



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 244, AUGUST 2016

This month there has been one request – from Jeanette McCarthy for any details of her grandfather Patrick Joseph McCarthy, who came to Donald to manage Dalgety’s sphere of interest here, in the 1930s. Now that the index is workable again, after a hiatus, that will be done.

An interesting couple came to Donald to request the positions of all the rural schools in the district -- was there a map showing them? Of course there is not, but that would be a useful subject for a grant application, if anyone cares to take it up. They had found a number of them already, and were happy to receive a list of all that had been in the district. This couple lived in a small place in NSW, and having sold it, decided to take to the road in a caravan and travel Australia before deciding to settle down again. They go not to large centres, but small towns and investigate them thoroughly. They spent a long time in the Museum, and were very pleased with it.

There was also a telephone message from a man who wanted to come and see the rail dining room, “Taggerty”. He and his wife had served on Taggerty when it was on the rails, and wanted to see it again. He was referred to Norm, and I’m sure he and his wife will be happy with its restoration.

Diane Mountsey, who had been given information about her Mitchell forebears, was so grateful that she thanked us with a box of chocolates! Another client rang with many thanks. Diane has more than one interest in Donald, of course, as she is a relative of the Bayleses, and came here after attending the launch of the Bayles history at Emu.

As you may have heard, we were called on at very short notice to take over Charlton’s spot on the ABC morning local history segment. Carole was very thankful, and says Charlton is still trying to get it together.

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

August 1, 1916: At midday on Sunday an eclipse of the sun occurred, and residents of Donald could be seen in every part of the town making use of smoked glass for the purpose of getting a perfect view. Just after 11 o'clock the shadow of the moon became noticeable on the surface of the sun and worked its way across until at about 1.45 the eclipse was at its best. Those who witnessed the eclipse were privileged to see a sight that is not likely to occur again during a lifetime.

August 4: At the present time the Richardson River is running a banker, the weir during the past five weeks overflowing, and if it continues at its present rate, will again overflow the Buloke Common.

A valuable rug, made from skins of South African deer, and presented to the local committee of the Belgian Relief Fund by an anonymous donor, will be offered for sale by auction today at Morgan's stock sale.

August 8: From Sapper H. Willey on his journey from Egypt to France: “We came into the irrigation parts, and a few yards away the natives threshing the corn from the crop they have just harvested. The ripe crop is piled in a heap and they have a disc with a wooden frame over it. To this they yoke two bullocks. They then start in the centre of the heap and work round in a circle, the disc crushing the corn out of the ears. A native with a fork follows and throws the straw into the air, and then the wind blows the straw away and leaves the grain behind”.

August 11: In anticipation of the war lasting over the coming European winter, the Defence Department is providing the Australian troops with leather jerkins, sleeveless, with the wool entirely removed and lined with flannel. It is not likely to become dirty, as is the case of sheepskin vests with the wool on.

August 15: At the P. & A. meeting some members suggested that they should ask for the band at a reduced rate on last year's show or that it be asked to play for nothing, as it was purely a patriotic show. It appears an absurdity, in face of the band's finances, that members should suggest such a thing. The players render their services free of charge, and all funds go solely to the purchase of music, and why not encourage our bandsmen instead of classing it as a public convenience, which it is not. Why members of the P. and A. Society desire to close down an institution that is a great benefit to the town is difficult to imagine.

August 18: The weight-guessing competition promoted by Mr W.A. Morgan for which he donated a beautiful gold medal, was won by Mr W. Dixon of Jeffcott. He guessed the weight of the bullock as 1056 lbs. the correct weight being 1057 lbs. The medal, which was manufactured by Mr Chellew, is a fine example of the jeweller's art. It is of circular shape, having the figure of a soldier on the front and is neatly engraved in a floral design on the back.

August 22: A sensational accident occurred on Baensch's road about 4½ miles from Donald. Mr J.P. Morgan had 2 horses on the road, and went out to investigate if one was lame. He decided to drive them in front of him. He was driving as big upstanding horse in the gig, when it fell and rolled over, turning the vehicle over with it. Mr Morgan had a rug over his knees and was unable to jump clear, and the conveyance fell across his right leg and pinned him to the ground. The horse was trying to rise, and he only had one rein with which to keep it down. After some time Messrs J. and F. Baensch, working a mile away, saw him and came to the rescue. It was ascertained that he had sustained a compound fracture of the leg.

August 25: The annual examination of St. Mary's School took place on August 14th. In his report the inspector mentioned the great improvement which he noticed in the school. The tone of the school is now a very high one, and there are no children in any way backward, the majority of them being very proficient in their work. Industry and order marked the work of the children all through the examination, the percentage gained being 95.

August 29: : Our national bloom, the wattle, was much in evidence in the street on Saturday afternoon, the occasion being the celebration of Wattle Day. The Mallee, unfortunately, is not given to wattle cultivation as in the Western district of Victoria. Here we may travel miles and rarely see more than a few odd golden wattle. Western district station owners, realising their value, have planted acres and when in bloom they are an admirable sight and throw off an unexcelled fragrance.