



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 305 JULY 2022

Enquiries for June. Kim Forder from Charlton sent us a print of a sketch of “The Bullocks Head”. We have other copies but it is a fine work and extra copies are always appreciated. Yvonne Smith wanted any information on the Watson, Power and Guyatt families. She will visit us later in the year. Peter Hockley wanted information from our indexes on the Rev. Ephraim Orlando Knee. We were able to assist in both of these cases.

Max Henderson visited from Queensland looking for more information on his great-great grandparents, George and Penuel Findlay, original selectors at Cope Cope. Max bought many of our publications, including Ron Falla’s selector’s booklets. Max’s great grandfather was Patrick and he was George and Penuels’ eldest child. Patrick married in Ballarat and had eight children before leaving Cope Cope for Queensland. Max has discovered, through Ron’s books that four of Patrick’s siblings married other Donald selector’s children and remained in the Donald or Mallee areas. Janet Findlay married Andrew Barber (a cousin to Catherine “Daisy” McKew, mother of Mick McKew of Coonooer West). The Barbers moved firstly to Narraport and then to Corowa. George Findlay, married Ellen Eliza Dunstan, one of the Cope Cope Dunstans, and Isabella Findlay married Samuel Edlesten and they moved to Ellam near Rainbow. Christina Findlay married Andrew McClelland Jr and they settled near Sea Lake. Max’s great-great uncle, John Findlay, settled at Wooroonook but died tragically after a horse accident at the age of 57. His family sold out to McGillivrays. Max brought with him a magnificent family history written by Sir Ronald East in 1974. It is a history of many of the connected Scottish families- Grants, Findlays, Kiels, Hossacks and others who emigrated in the 1850s from Archiestown, Morayshire, which is situated in the north-east of Scotland with a coastline on the Moray Firth. John Findlay, who later selected at Wooroonook, had remained at Archiestown, whilst two of his brothers headed to Australia in 1852. John kept a faithful daily diary of his life for the next 4 years until he arrived in Geelong and travelled to Learmonth to join his brothers with his wife, two small children, his widowed mother and a younger sister. Sir Ronald East has included John Findlay’s diary in his book and it is a wonderful thing to read. Max had obtained two copies of the book from

an internet site and offered to sell one to us. It had a hefty price tag but was well worth the money as it contains so much history of a group of our early selectors.

Malcolm Fordham wished for any information on his ancestor Oliver Fordham who was in Donald in the early 1920s. There were a few entries for Oliver and family in our Donald Times Index.

Lindsay Borden brought in a medallion found by Ray Zimmer. Ray was doing a postal delivery round in Melbourne and found the medallion in a box of items left out for hard rubbish. It is a medallion for the Donald Shire and was issued during the time that Henry Goldsmith was the Shire President, between 1895 and 1906. Queen Victoria's image is on the front. The Courthouse museum has three such medals on display. One was for the Shire of St Arnaud and the other two are for the Shire of Donald. Even though from 1882 onwards the meetings were all held in Donald it was still known as St Arnaud Shire until 1897. We imagine that each councillor received one of these medals so there are probably several more kicking around.

Steve Harper rang. He wished to view the plaque placed on "Sam's Camp" at Jeffcott. Sam was a channel ranger. Steve is his grandson.

Frederick Long rang. His grandmother, Bridget Peach, died in Donald in 1904 and is buried in the Donald Cemetery. Bridget had four daughters and four sons. One daughter was Mrs. P Keane. Frederick wondered if there were any descendants still in the area. We were unable to help at this stage but would love to hear from anyone who can.

Blasts from the Past- July 1922.

July 4. A Cold Snap. The last few days have constituted a period of universal shivering, and temperatures, following the rain which fell early in the week, dropped rapidly. On Wednesday, June 24, the temperature on the grass was 19° (*Fahrenheit, now -7°C*) there being 28° (*-2.2C*) of frost. The day temperature on Thursday was 44° (*now 6.7°C*), while Friday was one degree colder. Snow fell in many districts of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, some of the places affected not having experienced such a visitation for years. Passengers on the trains from the metropolis on Thursday and Friday had a particularly cold journey, and reported falls of snow at numerous places along the line. At St Arnaud snow fell for half-an-hour about noon on Thursday, and at Donald we experienced the cold without the snow. The rainfall for the month was 56 points, while the day temperature for the same period was the same as last year, the average being considerably lowered by the readings of the last few days

July 4. Accident. A painful accident happened to Vernon Parsons, son of Mr E. Parsons of Bangerang, on Saturday. He was engaged, with his father, who was cutting chaff, and in putting the engine out of gear, which he had frequently done before, he must have got his left thumb in the clutch working the pulley, resulting in the top of the thumb being completely severed. He was at once brought into Warracknabeal, where it was found necessary to amputate the thumb at the first joint and it is hoped no ill-effects will follow. The lad showed much courage during the trying experience. He has been somewhat unfortunate, as it is not so long ago that he had his arm dislocated.

July 7. Larceny of a Bicycle. George Joseph Onslow was charged with having, on June 29, stolen a bicycle, the property of John Porter, and valued at £6.

Senior Constable Power conducted the prosecution.

John Porter, ironmonger's assistant, said that he had ridden the bicycle to work on the day in question, and, on going for it at 6.10 p.m., found that it was missing. He had given no authority to anyone to remove the bicycle, and he reported the matter to the police.

Godfrey W. Letts said that he had seen the accused standing in the vestibule of J.N. Baker & Co's at 6 o'clock. Two minutes later, on coming down the street, he had seen him get on the bike and ride away.

Henry Wilkinson, mail driver, employed by Mr J. Turnbull, said that on the night in question the accused had come into the yard on a bicycle, which he said he had got on the evening train. In answer to a question as to the sobriety of the accused at the time, the witness said that "he seemed slightly unsteady on his feet, and slid about a bit." He thought that he had had a few drinks.

Albert Turnbull, driver, said that he knew accused, and had heard him tell Wilkinson he had got the bike off the train. Onslow was under the influence of liquor at the time.

Constable Morrison said that following a complaint made to him, he had made an investigation, and on the morning of the 30th had found the accused with the bicycle in

Turnbull's yard. He said he had found it in the street, and must have been "boozed". He also said he was just going to find the owner.

The accused pleaded guilty, and said he did not remember taking the bicycle. Senior Constable Power said that the accused had no previous offences listed against him, but that he had been assisted by the local branch of the R.S.I.L.A. in securing five jobs in two months. He also owed money for sustenance.

The Bench was of the opinion that the accused was evidently a "rolling stone" and that he had every chance of getting on in Donald. He had not accepted any of these opportunities however, and a fine of £6, in default two months imprisonment would be imposed.

July 11. Considering a Tractor. "Contractors will not go out ", said Cr. Lavery on Tuesday last, at the meeting of the Council "and it is quite possible we might find a solution of the difficulty in the purchase of a tractor. Borung Shire has its own staff and teams, but I am opposed to horses. In the northern end of our Riding we have road formations, but they need topping up. We have our own road machines, and with a tractor there is no expense for maintenance when it is not working. I would move that a committee, consisting of the President, Crs. Green and Sproat, report to the Council at its next meeting in connection with purchasing a tractor". Seconded Cr. McNab and carried.

July 14. Police Court. Edward Clarke Wells, William Williams and Percy Bushick were charged with having unlawfully been on the premises of the Grand Central Hotel in prohibited hours. Senior Constable Power said that at 3.40 p.m. on Sunday, June 18, he saw the three accused enter the right-of-way at the side of the hotel. At 3.45 he entered the hotel and found them in the passage. Williams said he had come to see a man named Green, whom he had met driving a wagon between Litchfield and Donald, with reference to buying a horse. Wells and Bushick said they had come with Williams. They went with witness to the kitchen, and the licensee, Mrs Swanson, was unaware they were on the premises. The accused pleaded guilty, and had nothing to say in defence. Fines of 20/- with 5/- costs, were inflicted in each case.

July 18. Wheel Tax Approved. Some months ago the Minister for Public Works (Mr Clarke) proposed a scheme whereby a tax would be collected on wheels, and the matter was discussed at the conference of the Municipal Association. On that occasion it was bitterly opposed by the municipalities and finally referred to the executive for further discussions with the Minister. The Minister met the executive on Thursday, when, by 15 to 3, the members of the executive voted in favour of the proposed wheel tax. The Minister said that during the last four months numerous alternative proposals had been brought forward, but it was safe to say that not 10 percent of the municipalities would have supported any of them but that 75 % of them would support the wheel tax. "I have said all along" the Minister continued, "that I would not introduce legislation without the approval of the shires, and now that the executive of the Municipal Association has approved of this method I am confident that its action will never be regretted. It will mean really good roads

for Victoria. I shall meet the conference of municipalities at Ballarat and I am happy to have the executive's approval of my proposal. The National Federation is also backing the scheme. It is estimated that it will return £70,000 per annum, of which £35,000 will go back to the municipalities to assist in maintaining the side roads.

July 21. Insolvency Among the insolvencies filed at St Arnaud with Mr C.R. Stafford, Clerk of Courts, appears that of Mr Charles Ward of Donald, Commission Agent. Causes of insolvency, high cost of living, bad speculation, remunerative employment, illness in family. Estimated liabilities £728 14/-; assets, £215 3/- 4d; deficiency, £513 10/- 9d. Official assignee, Mr Geo. H. Osborne, St Arnaud, Insolvent's solicitor, Mr C. J. Robinson. Among the creditors appear the following:

Hannah Bros £255 4/- 6d, Bank of Victoria, Donald £239 9/-7d; W. Merritt, £39; D. Dooley, £30.

July 25. A Narrow Escape. While attempting to turn in Woods Street, in front of J.N. Baker & Co's establishment on Thursday evening about 5 o'clock, Mr Mick Molony, of Litchfield, experienced a few anxious and exciting moments. The pole of the buggy broke, and the horses backed away, allowing the vehicle to run into the gutter. One of the horses came to rest on the footpath, but struggled up and luckily stood quietly while the traces were undone. As Mr Molony climbed out of the buggy, which was leaning lopsidedly against the verandah post, someone remarked that Mick should take heed and purchase a quiet, non-shying motor car. No damage was done with the exception of the broken buggy pole.