



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 308 OCTOBER 2022**

Enquiries for September. Pam Holland from Swan Hill is a relative of John Holland who started the Avon Plains Goldmine. Pam read our article about the goldmine and wished to be put in touch with Laurie Moore who had found John Holland's diary, which triggered the story. Laurie was very happy to meet with the Holland family so contact details were exchanged.

One correction to last month's newsletter. Scilley's Garage and house were on the RIGHT coming in from Litchfield. Both buildings are still there although the garage had a new brick front built on it when Harry Whiting set it up as a bakery in the 1980s. Pat Hepworth reports that after the meatworks closed, the Donald Shire set up a four man maintenance team from some of the former workers. The men were John Howley, Barry Hepworth, Gordon Giles and Roger Brennan and one of their jobs was to build the Scilley's Island bridge hand rail and attach the planks after the framework had arrived from Bendigo.

A new Donald resident wished to find the history of the house that she has recently bought and we were able to oblige. Eighty percent of the houses have already been researched for the "Now and Then" books and copies of those histories are available for \$5. Houses that have not been researched will cost a little more as going through the rate books is hard work and time consuming.

Former resident, John Hollis donated some rifle Club memorabilia. Greg Selleck brought in a delightful "Home Project Workers" certificate issued to his mother, Mima Collins, at the Swanwater School in 1922. Mima's certificate was for vegetable growing and she received 84 marks out of 100. It is signed by the Head teacher George Walker and the school inspector. This is "going straight to the school room" at the Courthouse Museum. Both of these donations are a reminder that items should never be thrown out. If in doubt, bring them in and we will decide.

A couple visiting Donald for a few days bought a substantial number of our historical publications. We also had mail orders for "Country for Heroes" by Lil Kirk and "The Cream of Corack" by Jenni Campbell.

### **Blasts from the Past: October 1922.**

**October 3. Saturday Half-Holiday.** Saturday last saw the inception of the new system, the change being accompanied by a considerable amount of dissatisfaction in some quarters, whilst in others it was considered a step in the right direction. In any case, the change has been the cause of a considerable amount of discussion, and it would appear that nearly all those farmers living close to town are greatly opposed to the new order of things, whilst those in outlying districts favour the new system. Among the townspeople, opinion as to the merits and demerits of Saturdays being the weekly half-holiday is about equally divided. Regarding the permanency of the change, Sen.-Constable Power has now received the following communication from the Department of Labour, setting forth that Saturday half-holiday must be observed. "The petition in favour of Saturday half-holiday was, in accordance with Section 80 of the Factories and Shops Act, referred to the Municipal Clerk, and the certificate issued by that office showed that a majority of shopkeepers affected had signed the petition. Action was then taken to give effect to the will of the majority. Saturday has been fixed, and must be observed by the shopkeepers concerned." – H.M. Murphy, Secretary for Labour.

**October 6. Donald State School.** The efforts of the School Committee for some years past have at last been met with success, and tenders are now being called for the remodelling of the State school. This work has not been taken in hand any too soon, for the condition of the present buildings is not a credit to the Education Department. It is proposed to modernise the class rooms and put them in proper conditions for healthy work on behalf of the students attending the school. It is very gratifying to the School Committee and parents that this important work is being effected. Contractors are advised that the specifications may be inspected at the local police station up to the 19<sup>th</sup> Oct.:

The Chairman ( Rev. F. P. Williams, M.C. ), of the Donald State School Committee, is in receipt of the following letters from the member for Korong, Mr I .J. Weaver, M.L.A. "State School No. 1465, Donald. - Dear Sir, - Referring to representations which have been made by you at your interviews on behalf of the Donald School Committee (Correspondent. Mr A.W. Keast ) I am directed by the Hon. the Minister to inform you that arrangements have been made with the Public Works Department to call for tenders for the remodelling of the school building. The work will be advertised in an early issue of the Government Gazette. – Yours faithfully, H.W. Bottom, Secretary, Education Department. "

**October 10 Some Wind.** Mr W.J. Basset had a rather alarming experience on portion of his property a few days ago. A most violent "willy-willy" passed two chains to the rear of his homestead and appears to have travelled for a distance of about four chains. The stable was evidently only on the edge of the disturbance, the roof, after being lifted off, fell back into

its original position. A little further down in the timber paddock, big bullock trees were lifted right out of the ground, and dropped over six feet from their original positions. Huge limbs were torn from box trees, and both bullock and box were stripped of their branches, leaving only bare trunks standing. Strange to relate, the cyclone veered round in its course when only partly through the area visited, and, for the first few chains, the uprooted trees had all fallen in the one direction, while further on they lay at a direct right angle.

**October 13. Donald Police Court.** (Before Messrs W.A. McPherson, W. Sproat, and H. Kemmis J's P.) Thos. Dillon and James Sinclair were charged with the larceny of various items belonging to C.Pollock, B. Bazeley, W. Sullivan, J.H. Muller and J.P.Morgan and also having been in possession of goods suspected to have been stolen. James Sinclair was further charged with having offered Constable Morrison a £1 bribe to forgo his duty, while Thos. Dillon was charged with having threatened to shoot Constable Morrison. Samuel Dillon will be asked to account for having in his possession 41 'possum skins. A remand to Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October was granted.

**October 17 Cricket. Donald defeats Granite Flat.** The season opened on Saturday last with a friendly match against Granite Flat. Donald batted first and declared the innings closed for 91 runs. Les Stephenson registered a good performance, top scoring with 55 not out, while H. Makin, a new member of the club, compiled 12 there being no other double figure scores. The wickets were secured by W.McEwen, 3 for 5, J.McEwen 2 for 23, L.Gilbert 1 for 8, C. Pink 1 for 19 and J .Pink 1 for 26.

Granite Flat responded with 35, the only batsman to reach double figures being C. Pink 16. Stephenson 5 for 7, Crocker 4 for 9, and Makin 1 for 10 performed well with the ball. The fielding for both teams was very keen, many runs being saved in this way. The Association this year will only comprise three teams, Donald, Traynor's Lagoon and East Laen. The first match will take place on Saturday next.

**October 20.Donald Court.** James Miller, chimney sweep (39) was charged with having stolen 7/- , the property of P.W. Hourie. Percival W. Hourie, hairdresser, said that on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, accused had cleaned three chimneys at his house. The handbag produced was his. It had contained 7/- when he last saw it. He had put some money into it, and asked his wife to bank it, which she did, leaving the 7/- there. At 11.30 on the night in question he heard a noise, and getting up he discovered the kitchen window open and the money gone. He made a search and could not see anybody.

Constable Morrison gave evidence of arrest, and read a statement from accused, who said that he had seen the bag on the wall during the day time. He had a few drinks, and was a bit muddled, and had a slight recollection of having gone back and climbed through the window, taking a few shillings from the bag. He was sorry for what he had done, and would make good the amount.

Accused made a statement to the Bench, saying he had never been in court before, but had been drinking and was not responsible for his actions. He had served with the A.I.F. at the

Landing and Evacuation of Gallipoli.

The Bench said it was a serious offence to enter a man's house at night. Although he was a first offender, the case could not be overlooked, and accused would be sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

**October 24. District Intelligence. Laen The Season.** Crops in general are looking well. The dry weather is severe on those sown late, half an inch of rain would be very welcome. Some of the early crops are showing out in ear.

Land prices continue to soar in this district, £16 10/- per acre being one of the recent sales.

**SNAKES.** Snakes are fairly prevalent, the fences along the roads being well adorned with reptiles.

**October 27. 'WARE SNAKES.** With the advent of warm weather, snakes are again well in evidence. The Rev. F.P. Williams caught and killed one in his garden at the vicarage but Mr R. Dardel of Corack East, had a more exciting experience one day last week. He was working in the blacksmith's shop on the farm, and had the occasion to kneel down to pick up a piece of iron. While doing so he felt a sharp sting on the arm, and discovered he had his knee on a snake, which he grasped in his hand but not before he had been bitten in four different places. He scarified the bites with an old chisel, and leaving a note at the house, as there was nobody home at the time, he hurried to Birchip where he received prompt medical attention, no serious consequences resulting.

**October 31. Proposed Day Service.** Some little time ago a notification appeared in these columns to the effect that an attempt was to be made to alter the time-table on the Melbourne-Mildura line that the express would run through the day instead of at night. The Ouyen Express "now states that the delegates of the North-western District Council of the V.F.U. recently met Superintendent Robertson and Mr Roscholler, train-running officer, representing the Commissioners at Ouyen. These officials practically assured the delegates that the change would be instituted. It was a desirable one, not only from the people's point of view but also from the departmental standpoint, as it would do away with the staggering cost of haulage of sleeping and dining cars. Representative speakers stressed feelingly the inconvenience and discomfort of the present service. The railway officials stated that the money for provision of up-to-date refreshment rooms at Birchip and Ouyen had been placed on the estimates and when these were established a great barrier to the contemplated change would be removed.