



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 314 MAY 2023

Enquiries for April

Dennis Bentley has a brother who is with the Central Australian Aviation Museum in Alice Springs and they have become interested the history of Connellan Airlines He says “As you would expect, there is a strong Connellan profile and history up there. I am not a Connellan relative, but I am keen on their story. I would plan to see the Laen East site when we next visit our relatives in Marnoo.” The Connellans, Thomas Peter and Lucy (nee Glowrey) left Laen East in 1923/24 to take up more land for their growing family in Balranald. Eddie was the eldest of their seven children and was then 12 years old. He became a pilot in 1936 and eventually founded “Connellan Airlines” in Alice Springs which he registered in 1942. We have sent Denis a map showing the site of the Connellan farmhouse “Araluen” on Carnes Road Laen East, just behind the house lived in by Gavin and Karen Wood and the East Laen fire station. Some discussion has ensued on whether the Old Dairy House at which was moved to Aitken Avenue by Francis P Whelan, agent, in 1925 may have been “Araluen”. The jury is still out on that one.

Claire Muntz from Geelong rang seeking information on her husband’s maternal side who lived on a creek at Bealiba. The couple, in their 80s were planning a trip to visit old sites from his childhood. There was a link to the Litchfield Green family which led them to believe that we could help with information. Hi great grandmother Jones was Margaret Louisa Green, a sister of H.J Green from Litchfield. Clarice Green, J.D. ‘

S widow also married into the Jones family. Most of their history was in Bealiba or Avoca so we furnished them with addresses for Historical Societies at Dunnolly, Avoca and St Arnaud and said that it would not be worth their while to venture this far.

Our recent photo of the Donald SYF group in 1952 aroused some interest. Word came from Bonnie Cadzow (nee MacDonald) via Shirley Mckenna to Mary Anne Goode (nee Dixon) that the mystery girl in the picture was her mother, Tess. We love it when this happens. A big thankyou to Bonnie.

Ron and Lynette Picken and friends called in. Ron worked at the Donald Meatworks in the 1970s. He said that he came here from Melbourne to help Peter O’Donnell set up the shops selling meat at Donald and other towns. He loved his time here, playing footy for Watchem Corack and buying a speed boat and skiing at Batyo Catyo. He sold his boat “Buster” to Peter Clark when leaving and lived

in the house at 11 Gray St, now owned by Brian and Lyn Walsh which at that time was owned by the Meatworks proprietors. Ron says that he often comes back for a visit and just walks up and down the street but never meets anyone that he worked with. He stayed the night and attended the first round of the NCFL match at Donald.

Madalyn and her husband called into the archives looking for information on William Masterson, who was her great grandfather. William Masterson was in Donald between 1901 and 1911. He married local girl, Lillie Rivett in 1899. She was related to the other Rivetts in Donald at the time. William was a carpenter and lived first at 24 Walker St and then at 32 Walker St. The couple had four sons and one daughter, all born in Donald. They left Donald soon after 1911 and eventually moved to Lakemba, NSW.

Kado called into our op shop wondering if anyone had old microphones or cassette recorders or other recording machines that they no longer used. We don't, but feel free to bring any in if you want to dispose of them.

Blasts from the Past. May 1923

May 1. Fire. The fact that the stables at the rear of Swanson's Hotel were ablaze was forcibly communicated at about 8.30 on Friday night by the ringing of the fire bell and the appearance of a dense cloud of smoke. The local firemen promptly answered the call, and really smartly work was done by the brigade. It is alleged that an unfortunate inebriate had chosen the loft wherein to sleep. The fire, when discovered had a strong hold, all the top of the building being destroyed, the damage being estimated at 130 pounds. The stables beneath and the floor of the loft were slightly damaged and the save effected by the brigade was a good one. Several horses in the stable, together with a quantity of harness were removed to safety. The building was insured by the Norwich Union Company.

May 4. Football. Rupanyup v. Donald. The above match will take place at Rupanyup tomorrow, when the Donald team will include several promising new players. The trip will be made by car, and players are reminded that a start will be made from the Post Office at 1 o'clock sharp. Team to be chosen from the following: Nolan, Mitchell, Wadeworth, Howley, McGrath, Holland, Backway, McConville, Peel, Baker, M. Moloney, Cameron, C and M Boschen, Nichelson, Humphreys, Hood, H. Pope, Harris, Hicks, Cummings, Power. Any supporter wishing to make the trip should notify the secretary.

May 8. Obituary. The Late Mr Duncan Cameron. The news of the death of Mr Duncan Cameron will be received with regret throughout the district. Deceased, who was for many years a valued employee of Mr T. O. Guthrie of Rich Avon Station, resigned his position there on account of ill-health some four or five years ago. Since this time his health had gradually failed, his death taking place in the Stawell Hospital some day last week. He was a conscientious and competent worker and a first class sheepman, fairly revelling in his occupation. Among his hobbies was the training and exhibiting of sheepdogs and trotting horses, with which he achieved considerable success. He was a keen judge of a rider and personally was held in high esteem by all with whom he was acquainted. During the opening

season of the local freezing works he had charge of the delivery of lambs. His death will be greatly regretted more particularly in and around Donald.

May 11. Cows in the Corn. "It is a position which has often arisen before" said Mr C.W. Basset, at a meeting of Donald wheat growers on Friday last, "but I'd like to ask Mr Pickering, in view of the fact that the town cows are having the time of their lives on the wheat sold to the corporation to the local mill, whether the local millers pay for it at ingoing or outgoing weight. Is the loss theirs or ours?" Mr Pickering replied to the effect that the wheat was paid for at ingoing weight and that the loss was the millers'.

May 15. The Progress of Litchfield. At the last council meeting Cr. Burton pointed out that two stores were being built in Litchfield. The building being erected by Mr A. Cannard was located on a portion of Mr Melican's property, and it had been pointed out that it would be necessary to have a gate put in to allow of entrance to the store from the new Government platform at the station. He would move that the Council support Mr Cannard's application for this convenience. Cr Lavery seconded the motion and congratulated Cr Burton on the growth of the Litchfield township.

May 18. An Old Tragedy Recalled. The recovery of a human skull by Mr. James Hall, farmer of Waita Wella, while fishing in a dam on the Jeel Jeel road recalls an old Stawell sensation. The skull is believed to be that of the victim of a murder at Deep Lead more than 30 years ago. The headless body of a man named Forbes was found at the time, but the head was never traced. Hall left the skull on the bank and notified the police, but when they went to the dam there was no sign of the skull. Mounted-constable Williamson waded through the dam and raked the bottom thoroughly but without success. It is thought that somebody had carried the gruesome relic away and Superintendent Lineham has directed the police to continue enquiries. Old residents of Stawell remember the fear then when the body of Forbes was found. He had been living with a vicious fellow named Byrne. One dark night he called at the tent of a man at Glenorchy, and camped there. Next morning he disappeared early. Later in the day Forbes' body, hacked and slashed was discovered. Evidently he had been murdered before Byrne arrived at the tent referred to. Byrne was traced to Rupanyup, where he was arrested on the charge of having murdered Forbes. He maintained a defiant attitude for some time until he was accused of the murder of a man named Sullivan at Wickliffe some months before the death of Forbes. The Crown had evidence which satisfied it that a charge in regard to the Wickliffe murder would be more convincingly proved and Byrne stood trial for the murder of Sullivan and was executed. Shortly before he went to the scaffold he confessed he had also killed Forbes. What Byrne did with Forbes' head he would not say and nobody knew.

May 22. No Daylight Train Service. At the recently held conference of Shires interested in the proposed daylight train service on the Melbourne-Mildura line, the daylight train proposal was defeated. The majority favoured an alternative service - three night trains a week but the Commissioners' representative said this would cause serious dislocation of

service connections along the route and was therefore regarded as impracticable. It was then decided to urge the Commissioners to provide one or two additional trains each week, these to be run in daylight with the present service to remain as it is.

May 25. Exceeding the Speed Limit. At the Birchip Police Court, Constable Sloane proceeded against Thomas Diamond, motor mechanic, Birchip, for having driven a motor car in Cumming Avenue at a speed dangerous to public safety. Constable Sloane said that, when questioned as to the speed of the car, he said that he may have been doing over 15, he was not travelling at the rate computed by the constable, namely 20 to 25 miles per hour. Diamond did not appear in Court and a fine of 2 pounds was imposed.

May 29. 'Phone-Grams. Innovations contemplated by Mr Gibson, Postmaster General, promise to afford much needed improvement to the telephone and telegraph services. It is intended almost immediately to introduce a system by which telegrams addressed to a person who is a telephone subscriber will be immediately telephoned to the addressee, instead of being delivered in the ordinary way. At the various telegraph offices, responsible clerks will be detailed to telephone the messages as they are received. In addition to a 'phone gram the message will be delivered by the first mail following receipt. Another proposal which should find favour relates to the dispatch of telegrams by the telephone subscriber. Arrangements are being made to enable a subscriber to ring up the nearest telegraph office and dictate a telegram for dispatch to any part of the Commonwealth. The cost of the message will be debited to the subscriber in the same way as local and trunk line calls are now recorded.