Beckham is gathering information about the Golf Club, which she will return to the Group's meeting in July.

Recently came a query from the "Buloke Times" for something about the opening of that strange building we call the Shire Office – to go with a photo of workmen renewing its paint.

Someone interested in John Moore was satisfied very well by purchase of Ann Walsh's two books. One that could not be answered was for a man named William Watson, who was a member of the Victorian Rangers –not known in our files.

Three men visited to find out more about "Georgie", and were thrilled with the book, and what we could tell them about him. They were not Chinese, but we did not ask the reason for their interest.

Mary has also had some requests from local sources for copies of photographs.

Items of Interest from the “Donald Times” 100 Years Ago”:

May 2, 1916: Typhoid Fever: The four children of Mr A.J. Sherwell, who are now in St. Arnaud Hospital suffering from typhoid fever, are doing as well as can be expected,. The girl, Florrie, though slightly improved , is still seriously ill. Altogether five of this family are laid up, four in the hospital and one in Donald.

Master Godfrey Morgan Letts, grandson of Mrs M.A. Morgan, of Donald, has just finished his course preparatory to taking up the position of schoolmaster, has passed the Perth University examination in English, Geometry, History, Mathematics, French and Physics, and will remain at Scotch College for this year.

May 5: About noon on Tuesday a fire broke out on one of Mr J.B. Tonkin’s haystacks. When the brigade arrived they connected with a lake 800 ft. away and soon had a good stream playing on the burning stack. All efforts to save this stack were fruitless but had the fire caught the other stack 125 ft away a large shed alongside it would have gone, after which nothing could have prevented all the other haystacks catching. Mr Tonkin gave the brigade a cheque for £10.

May 12: The Australian and New Zealand troops have arrived at the Western Front and have taken over the front portion of the trenches. Many men of the Light Horse disowned their regiments, hoping to be drafted into the troops for France. No fewer than 900 Light Horse volunteered as infantry in a single day.

May 16: A special meeting of the Donald P. & A. Society was held. Mr Morgan had moved that no show be held until the termination of the war, for economic reasons. There were altogether too many shows. If the Donald show were given a spell for 4 or 5 years there would be better shows afterwards. The motion was lost, only six hands being held up in favour of it.

May 19: Watchem State School will celebrate Empire Day with a picnic on the recreation reserve. Patriotic speeches will be delivered, and returned soldiers will be specially welcomed. Since taking up his duties Mr Barlow, the head teacher, has endeared himself to the scholars, and much regret is felt that he will be leaving shortly to rejoin the AIF in which he sold the position of Lieutenant.

May 23: Youths and boys are becoming scarce, and State departments are finding it necessary to employ girls to a great extent than heretofore. :If 20 youths with the necessary qualifications would present themselves tomorrow and be prepared to go to any school allotted to them, the Education Department would receive them with open arms,” said Mr W. Gates, Asst. Chief Inspector of State Schools.

May 26: A very pretty wedding was celebrated in Ballarat East, the contracting parties being Miss M. E. Male and Mr J. A. Blair, both of Watchem. The bride, who was given away by her brother, was attired in grey Resilda, with the customary wreath and veil. She was attended by her sisters, Misses A. and M. Male. On their return from the honeymoon they were met by Mr A. Johnson, who motored them to the residence of Mr A. Rankin, where they were entertained at a kitchen tea.

May 29: Mrs J. Cameron of Cave Street, whose husband is away at the front, has been the victim of some contemptible thief, who has made a practice of stealing fowls. knowing that the husband was away.