

# IDLE CHATTER Mark II

Newsletter No: 13

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012

This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Centenary Committee

## Sponsored by Delta Agribusiness

When we first started talking about our Centenary and a possible History Book, Vesna Gregory gave me a blue folder of bits and pieces that she had saved from being thrown out in a big clean up at the school about 10 years ago.

The following gem was amongst those papers.

### RANDOM RAMBLINGS ROUND QUANDIALLA 1923 – 1926

By R.S. Grinter

Who was R.S. Grinter?

*Rupert Stanley Grinter was born in Victoria on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1901. His family lived in Victoria until they took up a property north of Berrigan. In 1923 Rupert left Berrigan to work for his Uncle Walter at Quandialla.*

"I arrived in Quandialla on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 1923 where I went to work for my Uncle Walter and the winter of 1923 was a very wet one.

Walter Thomas Grinter was the first of the Grinters to settle in Quandialla. He and his wife Helen settled on a property called "Glendalyne", now owned by the Troy family. It was approx. 12 miles out of town and covered an area of about 500 or so acres.

The train that stopped at Quandialla came from Stockinbingal and travelled on up to Forbes one day and returned the next. It was "goods with passenger accommodation". The railway station was unattended the closest station with staff was either Forbes or Stockinbingal.

Uncle Walter had about twenty four "hay burners" (horses) so we always seemed to be cutting chaff to feed them. He had a Cliff and Bunting chaff cutter driven by a cantankerous single cylinder engine. It was an open

crank type of engine of American origin called a Waterloo Boy. It did get called other names from time to time, but most of these are unprintable.

On Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1923 I left Quandialla by rail for Berrigan to help my father with the harvest. He was contract farming on "NANGUNIA STATION" which was owned by the McKenzie Brothers. I returned to Quandialla by rail on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1924, Gus McNamara drove me out to my Uncle Walters farm in his little red car, it was called a Carnation.

From here on I farmed the property called "DAISY MEADOWS", now called "WILLAWA" and owned by Bob Slade. I originally signed the papers for "Daisy Meadows" in 1923, Joe Cord, who owned the property wanted to purchase a property at Tottenham but was not allowed to own both. My Uncle Walter was renting "Daisy Meadows" from Joe Cord and had a crop growing there. So as not to lose his crop to a new owner when Joe Cord sold, it was decided that I should buy the property, and so that is how I became a "RICH ??????" land owner in Quandialla. Incidentally, "Daisy Meadow" covered the "large" area of 512 acres."

*There is much more of R.S. Grinter's memories and I will be including them in later editions of Idle Chatter Mark II*

## THE FUTURE – CENTENARY NEWS

***You are INVITED to ATTEND***

### QUANDIALLA CENTENARY MEETING

When: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012

Time: 7.30 pm

Where: Bland Hotel

ALL WELCOME

## NOW

**The Carolan Family Get Together:** Just so you know, all the strange people wandering the streets of Quandialla on the weekend prior to the Melbourne Cup will be part of the Carolan Family. Mary Deery nee Carolan will be hosting her family who will have travelled from QLD, VIC & parts of NSW. 30 odd adults and as many children will be enjoying the facilities of the Bland Hotel, Bowling Club, Café and Deery Family. I hope the weather is perfect for your weekend it's a great idea gathering together and just catching up while seeing a bit more of the country.

Please Note: An extra Liturgy will be held on the Sunday at 10am.

**Sad News:** Mrs Val Russell (former resident of the district) has passed away

**Quandialla Cricket Club** Quandialla V Alleena

Preparations have been done, working bee held, mowing completed ready for this Saturday's Home game at the Quandialla Cricket Pitch on the Showground. Game starts at 1pm Free Entry to the ground. Come and cheer the 2012 Quandialla Team. Pom Poms & short skirts - Optional.

**Quandialla Pool:** You will be delighted to hear the Pool will be opening on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. More information re: times cost etc. out soon.

**My Apologies:** I have realised that I have been very rude to some readers of IC over the past few days. I have been asked on quite a few occasions when our next meeting will be held and as it was in last weeks' IC I have replied "read the newsletter". I'm slow sometimes but I have worked out that there has been a misunderstanding. Our meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month and those readers not realising there are 5 Wednesdays this month thought this Wednesday past was the last one. So please accept my apologies if you thought I sounded a little terse I was getting exasperated with so many people asking me, I didn't realise you were only querying the date.

**Clarification:** The very handsome mail run person has been thinking about the previous IC's I have written and has made the comment that every time I have mentioned him he is either drinking or buying a drink. So I need to rectify this matter straight away, those few times mentioned are the ONLY times John has had a drink in his life, until last Saturday when he enjoyed himself at Courtney's engagement party on WATER - code for beer

**Melbourne Cup Calcutta Tickets:** On sale now at the Café, Hotel & PO

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

 Extracts from IDLE CHATTER

**This same day in 1956**

Extract from IDLE CHATTER NO. 27 THURS. OCT 25<sup>TH</sup> 1956

*Another one and a half inches of rain and Quandialla will break the record of 1951 which was very close to thirty eight inches. In common with most folks I hope the record stands for a long time.*

*Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Darcy Causer .....a daughter*

*This Saturday the Acme Theatre presents for your entertainment, Jane Wyman and Ray Millard in "Let's do it again". The supporting picture is "Invasion USA 2" and the posters tell me that I will see New York topple San Francisco in flames and the great Boulder Dam destroyed. Sounds like a smashing programme to me.*

Last week I promised to include a report on the Bowling Club hosting the Golf Club the following is a slightly condensed version due to space.

NO. 26 THURS. OCT 18<sup>TH</sup> 1956

*Monday morning and here I sit all doubled up with aches and pains. It would be an easy matter to pick out the golfers from the bowlers. The bowlers have a bulge on the front side and the golfers have pains on the other side. I can see that the game of bowls needs revising I am going to press for the abolishment of the underarm delivery. The cause of all this trouble came from the fact that the Bowling Club invited the Golfers for a day's fun and sport. What a welcome they gave us. At the entrance they had a drafting gate, and I still can't work out what the idea was. All my mates went in on the one side and yet as soon as I attempted to get through, they opened the other side of the race. I wonder why.....and I don't need any remarks from my dear, dear friend about this matter. It was most obvious that they mixed us up so no side could claim a victory. Smart blokes these Bowlers. The peaceful serenity of the afternoon was somewhat shattered by the raucous voices of the players from No. 7 rink. This was in direct contrast to the gentlemanly behaviour of the players on No. 3. I wonder do all "Skips" wear that disgusted pained expression as did Sam Ballard and Sid Ward? Perhaps there was a cause. Let's have a look at the teams. Noel George, Frosty George, Jack Mitchell....Ah! that explains why Sam was so glum and on the other side Sid was probably saddened by the inclusion of Ken Harris, Peter Powderly and Fred Marris. Not daunted by the ferocious glares of the Skippers we went on our merry way, and just to show that they couldn't order us about, we proceeded to put the bowls anywhere but where they wanted them. We had a great afternoon's sports and it will be a pleasure to repeat the fixture. I only wish I could illustrate this article, I could show you some choice snaps.*

Cheers **Sue Priestley**