



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 254, AUGUST, 2017

Perhaps it is the coming of spring, but there has been a rush of enquiries since our last meeting.

Pat Hepworth asked for Gardiner information and was easily satisfied from the material on the file.

Then the emails – James Cottingham for that family – gathered and sent.

Frank Griffin, a descendant of the Daltons and Hehirs that started at Wooroonook but changed to Carron and Litchfield, and the Leahys, who were at Watchem. That needed a bit of digging, but in the file were two wonderful letters, to the Lands Dept., obviously found by Ron Falla, from John Leahy. The first asked if he could go on to the land he had selected – and Godfrey Morgan added to it that although John was no scholar, he was a bona fide selector! The next letter, begging for more time to pay his rent, was obviously written for John Leahy by someone else. Frank Griffin was happy, because he had found out where his Irish relatives came from. He bought the Carron selector book, also Ron and Honor's "Litchfield and Carron", and the letters were photo-copied and included.

Next was Robyn Whelan, asking for Whelan and Hoare, and that was already on file and easily emailed to her.

Sharon Dellora is the daughter of Paul Callahan, who was a teacher at the Cope Cope School between 1948 and 1961. He has just died, and thinking of the great (and of course, funny) stories he had told his children of his early married days in the Cope Cope schoolhouse, she hoped for a photo or any information about the school during those years. At first it seemed nothing was available, then a lovely picture of Paul with his 15 little students was found in the "History of Cope Cope", for which it had been supplied by Alan McClelland. As I could not send it to her by smart phone, she decided to buy the book –then, 2 books, so my lack of modern technology did net the Group some money.

And yesterday came a phone call and email from Neville Bertalli, newly retired and with time to seek out family history, so he requires information about the Roulstons, his mother's people, and of course, the Bertallis. So there will be more of that next month.

Items from the "Donald Times" a hundred years ago:

August 3, 1917: Messrs Quihampton, Hourie, Crone and Fraser applied to the council to have approaches made their business premises in McCulloch street, and that the road is freed of mud. The request was well founded, the state of the street in this particular part is disgraceful.

August 7, 1917: A juvenile concert was held at Watchem, proceeds for "the Boys in the trenches". Two items were, song, "Rabbit-O". Vester Blair and chorus of boys as rabbits. And action song, "How'd you like to be a Baby Girl" by six little tots, Nancy Mitchell, Ena Bolan, Jean Baird, Lorna Hassett, Mary Blair and Frances Curtis.

August 10, 1917: The annual meeting of St. George's Church was held on Tuesday. The Rev. N.McLean said that though the overdraft was now greater, yet the church had made a very considerable improvement financially during the past four years. The hall had been erected, a piano and a number of other furnishings for both church and hall had been obtained.

August 14, 1917: Patrons wanting to see a first-class drama of secret service work should attend the Lyric Pictures film production of 5,000 feet entitled "Dangerous Ground", in which the central figure is a heroic French girl. It is supported by a fine selection of movies, including the latest Chaplin comedy. Charlie, who is "shicker" gets taken home to the wrong house, where there are a lot of stuffed animals, and thinks that what he sees is "square dinkum". His antics in connection with such are indescribable and picture goers should not miss viewing the inimitable screen artist in his latest masterpiece.

August 17, 1917: On Wednesday last at the Presbyterian Church Donald the marriage of Miss Marion Muir with Mr Les Walker was solemnised. Mr Ernie Walker was best man and Mr Ernie Muir was groomsman. The bridesmaids were the Misses Hilda Muir and Myrtle Dunstan.

August 21, 1917: The sad news reached Donald yesterday that Driver Maurice Basset had paid the great sacrifice for King and country. Before enlisting he worked on his father's (Cr. C.R. Basset's) farm at Laen. He was a fine stamp of young man and one that the district can ill afford to lose.

August 24, 1917: Rabbit trappers are still making good money at their trade on the Buloke common. Two men, during the months of May to August 1st, despatched over 9,000 pairs of rabbits alone. Two others in one month, made £40 clear profit, despite the decrease in the price of rabbits.

August 28, 1917: Clusters of mice are being dug out by Timmering farmers who are grubbing stumps in their paddocks. The mice are huddled together in cosy underground nests, and producers fear that the plague will again cause destruction when the weather is warmer.

August 31, 1917: Mrs W. J. Murray of the Royal George Hotel, made a money box out of a bottle and donations were received from visitors to this popular hostelry.

Having filled the bottle, Mrs Murray forwarded it to the secretary for Returned Soldiers – a unique gift which amounted to £2 2s 9d.