



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 297 NOVEMBER 2021

Donald History Enquiries for October:

Heather Atwell from Rainbow is the granddaughter of Isabella Findlay, who was the daughter of George Findlay and Penuel Grant. They selected land at Cope Cope in 1874 along with two of their older children, Patrick and Janet. Max Henderson from Dalby in Queensland is descended from Patrick and wrote to us earlier in the year requesting information. Max also supplied us with information and photographs of Patrick, who had eventually moved his family to Queensland whilst Heather's grandmother, Isabella married an Edelsten and moved to Rosebery. Two other siblings settled at Kenmare and Pimpinio. Heather was interested to read what Max had sent us and was thrilled to find a copy of a photo of her Great Grandparents, George Findlay & Penuel Grant.

Ceryl Johns wrote to tell us the story of her mother's cousin, Charlie Vincent, who lived at 143 Woods St for a number of years until his death in 2000, aged 85. Ceryl, a pilot, flew her mother to visit Charlie in Donald over 30 years ago. They had never met as her mother was born in London and spent all of her life in Wales, but she and Charlie had corresponded regularly since WWII. Ceryl writes "Charlie was a road train driver and travelled from Perth to Sydney on a regular basis. He was awarded a US Silver Star for Valour in WWII. When I asked him what for he said, "for killing someone who was trying to kill me". I'm not sure if he had children, we only met him and his wife. His Father, my mother's mum's brother, migrated to Australia early 20th century so Charlie was first generation Australian. Just thought you might be interested in this little story".

Julie Staley sent a photo of the now restored "Cora Lynn" Reseigh homestead, which was shifted to Howlong, near Wodonga, several years ago. Julie would love some photos of "Cora Lynn" from the past if anyone has some. Please contact the archives if you do.

Our article on Edward and Mary Ann Hill in the last Bulletin drew a response from another descendant, Ross White, via Faye Mitchell who read the article. We have put Ross in touch with Elizabeth Kraus. Ian Green also sent in some information on the Stubbs family, into which Roley Hill married. There were 9 Stubbs daughters and one son. Ian told us that one of the daughters, Ivy, married a Green.

The Nullawil Historical Group offered us one of the altars from the Nullawil Catholic Church, which closed in December, 2019. The Three Altars were made in Donald by Mr. Rod Price in 1928. Roderick Charles Price

arrived in Donald in 1921 and traded in Woods St as Lingy Price. He then formed a partnership with Mr. Gummow and in 1924 Rod made the very ornate High Altar for the Donald Catholic Church.

In 1925, after dissolving the partnership, Rod lost his factory, which was then behind the Donald Hotel, and his tools in a fire.

He then worked from his cottage in Byrne St, which was on the site where the Guide Hall was later built.

In 1926 Rod built a new factory next to his Byrne St. house and he then made the elaborate High Altar for the Wooroonook Catholic Church and also the pulpit. In 1927 he made the Altar for the Boort Catholic Church and finally he made three altars for the Nullawil Catholic Church in 1928.

Donald's High Altar was painted white in the 1940s, to make it look like marble, and eventually chopped up in the 1960s when a new altar, which faced the people, was installed. The Nullawil Altar is probably very like it but we have been offered the less elaborate Side altar. The High Altar at Nullawil is truly magnificent and is still in its polished wood splendour. It is now on display with the "St Joseph's" side altar at the Nullawil Historical Groups Heritage Site and it is well worth a visit to see them.

The Historical Society members have restored an old barn to house these beautiful relics of the past. Donald has been given "Mary's" Side Altar and it has been accommodated in the Court House Museum. It would look best with a statue of Mary but for the moment a vase of flowers will have to suffice. We are very thrilled to have a Rod Price creation to display in our museum and we thank Nullawil for their generosity.

People wishing to view the altar can book a Museum tour at the Archives for 11 a.m. each Friday but there will probably be a special open day at a later date.

The last advertisement for Rod Price appeared in The Donald Times in January, 1929. He must then have returned to Maryborough where he was born in 1892. Roderick Charles Price died in 1976 at Maryborough, aged 84. It would be interesting to know how many other items of decorative furniture he made.

Blasts from the Past November 1921.

November 1. Carron Picnic. Once again that important district feature, the Carron picnic, is to be held, the date being fixed for next Wednesday, 2nd November. As usual all are invited. Those who have been to the picnic once, look forward eagerly to the event in the following year. The ground is a splendid one, and the beautiful little lake with its green timber and pleasant surroundings make an ideal site. The sports program is a very liberal one, and it is added to and improved each year. There is a free and easy air about this gathering which never fails to please. Keep tomorrow open, and don't miss it. The dance at night in aid of the Football and Cricket clubs will be a special attraction and should provide a fitting conclusion to a good day's enjoyment.

November 4. A seasonable Change. Messrs James Rowe & Sons in an altered advertisement in today's issue announce that they are prepared to supply a seasonable line of ice-chests. The firm advertises three sizes which may be had from present stocks, and now that a regular supply of ice is available from the Donald Freezing works, customers should secure one of these well-made and serviceable lines as soon as convenient.

November 8. A Close Call. Somewhat of a commotion was caused in Woods Street, on Sunday evening about 6.45, when a car driven by Mr J. Dooley crashed into the side verandah post of the Mount Jeffcott Hotel and snapped it off like a carrot. The car then swerved to the other side striking the gate post and tore a piece of iron from the shed of Mr J.H. Bolden's shop. The car was little damaged by the impact, which was heard from a great distance, causing a blow-out and damaged mud-guards. The occupants of the car escaped unhurt.

November 11. Lest We Forget. About 40 returned soldiers were present at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall last night.

"Padre" Williams (President of the local sub-branch) took the chair. He proposed the toast, "The King". The next toast "The R.S.S.I.L.A." was ably dealt with by Padre Crean and Lt.-Col. Harris.

In a neat address by the Rev. Williams it was pointed out that the social gathering would be an annual one, and that all returned men should attend. It was this class of gathering that kept the men together, and it was by keeping them together that they were able to see that all returned men were treated fairly and got their just and honest dues. He also wished to thank the ladies for their consistent help.

Whenever help was needed, there was no doubt about the ladies coming forward and all returned men fully recognised the fact. Mr Tolliday had charge of the musical part of the program, and some very fine items were rendered, all hands joining in the well-known A.I.F. melodies and choruses. Euchre, Bowls and quoits were also prominent in the evening's amusement.

Altogether a most enjoyable time was spent. This gathering is an annual one and the committee expect to improve the social each year.

November 15. Local Swimming Baths. The Donald Progress Association is inviting the public to a monster meeting to be held tonight for the purpose of dealing with a question that is all important at the present time. Do you want a swimming baths? If so, then roll up tonight to the Mechanics' Institute and express your views, and hear the views of other residents. The Railway Dam in Progress Park, is at present a beautiful sheet of water, five feet deep, and already numerous swimming enthusiasts have had a plunge. They are perfectly satisfied and urge the formation of a club at once. You need not be a member of the Progress Association to be present tonight as all are invited.

November 18. Police Court. Before Mr Conlon P.M. and Messrs. Hepworth and McPherson J.Ps. at the police court. Thos. Bourke was fined 20/- for using insulting words in Blair Street. William Chambers was fined 5 pounds or one month's imprisonment for using obscene language. Charles Giles was charged with having failed to attend the required number of drills during the yr. Mr Conlon "If we so desired we could give you 20 days at Broadmeadows. If we give you a chance will make up the number of hours you are short?" Giles "Yes sir".

November 22. Agricultural Outlook. From an agricultural point of view present indications are that the crops are going to turn out all right. There are some fine looking paddocks, and in some cases hay-cutting is just commencing, and in the course of the next week or two the binder will be in general use, to be followed later by the welcome sound of the harvester or header. There is an abundance of grass and stock are "in the pink".

November 25. Late Mr Jno. Donnellon. Another old resident and pioneer of the district, in the person of Mr Jno Donnellon, Snr., died at his residence at Jeffcott North on Tuesday last. The late Mr Donnellon was born in County Clare, Ireland, 86 years ago. He arrived in Australia in 1859. From Melbourne he proceeded at once to the diggings at Ballarat and after a short period, he bought land at Windermere. Here he resided until he selected at Jeffcott in '74, where he remained. He married 60 years ago in Ballarat, his wife dying 11 years ago. The late Mr Donnellon was of a quiet disposition and was one who could always be relied upon to extend a helping hand when occasion arose. Throughout the length and breadth of the district he was highly respected and will be greatly missed. He leaves a family of four, Patrick, Michael, John and Mary to mourn their loss. Deceased was buried at Charlton on Wednesday last, the cortege being a very long one.