

IDLE CHATTER Mark II

Newsletter No: 7

Thursday 13th September 2012

This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Centenary Committee

Sponsored by Lindsay & Deb Martin

**It's marvellous what you find when you are looking
for something else.....**

In 2008 John received a lovely letter from a lady named Noelene Bently nee Donaldson. Noelene saw the "Landline" show (21.9.08) that reported on the Echidna play/actors and Quandialla community, and Noelene's memories came rushing back. The following is a condensed version of that letter.

In 1941 Noelene (who was 11 years old at the time) and her mother Florence Jackson travelled by train from Central Station to Cootamundra where they changed to a little silver train called the "Beetle" that put them out at Stockinbingal, where Mr Bede Healy picked them up. Noelene's mother was going to work as a house maid at the Bland Hotel and did so until Mr Healy sold the hotel at a later date.

Things Noelene remembers about Quandialla.....

Attending the Catholic School where the Sisters' were very nice to her and singing in the hall at a concert all those years ago (this would have been in the first hall). Her best memory of the Hall was going to the pictures on a Saturday night and at the interval going to the milk bar opposite the hotel to buy the best meat pies ever made and then back to the hall to see the second half that is if the projector was working.

The troop trains coming through at all hours of the night and the ladies serving cake & tea to the boys and giving out knitted socks (she often wondered if they fitted).

She can still see the main street, all the shops and the bank on the other side of the street (her best friend lived there) the Police Station was next door to the milk bar.

Going out to a friend's farm for the weekend but ended up staying for a week because it rained so hard. She remembers the many dust storms and the many windows at the hotel and the cleaning afterwards.

Another fond memory was sitting around the wireless on a Saturday night trying to hear Vera Lynn & Gracie Fields. Going to the saleyards after it had rained to collect mushrooms for Phyllis the hotel cook, who would cook them with butter to have on toast that Noelene had cooked with a wire fork over the open fire.

One name she remembers is a Mr Napier who was very kind to her. Noelene also enclosed three photos of herself and her mother at the Bland Hotel and her 6th class convent school report card dated December 1943.

Noelene and her mother moved back to Sydney (date unknown), Noelene married in 1953 had two sons and has two granddaughters. At the time of writing Noelene and her husband are living in Bateau Bay. It was a wonderful letter to receive and when we came across it last week I thought we should share it with you.

P.S. I still haven't found what I was originally looking for.

THE FUTURE – CENTENARY NEWS

HISTORY BOOK:

As part of the Centenary we will be honouring the people who developed this district and built the communities and facilities, by gathering their stories.

On the weekend of the 6th & 7th October we will try to establish a picture of what information is available – photographs, writings, oral accounts and stories etc.

Our Committee feels that a Centenary Book is possible. We have a great story to tell so let's pool our resources and make it happen.

Watch this space next week for further details of the weekend.

NOW

LAKE TO LAGOON FUN RUN/WALK/BIKE RIDE: Another group of very fit ladies travelled down to Wagga last weekend and joined in the Lake to Lagoon event. Very pleased to report that Dorothy Troy has kept up her winning mode by charging down a little old lady in a red hat only metres from the finishing line to collect a 2nd place in her age race. (I might have embroidered that report a little but there was definitely a lady in a red hat and Dorothy did take out 2nd spot). Jillian Causer gained a 3rd place in her age group, while Mellissa Causer, Vicki Troy, Judy McAlister and Margaret Spratt all bettered their times from the previous year. Actually both Judy and Margaret have reported that they were very pleased with their performance and even more pleased that they could still walk the next day. Well done to all those ladies, I admire your energy and commitment. If there was a "fun day eating chocolate event" I would be there with bells on. I would even walk over cut glass to get there.

Quandialla Progress & Hall Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th Sept at 7.30pm in the Hall. All Welcome.

Caragabal Sheep Races are on this Saturday 15th Sept. at the Caragabal Country Golf Club. Gates open 11am, first race at 12.30pm.

What's Happening in Quandt on Friday Night: Bland Hotel Poker Draw did not go off last week and has now jackpotted to \$1140. My thoughts and condolences go out to that lovely lady that chose the left card instead of the right or was it the right instead of the left. (I'm sure someone will tell me). I felt your pain but you have more control than me. I would have kicked the chair while Frog was still sitting on it. When this draw is completed you can move onto the Club where their jackpot draw is now \$2400 or win some meat trays in the Friday Night Meat Raffle. No one has to sit at home because there is nothing to do – there's places to go and people to see - we do it every week.

WANTED: A wooden wardrobe if you have one stashed away in that back room and would like to sell it please ring Deb Martin Ph: 0458 674 298

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Extracts from IDLE CHATTER

NO: 7

THURS JUNE 7TH 1956

I have been requested by Mrs R Penfold to leave a bit more space at the end of this sheet. On enquiring for the reason, I was told that it saved a lot of time for lazy letter writers. All they had to do was write a few words on the bottom of the sheet and post the thing away complete. I start a news sheet and finish up writing letters. What next?

NO: 8

LOOK AHEAD

THURS JUNE 14TH 1956

Every Association and private individual should now be pressing for the road from Bimbi to Wyalong to be declared a main road. Before any temporary work is carried out, kick, and kick hard. One thing is certain that if you don't get it declared now, then you never will. The fact that the Highway has been closed should prove favourable to the demand, and the business people at Wyalong and Grenfell are solidly behind you. Give it a go.

NO: 17

S.O.S.

THURS AUG 16TH 1956

Oh preserve me from irate women. A veritable tornado blew into my office the other day and left me speechless (a hard thing to do). And what do you think was wrong? I wrote that she and another had been beaten at bowls, when such was not the case. Actually she was very nice about it but for such a charming person I am only too pleased to correct the error, but now I suppose I am in for trouble from the other side. Mrs T Armour and Mrs M Harris DEFEATED Mrs T Ward and C Harris by 33 to 8

This same day in 1956

Extract from IDLE CHATTER NO. 21

THURS. SEPT 13TH 1956

GOLF IN QUANDI. *24 members rolled up for 18 holes stroke competition for a trophy presented by the President, Mick Timmins. The winner was Noel George with a 59. Down with him Norman! Snow Sinclair surprisingly ran second with a 63, while Don Troth, Peter Powderly and Allen Kelly were on 64. Next Sunday another 18 holes stroke will be held, commencing at 1.30 pm.*

Cheers **Sue Priestley**