



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 342 MARCH 2026

Enquiries There have not been many enquiries for February, so they have been held over until next month.

Blasts from the Past. March 1926

March 2. A Lively Time. At the Donald Police Court on Thursday last, before Messrs. A. Hepworth, M.W. Kemmis and G.A. Forer, J's.P., John Stewart was charged with having on February 24, unlawfully assaulted J.R. Page. Senior-Constable Gibson conducted the prosecution. Mr. J.R. Page, of the Grand Central Hotel, said that he was awakened about 3.30 o'clock on the morning of February 24 (Cup Day) by the sound of skylarking and singing in room number 11. He came down from upstairs, and on entering the room saw a man named O'Connor and another man, who were not lodgers at the hotel. He asked them to leave. They defied him and O'Connor pushed him on to one of the beds. Witness got up and succeeded in getting O'Connor out of the room into the passage. Here, another man from inside the room intervened, jumping on the witness' back, and bearing him to the floor. O'Connor then attempted to put the boot into him, but he succeeded in warding off the blow with his arm, which bore a large bruise and abrasions. Stewart had been asleep in bed, and one of the others in the room woke him up, after which he rushed out into the passage, and with the other two, gave witness a rough time until Mrs. Page came down and intervened. Witness then rang the police, and later gave Stewart and O'Connor in charge. The prosecution then submitted a list of seven convictions alleged to have been recorded against Stewart, but which were denied by him. When asked whether the photograph produced was of himself, Stewart replied "I couldn't tell you". Stewart, on oath, said he was an engineer, and that he had had a few drinks before going to bed on Tuesday night. At the time of the disturbance he was asleep. While in bed he was assaulted, and jumped up. He was "pushed and shoved" out into the passage. He was purely a victim of circumstances, and for all the active part he had played in the affair, he should not be in Court at all. In answer to Senior Constable Gibson, Stewart said there had been a light in the room at the time. He did not put his hand on Mr. Page, and did not remember Mrs. Page in the affair at

all. "I went to bed with my trousers on, that's how "shot" I was" he concluded. The Bench imposed a fine of £10 in default three month's imprisonment. The fine was paid.

March 5. Sad Fatality. The whole district was shocked on Wednesday evening to learn that death had overtaken Mr. Robert Vince, a resident of the Carron district, in a sudden and tragic manner. It appears the deceased went to try Carron Lake, in company with Messrs. F.O. Middleton, Robert Gow and Fred Hadwell, on a duck-shooting excursion, and subsequently had occasion to go into a neighbouring dam to retrieve a duck which had been shot. Deceased was a good swimmer, but got into difficulties in the water, which was extremely cold, and despite the efforts of Messrs. Middleton and Hadwell who attempted to pass him a piece of wire netting, and in turn found themselves in difficulties, he sank and was drowned. The sad fatality cast quite a gloom over the community, throughout Carron and neighbouring districts, in which the deceased was well known and highly respected, being the son of Mrs. Geo. Vince of Geelong and the late Mr. Geo. Vince, and a brother of Mr. O. Vince of Warracknabeal and Mrs. P. Middleton of Carron, to whom we join in extending the deepest sympathy. The late Mr. Vince was 36 years of age and was born in Minyip.

March 9 Personal. Messrs. H. Borden, J.M. Borden and A. J. Mullane passed through Donald yesterday en route to Ballarat where they will represent the Watchem branch of the V.F.U. at the annual conference. Messrs. W.N. Pearse, J.E. Letcher, C. Trollope and C.W. Basset also left yesterday to represent the Donald branch.

March 12. Personal. Mr. "Pat" Bellett met with a painful accident on Wednesday last. He was riding a bicycle in the vicinity of Mr. R. Falla's residence at the corner of Blair and Houston streets, when, by some mischance, he was thrown from the machine, with the result he sustained a broken arm, above the wrist.

March 16. Jeffcott. An achievement worthy of note was put up by the scholars of the Jeffcott North State School at the examination just prior to the Xmas vacation. Four scholars sat for the merit and all succeeded, and in addition four received their qualifying passes. At the previous examination two merits were obtained and seven qualifying passes. It is noteworthy that at each examination held at this school, which was only erected on its present site two years ago (It was previously at Corack), full points had been secured by the scholars, a record that few, if any, school in the State can boast of. The successful scholars at the last examination were:- Mary Conlan, Jack Donnellon, Annie Conlan and Katherine Brennan (merits); Winifred Donnellon, James Brennan, Thomas Brennan and Jack Brennan (qualifying passes). After the examination the district inspector, Lieut.-Colonel Bateman warmly congratulated the teacher (Mr. T. McConville) and his pupils on their success, remarking this was an achievement which pointed to the hard work and most loyal co-operation and understanding between teacher and scholars. The scholars attending the school are an exceptionally bright and intelligent lot, who are losing no opportunity to equip themselves for the battles of life which may present themselves when they grow to man

and womanhood. (*We have reported before that the teacher Mr. T. McConville was actually Esmond Thomas McConville. He was at the Jeffcott School from 1922-1927*).

March 19. Police Court. Charge of False Pretences. Before H. H. McDonald P.M. and A. Hepworth J.P. At the Donald Police Court yesterday, Stanley A. McLehnan (or McLehane) was charged with false pretences by obtaining £6 from the Grand Central Hotel by means of a valueless cheque. He was committed for trial at the Castlemaine General Sessions on April 14. Bail was fixed at £100, with his own surety for a similar amount, accused's stepfather becoming bondsman.

March 23. Shire Notice. Drivers of Tractors are warned that Tractor Traffic in Wood Street, Donald, from Blair Street to Hammill Street, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. is prohibited, Penalty £20. By order E. W. Rigg, C.E. Secretary and Engineer.

March 26. County Court Case. On Wednesday, before Judge Winneke, of the County Court, Donald, Willie Dark, market gardener, claimed from W. Platt, fruiterer of Donald, the sum of £63/1/3 for vegetables sold and delivered in 1925. The total account was shown as £132/1/3, of which £70 had been paid, leaving the above balance. After hearing evidence, particulars of which will appear on Tuesday, judgement was given for Dark for payment of £50, with costs against the defendant.