



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 249, MARCH 2017

Only bits and pieces this month; no big research subject. Several local people used the resources, and that is excellent; they are coming to know where the info is to be found – often, of course, in a “box” (sometimes a trunk) in the new shed at the back of the old Archives building.

Kerry Duncan was one of these locals, wanting details of the origin of Penfold Place, and that was a little tricky at first, as it has not been recorded.

Robert Ware wanted to complete his story of Robert Henry Dunn with the account of his welcome home from the war, and then of his obituary, so that was easily done.

Vivian Bugden, who has used our resources before, has an ancestor with the difficult name of John Ryan. Wherever she looked, there were lots of John Ryans – including here, but she knew that was not hers. A search of Land Files had given her a selector at Lallat and a neighbouring parish, so we supplied the Lallat book. Another who is researching Murtoa history, also wanted a Lallat book, and hoped there was one for Marma, but was unlucky there.

Bernadette Dunnett, of Queensland, asked which books would deal with the Brown family, so was supplied with Cope Cope History and Swanwater selectors.

Brendan Hogan is compiling some Jeffcott history, and wanted the story of “Old Bill” Harty. Paul Fernee of Buloke Shire, said they want to renew the memorial to Jack Foletti when bringing the Caravan Park up to scratch, so he wants a photo and short account of his life that can be laminated and displayed.

Several others dropped in for local research on cricket matches, family history, addresses, photographs or whatnot, and usually they can find what they want. A Melbourne man with property here asked questions about Donald, including where would I go to buy a good sandwich! Information supplied.

Making news in the “Donald Times” 100 years ago:

March 2, 1917: The magnitude of the task of shipping away the wheat held in stacks at Williamstown and Geelong can be realised by the figures issued by the Railway. At present 6,000,000 bags are stacked at Williamstown, and 2,000,000 bags at Geelong. This represents approximately 710,000 tons and will require nearly 120 ships to carry it. The quantity necessary to fill each ship represents about 550 fully loaded trucks, which if placed end to end would extend for 275 miles.

March. 6, 1917: Lake Buloke offers good sports for duck shooters this coming season, young, well-conditioned teal being plentiful. The overflow, which for some time past has been out against the Donald road will probably be dry by the opening, enabling shooters to reach the big lake without difficulty.

March 13, 1917: On Sunday a sensational bolt occurred near Litchfield and a fatal accident was narrowly averted. Hospital Sunday was being celebrated and four local young men, Messrs McConville, Conroy, Chessells and Payne, hired a vehicle to take part. On the way home, the horse took fright and bolted, the driver being unable to get it under control. Mr Chessells stood up in the buggy to lend a hand and the horse swerved, and he was thrown between the body of the buggy and the wheel, and in this precarious position he was dragged along for over 50 yards, and several times was twisted in the wheel, sustaining severe abrasions to the face, arms and legs, while his shoulder was hurt. The occupants succeeded in holding the bolting horse but it continued kicking and struck Mr Chessells in the face. It eventually broke the harness and got away. Mr Chessells was brought to Donald in a car and is now confined to his bed. The rest were brought home in the drag, and congratulate themselves on their lucky escape.

AND FOR CONTRAST, 50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 17, 1967: A familiar feature of the district scene has disappeared. He (or it) is Tom, the usually sleek and well-kept draught horse used by esteemed Chinese market gardener “Georgie” to draw his greengrocer’s cart and lorry. A Methuselah among his kind, he was 33 years of age and had been worked by “Georgie” for 23 years.

March 7, 1967: On returning from a touring honeymoon, Mr and Mrs Robert Lindsay Gray, who were married at St. Andrew’s on February 18, will live in the Cranbourne district. The bride was Carolyn Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Vin Coats, of Donald, and the groom was the elder son of Mr and Mrs George Gray of Box Hill. The bride wore a full-length frock of Tetron shantung, finished with a deep hem of Chantilly lace. The chapel length train, also of Chantilly lace, was in the form of a sleeveless coat that fitted over the frock.

March 24, 1967: One of the big days of the “Back to Watchem” was the street procession, followed by “Back to School” and afternoon sports. One incident did not pass notice. The president of the Back to celebrations, Cr. Borden, M.B.E., with Mrs Borden, dressed up and drove a horse and gig. The horse refused to pass the hotel! Which merely confirms what we have all suspected, that horses, like elephants, have very long memories!

Turkeys Do Overnight Flit. Roast turkey is a toothsome dish at any time, but at Easter the demand must be particularly strong, judging by the haul that thieves made from the butcher’s shop of Messrs Crone and Sons early on Tuesday morning. Entering the premises from the rear, they took \$600 worth of dressed turkeys from the freezing chamber and apparently placed them in a vehicle. In addition, they took two portable wirelesses and a small amount of silver, but left notes and other items.