



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 315 JUNE 2023

Enquiries for May

Marg Sturzaker from Winchelsea called into the archives and asked if we had anything about her father, Frank Park, who had lived around Donald in about 1930. Our indexes showed an F. Park who played cricket for Traynors Lagoon in 1930. Marg was thrilled to find possible evidence of his time in the area and was going to approach the St Arnaud Historical Society in case there was more to be found.

Sonya Hunt wondered if we had anything on the descendants of Thomas Edwin and Frank Ladson Hunt who owned land in the Watchem area in the 1880s. Thomas Edwin sold up his land in 1891 and moved to Tasmania in 1892 where he died later in the year. Frank Ladson Hunt and his wife, Mary are buried in the Watchem cemetery. Mary died, aged 50 in 1894 and Frank died in 1905, aged 68. They had 6 children, the youngest being 8. We had a small amount on the Hunts in our Donald Times/Express Index.

Susan Merrick has donated Arthur Mitchell's Lodge certificate and cricket trophy. Arthur Mitchell, a hairdresser built the three shops at 98-102 Woods St in 1921 and lived in the house behind, now owned by George Bowles. Prior to this he owned the shop at 96 Woods St (now Penfold Place) and attached a billiard room to the rear of it. Forrie Brown, Peter Miller (barbers) and Kel McAuley, upholsterer operated in this shop, then owned by Harold Evans. It was demolished in 1985.

Annie Anderson wanted any information on several of the Keogh family who selected land in Richard Avon West and left the district in 1924. We had some entries on the Keoghs in our Donald Times index.

Jim Knight rang for information on his forebears, Edward and Amy Watts. There were plenty of entries for Teddy Watts, a train driver, and his wife, Amy. In 1908, it was reported that they were building a six-roomed house in Houston St, opposite the State School. They owned it until Amy's death in 1944. This house was at 4 Houston St and was owned by Eileen Jones in the 1960s. Eileen and her family also ran it as a boarding house.

The house was demolished in 1972 and Ken and Joan Beckham built the current house. Edward and Amy had an amazing garden, and it was described as “the prettiest in the district” in 1916. It was also described as having “splendid raisins and currants” at this time. There are many entries in the Donald Times for Teddy and Amy, both winning prizes at Flower shows.

Blasts from the Past. June 1923

June 1. Shire Grants to Parks. At last Tuesday’s meeting of the Council, a communication was received intimating that a Government grant of £10 would be made towards the upkeep of the Donald Park providing that a like amount was subscribed locally, the total sum to be expended before the 30th of June. Cr. McNab moved that the usual amount be voted by the Council to the committees in charge of the various parks, as in previous years. Cr. Sproat seconded and the motion was carried. The manner in which the money contributed to the maintenance of the Donald Park was to be spent was left in the hands of the South Riding Councillors.

June 5. Bicycle Accident. Mr Jack Bayles, junior., and his brother Arch, were proceeding home late on Saturday night per bicycle when the front fork snapped under the extra weight imposed upon it by the strain of “double dinking “, and the riders were brought into forcible contact with mother earth. The younger boy was stunned, and had to be conveyed to his home, while both were recipients of severe facial abrasions.

June 8. Watchem Lighting. Referring to the proposition for electrically lighting Watchem, Cr. Lavery said last Council meeting that the Engineer, Mr Rigg, had all the figures ready in connection with the scheme, but that, owing to the illness of Mr Dye, nothing further could be done at the present.

June 12. Bushranging Episode Ended. Roy Governor, the aboriginal outlaw who had been terrorising the Mendooran (N.S.W.) district for weeks past was shot in the back and captured on Wednesday last, after seriously wounding Sergt. Young. Governor now lies in the Dubbo Hospital in a serious condition. (*Roy was released from prison in 1934. His older brothers, Jimmy and Joe, were notorious killers in the previous century and their story is worth Googling.BB*)

June 15. Traffic Prosecution. George Glyne was charged with having driven on the wrong side of the road. Sen. Constable Power said that while he was standing on the intersection of Woods and McCulloch streets, defendant drove the car on the wrong side of the turning. He measured the tracks and found they were 4 ft. 5 inches from the kerbside. Witness had interviewed the defendant who admitted that a technical breach of the law had occurred. A fine or several days imprisonment was imposed.

June 19. Junior Football. Donald 7.5 Cope Cope. 6.8.

For Donald, Roach shared with Humphries the honour of being the best man on the ground, although lack of condition told against him at times. C. Baker also rendered valuable service, his goal in the third quarter being neatly snapped. Power battled well throughout as also did Holland. Cummins seemed most at home when in the sticks, and, in the last quarter, showed good judgement and saved well. Wright, Forer and Baker did well when the ball came their way, while Marmion was handy in the forward line.

Cope Cope showed themselves possessed of some remarkably good material. H. Humphries was their most useful man, and was mainly responsible for the continuous attack in the last quarter. Many of their forward moves were initiated by Penny, while J. Gilmour repeatedly cleared when things looked dangerous. C. Pilgrim shaped solidly in defence while J. Pilgrim showed useful dash. P. Trollope did not show out prominently as in the seniors, but helped Cope Cope towards many of their points. C. and R. Coats and Bath did good work, while McLeod, Pritchard and Cameron gave promise of great improvement as the season progresses.

Goalkickers were as follows; Donald; Roach (3), Power, Marmion, Miller and C. Baker. Cope Cope; Penny (2), C. and R. Coats, Isles and Pilgrim.

June 22. Government Medical Facilities Unavailed of. Speaking to the Melbourne University Science Club recently, Dr. C.W. Penford of the Commonwealth Bacteriological Department, criticised the criminal conservatism of some members of the medical profession. The "wait and see" policy had been shown by statistics in case of typhoid fever to be responsible for a mortality of 14 per cent, which was decreased by bacteriological treatment to 1 per cent. At the Bendigo hospital, a branch of the Commonwealth department had been established for four months, and so far country doctors were not availing themselves of the opportunity of making tests of swabs before the disease reached an advanced stage. The cause of influenza was not yet definitely known to be due to a particular bacillus, although several theories have been advanced.

June 26. Not Biting. In her single contribution to the discussions which took place at a recent conference of jewellers in Sydney, the only lady jeweller present made the suggestion that fashion or custom should compel men to wear gold bands on their fingers, just as married women do. The delegate pointed out that it would benefit trade considerably, and that it should not be difficult of accomplishment, since at the psychological moment when a man is taking to himself a wife he might easily be persuaded to accept this, together with his other "marital obligations". It is reported that even the most commercially-minded of the male delegates received the suggestion with marked coolness, one even going so far to say it would be "an unnecessary expense and bother, since most married men carried their marriage lines on their brows."