



## **BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 340 NOVEMBER 2025**

The Donald History Society held its Annual Meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Courthouse Museum.

Ann Dunstan was re-elected as President and Brian Brasier and Harold Flett will continue with their positions of Secretary and Treasurer respectively for another year.

The minor positions were also filled by the incumbents. The Society looks forward to another action-packed year.

### **Blasts from the Past. November 1925.**

**November 3. Personal.** Friends of Mr. Alec Muir of Meyer Street, will be pleased to learn that he is making good progress after his unfortunate accident. He was engaged in bringing cattle in to the saleyards on Friday, when the horse slipped on the railway near the school. The fall was so unexpected that Mr. Muir was unable to extricate himself in time, and his leg was broken above the ankle. He was removed to the St Arnaud Hospital for attention.

**November 6.** Request refused. At the last meeting of the Donald Shire Council, a letter was received from Mr. James Dowling, local secretary of the Australian Labor Party, applying for the use of the meeting room of the Shire hall on Thursday, October 29, for the purpose of holding a meeting of the local branch of the above organisation. The request was not acceded to.

**November 10. Unfortunate Accident.** On Friday, shortly after noon, the district was shocked to learn that a serious accident had befallen Mr. W. Clements, the popular sporting resident of Jeffcott. It appears that, between 11 a.m. and noon, he was riding a young horse, and had taken it to a nearby dam. After going down the incline, the horse which Mr. Clements was riding, evidently tried to scramble backwards up the bank or threw itself over on its back. Whatever happened must have been very sudden, as Mr. Clements was unable to extricate himself in time, and was crushed beneath the horse. He was found a few minutes later by

his brother who noticed a horse without a rider. Medical aid from Donald, Charlton and Wycheproof was at once summoned, as it was impossible to move Mr. Clements from his home. He was found to be badly crushed and bruised, his hip being broken. During the weekend little hope was entertained for his recovery, but we are pleased to relate that his condition yesterday morning appeared much easier, and his chances of recovery were regarded as considerably brighter. All residents of this and neighbouring districts will sympathise with Mr. Clements in his misfortune, and trust that his recovery may be speedy and complete. *(Bill Clements recovered and lived till the age of 69, dying in 1954. He continued as a well-known breeder and trainer of horses, with great success. He was a single man and was the great uncle of the Clements family members still living in Donald).*

**November 13. Painful Accident.** When making a billy of tea of the Freezing Works yesterday, Mr. M. Rush swung it round, as is often done, to cool it. He was unfortunate in having stood beneath one of the telescope doors, and the billy coming into contact with this, precipitated the boiling contents over his head and back. He sustained very painful scalds, and was immediately brought into town for medical attention.

**November 17. Prohibited Hours.** At the Donald Police Court on Thursday before Mr. H. R. McDonald P.M., William Burton, Hugh Abboton and William Brown were proceeded against on a charge of being found on the licensed premises of the Shamrock Hotel during prohibited hours. Constable Morrison said that at 8.15 p.m. on the evening of October 10, he went into the bar parlour, and there saw the defendant Brown playing cards with three others, the latter being boarders. On inspection of the book and interviewing the licensee, witness found that the defendant was not a boarder. While he was talking to Brown, the other two defendants walked in, and, when questioned said they had no excuse for being on the premises. The licensee was in another portion of the building and there was no evidence of any trade. A fine of 10/-, with 7/6 costs, was imposed in each case, Inspector Gough conducted the case for the prosecution.

**November 20. Litchfield's Latest .Large Hall Erected.** History was made at Litchfield on Wednesday evening when the newly erected Public Hall was officially opened. The beginning of a township is usually signalled by the establishment of a post office, generally at some centrally situated residence, after which, if progress is maintained, follows the store, the Hall or the Church. Sometimes the same building serves the purpose of church and hall together, but a district rarely recognises itself as a district until the generosity and public-spiritedness of its residents enable some such building to be erected. From a social viewpoint, therefore, Litchfield can now hold its head up in company, and can boast of possessing of the finest halls in the country areas of the north. As stated on Wednesday night by some of the speakers, the project took "some urging", but once decided was carried out with expedition and with an eye on the future. (This was followed by a detailed description of the building and an account of the Dinner which featured a number of speeches. The evening concluded with a Concert)

**November 24, Corack East.** The ringing of the fire bell in Wycheproof recently summoned any willing helpers who immediately travelled to Corack East to Mr. J. Brennan's farm. Mrs. Brennan, who was quick to notice the fire start, communicated by telephone with neighbouring farmers and others, and they were soon on the scene of the outbreak, which, owing to such prompt action, was stopped before any serious damage to the crops was effected. The fire was checked on entering the fringe of a crop which was still slightly green.

**November 27. Railway Prosecutions.** Before Mr. W. G. Pearse J.P. on Tuesday November 12, James Kennedy was charged with having used obscene language in a railway carriage between Melbourne and Donald. A fine of £1 in default 48 hours imprisonment was imposed. A charge against the same defendant of having wilfully broken a window, the property of the Railways Department, was withdrawn, defendant undertaking to pay the cost of the window (17/6).

**Advertisement for a FORD truck. DURABLE – ECONOMICAL -ADAPTABLE** The Ford one ton Truck is daily demonstrating these qualities and Mr. Charles Williams of "Spraydon", Urana, reports that his Ford one-ton Truck carted two thousand six hundred bags of wheat to Cullivel siding in a very short period. With six trips to and from the farm, the Truck averaged sixty miles per day on one tin of spirit costing ten shillings. After allowing for wages and wear and tear, the cost of cartage averaged threepence per bag, while the contract price for the same distance with horses and wagon is sixpence per bag. An achievement such as this is the result of Ford reliability proved over a long period of years of flawless dependable service. Your nearest authorised Ford dealer will furnish you with further facts and figures regarding a Ford truck to serve your needs.

**FORD TRUCK PRICES.** Chassis (WITHOUT Electric Starter) £155. TRUCK (complete with Standard Body) £175. TRUCK (complete with Standard Body and Electric Starter) £203.