



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 247, NOVEMBER, 2016

The year is ending very quietly as far as family history research is concerned. When the Gilchrists job was finished, and duly appreciated, there have only been small queries.

A lady came in to ask where the cemetery was, because her grandfather was buried there, so of course she was asked the name, which was Aitken. But not the Aitken of the Avenue, but an Alexander, who was on the record, but only as “an old and respected man” who died in 1941, after an illness had put him in the St. Arnaud hospital. No profit for us, but she was grateful.

That only left John Colbert, wanting to verify what he knew of the settlement of Lake Buloke Common over the years, for the speech he had to give on Armistice Day, and he was delighted to go through the information that was on file, recompensing us for the research.

There was also a lady who asked where the old State Bank was, because father had been there. But when he was found, it wasn't the State but the Commercial Bank that he was managing. There were only a couple of items of interest about him, on microfilm, and she managed to photograph that, so no work for us.

Kelvin Clark asked when the Jeffcott Cricket club moved to play in Donald – a matter of a moment to find that.

However, another year has been indexed, and there are plenty to go, so there will not be any lack of work to be done! But that is next year – we might forget about history for a little while.

November 3, 1916: The annual Sunday schools' picnic took place on Mr W.J. Leslie's paddock. Throughout the afternoon there was not a dull moment, with games, races, etc. A feature of the afternoon was the vaulting. Mr Coats, an athletic young man, succeeded in jumping 8 feet 5 inches. About half a dozen wagons were commandeered to convey the children to and from the grounds.

Nov. 7 Notwithstanding the great crisis that the nations of the world are passing through, and the deep wave of sorrow that is passing over many homes, it is well sometimes to indulge in a day's recreation and recuperation, especially so when the cause is to help the grand and noble work of the patriotic societies. It was a happy thought that Watchem and district should hold a combined Garden Fete, and the weather was all that could be desired. Five schools were represented, Watchem, Watchem West, Warmur, Massey and Corack, and the residents of each district turned out in force. About 400 people were present. A Queen competition was arranged by four of the schools, and won by Nina Lavery of Watchem. Next were Mary Walder (Watchem West), Warmur (Ilene Connellan) and Massey, Mary Hall. A maypole was erected and the dance was performed, the children all garbed in white, with floral decorations. Then followed the crowning ceremony. On exhibition were beautifully worked cushions, some with flags of allied nations. A kettle holder worked under the principal of huckaback and designed with the Union Jack was worthy of note.

Nov. 10: Mr C.E. Hughes, the Republican candidate has been elected President of the United States, defeating Dr. Woodrow Wilson.

Nov. 14: In the letter received by Mrs T. Blair of Watchem from her brother, Pte A/. Pickering, he says: "I was blown up by a shell and I am thankful I am still spared and although knocked about I am a 'good one still'. It won't be my fault if I don't get a trip home out of this lot. Six months in the trenches in France and three on Gallipoli is quite enough. War on Gallipoli was child's play to the Somme. No one can realise the horror of war till they go through it. It was terrible tramping over dead bodies."

Nov. 21: At the local court Joseph Arthur Hornby was fined 5s with 7s 6d costs for riding in a first class carriage on a second class ticket between Watchem and Massey. Several residents were summoned to attend a Revision Court to prove their loyalty to the Crown. One man was of German descent but was naturalised and had resided in the Commonwealth over 50 years. He had two sons at the front and contributed to the patriotic funds.

Nov. 24: Relatives and friends of missing soldiers seeking for news of men 'lost' on the battlefield, are warned not to accept the assistance of self-styled private detectives, who are merely scheming to make money. The usual procedure of these men is to peruse the Missing Friends column in the newspapers for likely clients. Having discovered the address of some person anxiously searching for information of a missing soldier, they write sympathetic letters, offering their aid, but not mentioning of course, the remuneration which they eventually demand. Persons seeking news of missing soldiers are advised to communicate directly with the Red Cross.

Nov. 24: At present we are witnessing phenomenal conditions. Through the inclemency of the weather farmers are detained from carrying out hay-cutting operations, and for the past week it has been sultry and anything but pleasant. The outlook for the district is very encouraging and everything points to a record harvest. The recuperative powers of the Wimmera land are wonderful and at present are to be seen at their best.

Nov. 28: The undergrounding of the local telephone service is now almost completed and it should be a vast improvement from the old system of the overhead wires. From time to time various sarcastic remarks have been made with regard to the time spent on the work, but it must be borne in mind that in work like this the smallest defect would be detrimental to the successful operation of the Exchange. Subscribers will, from now on, be in possession of one of the most up-to-date telephone systems on the Wimmera.