



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 327 AUGUST 2024**

### Enquiries for July

By a strange coincidence, two of our very few enquiries in July came from two different gentlemen by the name of Charles Green. One was former Donaldite, Charles Green, who is married to Beverley Pope. Beverley and her twin sister Lynette turned 80 in July and Charles wanted everything from the Donald Times indexes about the identical twins. Both married men by the name of Green, Lyn marrying Barry Green. The other Charles Green, a descendant of H.A. "Andy" Green who once owned "Michael's Garage", wished for information on the Rev. Ken Billinge who was a Presbyterian minister in Donald from 1923 through 1927. Ken was secretary of the Back to Committee in 1926.

David Holland from Warracknabeal contacted us to tell us he would send us a copy of a history called "Wimmera Mallee Cricket Association". The book has arrived and anyone wishing to view it (prior to purchase) can call at the archives and do so.

Vin Le Couteur phoned us and then called in. His grandfather, Henry James Le Couteur, worked as a ganger on the Railway line at Donald in 1915-1917. The family lived in Houston St. and three children, Elma, George and Stuart attended Donald Primary School. Stuart was Vin's father and Vin would have loved to have found the house in Houston St but we were unable to help. It was probably one of the small weatherboards opposite the park which were demolished to build the current day brick veneer houses as many of them were rental properties at that time. Vin said that the family moved further up the Mallee where Henry's job took him. Vin left us with 3 photos which may or may not be taken at Donald. One was a school group, which doesn't look like the Donald School, and the second was a Sunday School Group. Both photos contained his father, Stuart. The third photo showed the back of a post card on which was written "To Stuart. With love from his S.S. teacher" and it was signed A.G. Pearse. This is quite definitely Donald but it opens up another can of worms. There were two girls named Amelia Geake Pearse in the Methodist Church at that time. One was born in 1890 and the other in 1897. The older one married in 1917 and was generally called "Molly" and the second one married Walter Golding in 1919. The Sunday

School group is pictured. We would love to hear from anyone in Donald or from a Railway town in country Victoria who recognises the photo or the people in it. Stuart le Couteur is the smallest boy in the back row. The Sunday school teacher may be the woman in white dress and hat next to the older lady.



Alice Williams contacted us for a copy of the School sites book compiled by Beth and Norm Hollis.

### **Blasts from the Past: August 1924**

**August 1. At Last!** The Minyip-Donald telephone was completed on Monday. A satisfactory test was made during the afternoon, and the line was open to the public as from Tuesday last. This line will serve a great public convenience, and has been agitated for for some time.

**August 5. Marnoo** The following letter has been received from the Education Department:-  
“Referring to Mr Twitcher’s visit to Marnoo and to his representations on behalf of Cr. Pilgrim J.P., Marnoo-East, I have the honour to inform you that consideration has been given to the question of the establishment of a Technical School in that place. The Chief Inspector of Technical Schools has looked into the matter, a copy of his report is given below\_ “The establishment of Technical Schools in small centres cannot at present be recommended. The initial cost and the subsequent charges would be too great even if the school were staffed and equipped to deal with the groups of subjects commonly taken in Technical Schools. The amended system of scholarships, shortly to be introduced, together with added facilities for travelling, should enable many country students desirous of obtaining a technical training to attend one of the schools already in existence in larger centres of

population. It is highly desirable to afford country lads the opportunity for qualifying in Technical Schools as it has been found that some of the best students have come from country districts."

**August 8. Personal.** While working at the Power House on Thursday, Mr. F. Bayles, son of Mr. F. Bayles, of the V.P.C., received a nasty blow on the foot with a sledge hammer, the result that two bones in his foot were broken. Mr. Jack Bayles had also been forced to seek medical advice about his knee which was injured whilst playing football.

**August 12. An Unpleasant Experience.** Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hancock had an unenviable experience during last week, when a female domestic, who had only recently been sent up from the city, commenced to act in a strange and violent manner. Her behaviour was such to necessitate the calling of police assistance, Senior Constable Power bringing the woman to Donald en route to Ballarat.

**August 15. Accident Averted.** Little Jack Harrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Len Harrison, experienced a narrow escape from serious injury in Wood Street on Wednesday last, shortly before 12 o'clock. While crossing the road in front of Messrs. J. N. Baker and Co.'s establishment he ran in front of an approaching motor car. Luckily the car was equipped with "four-wheel" brakes, and its owner, anticipating trouble, was able to bring it to a sudden standstill, but not before the radiator had lightly touched the little boy on the chest with just sufficient force to knock him over. In falling he struck his head on the hard roadway, and was slightly stunned for a few minutes. He was hurriedly picked up and taken to his home, where it was found that he had suffered no further ill-effects.

**August 19. Donald Police Court.** C.M. Clift, chief inspector under the Game and Fisheries Act, proceeded against Geo. Williamson, on a charge of having firearms in his possession on a Sunday, contrary to the provisions of the Act. Evidence was given by Constable Morrison. Defendant pleaded guilty, was fined £2, in default distress.

C.M. Clift also proceeded against V. P. Burke on a charge of having killed native game, i.e. one wild duck, during the close season contrary to the provision of the Act. Constable Morrison gave evidence to the effect that he had found the defendant with the duck in a tin. Mr. C. J. Morrison pleaded guilty on behalf of the defendant stating that he had offended innocently, not knowing that the close season had set in. He had not attempted to hide the duck from the constable. Costs amounted to £4/4/- and in view of this fact, a light penalty, in the shape of a 10/- fine together with 5/- for the duck, was imposed.

**Personal.** During the progress of Wednesday's match at St Arnaud, W. Cameron, a member of the Donald team, playing on the half-back line, received a kick in the groin which greatly incapacitated him during the latter half of the game. The president of the club (Mr. W. Steward) motored him to the doctor after play was ended, it being then discovered that nothing of a serious nature had happened, although he had been advised to take a rest for a day or two.

**August 22. Personal.** Mr. T. McConville, of the Donald Football team has received an invitation to throw in his lot with the South Melbourne Club next year. While wishing "Tom" every success in the game, followers of the great winter sport would regret to hear of his

departure from the district. (*Tom's name was actually Esmond Thomas and he did eventually go to play with the Melbourne Football Club in the VFL in 1927. He had been a teacher at Jeffcott and married Miss Winnie Basset of Laen, sister of Harry and Arthur and Anne Murdoch). Peter McConville, who played for Carlton and St Kilda in the late 1970s and early 80s was "Tom" and Winnie McConville's grandson.*).

**August 26. Personal.** Donald was represented in the Country Week golf competitions by Messrs. W.R. Gray and C.H.L. Davies, who spent a most enjoyable time on the metropolitan links.

**August 29. Police Court. Absence from School.** Constable Morrison proceeded against Minnie Cook for having failed to send a child to school. For the week ending July 12, he had been present on eight half-days out of ten. The headmaster had notified that the case needed attention. A Doctor's certificate as to illness was produced.

Constable Morrison said that this had been done on a previous occasion, but not until the day of the case. When the child stayed away no excuse was furnished, and the certificate was not produced at that time, entailing a great deal of inconvenience to the department. The defendant had previously been fined on a similar charge. A fine of 7/6 was imposed.

*The final series of the 1924 football season involved a controversy over zoning. At the end of the season the Final Four was Donald, Birchip, St Arnaud and Litchfield-Carron.*

*In the first semi-final Donald 5.14.44 defeated St Arnaud 4.6.30. In the second semi-final Litchfield-Carron 7.10.52 defeated Birchip 6.9.45 which set up a Grand Final between Donald and Litchfield-Carron. However Birchip appealed to the Association claiming that a regular Litchfield-Carron player (T.Woods) lived outside their permitted zone.*

*A meeting of delegates of the North Western Football Association heard testimony from the Donald Shire Engineer, the Birchip Shire Engineer and an Engineer from State Rivers as to the scope of the area allocated to Litchfield-Carron. The core of the argument was whether the zone was circular or an oval. The delegates accepted the Birchip case and awarded the second semi-final to Birchip deciding that the Litchfield-Carron player did live just outside their zone. The result in the Grand Final was a win to Birchip 5.14.44 to Donald 5.13.43 .*