



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 339 OCTOBER 2025

The Archives building at 56 Woods St has been painted inside and out over the last few months. Local tradesman, Travis Hickmott, has been very busy working on the main office, the passage, and two other rooms over the past three weeks. Our volunteers enjoyed a week's holiday, which was well-timed, as the photocopier decided to malfunction at the same time. The freshly painted rooms look as new, and it is to Travis's credit that they were done with minimum disruption. The October enquiries will appear in the November newsletter.

Blasts from the Past. October 1925

October 1. Personal. Mr. H. J. Onley sustained painful injuries while attending to the Water Trust windmill at the commencement of the week. The front portion of his foot became momentarily caught between moving portions of the mechanism. Although the injury proved painful at the time, Mr. Onley completed his job, but found on examining his foot, a few minutes later, that the big toe had been badly crushed. Medical attention was necessary, and he is now able to get about with the aid of a stick. He counts himself extremely fortunate in not having his whole foot injured.

October 6. Heard in Donald. On Saturday last, a description of the Final football match between Collingwood and Melbourne was broadcast by 3LO direct from the Melbourne Cricket Ground. "Jumbo" Sharland, who was one of Geelong's star footballers a couple of seasons ago, was in front of the microphone, and gave a vivid description of the play and the scene at the cricket ground. The transmission was splendid, and an excellent reception was obtained on the "Western Electric" Receiver at Green's Garage, where an interested crowd soon gathered round the Speaker. The band playing in the members' reserve, the voices of the barrackers, the time bells, and even the umpire's whistle could be plainly heard. The game was not as thrilling as those of the previous two Saturdays, and Collingwood won by a handy margin of 8.15 to 3.8. However, Melbourne were unfortunate to have three good men injured. Undoubtedly, the broadcast companies are showing commendable enterprise, missing a few opportunities to broadcast anything worthwhile. Consequently, "listeners-in" who have efficient sets feel that they are getting good value for the money spent on "radio".

(This match was the Preliminary Final. Collingwood was beaten by Geelong in the Grand Final)

October 9. Old Colonist Passes. Mrs. Bridget Sweeney. On Tuesday last the district lost another of its old and respected residents in the person of Mrs. Bridget Sweeney, wife of Mr. John Sweeney of Litchfield. The deceased lady was a colonist of 53 years standing, and the story of her journey to this country affords some idea of the spirit and hardiness of those who left their native land in the days of slow and dangerous travel. The late Mrs. Sweeney was the sixth daughter of the late James and Mary Aherne and was born at Templemore, County Tipperary, Ireland on April 2, 1858. Losing her parents at an early age she set sail to Australia aboard the S.S. Strato. She was accompanied by her brother and two sisters, and the voyage was commenced on September 5, 1872. Three times the vessel broke down, the first mishap occurring when the four fans were washed away a few hours after leaving Plymouth. She put back into port and subsequently set sail again, this time reaching the island of Madeira, when the main shaft broke. This time it took four weeks to return to Plymouth, a great storm breaking over the vessel on the return journey and two sailors and the mate being washed overboard. The ship remained in Plymouth for twelve weeks, when she set sail for Australia for the third time, on the 22nd of December. On March 1, 1873 the landing was made in Australia, and the strange story of the unfortunate Strato came to an end when she was lost on the return voyage to England. The deceased lady spent the first few years of her life in this country at Geelong, Charlton and St Arnaud, she being married at the last-named town some 46 years ago. She then came to reside at Litchfield, where she remained until the time of her death. For the past seven years she had borne her sufferings with patient fortitude and thirteen weeks ago was forced to take to her bed. The late Mrs. Sweeney was known and respected throughout the length and breadth of the district as a loving wife, a devoted and affectionate mother and a valued member of the old band of early residents who watched this and neighbouring districts grow from bush areas peopled by struggling settlers to cultivated lands held by well-established farmers. She was the mother of a family of six, Bridget, Mary, James, Patrick and William, and the deepest sympathy is extended to them and to her sorrowing husband in their bereavement. The deceased lady was the youngest of a family of nine, the three surviving members being Mr. M. Aherne (Mildura), Mrs. J. Feeney Snr. (Swanwater), and Mrs. J. Grogan (Litchfield). The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, the remains being laid to rest in the Donald Cemetery.

October 13. Jeffcott Picnic and Concert. Readers are reminded that the annual Jeffcott picnic will take place tomorrow as advertised, commencing at 2 p.m. It is worthy of note that the Jumble Stall, which will be erected on the ground, will carry a large and serviceable supply of children's and ladies' clothes, Xmas boxes, and other articles, in addition to the usual stock. The concert in the evening promises to be a splendid entertainment. One of the principal items will be a farce-comedy entitled _ "The Playgoers", the characters being taken by Mesdames E. Coats, A. Beckham, E. Pearse, Misses Sellick, M. Coats and A. Bailey and Messrs. G. Pearse and C. Gooden.

October 16. Fire at Jeffcott. On Tuesday last a fire broke out in the camp of the men employed by the Council at the Jeffcott quarry. Their tent, which was shared by Messrs. Shaw and T. Jones was, with all the material therein, completely destroyed.

October 20. Rifle Shooting. W. Sproat of Donald, when in the final stage of the Sydney "Kings" last week, had the misfortune to fire on the wrong target on two occasions. At 800 yards he placed a central "bull" on the next target, and at 900 yards a "magpie" was registered in the same manner. The Donald captain had shot consistently all through, and, had he been able to count the above scoring shots, he would have tied with J.H. Williams for second place in the big event. As it was, he notched up 17th place.

October 23, Health Officer's Report. The monthly report of the district Health Officer (Dr. W. J. Flanagan) to the Donald Shire Council contained, inter alia, the following passages;- "No cases of notifiable diseases have been notified during the month. During the past month, at the request of the school committee, I inspected the Corack North-East State School, where there was an outbreak of whooping cough. As there were 9 out of 12 children absent from school with the complaint, I advised that the school be closed and fumigated. Complaint had been made to me regarding the condition of the boys' conveniences at the Donald H.E. and State school. In consequence of my inspection, I found it necessary to request the shire secretary to communicate with the Education Department to have the matter righted at once, more particularly as summer is approaching. The Council should insist on immediate action in the interests of the health of the scholars. On the motion of Cr. G. Coats, the secretary was instructed to communicate with the Education department at once, asking that the complaint regarding the Donald school be immediately attended to".

October 27, The Mill Crossing. Some time ago the council wrote to the management of the Burnley Flour Mills asking that, if rebuilding operations or alterations were undertaken at the Donald mill, the storeroom which at present blocks the view northwards should be built back from Hammill Street, in order to make it easier for traffic to obtain greater warning of the approach of trains. The following reply has been received:- " We wish to inform you that the directors have not decided whether we will re-build at Donald, but, in the event of their doing so, we will certainly give your suggestion every consideration."