



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 326 JULY 2024**

### **Enquiries for June**

Kristy Kelly is researching the Westerland Family and wrote for some information. We found a lot of mentions in sport, a little history plus a lovely photo to share. April Pendrick from Queensland had a number of “Donald Books” to return to us which had belonged to her mother or grandmother. April thought that she may have connections to the Hoare family. Robin Letts wanted all that had been written about the 1974 North Central Victory from the Donald Times at that time to send on to a Weekly Times reporter. We were able to oblige and the article was completed in time.

Daryl Warren contacted us sometime back to see if we had any history about Debutante Balls in Donald. We uncovered the following and we think that it may have been the FIRST Debutante Ball in Donald. It was held on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. 2024 so it is just over 90 years ago and is such a good read we thought that we would reprint it here.

Donald Times June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1934.

CATHOLIC BALL

A BRILLIANT FIXTURE

ATTRACTIVE DEBUTANTE SETS

The most successful Catholic Ball yet held in Donald took place in St Mary’s Hall and was distinguished by many outstanding features. Having been well advertised, it drew a splendid attendance, which made it not only a social but also a very gratifying financial success. The inclusion of debutante sets proved an added attraction and the distinguished guests included the Hon. J.W. Pennington, Minister of Education and Mrs. Pennington, together with Mrs. D. Dunstan, wife of the Shire President, the latter being absent in Melbourne.

The Hall was artistically decorated, streamers of various colours being employed to give the canopy effect, stretching from the centre of the hall which was marked by the suspension of a dainty device of umbrella shape. The streamers curved gracefully to the walls and ran right through at one end to form a pretty ceiling for the stage, which was also decorated and on which the orchestra and guests of honour were seated. The decorations were carried out by Father Gleeson, who has a flair for this art, and members of the younger set. The floor was in excellent order and provision was made for spectators around the hall and on portion of the stage, many non-dancers paying to watch the gay spectacle.

The music was provided by Storey's full orchestra, consisting of Miss Storey (Piano) and Messrs B. Storey (Banjo), A. Storey (Violin), R. Storey (Saxophone and Clarinet), D. Kane (trumpet and Clarinet), C. Taylor (Tenor Saxophone) and W. Sayers (drums). The music filled every requirement, being distinguished by rhythm, tone and a due appreciation of the occasion. In the supper room patrons found a most appetising repast awaiting them and for the excellence of the table credit is due to the ladies of the parish. The decorations were carried out in Iceland Poppies. A special table was provided for the debutantes and the decorations were carried out in shades of pink to match the posies carried by the members of the set.

Hon J.W. Pennington and Mrs. Pennington, on arrival were received at the door by Rev. Father Gleeson and the matrons of honour (Mesdames W.J. Flanagan and B.E. Gibney). Mrs. Pennington was presented with a dainty bouquet and the guests were then escorted to their seats on the stage. Among the visitors present was also Rev. Father O'Connell, of Watchem, who was an interested spectator throughout. At the appoint-

\_\_\_\_THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT WAS THEN INSERTED MID-WORD\_\_\_\_



ed time the sixteen debutantes and their partners marched in single file around the hall to the strains of "Rendezvous" and pairing with their partners at the top end of the hall, they proceeded to the centre, to be received and congratulated by the guests of honour

Then followed the lancers, danced by the four sets in the graceful and stately manner suitable to the occasion and free from the usual go-as-you-please style which characterises this popular set nowadays. The difference was strikingly apparent and great credit is due to Dr. Flanagan, who put the debutantes and their partners through their paces in the preliminary practices.

The debutantes and their partners were :\_ Miss Lorraine Barrass and Mr. B. Barrass, Miss Mary Nolan and Mr. J. Murnane, Miss Verna Sheehan and Mr. W. Sheehan, Miss Margaret Frank and Mr. C. Frank (First Set).

Miss Annie Burke and Mr. P. Burke, Miss Sheila Burke and Mr. E. Byrne, Miss Aileen Sheehan and Mr. G. Dwyer, Miss Eileen Brennan and Mr. Jack Brennan (Second set).

Miss Alice Schulz and Mr. H. Allan, Miss Eileen McErvale and Mr. J. McErvale, Miss Ruby Dunstan and Mr. H. Dunstan, Miss Mary Melican and Mr. J. Melican (Third set).

Miss Maisie Muir and Mr. E or B. Wilkinson, Miss Florence Watson and Mr. F. Darcy, Miss Elizabeth Brennan and Mr. James Brennan, Miss Eileen Conlan and Mr. Leo Hogan (*Fourth set*).

*The report continued but the print became blurry. It seems that a number of speeches were made but hopefully they weren't too long and the final line would have been that many more people entered the hall and danced to the wee hours of the morning, given that it was held on a Friday night. It is worth noting that C. Frank in the "First set" was also Charlie Frank and the great grandfather of today's Charlie Frank in the 2024 Debutante set. Also worth noting is that the brilliant Storey Orchestra talent continues on in the area today through Brodey Glen, son of Rod and Joan (nee Storey) Glen.*

## **Blasts from the Past- July 1924.**

**July 1. The Show Ring.** The area of the Showgrounds has been considerably enlarged by the removal of the inner ring fence. The position of the football goalposts has been slightly altered, and the ground will henceforth be much wider than previously. Followers of the winter game are strong in the opinion that the increased width will suit the Donald team much better and that the play of the local team will reflect the benefit of the change.

**July 4. Benevolence.** (Letter to Editor) Sir,- I propose the formation of a Donald Benevolent Society, and suggest that each church appoint three ladies to form a committee of twelve. The appeal for a sewing machine could have been made by such a society. The need for a

machine was brought to my notice by Mr Weinberg, and both he and the mother of four children agreed that it should be purchased in the names of three citizens in trust for the purpose of benevolence, but that the mother have full use of it while she remains in Donald, or until, in the judgement of these gentlemen, some more pressing claim arise. I feel confident that the mothers of the district, acting in harmony with the Golden Rule, will speedily satisfy the requirement. JOHN R. CREAN

**July 8 Unlucky.** It is reported that two well-known sportsmen were apprehended with game in their possession early in the week. More will probably be heard of the matter at a later date.

**July 11 A Worthy Object.** A dance is to be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening next for the purpose of once again raising funds for the maintenance of the Donald Cot in the Children's Hospital. Prices are as advertised.

**July 15. Reynaud's Faux-Pas.** While hard-pressed by dogs, a half-grown fox took refuge in Mr C. W. Basset's residence. Careering along the verandah, he burst headlong through the fly-wire of the door and gained momentary safety. He had, however, taken refuge in a false haven, for Mr Basset secured a stick and dispatched him to the foxes "happy hunting ground".

**July 18. Motor Lorry Drivers Wanted.** Application will be received by the Donald Shire Council up to 4 p.m. on Friday next for the position of motor driver for the new municipal lorry. Wages have been fixed at £1 per day for each day of employment, and further particulars may be obtained from the secretary.

**July 22. The Donald Cemetery.** Residents to the number of between fifty and sixty visited the local cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, where a great deal of work was carried out, particularly in the Roman Catholic portion. Afternoon tea was provided by ladies of the various denominations and proved very acceptable. The work will be completed on Friday next, when cars will leave the office of the secretary of the trustees (Mr W. Willey) at 1 p.m. A proposal has been put forward to the effect that, should a sufficient number of those who have relatives buried in the cemetery be prepared to furnish a small annual subscription, a residence could be erected within the grounds, and a sexton permanently appointed.

**July 25. Presentation of Church Organ.** The family of Councillor C. R. Basset, in memory of their brother Maurice, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, and in compliance with the desire of their parents, have decided to present a new organ to the Donald Methodist Church. The presentation will be made during the service next Sunday evening.

**July 29. Personal.** As there has been no improvement in the condition of Mr Walter Golding's thumb, which has given him considerable trouble during the past few weeks, it was found necessary to amputate it at the first joint. This was done yesterday afternoon.