

## **Articles taken from newspapers & Magazines**

BA – Burnett Advocate  
CA – Cloncurry Advocate  
CM – Courier Mail  
CP – Cairns Post  
NI – New Idea  
NQR – North Qld Register  
SBT – South Burnett Times  
SM – Sunday Mail  
TDB – Townsville Daily Bulletin

ATL – an article by Along the Line  
BB – an article by Bill Bowyang, “On the Track”  
MHC – Mondure Hall Committee  
A – article  
JCN – JC Notes  
Ad – Advertisement  
D – Don’s ads for women

NOTE: Headings are in the form: **1 Jan 1901 (p1, NQ001, NQR)**.

- The first characters in brackets are the page number ("S" instead of "p" means the supplement section of the NQR);
- The second is the original archive reference, now obsolete, having been replaced by an archived file such as NQR300225, for example (NQR 25 Feb 1930). The numbers following NQR are the date in the form YYMMDD. NA means not archived;
- The third is the newspaper.

Some of the newspaper codes may have been mixed up. If an NQR of a certain date can't be found, try CA of the same date.

### **10 Sep 1906 (p28, NA, NQR)**

Brisbane, Sep 6 – Mr Pagan, the Chief Engineer for Railways, returned yesterday after inspecting the Townsville, Cairns and part of the Cooktown railways. He had an opportunity of making a personal acquaintance with the position of the extension of the northern railway from Richmond towards Cloncurry and Mr Pagan yesterday confirmed the announcement that plate laying on this section will commence on Sep 10. At the present time rails for between 60 and 70 miles are being landed at Townsville and these were being sent forward as quickly as possible and enough sleepers had been secured with which to make a start.

### **10 Sep 1906 (p59, NA, NQR)**

The Cloncurry Line

Its Progress

The following information was gathered during the course of a conversation with Mr W Pagan, Chief Engineer of Qld Railways on the Aramac on her last trip from Cairns to Townsville, and which conversation commenced without either party being aware of the other's identity.

The newspaper man opened with the regular put-your-foot-in-it remark that they seemed to be progressing very slowly with the Richmond Railway extension. “Oh, I don’t know,” replied the gentleman addressed, “things are pretty well ahead; I told the Premier I’d have the line out at the 90-mile in March and it will be there.”

The use of the personal pronoun had a somewhat strange sound, until it slowly dawned on the pressman that in his efforts to open a discussion on a subject which in its present and future aspects in regard to the progress of our back country, and the importance it now occupies in the public eye, seemed likely to provide subject matter sufficient for a long and interesting “yarn” he had been guilty of a blunt criticism addressed personally to one whose use of “I” gave an impression that he was a leading man in the Railway Service but of whose identity he had not the least idea.

And so it proved. He made himself known as Mr Pagan, the Chief Inspector of Railways and continuing

the conversation had much to say that will be of importance to those who are anxiously watching the preparations for the building of the Cloncurry line.

With regard to the obtaining of railway sleepers on which matter there has been much discussion lately, he said that despite all the papers had to say on the matter, the rates offered for sleepers were quite sufficient. Cutters could make good wages at the work but the trouble was that they could get no teams to take in what they had cut. They had experienced the same troubles with the Goondiwindi line and down there he had to lend them timber waggons, allowing them to work out the price. And they might have to do that here. They had given a man a contract for 100,000 sleepers at Cardwell. After a time he asked to have the contract reduced to 50,000 and then to 25,000 as he found he could not procure the higher numbers; and then as the sleepers were still coming forward in a very unsatisfactory manner, they took over the contractor's sawmill, sent up timber waggons and were now working the contract on their own.

"And making a success of it?"

"When we take anything up in earnest, it's got to be a success," was the quick reply.

Mr Pagan also remarked that plate laying would be commenced on Monday [that will be next Monday]. Of course, he said, we commenced laying before, and have in fact half a mile of line laid out from Richmond, but it was no use commencing in earnest until we had sufficient material in hand and coming forward to keep the work going without stoppages as the platelayers were an independent class of men and could not be expected to stay unless they had regular employment. And it was no use risking breaking up the gangs.

Asked as to whether the line would be immediately continued from the 90 Mile, Mr Pagan said that of course he could say no more than the Premier had already said, but believed that that statement would be carried out.

He had every reason for saying that the line would be through to the 90-mile by March unless there was a very wet season, when, of course, work on blacksoil would be out of the question. "But", he remarked, "a good wet season will be of much greater importance to Qld than a month or so delay in the construction of the Cloncurry line."

In reply to a question as to how these unballasted lines were standing the work, he said they were very satisfactory. They were built at £1400 a mile and the only question was whether they were to the advantage of the country to have these cheap lines run out to new fields, and then, in say ten years time, if the traffic had increased to such an extent as to warrant it, the line could be ballasted.

In regard to the damage to the Richmond line during the last rains, he remarked that the chief trouble was the want of filling-in material; the blacksoil was of course, no use. On an older line they could easily have procured old sleepers and made pigsties of them to support the line. As it was, he said, he intended commencing the sanding [laying sand] of some parts of that line next year.

Speaking on the question of transcontinental lines, and on the subject of joining our lines out from the coast so as to provide a through service, he remarked that the extension to Cloncurry, to be in accordance with the generally accepted idea of extension, should have started from Winton and that town connected with Longreach.

As to the transcontinental line from West Australia to Adelaide, he remarked that he was a member of the Commission that sat on the matter. It was not that the country was sandy but that it was waterless. But there would be considerable traffic for the line and there was no getting away from the fact that West Australia had entered the Federation on the understanding that the line would be built.

#### **17 Sep 1906 (p86, NA, NQR)**

Richmond, Sep 12 – Plate laying commenced on Monday last, a quarter of a mile being laid that day. A ballast train is now busily engaged on the extension. Sleepers and rails still continue to arrive. Two trains unloaded spikes and rails this morning.

#### **24 Sep 1906 (p18, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry, Sep 15 – Your last NQR tells us that the Richmond-Cloncurry extension was going to start

for sure on the tenth of this month. This is very good news and we all hope it is true and that when the Department once get a go-on they will keep it going. One wants to be in this district for some time to fully appreciate how hungry the place is for railway communication and it would be a difficult matter for the cleverest of us to say exactly what is going to happen when the railway is an accomplished fact. It certainly must mean the employment of a good thousand more men on the field.

**6 May 1907 (p10, 070506, TDB)**

Immigration to Qld  
Nominated Passengers

Permanent residents in Qld wishing to obtain passages for their friends or relatives in the UK or the Continent of Europe may do so under the provisions of the Immigration Act at the following rates:—

Males between one and twelve years, £2; between twelve and forty, £5; over forty and under fifty-five, £10

Females between one and twelve, £1; between twelve and forty, £3; over forty and under fifty-five, £10.

Males and females fifty-five and upwards, £16. Infants under 1 are free ...

**13 May 1907 (p37, NA, NQR)**

Richmond, May 7 – On Saturday the Richmond to Cloncurry line had reached to the 80.5 miles beyond Richmond; this gives a total of 3.5 miles laid in the week.

**10 Jun 1907 (p67, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry News

Mr Pagan accompanied by the railway Commissioner and others arrived by special coach yesterday. It is the intention of the Government to put on a number of men making cuttings at this end, which is mountainous, so as to allow of every facility to get the railway through by Christmas.

**17 Jun 1907 (p8, 070617a, NQR)**

Cloncurry Notes

Cloncurry, 10 June – On Thursday last the Railway Party arrived, consisting of Messrs Pagan, Chief Engineer for Railways; Letham, Chief of the Railway Survey Department; Bashford, one of the engineers in charge of the construction works; and Collyer, Mr Regan's private secretary.

The following morning they paid a visit to the railway terminus where they chose a site for the station buildings and afterwards fixed up the preliminaries with regard to the putting in of a siding to the Great Australina mine which was fixed near the smelter site. Mr Pagan feels confident that he will be able to fill Mr Kidston's promise of having the train running into Cloncurry before the end of the year.

Mr Bashford is here with the intention of starting the earthworks and cuttings that would be required at this end so as to be ready for the rails when they reached the mountainous country. A lot of cutting is necessary at this end for the last 20 miles and it is Mr Bashford's intention to put on numbers of men forthwith, also a quantity of drays.

Mr Pagan received word on Friday from Mr Munro, the engineer in charge of the construction works, stating that they would be prepared to take heavy machinery and loading after the 10th instant and he hoped to be able to run two trams every week on Tuesdays and Saturdays, starting from the 18th instant when passengers and goods would be carried. Mr Pagan expects Cloncurry to be a very big centre for railway traffic and is making every preparation to cope with it.

Mr Pagan proposes to continue the railway line on to the Cloncurry River from where he will obtain ballast for the whole of the line and he also intends to sink a soakage in the river for the use of the locomotive as the water in the town wells was found to be unsuitable ...

**17 Jun 1907 (p8, 070617b, NQR)**

A Wonderful Asset

### Qld Artesian Water Supplies The Flows Gradually Diminishing ("Brisbane Daily Mail")

On the sun-baked plains of the Far West where the rivers marked on official maps are, in dry spells, merely beds of sand, a surface supply of water would be a fast diminishing quantity. The evaporation would be so great that if surface water – rain fed creeks and rivers – were the only means of supply, the country, during even a moderate drought, would be little more than an uninhabitable waste. But nature has given the Western plains a supply which, be the heat ever so intense, cannot be diminished by this well recognised law. Man conceived the parasol as a protection against the enervating heat of a summer's sun. The great sub-artesian water supplies of Central Australia are protected more substantially – by thousands of feet of mother earth.

There are many people who live superficially. They know there is a post and telegraph service but know nothing of the delicate machinery which is the soul of that service. They know that the city is fed, simply because they themselves are provided with three meals a day at the orthodox hours, but how the thousand of tons of comestibles are produced, gathered and distributed is a study they have never had the inclination to undertake. They skim along with the current listlessly; the surface is sufficient for them; to delve into the why and the wherefore and the how would be too great a tax on their rusty mental machinery. How few there are in Qld who have any further knowledge of our artesian supply than the mere fact that is is from such that our Western sheep walks and cattle runs are watered?

To review the various theories entertained by geologists with regard to the origin of artesian water supplies would take up much more space than is available. Moreover, the ground has been traversed before. How many bores are there in Qld? What is the aggregate daily flow? Is there any indication of the flows diminishing? Is there judicious Government control or is wilful waste permitted? These are questions which should interest Qlders at the present moment. A journal which is the recognised mouthpiece of the pastoralists of Australia stated in its last issue the flows in some instances were decreasing.

For answers to at least three of the questions mentioned one naturally turns to official records. The result is not satisfactory. The last annual report on artesian bores, prepared by the Government Hydraulic Engineer, covers the 12 months ended the 30th June 1904. For two years no reports have been published. The engineer, Mr Henderson, is known throughout Australia as an enthusiast in his work, consequently the only conclusion which suggest itself is that the engineer has been called upon to do so much that he has not had time to gather and compile the information which has always given his reports – especially the section devoted to artesian supplies – more than ordinary interest.

### Some Interesting Figures

In the absence of later statistics, the 1904 report must be utilised. It is estimated that about 56 percent of the whole area of Qld is capable of furnishing artesian supplies of greater or less volume. Approximately, this percentage represents 376,000 square miles. The bores known to the department at the time the report was compiled numbered 573. The average depth of the bores was estimated at 1221 ft whilst it was calculated that the aggregate depth bored was 1,183,211 ft. equal to 225.04 miles. But what is the flow from these numerous bores? No less (estimated of course) than 390,846,909 gallons daily. As quite a number of bores have been completed since 1904 it is fairly safe to assume that as present the vast underground water supply of the West is being tapped at fully 1000 places. Basing a calculation on the average output mentioned in the 1904 report, it is gathered that the annual flow from these bores would cover 808 square miles of country to a depth of one foot. Two other interesting facts are to be gleaned from the official records. The deepest bore is to be found on Bimerah run, 5045 ft. The warmest water is that which flows from what is known as the No 2 bore on Elderslie – 202 degrees. The Bimerah bore provides only a small supply – 70,000 gallons daily. The daily flow from the No 2 Elderslie, however is estimated at 1,600,000 gallons.

### Handling of the Asset

The figures quoted emphasise this fact: That Qld has a wonderful asset in her underground reservoirs. And how is the asset being treated? Inquiries made yesterday elicited the fact that there has been a gradual and fairly general diminution in the flows. The statement was not made with any desire to create alarm. Yet the matter is important enough to call for serious consideration.

Qld is not peculiar in her possession of artesian water supplies. Other countries are blessed with a similar

asset, but they have learned the need for nursing and controlling it. At present there is absolutely no control over the tapping and use of artesian water in Qld. A station owner enjoys absolute liberty in that direction. He may put down as many bores and may use or waste the water at his own sweet will. If, with the supply being tapped at 1000 place, the flows are gradually decreasing, will the diminution not be more marked when increased settlement results in the great reservoir being tapped in thrice 1000 places. The correct answer is the obvious one.

Fifteen or 16 years ago the Hydraulic Engineer realising the possibility of waste, induced the Government of the day to introduce a bill providing for some measure of state control. The bill passed through the Lower House but in the 'other place' it was less successful. Since that time no attempt has been made to introduce controlling legislation; this notwithstanding that Mr Henderson has frequently drawn attention to its need.

#### NSW Takes Definite Action

It has already been indicated that in other countries artesian supplies have been brought in a greater or lesser degree under Government control. In the US such control exists but the need has been realised much nearer home. Only last year the NSW Legislation passed an Act dealing with the subject. Put briefly, the provisions of the measure are as follows: No artesian well may be commenced, enlarged or deepened or be altered so as to increase the flow of water therefrom without a license first being obtained from the controlling department. A contravention of this provision carries a penalty not exceeding £100 and a further penalty of £5 for each day during which the contravention continues. An application for a license must be accompanied by plans and descriptions, together with a statement of the purposes for which it is proposed to utilise the water. In due course the application is advertised in a newspaper circulating the district. A public inquiry is then held as to the desirability of the application being granted, and any person whose interests may be affected may demand to be heard, either in support of, or in opposition to the granting of the application. A person effecting alterations to a licensed bore without first having obtained official sanction, is liable to a penalty, and if the Minister is of opinion that water is being wastefully or improperly used, he may direct the partial closing of the bore, or such other precautions as he may deem necessary.

These stringent provisions indicate that in the mother state it has been found necessary to protect what is undoubtedly the property of the whole people. It may reasonably be said that the time has come when some similar and effective action should be taken in Qld.

#### **17 Jun 1907 (p21, NA, NQR)**

The Cloncurry Line

Shoving it Along

(By Telegraph)

Cloncurry, Jun 10 – Mr Pagan, Chief Engineer for Railways, Mr Letheen, Chief of the Railway Survey Department, and Mr Bashford, one of the engineers in charge of construction works, arrived on Thursday and fixed the site for the railway station. They also arranged to put a siding into the Great Australian mine which siding the Government is to put in at the cost of the mine.

In the course of an interview Mr Pagan said he had every confidence in having rails sufficient to get to Cloncurry by the end of the present year. He had brought Mr Bashford out with the intention of starting the earth works and cuttings which would be required in the last twenty miles and so be ready for the rails when they reached that far. It was his intention to put on men and teams forthwith paying the current rate of wages 10/- a day. He had sufficient rails coming to finish the line and the last shipment was expected to land in August.

Sleepers were coming forward without any trouble and they were prepared to take heavy machinery and loading after 10th June to JC. He hoped to be able to run two regular trains every week on Tuesday and Saturday starting on the 13th June.

#### **24 Jun 1907 (p7, NA, NQR)**

It is impossible to say at present when the portion of the Cloncurry line from Richmond to JC will be handed over by the construction branch to the traffic branch as 3 1/2 miles of bridge work remains to be constructed and it is not considered advisable yet to open the line until that has been done.

Arrangements have been made however, to run material trains according to time table. A train carrying

goods and passengers will leave Richmond at 6.30 am on Tuesdays and arrive at JC at 1 o'clock and return about 9 pm. On Saturday a train will leave Richmond at 12.30pm and return from JC on Sunday morning.

Until the line has been opened to public traffic goods and passengers will be booked to and from Richmond only and must book again at Richmond for the stations on the unopened line. The stations on the unopened portion of the line have been fixed as follows: Maxwelton, 30 miles from Richmond; Nonda, 43 miles; Nelia Ponds, 61 miles; and JC, 91 miles.

### **8 Jul 1907 (p25, 70708, NQR)**

Railway Construction

[distances are miles from Hughenden]

Mr WH Munro, resident engineer on the railway under construction from Richmond to Cloncurry, has submitted a progress report to the Railway Department dealing with the work in course of progress. He says that clearing has been completed to 176 miles, cuttings to 161 miles, and forming to 165 miles. Side ditches have been dug to 158 miles and cattle grids have been laid to 114 miles. Bridges have been completed to 133 miles and others are in course of progress to 136 miles. Concrete pipes and open side drains have been completed 115 miles. The rails have been laid as far as Julia Creek station (161.5 miles) and the yard at that station is being laid down.

Sleeper logs are coming in freely from the northern railway but the supply from Cardwell has been small owing to the almost incessant rainfall. The sawmill plant is working 18 hours a day since the establishment of the acetylene light plant and half a mile of sleepers are being laid daily.

The station buildings have been finished at Maxwelton and Nonda, with the exception of the painting, and that at Nelia is in course of progress. The telegraph line has been constructed to Nonda (43 miles) and poles have been erected to Nelia. Telephone communication has been established between Nelia and the railway office at Richmond. The sheep yards at Nonda are almost completed and the 17 foot iron tank is in use. The necessary connections with the artesian bore has been made.

Altogether 496 men are engaged on the work. Of these 280 are engaged on day work, 6 on piece work, 170 on the northern railways cutting sleeper logs, and 40 at Cardwell. There are five drays and 50 teams on the northern railway and 12 at Cardwell.

### **10 Jul 1907 (p10, 070707, TDB)**

On the Outback Track

(By the North Queensland Herald's Travelling Representative)

Richmond - Cloncurry Extension

Notes by the Way

The first official passenger train left Richmond for Julia Creek (91 miles towards Cloncurry) at 6.30 am on the 18th inst. It was anything but a passenger train, consisting as it did of goods waggons with supplies for the railway work and a convertible luggage van carried the passengers.

Between Hughenden and Richmond grass was very scarce indeed and owing to some very light showers what grass there was had been turned black, a little rain being worse than none at all.

From Richmond to JC the grass is in great abundance and flocks of splendid clean-looking sheep scattered away from the line as the train approached, the whole way. In these regions one cannot truthfully describe the scenery as interesting. Commencing the other side of Hughenden and running all the way to within 20 miles of Cloncurry, 250 miles or more of vast undulating plains must be travelled over with nothing to relieve the monotony of the scene but a solitary looking stunted tree or mimosa bush dotted at intervals of a mile or so.

The run to JC occupied two thirds of the day as all kinds of railway stores and materials had to be dropped at intervals along the line. Piles of building material could be seen at the various stations waiting the erection of houses and stations while teamsters were much in evidence all the way both for loading and with ore from the mines.

On arrival at JC a busy scene meets the eye. Houses and a hotel are being built, a bore is being sunk, crowds of carriers are waiting for and with loading. All round the plain camels in hundreds are grazing while the swarthy Afghan drivers in their quaint Oriental garb lend eastern colour to the scene. The camels are a source of great annoyance to the teamsters and coach drivers. Horses seem to detest them and when turned out to feed do not stop until they have placed a good distance between themselves and the camels on the windward side and often when the teamsters go to look for their horses in the morning they find them scattered miles apart. On the roads when the coaches meet or wish to pass a caravan of camels the driver blows a bugle and the Afghan leader must make a detour off the road about 100 yards, even then the horses often prance about and give the driver some trouble to keep them in hand. Thirty in one string is about the usual caravan or team. Each camel wears a large wooden stud through one nostril not unlike a collar stud, to this is tied a lead line and then fastened to the rope which acts as a kind of crupper on the beast in front so there is no hanging back. The leading camel is led by an Afghan on foot while the other attendant remains in the rear.

The loading of a string of camels is very interesting, each beast carrying anything up to ten hundredweight, while the bulky-looking saddle must weigh another hundredweight. The load for each beast is of course divided in two parts which lie on the ground with sufficient room between for the camel to walk, the driver mutters something which sounds like "hish-hish-hish," the animal immediately dropping on its haunches all quivering and trembling not with fear but as if it is a strain to do so; then flopping down on its chest or brisket with its legs twisted like a trussed fowl. In this position it rests on very large hard corns; on the brisket the corn is about 6 inches in diameter and about one and a half inch thick; on the fore legs there are big corns, on the point of the joint just below the shoulders and also on the knees, while on the hind legs there are corns on the front of the thighs and on the hocks and front of the fetlocks. Three men are required to place the load; one holds half the load on one side while the other two fix the other half on the saddle; all the time the camel is plaintively remonstrating in a most peculiar manner, opening its capacious horrid-looking mouth and throwing out a red-looking bladder from which it emits a low rumbling sound like distant thunder – it is air and seems to be the receptacle for a reserve water supply. When the inflated bladder collapses the camel throws its head up, mouth open and the strange thing drops back to its place. Before the load is properly adjusted the beast is anxious to rise. This it does rear part first without any bidding.

Anything that a carrier can carry on his waggon the Afghan will carry on his camel and do a journey much quicker, indifferent to drought water or grass. I have seen two bales of wool on one beast; on others, galvanised roof iron, cases of kerosene, bags of flour, bundles of plain and barb wire – even two water tanks with goods inside, making a very awkward bulky burden. It is no wonder that these wretched looking beasts suffer with very sore backs and shoulders. Owing to their peculiar gait the load maintains a continual sliding motion backwards and forwards. The age they attain is remarkable considering the treatment they receive and the tremendous loads they carry, on an average of 25 miles daily for long journeys. They live any period from 40 to 80 years so the owner informed me. On a sandy road the track they make with their broad, flat, cushion-like feet is very peculiar. It is about 2 foot wide, they keep behind one another and the dust is evenly flattened down, giving the impression that a broad flat shovel had been trailed along the ground.

From the siding at JC the passenger must carry his luggage over to the coach road, a distance of one mile. Perhaps by the time this appears in print Messers Cobb and Co will have ceased running their coaches any further than this point. The train that left Richmond on Tuesday arrived at 4 pm while the coach which left Richmond half an hour earlier than the train did not reach the JC Hotel until 2 pm the following day, the train passengers having the advantage of saving 10 hours extra travelling and the sum of 24s 6d. The coach fare to Cloncurry from Richmond is £3 10s; from JC it is 35s while the train fare from Richmond to JC (second class) is only 10s 6d. The coach journey all the way from Richmond occupies three days, two nights being spent on the road. The distance is over 200 miles. The expense of food and accommodation amounts to 10s per day (2s 6d for a meal and 2s 6d for a bed). There is a story told of a traveller on this road who enquired for pickles from the wife of the worthy innkeeper. The meal was so dry that he required a relish. She simply shook her head and with an injured air retired to the kitchen, the daring traveller overhearing her remarks, that "a bloke inside wants pickles, he must think it's Christmas time." However, taking all things into consideration, the accommodation is fair. Once the railway is completed the wayside hotels will be done for and unless they get a good price it would not pay these caterers to await the pleasure of the travelling public in such dreary, lonely surroundings.

Although the train runs out towards Cloncurry for 91 miles, the line is not really complete, most of the culverts and bridges are not finished yet and the sensation of running down and up creeks, gullies and billabongs, flavours of a moderate switch back. From JC the train can be seen coming an hour or so before it arrives, the smoke can be seen 30 miles away and the train itself 20 miles distant enabling hotelkeepers to prepare a hot meal for the hungry travellers whether the train is up in the time or late.

Strange sights and conditions of human existence may be seen in this desolate region where all the old prejudices and refinements seem to be lost or ignored. Many carriers on account of the long distances and long periods spent between one point and another take their wives with them on their long trips and the life the women and children put up with is very much on a par with that of the gypsy nomad. Sometimes a covered in cart, not unlike a Cape cart, follows the waggon. This contains the wife and all the camp equipment including the inevitable sewing machine and even a few fowls and goats follow their home quite naturally. One carrier's wife accompanies him on his trips slung under the waggon on a spring mattress which swings and bumps her about very much. I am informed that in this case the hubby does not require her company and will not provide better means of transit for her. But being of a tenacious disposition she will not be left behind; so between the stages from week to week, year in and year out this faithful spouse may be seen in the same position, slung under the fall board.

From JC the next stage is the Gilliat, 18 miles distant where the traveller finds a very fair meal and accommodation for the night. From this place a start is made at 4 am next morning to ensure reaching Cloncurry in time for 6 o'clock dinner. This hotel is the last link of, let us say, civilisation and sixpenny drinks – then commences the region of dust, flies, long waterless stage, indifferent half-crown feeds, 1s drink, or "Barcoo shouts" (three drinks for 2s 6d, but the exact amount must be tendered); where mutton is never seen in the butchers' shops, although sheep graze in thousands only a mile or so away; 1s for a cup of tea, 1s for a lonely pie like old German Fritz retails with sauerkraut and mashed potatoes for the humble threepenny bit at McKimmin and Richardson's corner in Townsville.

To the next hotel at Fisher's Creek the stage is a long one, passengers being in the coach from 4 am till 2 pm without breaking one's fast. Lunch consumed and a change of horses effected the remaining 18 miles to Cloncurry is commenced. From this point the whole appearance of the country changes immediately; the timber commences and the country is all broken and stony; every hill, rocky bluff and spur is distinctly of volcanic origin even the very metal on the road shows copper; the mountains on each side resemble giant upheavals of rocks thrown up in great disorder, suggesting even to the uninitiated the vast possibilities of the district as a rich mineral-bearing area.

The town of Cloncurry from a sanitary point of view is excellently situated on a large flat of red gravel and sand. Building is going on briskly; many new shops and some very nice houses have been erected recently. The water question here is a most difficult and expensive one, wells being from 60 feet deep and costing £2 17s 6d per foot to sink. Mr Bashford the assistant railway engineer is now here but is unable to commence construction operations from this end for the want of labour. He has wired to Brisbane for men to be sent immediately. There is work here for the next six months at the very least for 200 men. All this must necessarily give business an extra spurt. Mr Bashford informs me that his chief is desirous of getting the line open by Christmas time although it will take fully 12 months for the whole extension to be ballasted and ready for steady traffic. From Richmond to Cloncurry the line will be 174 miles long and as 91 miles have been completed practically, there is now 83 miles yet to do. From here the hardest work will commence as there are 18 miles or so of rough stony country through which cuttings must be made.

Many of the shopkeepers here have been waiting for 20 years, confident in the future of Cloncurry and now that their expectations have come to pass are taking things very quietly and making every preparation for a rush of business activity which will out do any other mining town in Australia, whether past or present. As things are at present, money is very plentiful and no man willing to work need be out of employment a single day.

The five hotels are all full up and men are actually sleeping on the verandahs; this crowding is very unpleasant, giving the hotel servants much work and thus causing everyone to suffer considerable neglect, and the food being very carelessly prepared and served.

#### THE NATIVES OF THE SOIL

The prevailing impression for many years has been that it is impossible to educate the Australian



aboriginal up to the same standard that other black people have been raised to. Some of our early discoverers have described the Australian blackfellows as the lowest race of aborigines in the world. There is no doubt that his cast of features is repulsive but his brain is quite capable of development were he to be properly taken in hand as have other savages in different parts of the world. In this western country the blacks who are employed on the stations although uneducated are proving themselves equal in every respect to the white station hands and apparently are enjoying greater confidence from the station owners.

At Hughenden races I observed several station bosses driving to the course with the nigger sitting behind in the buggy, while inside the course there was quite an assembly of bucks and gins, the latter great swells in red dresses and their millinery all quite new; while the bucks too were dressed out in the usual stockman's rig out, including white shirt and collar. Their children, however, were all shades from a cinder to parchment, and some of them can boast of the best blood in the country.

In Hughenden the nigger be he pure or half caste, has free entry into the second best hotel in the town; if he is a good-looking half-caste and well-dressed he may dine in the dining room but the genuine article is consigned to the kitchen to eat his meals for which he pays the same price as the white who follows the same employment. As far as the bar and billiard room is concerned he goes and comes as he pleases and no one seems to object. His easy free style seems to denote that he feels quite the equal of the pale faces.

During my sojourn in Hughenden I witnessed two full-blooded myalls indulging in a friendly game at billiards in one of the leading hotels, while a crowd of whites looked on with generous approval, for the niggers played a really good game and were evidently old exponents with the cue. They were well dressed and flush of cash. Outside sitting on the verandah steps were several dusty hoboos waiting a friendly invitation from some good Samaritan to walk inside and slake their thirsts. The striking comparison between the reversed condition of the white and the black was a sad illustration of the degeneration of the white man.

The next day I witnessed the defeat of a white man at billiards by a young nigger. The ebony gentlemen sauntered into the billiard room. One was a regular howler in a well-made light suit, brown boots, regatta shirt, linen collar, lamington hat and two 'gold' rings completed his attire, while the other nigger, a young buck of the station hand type, dressed in moles with the one usual glistening, watery orb which nine Creek niggers out of ten seem to possess.

A white man offered to play the swell nigger a game for 10s. The swell refused, but backed the watery eyed one to play him. The offer was accepted and the stakes handed over to the marker, 100 up being the game. In a very short time the young nigger had beaten his opponent by 20. Not satisfied with his defeat the white doubled his stakes the next game being £1 for 50 up. This time the white man won by 12. Thinking his luck was in the ascendant he again doubled his bet – 100 up. All the time the two niggers treating the affair with true sporting indifference as far as the money was concerned. In about half an hour's play the bucks walked off with the white man's cash, leaving him looking very small, beaten at his own high class and expensive game by an aboriginal and strange to say to the general satisfaction of the white spectators.

#### **17 Jul 1907 (p1, 170707, TDB)**

(Ad)

Labourers

Two hundred required for Richmond to Cloncurry Railway. Wages, Nine to Ten shillings per day for good men. Free railway pass and long job. Apply –

District Engineer

Townsville

Or Inspectors of Permanent Way, CT, Hughenden, or Resident Engineer, Richmond.

#### **22 Jul 1907 (p9, NA, NQR)**

There are about 30 men on Duck Creek which is 30 miles from Cloncurry township. Cartage over this 30 miles is 25/- a ton, and to JC, the present official terminus of the railway, it is £4 per ton; it used to be £7 and £8 to Richmond so that the railway already means an important decrease in expenses. Transport difficulties are very great however owing to the great demand and the scarcity of teams;

forwarding agents go out miles to meet the carriers to secure the services of their teams. As an illustration of what this scarcity means and the manner in which it retards the development of the field it may be mentioned that supplies ordered for the Daisy two months ago and asked to be sent urgent are still somewhere in transit. The one drawback for the carriers of which they complain is the scarcity of water.

The railway is just a mile off the Gilliatt under 70 miles from Cloncurry by the survey.

Cloncurry itself is busy. New buildings are going up fast – stores, hotels including a new two storey one for Mr Lobeton – timber is on the way for the Presbyterian and Catholic Churches. The spiritual needs of the people are looked after by two Church of England and one Presbyterian Minister, a Roman Catholic priest and the Salvation Army. Every coach is packed with miners and commercial men. The rush of mining experts is diminishing.

### **23 Jul 1907 (p5, 170707, TDB)**

[This report is virtually identical to Geoffrey Browne's BGRail01, dated 6th July 1907, addressed to the Chief Engineer Brisbane, from the Secretary, Office of the Commissioner for Railways. Additions from BGRail01 in square brackets]

In the latest report to hand on the extension of the Richmond to Cloncurry line [70 miles 25 chains to 222 miles], the resident engineer (Mr WH Munro) says:–

Clearing is completed to 180 miles. Cuttings are completed to 174 miles, side ditches to 172 miles, forming to 173 miles. Cattle grids are completed to 131 miles. Bridges have been completed to 133 miles and in progress to 136 miles. Concrete pipes and open shoots are completed to 120 miles. Plate laying: rails are laid to 170.25 miles (from Hughenden). The station yard at JC was also completed during the month.

Sleeper logs are coming in freely on the Northern Railway. From Cardwell several shipments have been received during the month.

The station buildings at JC are in hand and should shortly be completed. The telegraph line is completed to ten miles beyond Nonda station; poles are laid out for 25 miles beyond Nonda; this work should be completed to JC in about 6 weeks time.

Miscellaneous: The sheep yards at Nonda are completed, also the water supply at JC; the contractor for the artesian bore has commenced operations and should complete in about two weeks time.

Balasting operations are in progress and about thirteen miles of the last have been run out. Goods and passengers are now being carried between Richmond and JC two days a week.

I have had to discontinue working a night shift at the sawmill as sufficient sleeper logs could not be railed up from the Northern Railway owing to insufficient supply of waggons and engines.

The number of men employed is as follows:– Day work, 345; piece work, 6; on the Northern Railway getting sleeper logs, 70; at Cardwell, 40; total 561; also drays, 6; teams, Northern Railway, 50; Cardwell, 12.

### **24 Jul 1907 (p5, 240707, TDB)**

The terminus at JC at the present time is a very busy centre (says the Cloncurry Advocate of July 17). The forwarding agents there are up to their eyes in work loading the various teams with timber, machinery and merchandise for this district, but complain at the demurrage charged by the railway authorities when there are practically no facilities for unloading the trucks as they are brought along. Last Tuesday week there were fully a dozen teams at Helton, some loaded up whilst others were drawn up ready to be loaded.

“Lightning” Brown, the well-known bore contractor, is hard at work on a Government bore there which is down 300 feet. He expects to bottom at about 800 feet after which he will shift his plant to the Fullerton, where he will sink what is known as No 3 Government bore on the Cloncurry extension.

The line last Wednesday was within two miles of the Gilliat and as they were building it at the rate of

four miles a week the promise of the resident engineer to have the rails laid into this town by Christmas looks as if it will be an accomplished fact.

Between Helton and Cloncurry there are over twenty teams with inwards and outward loading.

**29 Jul 1907 (p5, 290707, TDB)**

In despatching goods to Cloncurry, the railway regulations have required that the goods be consigned to Richmond and then re-consigned, a practice which not only caused much inconvenience but considerable unnecessary delay because goods which reached Richmond on a Tuesday had to lie there until the following Saturday.

Representations on the matter were made by the Chamber of Commerce to the Railway Commissioner with the result that instructions have now been issued that goods may be booked right through to JC. This is an alteration which will be much appreciated by the whole of the business community both here and at Cloncurry.

Following is a copy of the telegram from Mr GH Pritchard, president of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce to the Commissioner for Railways, dated 25th July:—

“Your regulation requiring goods for Cloncurry to be consigned first to Richmond then re-consigned to Helton causes unnecessary delay and much inconvenience as the train does not stay sufficiently long at Richmond to allow goods to be re-consigned, so that goods reaching Richmond on Tuesday cannot go forward till the following Saturday. We should be grateful if you would promptly arrange that through consignment notes be accepted Townsville to Helton, and thus meet the wishes of whole business community.”

To that the Commissioner replied on the 27th July:—

“Your wire. Instructions issued for goods to be booked through, Townsville to Julia Creek.”

**29 Jul 1907 (p5, 070729, TDB)**

Almost identical report as 23/7/1907 in the TDB

**19 Aug 1907 (p40, NA, TDB)**

Cloncurry, Aug 17 – The rate of carriage per team from Helton has risen from £4 to £6 10s per ton the carriers finding it necessary to do this on account of the scarcity of grass and water.

**26 Aug 1907 (p7, NA, TDB)**

Cloncurry, Aug 24 – A public meeting was held last night to urge upon the Government the necessity of opening the line to Williams River to allow of goods being brought right to the head of the line; also to erect a shed for goods at Fisher's Creek when the line reaches this place. The cause of the agitation is the unsatisfactory means of getting goods from Helton teams being unable to cope with the loading offering and there being a dry stage of twenty-five miles on the road.

**2 Sep 1907 (p63, NA, NQR)**

The Cloncurry Line

(By Telegraph)

Brisbane, Aug 26 – Mr John May, MLA for the Flinders, has received a telegram stating that at a meeting held on Saturday night in Cloncurry it was decided to point out that owing to the accumulation of loading at Helton and the scarcity of water between there and Williams River, team transport was unable to meet the requirements of the district and it was therefore imperative to impress upon the Government the necessity of permitting the transport of goods to the railhead at Williams River and also the necessity of a goods shed at Fisher's Creek on the arrival of the railway, seeing that storms may be then expected and that afterwards a permanent shed at Fisher's Creek will be needed.

On the Cloncurry line last week three miles 45 chains of line were laid bringing the rails to within 44 3/4 miles of Cloncurry.

**2 Sep 1907 (S10, 070902, NQR)**

## The Cloncurry Line

A gentleman who has recently visited Cloncurry furnishes us with a few notes about the road and railway.

The fact that Cloncurry and district is booming strikes the visitor immediately he arrives at Helton as the new station at Julia Creek is called. Everywhere teams are loaded, and loading can be seen. Bullock teams, horse teams and camel teams are there, busy taking away tons of merchandise and goods which have accumulated since the line had been opened at this place. A glance into the goods shed shows great quantities of groceries and perishable goods, whereas outside hundreds of tons of timber, galvanised iron, fire bricks, heavy machinery and merchandise are stacked in heaps awaiting removal to Cloncurry and the surrounding copper mines.

It was said a few days ago there were 1600 tons of loading at Helton to be despatched by teams. The rate of carriage is high, ranging from £6 to £7 per ton to Cloncurry for a distance of 99 miles by road, a price in excess of that which was paid a short time ago from Cloncurry to Richmond, more than double the distance.

The road from Helton to Cloncurry is good, there being plenty of dry grass the whole way, and water, with the exception of one stage of 27 miles which has water three miles off the road, which is prohibited, and trespassers are liable to prosecution, although no action has yet been taken. If a sensible view is taken, no action should be taken, it being a soakage in the bed of the Fullarton and a natural water supply.

Cloncurry assumes a very busy aspect. New buildings, mostly shops, are springing up as fast as the timber can be landed, and carpenters are reaping a harvest, being at work early and late.

The smelters at the Great Australian mine are in course of erection, the material for which has to be carted from Helton at considerable expense. The mine has its own saw bench where local timber is being sawn for mining and building purposes. A large contract has been let for firewood for the smelters and the wood is coming to hand freely. Timber is plentiful around Cloncurry at present so no difficulty will be experienced for fuel and building material of the bush sort for some time.

Good accounts are heard of the mines outside but the greatest drawback is the cost of cartage of copper in and goods out to those shows, which are from 20 to 30 miles from Cloncurry.

A large number of men are employed at the Cloncurry end of the railway line, about 10 miles from town, putting in some cuttings in the rough hilly country, preparing for the rails which are some 30 miles further out towards Helton. The last 13 miles of the line are through hilly and rough country and will take some time to prepare for the plate layers.

The end of the rails had reached the 200 mile 15 chain peg from Hughenden on the 27th inst. and on or about the 2nd of September should be across the Fullerton where a siding may be put in, and probably goods will be carried through, this being 40 miles from Cloncurry.

At the Fullarton there is a bore going down by the well-known "Lightning" Brown, where a good flow should be met at about 1000 feet. Good water is got here from a soakage in the Fullarton out of the sand.

The way the work of the construction is being carried on speaks volumes for Mr WH Munro and his different gangers. The sleeper cutting, adzing, and boring machinery is perfect, and everything, both by daylight and gas light, works like clockwork. The log arrives from the sleeper getter down the line and goes off the truck over the saw bench, through the adzing machine and then the boring machine straight on to the trucks, and away to the head of the load that night; 50 chains of sleepers, about 2000, going forward and being loaded and spiked down each day. I think, for the number of men employed, this surpasses all our past railway construction for speed by a long way.

The formation gang are some four miles ahead of the platelayers and their road-making and grading machines are doing first class work. Earthworks have been put across all the creeks, and deviations made over them for the trains to run on pending the erection of the bridges which are some distance behind the rest of the work.

The platelaying gang have their kitchen and dining room built on the platform of a truck, and is rather a nice building being fitted with dining tables and forms and all necessary fittings for a cook house and dining room. There are also two large waggons fitted with beds and made into first-class camping quarters. These waggons go forward every morning, ahead of the material, without any inconvenience to the cook or his offside. The rations are everything that could be desired – plenty of all kinds of preserves and vegetables making altogether a first class diet. The cook is paid 4/- per man and finds his own “slushy.” All rations, meat excepted, are brought direct from Townsville, and the living costs about 16/ per man per week. In case of a man leaving during the month he pays 21/ per week into the mess account.

The horses are like the men, well fed and do their work well. They are in excellent condition and show they have been carefully selected for their different work of hauling trucks and drays etc.

There has been an epidemic of dengue or influenza among the workers on this line and many were laid up for a few days all through the different gangs.

Given favourable weather there is little doubt the Cloncurry people will see the smoke of the train close at hand before the end of 1907.

### **2 Sep 1907 (p3, 070902, TDB)**

Helton

As previously reported, a great state of confusion in traffic exists at Helton. Building materials and general goods of all descriptions lie about everywhere and transport by team to Cloncurry gets more and more difficult. At present there is a dry stage of 28 miles upon the road and this plays havoc with the condition of overworked horses. The result is that many carriers have to spell; and as others are leaving for the wool season at Winton the present condition of the traffic to Cloncurry is not all that could be desired. As the dry weather continues things are not likely to improve. The carriers are still further likely to be lessened while goods still continue to accumulate.

It is reported that the traffic manager, Mr Dunbar, lately visited Helton and ordered additions to the goods shed there. Although this may save some loss to property, still, it will not improve the situation very much or remove the great inconvenience from which Cloncurry is likely to suffer. Indeed experienced men declare that the only possible remedy for the trouble is the opening of an intermediate station as soon as the rails are laid to the Williams. From the Williams River to Cloncurry the distance is only about 40 miles and the road is good all the way. The long dry stage would be cut out and there is not a carrier in the district that would now object to the reduced distance ...

### **16 Sep 1907 (p18, NA, NQR)**

The Cloncurry people are jubilant at the near approach of the railway and property is realising very high prices. For instance a piece of land in Ramsay St, 165 ft x 30 ft with a street frontage of 35 ft was disposed of privately for £300, equal to £10 per foot. Many other land owners in town refuse to sell at similar prices. Respecting the building trade, the merry ring of the carpenter's hammer can be heard from early dawn till late at night and even now the buildings are not enough for the requirements of the district. All the hotels are in full swing and indeed it is difficult to get a bed. There are five hotels under construction and even with this number it will be difficult to accommodate all those who so desire.

### **16 Sep 1907 (p66, 070916, NQR)**

Jackson And Co

Produce Merchants

Auctioneers, Receiving and Forwarding Agents

And Livery Stable men

We stock large supplies of Geelong oaten chaff, NZ feed oats, Bran, Oil Cakes and Downs Maize.

And are prepared to deliver any quantity to all parts of the district.

Stable-fed horses and good buggies always on hand for hire.

Forwarding Agency at Helton (Julia Creek) under the charge of our Mr CS Spreadborough who has had over five year experience in this line in the south. A trial solicited.

Agent for Bromhall's Express Line of Coaches and parcel Vans.

Jackson and Co  
Cloncurry and Helton

**28 Oct 1907 (S6, NA, NQR)**

Several photos of Helton (JC) – the first photos of JC, taken by J Backwood in the Supplement section, approx page 40 onwards.  
See 071028a-h

S1: The Advance Party laying the rails

S3: A Camp of workmen near the front.  
(Photo by J Backwood)

There is a dray on the left tilted down towards the right. One set of tracks runs through the photo; and to the right of centre there are two or three men in silhouette on the track. Another man is in silhouette between the two tents on the right.

S3: Carriers loading at Helton for Cloncurry  
(Photo J Backwood)

Sheets of galvanised iron and barrel are on the back of the Cobb & Co No 115 waggon. Waggon in centre is probably carrying timber.

The black blob in the top left in front of building is a waggon or engine. There are three sets of tracks: two on the left seem to go straight through; the right track curves round and joins the middle track to the right of the engine. I can't tell what the white blob in the foreground is.

S6: 'The bore at Helton  
The Helton Hotel in the background'  
(Photo by J Backwood)

Two lumps on far right are trees. There is a square-topped tub in the left foreground sitting on the ground, with sides that slope slightly inwards. There are two rail tracks sitting on round sleepers on either side of the building on the right. The blob to the left of this building appears to be an engine on the tracks. The object in the drain in the foreground is a bottle - JC's first litter.

Also S3: 'A camp of workmen near the front'

**28 Oct 1907 (S2, NA, NQR)**

Record Railway Building

There is hardly a doubt but that the railway which has Townsville for its coastal terminus will reach Cloncurry before Christmas. That this feat has been accomplished – (Australian records for railway building have been broken to do so) – is due to the energy and capacity of the Constructing Engineer Mr WH Munro.

The line is of great importance to the State for it opens up a magnificent pastoral country to closer settlement. It will divert a great deal of the Northern Territory trade to Qld and will serve the great mineral area which has Cloncurry for its centre. The line will also be of great value in drought times in enabling stock owners to remove their stock from the dry areas in the middle west to the Gulf areas better served with rain. Already access of thousands of sheep have been trained to stations on the new line thence to travel to agistment country in the vicinity.

A few facts connected with the construction of the line are worthy of mention. The distance from Richmond to Cloncurry is 174 miles. It was 220 by road but the teams had to follow the surface water, the line strikes out due west and bores at the various stations provide the required water supplies. In the 174 miles there are no less than 3 1/2 miles of bridges of which so far only about a third is built.

There are 2640 sleepers to the mile and about 460,000 sleepers will be used before the line is completed. The total weight of rails and fastenings used on the line is 13,000 tons, and of rails and sleepers for the 174 miles about 53,000 tons of which (much to the joy of Mr Evans the Traffic manager of the Northern line, no doubt) 49,000 tons have already been railed up.

The work of rail laying was commenced on the 10th September 1906 and on the 10th September 1907,

137 miles of line had been constructed although during that period many delays took place owing to wet weather.

The country of course is easy for construction purposes being undulating downs with creeks and billabongs. In one place there is a straight line of 26 miles without the semblance of a curve, a distance without deflection which only the few great plains of the world would render possible.

In order to keep things moving the Railway Department have provided over 100 waggons and four locomotives to convey material and it is much to the credit of Mr Evans the traffic Manager of the Northern line, that with the general shortage of rolling stock that he has been able to keep Mr Munro supplied with materials and yet carry on the big business of the Northern line.

Although there are some fairly large cuttings in the last fifteen miles of the line, it is hoped the rails will be laid in the Cloncurry terminus by the middle of December, the line completed now totals 158 miles leaving 16 to accomplish.

Where the rails are all laid, ballasting will be proceeded with vigorously from three points, the Cloncurry, the Williams and the Flinders Rivers. Owing to the great length of single line, it was impossible to ballast while construction was proceeding. As the pace was so fast it was impossible to keep the bridging of the various shallow gullies and billabongs abreast of the plate laying, and there are still over two miles of bridging to accomplish. The bridges over all the main streams, however are finished. The line crosses the shallow watercourses at present on earth bank deviations.

The line has been constructed on day work, entirely under the direction of Mr WH Munro, who first made his name in connection with the construction of the line from Hughenden to Richmond. He was afterwards railway building in the South and the Government made a wise choice when they selected him as engineer for the Cloncurry line. He knew the work, is an admirable organiser and can handle men and as a result has put up a record in line building of which the Railway Department and the Government have every right to be proud.

The pictures in this week's NQR give a good idea of the work done. There are two views of the bridge over Alicks Creek. In the main channel piles are driven but over the low flats the piles are bedded in sills. The Alicks Creek bridge is nearly 350 yards in length.

A general view of Helton, and the picture of carriers loading for Cloncurry afford an excellent idea of a temporary western terminus and the group of plate layers at work at the very end of the line will convey an understanding as to the nature of their duties. The bore at Helton and other places on the line provides the engines and the township with water.

A satisfactory feature in the construction of the line is the attention paid to the comfort of the workmen. Our pictures show them at dinner, give a view of their camp and finally a train loaded with the tents which being on frames are picked up and transported bodily. In addition several goods waggons have been fitted up as barracks, a cook is kept and the plate-laying gang have a meal and live in a comfortable healthy and economical fashion. Nothing like it has ever been attempted before in Australia and the plate-layers have accordingly become official personages.

The whole construction reflects the highest credit on the Government for providing the funds; on Mr Evans and his excellent staff for conveying the material and most important of all, on the Engineer, Mr Munro, who from his office at Richmond, regulated the sleeper-getters at Cardwell and on the Northern line, ordered the bridge timber, superintended the construction, provided accommodation for the workers, opened 80 miles of line for consumers, and generally directed everything. Mr Munro provided the brains for all branches and not only did he do well but he put up records. Thank goodness there are thousands of miles of rich Western land to be traversed by the civilising and commerce-making railways and as a Richmond man said the other day: "By Jove the Government have got the bloomin' man to build 'em."

#### **4 Nov 1907 (p90, 071104, NQR)**

Julia Creek Races

('Cloncurry Advocate')

The above races were held last Saturday and everything passed off successfully, not a hitch occurring

during the day, which speaks well for the committee of management. Mr HJ Taylor had a light task as judge, and Mr Sparks as starter got his fields away evenly on each occasion whilst Mr Veal as secretary kept the ball rolling in a lively manner. Results:-

Publican's Purse ...  
Flying Handicap ...  
Bushman's Race ...  
JC Handicap ...  
Carrier's Race  
Consolation handicap ...

#### **18 Nov 1907 (S, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry, Nov 3 – A man named Kendle was killed on the railway line last Thursday. From the meagre particulars to hand it appears that Kendle was employed as a grader. He by some means fell asleep, using the rails to rest his head on, when the following morning the train moved on, leaving the unfortunate man a mangled corpse. Deceased was an old resident of Richmond and leaves a grown up family to mourn his loss.

#### **25 Nov 1907 (S5, NA, NQR)**

Brisbane Nov 18 – The railway from Richmond to Cloncurry now is within twelve miles of the last named town and the Commissioner is anxious to have the line sufficiently ballasted in order that the Christmas traffic may be serve. Trains already run as far as JC and before the end of the year trains, on which goods may be conveyed, probably will run as far as Cloncurry.

#### **2 Dec 1907 (p78, NA, NQR)**

Gilliat Notes

#### **2 Dec 1907 (p72, NQ568, NQR)**

Donald McIntyre estate

#### **9 Dec 1907 (p8, NQ569, NQR)**

Camooweal Mail Coach photo

#### **9 Dec 1907 (S2, NA, NQR)**

Correspondence

Complaints from Cloncurry

(To the Editor)

There have been meetings held all over the field about the pubs in Cloncurry and district. The agitation is to get the drinks down from 1s to 6d a nip as the railway is within a few miles of Cloncurry now and they can get their grog with cheap carriage. All the men at Mount Elliott, Hampdem, Duchess and all the important mines where men are working are going to insist on a reduction. It is said the pubs have formed a ring in Cloncurry to keep the drinks up a bob a time. If the pubs in Cloncurry do not bring the drinks down to 6d they will lose custom as it will be cheaper for men to get in the train and go on to the Towers and Townsville for a drink. The hotel keepers in the 'Curry' had best take heed of the words on the wall, 'bring down the grog'; let them reduce the price and be content with an enlarged turnover.

#### **9 Dec 1907 (S9, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry Notes

Cloncurry, Dec 1 – The railway line has progressed beyond anticipations and there is only one cutting to finish. In my last I said it was most unlikely for the line to be through here before Christmas. At that time I did not take into consideration that assistant engineer Bashford would put men on both ends of the cutting besides another gang taking the tops off. The men were like an army of ants round a sugar pot and in less than four days the big cutting was through and the men were just brekaing up camp when the plate layers ran the rails into the cutting which is about seven miles out. The only other cutting worthy of mention is the one about two miles out and the same tactics are in progress there and as good headway is being made this cutting should be completed in about a week's time.

Fully two hundred men are working in the station yard levelling the ground for the various side lines etc. A platform 200 feet by 15 feet has been made of earth and I learn that the plans state that the station



building will be 300 feet by 20 feet with two lengths of rails under the shade. I suppose this will be one of the largest stations building outside the metropolis. A goods shed is also on the plans besides cattle yards etc.

The engine driver and fireman from the engine which carries all the rails and sleepers on the Cloncurry extension, paid their first visit to this town last night and they informed me that the rails were barely four miles away. I suppose this time next week the rails will be right into the station.

**9 Dec 1907 (p87, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry, Dec 6 – The Chief engineer for Railways has received a telegram stating that the rails on the Richmond-Cloncurry extension will be into Cloncurry Saturday night and into the station yards at Cloncurry on Monday morning.

In one week four and a half miles of rails were laid and week after week over three miles were laid. At the end of last week the distance remaining was three miles 52 chains. The length of line laid to Cloncurry from Richmond is 180 miles, including six miles of sidings. It took 60 weeks from the time work started to get the plate laying into Cloncurry.

**14 Dec 1907 (p6, NA, TDB)**

Cloncurry, Dec 12 – The rails have been laid the whole length of the line into Cloncurry. The recent washaways have been repaired and the engineers train is expected today.

The mail coach was twenty-four hours late.

**16 Dec 1907 (p<10, NA, NQR)**

Washaways on Cloncurry Line

**16 Dec 1907 (p6, 071216, TDB)**

Cloncurry Railway  
Connection Established

At noon on Saturday the residents of Cloncurry had the satisfaction of witnessing a practical demonstration of the fact that their town was connected with the coast by rail through one of the construction trains steaming into their midst. The rain that had fallen a fortnight previously between JC and Cloncurry had played havoc with the low-lying portions of the railway, particularly at water courses, at many of which temporary deviations had been made so as to facilitate communication pending the erection of permanent bridges and culverts, so that it was six days later than anticipated before the first train got through.

Mr W Pagan, Chief Engineer for Railways, who on December 2 passed through Townsville on his way to the copper field, hoping to reach there on Tuesday night with a view to inspecting the line and reporting as to whether it was safe for ordinary traffic, returned to the port on Saturday, and left by the Cooma during the afternoon for Brisbane having, unfortunately, failed to accomplish his object. He, however, had the satisfaction before leaving Townsville, of being advised by telegram that the first construction train had got through to Cloncurry.

In a brief chat with a "Townsville Daily Bulletin" representative just before he left to catch the Cooma, Mr Pagan mentioned that goods were being consigned to JC on Saturday, but a siding had to be put in before they could be taken on to Cloncurry. Should the men continue work and the rain keep off, cargo would, he anticipated, be got through to Cloncurry on Tuesday or Wednesday.

The washaways in many places were more serious than at first anticipated. By ballast train, Mr Pagan went as far as the Fullarton River and found a lot of places washed out that had only been repaired the previous day. From the Fullarton he went on to the Williams River by trolley but found there were so many washaways between there and Cloncurry that unless he got there in time it would be better to come back. He came to the conclusion that the Department could not undertake to carry on traffic in a regular way, but after the Christmas holidays, when the men resumed work, goods would be taken right through. If the rain prevented that, then there would be the consolation that the country had benefitted considerably through the wet. Every effort would be made to get through the Christmas goods for the Cloncurry residents and he hoped there would be no difficulty in that.

**17 Dec 1907 (p6, 071217, TDB)**

Cloncurry Railway

Further Washaways

Cloncurry 16 Dec – The first through train arrived here on Saturday at midday and left at 2 pm with over 100 passengers going coastwards. The train on Sunday also took a further 100.

The mail coach which was due last night has not arrived.

Brisbane, 16 Dec – The Railway Department received advice yesterday that the train got through to Cloncurry on Saturday so that the work of repairing the breaks had been completed.

A later message states that further rains have fallen and the line was again blocked in one or two places.

**30 Dec 1907 (p111?, NA, NQR)**

Helton photo, very poor

Cloncurry Line Damaged

Brisbane Dec 27 – The Railway Commissioner has received the following wire from the resident engineer at Cloncurry – “Still raining heavily here; 9 1/2 inches since December 15. The line is very heavily damaged. Between here and Eastern Creek all the deviations have been swept clean out and there have been wash outs on many flats. Heavy rain has fallen between Richmond and JC but the trains are running so far.”

**6 Jan 1908 (p49, NA, NQR)**

THE CLONCURRY LINE

CLOSED BEYOND JC

Richmond, Jan 4 – Mr Sexton, resident engineer, returned yesterday after being stuck at the head of the line near Cloncurry for three weeks. It has now been decided to close the line between JC and Cloncurry until after the wet season which means the end of March. It will be expensive work getting goods from JC which is nearly 80 miles from Cloncurry.

**13 Jan 1908 (p17, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry Notes

(Delayed owing to interruption to railway)

Cloncurry, Dec 22 – Rain, glorious rain is the cry to be heard from the throats of all who have struck this town during the last two or three days from the outside camps. Creeks and rivers have been bankers in all directions and the various mailmen report that they have been compelled to plough their way through mud. This general rain has come in the nick of time as many have of late been compelled to abandon their shows on account of the scarcity of water so I expect to hear of renewed activity in copper going as soon as the Christmas holidays are over.

Two trains arrived here at midday today. These pair of steam horses left JC last Tuesday morning and have battered their way through having been compelled to fix up countless washaways on their journey to Cloncurry. One of the trains contained material for the line and the other about 150 tons of merchandise for the business firms of the town. Things were beginning to look blue with scarcely no sugar, flour, potatoes etc. Sugar was selling at 30/- a bag and hard to obtain at that. As I write they are busy dumping the goods out of the vans and a large number of drays are busy loading up.

There was great rejoicing when the train arrived and one well-known hotel proprietor took up a buggy load of drinks and shouted for all the navvies. I noticed more than navvies having a swig though.

The trains depart in the morning and will take with them a number of Towers miners on their way home for Christmas. Unfortunately the weather has compelled them to remain here for the last four or five days with the result they will have to spend their Christmas on the line somewhere. It is to be hoped it will not be spent in working at any washaways on the line, but still that is what is likely to happen to them.

We had a glorious downpour last Tuesday evening and before it finished up it registered 310 points. All the flats were sheets of water and the streets were running torrents. Coppermine Creek came down a banker and many who live on the other side were compelled to camp in town on account of their being

in the streets when the rain commenced though a few swam over home.

A number of billabongers and others were camped in the bed of Coppermine Creek at various points and had the whole of their abodes washed away. Clothes, cooking utensils could be found strewn all over the banks of the creek all the way to the river.

Wednesday's mail from JC put in an appearance just at midday today, being 3 1/2 days late. Driver Richards informed me that he was compelled to camp at the Gilliat for a couple of days on account of that river being in flood. He states the country around Eddington is in a bog state.

It is expected that the two trains which are weather bound here will make a start on the return journey tomorrow. There is one consolation that they will have to build up the washaways on the road and if fair weather continues for a time we will again have the train coming through. If not I consider there will soon be a famine here as it is impossible for teams to travel.

Although I am keeping up my usual letter, I have no idea when they reach you as since last Monday there has been no outward or inward JC mail. In fact I have been informed on reliable authority that the van that left here on Monday last has not yet crossed the Gilliat. It also contains Towerites making homewards for the holidays.

Cloncurry, Dec 19 – Coppermine Creek which runs at the south side of the main street was practically a banker for five days and residents on the opposite side of the town were completely isolated, especially the female portion. Many of the male element used to swim the creek over and back in order to get to town and I must say several narrow escapes from drowning occurred. In fact, one poor fellow named James Madden, a copper gouger, lost his life in attempting to cross the creek last Friday night. It appears Madden who is a single man in company with another went to the creek at the back of Lobeton's Hotel and though several residents advised them not to attempt to negotiate the stream he took no heed and plunged into the rushing raging roaring torrent. Madden was quickly washed up against a tree and it is supposed was stunned with the impact. He immediately sank and no more was seen of him until next morning when a black tracker discovered his dead body in the creek about a quarter of a mile away from the scene. His mate after plunging in was washed back and regained the shore. He was about to make another attempt when the police arrived on the scene and marched him off to the lock-up for the night for his own safety. At about 11 am Maddens body was brought to the Court House and later on conveyed to the cemetery. The unfortunate fellow attempted to swim the creek with boots and all his clothes on a task which was almost beyond human power at the time.

The southern mail coach from JC has not yet arrived with last Sunday's mail in fact there is a van somewhere between her and JC with portions of last Wednesday week's mail, containing parcels all laden with Christmas dainties.

## **20 Jan 1908 (p12, NA, NQR)**

### **Cloncurry Notes**

Cloncurry, Jan 5 – What a grand Christmas box this country has had. Rain, rain, and glorious rain at that, keeping coming to hand from all quarters. At Fort Constantine Mr Taylor informed me that it was the best they have had for years and that from 15th December to Jan 1 they had within 9 points of 16 inches. Quamby, Ganada, Canobie and other outside places report equally as good downpours. Water is to be found in every creek or flat and the grass is shooting up inches in a day. Although we have had about 14 inches since December 15, the grass around the town is very slow at showing up, only patches of green to be seen here and there. Out at the racecourse though it is a foot high in some places. No mistake it was a handsome Christmas box for the district and should give a big fillip to mining and the pastoral industry during 1908.

Cobb and Co's coach put in an appearance today bringing the Christmas mail with it. Driver Fred Richards states that his billet has not been a bed of roses during the holidays and I am sure no one will dispute him. His last journey to Helton took 11 days and he in company with two passengers, one of who was Mr J McDermott, one time of Farrell and Co, CT, were three days without food. In fact, as one of the coach drivers put it, their Christmas dinner comprised green grass and grasshopper stew.

## **20 Jan 1908 (p24, NA, NQR)**

### **The Richmond to Cloncurry Line**

## Headquarters Making a Move

Brisbane, Jan 16 – Dr Jack's description of the way the Railway Dept for two heavy trains back from Cloncurry to Richmond as set forth at length in the 'Northern Miner' was referred to today at length by the Commissioner for Railways who said it would cost a good deal of money to repair the washaways and the work might be undone in five minutes if the water came down again.

The bridgework had been completed only to within a distance of 15 miles of JC and a great many creeks including JC had to be dealt with.

## 20 Jan 1908 (p39, NA, NQR)

Cloncurry

(Story by RL Jack who has published books on the history of N Qld)

Sunday, 22nd December, was a memorable day for Cloncurry. The annual famine was threatening, but a train loaded with 150 tons of the necessities, and some of the luxuries of life arrived from JC. It was preceded by a train carrying a large gang of navvies who repaired the breaches in the line as they went. The journey of 83 miles took six days. The train was to start on the return journey on Monday morning, but something like two inches of rain fell in the night and the crowd of men whose business demanded their presence elsewhere, gloomily unpacked the baggage they had packed with high hopes the day before. It was understood to have been authoritatively stated that there must be at least three clear dry days before the train could be started.

The three dry days did not come for some time. The town became a bog through which imperfect footpaths wandered. Coppermine Creek, which divides the business part from the residential part of the town, and which is generally dry, rose to formidable proportions, many had to swim from their homes to their work, and one man was drowned when making for his home. Some leading citizens put their dignity in their pockets and their boots and socks under their arms, and thus bade defiance to the perils that environs sitting in wet feet.

As an instance of the conditions prevailing, I may adduce my own tale. My hotel had found it necessary to add to the sleeping accommodations by building a cottage facing a back street and separated from the main building by a long back yard. The yard was always a paddle during wet weather, when it was not a watercourse, and I found that the cleanest and most expeditious way from my bedroom to the dining room was to follow the footpath round the "block" formed by the two parallel streets and across one.

The heaviest rain of all fell on Friday 27th and the river again became impassable. In all about 12 inches had fallen since the break up of the drought. The last heavy downpour was, however, followed by three almost rainless days, and it was announced that the train would leave on Tuesday 31st.

During the night of Monday there was weeping and gnashing of teeth among the intending passengers as they lay awake listening to the roar of rain on the roof. When day broke it was evident that the good effects of three days drying had been undone and it was with some surprise that we learned that the train would start all the same, as it must get away some time, and the weather might clear as we travelled.

Passengers – by favour of the railway department – took with them six days provisions and their sleeping gear and signed an indemnity solemnly declaring that they travelled at their own risk. There was a sound of hurrying to and fro as all hands made for the railway.

For the little party to which I was attached the first excitement was the sticking up of the spring cart carrying our luggage and provisions in a drain only a few yards from the hotel. The horse proved a hopeless jib and one of the party had to run for another as we feared to be left behind by what would probably be the last train for months. Cobb and Co were known to be refusing passengers by coach although they were prepared to get the mail through somehow, and no train, however slow or however crowded, we argued, could possibly be as uncomfortable as camping out in the rain on wet clay.

We attained our object at last and after all in plenty of time, for the embarkation of 150 railway officials and workmen and somewhere about 100 passengers, with all their swags, tools and provisions, is a tedious matter. Our train consisted of an engine and tender with nine waggons in front and 17 behind, while that in front had 10 before and 14 behind the engine. This disposition would no doubt have been

altered a good deal had there been a siding west of the Williams, or any triangle west of the Gilliat, but it is necessary for a train bent on a mission such as ours, to have trucks loaded with sleepers in front of the engine ready to be pushed up to the places where the sleepers will do the most good.

With seven others I found accommodation in a "luggage van". The majority of the passengers and crew had to cover open trucks with tarpaulins to make up for the absence of a roof over their heads.

The residents of both ends had clamoured for the speedy construction of the line and the Premier had promised that the locomotive would be in Cloncurry by Christmas. The Engineer accomplished the feat with eight days to spare, but not by any means in the way they would have gone to work had they been left to their own devices. As the road from JC to Bishop's Creek, which is only 20 miles from Cloncurry, traverses the cretaceous downs, it can be taken almost in a direct line, whereas the road from Richmond had to hug the Flinders river for the sake of water and it added at least 40 unnecessary miles.

The Railway Department sunk artesian wells wherever a water supply was required. The line encounters no grades at all serious except where watercourses have to be crossed. The sleepers can be laid directly on the baked muddy soil without ballast and with a minimum of packing and as long as dry weather lasts they will carry the rails almost as well as if the usual engineering practice had been rigourously adhered to. The laying of the rails at the rate of 3 1/2 miles per week (a rate attained for a short time) under such conditions is no surprise when it is remembered that a considerable portion of the Pacific Railway was built at the rate of a mile a day.

In the case of the Cloncurry line, bridges and viaducts have yet to be thrown over numerous watercourses. The policy pursued, so far as a traveller can judge, has been to select places for bridges where the rivers and creeks are at their narrowest even if at the same time at their deepest, the object being to reduce the length of bridges and viaducts to a minimum. As however the bridges could obviously not be built by Christmas, the approaching embankments were made of gravel, sand or such material or such material as was obtainable on the spot, while the temporary line was carried on "deviations" which dipped down into the watercourses, in crossing which they were supported, if necessary, by earthworks and embankments, and in rare cases by temporary bridgework. This was good enough as a makeshift as long as the dry weather lasted, and provided the traffic was only carried on in daylight. These deviations, as a rule, had the earthwork washed away from beneath the sleepers as soon as the river began to run and the temporary bridging, for the most part consisting of a number of sleepers piled up into square "pigstyes" – simply melted away. Other "washaways" took place where almost inappreciable hollows formed channels for watercourses hardly imaginable in dry times.

All these breaches had to be repaired before the "down" train, (ie to Cloncurry), could travel. Before our "up" train started, not only had the repairs been wrecked by the further rains but new breaches had been made in many places.

Tuesday 21st December was on the whole a drying day in spite of a few showers in the forenoon. The trains progressed slowly and cautiously, preceded by a trolley carrying men who were quick to note any defect in the line. After several stoppages for minor repairs, we had traversed the whole of the slightly hilly palaeozoic and granite country east of Cloncurry and camped 20 miles from the town on the left bank of Bishops Creek. Twenty sleepers length of rails hung 10 feet above the creek, which was a strong running stream, but which had lowered its level by three inches in three hours. There was more rain from 11pm to 1 pm which did not improve matters.

New Years Day was fair, except for a drizzle in the early morning. It was a quarter to six in the afternoon before a temporary bridge, of which the leading feature was three pigstyes, had been completed and the trains crossed Bishop's Creek, passengers having previously received the order to get out and walk, which was transmitted to our end by a wit, more hibernice, as

"All hands take to your feet" We went on two miles and camped for the night.

Thursday 2nd January was a fine sunny day. We moved on at half past seven and reached the Williams River (20 miles from Cloncurry) half an hour after midday. The river was only 14 inches deep but had been ten feet or more a day or two before. We found it spanned by a suspension bridge consisting of rails carrying about 35 sleepers, the sag in the middle just dipping into the water. The hope was for some time entertained that we should cross the river in the course of the day. It was intended to lower

the rails or rather the sleepers to the bed of the river but just as this was about to be done a freshet raised the level of the water by a foot and it became evident that the crossing was to be much more difficult than had been anticipated.

The telegraph line had been completed as far as the Williams so that from this point communications with the outside world was possible. The officer in charge of the construction joined the train and established telephonic connection between every succeeding camp and JC.

Friday 3rd January was another sunny day and very hot. While the bridging of the Williams was still going on a trolley was sent back to Cloncurry for additional rations in case the journey should take more than the estimated six days.

The crossing of the river was effected at 5.30 pm and we camped at the Fullarton Siding (38 1/4 miles from Cloncurry) at 7.15. Here an artesian well sunk for railway purposes was utilised by the passengers and crew who revelled in hot baths and the washing of dirty linen. No thermometer was available but the temperature was precisely that at which a hot bath is most agreeable and effective.

Saturday 4th January was dry and sunny in the morning but about 11 am, after we had travelled about a mile, very heavy rain set in which lasted about an hour. A serious washaway delayed us till 2.15 when we again set forth ploughing through water. We camped for the night on the left bank of the Fullarton River 42 miles from Cloncurry. Here about 60 sleepers hung by the rails which formed a suspension bridge spanning a waterhole 8 feet deep.

On the following day the grade on both sides of the river was "sweetened" by lengthening the slope. Wattled earthworks were thrown out into the river from both sides, and the middle was logged in such a manner as not to interfere with the slight current. The trolley with rations from Cloncurry overtook us in the afternoon.

On Monday 6th January, at 9.30 we crossed the Fullarton. After passing two or three slight washaways which had to be replaced, we reached Holy Joe's Creek (55 1/2 miles from Cloncurry) at 3.30. This creek has two channels both of which had to be pigstyed and the rails had to be lifted. We crossed it at 5.30 and at 7.15 camped on the downs, 60 miles from Cloncurry. Ahead of us was a flat where a current of water had washed the earth from beneath many of the sleepers for a distance of about 15 chains.

On Tuesday 7th January the washaway having been attended to, we moved on at 9.45am, to pull up at Gidgea Creek (61 1/2 miles from Cloncurry) While we waited here a bullock was driven over from Eddington Station, killed, and was cut up for the various messes. Gidgea Creek had three narrow channels of running water, each of which had to get some embanking and a couple of pigstyes. We crossed it at 3 pm and arrived at 4.30 at the Gilliat River (64 miles from Cloncurry) where we camped for the night on the left bank. The river had no less than eight channels. The first and main channel had a narrow stream with a strong current, above which 13 sleepers were suspended by the rails. It was treated by four pigstyes. The second channel took two, the third one, and the fourth two. The fifth was only boggy and required no repairs, although the sleepers sank under the pressure. The sixth took two pigstyes and an embankment or mole. The seventh proved more difficult to deal with than anything else on the line. It had a wide stream, about three feet in depth except for one very deep narrow gutter. The bottom was pure mud. no less than 200 sleepers were used before a safe foundation was made for the rails. The first engine with part of the train, passed over the bridge four times and on the first three occasions further sinking was noted. The eighth and last channel was wide and still, taking four pigstyes, one of them in seven feet of water.

It was almost dark before the Gilliat was finally negotiated by our train which apparently pressed the work on the seventh channel further into the mud, as the rails were covered by nearly a foot of water before the last vehicles were clear. Both trains drew up and camped for the night on the right bank.

On Monday 9th January we moved on at 8am to the Gilliat Siding. In addition to the siding there is a triangle and a station and residence have just been finished. A number of horse waggons were waiting with loads of wool for dispatch by rail. From the siding the township of the Gilliat is visible 2 1/2 miles off. No one can help sympathising with those who have expended capital on hotels, store and other buildings to be left out in the cold with what were good "stands" for business suddenly rendered

valueless by the practical abolition of the road. Probably the railway surveyors argued that the bodily removal of the township would cost less than the deviation of the line across country more liable to be flooded than that selected for its route.

At 1.30 we crossed Eastern Creek by a bridge which had not been damaged but the line required a good deal of repairing where it crossed an anabranch on the eastern side of the creek.

The water supply carried for the engines gave out eight miles short of JC and one engine had to go on to the tank and return for the second train. We finally reached JC at 6pm.

This ended a memorable railway journey of 83 miles in ten days. Slow though the rate may appear, it was in reality rapid considering the number and variety of difficulties met with. Passengers learned with some satisfaction that if they had waited at Cloncurry for the “next coach” they would still have been on the wrong side of JC. It is likely however that coach and dray traffic will be resumed without much delay as there has been no rain for five days and grass and water are abundant all along the road. We were informed at Richmond that one of the crossings we made was swept away bodily by a fresher the day after we left it behind us.

The skill and ingenuity with which the railway officers faced and overcame difficulty after difficulty deserve unstinted praise. Not less remarkable were the courage, patience and good humour with which the workmen confronted their arduous tasks, carrying heavy loads, working in deep water, sleeping anyhow and cooking and eating when and where they could.

Against the damage suffered by the railway and the disorganisation of the traffic between Cloncurry and the coast – which to all appearances will endure for three months at least – there is to be set the almost incalculable gain to the pastoral industry from the unexpectedly early break up of the drought. The “downs” are at their best, green as the Emerald Isle or Singapore. The grass is almost visibly growing and it will very shortly be difficult to recognise in the sleek fat cattle the animals which a few weeks ago were gaunt skeletons on the brink of death.

There is no lack of critics – wise after the event – who say that it was a great mistake to construct this latest extension of the railway otherwise than as a permanent work, but I for one am not convinced. Had the advent of the wet season been delayed as long as has been the rule for some years back, or had the rainfall been as light, the more essential of the permanent works might have been completed with little interruption to the traffic. As it is even a layman can see how this severe test may prove a blessing in disguise inasmuch as it has pointed out with unerring finger the weak points which have to be permanently defended. The nature of the “downs” country is such that I have no hesitation in saying that there are many weak spots which would have remained unsuspected but for a severe wet season such as has recently been experienced. Had the line been finished in dry weather it is more than likely that some “permanent” works would have been found later on to be unnecessary while others would have had to be fundamentally altered. I regard this experience as invaluable and have no doubt that the railway engineers have duly noted the lessons conveyed by it.

#### **20 Jan 1908 (p40, NQ570, NQR)**

Photo – Pigsty at the Williams River

#### **20 Jan 1908 (p49, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry, Jan 12 – I learn that the trains that left here on Dec 30 reached JC on Wednesday, Jan 8. As there were fully 130 persons on board no doubt they were glad to get through. A great many comprised Towers miners enroute home during the exemption holidays.

Eddington Station, situated within a few miles of Helton, is reported to have only been blessed with 3 inches of rain during the recent heavy rains. This seems very comical when all the places between Cloncurry and JC have had downpours of 12 to 14 inches. But then Eddington is out on the Downs and that may have something to do with it. They had a few sheep bogged so I have been informed.

#### **20 Jan 1908 (S2, NQ567, NQR)**

Photo – Williams River crossing

#### **3 Feb 1908 (p7, NQ999, NQR)**

## The Cloncurry Line Reopened for Traffic

The Cloncurry line has been put in order and the first goods train got through on Friday. In future trains will leave Townsville for Cloncurry on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and will leave Cloncurry for the coast on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

That the opening of the line will be a great boon to the Cloncurry district is shown by the fact that no less than 60 trucks of goods are now awaiting transit to Cloncurry.

After the heavy rains the Railway Department proposed to shut down the line till April, but Dr RL Jack's article in this journal, showing how the two trains had returned from Cloncurry in the wet, directed public attention to the possibility of reopening the traffic.

The Premier, Mr Philp, at once recognised the importance of the reopening of traffic to Cloncurry and directed that it at once be reopened for traffic and kept open. The work of reconstruction was then hurried on with the above gratifying result.

### **10 Feb 1908 (p65, NA, NQR)**

#### Heavy Rains At Cloncurry

#### Railway Line Damaged

#### Mr Thallon Visits The Scene

Mr Thallon, Railway Commissioner, passed through CT yesterday to inspect the Cloncurry line. It was ready for traffic and 50 trucks of goods were at JC but heavy rains at the head of the Gilliat, Fullarton and Williams have again swept away temporary bridges and it will take another week to reopen the line to traffic, even if the weather remains fine. Unfortunately ten days were practically wasted in January, and had it not been for that delay the goods would have got through. The Railway Department will make no mistake this time and a repair train is already busy working back from Cloncurry and others are pushing ahead from JC.

### **17 Feb 1908 (p10, NA, NQR)**

All the passengers bound for Cloncurry who came as far as Gilliat with the coach, left that vehicle there after waiting for about four days, and got on to a trolley on the line. Everything went all right for a time, until they came to one of the creeks which was a banker and they were compelled to camp for the night. In the morning they were amazed to find water rushing at the back of them as well as in front. It was impossible to proceed either way. The water gradually rose and soon was covering the line under the trolley. The men were compelled to board their raft and wait their doom. Higher and higher the water rose and as the trolley was beginning to rise clear of the rails all hands began to pray for deliverance. This was answered; the water began to subside and in a very short time everything was clear for a forward move. They reached Cloncurry at midday after being three days on the journey with only a couple of johnny cakes to share amongst eight. Mr McDermott who had a rough passage down was one of the unfortunates.

### **17 Feb 1908 (p61, NA, NQR)**

#### The Cloncurry Line

#### The Railway Commissioner Interviewed

The Commissioner for Railways, Mr Trallon, together with the Traffic Manager, Mr Evans and party arrived at CT from the West by special train on Monday afternoon.

Speaking to a representative of the "Northern Miner" in the evening, Mr Trallon said the party started from Townsville on Monday, February 3rd, hoping to get right through to Cloncurry. On Tuesday evening they reached the Gilliat and having with them a boat and two trolley cars, hoped to move forward next morning. Unfortunately on Wednesday the Gilliat was 15 ft over the rails and the lost both trolley cars for a time. They decided to return to Gilliat.

The same evening they came back to JC where the Commissioner met a deputation, representing the carrying interests, introduced by Mr Goldring, which urged the Commissioner not to open the railway beyond JC.

The Commissioner replied that the government, having put its hands to the plough, would not sit back, and that he was there for the purpose of pushing the line in to Cloncurry as quickly as possible. He had



already telegraphed the Deputy Commissioner in Brisbane to arrange the opening of the line to JC and this would be done as soon as preliminary arrangements – such as telegraphic instruments etc could be provided.

The line beyond JC was not available for traffic, but will be kept in repair, and no unnecessary delay will take place in carrying public traffic.

For the present, however, it was quite impossible for the Commissioner to undertake to carry traffic through. Permanent bridges had not been erected even as far as JC but the temporary structures were quite sufficient to enable the line to be opened to the place.

Beyond JC there were no bridges at all but the engineer in charge had arranged temporary bridges at the Fullarton and Williams Rivers which were sufficiently strong to withstand anything but an extraordinary flood. The other waterways would be treated in a similar manner.

The Commissioner added that the temporary bridge at Williams River had already been washed out six times and that other smaller crossings, which had been made quite safe up to Wednesday last, were again washed out before he crossed them on Friday.

The Commissioner and party left the Gilliat on Friday, arrived at the Fullarton at midday and proceeded from there by engine until within 12 miles of Cloncurry, from which point they had to walk five miles until a trolley met them from Cloncurry. From there the Commissioner remarked, it was easy sailing – except for the man who drove the trolley. Cloncurry was reached at 10.30pm on Saturday.

Four hours were occupied on Sunday morning over the Cloncurry station yard and ballast pit and the party left by trolley at 10.30 am. Nine miles out they met the engine which took them to the Fullarton River. This being uncrossable for the engine they covered 24 miles in the trolleys and arrived at the Gilliat. From there they journeyed by train to Richmond and by special to CT.

#### **24 Feb 1908 (p8, NA, NQR)**

Over a hundred camels arrived here from Helton last Friday, all laden with produce. They marched boldly into town, but were ordered outside the boundary until 4pm. This caused consternation amongst the owners, as they pleaded ignorance of the by-laws regulating camel traffic which debar camels from entering the town between the hours of 10am and 4 pm. They pulled out of the main street and then a deputation waited on the Shire clerk who granted them a special permit to unload on account of the bulk of the load being potatoes and onions which, as they stated, were fast decaying. However, the pound-keeper came down on them like a ton of bricks and has given them until Wednesday next to register their camels under penalty of being summonsed which will mean a sum of about £50. I may state that one of the new by-laws compels all camels to be registered, a fee of 10/- each being the fee. Since then the camel men held a meeting and from what I could glean I believe they have decided to boycott Cloncurry as far as carrying is concerned. If this be true then it will be hard on some of the gougers who are working in the fastness of the mountains where no waggon can possibly get and who rely solely on camels to get their ore away. It is stated that a number of the camels will be sent to NSW whilst the others go to Normanton to trade between that port and the Leichhardt.

#### **23 Mar 1908 (p17, NA, NQR)**

A petition has been forwarded to the Railway authorities, praying that the line be opened for passenger traffic right to Cloncurry, some 300 signatures being attached to the petition. At present a few of the favoured ones are allowed to travel by the iron horse, but the bulk are compelled to pay Cobb and Co (who must have made a mint of money on the Richmond-Cloncurry route) 35/- for a ride to JC whereas it would only cost about 9/7 per train to that place from here.

#### **30 Mar 1908 (p16, NA, NQR)**

Cloncurry, 22 Mar – The weather has been delightfully cool during the week, which is a contrast to the hot March winds that generally prevail. Last Friday night the sky became overcast and early on Saturday morning we had a light shower, also in the afternoon, but not sufficient to lay the dust. Out Wee McGregor way there was a fall of an inch and a half, and Drover Richard reports two heavy showers along the road between Helton and Cloncurry, in the vicinity of the Gilliat.

The trains have been running regularly during the week and I am told on good authority that the line is

to be opened for public traffic in the course of a day or two.

If the line is safe for goods, how is it that it is not safe for passenger traffic, is the cry of all you meet in Cloncurry. It is about time it was opened for people are getting tired of paying Cobb and Co 35/- for a trip which can be got for about 9/- by rail, and not one half the expenses to pay along the route. What a harvest Cobb and Co must have made on the Richmond-Cloncurry Road during the last two years. It would be interesting to glean the amount of money they have taken.

**20 Apr 1908 (p50, NA, NQR)**

The train is still running to time and it is preposterous to think that the railway authorities are still flouting the residents in this district by not opening the line for passenger traffic. People leaving here by train, I am sure, would be only too pleased to pay £1 for their ride to JC rather than travel in the objectionable coaches.

**20 Apr 1908 (p76, NQ574, NQR)**

Ad for Jackson & Co – Cloncurry and Helton

**13 May 1908 (p3, NA, TDB)**

Cloncurry Notes

Cloncurry, May 8 – In spite of all manner of agitation the mails and passengers still have to be carried from Helton by road. It is difficult to see what the authorities have to gain by their perversity in delaying the opening of the line.

**19 May 1908 (p5, NA, TDB)**

Cloncurry, May 18 – About thirteen passengers left by Cobb and Co's coach today each paying 35/- fare. The railway authorities are dealing strangely with the citizens here; a few people are still able to travel by train but not the general public. The Secretary for Railways (Mr Kerr) would probably get a warm reception were he to visit Cloncurry just now.

**13 Jun 1908 (p2, 080613, TDB)**

"The railway work is being pushed on well between JC and Cloncurry," said Mr Philp. "The bulk of the work is done now, except bridging and some ballasting. The first train went through this week, leaving here on Monday morning and arriving at Cloncurry on Tuesday evening. But there seems to me no reason why the train should not leave here on Monday night and reach Cloncurry on Tuesday night just the same. That would mean that people would have a day in Townsville – a great convenience for western men who have business in town – and still arrive at Cloncurry on Tuesday as at present.

"They have been taking goods through for some time and now they are taking passengers, but strange to say they have not yet taken the mails. The mails arrive in Cloncurry about 34 hours after the passengers. I do not know whether it is the State or Federal government which is responsible for that, but certainly it should be remedied. The railway line is a good one and the engineers deserve great credit for the way they have pushed it along."

**13 June 1908 (p6, NA, TDB)**

Cloncurry, Jun 12 – The first passengers train from Cloncurry leaves this morning when several people will travel southwards. Messrs Cobb and Co are ready to close their branch here when the authorities take over the mail, perhaps next Bingera's mail.

**20 June 1908 (p9, NA, TDB)**

Cloncurry, Jun 16 – The Railway

Last Tuesday evening the usual goods train arrived with the first carriage of passengers for Cloncurry. This carriage will travel weekly backwards and forwards from Helton and will be welcomed as a great convenience by the travelling public. It is a pity however that the railway authorities cannot provide two passenger trains a week and deliver the mails with a little more despatch than at present. Cobb and Co's coaches still carry the mails but it is not likely that this arrangement can last much longer.

**29 June 1908 (p77, NQ573, NQR)**

Shire of McKinlay

Wanted a good man for road repair, working hand; able to drive a dray and to act as Inspector of nuisances when in town. Position a permanent one. Wages, £3 per week.

Applicants to state age, and enclose references as to capability and sobriety, latter indispensable.

Applications received up to 8th July.

AT Powne  
Clerk

**4 Dec 1908 (p5, 081204, TDB)**

The Cloncurry Line

Arrangements for Trains

Brisbane, 3 Dec – The timetable for the Cloncurry Railway Extension, which will be opened on Sunday, 13th December, has been arranged. For the present a train will leave Cloncurry on Sunday morning, reaching Townsville on Monday night and connecting with the mail steamer, passengers stopping overnight at Richmond, as at present. On the outward journey the train will leave Townsville on Monday morning, passengers again stopping overnight at Richmond. This delay at Richmond is necessary because it is not considered advisable at present to run trains on the extension in the dark. There will, of course, be other trains to accommodate passengers on other days of the week but for the present there will be only one mail train.

The Department desired to despatch a small train from Townsville on Monday evening so that it would reach Cloncurry on Tuesday evening and on the down [return] journey to despatch a train from Cloncurry on Sunday morning, arriving in Townsville Monday morning thus accomplishing the journey on the extension by daylight, and accommodating passengers with sleeping cars on the Townsville end of the journey thus permitting the doing of business at Townsville and CT on both journeys. This however would involve a delay with the mails and considerable alteration of country service and it has not been deemed advisable to carry out the scheme at present. The intention of the Department, however, is ultimately to run a direct train from Townsville to Cloncurry.

**15 Mar 1909 (p66, NQ571, NQR)**

Ad - Dalgonaally for sale

**11 Oct 1909 (p56, NA, NQR)**

Goats for Profit

For many years the goat, like the prophet, has had no honour in his own country, but in these days of high-priced hides and valuable by-products he has been dignified by a commercial value, and in consequence is receiving some attention.

On CT the goat has always been plentiful – 'twas ever thus on a mining field – and though tolerated by most of the community, his only recognised use was that of an unofficial town scavenger. He has minor accomplishments, it must be confessed. For instance, his assistance in ridding the town of extraordinary and hideous theatrical bill posters has always been underrated. It amused the public, annoyed the bill sticker, and created work, so in itself this is admirable.

But taken on the whole, before posthumous honours were thrust upon him, the festive goat, not without cause, was considered to be something of a noxious nuisance. He, of the distinctly masculine gender, is so offensively aromatic, his fond flock of feminines so insatiable in their love of pot plants, rose bushes and all the floral attributes of a home, that a vendetta between the goat and the good wives of the community has been established.

But lately on and about CT the goat has become a source of income to many. The skins are in good demand and the surrounding mining camps are solid markets for well grown young goats.

The prices for skins vary according to the weight and quality. Wether skins, well grown, bring 3/-; yearling wethers, 1/6; nannies, 9d to 1/0; and small kids from 9d to 6d per skin.

Mr McCluskey of Plum Tree has been breeding goats for years and there can be little doubt that they are an almost indispensable side line to the selector. The hides are valuable, the milk and flesh good and wholesome. The meat can be used for home consumption, or fed to poultry, pigs and dogs. The goat

lives where other animals starve. It travels long distances for food without effort. It is singularly immune from disease, will eat anything and thrive. Barring hawks, dogs and occasional hungry humans, nothing will kill a goat, for like the cassowary, his digestion is supreme to minor ills that ordinary flesh is heir to.

Speaking with Mrs McCloskey, they have from 500 to 700 goats, bred from the ordinary goat with a cross of the angora. The long dry spell is playing up with the young mothers and the kids and the loss from stray dogs is great. The hawks too are a constant source of annoyance, forcing the small kiddies to be safeguarded in pens all day. They are housed until strong enough to shift about nimbly with their mothers. They are then turned out.

Later, when people wake up to the commercial value of "billy", more attention will be given to his breeding. On the Continent goat breeding is an important pursuit. The Swiss goats are of large stature and wonderful milers. Most of the famous Swiss cheeses are made from goat's milk and mohair is always a marketable commodity. At Charleville the Municipal authorities have imported Angora stud goats. These are the only sires allowed in the district. They are let out free of charge and in consequence the Charleville goat flock is said to be the best and most uniform in the colony, and the Charleville Municipality is to be congratulated on its enterprise and business acumen.

The Nubian breed are reputed to be the best milkers and Mr do Plessis who has written an extensive work on the goat, gives the following comparative yield of the halfbred and the pure Nubian.

On an average when in full milk, a good half bred yields three quarts daily, and the pure bred four quarts, the richness of the quality being proportionately greater.

**26 June 1911 (p87, NA, NQR)**

Mr Laffey, itinerant teacher, who had been through all the country to the east of Cloncurry returned here last week and has now gone out south-west. Mr Laffey has about the largest number of children on his route, as well as having to patrol the biggest district, but still he appears happy and looks well.

**14 Aug 1911 (p43, NQ572, NQR)**

Photo of goats at Isisford

**25 Dec 1911 (p4, NQ575, NQR)**

Eureka Hotel, CT, A Kaeser

**24 Feb 1914 (p42, NA, NQR)**

A Dissertation On Goats

There are, usually, two kinds of goats – male and female – and 200 of them would be considered an ample number to supply a family of three with meat and milk. In some outback places an excess of this number is kept but unless the goats are of a Myall nature and take to staying out at nights, 200 should be sufficient.

The goat has an inquisitive and prying nature for which reason many of them wear an ill-fitting triangular collar to prevent them sifting themselves through the barbed wire fence that surrounds the garden. This neck gear and a bland expression, and, in the case of billies, a large thick odour is usually all the clothing they sport. Sometimes, however, a small bell, which can be heard distinctly at a distance of two yards is attached to the neck of a pet nanny.

Goats have many duties to perform, not the least of which are the supplying of meat and milk for outback pubs and keeping the boarders awake at night by playing hopscotch over their beds. By arrangement with the fowls they contrive to keep Mrs Bung, who is generally a large stout woman whose coast line reminds one of the adage "waist not want not," from her other duties. At any time one may see a red-faced woman chasing goats off the counter and out of the bar while a few light-hearted fowls amuse themselves in the kitchen by picking airholes in a batch of new made bread.

At one shanty the fowls roosted in the rafters and tie-beams of the dining room and as the evening meal was not consumed till after dark the boarders suffered some inconvenience. There was one particular fowl that lived at the Grand Hotel, at Moki Bunda and laid an egg in my bed which I did not discover till I lit the candle and scraped it off the quilt and my pyjamas.

By the way, why does the gunyah-like structure of antbed and bark that is so numerous way back, label itself Grand Hotel? Is it for the same reason that the owner of a knock-kneed, roman nosed, broken-down and broken up piece of horse flesh names his steed Carbine?

The face of a goat conveys an impression of innocence that is entirely assumed. Often while one is engaged in studying the facile expression of a little nanny, a large billy will charge from behind with a quite unnecessary amount of force. When the student of natural history has pieced himself, his notebook, hat and other parts of his attire, together again, William and his consort are quietly making a meal of jam tins and bottles at the rubbish heap, and looking as if nothing had happened.

The William goat belongs to the odoriferous order of animals so much so that he can be identified at a distance of half a mile, even when gazed at through the wrong end of a telescope. But one can get used to the effluvia and get to live it as something suggestive of home. One man whom I remember as a being of many inches, with large hand and feet, and a shearer by religion, told me that so used had he become to a goaty atmosphere that when he went to the city for a holiday he carried a stoppered bottle of goat scent as a safeguard against that lonely feeling that comes over the bush man in the cities.

Goats are useful for weeding gardens, but unless they have been intelligently trained, are quite unable to distinguish between cabbages and chickweed. In any case they should never be allowed to clean a kitchen garden except under surveillance. But how interesting it is to stand on the lee side and watch their playful antics (on washing day) as they amuse themselves with the table cloth and the old man's socks whilst at the back of the woolshed some more of the dear little things are indulging in athletic feats to see which one can reach the furthest up the mango tree. Then at night to be gently awakened by the hairy contingent shifting camp further along the verandah and on rushing out trip over the big billy sleeping in the doorway while the gentle bleating of the nannies is interspersed with guttural mutterings such as "blast them goats" from inside the house. And how refreshing it is to be awakened at the first streak of dawn by the conversation of the fowls above the bed and the sounds of the goats clattering off the verandah en route for the rubbish heap.

When the traveller has collected the most essential articles of his wearing apparel from the reluctant goats, paid the full price for a partial night's rest, purchased a bottle of "Our Own Make" snake essence for use at the first water hole, he departs knowing that the performance, goats and all, will be repeated at the next pub.  
"McNorth"

**14 Apr 1914 (p27, NQ701, NQR)**

People's Cash Store

**28 Sep 1914 (p72, NA, NQR)**

Australian Artesian Basin

Mr Pittman's Paper

Summary of Conclusions

The unanimous opinion of those geologists who have had opportunity for a careful study of the Great Australian basin is that the water which comes from the flowing wells is of mesozoic origin and that hydraulic pressure is the primary cause of its rising above the surface in bores. Amongst those who hold these views are the Government geologists of Qld, NSW, SA and WA, all of whom have made a careful study of the subject in the field.

The evidence in support of their opinions may be summarised as follows:—

(1) Water under sufficient pressure to rise above the surface in bores is found nearly everywhere within the limits of what has been proved to be a true geological basin having a length from north to south of nearly 1500 miles and a maximum width from east to west of near 1000 miles.

(2) The floor of this basin is composed of impervious rocks such as granite and Palaeozoic sediments.

(3) Above these impermeable rocks and resting uncomfortable upon them are beds of considerable thickness of porous mesozoic sandstones with interbedded shales.

- (4) These porous sandstones are seen at the surface along the eastern margin of the basin, that is to say, along the western flanks of the Main Dividing Range where they reach an altitude of over 2000 feet above sea level. Their outcrop has a mean width of about 65 miles and they dip in a westerly direction towards the centre of the basin.
- (5) The continuity of the same porous sandstone beds in a westerly direction, under the basin for a distance of at least 400 miles has been proved in NSW by fossil evidence. Moreover, wherever water under pressure occurs within the limits of the basin it is found in a porous sandstone.
- (6) The altitude of the area where the porous beds outcrop is everywhere considerably greater than that of the plains where the water rises in the artesian bores.
- (7) In the centre of the basin the porous sandstones are overlaid by shales, limestones and clays forming an impervious covering which has a maximum thickness of about 5000 feet.
- (8) The exposed porous sandstones form a considerable portion of the catchment area of the Darling River all the tributaries of which flow for a considerable distance over these rocks.
- (9) The “run-off” of the Darling river is much lower in proportion to the amount of rain which falls upon its catchment area, than that of the Murray or Hume River, the watershed of which is all composed of impervious rocks.
- (10) The mean annual temperature of the two watersheds is about the same and therefore there can be little difference in the loss by evaporation to which each river is liable.
- (11) The areas where the present sandstone outcrop on the western flanks of the Main Dividing Range, have a mean annual rainfall of about 25 inches.
- (12) Water under sufficient pressure to rise above the surface in bores is found nowhere outside the limits of the porous sandstones.
- (13) In every case where a flow of water is obtained the potential of the water or the height above sea level to which it will rise is less than the altitude of the intake-beds on the eastern margin of the basin.

**23 Dec 1916 (p73, NA, NQR)**

JC, Dec 15 – The weather for the past few days has been quite cool in consequence of the heavy rains which have fallen around here, some of the places registering from 2 inches to 5 inches.

The mailman on the Dalgonally-JC route experienced great difficulty in reaching here last week, being two days late, which is something unusual as he is considered one of the best mailmen in the district, and no doubt the people along his route will feel their loss when he retires at the end of the year.

Dame Rumour says we are to have a few more weddings in our midst shortly, as some of our young ladies are already wearing “sparklets.”

The wool season around here is at a close for the year, the Cremona Downs being the last to go forward.

**31 Dec 1917 (p24, NQ576, NQR)**

Ad for Goanna Salve

**16 Dec 1918 (p69, NQ578, NQR)**

Ad for Stewart's phonograph

**23 Dec 1918 (S2, NQ578, NQR)**

Ad for Bushell's tea

**24 Nov 1919 (p22, NA, NQR)**

ATL – Marked tree of McIntyre's [of no interest]

I am very pleased to have Mr Kennedy's letter. It is first hand history. The sources of the history of our country diminish gradually. Few pioneers remain with us and ere long the present generation can have only the written word.

### **19 April 1920 (p64)**

ATL: Dingo Destruction

It is sad to think of it, but the old dingo has to go. He is the oldest colonist of all. Recently the Dalrymple Dingo board paid for eleven hundred scalps at £1 per head. A dead dingo is worth a golden sovereign throughout eight-tenths of our state and in sheep districts he is worth up to £10. It is very sad. I do not like to kill him. He is an old timer; Captain Cook tells on the 30th June 1770 of the first dingo. He writes in his log: "Mr Gore reported that he had seen two animals like dogs of a straw colour, and they ran like a hare."

The dingo is an old acquaintance. Today he has many enemies. He has made all these bitter enemies by his own bad behaviour. He has learnt to kill sheep. Twenty-five years ago here we had a few hundred sheep and may be fifty lambs. I rode through the paddock in the winter morning. Nearly half of the lambs were bitten and torn. That night I yarded the sheep near the mud humpy that was our home. I laid a tasty bait of grilled mutton in which the powdered strychnine was hidden, just near the gate. Laid it down, carefully wrapped in paper. In the morning the bait was gone. A telltale track in the dust gave hope. The paper – chewed – was at the corner of the yard. I waited around, and there, near a tree, was a big yellow dingo, dead. I was very pleased and I let the sheep go in the paddock again.

A few months after I came home late at night. A dingo had been at work near the home. Lambs had been killed near by. The fowls had been startled in the night. A small brown dingo had been seen near the creek. Willie had tried a long shot with a rifle, but missed.

It was too late to do anything that night.

The following night Willie and I made our camp near the creek on a claypan. We'd an old sheep dog and we tied him up to a tree and lay near. It was bright moonlight. Willie had the rifle and I had an old Manton gun. We lay down and it must have been near midnight the old dog gave warning. Sleep was on a hair trigger. I awoke and sat up. The old dog had growled, I scanned around, there was nothing to be seen, though it was as bright as day. I lay down and it must have been two hours afterwards the old dog gave warning again. Stealthily I sat up. Here, before me, not 40 yards away, was a highe dog, bold and clear, on the bare ground. I hesitated. It was not the small brown dingo that had been seen. Quietly, slowly I brought the old Manton by my shoulder and fired. The smoke cleared and the dog was gone. "Good Lord, I missed. Oh, Lord, missed a chance like that."

The old sheep dog was wildly tugging at his rope and frantic to get away.

"Good Lord, I missed a chance like that. Let the dog go. I might have hit and perhaps he'll find him." Willie let the dog go and away he went down the creek, barking and going his best, and round and round. Then he came to the place the dingo had been and started worrying and tearing there, and he jumped up and ran and here was the dingo, dead as a door nail. The old Manton gun had driven the shot through his body and heart and head and he had collapsed instantly without struggle. He measured five feet three from ears to tail and that was the last dingo here; and this was twenty-five years ago.

A week or two past a young neighbour chap came to me. "I saw live dingoes on a mob on your fence this morning," said he. A day or two afterwards he told me he had seen three more together and a week or two after that one of my people was out driving with the little blackboy in the buggy up near the lagoon and he said he saw something yellow moving. Bessie went along cautiously. She had the gun in the buggy. Then she saw movement through the bushes and she crept out with the gun. It was a rare sight. Oh, for a camera. A dingo slut and five half-grown pups. The pups were playing about with some dead wool I had pulled off a dead sheep stuck in the mud a week before and the slut was gnawing at the old carcass. They were too far for a killing shot, a good eighty yards, and no cover between. Nothing to do but chance it and Bessie fired among the pups. They yelped and scattered and the old slut looked up and stared and ran up the bank, and stood, giving time to put in another cartridge. She got some of the next shot and ran yelping and biting at her side into a sandalwood scrub close by. It could not happen again a hundred years but it tells of what dogs are coming to in places where they were unknown for twenty years and more.

The dingo scourge must now be reckoned among the stockowner's troubles and is a very serious matter to sheep owners. On a station of my acquaintance near Townsville they are killing the calves. From a station on the Cape river comes a tale of woe, dingoes kill calves daily, despite poison baits, traps and spring guns. Recently speaking of the wave of destruction that has come to the sheep men, I said that it could not last. So many killing dingoes must make a mark – it must diminish numbers.

“Well,” said my acquaintance, “in parts of NSW they have been fighting wild dogs for twenty years and yet they come.”

It is hard to believe the pest can continue up here, but meantime it best be faced with all energy. It is often said that dingoes will not take poison baits. No doubts that a dingo may manifest great cunning, but poisoning has always a good chance. There are many opinions of how to make and lay baits. Some adopt neat methods of dragging a trail and dropping small baits neatly wrapped in paper. Here we have done that, but our last poisoning round was to kill an old sheep, singe the skin and entrails and make many baits. Then start off with the buggy, dragging the skin and dropping the raw baits on the track. Stopping every half mile to re-singe the trail, and off again, after dropping baits round the fire, go through the paddocks and you have a fair chance. A hungry dingo wants food and you lay it for him. A slut rearing pups is always savage for food. She cannot travel far from the lair and the chance of her is good.

Trapping is a fine art. There are various traps on the market, all on the principles of the common spring rat trap. The long one, the little round one, and a larger square, short trap that is on the storekeeper market for 6/6 to 7/6. The long trap takes a lot of setting and covering. The little round trap with teethed jaws is often not strong enough, and a dog gets away. The small square steel trap has no teeth in the jaws but it will hold a sheep and so will hold a dog. Trapping sheep is one of the troubles. The square steel trap is easy set once you know how. A word of telling how to set it. Have a tomahawk with you; put your feet on the spring, one each side, and with your hand gripping the jaws, lift and then open the jaws and use a bit of stick to lift the plate. See that the catch has the very slightest grip. Be careful. I've a sore thumb as I write and might have had a much sorer one. When set, lay it carefully in a hole scooped with your tomahawk and lay a sheet of newspaper over the trap, carefully, and lightly sprinkle the dust and grass chaff over it all making the surface look natural. Burn the chain attached to the trap and of course see that your wire is sound and tied to the tree – or, of course, you'll lose the trap and all. You can catch cats and iguanas at times, and of course there's not much satisfaction in seeing a track going away like an iguanas or a cats and your trap dragging behind into the grass, where you cannot track.

A spring gun is just any old gun rigged, tied to driven pegs alongside a pad, on a level with a dingo's body. Drive another peg behind the gun and fix a cotton-reel on it and then run a string, or a very fine wire, from the gun trigger, round the reel and across the pad, tying to another peg, not too conspicuous. The string just high enough to catch a dingo's legs. The dingo comes trotting happily along the pad, hits the string and fires the gun. In rigging these guns it is well to have big wires or rails across the pad or right around the gun, fencing it off from big stock. It is not good business to set too many guns in paddocks where there are sheep or naturally you'll shoot some instead of dingoes.

Another dingo trap is a pit. Sink an old 400 gallon tank into the ground and cover it with slabs and make it look natural, all but one place, where there's a hole big enough to let down a dingo easy – fence it all with wire netting, leaving an opening opposite the hole and over the hole have a balanced, slippery tipping lid, same as you would put over a bucket, to catch rats, but in the dingo trap, put a fowl, or a kid, or another dog in a netting cage inside the enclosure. You must rig the lid to suit yourself and the pit; leaving it tidy and not too conspicuously trap-like. I have known eight dingo's to be caught in one pit during the night.

The best trail, the best decoy is another dog or better still a slut. One dead dingo or half of one is a fine trail. When you catch one, always leave him near the trap for decoy.

On a moonlit night once I knew dingoes to be feeding on a dead calf. A marksman crept up within easy range with a Winchester. He shot one dingo and the others worried and fought around the dead one until five were shot.

**3 May 1920 (p70, NA, NQR)**



## The Goatskin Market

Prices in the local goatskin market which have reached a remarkable height of late, have slumped severely in the last day or two. Skins which would have brought 22/6 a few days ago are now down in the neighbourhood of 10/-, The sudden fall is said to be due to unfavourable news received from overseas which probably means that other countries which have been out of the market during the war have now come in again with supplies.

## 17 May 1920 (p54, NA, NQR)

ATL

Recent happenings in NQ remind us that NQ is a land of wide space and remote corners. In some northern and western districts cattle stealing has been more than usually rife since values increased, yet previously, in old times, when values were low, there was, for a certain class, a charm about getting home on the other fellow. It put a strain of romance into the business. It constituted "smartness."

Among neighbours where runs are unfenced and herds intermix the feeling of distrust, once it enters into men's minds, develops animosity and lifelong feuds even between members of families. Feuds handed on from fathers to sons and the sixth sense by which another man's weaned and unbranded calf is regarded as sacred, is not developed in young men's minds. That portion of the statute law which respects another man's livestock is disregarded and the law of the cattle camp substituted. That law depends on the relations existing between neighbours.

Sometimes the statute law is called in, but rarely in recent years have any but Scotch verdicts been returned – "Not Proven". Yet cattle stealing is a crime. Sometimes in well-managed herds among friendly neighbours a calf is branded by mistake and I have seen this rectified by knifing on the neighbour's earmark and "faking" his brand on to the next calf of the same sex and proportions and a friendly note tells of the circumstance.

In early years of NQ settlement there were notorious thefts of cattle. The story in "Robbery Under Arms" was not fiction. Thirteen hundred head of cattle were lifted from Mount Cornish run and driven across Australia to Adelaide where they were sold. The theft was discovered by a chance. There was an imported bull in the mob. Many times he was cut out on the way to be left behind but something always tuned up that he returned and once he was cut out to be shot but fate was in his favour and again he entered the mob and was finally sold with the rest. A cattle man near Adelaide bought him. A sailor ran away from a ship. He carried his swag inland. He obtained employment from the man who bought the bull. The sailor had been on the ship in which the bull came from England and he knew the animal. He told his employer, his employer told somebody else and so on to the ears of someone who knew the bull should not be there. Enquiries discovered the theft of the cattle. Some men were arrested and tried in Roma where a jury would not convict them for which Roma was disfranchised for very many years. It was a wonderful and a clever theft, a journey through 1000 miles of unknown country.

At the time of the Palmer rush, 1873, there were many thefts of cattle from well-stocked runs on the Flinders. They were never missed.

As the goldfields of the Cape developed there was much cattle work and for many years CT made an illicit market for beef cattle. Dotswood was a well stocked run with big spaces. Times however changed. The law was active. There came good bush police and trackers. If the law could not convict it could at any rate make legal defence costly and by degrees this class of cattle man dropped out. As a rule they were clever bushmen, horsemen, trackers. It was an enterprise requiring courage and craft. These men supplied butchers with fat cattle at so much per head. They went on to runs, put on camps, cut out the fats – together with any big "nuggets" (clean skins) available – and left few traces of their visit. The hoofs of the horses they rode were trimmed and nicked in front to resemble the tracks of a bullock. They knew previously the locality the station hands were working and chose an opposite one. Showery weather favoured them. They travelled long stages by back routes, through bush at night and rested obscurely through the day with a blackboy scouting behind in case of accident, schooled to give warning with all speed if there was a suspicion of being followed – schooled in the art, "Play um tsilly fella" – if met and questioned. Then, even if come up with, possession of the cattle had to be proved.

"Whose cattle are these?"

"I don't know. Me and my mate are going to Georgetown, and we just saw these cattle here; may be the chaps with them is somewhere camped about here."

It was just hard luck. One instance of the hardest of this kind of luck happened with a mob of fat cattle lifted from Millungera and driven by bush routes to The Palmer, the men living on beef and on milk from a quiet cow they picked up with the mob. They were actually closing the deal with a butcher on the Palmer when arrested. Cleanskin calves picked up and brought along with these mobs for the Cape or CT were gifts for friendly “fences” by the wayside.

From time immemorial the cattle thief has been a sort of parasitic growth upon outback life apparently begotten of the conditions. Traditions tells us of men “making a start” with a team of bullocks and having quite a good branding. Outback in the early eighties a Sydney company acquired a large area of fine downs country and they sent up three hundred heifers. In a year or two they returned five thousand cattle. The manager of the station showed me the letter of the general manager in Sydney. “Allow me to congratulate you on your phenomenal brandings,” he wrote. The manager was not a thief. The general manager was a bank director of the highest repute. Why did not the neighbours keep their cattle branded up. “The opportunity makes the thief,” is an old saying.

I visited Baker on Sunday and spoke of the cattle stealing business. Gilligan was there; we were talking of men getting in too early, branding young calves who could be “mothered.” He spoke sadly at first, sympathetically almost, and then he lost temper and said, “Well, if they will go branding before they wean they deserve all they get. If a man goes slinging his stamp on to a sucking calf, I’ve no time for him.”

Gilligan, alas, only regarded the folly of the methods.

In America when cattle marauders were recognised among herds they were given warning to quit. The civil authorities were slow to move, and legal routine gained no convictions. When thieves were caught the cattle men and cowboys supplied judges, jury, witnesses, attorneys, constables and executioners. When evidence of guilt was clear a short shrift, a stout rope and a grave without coffin or winding sheet ended the proceedings.

As a rule, NQ cattle business has, of late years, been successful. Men of limited means have become wealthy and now count their herds by many thousands. Prosperity in many instances has developed careless management. The city and the motor car has been more to the liking of owners than the camping out, the pack horses and the working of their herds, and so holders of small areas of country make starts and go along if they have the luck, to be clever, and keep out of gaol – and eventually acquire herds and may even aspire themselves to the 17 cylinder, 1926 model car and the southern trip.

In the NT and WA this class are invariably tradesmen of the cattle game; and are called “claypanners,” but in this country they are simply “duffers,” mean duffers, lacking courage, energy and the clever bush craft that made old time hands interesting, if not admirable, even though – in the eyes of the law – they were criminals. These old timers were not mean thieves, and if you met them in the bush it was face to face. You did not see their back, first, as they slunk away.

### **27 Sep 1920 (p70, NA, NQR)**

At the last meeting of the McKinlay shire Council those present were: Councillors WM Allison (Chairman), WE Palmer, AE Wheelhouse, SU Browne, JH Mathews, JC Wardrop and the Shire Clerk Mr JI Hardgrave.

Outward Correspondence... no objections to slaughter license of CS Byrne, JC; G Emblem appointed as Ranger and Poundkeeper; CS Byrne, JC, informing approval slaughter-yard site;

From AT Powne, complaining about conditions of Gilliat road and asking that road be dragged with a light fire plough and referring to increased rates and high expenditure as compared to former years. Moved by Cr Wardrop, seconded by chairman that clerk reply council money is being used as judiciously as possible at present time, and Council considers that stone crossings in creeks and flats require attention sooner than tyre-dragging road and also to point out that a sum of £507/15/3 for the past four years has been spent in necessary crossing on Gilliat road alone. Clerk to draw attention to part of letter regarding rates and salaries and to mention that the rate is only two and a half times greater than 1910 and a total of £531 was spent in salaries last year for clerk and superintendent which works out at 10% administration costs as against 18% in 1910. Carried.

**31 Jan 1921 (p17, NA, NQR)**

Butter making in Hot Weather

ATL

A good sort of young fellow, who keeps a small milk herd for pleasure of the job writes me:—

“I was about to write to you when I received your note. My trouble was and is as follows:— How can one make butter in the hot weather? Naturally it would be easy if one could procure ice but that is out of the question, so I would be pleased if you could inform me. I always try and make it before sunrise and always as soon as separated put cream in the cooler and next day churn it. After a time it goes into a greasy state like car grease and gets no further.”

Reply:— No doubt many readers will, at this season, sympathise with my correspondent. I would emphasise as a first lesson in butter making during hot weather, that it is a matter of temperature, both in the keeping and ripening of cream, and the making of the butter. Everything must be as cool as it can be made and often the primitive “coolers” of the bush and a clean wet bag will keep cream right and butter fairly solid. The wet bag over all in a tray of water is good, and moreover it is inadvisable to cover the cream jar closely with a lid or cloth. Cream may be covered with net or muslin.

The average butter maker knows little and bothers less about thermometers but yet a thermometer is a good thing in the country dairy. Just at this time here, at my home, we warm the milk on the stove to say 130° before separating. The speed of the separator regulates the texture of the cream. One needs give close attention. Speed makes thick cream. Go too slow and the cream is thin and milky. Thin cream is harder to deal with and to churn. I would say turn at moderate speed on the quick side and have thick cream. Often we put the cream back through the separator with the last bucket of milk and often that milk is put through twice and so we are sure we have all the cream.

Our cream jar is just common brown delf-thickness of the jar is good, and for a tray suspended on a cool verandah, a camp oven with an inch of water in it is very good. The jar stands in this and is covered with net and a clean wet bag over all and if a portion of the bag is in the water it will keep wet. A pinch of boracic acid or a handful of common salt in the water gives sweetness to it all. Salt is always a cooling factor.

When butter is only for household use and where only a few cows are milked I am disposed to the opinion that in the summer it is just as well to milk the cows in the evening. Where the calves have a small paddock to themselves and shade, as they should have, it matters not to them. Much more milk will be got from the cows and the calves have plenty. By this method, cream has but one day's heat and two cool nights. By morning milking it has two day's heat and two nights. Cream separated this evening has tomorrow evening's cream joined, and of course, mixed, and it has all night to ripen, to be churned at dawn the following morning. Think it over — you see, say you milk in the morning and separate. Then tomorrow morning you have to put the fresh cream with yesterday's and churn straight away. The fresh cream has no time to ripen and fully 30% of the butter is lost. By the night milking the chances of sweet cream and much more butter are very good.

And now, given attention to cooling, the cream, with fair luck, for the early morning, should not be much above right churning temperature, which is 62°.

Given churn and stick, all clean and cool by immersion in the coolest water you can get, put in your cream and stir away gently, but not too slow. Do not put your hands near the bowl or churn, the heat of the hand increases temperature. If you can churn in the cream jar all very good. Keep it wrapped round with a wet cloth. Stir for a few minutes and let it rest; forget about it, do something else. Then come and stir again, all the time watching for the cream thickening.

Now, if you read my correspondent's letter you see where he got the cream into a greasy state. Well, that is because he missed the moment when the butter “come” and went on churning and so made a mess of it, and he might churn for a week, and never get better, just a sour, greasy paste. In churning, watch when the cream thickens, when the wrinkles cease in front of the spoon. When the appearance changes. Watch closely. Small granules form. That's the moment. Just move the spoon gently round once or twice and etch the granules together and when you've got them add a spoonful or two of the coldest water you have. In warm weather these granules are very small, not larger than pin points. A

good magnifying glass will tell you much. In winter time they are as big as wheat and there is no trouble churning; it will come in a minute.

I cannot tell you more. Experiment for yourself, and above all have everything clean and cool and be careful. Watch closely for the little globules.

If you have the misfortune to overchurn and get it into the greasy state to which my correspondent refers, then tie the mass in a clean wet cloth and bury it a foot deep in cool damp ground under shade and in the morning you'll have eatable butter.

In moderate weather if you just bury your cream in cool damp earth, butter results, without churning at all. Just eatable butter.

#### **14 Mar 1921 (p75, 210314, NQR)**

ATL

My next letter is from Roermond, in Holland, asking that I should be one of a Congress for the improvements of the milch goat. The meeting is to be on the 16th and 17th of August "Protectixie, Her Majesty the Queen of Netherlands."

The object is discussion on the following sections:— (1) The significance of the goat from an economical point of view; (2) The significance of goat's milk, it's value as food, and from a medical point of view; (3) Goat breeding associations and Government's measures as they exist, and can be improved; (4) Goat insurance and registration; (5) Methods of breeding.

This congress is regarded as important and is called by a committee of the nation's leaders. Professors of Universities, members of the Parliament and such names as this: JH Timmermans, Chairman Dutch Goat Breeding Committee, Government breeding advisor at Roermond.

Well, I cannot attend this Congress, but it is pleasing to know that in other parts of the world the animal so little thought of by us is much prized and is valuable.

More than twenty years ago we had a large number of goats here. May be six hundred and we bred them and picked them for milk. Once a photograph was taken of twelve of the best with great udders of milk. At this time the milch goat was popular in America and I sent the photo to an excellent little paper, *The American Sheepbreeder* published in Chicago. The picture set the goat world of America all agog. A leading [... one line undecipherable] The editorial reads: "Neither Sanyeen, Toggenburger, Nubian, or other known varieties of Milch goats can compare with those of The Plains Ranch, North Qld." I got letters from all over America. I replied and told them the truth that these goats had no value in this country, they were impounded periodically from Commons and destroyed. I told them if they came I would give them a drove for the taking away. None ever came, or sent, and none ever replied. The explanation was unbelief. They thought I was making a fool of them.

However, sometime afterwards, Professor Thompson of one of the great Agricultural Colleges of America published a book on Milch goats, their breeding and management, and he opened up a fresh channel of correspondence for me because he published the photo of our goats and he devoted a chapter to their excellence – and so letters came from all over the world, and that is how I am invited to this Congress in Holland, and I am renowned all over the world as a breeder of Milch goats.

[‘Manual of Angora Goat Raising with a chapter on Milch Goats’, George Fayette Thompson, 1903, Published by American Sheep Breeders Co. Available for US\$65 from several sellers in 2005]

It was fame easily acquired because our stock were just the comon goats of the North, selected and bred right and carefully handled. We kept the male stock marked as we do lambs, docked them short and earmarked the same. I tried to popularise these good animals that give meat and milk to mankind, bred them and herded them with sheep, slaughtered them side by side in the shows and asked who could tell a difference by sight or taste, but they never had a value.

Many of my correspondents would have shipped goats away but they were confronted with a difficulty. Coastal steamers would not carry goats. Some sixteen years ago I bought twenty high class goats from The Peake Station, 600 miles from Adelaide, and had them brought down. It was only by the influence

of a great man of SA I could get them shipped to Sydney, and from there I had great trouble again, but at last I got them to Townsville. Later on I had trouble to get two shipped north to Cairns but I eventually got them to Atherton and sold one each to Tom Moody and to John Atherton.

I wonder as I write if a time will ever come in this country when these good animals will be appreciated. However, I shall reply to the invitation and I hope later to hear more of the Congress.

[“Along the Line” should not despair. In our interview on the Barkly Tableland leases, the man who knew strongly urged every settler to start with a small flock of goats to provide milk, butter and meat – Ed]

## **2 May 1921 (p9, NA, NQR)**

Mitchell Grass

ATL

I have a letter from a man in NSW. It read: “I have been given your name by a couple of Qld graziers as being able to procure for me Mitchell grass seed and would deem it a great favour if you will let me know whether you can supply me with a couple of bags of this seed, also any particulars you would wish me to have concerning same.”

All right. My correspondent does not enclose stamps for reply but I shall send some seed. I shall also here write a few lines on the subject, maybe correcting wrong impressions concerning this grass generally.

There are many varieties of Mitchell grass or rather should I say of the species to which Mitchell grass belongs. The species was named after Sir Thomas Mitchell being first noted noted by him on his Barcoo expedition in 1845. But it may be doubted if any one species or variety was specially observed. More probable was it that Mitchell’s observation included the Downs pasture generally and later when his name was given the grass it was accepted as a generic term, including all downs grasses and the name was popularly imposed on the best variety, the “feeding Mitchell,” as we know it today.

The pasture value of the downs grasses was made so manifest to Mitchell by the well doing of his stock that he took notice of it. Mitchell was not like Leichhardt, a scientist, nor even a good observer, and he made few contributions to science.

The name Mitchell grass has been given to the species to which the Feeding Mitchell grass belongs, but this has not been scientifically adopted. In this country bushmen also adopt the name for two other varieties and these are known as the “Weeping Mitchell” and the “Bull Mitchell”. Neither of these has a high feed value nor are they appreciated by stock. There are other varieties of the *Astrelba* species even among the coarse wiry rubbish of sandy flats and desert land.

The “Feeding Mitchell” grows on high, dry black soil downs and has a seed haulm somewhat resembling English rye grass. Mitchell writes; “The grasses consist of panicum and several new sorts, one of which springs green from the old stem.”

This is not a definition of the grass. It is not a panicum and the attribute of sprouting from the old stem is not conspicuous among the downs grasses, not nearly so as in the “Mulga grass” of the Bogan (NSW) district or the “Neverfail” of our own “desert” lands, both of which should have come under Mitchell’s notice before he saw and noted the grass that bears his name.

There is never a question of the great nutriment value of the “Feeding Mitchell” grass. It is a ready burner, indicating fat contents in the analysis. It is a deep rooter even to many feet penetrating into the rich dry soil of the western downs. It is practically ineradicable. I have in mind localities where for more than 30 years Feeding Mitchell has been trampled down almost daily – at the entrance to Hughenden railway stockyards, for instance – and the green blade may be seen whenever a few days respite is given it. It is of most value as pasture when fed down and will so retain verdure, when not fed outside [?] pasture is maisy and dry. As it is, if cured well it is equal to the best of wheaten or oaten hay.

On the downs land the “Feeding Mitchell” grows to a height of 18 inches in thick tussocks and in fair seasons a ton or more of hay per acre can be mown and stacked almost from off the machine. If left to become dry the pasture retains value so long as the weather is rainless. There are no dews worth

considering; rainfalls destroy the dry grass.

The “Weeping Mitchell” grows in tussocks, often far apart. The haulms are long and overhang the tussocks hence the name “weeping”. In feed value the grass is poor. It belongs to the *Astrebla* family and has resemblance in the seed case to the former described variety.

“Bull Mitchell” grass grown in lowland or plains subject to occasional inundation is not regarded as good pasture and I believe is not related to the *Astrebla* family even though it bears the local name. Its seed ear resembles that of wheat. In fact so close is the resemblance that a leading scientist to whom not long since I sent seed ears at once conceived the idea of hybridisation. In such association the wheat would undoubtedly be the loser. Some years ago I took horses off sandy spinifex country on which they were beginning to do fairly, on to country full of dry “Bull Mitchell” grass pasture, thinking they would do better and to my surprise two months later I found them miserable, notwithstanding that a good bore stream of water ran through the paddocks. Since that I have thought little of “Bull Mitchell” grass.

I have in years sent feeding Mitchell grass seed to many places but I have never seen or heard of a Mitchell grass plant off the dry downs and in view of the many varieties of rich pasture grasses available and notwithstanding I am ever ready to help make two blades grow where one grew before, I would doubt if nature’s law in regard to the locale of this grass can be improved upon.

### **9 May 1921 (p57, NA, NQR)**

(See also 4/7/21)

Milk Goats

ATL

A correspondent writes me from far north in the hill country along the coast. Here is his letter, read it.

Your experience with the domestic goat is interesting and I am writing to make a few remarks. I trust you won’t think I am trespassing on your time or in any way taking liberties.

For nine years I have been interested in goats. I know they are really a wonderful little animal. “The poor man’s cow” will thrive where many a cow would die. I have had them in all numbers, up to 80. I live only a short distance from the sea. The main trouble if one lives near mountainous country is to keep them from clearing to the hills and in time going quite wild.

I have read a good deal about the goat – both in the Qld Agricultural Journal which I get monthly, and in other papers and periodicals. I have tried with the limited means at my disposal to get or breed a class of goat which would give say one quart a day and rear one kid well. To do that she would require to be a two quart goat and I have heard of such animals but have never seen them. Among the hundreds of goats in and around Cooktown I am afraid very few are to be found that will give one pint a day and rear one kid well. To stint the kid is cruel and poor policy. A young thing stunted will never be a credit to its species.

I am sending you a cutting about the Pioneer Goat Farm of England. You will, I am sure be interested and might wish to send for his illustrated goat book.

I am much interested in your article in this “Register”. It’s a pity you can’t attend the Congress in Holland – it would be both interesting and educational

[210509]

to hear what your views were on your return. Undoubtedly goat breeding has never got even a fair share of attention in this part of the world. Nanny is thought so little of by the bulk of owners that we find mostly inbred runts, hardly capable of rearing one decent kid.

The little book above referred to is printed mostly as an advertisement and many are the questions one would like to ask which it does not answer. I can hardly imagine a four-quart goat, still, I believe they exist. Should I ever get back to England, even for a visit, I would make a point of visiting the ‘Pioneer Farm.’

I would welcome a copy or treatise on the ‘Goat’. I have none such. I often wonder if goats on a large

scale – say [100?] would pay here – for meat and milk. I have done a little butchering in the mutton line. I would of course have to give my personal attention to their care and well being. I am married; but the bairns are gie wee yet. Too small to be of much use – still a few years soon make a difference in these young natives.

You live, Mr Line, out back in the dry arid climate. I fancy goats ought to grow larger and give more milk there, than they do on the coast. I favor the common doe, also a good class of a common buck or he-goat. The common doe must surely have a distinctive name or title. The people here look at you if you ask such a query. Some favor a high class Angora buck to mate with the ordinary does. It's indeed hard to get goat information.

Unfortunately I have as a rule each year to go away from home, seeking wages, and cannot therefore give the most selection the attention it requires. I came from Scotland. A grand country – pity I left it. Anyway I am out here, poor, and reckon will have to stop here. Not that this is not a great and glorious country – for it is – but man! we miss a lot out here.

Would like to know how the Congress get on. Would welcome any further news of the ill-treated milk goats of our country.”

[End of 210509]

Well, just at the hour there is grief in my home and I am not in much humour to write. However, for many years here we kept domestic goats in large numbers and so long as my family were children the goats were well tended but my family grew up and talked horses and cattle and forgot their old pets on whom they used to tie ribbons and little tinkling bells. Children are almost essential to success in the keeping of a goat flock.

By careful breeding we got the does to a fair degree of excellence, and judging by the way in which the milk-goat men of other countries regarded them, they were pretty well as good as any in the world. We had many that would yield two quarts on the one milking on bush grass and bushes, that is, I mean approximately 14 hours separation from the kid.

Among goat herds of Switzerland, Nubia, Holland, among American herds, and among English milk goats of today, a three quart yield is rare. I believe very rare. I believe I may safely say that here we had scores that would, if fed on meals and green fodder, and cared for, easily yield 3 1/2 quarts, if milked twice daily. Prairie district, at that time lightly stocked, afforded a big walkabout on fresh, rich country and plenty of browsing on bushes, sweet bushes. The goat is a browser and loves shrubs.

My correspondent mentions runty ill-nourished goats. Well in much of the north where goats are kept the country is very sour and wormy and although parlour remarks are made by unthinking people that “goats will live anywhere” it is not so and goats will perish miserably on poor, sour country, just as sheep or other animals will.

Few goat keepers regard milk goats at their true worth; rarely they give them salt or molasses; and rarer still would give them worm drench as a good sheep man would his flock. Moreover, people well able to afford to keep good goats, would laugh at the suggestion of feeding. Yet I would ask, can any starving animal be expected to yield milk? Two good milk goats, well fed on meals and green stuff, will easily keep a family in milk, and very often with a pat of sweet white butter.

Goats are very lean feeders and given a fair chance of dry camp and shelter, a good milk goat should be loveable in every home where children are. What greater delight would kindly children have, than to fondle little kids. The love of animals is in most children's hearts.

Further reading my correspondent's letter – yes, goats do well in dry country. One of the finest herds I know of were kept on the Peake Station, 800 miles from Adelaide in almost the interior of Australia, with an eight inch rainfall. They were Angoras and were of great stature and weight. I brought twenty bucks from there some sixteen years ago, and they made a mark in this country.

There were also large flocks of splendid goats at various roadside places in the western downs, and about Cloncurry, and in all these places the Angora bucks crossed on the common doe produces fine

stock – great stock indeed.

Some years ago I bought from good old Mac of the Horseshoe Bend, a mob of wether goats, Willie Malone got these, and shipped to Java or the Aru Islands or somewhere around there. Many of these would dress more than 100 lbs of meat.

Some years ago on Towerhill Creek, the Theoff family had a team of fourteen great wethers that drew a wagon specially built for them, regularly carrying two tons of water from the creek.

My correspondent writes from a coast, hilly country. Not good for goats, but yet I believe that, given salt or molasses, and a warm drench now and again, that goats may be well kept there; but covering in from heavy wet and dews is essential and what is more – a dry well drained camp.

Around about the railway camps not far from here there is a breed of polled goats, distinct in appearance from the horned variety. They have long, lop ears and I believe they are nearly all good yielders. At any rate, by selecting good milk-yielders and also choosing a good buck from a good yielder, a milk herd could soon be bred up very cheaply, because I believe that ten shillings per head would buy the foundation stock.

Goats like any other animals, must have care and attention. As a rule they are ill used, dogged, shut in wet yards. Poor little kids, whose very appearance pleads for kindness, are often slammed into a box or cask, a weight put on for lid, often wet and miserable. Poor little creatures, there left through the night, that in the morning their mothers may yield milk for ungrateful, inhuman beings.

It is dreadful the way goats are treated in this country. It is often a matter for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. Is there a country in the world where so great a friend to human life is so disregarded? An animal giving milk and meat is despised and ill-used.

Many people make an unpleasant task of milking the does. Here we used to have a stage high enough to make the task of milking convenient, and one or two lessons teach the goats to walk up on the stage when called, just as a cow goes into a bail.

We once read in a book of Mexico where native people reared a puppy in the goat pen. We did that, taking the puppy almost from birth and reared it on a goat, leaving it entirely with the flock, and when it grew up it was a canine goat that went with the flock all day, in the bush, and came home at night and camped in the pen. It would bark if any stranger went near the flock and manifest hostility. We had, however, eventually to take it away. It was the wrong kind of dog, an active stumpy-tail cattle pup. It used to play and romp with the kids; but the kids tired and the dog took to biting them playfully to make them keep the game up.

## **20 June 1921 (p48, NA, NQR)**

Governor at JC

When it was made known at JC that His Excellency the Governor was to visit JC on the 3rd June and remain till 11am on the 4th June a reception was arranged for him by the ladies of the district, headed by Mrs McGowan of Yorkshire downs and ably assisted by Miss Faithfull and several other ladies from the country. It was arranged that the Progress Association should meet him, and Mr ML Byrne, as President of the Association, was given that honour, assisted by Messrs PJ Byrne and JH Mathews who represented the McKinlay Shire Council.

On arrival of the train at 10pm a party of citizens assembled at the railway station to bid the Governor welcome. But His Excellency expressed a wish, unless anything urgent was required of him, to be allowed to rest till morning and his wish was gratified.

Arrangements were made to meet him at 9am on the following day. The first deputation was from the local school committee who escorted His Excellency to the school where the teacher and children were introduced by the Chairman, Mr JH Mathews, also the secretary, Mr J Treges, who explained the present difficulty to His Excellency under which the children were being taught, and handed His Excellency copies of numerous letters which were written and received by the committee from the Department asking for better conditions and improvements for the school. His Excellency promised to do what he could in the matter.



He then addressed the children and gave them a holiday and had something to say to each and every one of the children, who sang "God Save the King," which was joined by all present. The party then adjourned to Hilton Park, the residence of Mr JH Mathews, His Excellency being driven by Mrs R Wharton of Kamarroka. On arrival at Hilton Park, His Excellency was bidden welcome by the host, Mr Mathews. As His Excellency entered the reception [...printing error] The large reception room was beautifully decorated with flags, ferns and flowers and was also prettily draped with all kinds of fancy curtains and the ladies were complimented for their efforts.

About 30 guests were present and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. There were present: Mesdames McGowan, Wharton, Browne, the Misses Betts, Wells, Christensen, Messrs Byrne, M Mathews, Byrne, P Byrne, C McAllum, Fitzpatrick, Tregg, Wharton, McGowan, Gordon, Menzie, O'Neil and Findlay.

His Excellency when seated had Mrs McGowan on his right, Mr R Wharton on his left and at the same table were Mr ML Byrne (chair) and Mr FWE Faithfull (vice chair). When all had been provided with seats the Chairman asked those present to charge their glasses and drink the toast of the King which was loyally toasted with champagne. The Chairman then called on Mr Faithfull to propose the toast of His Excellency. Mr Faithfull, on rising, said that it gave him great pleasure to propose the toast of the guest, Sir Mathew Nathan, governor of Qld, because in the governor we had a soldier and a gentleman, and one who he was sure would have the confidence of the people before he was here very long, and ended by expressing his belief in the loyalty of the people to their King and country. The Governor, responding, said that it gave him great pleasure, and no better proof of the loyalty of the people of Australia, and especially Qld, was the way they responded when called to assist the Empire in the great war just passed. He referred to the great future of this district with its vast expanse of land, entailing the great industry of cattle and sheep raising. He wished the district every success and hoped to visit it again at some future date.

The Chairman then called on Councillor Mathews to speak for the McKinlay Shire Council. Mr Mathews apologised for the absence of the Chairman (Mr Allison) who was unavoidably absent, but on behalf of the Council he wished to welcome His Excellency to that portion of the Shire and to wish him a sage and pleasant journey during the remainder of his tour. His Excellency responded by thanking Councillor Mathews for his kind wishes and expressed his regret that he was unable to meet the Chairman of this Shire but thought he had chosen a very able deputy to represent him in Mr Mathews. Mr Mathews then called on Mr McGowan to toast the "Pastoral Industry." Mr McGowan said the pastoralists were up against a very hard time and the only thing to do was to be patient and wait event, and in the meantime assist one another. Just then Colonel Parsons reminded His Excellency that the time was up, and in fact overdue. The party was then driven to the railway station, where the train was waiting.

Before departing the governor thanked the party for their reception and said he had spent one of the most enjoyable mornings of his tour. As His Excellency stepped into his carriage the Chairman (Mr ML Byrne) called for three cheers for the governor which was responded to by all present. The crowd sang "God Save The King" as the train steamed out of the station. The party then adjourned to Hilton park and passed an enjoyable time during the remainder of the day. A number of photographs were taken of His Excellency and party present.

#### **4 Jul 1921 (p23, NA, NQR) [or 9 May 1921?]**

Milk Goats

ATL

A correspondent writes from Papua and is much in earnest on a subject that will interest very many worthy bush people of our country. He says:-

"I always read with the greatest avidity your interesting letters, more especially your 'Mail Bag' for they are not only of the greatest interest to struggling settlers like myself, on the outskirts of civilisation but exceedingly instructive. In the issue of March the 14th of the 'Register' you had a very interesting letter commenting upon the neglect of the goat. It appealed to me so much that I ask to get into communication with you for it seems a pity such a useful and faithful animal should be so neglected, more especially in Australia where they had the pick of the breeds. There was no country in the world had such an opportunity as Australia did, for before condensed milk was introduced in the old wind-

jamming days of the fifties, every sailing ship carried goats to supply the women and children with milk and often fresh meat. Upon their arrival in Australia, the goats were disposed of. It is only fair to assume that it was only the very best class of milking goats were chosen to undertake such long voyages. When it is considered how much all classes in Australia are indebted to the poor despised, neglected little goat, their ingratitude is beyond comprehension. For the goat is always, and is proved to be, the best friend of the poorer classes. How many sturdy sons of the colonies owe their contribution to goat's milk? When their fathers and mothers, hardly pioneers, were opening up the mineral and agricultural lands of Australia, it was the despised goat stood by them; not only supplying milk but fresh meat. Whilst the kids, the only companions their children had to romp and play with, helped to wile away the dull monotony of their young lives in that far away never never country, cut off from all joys and intercourse of civilisation. It was the goat who carried their wood and water, and their goods from field to field, gave them milk, gave them meat, gave them playmates for their children. No animal has taken such an active part in opening up Australia as the goat and no animal more abused. Why is it then that no interest is taken in keeping up and improving the breed? Why is it that there are no competitions for the best milkers and best breed of goats at the agricultural shows? The goat is like the British soldier when he is fighting. He is a hero and when the fight is over the hero is vanished and a unit left.

When new country is being opened up with all the attendant hardships, the goat is called for, is everything. When it is settled – poor goat! It is kicked, stoned, shot and hunted from pillar to post and despite this, all the time, he still remains the best friend of the poorer classes.

It is only within the last two years I have had any experience of the goat. Circumstances placed me in charge of an estate with a small herd of goats. As I observed them more closely I became deeply impressed with what remarkably charming little animals they are. Kindly treated they are sagacious and exceedingly affectionate and become very much attached to those who treat them well. Being so clean in their habits, they are ideal pets for children much better in fact than dogs or cats. Any medical man will vouch for this. For this reason alone, there should be classes opened up for goats at all agricultural shows throughout Australia. One hears a great deal about their mischievous properties. But if good fences are put up, they are nothing near as bad as some horses I have had, and not in the same street with pigs.

There is a peculiar antipathy to goat flesh. This seems unaccountable for it being free from fluke is far healthier meat than sheep, and being so tender and free from taint, is far better meat for the tropics than that of the sheep. This prejudice against the goat may be accounted for, by so many Australians having had in their childhood, goats for playmates. The incident may be forgotten, but the instinct of childhood's horror of eating a pet still remains.

I became so interested in the goats I sent south to a friend to procure me a book on them. The only book available was one written by Holmes Pegler and there is but little information to be gathered in it. Perhaps you, Mr 'Along the Line' can give me the information required

[210704]

As you note I reside in Papua so you can well imagine the goats here must be more or less an inbred mongrel lot. But I see the traces of three distinct breeds. No 1: The best I have. [These] are short haired with nice glistening coats like a thoroughbred horse, with tags or buttons under their necks, with horns very fine and curved, and they carry their head up like deer; naturally timid and sensitive but most sagacious and affectionate, and learn their names very quickly. Their eyes are full and large like an Arab horse, with tapering heads, mostly coloured, bay black or brown and carry themselves like deer.

There are two goats apparently thrown back to the original breed. One a bright bay short-haired, skin glistens like satin in the sun, short legs, large square body, head as above described, but minus tags or buttons (although mother had them). She is just like a good cow, always fat, too heavy to jump, never has less than two to three kids every six months and gives a quart jug of milk every morning, and very affectionate, likes to be petted and fondled.

The other is just the color of an Alderney, with shorter horns, with a thicker, coarser head, short neck, heavy body, no tassels under neck, coarser hair but short, but does not possess the same sagacity as No 1.

The other breed are colored black and white, or white with longer hair fine and inclined to be curly. Very fat like little poddys, but poor milkers, coarser heads without the fine prominent eye of No 1, grow beards instead of buttons or tassels under the throat.

The other day I procured a fresh buck, a youngster of about six months. He is short haired, a beautiful fawn, with jet black marks down the back, and black across withers, black head, rather short broad horns, sharp prominent full eyes, tapering nose, holds his head high like a thoroughbred. Is he of the same breed as No 1 with the tassels? I hope so as I am convinced that breed is the best for intelligence, affection, sagacity as mothers, milkers, breeders.

And could you tell me where I could secure two good bucks of No 1 breed, either black, brown or bay? I do not like white color amongst stocks as nature never gives any animal a white coat in the tropics, and I suppose she is the best judge and she knows.

Another thing, can you tell me the number of bucks required to the number of does? If you like, as soon as plates are procurable, will send you photos of the goats I have described which I believe, from Holmes Pegler's book, are descendants of the real old English goat, which he states with much regret are dying out and are the best known breed of goat. The No 2 are either Welsh or Irish breed. But he does not mention the peculiarity of the tassels under the throat.

I note how much you have done to bring the goat back into its own again, but the real trouble is, it does not grow wool like a sheep and make wool-kings. It is only a friend of poor people without influence and the friendship only appears to be on the one side.

Anyhow, a great deal could be done if the 'Register' took the subject up and wrote articles upon the different breeds of goats, English, Welsh, Scottish, Nubian, Maltese etc, describing their different points, markings, peculiarities etc, explaining what value they would be to Australian families to keep goats for their children. They could also agitate for the Northern Agricultural Shows to open up classes for the different breeds and varieties. A children's page could be opened up requesting them to write about their goats with suitable photos showing the different classes and varieties.

It seems a very great pity that you cannot avail yourself of the invitation to attend the conference in Holland, upon 'The Improvement of the Goat,' for it is a far better cause as it is an object that would be of use to mankind, and if your politicians had as worth a cause for wasting thousands of good Australian gold when tripping round the world, the Commonwealth would be in a better position today.

This is really a national matter and one of great importance. The fact of leading scientists in Europe taking an interest in the development of the goat should sufficient to prove how much more necessary it is for Australia to take the matter up. Who is better to go into this than the 'North Qld Register?' They have a very large circulation among those who have done things, that is, the pioneers, explorers and prospectors, the class who opened up the mining industry and station life of Australia. And all these people have derived benefits some time or the other from the goat.

If the 'Register' took the proposition up, as they should, it is only fair to assume they would have all the old hands to a man at the back of them, for it realised throughout Qld and even further afield with your experience of stock and station life and with that keen desire that you have consistently shown these many years to improve the conditions of 'The man on the Land.'

Your mission would not stop at the goat, for anything that came under your notice in your traveling that might be to the benefit of Australia you would bring it before the public. Therefore, if you don't attend the conference it would not only be a loss to yourself, but a greater loss to the whole of the farming community at large.

[End of 210704]

Personally, if an arrangement can be made to send you home as the representative of the men on the land, I am good for a 5/- contribution and I believe there are scores of others are the same, to pay travelling expenses etc. If such a fund were started by the 'Register,' a subsidisation could be asked for from both the Qld and Commonwealth Governments."

Well, replying to this. It is improbable that I can attend the conference, but I hope, however to have the reports of it.

I agree with my correspondent's appreciation of the milk as one of the greatest aids to livelihood that comes to the lot of man in this country, and to my mind, milk goats have a good place on every farm where cows, for many reasons, may not be kept. A principal claim of the goat, is economy of cost and maintenance, and perfect health, and these are considerable.

Of the various breeds of goats in the world, not one is superior to the common, and often despised, goat of North Qld. Swiss, Toggenburger, Sanyeen, Maltese, Nubian, and the best improved breed of English goats today and Welsh goats – kept in many instances by wealthy people as a hobby – none exceed the 3 quart yield of our common goats, and as for meat quality, and weight of carcass, ours can easily excel, in all localities where the feed is good. This is manifest in our western country where goats are reared and grown on rich pasture. In our dry interior country, goats grow to immense size.

I have, of recent years, noted a polled race becoming prominent in the herds, kept adjacent to my home, and I believe these are the best. Their colours vary according to the stock and I am disposed to believe that goats will run to white, as cattle do, in open treeless lands, especially where Angora cross exists.

I read my correspondent's letter with interest but regret he does not give some particulars of the pastures on which his stock run, and of the country in which he lives. Let me suggest to him the raised platform the goats walk on to, to be milked. This does away with the stooping whilst milking, and the goats learn in a lesson or two to walk up on to the platform.

The best book published on milch goats is one by Professor Thompson of the Agricultural College, Washington, USA, but the conference to be held in Holland, in August, will do much to manifest the economic value of the milch goats, and at last the animal that has, for so many years, so well served and so well done her bit for the bush people of our country, may come into her own.

[210704g]

However, replying to the queries of my correspondent. The throat beads are not significant of a breed and are not perpetuated. They come and go but are much more common on brown goats than on lighter colored ones. I mean so far as my observations go.

As to the mating capacity of bucks. With good, young, vigorous animals the matings would be best gauged by the condition of the head of the herd. At one time here we kept large numbers, up to 600. Yet the two bucks always found time to fight and wrangle and rarely we had non-breeding does.

My correspondent's reference to goats being carried on ships. This is correct and even shortly after the First Fleet landed at Sydney Cove, goats were brought from the Cape of Good Hope. These were probably of Swiss or Dutch origin, and even since importations have been made. Some thirty years ago a lengthsman employed on the railway at Prairies imported two black Welsh goats from his home land and only today I noted the long silky black coat on goats in the town mob descended from that old stock.

#### **18 Jul 1921 (p1, 210718, NQR)**

Cloncurry, Jul 15 – [Suitable for use as photo] Daniel Usher was arrested last night on a charge of murdering Charles Francis at JC. Both men it is stated had been drinking and during an altercation at their camp, about two miles from the railway station, Usher lifted an axe and struck Francis a blow. The body was brought to Cloncurry last night at 11 o'clock, together with the prisoner. A post mortem on the remains will be held this morning and the accused will be brought before the Court this afternoon.

#### **25 Jul 1921 (p10, 210725, NQR)**

Cloncurry, Jul 25 – [Suitable for photo, see also line drawing of axeman 210725b] On Wednesday afternoon last at JC two men named Charles Francis and Daniel Usher who had been camping on the bore drain about two miles from the township, had a serious difference of opinion and in the heat of the argument which followed, the latter, picking up an axe that lay handy, struck Francis a fatal blow on

the back of the neck which laid him lifeless at his feet. Usher walked back to JC and informed the police of the occurrence. Later on Usher was brought to Cloncurry under arrest and came before his worship Mr WC Ferguson, charged with murder. Senior-Sergeant MacNamara conducted the prosecution and Mr ORF Cusack appeared on behalf of the prisoner who on the application of the police after formal evidence of arrest had been taken was remanded for eight days. The deceased man, Francis, as about 53 years of age, his assailant being about 30 years of age. Both men, it is alleged, had been drinking.

### **Poem from NQR, 1921**

At the Creek

Beside the pleasant stream I stray,  
To watch the rippling waters play,  
To see them kiss the ferns with spray,  
And hurry on their argent way.

A cobweb, 'tween some rushes spun,  
The stream had splashed, as if in fun,  
And bright as diamonds in the sun,  
The crystal drops hang, every one.

I hear the twitter of a wren,  
It sings to me of childhood, when,  
I rambled here, a child of ten –  
Ah, would that now were only then!

### **1 Aug 1921 (p4, 210801, NQR)**

[Suitable for photo]

McKinlay Shire Council

Register of Attendances from 1st January 1920 to 16th July 1921. Meetings called, 21 (of which 5 were interfered with by rain)

WM Allison (Chairman) 13

J Webster 13

AE Wheelhouse 13

WE Palmer 9 (resigned 19 Jan 1921)

JH Mathews 8

JC Wardrop 6 (retired by effluxion of time)

WT Evans 6 (elected 13th Nov 1920)

SU Browne 4

TJ Malone 3

LG Simpson - (resigned 5th Mar 1920)

### **1 Aug 1921 (p?, 210801, NQR)**

Cloncurry – On Friday last, the man Usher who is charged with the murder of Charles Francis at JC on the thirteenth instant, was again before the Police court. Senior Sergeant MacNamara conducted the prosecution and Mr ORF Cusack appeared for the prisoner. Evidence was given which revealed the fact that the alleged stealing of a bottle of rum by accused from the victim of the tragedy was the cause of the trouble. Evidence was given by George Dalley (a labourer), the arresting constable, and Doctor MacLennan. The prisoner, through Mr Cusack, said he would reserve his defence and the Police Magistrate committed him to stand trial at the Circuit Court to be held in Cloncurry in October.

Passengers by the mail train to Cloncurry on Tuesday had quite an experience inasmuch as the train was held up at Oorindi for the want of a Maternity Home. The Guard having with commendable promptitude enlisted the services of several of the lady passengers both the mother and the wee wee infant are doing well ... [not copied]

### **15 Aug 1921 (S4, NQ580, NQR)**

Photos of governor at JC

### **19 Sep 1921 (p51, NA, NQR)**

McIntyre's Early Explorations

A correspondent writes me: "In last 'Register' you refer to having more news of Duncan McIntyre's first trip. I suppose there are many readers equally interested as myself in all matters relating to the work of these first comers to the country."

Well, the other paper that I have is authentic. It is a reprint from the "Riverina Herald" at the end of the year 1864. Duncan McIntyre had been up to the gulf and back before Dalgonally was taken up and gave this account of his trip. The paper reads:—

"Mr McIntyre, who recently, in company with Mr Barnett, son of Dr Barnett of Sandhurst (Bendigo), and three blackfellows, succeeded in accomplishing the journey overland and back from the Darling to the Gulf of Carpentaria, arrived yesterday in Echuca and has supplied us with some interesting notes with respect to his late arduous journey from which the following account is compiled. It is fresh in the memory of our readers that several communications have appeared in the Melbourne journals relative to the discovery by Mr McIntyre of certain marked trees in the neighbourhood of the Gulf of Carpentaria and also of two old horses supposed to be those of the long-missing Dr Leichhardt. The trees found by Mr McIntyre were marked with a single L, neatly cut.

"Mr McIntyre informs us that the letters seen were evidently cut out by a skilled hand and that it is therefore utterly preposterous to suppose that they were the works of the blacks. Mr Bunce having stated that Leichhardt's mark was invariably LL, we, without believing for a moment that the blacks ever cut the letters, thought they must have been made on the trees found by Mr McIntyre by some explorer who, going out privately like himself, and whose labours are never heard of, had remained unknown to the public.

But we are informed now that the marks must have been made at least 15 years ago before Qld was occupied or any settlers thought of leaving the coast country for the interior. One of the L's is cut in the bark of a tree and is 32 in long by about 12 in in width. The other was marked deeply in the wood, the bark having been removed for the purpose. This latter one was 5 1/2 in long and cut evidently with a 1 1/2 in tomahawk. These trees are close together, showing that a camp had been established between them and unquestionably during a dry season as they stand on flooded ground.

We must here take the opportunity of inquiring through our contemporary, the 'Geelong Advertiser,' if he will take the trouble to oblige us and the public so far, whether, when Dr Leichhardt informed Mr Bunce that he had seen L's cut on trees by blacks, they in any degree resembled the letters cut by white men. We believe Mr Bunce has had sufficient experience to know that neither a wild nor a civilised black can at all cleverly imitate letters made by the whites and it is absurd to say that an explorer like Dr Leichhardt could ever have been deceived in such a matter.

Knowing something of exploring – quite as much, at all events, as Mr Bunce – we may mention that we never yet heard of anyone remarking that the blacks had ever attempted to imitate any marks made by white men. Mr Stuart, who returned three times from the interior on his old tracks, never mentions having seen any marks resembling his own cut by the blacks; and Mr Bunce will search the journals of Mitchell, Sturt, Eyre, Kennedy and Gregory in vain for any instance of the kind. Every experienced bushman in the country will laugh at the statement made by Mr Bunce. It is a curious fact but one which is well known that the blacks never interfere with a marked tree. There is no instance of their ever having defaced any such brands, and we hear now for the first time of their attempting to imitate them.

With regard to the horses found by Mr McIntyre, and which he brought back with him, no horses have ever been lost in the neighbourhood in which they were found, by any known explorer. Mr McIntyre says that he had horse in his mob 15 or 16 years of age, which performed the whole journey well, while those picked up by him knocked up in a very short time. This looks as if they must have been of great age, for when found they were rolling fat. There were illegible brands on both of them and there was a blotched brand on the same part of the back of each. One of them was a bay and the other a black.

The Messrs McIntyre brothers left Victoria about two years since with sheep, cattle and horses and a splendid outfit, intending to proceed to the Gulf of Carpentaria. On their arrival on the Darling they found that river flooded and were unable to cross their sheep. Mr Duncan McIntyre, the gentleman now in Victoria, then proceeded northwards with a small party in order to find a good route as far as Cooper's Creek. In the first journey he reached those waters and discovered several new creeks and

lakes on the trip and ascertained that no difficulty existed for taking stock to that point. On his return he learned, to his great disappointment, that the Qld government had forbidden the entrance of stock to their colony, either by land or sea from any of the Australian colonies.

Seeing that they could not proceed to the northern countries, the Messrs McIntyre commenced an exploration of the country lying between the Darling and the boundary of Qld. Excellent country was found to the westward of the Paroo but no permanent water, and so greatly was the party put about for want of water that they had to get on to the Qld rivers before they could effect a return. On this journey even better country was found some distance in Queensland than had been seen on the former trip. Fine rivers and lakes were discovered and an application was made to the Qld government for permission to pass their boundary.

In the hope that this request would be granted Mr Duncan McIntyre, accompanied by Mr Barnett, and taking with him three blacks and 25 horses, again proceeded to the north with the view of ascertaining whether the Gulf country was superior to what he had already seen. The party started with only a small quantity of flour, rice, tea and sugar as provisions and did not take with them an ounce of meat. They had a good supply of ammunition, expecting to find large numbers of ducks and eggs on the route as the season had been very favourable for this description of game to the eastward. None of these, however, were met with, as there had been no rain at all north of Cooper's Creek. But the country was found to abound with opossums, kangaroos and emus. The last were found in hundreds together about Cooper's Creek. The rats mentioned by Wright as abounding at Bulloo were more or less numerous the whole way across the continent and a good many bandicoots were met with. Mr McIntyre says they were excellent eating. Wild turkeys were seen everywhere but were especially numerous in the neighbourhood of the Gulf. Pigeons too, were found in thousands; and altogether the party fared well in the game shot by them, and had no reason to regret not having brought a supply of meat with them. Fish, also, were caught in large numbers in all the creeks, the party frequently taking more than could be eaten.

The tracks of a large animal of the kangaroo tribe, called by the blacks wongaroo, were frequently seen. Instead of one toe on the hind foot, the wongaroo has three. A few of these were seen but not near enough to get a shot at them. They are much larger than the kangaroo, it being calculated that they would sometimes weigh 4 cwt or 5 cwt. some of them were jet black, others brown with dark spots. They are less swift than the kangaroo but jump perpendicularly from one rock to another, often to the height of 8 ft or 10 ft. They ascend a mountain at a rate at which neither man nor dog would follow them.

A variety of new birds were seen and some beautiful feathers were brought back by Mr McIntyre. We may also mention here that a large number of seeds were collected by Mr Barnett of whom it will be gratifying to his Sandhurst friends to hear that Mr McIntyre speaks in high terms of praise. Being quite a young man and previously inexperienced in the bush, he showed a surprising aptitude for the work of exploring.

We know from Will's diary that Burke killed a snake on his journey across, but no others are mentioned by him. Landsborough said he believed there were very few reptiles in the Gulf country. Mr McIntyre states that he killed from five to ten a day in the tropics. Sometimes two or three were found together. Many of them were declared to be venomous by Mr Barnett who has made a large collection of skins. The blacks of the party used the snakes that were killed as food and it was quite common to see them ride into camp of an evening with a large roll of some six or eight tied on their saddles. One of the blackboys, named Charley, a native of Cooper Creek, was one day bitten on the finger by a snake which he had put in his pocket. The wound was scarified by Mr Barnett and sucked by the black himself and though the snake was evidently of a poisonous description he suffered no evil consequences.

The party left the Paroo on the last expedition on June 21, 1864. Nothing new was discovered in passing through the country which had been explored by them for 200 or 300 miles as regards the features of this country.

But it will be heard with satisfaction of the relatives and friends of the late Mr Curlew that his remains, together with those of his companion, McCulloch, were discovered by Mr McIntyre and that his fate has been placed beyond all doubt. The blacks pointed out the grave in which they were laid together

and described how they had been murdered. The bones were disinterred and the skulls of both these unfortunate young men were found to have been fractured by blows from some heavy weapons. They were undoubtedly the remains of white men and part of a bridle rein was found tied round them as if it had been used by the blacks to carry the bodies. A piece of guersey shirt, very much bloodstained, was also found.

They were killed, it appears, about a mile from where they were buried, in a dry billabong. The excuse given for the murder was that Mr Curlewis had coerced a blackfellow to accompany him to show the country and that this man, not liking to go, persuaded four others to assist him in killing the two white men. One evening, after the party had camped, this blackfellow asked permission from Mr Curlewis to go out to look for ducks. The permission was granted him and he went away to the other blacks and arranged with them to come at a given signal during the night.

Having removed the firearms and planted them, he gave the signal as soon as the two travellers were asleep when his accomplices came up and speared them, after which they smashed their heads in with waddies and tomahawks. This Mr McIntyre believes to be a correct account of the murder. The remains were carefully re-interred and the spot marked. A special note of the locality was taken as Mr Curlewis was well known to Mr McIntyre and he was desirous of doing all in his power to honour the memory of the unfortunate deceased.

Mr McIntyre, after this discovery, proceeded on to Cooper's Creek, which he reached in 22 days from the Paroo. Cooper's Creek was crossed about 50 miles below the junction of the Thompson. The course then taken was in the direction of the new settlement in Northern Australia with a view of discovering how far a route for stock would be practical in that direction. Their course was continued until Burke's track was crossed for a considerable distance. The party was satisfied that there would be no difficulty in taking stock that way.

The course was then changed for the head waters of the Albert River. In crossing the northern coast range, described by Burke as giving such terrible work to the camels that they groaned and bled, the horses's feet got so much worn down by the rocks and stones that it became necessary to follow a fall of water to the north and afterwards to the north east, in order to get down on to the low country. The Flinders was struck at a point a little north of Donors Hill, from which it was followed for the first time to the sea.

The journey from Cooper's Creek to the sea occupied 34 days being little over half the time taken by either Burke or McKinlay. Mr McIntyre states that he was within a mile of the coast, but having got in between two deep salt mangrove creeks, he was hemmed in by a large number of blacks whom he was obliged to charge in order to get out. Happily, however, by preserving his presence of mind he succeeded in scaring them so much that he had no occasion to fire on them, but he was deprived of the opportunity of getting a sight of the ocean which he could only have obtained by showing fight and shooting a number of them. He considered, however, that this gratification would have been too dearly bought at a sacrifice of human life.

On several occasions on the way across, large numbers of blacks were met with and once an exchange was made with them for fish, some hawks shot by the party being given in exchange. In the coast range the blacks were dreadfully frightened at the appearance of the party whom they evidently, by their loud peculiar cries, took for supernatural beings. But neither on the journey out nor back was a single blackfellow shot. Once or twice an encounter seemed inevitable, but by showing a firm front, and seeming to disregard their presence, the necessity was avoided.

"The country to the north-west of the point where Cooper's Creek was crossed was very indifferent for a day or two and waterless. It gradually got better on reaching a water system in which four new rivers were found, the first of which was named by them the Docker. It then improved daily and splendid sheep country was crossed in that part where the Stony Desert of Sturt is laid down. The ground in places was covered in fragments of stones and in some places "paved" as described by Sturt, for a few miles. On the whole however, it was found to be a good grazing country. Mr McIntyre considers that it is particularly well adapted for sheep.

A hundred miles or so to the south of the tropics the country assumes a high and undulating character. The stones had for some distance previously entirely disappeared and the party now found themselves



on beautiful smooth downs. The country was magnificent the whole way from this to the coast range. Bald hills were met with at intervals, and at short distances fine gum-lined creeks were crossed in some of which was an abundance of excellent water, but owing to the dryness of the season, none of them were found running as they were by Burke.

In crossing the coast range great difficulty was experienced both on the south and north side in obtaining water, which was only to be met with in the gorges in rocky basins. Nearly a week was occupied in getting over this formidable barrier and the horses suffered dreadfully from want of feed having sometimes to stand on perfectly bare rocks for the whole night.

“In returning, the dividing range was crossed without difficulty, the heights between the two [falls?] of water to the north and south consisted of high undulating down without any stones. No mountain or hills were visible towards the west but some lofty peaks were seen at a great distance towards the east. In fact, from the Gulf to the banks of the Darling at Mount Murchison a splendid road could be made along which a buggy might be driven without the slightest impediment. A railway might be run across at a very light expense, there being no engineering difficulties in the way with the exception of the crossing of the rivers. The route also is the most direct from Mount Murchison to the Gulf.

The Flinders is settled from its head to within 280[?] miles of the sea. One station however is even 130 miles lower down. From what could be learned from the squatters on that river they had lost about 30 % of their sheep from the poison bush coming over the range from Qld. The sheep generally looked healthy, but poor, although there was plenty of grass. Great losses had occurred also among the cattle from the poison bush of the mountains and at least 50% had been lost from the ranges of pleuro-pneumonia. A very large percentage of horses had died from snake bites. The average lambing on the Flinders was not expected to be over 15%. The flocks were lambing in September when the party passed.

“From the description of the Flinders given by Mr Landsborough it would be inferred that it was a finely-watered river. He states that when he left it it was 120 yards wide with a stream flowing along its bed. Twenty miles from the sea Mr McIntyre crossed it dry; higher up it was often dry for ten miles at a stretch, and the general width was found to be from 30 to 40 yards. Most of the stations were completely out of provisions. They were cut off by the drought from all communication with Port Denison. The sheep were unshorn and no appearance of shearing commencing. No men were procurable and on the whole, the squatters appeared to be in a miserable plight.

Mr McIntyre called at the Bowen Downs station at the head of the Thompson. The cattle were all clean and in excellent condition.”

There it is and the latter portions is well illustrative of what some of the pioneers went through. It is always a source of wonder to me that men would battle as these pioneers did and a greater wonder, what the aim was and what they expected.

In this very year, 1864, men went out to Rocklands with sheep. They battled and starved there for a year or two, and then gave up and came back ruined. It was then believed Burketown would be a great port. In the light of after events we wonder at this and yet these men were regarded as shrewd men of good judgement.

I have not seen Landsborough's description of the Flinders other than his diary which I have, but it must have been a glowing one as it was all good when he passed up. Like all our west the Flinders country varies with the season. After generous rainfall it is among the finest pasture on earth and in prolonged periods of dry weather pasture is scant and surface water precarious. But in many cases bore streams now run into the river and keep it good.

Landsborough came up the Flinders in March 1862. It was a good season. He camped on Telemon washpool hole on March 20. There used to be a marked tree there. Eight days later, March 28, he was on Towerhill Creek and the marked tree remains good today on the end of the waterhole below the station.

**10 Oct 1921 (p1, 211010, NQR)**  
Cloncurry Court [Suitable for photo]

Cloncurry, Oct 7 – Before His Honor Judge Shand, Daniel McCourt Usher, on a charge of wilfully murdering Frederick William Francis, [actually Charles Albert Francis, shearer, who died on 13/7/1921 according to Qld death rolls, certificate 002517] was acquitted, the jury, after a brief retirement, bringing in a verdict of not guilty. This was the only case for the Criminal Court.

**5 Dec 1921 (p38, NQ579, NQR)**

Erotic shampoo ad

**5 Feb 1922, (p4, NQ583, NQR)**

McKinlay Shire Council

Notice Re Registration and License Fees.

KEEPERS of DOGS, GOATS and CAMELS are hereby notified that they are required to register same and CARRIERS, CARTERS, CAB, MOTOR CAR, HALL PROPRIETORS and KEEPERS of STALLIONS are notified to RENEW their LICENSES and PAY FEES to the undermentioned within 14 days from this notice, viz: For Towns of Gilliat, JC and McKinlay in Nos 1 and 2 divisions, to the Shire Clerk, at Shire Office, McKinlay...

ANY PERSON FAILING TO REGISTER Stallions, Dogs, Goats or Camels, or to Renew Licenses as above stated, will be LIABLE to PROSECUTION WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

By Order, Shire Clerk

JL Hardgrave

**30 Oct 1922 (p80, NA, NQR)**

Roads of Asphalt (“Melbourne Argus”)

What is described by the city engineer as the most revolutionary step taken by the City council in overcoming the dust nuisance by the creation of a dustless road surface is the purchase of an asphalt-mixing plant at a cost of £9500 from the Geiger Co of California.

By the use of this mixer, which will be delivered in five months, the City council will be able to lay what is claimed to be the most perfect road surface known. Mr Morton states that it is smooth and resilient and cannot be worn away by ordinary traffic. Here he considers, is the solution of the dust evil, because before dust can arise it must have been brought from other sources. The new machine will manufacture two kinds of road material, the composition of which is shown in sample layers in the engineer’s office. The first is sheet asphalt, consisting of sand of varying degrees of fineness, cement, and tar, mixed in revolving driers, and laid at a temperature of 350° Fahrenheit. The road is ready for the heaviest traffic half an hour later. For this surface a proper base is essential – either concrete for heavy traffic or macadam for secondary or lighter vehicles.

The chief advantage of the new machine, however, is the direct construction of a road by a dustless mixture known as asphaltic concrete consisting of coarse blue metal “nuggets” bound with tar and sand to form an interlocking composition impervious to surface water and extremely durable. The rapidity with which the machine mixes the ingredients and the comparative cheapness of cost makes the process an ideal method of road-laying. Mr Morton has been urging the purchase of such a machine since his return from America and is convinced that by the aid of the new plant a policy of attacking the dust problem at its source is possible.

**20 Aug 1923 (p15, NQ590/591/592, NQR)**

Ads for and against prohibition

**27 Aug 1923 (p35, NA, NQR)**

“Along the Line”

They deserted the road through the woods

Many a year ago.

Weather and rain have undone it again

And now you would never know

There was once a road through the woods.

Yet, if you enter the woods

On a summer evening, fleet  
You will hear the beat of a horses feet  
And a swish of a skirt in the dew  
Steadily cantering through  
The misty solitudes  
As though they perfectly knew  
The old lost road through the woods –  
But there is no road through the woods.

**10 Sep 1923, NQ593 (p41, NQ593, NQR)**

Railway Economies

Closing of Western Stations

In view of the necessity for economy in the railway service, the General Manager, Northern Division Railways, Mr AJ Crowther, has given instructions for the closing of a number of western railway stations, viz., Marathon, Maxwellton, Nelia, Gilliat and Oorindi. From 1st October these stations will be worked for railway purposes as isolated sidings and inward and outwards goods traffic will be dealt with under the regulations applicable to such places.

The General Manager, in announcing the decision, expresses his regret that it had been found necessary to take this action, but the expenditure of keeping them open is not warranted by the revenue earned, which is decreased by reason of the total suspension of mining operations in the west general depression in trade.

Mr Crowther is leaving for the west as far as Cloncurry this afternoon in fulfilment of a promise to go into a number of complaints received, but which visit had to be put off in consequence of his recent call to Brisbane. Speaking of his western visit, Mr Crowther, on Monday, said he was going into the question of the need of economies in the closing of stations. He knew that there would be an outcry but it could not be avoided. Only that day the Secretary of the Nelia progress Association had called on him on the matter. After he had explained to him the necessity of the action a meeting with members of the Association had been arranged for Thursday next.

In connection with the economies, Mr Crowther said he was also going into the matter of establishing the long-length system for maintenance men beyond Cloncurry. This system meant the introduction of the motor section cars and the creation of small railway villages. The motors would mean that instead of isolated camps a larger number of men would be settled in one camp at greater distance apart. This would have the effect of giving greater facilities for education for children, as several families being in one camp, they could have little schools. It would also overcome the great cause of complaint in the isolation necessary by the present system, and should also result in greater efficiency.

**17 Sep 1923 (p4, NQ585, NQR)**

Tank Sinking Ad, Frank Murphy, Winton

**17 Sep 1923 (p21, NA, NQR)**

Western Railway Economies

General Manager's Visit

The General Manager, Northern Division Railways (Mr AJ Crowther), returned on Saturday night from a visit to the west, as far as Cloncurry, the inspection visit being made in connection with certain proposed economies in the line.

Speaking of the visit on Monday Mr Crowther stated that prior to his departure he had given notice of the intended closure of certain western stations owing to trade depression and mining stagnation at Cloncurry. This resulted in deputations waiting for him at various centres along the line.

The first deputation was at Richmond and had reference to the closing of Maxwellton Station. The deputation was representative of the Wyangarie Shire Council and included the Chairman and other members. In reply to the representations of the deputation he had pointed out that for the financial year ended June 1922, the section of the line between Hughenden and Cloncurry had lost £27,000 and since 1917, when it paid over 6 percent, had gone back to the extent of over £122,000. In 1922 it meant that it cost £128 to earn £100. During the year just closed, by economies on the line, that loss of £27,000 had been wiped out and the economies had not caused any great inconvenience to the public although

he, personally, was condemned for making them. On account of the improvement in the section he would be prepared to consider whether or not it might be advisable to leave someone in charge at the station at Maxwellton but not a stationmaster.

The next deputation was at Nelia where the members of the Progress Association met him and protested against the closing of their station. The principal argument was that considerable settlement had taken place there during the last 12 months and as most of them lived such a distance from the station, the closing would cause them a great deal of loss through their being no protection for their goods. After explaining the financial position as it concerned Nelia and that section of the line, Mr Crowther promised to go further into the matter of Nelia and stated that at any rate nothing would be done with regard to closing it until he had communicated with them again.

At Oorindi there was another big deputation which referred to the closing of the Gilliat as well as Oorindi. Practically the same arguments were put forward again and reconsideration of the matter in view of the economies of last year, was promised.

With regard to the protest against the closing of Western stations, Mr Crowther stated that he had already received three deputations at different centres. He had told the deputations the reason for the proposal and had pointed out the great loss that had occurred since the Cloncurry smelters had closed down, on that section from Hughenden westwards. He pointed out that 12 months previously, when making economies on that section he had been very severely criticised and was in fact recommended for "the sack." But he could tell those gentlemen who had criticised him that as the result of those economies a very material improvement had taken place with regard to the working of the section in question. In fact, instead of a loss of £27,000 a year between working expenses and revenue this year he had been able to make the revenue meet the expenditure, and as very little inconvenience had been caused to the western people in consequence he felt confident that the results had justified his action, notwithstanding the protests. He promised he would give the matter fuller consideration in view of the improvement in conditions before taking further action in closing the stations.

#### **1 Oct 1923 (p16, NQ584, NQR)**

Prohibition ad

1. It will divert the £3,500,000 now worse than wasted on Liquor into the legitimate channels of trade, greatly stimulating the development of industry and commerce.

2. It will enormously increase production enlarging the annual accumulation of wealth and the commercial turnover, thereby reducing rates and taxes as has been proven in actual experience.

#### **26 Nov 1923 (p4, NQ680, NQR)**

JC woolscouring Co Ltd

Tenders are hereby called for the following:—

(1) Pulling down of buildings at Toorak Scour and re-erection with alterations and additions at the new site one and a half miles west of JC.

(2) Cartage of building material and machinery from Toorak Scour to the new site.

(3) Erection of building comprising two rooms and kitchen.

Plans and specifications may be obtained on application to FA Hickman, JC. Applications for tender No

(1) must be accompanied by a deposit of one pound, to be refunded when the documents are returned.

Tenders close December 5th at 12 noon.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

#### **26 Nov 1923 (p4, NQ594a, NQR)**

Notice To Wool Growers

JC woolscouring Company, Gungoola, will be shortly starting up, and can guarantee quick and satisfactory treatment of all wool consigned to them.

#### **26 Nov 1923 (p4, NQ594b, NQR)**

JC woolscourING CO LTD

Applications are hereby called for the office of Bookkeeper-Secretary to the above. Salary £6 per week, and found in board and lodging. Successful applicant to be prepared to take up his duties on July 15th. Applications close with the undersigned, June 4th, from whom may be obtained particulars as to duties etc.

S Ulick Browne  
Secretary

**26 Nov 1923 (p4, NQ594c, NQR)**

JC Woolscouring Company, Ltd

399 1/2 Mile Siding, GNR

All Scouring Expeditiously and Thoroughly Carried Out

Charge: One penny, three Farthings per pound Weight of Scoured wool

Our works are right up to date in arrangement, machinery and method of handling

We cannot afford to do work falling short of the BEST

A cordial invitation extended to Graziers to visit us and see for themselves how the work is being done.

Clients please consign as above, branding bales with description and number on top, and station brand in the usual position.

**3 Mar 1924 (p60, NA, NQR)**

Seeing By Wireless

A Coming Wonder

It is well known that pictures can be reproduced at a distance by special wireless instrument, but it has remained for a clever young inventor, MR JL Baird, to show how persons, views and even moving scenes can be instantaneously visualised by similar means.

How this is done is difficult to explain without diagrams but it is hoped that readers will be able to get some idea of the apparatus used from the following description. Some dimensions which have been adopted for the first model are given to make the explanation more easily understood. At the sending station the scene to be transmitted is focussed by a lens on the surface of a rotating disc, which is perforated with a series of holes arranged in one spiral turn. The disc is 20 in across and the image which measures 2 inches square, is close to the rim. As the disc revolved each hole passes a narrow strip of the image, the first hole of the spiral passing the outermost strip, and the last covering the innermost one. Light from the scene shines through the holes on to the substance behind the disc, which changes its electrical resistance instantaneously and proportionately with the variations in the intensity of the light thrown upon it.

If, therefore, this substance is placed in an electric circuit we shall get variations in the current corresponding with the lights and shades of the strips. This varying current, after being amplified, is transmitted to the receiving station. Here the strips are represented by an equal number of vertical rows of minute electric lamps which are mounted in a picture frame. The received currents are led to the fulcrum of an arm, with a copper brush at the end, which rotates round a ring of tight contacts each of which is connected to one lamp. The disc at the sending end, and the arm at the receiving end are synchronised to rotate in unison, hence while each hole in the disc is passing its strip of the image the brush on the arm is sweeping over the contacts for the corresponding row of lamps.

Since the disc and arm rotate at 20 revolutions a second, the complete image is reproduced in the varying brightness of the lamps at this rate which is fast enough to avoid flickering. Lamps of only one-eighth inch in diameter are already procurable and these would give at least as good a representation as a newspaper print. But it is probable that smaller lamps could be made by means of which finer results could be obtained. At present the apparatus is complex and expensive but no doubt as time passes it will be simplified and cheapened so that we may shortly be able to sit at home in comfort and watch a thrilling run at an interesting football match or the finish of the Derby.

**17 Mar 1924 (S5, NQ588, NQR)**

**Alva Trust Bore**

[Several photos] This bore is situated on Mr AD O'Neil's property, Baroona Downs, 17 miles north of JC township. Its depth is 1200 feet and has the wonderful flow of 1,150,000 gallons per day. The temperature of the water is 162° Fahrenheit. This is the largest and hottest flow for its depth in Qld. The contractor was Mr HM Bode who is a well-known boring contractor of North Qld and driller in charge Mr E Emblem. This great flow of water came as a boon to the surrounding selectors who previously had to rely on surface water from JC. With the drains completed it will water no less than eight properties, which greatly enhance their values.

**24 Mar 1924 (p79, NQ589, NQR)**

**A Young Wife's Suicide**

**The Magisterial Enquiry**

**Some Pathetic Letters**

An inquiry into the death of Elizabeth Charlotte Palmer, which occurred at the National Hotel, South Townsville, on 17th March, was opened at the Courthouse on Friday, before Mr TR Kennedy, CPS.

Detective Senior-Sergeant TJ McCarthy, stated that on the morning of 18th instant, he went to the Hospital morgue and there saw the body of the deceased, who was known to him as Bessie Palmer. He had known her for about six months.

About 16th November last, she came to his office and said,

"Things are not going too well between my husband and myself. He is carrying on with other women, and I want to know if you could get evidence against him to get a divorce."

He said, "No, I do not do that class of work."

She replied, "All right, I will try to get someone else to get the evidence."

She added she had no doubt about him carrying on, as she caught him with two sisters at the Geisha Cafe one day, and challenged him about it, when he said he was only driving them for a fare. She stated that they then had a row, and she told the two sisters at the time that he was her husband and she objected to him going about with them. After telling him this she then left the office.

On the morning of 19th March in company with Sergeant Newman, he went to the National Hotel, South Townsville and saw the wife of the licensee (Mrs Peet) who showed him a room upstairs, which had been occupied by the deceased and her husband. There were two beds in the room, one of which he was told was occupied by the deceased, and the other by the husband. He made a search of the bed occupied by Mrs Palmer and under the left hand side of the pillow found two letters, one addressed to "Mrs F Ross, Pentland," and also "Mr F Ross, Pentland." In that letter were two photos, which he recognised as the photo of the deceased. He produced the letter and photos. He also found another letter under the same pillow addressed to "Mr Gardner Palmer." In that letter there were five photos which he also recognised as photographs of the deceased. Each of the letter contained two sheets of paper, and were both dated 17th March, 1924, and bore the heading "National Hotel, Townsville." Writing paper and ink found in the room were similar to those in the letters.

He had made exhaustive enquiries into the death, and the result of his inquiries went to show that deceased had committed suicide, and that she had expressed her intention of doing so a fortnight previously. He had shown the letters to her husband and her mother, and they both recognised the writing as hers.

The letters produced in Court were as follows:—

**TO THE PARENTS.**

"My Dear Mother, Father, sisters and Brothers – I am bidding you a long farewell, my darlings, kind and true. I am tired of this life, and cannot endure it any longer. I may have made a mistake once, but I have paid for it a hundred times over, but my husband treats me like dirt and delights in driving Beulah Shepherd about, so when I am gone he shall be free to marry her and save himself and who belong to

him from disgrace.

Mother, I never said much when you were down, but I am not all to blame, as he made out. Nevertheless, now I am gone do not quarrel over me. He will be free and happy now I am gone. He told you he would never overlook things, so there is nothing for me to live for now.

You have been an ideal mother and father, and now there is only one thing I ask. Do not accuse him or blame him for my death. He shall receive his punishment when the day of judgement arrives, if need be. But bear in mind, wherever he may go, he shall never get another woman to love him as I did (although I may have been harsh at times.) I love him till the last breath dies out of my body.

The world has been cruel on me but I hope all my troubles are ended now. I hold no fear of death. For me it seems as if it will heal my poor broken heart. I am tired and cannot write any more, so will conclude with the fondest love a daughter can bestow on her parents, sisters and brothers –

From your dearly beloved daughter,

Bess Palmer”

“PS – I am just six (6) months married today. There may be some who will pity me, but I, though I have had my times of self-pity, know well that mine was no tragedy of cruel fate. Please do not fret or worry over me. There is that old saying, “All’s well that ends well,” and everything happens for the best. Goodbye, my darlings, forever.”

#### TO THE HUSBAND

“My Dear Husband – I cannot see you go in disgrace any longer. You know the whole world talks of you and that girl(Beulah Shepherd), and that you had no love for me, so I am doing the thing that I think is the only way out of disgrace and into happiness for you, so I will say goodbye for ever.

I want you to bear in mind that wherever you may go you shall never get another woman to love you as I did (although I may have been a little harsh at times.) My love for you and my jealousy of her, drove me to do the things that may have seemed ridiculous to you at times. I hope that you will now marry the girl (Beulah), who has put between you and the girl who loved you with all her heart and soul, and who has now been the cause of her death. I also hope she will make you a better wife than the one who has just sacrificed her life that you might be happy.

It is just six (6) months today since we were married and both our lives have been in misery, so do you not think it is better we should part forever? Ah, my heart aches that I have to leave you, but if you will be happy, I shall rest contented; you shall soon forget me, especially when you will have her (Beulah) to care for you.

You said you made one mistake in your life that you would always regret (your marriage to me), but, take great care and do not make another. You shall not have any need to regret it any longer, as I will be out of your way.

Well, my darling boy, I think I have said enough, so as this is my first and last farewell, I hope that you shall always be happy and prosperous in your new life –

From your ever-devoted Wife. (I could not live without the man I loved.)

PS – I may also mention that all of what you have accused me is not true, but, please use your own judgement, as you have done in the past, but do not condemn me too harshly.

Bess

“Love is as strong as death.”

“Jealousy as cruel as the grave.”

“His wife gave all to make him happy”

“The other woman gave nothing and took all.”

“Which won in the end?”

Elizabeth Charlotte Ross, who stated that she resided with her husband and family at Pentland, said that the deceased was her eldest daughter, and would have been 21 years of age in July next. Her daughter was married on 17th September last, at the Church of England, in Townsville, without the consent of her parents, but her father consented afterwards to save trouble.

Since the marriage her daughter had corresponded regularly with them. About a fortnight ago she received a letter from the deceased stating that she had been to a doctor who said her heart was affected and that she would only live about two years. Witness came down to Townsville in consequence of that letter to take her home. Her daughter said she would not come then, but said she would come later. She said that she and her husband had not been living too happily together. She said she had made a mistake, and asked him (meaning the husband) to forgive her, but he said he could not. She said she loved him too much to leave him and that she would come home later. She said if he did not change towards her she would poison herself. This was about a fortnight ago.

Witness spoke to Palmer and asked him if he would forgive the girl, as she had admitted that she had done wrong, but he said he could not. When she told him about her daughter's threat to poison herself if he did not change his attitude towards her, he said he would take a second thought.

She last heard from her daughter on Tuesday, 18th March. The letter was written on the previous Saturday, and she said that things had taken a change for the better, and that Gardiner would be going to CT with a car load for St Patrick's Day, and she would come home later. Her daughter was very fond of her husband. The handwriting in the letters produced in Court was her daughter's and the photos were hers.

At this stage the inquiry was adjourned till Wednesday next.

**12 May 1924 (p80, NQ597, NQR)**

Ad for Cletrac

**16 Jun 1924 (p81, NQ596, NQR)**

ATL

I write on the bank of the McKinlay River, 470 miles west of Townsville. I came 460 miles by rail and for the next I have zig zagged between five stations and I am hunting for fat sheep, and at the hour, waiting telegrams.

I came down here by the river because it is quiet. The township of McKinlay is back there off the river channels; it is a treeless country and the landscape is now maize coloured, the soil dry and cracking, and where it is stirred on the roads it is crumbly. Soon it will be dusty. There is dryness everywhere save in the narrow water channel in front of where I sit.

I can hear crows cawing incessantly. Nearer the town hundreds of rose-breasted cockatoos fly about in flocks picking up the dry seeds of grass and weeds. Earlier in the day a great flock of corellas, making half an acre of lovely white in the brown soil, led me out on the plain, and as I neared them they flew in a great cloud with the morning sun glittering on their outspread wings, as upon a mirror. Maybe 10,000 birds were there and I wished I had a camera, but somehow these western pictures of bird life never portray the glorious brilliancy, the sheen of the sun, and the loveliness that is seen in the living scene.

When I walked away from the town just now there was a big mob of cattle passing over on the downs at the back; and the same old waggonette, the country vehicle of old time, came in to get rations at the store. The turn out was truly of the back country: the swags on the top of the load tied securely; the tucker box at the back; some sticks of firewood in front of the high seat; a shovel and an axe stuck upright against the side rail to which were buckled many pairs of hobbles; the billy cans and a bucket, one within the other, tied on the tail board beside the tucker box.

Before the stores were stowed away I asked the driver, who by the way was a very able-looking young man, about the cattle. Mr Straighthair came over from the mob. He wore leggings of leather, and his long-necked, rowelled spurs tinkled on the boarded floor of the store. He enquired about tobacco and sauce. A hat sat jauntily on the back of his head with his fair, dry hair, ill controlled by comb or brush, beneath. His cotton shirt was open at the front notwithstanding the chill of the morning. His hands were



rough and hard and when he had helped to stow the new-bought stores he unhitched his horse, and, with his bridle rein on his arm, accompanied the driver to the hotel.

There they met Mr Staighthair's friend who had come from some neighbouring place and they foregathered jocularly. The friend, by way of cheerful greeting, cast reflection on the chastity of his mother and swept his hand as if to tip his hat off, but Mr Staighthair ducked lithely and was beyond reach. Laughing, they breasted the bar.

McKinlay is 48 miles from the Gilliat. A motor lorry runs between carrying mails. Passengers fare is 30s, exactly 7 1/2 d per mile. Now, comparing rides, the good car running between Atherton and Malanda makes charge of 6s for the 20 miles, less than 4d a mile. The McKinlay mailman is Neil Macalister, who does his work well.

All along the way at the turnoff tracks to many places, there are little dovecot mailboxes of galvanised iron on blocks four feet above the ground.

The driver, who is also the contractor for the mail service, is popular on the roads and I may describe him by quoting a man whom I once asked regarding another – he said: "He's the obligingest cove I ever see," and so is this mailman.

I came through in the night, sitting on the front seat of the lorry and it was very cold, and we came at midnight.

Bread for McKinlay comes by the buffet car from Cloncurry. It is brought up to McKinlay by the mail.

There are two hotels in McKinlay: Giles's Union Hotel and the Federal Hotel at which I stayed, kept by Mrs Burton, whose father was John Absolom, who, 40 years ago, was a pioneer business man in these parts.

McKinlay is a dry, country town. I mean dry in the rainfall and not in the prohibition sense. The earth is dry, the vegetation consists of parkinsonia acacias planted here and there, and in this good season, showing green. There is very little attempt made to enclose homes by either wire fence or pickets and the rubbish heaps everywhere tell of a country that imports all foodstuffs – save meat – from some other part. You see milk cans, butter tins, and jam tins; biscuits come in packets. Now that wool is "looking up" and solid, why not go in for a bit of town planning in well-to-do McKinlay?

I trucked sheep at the Gilliat. Around the camps where drovers had rested there were tins of all kinds of expensive foodstuffs including asparagus tins, in numbers – "Try some of this 'ere asparrowgrass," says one.

At McKinlay I had a yarn with AT Powne the storekeeper. He came out here as a lad when the rail terminus was at Homestead. He has prospered and was recently home to England on a trip. Whilst at McKinlay I also met the old-time warrior of the road, Williams the carrier, looking very well.

The business folk of the town of McKinlay all seem prosperous. There are two stores, AT Powne's and A Butters' stores, where the drovers' waggonette got supplies and there is a good saddler named Mackay and I had a chat with the constable in charge of the district, one Jensen, who is, and who needs to be, a capable man among stock. Recently there have been some cases that make interesting reading among sheep men – and the stock owners around have praise for this constable, a good-looking, quiet sort of chap, who comes from about Maryborough.

A good few of the young men of the district went away to the war. Neil Gaydon was the only one who did not return, a fine young chap, too, but the others all came back and took up their old jobs – Geo Pearson, Alex Roxburgh, Jack Bridgman, Bert Anderson, Charley – I can't think of his name at the moment, and Neil Macalister, the mailman.

As I told you, I came back to the Gilliat in the night and all the needs of the Gilliat are supplied by one Cannon, who is storekeeper and publican and with whom I had a yarn and I tried to buy some pet sheep from him. Most of these wayside business places are goldmines. Anyway the Gilliat place was cleanly and well kept.

I came on to JC in the night, some 20 miles by a cattle train, and I came out of that and camped alongside a truck by the woodshed until I awoke with the sun shining. Then I adjusted my boots, shook the dust from my Pitlochry rug, removed the deadbeat appearance attached to my circumstances of the night, and crossed to the hotel in time for a kindly greeting, by name, and a cup of tea. It is good to be known when you land in a strange place. Some years ago I got off the steamer in a northern port and as I came away from the wharf I was thinking of the novelty – to me – of being in a place where I was not known, and just then the cabman said, “Well, Mr Line, how’s Prairie looking?”

JC is a pretty busy place. It is now the centre of a fine sheep district – and very prosperous. Yet, years ago this country was not regarded as of much value. The ground was dry and terribly open and cracked. No one thought anything of it. Now and then you’d see a herd of cattle of Eddington or Dalgongally on these great plains – but never in any numbers. Nowadays, however, the land is all transformed and stocked with sheep. The sheep trampled the soil, filled up the cracks, and sweet pasture grasses grew. Today it is a wealthy land.

JC mostly fronts the railway in a long street beginning and ending in the plain. The land is level – so level that the water from the flowing bore at the railway station just spreads out over the plain, not in any channel or going anywhere in particular, save where furrows have been made to conduct it. It is hot water and the bath is warm and pleasant these cold mornings.

Looking from the balcony, for the hotel has two stories, you gaze away south or west and you see nothing but the grassy treeless plain away to the skyline. On the east, a few miles away, there are scattered trees on a watercourse and beyond that the plain again.

The railway has a big elevated water tank and I am thinking the town is supplied from this. Beyond, over there half a mile and among some garden trees, there is a homestead; and near the line a shearing shed where contract work is done by Mathews, who owns the homestead and the selection of sixteen thousand acres, a very fine property. In all directions around the country is held in selections of ten to twenty thousand acres.

JC is a place and a country of motor cars. I have seen only one horse team and people look at his and regard it as something of a curiosity.

All the landscape is green. There were seven inches of rain here in April. It is blue grass and Mitchell or Flinders grass everywhere. Alongside the railway station are the trucking yards and dip. This is the ‘clear’ line for cattle. All going south must be dipped here. This is all more or less farcical because the town cows go across the line and all about, and cattle going away could pick up ticks on the south side. Ticks, however, are never very serious in downs country. It could only be by a combination of circumstances favourable to their life that ticks could be carried south from here. Although some sixteen years ago this did happen and ticks got to near Birdsville, and also to Brighton Downs from JC.

The same excellent system of bread supply as in McKinlay is popular in JC. The baker, who is named Kaeser, supplies all the railway towns and camps to Cloncurry by means of the buffet car on the railway. It carries and sells the loaves to all needing them and the bread goes all over the country. Mailmen running cars get the bread from the train and carry it to the roadside mail boxes, thus the stations and selections are supplied.

McKinlay town has bread baked both in JC and Cloncurry. There was, however, very good home-baked bread on the table at Burtons. The cook was a Towers woman whom I know and she baked a good, sweet, nice crusty loaf. They were using tinned butter there from Silverwood, and I am disposed to ask, “Why not Atherton?”

On the way up from JC, past Nelia, Nonda and Maxwellton, the country is level and almost treeless, and may, once in fifty years, be under water.

By the way, on the railway, it is ‘up’ to JC and ‘down’ to Hughenden, although from Nelia the line follows the Flinders River upstream for 150 miles.

**23 Jun 1924 (p35, NA, NQR)**

McIntyre's Ride  
From J Corby, Normanton to "On the Track", author unknown

McIntyre went riding  
Riding to the west,  
A ghost glides through the Gidgea and across the rough hill-crest.  
Hear the hoof beats clatter  
On the drought-dried down  
But Cooper's Creek was empty with a bed and banks of brown.

McIntyre went riding  
Seeking Leichhardt's grave  
Oh, the quick-gasped curses and the prayers when bushmen rave.  
Riding by the Flinders  
Fever in his veins  
And blurred and blue the ranges backed the bare and baking plains.

McIntyre went riding  
Faint and fever-racked  
Oh, the cool, wide wardroom, oh, the ground agape and cracked.  
By the pine and sand patch where the mulgas grow  
Dead horses in the desert and the camels crawling slow.

McIntyre went riding  
Riding to his death  
Oh, the new-made grave mound and the scarlet Sturt-pea wreath.  
Lone the grave they made him  
No shorn priest to shrive  
To bind the restless spirit or the roving soul to gyve.

McIntyre goes riding  
Wan and white he rides  
Ghostwise through the Gidgea, wild warrigals for guides  
Wraith among the ridges  
Hark, the wild-dog whines  
The myall hears him gallop, past the sand path, past the pines.

**28 Jul 1924 (p4, NQ594d, NQR)**

JC Woolscouring Co

Applications are invited for the Position of Head Scourer to the above company. Applicant to be capable of taking full charge of and supervising all scouring operations, and must state earliest date he can take up his duties. Particulars as to salary, etc, obtainable from the Secretary, JC. Intending applicants are advised to wire him.

**18 Aug 1924 (p5, NQ599, NQR)**

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**1 Sep 1924 (p62, NQ598, NQR)**

A SHOCKING TRAGEDY

Mother Kills Baby and Suicides

Sydney, Aug 25 – A shocking double tragedy occurred at "Kerra", a pretty little bungalow in

Undercliffe, last night, when a mother murdered her eight months old baby girl by slashing her throat

with a razor and then committing suicide by cutting her own throat with the same weapon. The woman had been under medical treatment for some past for nervous trouble. She left a pathetic note signifying her intention.

The names of the victims are Mrs Catherine McGrill, aged 34, and Joan McGrill, aged eight months.

To make doubly sure of death, the unfortunate woman turned the gas in the kitchen stove full on and shut the doors and windows. When the room was entered it was reeking with gas fumes.

It was about six o'clock when the tragedy occurred. The family, which consisted of Reginald McGrill, his wife, their five year old son, Frederick, and the baby, had returned in a car from a visit to the home of McGrill's father. They had been staying at the father's house since Friday night. For about half an hour the boy played about the yard and then finding the house in darkness, he ran to his father calling out "Where's mummy?" McGrill just then had gone to the car to get the baby's perambulator and with the little boy he walked to the house. He could not find his wife or baby in the front room, so he walked to the kitchen. As he opened the door he was assailed by an almost overpowering smell of gas and the place was pitch black. He walked in direct to the stove to see what was the matter and was half way across the kitchen when he stumbled and nearly fell over the prostrate form of his wife. He quickly switched on the light and a gruesome sight met his eyes. Stretched on her back on the floor was his wife with the murdered baby lying across her breast. Both their throats were deeply gashed with a razor. The bloodstained instrument was by the woman's side. The baby was dead but the woman was moaning and gasping. The grief stricken husband staggered from the room to summon assistance.

On the mantelpiece in the breakfast room a pathetic note was found pinned. It was unsigned but the writing was identified as Mrs McGrill's. It read:

"I am feeling I am getting paralysed. The world is too [sad, good?] for me and baby. Goodbye; God bless you all to the end of the road."

The woman had been known to be greatly worried over her illness for some time. She is said to have been very despondent. It is surmised that after arriving home in the car she went into the house and then wrote the tragic note.

At the inquest today, her husband said he and his wife lived happily; they were comfortably situated. The Coroner found Mrs McGrill killed her baby and took her own life, while in a state of insanity.

### **1 Sep 1924 (p65, NA, NQR)**

#### **SHEEP KEEPING IN THE FAR WEST**

##### **'Along the Line'**

Recent resumptions on the Georgina River and of lands in that vicinity, and the following opening of the land to selection and its acquisition by many young men who are launching out to make their way in life, make the time opportune to write a paper of experiences and observations of sheep keeping in that country.

It is not a new enterprise there. Forty-five years ago, sheep in numbers were on Austral Downs and Carandotta, although the railway had not even started from Townsville. Hopes were very high. Ideas were big and borrowed money plentiful to stock up and improve country, fencing, dam-making, and the stone homesteads of Carandotta and Warenda still attest the permanency of the work done previously.

In 1885 there were sheep on Rocklands, 150 miles up the river. All of these sheep enterprises at that time failed. The management was not blameable; it was simply because wool and sheep became of little or no value. Full-wooled wethers were not worth 5/- at Hughenden. Nowadays we may think of these old enterprises, particularly Rocklands and ask: What on earth they thought they were going to do? They were 250 miles from Burketown, with indifferent shipping facilities and small schooner freight. Of course, we are all clever in the light of later days; but yet that seemed a 'badly designed enterprise,' as it so proved three years afterwards and was abandoned.

Austral Downs and Carandotta relied, at first, on Normanton as a port. In 1886 these enterprises were

weakening and were shortly afterwards abandoned. At that time the Northern Railway was almost at Hughenden but the far back sheep keeping was given up. Wool would not pay freight and there was no market at all for sheep. Even on the Flinders sheep keeping would not pay its way. These low prices were the cause of failure and in view of these prices all the places were too costly. Too much money had been spent. As it was then with pastoralists, so it is today with the Qld government – easy come, easy go. You see, these stone houses were built and expensive improvements were made, and we might ask now: if mud and lignum houses had been built would the enterprise have lived. Well, at any rate, there would not have been so much regret. Money was spent freely.

In 1880 I was at a sale of heavy draught horses in Dubbo, NSW. These were railway horses, in top stabled condition, fed and groomed, cresty, bold, such as we see show stallions. One of my competitors in the buying was a Mr Little, who bought largely. Many of these horses were old; but the condition covered all defects. Prices ran from £50 to £90 per head, with some higher. Mr Little was one of the partners and was forming Austral Downs, where these horses were bound for – a 1400-mile journey. Just imagine these horses on the road three months afterwards, without feed. They were intended for teams and dam-making work on Austral Down. Now, at this time in the north here, there were draught horses, acclimatised, inured to the country – Mount Enu, for instance, £25 per head. These were teams which could have been bought, everything fitted to the country.

I am only telling about these horse as instancing the easy money. Everything was rushed, dams, fences, homestead, woolsheds, everything costly.

It was all before its time and it failed, and failed badly. But the time has come now and given right management, a 'look before you leap' policy, and slow haste in the improvements and stocking of these blocks now being taken up, and they offer as good a chance of success as any enterprise in NQ today, and that, of course, regarding the sugar areas and their prosperity I told you of two or three months past is saying a good deal.

Moreover, the country out back is a fine healthy land and sheep keeping on right lines is a fine life. Distance, in the light of railway and motor traffic, is as nought. A young man of right mind goes there to live. He does not come to the rail end often, nor go to any township. He makes his home of mud and rough stone, and Gidgea saplings and lignum. The rainfall out there is light; no need to worry about iron roofs. Lignum and cane grass made roofs for good men in the past and unless our young man is a silverplater with too much money, it is a good roof for him now.

The homestead sites, however, need be one of his worries. One does not outlive a badly chosen homestead site. It is a curse. It might be flooded or windy or hot or open. You cannot remedy these and so you keep away from them; but do not turn down a good site because it is stony. You can gather the stones and make a garden wall later on. Do not turn down a good site because the water is a bit difficult to raise so long as there is plenty of it. A windmill pump will suck 25 feet and will force a great height, and also lift a great depth from a bore or well. And moreover 1 1/4 inch pipe will cost about 1/- a foot, and £50 will buy 1000 feet and you have been wise, you have got the £50, since you bought no sawn timber or galvanised iron.

The mud or grass and dab humpy is one of the most comfortable in winter and out there one mostly has a camp outside in summer nights. Now, in building your dwelling, lay out a fireplace inside. What is more comfortable than to sit by the fireside on a winter night? It is bleak and cold out there in winter nights. In laying out your humpy know where the prevailing wind comes from. It is south-east for 11 months of the year. Lay out your humpy so the breeze comes along the verandah and lay out your fireplace in the east end so that it will not smoke nor will all the heat go up the chimney.

Given your humpy finished, let no young settler live like a black fellow. Let him choose a worthy helpmate, a good girl he likes, and make her his wife. One who will 'nuss him in sickness and be square unto him in wellness,' and give her a fair deal, and if she can make good butter and make a 50 lb of flour last a good while, then very good. These are accomplishments.

There are hundreds of thousands of good girls looking for this kind of life. Failing the good girl, then in every country there are lots of good, middle-aged women, and decent old bodies, only too willing to keep house. I do not mean those old parties you meet occasionally who talk award rates and "fares back after six months," and for whom the mailman carries a bottle.

Never should a young man live badly in his home. Have a cow yard and a few milkers, have milk, butter, cream and eggs always. They are all within easy reach, especially if a few tons of bush hay are provided. Aye, and have a garden, if it is but 10 feet square. One of the nicest little flower gardens I ever saw was at Bedourie when Mrs Doolan was there – pansies and violets, roses and sweet peas, and cabbages four to the sack. There is no country thrown open yet as dry as Bedourie, in which the average rainfall is less than eight inches. This garden, note this, was on the west side of the house and so sheltered from the south-east wind. Shelter from wind is essential to successful gardening. I have seen pawpaws grown successfully at Camooweal on the sheltered side of the house.

And now, given the humpy finished, by-the-way, some eschalots and garden stuff might have been sown the day you fixed the site. It should not be a month since you came; a horse paddock and two or three little paddocks, five or ten acres close by the home; a brush sheep yard, with a division or two in it. A sheep paddock of two or three thousand acres, and you, looking around for a thousand, cast for age, ewes – to lamb. I mean provided your outlook for grass and water just then, say, in November, is good. You can never go wrong on cheap old ewes, if your grass and water outlook is good; but bear in mind you'll go mad if you buy them in a failing season. Pretty nearly always in back country, if you've got grass and water for two months it is a four to one or five to one gamble to buy cheap ewes in November. I believe in the cheap ewes to lamb, every time. If bought right you may strike a good deal with wethers and hit a rising market but it is never half so good a gamble as a mob of cheap old ewes., if you strike it right. "Nothing like a mob of old ewes to pull a man round, if he strikes it right." That is what the late Fred Brodie once said to me.

But to go on with the paper. If I were a young man starting on one of those back country blocks, I'd get the thousand cheap ewes, and I would not buy another sheep until I had things right. I mean another sheep paddock up and odds and ends, to make sheep comfortable and I'd be ready to shepherd the ewes and keep them well in hand always. I might have dog trouble. Well, I'd shepherd and poison and have a big roomy yard at night, and keep a fire going. It might be necessary to net from the start. Well, net or shepherd, and I would prefer to shepherd for the first year. I would keep them in hand always at lambing time and mark the lambs young, at nine or ten days. By the way, I was reading a paper recently on practical sheep keeping and lamb marking and the writer told how to 'take the tail at the third joint, between finger and thumb, and cut it off.'

Now, I say, do not heed this kind of instruction. Hold the tail by the extreme end and cut it off as long or as short as you like, a short dock for ewes and a longer one for weathers. By holding the tail up near the dock the skin does not close over the cut and you have a raw sore and often a protruding bone. Use Stockholm tar and clean fat, to heal the dock every time.

Some of these recent blocks thrown open are a long way out. This matters little to the right man or family, going to town once a year. They can be as happy out there as around Hughenden. The wool freight difference between 300 miles of rail and 600 miles is not much and motor transport from the Dangle to Djarra is no more than from Tangorin to Hughenden.

I have written for the young man making his way. To those going in on a larger scale I would only say, hasten slowly. Not but what the country is good enough and sheep will do well; but you may be up against many unforeseen things that won't affect you much if you're beginning in a small way and you will learn how to combat them.

I have written of the life of young men out there. In many wanderings in the far back I have met fine young men, degenerate, greasy, soiled clothes, buttonless, unwashed, boots unlaced, their homes untidy, no books, no comfort, no companionship, except the blacks. Well, it was their own faults or may be back of resourcefulness.

On the other hand I remember going to a place away far back from Carandotta and here was a young Englishman. His dwelling was mud and thatch, but roomy, with plenty of shade, a bit of garden. He had no one but blacks, but he lived quite a good life, tending his cattle. I stayed a day with him. A gin kept house and the boys worked the herd. She had off-siders who helped washing and cleaning. This man's meals were laid on a snow-white cloth. He lived well. His cows and fowls were well kept. He had plenty of all good things, home grown. He got his mail when he sent in to Carandotta. He got English periodicals and was conversant with the politics of the day. I spent quite a pleasant evening with him.

Sidney Donor was at Carandotta then, and was a fine neighbour.

**22 Sep 1924 (p7, NQ598, NQR)**

Suicide, woman & baby. Heading only. See also 1/9/24

**3 Nov 1924 (p31, NQ601, NQR)**

Water Supply History In The West  
Pumping from Small Supply Bores  
("Along the Line")

When the west was first stocked with sheep, reliance for water supply rested on the water holes, and in those early years, be it noted that many of these stood remarkably well. But stock increased rapidly and the need arose for more water. On many places, at first, small dams were made in the creek channels, yet none were permanently constructed and when the floods came, they melted away.

Larger dams were made. In 1885 the Government spent £10,000 on the Hughenden-Winton road, also made dams on the Muttaborra road and beyond Winton, but none of these stood the flood. Later, reservoirs were made in suitable sites mostly by making dams across gullies that ran into the creeks and pumping them full whilst the creek was in flood. By this means very good supplies of water were secured notably at Cameron Downs, Lerida and other places. Extreme drought, however, necessitated more permanent supplies. Let me remark here, that evaporation in the west is considerable.

In 1886 came the new era of artesian supply. Success was achieved by artesian boring, that gave great flowing steams. There was not, at first, any attention given to subartesian supplies. These had been struck in wells on Cambridge, Redcliffe, Manuka, Vindex, Devoncourt, Rocklands and some other places. Wells were sunk 200 feet and more but there was no thought at that time of utilising these shallow supplies by boring and pumping. It is easy to be wise after the event. There were no big windmills at that time that were efficient. Those on the market were American wooden structures that gave small satisfaction. For the most part there were pumps fixed in the bottom of the well with a succession of ladders to reach the surface. It was a terrible job and a very dangerous one, handling these plants, and many men lost their lives. Although at that time the deep well pump must have been known, yet it was not applied. In the wells the timbering began to give and the shale strata to fall in and the work was much more dangerous and the supply of water always precarious.

In the light of later events it was wonderful[?] that better use was not made of appliances to lift sub-artesian water. Everybody raved for a big flowing bores, or none at all. At that time there was good engine power always, although in the west firewood was a big item. Yet the deep well pumps and engine power were available. Strange to say, it was not for many years that sub supplies were utilised and almost the first was a Prairie – and in that vicinity, on Lammermoor.

Good results were got by pumping large supplies of water, up to 2500 gallons per hour were pumped and thousands of cattle watered at more than one plant. This was a country of cheap firewood. At first big engines were used and it took a few years to discover that a four or six horse engine would do the work but that knowledge came and by degrees slowly, it was recognised also that it was a simple matter to raise water from a depth of 200 feet, and thereabout, and so water stock.

Many of the sub supplies in the west vary in volume of water. Thus the first water may be struck at shallow depth, and may not amount to much. A second supply at 150 feet and so on, and in some places more than a thousand feet. These supplies invariably increase in depth and vary in their "rise" towards the surface, but, now and again, there are eccentricities of strata and sometimes when you strike a second supply, the first water will recede to it; or, it may be the other way, that the second supply will come up and so strengthen the top supply and remain at that level.

Although in Qld for 40 years a costly Water Supply Department has been part of the State's equipment, yet very little is known regarding levels either on the surface or of the water bearing strata below and there is very much to learn. Many of these first supplies when struck in a bore give the impression by the first rush of water that the back pressure is great and the supply inexhaustible but the fact is not generally known that the instantaneous rushing rise of the water in the bore is either caused by gas or by air pressure and the supply of water in many cases is very easily pumped out and takes a long time to come up again. Instancing what I mean. At one bore we put down in old days we were at 310 feet

and whilst drilling there came what seemed like an explosion down the hole. The rope slackened and wobbled showing whatever it was it had carried up the weight of the sinker, more than four hundredweight. We pulled up at once not knowing what had happened. The rope was wet to within 170 feet of the surface. Glorious. We thought we'd struck an ocean of water but when we had the pump rigged it baled the hole out in two hours and it took two or three hours to make up again so we had the messing job of getting up steam every two or three hours and pumping her dry and so we laboriously got enough water for the stock. Later on we put the hole down 70 feet further and increased the supply so there was enough to spare for all.

There are other eccentricities of strata and instances have been where a continuation of drilling has resulted in the loss of all the water. In such a case the water has been restored and held by ramming clay down the hole below the level of the first supply. Another discovery in the west has been that a big supply of water rising in a bore has filled dry strata and created subartesian supplies over a large area where shallow water did not exist previously. To utilise these top supplies some practical knowledge of pumps and pumping is essential. It is needful to have a pump in accordance with the supply. In many instances on a gale day on the downs, supplies become exhausted and the mill spins round the pump throwing no water and working for nothing and indicating that the pump is too big for the supply and when the mill is distant from attention, anything may happen. Yet when this is of infrequent occurrence it is better to retain the larger pump than to mess about with a 2 in or 2 1/2 inch rig that is so easily put out of order by a small leaf or a grass blade or clip in the valve and it is not a pleasing job to pull up a couple of hundred feet of pipe and then to find nothing. The chip having dropped out only to come again and obstruct the valve. So with all small pumps it is essential to have a fine perforated strainer on the bottom.

Suggestion has been made that pumps in weak supplies may be kept going full by running water into the bore. This is only mentioned here as illustrating foolishness.

Often it will be found that the adoption of the shortest stroke on the windmill disc will curtail the power of the mill so that it lifts less water and the supply for the pump might so be maintained.

Another trick of the trade is to take some of the fans off the mill.

Closing my paper I may refer to the awful worries men must have had with these wells on which they had to rely for stock water. When I was a very young boy, I drove an old grey mare round and round in a "whim" rising water for sheep from a deep well on the dry plains of the Murray back blocks. That must have been in 1868. We used to get there and water the sheep. All that country had whim rigs working from wells.

On Peak Downs a few years later in 1872 water was risen the same way from deep wells and it was awful water. Nearly 40 years ago on Redcliffe, near Hughenden, I remember seeing them working a big canvas-bucket rig on a well about two hundred feet down pulling the bucket up with a horse and keeping some sheep and the cows but it was awful water.

A better system was however looming and it has now become fairly perfect but old timers may look back on these works and worries and if some are prosperous today may stand boldly without egotism and say, "I deserve all I have."

**11 Nov 1924 (p12, NQ600, NQR)**

JC

A Thriving Western Centre

In 1918 the township of JC comprised a small hotel, a store, and a small shop; but since then it has made rapid progress due principally to numerous selectors settling in the district. Today it has its huge hotel, a building known in CT as the Metropolitan Hotel, which was removed by Mr Roy Sullivan. For a lease of ten years for this hotel, a small fortune was paid, or at least an amount sufficiently large enough to purchase a nice little selection, and a couple of thousand sheep with a little wool on. In addition to the lease, a substantial rent is paid.

With all this financial burden the hostess is always in a cheerful mood and her only worry seems to be the getting of the precious goods that she sells so quickly and without the slightest complaint. Rumour



has it that during a recent race week in the vicinity of 30,000 drinks were named in a week; but for the size of the place this seems an exaggeration. Still the atmosphere is extremely dry and the dispensing is exceedingly good.

For the twelve months ending June last nearly 2000 tons of wool was railed at JC and Gilliat. Besides being the centre of a vast sheep area, it is the "port" for cattlemen from the gulf, and for the past year something like 10,000 cattle were trucked at JC, while at the Gilliat, 13 miles further west, 6000 cattle were railed.

At the western side of the township a woolscour, costing between seven and eight thousand pounds, has been erected recently by a local company. It is now in full swing cleaning the greasy wool that has been grown in the district. The directors of the concern are sanguine of its success.

Numerous houses, stores, refreshment rooms and other buildings have been erected during the past few years. A School of Arts Hall has not been overlooked and it is probable that ere long the residents of JC will enjoy seeing "the world's best" projected on the screen. An iceworks is in the course of erection and its product should find ready sale although up to the present each train from Richmond brings consignments of the very necessary commodity. Motor experts are plentiful to give quick service in repairing the selector's cars, there being two up-to-date garages.

JC has its "live wires" who are ever on the alert to sell or buy a property, a sheep or two, or transact any business for the producers of the district.

JC is under the jurisdiction of the McKinlay Shire Council; but apparently is not without strong representation, for already footpaths and watercourses are being made and the roads are in a good state.

Land for building purposes is valuable. A quarter acre with a 65 feet frontage almost at the extreme end of the business section of the town is reported to have changed hands at £275.

Altogether JC is a busy little township and the centre of a thriving and prosperous district.

#### **24 Nov 1924 (p70, NQ594e, NQR)**

JC woolscouring Company

The above company advises having scoured, amongst others this season, wool on account of the following: On account of Jowett and Co, *Spreyton*; Bayles Bros, *Toorak*; JW Shaw, *Maria Downs*; SU Browne, *Garomna*; Byrne Bros, *Innisfail Downs*; KO Richards, *Kenellen*; Peut Bros, *Euroka*, *St Elmo* and *Bodell*; J Peut, *Sunny Plains*; JC Rome, *Longford Plains*; EH Doubleday, *Consentes*; and others.

The first wools scoured by this Company to meet the market was a line of 163 bales of *Garomna*, which was sold at the recent sales and realised up to 66 3/4 d for a line of AAA and AA wethers. This was the top price for scoured wool at the sale and is also a record price for woolscoured at country scours. The average price for the whole 163 bales, which includes locks and stained [the rest appears not to have been copied]

During the ensuing few months provision will be made for next season's scouring operations by installing an extra boiler, providing larger scoured wool space and other alterations which have been found necessary during the recent operations.

#### **5 Jan 1925 (p18, NA, NQR)**

Teamster in a Bog

"On the Track"

Ho! A teamster in a bog;  
Sort of funny dialogue,  
Something that you should not miss,  
For it runs on just like this;

The teamster:  
Gee up, ginger, come here Mick,  
Or your blankety hides I'll flick,

Stand up Kaiser, blow me tight  
You'll be dead as a cow tonight;  
Wake up Punch, you blanky cow,  
Hector there, you lazy sow.

Parson:

"Moderate your language, Tom,  
Or to grief you'll surely come,"  
Chipped a parson with advice.  
"Treat them gentle and be nice."

Teamster:

Nice? You silly foolish thing,  
Think they'll go if parsons sing?  
Call these neddies pretty names  
And they'll play such blanky games.  
Look here, parson, I'm no fool  
Though I never went to school,  
Take this whip and make them go,  
Get that wheel from out below  
You can try your pretty names  
If you fail, well there's the flames  
You can go to when you're dead;  
Get your blanky top-piece read.

Parson:

Ho! The parson with a whip  
Holding it firmly in his grip  
He twirls it round to do the deed  
"Hector there," he said, "proceed,"  
Hector he but winked his eye  
When he saw the parson nigh  
"Treat them gentle" Tom advised  
For he now turned wowser-wise.  
But the neddies would not go  
Unconcerned were they to know  
All the wowser's moral breed  
Chipped in Tom, "Do now proceed  
Shades of Caesar, Hogan's ghost;  
Give them wine and things on toast  
Tempt them with a dainty feed  
"Hector there," he roared, "proceed,"  
But he might have roared high or low  
Not a budge would Hector go.

Teamster:

Tom was now in charge once more  
Flicked and flayed then oaths he swore  
Hector now had taut his chain  
"Pull you blanky coes, again"  
Creak and creak, its moving on  
"Pull you blanky sons, its done"  
Ted Blake

**5 Jan 1925 (p32, NQ602, NQR)**

Sheep Talk

Water

"Along the Line"

We were all lying down in the shade, comfortable, at the Top Well, and Baker just set off talking, and

every word was good, and no one interrupted.

“Now,” he said, “this water here is good, but it’s not so good for stock as some that I know. This water is too clean, too pure; give stock no extra appetite. You take that water at No 1 bore. You see stock don’t hang about there. People say it’s not good water, it’s a bit salty. But though it isn’t nice to drink, yet it is good stock water. You see cattle drink it and go away feeding. The water gives them an appetite and they go away. You note. You never see any dead cattle about No 1. They do well and you’ll see fatter bullocks about there than you will on the Downs.

“There’s different kinds of bore water. A lot of the Downs country water is not good stock water. Now, I wouldn’t keep rams on bore water. There’s too much soda in it. It makes rams impotent. I believe that the lack of condition in Downs sheep is often due to drinking too much bore water. It don’t quench thirst and they guzzle and guzzle and keep coming back for more. Now you reckon up – have you ever seen the same heavy sheep in recent years as there used to be before the bores? I mean when there was only dam water?”

“No,” I said. “That’s nothing to do with the water; it’s because the sheep have eaten out all the little vines that used to be all over the Downs.”

That’s right about the vines, but all the same you never see real heavy, fat sheep now, except at times when they are getting rain water. I had to admit this, although I said there’s some bore water just as good as rain water.

“All right, so there is,” continued Baker. “There’s very queer things occur with water and people don’t think about it. But the stock haven’t any choice. You mix rain water and bore water and it will go stinking. Well, that’s the way it is with the water holes and the bore water. The water is often no good. The Stock Department ought to tell us all about this, but they don’t.

“I believe in trough watering all the time. Stock watering out of troughs are better and quieter and there are many times that stock would be the better of some medicants, and you can always give it to them in trough water. Molasses, for instance, being careful you don’t leave any in the troughs to ferment. It’ll kill them if you do. A good dose of molasses to stock in a dry time is golden. If you give it to them in the water, enough to make them like it, they’ll shed their coats and freshen.

“Yes. Water has everything to do with stock. Thirsty cattle are a good deal more easily handled than thirsty sheep. Sheep go cranky if they don’t get their own way. If they think the water is over there they’ll want to go there and often you’ll not stop them. There’s talk all the time about the wonderful instinct of stock smelling water. They don’t smell it. Water has no smell but the mud has; and stock smell that when the breeze comes their way. Just the same as you and I can smell a distant thunderstorm. We can smell the ground when the rain strikes it, but the fact is that thirsty stock will pass within a hundred feet of a water hole and not smell it unless the breeze is blowing the right way. Then anybody can smell it without any of the “marvellous instinct” that’s talked about.

“I’ve seen cranky sheep running through a crystal stream of pure water and perishing for a drink. You’ve seen it too.”

“Yes” I said. “I’ve seen sheep that way.”

“Yes” continued Baker. “I’ve know sheep suicide. They jump down a well until the well was full up of sheep.

His nibs and I here (indicating Gilligan by a nod) once played rather low down on a new chum chap with sheep on the Darling. The mob had sulked on him on a dry Gilgi hole. You see, he had led them to expect water there when he had no business to take them near the place and they turned dog on him, and he couldn’t shift them. He was near off his head.

I looked at the sheep and at him. They were running through between horses legs, stupid and hollow. It was only seven miles to water at the river. I told him I could save them and he jumped at me straight away.

“What’s it worth to you if I put all the sheep on the river,” I said.

“Anything; anything you like to name.”

“No,” I said “not anything like that. Will you give me £50 if I do?”

“Yes; yes I will; I will.” (He was a bit balmy)

I scratched a note of the deal in our book and sent his nibs here, with our spring carts and tank, on its trip to the river for water, and he was back in three hours with the tank full. I went out along the road to meet him, not taking any chances. There was a bit of breeze from the direction of the river, so I went among the sheep with the cart, I saw that the tap of the tank was right and there was no drip or anything to give a false start.

The sheep man was near crazy; I think he’d been crying. I got ready, and also Gilligan on the cart. We had put in fresh horses.

I cleared a way ahead in front. “Now, get ready.” You see, we were taking no chances. It was an all you know, hand – and the sheepman had all in. “Ready now, stand by. Well, go!” and I turned on the tap and Gilligan yelled to the horses.

You talk about – talk about waves of electricity. In an instant every sheep of the mob was alert and the leaders were after the cart, with Gilligan yelling at the horses to get into a run. In twenty seconds, baa, baa, baa went up from ten thousand throats and away they went after the cart and me galloping round, I think only by way of keeping up the circus. The sheep man and his chaps coming on following and a mob of sheep never made quicker travelling for six miles. In two hours they were on the river and water everywhere, and in the middle of it all was the sheepman with a broad smile.

“I’m learning colonial experience,” he said, “but I’ve got value for my money this time.” he held out his hand to me as we squared up, “Yes,” he said, “I’ve got value for my money.”

We camped near the sheep that night. He was a very decent chap, and I found out he was taking these sheep out to stock country of his own. I’ve sort of reproached myself for taking that money, yet I suppose experience and the knowledge how to apply it is always worth money. Then again, the sheepman was satisfied.

It was a long talk, and when I sat up both Gilligan and Jonathan were asleep and the sun had worked round. So Baker and I sneaked away and left them, and we walked down to the house and Rosy wanted to know where Jonathon was and I reckoned he ought to be after the cows.

## **2 Feb 1925 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jan 24 – The weather conditions for the New Year have opened up very favourably in this district, nearly everywhere the country is beautifully green and already is showing a good body of grass. Graziers are looking forward to a good season during 1925.

The days have lately been hot and muggy with abundance of storm clouds and distant lightning but on Wednesday the 21st a decided change was noted since then the sky has been clear and the nights quite cool the rain has evidently gone for a time. The roads have begun to dry up and the cars which recently had a bad habit of getting bogged are now running about again.

Several properties across the Cloncurry River have changed hands lately and the purchasers being well known sheepmen the time should not be far distant when that country will be mostly under sheep.

The properties mentioned are Wallcoolobie, 56,000 acres purchased by Byrne brothers. This firm last year also bought Bellevue about five miles from Wallcoolobie and adjoining Byrimine station.

Building operations are again in evidence a new butcher’s shop being in the course of erection for Mr CS Byrne while the new Post Office which occupies a corner next to the School of Arts is three parts finished. Both these buildings are badly needed and will add greatly to the look and convenience of the town.

It is also stated that Mr JW Sanphy is to build a new store in place of the premises which he now occupies, which latter, it might be remembered was the first hotel here, and was originally about a mile from its present sight being moved in when the line was built.

Mr JP Eckford who recently established the iceworks here, intends starting a picture show shortly. This will be a welcome diversion on Saturday nights.

The woolscour which operated for the first time last season is at present being added to, the scoured-wool rooms being enlarged while accommodation huts will be shortly built and a new boiler be installed.

### **16 Feb 1925 (p85, NA, NQR)**

JC – The death was reported from Sydney last week of Mr Tom Horton, well known as a shearing contractor about here; by his death JC has lost one more of its identities.

A shooting accident occurred lately when William Gillett, a lad of 16 years of age accidentally shot himself through the foot. He had gone down to the creek to shoot some birds of which at present there are abundance when resting the gun on the toe of his boot to pull the hammer up, the gun went off and slightly injured his foot. Nurse Nash of the Bush Nursing Association attended the injury.

Mention of the accident brings to mind the wonderful way in which the Bush Nurse has become indispensable amongst us. The Association has only been in existence here for 12 months having been inaugurated by the CWA in January 1924. Nurse Philp was the first nurse to take up the position and by her capability and geniality and way of treating all alike has won the appreciation of everybody. The Association was sorry to hear that she was obliged to leave us last December and when she left the regards of the community were paid to her in the form of a send-off and the presentation of a well-filled purse of notes.

After once having a Bush Nurse here we could not possibly get along without her and straight away a successor to Nurse Philp was found in the person of Nurse Nash who is now creditably sustaining the traditions of the Association amongst us.

The Association has been well supported in the past and it is to be hoped that this support will continue. The first benefits were received late in 1923 when both Toorak and Innisfail Downs held race meetings in aid of the Association, the latter station repeating the programme last year while a Nurse's cottage building fund was founded from the proceeds of a race meeting held at the "Mud Springs," on Baroona Downs by the Springs Amateur Racing Club.

### **2 Mar 1925 (p90, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 24 – The weather here has been fine since the third of this month and the three weeks spell from the wet has been generally welcomed, the beneficial result of the heavy rains last month being evident on every side.

The days have been hot and muggy and the temperature has gradually increased from a maximum of 98 degrees on February 10th to 104 degrees during the last few days. During the whole fortnight intermittent lightning has been seen both to the north and south while on Sunday night storms were seen all round, accompanied by vivid lightning at times close enough for the thunder to be heard. However, only a few drops of rain fell.

Saturday, the 14th instant, was a busy day in the town, this being the first opportunity people had of coming in from the country for several weeks owing to the state of the roads and several postponed meetings were held. At the meeting of the JC Motor Company Ltd, the memorandum and articles of Association were signed and a meeting called for March 7th. This company has only lately been formed to take over the existing business of Messrs Harris and Collins.

A collecting agency of the Qld National Bank Ltd Richmond was established here some 8 months ago. The agency is open every Tuesday from 9 am to 4 pm and has proved very handy to townspeople and country people alike for the transaction of their banking business direct instead of by post.

A robbery took place at the hotel some days ago. A person gained entrance through the bar window and after taking the £12 from the till got completely away.

Rather an amusing incident occurred through a man who was sitting on an empty rum cask dropping lighted matches down the bung hole; the top of the cask was suddenly blown off owing to the fumes exploding and the man was surprised to find himself lying on his back on the ground. Rather a practical demonstration of the "kick" of rum one so often hears about.

The woolscour is again in operation a short season of scouring having been just begun. About two week's work are at present in hand.

Mr Tregear, PM, from Cloncurry paid a visit here on the 11th and during the ensuing few days transacted the usual business within his jurisdiction.

Mr Hickman and Mr Joe Emerson arrived by the mail train on the 17th instant, the former having just returned from a visit to Sydney. Mr T Wall of "Killeen" Richmond also came by the same train and accompanied by Messrs P Nalty and FH Garrity went by car to inspect "Inveraven" in the McKinlay district.

### **30 Mar 1925 (p13, NA, NQR)**

JC, March 24 – The meeting of the JC Motor Co Ltd appointed Directors and other officers. The incorporation of the Company was effected on February 25th, and is now in the position to carry out any work entrusted to its care.

A revue Company gave several entertainments in the School of Arts on the 20th and 21st, which were well attended by townspeople, but the state of the weather is at present against anything of this kind.

Mr MA Cook arrived here by Saturday's train and has just purchased 2200 weathers from Mr Lord, "Proa" on account of Mr Hooton "Burrell Downs."

### **20 Apr 1925 (p31, NA, NQR)**

The copying of all the drawings of all the sections of the Brisbane-Kyogle railway is to be undertaken by the chief railway photographer by means of a newly-imported machine known as the Photostat.

In construction, the photostat, which has revolutionised photographic work throughout the world, is practically a large camera, equipped with self-containing developing and fixing arrangements. It is absolutely independent of light and weather conditions and is the first machine to make photography practical for general, commercial and copying purposes. No expert knowledge of photography is required for the work.

The Photostat turns out 30 to 40 copies in the same time as only two or three could have been turned out under former systems and at a cost of 1/9 a sheet compared with 6/-.

The model which the Railway Department has imported cost £450 and turns out a sheet 22 by 18 inches.

By means of the Photostat, copies of maps, drawings, blue prints, etc may be copied from the original with a few minutes.

### **27 Apr 1925 (p4, NQ606, NQR)**

McKinlay Shire Council

Common Ranger

Applications are hereby invited from persons willing to undertake the duties of Common Ranger and act as herdsman to the JC and Gilliat Reserves.

Applicants are expected to find their own horses and necessary plant to do the work.

REMUNERATION:— Fifty (50) per cent on all fees collected.

Applications together with testimonials will be received up to 4pm May 14th 1925 and must be addressed to the Chairman, McKinlay Shire Council, McKinlay, via Gilliat, GNR, endorsed Common Ranger.

By order –  
GO Anderson, Shire Clerk

### **27 Apr 1925 (p4, NQ606, NQR)**

JC – A fete was held in the School of Arts on Easter Saturday proceeds in aid of the Bush Nursing Cottage Building fund. Hoopla, fishpond, jumble stall, lucky dip etc all contributing to the days success and the refreshments stall relieved the thirst of the visitors. The event was very successful and a good sum was added to the fund.

A very enjoyable entertainment was given on Easter Monday night by the members of the JC Amateur Concert Company and a record number present. Many pleasant items were rendered by the members who are all residents of JC. The concert so far surpassed the usual 'imported' article that it is hoped the company will continue to give entertainments from time to time. The School of Arts funds benefited by door taking which were considerable owing to the record attendance.

The Easter holidays were spent in various ways in different quarters but the most popular sport appeared to be fishing. Quite a number of parties visited the waterhole on JC and Eastern Creek and some good hauls were made some very fine cod and bream as well as cat fish being amongst the hauls. One party however who had a run of good luck went out again on Easter Monday and were disappointed at catching nothing – the usual lot of the fisherman. Fishing in these parts however has its advantages as the bait usually consists of large cray fish and if no fish are caught quite a good feed can be had from the bait providing same is freshly caught.

A new boiler was noticed on trucks at JC last night and is destined for the JC Woolscouring Company's works. The work of installing same will begin as soon as the boiler is unloaded as the company desires to avail itself of the full power of this and the other boiler as soon as possible to begin the season. The boiler will be a very useful addition to the company's plant with which no fault should now be found.

### **11 May 1925 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, May 5 – Several fires have been started from passing trains during the past few weeks and every day the grass is becoming noticeably drier; about 5000 acres of country on Oxtown Downs was burnt out on the 28th of last month and many other small fires have started on the line but so far have caused no damage. Fireploughing is being done on all side to make the several properties safe, so there should not be much trouble from fires from now on.

Messrs Byrne Bros have recently purchase a 15/30 hp tractor and have already completed over 100 miles of fire break ploughing with the machine. This is the first tractor to be used in the district and the performances are being keenly watched, complete satisfaction has been given so far in the work which has hitherto always been done by horse teams.

Two more consignments of rams from South Australian breeders were landed at JC by train last Saturday. One lot were for Jackton Station, Kynuna, and were driven by road, the others were for Mr JJ Doyle, "Huddersfield" JC. These latter were taken out by motor lorry in crates.

While just leaving the railway station here the driver took the lorry close to the bore head in order to avoid a wet patch on the road and was unfortunate in having his rear wheels sink axle deep in the soft ground. The lorry proved immovable and resisted all efforts to pull it out, first one and then two lorries tried to tow it out backwards but failed and it was not until the tractor recently purchased by Byrne Bros was also requisitioned that it was extricated. The vehicle was so firmly embedded that the tractor snapped two wire ropes and a trace chain and the chain had to be doubled before it stood the strain and pulled the lorry out. This was a very good demonstration of the power that can be developed by a tractor of this class.

A sale of perpetual town leases recently surveyed in the town was held in the School of Arts today (Tuesday) by the Land Agent for Hughenden. Competition was very spirited for practically all the

blocks submitted and capital values ranging from £7 to £205 were paid for the town leases while a suburban lease of an area of over 1.5 acres was purchased for the capital value of £1200, this latter it is said was bought on behalf of the Masonic Lodge. Altogether there were 68 town leases of about 1/4 acre each and one suburban lease of 1.5 acres put up for auction and all were sold, the total capital value bid amounted to [?]. The major portion of the country was bought by local inhabitants.

The installation of the new boiler at JC Woollscouring Company's works is now well under way and it will be ready for use shortly. The Company advises that it will be scouring again in the course of a week or two when wool now in hand will be treated and also any that may come in from stations that are shearing at present, the general seasons operations will probably commence some time next month.

[See also NQ608 for photo re story of tractor]

### **25 May 1925 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, May 18 – Building operations are again evident in the town, the Nurse's cottage is nearing completion and a cottage and store are in the course of erection for Mr JW Sanphy. The premises lately occupied by the post office are being remodelled for the JC Supply Stores Ltd which company will shortly start business as general storekeeper, etc. The materials for Messrs AJ Smith and Cos store have just been landed on the site and the carpenters will soon be at work.

Messrs Byrne Bros are to start boring shortly on Mr Sheridan's property, "Belgravia," in this district about 10 miles from JC, the materials have already been carted out by means of a tractor and waggon.

### **1 Jun 1925 (p42, NA, NQR)**

Suicide

### **1 Jun 1925 (p67, NQ604, NQR)**

Season Notes

"Along the Line"

This morning it is foggy here among the hills. We heard trains go by but could not see them.

There's no dew to speak of, only fog. I walked after the cows. We are milking three, Dimple, Dot and Gypsy and I'm doing the milking. The grass is good yet, but it is mostly the "wild lucerne" that keeps the buckets full. I posted some bits of bundles of it away lately. The seed is too minute to gather. I've had scores of applicants for seeds. Half of them never enclose a stamp; only closing their letter with "Thanking you in anticipation," which is very nice of them but if I presented it to that decent old chap who tends the stamp counter in Townsville PO I don't think he'd take it on payment for stamps. Anyway, I'm not going to try him.

The more I see of the wild lucerne, the more I think of it. It is a wonderful gift of nature, and will, in time, make valuable country. My previous observations regarding its preference for lime impregnated land are confirmed the more I see of it.

I am just writing to put in time, waiting till the sun is high.

Long ago an old bushwoman said to me, "Always let the sun shine on your cows before you milk them." It is sound advice and I've followed it all my life. When you think of it, you fetch in cows on a cold morning, humpy backed, shivering, with their coat fussy, on end, and with shrunken, cold bags. You sit down to milk them, their teats wrinkling and cold. You don't get much milk because the cow is out of sorts and you say they're going off in the milk. But, leave the cows out until the sun is high and they come to the yard in better humour with their bags free and full and you bathe the udder with warm water and you can feel the teats filling as you do and there you are with something to pull at; and both you and the cow are in better humour and you rise with a full bucket.

There is very much in giving your cow a fair go these cold nights. A bit of covering and a wall around and an armful of dry grassy stuff for bedding. They can keep warm and will hold condition and grow into the better bullocks. True, there's not nearly so much barbarity suffered by calves as of old. Many cattle people whom I know have little paddocks for their milkers, calves, and they take the trouble to shut them up in the pen as the sun goes down.



Now the winter is upon us it is a time for station folk to make a stock of spiced rolls and beef hams. Long ago in winter time, in hard up days, 1893 I think, when cattle people were scratching to live, we made up a mob of old fat cows into hams and rolls and sausages and did very well out of them. It was pretty hard work, and I've a very clear recollection of getting up in the middle of the cold nights to turn the beef.

It was all dry salting. There's not much in pickling meat. Many people do it just because their forefathers did it. They wash out the cask, each killing, and scald it, just because their father did that, forty years ago, then after a day salted on the bench they pack the meat into it and pour the pickle over it and have a bit of board and a big stone to go on top just the same as their father did. The same dashed old all-salt pickle with the salt petre in it and the same old cask. There's no variation in the salt, never a question if it is good salt or if it turns the meat black. They leave the meat in the pickle then stack it out on the bench and catch the drained off pickle and boil it with what was in the cask and let it cool, then pack in the meat and pour the pickle on and set it going again.

I remember long ago killing a bullock that must have weighed 1100 lbs and we lived on him for four months and the beef was eatable all the time and with pumpkin we live along quite happy making Burdekin fish now and again for breakfast. The only variety we had was now and again we used to get bronzewing pigeon that came in the evening to a little rockhole down the creek but all the time the beef was eatable and it was simply cured. A cattle chap who was with us just then bossed the curing and this is the way he did it:—

First, see that you have clean pure white coarse salt that will dissolve quickly in the water. All good results rest with having good salt. Proceed as follows: 2 1/2 lb of salt, mixed with 1 lb of sugar, either brown or white and if you like a packet or two of spice put it in. Have this mixture at hand in a milk dish and the meat cut up into joints leaving the rib pieces with the bone in and only taking out the blades and rump bones and the back bone.

Set aside all the roasts you can use, fresh, together with the steak meats and dry salt the rest. Rub each piece lightly with the salt and drop into a suspended bag. Two bags will hold the corned beef of a bullock. Rub each piece lightly and shake the salt off before bagging it. Twelve hours later, in the cool, take each piece out of the bags and put it on the bench to air, and then pack into the bags again and so on every twelve hours, always working in the cool – for four days or more – until the meat is drained dry and mellow.

Then mix a tin of treacle in a bucket of water and dip the pieces of meat in it quickly, letting each one drain well. Hang it out in the air to dry. Look out for blowflies; a couple of days of this and pack in into the safe, or on the bench, or hang it up – looking out for flies all the time and you'll have sweet soft meat to last a month or more.

In this curing the only pieces to look out for are the ribs and if you have any doubt, keep them on top and rub in a bit more salt. Three pounds of the salt and sugar mixture will handled right cure the meat of a bullock. Make the rolls as you think best from the rib and flank pieces.

It is of interest to listen to the bird life in the fog. They proclaim the days coming long before there is a gleam of light. This morning a little company of jackasses made very merry, peewits and fly catchers took a hand and Mr Crow is a very early riser. During the week they took two china nest eggs. It must have been a sad disappointment. We found one egg in the grass where it had been thrown away in disgust.

Well, I'm thinking the sun is shining on the cows now and I best get away.

**1 Jun 1925 (p98, NQ594f/g, NQR)**

JC woolscouring Company Limited

This company desires to notify Woolgrowers that it has secured the services of Mr RR Scrimshaw, whose abilities as a Woolclasser are well known throughout Qld and NSW. He is also thoroughly familiar with the requirements of the buying end of the trade having done a large amount of work for such firms as Wright and Bruce of Botany and Messrs Hannaford's, wool buyers and repackers of Sydney.

He is now prepared to undertake Fellmongering, re-classing or general Wool sorting on grower's account and is in a position to advise as to the treatment of any odd lots of wool which may accumulate between or during the general shearings.

He will be transported to and from his work with necessary fellmongering plant, by our company at employer's expense and is prepared to batch at the shearing shed if required.

Those interested are advised to write our secretary for further particulars.

Our charges will be moderate as we naturally expect to receive a large proportion of this wool for later treatment at our works.

Yours faithfully  
S. Ulick Browne  
Director JC Woollscouring Company

**1 Jun 1925 (S3, NQ605, NQR)**  
Photos of His Excellency at JC

**8 Jun 1925 (S3, NQ608, NQR)**  
See also 11/5/25

**22 Jun 1925 (p2, NQ603, NQR)**  
Ad for JC Supply Store, N Norton

**22 Jun 1925 (p70, NA, NQR)**  
"On the Track"

I recently passed away a delightful afternoon in the home of an old-time teamster, and the walls of his comfortable little home were covered with relics of the past, such as saddles, bridles, whips and – yes – an old cabbage-tree hat.

The sight of this old hat recalled the fact that in my youth no bushman was considered properly dressed without this head covering. Those were the days when stockmen still wore high boots, and even red shirts were to be seen occasionally. A flash individual would often wear a green or scarlet silk puggaree with fringed ends around his cabbage-tree on festive occasions.

In those days men, when after cattle in mountain gullies and creeks, would cut bundles of palm leaves and carry them home in front of the saddles. These leaves were generally made into hats by the women, the whole family from father down to the youngest son being often decked by a handy mother. It was a great home industry, many women making the hats for sale, the prices ranging from 15/- to as many pounds.

Bundles of the leaves were also sent to Sydney for hat-making. As late as 1911 there was a firm in Sydney who made cabbage-tree hats to order, the price being about £5 each. These hats were not the tall crown, stiff-rimmed creations of the good old days, but were shaped after the style of the familiar panama hat, and furthermore, they looked a darned sight better than the imported panama.

As a rule the best cabbage-tree makers were "old lags". They picked up the art in jail and so sterling in value were their hats that people swore by them. A very high value was often placed on a good cabbage-tree head covering. Bill Beach, the one-time great sculler, who still resides in Sydney, had in his possession some years back the cabbage-tree hat that was presented to him by some of his admirers when he defeated Jake Gaudaur, the Canadian, for the world's sculling championship. This hat was said to be worth 20 guineas.

Although the flash bushman of the past considered himself dressed when he wore his brand new cabbage-tree, his stockwhip handle of "dead finish" or Gidgea wood was often a marvel of carving and inset with bone. Add to this an English concertina – there were no accordions then – brought from Rockhampton by coach, with mother of pearl keys and red morocco handles, and you had a picture of a Barcoo "flash Jack" as the writer faintly recalls him in the years that the locust hath eaten.

### **29 Jun 1925 (p97, NA, NQR)**

JC – The Ball held in the School of Arts on Tuesday night the 16th instant was well attended and proved a most enjoyable function and also profitable to the latter institution. Children's fancy dress ball was held on Wednesday evening the 17th and the children of the town and district were seen in many original and beautiful costumes, this is the "Night of the year" for the children and they all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

### **27 Jul 1925 (p19, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 21 – All branches of industry in the district are busy. Shearing is in progress at Eddington, Auckland Downs, Innisfail Downs, while Lonford Plains and Armadale are to commence shortly, with others to follow.

The JC Woolscouring Cos works at Gunjoola started operations today and will have all the Eddington clip to put through during the next few weeks.

### **CWA Annual Meeting at JC**

The following second annual report of the JC branch of the CWA from April 12th 1924 to June 6th 1925 was read by the President:

Ladies, I have the honour to present to you the second annual report of the JC branch of the CWA from April 12th 1924 to June 6th 1925. The past year has been a most successful one for our branch, although our membership is not as large as for the preceding year, we then had 106 members and associate members, amongst this number were included women from Nelia, Kynuna, McKinlay and Cloncurry districts. Since then branches have been formed in all these towns and consequently 34 members resigned from JC branch to join those formed in their own towns, 14 members have left the district, two of our valued members have died, at present our membership is 50.

At the beginning of the year our branch decided to keep a Bush Nurse here permanently and also to endeavour to build and furnish a cottage to act as a bush nurses residence and CWA Clubroom and now thanks to the energy of our members and the generosity and great financial support we have received, our cottage is almost completed, but we still have to furnish it. Mr H Mathews most generously gave us a very nice allotment of land, very centrally situated in the town on which to build the cottage, the land is dedicated to the memory of the late Mrs H Mathews a foundation member of this branch and both land and cottage are vested in the names of Mr H Mathews, Mr S Ulick Browne, Mr A O'Neill as Trustees of the JC CWA...

On May 14th the CWA had the honour of entertaining His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan at an afternoon tea in the School of Arts.

Bush Nurse: Last year and for a few weeks of this year our Nurse boarded at the hotel, and a small room was rented from the School of Arts for use as a surgery. Mrs MacTaggart afforded us a great financial assistance by generously making a reduction of £1/1/- per week in the Nurse's board. For the past two months a house has been rented for the Nurse but we hope soon to see her installed in our own cottage. A £100 grant has been obtained from the Golden Casket Funds for Nurse's salary which has considerably lightened our expenses.

I wish to thank the people of the district who have given us such material help particularly the following: Mr and Mrs Ball, Rockvale; JC Race Club; Mr and Mrs Byrne of Innisfail Downs; Messrs Arden and Jack Clarence for race meeting organised on our behalf; also Mr Hugh Arthur for donation of bridle... Mrs MacTaggart for large reduction in Nurse's board and for the use of her lounge for meetings.

### **3 Aug 1925 (p5, NQ609, NQR)**

Qld Bush Nursing Association

JC

Attention is directed to the following charges and conditions governing this Branch.

(1) MEMBERSHIP. Ten Shillings per annum

(2) All persons under the age of twenty-one will be treated as Members, providing their Parents or Guardians are members.

(3) No person will be treated at Member's Rates unless they have been a member for two weeks prior to attendance.

**(4) CHARGES**

(a) ATTENDANCE OF CASES AT THE SURGERY. Members, free, subject to rule 5. Non-members, 5/- for the first attendance. Thereafter special arrangements must be made with Nurse or Secretary.

(b) SPECIAL ATTENDANCE BY NURSE AWAY FROM SURGERY BUT WITHIN THE TOWN. Members, free, subject to Rules 5 & 6. Non-members 10/- for first visit. Thereafter special arrangement must be made.

(c) ATTENDANCE OF CASES OUTSIDE THE TOWN. It is necessary that conveyance be supplied and paid for by the patient plus a charge of 5/- to Members. Non-members, 10/- for the first hour and 1/- per hour thereafter up to 8 hours. (See rule 8)

(d) MATERNITY CASES WITHIN THE TOWN. Members 30/- for ten visits. Non-members, £3 3s.

(e) MATERNITY CASES OUTSIDE THE TOWN. special arrangements must be made with the Nurse, subject to approval by the Committee.

(5) The cost of Medicine or Dressings must in all cases be borne by the Patient.

(6) At all times when possible it is required that Patients attend at the surgery for treatment.

(7) Payment as specified should be made to the Nurse or Secretary, who are required to give an official receipt.

(8) If Nurse is required to travel a greater distance than 50 miles from Town, or be absent more than eight hours, special arrangements must be made with her and she must notify the Secretary or other responsible Official.

(9) If in the opinion of the Nurse a case is serious or doubtful or on being requested to do so by the Patient she must without delay consult a Doctor, the expense of obtaining such advice to be borne by the Patient.

(10) An emergency Room is provided at the Cottage but such is only for the temporary accommodation of Patients.

(11) Though the Nurse is available at any time if the case is serious, the following hours must ordinarily be observed by Town Patients calling at the Surgery. WEEKDAYS 9 to 11 am, 4 to 5 pm. SUNDAYS 9 am

(12) The Committee reserves the right to alter or amend these Rules if special circumstances warrant it.

S. Ulick Browne Secretary

**3 Aug 1925 (p41, NA, NQR)**

Suicide

**24 Aug 1925 (S8, NQ594h/i, NQR)**

The illustrations of station fellmongering show the JC Woolscouring Co's Fellmonger at work on a small parcel of skins at a station in the district. The method adopted is as follows. A grassless place is selected, such as a sheep yard, which is swept clear of dust. Water is the next requirement as the skins have to be soaked in tanks and later sweated in heaps covered with old woolpacks. Expert care is wanted to keep the skins from overheating or drying out and at the same time promote the sweating process.

When the skins come "on" they are thrown across the "beam" and the wool stripped and thrown into heaps according to the number of sorts being made. The wool is then spread out to dry as shown. The whole process is very simple and at the same time is an instance of "better business" by which the woolgrower reaps his full proceeds from skins which are notably profitless compared to the shorn fleece. Also any dead-wool crutchings or other fag-end lines, instead of being sold in small butts or left to rot, can be sorted and the whole lot later worked in with the main lines of wool at shearing time.

It is surprising to anyone who has not seen it done, the amount of high-class wool there is in even the shabbiest mixed line. This is what the dealer and repacker works on, and the fact that these firms grow and wax fat, buying, sorting and reselling wool that is give the grower by providence, should provide it's own lesson.

**31 Aug 1925 (45, NA, NQR)**

JC, 18 Aug – The weather here has become much warmer here during the lat few weeks and a strong South Easterly wid is blowing regularly; the warmer change has come earlier than usual this year.

A deputation waited on the Minister for Railways, Mr Davidson, when he passed through here recently, asking that the cattle trucking yards be shifted from the present site (alongside the main line and practically near the centre of town) to a more suitable site further away.

This is not the first time the Department have been approached on this subject. The present position of the yards has become intolerable both from the drover's point of view and also the town residents. It sometimes means a day's hard work getting a mob of Gulf cattle into the yards and invariably leads to considerable trouble seeing that the yards are placed so that cattle entering them have to face directly on to the main line with probably an engine or two shunting; and also the town buildings right in front of them.

For health reasons too there is every need for the yards to be moved. When trucking is being done the prevailing winds invariably blow the dust in clouds right across the town and now that other sanitary matters are being reorganised by the Shire Council it is not a very pleasant sight to see these clouds of dust from all manner of clean and unclean animals carried directly into shops, offices and dwellings.

The Minister agreed that there was urgent need for the yards to be moved to a more suitable position and it is hoped that the work will soon be undertaken by the Department.

A benefit dance and subscription list was held on the 8th instant for the purpose of raising funds to defray expenses of sending Miss Emily Gillett who is going blind to Sydney for expert treatment. Altogether about £100 has been raised for this fund and Miss Gillett accompanied by her mother, left for Sydney on the 11th instant. Much of the success of the effort was due to the untiring efforts of Mrs Glasson and Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mr and Mrs Jesson who supplied the music and all Miss Gillett's friends.

#### **4 Jan 1926 (p96, NA, NQR)**

Some Sheep Stories

"Along the Line"

A man walked quickly up the creek. It was a cold, frosty morning and the sun had not come over the hills. With the man was a little boy, running by his side, holding his hand. They came to a rough hut and a brush sheep yard. In the yard were new shorn sheep. Many were torpid with cold. I remember the man coming to the shepherd in the hut and running, making fires of the brush of the yard; and then lifting the torpid sheep near the warmth and moving the living ones about. There was soon a warmer air and the torpid sheep moved and got up on their feet. The man was my father. I was the little boy. Nearly all the sheep were saved. I do not know of the condition of the sheep, I remember only the commotion and the burning of the yard.

Tragedies have come about with new shorn sheep. Long ago, Rockwood Station lost 24,000 weaners on a frosty night. These sheep were new shorn and there was no grass near the shearing shed where they were. Only a few years ago a mob of wethers new shorn at Prairie were found torpid and dying, very few survived. They were the property of a good man, but who imagined big, strong, fat wethers would die from cold there.

Sheep are often weather prophets. It is an old saying among shepherds that when sheep frisk about and leap and buck and butt each other then rain is near. Moreover if sheep bunch and do not spread on the pasture then it is a sign of rain, or, at any rate, moisture in the atmosphere. Goats never go far from home when rain is near. This is a good sign.

On the Murray River, I mean the Victorian border Murray, in early days, all the fences were brush and log. It seems now a terrible job but the first fences were "chock and log" or "zigzag" or brush, the logs were cut in the forest country and carted long distances and in some of the Murray country there were sand ridges on which cypress pine grew thickly. The logs used were mostly eight inches in diameter. Wire was unknown up to '65. Then the sheep men began to use it. It was mostly No 6 and terrible heavy stuff. In our own country some of the early fences notably the old horse-paddock fence on Mount Emu, was No 6 wire.

The Murray and the Western districts of Victoria were great sheep country and of course are so today. Money was readily spent fencing it. Post and rail fencing was popular and the labour to do it was plentiful and men took great pride in their vocation as good fencers, as they did in most other station

work.

In Riverina the early squatters were fine men. All bearded and may be rough but gentlemen all. Shearing time was a busy one. Fine tallies were put up and the men were a happy lot. Chinaman Dick was a crack shearer of the Murray. He shored 250 sheep in the day. Steam Arm Jack was another. These were known to me. There were many others. At shearing time the mutton was invariably stags, or cull sheep, the sugar black and the tea strong. The shearers were great on brownie and somehow that old brownie stays with me as good cake, only sometimes there were plums and currants; but that brownie at shearing time and the pannikin of red hot tea stops in my mind from boyhood.

In early days on Peak Downs, life was much the same on sheep stations. Most of the homesteads were bark-roofed and the yards brush and shearing was much the same as on the Murray. Shearers walked between sheds and "humped bluey." The early Peak Downs men were the same type. Some had horses but I remember one, Long Jim McDonald, who put up records getting to the next shed, before the horsemen. He was a great walker. As I remember he walked from Cotherstone to Logan Down, 35 miles in the afternoon after the cut out...

The Dawson was mostly stocked with sheep then although it was recognised as inferior and seedy for sheep country. In, I think, 1871, I remember a sheep transaction, one of the Duttons, a fine stamp of man with a big fair beard, brought down 10,000 sheep wethers from Bauhinia Downs to a place known as Shingle Hut, some 50 odd miles from Rockhampton and there made yards where there was a big lagoon and thick patches of broadleaf ironbark saplings – in that part very flexible growth. The forcing pens were placed between posts and the big yards brush. Anyway, the deal was that Billy Pattison – then a Rockhampton butcher – should come and draft 5000 out of the 10,000 wethers. It was carried out and the 5000 wethers went away. In the camp and at work this big fine Dutton was a constant admiration of mine. Billy Pattison drove out in a buggy from Rockhampton and his men came with him and took away the wethers. At that time the Gogango scrub was a considerable barrier to stock travelling.

When I mention old days on the Murray, of course, all sheep were shepherded and some great flocks were handled by single shepherds. Of course, the sheep were very quiet and broken-in to handling. There was a tradition of one "Long Jack Walker" who shepherded 2000 weaners without a dog and the picture of him running and waving his shirt rounding the sheep were vivid at the time I write of. I did not know him. However, thousand and fifteen hundred flocks with one shepherd were common enough but always with a dog.

There was on some of our western homesteads, old diaries, that told of shepherding days. On Cameron Downs for instance and on Cambridge in Robert Gray's book of Reminiscences the writer draws a good word picture of shepherding days.

In the days I write of wool was high priced, 4/6 was reached for greasy wool, but in many places sheep were washed before shearing and the wool got to 60d and 70d. There was a system of warm water baths and sheep soaked and then passed through a race and were "spouted" until fairly clean. They were afterwards shepherded to dry and were worked to the shearing shed. Sheep washing was adopted by most of the Qld pioneers at Hughenden, Telemon, Mount Emu, Valley of Lagoons, Lammermoor and are to be seen today remains of the old sheep washing rigs there used 50 years ago.

Our west can tell of many sheep tragedies. Skeleton Creek, just beyond Prairie, got its name from the loss of 10,000 sheep that broke off camp at night and made east and were totally lost.

In the same locality some five and twenty years ago a drover was passing down a creek with 6000 weaners. He had a scratch lot of hands and also poor horses. It was a dry time. He had his camp made ahead and towards evening the sheep drew on to a patch of burnt country, with goose picking, and with knocked up horses and careless men they were out of control in half an hour.

The young drover went off his head and went bush leaving all to go to the winds. There were no fences then. The sheep belonged to Vindex. They were gone but a few days when the manager came. It was his fortune to meet Jim Murdoch one of the very best men in the State for the job and got him going to muster at, I think 1/- a head. I knew about it and it was wonderful the way Jim got to work. He sent scouts away into the desert country across Torrens Creek. Of course the sheep made east to the wind. He

made a depot on the west side of the creek and a big brush yard. Other scouts worked the plain country – Ewan Plains and thereabouts, with instructions to work to the yard and in no time Jim had the hearings of his task.

They got 1000 about the black soil in a few days and about Oakley another 400 or more but in the red land of the desert the sheep split up in twos and threes and dingoes and poison made havoc and all the time they were making east to the wind. There was no water for sheep or men and the sheep died away as they advanced.

It was a wonderful muster and I think 3000 were recovered when all was told and Jim took them on to their destination but a good looking, likely young drover had been ruined.

I was writing of the fine bearded men who were associated with squatting. Nearly 45 years ago I took the offer of 2000 weaners at a place on the Lachlan, NSW and went to inspect them and I bought through an agent who drove me from the township where I left the coach. The owners of the sheep were a family of brothers, all fine big-bearded fellows. Their name was McKenzie and I met them all. Their home was near the Wedden Mountains and whilst we were in the sheep paddock one showed me the posts of an old building on a road that was near a flat, all torn up with old shafts where diggers had worked years before. These old posts had once been part of a public house where bushrangers of the Ben Hall and Johnny Gilbert gang made rendezvous.

Anyway I bought the sheep and had two weeks to lift and in time I was there again with my dray and a man or two and when we had them ready for a final count it was suggested the agent should count for both. "Right," I agreed and I made payment, two or three under the number agreed and away I started.

On the second morning just as the sheep had drawn off camp about sunrise one of these big brothers appeared.

"Good morning."

"My word, you're moving early on your good horse."

"Yes," he answered, 'One need to be early to catch you. Have you counted your sheep since you left?'"

"No! What have I done; stolen somebody else's sheep or what?"

"Oh, no! Only I want to count your sheep."

"What's up? You must think I've stolen sheep."

"No; but I want to count them."

"Right,"

and I had the sheep brought back on to the camp and we rigged a counting gap and when he had counted he said "I thought so," and he said "You'll hear from me when you get home." He was quite amiable and friendly and away he rode only repeating that I'd hear from him.

I went on with the sheep wondering all day what was wrong or what he thought was wrong and I never counted them until I got home and was letting the sheep go in the paddock. Then I found I was sheep short and yet I was confident I had lost none. I walked moodily over to my home and the mail had passed whilst I was with the sheep and there was a letter. It was from the firm of the big brothers and enclosed their cheque for £3 and some shillings and they told me that later, when mustering the paddock they had found 79 sheep that belonged to me.

I replied and thanked them for fair go and wondered if it was me to be blamed for being a d— fool or the agent for being a rogue.

When I started this paper I had notes of sheep incidents of many years and I am about half way through but this paper is long enough.

### **11 Jan 1926 (p5, NQ612, NQR)**

On Monday last at Mt Isa a man named Patrick O'Brien, a miner, who had been on the silver-lead field for about twelve months, committed suicide in a most determined manner. At about 8 pm deceased and a man named Chris Gierke had tea together and as time wore on Gierke decided to camp with deceased that night.

At about 10 o'clock O'Brien got up and went away from the camp and shortly after Gierke heard a muffled noise as if it emanated from a revolver. Taking no notice he was shocked on looking up about three minutes later to see deceased standing in the doorway with the left part of his face blown away.

Gierke immediately communicated with Constable Landy who on arrival secured Ambulance bearer Smith and put the unfortunate man into the Ambulance car for the purpose of bringing him into Cloncurry. The ambulance car left Mt Isa at about midnight with Bearer Smith at the wheel and reached Cloncurry at 8.20 on Tuesday morning. When within 8 miles of Cloncurry, O'Brien, who had been suffering great pain passed away.

It is surmised that O'Brien put a detonator in his mouth and squeezed it with his teeth, thus causing an explosion which blew the side of his face away. Deceased was 60 years of age and it is not known whether he has any home ties in Australia.

### **11 Jan 1926 (p74, NQR2004, NQR)**

Season Notes

ATL

We are around the corner now for the cool weather again, 21st December was the shortest day and this is the 4th of January. All the festivities are over. Some have had rain and many have celebrated their Christmas dry and have missed up to now; but there are good reports coming in as I write, of rain in many places. We here were not among the lucky ones, ourselves, but "it must rain tonight" We've often said that, and missed, but we say it again and again.

Years ago there were seven thousand bullocks on a station and the manager sent urgent messages to the owners, begging to be allowed to send cattle way to relief but he always got the reply: "It must rain in March!" But it didn't.

And the manager stood his ground until the great bore stream for twenty miles was putrid with dead cattle and no one would stop on the place; but he, living alone, boiled and reboiled the putrid water until all the cattle were dead and rotted and gone into the ground and the rain came afterwards and the manager came out of the sepulchre of bones. It was an awful tragedy all because it didn't rain in March.

The old western proverb attributed to Jowett: "If no rain in March; clear out," stands good. We are now, however, a long way from March and the season is quite normal. Everybody cannot have luck all the time.

I have said it must rain tonight. The atmosphere feels thick, the sky is overcast and wet season like and now and again great big drops fall. I was up the creek a few miles and got enough of these to be damp and feel happy.

I was reading a sheep list this morning, prices have not eased up. Wethers 28/, 25/6, 26/, and so on, and no cheap ewes – 30/, 27/6 and some dentists lots, 18/ to 15/. I don't want to see them down low in price, yet, somehow one needs a bit of luck at these figures, to get round. As Rowdy Patterson once said, slowly and regretfully to me; "You can't wait till the rain comes to buy sheep." He had waited too long, and missed.

I have a letter from the Top Tableland. Rosy writes on Boxing Day and says, "We had a party yesterday. There had been good rain and the creek is running over the sand.

We had our picnic just below the house on the creek bank and the Boss and Gilligan lay under the shady gums, and slept, and Kangaroo Jack and Johnathan were spearing fish, all making up stream. Old Jenny and I walked about the rocks and dabbled in the cool water and wet sand with bare feet, and had ever so much of a good time, and then we sat on a flat rock, in the shade of a tea tree and Jenny told me black's legends. The best one was how the waterhen got a red head.

A waterhen had a nest and an emu came along and saw her; and then picked her up and carried her to a place where there was a fire and threw her into the fire and her head was burnt red.

Then the waterhen ran away and found her mates and they overpowered the emu and after a big lot of trouble and many hours work, got her to the fire which was then gone out; but they covered the emu



with ashes and pulled her about in them making her all a dusty grey colour; and all emus were that colour afterwards.

Old Jenny told me this in perfect simplicity; and many other similar ones, some quite silly, but these legends appear to have been tribal lore for all time.

As I write it is dreadfully hot and we shift about; and dodge the sun spots under the tree where I write. I was up to the house a while ago and the glass was 112. Clouds come and go, frogs croak and black ants swarm everywhere; and cuckoos call in the bush, all around and everytime we go near the water bag we drink and drink and when it gets low the last drinker fills it up again. So we live along and are happy.

I forgot to acknowledge the crackers you sent for Johnathan. The fat head. He is just as big a boy as ever, and Jack and him blew them up, over by the yard. I hunted them away from the house because they frighten everything.

I said we were happy. Well, no, we're not quite happy. I mean, I am not. I want to live near those big mango trees you told me about. That is a wish of mine to camp under the trees and eat mangoes. We had no fruit except water melons and Jack brought them down from the top well and they are very fine ones. Jack's garden was a novelty. It was a dry weather garden. He made it on the sand under the bank of the creek. He carried buckets of soil and manure down the bank and made it a foot thick and planted seeds in that, and everything grew well and it was all easy watering with the well right alongside and no digging and no weeds. He fenced it in with saplings. Of course, when the flood comes it will all wash away but it has answered well for a long time and he brought us vegetables.

I note a writer telling of kitehawks killing ground larks. I am not saying he's not writing true, but I never knew kitehawks kill birds of any kind. Not the well-known bush carrion scavenger kit as we know him. There may be other varieties. The hawks are often micshiefmakers, there are so many: harriers, kites, falcons, kestrels. The black falcon, the fellow who flies in front of a bush fire, he's the destroyer of birds – but the nastiest little wretch of all is the diminutive black-necked hawk. We saw him attack a turkey on the plain, and he would have killed it, and yet he is not bigger than a peewit. One of these took two big chickens of mine this year, and asluck would have it, Jack came past while the wretch was eating one of them in a tree, and Jack got him with the rifle. Jack is a dead shot.

I have nothing more to tell you except that they dug up the flower beds and I have all things sown, and will have a gay garden when you come." [Is the above a letter ATL received. It's his style of writing so is he pretending to be the writer of this letter which appears to be about the Prairie area?]

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Well, its readable but that garden novelty of kangaroo Jack is worth thinking over. You see, he made it on the sand beside the well and it was no trouble to water it, and the melon roots would go down into the manure and the sand below readily, and I'm thinking the sand gardens on the creeks, along, like the Kirk for instance and all the creeks from the Towers to Hughenden, and hundreds of others are the same sandy beds.

I want to say a word too about Rosy's observation of the hawks. As she says, the Kite as we know him is only a scavenger, feeding on dead carcasses, but I have seen them flying over a cloud of grasshoppers as they do, sometimes in front of a bush fire. The small tawny falcon (called a sparrow hawk) is quite able to kill a turkey, on the wing. A black boy on coming back with the horses in the morning said he had seen a hawk kill a turkey. I sent him to get the turkey and he came back with him, sure enough. The hawk had eaten out a hole, the size of a hen's egg in the turkey's breast; and moreover, when the turkey was plucked for cooking it was found that most of the big bones of its breast were broken, indicating a fall from considerable height.

There are tragedies of the forest and the plain every day but it is only now and again they are seen by mankind. I was once witness of an eaglehawk's attack on a half grown kangaroo, swooping at it, until it got the wounding hit. It is very wonderful how a bird can hit with its wing. It is recorded that falcons are known to have decapitated flying ducks.

Falcons are often mixed up in name with kestrels. The latter uses its talons to take small birds from the ground, and on the wing, and these are the birds that take chickens. Rosy is in error when she writes that it was the same bird that killed the turkey, and took the chickens. The chicken hawk is a kestrel

with long legs and he picks up a bird with his talons. The same as a kitehawk picks up a piece of meat you throw out of the camp.

This week we've been feeding the horses on flour mixed with their chaff only because we were disappointed in transport of other feed. Anyway I wanted to tell of a long ago instance of feeding on flour.

There was a ton of flour in the shed and how it came there no one knows. It was weevily and old. I looked it over and then told a man who used to do carting about the camp to take it away and spill it out in the bush but I said: "You fetch me back the bags."

A good while afterwards, I remarked on the condition of this man's horses. "My word!" I said, "They're looking well."

"Vat you think I veed 'em on. I veed 'em on de vlour you vas give me."

The same man is about Hughenden yet. It's more than forty years since he took away the flour.

### **8 Feb 1926 (p58, NA, NQR)**

#### The Dry Spell

#### A Grave Situation

In conversation with several graziers during the week (writes our Winton correspondent) I was astonished to learn that the situation in this district is so grave owing to the continued absence of rain. The first selector remarked that this was not merely a dry spell but a real drought and was as bad as the 1900-1902 season. In those years relief country was available in the Boulia and Cloncurry districts but this year there was no outlet whatever. Kynuna district is reported to be in a shocking state and several places in that and neighbouring localities are losing stock at the 25%. Another ventured the opinion that if sufficient rain did not fall within a few weeks fully one third of the flocks and herds would perish.

### **22 Feb 1926 (p98, NQ610, NQR)**

#### State of the Country

#### The Drought in the West

Richmond, Feb 18 – The country in Richmond district and other portions of the north-west is in a precarious state. In the immediate vicinity of Marathon and Barbon there is sufficient relief for three months and the same applies to limited areas immediately north and north-west of Richmond.

Within a distance of fifty miles there has been very temporary relief, but patchy, which will last for a month at most. Maxwellton, Nelia and most of the JC district has had temporary relief, but very patchy, from late storms about three weeks ago. Kynuna district is in a very dead state. Generally speaking, the outlook right throughout the north-west is bad, although north of JC on the Saxby there is relief of a more lasting nature.

Of the stock route down the Flinders, only one is open. It is fair to good from 15 miles west of Hughenden to 50 or 60 miles below Richmond and it is reported good further down. Sheep are already travelling this route in search of fresh pastures and within a month I expect many thousands to be on the route towards the Gulf.

On several small holdings the owners are feeding rams and the ewes due to lamb with maize and meggits and salt. To this should be added molasses. The outlook is bad, resembling the 1900 to 1902 drought.

Cloncurry, Feb 18 – Weather conditions in this district at the present time are most appalling. Grass is out of the question while there are only about three water holes in the Cloncurry River to Byrmine and they are full of dead beasts. The heat since Christmas has been unbearable, ranging to 118°.

Last year only 1631 points of rain fell, it being the driest for many years. The principal falls were early in the year and in the centre months there was no rain. This year January gave 15 points and February so far has given 26 points. Clouds bank up in the evenings but fade away again.

There have been heavy losses of stock out Georgina way. It is stated the JC district lost 100,000 sheep

during the year and unless there is rain soon some settlers will be practically wiped out.

Owners of sheep about Longreach and Winton are looking for agistment country in the Cloncurry district. One man secured a block of 11,000 acres and had to pay £540 for three months. Toorak is having a wretched time. The manager is seeking country to travel 30,000 sheep.

The stock routes are practically closed, especially from Camooweal.

**3 May 1926 (p4, NA, NQR)**

JC woolscouring Company Limited

The JC woolscouring Co, Gunjoola, desires to notify woolgrowers that we intend starting scouring in April and therefore can assure intending clients that there will be no delay in treating their wool. Those who have studied the results of the sales must realise that they could not do better than entrust their wool to us for treatment. We have topped the last three sales in Brisbane and consistently throughout the season have realised highest market values for the different line of wool.

Do not be led astray by interested persons who assert broadly that it does not pay to scour. Compare the number of bales in top lines of scoured clips compared with greasy; the average price per lb; and the total net proceeds. Do not be side tracked by a flattering price for about six bales of super greasy. Classing and skirting and piece picking should be most carefully done; evenness in length of staple and strength of fibre is essential; but dust and condition can be ignored. It is by this means that such big bulk main lines can be marketed by those who scour their clips.

Buyers love the small, possibly uneven lines in the grease because there is often more speculative profit in them and it is a fact that more than one scour in Brisbane buys small lines, sorts, blends, scours, and resells at auction. They handle wool from every district in Qld and they are not operating at a loss – very far from it.

Though we are in the scouring business, we are not cranks on the question which is a matter in which personal opinion must always play a large part. Our object in advertising thus is to draw your attention to the fact that the JC woolscouring Co is offering unexampled facilities for the treatment of your wool.

**17 May 1926 (p95, NA, NQR)**

Roughly speaking there are a million sheep on the Townsville line to Cloncurry which if the dry weather continues till November must either be fed artificially on the stations, or be removed to where there is feed, or be left to die.

Tens of thousand of sheep have already succumbed to the severities of the season and the usual crop of lambs, worth probably half a million, will not this year be a tenth of the annual increase. These million sheep are worth more than a million pounds and if they or the greater portion of them perish the loss to Qld annually will not nearly be represented by that million pounds. The decrease in the wool clip this year will probably be 30,000 bales worth at least £700,000 and even if good season follow it will be years before the 117,000 bales the export of 1925 is reached.

It is therefore in the interest of everybody that the western sheep should be saved.

It is said a quarter of a million have found refuge in the Gulf cattle area. That is rough on the cattle but in consequence of the laws, regulations, machinations and tergiversations of the Medes, the Persians, the Red Tapers, the Mad Hatters and other distinguished politicians and mismanagers making it impossible to sell Qld frozen beef in appreciable quantities in Australian markets but compelling that product to be carried to Europe and sold for 40 % less than the net price in Melbourne or Adelaide ordinary stock holders...

**24 Jun 1926 (p65, NQ614, NQR)**

Photo - woolscour

**30 Jun 1926 (p5, NQ595, NQR)**

Wanted to Purchase, one Monkey Tail Earth Scoop, about three-quarter yard, in good condition.  
Replies to N McGilliat.

**12 Jul 1926 (p72, NQ616, NQR)**

Dry times of the Past

Feeding Sheep in the West

“Along the Line”

During the past week I have been around in the West. On the Downs out from Hughenden towards Winton, the country has no worse appearance than I’ve often seen it before. It is however the time of year that troubles. This is July. If it was October the year would be just a normal one.

I’m not going to crock drought. I hate the subject. In June 1886 a deluge of 9 inches fell over most of the downs. There were no great losses. For one point there was not nearly so many stock. What is more, there was no bore water and on many runs there was grass, far away, not available for sheep before rain came; and so no disaster followed the rain.

There were great areas of unfenced country. I very well remember Robert Thompson speaking with me of the “Spread,” the Tarbrax cattle would have on. At that time cattle belonging to Tarbrax – it was known as Rupert’s Creek then – and Eddington would mix with Mr Cornish cattle. An open country for two hundred and fifty miles between.

These droughts and wet years came periodically, 1889 was a wet year, so was 1891, and again, 1894. Dry periods were felt badly because there was little water.

The present is a bad time because a large area of country is grassless but there is plenty of water and five times more stock.

Water supplies in the tract of country I have just been through are splendid, although it is all sub-artesian country – about 1600 feet and thereabout to the water, that rises up to 200 feet from the surface. Some less, some a little more. This is convenient and easy pumping. In recent years, I’m satisfied when you come to pumping 300 feet and over, and some take it on at 500 feet, then after a while you’re qualified for admission to any lunatic asylum in the world.

Most of the bores in the country I’ve been through now are equipped with big windmills, 22 feet, 24 feet and up to 27 feet wheels. There are iron mills, or steel throughout, tower and all. There is competition between manufacturers of mills and many are “the best.” I have had several of these big mills of one make. Speaking on the subject with one of these downs men, he said: “I wouldn’t have those mills of yours on the place, the — is much better.”

Another downs man said: “He can say what he likes but the — mill (naming quite another one), is the best mill on the market.” and so it goes on. I gather from the various opinions expressed that all are well served. I say this because I had mills of one of the makes in question and they ran well and pumped big water from 200 feet for 16 years and never cost a shilling save for oil. So much for the big mills.

By the way, the best mill plant...

All of these sheep properties I’ve just been through have big mills on their bores and all have great earth reservoirs easily made by making circular embankments from 3 feet to 10 feet high forming a great basin holding anything from 150,000 to 300,000 gallons of water and from the bottom of these reservoirs three inch pipes carry the water to troughs, kept full, by a float valve that opens when the sheep drink and the water flows in and the float rises and shuts off the stream when the trough is full. All very perfect and very good.

A great abundance of water everywhere – bore water, good for stock; good and wholesome, and almost tasteless, but still “bore” water.

“If I’ve got to drink bore water here, then I’m going back to my mother,” said a newly married downs country housewife. Yet there is nothing wrong with bore water. It is quite good, may be it’s the magnesia or may be the sulphuric acid, or epsom salts. Old hands say its the best water in the world but all these old chaps are a bit casehardened internally.

I was once present at a discussion on bore water and the opinion of one old timer was asked. He said: “Sheep’ll live on water like that. You don’t want any b— grass at all with that water.”

However, although not quite endorsing this old timer's remark, there is no doubt that stock will do much better on some water than on another.

Just at this time I am watering stock from wells in which the water is hard and, as I understand, limey. There is no doubt the stock like this water and it agrees with them and I only mention this in passing.

On the downs country at this time sheep men are concerned about feed, and many have, wisely I think, taken time by the forelock and commenced to feed artificially and to my mind feeding problems are rapidly being solved. I confess to be surprised at stock going away back from the feed troughs away miles to feed up on grass. The concentrates and rich foods they were given acted as a stimulant and they went away out seeking dry grass just as they do from the water. This was quite contrary to my ideas. I had believed they would hang around the feed troughs seeking more and more and needing more to keep them alive until practical feeding became impossible and...

### **9 Aug 1926 (p34, NA, NQR)**

#### **Sheep Talk Westward**

"Along the Line" writes from Hughenden. I was at a sheepman's home. The place was all disorganised by the drought and instead of having the bit of garden that was so beautiful he had the front of his house all dusty and sheep feeding troughs right up to his verandah stacked up with bags of feed and bales of lucerne hay and his wife nearly distracted by the dust and inconvenience and she, poor woman, going from morn till night, cooking for all hands, and no help. Arbitration awards for cooks and cooks assistants, far and away above the means of the sheepman. "If I put on help at award rates, it would break me. Our only chance is to go ourselves all we know and if we don't get sick, if rains comes by December we'll have something. Otherwise I'll be on the labour market, looking for a job, or drawing the dole, and the wife will be cooking for rouseabouts at some shed. That is," he added, "if there's any sheep left in the country."

This man was feeding his ewes and letting his other sheep take their chance. He called me out in the evening, "Listen," he said, "I hear a rumbling noise close at hand." I listened and knew it was the sound of a thousand pairs of jaws munching. He had just filled up a feed trough, "Listen," he said, "they're munching the sheep nuts first and they'll eat the chaff later."

There they were, the sheep lining each side of the trough, every sheep munching. The feed was lucerne, chaff, bran, meal, and the sheep nuts, very expensive feeding but it was a good feed preparatory to that lot of sheep going away.

In the present drought much has been learnt regarding foods that will support sheep. Where there is grass, even if it old, they will fill up with it before coming in to feed troughs. One good point about sheep is that they will go away when they get their portion. In this they are unlike horses and cows for these will hang around and beg for more until they die; and cows, even when dogged away, will often come back and hang around the feed yard and get more miserable daily.

In the past I have often written of the "desert" country as a sheep saver; in other places, the spinifex and bushes; of various licks and medicant preparations now on the market. There is, so far as I have heard, no great losses in the Tower Hill and Prairie country. The sheep are tiding along. Some owners are feeding more or less, but in other places the spinifex and bushes stand to the sheep and keep them well doing.

One demonstration of this is under my notice at Loddon, a place with which I am very well acquainted. Five thousand Belford ewes in low condition came there some months ago – Belford let me say is the best of downs, Mitchell grass country. Loddon, or the paddock of 12,000 acres, that these Belford ewes have been kept in is level, sandy country, wattle, ti-tree, carrot bush, currant bush and other nibbling stuffs and spinifex throughout. The ewes have done well. There has been a good practical sheepman looking after them and now when things are beginning to get worse in most other places, the Belford folk are putting 2000 more into the same paddock and it remains to be seen how they'll get along.

In much of the country from Aberfoyle north to the line and west to the Jump Up – the so-called desert – there is a second spring, comes in about September when the spinifex and bushes bud out afresh and flower. Moreover, the chances are good in all this tract of country when rain does come, even if it is but

half an inch, a good shoot of grass will come in 48 hours. Again if the wet comes heavy there will not be losses. On the downs now, if heavy rain came, seventy five percent of the remaining sheep would go down.

### **15 Nov 1926 (p35, NQ618, NQR)**

“Along the Line”

About Wells and Water

There is nothing in the stockkeeper's life will break his heart quicker than a shortage of water and we're in a time now when thousands of good people are hard pressed. The average man not associated with stock knows nothing about it. It is the man who bales with a whip pole into a trough in a sandy creek or the man who has weak wells, or tricky bores. It is he who does the thinking and the worrying.

In old times in many districts of the west, notably say about Buckingham Downs, Chatsworth and other places, mickeries in sandy creeks were their only supply when dry spells came. There were men then who knew the job and who would start ahead with a pack horse, rig up their swag and tucker, a bucket, shovel, axe, a bit of chain, some nails, and maybe some wire, if there was wire, and by the time the cattle came, next day, a water supply would be established. Mickerie, whip-pole rigged, troughs full, and ready, and likely the well fenced-in, or it would be later when there was time to have things in order. Good water, as a rule in these mickeries and it was fine to get the good clean pure drink.

Some of the early battles of Downs men were terrible. Wells were sunk to great depth, 250 feet, and deeper at Cambridge Downs, Manuka, Vindex, Kensington Downs. Afton had a well 300 feet deep but never got water. The other places were more lucky.

It was believed the shale rock would stand, but it did not when the air got to it and so the wells began to cave in. Although the wells were deep they were not very expensive at the time. Five to ten shillings a foot for the sinking; and the timbering was most hardwood, pit-sawn on the Flinders; and it was windlass work. On Kensington Downs they got well water at some 200 feet. It was the first sub-artesian water strata but no one at the time knew it. It rose up the shaft and gave great promise but like the well I've been telling if it only had a weak supply and they baled it out and it took a long time to make again and when it came to watering big lots of sheep the wells were not good enough.

John Cameron owned Kensington Downs. He was one of the greatest battlers of that time. He conceived the idea of drilling a jumper hole in the bottom of the well and with an ordinary broad-face drilling bit, riveted through ordinary 1" piping, jumped a hole down 200 feet and got a good supply of water. They worked the jumper over a pulley from the surface with one man down the shaft, turning, standing in the water all the time. There was a chamber out in the side of the shaft and when the water rose up to the man's shoulders he got into the chamber and they lifted the drill out whilst they baled with a twenty-five gallon bucket to get the water out; and they in with the drill again.

It was wonderful and terribly dangerous work. John Cameron did most of the drilling himself in the bottom of the well and they got the water and so were able to keep the sheep at home. I am writing of about 1880.

On Cambridge Downs they got these big American windmills made of wood; and they worked until better ways became known. Boring for water was quite unknown until 1886 and then the sub-artesian supplies, which are now such fine assets in the west, were little thought of. I have told of this good work on Kensington previously but it may give some good battler a hint by retelling.

In old Cobb and Co days there was a well at Bullock Creek, 45 miles on the old road from Hughenden. I'm writing long before there was a railway. The Hughenden Council put it down, 180 feet and they too struck the first sub-supply but no one knew of artesian water. They were drilling in the bottom and the water broke through the drill hole, like a fire hose, throwing the drill out and the men got out with difficulty saving their lives. It rose up 40 feet in the shaft and for a few weeks there was a great supply, then the air got to the shale and it commenced to crumble. No one knew about bores or bores pumps then; and the well fell in.

On Redcliffe near Hughenden there was a deep well in the shale and for a year or so water was baled in a big canvas basket; and sheep kept going.

Wonderful strides have been made in waterlifting appliances during the last 20 years. Previous to that the work was extremely primitive. Whims were common on station back blocks. When I was 12 years old it was a job of mine to drive a whim horse raising water for sheep. That was on a backblock of the Murray in Victoria. It is sixty years ago but I can see in my vision the old grey mare I used to drive. Alice was her name.

#### **27 Dec 1926 (p64, NA, NQR)**

The Railways

End of Drought Welcome

Brisbane, Dec 21 – Not only to the producers have the rainfalls of the past seven or eight days been great relief, but they have proved of incalculable benefit to the Railway Department which has been carrying starving stock and fodder at concession rates and water to waterless centres, besides itself suffering severely through a scarcity of water suitable for locomotive boilers.

These points were emphasised today by the Railways Commissioner (Mr Davidson) when discussing the breaking of the drought. The relief experienced by producers generally he said was shared by the Railway Department which has suffered severely by a reduction in payable traffic and a large increase in low rate business due to the haulage of fodder and starving stock at concession rates. At the same time the Department had been in serious straits to obtain a sufficiency of water for locomotive purposes while the supplies available had deteriorated to such an extent as to cause much damage to boilers and tubes with the result that engine failures occurred. In many districts supplies had been fully replenished during the past week.

Extraordinary service was rendered by the Railway Department during the drought period in the conveyance of water for the public as well as for departmental purposes. Some idea of the volume of the traffic would be gained when it was stated that for departmental purposes alone approximately 1,000,000 gallons of water had been hauled weekly, the water being conveyed in some cases over a distance of 132 miles. For the public over 300,000 gallons had been carried weekly and for the use of railway employees more than 27,000 gallons weekly were hauled. The weight of water alone amounted approximately to 70,000 tons every week and when the dead weight of the trucks and tanks together with empty running one way was taken into consideration it would be noted that the business was of considerable magnitude.

Had it not been for the facilities afforded by the railway for the transport of water, many settlers would have been forced to abandon their homes. Now that the drought had broken the department would require to devote particular attention to the restoration of boilers and boiler tubes which had suffered materially from the effects of bad water during the drought period.

#### **27 Dec 1926 (p77, NA, NQR)**

Universal Rain

Splendid rains fell in many places along the Cloncurry line from Maxwellton west and on the Hughenden-Winton line from Sesbania to west of Winton. Good rain fell at Torrens Creek and it is hoped the fall will extend into the Muttaborra district. Only a few of the grazing area in the Hughenden and Richmond districts got relieving rain, but JC and the Winton areas had great rains. Such splendid falls give great hope that there is more to follow and that 'ere long the drought fiend will disappear. It will be noted nice rains have fallen on the Burketown district but so far the Gulf country rain has been disappointing.

#### **24 Jan 1927 (p19, NQ620, NQR)**

The weather bureau has issued the following note on the conditions in Qld during 1926. Cyclones were absent for the fifth consecutive year. The effect of this immunity is reflected in the rainfall totals for 1926: they were very seriously below average in all divisions of the State. 1926 must therefore be placed among the worst drought years in the history of Qld and in some parts it is considered to have been more severe than the great drought that culminated in 1902. It is estimated that flocks and herds have been decimated to the extent of 60 percent. The regular wet season months (Jan, Feb, Mar) were characterised by a most unusual scarcity of rain and thus the worst fears engendered in the minds of graziers by the failure of the thunderstorm season in the last quarter of the preceding year were realised. Exceedingly dry conditions continued practically all over the state until the last week of September when general rain fell. This welcome precipitation was hailed as the end of the drought and sheep that had been moved to the southern border districts, even to NSW were brought back to many of the

holdings and artificial feeding ceased.

Unfortunately, however, hardly any rain occurred in October, November and the first half of December and very high temperatures ruled. Drought conditions soon settled down again and further serious losses of stock took place. The latter half of December saw a complete reversal of the situation in the greater part of Qld for tropical influences operated on an enormous scale and produced rain in all divisions so heavy in the Basins of the Mary and Burnett rivers as to produce floods which covered the wharves at Bundaberg and Maryborough.

The position at the end of the year was the the drought had been broken – permanently it is hoped – all over that part of Qld lying east of a line from Burketown south through Cloncurry to Winton and south to the border near Hebel. West from that line the drought persists.

## **2 May 1927 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC – The Gymkhana arranged by the Church of England Building Committee in JC on Easter Monday was a huge success. The day opened bright and fine with a cool wind blowing this tended to increase the size of the heart of the public for they gave with a free and open hand to everything. The grounds were arranged for all events, foot running, horse's high jump, figure 8, flag race and bending race, all at different parts of the ground in readiness for each event to take place at its respective turn.

Then there was the booth nicely arranged for ice cream and of drinks, tea, coffee and sandwiches, cakes and a sweet stall. Near this was a Hoop La which did a roaring trade amongst both young and old; bats were sold and numbers drawn for boxes of chocolates of various sizes and this had a good following also. The results for the sports were:

Children's races:

Boys 10 to 14 years – 1st Bill Edwards, 2nd B Fidler

Girls 10 to 14 years – 1st Dorothy Gillet, 2nd Emily Wilder

Boys 6 to 10 years – 1st Bill Peterson, 2nd Bill Gannon

Girls 6 to 10 years – 1st Hilda Wilder, 2nd Edna Eckford

Tiny Tots – 1st Shiela Triffet, 2nd Coral Eckford

Boys High jump – H Wilder, height 4 feet

The horse events were keenly contested and turned out to be a great success, everyone voting it the best sports ever held in JC and hoping for another one in the near future.

After the sports were over all went their respective ways home to change for the "Night in Japan". The hall was decorated most elaborately; the scene represented a Japanese Rowere which was greatly admired by all who saw it and quite a large crowd of ladies attended in Japanese costumes which all added to the effect of the decorations. The dance was also a great success being attended by about 100 couples.

During the evening raffles were drawn and snowball auctions conducted realising very satisfactory figures. The main feature was a gents companion wardrobe the lucky winner being Mr RC Peut, Eureka.

Special mention must be made of Mr Downey who have his services free for all carting in connection with the function. Rev Mackie was present and in a few well-chosen words thanked one and all for their efforts.

Owing to lack of time we were unable to raffle all donations but expect to clear same by the end of the month and expect to realise a total of about £130.

## **4 Jul 1927 (p46, NQ622, NQR)**

Advancing Television

Astounding Feats Recorded

While Australasia has been registering remarkable feats in wireless telephony between the Antipodes and London, extraordinary scientific advances have been recorded in the US in that marvellous new realm of television, and the system of transmitting distant scenes and persons in action over telephones



and radio circuits made its public bow in New York in one of the most uncanny gatherings ever recorded in the world's annals.

Sixty men sat in a room in Manhattan and watched the facial expression of Mr Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce of the US Government as he talked over the long distance telephone from Washington to Mr Walter S Gifford president of the American Telephone Company who was at the other end of the wire in New York some 225 miles distant. It was the first formal demonstration of television otherwise known as "seeing over the telephone."

At 3.25 o'clock in the afternoon long distance communication between New York and Washington was established with Mr Hoover at the Washington end of the wire.

Mr Gifford sat before the television apparatus and began conversing with the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. As the telephone company president talked he looked through a rectangular aperture about 2 inches by two and one half inches and he could see as well as hear Secretary Hoover.

Every variation of Mr Hoover's facial expression was distinctly visible as they conversed. Mr Gifford could see Mr Hoover as plainly as though he were watching a picture in one of those machines seen in penny arcades in amusements parks. Directly afterwards the assembled newspaper men and other guests were given an opportunity to see Mr Hoover over the telephone as he talked to the. A large screen had been set up on the stage and at this juncture switches were thrown to connect with the screen and to join the telephone circuit with a loud speaker.

Mr Hoover could be seen on the screen talking from Washington his words coming over the loud speaker to the amazement of the assembled guests. Space had again been annihilated – here was a dream of inventors realised, simultaneous sight and sound over miles of wire.

All those who participated in this strange demonstration of advanced science agreed that television unquestionably affords an accurate picture of whomsoever one spoke to over the telephone. Obviously there is room for improving the picture but even now in its early stages the photograph was distinct and the facial expression changed at the exact second the word of mouth was spoken. An equally remarkable demonstration of seeing over the radio was then given.

After the demonstration one of those present said the possibilities of television were so great that the imagination was challenged. What its practical use may be in the future was problematical but scientists were confident that in due time the invention would add materially to human comfort and happiness. The demonstrations were staged in the auditorium of the Bell telephone laboratories and it was in these laboratories that television had been developed.

### **11 Jul 1927 (p101, NA, NQR)**

The Flinders River  
"Along the Line"

About a hundred miles to the northward of Hughenden on the old Townsville road between Cargoon and Mount Emu, you cross a number of small creeks all flowing south and giving evidence, after floods, of rapid running. The biggest of these is locally known as the Walker. These streams head in hard ridges, growing scrubby wattle and spotted gum, but lower down the alluvial flats grow slender straight gums. Altogether these creeks form a fan with the Walker in the middle of them and they all come together and form the Flinders which is a sandy bed lined on each side with oaks and reliable in normal seasons for good water and the banks are green and grassy where cattle loll in comfort. In old times the N6U of Cargoon, the V7A of Reedy Springs and J1T of Mount Emu were the brands they bore and the station folk mustered along the river in harmony and each got their own if they came early, but nowadays these are fenced boundaries.

Some twenty miles from the headwaters the geology of the country changes from granite to shales and sandrock; and the Flinders, now a big stream, breaks through and flows deep down in gorges of sandstone.

Oxley Creek comes in from the eastward. There is an old diggings camp on Oxley now deserted. Up to ten or twelve years ago two or three old diggers fossicked there and had little bark-covered camps.

They were "hatters," who worked on their own and got gold. No one ever knew how much or little. The last of these fossickers lived by himself long after the others left and used to carry his bit of rations out from Pentland, 50 miles. He had a garden with pumpkins and sweet potatoes and caught bandicoots for meat. He left his camp and workings at last because he told me he used to hear angels singing and screaming down the creek. I believe it was native bears he heard. But so Oxley digging became deserted. The old camps remain unoccupied and yet men who know say there is good gold on Oxley.

The Flinders now flows through a great deep gorge, through a wild rough country of lancewood, on the eastern side and mixed, broken desert land on the west, until, some twelve miles to the north of Prairie, it comes out of the sandstone and flows west into a broad valley of, in places, rich pasture downs and Gidgea and boree country; and the Glendower run, held so many years by Mr Robert Gray, and stocked with famous cattle that bore the brand G3G.

The old station of Glendower is a historical locality. Years ago there was a native police camp there and one, Harry Finch, was the Lieutenant in charge. He is buried on the sand ridge nearby. Blacks were troublesome in those old days. Alec Reid managed Glendower in more recent years; brother to Ralph Reid of Innisfail district. They came from Acacia Creek in the Warwick district some 60 years past. Alex used to race horses long ago. I remember him racing a black horse called The Ace when I was a straight-hair chap on Peak Downs and he brought the same horse to CT and won the Millchester handicap and maybe the Double. That would be about 73 or 74.

I have often reproached myself about an incident at old Glendower. There had been a tribal quarrel among the blacks and Tony, a station boy, had been speared. I saw him in the camp. They had the hole in his side patched up with mud and old blanket but he looked at me and said it was no good, "wind bin come." As he breathed air went in and out the wound in his side. I came away; I knew the boy well, but, chump that I was, it did not dawn on me to get to him with antiseptic of some sort and sew him up and do what I could to save him. I've often reproached myself since. Of course, he died.

The old station building yet remains built of dressed slabs. The river cuts through shale hills and these cliffs are full of fossils, of fish and shells, the oldest formation known. Mankind was not on the earth when these shale beds were formed, Mr Le Souef told me that. He said it was a million years old and that only guess. It might be ten million years so he said.

Some six miles below old Glendower there is the new station now owned by Mr Syd Hopkins who lives there a fine home indeed with a garden of roses and richness of flowers. The valley of the river has widened out and there are good pastoral flats on each side; flats famous as pasture. A year or two past a mob of 400 bullocks went off these flats and I heard the mob dressed average 980 lbs. Now there have been resumptions of land and much of the old holding is gone.

The River is now a wide bed of sand. A few miles lower down and the homestead of Glenmoan is on the left bank. The river is running west and a few miles across over the hill there is Jardine Valley, on the railway, and it is twelve miles to Hughenden all through good pastoral land. No tributary comes in except Jardine Creek. Landsborough named the valley and the creek, 1862. At the town of Hughenden the small tributary of Station Creek that rises under the hills of Pollux and Castor, joins.

Hughenden Station, formed in 1864, and held by Robert Gray for fifty years, is built on a hillock singularly suitable for a station homestead and it is a mile distant from the township that began its life in 1874 and has had a good many ups and downs. At times it was to be the capital of North Queensland and at other times it came down to "two or three shanties on a plain". The railway opened in 1887. That is 40 years ago and the ups and downs of the town continue. It is the centre of a large pastoral district and will ever be a town of importance. There is now a population of 1700 with active municipal and district councils. The main back country road to the north must ever pass through Hughenden. There is now considerable motor traffic from southward to the Atherton district.

The Flinders at Hughenden is a thousand feet wide, bed of sand, dry on the surface for most of the year. It flows west and for nearly two hundred miles its course is parallel with the Northern railway. It is now clear of the hills and on the southern side and south-westerly, downs country extends half way across the continent, and away, a thousand miles; and to the west with hardly a break for a greater distance.

Past Hughenden many grazing farm homes are adjacent to the river but in old days the road went on past the 15 Mile Bend to Telemon, 40 miles, and went 10 miles further to Marathon both homesteads near the river. Telemon and Marathon are Greek names, chosen by a Mr Sheaffe who was associated with pioneers. These runs were held but were not stocked to any extent until the wave of Victorians came in 1878, since when both places have been important well-held sheep stations. Telemon is now managed by Mr Horace Williams for the Collyer estate and Marathon is managed by Mr Cory for the NZ Land Company, worthy people who have much pastoral interests in our west.

Between Hughenden and Telemon, Galah Creek joins the river from the north so does Betts' Gorge and also the waters from John's Valley come in on that side and between Telemon and Marathon on the south side come in Walkers Creek a big watercourse heading right away up near Redcliffe and flowing through rich downs land on Afton and Telemon, a big stream spreading wide in floods. Originally on the road crossing here there was a roadside hotel, well kept by Old Charley Vaughan, and in carrying days it was famous as a house of call and change for Cobb and Co. There were incidents and tragedies and all sorts of things happened there. Old Charley had a big fossil bone that had a hollow in it used for matches on the bar counter. One day on the coach a man came along who was interested in seeing this fossil and asked about it. It had been found on the downs some miles away,

"Were there more bones there," he was asked.

"Oh yes, laying about there was a heap of them."

The stranger let the coach go and arranged to go to the place where the bones were. Then he got a team and had loads of them gathered and sent away to the ship.

A tragedy occurred here, long ago. A young chap employed about a boring plant close by became infatuated with one of the house girls and he was always near her. His love was not returned. Perhaps she was a giddy creature who did not understand and one evening he said to her, "If you don't speak to me I will do myself in." I suppose she laughed some reply. Anyway a while afterwards there was a rifle shot and the young fellow was found dead out in the yard with a bullet through his head and the rifle by his side. He had, in well-borer terms "Done himself in."

In old times it was a common term for anything that was worn useless or bad, to be said to be "done it."

The Flinders River before flowing the 30 miles between Marathon and Richmond is joined from the north by Charlotte Creek. That flows down through Charlotte Plains run and past what was originally an outplace of Reedy Springs used for fattening bullocks. It is Compton yet, but is now a good sheep property owned by John Cameron's estate. Charcoal Creek was named, at first, the Dutton River by Walker, 1862, but somehow the name was dropped. It was named after CB Dutton who owned Bauhinia Downs near the Dawson where Walker bought his horses for the expedition.

Richmond is a riverside town and was so named by the Bundocks who took up the country early and formed the old station in the rise, a mile above the town where Arthur Crawford managed for years. Richmond has had many vicissitudes. Harris and Goldring were the first storekeepers. That's the same Lou Goldring now secretary of Tattersall's Club in Townsville, once member for the Flinders. Lou is an old man now but time was when he used to ride from Hughenden to Richmond in boots and breeches. Hardwicke built a big hotel out of timber pit-sawn on the river. Richmond was always a sort of dead and alive place especially in dry times.

Others settled in Richmond. On Sing Loong and Co did a big merchant business. Old Bill Moulder kept store and there was Fast's brick hotel that Jim Burke kept later. Later on, Billy Carter settled in Richmond and was a factor in the life of the town and district and George Middleton kept an hotel through ups and downs and slowly as the railway came along – past Hughenden, Richmond made headway. Ladbury's woollscour was established and successful, a bore was put down and found to flow hot water suitable for scouring wool and so Richmond got a bore of its own and then it emerged from the dead and alive stage and became a pastoral town of importance, surrounded as it is on all sides by rich sheep pasture and in early days the Woolgar Goldfield situated some 80 miles to the north, helped Richmond.

A few miles down the river from Richmond, Cambridge Creek comes in. It is a considerable tributary and heads away up in the basalt near Chudleigh Park Station and to the west of that its creeks come

through gold bearing country. It was also named by Walker, the name being the Stawell River after Chief Justice Stawell of Victoria. Walker, I may add, was searching for Burke and Wills when he named it.

Some of the nomenclature around Richmond can be traced to the Richmond River of NSW, notably the name of the district, Wyangerie.

Some nine miles below Richmond O'Connell Creek comes in from the east. It heads out on the Downs toward Sesbania over the watershed from Wokingham Creek. Before the railway there was an accommodation hotel at O'Connell Creek, a well kept homely place and the proprietress was known only by her Christian name as Lizzie. She was very able and strong physically and the place became known as Lizzie's. The creek lost its name, travellers camped at Lizzies or changed horses at Lizzies. The sick came to Lizzie to be healed.

At O'Connell Creek, old Dad Bennett a well-known drover, lost his life by a coach capsize.

The river flows on its way west past Black Sam's, past Poverty Point, a name bestowed on the river bend where in old times teams camped and it was not a cheerful place. Since those days however, a very fine sheep property \* developed in the vicinity \* the river and it retains the \* is a misnomer as regards ...tion which is worthily owned by two old timers of the roading days, Messrs Daly and Ennis who were pioneer carriers wil\* travelling over the north and the west until they rested on the rich downs by the river and called their home Poverty Point and so it remains today. But as I have said only the name. There is no poverty. [\* unreadable on microfilm]

There are many sheep holdings around here. Fine homes well improved and properties and good people. Gracedale, Runnymede and others on the north side and further over Saxby Downs and on the south side, Majebea and the splendid station run of Maxwellton the property of the NZ Land Co where they keep the stud herds of cattle to supply sires for their stations further out.

On the river five miles from Maxwellton railway station there is the historical locality of Low's Camp, it has been an hotel for 60 years built on a mound of sand close by the river. Nowadays north road crosses the river on a bridge close by. The bridge like the locality has a story.

I have not said that for some miles almost ever since leaving Hughenden the river has a confined channel down which ordinary freshes and little floods flow and keep within bounds. When a moderate flood comes the waters break over into the billabongs, fill the outlying holes and make great growth of pasture. Occasionally a big flood comes. That is when the Flinders, Walker's Creek and Cambridge Creek all come together, then stand from under. Big floods are rare but they come at intervals maybe many years between but when they do look out. There is a story of Low's Camp in the 1870 flood. Men were up trees for a fortnight starving; with the yellow, turbulent current flowing below them.

The Camp Hotel was originally built by AF Low better known as Jack Low, he became well to do and his name AF Low is built in the brickwork in Flinders Street, Townsville. I believe somewhere near the 'Register' office but at the moment I cannot place it. Later the place was well-known as Hulberts. There were a good many of these roadside places along the Flinders in early days. I have mentioned those of good repute.

Cambridge Creek comes down through Cambridge Downs run, a country that was settled early. It belonged, or an interest in it belonged to MacDonald and the homestead was once the scene of a tragedy. MacDonald and a man had some dispute and the man ran out of the store vowing vengeance. He ran to the cook's galley and grabbing a fire-stick ran along the building of the store setting fire to the thatch and in a few moments the roof was ablaze. MacDonald with what help he could call, worked and strived to get the rations out of the building and with fair success; he recovered much and was then driven back by the fire. When he had done all he could he then with a rifle, went in search of the burner and found him, hidden under a bunk in the hut. He shot him dead.

Some months afterwards, the incident having been reported, the government sent Mr Jameson who was then a partner in Mount Emu to investigate. The reply came back that after gathering all evidence and regarding the circumstance it was a justifiable homicide. That was the end of it.

About 30 miles below where Maxwellton is now the Flinders leaves its course with the railway and makes a right angle bend to the north. On the old road at about this point called Coobiaby there was an hotel and good accommodation kept by one Tom Dark. Both he and his good wife are long since passed away. After him came Martin Warneminde who was a Cobb and Co driver. The home was an oasis on the track. The Gulf road southward crosses here.

There was a sad interference with polling on an election day at Coobiaby about 30 years ago. A mad cow (probably aware how many "ghosts" were recording their votes), charged the polling tent, horned the returning officer, chased the scrutineers and ran away with the ballot box on her horns. I know some of this is true because I saw a sketch of the incident at the time in the NQR and read the report.

The river bears away north toward Millungera. An old outstation called Yambora was across the river just where it bends. We are now in a country of big waterholes, many of them back from the river; moreover it is a country of shallow artesian water and the pastoral holdings around here flowing bores.

JC country is adjacent to the south and west and it is a land famous for good wool growing. In old days JC was not regarded as anything special in the way of pasture. It was dry, open downs and used to crack wide so that in places you could drop big stones down the cracks. The grass blew away. The sheep stocking changed the nature of the soil. The cracks filled up and the sheep always on the country kept the top loose and it became rich pasture and then the shallow water obtainable transformed the whole area. In old days I have run horses thereabout and have seen the mob stop as at a fence and swerve from cracked ground.

A word or two about this country before going further down the river. Forty years ago there were big runs all stocked with cattle and in good seasons they multiplied rapidly. Nelia Ponds belonged to the Barkers and was managed by Harry Roche, Tarbrax belonged to the Thompsons of Mount Emu and carried thousands of bullocks and was managed by Robert Thompson and later CK Peel. The Crothers Brothers, Bob and Tom were at Clutha close by on the other side of the river. They were regular old-style cattle men of NSW and had many retainers black and white that they brought with them, all good, every man of them in a cattle camp and rare horsemen. They bred good horses, all the places did and then there were great herds on Millungera and Eddington and Dalgonally and in a succession of good seasons it was all you know continually to keep herds branded up and they used to put on camps of thousands and each cut out their own. Calves grew to micks and micks to big nuggets mighty quick.

For some years in the eighties this continued then droughts came. The southern market fell away to nothing. Bullocks could not be given away at Bourke or Wodonga. More droughts came, grazing farmland Acts came into force, fetching changes. The railway advance making more changes and somehow before you'd say snap all sorts of things happened, fences sprang up like mushrooms new people came everywhere and the glorious old gathering of cattle men the fun of the camps was in the twinkling of an eye gone forever.

When the Flinders turn to the north it becomes just one of a tangle of rivers and great watercourses. These head away to the south of the railway some coming from near Kynuna. The stations are along these creeks. Alicks Creek comes down through Maxwellton and Tarbrax runs, but Tarbrax home is on Ruperts Creek. Toorak is an Eastern Creek and further west there is the Gilliat and the McKinlay and the Williams. All these flow to make up the network that forms north of the railway.

The Flinders retains its identity as a main channel and goes through Millungera run, though the homestead is on Saxby water on a big lagoon. The Flinders and Saxby blend their waters when big rainfalls come.

In old days there was considerable road traffic from Normanton to Cloncurry and the roads went several ways according as the waters subsided.

Millungera was an early holding formerly the property of James Gibson who passed away not long since at King's Plains near Cooktown. He was one of the pioneers of the Flinders and at times owned holdings scattered along Cargoon to Millungera but his name is not preserved on landmarks. Later Millungera was purchased by Melbourne people, Meredith Menzies and Co. Manfred was then portion of Millungera. Meredith came to develop the country and commenced big improvements. He was a fine man, big of body and soul. He had fencing progressing everywhere ready for sheep stocking, when,

sad to say, he met his death by accident. He was a man of great energy riding hard from place to place over the run as the work progressed and coming home one night his horse fell. He was dead when they found him. He is buried at Millungera homestead and on the headstone are particulars of his name and the year and under is the text:—

“Whatever thy hand findeth to do  
Do it with all they might”

And those lines tell of Meredith’s character. He was a bold goer and a leader of men.

Following Meredith’s death a Mr Moore managed Manfred and Horace Nutting managed Millungera. The places were separated and Manfred was sold. Moore was a rare good man and was there until 1895. By this time artesian water was being tapped all around. The Manfred water comes to the surface nearly at boiling point.

A henchman of Nuttings on Millungera was Layton who for years had kept store and lived at Sedan on the cattle track below Dalgonally a worthy man.

As I have said the Flinders and Saxby waters are a good deal mixed and you can easily cross from one river to the other and be no wiser.

The Flinders flows on past Taldora through Iffley run, but the great waterhole where the Iffley homestead stands is of the Saxby. We are in crocodile country now and the Iffley hole is in most times their limit though they have been shot up at Clutha hole and there is legend of one being near Hughenden.

This crocodile is a handsome rich-brown scaly chap with a limit of growth to about six feet. They live on fish and waterfowl and do not attack man distinct from what are called alligators in this country though they are all crocodiles. These fresh water fellows have sharp teeth serrated like a saw and whatever they snap stops there. Their skins are saleable when well cured for making handbags. Iffley belongs to Sir Sydney Kidman and Mr William Angliss of Melbourne, two men who have much to do with the cattle trade of Australia.

Below Iffley the Flinders flows on as I have said only one of a network of rivers and channels all trending to the gulf. It goes on through Canobie one of the first holdings of early years and owned during his life by Mr Edward Palmer who was member in the Qld Assembly for the Flinders district. Now it is the Land Company previously referred to and joins Dalgonally.

I have not so far mentioned Donald McIntyre. He was perhaps the best known man of the Lower Flinders and owned Dalgonally. He took it in 1864 after coming through from Bendigo with his brother Duncan who died and was buried on the bank of the Cloncurry at what is known as the Grave Hole and a coolibah tree is marked “DM 1886”. They came north mostly through unexplored country. The waterhole at Dalgonally home is a fine one many be a mile or more long and of great depth and the homestead is on high land overlooking the hole; a big homestead.

Everything that McIntyre did was on a big scale. His rain water tank was of 1/4” plate riveted on the ground by mechanics brought from the coast to hold ten thousand gallons. On Dalgonally run he had an enormous herd of cattle. It was said, 70,000 and he sent off large numbers of bullocks. He and his doings were often made jest of but yet it remains that McIntyre was a successful man through life and passed away wealthy. He was often accused of close fistedness and sometimes he seemed to find delight in giving that impression but he had his own ways of doing things and he disregarded the opinions of others.

I once bought 200 horses at Dalgonally. I was there with my men for three weeks and he would not muster but at last they were got away and I went to the store to square up. My men had got their needs all the time and the pack horses for the road were loaded up there. The storekeeper handed me my account receipted. “Mr McIntyre said I was not to take money for your stores,” he said. I was pleased afterwards that I had not made any row about the long wait. It was McIntyre's way of doing things.

Lara is between Dalgonally and Millungera. It is now a fine property owned by WH Glasson and the

new homestead is on high ground.

The Saxby, Flinders and Cloncurry Rivers are all one in flood time making 50 miles and more of water but below Iffley some 30 miles the channels join and the great Flinders flows towards the sea on its own but when within tidal area divides into two mouths, one known as the Bynoe and the other the Flinders. It is a land of mud and banks of mangroves. The haunt of alligators and mosquitoes not a cheerful place and so the waters go on until they emerge into the gulf.

The Flinders River was named by Stokes in 1840. Dr Bynoe was surgeon of the Beagle exploring on the west coast.

Near the point where the Flinders divides with the Bynoe the telegraph line to Floraville crosses and the old station of Magoura is near. It was taken up and held for many years by Trimble who was a pioneer of the river and first occupied Crowfells that is now part of Millungera. His partner then was Anderson...

The Gulf went through a period of great depression in the late 60s. Many of those who had taken up runs abandoned them. The Earls of Yacamunda were the first to take up Iffley but abandoned it later. Normanton first came into being as a port for the Gilbert goldfield about 1866. It was named after Captain Norman who was in command of the war sloop Victoria that came around from Melbourne to Brisbane to convoy the Firefly with horses on board for Landsborough expedition after Burke and Wills. This was in 1861, but Normanton was until 1886, regarded as the port for the Lower Flinders and for much of the west and for Cloncurry coppermine. After the abandonment the runs were taken again and stocked with cattle. This was in 1872 and about that time some very good men were interested. Fred Brodie had Lorraine, Stuart Haydon occupied Vena Park and a neighbouring run. I forget the name; as well as Glenore, a place of wonderful water near Normanton. Major Colles held Inverleigh.

Blacks gave a good deal of trouble and when I was at Glenore a skull was on top of every stockyard post.

In 1886 Croyden goldfield made Normanton a busy place. The Cloncurry mine traffic was considerable and the Georgina River trade came that way. All the wire and material for improving Carandotta, Austral Downs and Granada came from Normanton. It was not until 1887 those stations began to look towards Hughenden.

A little steamer called the Cunga used to run from Cooktown round by Thursday island and up the Norman river, Captain Leggatt – Burns Philp and Co, did great business in Normanton and Healy's Hotel was the rendezvous of men everywhere.

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### **11 Jul 1927 (p103, NA, NQR)**

JC, 7 Jul – The School of Arts has been enlarged and a roomy stage added. The Bachelor Ball which was held on the night of 29th of June was the first function held in the new building. It was very well carried out. Dances were also held on the three nights following. They were well patronised and the proceeds amounted to nearly £150 for the School of Arts funds.

On Friday last an interesting match was fought at the picture stadium between Hirst of Barcaldine and Orbell of Rockhampton. It was billed as a 10-round bout for £10 a side. The weights were not announced but Orbell appeared to be slightly heavier than his opponent. The first three rounds were well and evenly fought. The advantage, if anything, lay with Orbell. The fourth round was Orbell's from the start and after punishing his opponent heavily he won by a knockout. Mr S U Browne refereed.

A preliminary bout between two middleweights provided no thrills. Another preliminary of two rounds took place between Herb Gillet and Jim Norton, two local boys. They were quick and willing and gave a very good exhibition.

Two well-known citizens, Mr JW Sanphy and Mr WA Mathews have been taken ill and have gone to Townsville for treatment. We hope to have good news of both of them soon.

On June the 22nd the Tennis Club held its annual meeting. The following officer were elected –

President, Mr JH Mathews, Vice presidents, Messrs W Norton, V Faithfull, J McIvor, Secretary, Mr FA Hickman, Treasurer, Mr JW Huessler, Captain, Mr FA Hickman, vice captain, Mr V Faithfull. The club will hold a dance in the near future. The court is in very good order and there is every indication of a good season.

### **25 Jul 1927 (p5, NQ621, NQR)**

JC

A Fancy Dress Ball will be held in the School of Arts for Adults and Children, in aid of the CWA, on Friday, 5th August. The music will be supplied by Darcy's Jazz Band, and tickets will be: Double 7/6; Single (Gents) 5/-; and (Ladies) 3/-; Children 1/-.

### **25 Jul 1927 (p103, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 21 – Mr JH Mathews has finished shearing for Mr F Bennett at Hilton Park. Mr WA Mathews started shearing at Eureka yesterday. Innisfail Downs expects to start on the 25th and Toorak and Bauhinia downs early in August. Eddington shed cut out on the 19th. 39,000 sheep were put over the board and the clip amounted to 75 bales. This is now being treated at the JC scour.

### **8 Aug 1927 (p104, NA, NQR)**

JC, Aug 4 – The handsome cup and set of medals presented for competition among the JC and neighbouring clubs by Mr T Kelly have given a great filip to the football game this season. the final stages have proved very interesting and have evoked much enthusiasm. The Gilliat and Nonda teams were eliminated in due course and on Sunday week the JC team defeated the McKinlay thirteen by eleven points to nil, making the honours even between the two teams. The visitors played with the wind in the first half and broke through a temporarily weak defence to score a try which was not converted. In the last few minutes of the second half, Cain, of JC, scored a lucky try and the game ended in a draw. Among the forwards, Collings, playing for McKinlay was probably the best on the field while among the backs, Jessup of JC was in a class of his own.

McKinlay supporters were present in force and helped to swell the large crowd. Although a few unfortunate people were stricken with a sort of war fever, the barracking for the most part was good humoured enough. We cannot spare any players for England for some time to come but one got the impression that if the cold country ever runs short of referees JC can offer a modest dozen or so while our neighbours are in a position to supply them by the gross. They are amateurs of course and not many have been farther on a football field than a line umpire will allow them.

The two teams will play off again for the cup at Gilliat on Sunday next.

The stationmaster advises that 10,716 bullocks were trucked at JC in July. This is probably a record number.

Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis went to Townsville last weekend and returned with two new Whippet cars on Monday.

### **5 Sep 1927 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, 1 Sep – Grass in this district has dried up very quickly and many pastoralists are already using salt and phosphates to help out the dry feed. During the recent drought they learnt the value of these specifics.

The cattle season is nearly at an end and the already large numbers of unemployed in the town have been increased considerably. Men in search of work are advised to avoid JC as it already has more than its share of workless and the prospects of obtaining employment here are nil.

JC and the surrounding district have said goodbye in a fitting manner to Mr and Mrs MJ Fitzpatrick whose names are as well known throughout the west as the name of Eddington Station where they lived for 28 years. On the evening of Tuesday 23rd instant a farewell social organised by Mrs SU Browne of Garomna was held in the School of Arts JC. The large gathering was in itself sufficient testimony of the high esteem in which Mr and Mrs Fitzpatrick were held and the widespread regret which was being caused by their departure from the district. In a brief but pithy speech Mr SU Browne referred to the pioneering work they had done and the high civic qualities they had shown at all times. As a parting gift from their many friends he presented them with a purse of sovereigns amounting to £112 which



was made up from donations from the employees of Eddington Station and the people of Gilliat, McKinlay and JC. On behalf of the CWA he presented Mrs Fitzpatrick with an electro-plated jug suitably inscribed. The gathering then sang 'For they are jolly good fellows' and Mr HC Powne of Toorak responded on behalf of the guests. At the instance of Mr V Faithfull three hearty cheers were given for Mr and Mrs SU Brown who had organised the valedictory so successfully. There was a good supper and dancing was carried on until the wee hours.

[Note: This bank story is not at this date] A branch of the Commercial Bank of Australia was opened in JC yesterday with Mr Mullins as manager. It is temporarily situated next to Mr Faithfull's office. The town is showing several other signs of progress. It is understood that plans have been prepared for both a Catholic Church and a Church of England and that tenders will be called for the erection of these in the near future.

### **3 Oct 1927 (p8, NA, NQR)**

JC, 29 Sep – A topic of absorbing interest at the present time in the case of alleged sheep stealing in which James Cunningham Rome of Longford Plains is figuring as defendant. During the past month or so careful and far reaching enquiries have been made and Mr Rome's property has been mustered on three separate occasions. In the proceedings the Police, the Stock Inspector, the district Stock Inspector, and several local pastoralists were active. Several serious charges are said to be pending in which 311 Eddington sheep and 347 Toorak sheep are involved. On the 22nd instant a preliminary case came before Mr P Knyvett, Police Magistrate at JC in which James Cunningham Rome was charged with stealing 3 sheep alleged to be the property of Toorak Pastoral Co. For the prosecution, Acting Sergeant Casey, Stock Inspector Singh, Messrs HC Powne and LC Powne, manager and overseer respectively of Toorak Station were called as witnesses. After a lengthy hearing the defendant was committed for trial at CT on Oct the 3rd.

With regards to shearings, McCarthy's team has finished at Haddington and is to start at Lara in a couple of days. Mr WA Mathews is shearing at Wensley after which he will go to Yoorkshire Downs. Mr H Mathews is shearing for Mrs McTaggart at St Elmo.

### **21 Nov 1927 (p44, NA, NQR)**

Townsville

"Along the Line"

Townsville had a fair start in 1866. A year after the port was proclaimed the Gilbert goldfield was discovered in 1867 and a few months later the Cape Goldfield. Thousands of diggers flocked from everywhere. The lure of fresh fields was strong. Rockhampton goldfields discovered 9 years before were petering out, so were the NZ and Victorian alluvial diggings. The great fields of the Turon and the Ophir in NSW were weakening. Lambing Flat was going out. Reefing fields like Gulgong had not developed in the sixties.

Twenty thousand diggers came to the Cape. White Hill, Specimen Gull and the Upper Cape gave gold by the million. The gold came to Townsville and the merchandise went out. Townsville leapt ahead.

Cattle multiplied on the Burdekin. A primitive boiling-down plant was set up on the Ross River. Bullocks were treated for tallow and hides. The shipments went from the new port of Townsville, gold, tallow and hides, were fine exports. There was little wool. The Burdekin was found to be unsuitable for sheep.

The Cape Goldfield was far from worked out when Ravenswood was discovered in 1868, more gold for Townsville and all the time the port...

Ravenswood was followed by CT. Then gold flowed to Townsville and the port boomed. CT yielded nearly two million pounds worth of gold in the years 1872 to 1877. Boom after boom came to Townsville.

Next came the Palmer goldfield. At first much revenue came from there overland down the Burdekin. All of these goldfields needed large supplies of fat cattle. This demand gave great help to the cattlemen of the west and the Burdekin. As much as £10 a head was paid for fat bullocks on the camps as far out as Dalgongally and Millungera. The basalt country had a harvest. It set cattle men on their feet. They banked the gold they received for cattle in Townsville.

The Palmer yielded two millions...

Next and during the gold boom years after 1872 came the pastoral boom when downs country runs throughout the west were acquired by Victorian capitalists – The Armytages ... Bayley's, Bostocks, Sir Samuel Wilson and a score of others.

The runs were rapidly improved and stocked with sheep. This boom began in 1876. More revenue for Townsville.

Next in 1879 came the commencement of the Northern Railway a town was surveyed at the mouth of the Ross River and it is there yet. Much of the railway material was lightered and landed round in the Ross river and the railway was commenced from there. Railway work progressed rapidly and between 1880 and 1887 a million of money was spent in railway construction to Hughenden all revenue for Townsville.

CT was yet yielding much gold and for years later was a busy field. The railway section there, 82 miles, paid 13% for the first ten years. There came a halt, a falling off in all sources of revenue. Wool growing had been unprofitable. Cattle became unsaleable, the market collapsed and bullocks were practically given away by the thousand at Wodonga, the receipts just about paying for the stock tax and say a pound over.

Throughout North Qld from 1886 on came a crisis which culminated in the bank crash of 1893. Slowly the country recovered, wool gradually rose in 1896 to 6d and 7d a pound for the best. Speculators came in and by degrees slowly, stock came to have some value. Then Cloncurry boomed and the Townsville ball rolled on.

#### **Nov 1927**

St Barnabus church opened

#### **21 Nov 1927 (p77, NQ625, NQR)**

"Vale" Along the Line

Below the grass he oft had trod, a tired bushman sleeps,  
And rustling slightly o'er his bed, the bright-eyed lizard creeps  
No more he roams the sun-drenched Qld hills, but rests at ease  
Embosomed by the good brown Earth he loved, beneath the trees  
With ear attuned to Nature's voice, he heard a call, and knew  
He looked his last on friendly field and tree; on distant view  
Of purple shadowed hill. This westering sun would be his last  
Bravely he laid him down content to die beneath the vast  
Immensity of Qld's ardent sky. His dying ear  
Drank in the feathered music of the wild. Each bird-note clear  
He knew and loved. With every failing sense he felt the spell  
And knew the greatness of this mighty land he loved so well  
Feeling the benediction of the breeze he closed his eyes.  
He only sleeps. The spirit of a patriot never dies.

"Along the Line"

(By "Cestus")

"There is a reaper whose name is Death."

Longfellow

James Robertson Chisolm, our esteemed and valued contributor whose interesting articles for many years have appeared in our journals under the penname of "Along the Line" was found dying on Sunday afternoon in one of his paddocks at Stanley, near Townsville. Mr Chisolm had ridden out to inspect some cattle and as he was overlong away, his son-in-law went out in search of him. He found the old bushman reclining under a shady tree in a dying condition with his horse tied up near him. For some time Mr Chisolm had not been very well and his heart had often caused his people some anxiety.

Sunday morning was hot and oppressive and no doubt feeling unwell the old man got off his horse and sat down in the shade to rest. He was practically dead when found.

The end, though tragic, seems fitting, for Mr Chisolm was an outdoor man, a man who loved the bush, its moods, its law and its mysteries. He was a dreamer of dreams, this gaunt tall Australian with a touch of the mystic handed down to him by Highland ancestors. a complex character, a man of ability and unusual vision a man of practical ideas and impractical administration, an idealist really, shrewd, yet singularly naive and emotional.

He wrote carelessly and with a fluent pen seldom rereading his copy or correcting it. He wrote as he thought just drifting easily from subject to subject with little regard for sequence or care for literary architecture. But for all his careless style Mr Chisolm wrote earnestly. He tried to do his best, his very best, for country folk, the people that he loved, and had his purse been as big as his heart he would have attempted great things.

He applauded all honest endeavour and appreciated to the full the efforts of men and women of all classes who had the courage to settle on the land.

Mr Chisolm's belief in North Qld and advocacy of its possibilities was a passion and he never tired of writing of it or of trying to encourage the people brave enough to try and work out an independent livelihood. His fine grey head was charged with much of the exploration, settlement and history of north and north-west Qld. His memory was wonderful and his appreciation of all the grand endeavour which helped to make this sunbright land of ours the wonderland it is, was heartfelt and sincere.

He loved all the grand old men of the north: the sheep barons, the beef barons, the teamsters, the timber getters, the Railway Constructors, Cobb and Company's coach drivers, and all that unlisted legion of our race that have built up and made our empire. He had lived a long life amongst these men and in his time played many parts; and as the grim old reaper garnered them in, "Along the Line" wrote of them with fine appreciation and charm. No one could do it better for he knew their lives, the hardships endured, their fine fortitude, their courage and resource, and his pen would flow on in his own quaint whimsical style, earnestly and with rich emotion.

Some men were wont to belittle the writings of "Along the Line" but all men read him and those with understanding realised there was a touch of genius in this careless bush writer, a ray of light, and more than that, of desire to assist those whom he considered were the people most in need of it – the men and women on the land.

Born on the Loddon River, Victoria, Mr Chisolm in his early life joined a kinsman named Robertson, a noted railway contractor and civil engineer in his day. Mr Robertson built the bridge over the Mary river after Gympie broke out and when that was completed they did some engineering work at Gladstone. Then Mr Robertson was one of the contractors for the railway west from Rockhampton, Mr Chisolm accompanying him.

From there he came north and later settled at Prairie on a place he called "The Plains." It was on "The Plains" that most of his writing was done and as his inclination and his work took him far afield on the railways of the West, he adopted the pen of "Along the Line," a pen name under which he contributed to our journals for over 35 years. If a collection could be made of these articles what a wealth of incident, romance, story and history they would contain. His stories and sketches of the aborigines alone would be replete with interest. Mr Chisolm had deep appreciation and more than a little affection for the black people and he loved to write of them, their quaint outlook, their simplicity, their bush lore and mystery. He was at his best when writing of these people and no one could forget that tender and sympathetic sketch of his which told of the flight from a far Mission station in the south of four blacks and their return to the high country of the Pentland ranges. They travelled all those hundreds of miles by night, until he met them on the ranges singing, "Home Sweet Home."

Yes, Mr Chisolm could write of these ill-used black people of ours for he knew and understood them.

Mr Robert Grey, the pioneer of Hughenden Station, now a very old man living in London, like Mr Chisolm had a strong regard for the blacks and it was his custom to send a few pounds annually to Mr Chisolm to distribute amongst any of the old black retainers of Hughenden Station, a commission which

Mr Chisolm dearly loved to fulfil.

Only a day or two ago we handed him a new book, "The Life of Robert Christison of Lammermoor," for review, running through the illustrations, recognising the old blacks and chatting of them interestingly, and the book was put carefully in his bag for careful and delightful reading. And now that review will never be written by him. It is a pity for he would have lent colour to the romance of that story, amplified the incidents and in his own inimitable way brought home to us the work and worth of men like Robert Christison.

The ink is dry on the pen and the light of this uncommon mind flickered out as this kindly clever old bushman lay reclining near his tethered horse, under the friendly shade of the trees he loved so well.

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From his little house at Stanley the late JR Chisolm was buried on Monday afternoon. The coffin was placed on the lower carriage of a buggy; and drawn by a little grey horse the cortege wended its way in all decorum up the slope of one of the ridges that overlooked the house. Here a grave had been prepared; and tenderly and with reverence the coffin was placed therein.

The Rev Canon Williams conducted the service and those assembled at the grave could not but be impressed. The noble burial service of the English Church, carrying its message of comfort and hope, delivered in rich yet simple oratory on that timbered slope, the clear heaven overhead, and to the eastward, deep blue and beautiful, loomed the grand wooded heights of Mount Elliott. It was a service and a setting that would have appealed to Mr Chisolm, so simple, earnest, helpful and sincere was it. Out there in the wooded country amongst the hills this tired old North country man should sleep soundly and at peace.

The funeral was attended by many representative men of Townsville; and the country men in the vicinity of Stanley and from distances had attended in numbers, the coffin being carried from the buggy to the grave by members of the Harbour Board, the Townsville Pastoral society and two members of the literary staff of the North Queensland Newspaper Company.

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Further details of the death of Mr JR Chisolm are to the effect that he was riding over his property with his son-in-law Mr Ellis. They parted and agreed to meet at noon at a place called the Leichhardt Waterhole. Mr Ellis was late at the appointment and as Mr Chisolm was not there he went on to his home where he expected to find deceased. He was not there and when a boy came over from Mr Chisolm's residence and said he had not been there, Mr Ellis at once started for the Leichhardt Waterhole. On arriving there he saw the horse Mr Chisolm had been riding tied up and a few yards away in the sun lay the rider, lying with his head on his arm. He had evidently been attempting to reach a shady tree but had collapsed. That he was conscious after he fell was shown by the fact that his hat had been placed at an unusual angle in order to keep the sun off his head.

When Mr Ellis arrived, Mr Chisolm appeared to recognise him but could not speak. Mr Ellis unsaddled his horse, placed the saddle against a tree, carried Mr Chisolm over and placed him in the saddle in a reclining position. He then galloped on Mr Chisolm's horse to his house, put the pony in the trap and with Mrs Ellis drove up to the waterhole. Mr Chisolm was still alive but he expired in a few moments without speaking.

In his clothes some time later was found a tin match box. On the bottom of the box was scratched the message: "Very wampie, heart angina, pain." On the other side of the box was another message: "Cannot live forever."

An autopsy showed the cause of death to be aneurism of the aorta, dilation of heart, heart failure.

Mr Chisolm leaves one son, Mr Wm Chisolm, who has a place in the Prairie district, and four daughters, Mrs McLean (Loddon), Mrs W Willis (Valley Farm), and the Misses Isabel and Fern Chisolm.

## **21 Nov 1927 (p101, NA, NQR)**

There is Joy in Nelia

Nelia, a township situated on the Townsville-Cloncurry line 368 miles west of Townsville, is jubilant. As every schoolboy knows Nelia is situated alongside the railway line out on the open plains. It is not

thickly populated, anyway not so far as one would notice it, but what the people lack at Nelia in numbers they have in enthusiasm and faith in their progressive village.

For long years beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant Nelia has been dependent for its water supply upon a precarious rainfall and water has been caught on the iron roofs and stored in tanks and was treated respectfully. Latterly an additional supply has been obtained from the railway department. This has been carried to Nelia in gins and emptied into tanks at Nelia alongside the railway line and during the summer time the water generally gets that hot that it has been known to melt the solder on the tanks. Of course I speak purely from hearsay.

From the tanks the water has been conveyed to the various houses by means of buckets and dippers and any other old receptacle which happened to be handy and it is not hard to imagine that water under these conditions is treated with some care as it was in the early days of Kalgoorlie when the weekly bath in a sardine tin was looked upon as a luxury.

Now all this is changed and if anyone wants to buy good secondhand tanks of good quality they can be purchased at Nelia. It was on Tuesday the 15th November 1927 when Contractor HM Bode, who has been busily engaged for some months past boring a hole in the ground, just as the Nelia town clock chimed the hour of 4.15 pm, that the bore pierced the lid of the water supply and beautiful cool artesian water, clear as crystal gushed to the surface at the rate of 200,000 gallons a day and all the population of Nelia rushed to the bore head to witness the phenomenon.

It was a day of great rejoicing in the little township, a day upon which water in practically unlimited quantities, all day long for every day of the year came into the town. Mr Telford tells me that the water is exceptionally clear and contains a very low percentage of minerals which frequently render artesian water unpalatable, whilst the temperature of the water is very much lower than that of neighbouring bores in the vicinity.

Since Tuesday as boring operations have proceeded the flow of water has increased and at a depth of approximately 1110 feet there is now a flow of 150,000 gallons per 24 hours. The eventful day was celebrated by general rejoicing and the health of the bore was drunk in beverages of a stronger growth not so free from deleterious matter.

It is questionable whether the present generation of Nelia residents will be induced to take to it willingly but it is hoped that steps will be taken by the Education Department to train the children to accept the water in preference to the cup that cheers and creates headaches.

Just at present the water is flowing along the channels made for the purpose and a scheme is on foot to excavate a large swimming pool in the vicinity of the town and erect a hydropathic establishment within reasonable distance of the post office and it is hoped that in the near future with close attention to business and an extension of that civility and hospitality for which Nelia is proverbial that in a few years this rising township will become the Carlsbad of North-west Qld and the Mecca of persons suffering from rheumatism, sciatica, gout and similar complaints.

## **26 Dec 1927 (p96, NQ624, NQR)**

Vale "Along the Line"

Bushman – Historian – Gentleman

(Johnstone River Advocate)

(By EJ Eastwood, Babinda)

The sad news of the passing away of "Along the Line" Chisolm came as a shock to all old Qlders. His notes and comments in the newspapers were familiar to all Northern readers and many a one turned over the pages to see what "Along the Line" had to say.

I do not think there was a man living who was better acquainted with the Qld back country than JR Chisolm. Over north and south he had wandered either by main road or by bush track; east and west, all roads seemed to be old familiar pads to him; and now he has taken the final track, the track without a turn and has gone where we all must go.

The late Mr JR Chisolm as a tall young lad left Victoria for the Northland of better opportunity and for

several years knocked about the stations around the Dawson Valley and Peak Downs. About 1882 he was, for a while, subcontracting on the railway line at that time being constructed by Messrs Mann, Carey and Company across the NSW plains from Nyngan to Girilambone, and on towards Bourke on the Darling.

The writer first met him whilst wool pressing on the Flinders River in 1886. He was then taking small lots of fat wethers down to the Northern railhead at Torrens Creek. Next year I was working on the railway lengths at Bullock Creek and Mr Chisolm's small station was about two miles down the creek. He often picked up the train at our camp on his way down the line towards the Towers.

Afterwards he did a lot of travelling up and down the rails and commenced writing for the papers; his articles dealing with the state of the Western Downs and stock generally attracted the attention of pastoralists throughout the North West.

Possessed of a wonderful memory his experience of the back country made him an unrivalled authority on past history and development of the sheep and cattle land and of the people who lived there extending as it did over half a century. A year or two ago he contributed to the Press several articles dealing with the topography and history of the Flinders, Landsborough, Thompson and Diamantina Rivers.

In course of time when the old-time pioneers of the West are dead and gone such articles as these will be almost priceless to the historian; whose task it is to try and show to future generations some idea of the life and conditions which are even now becoming a thing of the past. He was a great authority on the origin and meaning of the names of places in the Central and north-western districts and to those who were endeavouring to trace and place on record the origin of our place names, he rendered great service.

Now that he has gone his value to the community will become known. Like many of the old hands in the North he really and truly died in harness. Riding round looking for stock he commenced to feel a weakening, or as he put it, "Wampie" – a regular bushman's term for feeling out of sorts – and dropping off the horse made for the shade to lie down but could not reach it; and so he scratched his last message on his matchbox and gradually passed out being barely conscious when his son in law found him.

Amongst the men with whom "Along the Line" for most of his time mixed it was a point of honour "to die game," and so good old "Along the Line" attained that distinction. He died fighting to the last.

## **26 Dec 1927 (p102, NQ623, NQR)**

The Speedway

Son o'Mine Again Beats Koongal

Last night's speedway meeting at the Show Grounds drew a splendid crowd keen on seeing the motor cycle racing and also keen to ascertain which of the two goats, Son o'Mine (Townsville) or Koongal (Rockhampton) would win the title of champion of Qld.

Seeing that Son o'Mine won so convincingly last meeting everyone was trying to make himself or herself think that Son o'Mine would repeat that creditable performance. This the Townsville representative did and his win was full of merit.

Koongal on the outside was slightly quicker than Son o'Mine off the mark. Son o'Mine, however, temporarily took up a lead of half a yard but the Rockhampton champion shot to the front again. Later the goats drew level and a very keen race ensued. At the turn for home Son o'Mine came away from his opponent and won brilliantly. About ten yards before he reached the post Koongal slewed off the course but this occurrence did not affect the race as at the time it happened Son o'Mine had crossed the line. Great excitement prevailed from the commencement of the race till its conclusion.

## **19 Mar 1928 (p? NA, NQR)**

Poem quoted from "On the Track"

With lash and lurid order

They will swing across the Border

The dust upon the lading making extra weight to pull  
And the drunken township loafer  
Staggers blindly from the sofa  
Just to cheer the first team over with the Thurulgoona wool

The days when the heavily-laden teams loaded with big bales of wool branded with stations which carried musical aboriginal name have almost disappeared from those parts where the merino flourishes.

**26 Mar 1928 (S7 NA, NQR)**

St Barnabus church opened Nov 1927, JC

**28 May 1928 (p50, NQ629, NQR)**

Wyma

(By MM Bennett)

Wyma in her life saw the changes of a million years, for when she was born in the early fifties of the nineteenth century the white man had not come to disturb the Stone Age. Her full name was Boolooden Timullaya Bunberry of the Dalleburra tribe; her birthplace Beroota (a waterhole on Skeleton Creek) by whose placid waters where blue water-lilies grow her happy early years were spent.

While she was still a child she was married to the notable fighting-man and *ko-bee-berry* (chief or wise man) Warmboomooloo and taken to Newjenna waterhole below Narkool (on which the old Lammermoor homestead was built) about 15 miles south of her beloved Beroota. She was the Cinderella of Warmboomooloo's camp and all had to do their share which was \* utmost. Wyma's quick eyes and brain and little nimble body were always on the alert to provide food; nobody could track down the smallest lizard so unerringly; no one was so cleaver in finding emu's nests. But Wyma never ate the emu eggs; only Warmboomooloo being a *ko-bee-berry* could eat them and live; he used to tell Wyma that if she ate them she would die, and nothing would have induced here to break the traditions of her tribe.

I remember when Wyma was between forty and fifty, how she would plunge into a waterhole to pick water-lillies for us children and though she then suffered from rheumatism she would dive and swim under water or tread the water and seemed as much at home as on land. I remember seeing her take her boots off and climb a tall straight Gidgea tree and stand on a bough twenty feet above the ground while with both hands grasping a tomahawk she chopped away lustily at the bough just beyond her feet where there was a "sugar bag" or wild bee's hive. We, pampered white children called out that she would overbalance and fall and for reply she laughed merrily and chopped with a more gay bravado. She scooped the brown sandalwood-scented honey into a billycan and strained it through a muslin for us. She used to sing *korobbery* songs to us; one was about the bronze-winged pigeon –

*Tummer-rummer wonggalee pooree-pooree nee-ah,"*

(Flutters the bronze-wing pigeon lightning like)

*Kumtung ee-owlah moon yerah yooringga."*

(This line is about capturing it)

She used to tell us about her early days, about Warmboomooloo and the two other wives; they were all very jealous. The oldest wife being lame was called Turra-Wee-Wee which means "something wrong with her legs." She was not therefore idle, but could grind barley-grass seed between two stones; and there were nets to be made and dilly-bags and head ornaments.

It was in Warmboomooloo's camp that Wyma first heard of a strange apparition in the Dalleburra country and soon afterwards, from a hiding place, Warmboomooloo and his wives saw that the Thing was two creatures, for the white man got off his horse and picked up grass or a pebble to examine it. No harm befell them and they recovered quickly from their first superstitious fear.

The white man brought many animals which were easy to catch and good to eat and greedy Warmboomooloo began to prefer mutton to kangaroo. But the white man took great care of his sheep and Warmboomooloo had to resort to strategy to obtain his favourite food. He sent his middle-aged wife who was more experienced than Wyma and more active than turra-Wee-wee, with lotuses on her head as a disguise to swim under water and catch a ram by the legs when it came down to drink. The

device succeeded but Christison, who counted his flock every night, now dropped on Warmboomooloo's camp and found a leg of mutton boiling on Gidgea embers. He gave Warmboomooloo a whipping and promised him another if there were any more depredations. Not for nothing had Warmboomooloo upheld taboos.

Wyma understood that she would have to provide more roots to eat, more birds, fish and all kinds of game to make up for the prohibited mutton. Christison would not let the myalls have any profit from their theft. He made them fetch every portion of the ram and pile dead branches in a pyre. And they watched their supper burn in the strange bonfire – so wrong from their point of view. For a blackfellow likes a small fire that will cover his camp with a blanket of thin smoke, warming his body and keeping away mosquitoes; a log that will smoulder at one end all night that he can carry through the day to rekindle his campfire in the evening; that will bake his food in hot ashes and boil it on its embers; that will sink and be dull when he wishes to hide his whereabouts; that will steam upwards in a column of smoke when he wants to signal. Only the wasteful white man announces himself by a big blaze, ignorant of cooking, disregarding signals, careless of the danger of fire to the bush and its denizens.

Wyma hunted and cooked for Warmboomooloo, faithful till he died, and always spoke of him with admiration.

After his death she should have gone to his eldest brother but perhaps Warmboomooloo had no brother left, or perhaps Wyma, vivacious, wilful, aware of her own value, decided to dispose of her hand herself. Her favourite suitor was a kanaka stockman called Freddy-kanaka, to distinguish him from the other Freddies but he gave his name as Freddy Cameron considering it more stylish. The first Bishop of North Qld, Dr Stanton, was at the station on a visit to Christison and Wyma desired to be married according to the English rite. Christison had instructed some of the blacks in the simple elements of Christianity and they had readily embraced the idea of an Almighty Creator who was also the Father of all and had accepted eagerly the New Testament story. So the Bishop talked with the aborigines and then baptised about thirty of them; afterwards he read the simplest marriage service over Wyma and Freddy and Wyma was breathless with awe.

Later when Bishop Barlow was visiting the station and Christison put it to all, white and black, that the Bishop was doing so much for them and what were they going to give towards the work. And all brought their contributions except Freddy who happened to be away at an outstation. Wyma took it to heart, went to Christison and asked for a pound of Freddy's wages to give the Bishop. "Freddy would wish it," she said proudly. She always had a great desire to do the right thing and that others should do it. I remember when Freddy was convalescing after dengue fever how she requested that I would come and read to him "about Jesus" and her radiant attentiveness when I complied.

Christison had a hut built for Wyma and Freddy at the black's camp and Wyma brought thither her nets and strings of emu shells, her yam-stocks, and all the paraphernalia of her old life adding, as the years went by, presents from Mrs Christison: a swing mirror, a feather bed, a Paisley shawl, a number of dresses, framed photographs and all kinds of gear. As she had appraised the grain of wood for making a yam stick, and the roughness of bark fibre for making string nets, so now she judged the quality of cashmere and serge; and when the Hughenden Show and Races were on and Freddy turned a store upside down for a present for her she shook her head at the inferior quality of the merchandise till at last, relenting, she accepted the frilliest of nightgowns.

She became a very clever house and parlour maid and took great pride in keeping the house clean and tidy. From house parlour maid she was promoted to nursemaid; she was never so happy as when she was minding children and her own children had died in infancy. I used to abuse "blackfellows" to her; not realising that she was black and she only beamed on me indulgently.

When I grew up and became interested in aboriginal handicrafts, she used, when she was doing my room, to leave something on my dressing table for me – a quartz knife or a headband or a grass necklace. And when I went down to her hut in the afternoon to ask her about it she would have tidied the place and be putting the finishing touches to her toilet, parting her hair and smoothing her curls with a brush dipped in water in expectation of a visit.

She loved to describe how they made their articles of use and adornment. *Poorrbooroo*, the necklace of golden bugles, incised with lines, was cut from the freshwater reed and enriched with a white sheet



pendant, called “tiggery.” *Chairrbo* was a net band whitened with a paste of powdered tale; it was worn tied round the forehead. *Murry-murry* was a net headband of string made from flax fibre, stained red with a paste of powdered red-sandstone, the gum of the bloodwood tree (*tangga kamboona*) and red clay. It generally had a shell dangling from the centre.

She showed me how they used the yam-stick, a long flat stick for digging up sandalwood trees on the edge of a sandridge. The yam cannot be cooked (1A) but it is invaluable as a thirst quencher. It was the most important medicine the blacks had for fever and ague when they mashed it into a pulp and mixed it with the gum of the whitewood tree *tangga woombooro*. But the yam stick could be used in defence and Wyma went through a variety of evolutions while she challenged an imaginary foe in a torrent of black language. What a shrill climax of *Wykooee!* (base, vile, very bad) she gave a mighty lunge, caught sight of herself in the swing mirror, and went into fits of laughter at herself. She had the keenest sense of humour, great dramatic power, deep affection, decent reserve.

I last saw her in 1910 when my father sold the station to Mr Coldham. The manager told me how much Wyma had been looking forward to waiting on me and what a disappointment it was to her to be laid up with dengue fever when I arrived. “She’s a wonderful old gin,” he declared, “we found out what it was like not to have a woman about the place when she was ill.” As he had always spoken with contempt of the blacks I said I could not understand his bringing himself to speak with sympathy and respect of any member of that despised race. He stated – “Wyma is different.”

Wyma and Mary were different from the younger civilised generation for they had remained savages, self respecting, self-reliant, extravagantly loyal. They had never been humiliated and debased.

Wyma was recovering and I found her in the little garden at the back of the hut, looking at the pineapple and castor oil plants and the cotton bushes grown from seed that my father had given the blacks to try. She had collected a bag of cotton of her own-growing to give me. At the end of her garden was a packing case full of plaster-casts which the manager had turned out of the idle studio when he had taken it for the office. Wyma explained that he had told her to throw them away, “but,” she explained, ‘belong Missus and *pamboons* (children), me keep ‘em myself.’ ”

She apologised for the untidiness of her hut. The poor old soul had not been able to do more for herself than was absolutely necessary though she had kept the house beautifully clean and spick and span. I was prepared for untidiness, but not to find a miserable young black woman with a half-caste baby; she was wearing some of Wyma’s clothes; her hair was dragged back in a bun denoting that she was “civilised”; and she smoked incessantly while she sat there by the hour, never speaking, never raising her eyes from the ground.

The baby was an utter contrast to all the black children I had ever seen. Instead of glowing copper it was sickly yellow; instead of the vivacity and attentiveness of aboriginal children, it had a vacant look, mean and complaining, and its wobbly mouth was pulled down at the corners in a whine.

The mother was Jenny Lin from a camp of blacks at Torrens Creek township, the father a white man unknown. Jenny Lin’s husband, Black Charley, was in the lockup and Wyma was taking care of Jenny Lin and the baby. I told Wyma that she must have her hut to herself; Jenny Lin could have the empty hut that had been Barney’s.

The police said the cause of the trouble was grog and were so far right that grog had blinded a young black man to the imprudence of courting the wife of such a big sturdy fellow as Black Charley when Charley was by. Charley carved up the imprudent one so efficiently that both men immediately found themselves in duress – one in hospital the other in prison. Did the Magistrate punish the rascally white people who had broken the law by selling liquor to an aboriginal? Did he release the man whose crime was protecting his wife? Of course not. Jenny, defenceless in a world full of perils, resembled an animal in her fear, in her despairing tenacity, in her anxiety to escape notice, and none could guess that under the protective colouring of a listless, downcast demeanour she was keenly intent to hear and learn whatever she could.

One night she stole a crowbar and passed it in to Charley who had already tried every log in the gaol and quickly made his escape. He might have got right away but he would not abandon his wife and his wife would not abandon the wretched half-caste baby – the white man’s burden borne by the hapless

black woman to the destruction of the hapless black man.

They made their way westward, camping in scrubs by day, coming out at night like hunted beasts to water, disguising their own tracks while looking for tracks of game for food till they came at length to the western ironstone range with its dead ironbark forest and wild precipices that command the Downs. The stony ground cut their feet but took no imprint that would be discoverable by white men and if there was little sustenance for any living thing there was less likelihood that they would be looked for in such a desolate region.

Not one white man knew where they were, but the blacks at the Lammermoor homestead knew and were secret while they sent the fugitives food and clothing and news of the seeking police by a black stockman who was resourceful and discreet. Weeks passed, days of thirst and nights of terror, for the range was without water. When it was dark the fugitives made their way to *Woody-oo-roorrna* (Gardiner's Creek), but the few little pools were drying up; soon they had to travel back as far as Raff's Creek for water.

One day blind chance brought the police riding down on them: it was easy to catch Charley for he made no attempt to run away; it was less easy to handcuff him but the policemen were fine big fellows too and secured him. They were delighted with their find but puzzled what to do with the woman and the baby, till one had the idea of leaving them with the old gins at Lammermoor. So Wyma sent her boy husband, Black Cardwell (Freddy had died some years before) to the mens' hut and took Jenny Lin under her care.

Whether so wretched a creature as Jenny felt affection for her protectress would be hard to say, but she knew that Wyma was her defence and kept close at her side. It was the black stockman who had brought them succour who now asked the manager's permission to take Jenny Lin for his wife; he was in a hurry to get in his request before the other blackboys. The manager's refusal was so sharp and Wyma's chaperonage so constant that Khea was forced to see the hopelessness of his suit, but life seemed poor without a woman of his own – Wyma did not obey my order to remove Jenny to the empty hut!

I went down to the camp again that evening when the blacks were at supper for I wanted Wyma to give me the aboriginal names for some botanical specimens that I had brought back from a ride to the Range. One stalk had leathery leaves set alternately and Wyma considered it a moment then exclaimed that it was the shrub *to-noo* which grows in the *Koribberum* (mountains) and a thrill ran through the camp for that was Koonkoolmujja's country. Who or what was Koonkoolmujja, man or beast or devil, Wyma could not say but he lives in the mountains alone and sometimes you could see him moving, oh, but very quickly – Wyma acted the story as she told it, scrambling along on all fours; when Koonkoolmujja was still he could not be distinguished from the rocks and twisted scrub; it was only when he moved that you could see him.

And then came the horror. Always Koonkoolmujja was looking, looking; "presently he see somebody," Wyma explained and imitated a four-footed beast trying to stand upright, swaying, knees bent, elbows crooked in grotesque angles, hands shading her eyes which peered intently. When Koonkoolmujja finds a traveller he entertains him hospitably and shared his food with him but always he is looking at him – and anyone who meets Koonkoolmujja's eyes becomes silly. An old gin saw him and became silly and lives alone on the range without any clothes and only what she can catch to eat.

"I seen Koonkoolmujja," Jenny Lin announced earnestly, speaking and looking up for the first time, come alive through the marvellous power and sympathy of Wyma's acting.

The spell was broken. "I not seen Koonkoolmujja," Wyma declared candidly, adding with charming hauteur, "and suppose I see him I not silly."

Mrs Coldham cared tenderly for the old blacks who rewarded her and Mr Coldham with the loyal devotion that they had given my father. One by one they died; and at last Wyma was left alone. The beloved mistress went south and Wyma's loneliness was complete, though the manager and his wife were very kind to her.

Wyma appeared fit and well when, in the beginning of the third week in June 1926, she suddenly got

the idea that she was going to die and began making preparations vigorously. One of the old blacks, dying, had left his box of things in her care; she now dragged the box out of her hut and burnt it with its contents; then she cleaned out her hut and scrubbed out boxes observing – “No good leave things dirty.” Last she asked the manager’s wife to write for her to old blacks on neighbouring places saying goodbye. All this was done early in the week and everything went on as usual, Wyma seeming very fit and getting about and quite happy; but on Saturday morning as she was on her way to the kitchen she was seen suddenly to sit down on the ground. She was picked up and carried to her hut and she became more or less unconscious and passed away on Sunday evening, June 27th, 1926.

Mrs Coldham wrote to me: “You will notice there was no message for, and no mention of, you and me which was so typical of Wyma’s wonderful loyalty. No matter how kind anyone might appear to her she was ever silent about those she served and loved. They were sacred and she honoured no one with either chatter or messages; but I know that her thoughts reached out to us just as she knew ours reached out to her and I always explained to her that the same sun, moon and stars looked down on us all and when we looked at them we thought of her looking at them too and she knew that ‘God is ever-present Love,’ and she had no fear of going and often spoke of those who had gone before. I can never think of Lammermoor without Wyma.”

I must add that I used to write to Wyma once a year for Christmas but (though I had no idea that we were going to lose Wyma) on the afternoon she died I was writing to her from my home in Hertfordshire, June 27th, 1926, a Sunday.

1. Beroota was a waterhole near old Foulden outstation above the Stony Crossing of Skeleton creek.
2. Ko-bee-berry signifies in Dalleburra a chief or wise man;
3. Newjenna was the Garden waterhole below Narkool the waterhole on which the old Lammermoor homestead was built.

1. Boagrakulla 2. dillies were bags they carried their possessions in.

1A A note by Robert Christison the pioneer settler of Lammermoor.

The sketch of Wyma so intimately and so tenderly drawn is written by Mrs MM Bennett a daughter of the late Robert Christison of Lammermoor. It depicts the affection and appreciation that many pioneer white women had for the aborigines of that adventurous period.

Mrs Bennett holds a strong brief for the protection and saving of the remaining black people of Australia. One by one the old blacks are dropping out for they are not immune to the withering hand of time and, with the pioneers who thrust themselves upon them, their lives are eventually rounded off with sleep. Men like Robert Christison and poor and often despised black women like Wyma had lived through a trying period, a period that tested both white and black alike. It was inevitable that in the clash between representatives of the present age and those of the stone age period the people of the latter regime, all unprepared, must eventually be vanquished.

Unfortunately, most of our pioneers lacked scientific training and, sad to say, often a sympathetic understanding in matters pertaining to the blacks and consequently so much that was of vital interest in the customs, lives and beliefs of our black people has been lost. But those who knew them in their native state are not prepared to accept the somewhat universal dictum that the original inhabitants of Australia were a stupid, revengeful, unintelligent people.

There have been many Wymas in the lives of our older bush women and one has but to recall men like Tom of Dunk Island, Jimmy Toomba of Bluff Downs and The General of Cargoon to realise there were athletes amongst the men and much ability, manliness, latent dignity and loyalty. In a thousand ways they were wonderful and as Mrs Bennett remarks in her admirable book, “Christison of Lammermoor,” “in them we lose something precious that can never be recovered, the fresh artless loveliness of the latest surviving children of primitive earth.”

“Cestus”

To this charming sketch of Wyma, Mrs Coldham who knew and appreciated the fine old Dellaburra woman adds, "Wyma in all my years at Lammermoor, was a faithful assistant, patient, understanding and loyal. She seldom let me out of her sight and when I was indisposed her slim old figure was mostly within sight and her ear within call. At night she would hover around the garden, anxious and desirous of being of use. Her affection for me and mine was almost pathetic, so wholesouled, and unselfish was it. She asked nothing but to be near us and on visiting Townsville would sleep protectively outside my door. Reared under the original tribal conditions of her race, Wyma was instinctively polite and understanding. She had the light touch and deft hands of her people, a quick brain, and her laughter and sense of fun, was contagious, though, as the years close in, Wyma grew more reserved and the dignity of her slim figure became more accentuated. Wyma, though black, was a wonderful woman, essentially feminine and sweet, and to her do I owe much that can never be repaid."

### **28 May 1928 (p97, NA, NQR)**

JC, May 19 – The Aerial Medical Service was inaugurated from Cloncurry to the outlying parts of the far west by a visit of the Special Ambulance Plane to JC on the 17th instant. The plane, in charge of Pilot Affleck, left the aerodrome at 9.10 am carrying Dr K St Vincent Welch who recently arrived from Sydney to establish the Service.

Mr Kynvett, Police Magistrate was the first passenger by the plane to JC on the auspicious occasion. Mr Knybett also represents the Australian Inland Mission which body was primarily responsible for the circle of centres to be served by the "Flying doctor".

JC was reached in one hour and ten minutes flying and a perfect landing effected near the cattle yards. Dr Welch was met on arrival by a number of local residents and judging by the warmth of their reception made the genial Medico soon feel quite at home.

Formal introductions over the party proceeded to the Bush Nursing Centre in charge of sister M Dickson, ATNA late of Melbourne. Already JC people feel grateful for what has been done for them and no doubt remains but what the movement will receive the wholehearted support it deserves.

Australia in general and this community in particular should feel proud of the fact that an Australian Doctor and Pilot were the first selected to establish this Mission of Mercy.

Dr Welch has had 20 years general bush experience under somewhat similar conditions to these parts; in addition to his experience as one of Sydney's leading specialists and the public should feel grateful that he has the spirit to leave a home and lucrative practice to come to these parts; bringing with him the latest in skill and science for the medical comfort of those whose occupations compel them to reside away from ordinary range of civilisation. All eyes of the medical world are now on Australia watching with intense interest the first of a great experiment and it behoves us to lend the necessary moral support to make the venture the success it deserves and merit the National 'Advance Australia.'

### **28 May 1928 (p104, NA, NQR)**

JC, May 19 – Monday night 7th instant was a Gala night at the local School of Arts where a Children's Plain and Fancy Dress Ball was held under the auspices of a joint committee of the Church of England Ladies' Guild and a social committee of the RC Church. The thanks of the community are due to the ladies concerned for the example shown also the efficient way in which the comfort of the children and adults were catered for. Special praise is due to Mr and Mrs Petersen for the way in which the children were taught the Grand March which was a spectacular event; the picturesque costumes showing to advantage. Mrs CS Byrne assisted by Miss Gillett and Mr and Mrs Flores, Mr McGuickin attended to the musical arrangements; the lighting by Mr Lance Lewis and door was taken by Mr JS Tracey assisted by Mrs Mitchell. Mr Murray carried out the duties of MC in a very efficient manner. A feature of the evening was a new departure in the arrangements for the dancing: Children from 7.30 pm to 11 pm when they had to leave the floor and the remainder of the night to the adults much to their joy. It is hoped the innovation will become an established practice. The following list of prize winners together with description of costumes worn by the youthful participants:

Best set: Bernie Fidler, Walter Fidler, Herb Wilder, Charles Lowe, Lucy Byrne, Edna Eckford, Emily Wilder, Ivy Edwards ('Aboriginals')

Best couple: Betty Harris, Jack Mitchell ('Dutchies')

Best single costume girls: Kathleen Graham ('Golden Butterfly')

Best single costume boys: Joe Mathews ('Toreador')

Most original costume girls: Inez Flores ('Gypsy')

Most original costume boys: Lloyd Timms ('Swaggie')

Prettiest single costume girls: Valma Harris ('Powder Puff')

Best comic boys: Bill Tracey ('Golliwog')

Special prizes: Helen and Jim Downey ('Masqueraders'); Albert Wilder ('Baker'); Harold Walters ('Footballer Joe Daley')

Others in fancy costume were: Joffrette Casey and Glyn Murray ('Follies'); Thelma Petersen ('Jazzy Pierotte'); Rita Byrne ('The sweetest thing on Earth'); Bosie Byrne ('Butcher'); Jenny Byrne ('Goodnight'); Clive Wilder ('Red Devil'); Coral Eckford ('Alladin'); Jim Eckford ('Oliver Twist'); Mannie Sills ('Hinkler'); Norm Downey ('Hinkler')

### **23 Jul 1928 (p99, NQ627, NQR)**

JC, 17 Jul – Since the aeroplane doctor has been stationed at Cloncurry he has been called to JC on several occasions. This service is most valuable to persons at isolated centres and first-class medical aid can be obtained within a few hours notice. In this respect we are almost as well provided for as the city folk.

It is understood this service on a 12-month probation and if proved satisfactory, service will definitely be established. As far as JC and district is concerned it has proved a most valuable and satisfactory service and I am confident that the fund for the maintenance of this service will be well contributed to.

Mr W Davis Snr, met with rather a painful accident last week when a bale of wool fell on his back. Mr Davis escaped very luckily with a few sinews being strained and he will be able to resume his usual occupation by the end of this month.

A new bore is being sunk at JC situated behind the School of Arts building. The contractors are Messrs J Titchburn. Boring commenced on July 11 and on Tuesday July 17 a depth of 148 feet was attained. Very solid matter was struck when down but a few feet, but of only a thin layer. From then on boring has been through grey shale. It is considered the contractors have made very good progress and it is anticipated to strike a good flow of water at 1100 feet.

### **30 Jul 1928 (p18, NA, NQR)**

Vanishing Aboriginal  
Dusky Tribes of North Qld

Wherever the white man's pathway leads  
(Far, far has the pathway gone)  
The earth is littered with broken creeds,  
And always the dark man's tent recedes,  
And the white man pushes on;  
For this is the law, be it good or ill;  
All things must yield to the stronger will.  
[Yet the dusky race is with us still]  
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

The aborigines of North Qld are vanishing. Within a span of a few generations the tribes have crumbled into pitifully small numbers. A few generations more will see quite bared of them the land they held in an exclusive sovereignty when we white men first discovered it. There is a majestic pathos in the woes

– a tragedy so great that it must be regarded as an epoch-making matter.

The white man that invaded this State in the long past have scattered the aboriginals to the winds and have sadly reduced their ranks. The causes that have combined to hasten the end of the tribes in North Qld may be summarised under the three heads of disease, vice and what for want of a better word I will call enervation. This third cause of the decadence of the black race was a normal influence not less potent than the physical ones. Despoiled of his ancestral territory on the one hand and on the other supplied with rations, clothing and “fire-water” by the white settler, the aboriginal gradually lost his independence and from the free untrammelled denizen of the bush gaining his livelihood by hunting he became a listless idler around the homes of the Europeans.

At the present time there are only a few survivors of the Mount Eriott blacks who roamed about the vicinity of Cape Cleveland yet before the arrival of white settlers they were a powerful tribe. Furthermore, they were cannibals and were known to eat those of their own tribe who were killed in battle but did not devour their enemies.

Polygamy existed in this tribe and some of the men had as many as eight or nine wives.

### **27 Aug 1928 (p78, NQ626, NQR)**

Big sheep Moving Job

Three Lorries do the Work

Mr Jowett desired to shift 7527 weak sheep from Spreyton to Bunda Bunda a distance of 120 miles with many sandy crossings. He let a contract to Mr W Matthews shearing contractor, JC, who undertook to shift the sheep which had ten months wool on, by lorry. He used a 6-ton Republic lorry, load 206 sheep, a 4-ton Republic load 160 sheep, and a Ford ton-truck load 106.

The trucks had each three decks. Each trip from Spreyton to Bunda Bunda occupied 18 hours and as the loads were top heavy, great care was necessary in crossing sandy creeks. The cost was 2/9 per head and the loss was only 17 sheep and 6 lambs well under a half percent. The work was done between June 10 and July 12th. Relief drivers were stationed half way. This is considered to be easily the best performance in sheep lifting by lorry to date. A sliding panel from back to front of the lorry prevented the sheep from piling up in a heap.

### **29 Oct 1928 (S7, NQ627, NQR)**

JC's New Town Bore

[See also 23/7/28]

This bore which has recently been completed gives half a million gallons of water a day. It is the only bore in Australia to be cemented between casings all the way down.

### **5 Nov 1928 (S6, NQ628, NQR)**

Photo – Opening of the new Roman Catholic Church by Bishop Shiels

### **5 Nov 1928 (S6, NQ630, NQR)**

Photo – Country Women's Association

### **28 Jan 1929 (p99, NA, NQR)**

JC, 22 Jan – As I go to write there is a strong Sou-easterly blowing which has been with us the last few days. Talking to a few of the old graziers around this district they tell me there is every indication of more rain. The majority of the selectors in and about this district have fared very well so far this year for rain and if the reports are correct, there should be much rejoicing in the near future.

Although the past drought has played havoc in this district, business places seem to be holding their own and I believe we are to have two more hotels in the near future; besides our local picture-show man, Mr J Eckford is making preparations for a new up-to-date picture palace in place where the old one now stands. One has only to look around and you will see cottages of all descriptions creeping up. This speaks well for the town as no doubt its future is assured.

In keeping with the times an energetic body of townsmen put their heads together the last few weeks and the result is we now have a Chamber of Commerce in our midst. If the enthusiasm remains as was

shown at the first meeting great results can be expected from this course... In the writer's opinion it is not before time that such a body as the above was formed as there is no doubt room for improvements, concerning the welfare of the town and district.

By all accounts we are to have our much discussed trucking yards removed from their present site as there appears to be several men on the job already. Undoubtedly when the cattle season is on, the town is enveloped in a cloud of dust while the trucking operations are in progress. Rumour has it that the Nonda sheds and coal stage are to be removed to here. This will no doubt mean a further advantage to the town.

Although everyone seems to be on the go one way or the other, removing stock to and fro, there are still a good few men about here on the unemployment list. I would advise workers looking for toil to secure their jobs first before they decide to make this place their bode of address as the government don't supply any old Gas works or such like here for those that are compelled to sleep beneath the stars.

### **11 Feb 1929 (p98, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 5 – The past three weeks have been extremely disappointing so far as rain is concerned. It as been hot and sultry with clouds banking up only to fade away by morning. Although the country right throught the district looks in perfect order still a few more inches of rain would be beneficial. The flies, let alone being a considerable house pest at present are playing havoc with the stock. It is almost impossible to move about in comfort without a fly veil of some sort.

The writer had the opportunity of coming overland from Cloncurry a few days ago and right through the trip the country looks beautiful, but the recent rains have washed out all the little channels along the road making it very hard in travelling. Stock movements along this route seem to be very brisk as I noticed three diffent mobs of sheep coming along.

The monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held last mOnday, 128th Ultimo. Mr M Byrne presiding. The attendance was good and some very important matters were discussed. Amongst those being reduction of sanitary rates, school residence for the head master, better laid out footpaths and streets formation of fire brigade, shire boundaries reports. It is also resolved that each member plant a suitable tree in the streets with permission of the McKinlay shire Council. This is no doubt a good move as with our new bore and mains already laid down right throughout the town coming direct from the bore, water should not be the drawback. Ten new members were duly elected which now makes the membership up to 30 which speaks well for the Chamber as it was only founded a little over three weeks ago.

It is with regret that I have to report the sad loss of the wife of one of our most popular citizens Mr Alf Hudson. Death took place on the 28th ultimo at a private hospital in Townsville. Deceased was well known and highly respected in this district. Her mother Mrs McTaggart being the owner of Argyle a few miles out from JC. The husband at the time death intervened was attending to his business here but upon receipt of the sad news which came as a shock to all he, together with a sister of the deceased, Mrs Edgar, left for Townsville by car with B Fidler at the wheel arriving in Townsville 26 hours later making good time considering the state of the roads. Mrs McTaggart was with her daughter when she passed away. Arrangements were made for the body to be brought to JC for burial and upon arrival of the train Thursday afternoon the whole community were in attendance to pay their last respects to one so sadly missed. The body was taken from the train to the English Church where an impressive ceremony was held and thence to the cemetery, thirty-one cars following the hearse. The wreaths were numerous, beside many telegrams and letters of condolence. The deceased leaves a daughter and son and a sorrowing husband, mother and sister to mourn her loss.

### **18 Feb 1929 (p19, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 12 – Since writing my last report, good beneficial rains have fallen in this district. For the past week the heat has been oppressive and on Friday night the clouds began to gather and the lightning became very severe. At 1 am we experience one of the heaviest downpours for some time. Many of the householders who were compelled to sleep outdoors owing to the heat, were seen hurrying inside with their bedding in the early hours of the morning lamp lights being seen in practically every house in the town. Although the storm lasted about only an half hour, great falls were experienced. The following were some the writer secured: Garomna 142, Innisfail Downs 50, Osbert 130, St Elmo 150, Maria Downs 38, Fairlea 70, Huddersfield 35, Wallacooloobie 75. In the above storm the wind was terrific but

luckily doing very little damage, a few trees being uprooted beside a few sheets of iron being lifted from old buildings.

Bellevue is likely to change hands in the near future. The present owners Byrne Bros have had a rather successful term with this holding, good rains having been experienced every year and there must be no doubt it is good wool-growing country as record prices have been secured on several occasions for wool grown on this country.

Progress work appears to be moving satisfactory so far as our new railway trucking yards are concerned. Quite a little white city has sprung up in the railway reserve being the homes at present of the construction workers.

Good progress is being made to our new picture stadium, also W Gannon's new hotel. The foundations in both cases being practically laid out. When these two buildings are completed they will certainly be an asset to the town. I understand the construction is under the capable hands of Mr Hammond, contractor.

### **25 Feb 1929 (p90, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 19 – Since writing my last notes weather conditions have been most favourable insofar as rain is concerned. Several showers having fallen overnight and with the exception of one or two of the way places good falls have been experienced practically right throughout the district. The grass is looking great and the stock are all showing signs of the change. The heat is most oppressive, yesterday being one of our hottest days for some time but fortunately a nice shower passed over about 10 pm making the night air most comfortable for sleeping. Needles to mention fly veils of all colours and descriptions are the fashion here at present both for young and old and one would want to be absolutely immune from flies to be without one, otherwise you would have to suffer untold annoyance. This of course is only one of the many inconveniences the western people are subject to what with the flies, heat and drought, life is not overloaded with luxuries in these parts.

### **1 Apr 1929 (p12, NA, NQR)**

Shortly before midnight on Friday one could hear the cries of "Fire" and on answering the call one notices that Mathews Garage is well alight. The fire had too good a hold when the alarm was raised to make any attempt to try and save anything.

Willing workers with the bucket brigade kept the supply of water up to the building occupied by CS Byrne butcher, just opposite and fortunately had everything in their favour as no wind was blowing and the outside iron wall of the garage stood practically till the last. The only other building in the danger zone was Thrower's Blacksmith shop and being a ground floor with the walls of iron, little fear was expressed with this.

At the time of the fire four motor cars that were in the garage under repairs were damaged beyond any hope of repair. A considerable quantity of lubricating oil, in big 40 gallon drums, made it a spectacular sight. Columns of black smoke leaping into the sky. Luckily there was no benzene at the time in the garage but the bowser on the footpath suffered severe damage from the heat of the burning building.

What might have been an inconvenience was fortunately avoided with the aid of a fire extinguisher in so far that one of the main telegraph poles carrying many lines caught alight. Had this pole been burnt many places would be isolated from JC until same could have been repaired.

The fire lasted from about 11.45 pm to about 2 am burning fiercely at times but gradually dying down as the flammable material were being exhausted. The building I understand was owned by AD O'Neill, Barooka and I believe insured and the contents were owned by W Mathews. I am not sure whether there was any insurance on the stock or cars that were burnt. The origin of the fire is not known.

The monthly meeting of the Chambers of Commerce was held last night (25th inst). many important matters were dealt with including the agitation for a Mortuary at JC. Considerable information was received concerning the formation of a fire brigade, the McKinlay Shire Council advised they had purchased a hose, nozzle and hydrant which should meet the requirements of the town for the time being.



**8 Apr 1929 (106, NA, NQR)**

JC, 2 Apr – Eckford's new Picture Hall is practically completed and by all reports it should not be long before we have the movies with us again as since the above has been under construction we have been minus the movies. There is no doubt Mr Eckford has spared no expense in catering for the public and undoubtedly the Hall itself speaks volumes for the future of this town which no doubt is assured.

Another new building, Gannon's Hotel, is well under way, the contractors making good progress within the last few weeks and it should not be too many more months before our genial boniface is serving out nice cool long pots.

The Easter Holidays are now over until next year and nothing of any consequence happened worth reporting except of course the usual argument of the few who usually imbibed one too many and on the whole the conduct of the town was a credit to our Sergeant and his assistant at all times.

One of our well respected citizens made an attempt to have a little secret on his own or at least he confided to another party and they slipped off on the Thursday's mail train to Richmond where they took into their confidence a well known Minister of the Church and after going through the usual formalities they returned on the Saturday's train only to find that their friends were awaiting them and were evidently in the secret also as could be gleaned by the noise of the tin kettling that night, the result being many rounds of drinks and other good things were indulged in before the young and happy couple were left in peace.

I note that we are to have a refreshment stall on our local platform at the railway. Mr Norton whom I believe is also opening up a cafe near the JC Hotel is the possessor of the above stall and judging from the amount of travellers passing to and fro he should have no cause to regret venturing into the above.

**15 Apr 1929 (p75, NA, NQR)**

The Dalgonaally Grazing Homesteads

The four Dalgonaally homesteads will be opened at Cloncurry on Wednesday May 15. These homesteads are situated to the north of the Townsville-Cloncurry line at Gilmore siding. The nearest boundary of the area is about 8 miles from the railway and the farther about 25 miles. The Gilliat River and channels run through the areas and there are flowing bores. Surplus water from the bores must be supplied to adjacent selections.

The areas vary from 28,056 acres to 37,078 and the rents from 1 1/2d to 1 /34d. The improvements are low.

Portion 3 is 28,056 acres, rent 1 3/4, improvements £770/10/-

Portion 4 is 37,078 acres, rent 1 1/2d, improvements £211/10

Portion 1 is 35,718 acres, rent 1 1/2d, improvements £61/10

Portion 3, 33,565 acres, rent 1 1/2d.

**15 Apr 1929 (p97, NA, NQR)**

Extension of Railway

Cloncurry's fight for Connection

The Great Northern Railway now extends 604 miles from Townsville the new extension adding 55 miles to it.

It was a long time before the Cloncurry district secured rail connection with the coast though it was proposed on numerous occasion before connection was made.

The first proposal on record to give the district a railway was made in the early 1880's when the famous Transcontinental (Land Grant) Railway Bill was mooted. A big English company was formed to build a railway in Qld and enter into grazing on a big scale and as a result of their proposals an agreement was entered into between the company and the Qld Government for the construction of a railway from the

south-western line to the Gulf of Carpentaria with branch lines to Hughenden and Cloncurry. Seven and a half years was to be taken in the construction of the line and the company was to receive a bonus of 10,000 acres of Crown lands for every mile of railway south of the Gulf watershed and 12,000 acres north of the watershed. It was estimated the bonus would amount to 12,000,000 acres. The agreement was subject to ratification by Parliament and in 1883 the Premier (Sir Thomas McIlwraith) presented a bill to Parliament to ratify it. Griffith fought the proposal tooth and nail and the bill was defeated on the second reading by 27 votes to 16.

In the eighties there was a proposal to build a line from Normanton to Cloncurry and the amount of £300,000 was appropriated for this purpose. Croyden broke out and in 1887 Palmer proposed in Parliament that sufficient part of the loan money raised for the Cloncurry line should be diverted to the construction of a line from Normanton to Croydon. This was eventually done.

In 1900 there was another proposal to give Cloncurry rail connection with the Gulf. Judge Mansfield was appointed a commissioner to inquire into a charge made by Mr Kidston that an offer had been made to a member of Parliament to influence him in his voting on the bill and on the judge's report, Sir Robert Philp lost no time in dropping the Bill. And Cloncurry was still isolated.

There were not many more years to wait however for a railway but it did not come from the Gulf. The line from Townsville west reached Hughenden in October 1887 and in 1903 and 1904 it was extended to Richmond as a pastoral line. Then came a mining boom at Cloncurry and to develop the copper ore deposits on any scale at all rail connection became necessary. The line was extended under a Guarantee Act and was hurried through. It was a cheaply constructed job, laid for slow mineral traffic of 15 miles per hour and was built at a cost of £1,900 a mile. A big flood the following year damaged it considerably particularly in the vicinity of JC. The section was continued as a light line for a number of years. In fact it is only for several years past that the Department has commenced ballasting and that work continues.

Developments on the Cloncurry field continued and branch lines quickly followed to Malbon and Kuridala (Hampden), and Selwyn, and Malbon to Duchess, with a branch to Trekelano and from Cloncurry to Mount Cuthbert and Dobbyn. A small branch also ran from the Duchess line to the MacGregor mines but which has since been lifted.

The Great Western Railway Act of 1910 which provided for a line from Tobermory in the far south to Camooweal also made provision for the three big trunk lines to link up with it. The south-western line was to extend from Quilpie, the central from Yaraka (on the Blackall branch) to Windorah, the Northern from Winton to Springvale and from Duchess to Sulieman Creek. Twenty one miles was built from Winton to Springvale where it stand unused and 34 miles from Duchess to Djarra. Djarra was the furthest point from Townsville by rail but Mt Isa now takes that position for it is 55 miles from Duchess.

The Duchess-Mt Isa branch was built under the Duchess-Mt Isa Railway Act of 1925, a guarantee line, but it was recently stated that the value of the property and the ability of the Company to successfully work it having been assured, the guarantee would be removed by an amending Act to be introduced into Parliament.

The Railway Departments experience of mining lines in the past ten years has been a disheartening one but it is generally felt that the silver lining to the dark clouds of depression will soon reveal itself and with it an era of prosperity. Cloncurry district residents are quite optimistic in this regard.

### **15 Apr 1929 (p105, NA, NQR)**

JC, 9 Apr – By Friday's train Mr AJ Crowther passed through, together with many other well-known business men from Townsville bound for the official opening of Mt Isa to be held on the Saturday. Mr Crother advised that the new trucking yards would be completed by the end of April and that a separate sheep race was now being installed at the new yards making it convenient to truck and untruck sheep as well as cattle. Further, that instructions had been given to proceed immediately with the construction of a new cement dip at the yards at the same time leaving the old one in its place for those requiring to dip until the new one is completed.

Saturday night [6/4/1929] saw the opening of Eckford's new Picture Hall. This Hall no doubt is a fine

addition to JC. Eckford Brothers are no doubt assured of the prosperity of JC. This building I understand cost somewhere in the vicinity of £14000 [£1400?] and as a Picture Theatre and a dancing hall it stands out on its own in the west. Many outside residents journeyed into town for the opening night and long before the picture were due to start practically every seat had been occupied.

Dr Ralston has now opened up his surgery near Byrne Bros Office, Burke St, temporary, pending the erection of a more suitable place in the near future. His services will be much appreciated as in the past it has been the necessity to send to Cloncurry of Richmond for medical aid when some was required which is rather inconvenient in urgent case.

#### **22 Apr 1929 (p17, NA, NQR)**

Good progress is being made with the trucking yard here and by all accounts no difficulty will be experienced as far as early trucking is concerned. Work has also commenced on the new cement dips which should not take such a long time to complete.

Although I have noticed on numerous occasions severe fines being inflicted on culprits caught "jumping the rattler" it does not seem to make much effect as last Friday about 12 men were landed here enjoying a free passage at the expense of the Government. They were duly brought before the bench and all being broke were the guests of His Majesty for several hours.

I also understand that our Council has purchased fire hose, nozzle and hydrant for use in JC. As the pressure in our mains is only 27 lbs to the square inch this equipment will hardly suffice in the case of fire; that is, if the fire is of any size and has had sufficient time to get a good hold. It is for the public's own benefit that a more substantial apparatus be installed and a fire brigade board duly formed. Of course we must at the same time appreciate the efforts of our councillors in supplying the above equipment as it is the duty of a fire brigade board to control this affair.

Now that this town is growing in leaps and we have some very fine buildings here let us trust that it won't be long before we have a proper equipped fire-brigade formed with full fire apparatus installed.

Although we have cricket, football and tennis clubs in our midst, I must admit that our existing bodies are not over enthusiastic as they have evidently forgotten one of the popular sports which is most beneficial to our rising generation, and that is the rifle club. Surely we must have a few in our midst who can handle a trigger... It is to be hoped that someone with the necessary go in them will make a move to bring this much popular sport into operation.

#### **1 Jun 1929 (p106, NA, NQR)**

JC, Apr 30 – Mr Mick Harris returned overland last week from Brisbane with one of the latest Chevrolet Six touring models. This is a fine piece of workmanship and according to the price Mic should find many eager clients. Mr Claude Peut had also landed one of the latest Chevrolets also Mr H Mathews , Hilton Park, has arrived back with the latest whippet Six.

#### **8 Jun 1929 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jun 4 – Another week of most glorious weather has been experienced. The nights have been most pleasant but in the last few days it has been a little on the warm side which I suppose accounts for the numerous colds about. In conversations with a selector a few days ago he tells me at various places the flies are still bad and troublesome. One would naturally think that with the past cold weather that we have experienced of late the flies would be a thing of the past. However it is pleasing to note they are not so troublesome in the town at present as they no doubt play havoc with the children's eyes.

Yesterday (June 3rd) being a public holiday was looked upon as a Gala Day for JC. The annual gymkhana events such as throwing the bullock, high jump, figure eight motor car race, pigeon shooting and many other interesting events. Each item brought forward many competitors and caused considerable interest to the visitors. The gate receipts were exceptionally good over 200 people paying for admission. As a rule the above is generally held in the recreation reserve but owing to the danger of the bullocks probably doing harm to the public it was though advisable to hold same in the racecourse as it is more convenient from that point of view. Of course naturally it effected the gate receipts as only those fortunate enough to own a motor car were able to attend. I regret to state that our local race club committee have not yet invested in a grandstand or lawn yet for the convenience of the public.

The JC footballers journeyed to McKinlay last Sunday when a freidnly game was indulged between the two teams

From a spectators point of view the game was not up to the standard as most of the players were not in practice. It is understood that the McKinlay footballers intend visiting JC within the near future. The result of the above game was onesided, JC winning by 23 to nil.

### **15 Jun 1929 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jun 11 – In the Summons court, Dr Ralston was before the bench on a complaint that he threatened to do bodily harm to one Les Long. There was no appearance of the defendant and the case was heard ex-parte. After evidence had been given by the complainant the defendant was bound over to keep the peace for a period of six months and to enter into sureties self £25 and another of £25 in default one month's imprisonment at Stewart's Creek gaol.

### **17 Jun 1929 (290617, CA)**

JC, Jul 13 – The new hotel is almost ready. It will be known as "Gannon's Hotel" and has been built to the order of Mr WG Gannon by Messrs Hammond and Sons, building contactors of Townsville, from plans prepared by Mr JG Rooney, architect, also of Townsville. Mr Gannon will open the hotel on the 19th inst and the wheels of the businesss will be working smoothly when the country comes to town for the annual race meeting.

Gannon's Hotel faces the railway station and has a frontage of one hundred and thirty seven feet. It is very modern in its conveniences and no point of comfort has been overlooked. On the upper floor there is a balcony all the way around, ten feet wide in front and nine feet at the sides and back. The twenty three bedrooms have electric light and water and are pleasantly furnished with silky oak bedsteads, duchesses and wash stands. The sic bathrooms have hot and cold water services for showers and plunges and there are separate bathrooms and lavatory for casual visitors who are not boarders, such as travellers passing through. The lounge has a cane suite. The dining room is bright and spacious and is well furnished, and it has three large electric fans for the dog days. There is a very modern island bar with two washers for glasses. The local branch of the Qld National Bank will have its offices in the building and Mr Roy Hampton will have a hairdressing saloon and billiard room there. The proprietor, with a foresight of wet seasons and black mud, has had the hotel yard well gravelled.

The business pioneers of our township evidently did not dream that JC would ever arrive at its present point of development. Many of the business contraptions erected a few years ago are already a blot on the town's appearance and an encumbrance on valuable property. It is pleasing to note that Mr Gannon has built with a vision of the farther progress of the town and I am confident that in ten or fifteen years time Gannon's Hotel will still be spoken of as one of the most comfortable and up to date hotels in the West.

On Saturday the 8th instant, the members of the JC branch of the Qld Bush Nursing Association held their annual general meeting in the School of Arts ...

In the Magistrate's Court [Cloncurry] on the 11th instant, CS Byrne, Byrne Bros, and Joe Kaeser sued Dr F Ralston on account of goods sold and delivered. In the case of Joe Kaeser versus Dr Ralston the money was paid into Court and in the other two cases verdicts were given for the plaintiffs, for whom Mr VF Faithfull appeared.

In the Police Court on the 12th instant, Leslie Long proceeded against Dr Ralston to have him bound over to keep the peace towards him. there was no appearance of he doctor and after the hearing of evidence ex parte, he was bound over to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for six months in two surities, one in £25 and himself in the same amount, and in default of surities he would be imprisoned for one month in Stewart's Creek Gaol. Mr VF Faithfull appeared for the complainant.

[AGM for School of Arts]

### **22 Jun 1929 (p? NA, NQR)**

JC, 17 Jun – It is anticipated that Gannon's new hotel will be opened at an early date as it appears that only the small minor items are to be completed. Mr John Rooney from Rooney's Ltd is here at present attending to the furnishing and at a recent inspection by the writer, there is no doubt when the hotel is

thrown open to the public there will be no room for complaints in so far as the wants of the public are concerned.

At the present moment there are no less than three petitions being signed in our district; namely, one for a direct mail service from here to Normanton; another for a new main road along the same route; and still another for the alteration of the shire boundaries as recommended by the Royal Commission Local Authorities Boundaries report.

### **29 Jun 1929 (p99, NA, NQR)**

JC, 25 Jun – In the last meeting of the Cloncurry Shire Council the chairman, Cr Rose, took very strong objection to some hostile people at the JC end of the Shire taking up a petition asking the Government to adopt the Royal Commissioner's Report relative to the McKinlay Shire alterations to boundaries. True, there are some very hostile people at JC but they happen to be unfortunate ratepayers to the Cloncurry Shire and seeing that they have been sadly neglected is it any wonder they have become hostile.

I see that steps are to be taken to try and prevent the alteration of the said boundaries and at the same time the ratepayers in the McKinlay Shire and those in the Cloncurry shire that are interested in the alteration are leaving no stone unturned to see that the alteration is adopted. It is only natural the ratepayers concerned should be most anxious to bring about the Royal Commission recommendations as there are several good reasons for its adoption and seeing the wonderful progress in this town and district the past few years it will not be before time that the above recommendations be put into effect.

However, there is no doubt that the whole of the ratepayers who are concerned in the alterations are wholeheartedly in support of same and it rests with a little common sense of the Government to see that their wishes are carried out and not listen to the pleadings of selfish and uninterested persons.

### **6 Jul 1929 (p18, NA, NQR)**

JC, 2 Jul – The weather need no commenting on for the past week as it has been one of continuous glorious cool weather. This week is race week and folks from near and far are flocking into town. It is anticipated that the races will eclipse all previous meetings. The nominations are excellent and the weather is ideal. The only thing lacking is that our Committee have not yet ventured into the idea of erecting a grandstand which would no doubt make JC race meetings second to none in this district. Country as well as town folks will be well catered for as far as amusements are concerned. There will be the usual race ball which has at all times been a huge success and a grand concert by the juvenile section with the proceeds in aid of a shelter shed at the school with a dance and excellent supper to follow, beside Eckford's have been fortunate in securing for this week some very special high class moving pictures. There being three days meetings and super attractions at night father will have to come forth with the cheque book and forget for the time being the present state of the wool market.

Not only have we numerous attractions as far as amusements are concerned but at the present moment the town is decorated with all sorts of calico signs advertising the wares of numerous southern business houses who evidently make it a practice of following up the race meetings of any distinction. The most amusing part of it is that these people are allowed to sell at all hours while our local storekeepers are compelled to close their doors at the appointed time, and further, the public seem to flock to these people for their wants and no doubt pay double the price for what they could get locally and just as good if not better.

Woodlands, a property in this district owned by the Stainkey brothers, has been sold to Mr Cribb of Eurimpy. I understand the price received is looked upon as a record for the district.

### **13 Jul 1929 (p18, NA, NQR)**

JC, 9 Jul – Stock agents report very little business for the past week. I notice Drover Ah Chee is on the road with 800 bullocks; also drover Fickling with 1800 mixed cattle, Burketown to Toolebuc. One of our local agents advises me he has a small mob of 6-year-old fat wethers on the market for about six or seven shillings a head. Owing to the present position of the wool market, several selectors feel inclined to sell what they can afford, sooner than pay agistment.

Last Thursday concluded what can be termed as one of the best race meetings held in this district for some time. During race week the town had a very busy appearance. Business houses all report good

business while the two hotels were taxed to their limit; as a matter of fact, several visitors took refuge at our local wool scour.

It is pleasing to report that we are still to have another banking institution in our town, namely, the Bank of NSW which intend opening up in an office adjoining FH Garrity's. This means we now have three banks in our midst which should undoubtedly speak well for the progress of this town and district.

Mrs G Horton has also made improvements to her restaurant which now gives her business its very smart appearance.

Several business people are taking the opportunity of replacing their old signs with bright new ones while Mr Clark the writer who did the writing on Gannon's Hotel is in town.

Mr J Norton, refreshment room keeper, advises me that he has been successful in obtaining an Auctioneer's and Commission Agency license. Mr Norton has only been in our midst a few months but through his most genial disposition and straight forwardness has gained him many friends.

### **20 Jul 1929 (p21, NA, NQR)**

JC, 26 Jul – There has been no marked change in the weather during the past week, bright warm sunshine being the daily portion, accompanied occasionally with a strong southerly wind which gives the air sufficient bite to remind one it is winter, followed by a chilly touch after sunset. As a matter of fact we in these parts are just beginning to realise that winter is upon us and it is full anticipated we are only going to have a very short winter this year.

Mrs TJ Quilty conveyed her daughter Dorothy into the Cloncurry Hospital last Friday week suffering with diphtheria and we are pleased to report the little one is making excellent progress. Sister Dixon (JC) accompanied Mrs Quilty and the unfortunate little patient on the journey.

Wonderful alterations have been carried out to our local railway yards during the past four months. The men's quarter are now practically completed, also the new engine shed and these two buildings alone stand out prominently as an excellent asset to this district. The men's quarters situated practically right opposite the railway station is a two-storied structure, comprising 12 main bedrooms on the top floor with a separate kitchen for the drivers, firemen and guards on the ground floor; also dining rooms, bath rooms and every convenience necessary. This building compared with the present station-master's office and parcel office which are all in one, looks more like a "Queen's Hotel," as there is no doubt plenty of room for improvements when you come to look at the mean little building that is compelled to serve all the above purposes.

Good progress is being made with the new up-to-date coal stage and it should not be long before this centre is officially opened as a main changing station for all trains.

The trucking yards are now fully completed and with the additional sheep-race attached ranks as one of the best along this line. Already several mobs of cattle have gone through this yard and it is a noticeable fact the drovers do not apparently have half the difficulty in yarding their stock as was experienced in the old yards. Furthermore the residents do not have to suffer the inconvenience or dust as was the occasion when the old yards were right in our township.

During the past week much agitation was stirred up among the ratepayers of the No 1 Division of the McKinlay Shire when it became known that three of our present Councillors, comprising Messrs Allison (Chairman), Macansh (Toolebuc) and H Mathews (Hilton Park), JC, met the Cloncurry Councillors in our Local Authorities Conference and supported them in a motion to leave the present boundary of the McKinlay Shire as it is at present.

In the first place it is readily understood that this is not the wish of the majority of the ratepayers of this Shire also many of the Cloncurry Shire as evidenced by the huge petition that is being signed. Every endeavour is being made to have this petition well represented and no difficulty has been experienced to date to get necessary signatures from all parts of the district. The local Chamber of Commerce have the matter well in hand and as they have a very good case behind their request they will certainly demand considerable attention at the forthcoming Local authorities Conference to be held in Brisbane in the near future.

Business houses report that trade during the past week has been on the dull side, probably owing to the enormous rush during race week. Practically everything appears to be at a standstill at present and the town gives one the feeling of being tired and sleepy. However it will only be a matter of a few weeks now when the wool industry will again liven the position up to its old standard. Shearers, rouseabouts, and others will be seen coming and going and occasionally stopping a day or two to wash the dust down. Sometimes you would think some of them had a Boulia dust storm in their throats. Motor-lorries laden with wool will be in top-gear buzzing backwards and forwards; and the agents, wearing a pleasant expression, wiping the perspiration from their brow, will be at their post at all hours busy checking outward and inward consignments; and when business gets too brisk call all hand in to have a "spot"; and the "bagmen" all desert the bank of the creek. Then one realises that the shearing season is on and everyone is on the move regardless of what price the wool is going to bring next opening sales.

### **3 Aug 1929 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 29 – Shearing operations are practically in full swing about this district at the present time. The United Graziers are at present at Auckland and will shortly commence at Garomna and Eddington. At the present time numerous lorries laden with wool can be seen daily unloading at the local railway and it is also anticipated the local scour expect to commence operations this week. By all accounts the management of the scour expect a record season this year and judging from the results of the previous years sales when they were fortunate on many occasions to top the sales with wool treated through this scour the wool growers may rest assured of equal and similar good service this present year.

Saturday night saw the opening of the Garomna Dramatic Company. The company held their first performance at the residence of Mr and Mrs Ulick Browne whom I understand Mr is one of the leading actors. Quite a large number so I am advised comprised the audience and many beautiful fancy costumes were witnessed. By all accounts everyone appeared to have enjoyed themselves thoroughly and it was well after midnight before the last car wended its way home, tired and happy.

Quite a gloom was cast over the town and district when it became known that Mr and Mrs Quilty were compelled to take little Baby Quilty down to Brisbane for further medical treatment. The little patient was a few weeks ago taken to Cloncurry suffering with diphtheria and was progressing satisfactorily when a change was taken and it was thought advisable to seek further medical attention.

An epidemic of measles has broke out here as there appears to be a patient in every household either suffering or just recovering. The State School still remains open and as this dreaded disease is chiefly among children it is to be hoped the authorities will give instructions to have the school closed while the epidemic is in our midst.

### **10 Aug 1929 (p102, NA, NQR)**

JUC, Aug 6 – By all accounts we are to have another butcher shop in our midst. The progressive proprietors are Messrs Hudson and Mathews, the former being one of our local hotel keepers and the latter from Hilton Park. As this town is progressing in all directions and we have the distinction of having more banks than hotels it is encouraging to see others speculating.

### **17 Aug 1929 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, 13 Aug – It is rumoured that we are to have a chemists business in our midst in the near future and it is not before time. Taking into consideration the growth of this town and district in the past few years it can hardly be believed that such an important business as the above has been undoubtedly an asset to the public of this district.

It is very pleasing to note that Miss Ruby Cave, late sister of the Cloncurry Hospital and CT Hospital has been appointed Sister in charge of the bush Nursing Home at JC.

### **24 Aug 1929 (p12, NA, NQR)**

JC, Aug 20 – We are beginning to wonder if the present councillors are practicing the role of politician as it seems to be their hobby to make promises and not carry them out. Some of the main things that the Council promised are: installation of a voluntary fire brigade which is most important but which seems to have been forgotten; another promise is sanitary convenience on the Recreation Reserve, removal of the sanitary depot from its present site, erection of a mortuary in this town thus avoiding using a place of amusement for same, and several other minor items.

Numerous country visitors journeyed into town last Friday night to be present at the farewell dance for Sister Dixon. The whole affair was a huge success and the lucky lady received many beautiful gifts of all descriptions of which she richly deserved.

**7 Sep 1929 (p9, NA, NQR)**

JC, Sep 3 – Presently we are without services of a doctor and were it not for the services of the sister in charge of the Bush Nursing Association the residents in this district would be severely handicapped. Too much cannot be said concerning the benefit the above association has been to the district and at the present time the sister is overtaxed trying to keep pace with the various demands on her services.

**28 Sep 1929 (p103, NA, NQR)**

RN – The Clerk tabled a copy of the Government Gazette of the 7th September in which a notification was published stating that it was the proposal of the Government, unless sufficient reason could be shown within three months why it should be done, to abolish the Shire of McKinlay and from a fresh shire to be called the JC Shire by taking in the main portion of the present McKinlay Shire and portions of the Cloncurry and Wyangarie Shires and then to throw in the balance of the Wyangarie Shire and combine it with the Flinders Shire. It was moved by Crs Murray and Carter that a copy of the Gazette notice be forwarded to the Chairman, Cr R Magoffin and that the other Local authorities interested be communicated with with a view to holding a meeting of representatives of such Shire Council at Richmond and consider the best means of protesting against the proposed alterations.

The above meeting has subsequently been fixed to be held at Richmond on the 25th September when several members of the McKinlay, Cloncurry, Wyangarie and Flinders Shire Councils, together with the Clerks of those Councils, will meet at the Shire Office Richmond and discuss the matter.

**5 Oct 1929 (p19, NA, NQR)**

Mrs Grace Horton who has been an inmate of the Richmond District Hospital for some weeks past left that institution on the 28th ult and returned to JC by Monday morning's train.

**12 Oct 1929 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, 10 Oct – In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission relative to the alterations of the Shire Boundaries it was deemed necessary that a petition be signed by all ratepayers and occupiers requesting that the said alterations be brought into effect. The petition as drawn up by the JC Chamber of Commerce was eagerly signed by numerous ratepayers and occupiers and not by "birds of passage" as stated by a number of councillors, and in due course was presented to the Home Secretary who realising the earnest and concrete request of the people accordingly issued a notice as published in the Government Gazette date 5th September calling upon the various shires to show cause within three months why the said alterations should not be adopted. The effect of this notice can be seen by the report of the Conference held in Richmond, September 25th, between the various councils who journeyed from near and far to air their views in the interest of the ratepayers so they said. A report of this conference appeared in this paper dated October 5th which no doubt contains many wild statements which I am led to believe will be contradicted in due course through the right channels.

As far as the McKinlay Shire is concerned personal interests appear to be the outstanding factor as it is apparent that it is not the wish of the present councillors to alter the boundary knowing full well that the Shire Office would be removed to JC if such were altered. This would automatically decrease property values in McKinlay and district so from that point of view it is not the ratepayers alone that are being considered. At the same time if the office were removed to JC it would certainly increase values in that town and seeing that the town of JC is a prosperous railway centre it is in the opinion of all broadminded people the correct position for the shire office and not in a centre a number of miles off the railway. However it is anticipated that this matter will be fully thrashed out at the public meeting.

**19 Oct 1929 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Oct 16 – Weather conditions during the past week have been moderately warm with nights beautiful and cool. Summer is fast approaching and the country is beginning to feel the effects of the heat. Grass is not too plentiful and what there is has lost its green colour. Nowhere about the town common could you find a blade of grass and a stranger arriving here now would hardly believe that about in January the whole countryside looks beautiful and green. Of course the straying stock play havoc on the town common as they roam wherever they wish. There is no restriction on droves either and that is why our



common always resembles a vast desert.

Rumour has it that we are to have a second chemist business in our town. A few months ago Mr Griffiths from CT opened up in temporary quarters until his new shop is erected.

In the past few months many new buildings have been erected in and about the town and if the building improvement keeps going like it has of late it will only be a matter of a short while when there will be no unoccupied allotments about at all. This evidently goes to prove the prosperity and excellent future many hold in this district and at the moment the only item not too pleasing is the present wool market prices but we are all optimistic and predict before the year is out a substantial increase.

There is a little but important matter causing considerable comment in town. The railway being situated so close comes in for a lot of abuse at various times as the engine crews of the trains seem to delight in blowing off steam right in the heart of town and if one is unfortunate enough to be on a trunk line all at that particular time he may as well hang up his receiver as the noise is deafening and very annoying. It is also a very common occurrence to have this entertainment in the early hours of the morning when all good people are expected to be in sound slumber. No difference to the railway folks as they tell us it cannot be avoided. The station master himself is in most cases the worst sufferer as they generally select a site right opposite his front door and I can assure you it cause him no end of inconvenience. It is expected this matter will be brought up at the next meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

**2 Nov 1929 (p104, NA, NQR)**

Poem – The Explorer [See Poems]

**2 Nov 1929 (p105, NA, NQR)**

Mrs Grace Horton of JC accompanied by Miss Noel Garrity, is at present on a visit to her mother, Mrs A Johnson at Richmond

**2 Nov 1929 (p47, NA, NQR)**

JC, 24 Oct – The weather during the past week has been anything but pleasant. The days have been more than warm and the nights rather cool. This continuous change daily attributes to the numerous colds and other mild complaints so frequent about the district. Tonight as I go to write there is every appearance of rain before morning. Today has been very hot with a strong north-easterly wind, accompanied with clouds of dust which died down towards evening leaving the atmosphere very hot and stuffy. Away to the south the sky is overcast with heavy black clouds and the smell of rain is in the air. Let us hope we are up to our ankles in mid by morning as a good three or four inches just at this period would do lots of good.

Stock movements at the present are rather dull. There is very little in buying and selling right now. No doubt if rain were to fall stock would be moving pretty freely.

Although the future does not look too prosperous for many still the town is lively enough. Business houses appear to be kept busy and our two local hotels don't show any sign of a depression in the woolmarket. Being a pastoral district certainly accounts for the busy appearance just at present as recently a number of shed cut out and as a rule the shears and shed hands make for this town before seeking fresh pastures. The building industry appears to be fairly lively of late. many new residents have been erected within the past few months and slowly the vacant gaps in our streets are filling up. Vacant houses are very hard to get and one wishing to secure a house of any sort has about two or three months roaming about. The landlords are aware of this and they don't look lenient on the tenant. Anyone having the capital would do well to speculate in erecting houses in this town.

For the past couple of months I have noticed a quantity of dressed timber lying in the School Reserve and I understand same has been put there for the erection of a school masters residence. Apart from the timber being on the ground nothing further appears to have been done and as summer is fast approaching and the sun beats down in all its fury a little drop of rain on the timber now would make it suitable for the building of tallow casks or such like. We wonder what's the delay as it is certainly not improving the timber under the present conditions.

A most enthusiastic and well-represented meeting of ratepayers from the Cloncurry, McKinlay and

Wyangarie Shires was held in the School of Arts, JC, Sunday afternoon last (20th). The above meeting was convened by the members of the JC Chamber of Commerce to allow ratepayers in the benefited areas an opportunity to express their views on the alteration of Shire boundaries and to show cause why the said alterations should be adopted in so far as Cloncurry and McKinlay are concerned.

Mr ML Byrne of the firm of Byrne Bros, well-known graziers in both the above Shires, occupied the chair and after a short address describing the object of the calling of this meeting, endeavoured to enlighten the public on solid facts why the alteration should be brought about.

Proceeding, Mr Byrne pointed out the inaccuracy in Cr Allison's (McKinlay) statement at the recent conference in Richmond, whereas Cr Allison stated only two percent of the names on the petition were ratepayers of McKinlay. A copy of the petition was then produced and it showed 96 names altogether on the petition and of these over 50 percent were McKinlay ratepayers and 75 percent of the balance were Cloncurry ratepayers.

Cr Browne remarked the statement was foolish and was made before Cr Allison had thoroughly analysed the petition.

Proceeding, the Chairman then referred to Cr Webster's (McKinlay) remarks that it would take a year's revenue to remove the Shire buildings from McKinlay to JC. In view of this statement the Chairman and two well-known building contractors had previously taken a trip across to McKinlay and inspected the Shire buildings and a letter from the contractors, Pollard and Holmes, was then read to the meeting, which disclosed that the said contractors were prepared to remove all the Shire buildings and re-erect in JC for the sum of £925/10/. Considering that a year's revenue of the McKinlay shire amounts to £6000, Cr Webster's statement came in for considerable comment.

Several other statements appearing in the report of the Conference of Shires held at Richmond were fully discussed.

Mr Doubleday (Consentes), Mr JJ O'Sullivan (Bookin Sdg), Mr J Peut (Sunny Plains), Mr PJ Byrne (Osbert), Mr AD O'Neil (Barcona), Mr J Lynch (Tara) and several others spoke highly in favour of the proposed alterations at the same time pointing out the past treatment they have received from the Cloncurry Shire which undoubtedly reflects they have been sadly neglected, considering the heavy rates they have been paying.

All present were very much concerned that if the proposed alteration was adopted: it was to be hoped that the new Shire to be known as the JC Shire; would be divided into wards or divisions; and that the rates received from each division were to be used only in that division, each division to have its own representatives and not as Cloncurry is at present controlled.

Mr J Peut (Sunny Plains) pointed out that in 1912 he was paying as rates to the Cloncurry Shire, £8/13/4 per year and in 1929 the present year, £66/4/2 and during this 17 years he has only saw the Council plant in his vicinity three times and not for long.

Proceeding, Mr Peut remarked that about two years ago a petition was drawn up and eagerly signed requesting that all ratepayers in the northern boundary of the Cloncurry Shire be transferred to the McKinlay shire. This petition was handed to the Shire Clerk at McKinlay and so far nothing has been heard of it since. Mr Peut asked what has become of this petition but nobody present could supply any information.

From the feeling of the meeting it could be gleamed that all were eager for the proposed alteration, especially the Cloncurry ratepayers in the Northern boundary, as it was freely pointed out that it was considered unreasonable that rates should be paid to the Shire of Cloncurry, somewhere in the vicinity of £3000, and practically not one penny expended in road repairs to the benefit of those ratepayers. Further to this, the ratepayers concerned all use JC as their main trading centre and only on rare occasions do they have to visit Cloncurry. With the proposed alteration brought about it is believed "better conditions, reduced rates and a more satisfactory Shire will eventuate."

The following resolutions were carried unanimously:

Proposed by Mr J Lynch, Alva Downs (Cloncurry Shire) seconded by Mr JJ O'Sullivan (Cloncurry and McKinlay shire), that the majority report of the Royal Commission's recommendation be adopted in so far as McKinlay and Cloncurry Shires are concerned but it is not the wish of this meeting to abolish the Wyangarie Shire.

Proposed by Mr J Eckford, seconded by Mr LO Halloran, that Mr EH Doubleday (Consentes) proceed to Brisbane on behalf of the ratepayers of the benefited area advocating the recommendations of the Royal Commission in so far as Cloncurry and McKinlay Shires are concerned...

After the conclusion of the meeting, arrangements were made for Mr J J O'Sullivan to accompany Mr Doubleday to Brisbane and it is firmly believed that this combination will certainly handle the case to the satisfaction of all ratepayers concerned...

### **9 Nov 1929 (p104, NA, NQR)**

JC, 6 Nov – By all accounts it appears that the erection of the coal stage, engine shed, and quarters is near completion. The above shed and quarters have been completed for some time and the coal stage is about on its last lap. The coal stage itself stands out very prominently on the horizon as an excellent piece of architecture and we are given to understand that the cost of erecting same will be repaid in the saving of labour in handling the coal. The men's quarters are undoubtedly a fine structure and should meet the requirements of this district for many a day to come.

The next question is when are these works to be opened. It is anticipated by many that nothing in this line will be done before the New Year. Before getting off the subject of railway matters we wonder why some attention has not been shown to the little structure used as the station master's office, parcel office and, in a little consideration is deserving in this respect, as it is without doubt absolutely inadequate to meet the demands of the public in general.

Being an optimist I naturally look ahead and I surmise, together with the present additions to the railway yards: a much enlarged and convenient railway station; an up-to-date Shire Hall in a prominent position in our main street; many new modern buildings in various localities; and above all a growing and prosperous rising township; a satisfactory increase in the wool prices; a wonderful good wet season, many pleased and happy faces, all through the enthusiasm and energy of the vast majority of earnest and honest men and women who are compelled to earn life's existence in this great open country.

Sometimes I wonder is all this honest sweat and labour necessary or should we hand this country back to the blacks and apologise for ever taking it from them. Yet at other times I imagine we are more fortunate than those of the cities who live next door to one another for many years and even don't know one another's name, when we out here can tell you our neighbour's business 100 miles apart. Some might say we don't mind our own business but nevertheless its the simple reason why we have a prosperous rising township and district in our midst.

### **16 Nov 1929 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC – In these notes a few weeks back I referred to the state of a large quantity (not stacked but just strewn about in the School Reserve) of dressed timber put there so I understand for the erection of the school master's residence. This has now been lying in this state for some considerable time and as same was quickly deteriorating the local Chamber of Commerce thought it fit to advise the Public Works Dept, Brisbane of the position but so far no notice has been taken and it appears the Dept is not worrying what happens to the timber. As the heat has been very oppressive the past month and rain has now fallen on the timber I can assure the Department they will require a further consignment before they make any attempt to commence erecting the above residence.

We wonder why the timber has been dumped here for so long and no move has been made to make use of same. There are any amount of tradesmen in this district willing to take on the job and as I noticed the Dept is calling for tenders for the erection of such a residence at Mt Isa why cannot such similar steps be taken in this case. Being a progressive town and district this sort of affair is not in harmony with the spirit of the School Committee who have been rather active of late.

With fresh blood on the committee much improvement can be witnessed with the past few months. In the centre of the school playground a huge commodious playshed has been erected measuring 60 feet by 30 feet and seeing the advantages it is to the children one wonders why it has been absent for so

long. Again I notice the committee are having planted about nine trees in the school-reserve fronting Burke Street and also preparing a lawn in front of the playshed and within a few years the present committee will no doubt feel proud of their achievements and if the enthusiasm remains the above reserve will rank as one of the best in the west.

From reports received I notice it is the intention of a few of the energetic citizens of this district to establish a resident doctor in this town. There is no doubt this movement is worthy of recognition as it is well and truly warranted and I feel certain a prosperous adventure. Of course there is the usual narks who are always up against an advancement to a growing town but their opinions are so small they are not worth worrying about.

I have of late noticed several letters appearing in the press on the matter of the "Alteration of Shire Boundaries" and in all cases much abuse has been levelled at the local Chamber of Commerce. This Chamber realises the sad state of affairs at present existing in the various Local Authorities concerned and, at the request of numerous ratepayers so visibly affected, has warmly supported them in an endeavour to bring about the alteration.

One, with intelligence, realises it is absolutely essential but as the alteration will materially affect a few residents in and about McKinlay to a certain extent, the above Chamber has suffered much abuse. As this Chamber has been only 12 months in existence it has no doubt made its presence felt and yet it has not demanded anything unreasonable and it has not cost the ratepayers any further expenditure only it has requested that certain improvements be effected that should have been done long before the Chamber's birth.

In short it has stirred the feelings of our worthy Councillors who have been asleep as far as this town is concerned in the past and now because they are asking what actually belongs to them there is no end of wild stories being told about them and their doings. However it will take more than a few boneheads to drown this Chamber and let us hope that the success so far achieved by them will be continuous. It is the first time in my knowledge that I have known a body of progressive citizens to be rudely criticised because they are endeavouring to bring further prosperity into their town. However the majority of the people of this town and district realise the benefit the Chamber has been and is no doubt looked upon as a valuable asset to the district and it is only the small fry who are not considered [confused original] who have no prestige, in the welfare of the town and district.

**18 Nov 1929 (p1, 291118, CA)**

**Joe Kaeser**

Baker and Confectioner

Julia Creek

Bread and Flour supplied to the Trade  
and travelling public

Every civility and attention

**VF Faithfull (b & d)**

Solicitor

JC

**Peter Dawes (c & f)**

Post Office Boys hairdressing and Billiard Saloon

Scarr Street - Cloncurry

The first place to go for a good shave or haircut.

Important to Residents of

Mount Isa and JC

For our mutual convenience we have established branches in the above towns where everything can be purchased at our famous low prices.

Guarantee: Owing to our large organisation having branches throughout the state we guarantee to give fresher goods and better prices than obtainable elsewhere.

LA Wilkinson Ltd

Chemists

## **McKinlay Shire Council**

### **Tenders**

Tenders are invited for carrying out the Sanitary, Garbage and slopwater services of the township of JC and the immidaite environs commencing on the 1st July 1930.

The successful tenderer is also to act as Common Ranger and to collect fees on behalf of the Council.

Tenderers are to state price per pan service and price per hour hundred gallon tank in respect of the Slopwater Service.

Full particulars, specifications and terms of tender can be obtained from the undersigned at the Office of the Council, McKinlay and also from FA Hickman Exq, Commission Agent, JC.

Tenders close with the undesigned on Wednesday the 11 Jun 1930. lowest of any tender not necessarily accepted.

J Parsons  
Shire clerk

## **Eddington Arms Hotel** [not sure of date, but in 1929]

Gilliat

The above Hotel has now been taken over by Miss Cissy Saltzman and Mr EJ Watson and will be run on most up-to-date lines. The BEST OF LIQUORS ONLY DISPENSED.

Cosy and airy Bedrooms and Cusine of the Best.

The Gilliat Store has also been fully stocked with Station and Droving Requisites.

## **JB Fidler**

Bore drain surveys undertaken

Any part of the west and Central Qld visited.

Distance no object

Cars for hire at JC

Address: JC

## **Wool Growers**

Your clip will sell at its absolute value  
when treated at

JC Scour

because

- (1) tried and trusted experts supervise the work;
- (2) our artesian water has uncommon scouring properties;
- (3) results prove that wool treated by us always attracts the best competition of buyers.

Consult us about blending sutiable small lines in order to induce keener bidding

Postal address: The JC wool Scouring Coy, Ltd, Box 14, JC

Consign wool to Gunjoola.

## **23 Nov 1929 (p98, NA, NQR)**

JC, Nov 20 – The christmas Festival is drawing near and the shops are beginning to make preparations for the occasion. What is mot in evidence is the huge number of catalogues from Southern business houses arriving every mail. It would be impossible for one to imagine the amount of cash that is taken out of the town and district monthly by the invasion of these catalogues accompanied occasionally by some southern firm personally. who display their wares in some conspicuous position and no doubt collect a decent cheque before they take their departure.

## **30 Nov 1929 (p23, NA, NQR)**

Western Shires

Brisbane, 27 Nov – Rival deputations waited on the Home Secretary today to place before him their views on the proposal to create a new shire in the JC area.

Opposition to the proposal, which would mean the abolition of the Wyangarie Shire and the inclusion of portion of the McKinlay Shire in the Cloncurry shire, was expressed by a deputation comprising councillors from Cloncurry Shire Council; Councillors WM Allison and J Parsons (McKinlay Shire Council); and Wyangarie Shire councillors.

Mr Allison presented a petition containing 200 names of persons in the McKinlay Shire protesting against the proposed new shire in the JC area. The move for the new shire came from the township at JC and those to the north who desired to get out of a highly rated shire into one with a lower rate. If the new shire was formed practically half of the McKinlay Shire would be forced into the Cloncurry Shire with its higher rate and the town of McKinlay would suffer considerably by the removal of the shire offices to JC. Twelve months ago a loan had been raised to reticulate the town with water and if the population of the town was further reduced the burden of repayment would be increased. He denied that the interests of JC has been neglected in the past.

Mr Rose [councillor Cloncurry] contended a new shire in JC area would adversely affect Cloncurry. The estimated loss of area would mean a falling off of about £4000 in annual revenue. They had an expensive water scheme and this alone constituted a fairly heavy burden on the ratepayers. The country that would be transferred from the Cloncurry Shire to the proposed new area was prime land, the best within the Shire. It was suggested also, that the Cloncurry Shire would lose the Sedan Dip which at present returned in fees about £4000 a year. The loss in revenue would mean a big rise in the rates which they desired to avoid. No doubt there were a few anomalies with respect to boundaries but these could be adjusted by members of the Shire Councils concerned in conference.

Replying Mr Petersen said it was natural that the members of the deputation would resent losing any of their territory but it was difficult for him to arrive at a decision until he had considered both sides of the question. The deputation however had presented a case into which he would go thoroughly, it might be necessary for him to send an officer into the district to thrash the matter with the interested parties.

Later in the day Messrs EH Doubleday and JJ O'Sullivan members of the JC Chamber of Commerce were introduced to the Home Secretary as a deputation to state the case in favour of a new shire in the JC area.

Mr Doubleday said JC would be a centrally situated town for the new shire with up to date facilities for conducting modern business. It was an important railway town used by graziers south of McKinlay and as far north as Iffley for consigning and receiving goods. At present graziers north of JC paid a rate to the Cloncurry Shire Council for the use of roads maintained by the McKinlay Shire. The opening of land for selection in the JC district in 1914 had resulted in the growth of JC to a big town. McKinlay was decadent with no banks or Government offices and was 50 miles from the railway depending on JC for the conduct of its up to date business. Cloncurry was wholly unsuitable to JC. For ten years only a small amount of money had been spent for upwards of 100 miles north of JC and in many instances creek crossings were in a dangerous state of disrepair.

Mr Petersen said he was not in a position to give an immediate decision. It would receive careful consideration and possibly an officer would visit the district to make an examination of the position.

#### **7 Dec 1929 (p96, NA, NQR)**

Ernie Brennan, Horseman of the Past  
"On the Track"

#### **7 Dec 1929 (p97, NA, NQR)**

JC, Dec 4 – During the past week the weather has been one continual change both day and night. On Saturday afternoon a huge storm was seen working up to the south and about three o'clock we experience the usual dust storm enveloping the town in clouds of dust for about ten minutes and fortunately accompanied by a heavy downpour which although clearing the atmosphere left the roads in a very boggy state. Light rain continued throughout the night. I am told that good rain has fallen about Haddington, Dalgongally and Sedan dip within the last week. The grass is beginning to show signs of the recent rains as in many places it has improved so much that it has dispelled fear until well after

Christmas. By then, if not before, as it looks very promising, we will have further good falls.

I note that work has commenced at last on the school masters residence the timber of which has been lying out in the open for many months and needless to say is in anything but good order. I understand that Contractor Geo Brodie is in charge of the work and it is to be hoped that we may have the pleasure of seeing the completion of same before school reopens in the new year.

During the festival at the school on Saturday an opportunity was taken by the committee to plant nine trees in the school reserve and also in preparing a lawn in front of the new play shed just recently erected. It is to be hoped that every attention will be given to the above during the school recess as with good care probably by this time next year one may have the opportunity of resting their weary limbs under the shades of the above trees during the cool of the afternoons or nights.

### **7 Dec 1929 (p76, NA, NQR)**

#### **Scoured Wool**

A question often asked is: "Why is so little of the Australian wool clip scoured before marketing?" Only 4 percent of our production is scoured before export and less than that proportion before sale in the markets of the Commonwealth. The reason is precisely that the majority of buyers prefer their supplies in the greasy state particularly fleece and bulky skirtings. Most descriptions of wool, notwithstanding the high standard of woolclassing on the stations, have to undergo further sorting out before manufacture and in the case of a faulty-classed scoured wool it is economically impossible to rectify errors once the fleeces or pleges [?] have become disintegrated in the washing process.

On the other hand wool in the natural greasy condition and bulk can be sorted fleece for fleece, or piece by piece, by the manufacturer exactly as he wants it and the wool can afterwards be scoured to a condition most suitable for the particular processes of manufacture it is about to undergo. There are of course many well prepared and excellently scoured wools forwarded from the country scours and from city establishments and the scoured wools of Qld are renowned. The wools grown in the vicinity of JC, Richmond, Ilfracombe and a few other place in Qld lend themselves to scouring and when quite free from vegetable fault wash up very attractively. Certain buyers look to the Brisbane market for these scoured specialities and the demand is usually very keen.

When the Russian buyers first operated in Brisbane they practically confined their attention to scoured wools. They were pushed to extreme limits by Germany and France but continued to obtain the bulk of the specialities. The most recent boom in scoured wools occurred in March 1928 when scoured in Brisbane sold to 51 1/2d and many lots realised between 48d and 50d. Growers had been watching Russia's activities and to them the time appeared most opportune to market suitable washing wools in the scoured state and scoured supplies consequently increased. At the next sale after March 1928, Russia was out of the market and scoureds dropped in price about 4d per pound.

Since then Russia's purchases have been largely greasy wools, great weights of which have been sorted and scoured on its account in the Australian market centres before shipment.

### **14 Dec 1929 (p99, NA, NQR)**

On Wednesday last an old-time shearer in the person of Mr Jack McIlwraith passed away at Nelia. For some time past deceased had been working around Nelia but had been in indifferent health. Mr EM Brennan of Nelia kindly provided accommodation for him and looked after him with the utmost attention but despite every care the old fellow passed away quietly at 10.45 pm on Wednesday night.

The deceased who was a native of Dalby had been on the Flinders River for over 40 years and was well known as one of the best shearers of his day and will be remembered as the ringer of the Toorak shed in the year 1890. He was a single man with a brother living near Brisbane.

As it was extremely hot weather at the time of his death it was found inadvisable to bring the remains to Richmond and the deceased was buried about half a mile from Nelia on the town reserve towards Yorkshire Downs.

Consternation was caused in Richmond on Thursday last when Thomas Hastings Keenan committed suicide by cutting his throat at the Richmond Hotel. The late TH Keenan who was better known in this district as Tom Ratley was 40 years of age and was supposed to be a native of Moree NSW. He followed

the occupation of a shearer. The remains were interred in the Richmond Cemetery on the 5th inst. There seemed to be no reason to justify his rash act.

#### **14 Dec 1929 (p103, NA, NQR)**

JC, 11 Dec – I noticed with pleasure that work has at last commenced on the erection of the school master's residence the timer of which has been for some time stacked out in the open. Mr Murray one of the local contractors is in charge of the above work and all going well should show great improvements by the end of this month.

A considerable number of new cottages have been erected within the past month or two including a chemist's shop for Mr Griffiths, who has been in business here for some time having previous to the above been installed in Eckford's Hall. Undoubtedly this town has made vast improvements within the past two years notwithstanding the droughts, price of wool and many other disadvantages that at time have arisen. Judging from the spirited and energetic feeling of the citizens of the town and district much further great improvements may be expected with a short space of time.

The usual monthly meeting of the local Chamber of Commerce was held on the 25th ultimo. There was a very good attendance of members and a considerable amount of important business attended to in a very capable manner. Mr ML Byrne occupied the chair.

Among the inward correspondence was a letter from the McKinlay Shire Council advising that the Council cannot see its way clear to provide a 4 inch main in either Byrne or Mathews Street. The Council states it would cost £1300 to carry out the above work. Probably this may be so with the Council plant but the Chamber are quite satisfied that it could be done much more reasonably.

Further from the Council advising that they are supplying a new reel, further hydrant, hose and couplings to the present inadequate fire fighting equipment. This is eagerly awaited and if still considered unsatisfactory the Chamber will again take the matter up.

Further letter from same advising that the Council is quite capable of running its own affairs and will not be dictated to by a boosting organisation like the Chamber. Evidently the Chamber has stood on the horns of the Councillors who have previous to the birth of the Chamber done absolutely as they like with the ratepayer's money and seeing that this chamber is not going to sit back and tolerate their extravagance it has no doubt aroused them from the dreamy period that they have at times enjoyed. Probably at the next triennial election the ratepayers will not be dictated to either. The ballot box will truly express the ratepayer's opinions.

#### **21 Dec 1929 (p9, NA, NQR)**

The Cinema World

Growth of Talkies

Approximately 50 percent of the motion picture theatres in the US are now equipped to present "Talkies," in some form or other and synchronised equipment is in use in 32.4 percent of the houses. This was learned in a nation-wide survey made by the "Exhibitors' Herald World," a trade journal published in Chicago. The inquiry indicated that the "draw" of sound pictures is 280 percent higher than that of silent films. Seventy-seven percent of the exhibitors who answered the questionnaires reported that all-sound pictures were their best attractions. Singing and dialogue productions were reported to be most popular followed by comedy drama, musical comedy and melodrama.

Next to the UK, Australia is the best market for American motion pictures in point of revenue obtained according to a review made the the US Department of Commerce. The report states that with the possible exception of the US, Australia has the most ardent moving-picture "fans" The average weekly attendance at Australian motion-picture theatres is 2,250,000 which is more than one-third of the total population. Based on the total footage of American films imported, Australia has ranked first among foreign countries in the past three years during which time its annual receipts have ranged between 25 and 27 million feet. Eighty percent of the 2000 films brought into the country in 1927 were of American origin as compared with 12 percent for British films. Of the feature films nearly 90 percent were from the US.

#### **21 Dec 1929 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, 18 Dec – Mr TL Guy well-known Bandmaster in North Qld and lately Bandmaster of the Roma



Town band, with his two sons whom have been engaged by Eckford's Pictures for the past three months, leave here this week for Townsville. The JC audience have highly appreciated the classical music and popular items so ably rendered by this Orchestra and with their departure will regret the return of the Pianola.

I also understand that Mr Eckford has made arrangements for Hoyts travelling talkies to show two nights here sometime in January. There is no doubt both nights will be well patronised as so many folks in these parts who have heard so much about these Talkies will avail themselves of this opportunity. The opening night will be looked forward to with interest.

Mrs G Horton of the Austral Cafe has found it necessary to add further additions to her premises. Since the invasion of the famous Peters Ice Cream in these parts Mrs Horton has been kept particularly busy catering for the wants of her many patrons and at the present time she has a fine display of the numerous novelties in readiness for the festive season.

There is no doubt if one wishes to take a stroll about our streets at any time of the day one will certainly see either one or more calico signs of southern firms advertising its presence in the town. We do not begrudge any of them this privilege as they are entitled to sell their wares wherever they wish but we do protest against them being allowed to sell at all hours of any day or night including Sundays or holidays while our own local tradesman are compelled to close at the allotted time. This I consider is unfair competition and requires immediate attention which I trust the authorities in charge will give utmost consideration to.

## **28 Dec 1929 (p13, NQ631, NQR)**

“On the Track”

Tanksinkers of the Past

I have met many tanksinkers and one of the best known so far as I am concerned was William Coade well-known near Longreach in recent years. I believe Mr Coade first commenced business as a tanksinking contractor in NSW and like so many others started out in a small way by purchasing a horse and dray. Accompanied by his wife he worked over different parts of the Riverina district for nearly ten years and during this time he gradually enlarged the sphere of his operations and added to his plant. Here it might interest some of my readers to know that he was one of the first men to use the now well-known McCaughey scoop.

Forty-six years back William Coade started on a long overland journey from the Riverina to the central part of this State and on the way he secured a large contract for the excavation of over 200,000 cubic yards on Wellshot Station in the Mitchell district. During the years that followed he carried out other contracts of a similar nature and was personally engaged in tanksinking operations until 1891 when he selected Baarmuntha which was a resumed portion of Wellshot. It was then that his son, William Charles took over his father's tanksinking business although he had been assisting his parent in this direction since the early eighties.

Five years later he joined his father on his pastoral property and it could only be expected that some big excavation work would be done by these men at Baarmuntha the most prominent being the huge Gum Hole dam and also a dam on Gin Creek.

Another well-known tanksinker of the Longreach district was Jim MacKenzie who after mining at Mount Morgan for several years joined the staff of Tom Spence who was then engaged in excavation at Portland Downs, a station situated near Isisford. Three years later he purchased his own plant which enabled him to start out on his own account as a tanksinking contractor. However that fickle jade Dame Fortune was determined not to bestow her favours on the young Scotchman and he met with disaster in the big 1893 flood. He was compelled to sell what remained of his plant and once more became a wage earner following general bush work chiefly as manager of a tanksinking outfit. Later on he became a well-known carrier and eventually purchased pastoral country between Longreach and Winton.

Another of the early tanksinking contractors was the late Dick Magoffin who came to this State from NSW 47 years back and with his sons carried out many important tanksinking contracts. Old timers may remember that he died under rather tragic circumstance. Over taken by a storm he was lost in the bush and died only a few hours before the arrival of a party sent out to search for him. His son Jack, with other brothers continued excavation work on different western stations until they purchased two

pastoral properties, Melrose and Rosevale.

The work carried out by Harry and Jim Stratford is to be seen on many western stations. At one time the latter was one of the best known Tanksinkers in NSW. When the two brothers started excavation work in this State they secured tanksinking contracts at Isis Downs, Alice Downs, Portland, Terrick-Terrick, Northhampron Downs and many other well known pastoral properties. In 1894 they took up a selection but the 1899-1904 drought compelled the brothers to sell out and they were again compelled to take on tanksinking contracts.

Few tanksinkers were better known in western Qld than was Tom Spence. He first began to accept excavation contracts in the Riverina country. With half a dozen other men he proceeded to Zara Station to sink a tank of 2,000 yards capacity. This veteran admits that at the time he considered that it was a pothole compared with the dams and tanks that he put down afterwards. At this time ploughs and scoops were quite unknown but by means of pick and shovel they went down about 10 feet on such a slope as would enable the horses and drays to get in and out of the excavation. Then they worked under the bank as far as they could with safety. When this was done they used to adjourn to the top and at intervals put down holes to varying depths. Long saplings were then procured and the whole of the top earth was levered away and went down into the excavation already made. It was then removed by drays.

None of the dams made by Mr Spence exceed 3,000 yards. They were put down to keep the selectors away as the latter would not have enough money to pay for them. After completing the dam at Zara, Tom Spence went to Coree near Gulgumby, also Brookong and other stations where he put down tanks. By this time he had succeeded in getting together a very fine plant. The value of the plough in tanksinking had been demonstrated and scoops had been invented. Coming further north he stopped at Tindarry a station forty miles from Cobar and here he also put down a big tank. As it was bad country to work in he did not stop in that district any length of time.

Eventually he reached Cunnamulla and took on a contract to put down a tank on the Yarran a station owned by Cobb and Co on the Thargomindah road. This country did not appeal to him and he decided to push still further north. At this time his plants consisted of eight drays, three scoops, two ploughs, 100 head of bullocks and 100 head of horses.

He secured a contract to excavate 100,000 yards at Portland Downs, the price ranging from 1/1 per cubic yard. Before leaving this property he had excavated over 200,000 yards of material besides carrying out a good deal of repair work. He remained here four years and it is interesting to learn that at this time the ruling rate for men engaged in dam sinking was 8/- per day though Tom Spence always paid 8/6. The contractors provided the men with food and for it he made a deduction of 14/- per week. Tents were also provided to sleep in and some men made themselves very comfortable.

With thirty men employed besides the members of his family the camp was like a small settlement. There are still men in the west who have pleasant recollections of the dam sinking camps where the accordion was played every night and song and dance helped to pass away many a dull hour. Present day prices for putting down tanks range from 2/- to 2/3 per yard and of course the men are paid award rates. Still the cost of living is much higher than it was in the old days.

#### **4 Jan 1930 (p91, NA, NQR)**

Mr and Mrs Robert Christison of Lammermoor

The story of the first wife of Robert Christison, of Lammermoor, is one of the pathetic tales of pioneer women.

When Mr Christison, after 25 years absence spent in pioneering, returned to Scotland to visit what remained of his family, he quite naturally fell in love and married a girl who was more interested in painting than in housework and all through their journey back he dwelt on the pictures she would paint of his wonderful new Lammermoor, named by him from some fancied resemblance to the much loved old Lammermoor Hills of his boyhood home.

Arriving at Townsville they went on to Mt Emu Station and, his own home not being prepared for a bride, he left her with Mrs and Miss Thompson, the latter being engaged to his brother, Mr Tom

Christison. He hurried on home and set the bush carpenters to work to make additions, not forgetting a studio for the paintings-to-be, filling in the time seeing to the cattle and buying some more. On her arrival at Lammermoor the blacks flocked round her and she distributed the many gifts for them her thoughtful husband had provided her with, knowing it was the way to their hearts. She was delighted with everything and soon had a flower garden started, the black girls helping, and so the home life began and went happily on.

Tom and his bride had gone home to Scotland for their honeymoon and Mr Christison having Cameron Downs also to look after, was kept going, but the young wife went with him and made sketches of the Downs, the sheep and shepherds and the blacks, and at times they came from Cameron Downs home by way of Hughenden and visited the Grays, and got their mail. Then one day she contracted malarial fever, and there was no skilled help or doctor and she slipped away from her distracted husband, reminding us of the death of Mr Gunn at the Elsey. Only this time it was the young wife who was gone and we who trace his after-years, realise how truly great was his loss.

Of Mr Robert Christison so much can be said and written that it is hard to give just a short sketch of his many sided character and the varied incidents of his life.

He was a son of a parish minister at Foulden, near Berwick-on-Tweed, and was born on 8th Jan 1837, his mother dying in 1839 when her seventh son was born. His father married again, a widow with three children, and knowing how hard this minister must have found it to clothe and educate such a large family, we understand how Robert learned to save in little things, and forgive some of the, shall we say, frugal ways of this otherwise big generous hearted Scotsman.

When he was only 15 years of age he and his brother Tom, very little older, set out to make their fortunes. A friend lent their father enough money to pay a second class fare for each of them. So early in 1852 these brave boys, with sad hearts, said goodbye to their people and the hills and dales they loved so well. The clipper ship they came out in proved to be notorious for lack of comfort and food, but eventually they landed in Melbourne with no friends to meet them and very little money in their pockets. Of the three brothers who had preceded them, one had died on the voyage out, one had been lost in the bush, and the third, Willie was at this time gold digging at Ballarat, and knew not of their coming. But good fortune awaited them, for they got work with the Chirnsides at Werribee, and they willingly tackled all and every job allotted them, but later told with glee how their first day's shearing nearly broke their backs.

The station life was healthy and Bob grew big and strong, and gloried in riding, and boxing, and became good at both, for which he was thankful in later years. He sent home his earnings for his father to repay the kind friend who had provided his passage out, and took on horse-breaking and was sent to Mt William, another of Chirnsides' stations, and while breaking-in horses there made a find that gave him pleasure to recall all through his long life. A mare given to use as a coach, though rather knocked about, struck him as of beautiful conformation, and trying her out one Sunday he proved she could out gallop all the others and tracing out her pedigree they found out her sire was an imported thoroughbred. So they named her Alice Hawthorn and took her to the Grange (now Hamilton) races and won several events and with Bob Christison up, she won the Ladies Bag, distance three miles. (some stayers in those days). Next they put her in training for the Geelong races and she had for a stable mate a horse name Camel, a steeplechaser, but a hard horse to ride, so they put Bob Christison on him and he won, and then Alice Hawthorn, with him as rider, won the Ladies Bag and young Christison was the hero of the day. That night he met all the leading station people from Geelong West to Warnambool. After this to get experience among cattle he worked for the Manifods and Neil Black, and at Erelldoun for Tom Learmouth where he acquired a love for the Hereford breed of cattle.

In 1862 he came by boat, bringing two horses to Bowen, swimming them shore as there was then no wharf or jetty, although the township was already a busy little place. His first move (a wise one) was to gain experience of local conditions by taking work, and he engaged to shepherd sheep for Mr Hall Scott out on the Belyando. White men were scarce and the blacks hostile, frequently shepherds and settlers were being killed by them.

Christison made friends with a black boy and at the end of three months returned to Bowen, bought more horses and a supply of rations, and set off with the blackboy for the western country. Over the range he camped with a traveller going to Bowen who proved to be Landsborough. This was luck

indeed and they talked far into the night and the young settle was given valuable information about the nature of the country and where to find permanent water. Hurrying on over the rough rangy country he went on and on till at last he reached the edge of the high ridges, and there beneath him, right away to the setting sun, stretched a vast tableland where odd mountains stood up like islands. He then and there named one after his father, Mt Alexander. Next day, travelling over the downs he found an ammonite and realised he was going over what had at one time been the bottom of an ocean or sea. He continued on till the shortage of water warned him to turn back and eventually reached and chose what is now Lammermoor country, and went back to Bowen and applied for a lease. As Christison had very little money to buy stock, he joined force with a man named Adam, who had some sheep but no country. The first thing was to build yards to protect the sheep at night, then a beginning was made at the homestead.

Then came the problem of how to manage the blacks. Taking what was their main waterhole and best game country, was it humane and befitting a minister of the Gospel's son to drive them to the wilderness. No, they must be tamed and civilised and so he set about it and succeeded wonderfully well. When they began to come in and work he gave tobacco and rations to those who faithfully carried out orders and walloped the disobedient and gave nothing. But it was some months before they were allowed to come near the homestead, were only the two white men and the boy he brought with him were, and, of course, they took precautions to guard against surprise and well they did.

With the summer rains and green grass came the flies and with them summer sickness and constant vomiting. Some blamed the stale flour and others the flies. This sickness seemed to be prevalent all over the West in the early days.

Adam lost heart and sold his sheep to Christison and went away back to more populated parts. This purchase took most of the available money and so drays, harness and other necessary things had to wait till he could sell something, which was not easy to do. His brothers, Tom and Willie, arrived to join him with his work, but had not much money either, but their arrival enable him to do shearing and they made an arrangement with Gray, of Hughenden, to shear his sheep and take young cattle in payment.

In 1867 Christison took a big trip out through the Western country and liking it very much tried to get moneyed men in Victoria to join him in taking it up and stocking it in a big way, but failed. Hard luck for him, because this country later became the famous stations bearing the names of Barennya, Katandra, Lerida, Sesbania, Manuka, Oondooroo, Ayrshire Downs, Elderslie and Cork. When we think of all this space unoccupied we wonder he did not abandon Lammermoor and go West. He did not, but struggled on increasing his herd and when the Cape diggings made a demand for meat he prospered and, with his brothers, took up and named Cameron Downs, his mother's maiden name. They stocked it with sheep and used black shepherds, but again all available cash was sent in stocking and improvements and he went without rations or a time. The only thing he had beyond aboriginal food was mutton which was plentiful, though unsaleable. Wool at this time was selling at seven pence per pound and depression again set in and many lost heart and took their stock away south for sale. Bett's young wife died and Fairlight was deserted. But Christison had faith, or the sprit that will not admit defeat, and held on.

The drought ended in 1870 with a cyclone that laid Townsville pretty well in ruins, followed through the State with torrential rains and floods until people feared the wet as much as hitherto they had the dry times. Flood spread far and wide. A few people were drowned and numbers of cattle were washed away. Christison got caught between two streams. Tying his clothes to his saddle and hanging to his horse's tail he tried to cross. The horse was swept away. He let go its tail and struggled out to land which was for the time an island, on which there was a man without any food, also caught in the flood. This man could not swim. They caught and killed a calf, but could not light a fire, so had to eat the flesh raw. The sun and sandflies tormented Christison's bare skin so he tried smearing it with mud. It was all right when wet but when dry it cracked and tore his skin with each movement. So he swam the other channel and walked for help, his mud costume creating rather a sensation. After a good wash and donning borrowed clothes and enjoying a meal, he led others back and they towed his companion across the stream to safety.

The country about Torrens Creek was so boggy no large animal could travel over it. Reports at the time said the Flinders waters spread from Richmond to near where Cloncurry now is (Note: If this is true what will happen if another flood like that described should come again.)

1870. At Lammermoor the lack of money was so acute something must be done, so Christison with three men set off with a mob of sheep and travelled them down to the River Darling and along that to a place named Winteriga where he sold them for 6/9 per head. Christison paid off his men and sold the droving plant, except a riding and pack horse, and in 40 days was back home, averaging 10 miles per day which says much for the stamina of the horses and the man.

In 1871 Ravenswood began, the following year CT, the Palmer in 73, and these made things pastoral look up again, and mails were delivered far and wide.

Having no fences, keeping the cattle on the runs was tedious work. Little mobs would move off when the mood struck them and this meant for Christison and others constant riding the boundaries; and, often picking up tracks making off, they would follow on without food or sleeping rug. Men became expert trackers and also learned to subsist on food found as the blacks did, and also they became expert horsemen and began to vie with each other in training horses to cut out cattle on camp. A good camp horse was much prized, and the name of some of them is still debated where drovers and cattle men congregate.

In the late seventies the store at Lammermoor was again well replenished and there was tobacco galore for the black boys and gins. New buildings were added and a few good books secured, and a supply of fever and other medicines, ointments and bandages were kept on hand for sickness or accident.

Once R Christison out riding alone, had the ill luck for his horse to fall and roll over him, crushing him severely and breaking some ribs. He could not get up and had to lie all that day and night. His horse arriving riderless, the following morning his brother and a blackboy succeeded in tracking the horse back to where Christison was lying. They built a shelter over him and cared for him there till his ribs healed and he was able to ride home.

In 1872 Willie Christison returning from Townsville to Lammermoor trying to swim the Burdekin then in flood was swept away and drowned, and about this time Christison heard of his father's death.

About 1877 Christison went to England via Singapore and told of his excitement there in meeting a highland regiment with a pipe band playing. He stated he "just turned round and followed that band till it reached the barracks again."

When he reached home an uncle, a doctor of some eminence, became interested in Australia and Lammermoor and eventually lent him £13,000 at 6% to help him develop his station. He visited his old home at Foulden and stayed with a sister and her husband, and in a generous mood made her a shareholder in Lammermoor. This generosity was to embarrass him later when she and her husband demanded cash for their share at a most inopportune time. He married and brought his bride back with him to Lammermoor and they were very happy together till an attack of malaria caused her death some time later as related previously.

To drown his sorrow he worked late and early, as physical exhaustion brought sleep and relief from thought. About this time McIlwraith got into power and his Government arranged a contract with the British India Co for a monthly service from London, via Northern ports making Brisbane the terminus. Then the settlers thought their days of hardships were over and fortunes ahead for all of them.

Before this Mort and others had spent several fortunes trying to invent a means of conveying meat to market in London. Andrew McIlwraith acting for his firm, chartered the ship Strathleven, installed a Bell-Coleman engine and sent her out to Australia to bring home frozen meat, his firm taking all risk. The Strathleven loaded forty tons of frozen beef and mutton and landed it in good condition in London in February 1880. An event of historic interest to all North Qlders.

Christison got the meat exporting on his brain and setting off home to Great Britain he with others began to try to create an interest there and to form a company to export frozen beef from North Qld where the cattle country is. They succeeded in forming a company and Christison was appointed the Qld manager to see the works built and get ready for killing, freezing, and shipping, the London Board to choose the machine and engineer to erect it. Their choice was unfortunate and the engineer ended his life by suicide after spoiling one lot of beef. After a time another engineer was secured and things righted but when the ship was alongside the works which were on Poole Island, at Port Denison, and

everything ready to start loading, a terrific cyclone began which wrecked the works and drove the ship ashore, also destroying half the town of Bowen and playing havoc among the forest trees.

Once more the meat had to be boiled down for tallow. Christison estimated it would take £5600 to repair the damage. The worked had cost £20,000 to erect and he advised the company to appoint another manager and he once more returned to Lammermoor, knowing that, although the effort had ended in disaster, the freezing and exporting of meat would ere long be a success.

Some years previously to this Robert Christison had married again a girlfriend of his first wife. She had joined him at Poole Island, but not liking the climate had taken a house at Stanthorpe. On his return to Lammermoor she decided to accompany him. The railway had then reached Pentland and they put up there for a night, and started next morning with the station horse and buggy. Christison was delighted with everything, the black boys, the horse, the buggy, even the beauty of the bush roads, but this lady could see only discomforts and nothing to admire, and it must be recorded here that she had absolutely no pioneering instincts.

In 1888 we hear of Christison in England with his family. His wife took him to Paris but the ordinary interests of a tourist failed to attract as soon as he saw the artesian water supply there, and in haste, he was back in Sheffield ordering a boring plant with gear and tools supposed to be able to work to a depth of 2000 feet, and shipping it, he was soon back again, still alone, to battle with another drought. The boring plant and the engineer imported with it were soon on a site but all sorts of delays took place and the plant proved both suitable for the conditions so he had to obtain a Canadian plant that was more successful.

As years passed the herd increased, till he was selling up to 6,000 head per year, and taking an interest in showing his cattle and horses and gloried in their success as prize winners and who shall blame this lonely man if he drank to their further success a few times more than was necessary.

In 1886 Tom Christison died in his sleep at Cameron Downs, leaving a wife and two little girls.

In 1890 Mr Christison was again in England with his family so missed some of the excitement of the big strike in 1891 but soon he was out again with a fresh batch of pedigree stock comprising horses, bulls and dogs, and so on through the years, fair fortune beckoning, yet always some set back to keep the fortune still in the future. Forty-six years had elapsed from the time that from a lad of only 16, owing to his second class fare, through years of almost starvation to growing success, though there were mortgages to clear off and droughts to battle through, till in 1898 his daughter in her book says, "Lammermoor had five hundred horses, a stud herd of Hereford cattle and a general herd of Hereford cattle."

Yet, mostly a great part of the money went back in improvements and in making rich the traders and agents, and in wages, and when the long drought from 1898 lasting till 1902 was over many of the pioneers were ruined men and stole away to die or begin again elsewhere. A few who had sold in the boom years were enjoying well-earned leisure in retirement. Even the lion hearted Christison began to feel the stain and he began to look for a purchaser for his beloved home, who would carry on as he would have it done, yet still the rain did not come and the continued strain burned out the strength of mind and staying power of both the men and women who lived through it. The women who take only were already away living in comfort elsewhere bit the women of the pioneer breed stayed on and cheered on the worn out men whether father, husband, brother or on. Even the employees kept up the long struggle better when they saw the women, some of them well educated and refined, enduring cheerfully and working bravely, ever ready to help with a cheery tale or a new joke, or with some homely remedy in cases of sickness or accident.

This long drought really finished Christison but yet he held on till a suitable buyer was found for he could not go till he knew that his old retainers would be cared for and his going was very sad for it was goodbye to his life work and the home he had built with his own hands mostly and the stock and herd he had built up and the blacks who were much to him as helpers and amusing companions. With failing health he crept away to be cared for by his wife and family but ere long the old pioneer was back again sleeping his last long sleep at the foot of those other Lammermoor hills which as a little child he had loved.

#### 4 Jan 1930 (p39, NA, NQR)

Those valuable perennial fodder plants members of the *Astrebula* family, which we embrace in the general term of Mitchell grass have a wide geographical incidence in the northern portions of Australia. Geologically the *Astrebula*s may be said to follow the Lower Cretaceous formations although there are pronounced exceptions to that rule. For instance, the basin of the Victoria River in the NT is typically Lower Cretaceous yet it grows no Mitchell grass.

The late AC Gregory, explorer and scientist, made a geological survey of the Victoria River valley and he claimed that the formation which he examined there differs in no way from those found in Western Qld which is the home of *Astrebula*s. The mystery why Mitchell grass has never taken root in the Victoria River basin probably owes its origin to some shortage in the soil of certain chemical foods which it requires. The isolation of the region, surrounded as it is by scrubby desert, is not the reason of its non-appearance for the Mitchell grass appears again further on on the watershed of the Fitzroy River in WA.

In season, the basin of the Victoria River and as far out across the tableland as Sturt's Creek is thickly coated with Flinders Grass (*Anthistiria Membranacea*), which in W Qld and most other parts is found growing in close association with Mitchell grass. Had Mitchell proved to be indigenous to the Victoria River basin it would have added greatly to the value of that district as a grazing area. *Membranacea* is brittle when dry, breaking off easily from the stem and falling to the ground when it becomes pulverised and blown away leaving the country bare.

It is a peculiar fact too that the best variety of Mitchell grass, known as "Curly Mitchell" (*Astrebula Curvifolia*) grows on those ashy downs that lie through Llanheidol and Lucknow stations in W Qld. Similar ashy downs occur on the Upper Victoria, but never a blade of *Curvifolia*.

The incidence of Mitchell grass is very closely associated with the occurrence of grey shales. Indeed, the distribution of the different varieties appears to be controlled more by changes in the shales than by either rainfall or temperature. It cannot be said that there is any indication that belts or zones of certain species of *Astrebula* follow the isotherms which many other species of grasses in Australia do. Along the southern seaboard of the Gulf of Carpentaria, for instance, where the rainfall on the Mitchell Belt may be regarded as being heaviest and the conditions most tropical, the commonest variety is *A. Triticoides* or Wheat-eared Mitchell. Yet the inland limit of the *Astrebula*s in Qld and the NT where the rainfall may be regarded as comparatively low – say on Palparara station on Farrar's Creek and on Alroy Station on the Barkly Tableland – are marked by tussocks of Wheat-eared Mitchell.

It may be said with a fair amount of definiteness, however, that Curly Mitchell follows the dry inland regions. It may be found on the Warrego near Barrington on the NSW border, on Carandotta station on the Georgina, and on the heads of the De Grey and Fitzroy Rivers in WA. These are comparatively low rainfall areas yet one of the homes of the Curly Mitchell is on the upper Flinders around Hughenden where the rainfall is much higher.

On the other hand it may be as well to note that there are two varieties of Wheat-eared Mitchell. One is *A. Triticoides* which has its principal home in the Carpentaria country and along the Barkly Tableland north-west of Camooweal. The other is the variety known as "Bull Mitchell" which almost universally frequents the flooded areas of our rivers in W Qld. The former is much the more valuable variety.

It has been observed that Mitchell grass follows the Lower Cretaceous formations. It would be more correct to say that it does not grow anywhere else. As soon as one passes out of Lower Cretaceous one passes out of the Mitchell grass areas. A case in point is represented by the Cloncurry hill country. Here the Palaeozoic areas stand up like islands in the midst of a Mitchell grass sea. *Astrebula* sweeps up to the foothills of the ranges on every hand and stops dead. The soils do not suit it and its place is taken by *Driodia* (*Spinifex*) or by blue grass (*Andropogon Sericeus*) and by Kangaroo grass (*Anthistiria Ciliata*) which botanically is a big ranker-growing brother of Flinders grass.

Whatever *Astrebula*'s needs are they belong to the grey shales. Thus in journeying in towards the interior of the continent from the Mitchell grass belt we begin to lose the shales in the Boulia district and pass into oolitic sandstones. These sandstones, occurring in a low rainfall area, gave us the sand hummocks and the great plains tessellated with stones of the interior. They overlie the grey shales, which the

Mitchell grass needed for its subsistence, thereby cheating Australia of an additional 50 million sheep possibly and of a magnificent woolgrowing area extending from the Barkly Tablelands to the Australian Bight. Had conditions been different the Macdonnell Ranges in Central Australia, which spring out of a waste of spinifex and sand, might have sprung like the Cloncurry Ranges out of a sea of Mitchell grass.

In exchange for the loss of our *Astrelas* in the sandy areas Nature gave us the next best - the mulga and its associated grasses. These follow the sandy soil which is anathema to the *Astrelas*. A line drawn from Barrington on the NSW border to Auathella and thence through Diamantina Lakes Station will roughly mark the south-western limits of Mitchell grass in Qld as well as the north-eastern boundaries of the Mulga belt. As a general thing Mitchell grass does not appear east of the main Dividing range in Qld although there are small areas of it on the Peak Downs and Belyando Rivers.

The incidence of Mitchell grass as may be gathered from the foregoing, is governed more by soil than by climate. Attempts to transplant it from its native conditions have never met with success. Seeds of Mitchell grass have been carried down our inland rivers - the Georgina, the Diamantina and the Cooper - for hundreds of miles yet it does not appear outside its allotted area. Even the Bull Mitchell which is common in the channels of the Thompson and the Barcoo Rivers, and which seems to be able to withstand heavy inundations, has not spread to the lake Eyre district.

We have observed that Mitchell grass does not grow on sandy soil yet it thrives on alluvium in its own area. The wide spreading fluviatile deposits of the lower Georgina, Diamantina and Cooper Rivers are entirely made up of detritus carried down from the Mitchell grass areas higher up yet Mitchell does not grow there. A question of latitude you might think! Not at all. Mitchell grass flourishes on the same latitude in other parts; and by way of contradiction we find it flourishing on the great alluvial plains, also brought down from the areas higher up, that lie along the lower Flinders and Leichhardt Rivers.

Whilst surveying the occurrence of Mitchell grass it is interesting to observe what trees and shrubs frequent those soils for which it shows a predilection. Some are universally found in the Mitchell Belt. The chief of these are Gidgea, boree, corkwood, leopard tree, whitewood, vine-tree, supplejack and congaberry bush. The soil that suits the Mitchell is seen to suit these also; yet without exception all those species are found growing in abundance outside the Mitchell area.

Mitchell strangely enough, will flourish in soils that suits such widely divergent botanical specimens as coolabah, vine-tree, and *Excoecaria* (Native Gutta percha). *Excoecaria*, which flourishes round the seaboard of the Gulf of Carpentaria and between the Norman and the Albert Rivers, is also the home of wheat-eared Mitchell. *Excoecaria* is found throughout the Victoria River basin where in a lower Cretaceous area Mitchell grass has refused to grow. Nutwood and emu-apple which are found in close association with Mitchell grass in W Qld also abound in the Victoria River country. Yet 150 miles east in the vicinity of Newcastle Waters and Powells Creek, *Excoecaria* is again found in close association with *Triticoides* (Wheat-eared Mitchell).

Summed up, Curly Mitchell may be said to follow the light-soiled, ashy downs of the interior - Barcoo and Diamantina Rivers - whilst Wheat-eared Mitchell seems to have a predilection for the stony limestone plains of the Barkly Tableland. The home of Common Mitchell is on the Flinders and Thompson watersheds notably in the Hughenden and Longreach districts.

Even more universal in the northern portions of Australia than either Mitchell or Flinders grasses is the leguminous annual, *Sesbania Aegyptica*, with its yellow and lilac flowers and which is commonly known as Sesbania pea. A combination of those three, in a lush season, makes a glorious scene of plenitude on the plains. The peas is one of the most valuable native legumes that we have in Australia. Whilst young and succulent it is an excellent fodder and provides a balanced ration when grazed in conjunction with either Mitchell or Flinders grass. At seeding time it becomes stringy and stock disregard it in its later stages.

The writer has advocated the conservation of this pea whilst it is still young, converting it into ensilage along with other native growths. *Sesbania* pea is wonderfully prolific. In the early days

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of settlement its hold upon the regions where it grew was tremendous. Its seeds provided food through



good years and bad for the millions of galahs and flock pigeons that frequented the plains. Overstocking has accounted for its partial disappearance from districts where it once grew abundantly. It has only a periodical growth varying considerably over any series of years. Old hands used to aver that every third year was a peabush year but the writer is not able to support that contention as he can remember only four or five genuine peabush seasons in the course of the past thirty odd years.

A little peabush will grow every year after a normal wet season but the 'Real McCoy' happens only once or twice in a decade – the kind of year in which *Sesbania* pea takes charge and its prolific growth hinders even the mustering of cattle on the plains. *Sesbania Aegyptica* is an ancient and historical plant and in point of age botanically it compares with the bullrush that frequents our western bore drains.

Whilst flourishing mainly in the northern parts of our continent it is found growing in similar latitudes in other countries, notably in Africa. Many years ago as a result of archaeological work in Egypt a wreath was discovered in the sarcophagus of an ancient Pharaoh. Flowers from this wreath, thousand of years old, upon being immersed in warm water, opened out into our old friend – *Sesbania* pea.

### **11 Jan 1930 (p21, NA, NQR)**

#### **TALKIES**

Teachers from all States in conference attacked what they called "slang amounting to obscenity, atrocious grammar and frightful English," of the Talkies.

They passed unanimously a motion requesting the Commonwealth and State Governments to exercise a strict censorship.

Miss Flynn said, "the characteristics of the Talkies were exaggerated nasal twang, irritating drawl and frightful grammar, objectionable slang words and sentences. These elements were rapidly finding a place in the Australian vocabulary. In many cases scenes and incidents in the Talkies were absurdly overdrawn, unreal actors and poor heroes were lionised. Teachers could attempt at least to remedy the existing deplorable state of things. Talking pictures should not be shown to Australian children unless they were non-injurious to their speech and ideas. Australia's best demands of the Talkie producers – good actors, good stories and good English."

### **11 Jan 1930 (p25, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jan 6 – Just previous to the Christmas festive season, Toorak Station was the scene of a happy gathering the occasion being a farewell to the late manager, Mr Powne, who has for a considerable number of years held this position in a most capable manner and the appreciation and confidence that the staff held for him was shown by their presentation to both Mr and Mrs Powne of a beautiful silver tea and coffee service suitably inscribed. Many kind remarks were made by the members of the staff and Mr Powne on behalf of himself and his genial wife suitably responded at the same time regretting his departure and assuring those present that he will at all times have many kind thoughts of the trustworthy staff he had the pleasure of managing for so long. Mr and Mrs Powne leave in the near future for three months sojourn in the southern capitals which no doubt they both richly deserve.

Christmas and New Year festive seasons have now come and gone and I am pleased to report no tragedies of any sort. Christmas Eve was exceptionally quiet but business houses report a fair trade. On New Year's Eve the C of E ladies held a fancy dress ball which proved a huge success from all points of view. On the striking of the midnight hour the loud explosions of crackers could be heard from all angles intermingled with occasional bursts of cheering and laughter from jovial folks, who were evidently making a good attempt to welcome the New Year with pleasure.

Much excitement was caused among the ratepayers of the town area a few days ago when they were all blessed, as a sort of a New Year's gift, with their first water rate notice from the McKinlay shire Council. The charges for the water are set out on the superficial area of the floors of all buildings situated on the land at the rate of 10/- per hundred superficial feet of floor space with a minimum rate of £6 per annum. Hotels at the same rate with a minimum of £50 per annum. Butcher shops, bakehouses, aerated water or ice factories, at the same rate with a minimum of £10 per annum.

Many of the ratepayers are hostile over the charges their plea being that they are being rated too high. We understand the Council had to borrow a sum of money to install the waterservice. The correct amount I am not aware of but I believe it is in the vicinity of £5000 and the ratepayers state that at the

present charge the Council will be in a position to repay the loan within about eight to ten years.

I learn that a number of the ratepayers intend calling a public meeting on Saturday Jan 11th to enter a protest against the high-rating and I also believe the matter of 3/3 per sanitary service is also to be dealt with.

At the last monthly meeting of the Council I notice where it has been decided not to add any further equipment to the present firefighting apparatus at present installed in this town unless the residents give an assurance that a further reel, hydrant, nozzle and hose will be quite ample to meet the future requirements. The present equipment consists of two 60 feet hoses with necessary couplings, hydrant and nozzle and the above addition would not benefit the residents to any extent except that with the reel it would be more convenient to carry about. The pressure in the mains I believe is about 27 lb to the square inch and we all know doesn't matter how much hose we had this would be no good in case of fire. We have some very fine buildings in this town and the residents for their own protection should endeavour to have installed a more efficient fire fighting apparatus than the above.

### **18 Jan 1930 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jan 16 – Weather conditions for the past week have been rather pleasant in so far as rain is concerned but the heat at times has been most unbearable. Thursday broke into another scorching day, the mercury rising well over 112 in the shade but this heat could not last the day out as soon after lunch a good heavy storm could be seen working up from the North and about 3 o'clock i began to pour and up till seven o'clock the same evening 70 points had been recorded in the town area.

Since the New Year the town has been very quiet. Business folks report a similar fate but as this is alwasu the case every year at this particular time no serious notice is taken of same as it will ow only be a matter of a few months whn then shearing and cattle season will again commence which will no doubt make up for lost time. Stock agents report everything very quiet . There are no movements of stock to speak of and as this is the wet season period drovers will have the opportunity of having a rest for a while.

Many folks are looking forward to the coming event of the 'Talkies' which is expected to show here this month and it will certainly be most unfortunate for all concerned if they happen to arrive during a heavy wet week.

From figures kindly supplied by Cr Hickman, it shows that the cost of the bore at JC was £1712/4/4 and the cost of the mains £2504/13/9. The amount borrowed for the bore and casing £4600, term of loan 20 years, interest payable at the rate of 6% and redemption per annum amount to £398/0/4, and at the present time the total amount of rates collected are about £470.

### **8 Feb 1930 (p81, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jan 29 – Glorious weather has prevailed since writing my last notes this time last week. Every day rain has fallen in the district, occasionally being rather heavy. I am unaware of any place within the district not having received fair ain and one may judge how the weather has been when I state we have had just over 15 inches for this month. There have been many selectors receiving as much as four and five inches in one fall and although this appears wonderful to some yet the selectors do not wish to see it fall in such great quantities until at least the stock are much stronger.

We are contented to put up with it no matter in what volume it falls. Many of the old identities tell me this has been one of the most beneficial seasons for some considerable time. Everywhere the eye can see the much treasured green herbage stands out prominently and every little creek and water course is flowing freely. At the moment the creek passing just on the outskirts of the town is running pretty level to the top of its banks and the main road leading to Richmond and many other outlying places is impassable. The railway bridge over this creek about half a mile from the town is just above water level and residents on the opposite side have many anxious moments when crossing.

Having had such great rains during the past week the streets and roads are practically untrafficable yet one or two motorists seem to delight in tearing up the med not saying anything to the damage they do to their own cars. The sanitary contractor is having a very anxious time during the past few days. Even a horse drawn vehicle would have much difficulty in getting about owing to the state of the roads.

Saturdays mixed train which was due to arrive here that afternoon, did not arrive until late that night, being several hours delayed through flood between here and Richmond and is held up here indefinitely owing to the flooded waters at Eastern Creek and other places between here and Cloncurry. Fortunately the buffet car is attached and also having sleeping accommodation the passengers are not subject to any great inconvenience. It is not known when this train will depart or when we will receive another train from Townsville owing to the state of the washaways.

Since the rain the grass has sprung up in places where previously one would think grass would never grow again and with the green grass comes the flies and as all will agree with me, they are here in swarms, not forgetting their companions the mosquito. What with flies, mosquitoes, washaways and mud, the life of a westerner is not envied but as these conditions are annual they are looked upon by the hardened residents as just mere trifles.

### **22 Feb 1930 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 19 – Last Sunday saw the first cricket match between the fair sex of this town, the match being the staff and others of Hudson's Hotel versus the staff and others of Gannon's Hotel.

The day broke fine but very hot and much credit is due to the girls for having stood the strain of the terrific heat and troublesome flies. It is surmised that the crowd, despite the weather, was one of the largest that ever attended a cricket match in this town and judging from comments after the match everyone appeared to have enjoyed the day's outing.

Hudson's team, which was captained by Mrs E Murray, won the toss and decided to bat first. Although wicket began to fall freely in the first part of the match it could be seen that a number of girls had a fair knowledge of the game. Hudson's team scored 46 in the first innings and after an interval of about 20 minutes Gannon's team under the leadership of Miss Dot Harper took possession of the bats and after a good solid game were successful in knocking up 31 runs.

Being fair, both teams were evenly matched but it was impossible for the girls to stand up to the unbearable heat which was so prevalent. At the latter end of the game a collection was taken up resulting in about £2/3/- being collected in about 5 minutes. When the game concluded the above sum was handed to the two captains to do as they wished with. Had a collection been taken earlier in the game it is quite possible £10 could have been easily netted.

At the conclusion of the match the girls were suitably entertained to several long, cool refreshing drinks by both hotel keepers which undoubtedly were much appreciated.

The erection of the new Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd has commenced and a glance at the plans convinces one that the building when completed will stand out prominently as a fine piece of architecture and a further asset to this district.

Wilkinson's new chemist shop is practically completed, also the Bank of NSW, yet, notwithstanding the number of dwellings and shops recently erected there are still a number of folk on the look out for tenancy.

It is simply wonderful the vast improvements that have been carried out in this town during the past two years and it would be hard to predict what the span of progress would be were wool to remain at a reasonable figure. However, the present developments speak volumes for the future and undoubtedly the residents have great faith in the district.

### **8 Mar 1930 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, Mar 5 – Advice has been received that owing to departmental duties the Assistant Under Secretary, Mr Chuter will not be able to attend the Conference in Hughenden, March 12th, in connection with the important matter "Alteration of shire boundaries" but in his place the Home Secretary has made arrangements to send the Chief Clerk, Mr Mackay to take further evidence on the matter.

At the request of the JC COC arrangements have been made for Mr Mackay to come direct to JC where he will be met by various ratepayers and, weather permitting, the opportunity will be taken to show him as much of this vast progressive country as possible. Mr Mackay is well versed with the above important matter and with his keen judgement will no doubt soon grasp the true facts of the present

unsatisfactory position. Mr Mackay together with the various delegates from these parts will leave for Hughenden on the Tuesday's down train to be in attendance at the Conference to be held on the 12th.

On Tuesday the 25th March next, commencing at 11 am a sale of town allotments will take place at JC under the New Land Act. As it is anticipated a certain well known corner allotment which has claimed a considerable amount of interest of late will be offered for sale, bidding is expected to be very keen and spirited and this block alone will certainly be knocked down at a very decent figure. Each lot will be offered for the purchase of freehold title or alternatively for the purchase of perpetual lease. The person who makes the biggest bid, not being less than the upset price shall state whether he wishes to purchase as freehold or perpetual lease.

### **15 Mar 1930 (p11, NA, NQR)**

Western Shires

Boundary Alterations

Proposals Discussed at Conference

A proposal to alter shire boundaries in the West which affects the Flinders, Wyangarie, McKinlay and Winton Shires has been causing considerable controversy. The upshot of it all, practically as a result of an agitation by the JC Chamber of Commerce, was a conference of representatives of the shires concerned at Hughenden on Wednesday with Mr RD Mackay of the Home Secretary's Department presiding. Mr Mackay heard the views put forward and will report them to the Minister.

The JC COC representatives fought a lone hand for the alterations proposed. The various shires concerned opposed strongly any general rearrangement of boundaries but expressed their confidence that any small anomalies could be arranged satisfactorily at a conference between the shires.

#### **The Delegates**

The various bodies represented were:

Flinders Shire: Messrs EM Geary and J McLay (clerk)

Wyangarie Shire: Messrs CR Murray and BC Carter

McKinlay: Messrs WM Allison, SU Browne, WS Macansh, John Webster and J Parsons (Clerk)

Cloncurry: Messrs WA Rose and J MacLain

McKinlay residents: Mr FC Butters

JCCOC: Messrs ML Byrne, EH Doubleday, JJ O'Sullivan, FH Garrity, L Long

Nelia Progress Association: Mr J Howatson

Opening the proceedings Mr Mackay read a letter from Mr JV Suter of the Flinders Shire apologising for his absence. Continuing his letter, Mr Suter stated: "I have had a petition presented to me asking that the town of Hughenden be joined to the Flinders Shire. I must ask that this matter be not allowed to come up, anyhow at this conference. I consider our shire area is already over large without further additions, particularly one, paying 10d in the £. I have yet to find any just cause why the shires of Wyangarie and McKinlay should be wiped out. They conduct their business well and evidently to the satisfaction of their ratepayers and I feel certain that if a poll were taken the result would be heavy in favour of their retention ..."

A letter from the Hughenden Town Council asked Mr Mackay if he would receive and hear two delegates from Council at the conference. The delegates proposed to bring up the matter of the amalgamation of the Flinders and Town Council areas.

Mr Mackay decided that the conference had been called for a specific purpose and he could not hear the Town Council delegates.

#### **Proposals Outlined**

Mr Mackay briefly outlined the proposals for an alteration of boundaries.

He said in August last a petition was presented to the Hon. the Premier by Mr Riordan MLA forwarded by the JC COC and signed by residents of JC and district who also were ratepayers of the McKinlay, Cloncurry and Winton Shires praying for the adoption of the Local Authorities Boundaries Commission's recommendations in so far as they applied to McKinlay Shire.

Notice of intention was gazetted as follows on 7th September, 1929:—

- (1) To abolish the Shire of McKinlay.
- (2) To constitute parts of the Shires of Cloncurry, McKinlay and Wyangarie in a new shire under the name of the Shire of JC or such other name as may be necessary.
- (3) To unite the Shires of Flinders and Wyangarie under the name of the Shire of Flinders.
- (4) To alter the boundaries of the Shire of Cloncurry by including in the said shire part of the Shire of McKinlay.
- (5) To make other alterations as may be necessary.

The local authorities concerned (Cloncurry, Flinders, McKinlay and Wyangarie) were advised of the proposal and maps in illustration forwarded.

The Clerk of the Wyangarie Council replied reporting that a conference consisting of representatives of Wyangarie, McKinlay, Flinders, Cloncurry and Winton Councils was held at Richmond on the 25th September at which a motion protesting against the alterations was carried unanimously.

The conference realised that boundary anomalies existed but considered these could be adjusted by a Conference of the Shires concerned. In support of the resolution carried it was pointed out that the petitioners did not amount to 2 percent of the ratepayers of McKinlay Shire and that the majority of petitioners did not hold or rent property in the Shire. The Cloncurry alteration would, it was claimed, make it impossible for the Shire to function, as the best portion (first class sheep country) would be severed from it and in return a large area of barren and unproductive country, including unoccupied Crown land, would be added.

Dealing with Wyangarie it was stated that apparently the majority recommendation of the Commission has been disregarded in favour of one members proposal and that such proposal was in opposition to the ratepayers wishes. It was also stated that Flinders Council was not desirous of absorbing Wyangarie or any portion of it and that Wyangarie was only separated from Flinders in 1916. Flinders did not desire Winton area transferred to them.

A further communication dated 9th October was received from the JCCOC dealing with the protest against the proposal by the Shire delegates at the Richmond Conference and again stressing their agreement with the general policy adopted by the Boundaries Commission in its recommendations for alterations and the reasons quoted in the report for such recommendations. The opinion was expressed that a poll, if taken, would result in unanimous approval of the scheme, the Chamber generally ridiculed the statements made at the Conference and stated it was intended to call a meeting to enable ratepayers to express their opinion on the proposal.

Separate objections had since been received from —

- (1) Flinders Shire Council who state they are not desirous of enlarging their area and that Wyangarie formed part of their area in 1913
- (2) Winton Shire Council who consider alteration in boundaries should only be made at the request of Councils concerned.
- (3) WM Allison of McKinlay who considers removal of Shire Offices will seriously affect the township of McKinlay.
- (4) Wyangarie Shire Council who advised that petitions protesting against the proposals will be placed before the Minister deputation
- (5) Nelia Progress Association suggesting that a poll of ratepayers be taken to determine the matter and also on the question of dividing the Shire.

A further communication (9/10/29) had been received from the JCCOC stating that a public meeting of

ratepayers in the “Benefited area Cloncurry and McKinlay” was held on 20th ultimo and was unanimously in favour of the proposals. They asked that it be arranged that representations meet the Minister to state their case.

An additional request was received in November from ratepayers in Cloncurry Shire asking that their areas be included in the proposed JC Shire. These properties were:– Monstraven GH 759; Violet Vale 768; Wallanover pastoral holding and Wallanover GF 862; Byrimine, Past Lease GH205, GH 5895, GF 1095, GH 659. It was represented that these properties were all adjacent to the proposed western boundary of proposed new shire; all used JC as their town; and that Cloncurry Shire did not benefit them.

Deputations from Wyangarie, Cloncurry and McKinlay Shire subsequently waited on the Minister to protest against the proposal. The Chairman of the McKinlay Shire Councillor Allison presented a petition signed by about 200 persons voicing their objection also. He pointed out that the proposal would seriously affect McKinlay township. The Shire Clerk furnished statistical information in regard to the shire.

Councillors Aitken and Rose objected on behalf of Cloncurry and estimated that the Councils loss would be £4000.

The Chairman of Wyangarie Shire objected on behalf of his Council and presented a petition objecting to the scheme.

Thus matters stood when the Conference opened.

#### The Conference Proper

Proceedings opened with the stating of the case for the McKinlay Shire.

Mr Butters, representing the townspeople, stated it was not his intention nor the wish of the people he represented to take an active part in the deliberations of the conference. They knew the power of propaganda and although they realised that in publicity they would probably obtain the protection which they sought they decided to make a private report so that the officer disputed by the Department would not be embarrassed nor the work of the Conference hindered but events had caused them at the 11th hour to alter their plans. Acting on information received at the Shire office he came to Hughenden on Monday to find that another alteration had been made and that the officer appointed to the Conference had gone to McKinlay. In the conduct of local authority business alteration seemed to follow alteration with bewildering rapidity. It was nothing less than a breach of ordinary procedure to alter the plans of the Conference without advising their council.

Mr Mackay: In what way was an alteration made?

Mr Butters: Well, if you were going to McKinlay what was the good of me coming here to see you and bringing photographs?

Mr Mackay: On a visit you can see more for yourself.

Continuing Mr Butters said a straw could show the direction of the wind and the visit to McKinlay revealed the true inner workings of much of this agitation. There were no boundaries in the vicinity of McKinlay and it seemed as their friends at JC and the officer appointed to the Conference were agreed that the ruin of McKinlay for the aggrandisement of JC was the main issue. Evidently the townspeople were expected to remain passive while men encompassed their downfall, and to submit without a murmur to the infliction of a form on justice which embraced hanging first and trial afterwards. The townspeople of McKinlay had been absolutely ignored but they were determined to force the issue and to resist the abolition of their shire by every lawful means within their power. Mr Butters said the question of boundaries had arisen in consequence of a petition from JC and he regretted to say that it had been found on examination to be a corrupt document and it would be shown also that interested persons had made misleading statements to the Minister.

Mr Butters went on to refer to correspondence with the department in connection with the proposed alterations. In a letter to Mr Petersen they had placed their position before the Minister, Mr Petersen.

They had suffered the ravages of the most devastating drought within the memory of man, but through all their losses and privations they had been upheld by the hope of better things to come when the seasons would improve and the Rangeview resumption would be thrown open for selection bringing an influx of selectors and capital providing much needed employment and restoring prosperity to the town but unfortunately for them the Land Administration Board had decided to apportion the greater part of this resumption amongst the existing selectors to secure them a living area. Their hopes of recovery in this direction would not be realised and to add to their troubles which assuredly were threatened by the Home Secretary's Department which would practically have the effect of wiping out the whole community. In a time of stress their prospects had been blasted through the actions of the Land Administration Board and their very livelihood was now threatened by the Home Secretary's Department. The adjustment of boundaries was more or less an academic question on which they offered no comment but they believed a solution of the difficulty so far as they were concerned was to be found in the proposal of the Cloncurry Shire to divide its area into divisions thus enabling the selectors to secure the representations on the Council which was necessary to advance their interests. Being so eminently fair this proposal should prove acceptable to all the ratepayers within the shire of Cloncurry and they might well forget their differences and settle down to give the new plan a fair trial for three years and this was the solution they suggested: that the proposal of the Cloncurry Council be given a fair trial for three years by all the ratepayers within the shire and that further consideration of the abolition of their shire be deferred for three years.

Further Mr Butters set out facts and figures concerning McKinlay. The present population of McKinlay was 140 and in the event of the abolition of the shire the population would be reduced by 68 showing a probable loss of 42 percent directly attributable to the abolition of the shire. Only casual workers would remain and as they were never permanent residents the process of disintegration would continue even below the 50 percent line. It must also be borne in mind that the town had incurred responsibilities with reference to the Council abattoirs and water schemes which would tend to accelerate depopulation. The water rate averaged about £7 per household and in this respect of business there would be three rate payers paying rates of approximately £40 each. In the event of the population being reduced the increased rates must be borne by those left behind and a reduction of 50 percent in population would have the effect of doubling the water rate which neither householder nor business could afford to pay.

From a price of the valuations of buildings and plant it would be seen that a capital sum of £24,000 would be involved in the proposed change. The amount invested in buildings was roughly £15,000 and as McKinlay was far removed from any centre of population the cost of labour and transport would militate against the recovery of anything but a fraction of their outlays. It was distance from the coast which made their buildings so costly; the value did not lie in the materials of which they were constructed. As they stood in McKinlay the buildings were worth their cost but if taken down and transported to the nearest centre of population they might not fetch sufficient to pay wages and cost of transport.

It would also be noted further that motor vehicles to the capital value of approximately £8500 and present value of £4000 were employed in the service of the ratepayers and should the business houses and homes which they serve be taken away these vehicles would be put out of service and heavy losses would be experienced in this connection also. In addition heavy losses would inevitably be carried by the business community as, owing to the state of the country, they were carrying heavy credits in the forms of dormant and doubtful debts and they could only hope to re-establish themselves in normal conditions were restored.

As evidencing the losses in the pastoral industry reference to the stock statistics would show this district had suffered a 50 percent loss and broadly speaking, half the stock meant half the spending power of the district. In fact, in the case of Eulolo their largest holding, the amount paid in wages was an even lower ratio and it was the wages cheque which affected the prosperity of the back country towns. In 1925 Eulolo employed 38 men; today it employed 14. As the first resumption was not due till 1942 McKinlay must remain practically landlocked for the next 12 years and no fresh development could be expected in the interval.

The statement referred to the vigorous and progressive community life of McKinlay. They had every banking facility to meet their needs and their complement of Government offices was equal to that of JC and they were served by Gilliat. They did not depend on JC for the conduct of any business.

As the conclusion of Mr Butters' statement, Mr Mackay rose to make an explanation of his visit to McKinlay. He said he had an absolutely free hand and could do what he liked. He went to JC at the invitation of the JC COC. He had two days to spare, the conference having been postponed from Monday. He did not know that he was going to McKinlay but he had the time and was driven there. He considered the reflection uncalled for.

Mr Doubleday said JC had nothing to explain about Mr Mackay's visit. He thought Mr Butters' statement was merely a criticism of the Home Secretary's Department. He produced figures to show the shire council was the buttress of McKinlay and on the other hand said the drought had affected them. He had been there and could not find the banking facilities Mr Butters referred to.

Mr Browne: Who are you representing here?

Mr Doubleday: I represent a portion of the ratepayers and the COC. I am representing two of the biggest stations up there, Dalgongally and Eddington. They helped in my expenses to Brisbane so I take it I am representing them.

Mr Byrne said at first it was believed Mr Chuter was coming. Then they found Mr Mackay was coming and they asked their member, Mrs Jones, if Mr Mackay could come on to JC. He did and they drove him over to McKinlay.

Mr Allison apologised for not being there when Mr Mackay arrived, but it was through a discrepancy in his own department that they were not advised.

Mr Mackay: I had two days to spare and went to JC. I did not know I was going to McKinlay.

Mr Allison said it had been promised that an officer of the Department would visit the various area. No greater hospitality could have been offered by them than by Mr Rose of the Cloncurry Shire and the other shires. They at McKinlay who were enthusiastic in getting somebody to go there, could not get a visit, but a few interested people at JC who could pull the strings in the way they knew things were going could get an officer there.

Mr Doubleday: Do you impute an ulterior motive?

Mr Allison: I am not attacking Mr Mackay for it. He came here innocently and not knowing the pros and cons. I would not have known Mr Mackay was coming out but for somebody who was at the sports at Gilliat who said that an officer of the Department was going to JC and McKinlay. Then I read in the North Queensland Register that he was going to visit JC.

Mr Mackay: I did not know I was going to McKinlay.

Mr Allison: I am not blaming you in the matter. You are innocent but the Department is at fault. McKinlay got the treatment from JC that they could expect. They never expected anything else.

Mr Mackay thought they should get down to the business listed.

Mr Allison supported Mr Butters' statement. They had made practically all these statements in Brisbane, that was all the vital statement, and he feared – he might be wrong in saying it – that he was doubtful if they were worth the paper they were written on.

Mr Doubleday: Why?

Mr Allison: Because our evidence before the Commission was not worth a flip of the fingers, especially because all the blocks were designed in Brisbane. They lived in the bush and were not supposed to know anything. Mr Chuter wanted to see nice oblong blocks and wanted to see them go through.

Speaking of the people north of JC he admitted they had not been fairly treated by the Cloncurry Shire. He tried to urge on the Cloncurry Shire that they had no representation. The other day Cloncurry had a chance to put a representative on the Council but they put a town man on again. They were certainly unfairly treated. Cloncurry had now applied for divisions and that might alter things. He thought they



should give them a chance to see how divisions ran. They never tried to get men into the Council before.

Mr Byrne: Oh yes we did. I stood.

Mr Allison: If you had tried to put up a case for divisions with any enthusiasm you might have done better. The northern people were not fairly treated and to help them Cloncurry was prepared to cut up their shire. They on the southern side of the line suffered a five years drought. They on the northern side suffered one. Why couldn't they be fair and ask for a postponement of the present proposals for three years to see how the proposed divisions went?

Mr Mackay: Mr Allison said the boundaries were practically fixed in Brisbane. I was not on the Boundaries Commission but they Commission took sworn evidence and these boundaries were fixed on the evidence and the community of interest.

Mr Byrne said he represented a quarter of a million acres and paid rates for 225,00 and represented 42 members of the COC. Mr Browne could not say they were not representative.

Mr Browne said he was a representative of No 1 division of the McKinlay shire. The men to the north of the JC had a just case and were supported by the McKinlay Shire Council until others tried to ride in on their backs.

A voice: That is not so.

Mr Browne: It is so. I was at a meeting at JC when they complained of the burdens they were groaning under. Last year they spent £500 in the town and the total rates were £51. Last year their general rate was increased from 1 3/4 d to 2 1/2 d in the £. That was all they could increase the rate and every effort would be made to reduce it to 2d. They would not be able to reduce it for several years though. They had a debit balance of £1800 which was repayable at the rate of 10 percent. That was practically depreciation. JC was excellently cared for. The charge they had to make the sanitary service was necessarily high because of the few residents. Mr Byrne said he was representing such a large area of land. That land was not in their shire.

Mr Byrne: I am paying rates on a quarter of a million acres.

Mr Browne: Only 23,000 acres of which is in the McKinlay Shire. This great convulsion is for some very problematical benefit to the town of JC and the northern area. Mr Byrne has considerable interest in the town and in land to the north and he was considerably interested to get his quarter of a million acres in at the reduced rate. At present he paid 5d. Geographically the proposed shire was an absolute gold plated area. It contained no bad country and would be cheaply administered. He had no hesitation in saying a better designed shire could not be imagined. The most expensive area of the McKinlay shire was on the mineral areas of the west. Words failed him in his condemnation of the Cloncurry shire for the way they had milked the land to the north for the benefit of the town. As had been pointed out, this was purely a domestic quarrel and it was largely due to themselves. Those men in the north were largely there in 1915 and 1916 when there were divisions and they could have taken the chance to get on the Council.

Mr Byrne: There has never been a chance for the last nine years.

Continuing, Mr Browne said there was no sentiment in business. If McKinlay should disappear as Carthage did, so long as the disappearance was for the general good all right, but he claimed it was for the benefit of Qld and western Qld in particular that McKinlay should go ahead.

Mr Byrne: Don't you think if the Shire came to JC it would be to your advantage?

Mr Browne: Yes it would, yet I am opposing it for the general good. If it went there we would find a difference in rates. I claim the present shire dovetails into Qld in a way that the proposed new shire does not.

Mr Doubleday stressed the convenience of the new shire. They had all the necessary conveniences.

Mr Browne: I admit you could not have a better designed shire.

Mr Butters said they had every banking facility they could require at McKinlay.

Mr Doubleday: What are the conveniences?

Mr Macansh: The Commonwealth Bank Savings Department.

Mr Byrne: We have to put exchange on to all cheques sent for rates.

Mr Macansh, of No 3 Division of the McKinlay Shire also pressed the claims in favour of the retention of the present boundaries. He said the onus was on them to show cause why they should not be thrust on to the Cloncurry Council who did not want to receive them. The advocates for the change were three. The pleas of two were governed by self interest and the third was the Royal Commission.

The first of the advocates, those people living to the north of JC and now in the Shire of Cloncurry, pleaded they had no representation on that shire and were neglected by it. As a matter of fact when Cloncurry had divisions these people had no representation in 18 years. Their civic pride however grew with their rates and they now clamoured for transfer to the McKinlay shire at the expense of McKinlay ratepayers.

The second party were the tradespeople and property owners of JC. Their reasons for boosting their town were obvious though it was already a prosperous community maintained by the McKinlay shire to an extent out of all proportion to the paltry rates they paid to the shire.

The third advocate for this drastic change was the Royal Commission which in 1928 rushed through the shires taking evidence, one member a bureaucrat who, in season and out, had advanced this very change and who took this chance to advance his hobby and whose long association with local government affairs probably gave his opinion extra weight with the other members. The members when asked could not give the rateable value of the land to be taken from Cloncurry Shire or of that to be taken from McKinlay and even had to admit they had not taken same into consideration. Against such advocated they submitted they could plead a case that would convince the governor in Council that no further action need be taken in this matter.

Their divisions contained three townships each with its own interests and hinterland and all unanimous against the proposed change. The first of Djarra, was a rail terminus with a considerable railway staff, refreshments rooms and boarding houses, and the home of a number of carriers who plied their calling over a very large area of country to the south and west including the towns of Boulia, Urandangie and Bedourie. The people of this town did not want to go into Cloncurry shire. They were content as they were but if the Government was determined to carry out the recommendations of the Commission they would prefer to be in the Boulia shire.

Duchess, the second town in the division was an important mining town which had lately fallen on evil days. There were however still a number of small mines working and some employing up to 60 men but mostly three or four. It was an important junction between Cloncurry and Mt Isa both by road and rail. The people of the town and district were content to remain in McKinlay but realised that they should be in the Cloncurry Shire whose road plants had to travel through Duchess to go to Mt Isa. This exchange could be arranged to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Selwyn the third town was an old mining town but lately copper mining had started afresh. A number of smaller mines were working and the Answer mine was being pumped out preparatory to starting work. These people were unanimous in their opposition to the proposed change... []

Mr Rose opening the case for Cloncurry referred to Mr Mackay's visit to JC and McKinlay after the very sincere promise they received from the Minister in Brisbane that he would make no alteration in boundaries until he could come and inspect the areas or until an officer of the Department made an inspection of the different parts under discussion. The first intimation they had Mr Mackay was going to JC was a telephone message. Mr Mackay was not responsible. The Minister stated an officer would go to every part but he did not go beyond JC. He never saw Cloncurry Shire.

Mr Byrne: Yes he did.

Mr Rose: You took him to the coveted part.

He considered it unjust. The officer had seen the part under discussion at JC but the other part that affected them he had not seen. They were practically bankrupt as a council. He had a list of properties that would be taken from them if the new shire was created. The total valuation of the shire was £662,940 producing £8696. The part it was proposed to excise covered 4018 square miles and carried a valuation of £297,352 producing £4018. Against that they were to be given an area from McKinlay, the total estimated return from rates being £1900. That showed the difference the alteration in boundaries would make to them.

They could not blame JC for agitating for something that would help them but that was what was behind the curtain. That was not fair to the people at Cloncurry. All the people who landed on their feet at JC had fallen on good country and were on a good wicket. It was unjust to take this rich pastoral country. They had only to compare the land ballots. If there was a block at JC there were hundreds after it but that was not so at Cloncurry.

Continuing, Mr Rose said they had a place called Sedan dip. It was out on the Cloncurry River. It was suggested to take that from them. It was one of the best little revenue producing assets they had in the shire. It netted from £400 to £600 a year in dipping charges. It was even suggested to rob them of that. It was much nearer to Cloncurry than to JC... He appealed to them to leave the boundaries as they were...

Mr Mackay read telegrams he had received.

One from the Town committee Gilliat read: At a public meeting of the residents of Gilliat it was unanimously decided to protest against the proposed abolition of McKinlay shire as business which necessarily falls to Gilliat would thereby be diverted to JC. If alteration is contemplated we consider Gilliat a better centre for the new shire than JC.

Another to Mr Meansh from Selwyn read: Public meeting here tonight emphatically protest against removal McKinlay Shire Council to JC. This division prefers inclusion Boulia.

Mr McLain supported Mr Rose in his defence of the Cloncurry shire. McKinlay and JC were in much the same position as Cloncurry and Mt Isa. It was a case of the child having outgrown the parent.

Mr Byrne said Mr MacLain denied their right to be present. They had 42 paid up members of the COC and every one of them was a ratepayer. JC was where they did their business. He complained that they had not received fair treatment from Cloncurry Shire and at times from McKinlay although he would say McKinlay did more for them than Cloncurry. McKinlay held the plant at McKinlay and when the rain came there was not a man at JC to do a job. Mr Byrne contended JC was an ideal centre for a Shire.

Mr Webster: In advocating the removal of the Shire to JC did Mr Byrne take into consideration the cost of doing so when the ratepayers are up to their ears in debt.

Mr Byrne: Yes, if I became a Councillor I would not attempt it at the present time.

Mr Webster: Did you get a contract price for it?

Mr Byrne: Yes. I got a price of £925 including cartage.

Mr Webster stated he did not place much credence in that the cartage from McKinlay to JC was 1/6 a mile for 65 miles. The quote was absolutely ridiculous.

Mr Byrne said he put his name on the back of the contract and would get three or four others to do so too.

Mr O'Sullivan referred to the paucity of road work by the Cloncurry Shire in their area. It must be

admitted they had been badly treated. Evben Mr Allison had supported them that morning. Mr Browne had done so too.

Mr Browne: But that is no argument for an alteration of the boundaries. They think we have a bit of money and want it...

Mr Allison: It is a great pity these people did not go to Cloncurry and put their grievances before the Council in a body just as they had done today.

Mr Doubleday said Mr Rose and Mr MacLain nearly had tears in their eyes because of the financial state of their Shire. They ought to have tears because it was stone motherless broke and it was in a good financial position when they went in. Mr Doubleday urged that the new shire be carried out in its entirety. It might hurt a few but they could not carry out any law without hurting someone. It was only a matter of time.

Mr Allison said he was sorry if he made it appear he reflected on the administration of the Cloncurry Shire. It would come with bad grace from him as, chairman of a shire, to comment on another. He appealed to the department under the present circumstances that everything be left as it was for at least three years.

This concluded the conference which closed with a vote of thanks to Mr Mackay for his patient and tolerant conduct of the Conference. The vote was carried by acclamation.

### **22 March 1930 (p99, NA, NQR)**

JC, Mar 18 – During the past month many children have been affected with that dread complaint sandy blight and despite the care of the parents several cases have caused considerable worry and much discomfort to the sufferers. The bush nurse daily attends to many of the childrens' eyes at the State School and were it not for her careful attention many more children than at present inflicted would also be suffering from the same complaint. The Minister for Public Instruction has announced that it was his intention to send into Western Qld Doctor Johnson the Government Ophthalmic surgeon to make a personal examination of the eyes of each child affected with the blight and also to co-ordinate in the work of part time doctors.

### **29 Mar 1930 (p21, NA, NQR)**

JC, Mar 24 – I understand Silent Cops are to be laid down one at Hickman's Corner and the other at the Post Office Corner and it is to be hoped when these are installed which will then make four altogether, that the traffic Inspector will endeavour to see that the laws of the road are strictly obeyed, irrespective of persons. It only require one or two prosecutions when the average motorist will realise the best policy to adopt. I would like to add that considerable latitude has been given to motorists of late and it will be not until a serious accident happens that proper steps will be taken which may be unfortunate for some of the parties.

### **29 Mar 1930 (p35, NA, NQR)**

JC Land Sale

JC, 25 Mar – The much discussed land sale was held at the Court House this morning when there was a very large attendance, among whom were noted many country residents. The sale commenced at 11 o'clock in the forenoon and the usual terms and conditions were explained to prospective buyers. Bidding started with allotment 10 Section 2, this being one of the main blocks in the town and after much spirited bidding it was knocked down to W Gannon at £1760. The following is the list of the prices obtained for all other allotments offered at the sale. Every allotment offered was knocked down far above the upset price with the exception of allotments 6, 7 and 8, Section 11 which were sold at the upset price of £10. The details are:

Lot	Area		Upset Price	Purchase Price
	R	P	£	£
1	1	0	100	1760
2	0	39.7	45	150
3	0	39.7	40	85
4	1	0	45	160
5	0	39.7	50	105

6	0	39.7	45	155
7	1	0	40	155
8	1	0	40	125
9	1	0	40	160
10	0	39.7	45	195
11	1	0	30	35
12	1	0	20	50
13	1	0	25	25
14	1	8	10	10
15	1	8	10	10
16	1	8	10	10

### **12 Apr 1930 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Apr 9 – Many changes and improvements continue to take place in this progressive district. I learn that the business which has been for quite a number of years conducted by the well-known hostess, Mrs E Stewart, has now passed into the hands of Mrs Hayden, whom I understand intends making numerous improvements to compete with the times of progress.

Mr J Norton who for the last twelve months carried on the business known as the Railway Refreshment Rooms, has now disposed of same to Mr Les Stadhams, a well-known identity of the Gulf district and whom I believe intends making vast alterations to the present building and when completed should certainly meet with the requirements of the travelling public. Mr Norton I understand intends remaining in this district and will continue to carry on his commission agency and forwarding business.

Messrs Robinson Bros are making preparations to remove into the buildings at present occupied by the Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd who will shortly remove into the premises at present under construction opposite the Post Office. As the above firm proposes carrying extensive lines of fancy goods etc the wants of the public will not be neglected.

### **19 Apr 1930 (p98, NA, NQR)**

A Progressive Western Town

JC for the past few years has made wonderful progress as a pastoral centre, more especially in the last couple of years. To see it today and compared with the writer's first visit seven years ago, it has grown from a gloomy wayside place into a small city. It has now two hotels, and Gannon's which was only erected and furnished brand new a year or so ago at a cost of something like £12,000 makes a big improvement as far as visitors are concerned. The old hotel now run by Alf Hudson, is by no means lacking and with both hotels accommodation is well up to the standard.

Mr Eckford has built a very fine tropical theatre with seating accommodation for something like 500. Humphrey Bishop's company has booked it for a short season next month. The Masonic fraternity have their own hall. The appearance of the shops in the main street are being rebuilt with a modern tinge. There are two chemist shops, one under the banner of Cliff Griffiths with Norman Clark, a CT boy, in charge. Another Towers boy in business is Tommy Yelland in the hairdressing line.

There are three banks at JC two occupying leased premises one of which is owned by another Towers boy, Lance Lewis who has a very prosperous motor garage business. Another bank is being built two or three offices adjoining. There is also a School of Arts in the old GUIOOF [?] Hall from Aland Street [CT?] with Billy Taaffe another Towers-ite in charge. There are several nice residences recently erected, as well as a railwaymen's quarters which compares very favourably with other railway quarters along the Great Northern Line.

There is every comfort in the Gulf Port, as it is termed on account of it being the terminus for cattle trucking from the Gulf, as well as being an excellent wool district. Ice, which is most essential in the western districts, is there in abundance and the refreshments rooms give good service.

Compared with Hughenden and Richmond the place looks overbounding with prosperity. Some say that it is a mere boom but despite the low price of wool everyone there looks bright and full of optimism.

JC is governed from McKinlay but having outgrown its parent town it is considered that it will not be

long before the shire will make it's centre alongside of the railway line. McKinlay is something like 90 miles away but the cost of removing its buildings which appears to be the only objection to the removal of the shire office could be covered with less than four figures and would no doubt be of better service than it is at present.

Recently a corner allotment opposite the Post Office brought £1700; but this cannot be taken as an indication of the land value of the place. Although it is not in the main street it would make an ideal position for an hotel but one of the present hotel proprietors was the purchaser.

It is good to see such a western centre growing so rapidly and when wool prices improve which we trust will not be long, JC will be one of the most important pastoral centres along the line.

There is no lacking of public spirit. Already a movement is afoot to establish a hospital there.

### **3 May 1930 (p15, NA, NQR)**

Western Shires

Recent Conference

Report of Mr Mackay

Proposed Alteration of Boundaries – McKinlay Shire and other Consequent Changes

The matter came before the Department in August last by means of a petition from the JC COC signed by residents of JC and district who also were ratepayers of either the McKinlay, Cloncurry and Winton Shires praying for the adoption of the Local Authorities' Boundaries Commissions recommendations in so far as they applied to McKinlay shire.

The Department accordingly gazetted on 7th September, 1929, notice of intention:—

- (1) To abolish the Shire of McKinlay;
- (2) To constitute parts of the Shires of Cloncurry, McKinlay and Wyangarie, a new shire under the name of the "Shire of JC" or such other name as may be necessary;
- (3) To unite the shires of Flinders and Wyangarie under the name of the "Shire of Flinders";
- (4) To unit the Shire of Flinders and Cloncurry by including in the said Shire part of the Shire of McKinlay;
- (5) To make such other alterations as may be necessary.

The Local Authorities concerned were advised of the proposal and furnished with maps in illustration.

A very vigorous opposition to the proposals were voiced at a Conference of the five councils concerned – McKinlay, Cloncurry, Wyangarie, Flinders and Winton which was held in September at Richmond. This was followed by a deputation from Wyangarie, Cloncurry and McKinlay shires to the Minister and the presentation of petitions objecting to the scheme.

The Minister did not decide the matter at the time, promising to give further consideration to the question and I was directed to attend a Conference to be called for Wednesday 12th March at Hughenden to discuss the matter.

At the outset I wish to point out that having two days spare (Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th) at the suggestion of Mr Jones MLA I decided to visit JC which I did on Monday 10th and was met by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and was taken by that body for about 20 miles north of JC along the JC-Normanton road mostly in Cloncurry shire and next day to McKinlay 64 miles distant. This action was severely criticised by the Chairman of the McKinlay Shire and other delegates from that area and subsequently by the Cloncurry delegates. It will be remembered that a wired protest was forwarded to the Minister (See "A")

I subsequently met the Chairman of McKinlay shire, Cr Allison, at Gilliat on the return trip from McKinlay (he would not appear at McKinlay) and explained how my visit to McKinlay had come about.

He considers that his council was unfairly treated in the action taken and stated that the Minister promised to the deputation – "that before deciding the matter an officer would, if considered necessary,

be sent to inspect the whole of the areas affected” – had not been carried out. The Chairman of the Cloncurry Shire also complained in similar terms at the Conference and also stated he intended protesting if it was intended to send Mr Chuter up. I might state that I was not present at the deputation and had no knowledge of such a promise. Councillor Allison also expressed the opinion that in his opinion the Conference was a waste of time as he considered the whole thing was “cut and dried” in Brisbane on Mr Chuter’s advice. and satirically suggested that the proposed new shire should be called the “Chuter Shire.” The Cloncurry delegates too emphatically protested against the heavy expenditure both by the Council and personally that had been incurred – they stated that they had been compelled to put their case – and there were no new facts – no less than four times: first before the Boundaries Commission; secondly at the Richmond Conference; thirdly by deputation in Brisbane; and then at the Hughenden Conference. I would also draw attention to the hostility expressed by Councillor McCansh of the McKinlay Shire towards the Assistant Under Secretary and his ridicule of the Boundaries Commission as set forth in his statement copy of which is attached (See “B”)

#### JC and McKinlay

I was met by some of the petitioners and heard their statement – a summary of which is attached (See “C”) and then was taken by car along the JC-Normanton Road and shown the state of the crossings complained of in the Cloncurry Shire – and on the road to Sedan Dip, “7 miles,” “9 miles,” “12 miles,” and “20 miles”, all on JC, the latter is about 100 yards wide and is very bad. This crossing is (1) the outlet to Dalgongally and the Sedan Dip from which place it was stated no car was able to travel for the last month (2) the outlet to Iffley and Millungera Holdings; the crossing to Peut’s property off the JC road is the outlet to the Flinders River through Sunny Plains, Navest, Osbert, Burwood, Maria Downs, Fairleigh etc and is in bad condition.

The following day I was taken to McKinlay. The road traverses both shires and crosses Eastern Creek, the crossing here, it was stated was built and Eddington Station paying £700 to £800 rates paid half the cost of construction – the McKinlay roads and crossings are in good order, the crossing being well constructed and at all the road outlets to the various holdings substantial sign posts have been erected.

McKinlay township, in my opinion, is not a suitable centre for a shire headquarters – it is over 40 miles from Gilliat, its railway centre and has no banking facilities and has certainly a very good moribund appearance. The shire offices and buildings are substantial and in good order. A statement of the town building population etc is set out in Mr FC Butters statement presented to the Conference in which he makes a passionate appeal to the Minister not to disturb the present position (See “D”). He also presented photographs of the various buildings (See “E”).

I was interviewed at McKinlay by Messrs Palmer and McKenna, local residents notes of whose statements are attached. (See “F”)

A conference was held at Hughenden on 12/3/30 which I attended and was appointed to preside – the others present were:– Mr ML Byrne, JC; Mr EH Doubleday, JC; Mr JJ O’Sullivan, JC; Mr L Long, COC, JC; Mr WM Allison, McKinlay Shire; Mr SU Browne, Mr WS McCansh, Mr J Webster, Mr J Parsons (Clerk); Mr Fc Butters, McKinlay township; Mr CR Murray, Wyangarie Shire; Mr BC Carter, Mr WA Rose, Cloncurry Shire, Mr AN McLain; Mr EM Geary, Flinders Shire; Mr J McLay (Clerk), Flinders Shire; Mr JB Howatson, Nelia Progress Assoc; Mr FH Garrity, JC.

A letter was read from Mr JV Suter (Flinders) apologising for his absence from the meeting as he had to attend a meeting of the Harbour Board in Townsville and protesting against the proposal to abolish McKinlay and Wyangarie shires (See “G”)

A letter was also read from the Town Clerk, Hughenden Town Council, asking that their delegates be allowed to bring forward a matter foreign to the meeting, namely the amalgamation of the Town of Hughenden and the Shire of Flinders but as the matter was not included in the matter for discussion it was decided that they be not heard (See “H”)

The Chairman read a resume of the whole matter of the proposed alterations to the boundaries of the various Shires showing the position as it was at present. He called on Mr Butters as representing the McKinlay Township to be the first speaker as his health was not good and he could then get away as soon as possible.

Mr Butters, representing the Town Committee, put the case for the retention of the shire office of McKinlay from the point of view of the residents of the town. He showed that it would practically wipe out at least 50 percent of the present population if the Shire Offices were removed. He objected to the visit of the Chairman to McKinlay made without advising the McKinlay Shire Council of his intention to visit the town. He handed in his copy of his address and various statistics of the township (See "D")

Mr Allison, Chairman, McKinlay shire, expressed indignation at the slight offered to the Council re my visit to McKinlay without notifying him which was his reason for not meeting me there. He had nothing further to add to statements made in Brisbane and expressed the opinion that the Department would take no notice of representations made and that ratepayers north of JC had not been treated fairly and that they were not represented but that under proposed creation of divisions in Cloncurry considers matter should be held over pending a trial. He appealed on behalf of No 3 Division which under proposal would go to Cloncurry. He suggested matter should drop for three years.

Both these speakers made rather strong comments about what they termed underhand methods adopted by the COC at JC in regard to my visit. I replied explaining how my visit came about; that the McKinlay people knew of it before I did; that I was a free agent and could take any steps I liked in order to advise on the position; and also that I took full responsibility for my action in visiting McKinlay.

Mr Doubleday and Mr Byrne also replied and claimed that they were representing 42 members of the Chamber 20 of whom were graziers in the district and pointed out JC's advantages as a centre.

Councillor U Browne, McKinlay Shire, representing No 1 Division, disputed that the division desired the creation of a new Shire. He claimed that JC was well treated only £71 rates were collected in the town and about £500 spent – referred to a sanitary and slop water system instituted in the town which did not pay its way. Rates are 2d at present and may be 4d. The proposed new Shire was, he admitted, a gold-plated one economical to administer. The expensive division at present in the McKinlay Shire was No 1 which was a mining area. It was against the interest of Qld and the West that McKinlay should go. He asks why kill McKinlay for doubtful advantages – considers township should be fostered instead of being strangled. It was struggling along after a five years drought.

Councillor McCansh objected to the proposals. He made condemnatory remarks about the Boundaries Commission's report and considers if a change is to be made, portion of No 3 should go to Boulia.

Councillor Murray, Wyangarie, stated he had nothing further to add to his Brisbane evidence – he protested against any change except adjustment of boundaries. That, he claimed, could be amicably settled. In reply to my question re Bunda Bunda country on western boundary, he stated that the residents in that holding did not desire a change. The proposed addition [of Flinders?] which they did not want would not compensate for the country to be excised. The road gang would require to go through portion of Flinders Shire for about 10 miles to reach it.

Councillor Geary, Flinders Shire, stated his Council did not desire a change. Proposed new area would be 230 miles east-west, present valuation £1,200,000. If portions proposed were include in Wyangarie they were unconcerned but pointed out that majority of lease holders roads leads to Marathon and Hughenden and for that reason the area should remain in Flinders. The roads in that portion were basalt and heavy to maintain. The people there did their business with Hughenden. Their Shire was best able to look after it...

Councillor Rose, Chairman Cloncurry Shire ... considers JC people only benefiting themselves... he claims that petitioners are specially fortunate owning good land and should be more considerate – claims that Council is doing all possible and that petitioners could take advantage of a new scheme of division proposed for cloncurry and obtain representation. He stated that the valuation of part proposed to be excised was £297,852 and the rateable value to the council £4915. He asks how can the Council function with this loss...

Councillor McLean stated he objected to minority report being adopted but I pointed out that this was not so in regard to his shire. He quoted drought losses of stock in district at 46 percent mentioned Chatworth [wood?] with originally 30,000 cattle now only had 15,000. he considers ratepayers at present fighting for very existence and if the proposal come about it is questionable if they would survive or go under. It was no time to increase rates as would have to be done if the change takes place.



He considers appeal from him representing 1800 people should carry more weight than the COC. Considers they would get difficult country to work in exchange for easy country. He also claimed that Sedan Dip revenue was W and North not JC cattle.

Mr M Byrne, President JC COC instance cases of neglect by Cloncurry Council and conditions of roads – mentioned Millungera Station paying approximately £750 rates yet he had not suitable outlet. He complained of Cloncurry Council's attitude in keeping him off the Council when a vacancy occurred. Considered Shire buildings could be removed for £925. He mentioned that all phone connections were with JC. He praised the work done by McKinlay shire but claimed that JC was the ideal position for the shire headquarters...

Mr J O'Sullivan complained of inattention of Cloncurry Shire shire and stated that Dalgonally paid £750 to £800 rates but got little return. Eddington also paid high amounts yet were required to pay half the cost of crossing done at Eastern Creek...

Mr Doubleday was of opinion that Cloncurry's position was the result of injudicious expenditure. he had paid hundreds of pounds in rates. He stressed the point that the Boundaries Commission had been recommended by the Royal Commission and should be given effect to and that it was unavoidable that some one must suffer...

During the conference wires were received from: (a) Gilliat Town Committee protesting against abolition of McKinlay and claiming Gilliat as a better centre for a new Shire; (b) Councillor McIntyre, No 2 Division protesting against proposals; (c) Selwyn ratepayers who is proposal goes through desire transfer to Boulia.

After a vote of thanks to myself the conference concluded.

Attached is a statement of population, houses, business, etc at present in JC township prepared by Acting Sergeant Casey, at my request.

#### Recommendations:

The constitution of a new shire as proposed with headquarters at JC will certainly affect the township of McKinlay and the residents there, and will be of serious concern to the Cloncurry Shire but at the same time McKinlay is unsuitable as the governing centre of a local authority, and further it is only right that the rights and convenience of the majority must be considered before those of individuals who will suffer if a change is made.

In the case of Cloncurry Shire the area proposed to be excised produces a revenue of over £4000, nearly one half of the shire's income; the area has practically no community of interest with Cloncurry but has with JC and to my mind there is no question as to the advantages to be gained by the constitution of a shire with headquarters at that town.

Under the circumstances I recommend:—

- (1) That the request for postponement of the proposals for three years or the suggested taking of a poll in the areas affected be not acceded to.
- (2) That a new shire be constituted to be called Shire of JC to comprise the area originally proposed by the Local Authorities' Boundaries Commission – that is excluding the additional area in Cloncurry Shire lately applied for by the landholders to be also included.
- (3) That the Cloncurry shire be altered:—
  - (a) By excluding the portion proposed to be included in the proposed Shire of JC;
  - (b) By adding the southern portion of the McKinlay Shire ie. portion to the south of Cloncurry shire as at present (Div 3 and SW part of Div 2)
- (4) That the Shires of Winton and Wyangarie be altered to exclude the portions to be added to the proposed new shire.

- (5) That the Shire of McKinlay be abolished.
- (6) That no action be taken in regard to proposed amalgamation of Wyangarie and Flinders.
- (7) That no action be taken re proposed alterations between Wyangarie and Winton, Wyangarie and Flinders, Flinders and Winton until the Councils concerned have had an opportunity to arrange between themselves an amicable adjustment of boundaries where considered necessary.
- (8) That if the above recommendations are adopted:—
  - (a) That J Parsons, Shire Clerk, McKinlay, be appointed returning officer for the purpose of electing the first council.
  - (b) That the Council consist of seven members and that the area be undivided.
  - (c) That the elections in Shires of Cloncurry and McKinlay be postponed.
  - (d) That Cloncurry Council be advised to confer with adjoining local authorities to adjust any existing anomalies in their boundaries ie with Winton, Boulia, Barkly Tableland, Burke and Carpentaria.

**10 May 1930 (p7, NA, NQR)**

JC, 7 May – It is with regret I have to report the transfer of our local popular station master, Mr N Burrows who has been transferred to CT. During his long residence in these parts Mr Burrows, through obliging and genial disposition, has gained himself a host of staunch friends, and his departure will be witnessed with sorrow. Mr Burrows whose duties as Station Master has always taken up considerable part of his time, yet he has at all times been to the front in giving helpful assistance in many worthy causes.

I feel sure that I am not alone in wishing Mr Burrows and family the hearty good wishes and best respects from the residents of this town and district. Mr Burrows leaves in about two weeks time for CT to which place he has been transferred.

Shortly after 4 o'clock Wednesday evening (7th) a storm could be seen working up from the West and about 20 minutes later the residents of this town experienced one of the worst blows of its kind that ever occurred in these parts. Heavy rain first commenced to fall and in a few seconds the wind became so terrific that I doubt if any one person held any hopes of their homes remaining in their usual position. There is not one house escaped the inflow of water, and floors and bedding were completely soaked in many instances.

The rain and gale continued for about twenty minutes when, fortunately for most of us, it eventually eased off.

On having a view around after the storm had passed over it could easily be seen where the gale had left its tracks and among the most unfortunate to suffer were Beauchamp's house, unroofed and front verandah completely demolished. Hudson's Hotel also suffered considerable damage when the girl's rooms were lifted off the block a distance of four to five feet and three rooms completely unroofed. Two of the staff were in the room at the time and suffered considerable shock besides having all their belongings damaged.

Other damages were: two trucks on railway line slightly damaged; several telephone poles damaged; goods shed partly unroofed; Hickman's office partly damaged; JC Motor Works partly unroofed and bowser damaged; Mr Donnelly's old car shed unroofed; Joe Kaeser's baker shop partly damaged; Tracey's outhouse and horse stalls damaged; new CBA bank's outhouse completely blown over and severely damaged; several cars blown across the streets; J Lynch's outhouse demolished; Mrs Carr's house removed from blocks and partly unroofed; Police court partly unroofed; several outhouses turned over; and sheets of iron scattered all about the streets.

The lightning during the storm was very severe and at the present moment it would be impossible to state the total damage done.

**17 May 1930 (p101, NA, NQR)**

JC, 14 May – Building operations have commenced on Mr Les Standham's Railway Refreshment Rooms, the contractors being Murray and Co, while the same company have a contract in hand to add a further five bedrooms to Hudson's Hotel same to be completed before the annual races in June. Additional accommodation has also been added to Gannon's Hotel so visitors to the races this year should rest assured of securing accommodation.

I understand tenders are also being called to renovate the Sample Rooms and Girls quarters that recently suffered considerable damage in the late cyclone. These are to be converted into roomy Sample Rooms which will no doubt be fully occupied before the annual takes place. [A photo of this may be LG 05]

Our local Head Master Mr J McIvor who has been suffering for the past six weeks left by Tuesday's train to seek medical attention at Townsville. About two months ago, Mr McIvor was burning off the dry grass in the school grounds when he suffered a touch of the sun and although he has persevered since this unfortunate event he has now been compelled to seek the aid of medical advice. We trust Mac's absence from our midst will be short and sweet and he will return completely cured.

**24 May 1930 (p15, NA, NQR)**

JC, 20 May – On Monday afternoon an accident occurred resulting in fatal injuries, the victim being a young man by the name of Joe James. From information gathered it appears that James, who was riding a motor bike and side car attached, having as passengers in the side car Herb Gillett and Fred Hudson, was in the act of turning Kaeser's Corner coming into town when Mr W Bacon driving a heavy Studebaker Sedan Car was going in the opposite direction when both appeared to take the corner at practically the same time. To avoid an accident both drivers simultaneously attempted to turn wide but by some unfortunate precedent the Studebaker car crashed into the sidecar throwing the occupants many feet away.

The passengers in the side car, Gillett and Hudson, never received a scratch, although both suffered considerable shock, whilst James received a fractured skull, broken jaw and internal injuries.

Mr Bacon immediately brought his car to a standstill and with the assistance of others conveyed the unfortunate lad to Mrs Wilder's residence close by. Dr Ralston's services were immediately secured but despite everything being done for the victim's comfort he passed away on Tuesday about 10 am having never regained consciousness. On enquiries it is learned that the deceased has no relations in Australia but his mother and step father reside in England.

A post-mortem was held and the deceased buried at 4.30 pm Tuesday afternoon the cortege leaving the Church of England having a large number of mourners following the remains to the cemetery. Rev Campbell from Richmond reading the burial service.

**28 Jun 1930 (p6, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jun 24 – Shearing operations should be in full swing within the next month and as a matter of fact many shears are in operation at the present time. Eddington Station commence within the near future also Wallacooloobie when the latter has about 26,000 to put over the board. We expect the usual influx of shearers and shed hands and their presence is always welcome as although they knock out fair size cheques they also knock over fair one too with our business folk.

During the early part of the week we had the pleasure of a visit of distinguished visitors in the persons of the Most Worshipful Brother WH Green, Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Qld, accompanied by Very worshipful Brother WH Darker of Brisbane who arrived here on Sunday night and were met by the Brethren of the JC Lodge. During their stay here the visitors took the opportunity of inspecting the JC Wool scour in full operation and were greatly impressed with the satisfactory results obtained and the growth of this town.

**5 Jul 1930 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 1 – During the early part of the week a conference was held in the School of Arts between the delegates from the CWA and the BNA and the Provisional Hospital Committee for the purpose of going into the matter of establishing a doctor in the district. As a result of the conference I notice that lists of subscribers are being canvassed and that applications are called for a duly qualified medical practitioner at a guaranteed salary of £600 per annum. although the list has been in operation only the last twenty

four hours over £100 has been collected already. Let us hope that the scheme as suggested will soon bear fruit as a resident doctor is certainly a much warranted and necessary asset.

**12 Jul 1930 (p5, NA, NQR)**

Applications called from duly qualified Medical Practitioners prepared to practice in North-West Town, Qld. A local Committee formed will guarantee gross receipts (minimum) £600 per year. House available but successful applicants will have to pay reasonable rent. Bush Nursing Centre established but no Hospital. Population of town and district, which is a rising one, estimated approximately 1000.

Applicants stating age, qualifications, etc to reach undersigned not later than August 8th 1930.

WS Taffe  
Secretary Provisional Committee  
JC, NWQ

**24 Jul 1930 (p14, NA, NQR)**

Western Shires

Brisbane, July 24 – An Order-In-Council has been issued abolishing the Shire of McKinlay and constituting parts of the Shire of Cloncurry, McKinlay, Winton and Wyangarie, a new shire under the name of the Shire of McKinlay. The boundaries of the Shire of Cloncurry have been altered by including in that shire parts of the Shire of McKinlay and Winton and dividing the Shire of Cloncurry into four divisions. The Shire of McKinlay will be comprised of nine members and the first election will be held on October 11. The Shire of Cloncurry will be comprised of nine members, two members each for divisions 1, 2, and 3 and three members for division 4.

JC, Jul 24 – The President of the JC COC is in receipt of the following telegraphic advice from the Assistant Under Secretary of the Home Department: “Order in Council being issued constituting new shire without divisions with headquarters at JC, and redividing Cloncurry into four divisions.

**9 Aug 1930 (p5, NA, NQR)**

Shire of McKinlay

Election – New Area

Pursuant to the provisions of “The Local Authorities Acts of 1902-1929,” Schedule 111, and the Order in Council published in the Government Gazette of Saturday the 26th day of July, 1930, I hereby give notice that TUESDAY the second day of September, 1930 and the temporary Shire Office, JC, had been appointed as the day and place for nomination of Candidates for the election of 9 Councillors to the above Shire and that on and after the date of this notice and up to twelve (12) noon on the aforesaid second day of September, I will be in attendance at the temporary Shire Office, JC, between the hours of nine o’clock and four o’clock each day for the purpose of receiving nominations.

In order that a person may become a Candidate at an election he must be enrolled on the voters Roll of an area and be nominated by not less than six electors entitled to vote.

Every nomination shall be accompanied with the sum of Five pounds in sterling money or Australian Notes or by cheque drawn by a bank on itself.

Should there be more candidates than are required to fill the vacancies a poll by Postal Ballot will be taken at JC on Saturday the eleventh day of October, 1930, of which due notice will be given.

Nomination Papers may be obtained from the undersigned at the Shire Office, JC.

J Parsons  
Returning Officer  
JC  
11 August 1930

**27 Sep 1930 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, 23 Sep – Weather conditions have been very changeable during the last week or two. At times it has been very sultry while the nights at most times have been extraordinarily cool. Indications of rain have been most promising which so far have eventuated into a dust storm. Today the town has been

enveloped in a thick haze of dust which not only has been annoying to the housewife, gives a feeling to the man on the land of late rains which the latter is undoubtedly much in need of at the present time. many place through the winter rains which blackened the grass are in a sad predicament and as seeking agistment is out of the question owing to the present unsatisfactory financial position will be most probably is a very unfortunate position by the end the year that is if we do not experience early summer rains.

Although times appear bad, JC still holds more than its own as a business centre as we notice an increase in the staff of the Bank of NSW by the arrival of Mr VP Webb from the Townsville office to take up duties as ledger keeper until matters quieten down from the present busy time being caused by shearing season being in full swing.

Although "Depression" appears to be the pass word with everyone I still notice new buildings creeping up here and there. Since I last penned these notes, several new buildings have been erected and yet at the same time there are no vacant premises of any description, for as soon as a building is erected a tenant is there waiting to slip in.

The shearing season is in full swing and lorries laden with wool can be witnessed daily unloading at the local railway station, not forgetting the large quantity deposited at the local woolscour. So far the shearing has progressed without any serious hitch of any consequences except in one instance the case having been set down for hearing next Thursday where an employee is charged with a breach of contract.

At a recent meeting of the Provisional Hospital Committee held for the purpose of selecting a doctor for this district, the Committee decided out of, I understand, nine applications, to appoint Doctor Hogg, one time of Kurildala, as medical officer for this town and district. The C certainly deserve some credit on their very wise choice as I feel certain Dr Hogg will be a very valuable acquisition to this centre. I understand the doctor will take up duties within the near future.

The C have guaranteed the doctor a salary of £600 per annum and a guarantee fund has been opened which I believe is well in the vicinity of half that amount it recently having been swelled by the handsome donation of £100 this being the nett proceeds of the Wallacoolooble races held last month under the capable banner of Mr M L Byrne.

As this town and district is fast becoming a place of importance and the population increasing considerably of late, a word of praise may be extended to the convenors of this great idea of establishing a medical man of high abilities in our midst.

Grass fires seem to be common of late and strange to say practically about all in the one area although to date I have not heard of any serious damage being cause chiefly on account of an early discovery and a strong posse of fire fighters. The cause of the fires evidently remains a mystery although at times it is surmised that the rats whom I understand are in existence have a certain amount to do with same. But as rats do not carry matches about their persons it appear that the carelessness on some person or persons must be at the bottom of the real cause. Too much care cannot be exercise whilst travelling overland and persons not realising the damage that can be cause by a cigarette butt or loose match would be more welcome by their absence. At a recent meeting of the selectors Association of this branch a suggestion was brought forward advocating the abolition of wax matches which although cause considerable discussion was not approved of by the majority.

### **11 Oct 1930 (p9, NA, NQR)**

JC, Oct 7 – Wonderful changes in the weather have taken place. On October 2nd clouds could be seen banking up to the north and before sundown we experience a most welcome cool shower resulting up up to 47 points falling the town are while many outside places received up to two inches. The rain continued in occasional showers right up until Friday afternoon.

The present year has undoubtedly been a wonderful season that is as gar as rain is concerned. As much as 22 inches have been recording up to date and this appears to be greatly increased as rain has again commenced this afternoon. A pioneer of this district told me this October rain is similar to the 1909 period and during this nineteen years such good relief rains have not been experienced in the month of October. Although the rain has been a godsend to some the cold winds have caused considerable harm

among the stock. last Thursday night was certainly a bitterly cold night due from the effect of the rain and as we are right in the midst of the shearing season and the stock are in anything but good condition the exceptional cold played havoc with the shorn sheep. It is reported that one selector in particular lost 5000 sheep in one night, just off shears while other losses of 1,000, 3,000, 3,000, 400, 250 and several smaller lots have been recorded. Each and every selector will certainly feel the loss as the financial market will not allow any further purchases.

Owing to the recent rains shearing operations have been temporarily suspended. One well known contractor deciding to spend the wet at home attempted the journey of about 50 miles and as the earth in this district is not known for its affectionate attitude towards the progress of motor vehicles especially when an inch of rain has fallen, it became necessary to abandon the car and proceed per foot which evidently was no easy task as I am told it took him over three hours to walk five miles.

Dr Hogg, the newly appointed medical officer for this district, arrived today per car and was met by representatives of the Provisional Hospital Committee. In conversation with the doctor, his first impression of this town is most pleasant and he anticipated he will be thoroughly satisfied with his appointment before many weeks have elapsed.

From what I can hear the doctor has arrived not a moment too soon as during the past week or two several cases of gastritis have been reported among the children while there are a few adults also require his attention.

A pioneer of this district told me this October rain, such as we are experiencing, is similar to the 1909 period and during this nineteen years such good relief rains have not been experienced in the month of October. Although the rain just recorded has been a godsend to some, the cold winds originating from same have caused considerable harm among the stock. Last Thursday night was certainly a bitterly cold night due from the effect of the rain and as we are right in the midst of the shearing season and the stock are in anything but good condition the exceptional cold played havoc with the shorn sheep. It is reported that one selector in particular lost 5000 sheep in one night just off shears, while other losses of 1000, 3000, 400, 250 and several smaller lots have been recorded. One selector advises me that he has lost 1000 of his best young wethers and although the market for sheep is anything but pleasant at the present moment each and every selector will certainly feel the loss as the financial market will not allow any further purchases.

### **11 Oct 1930 (p44, NA, NQR)**

[See NQ633 for photo of race horse]

JC, Sep 30 – Although shearing operations are in full swing there still appears quite a number of unemployed about the district. As economy is the pass word of the pastoralists today the ranks of the unemployed will be further increased when shearing operations cease. Owing to the proposed increase in petrol duties horse drawn waggons are again becoming an important factor in the carrying industry. many waggons that have been for years standing idle are again well greased up and are on the road again. Certainly it will take time for us to get used to the slower transport.

Selectors are pessimistic about wool values: one stated he expected his wool returns would be paid in postal notes and another was prepared to accept postage stamps.

Stock agents report business at a standstill although they have several lists of stock for sale some at a remarkably low price. Buyers appear to be conspicuous by their absence. If a reduction of 33.3 percent in rail freights could be obtained the opportunity would arrive to enable sheep to be sold to southern butchers. At the present moment I have on record where some folks are getting more for a decent sized rooster than a selector is getting for a wether. Of course one does not buy poultry by the hundreds.

An overland trip of considerable interest, necessitating utmost endurance and energy, was undertaken during the past week by the well-known local carrier Mr H Downey in his 4 cylinder 15 cwt International Truck.

Mr Tom Ford, part-owner of the well-known race horse "Kings Image," desirous of getting the horse over to Normanton for the races, engaged Mr Downey for the trip. A special crate was built on the lorry and the horse loaded into the crate from off the local railway ramp. The horse was eventually, after a hard trip, transported to Normanton, a distance of 284 miles through rough timbered forest country. Mr

Tom Ford and Mr Cyril Campbell accompanied Mr Downey on the trip, Mr Campbell and Mr Downey taking it in turns at the wheel.

The party left JC at 5.30 pm on the Thursday afternoon and apart from the occasional stop for a feed and drink for the horse, the journey continued until 4 am Saturday morning, the actual time being taken being about 34 hours. During the long journey it was soon found that no great speed could be attained as with the least decline of either side the lorry with the weight of the horse on the declining side had a tendency to turn completely over. Under these circumstances it required careful slow driving to accomplish the trip without disaster.

For miles and miles thick forest country was a menace to the party, it being necessary on several occasions to chop overhanging branches and small trees out of the way, and the road in many places being cut by motor cars in wet weather made it impossible for the lorry to traverse, resulting in a road through bush and sand to be made to allow the journey to proceed and the pulling in the heavy sandy country made it necessary to spread blankets and bags under the wheels of the lorry.

However, the party, after a long and tiresome and exciting journey, eventually arrived at their destination none the worse for their experience and the horse appeared to be free from any ill effects when unloaded. This may be substantiated as I have just learnt that the horse won his race in great style that he was specially nominated for.

Great credit is due to Mr Downey and his assistants for the successful journey undertaken under considerable difficulties.

#### **18 Oct 1930 (p21, NA, NQR)**

JC, Oct 14 – Saturday, being the day of meeting, quite a busy appearance existed about the town. A number of country folk could be seen in town during the weekend.

Apart from the numerous meetings held, the Council elections were also decided on that day, October 11. Outwardly there did not appear to be such a great amount of interest taken in the elections but one could hear now and again small wagers being laid on their opinions as to who would be the successful candidates.

Precisely at 6 o'clock the Returning Officer, Mr J Parsons, took delivery of the ballot boxes from the Post Office, and together with the scrutineers Messrs L long and EJ Swayne, counting was immediately commenced. It was somewhere about 10.30 PM before any idea of the successful candidates could be learnt as the counting did not commence until 9 pm, there being other formalities to go through first.

It was not until about a quarter of an hour after midnight that exact position could be ascertained as follows: WM Allison 238, VJ Chambers 202, John Peut 182, EH Doubleday 181, J P McIntyre 153, J Lobston 149, FA Hickman 146, J Webster 136, WG Gannon 134, WT Riley 124, JH Matthews 119, HC Maxwell 117, W H Glasson 116, LH Gauvin 115, JJ O'Sullivan 113, ML Byrne 93, JD Lipscombe 73, J Sanphy 37. There being only nine candidates required the first nine were duly declared elected.

There were 430 names on the roll eligible to vote and out of these 310 voted and there being 29 informal votes leaves 281 actual votes counted. Out of this the late Chairman of the old McKinlay Shire secured 238 which is looked upon as an excellent poll and which speaks volumes for the great respect held for Mr Allison.

#### **8 Nov 1930 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Nov 4 – Owing to the recent rains, communication by road with the outside places has become impossible as all creeks and gullies are uncrossable. I understand there are no less than six teams on the road between here and Brinard laden with wool who are having considerable trouble to get along and who I believe are playing havoc with the main roads. Motor transport will undoubtedly meet with considerable trouble once the creeks again become crossable as the roads are in a deplorable state owing to the result of the heavy wool teams cutting them about.

Strange to say, right here in the main streets, many motorists seem to find amusement, as soon as the rain ceases, to go ploughing about in the streets, needless to say, doing considerable damage more especially to their streets than to their own vehicles. I think this is a matter that should be brought before

our own Council as it appears action should be taken to prevent such unnecessary damage being done to our streets.

The first special meeting of the new Council was held in the temporary Shire Office, JC on Thursday the 23 ultimo at 11 o'clock am, called for the purpose of electing a chairman. Those present were: Councillors WM Allison, J Webster, J Peut, VJ Chambers, EH Doubleday, JP McIntyre, WG Gannon, FA Hickman, J Lobston and the Returning Officer J Parsons. As there was only one nomination received that of Cr WM Allison he was declared duly elected as Chairman of the Council for the ensuing term.

Councillor Allison on taking the Chair was received with applause and in a few well-chosen words thanked the Crs for the confidence expressed in electing him to the chair after many differences in respect to the alterations of the boundaries, but now that same had become an accomplished fact that any difference they may have would be sunk and one and all would work in the best interests of the Shire as a whole and not for an one particular part and as it would be some time before any adjustments were made they would require to go slow until the assets and liabilities were adjusted between the Shires concerned and their position known.

He congratulated the members on their election and wished them a successful term of office and thanked the Returning Officer for the impartial manner and trouble he had gone to in making the method of election clear to all electors and if the instructions had been followed their should have been no informal votes.

Councillor McIntyre in congratulating the Chairman on his election and also to the Chair said that the electors had shown confidence by putting him at the head of the poll which was clear proof during the many years he had been connected with Council the good work carried out by him had been recognised and agreed that it was most important that the head of the Council should be in the hands of someone conversant with the work and in a new area carry the hard work through and in the capable hands of the Chairman he was sure it would be a pleasure to himself.

Cr Doubleday also congratulated the Chairman on his election and that the Shire was honoured in having Cr Allison take the chair and he was sure during their term of office under the Chairman's capable guidance they would place the Shire on a sound footing and do a fair thing to all parties and the good work and past experience, impartial manner and treatment by the Chairman would be reflected on the members.

Crs Webster, Lobston and Gannon also added their congratulations and endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

## **22 Nov 1930 (p42, NA, NQR)**

JC, Nov 11 – The recent wool sales in Brisbane have not by any means increased the hopes for the woolgrower and judging by quite a number of the prices realised I doubt if same will cover the cost of transport charges alone. The position in the wool industry is becoming more serious than ever was anticipated and unless a revival in prices is soon witnessed the result to what was once a prosperous industry is dreaded, many selectors have staked their last shilling into the wool and even with the abolition of the station hands award and reduction in shearing rates there is quite a number of more important matters such as rent, freight and taxes require immediate attention to assist the man on the land to hold his own under the present ridiculous prices.

During the past week the Police and local station master have been kept exceptionally busy meeting incoming trains, not for the purpose of keeping important appointments with distinguished visitors but as the unfortunate unemployed use the railway contrary to the By Laws as a mode of getting from one place to another, as many as 16 have been caught during the past week. The services of the law are continually in demand. With the recent increases in the cost of living and reduction in wages I am of the opinion special trains will have to be run to cope with the demand under the "jumping the rattler" privileges.

A general meeting of the members of the Bush Nursing Association was also held Saturday afternoon for the purpose of winding up the said institution. There was a good attendance of members present. After an interesting and lengthy discussion it was proposed and carried that the affairs of the institution be



wound up at the expiration of the lease and the cottage be rented to a private nurse. Since the inception of the institution it has in many ways proved itself an asset to the town and district and it is only by the establishment of a medical officer in our midst that such a move as its abolition has been brought about. The committee and officials at all times are worthy of considerable praise for the capable manner in which its affairs have been handled at all times.

Quite a fever has developed within many of our prominent citizens both town and country who have after a short practice become keen golf enthusiasts. Up to date links have been laid out and several matches have been recently played between local opponents and considering the present membership, keen interest and a national sport has within no time become popular.

Stock agents report dull business during the past week or two. Very few sales of any importance having been recorded with the exception of those at bedrock prices. The auction sale of the property known as "Afterall" was held in the School of Arts last Saturday. There was a fair attendance of local selectors and citizens but prospective buyers were conspicuous by their absence. The auctioneer's hammer, so ably handled by Mr O'Brien (Dalgetty and Co Ltd), when called for a bid, was greeted with the utmost silence from all quarters. The above property is situated only 8 miles from JC having an area of 17,825 acres (more or less) is well watered and considerably improved together with stock of about 2000 sheep. Undoubtedly the present wool prices, high rents, rates and taxes appear to be the only reason why such a property as the above could not induce a buyer.

#### **22 Nov 1930 (p96, NA, NQR)**

JC, Nov 18 – Just about dusk on Sunday evening an alarm of 'Fire' could be heard in close proximity and upon investigation it was learnt that the home of Mrs W Davis was threatened. Willing workers were soon on the scene and in a very quick time had the flames under control without having done any serious damage to the building. It appears that Mrs Davis whilst in the act of lighting her kerosene stove was startled to find that the flame by some unknown means had got into the burner which immediately cause a huge flame. Mrs Davis raised the alarm which, as previously stated, was readily answered. Considerable damage was done to the stove but luckily as the recess was lined with flat iron no further damage was experienced. Mrs Davis at the time suffered severe shock but has now I am pleased to report completely recovered herself.

#### **29 Nov 1930 (p28, NA, NQR)**

JC, Nov 25 – With the present unsatisfactory financial times existing it is pleasing to note the JC woollscouring Co advises a reduction in scouring charges to 1 3/4d per lb net of scoured wool as from the 1st December. The company is enabled to make this reduction due to the fact that a reduction has been obtained in employees wages and an increase in working hours from 44 to 48 hours which comes into force on the 1st December. The full benefit of these concessions is being passed on to the company's clients.

Advice was received last Wednesday morning, 12th instant, that a man known as Edward Thomas passed away in the Cloncurry District Hospital at about 6 am the same morning. Deceased was well and popularly known in this district having conducted a hairdressing business in D Cooper's buildings for about the past two years. Deceased having a quiet and reserved nature very little (if any) is known as to his relatives whereabouts and all other necessary particulars. It is understood that deceased, who would be about 48 years of age, and being a returned soldier, first showed signs of illness about 12 months ago, when he entered the Richmond District Hospital for a few weeks. Deceased again returning to JC and recommenced business but from that time on it was plainly evident that all was not right with the deceased. On the 9th inst which was an exceptionally hot day deceased complained of illness and acting upon advice journeyed to Cloncurry by the mail train on the Monday morning where he was immediately admitted in an unconscious condition. Deceased never regained consciousness and eventually passed peacefully away about 6 am.

Mr Norman Clark who has been managing Mr W Griffiths chemist business for the past twelve months and who has now severed his connections with same, leaves by Tuesday's mail train for CT where he will spend the Christmas vacation and then I understand it is Mr Clarke's intention to enter into business in the southern regions on his own behalf. Mr Griffiths from CT has taken over the management until Mr Clarke's successor arrives which is anticipated in the near future.

The local committee of the School of Arts propose holding a dance on the night of the 28th inst the

proceeds being an attempt in a small way to balance the budget of the local funds, which owing to recent depressing times have suffered like many other similar institutions. Unfortunately our local School of Arts does not receive the support that is due to it through no fault of its own and it is a it that the public do not realise the importance of such an institution.

### **27 Dec 1930 (p5, NA, NQR)**

Shire of McKinlay  
Tenders Called

Alternate tenders are hereby called and will close with the undersigned at the Shire Office, McKinlay Wednesday, the 7th day of January, 1931.

1. For the purchase of the council's Office and residence at McKinlay.
2. To remove the said Office, Residence, Shelter sheds etc to JC with additions to Office.
3. For the erection of new buildings, Office and residence at JC

Full particulars, plans and specifications may be obtained on application to the undersigned at the Shire Office, McKinlay.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

J Parsons, Shire clerk.

### **3 Jan 1931 (p18, NA, NQR)**

Fire At JC

JC, 1 Jan – A fire which broke out at 8.30 tonight destroyed the JC Hotel. It stood on a corner and alongside was a blank allotment caused by a fire just before Christmas. Wilkinson's shop, which was then half destroyed, has now been completely wiped out. Sanphy's shop on the opposite corner began to smoulder but was saved.

The hotel was owned by Samuel Allen and Sons, Townsville and was occupied by Mr AE Hudson. The newly formed JC Fire Brigade made their first appearance and did good work.

### **10 Jan 1931 (p74, NA, NQR)**

JC, 5 Jan – At about 1.30 pm on New Year's Day, the services of the fire brigade were called to extinguish a Ford utility truck that had caught alight in front of Joe Kaeser's baker shop. With the quick dispatch of the brigade the fire was soon extinguished but not until the back portion of the truck had been destroyed.

The owner of the truck was absent at the time of the fire and was surprised upon return to find his truck almost demolished by fire. Still, he drove away with the remains.

New Year's Day being a public holiday, most residents took the opportunity of a day's outing in the bush, many picnic parties visiting various waterholes. The town itself was practically deserted until at least about 8.30 pm when the cries of "fire" could be heard in the vicinity of Hudson's Hotel. The brigade immediately turned out under the supervision of the Superintendent W Taaffe.

The hotel was old and dry and it was soon seen any hope to save it was futile and every effort was concentrated on saving Sanphy's store and adjoining buildings which are situated on the opposite corner [NW corner Julia/Goldring St]. The burning hotel was simply a raging furnace and the heat was terrific even at a distance of 100 yards or more. The brigade, although suffering the effects of the heat, kept the water playing on Sanphy's store which would undoubtedly have been also destroyed had it not been for the work of the firemen. A willing team of bucket workers kept continually throwing water on Gannon's Hotel and Stadham's refreshments rooms which also were in considerable danger for many minutes.

An idea of the huge blaze will be understood when it was learnt that it could be seen a distance of 50 miles from town. The picnic parties at various places on seeing the blaze soon made post haste into

town as in one party were the girl servants of the hotel and many of the boarders, who, upon arriving back, were relieved to find most of their goods had been saved. The real danger of the fire lasted well on an half an hour and it was not until then that relief was expressed by the adjoining business folk.

Sanphy's store, although saved, suffered considerable scorching on one wall nearest to the fire and it was only by the untiring efforts of the willing workers that Gannon's Hotel and Stadham's refreshment rooms are standing today but had the wind been blowing from the south as it was on the following day, I am certain a different story would have been told and it would hard to estimate what damage would have been done.

The two rooms used as the sample room and the laundry, and a store room, were saved, belonging to the hotel premises, and it is understood that the sample rooms will be converted into a temporary bar when arrangements have been finalised.

All that now remains of what was once a busy and popular corner is a heap of debris and the vacant spot that has now been caused will be a set back to this progressive town and district.

The newly formed voluntary fire brigade must certainly be complimented on the excellent services rendered although they are working under adverse difficulties owing to having insufficient hose and only one hydrant and one nozzle.

Stock movements during the past few weeks have been practically nil and agents report business as exceptionally dull. many optimists are of the opinion that a change for the better will take place this ear but the indications so far are anything but bright. Business in every respect right throughout the district is at a standstill and wherever a curtailment in hands is possible it is occurring. There is one thing certain and that is unless the wool market revives considerably this year many hard stories will be unfolded by this time next year.

#### **16 Jan 1931 (p? SB1? SBT)**

Johnson's Ad for Mondure

#### **17 Jan 1931 (p72, NQ632, NQR)**

Price graph for wool, 1898-1930

#### **17 Jan 1931 (p89, NA, NQR)**

JC, 13 Jan – Weather conditions during the past week have been anything but pleasant. The heat at times has been most aggressive the temperature ranging from 110 to 120 degrees in the shade. On numerous occasions indications of heavy rain was very promising and it was not until Friday afternoon that a downpour at last was experienced. but not to the extent as was anticipated. The rain which at first appeared to come from the south was accompanied by a terrific wind and for the half hour that it lasted it blew from every direction more in the nature of cyclonic weather. although the wind was fierce, no considerable damage was experience with the exception of the Plume depot losing the roof of the benzine shed and Mr Faithfull's private house, 2 miles from town also being unroofed. apart from this no other damage was experience but had the wind lasted for another twenty minutes it is certain that more damage would be recorded. During this storm 124 points of rain fell in the town area.

At the recent Council Meeting held on the 8th instant, the tenders for erection of a new shire office at JC and the removal of the shire clerk's residence from McKinlay to JC was opened and Mr E Murray, a local contractor, being the successful tenderer. Particulars as to the price and other matters will appear later.

An accident with a tragic ending occurred at our local trucking yards at about 11.10 am on the 8th instant. It appears that Drover H McHugh was dipping a number of cattle when a young man, 22 years of age, known as James Murray, who was unemployed at the time, and having followed the occupation of a stockman and drover for some time, voluntary offered his assistance.

During the act of getting the cattle to the race, a bullock, unawares, kicked the unfortunate deceased in the stomach. The services of Dr Ralston were immediately summoned and although everything was done for the sufferer, he passed away within 20 minutes after the occurrence, death being due from cardiac fracture and shock.

Deceased was removed to the CWA Rest rooms where arrangements were made for burial. Little is known of the deceased's relations but it is understood from previous conversations that he has a sister at Wagga, NSW of which it is understood the deceased was a native. The matter is in the hands of the police in an endeavour to locate his relations if any.

The burial arrangements were carried out by Mr Murray under the supervision of the police while Mr Whitlow attended to the reading of the burial services. Quite a number of young men who were mates of the deceased followed the remains to the cemetery.

#### **24 Jan 1931 (p87, NA, NQR)**

JC, 27 Jan – The town itself is suffering from a severe attack of "Depressionitis" and business houses and Stock and Station Agents are having rather a dull time. The ranks of the unemployed are being continually swelled as dismissals are becoming more frequent in every line of industry as time goes on. Shearing operations are at a stand still and it is hoped when operations commence within the next month or two, all trouble will have ceased in respect to the shearers' strike.

Methinks that if the present price of wool remains indefinitely, several selectors will find it necessary to return to the [shearing] blade to eke out an existence.

As a result of the recent fires a large vacant gap in the main portion of the township exists but if there is any truth in the rumours drifting around, I understand that Mr Hudson intends rebuilding a new hotel within the near future, while there are three new shops reported to be erected on the spot where Mr JF O'Sullivan's shops used to be, while Wilkinson (Nth) Ltd intends rebuilding a new Chemist's shop. These new enterprises certainly speak volumes for the future of this district and it is pleasing to note we have at least a few optimists in our midst.

#### **31 Jan 1931 (p89, NA, NQR)**

JC, 24 Feb – Additions to the unemployed are becoming more evident as with the slackening off of the trade business houses and others find it compulsory to reduce hands. As this unfortunate position is not confined to any one particular district one has no other alternative than to wait and hope for the best.

#### **7 Feb 1931 (310207, CA)**

Fracas at JC

One man shot another severely injured

A little excitement took place on Thursday night last at 9.30 o'clock when two residents, Roger O'Sullivan and Fred Garrity, had a quarrel and then a brawl. Garrity had two ribs broken by the order of the boot – so it is alleged – as well as facial and other internal injuries. O'Sullivan received a 32 calibre revolver bullet through the stomach, traversing upwards towards the heart.

The affray started shortly after O'Sullivan arrived by train from Townsville way. On meeting Garrity a row occurred with the consequences both men were injured to such an extent that the services of Dr Hogg were called upon and after he attended the injured men the Cloncurry Aerial Ambulance plane was phoned to take the men to Cloncurry hospital. Dr Hogg considered that O'Sullivan's wounds would not prove fatal.

#### **14 Feb 1931 (p90, NA, NQR)**

Mick Helton mentioned at Nelia

#### **21 Feb 1931 (p83, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 17 – No rain has been recorded during the past week not on any account of the task being tiresome but just because of the fact that none has fallen. The continual absence is daily becoming more serious and every nine men out of ten will tell you that we are in for another drought. No argument can be offered to the contrary because in the first place, majority rules and secondly, rain is a necessity and unlike the wool or other products, one cannot work any jokes and so upset their dead certainties. However, as one man on the land says, if another drought is the order of fate, what difference as there is already a disease of slow strangulation in existence and sudden death will come more of a relief than otherwise.

The days have been particularly warm with the thermometer touching the 115 degree mark

continuously, yet at nights, or at least a little after midnight, those that seek the open air with the stars as their rood are compelled to seek the cover of something more cosy than summer garments. The grass is in several places beginning to show signs of blackness and the Common in particular is practically barren. Water is beginning to dry up in the seasonal water holes and I understand as far as the Tick Reserve is concerned, such a position already exists. The water in the big dam adjacent to the town is beginning to cause much concern amongst stock owners. This is the only possible waterhole in the vicinity and early rains would be of considerable benefit to give the water hole a good wash out. I understand the Council has made arrangements to allow a 2 inch pipe to run into this hole from 7am to 7pm from the town water supply. It will only be a matter of a short while if this practice is kept up, when a benefit to the water supply in the hole will be witnessed.

Carpenters are making excellent progress with the buildings under erection for Mr O'Sullivan and not too many more days should elapse before the doors are thrown open to the public. I am not aware of the tenants of the three new shops being erected but despite the times, same will soon find ready applications.

### **28 Feb 1931 (p73, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 24 – Indications of a repetition of the 1926 drought are becoming more promising every day. No rain has fallen in the district during the past week under review and as a matter of fact, not even one point during the present month up to date. As there is only four more days before we enter into the month of March, it appears that a record is going to be established for this particular month of February unless of course we are fortunate enough to receive rain before the 28th inst. It is some years past, that rain, even of only a small quantity has not been recorded during this month and although every day shows every possible indications of rain close at hand, unfortunately same has not been witnessed.

The heat has been at times practically unbearable yet at the same time the nights are absolutely the reverse. The horizon away to the south West on Saturday morning did not show any early hopeful signs of rain as it could be seen that the old familiar Bedourie dust storm had taken possession of the country and although we in this part did not suffer the full strength of the dust storm it could be seen that Cloncurry and places further west were having more than their share. A strong southerly wind was blowing all day and it was hoped that same would be sufficient to blow up rain but alas same was not realised. As I wrote these notes an occasional peal of thunder can be heard away to the North and as a matter of fact about half a dozen drops of rain have already fallen on the roof. Let us hope before I conclude that we will have the pleasure of seeing many inches recorded before sunrise tomorrow.

Fearing that we are up for another drought many sheep owners whose country is not of the best, are already making arrangements to remove. The difficulties arising at the present moment is that relief country is hard to obtain as those that are fortunate to have fair grass are adverse to agisting same as they do not know the moment they well require every acre themselves. As it is too early in the year to record any severe hardships being experienced it is without doubt a plain fact that unless relief rains fall before the end of March this country will be in a very sorry predicament before the end of June.

The Common Ranger took upon himself during the past week the unpleasant task of trying to eradicate the town of numerous pests. Of course I am only referring to animals such as goats and I understand the dogs will get their turn next. Much as I am aware of the use of these two particular animals, there are some occasions when quantity overrules quality and I feel sure we will not be amiss if a clean up to a certain extent is carried out in the respect.

Numerous fishing expeditions have more or less been enjoyed during the past week or two several parties having taken the opportunity of the dry weather during the week ends and probably with the idea of finding a cool spot on the banks of the various waterholes.

### **14 Mar 1931 (p53, 310314, NQR & CA)**

[I have searched CA through to Sep 19 1931 but there is no mention of further court appearances]  
JC Case

At the Police Court, JC, before Mr EF Dunne, PM (Hughenden), Frederick Henry Garrity appeared on remand with unlawfully attempting to kill one, Roger Roy O'Sullivan. Sub Inspector McCarthy appeared for the prosecution while defendant was represented by Messrs PG Byrne and VF Faithfull, solicitors.

Acting Sergeant Casey stated on the night of February 5th, he went to the defendant's house where he saw the defendant lying on a bed being attended to by Dr Hogg. The defendant was bleeding from the head, face and arms and seemed unable to move. Witness spoke to him and said, "What happened tonight, you are in a terrible state?" Defendant replied, "I was down the road talking to the Doctor when O'Sullivan came up. He kept provoking me and I tried to prevent trouble and told him to go away. He kept on at me and then attacked me so I shot him in self defence." Witness said to the defendant "What did you shoot him with." The defendant replied, "A revolver."

On arrival at Gannon's Hotel witness went upstairs to the Commercial Room where he saw Roger Roy O'Sullivan. He was sitting on the floor and was being attended by Dr Hogg, who had preceded him from the defendant's place. He spoke to O'Sullivan and he showed witness a wound on the left side underneath the heart. This would appear to have been recently inflicted and was bleeding slightly. He took a statement in writing from O'Sullivan then which he signed in his presence. About 4 pm on the 6th February O'Sullivan was removed by the Aerial Ambulance to Cloncurry.

At about 9.30 am on the 6th February he saw the defendant at his home in Goldring Street. He was lying in bed and witness spoke to him. Witness said to him, "I am continuing inquiries into the shooting of O'Sullivan last night and Constable Cooke has found a revolver near the spot where it is said to have taken place." Witness said to the defendant further, "I have seen O'Sullivan and have taken a statement in writing from him about your shooting. He alleges that you abused him before you shot him." The defendant replied "I know what happened and I am prepared to give a statement of what took place." Witness took a statement from the defendant which he typed down in his presence and read it over to him.

About 10 am on the 7th Feb witness saw the defendant at this home. He was still in bed. He was accompanied by Constable Cooke. He said to defendant "Constable Cooke has that revolver which was found on the night of the shooting and he would like to show it to you." Constable Cooke then handed defendant a revolver and he examined it. Constable Cooke said to the defendant, "Is that the revolver you used on O'Sullivan?" Defendant replied, "Yes." Constable Cooke said, "Was it loaded when you fired that night?" Defendant replied "Yes. There were five cartridges in the chamber." The Constable said, "It was shut and empty when I found it. Have you any other cartridges similar to the ones you had in the revolver that night?" Defendant replied "Yes." He then spoke to his wife and a few minutes later the defendant handed a packet to Constable Cooke. This packet contained ten live cartridges five of which the Constable fitted into the revolver in the defendant's presence. The cartridges fitted the revolver.

By Mr Byrne: The defendant has resided in JC continuously during the period of five years and he is a very peaceable and respectable citizen. O'Sullivan has been regarded here as a bully and quarrelsome. He had not at any time heard O'Sullivan make any threats regarding the defendant. In September last a man named Roberts an Inspector of the McKinlay Shire made application to have O'Sullivan bound over to keep the peace.

Dr JB Hogg stated, "After dinner on the night of Feb 5th last he was speaking to the defendant in front of Gannon's Hotel in Goldring Street. After speaking to the defendant for a few minutes Roger Roy O'Sullivan came up to them. He walked from the main entrance of Gannon's Hotel. The defendant and witness were standing on the kerb across the pavement from the main entrance of the hotel. O'Sullivan said to the defendant, "What about that case of yours? When are you going on with it? Defendant said, "I don't want to talk to you." O'Sullivan spoke to the defendant several times and each time defendant said "I don't want to talk to you." He remembered O'Sullivan saying, "What if I make you? I will strangle you. I will get you down and do it now." He heard O'Sullivan use the word -, but he could not say in what context.

After O'Sullivan began to call defendant names, the defendant also began to call O'Sullivan names. O'Sullivan was in command of himself and was laughing, and was teasing, and was baiting the defendant. He heard defendant say to O'Sullivan "I am not Mick Harris. You can't pull my nose." He heard defendant say "I am man enough for you, I can stop you if you touch me." O'Sullivan said, "How would you stop me." Defendant said "You will find out," or something to that effect.

There was further talk about nose pulling and O'Sullivan said, "Come over here where there are no witnesses and I will do it now." The defendant and O'Sullivan left to walk towards the Qld National

Bank and witness tried to interfere. He put his hand on defendant's shoulder and he said, "Come out of this and don't get into a row." Defendant shrugged his shoulders and walked off in the same direction as O'Sullivan. Both defendant and O'Sullivan went out of his sight.

Not more than two minutes later, after O'Sullivan and defendant walked off, he heard a noise like a cracker. Then heard O'Sullivan call out, "I am shot" or "He had shot me" or both. The men struggled along the footpath till they got opposite the door of the hotel. Just about then O'Sullivan got Garrity down on the ground and was striking him with his knee and his fist. O'Sullivan got up and kicked defendant and defendant moved around into the gutter. Witness caught hold of O'Sullivan's leg. Somebody pushed him and he had to let go. Then he saw some men lead O'Sullivan a few steps away. The defendant was lying flat on his back in the gutter. O'Sullivan then went back and stamped once in the defendant's stomach. O'Sullivan then went away with some men.

He then heard someone calling in the entrance of the hotel for him. He went in and saw O'Sullivan. He subsequently examined O'Sullivan and found a wound near the front end of the seventh rib which appeared to be a bullet wound. O'Sullivan remained under his care and treatment until the next afternoon when he went to Cloncurry Hospital.

He examined the defendant same night and he remained under his care and treatment till the 10th February. The defendant's injuries were bruises and abrasions of the scalp, face, ears, neck and of the right arm and forearm, of the left hand, of the left side of the back. He had also three teeth loosened and there appeared to be some bruising of the stomach and the defendant also complained of severe pains in the left hip. The defendant had also one or more ribs broken on the left side at the back.

By Mr Byrne: [Is this the same Byrne as the solicitor?] He had been speaking to the defendant about five or ten minutes before O'Sullivan approached. The defendant seemed to be wanting to avoid trouble. He remembered O'Sullivan asking defendant if he were married to the woman he was living with. He did not remember O'Sullivan saying "you —." He did not remember O'Sullivan saying, "You are only a —, you —. You are a — on her." There was a good deal said he did not remember. He did not remember O'Sullivan saying, "I will fix you up properly before I leave here. I will knock your — brains out." O'Sullivan was leading the way as defendant and himself walked toward the QN Bank. When he last saw them, O'Sullivan would be six or eight feet in front of defendant. He turned to walk into the hotel entrance. He was just at the door when he heard the noise like a cracker. The defendant and O'Sullivan were both talking as they walked towards the QN Bank but he could not hear what was said. It all happened very suddenly.

Constable Borkhardt and Cooke also gave evidence after which accused was further remanded.

### **21 Mar 1931 (p8, NA, NQR)**

JC, 17 Mar – A decided change in the weather has taken place during the past week, which has been of considerable benefit to the district. Practically every day during the week has indications of rains been prominent and on more than one occasion have light falls been experienced but only covering a narrow strip of country. It was not until the 16th instant that real heavy rain had been experienced when the following falls were recorded: JC 61 points, Toorak 45, Huddersfield 97, Isobell downs 90, Lands End 25. Again today the indications are most promising and I would not be at all surprised to find that before the close of this month, that good heavy general rain will be experienced right through the district.

During the past week the Common Ranger caused no end of excitement among the town folk when he decided to make a clean up of the town area as far as unregistered dogs were concerned. Several unfortunate canines learnt to their sorrow that for some unknown reason they were disclaimed by their owners more particularly so when a request for a 10/- registration fee was made. As a result of the muster some twelve or fourteen dogs met their fate according to the By Laws of the council and the absence of a certain few whose habit were to continually chase motor cars and other vehicles is now noticeable.

Some few weeks ago a meeting of town folks was called at the request of the Council, the object being to form a Voluntary Fire Brigade. Little or no difficulty was experienced in getting together a real enthusiastic team who up to about a week ago had been practising regularly and at the last Executive meeting of the Finance Committee a number of proposals were put before the council for consideration,

which alas, met a severe setback. An outline of the proposals were: payment for members, insurance for members against accidents, a fire alarm, uniforms, keys and hatchets, attention to fire plugs weekly, marking of fire lugs. The Council could not see its way clear to meet any of the demands and it is anticipated the Brigade would be kept going by charitable donation from the public. The members, realising their position should they meet with an accident or damage their personal effects at a fire have decided to resign bodily which decision is certainly regretted by the residents taking into consideration the good work recently performed by the Brigade

#### **18 Apr 1931 (p37, NA, NQR)**

JC, 11 Apr – Ideal weather has prevailed during the past week. For three days continuous strong northerly winds were blowing and news having been received that very heavy rains had been experienced in the gulf we were in anticipation of receiving a good fall from that quarter. On the Thursday afternoon the sky was very overcast and it no doubt looked a certainty that we were in for a downpour. Many fishing expeditions were cancelled in view of the threatened rain and it appeared that the Easter Holidays would be ushered in wet. Despite an excellent display of thunder and lightning, only 20 points were recorded in the town and there are no records of any heavier falls in the outlying district with the exception of Oorindi and Cloncurry. A party of motorists who were journeying to Cloncurry for the Easter encountered heavy rain and were compelled to desert their car at Oorindi and finish their journey by train. On the return journey a few days later particular note was taken of the excellent condition of the country, same appearing over quite a large area like a huge wheat field that you so often read about in these parts but very seldom see.

The Easter Holidays passed off very quietly. Numerous parties journeyed to various waterholes in search of sport. On Easter Monday night the Church of England Ladies Guild held a most successful dance, a number of country folks journeying in for the occasion.

The only incident which caused any excitement occurred in the early hours of Easter Monday morning when the Railway Refreshment Room business owned and conducted by Mr LH Stadhams, was completely demolished by fire. The building, which was only erected about twelve months ago, occupied the site between the Railway Station and the main street and its absence certainly leaves a gap which was at all times a cool and favourite spot for train passengers and the public in general.

From all accounts the fire had been burning some time before being noticed by anyone, as a matter of fact quite a number of people knew nothing about the fire until daylight next morning. Mr Stadhams and son were the only occupants at the time of the fire and it was not until the flames were leaping through the bedroom door that he realised the building was on fire. Mr Stadhams made the only possible escape through the side bedroom window and immediately raised the alarm. Crowds from all parts of the town soon gathered but owing to the low pressure of water, nothing could be saved, the whole building, contents and personal effects being totally destroyed. Same being covered with the Mercantile Mutual Assurance Coy for £400 and as everything was practically new, the business only being erected and established about 12 months ago, and costing more than double this amount, Mr Stadhams will undoubtedly be a heavy loser. The origin of the fire is unknown and as the building was well ablaze before the alarm was raised, the Brigade being considerably handicapped, had no possible hope to effect a save under the circumstances.

#### **25 Apr 1931 (p70, NA, NQR)**

JC, 14 Apr – On Friday night last a large and well-represented body of citizens met at the School of Arts, the occasion being to show in some endeavour their respects and appreciation to one of our most popular young ladies, Miss Lily Stout, who for the past two years has held the position of telephonist at our local exchange and which, owing to some worn out rule of the department, must terminate her engagement upon reaching the age limit set down by the Department. Much comment could be levelled on the action of the Department in this respect, but as the above occasion was not for this purpose, this grievance will no doubt be aired elsewhere. Despite the threatening weather a large gathering of friends assembled to wish our popular “Hello” girl their best wishes and future success. Dancing was indulged in until the early hours of the morning and during the early part of the evening, Mr VF Faithfull, in a few well-chosen words, presented Miss Stout with a wallet of notes, on behalf of the subscribers of the district. Mr W Taaffe and Mr FH Garrity suitably endorsed Mr Faithfull's remarks, in most eulogistic terms at the same time wishing her success and happiness in her future life and hoping that prosperity be achieved just as simple as it took her to win popularity during her term on the exchange.



**16 May 1931 (p57, NA, NQR)**

CWA Pioneers

Mr JR Chisolm ("Along the Line")

James Robertson Chisolm was not exactly a pioneer in the ordinary sense. Yet his life was so intertwined with North Qld pioneers, more especially those along the line from Townsville right out to the border, that it is his due to be included in this effort to do them honour.

When the writer first undertook this "labour of love" it was with the assurance of Mr Chisolm "of all the help I am capable of giving," and his death was a great loss to this book of pioneers; for with him went such a wealth of shrewd and kindly knowledge, and descriptive ability.

The late Mr Chisolm was a scion of the Scottish Clan of "Chisolm of Strathglass," who were a proud race many centuries ago when history records that one old Chieftain claimed "there are only three persons entitled to be called 'the', The King, The Pope and The Chisolms."

This son of the clan was born near Keilor in Victoria and some of his people still live about Melbourne. When a young man he joined his maternal uncle, Mr Robertson, a civil engineer and railway construction contractor of some note in Qld, building a bridge over the Mary River and other works and taking part in building the railway west from Rockhampton. Mr JR Chisolm came North when the railway west from CT was in course of construction and settled, first at Pentland, then at a little home on a running spring out from Torrens Creek, then at the Plains, Prairie, and finally at Stanley near Townsville.

The present writer first met him at Ayrshire Downs in 1891. He was then agent for Wright, Heaton and Co and had been away out on the Georgina and about Camooweal. He was driving a pair of mules in a buckboard, with a little black boy to act as gate opener, the child's father driving the spare horses. Mr Chisolm was wearing the regulation white drill shirt and white Canton mole trousers of the period, surmounted by a pith helmet to distinguish him from the station men, who then wore cabbage tree hats. Mr Chisolm later told me that the "gate opener" was not a boy, though dressed as one, but a girl that he was bringing in for a help for Mrs Jack Turner, of Goldsborough Station.

It was about this time he chose the pen name "Along the Line" and by that title he became a friend of all the pioneer and outback people. He was a gifted writer, a man like "Abou-Ben-Adhem" for he loved his fellow men, the sheep kings, the cattlemen, railway construction workers, coach drivers, teamsters, drovers, but most of all the men and women in a small way, trying to wrest a living and make a home on the land. The bush children, too, were never forgotten. There was always for them, something in his saddle bags, a few pieces of sugar cane, or a lawyer vine for a whip handle if coming from the coast; if from the hills some tree seeds or root of some plant or fern, or perhaps some sugar bag honey, or rare feathers from some beautiful bird or a little dilly bag made by some abo.

He knew and understood the aboriginals and his written tales of them rival those of the pioneers. His belief in the great future of North Qld never wavered and he wrote as he felt at the moment and his honesty of purpose was never challenged. He never ceased urging people to be happy in their country homes and to make themselves self supporting by rearing animals for meat and milk and by growing fruit and vegetables. He gave much time and thought to public affairs as a Councillor in Dalrymple Shire and member of the Townsville Harbour Board.

His was a versatile mind, a true busman with interest and knowledge of trees and plants and the wild animals and birds, a member of the RAOU and a keen observer of all reptiles and insect life. A man who loved books and to whom the characters in Dickens and other classics were people who mingled in his great memory with those other people in real life who were the world's great men.

But most of all, his memory lingered on Australian and North Qld explorers and pioneers. He appreciated all the great endeavours of those men who blazed the trail as explorers and the pioneer men and women who braved hard times and hunger, yet, who, in a few short years, had settled far and wide on the vast inland plains, the tablelands, the mountainous ranges and the fertile coastal belts of North Qld. He knew many of these men intimately, and as they passed away he wrote kindly words of appreciation of their various characters, that linger in the minds of readers.

Mr Chisolm himself died a pioneer busman's death. For, all along, he took his last conscious look on

the trees and hills and bales he loved so much. With a last message he sank into partial unconsciousness, just waiting to realise that his loved ones were with him when the last glimmer faded and he was gone. He had been out riding to care for his stock, as usual, when seized with a heart attack. He dismounted, tied his horse to a nearby fence, and struggled into the shade of a tree, and there he was found too ill to speak to his daughter of her husband when they found him. On one side of a matchbox he had written. "Very wampy. Heart. Angina. Pain," and on the other side "Cannot live for ever."

He was buried near his last home, up the slope of the hill. Visible from the railway siding of Stanley (to the left from a train bound for Townsville) is the granite monument with this inscription:

"To the memory of James Robertson  
Chisolm, "Along the Line"  
Who passed away at Stanley, 13th  
November, 1927, aged 72 years.  
"One Who Did His Best."

### **30 May 1931 (p84, NA, NQR)**

JC, 28 May – Contractor Murray has practically completed the new Shire Hall and arrangements are being made to move the shire clerk's residence from McKinlay to a site near the new shire hall in sections by horse drawn teams. At the weekend the council lorries were busily engaged removing the office furniture and books from the old office at McKinlay to the newly erected above hall and it is anticipated that the next meeting of our wise councillors will be held in the new cool and comfortable chambers when it is hoped the new surrounding will have a pleasing and beneficial effect upon their hearts, more especially towards the aggrieved water-rate payers.

During the past week quite a number of horse drawn teams laden with wool have been witnessed drawing into the railway yards. One particular selector in the district is, I understand, calling tenders for the conveying of his wool this season, and as no reduction in benzene and oils has been experienced, it certainly appears that Old Dobbin is going to be given preference despite the fact that transport is slow by teams. Nevertheless they get to the destination and at a much cheaper rate than motor power.

### **6 Jun 1931 (p90, NA, NQR)**

Mr JH Mathews, shearing contractor, is busy putting 5000 over the board at St Elmo while a second plant under the control of contractor J McCarthy is also engaged on a mob at Hilton Park on account of Mr Brumm. Wallacooloobie commences shearing about the 15th of this month while preparations are being made by contractor WA Mathews for his general run.

Business in general is particularly quiet and although this position is due to a certain extent to the existing depression, I certainly think that the business folk of this town can share an equal part of this state of affairs due to their lack of interest and energy as no enticement is ever given to attract the country folk into town at any particular time. It is to be hoped that some attempt will be made to revive football this season as we surely must have the goods in our midst. I certainly believe it is up to the business folk to get together and endeavour to revive the sporting instinct that was so prominent in past years which will certainly be to the mutual advantage of all concerned.

### **27 Jun 1931 (p76, NA, NQR)**

JC, 23 Jun – I understand that Contractor Murray, who is at present completing the erection of the Shire Clerk's residence, has secured the tender for the new Mt Isa School, while contractor Schrock (Townsville) is the successful tenderer for the new hotel (JC) for Samuel Allen and Sons, A Hudson licensee.

This week being Gala Week, quite a number of attractions will be held, commencing first with a Children's Plain and Fancy Dress Ball, Thursday night, First Days Races Friday, Race Ball Friday night, Races Saturday, and the finale being a Madhatter's Ball Saturday night. All accommodation is already taxed to the limit and as everything possible is being done to make every attraction pleasing and profitable, visitors may rest assured of a real good time.

At a recent Southern meeting of a Woman's Club, one well-known member remarked in a few words, her experience of the West by stating, "The Western Qld of my experience is a land of tired patient women, badly nourished, suffering children and hard working optimistic men. It is a land of open

spaces, long distances, dust, and flies.”

Although the latter portion of her remarks are free from contradiction we do however, and can definitely prove, that we have some of the finest, healthiest and genuine Aussie material in any part of the West. A recent photo in the “Register” showing a country woman driving her own team, certainly could not be accomplished by badly nourished women, and the chief practical complaint that the children of these vast open spaces particularly suffer with, is a sturdy appetite for real wholesome food.

#### **11 Jul 1931 (p88, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 6 – During the past week negotiations have been entered into for the sale of Innisfail Downs and owned for the past 16 years by Byrne Bros well known graziers in this district, to Mr S Clemesha of Zara, Hughenden at a satisfactory figure. The above property being situated only 13 miles from JC has on several occasions topped the prices at the Brisbane Wool Sales and being well watered and improved ranks among one of the best properties in the district.

Mr DJ McIvor late headmaster of the State School left on Sunday's train for Prairie to which place he has been transferred. Mr Nelson later of Prairie has arrived to succeed Mr McIvor and on Friday evening last the residents gathered together at the school of arts where a suitable send off and welcome was tendered to the above gentlemen. Mr McIvor was the recipient of several tokens of goodwill from the pupils of the school also his fellow teachers Miss Murphy and Mr J Parson and the residents in general and after many eulogistic speeches the happy gathering danced until the early hours of the morning.

Contractor Schrock (Townsville) has arrived with a number of carpenters to commence operations on the erection of the new JC Hotel. The timber and other material is expected with the next day or two and the times should not be too far distant when the present vacant block will be hidden by a fine new and improved building.

#### **25 Jul 1931 (p8, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 21 – A few cases of suspected diphtheria have been reported but of no serious nature up to date. Dr Hogg has made arrangement to take swabs from each and every child attending school and such action will certainly prevent any spread of this dreaded complaint in so far as the school children are concerned.

Quite a lonely time has been experienced in the town during the past week or two which is certainly attributed to the busy shearing season which is practically in full swing at this time of the year.

#### **8 Aug 1931 (p74, NA, NQR)**

JC, 4 Aug – The town itself has rather a busy appearance the past week or two due no doubt to the number of sheds in close proximity at the height of shearing operations. Lorries and quite a number of teams can be seen continually wending their way towards the railway laden with numerous bales of golden fleece, worth a few years ago, many thousands of pounds but on today's value not much over cost of production.

Within the past few weeks quite a number of bales of wool have been transhipped through this centre, and owing to excessive demands made on the services of the railway staff, application was made through the Selectors Association for the appointment of a wool porter as has been the practice during the past two wool seasons. For some reason or other the General Manager has decided that we are not to have the services of a wool porter and on top of this he also says that all open “H” waggons are to be reserved for Mt Isa traffic thus compelling the wool growers to have their wool loaded into box waggons when these are available.

The position has arisen that owing to insufficient trucks quite a number of bales have had to be dumped onto the ground which means to the wool grower double handling, thus extra costs, and probably the possibility of missing the early September sales. The COC, Selectors Association and Graziers Associations are communicating with the General manager in the hope of trying to get relief from the existing conditions.

One can imagine the inconvenience caused when teams draw into the railway laden with 80 bales of wool and are asked to unload into box waggons which at the most hold 42 bales. Considerable delay is no doubt caused and although the present day team drivers may not have the same knowledge of

common expressions used by the old time bullocky drivers, nevertheless this vocabulary is by no means soft and sweet.

During a deputation to the Minister for Railways on one of his visits to this district he informed us that every assistance would be given to the wool grower. We have held our patience and waited for this so called assistance and we are just beginning to wake up to the fact that he is assisting the wool grower to walk out the back door with his overdraft under his arm. This is surely supported by the fact that ore can be carried at 1000 miles at £1 per ton whereas it costs £7/3/6 per ton to carry one of the Commonwealth's greatest wealth producing assets. Is it any wonder why the wool men are getting their backs up?

### **15 Aug 1931 (p40, NA, NQR)**

#### **Leper Escapes**

Brisbane, 9 Aug – Afflicted to a frightful degree with leprosy, a female inmate of the Peel Island Lazaret, who effected a daring escape on July 26, has eluded an exhaustive police search which has penetrated every section of the state.

The woman who it is stated is obsessed with the delusion that she has been cured, is believed to have left the island in a motor boat late at night with the assistance of a former inmate of the lazaret.

The sincerity of the escaped woman's belief she proved several years ago, when having effected an escape with a man whom she later married, she returned two years ago confident of receiving her discharge papers.

Since her escape the woman had apparently remained in close hiding. A detailed description, particularly in respect of the yellow markings of the dread disease on her features, has been forwarded to all police stations, yet no sign of her has been located. She is 38 years of age and has been afflicted with the disease since childhood. For the major portion of her life she had been segregated.

Beyond the delusion that she was cured she gave little trouble to the officials at the lazaret and her escape in company with a male leper about 10 years ago occasioned much surprise. A search for her failed but four years later the escapees returned to the lazaret confident that no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining their discharge papers. They had married and gone to Melbourne, it was learned and for two years of that period had conducted a cafe. They showed little traces of the disease and during the whole of that period no one suspected their affliction. During their freedom however, the disease had developed to a great extent and both were immediately segregated on their return. Soon afterwards the husband died at the lazaret. The woman's delusion persisted and her escape on July 26 was apparently the result of careful planning. She was noticed frequently in the company of a male leper from Peel Island. After a brief spell of freedom he was captured near Rockhampton. Recently he was discharged as cured.

A strange motor boat was seen in the vicinity of the island on the day of the woman's escape and there seems no doubt that it was in this craft that she left the island. Later it was found she withdrew some money from a city bank.

The Commissioner of Public Health, Dr J Coffey said today though there was a certain amount of danger to persons coming into contact with the escaped woman, the risk of infection was not nearly so great as most people believed. The possibility of the woman mingling with the public during her freedom offered no cause for great alarm.

### **15 Aug 1931 (p81, NA, NQR)**

JC, Aug 11 – The shearing industry is now in full swing in this district. The graziers Company is at present engaged in putting the Consentes sheep over the board while Eddington Station has just completed a successful run. Wallacooloobie anticipate cutting out about the 20th instant. Lorries and teams are kept busy drawing the various wool to the railway. The continual rise in benzine and oils has taken effect in many instances as practically every horse teamster within the district is now busily engaged this year drawing wool and despite the fact that transport is slow they nevertheless arrive at their destination.

The first thing that greets the stranger's eye on arriving at this wild town of the west would be a long array of open trenches, the occasion being at the instance of the Department of Irrigation and water

supply whereas the mains laid down at the latter end of 1928 are being reconditioned. However, despite the inconvenience and so forth it is to be sincerely hoped that the expenditure incurred in the aforesaid reconditioning will be final as although we have the distinction of having the first cemented bore in Qld we do not wish to have the experience of having our water mains reconditioned annually.

### **5 Sep 1931 (p82, NA, NQR)**

JC, Sep 1 – Despite the depression and so forth we are experiencing, our local picture show proprietor, Mr JP Eckford, has opened a skating rink and is contemplating talkies.

The erection of the new hotel for Messrs Allen and Sons is proceeding satisfactorily within the past week or two and we understand all going well the contractors Schrock and sons will probably hand over early in October.

### **12 Sep 1931 (p86, NA, NQR)**

JC, 10 Sep – Despite the depression and the unpleasant future of the wool market, this town and district has been noted for holding many various records in the past such as the first cemented bore in the commonwealth, and so forth, and much publicity has been given in various other ways, but I think there are not too many towns with a population all told of about 350 that can boast seven stores, four banks, two hotels, two chemists, three garages and benzene depts, three refreshment rooms, besides one of each of practically every other line of business, including picture show, skating rink etc and by all accounts they all appear to be getting an existence but as we particularly depend upon the wool industry to keep us on the map it is certain that unless wool prices reach a higher average within the near future many empty shops will be witnessed and without doubt deserted selections and many bankrupts.

### **3 Oct 1931 (331003, CA)**

Fettler runs amok - not transcribed.

### **3 Oct 1931 (p96, NA, NQR)**

Fettler Runs Amok

A terrible tragedy occurred about midday on Wednesday, on the Great Northern Railway, just beyond JC, at a point about 391 1/2 miles from Townsville. A fettler named Thomas Connolly ran amok and shot a ganger named Thomas Boland and another fettler named Harry Stein. He then picked up Boland's dead body and placed it on a trolley, and piling sleepers on it turned the trolley into a funeral pyre. Connolly then shot himself, dying soon afterwards. Stein is in hospital at JC but it is believed his condition is not critical.

The three men mentioned and another named Roy Butler Thrower, comprised the Eddington gang and their headquarters were at Eddington Siding about eight miles beyond JC. The gang had worked in on their length towards JC and knocked off for lunch at a point about half a mile from the Gunjoola woolscour which is a couple of miles from JC. They lifted their pump car off the line and spread a fly over it to shelter them from the hot sun. There they had lunch.

After lunch Boland, Stein and Thrower dozed. Stein and Thrower received a rude awakening. They heard a shot and saw Connolly with a revolver in his hand. He had shot the ganger, Thomas Boland, and death must have been instantaneous. Stein was shot as he attempted to rise and he fell back with a wound in the right side a little above the hip. Thrower rose and made off. "Don't go, it's your turn next," said Connolly. The revolver jammed and this was Thrower's salvation. Two shots, however, were fired at Thrower, but they missed their mark. Thrower ran for the woolscour half a mile distant to report the affair to the police at JC.

With Thrower gone and Stein lying helpless, Connolly lifted the body of Boland on to the pumper on the side of the line, heaped sleepers on to it and set the whole lot on fire. Then he turned the revolver on himself.

On the receipt of Thrower's message at JC, acting Sergeant Casey and Constable Borgardt and Dr Hogg set off past haste by motor car for the scene of the tragedy. A terrible scene met their eyes. Stein was found in an hysterical condition and was immediately ordered to be put on a truck and taken to JC hospital. The pump car was burning fiercely and in the flames was seen Boland's body. There was a bucket of water handy and with this and some sand, the flames were beaten down sufficiently to permit the burning body to be pulled away. The body was badly charred and was unrecognisable. About 25

yards away the unconscious Connolly was found bleeding from a wound in the forehead and another over the heart. He was examined by the doctor and carefully placed on a truck for conveyance to hospital but he died before reaching the scour.

Stein was reported late on Wednesday to be doing well. Thomas Boland was a married man, 59 years of age and a native of Ireland. He leaves a widow but no children. Thomas Connolly was a single man about 51 years of age, believed to have been a native of Warwick. The funerals take place at JC this morning.

This dreadful happening has shocked westerners, for both men were respected members of the community.

It is stated Connolly had been a little strange but there was never any indication that he ever contemplated such terrible actions. It is clearly a case of the man having run amok.

### **10 Oct 1931 (331003, CA)**

During the past week all kinds of rumours have been [?] concerning the finding of charred human bones at a dried up lagoon on Wallacooloobie Station. From what we could glean it appear that Mr Michael Leonard Byrne, of the above station which is situated about 95 miles from JC, notified the police of that township that he had discovered some charred bones at Palmer's Lagoon some nine miles from the homestead which appeared to him to be part of a human body. The police proceeded to the scene and at a place where there appeared to have been a large fire picked up some bones and other bones were discovered at a smaller fire. At an old well near the old ip they found a bag which contained more bones and a flattened out 33 bullet. All the bones were brought into JC and placed together by Dr Hogg who after careful examination certified that the bones were those of a young man between the age of 18 and 24. Two of the molars on the right lower jaw had had dental attention and the dentist at JC considered that the teeth had been attended to about six years ago. Dr Hogg considered that the man had been shot.

Early in December last four men were in that locality, three of them camped at Palmer's Lagoon, whilst the other man camped on his own, but a couple of days later he also camped there. All these men made for Canobie where they met shortly after. When the three men were at Palmer's lagoon they commented on the terrible stench coming from the old fire and when the four gathered round the camp fire at Canobie the conversation about the smell from the Palmer Lagoon again came up and it was mooted that possibly some body had been murdered there and burnt. Heavy rain fell at Wallacooloobie in October and the police consider that the murder took place after that. No doubt the murder was committed shortly before the men had camped at the lagoon but not too long before on account of the vile smell they encountered.

The police from JC, Gilliat and Cloncurry are combing the district in search of these men who may be able to throw some light on the matter.

Some time ago enquiries were being made in Cloncurry for a man named Frank Grimson of Sydney and it is surmised that the bones found may be his. However, up to the present it looks as if it is one of those bush mysteries which may never be fathomed.

### **17 Oct 1931 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, 14 Oct – Quite a stir was caused in the district when it became known that the charred remains of a human being had been found in an old cement dip at what is known as Palmer's Lagoon, about nine miles from Wallacooloobie, owned by Messrs Byrne Bros, well-known graziers in the district.

From inquiries to hand it appears a stockman employed by Messrs Byrne Bros came across a man camped in a creek a few miles away from the dip. When asked why he would not camp at the hut at the dip it is stated he replied that he was afraid to camp there as there had been a murder there, as the bones of a human being were in an old dip. The stockman knowing the country in that vicinity from A to Z scouted [scotched?] the idea but after returning that night to the hut he informed his companions about the incident who likewise thought it was a huge joke.

However, curiosity getting the better of them, they decided to investigate the old unused dip when to their surprise under an old bag lay a portion of remains of a human being. Word was immediately

dispatched to the head station, Wallacoolobie, where Mr ML Byrne was informed of the incident who at once communicated with the police at JC when Constable Conway and trackers were dispatched to the scene.

After further investigations being made the remains were carefully gathered together and returned to JC. Sub Inspector Cahaine and Acting Sergeant Casey, Constable Conway and trackers returned to Wallacoolobie when further evidence was picked up as to the cause of death. Exhaustive inquiries are being made.

Prior to the above incident we also witnessed a severe shock in the Eddington Siding murder and suicide, of which full details have been published in your columns and of which caused a very sad gloom over the community. The residents are beginning to wonder whether the article relative to JC that appeared elsewhere some months ago describes us in true form.

However, taking the above incident into consideration and on top of this the shock experienced in the recent wool sales, the author of the slogan "Its moments like these you need Minties" must have been a resident of this district at one time.

Mr HGE Sneyd who hails from Chermside in the Brisbane district has recently purchased the business of Mr WG Griffiths chemist of this town. Both Mr and Mrs Sneyd have taken up residence when we trust their new venture will be rewarded with success.

Residents had the opportunity of witnessing the talkies for the first time on Saturday night last in Mr J Eckford's theatre he recently having installed an up-to-date plant. Judging from the opening night it certainly appears that the talkies are going to be a success and Mr Eckford certainly deserves credit on his huge undertaking.

#### **17 Oct 1931 (p18, NA, NQR)**

JC Tragedy

Sydney, 13 Oct – It was learned today that the charred body found at JC some weeks ago were the remains of Frank Robinson Grimson, aged 24, third eldest son of Charles Grimson of Orange and Cumnock. Mr Grimson only heard this afternoon that the victim of the murder was his son.

The dead man was one of a family of ten brothers and sisters who resided with their mother at Hornsby.

Grimson disappeared about a year ago when taking horses to Quilpie station, North Qld. The horses never reached their destination, but a few weeks ago the charred bones were found.

A brother of the dead man, who resided at Hornsby, when he heard of the murder, decided to go to the scene to help and establish the identification. It was known the middle toe of the right foot of Grimson was missing but the remains were so badly charred that identification from that source was impossible. It was also known Grimson had two of his teeth covered with amalgam but the police here have failed to ascertain what dentist had thus attended to Grimson.

The fact, however, that the father of the dead man received news today that the dead man was his son shows the identification has been established.

#### **24 Oct 1931 (p8, NA, NQR)**

JC, Oct 20 – Just at the present a strong southerly wind accompanied by heavy dust envelopes the town and the tempers of the housewife are raised to high boiling point. On Tuesday and Thursday nights a huge meteor appeared in the sky, throwing off a brilliant illumination. Many residents who witnessed its appearance were startled at the sight.

Apart from the above the town is very quiet, business having slackened within the past two weeks owing to the majority of the sheds within the district having completed their shearing operations for the season. The talkies which are only in their infancy in this town are certainly receiving great interest up to date this fact no doubt to the only relaxation we have at the present time away from the financial worries and the disappointing wool market.

#### **7 Nov 1931 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, 5 Nov – Mr Lance Lewis of Lewis' Garage, is having a very fine dwelling erected on the allotment next to his garage which speaks further to the confidence in this district. [west side of his garage in Burke St]

Today being Melbourne cup Day, the town is exceptionally quiet and as the writer pens these few lines word comes through that White Nose has won the Cup and the mighty Phar Lap has been beaten. Although very little has been heard of White Hose I understand a few sports in the town had a pound or two on him. The times of depression can be particularly witnessed today the old time interest and enthusiasm in the Melbourne Cup having decreased to such an extent that one hardly realises that such a world wide important race has been decided.

#### **14 Nov 1931 (p29, NA, NQR)**

JC, 9 Nov – Within the very near future we should see the popular hotel keeper Mr AE Hudson installed in the new building now under erection by Contractor's Schrock and Sons. Work is progressing very satisfactorily and we understand Mrs McTaggart has left for the coast to select the furniture and so forth.

It is a very common occurrence to hear complaints relative to the smell of the water in the mornings when one first turns the tap on. Of course after the tap has been left running for a while it soon disappears. This we are told is caused by certain gases in the water which having no overflow or outlet other than the ordinary household tap, formulates a gas when not used or expelled overnight. Surely there are sufficient opportunities to get rid of any surplus water for instance, the feeling is pretty keen on asking the Council to have erected a swimming baths, say somewhere about the recreation reserve. As we are blessed with a wonderful water supply we certainly believe that a suitable swimming bath would be an acquisition to the town and a paying asset to the council.

#### **21 Nov 1931 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, Nov 16 – The local committee of the JC Provisional Guarantee Fund met in the School of Arts when the balance sheet for the year was presented which shows the Fund is in a very good solid position. At the beginning a few guarantors paid in their respective amounts, but at the aforesaid meeting the committee decided to refund these amounts to the donors and at the same time £15 towards improving the Private Nursing Home under the control of Nurse Bailey. It is also learnt that Dr Hogg has decided to remain in practice for a further indefinite period the committee already having in hand sufficient capital for this inducement.

#### **2 Jan 1932 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC, 23 Dec 1931 – Cr Gannon moved that when the road plants returned to town if any cinders were available from the railway, the leading ganger be instructed to lay down footpaths to serve the premises in the low lying parts of JC, which was seconded by Cr Hickman and carried.

Constable Borghardt who has been stationed here for the past four years, left on holidays the past week for the South. Constable Rathenbury, from Duchess, has arrived and taken up temporary duties.

During the past week, Mr Geo L Peut of Lyrian Downs reported to Acting Sergeant Casey that while mustering on the far end of his run the previous morning he came upon the remains of a human being under a tree. The bones being very decayed, pointed to the fact that they had been there for some considerable time. The remains of an old hat, billy can and waterbag were also found close by. The police at once proceeded to the scene and up to date no clue of the identity of the remains is known.

#### **9 Jan 1932 (p89, NA, NQR)**

JC, 5 Jan – ... The position is certainly very serious and the weather is anything but promising. Hot days and cold nights with the wind blowing mostly from the south-east and a cloudless sky. Then man on the land is undoubtedly experiencing a most trying time. Several thousand sheep, the property of various owners, are on the road in search of water and grass. A well-known selector, who has been in the district for the past 15 years, remarked that it is his first experience that his draught horses have been unfit to delve the bore drains same being in too poor a condition to work. Quite a number of selectors are compelled to keep at least one horse in feed.

It is quite a contrast to read in the southern papers that the cricketers lost £3000 to £4000 in gate money



owing to heavy rain while out here there is a possibility of losing twenty times this amount if we do not get rain, and within the very near future. Seeing that the country is in such a bad state and the numerous difficulties that are arising in an endeavour to shift stock, I certainly think some representation should be made to the Minister of Railways in the advisability of granting a special concession to stockowners in the way of placing stock trains at their disposal thus assisting them to get their stock on to better country; at the same time spreading the freight over a period of, say, six months; or better still collecting the freight from the first woolclip. Instances are known in this district that through lack of finance many thousand sheep will be allowed to die if early rain is not experienced.

The New Year passed over in a very quiet and solemn manner. Apart from the few on picnics who ventures forth in the heat and flies nothing of any particular interest occurred. The absence of fireworks on New Year eve is undoubtedly attributed to the depressing times and the usual old time methods of seeing the old year out and the new year in has been cast aside perhaps until more prosperous times are again experienced, if ever.

Mr Jack Walters received word that his son Harold who was operated on for appendicitis has developed typhoid fever and his condition was considered serious. It is sincerely hoped that word will be received in the very near future that the unfortunate patient is on the road to speedy recovery.

### **16 Jan 1932 (p89, NA, NQR)**

JC, 12 Jan – Terrific unbearable heat has been most prominent during the past week and still no rain recorded of any consequence except for the paltry 20 points which fell last Friday afternoon. The temperature has been hovering around 120 degrees, while last Sunday and Monday, which were considered the hottest days for many a year past, the temperature rose to 124 at midday, and the same night at midnight it registered 106, while at 6 o'clock the following morning showed 96.

We have witnessed numerous displays of lightning and thunder and on several occasions wonderful indications of rain have been experienced. Taking into consideration the weather we have been experiencing the past two months, we can imagine we are on the threshold of a severe drought. On several instances you could safely say we were going to get a huge downfall but unfortunately the only results so far has been dust storms, plenty of wind and an occasional narrow storm of no great quantity. The country within a hundred miles north and north-west and south-west of JC is in a very serious position despite the fact that Southern papers report the West has been favoured with bountiful rain.

There is no one realises the very grave position existing, only those in the vicinity, and without fear of contradiction I can safely state if no rain is recorded during January wholesale losses in stock will be experienced and sure ruin and destruction to many will be witnessed. Evidence is already to hand of losses up to 5000 respectively on one property alone in the district and numerous losses of 1000 to 3000 are very prominent. Today the sky is very overcast and heavy clouds are very distinct with an occasional peal of thunder and the temperature at 121, every face is tuned skywards watching and waiting for that wonderful asset rain.

Continued attempts are being made to shift stock, some with no particular destination, and others more unfortunate, are compelled to stand by and see their stock perish.

The stock movements for the past [week have been] ... from JC to Toolebuc 7 horses, E Irwin owner; from Bellevue to Fairlea 6000 sheep, Shaw and Bulmer owner; from Wallacooloobie to Ouchy 10,000 sheep, Mr Byrne owner.

At about midnight last night, Mr W.G Glasson of "Lara" communicated with Acting Sergeant Casey advising him that an employee named William Boston, who was engaged on Lara as a stockman, was found dead on the track leading to his hut about six miles from the homestead. Constable Rattenbury, accompanied by a black tracker, were at once dispatched to the scene of the tragedy where an examination was made and the body conveyed to town for burial. The deceased being 77 years of age is believed to have met his death through the effects of the intense heat, he evidently having fallen off his horse as it was in this position he was found dead.

### **6 Feb 1932 (320206, CA)**

JC – Like the infantile paralysis germ in the south, the fire bug in the north seems to have suddenly livened up. This last few months fires have been occurring with alarming regularity in North and North

Western towns and one of the fire assessors who visited JC recently said his company had had to pay out £35,000 insurance money for fires during the past few months.

On Thursday morning last another one was added to the list when the JC Hotel owned by Mr WG Gannon, went up in flames. At 3am residents of JC were awakened by cries of 'fire' and everyone rushed to the scene but little could be done as the flames had too great a hold. At one end of the hotel was situated a barber shop and billiard saloon and it was here it is said the fire was first noticed. The saloon was at the time unoccupied except for a billiard marker. On the opposite end of the building in a sample room the Qld national Bank had a branch and manager Don Stevenson who was quickly on the scene was successful in removing most of the valuable papers from the building. The Bank's books were locked in an iron safe and it is presumed these will be intact when the safe is opened which will be a matter of about a week.

The building was only erected and opened in about July 1929 and was a splendid building, costing, we believe, in the vicinity of £12,000, and though we have not heard what insurance is on it it is improbable it will be fully covered. The furnishings and fittings in the hotel were comparable to any hotel in the metropolis and it seems a great pity that hotels such as this should be destroyed by fire.

Mr Gannon the proprietor is away south on holidays at present, not being expected back until Sunday next. Miss May O'Donnell was in charge of the hotel.

Mr Peter Dawes, our local barber, and leviathan of the turf, who was burnt out in the Post Office Hotel fire in Cloncurry, was lucky he was not in another blaze. He had made arrangements to go down and take over the barber shop and billiard room and was only awaiting the return of Mr Gannon before doing so.

#### **6 Feb 1932 (p18, 320206, NQR)**

Gannon's Hotel Guttled

JC, 4 Feb – About 3 o'clock this morning the residents of JC were awakened by a loud explosion and upon investigation it was soon learnt that the scene of the incident centred about Gannon's Hotel.

Although quite a number of residents in close proximity were startled by the loud report no one at the time seemed to take the matter seriously until the cries of, "Fire" were soon heard; at this time a dense cloud of smoke could be seen issuing from the billiard room portion of the hotel, which was unoccupied at the time and which was situated at the eastern end of the building.

Volunteers immediately secured the fire brigade reel and hoses and despite the fact that they were compelled to work under tremendous difficulties they eventually effected a save of the kitchen servant's quarters, all out-houses, Sullivan's new buildings, and Hudson's new hotel.

On the western end of the hotel was situated the QN Bank Ltd which was also completely gutted, also an empty hairdressing saloon.

Luckily for the town a very light north wind was blowing which certainly was in favour of the fire brigade workers as on the south side of the hotel are the railway yards and buildings which were at no time in any danger.

The hotel being only erected in 1930 took quite a long time to burn and the boarders in most instances saved all their belongings. At the time of the fire the licensee, Mr W Gannon, and his wife and family were visiting the south on a short holiday and were not expected home until next Sunday.

It is understood the building contents and stock were the sole property of the licensee, and the hotel was considered one of the most up-to-date hotels in the north-west. The particulars of the insurances are at present unknown owing to the absence of the licensee, but from information it is evident the licensee will be a big loser. The origin of the fire is a complete mystery and so far no light can be thrown as to the cause of the loud explosion which appears to have been the starting of the fire.

#### **13 Feb 1932 (p89, NA, NQR)**

JC, 9 Feb – It was my unpleasant duty to report last Thursday a brief outline of the fire which completely gutted Gannon's Hotel in the early hours of that morning. Travellers from near and far have

at all times spoken in excellent terms of this fine new hotel which was erected in 1930, and the management of which is too well known for its excellence for me to write about. The residents of the district looked upon this hotel as a fine acquisition to this district, having a frontage of 60 odd feet to the railway and its construction meeting with every desire to the public in general. As to the cause of the loud explosion which may have been the originator of the fire, we are at a loss, and the feeling in general that some person or persons have ventilated a grievance is freely expressed. It is not yet known whether Mr Gannon intends rebuilding but no doubt application for a temporary bar will certainly be applied for in the meantime.

While on the unfortunate incident it will be remembered that some time ago the council decided to form a volunteer fire brigade which was readily responded to by a number of energetic townsmen. However, after having been in operation for a short period, a request was made to the council for the erection of a fire alarm bell and other various necessities but at the time the council advised they could not see their way clear to assist us in any way, the result being the brigade became disheartened and eventually was dissolved. Having an unlimited supply of water at our command I can say here, without fear of contradiction had we had an alarm bell and the alarm given when the explosion took place, despite our other anomalies, Gannon's Hotel would have been standing today. As a result of the action adopted by the council, who could not see their way clear to outlay approximately £30, the position is, owing to the destruction of the above hotel the council will lost alone in rates three times this amount from this one source alone.

About six months prior to this incident the Irrigation and Water Supply Department reconditioned our mains and unknown to the members of the late brigade, who were at the front on the above occasion, new fire plugs were instituted which, having a thick rubber plate fixed on the bottom over the ball, tends to corrosion and suction, the result being much difficulty is experienced in attempting to sink a hydrant on the occasion of a fire. I understand that the business section of the town propose getting together in the advisability of forming a more efficient brigade at the same time soliciting the assistance of the council to have the fire plugs attended to more regularly and an alarm bell erected in some suitable position. Other matters such as further equipment will also receive attention.

As a result of the above fire, a safe, property of the QN Bank Ltd, suffered damage and the day following the fire the bank recommenced business in a vacant shop of O'Sullivan's buildings and the burnt safe was removed with much difficulty to the new remises. It was not until Sunday night following that an attempt was made to open the safe, but it was soon learnt that the job required the use of the oxy-acetylene plant supplied by Mr T Guest which took fully five hours before the door was opened. Upon investigation it was soon learnt that the books were a little charred and several documents slightly scorched but the notes and silver were intact. A new safe has been received and business is again in full swing although the officers of the bank are not altogether in their stride just at the moment.

## **20 Feb 1932 (p89, 320220, NQR)**

JC, 16 Feb – The first prosecution in this district under the recently constituted District Improvement Board, Hughenden District, came on for hearing before JPs J Parsons and W Taaffe in the local Police Court on 11th instant when Charles Leahy, Chairman of the above board, proceeded against Thomas W Wall for unlawfully depasturing stock on certain Crown Land, to wit, Camping Reserve R2. Defendant pleaded guilty and was convicted and fined £5 with 3/6 costs of court in default levy and distress one month's imprisonment.

The same versus John Leslie Clarence being the drover of certain sheep failed to cause such stock to proceed towards their destination at least six miles each successive period of 24 hours. Defendant pleaded guilty and was convicted and fined £10 with 3/6 costs of court in default levy and distress one month's imprisonment.

The same versus William Joseph Sheridan on similar charge. Defendant pleaded not guilty. Evidence was given by the Ranger John Patrick Ahearn who stated: "I am the Common Ranger stationed at JC. I am also an officer of the Hughenden District Improvement Board. Portion of my duties are the supervision of travelling stock. I know the defendant, in this case William Joseph Sheridan. I remember January 4th, 1932. On that date defendant entered Camping Reserve R2 and Stock route adjoining. While he was camped there with sheep I interviewed him on January 13th, 1932. I next saw the defendant back at the Bullock Holes on the 19th January, 1932."

I said to him, on the 13th January, 1932, "When are you moving on," and he replied, "On 14th January, 1932." I again saw him at the Bullock holes on January 19th, 1932, I said to him, "When did you come here," and he replied "On Monday, 18th January, 1932." I said to him, "When are you going to shift." He replied, "I have a permit to travel stock from the Bullock Holes to McKinlay, but do not intend to shift while the weather remains cloudy."

I again saw the defendant on Thursday morning 28th January, 1932. I saw other mobs of sheep on the reserve. All sheep seen on the reserve by me have been reported to the Board. I cannot say what action has been taken in respect to same. I was not an officer of the DI Board in November last. I cannot exactly say the date of my appointment. I saw Mr O'Neill with a mob of sheep there in November last. I know he was there with the consent of the DI Board. So far as I know he was paying agistment. All stock travelling routes and reserves are supposed to do six miles a day. Action is not taken in all cases. No action taken against the drover of a mob of sheep that watered at defendant's bore last Thursday week."

No further questions, case adjourned for seven days.

### **5 Mar 1932 (p14, NA, NQR)**

JC, Mar 1 – Members of the Church of England Ladies Guild rallied together and held a very successful Leap Year dance on the night of the 29th. Despite the times there was an exceptional good attendance of both sexes who appeared to have had an enjoyable time and the committee responsible for the occasion are rather pleased with the results.

A meeting of parents and guardians are called for on the 2nd instant to elect a new School Committee. It is to be hoped a good attendance is reported. Rather strange how a number of parents take little or no interest in the welfare of the children, Were it not for a few, and just a few, stalwarts, the kiddies would certainly be much neglected. Since the advent of our new Head Master M Nelson a very wise and sensible movement has taken root and which has become very popular among the children in so far as starting a State School Savings Bank which certainly encourages the children to be thrifty more particularly during these most distressing times.

Having an unlimited supply of water at our command and mains laid throughout the main streets one is at a loss to understand why a request has not previously made to the Shire Council to erect horse water troughs at suitable sites in the town area. As it is at present stockmen coming into town are either compelled to water their horses at the waterhole about half a mile distant from the town or out of a benzine tin in someone's back yard. Such conveniences require little or no upkeep once they are erected and should certainly be much welcomed by horseowners.

### **12 Mar 1932 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, 8 Mar – Still no sign of rain. Although a North wind has been continually blowing during the past week and the indications at times looked promising, the rainfall during this period has been most conspicuous by its absence. We have read with envy the bountiful falls experienced on the coast and so far that has been our share of it. What the result will be if rain is not experienced this month is a question we are not game to answer. Stock owners in these parts say without fear of contradiction that the position so far experienced these last four months is even worse than the 1926 drought, as it is stated at that time during the months of January and February the majority had sufficient grass to last until after June. The present position is appalling and rain is urgently needed to save the situation.

As several hundred thousand sheep have been removed from the district the loss to the district and the business section will be great as there will be little or probably no shearing to speak of carried on. Stock owners are at their wits end which way to turn and every day is bringing the position to a more critical point. On a few fortunate properties that have a few months grass ahead, same are becoming thickly infested with kangaroos as on one property alone, about eight mile distant from here, several mobs of about 60 to 70 are to be seen. One shooter alone getting over 200 without any trouble in about ten days practically in one paddock. As we are in the midst of the lambing season the losses up to date have been very heavy and in several instances the yield will not exceed ten per cent.

Employees following the shearing industry may be well advised that there is very little offering in their line in this district at the present time and even the future does not hold out any better hopes even if good early rains are experienced as 60 percent of the sheep have been removed from the district while

approximately 28,000 have already perished and whatever employment may be offering there appears to be quite a number of men on the waiting list in and about the district. Unless employees have already positions booked I certainly would suggest that inquiries be made before coming to the district in search of employment.

At the Coroner's Court held at JC on the 18th Feb before Mr EF Dunne Police Magistrate, into the circumstances surrounding the causes of a fire which occurred at JC on the 4th Feb 1932 whereby certain premises known as "Gannon's Hotel" situated in Goldring Street, JC was practically destroyed by fire. The inquest was conducted by Acting Sergeant Casey. Evidence was given by William George Gannon, owner and licensee of the Hotel, John Anderson, William Henry Hall, William George Parsons, Walter Borghardt Police Constable, Acting Sergeant Casey and ten others comprising boarders who were residing at the hotel at the time of the outbreak.

The building and contents were insured for about £7700 with the Standard Insurance Company. The licensee Mr WG Gannon estimated his losses in the vicinity of about £4000. The personal effects of many boarders were lost and were not covered by insurance. As no evidence as to the cause of the fire was given the inquiry was then closed.

Due no doubt to the existing drought business has decreased considerably and everything appears to be at a standstill.

#### **9 Apr 1932 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC, Apr 8 – Still no sign of rain and by all appearances there is not likely to be any great falls even in the near future. Quite a cool change has developed during the past week and the nights in particular are rather chilly. Reports come to hand daily of huge losses in stock and if the mortality keeps up the rate it has been the past few weeks it will soon be hardly necessary for any rain at all. Thousand of stock have been removed from the district and depression has seriously set in so far as the business section is concerned. What is going to become of the once prosperous little townsship is beyond all thought. It is reported from good authority that a line of fat bullocks have been offered at 20/ per head and buyers are conspicuous by their absence. Store wethers can be purchase at any price you like to offer while a certain party have offered to give about 3000 away to anyone that will take them off the country. Quite a number of selectors are shearing what sheep they have left some with only seven months wool on. It is a certainty that the year 1932 is going to be a memorable one insofar as the man on the land is concerned.

#### **14 May 1932 (320514, CA)**

Goat Registration

A letter from Mr Ernie Brennan asking for exemption of registration of goats at Nelia

Cr T: There are many poor people in Cloncurry who have to register their goats.

The clerk said registration was enforced in Cloncurry and Mt Isa.

Cr B: They must all be under the one heading. Why penalize Cloncurry people and let others off? We must be fair. If Cloncurry people are charged we must charge them all. I'll move that the by-laws be enforced. Seconded and carried.

Mr Armstrong: Last raising day I did not get all the goats in Cloncurry because some escaped. I have asked the garbage contractor to repair the pound yard as some escaped from there and when that is done I'll have another raid.

In answer to Cr Barnes, Mr Armstrong said he did not know one person who had goats that were not registered.

In regards to a person running a herd of goats on hisown property, councillors were in a quandry as to whether action could be taken or not.

Mr ?: Is this goat nuisance such a burning question? I don't think it is a right time to be harassing people about a few goats.

Cr Boyd: I don't think it is either. There are unregistered goats in Cloncurry, Malbon, Quamby and Djarra, so why trouble?

Cr Barnes: People in Cloncurry have paid registration on their goats so why let others off?

Cr Affleck: Just at the present I think we should let them go.

Cr Trenfield: Why should we exempt some and make others pay?

In answer to this, the Clerk said the goat registration brought in £21 last year.

Cr Barnes: If we stop registration we will have trouble from all quarters.

Cr Hord: To get over the difficulty I'll move that the Inspector carry out goat registration in all centres according to the by-laws when convenient. Seconded by Cr Affleck.

Mr Armstrong said he could not impound in outside centres as there were no pounds, but it was pointed out to him that he could make a yard a pound for 24 hours and then drive the goats into the central pound.

Cr Affleck: How can he bring goats in from Djarra? We'll have to outfit him with a droving plant.

Cr Chaplain: That motion means that we will never impound and then the commons and reserves will become over run with goats.

Cr Tioehurst: We should let the registration stand over for 12 months as we will lose money by sending men out to Djarra.

The motion was put, Cr Chaplain voting against stating he would be a goat [if he voted for it].

Cr Boyd: Cr chaplain is not consistent. One time he says we must abide by the by-laws and now he votes against it.

Cr McMaster: It's quite alright, Cr Chaplain has just said he is another goat.

#### **4 Jun 1932 (p52, NA, NQR)**

JC – The local football club, in an endeavour to gain funds to enable them to keep the club in swing, propose holding a competition to select the 'Nicest Girl in Town'. This should prove most popular but no doubt a difficult task as, despite all our other encumbrances we are fortunately favoured with a very select variety to choose from. A boxing tournament and dance was held on Tuesday night last, and the big attendance will no doubt considerably swell the revenue. The entertainment proved a success from all angles and quite a few budding Dempseys came to light by quite.

#### **11 Jun 1932 (p10, NA, NQR)**

JC – Very little shearing is going on in the district at present. In fact the whole industry is at a standstill. The same remarks apply to droving and all stock movements due no doubt to the fact of the barren state of the stock routes and the bigger percentage of sheep having been previously removed elsewhere.

On Wednesday last the 1st instant, quite a gloom was cast over the town when the news was received of the death of Mrs Kate Graham, wife of John Barnard (Barney) Graham a member of an old and much respected family in this district. Deceased at the time of her demise was 39 years of age, being a native of Wyndham, WA at which place her marriage to Mr Graham took place. Being of a quiet disposition she made many firm friends during her residence in this district. About a fortnight previously deceased suddenly became ill and was taken to the Richmond district hospital but despite all care and attention she peacefully passed away death being due to heart trouble leaving a sorrowful husband and three children, two girls and one boy, the eldest being 8-1/2 years of age and the youngest twelve months to mourn her loss. The respect in which the deceased was held could be gleaned from the huge number of letters and telegrams of condolence and floral tributes received.

## **25 Jun 1932 (p89, NA, NQR)**

JC, 21 Jun – On Friday morning last, a man by the name of Edward Dines, aged 52 years, was found dead, rolled up in his blanket in Hickman's timber shed. Upon investigations by the police it was learned the deceased had been employed as a station hand on Manfred Downs for some time past, and of late had not been feeling the best. He came into town the previous day and was examined by Dr Hogg who advised him to go south for treatment. It is stated deceased decided to go the following morning by train but Fate declared otherwise.

A post-mortem held by Dr Hogg revealed that death was due to heart failure. It is understood that deceased was a native of Qld and that his mother resides near Mt Garnet. The remains were interred in the local cemetery.

On Sunday last the committee of the JC Golf club held their third official opening of the season on the local golf links. Despite the counter attractions of football, tennis and basket ball, a large number of spectators and players were in attendance. Various competitions were held during the afternoon for which suitable trophies were awarded to the winners.

During the course of the evening a most enjoyable afternoon tea was daintily served under the marquee, and the day being a true winter's one, was particularly acceptable, the catering arrangements being in the capable hands of Mrs K Penderson.

JC, 21 Jun [dated as such but may not be a part of the preceding notes] – The local tennis court was also a hive of excitement on Sunday afternoon when the star players from Rockvale tried conclusions with the locals. The scores were evidence we have either a number of Crawfords in our midst, else the visitors were not trying. The same remarks under a different heading also apply to the team of basketball players who journeyed to Richmond on Sunday, only to meet with defeat, the scores being Richmond 19, JC 3 games.

## **2 Jul 1932 (p11, NA, NQR)**

The Lost Art of Droving

By AJ Cotton

In the early eighties while jackarooing on a station in NSW I had a few trips on the road with cattle and, youthlike, I began to think I knew all about droving. But my experience as a drover for many years afterwards taught me that I knew very little about it at the time. Droving is an art and I consider that I only really knew how to handle and nurse a mob of cattle over a long journey after years of experience.

In these days of confined areas, no mob should be larger than 1000 head, and five men should be constantly with them, one on each side of the lead, one on each quarter, and the tail man; besides the boss who takes the place of one of the five men should any of them have to leave for any purpose, to look for lost cattle or other emergencies. The horse taylor, whose duty it is to look after the horses, rides on and give the prescribed 24 hours notice of the stock entering a run or holding of any size, through which property the stock are compelled to travel six miles within 24 hours in Qld and ten miles in NSW. It is also his duty on arrival at the camp to put up the tents, if necessary, after taking his horses on to grass – if there is one in the immediate vicinity of the camp, and hobbling them. There should be also a cook who drives the waggonette.

During recent years the prices of cattle have been so low that owners have been compelled to send mobs of 1250 to 1500 on the road, for the larger the mob the cheaper the contract price for droving, but any number over 1000 is not advisable in the interests of both cattle and owner and a droving contractor cannot do justice to them under 1/3 per head per 100 miles if only this number is started, otherwise he has to work shorthanded and travel further to make a fair thing out of the contract. The distance allowed to be travelled in any contract...

... with the result that the whole mob responds just the same as a pack of cards falling over, except that it is not caused by impact but by fear of getting horned added to the ...? of always having been allowed a certain space to feed in when moving along. As they are put through the gate, the bullocks are taught to draw through by the experienced men on either side of the lead, still keeping the mob spread out and by holding both the leads in a certain direction so that the centre bullocks in the lead of the mob finding

the space between themselves and their mates somewhat reduced, draw away through the opening ahead and in the same way the two leading men regulate the pace of the mob.

If the journey for the day is longer than usual these men keep the lead more confined. This compels the whole of the mob to walk along more quickly as they notice that the space between themselves and their mates has been reduced and they therefore try to overcome this by walking ahead. The two leading men take care not to close them in too much otherwise they would walk too fast and what is termed "string out". The two men on the quarter of the mob steer on the course given by the leading men. The tall man rides and walks alternately and his horse feeds as he goes along, for the only work required of him is to see that none are left behind. This is very unlikely, for if the mob is handled properly it is hard to part them and none will remain behind unless very lame. Even then it is difficult to leave them. I have seen bullocks come hobbling in two hours after the main mob had camped for the night.

As I write I am reminded of AB (Banjo) Patterson's lines:—

It's steady on the lead there!  
And it's let 'em stop and feed there!  
For they're wild as mountain eagles and their sides are all afoam;

But they're settling down already  
And they'll travel nice and steady  
With cheery call and jest and song we fetch the cattle home."

By the method described cattle can be driven seven to eight miles a day and, if the season is good will at least hold their own in condition, no matter how long the journey. When they are allowed to draw through and feed as they go it keeps the soft sappy condition on them if not travelling more than seven miles per day on an average.

The mob should always be within a half mile or so of the camp an hour before camping time, and if they are, and the food is plentiful during the day, they will draw on to the camp guided by the drover's dray. They become used to seeing and camping close to the dray every night and they will lie down with a sigh of contentment, feeling that they have had all they want. They will only get up once in the night to turn around and lie down the other way about. There they will then remain until daylight unless suddenly startled by a possum falling down among them from a tree, or some other happening unaccounted for at the time.

In the dark it is sometimes very hard to deal with startled stock but one can understand what they do when one pictures a theatre full of people and there is a shout of "Fire!" – they stampede in the same way. Cattle are like humans in some respects. If a mob is feeding quietly along and one suddenly lifts it head and looks in a certain direction the other will lift their heads and gaze in the same direction, just as one man on a pavement gazing up into the sky causes others to do the same.

Cattle that are driven, not droved; that are kept too close together in a mob and not allowed to spread out and feed along, become fretful and nervy, will not feed contentedly, always walking on to get feeding room, or away from the horns of the beast too close to them, and are put on to the camp at night hungry and discontented. Often they are jammed in too closely together on the camp at night instead of being allowed to spread out with plenty of room between each beast, and consequently they are in an irritable condition. Being in such a state will cause them to stampede, or what is termed "rush", without any apparent cause, and once they "rush" it is a case of look out for a repetition every night afterwards for some time, or until the drover realises his mistake in keeping them too close together.

An odd beast will walk out to the edge of the mob at night looking for a better place to lie down but with no intention of walking away. The inexperienced man on watch will turn him back instead of standing (on his horse) quietly on the outside of the beast who will lie down when he has found the spot he is looking for on the outside of the mob, and often the beast, after being turned back two or three times, will playfully give a snort, kick up his heels and jump back into the mob, thereby causing a "rush."

[See also 10 Feb 1940] I have seen some funny things happen in a 'rush' at night with bullocks. We



camped one night in scrubby country on Crowther's Creek, between Chinchilla and Goondiwindi, with a thousand bullocks from Bromby Park. We had lost a few bullocks which had probably been cut off from the mob when travelling through thick scrub, and a man had been sent back to look for them. I did not take a regular watch only kept a horse tied up to a tree at my tent on nights that the cattle were likely to be restless. On this occasion I took the midnight watch and suggested that they call me a little earlier so that I could change the night horse. which was about a mile away on a patch of grass through a Belar scrub, I had just jumped on bare back, for I only carried my bridle with me from the camp, when I heard the snort of a brumby between myself and the cattle. Making a detour to avoid starting him in the direction of the cattle, which would have meant a certain rush, he saw me and made straight for the mob as fast as he could travel. Upon hearing the rattle of his hoofs the mob were up and off like a shot out of a gun and it is astonishing how quickly a mob can get up when startled. After listening for the direction they were taking I went after them, and getting close to what I thought was the lead, heard a "Coo-ee" which I answered and went in the direction of the call, to find the only man on watch standing on the edge of a gully about four feet across with precipitous sides. Into this his horse had fallen after striking the opposite bank with his chest and shooting Glaser, the second in charge who was on the watch at the time, on to the bank on the other side. The horse had to lie on his back in the narrow gully until daylight as all hands were after the cattle. It took us three days to get them all.

But to return to the droving art. At daylight, stock will want to draw on again in the direction in which they have become used to travelling. By careful handling they will become reconciled to leaving home and a good drover will not detain them but will have his men ready to move with them.

How different it is today! If you want to find a mob of cattle you have travelling somewhere on the road, all you have to do is to get into a motor car, go along the track and you'll find them surrounded by a cloud of dust, out of which your frightened and scared bullocks will emerge driven by carpenters, tinsmiths or men who have followed any occupation but who have been attracted by the wages, which are the highest for the easiest and most pleasant job on earth to men brought up in the bush.

Good men used to look forward to the time when they could be sent on the roads with the stock which they had been used to nursing from the time they were born and they took just the same delight in learning to handle them properly on the road as they did in rearing them on the station, frequently calling them by name. But with the class of men who handle stock on the roads today with the exception of a very few the only...

#### **16 Jul 1932 (p12, NA, NQR)**

I understand that a deputation of peaceful citizens propose waiting upon the shire Council to endeavour to ascertain whether the Council have employed a Traffic Inspector and if so does he reside in the town area. As the duties of the responsible person holding this important position is not by any means extremely heavy, that is judging from the prosecutions the past few years, the total number being one altogether. It will certainly be too late to make an hue and cry after an accident has occurred which is already proclaimed a miracle why such has not been the case already as we have daily evidence of a few speed kings who seem to find pleasure in using a main street as a racing course.

#### **Aug 1932 (p? NA, NQR)**

Seven Hundred Miles in Search of Work

(By Ernest Melville, Sydney)

On the 7th March in this year of dull depression, 1932, I started off looking for work in company with one whom I will call Jerry. Now Jerry is a windmill erector and plumber. He is a competent tradesman and turns out first class work. I have had experience of repairing windmills and am a mechanic of average ability besides having a good knowledge of stock, both sheep and cattle. With these qualifications we left Townsville in high hopes of securing employment. In three months in that city I had only one day's work so I decided it was time to make a move.

I may as well mention here that we intended travelling on push bikes. We mapped out a route that would take us through a great number of stations that depend on windmills, pumping from artesian bores and waterholes to water their stock. Taking all things into consideration we assured ourselves we would find sufficient work such as overhauling and repairing windmills, cars and trucks to keep us in food and the bikes in good repair, besides having money in pocket when we arrived back. A sad disillusion awaited us.

The day we started was bright and sunny, too sunny for comfort. We had made a cache of our gear several miles out of town the previous day. Proceeding to our cache we began to pack the bikes. My equipment consisted of the following:—

2 blankets, waterproof sheet, carbide bike lamps.

1 change of clothes, carbide

1 towel

1 pair pyjamas

Shaving outfit and looking glass

Pannikin, knife, fork, spoon, pocket knife, water bag, tools, billy can and food. Tea sugar, bread, meat, jam etc.

We dispensed with plates after thinking the matter over. All told our swags weighed about one hundred pounds apiece. Jerry had, in addition to his pack, tools weighing about 20 pounds. These consisted of tank punches, drills, hammer, a two foot rule (brass) and a six-pound soldering iron.

Distributing the pack evenly over the bikes and at the same time maintaining correct balance was exceedingly difficult. After leaving the asphalt road at Stewart's Creek the fun commenced. My diary note for that day reads: "Jerry and I have started off on pushbikes looking for work. We have packs heavy enough to break a camel's back, Jerry had his pack too high on his bike when we started off and at every patch of sand and wheel rut his bike would get out of control and throw him. My steering developed a "shimmy" that would put the crankiest Ford car to shame and it made riding an aerobic stunt. Camped at Manton, thirty miles from Townsville."

The roads were rough from heavy rain that had fallen the previous week but we were new to the track and only laughed at our many upsets. The day turned out very hot and we were soaked with perspiration long before noon. Pushing a bike with a heavy load up over country roads is hard work and we were decidedly out of condition after a long enforced holiday. We arrived at Manton tired out and sore all over and were glad to make camp early.

The next day we pushed on intending to get to Mingala by night fall. After travelling about fourteen miles over very stony roads my front tyre began to show signs of wear. A long rip on the tread caused me some concern. I was doubtful if the tyre would last much longer and had visions of the long walk ahead should the tyre blow out. Water was getting very scarce and we lost a lot of time searching dry gullies.

About 12 o'clock we found a soak in a creek and decided to stop for dinner. While Jerry lit the fire I scooped out a hole in the sand and baled the dirty water out, then waited for the clean water to seep through; with that I filled the billy. We had the billy on and were waiting for it to boil when a utility motor truck drew up. "Care to stop for dinner," Jerry asked the driver. "Yes," he replied, but I have no billy." "Never mind," I told him, "we have plenty of tea and sugar and the billy is a big one." He came over and inspected our bikes. After a while he drew my attention to my front tyre. "That won't carry you far," he said. "No," I replied, "I hope it will carry me as far as CT, I can get a new tyre there." "Better let me give you a lift, there is another truck coming along behind that will take your mate." I gratefully accepted his offer and after dinner the other truck having arrived, we tied the bikes on and by three o'clock we were in CT.

We camped on the banks of the creek just below "All Souls" School on the outskirts of the town. After I had unpacked the bike and had a clean up, I rode on into the town and purchased a new tyre and tube while Jerry prepared the camp and collected firewood. We pooled what cash we had and Jerry appointed me to the dual position of Secretary and Treasurer.

That evening after tea we discussed matters and decided we were carrying too much gear and would have to leave behind everything we could possibly do without. As we would be travelling a very dry track we would have to carry water and that would add another twelve pounds to the weight we were already carrying. After coming to this conclusion we unrolled our swags and retired for the night.

Lying on hard ground is uncomfortable at any time but matters can be improved slightly by digging a small hole for the hips to fit into. I had not been in "bed" long before Jerry wanted to know if I had a wood rasp in my pack. "What do you want it for," I asked him. "To rasp my hips down level with the

ground so they won't get in the way," he told me. It happened I had no rasp so Jerry had to make the best of things.

On Wednesday 9th March we left CT and turned south heading for Aramac. Jerry discarded quite a few things including one of his blankets. I rummaged through my pack and the only superfluous article I could find besides the blanket was the one and only pair of pyjamas I had with me. Thereafter I was never long preparing for sleep. All I had to do was take off my boots and hat. When I woke in the morning I was practically in full marching order. As Jerry put it, "We went to bed like a bullock," all we had to do was to lie down. I detest sleeping in my clothes and it was a long time before I could accustom myself to it. If you can imagine, after a long hard day, with clothes saturated with perspiration and covered with dust how uncomfortable it is to sleep in the same clothes, you may have some idea how I felt.

We rode all day through hilly country and got in a good deal of "coasting". We now had our packs adjusted much better but the frame of Jerry's bike had been strained the first day out owing to the heavy load he had on it and the bike would not run true. It still threw him when he least expected it. I think right through the trip he must have averaged three busters a day.

Our destination that day was Mt Leyshon which we were under the impression was a cattle station. When we arrived there we found a collection of tin shanties clustered round an old mine. Jerry was absolutely disgusted and expressed his opinion of the place in sound Australian language. We were out of meat, but I made enquiries as to where I could buy some. Finally I was directed to a tumble-down house and in answer to my request was told that all that they had was some salt goat for which I would not be charged. That goat must have died of heart failure. I knew I nearly died when I saw it. The goat had been dry-salted and thrown into a kerosene tin. The tin had rusted and the meat had turned a rusty colour to harmonise with the colour scheme of the tin. How long the meat had been there I don't know but it looked very ancient. I took several pieces and boiled them for two hours. That mutton certainly was strong. Limburg cheese had nothing on it. However, we needed it and we had to make the best of it. Jerry told me not to be surprised if he started to bleat in his sleep – just throw a boot at him and he would be all right.

The next day we got away early and passed through Blethchington Station. Here we procured flour and beef and made our first inquiry for work. There was nothing doing. That afternoon we made camp early near a big waterhole and I set about cooking a damper. Jerry built a big blazing fire in order to get sufficient coals while I unpacked the flour and prepared everything. A damper is prepared and mixed exactly the same as a housewife prepares and mixes scones except where the housewife may use milk to mix the flour the busman has to content himself with water. One teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda, two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar to a pound of flour with a pinch of salt, was the mixture I used. As we had no cookery book recipe I had no idea if this mixture was correct so I had to experiment – rather a dangerous procedure as regards our digestive organs. I had to guess the weight of the flour and not having a dish I mixed the flour on a strip of canvas I had my blanket rolled in. Several ants came investigating – the advance guard of millions more. Soon everything was swarming with ants. Small black ants that could cause much discomfort if they bit one and they had a particularly nasty flavour if one was inadvertently carried into the mouth on a piece of food. More than one mouthful of food had to be spat out owing to an ant being in the way. Jerry said it was a wilful waste of good food. What difference could an ant or two make?

But to return to the damper: I had a hard job keeping the ants out of the flour while I was mixing it. The water would persist in running all over the canvas and somehow the flour wouldn't mix properly. When I tried to pull the dough off one had it stuck to the other. Eventually after losing my temper and covering myself with flour I got the thing mixed, dumped it in the coals and covered it over and left it. We both went in for a swim had a shave and general clean up. Then I washed the clothes. An hour later I pulled the damper out of the fire and let it cool off. Jerry put the billy on and when the water had boiled we had tea. During intervals of fighting off ants, thousands of them – masticating dry salt beef and burning himself with hot tea, Jerry held forth on my ability as a cook. He was not very complimentary but then I don't blame him. That damper was burned black on the outside and as hard as iron while the inside was dough and a beautiful golden colour from too much soda. Jerry suggested leaving it at the next station for use as a door stop or as an alternative it could be used as a grindstone.

After an unappetising meal of damper, salt beef and jam we sat on a log and smoked and yarned.

Finally we decided to turn in. I had not settled down long when I was covered with ants. Shaking my blanket and dashing them off the ground sheet was only a temporary respite. We shifted our camp to the centre of a dried up swamp and settled down again. This spot was a little better but three times that night I had to clear the ants out of my bedding.

Next morning, tired from loss of sleep and hungry owing to lack of nourishing food, we “made tracks”. By 11 o’clock we arrived at Victoria Downs and made an inquiry for work and asked if we could buy some food. The manager was very good to us and told us he was sorry he had no work but he would not charge us for the rations. He asked us in for lunch and after a good meal we made for a camp about ten miles further on. I took this opportunity to dump the damper. That lightened my load a little. That evening we camped in the bed of a creek in the sand and enjoyed a good sleep.

Off early next day we went eight miles in to Pajingo Station along a very sandy road. It was impossible to ride and the heat was terrific. Our waterbags came in very handy. Arrived at Pajingo we interviewed Mr Black the owner. He is one of the pioneers of north-west Qld and represents a body of men now fast disappearing. Although he had no work he gave us an attentive hearing. He also pressed rations on us that we could have done without but as he put it, “You never know when you may need them.”

After partaking of a cup of tea we made our way back to the main road again and spent the night at our previous camp. We had only travelled sixteen miles, but as we had walked most of the way we were tired out.

Our next stop was at Egera Station. From there we went to Natal Downs. Here we took a wrong road and ended up twelve miles out of way in a musterer’s camp. We spent the night there and Jerry kept the men laughing with his humorous sallies. I was beginning to feel the strain of pushing a heavily loaded bike all day in the heat. My left knee started to give trouble and ached all night.

We got an early start next day and got on the right road again. We reached a good campsite after passing through Mirtna Station. At Mirtna we were told we had twenty miles of sand ahead of us. Not realising what this really meant we did not take much heed. The following day turned out very hot and we found it impossible to ride through the sand which lay six inches deep most of the way. We worked hard that day and our food supplies were running low. After passing through the twenty miles of sand we came on to solid going and eight miles further on we came to Yarramere Station. Procuring flour and beef we made our camp at a windmill just below the house. The owner was away and we were unable to find out if any work was offering. We were told here that we had another forty miles of sand to walk through. Fortunately the mailman had arrived that afternoon and he told us to throw our bikes on his truck next day and he would give us a lift. The country was all desert and at that time very dry. After tea that night I cooked some scones on the coals for next day. I didn’t feel like tackling another damper and we were rather short of flour.

Early next morning we packed our gear and put it and the bikes on the mailman’s truck and off we went. By eleven o’clock we had reached Annie Vale Station the end of the mailman’s run. We were now through the worst of the sand and only had twenty-six miles to go to get to Fleetwood Station. Our meat had cut out and we were not able to procure any at Annie Vale; all we had for dinner that day was burnt scones and jam – very unsatisfying.

The road to Fleetwood was like the proverbial curate’s egg – good in places. Before we had covered two-thirds of the distance we were both hungry. It was not till late at night that we reached Fleetwood worn out tired and hungry. To our request if we could buy bread and beef we were told to come in and have supper. After supper we unrolled our swags and turned in. We were too tired to have a wash.

I had not been long in bed before the ants started to trouble me so I shifted into a dray and slept there.

On inspecting my bike next morning I found two tyres flat. Jerry had a flat front tyre and his back tyre was leaking. We got permission to stay the day and set out to repair the punctures. I patched nine punctures in the back tube and six in the front.

The following morning we left Fleetwood and after travelling five miles the forwards strut (that is the part the handle bars are clamped to) on my bike gave way and we had to shift the handles on to the rod that comes up out of the front fork. We had only gone a mile further when Jerry had a buster and broke

the same strut on his bike. It was a complete wreck but he managed to carry on till we reached Lake Dunn. We were given permission to camp in the garage here and had the use of the blacksmith's shop. Jerry managed to make a bush repair with a piece of half inch pipe while I repaired a few more punctures. My diary reads "I got two more thorns through my front tyre. The country is still desert. We have been treated very well by the people here, sleeping in the back of an old Ford truck."

Next day we pushed on to Old Barcoora – the site of Old Barcoora Station, now deserted. We were out of meat again. I had another shot at making a damper and made a better of it. For tea that night and for breakfast and lunch next day we had damper and jam. It must be remembered that at every station we came to we asked for work. We were beginning to get disheartened. The rough travelling and hard living were difficult to get used to. As Jerry said "The first six months will be the worst."

Leaving Old Barcoora with our belts tightened up to allay our hunger somewhat we made for Aramac. Four miles from Aramac we called in at a selection and asked permission to camp as the rain was beginning to fall. It was here we got a day's work mustering sheep. The owner of the place was very good to us.

My diary note reads: "He paid us 10/ each for the day's work and gave us a leg of mutton to bring along. He was a white man sure enough and treated us better than any other we have met. There has been three inches of rain along the road we have to go. I hope we are not hung up anywhere."

Aramac was the first town we had passed in 345 miles travelling. We had been on the road just three weeks and one day. We left Aramac on March 22nd still going south. We followed the railway line to Barcaldine, I must be pardoned if I don't go into full details here as travelling became very monotonous. Just one darn day after another. The roads were fair except for one patch that was heavy and cut up from rain. This is worthy of comment for my diary note reads:– "Barcaldine, March 23rd, Wednesday. One strip of road was very heavy from rain. I am completely knocked out and don't feel too good. Too hot to do anything but complain. Soaked with perspiration all day. Too damn tired to kill a mosquito."

We camped at the sheep yards at Barcaldine and for the first time were short of wood. I was able to buy bread and we still had some mutton left so there was no cooking to do.

Leaving Barcaldine next day we resumed our journey. Again I will quote my diary:– "Thursday 24th March. Came through thirteen miles of sand in eighteen miles travelling. Walked all the way. My stomach has been giving me a lot of trouble and I am as weak as water. Blackall, Good Friday, 25th March. Had good roads all day. Came fifty miles. We had tea on the creek and then it began to rain so we made tracks to the Show Grounds for shelter. Half the population of Blackall is camped on the creek. There are several other "boarders" here and one chap is playing a mouth organ and is playing very well. He has a beard a foot long and has not had a hair cut for some considerable time. He reckons he might get a job as "wildman" in a circus. All the children take fright when they see him on the street and clear out of sight. He is playing "Barcarolle" from "Tales by Hoffman" now. Visited two stations today. My back tyre is flat again."

We stayed at Blackall on Easter Eve and overhauled our bikes and on Easter Sunday moved on once more. By this time our muscles has set and we were in fair trim. Our funds were beginning to get low. Jerry had to buy a new tyre at Blackall and a new repair outfit. Our camp that night was not too good. The ants were bad and the ground hard. My hips started to ache and I lost a lot of sleep that night. Jerry asked me if I knew what a kapok mattress was. I told him that it was so long since I had seen one I had forgotten. "Yes," came the dry retort, "I've heard of them."

Next day by travelling hard we got to Tambo. We called in to several stations along the road but could get no work. The weather turned very cold our first night at Tambo and I lost a lot more sleep. My left knee went from under me while I was walking about the camp and it was a while before I could use my leg. We stayed a day at Tambo making inquiries for work and the following day over rough bumpy roads with a head wind, covered fifty miles. We called in at three stations and it was late when we hit camp just below Nieve Downs. I was completely washed out and was so sore and stiff I could hardly move. Jerry was in a worse plight than I was. He rolled himself in his blanket and despite ants and mosquitoes he lay like a log all night. We stayed on here half a day to cook some scones and beef.

That afternoon we reached Augathella. I had another flat tyre. On this track there are not many more stations; so we did not waste much time anywhere, but kept moving.

On Saturday 2nd April after travelling 648 miles we reached Charleville. My diary notes written late at night says:– “This place is quite busy. It seems like we have hit civilisation again. The place where we camped is just behind the town. I couldn’t have a bath today so I am going in now it is dark. Jerry tried all the agents today; as usual nothing doing. I had to buy a new tyre. Matters are getting serious. If we don’t get work soon we will be broke.”

Leaving Charleville we travelled east along the railway line. We had good roads to Morven. My diary reads:– “Morven, Monday 4th April. I have both tyres flat. This part of the country is overrun with prickly pear rabbits and unemployed, butt and thorns. We have decided to draw police rations. We have only 2/- left. Our bank books are 700 miles away and we have no means of getting them sent to us. Been on the road a month and we have only done one day’s work.”

Two days took us from Morven to Mitchell. It was bitterly cold and we both lost a lot of sleep. The night we camped at Mitchell, a house was burned down not far from where we camped. It was a great sight to watch. There were two explosions and clouds of smoke rose straight in the air for about 200 feet.

Our next stop was at Roma. Jerry very nearly ran over a snake along this road. He was quite unconcerned about it, calmly got off his bike and picked up a stick about a foot long to kill it with. He was nearly stood on the snake while looking for it in a patch of prickly pear. He soon despatched the reptile to its happy hunting ground.

The country was still covered with thorns and every night we had punctures to fix. Jerry had thirty-seven patches on his front tube alone. I was too disgusted to count the number of patches on my tubes.

We camped in an old deserted house at Roma along with several more travelling unemployed. These men were getting round the country by “jumping the rattler” from town to town – a very unsatisfactory and risky way of travelling. Several men have been killed taking free rides. There is also the risk of “doing time” – not that that troubles the men much.

We stayed a day overhauling our bikes. All the country around Roma is in closer settlement and work is very scarce. The country seemed to be in a bad way. Next day we got two miles past Yeulba and were caught in heavy rain and had to seek shelter in a 6’ x 8’ trolley shed alongside the railway line. There was not too much room as the shed also contained a trolley.

Rain was still falling when we woke up next morning. After breakfast we turned back to Yeulba. The roads were impassable and the mud stick to the wheel of the bike to such an extent that the wheels would lock. We were forced to leave the road and follow along the railway line. I will quote my diary again:– “Monday 11th, April Yeulba. Rained all last night and all morning. Everything got wet and the bikes are plastered with mud. We got wet through looking for a camp. Camped in the recreation grounds. Jerry is sleeping in the refreshment booth and I am under the tennis shed. Cold tonight. Short of food. We have only had boiled rice and scones for two days. Ration day tomorrow. Feeling a bit homesick and have got a bad attack of the blues. Must be the weather. Tuesday 12th April. Heavy clouds hanging round all day. We intend to push on tomorrow. It will be heavy going but we must keep moving. Wednesday, 13th April. Rained steadily all day. I don’t know when we shall be able to get away. The monotony is getting on my nerves. Thursday, 14th April – Fined up today. Off again tomorrow. Jerry went up town this morning and came back with a sugarbag full of condemned groceries. He has the knack of getting things like that. There were four packets of dried apples (weavily); two packets of raisins (also weavily); four tins of pork sausages (slightly dented); one tin of salmon and half pound of tea. What a windfall! We have enough to eat for a while now.”

And so on Friday 15th April we left Yeulba and went north making for Taroom. Sixteen miles out we took a wrong road and before we found it out we were twenty miles off the road we intended to take and thirty miles out of our way. We travelled thirty three miles that day and had to walk most of the time. My left knee pained a lot and it made walking very unpleasant.

The following day we travelled over very bad roads and covered 25 miles. Next day the roads we

worse and Jerry's bike burst again. The clamp that held the handles in place broke. He made a temporary repair with wire. Cattle had been over the road during the wet and had made it very rough. At times we had to carry the bikes through patches of mud. We only travelled ten miles that day and were absolutely exhausted when we pulled up so it will give you some idea what the roads were like.

We got to Wondoan (the rail head for Taroom) that night. Right from Yeulba to Wondoan the country is all under close settlement. We were penniless and had to depend on what rations we could get at the stations and selections we passed through. The police rations are issued once a week – every Tuesday – and consist of an order on the butcher, baker, grocer the whole amounting to six shillings. Then again one has to be in another town every Tuesday in order to draw rations. For six shillings one cannot get sufficient food to last a week so we were compelled to beg.

Leaving Wondoan we had good roads to Taroom. We travelled forty-two miles in eight hours. We received permission to camp in a shed at the back of a hotel. That evening after a frugal meal of damper and jam, we were discussing the political and financial situation and so forth when a well-dressed chap walked over and started talking to us. After talking for a while we learnt he had carried his sway over the best part of Australia. He then insisted on taking us up to the cafe for a meal. "I know what it is like on the track," he told us, "you see more dinnertimes than dinners." That meal was the best I had had for ages.

Next day being Tuesday we draw our rations then set out to find a place where we could fix Jerry's bike. We found a blacksmith who (after we had explained just how we were situated) gave us the use of his shop and tools. Between us we made a good solid job of the bike. We then made enquiries as to any work that was offering and heard that Ghin Ghinda station would be wanting a mill erected. Ghin Ghinda was forty-two miles along the Springsure road. We travelled till nine o'clock at night over rough mountainous roads in order to catch the manager at home so that we could make inquiries. We found out we were three weeks too soon. We were on short rations that day and had nothing to eat from midday till half past nine at night. That night I just unrolled my swag where I had dropped it and slept till long after sunrise next day.

Before we could have breakfast I had to cook a damper. We ate that damper before it had time to cool and both suffered from a severe attack of indigestion as a result. And so, still stiff and sore from the hard day the day before, we pushed on still travelling through rough, mountainous country. For two days we saw nothing else but mountains till we came out on to the watershed of the Dawson Valley. There we had a ten mile run down hill. My leg used to ache from holding the brake on.

Stations were now far apart and we had a hard job to get enough to eat. We had to get over a forty-two mile dry stage from a station called Stone Croft to Bauhinia Downs. Leaving Stone Croft early with our waterbags full we had fairly level going and got two miles past Bauhinia by four o'clock. We called in at Bauhinia Downs and made the usual request for work as we had at every station we visited.

The next day we had to climb through Expedition Range over a rough, stoney road. My boots were worn out and my feet sore from walking. By next day we had run out of water and as we were right in the middle of the range there was no water anywhere. For twelve miles we had to walk, now climbing, now slipping down steep, stony banks and we were not sorry when we finally came to the last steep pinch. The day was hot and we were both bone dry and needed water badly. A steep run down took us off the range and I was glad to see the last of it.

And so, tired out, thirsty and footsore we reached Planet Downs. The people here were very good to us and gave us cooked food to take us on our way. We were not out of the mountainous country and two more days took us to Springsure just in time to draw our rations.

Next day we went to Emerald and from there to Capella. From Capella we turned off the main road and visited a station where we were given a good issue of flour and mutton. Jerry was quite jubilant over the issue of flour we had received. The same day we got to Retro Station and camped in the shearers quarters. My diary reads:– "Saturday. Retro, April 30. We had rotten roads most of the way from Capella and walked about 20 miles. Sunday, April 12, Staying here till tomorrow. Made a damper with the flour we got yesterday. The flour is rotten with weevils and won't cook. I had to throw the best part of it away. The damper defies description. The outside is case hardened and the inside doughy. Getting short of food. I have discovered a good way to cook a damper. I get a kerosene or petrol tin and cut it

in half. Put a shovel full of coals on the ground, place a sheet of tin on the coals and put the damper on that. Then place a half tin over the lot and heap coals on the tin. Tuesday, 3rd May, Clermont. Left Retro yesterday after dinner and came along the road about 14 miles. Got in here early this morning. We were right out of food before we drew rations. Jerry had to sell his soldering iron for 4/- so that he could get his boots repaired. The soldering iron cost 15/- new and I have carried it about one thousand miles."

Coming into a town was an ordeal now. Our clothes were patched and dirty and our boots worn out. At times it would be three or four days before we would get a chance to shave. Travelling early and late as we were we were usually too tired at night to go to any trouble as regards our personal appearance.

We left Clermont (after making our usual round of the agents) on Thursday, 5th May making for Mt Coolon one hundred and thirty miles on. The roads were very dead and dusty from a lot of heavy motor traffic. Stations were far apart and water was scarce.

On Saturday, 8th May we had a forty mile dry stretch to get over. Going was hard and we had a lot of walking to do. Once again we experienced intense thirst and were just about "all in" when we struck water. Five miles further on we came to Avon Downs. In exchange for beef flour and a tin of jam I undertook the task of getting an old Ford that was on strike, working again. Next morning I got to work and inside an hour had the old Ford out, careering around the paddock.

Leaving Avon Downs the following day we made tracks for Mt Coolon. On Tuesday 10th May we reached Mt Coolon and for the last time drew Police rations. We tried to get work at the Mt Coolon Gold Mines but had no luck.

We left Mt Coolon on Wednesday headed for Collinsville. The roads were good although we were travelling through mountainous country again. Thirty miles out from Mt Coolon we were given a lift to Collinsville on a motor truck. We left Collinsville the next day for Bowen and camped that night at a siding named Binbee. I will quote my diary again: "Thursday 12th May, Bindee I had to cook a small damper this morning for breakfast. We had to eat it while it was hot and we are both suffering from acute indigestion. Good roads but still in mountains. Several women here came over to have a look at a damper I cooked. They had never seen one before. I have seen and made so many dampers that I hate the sight of one."

Next day we reached Bowen and camped in the bed of the Don River. We were now only 130 miles from Townsville and would soon be back. The next two days were uneventful. Good roads made travelling easy. We came on to a car stuck in a creek and offered our services to help get it out. In five minutes the job was done and the grateful owner rewarded us with 2/- each.

Six miles from Home Hill steady rain began. There was no shelter anywhere so we had to keep going. We travelled through Home Hill, Ayr and out to Brandon before we could find a dry spot in which to camp. We got in under a tennis shed and spent the night there. Everything was wet including our blankets and we spent a very miserable and uncomfortable night.

Next day rain was still falling but we were anxious to get the trip over so we pushed on to Giru. Part of the road consisted of hard clay that got a very greasy surface on when wet. My bike would skid and slip from under me and when I put my foot out to save myself from falling my foot would slip too and over I would go. I had several falls that way and was soon covered with mud.

We battled along and a mile from Giru received permission to camp in the stables at a cane farm. We had been wringing wet all day and were glad to light a fire and dry ourselves. I rode into Giru and spent our 4/- on much needed food and so on Tuesday 16th May we packed our bikes for the last time and prepared to get over the thirty miles to Townsville. Pools of water lay all along the road and the bikes were already plastered with mud. We were splashed with mud and water from head to foot. Two dirtier ragamuffins I guess it would be hard to find.

Five hours riding brought us to Stewart's Creek and when we hit the asphalt road I heaved a sigh of relief. And so the trip ended. That night I was able to get into decent and clean clothes and feel presentable once more.



In ten weeks and two days we had travelled one thousand seven hundred and thirty five miles. We were often hungry and many times travelled till we were completely exhausted. Often we never knew where our next meal was coming from. I have come to the conclusion that the good samaritans are not all dead. Many people helped us on our way and had a kind word for us. Although we landed back broke as far as money was concerned, we were certainly the richer by experience.

### **13 Aug 1932 (p91, NA, NQR)**

JC – Shearing and droving operations are now at a complete standstill. All young stock have been removed from the district and the old have been left to take their chances which, according to the number dead in many instances, this chance seems very remote.

### **20 Aug 1932 (p34, NA, NQR)**

JC, Aug 17 – Monday and Tuesday of this week have been proclaimed 'Abusive Days'. This unusual proclamation being agreed upon for the simple reason a strong, boisterous, southerly wind commenced to blow early Monday morning, being continuously accompanied by volumes of dust. Monday as a rule is the usual housewife's washing day so this accounts for the above proclamation. The wind and dust continued throughout all day Monday and Tuesday and some old residents tell us we may have a week of this dirty intolerable weather. The energy of the housewife has been taxed to the limit. Despite how carefully she may be the dust has found its way into every nook and corner. Strikes the writer it would be a very inopportune time to call upon the housewife canvassing for funds to arrange say a farewell to Mrs So and so who is leaving the district owing to ill health.

All the business places in the front Street have been compelled to keep their front doors shut all the time in an endeavor to keep out the wind and as much dust as possible. Rumor has it that rain has been predicted for this month. If, by any chance they happen to be referring to this part of the district, nothing would be more welcome than even just a few drops at the present time, even if it only laid the dust. If rain was only as plentiful as dust, this part of the country would always be in flood.

At a meeting of the local school committee last Friday night it was decided to apply for permission to hold a gaslight sports and bazaar in the school grounds on or about the 14th October, the proceeds of which will go towards raising funds for the school children's annual picnic which will be held at the breaking up for the Christmas vacation.

Master Fred Lowe who had the misfortune to break his leg about four weeks ago is progressing very satisfactorily and hopes to be able to get about in the near future with the aid of a crutch. How simple accidents may occur can be taken from the above which was caused by the unfortunate lad falling from a billygoat cart.

### **3 Sep 1932 (p22, NA, NQR)**

JC – Nothing of any exciting nature has occurred during the past week. The town, and in fact the whole district, seems to be at a standstill. Business people no doubt must be feeling the effects of the drought and the prolonged depression and if rain is not experienced before the end of the year, 'House to Let' notices will be most prominent.

### **10 Sep 1932 (320910, CA)**

Friday, September 2nd at 2 pm saw the first JC Horticultural Show opened. Credit is due to the President Dr Hogg and the Secretary Mr H Sneyd [?] and their energetic committee for taking on such a venture considering the sad state of the country and it was very pleasing to see the show turn out such a success.

Mr Mathers of Townsville judged the vegetable and flower sections and Mrs Black the children's work.

The judge commenting on this how said when leaving Townsville people asked him what he was going to Judge in JC and laughed and he was a little doubtful himself on the same matter. However, he could assure those present that when he went back he would have something to tell those who laughed. The vegetables were of a very high standard and the parsnips were the best he had seen in several shows he had judged this year. The flowers he would not say were of high quality but the sunflowers shown by Mrs Hammond (1st prize) were the most perfect both in colour and size he had seen for quite a long time.

At night a dance was held to conclude a very successful show opening. The dance coming to an end at 2 am.

Following are the prize winners:

Pansies: J Parsons  
Oleanders: Dr Hogg  
Sweet Peas: J Parsons  
Snapdragons: Mrs Fitzpatrick  
Sunflowers: Mrs Hammond  
Petunia: Dr Hogg  
Rose: Dr hogg  
Carnation: W Roberts  
Green Peas in Pod: H Sneyd.  
tomatoes: T ahern  
Strawberry: Mrs R Peut  
Native grasses: SU Browne... = childrens results

### **10 Sep 1932 (p70, NA, NQR)**

JC – On Friday last the local Committee of the Horticultural society held their first show in the School of Arts. Despite the fact that we are in the midst of one of the worst droughts ever experienced in this district for some years past and apart from the existing depression and present bad times, one must truthfully admit the exhibits more particularly the vegetables and flowers, absolutely excelled all expectations. I have no hesitation in stating that some of the finest vegetable from cabbage down to parsely all locally grown were on exhibit and not only in quality but also in quantity. The judge, Mr Mathers, Townsville, who was specially engaged for the occasion arrived on the Thursday afternoon train in a state of What in the devil is there to judge here in this Agricultural line?, was met by members of the committee who also were a little despondent as to how the morrow would turn out. You can imagine the surprise and enthusiasm of the Committee next day when the space allotted was far from sufficient and further temporary accommodation had to be immediately arranged to hold the numerous exhibits. Mr Maters at the conclusion of his hard but pleasant task addressed the audience, adding that the exhibits before him that day would in many instances claim a first prize in the Townsville Show and was in many lines equal to other country shows more conveniently situated. He also added that the parsnips exhibited by Mrs Tracey, McKinlay, were the best that he had seen for this year and having judged seen shows this year this certainly speaks volumes. No reader unless the opportunity was availed of to witness the show could imagine that this district could produce such quality and varieties as was exhibited and the Committee certainly are due for excellent credit in their achievement. As the initial sow has proved such a success the Committee propose adding numerous other sections next year which we trust that the season and conditions will be much more favourable.

News has been received that Acting Sergeant Casey has been transferred to Kingaroy and who with his wife and family propose leaving here about two weeks time. Having been stationed here for the past six years and being possessed with a courteous and obliging disposition his departure will leave behind many staunch and true friends who congratulations for his promotion and good wishes for the future having been freely expressed.

### **17 Sep 1932 (p59, NA, NQR)**

JC Horticultural Show

The JC Horticultural Society held its first Show in the School of Arts Hall, on Friday, the 2nd of September and it certainly was a pronounced success despite the awful drought conditions existing in the district and the rather pessimistic idea that prevailed regarding the growing of flowers or vegetables in the chocolate soil, and using bore water.

Under the able direction of the Society's President, Dr JB Hogg, and with the loyal assistance of Mr Sneyd the Secretary, and the fine support of a "live wire" Committee of the leading townsmen the exhibition proved conclusively that despite these serious drawbacks a splendid exhibition of the district production could be staged.

The Committee approached Mr AJ Crowther for the services of Mr WS Mather to act as judge and this was kindly granted. With the result that the Society were able to secure a capable judge from outside the

district and one qualified to give a comparative opinion as to how the Show compared with those staged in the coastal towns.

In a short speech Mr Mather expressed surprise at the wonderful collection of exhibits presented for judgement. "I had an idea," said the judge, "that the show would not present many difficulties and that in a very short time the exhibition would be over as far as I was concerned as judge. To my surprise I found stands packed with classy exhibits. The vegetables being quite outstanding in regards to quality."

Mr Mather went on to say "The cabbages as a whole were excellent and three out of the ten entries that secured the coveted cards of first, second and highly commended were what I term 'picture cabbages.' I congratulate Messrs V Browne, J Staunton and JR Stout on their meritorious win. The best cauliflower was also good, it being grown by Mr Treacy. The turnip rooted vegetables," continued the judge "were very good. One of two exhibitors thought that size was the essential thing, and consequently presented vegetables past show quality. The chief winners in these sections, amidst keen competition, were Mrs Rome, Mrs Treacy and Mr J Roberts. The various bean prizes went to Dr JB Hogg and Mr Parsons. I congratulate the winner of the parsnip prize (Mr Treacy). I think without doubt they are the best I have judged for some time."

The judge also admired the doctor's exhibit of lucerne and was highly interested in the tussocks of Mitchell and Landsborough grass exhibited by Mr AS Browne. Mr Swayne's stool of wheat was admired for the great number of heads and the hardness and flour quality of the grain. For northern grown wheat it was certainly good.

The flower section brought forth many competitors but owing to strong winds prevailing during the last fortnight a number of the entries were not up to the high standard set by the vegetables. The very fine exhibit of sunflowers exhibited by Mrs Hammond and the collection of oleanders and petunias shown by Dr Hogg and the sweet peas exhibited by Mr Parsons were noteworthy. The rose entries were poor but several annuals were fairly well displayed. Under the conditions of weather existing the flowers on the whole were good.

Dr Hogg is to be congratulated on inaugurating, together with his splendid committee, this movement in JC to demonstrate to the Western people that such exhibitions can be staged successfully, and that flowers, but especially vegetables, can be produced, even under great difficulties, equal to anything in Northern Qld.

A splendid exhibit of children's work, comprising chiefly copybook writing, mapping and work in pastel colours was made. Many still-life studies were accurately drawn and very naturally coloured... The display was a very meritorious one and reflected great credit on the staff of the JC State School, and their worthy headmaster, Mr H Nelson. It was very capably judged by Mrs Black of Eddington Station.

A novel contest for children was a competition for the best "home-made" toy to be entirely the child's own work and made from waste material only. The splendid wheelbarrow made by M Huey caught the judge's eye for the boy's section prize and Hilda Wilder won the girl's prize with a set of doll's furniture made entirely from a discarded kerosene tin.

The show was in every way quite a success and proved a surprise even unto the townsmen and women of JC.

### **17 Sep 1932 (320917, CA)**

Creekites Curious Capers

Underwood v Quilty defamation case

'Cook the busybody'

The much discussed case where Olive Underwood, a single woman, of very presentable appearance, and daughter of the owner of Arizona Station in the JC district proceeded against Lillian Quilty, wife of Thomas Quilty, owner of Euroka Springs station, a neighbouring property, on a charge of alleged defamation and claiming £1000 damages.

Both families are well-known and have resided for many years in the district.

Mr FS Hope, assisted by Mr V Faithfull, appeared for plaintiff, whilst Mr Queen (barrister) instructed by Mr CV Hallinon and Mr PG Byrne (of Hughenden) appeared for defendant.

His Honor: I understand that the parties concerned in this case met yesterday. Has any agreement been decided on?

Mr Quinn: I have heard nothing so far, your Honor.

His Honor: Before the case commences I would like to see both parties and confer with them.

Both sides agreed to this and adjourned into the judges room where after an hour's interview all returned to Court when His Honor adjourned the court till 2.30 pm, the parties having failed to come to a settlement.

### **Tuesday Afternoon**

Mr Hope addresssed the jury outlining the claim for £1000 for defamation. He said Mrs Quilty on divers occasions had said in the hearing of others that Miss Underwood had committed adultery with her husband. At the JC Hotel, her husband had said to her that he was going downstairs. Shortly after, Mrs Quilty went to Miss Underwood's room and found her husband also in the room. She called Miss Underwood a common prostitute.

Gentleman, the case is not a pleasant one and it is a pity that it should be before the Court, but plaintiff must protect her good name. The scene of the trouble is in and around Euroka Springs Station, where friendship had sprung up between the parties and it is a pity that this is the result of that friendship. Plaintiff is only a young girl and she come here to clear her good name. Mr Hope said he felt sure when the jurymen had heard the evidence they would come to the conclusion that plaintiff had been slandered and they would bring in a verdict accordingly. Mr Hope then outlined the evidence that would be given and called Moses Cook, a grazier, who now is licensee of the Manfred Arms Hotel.

Mr C in answer to Mr Hope: I have known both parites in this case for many years and have always been on friendly terms with them and have often visited their homes. I started work for Tom Quilty of Euroka springs in November 1930. Quilty's wife resides there. I remember an afternoon in November, I went to the homestead from the shearing shed. I was getting ready for tea and heard Mrs Quilty say to her husband:

'You deceitful man, bringing Jim Underwood here and you carrying on with his sister.'

She referred to Underwood's sister, Olive. Mrs Quilty passed the above remark on several occasions and I heard her on two or three occasions during the month say Miss Underwood was a prostitute and had slept with Mr Tom Quilty. She also said that she had caught her husband in bed with Miss Underwood at the Julia Creek Hotel. I took Mrs Quilty to mean that Miss Underwood was living with Mr Quilty while he was away in the middle of November 1930. Mrs Quilty said rather than allow her husband and four children to be taken away from her by Miss Underwood, she would poison them all. She said that when she was speaking to McDermott and I. That is all I heard.

In answer to Quinn: I have known both parties for many years and also know Mrs Quilty's parents. I consider this case should never have come before the Court. I heard Mrs Quilty refer to Miss Underwood as a prostitute. I don't believe Miss Underwood is one. I think she is a clean girl. Euroka Springs is about 80 miles from JC. When Mrs Quilty told me she caught them in bed together in JC, I said Miss Underwood was at Hughenden Station that morning. It was a shock to me when I was told about it. I did not broadcast what Mrs Quilty told me. I spoke to Quilty over what Mrs Quilty had told me. I told Quilty thinking he would have the statements suppressed. Quilty was downstairs listening to the conversation.

His Honor: Then you didn't tell him.

Yes I told him. The conversation took place on November 10, 1930.

On the night Mrs Quilty told me Miss Underwood was living with her husband, Mr Quilty left home in

a lorry that night. McDermott and I were upstairs talking to Mrs Quilty when her husband left. I then went down stairs and sat in Quilty's car. He went about a mile and returned for petrol. I was not in the car then, I was upstairs. I did not see Mr Quilty get into his lorry. Quilty heard the conversation, he told me he heard it. McDermott was there when the statement was made.

McDermott was present on November 10th. Quilty was downstairs, McDermott is not a stranger. When Mrs Quilty accused Miss Underwood of living with her husband and calling her a prostitute I said I did not believe it, and it was not true. On the second occasion that Mrs Quilty made the statement about Miss Underwood and Quilty I told her the same thing. I did not attach any importance to it. I have never seen anything to alter my opinion of Miss Underwood. Jim Underwood should certainly have a high opinion of his sister. When Mrs Quilty told her husband he had no right to bring J Underwood there seeing that Quilty was carrying on with Underwood's sister, Quilty said: 'Oh shut up and choke the conversation.'

I am still of the opinion that this case should never have come before the court.

Mr Quinn: Why did you come here to give evidence then?

Witness: I was subpoenaed to come here. I did not want to come, I was forced to come.

[Witness J Underwood]: James Underwood of Arizona Station, JC, and a brother of Miss Underwood, gave evidence of going to Euroka Springs in November 1930 with Cook, Quilty and McDermott and of Mrs Quilty calling out and repeating the statement: 'You hypocrite, coming here with him, and you riding his sister.' Underwood considered she meant him as neither Cook nor McDermott had sisters. In answer to Mr Quinn he said he still had a high opinion of his sister. He did not know if Quilty was financing Arizona as the place is in the name of his mother and managed by his father. Witness was not a bit of a poet, or was his sister that he knew of. He recited but not when with the droving plant. He had never heard the phrase 'Tiger Lily' in poetry or prose. He had heard the phrase but did not know it might have referred to Mrs Lily Quilty.

Edward Arden, a selector of Bohemia [?] Downs, JC, said he knew both parties to the case. He had heard Mrs Quilty refer to Miss Underwood but could not remember the month or when he had heard the remarks. It was in 1930 but he could not remember the month. Witness not cross examined was stood down.

Thomas John Quilty, a grazier of Euroka Springs, and husband of the defendant, then entered the box. Mr Quinn drew attention to the fact that Mr Quilty need not give evidence against his wife.

His Honor: He can give evidence in a civil case if he likes.

Witness stated he had been at Euroka for some years, and in the vicinity for 25 years and had known Miss Underwood for 9 years. Their properties adjoined at one corner and the two families had been on friendly terms. He remembered the occasion in November 1930 when Cook, Underwood, McDermott and himself went to Euroka. His wife was there and as they walked up the stairs she called out several times:

'You hypocrite, bringing him here and you riding his sister!'

We went up the stairs and she came to the door of the room and called out the same thing in a fairly loud tone of voice that could be heard 100 yards away. At other times she was continually accusing me of carrying on with Olive Underwood.

Quinn: When?

W: At the JC races 16 July 1929, on New Year's Day, 1931. There are others.

In November 1930 at Euroka, I said to Jim Underwood: 'You had better leave, Jim.' He came back and I said: 'Let your horses go and I'll take you in in my motor lorry.' We went a couple of miles and we ran out of benzine. I went back and Mrs Quilty and McDermott were sitting on the verandah. Cook was sitting in the car which was under the verandah. I sat on the running board of the car close to Cook and we heard Mrs Quilty say: "I will poison Tom and the children rather than let her be a step mother to my

children.' I know she was referring to Ollie Underwood. She referred to her to McDermott as 'That thing down the road who is nothing but a prostitute.' Mrs Quilty and McDermott then entered the bedroom and continued talking of the same thing.

Examined by Mr Quinn: In November 1930 I was in the car with Cook and heard the conversation and consider it was derogatory to Miss Underwood. I never remonstrated with my wife that time but had done so dozens of times previously. Hope and Cook say this case should never have been brought to Court and I think myself it would have been better out. I had a high opinion of Miss Underwood and still have a high opinion of her. She has not been lowered in my estimation and in my eyes what was said did not damage her.

I can please myself whether I give evidence or not. I have chosen to come here and give evidence against my wife. She was broadcasting her story all about the district. If I am not loyal to my wife by coming here and giving evidence it is not worrying me.

Mr Quinn: Is that all you can tell about what your wife said about Miss Underwood?

Witness: There was lots more said but I can't remember the dates.

His Honor then adjourned the Court until the following morning.

### **Wednesday Morning**

Examined by Mr Hope: In November 1930 I returned to Euroka from Arizona and Mrs Quilty said:

'Did you give Miss Underwood a good —g?

I said: 'Educate your daughter as you were educated.'

Our daughter was standing beside her.

In the presence of Cook between Xmas and the 1st Jan 1931, she found some letters and we quarreled over these letters. I said to Cook:

'Let us go.'

As we were getting into the car she called out:

'You mongrel, you made statements to others.' and then said:

'Won't you kiss me?' She then said:

'You —, I hope you break you — neck. Have you got the second hand syringe? and was still calling out and referring to Ollie Underwood when we got out of hearing.

This was the plaintiff's case.

Mr Quinn said for obvious reasons which the gentlemen of the jury would understand, he would not ask defendant to enter the witness box.

Mr Hope then addressed the jury. He said in this case, Miss Olive Underwood was suing Mrs Quilty for defamation. In a small community like ours both parties are most likely known to the jurymen who had perhaps, heard rumours tales or stories of the case outside, and he asked them to eliminate these from their minds. It is your duty to direct your minds to the evidence placed before you by witnesses and to give your verdict on the evidence alone. The defamatory matter in the statement of claim has not been denied by defendant and it appears Mr Quinn is resting his case on the question that under the circumstance of the defamation it was not injurious to Miss Underwood. He asked the jury to come to the conclusion that under these circumstances it was injurious. In some cases one member of the community can defame another and it is not injurious but when one reputable member of the community defame another reputable member of the community he would submit an injury had been effected. He could honestly say that in this case defamatory matter of unchastity in a single girl had been published by a reputable married woman and that must carry some sting. People knowing the

parties must take notice and there was little doubt the words had been spoken and yelled out in front of several persons and that defendant had referred to plaintiff as a common prostitute. Is that a name a reputable married woman can call another woman and it carry no sting?

Mr Hope then dealt with the defamatory matter as alleged in the statement of claim and stated that Mrs Quilty had denied none of it. He was sure the jury would return a verdict for Miss Underwood.

Mr Quinn said that the case had shortened a lot; the parties had anticipated it would take much longer. He was sure his Honor was pleased it was fast drawing to a close and he invited the jury to shorten it more and return a verdict for Mrs Quilty without leaving the box. Mr Quinn said he did not wish to weary the jury with remarks of any length but he would make a few observations that would assist the jury to a verdict without leaving the box. In this case it is said Mrs Quilty has made defamatory statements concerning Miss Underwood who says her character has been damaged and she asks the jury to assess and award damages. But plaintiff never went into the box and you don't know whether her character has been damaged. She said nothing to enable you to know whether she has a character at all that can be damaged.

Mr Hope objected.

His Honor: He has a perfect right to make that observation.

Mr Quinn: I am not suggesting that Miss Underwood brought defendant here to Court and no derogatory words concerning her have fallen from my [Mrs Quilty's?] lips. But you are not in a position to say whether she can be defamed. She may be the most virtuous woman in the world, or the most abandoned, for all you know. It is a most unusual feature of a case of this kind for the plaintiff not to enter the box.

Mr Quinn then commented on how the case had been prepared and how reluctant solicitors for the plaintiff had been to let the Court know what witnesses they had and what their evidence...

After a lapse of two years there is a rush to go to Court. Made by whom? I ask you to ask yourselves. A most unusual feature has to be put on the annals of the Court. It is the first time to my knowledge that a husband has belittled himself by giving evidence against his wife. He has proved false to those vows he took - to love, honor and cherish. Yesterday he said he got pleasure out of it, he said he pleased himself and he has proved false to those vows he made before his Maker. He has come along here and supported a young woman against his wife who has borne him four lovely children. It is many years since I have heard of such another happening, a man steeped in malice, venom and bitterness against his wife. I hope gentlemen he did get pleasure out of it as I am sure it is the only pleasure he will get, being sure you will not leave the box before giving your verdict for defendant. First he is prepared to go into the box and give evidence against his wife, then when he goes back into the box this morning after having his memory refreshed during the night, he came out with further venom and added to the stigma against his name. I am sure gentlemen, that will be his only pleasure.

Now we have Moses Alexander Cook. I leave it to you how he shaped in the box and to judge his credibility by his demeanor there. Cook did not come through his cross examination at all well and I invite you to disbelieve him without any further comments. Defendant is being framed by Cook and Quilty and if it were possible I would ask you to award damages to her to be paid by Cook and Quilty. There would have been no case only for Cook and Quilty and I submit they have manufactured their statements.

Cook and Quilty say they still have a high opinion of Miss Underwood so where is the damage? And where was McDermott. Where was the letter offering his apology for not being able to attend? McDermott is conspicuous by his absence and I say there was no publication, if the words were spoken [at all]. Only for the mischief-making old man Cook there would have been no case. Quilty wouldn't tell anybody, but Cook, the busybody, must have told someone if the words were said. I suggest the statements were created with some vile ulterior motive so that Quilty could injure his wife who he swore to love and cherish. I claim that Cook and Quilty are a pair of arch conspirators and that their conspiracy has gone amiss. Plaintiff is only being made a fool of by somebody and she has made a most imprudent claim.

The words spoken to Cook I submit they were never said, and even if they were said, where is the damage? There was only Cook and Mrs Quilty present and Cook says he still has a high opinion of Miss Underwood. If Cook had the commonsense he is supposed to have he would have said nothing but the busybody broadcast it - he should be paying the damages.

Plaintiff is only the catspaw in this case and has allowed her name to be put on the writ to do Mrs Quilty an injury, or with some other ulterior motive. Cook could have kept out of this case. If they all did not want the case to come before the court how did it get here? There must have been some false urging to get the unfortunate Miss Underwood to lend her name to put it on the writ.

Gentlemen, you saw Mrs Quilty sitting here beside me yesterday and for a time this morning, ask yourselves is it possible she would use such language? Possibly some of you know her parents and the circumstances under which she was reared and educated and you can judge her. That language is the language of a prostitute, not a lady, and the woman you saw sitting here. Yet her husband comes here and says it, urged on by the badness in himself. I ask you, that is not the language of that girl, a reputable woman, but of an abandoned woman, not my client. 'Did you give her a good —', did she say that — the girl you saw sitting beside me? I am sure you will come to the conclusion she did not. And when you come to that conclusion you will come to the conclusion that she said nothing and will give your verdict without leaving the box, and put the emphasis on the defendant. So in favor of DEFENDANT, to show your contempt for Cook and Quilty and take some of the pleasure out of them coming here.

His Honor said it was duty to show the jury the law and make what observations he considered fit on the case and the jury had to take the law from him and ascertain the facts. He asked them not to follow his opinions unless they agreed with the oath they had taken. He then dealt with the law as regards defamation and said this was a case where a young woman had taken action against a married woman for making charges of misconduct between her and this married woman's husband. You will realise, gentlemen, it is a serious thing to accuse a young woman with misconduct but the matter you have to consider is whether the action was really brought on by the young woman to vindicate her character or with some ulterior motive. A most extraordinary thing is for the defendant's husband to be giving evidence for the plaintiff. It is his own business entirely he can give evidence but he is not bound to and it may cross your mind that this is not really a case to recover damages. It may have been made an opportunity by the husband to publicly ridicule his own wife.

You will not have failed to have noted the indefiniteness of the charges made. Mr Hope applied and had 12 out of the 14 paragraphs in the statement of claim amended and that should show that when instructions were given to prepare the statement the person responsible did not know then the dates when the defamatory matter was published. The latest when defamatory words were used was in November 1930 and the writ was not issued until March 4th 1932, a matter of sixteen months after the publication of the defamatory matter. Under the law you cannot get damages for defamation if you wait for two years after the matter is published, and it is a curious coincidence that some of the allegations in this case were made over two years before the writ was issued. When action is contemplated in a defamation case the law says act promptly and this law has the smallest limitation on the Statute. If it is a question of justifying one's character why wait? Any experienced solicitor will always advise his client to be very careful of oral defamation and to only proceed in a case for oral defamation where extreme measures are needed. Sometimes the client will insist in going on with the case after being advised against such action, and if there is more than defamation behind it they will insist on proceeding — and this case actually reeks of that.

Sometimes in a case like this the judge himself asks the parties to refrain from further action and sometimes they accept and sometimes they do not. To prevent ventilating and broadcasting it is sometimes advisable not to bring these cases to court.

Previously the defamatory matter was confined to three persons, outside defendant and her husband, but now it will be published in the press and made public to everyone.

A peculiar feature of the case is plaintiff not being called to give evidence when she is asking for damages. She is perfectly entitled to refrain but she does not give you an opportunity of judging what her reputation is. Personally it is the first time I have known where the plaintiff refrained from entering the box and where the plaintiff has succeeded.



His Honor said in paragraphs 14 and 15 where defendant said: 'I hope you — break you — neck, you going to that dirty prostitute. Have you got the second hand syringe?' Quilty was the only one present. If that was said to Quilty only, how did plaintiff hear it? He must have gone to Miss Underwood and said to her, 'My wife said you are a dirty prostitute and have I got the second hand syringe.' Gentlemen, what do you think of a man of the world like Quilty going and telling a single girl that?

Then when Mrs Quilty said to Quilty, 'Did you give her a good —,' how could plaintiff hear that back except defendant's own husband told her.

You have been asked by Mr Quinn to disbelieve that, and I think you will be very much inclined to disbelieve it.

Then in paragraph 5 where defendant says: 'You hypocrite, bringing him here and you riding his sister.' If that was said it was defamatory. it was said in the presence of Cook, Quilty, Underwood and McDermott. We have not heard from McDermott but the others come here and say it was untrue and they did not believe it and it did not affect her character one iota.

Then Mrs Quilty said to Cook and Quilty: 'She is a common prostitute,' and again that never affected her character with them. Then she told Cook: 'They were living together at Euroka'. If this was said it is defamatory but only Cook heard it and it never damaged her in his eyes, and who possibly could have repeated it only Cook.

Again where she says: 'Tom got out of bed and went down stairs and she heard the bed creak and she found Tom in Ollie Underwood's room,' And where she said, 'She caught Tom in Ollie's room. These statements were only published to Cook and it did not damage her with him and how on earth could plaintiff get to hear of them only Cook repeated them.

All these statements, if made, are defamatory. It is for you to say whether they were published, and if so whether they were published in circumstances where they could cause injury. If you think she was damaged then you can assess damages.

His Honor explained there were four ways damages could be assessed, contemptuous damages, nominal damages, substantial damages and vindictive damages. He asked the jury to consider their verdict.

Without leaving the jury box the foreman of the jury, Mr JH Harding returned a verdict for the defendant.

His Honor then gave judgement for defendant with cost against plaintiff.

Mr Quinn intimated that his client did not intend to enforce the order as to costs.

## **1 Oct 1932 (321001, NQR)**

Back to the Horse

The argument of horse versus motor lorry was finalised at the last council meeting when Crs Affleck and McMaster, two country members, moved that when necessary a lorry be hired to do council work and that horses, drays and harness be purchased to do the remainder of the work of the Shire. All country members were in favor of going back to the horse with out two local councillors, Crs Grenfield and Chaplain, and Cr Harle of Mt Isa against the proposition and in favor of motor trucks. After being accustomed to motor cars and trucks for so many years it seems to most people that we are degenerating by reverting back to the horse. But look at the matter from a braoadminded point of view and forget the slowness and inconvenience. With the motor truck we are not helping our local industry. The trucks themselves are made in America mostly, the petrol comes from that country, the rubber for tyres and tubes is imported and all spare parts are imported. With drays and horses what a difference! The horse can be and are bred in our own district. The drays can be built here and the timber and iron work for them is all made in Australia. The bullocks from which the leather for the harness is made are grown in our own fair State and the harness, if broken, can be repaired here, the drays also repaired in our own town and the horses shod locally. If it becomes necessary to feed the horse then the feed is grown and purchased in Qld. All this means employment and greater prosperity and the more that people and business go back to the horse the greater help it is to qld and Australia to get back to normal. The

country division are the ones that will suffer by the slowness of the drays as it will be on these roads they will be used. In the event of work in No 1 division it is almost certain that a lorry will be hired and this will also be used for urgent road repairs in the country. At the present as all know who use the outside roads, the lorries are a failure at making a job of a road. They start out to do a job we'll say at Wurrina? and bangs and rattles over gullies and breakaways that cause heartache to all motor drivers but their mind is set on a job at Wurrina. when finished the job their aim is Cloncurry and when travelling at 20 mph all creeks etc between the job and the town are taken on the run and perhaps a muttered curse: 'That's a nasty one', but the road remains the same. But put one or two men on these roads with a dray and horses and give them a roving commission to thoroughly repair the road, they can't come back and say: 'We never noticed that gully or creek.' The outside roads by this method should be in a much better condition. The plants sent out immediately after the wet season will cost the Council nothing for horse feed, benzine or wear and tear of tyres and trucks and the only expense would be the wages of the men with the plants and when work is completed on a road and the plant return to town the horses can be sent to the common where it would cost nothing to feed them. As we said previously for town work and rush country jobs a lorry could be hired which, with the 17/- a day allowed by the Main Roads Board is procured at a very reasonable rate. Anyhow, the die is cast and it is only left for us to wait and see how the scheme works.

At the police Court on Tuesday morning Harry Kamada, a Japanese, was charged with doing grievous bodily harm to one Eric Rumbold. After formal evidence was given by Constable Boghardt he was remanded for eight days. Bail was allowed self in £50 and one surety of £50, he to report every morning at 10 o'clock.

It appears the Jap and Rumbold had an 'all in' row, all sorts of missiles being brought into play: tea pots, plates, knives, etc. The Jap received nasty cuts on the face and body while Rumbold got three knife wounds in the abdomen and chest and it was necessary to admit him in the nursing home where he lies in a critical condition.

At time of writing the sky is very cloudy and the atmosphere muggy and a light drizzle of rain is falling.

#### **1 Oct 1932 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC, 27 Sep – We in these parts have at all times endeavoured to keep our name on the map, the latest development being a stabbing affray which occurred here on Monday last. It appears that Harry Kamada visited a private house where Ernest Rumbold was lodging, and after heated words a struggle commenced. It is alleged Rumbold was getting the better of his assailant when Kamada attacked Rumbold with a knife inflicting serious internal bodily harm. Both victims being considerably knocked about, made straight for Sister Needham's Private Hospital, which was just across the street, for Medical attention. Dr Hogg and Constable Borghardt were at once summoned and it was found that Rumbold's condition was most serious, while Kamada appeared to be only suffering from facial injuries. He was taken to the watch-house and arrested on a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm, and the following morning appeared before Mr J Parsons and FA Hickman, JPs, charged as above. After formal evidence of arrest was given by Constable Borghardt, the defendant who was allowed bail of £100, one surety of £50 and self of £50, was remanded for eight days.

Before closing this letter it was learnt that Rumbold's condition is much improved although it is believed he is not yet out of danger.

During the past week an accident of considerable interest occurred at the local woollscour, which at the time was thought may be more serious than what actually eventuated. It appears that at a recent meeting of the directors it was decided to dispense with the services of two of the employees whose services were not considered satisfactory, and when the matter was discussed at a meeting of the employees it was decided to meet the directors and request a reason why the men were dismissed.

At about the same time the directors issued a further notice to all the employees giving the required three day's notice, the reason being given to repair and overhaul certain parts of the machinery. A further meeting of the employees took place resulting in a decision to walk off the job, the evening before the actual termination would take place.

After a conference with the employers, the Industrial Magistrate from Cloncurry arrived the following

morning and after considerable argument a decision was given in favour of the employers. In the meantime a skeleton staff was picked up from the town, comprising men of various occupations, and the shift completed, probably under certain difficulties.

On the following Saturday, Mr S Ryder, who has held the position of Manager for several years, terminated his engagement with the Company and the position, we understand, has been filled by Mr HC Powne. On Monday morning the works again commenced operations with in many instances a change of staff and everything now appears to be progressing satisfactorily.

**22 Oct 1932 (321022, NQR)**

Police Court, JC

Oct 19 1932

Harry Kamada appeared on a charge of doing grievous bodily harm to Ernest Rumbold on the 26th September 1932.

Walter Borkhardt, police constable stationed at JC, stated he received a phone message from a Mrs Emily Skinner who resides in Goldring St, JC, and he proceeded down to a house occupied by Mrs Gertrude Hall and saw fresh blood stains on the floor and on the front steps. There was also broken crockery and it appeared as if a fight had just taken place. There was a butchers knife on the floor, a blood stained pair of bloomers and pieces of an earthen ware tea top. From there he went to the hospital and saw the defendant on the verandah, his shirt and trousers were saturated with blood and he was bleeding from a wound over the left eye and his face was cut and bruised. On entering the hospital he saw Dr Hogg attending to Rumbold who had several cuts on his face and body. He later took Kamada to the police station and asked him how the fight started. Defendant said, 'I had an argument with Rumbold for kissing Mrs Hall and I threw a teapot at him and we then had a fight. I got very exited and lost my temper as E Rumbold said he was going to kill me.' Defendant said he would not sign a statement as he wanted to see a solicitor.

Dr Hogg gave evidence of having examined both Rumbold and Kamada and stated the extent of their wounds.

Mrs HS Donnelly stated that she knew Harry Kamada who conducted a laundry near her place. She did not know Rumbold but had seen him a few times. She knew Mrs Hall and her husband who was absent at present from JC. She was hanging clothes on her line when she saw the two men who appeared to be fighting and both appeared to be covered with blood. She did not know what caused the fight but she knew that Kamada had been on friendly terms with Halls for some time and she had only seen Rumbold there on a few occasions.

Mrs GM Hall stated she was a married woman residing with her husband and family but her husband was out working at Cabanda Station. Rumbold had been previously employed there also but was camping in the backyard and having his meals with me. We were having breakfast together when Mrs Skinner said I was wanted on the phone. It was Harry Kamada ringing up to tell me to send Rumbold up to his place and I delivered the message. He left and was away over an hour when he returned, Kamada coming later. I was cleaning down the dresser when the fight started so I grabbed my two children and went over to Mrs Skinners. Kamada had often lent my husband money and brought food to the house. I was not on friendly terms as I used to tell my husband that he was a bad egg.

Ernest Rumbold gave evidence that on the 26th September at a house occupied by Mr Hall he received a telephone message and went up the street. He saw defendant and they had a few drinks together. He went back to Hall's house where he was staying and Kamada came later. Defendant called some insulting names and he struck him and a general fight ensued. The fight stopped for a while and then started again. He had no clear recollection of Kamada stabbing him. He said he was responsible for all the injuries found on Kamada. He gave no provocation for Kamada to abuse him and start a fight.

After all the evidence had been concluded Mr Faithfull made an application for a dismissal but the PM committed him to stand his trial at the next sittings of the Circuit Court to be held at Cloncurry on a date to be fixed. Bail was allowed at £80.

**29 Oct 1932 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, 24 Oct – Excessive heat, flies and one of the worst dust storms ever experienced, have been our lot for the past week. The past three or four days have seen the temperature around 112° and if indications should point to anything, we can expect a flood in the very near future. We have witnessed all the indications for rain that have ever been known and many new ones, and so far our share has been about ten drops scattered about half a mile a part.

The heat on Monday was almost unbearable, and no change took place during the night until just about sunrise Tuesday morning, when all of a sudden the town and whole district was enveloped in one huge volume of heavy dust which lasted for about two hours. If any readers have never witnessed one of these Western snow storms it is not much use trying to tell them about it. You have got to be in it to realise that there is so much dust available for the purpose. The storm, accompanied by a terrific wind, penetrated every nook and corner.

As the above storm appeared to come from the South-West it will be necessary before the wet weather sets in, for a similar storm to come from the North East, thereby returning all gravel, sand and so forth to its former position thus preventing the transfer of selections free of stamp duty, that took place in the above disturbance.

### **29 Oct 1932 (p7, NA, NQR)**

The Drought

Effects in the West

Reading Mr Crowther's remarks on the calamitous state of the West on his recent tour of the railways, I took up another publication in which it was stated, in reviewing probable Australian exports, that wool would be quite up to record production owing to the good seasonal outlook over the greater part of Australia, writes our Richmond correspondent.

The drought in North-West Qld and the Gulf is the worst in the memory of white men with the exception of the 1899-1900 drought. The latter drought lasted until 1902. During this drought many of the large waterholes down the Gulf which before were considered permanent, dried up as they are reported to have done again this year. This drought has been more or less prevalent since 1923, 1924 being the only really good year. On the 12-mile Swamp on the Hughenden-Richmond Road, coolabahs probably hundreds of years old have died and bear mute [testament to the] drought. On the Lower Diamantina testimony to the severity of this drought is that the Gidgea scrubs are quite dead, and as Gidgea is a slow growing tree this proves that it is many years since such a drought occurred in that district. From estimates of sheep losses (by men who know) it is computed we have lost three quarters of a million sheep, by death, from Cloncurry to as far south as Winton, taking in JC, Richmond, McKinlay and Hughenden areas. Losses by sheep leaving these districts, and sold to go south, and lambs which would have been dropped in a normal year, would total up to a million sheep short in the areas affected. The losses would have been much more severe but for the winter rain which fell in the Kynuna and McKinlay districts as it not only saved all the sheep there, but provided agistment for thousands of others from the drought stricken areas.

Richmond and Hughenden districts have never been in a worse condition and many sheep in the timbered portion of these areas that have been kept alive by scrub cutting will die if no good rain falls before Christmas.

The effect of these losses must reflect all over the Northern part of the State. It will mean about 20,000 bales less for sale which roughly is about a quarter of a million money less in circulation in the North. The railways will be about £20,000 short for wool haulage. Shipping agents, wharf lumpers, carters, shearers and general workers will all be at a proportionate loss by this loss of revenue to the growers.

The present prices of wool could be put up with by the grower living very sparingly and by running his place as cheaply as possible, but these protracted droughts (of which this is one of the biggest) is the real cause of stagnation in these Western towns which of course is reflected in all classes of business throughout the North.

### **5 Nov 1932 (p56, NA, NQR)**

Memories of Native Mounted Police Camps in North Qld

(By RWS)

Reminiscent of the old days is the drill and inspection of a Native Mounted Police Camp on Sunday

mornings. Such sweeping and tidying goes on from daylight, loud and prolonged howls from the married boys' quarters proclaim the piccaninnies are undergoing the general scouring from which they emerge with tear stained, soap-polished faces and their usually tousled locks plastered down on either side of a parting, not necessarily in the middle. Troopers are paraded and their wives and families stand at the doors of their respective huts at attention until inspection is over and permission is given to dismiss. Everything being satisfactory, they are free the rest of the day.

Out of sight the carefully washed clothes are discarded and primitive man asserts himself. In one instance however, an important patrol had been arranged to start at daylight on Monday morning. Some horses being missed, Trooper Dick was told to go and find them. On returning in the afternoon, he was met by one of the Sub Inspectors children who were always interested in hearing what the "bag" was. She asked "You been hunting Dick?" "Yaas, Miss Madgie, 'Orse 'unting" with disgusted sarcastic emphasis on the 'orse.

Willie was a small aboriginal boy, the pride of his puppa (one of the troopers), but the despair of mumma, who confided to me, 'she can't larn 'im notting." One of his great offences was to call men by their christian names. She was always "larning" him something and the process was often noisy and disturbing and the implements used alarming. Once taking a dish of roasted peanuts from the oven, the temptation was too great for Willie to resist. He snatched a handful and off he went. The first thing his mother could reach was an old carving fork. I heard her call out "Now, my boy, I'll larn yer to steal," and a chase commenced. But Minnie was fat and somewhat flat footed and there were several friendly tress behind which Willie could hide and she could not catch him. Threats of "Big jail longa-time Brisbane" had lost their effect from constant repetition. But Minnie's trump card was "Quinken (Debil-debil).

So impressed was Willie that when he saw my childrens' bedrooms he stared in amazement to think that a small white boy (my son Alan) should sleep alone. "Oh no good that one. What for he sleep here? More better 'im hunner im bed, then debil-debil come look see, no can't find Masser Hallan. Fool im debil-debil den."

His eyes sparkled in ecstasy as he pictured the disappointment of his arch enemy the "debil-debil."

#### **5 Nov 1932 (p98, NA, NQR)**

JC, Nov 1 – It certainly is a pleasure to be able to report that we have at last been blessed with rain when we were beginning to believe that the composer of that song: 'It ain't gong to rain any more', was a permanent resident of this district. During the past fortnight we have had some excellent indications and on Sunday last a strong northerly wind commenced to blow and on Monday morning the atmosphere was most oppressive and the sky very overcast. Monday afternoon saw the first fall of rain since the 18th May, when only 40 points were recorded on that day. By 9 am on the 1st November 78 points had been recorded which we can assure you is a godsend. The weather is still sultry and now that we know that it is possible to rain in these parts our hopes are built up for further falls in the near future. The storm that swept over the district on Monday last was very scattered and although many places have only reported small falls at the homestead it will not be surprising to learn that other parts of the property have benefited considerably. Heavy rain appeared to be falling to a point between Kynuna and McKinlay and later in the evening this storm appeared to work round to the north and I will not be surprised to learn of excellent falls having been reported in these localities.

#### **19 Nov 1932 (321119, CA)**

The old time dance in Eckford's Hall on Friday last was a great success. All the old timers' were out flinging a leg but next morning was a different tale. The music was supplied by Mrs Olive (piano) and Mr Butler (banjo). Extras were supplied by Miss Thompson, Mrs De Warren and Stewart. Mr J Ahern carried out the duties of MC and kept things at their top till 3.15am. The door takings were £12 clear.

#### **26 Nov 1932 (321126, CA)**

One of our local sports promoted a children's bicycle race last Saturday and there was quite a turn out of bikes and some looked as if their day was well and truly passed but the owners did not think so. Young Thompson proved an easy winner whilst young Hudson and Sils fought a great race for second place. Bike racing has turned into quite a craze now and this Saturday there is to be a men's bike race as well as a children's. One of our local sports dealers took opportunity of the craze and landed a few nice racing bikes which proved a good investment for him.

We have another new building nearing completion, that of Mr Roy Hamptons, barbering saloon, near Gannon's new hotel. There is also rumour of another row of shops going up next to the post office. [didn't come about]

### **26 Nov 1932 (p32, NA, NQR)**

JC, 21 Nov – No rain of any consequence has fallen during the past week throughout the district, except for a light shower in scattered places averaging up to about 16 points which is like pouring water on a duck's back in these parts.

Quite a lot of misunderstanding has been gained in reference to the thunderstorms that were experienced in the early part of the month. Although an odd place received up to an inch, the next door neighbour in most cases received a dust storm. Friends writing from the south have congratulated us on the excellent rainfalls and wherever they got their information from no one knows. This district is still at present in the worst stages of the drought and it can safely be stated that if good beneficial rain is not very soon experienced we will witness one of the worst crashes in history.

However, we are beginning to get to that stage now that it is immaterial what happens. If it does not rain very soon there is only one consolation, that there will be quite a lot of us in the one boat and even if it does rain well there are still quite a lot of us in the dark as to what the future holds forth, I mean insofar as holding the present day position of caretaker.

At a recent meeting of the school committee it was decided that despite the drought and so forth, and seeing that the school fund has a fairly good credit balance, that the children be treated with a suitable breaking up picnic. All sorts of games and sports are being arranged and the committee will see that there will be an abundance of water melons, ice creams, and other tummy-ache delicacies, and judging from the list it can safely be assumed that there will be a great demand upon the blue bottle the following morning.

A common but unusual kind of sport to this town has developed over the weekend in the form of bicycle racing which from all accounts will become most popular even with the fair sex. I understand that a weekly programme will be held and bicycles are becoming as thick as Ford cars. A few months ago it was necessary to send away for a piece of valve rubber for the odd bikes that were here, but today you can secure a brand new bicycle any brand or colour.

However it is an ill wind that blows nobody good.

Just as I am writing these few lines we are experiencing one of our dust storms and believe me its a beauty. In another hour I will have sufficient dust on my table to encourage me to go prospecting. Every mortal thing is covered in dust and this is no doubt the tailend of a good storm someone else is experiencing in other parts of the State.

### **3 Dec 1932 (321203, NQR)**

We are experiencing some very hot weather this week, the thermometer registering 119 Tuesday and 120 Wednesday. there have been some small storms round about but none in the town area.

Bike racing is still going well here in the mens' 2.5 mile race on Saturday Fred Baxter just beat T Foster home with B Burrows again running third. In the boys race, F Hudson came home ahead of Thompson after a great race, the third man being two minutes behind.

The ladies race proved an easy win for A (Mickey) Hudson with Midge Kaeser second.

At the end of the old buffer's race quite a few of the boys looked as if they had had a wee bit too much; they could not control their legs when dismounting and had to get a good rub down.

This week's series of bike racing will be held on Sunday morning so as not to clash with the local school children's breaking up which is to be held on Saturday.

### **3 Dec 1932 (p78, NA, NQR)**

JC, 29 Nov – Saturday afternoon last saw the first organised bicycle race held. Quite a crowd of sports congregated in the vicinity of Hudson's Hotel which was the starting point. No less than 10 nominations were received for the first event. The track being down Goldring Street, around to Coyne street, back round to Kaeser's corner and home to the starting point, a distance of about 2 1/2 miles.

None of the riders being in train, the task proved very strenuous and a few of the riders were compelled to pull out of the first lap. The sport has taken on splendidly and I understand that it is the promoters intention to hold such races every Saturday afternoon.

Bicycles being much cheaper than motor cars, it will not be surprising to hear that the country folks have discarded their cars and taken to bicycles. If it does not soon rain these later remarks may become a recognised fact.

The winner of the main event last Saturday resulting in: T Foster (1), Tom Baxter (2), B Burrows (3). The initial prizes being small it is understood that much better prizes are to be offered in the near future.

Gannon's new hotel on the Post Office corner is nearing completion. The past few days the carpenters being busily engaged putting the finishing touches here and there. The whole building, although not by any means the same dimensions as the late hotel, it is nevertheless most compact and conveniently fitted up and certainly is most conspicuous in its present site. The time should not be too far distant when the building will be opened for trade.

Roy Hampton's new barber's shop at the rear of Sallens [Samuel Allen] is also practically completed and in addition to the above hotel building, a huge piece of vacant ground that has been lying vacant for many years is now occupied.

#### **10 Dec 1932 (p12, NA, NQR)**

JC, 13 Dec – At the Police Court, JC, 23rd November, before Mr A Smith, Acting Police Magistrate, Mrs LK Frith, proceeded against her husband PF Frith for sureties of Peace and a second account for maintenance. Before proceeding with the above case the PM asked the length of time the parties had been married and number and ages of the children. Upon receiving the information he expressed a wish for reconciliation between the parties if possible on account of the children.

Mr VF Faithfull notified His worship that his client was reluctant to proceed with the case owing to the fact that it would be necessary to call the children as witnesses, and intimated that if defendant entered into certain arrangements viz – that Mr TD Frith, brother-in-law to the complainant, would leave Carrum and in future reside at Armidale or elsewhere, and that the defendant agrees to pay £1 weekly to his wife for clothing for herself and children, the cases would not be proceeded. The matter being fully discussed between the parties, these terms were agreed to by the defendant and the above case were withdrawn.

The bicycle sports held last Saturday afternoon in the street was a great success. Good nominations were received for all events and some fairly good racing was witnessed. Mr T Baxter, who finished in good style, claimed the first prize for the star event, while Master Fred Hudson was the winner of the boys race, which race naturally claims considerable interest. In the young ladies race Miss Hudson who rode a good race won easily. Mr Lance Lewis being the winner of the Old Buffer's Race, which a number of the contestants only journeyed half way round the course, ended a most interesting afternoons sport.

#### **14 Jan 1933 (p25, NA, NQR)**

JC, 10 Jan – Being my first notes since the festive season I regret to report that the 1932 Christmas will go down in history as the quietest and most peaceful Christmas in this district for many years past. It was only by keeping a close watch on the almanac that one was aware the Christmas season had approached. A few wise residents of the district who had managed to save a little out of their year's income (the art of doing so I would like to study) ventured forth to the coast for a few week's rest while those who remained had ample opportunities of studying the various antics of the atmospheric conditions.

A sports meeting was held on Boxing day and was fairly well attended considering the times. A dance was held in Eckford's Hall after the talkies on New Year's Eve and 1933 was ushered in most solemnly and peacefully.

On New Year's Day, quite a gloom was cast over the district when it was learned that the infant son of Mr and Mrs HG Sneyd had passed away in the early hours of the morning at Matron Needham's Private Hospital. Much sympathy is extended to the bereaved parents in their said and sorrowful loss.

Gannon's new hotel on the post office corner is now completed and business is once again in full swing. The building is certainly an acquisition to the town and has completely filled up what once used to be a big vacant gap in the heart of the town.

### **21 Jan 1933 (p75, NA, NQR)**

JC, 17 Jan – They say a pessimist is of no asset to any township, more particularly if he may use the pen to voice his opinions, but if I was to write here in these columns of the wonderful green fields and flowing rivers and creeks and prosperity that are conspicuous by their absence, I would find it impossible to find time to answer the barrage of questions that would be levelled at me. Without exactly adopting the role of a pessimist I have to admit that we are experiencing one of the worst periods in history in this district and despite this very unsatisfactory and most worrying position, we nevertheless feel confident that the Heavens will let loose at or near the end of this month and pour forth oceans of rain and once we receive the blessing you can feel sure we will feel just as prosperous as in those good old days gone past.

The heat we have been experiencing of late is absolutely unbearable, but some how or other we seem to be able to exist through same. Fortunately we enjoy beautiful cool nights and having an excellent water supply in the town area one has ample opportunities of cooling off. Many bathers can be seen of an afternoon enjoying a cool swim in the dam which was recently refreshed during the Christmas rains.

Practically every day indications of rains are in evidence but somehow or other we only manage to receive a Boullia snowstorm. I have been told that for the past week good rains have been experienced in the Gulf regions in isolated parts and this news is encouraging as we are informed that once good rains are reported in the Gulf our chances then seem fairly good.

Just prior to the Christmas holidays particular keen interest was taken in bicycle sports and agents had a busy time writing orders for new makes of bicycles. For some reason or other the popular sport seems to have met with a sudden death and it evidently shows the lack of interest, or perhaps a little energy on the sports part, to let this interesting attraction go out of existence.

Sufficient evidence to convince any newcomers to these parts that the depression has surely struck this town, was particularly noticeable a few days ago when the remains of a dead kangaroo were found in the middle of our main street about 100 yards from the PO, death, we understand, having been caused through colliding with a bumper bar that had a 30 cwt truck fitted on behind it. The Council authorities were immediately informed and the remains were promptly despatched beyond the outskirts of the town.

### **1 Feb 1933 (p72, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 7 – It is undoubtedly very pleasing to be able to report that at last a very good portion of the district has been benefited by beneficial rains. Taking a line north east around to north west, rain to the extent of two inches and up to 12 inches in odd places has been recorded. Quite a number of properties north of the line are now in an excellent condition and with cool moderate weather which we are now enjoying and say a further good rainfall about March, troubles as far as water and grass are concerned will be over for many months hence. Practically every gully, river and waterhole is now overflowing and traffic north to Sedan dip and Manfred is confined only to pack horse, this being the only means. Contractors Geo Young and T Graham had in on Monday morning last while Contractor F Beauchamp was compelled to use a similar conveyance on the mail route south of the line.

The streets in town are of a very boggy nature thus causing great inconvenience to Sanitary Contractor Mr W Blanch, but despite this fact the sanitary arrangements were kept in order. The local butcher also had to discard his motor lorry and resort to the waggonette to transport the beef from the slaughter yard to his premises in the town. Irrespective of the inconvenience that the butcher, baker and sanitary man have suffered, we are a pleased and more contented family having received the much needed rain as without it our inconvenience would have been of a more serious nature.



### **25 Feb 1933 (330225, CA)**

JC – The country is looking lovely and green since our recent rains but with the grass has come the terrible pest the flies which are proving very troublesome with the children's eyes.

The creek is a great boon to bathers at present and every evening they can be seen in a great array of costumes having a dip.

We have had two fires during the past week, the first was about 10 o'clock Saturday night when the residence of Mr [Duncan?] was burnt to the ground. The next alarm was about 3.15 am Wednesday morning when an iron humpy owned by Mrs Hall and was totally destroyed. In both cases the voluntary brigade could do nothing both places being off the water main.

### **25 Feb 1933 (p56, NA, NQR)**

JC, 14 Feb – (Detained by Floods) The anxiety as to the breaking of the drought which was ever so much in existence a few months ago has now been overcome and it can now be definitely stated without fear of contradiction that old man drought is buried, but not forgotten, more particularly as far as north of JC is concerned. Properties south of the railway line have not fared so well up to date and despite the fact that good rains have fallen over a large portion of this area the past few days they cannot yet be considered out of the danger zone. Wonderful beneficial rains have fallen over a large area of the northern end of the district as much as up to eighteen inches in places and the country now represents one large oversize billiard table, the pockets signifying the various large waterholes which had been bone dry for many long months now overflowing, naturally to the delight of the man on the land.

Practically all roads north, south, east and west are untrafficable. The mail contractors having been prevented from carrying out their contracts to the country. All attention is at present riveted on the flooded nature of the Flinders River and acting on a flood-warning telegram, all stock owners with the near vicinity of the river are removing with all haste, their stock to higher country. It is reported that the river is two miles wide in the area adjacent to Haddington Station and should heavy rains be experienced with reach of the Cloncurry River no one really knows...

Beautiful green grass now being conspicuous in every nook and corner where it is possible to grow, brings with it renewed confidence in the future welfare of the district, but having achieved this and we have also gained the affectionate company of our usual old time visitors, Messrs and Mesdames Fly and Mosquito, together with their battalions of descendants who are with us in no small numbers.

### **4 Mar 1933 (p71, NA, NQR)**

JC, 28 Feb – About 9.30 pm Saturday, 18th February while most folks were quietly enjoying a few peaceful and interesting moments at Eckford's Talkies, word was quietly passed through the audience that a fire was in progress elsewhere. Owing to sufficient tact being used by the management, no sign of any excitement or stampede was evident, and upon investigation it was learnt that a four room dwelling owned by Mrs A Duncan, situated at the extreme end of Quarrell Street was well ablaze. The building being out of reach of the water service, the assistance of the voluntary brigade was not necessary, and for this reason also, the building being all of iron, the fire continued for some considerable time before the roof caved in. The premises were occupied at the time by Mr and Mrs A Duncan who were at the pictures when the alarm was given. The building and the whole of the contents were totally destroyed.

In the early hours of the following Wednesday morning a further alarm of fire was reported and it was not too many seconds hence when quite a number of residents were up and about looking for the fire. A few voluntary workers took charge of the reel and made towards the scene of the blaze. It was first thought that a two-storied house owned by Mr F Beauchamp, in Mathews Street was afire, but upon closer examination it was found that a small iron hut built of old iron and bush timber and having a ground floor which we understand was owned by Mr W Hall, who now resides at Mt Isa, was the scene of the excitement. Being also out of reach of the water service, the assistance of the brigade was again unnecessary.

While on this burning question it would be interesting to know when the Council intend having erecting the fire alarm bell which was purchased some time ago and which we understand is in the store at the Council Chambers.

**11 Mar 1933 (330311, NQR)**

JC – Sunday last the ladies challenged the men to a game of cricket which resulted in a win for the ladies. The men were put under a handicap that they bat left handed with pick handles, bowl left handed, catch one hand, and further, the umpires were to favour the ladies so that an appeal for stumped or run out, if met with a sweet smile or 'Please Mr Umpire' would bring the decision 'Not out!'

The ladies were three short so Messrs Cavanagh, Greenway and Digby donned skirts and took the name of Miss for the occasion. The return match will be played shortly, the gents acting for the ladies as umpires.

Following were the scores:

**LADIES**

Mrs Greenway, b Hewitt, 28  
 Mrs Cavanagh, b Kaeser, 1  
 Miss Hudson, b Bragg, 10  
 Mrs Cole, c Bragg, B Hewitt, 0  
 Mrs Turner, b Murray, 2  
 Mrs Wilder, c Burrows, b Bragg, 0  
 Mrs Byrne, c Lowe, b Hewitt, 0  
 Mrs Thompson, b Lowe, 5  
 Mrs Kaeser, c Thompson, b Hewitt, 7  
 Mrs Peterson, c burrows, b Kaeser, 0  
 Mrs Rigby, stpd Hewitt, 3  
 Miss Olive, not out, 6  
 Sundries 5  
 Total 57

**GENTS**

Mr Thompson, c Greenway, b ?, 6  
 Mr Murray, b Hudson, 0  
 Mr Lowe, c Rigby, b Wilder, 9  
 Mr Casey, c Rigby, b Olive, 10  
 Mr Pointon, stpd Greenway, b Cole, 9  
 Mr O'Donnell, c and b Hudson, 1  
 Mr Hewitt, stpd Greenway, b Olive, 2  
 Mr hunan, stpd Greenway, b Thompson, 0  
 Mr Bragg, lbw, b Thompson, 0  
 Mr Kaeser, stpd Greenway, b Thompson, 2  
 Mr Burrows, not out, 1  
 Sundries, 2  
 Total 27

**25 Mar 1933 (330325, CA)**

JC – [The original of this has been archived in case I want to reproduce it] The Pastime Dance had to be postponed Wednesday night by an unusual incident. Wood bugs took possession of the hall, the floor and seats being one crawling mass and the doorway could not be approached for the flying bugs.

**25 Mar 1933 (p12, NA, NQR)**

JC, 23 Mar – Nominations for the position of Councillors for the McKinlay Shire Council closed on the 18th instant resulting in the following nominations being in hand: Mr WA Allison, sitting chairman returned unopposed. For the position as Councillor only eleven nominations were received for the whole Shire which goes to show that there is very little interest being taken. All the sitting members were re-nominated namely Messrs EH Doubleday, JJ O'Sullivan, J Peut, FA Hickman, WG Gannon, WF O'Reilly, VJ Chambers, JP McIntyre, while the new blood consists of Messrs ML Byrne, JS Tracey and WD Cooper. As only eight members are required the election of same will close on the 29th April. Election of members will be by postal ballot, which papers, I understand, will be issued to voters in the

very near future, the Returning Officer being Mr J Parsons (Shire Clerk).

As it was anticipated that many more nominations would have been received, the result was most surprising. Evidently the position of Councillor is not so eager to acclaim after all. Pity the positions for a politician's seat were not taken with similar enthusiasm.

#### **6 May 1933 (p11, NA, NQR)**

Shire of McKinlay

I hereby notify that at the election of eight Members of the Council to the above Shire, held on the twenty-ninth day of April, 1933, the voting was as follows:

BYRNE, Michael Leonard	395	
CHAMBERS, Vivian John	575	
COOPER, William Duncan	512	
DOUBLEDAY, Edward Hutchinson	673	
GANNON, William George	627	
HICKMAN, Frederick Augustus	590	
McINTYRE, John Pender	594	
O'SULLIVAN, Jeremiah Joseph	599	
PEUT, John		609
RILEY, William Francis		434
TRACEY, James Strathfield	408	
Informal		52

I further notify that the undermentioned persons have in pursuance of the provisions of "The Local Authorities Acts, 1902-1932," been duly elected members of the Council of the Shire of McKinlay, respectively:-

DOUBLEDAY, Edward Hutchinson  
GANNON, William George  
PEUT, John  
O'SULLIVAN, Jeremiah Joseph  
McINTYRE, John Pender  
HICKMAN, Frederick Augustus  
CHAMBERS, Vivian John  
COOPER, William Duncan

Dated at JC this second day of May 1933  
J PARSONS Returning Officer

#### **27 May 1933 (330527, CA)**

JC – The children's Mad Hatter's Ball on Friday night last was a great success, quite an array of fancy hats were to be seen. Mannie Sills with the bedroom mug [chamber pot] caused quite a lot of laughter. Prizes were won by Miss Boghardt and Master Pollard for tiny tots; Masters Olive, Peterson and Peut for school boys; and Misses Graham and Murphy for school girls.

Sunday morning cars could be seen speeding down towards the creek and on investigation it was found four of our lads were settling their arguments with fists. One fighter received a broken hand so it was put off for the boxing tournament in June.

The football club are holding their first boxing tournament on Friday night and have got quite a number of entries for both boys and men's divisions and some good bouts should be witnessed.

#### **1 Jul 1933 (p60, NA, NQR)**

JC, 20 Jun – I do not know of any serious hardships that may have been caused by the above rain except for the fact that no sooner had the rain ceased a particular teamster travelled over quite a few miles of what was always recognised as an extra good road between here and Eddington Station, resulting in much damage being done to the road and considerable inconvenience and annoyance to the motorists who as we all know pay heavy taxes while the teamster goes free.

**15 Jul 1933 (330715, CA)**

JC – JC still goes ahead, the new premises for the Qld Bank is rapidly nearing completion and not before time. The premises on which the Bank has been carrying on business for the past 18 months was a disgrace.

Lavarack Bros landed machinery this week for the building of their new ice works.

**15 Jul 1933 (p98, NA, NQR)**

JC – If a sign of the future prosperity of the district could be taken from improvements made thereto this place is certainly going ahead by leaps and bounds. As we have always boasted that we can claim distinction by having two hotels and four banks besides the many other daring deeds we have been credited with, we now have or at least we soon will have two ice works and two cordial factories, two butcher shops, six general stores, three refreshment rooms and a new building for the QN Bank Ltd, not mentioning the new dwellings being constantly erected and about 400 of a population to be catered for by the above. I think that unless further capital is more freely expended the sign of its moments like these you need something will be most conspicuous. Strange to say will all the progress in the business section of the community we have no Progress Association, Chamber of Commerce or other such body to assist in the welfare of the district while even the existing sports bodies are sadly neglected.

The district is now almost free from any serious illness. A few cases of whooping cough and colds among the children have resulted in two very sad losses: Mr and Mrs R Pattison lost their infant son and a little later Mr and Mrs W Gillett jnr, likewise had the sad misfortune to lose their infant daughter in both cases from the effects of whooping cough followed by pneumonia. Much sympathy is extended to the bereaved parents.

**24 Jul 1933 (330724, NQR)**

Intertown Football Match

Cloncurry v JC

As a grand finale to the big Rodeo Week the Cloncurry rugby League staged an intertown fixture when the JC team met the elect of Cloncurry.

The visitors arrived on the mail train and were met by the officials of the local league. The big match commenced in a light drizzle which, although not sufficient to make the ball greasy, was such as to make things miserable for the spectators and served to keep many pounds from the gate takings. The takings £18 were under the adverse weather conditions satisfactory.

The following were the teams: Cloncurry (green), Fullback, F Kippen; three-quarters, T Steele, E Murphy, C harte, C Parker; five-eight D Gordon (Captain); half, F Gibson; Forwards, C MacKereth, T Yule, F Twible, J cunningham, J Twible, P May. Reserves, Knight, Miller.

JC (maroon): Full back, C Casey, three-quarters, Thompson, Ahern, Kaeser, Peut; five-eight, R Parker, Half, Taafe, Forwards, Jeffries, Pointon, Burrows, Thrower, Murray, Gillett, Reserve, O'Donnell.

The home team won the toss and the visitors kicked off from near the town end and when full time sounded the match was a draw at three all. The game, despite the numerous calls on the ambulance, was sternly and cleanly fought and, as is usually the case, most of these calls were due more to the poor condition of the players rather than the knocks they received. For the visitors none impressed more than the youthful fullback of the second half – Ahern. Little more than a school boy, this youth is a natural footballer and with a little more judicious tuition should make a very fine full back indeed. Taafe was sound and in the second half Kaeser was a useful inside back. Thompson showed he has pace but neither winger had much chance in attack. Burrows, Gillett and (until injured) Thrower, appeared the most useful forwards.

**29 Jul 1933 (p5, NA, NQR)**

Joe Kaeser death notice. Died 12/7/33

**9 Sep 1933 (p9, NA, NQR)**

JC, 5 Sep – Business houses find trade on an average with previous years but once the shearing and droving operations cease, a considerable falling off is expected.

During the past few weeks quite a few changes have taken place. A new store has been opened up at the corner of Coyne and Quarrells Streets known as Mathews store while Mr Les Long has sold his interest in the JC Supply Stores to his partner, Mrs B Peut. It is also understood that the Commission Agency business of Mr FH Garrity has likewise changed hands, the new owner being Mr FA Hickman who is an old and well-known resident he already having a similar business of the same nature here for many years.

Lavarack Bros ice works and cordial factory is nearing completion and is expected to be in operation within the near future. Tenders are being called for the erection of a new butcher's shop for Mr JP Eckford which will make the second butchering business here and I also understand a third is to be opened up at an early date.

Several new private dwellings have recently been erected and there are others being prepared for erection and if ever there is a town that is far behind in so far as sufficient accommodation is concerned, this place certainly fills the bill. Despite the fact that new dwellings are constantly being erected there is sufficient demand here for about another dozen houses.

### **21 Oct 1933 (p22, NA, NQR)**

Fire At Nelia

Richmond, 18 Oct – Mr E Brennan's store and residence at Nelia were totally destroyed by fire at 1.30 am on October 17. The origin of the fire is unknown but it is believed it commenced about the middle of the store. A few personal belongings and books were saved. The total insurance covering the buildings stock and fittings is £1400 with the Paltine Insurance Company, Townsville, whose agents are the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency.

There was much difficulty in saving adjacent buildings, particularly Hilton's [Helton's?] store, which is approximately 20 feet away and where one and a half tons of Plume petrol was stored. A willing band of railway bridge carpenters, also Vivian Bolger and Langlo Telford, did much to prevent the fire spreading.

### **21 Oct 1933 (p97, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr FH Garrity who for the past 11 years conducted an agency business here, leaves by tonight's train for the coast where he intends to reenter business at an early date. Mr Garrity having disposed of his interests here to Mr FA Hickman has decided to give the western climate a spell for at least a few years. During his sojourn here which has been spent in building up his agency business he has nevertheless always found time to give his services freely to any organisation that had the welfare of the district at heart. Until the last few years it was well known that he was an ardent and conscientious worker for the benefit of the race club and the Chamber of Commerce and in fact he has been instrumental in achieving many benefits for this district through his personal representations. Mrs Garrity who has at all times been of a wonderful assistance in her husband's achievements will follow on in a few days hence having been detained to finalise business matters I feel sure the community of this district join me in extending to Mr and Mrs Garrity and family the best wishes and continued success in their new venture.

### **28 Oct 1933 (p20, NA, NQR)**

JC, 24 Oct – We in these parts very seldom get the opportunity of seeing many thousands bales of wool stacked in one heap, unless of course, we are fortunate enough to have sufficient to enable us to visit the southern capitals, which is very rare occasion but in this year particularly, the opportunity is right at our door in such a way by taking a bird's eye view of the sheds and yards of the local scouring company which is about two miles from the township. It is understood somewhere about seven thousand bales of wool are awaiting treatment and the works are at present taxed to their limit but the management, realising the position, have taken the matter in hand and it is their intention to immediately install a new and most up-to-date duplicate plant which together with the present plant they will have no difficulty in coping with the demand.

Practically for the past nine months the works have been operating on three shifts a day and despite the pressure on their services the averages have been kept up and little or no time has been lost in the way of breakages and so forth as it has been the policy of the management to give special attention to the machinery and plant at every opportunity. As evidence that the scouring standard has been maintained,

can be judged by the recent wool sales when wool treated by the scour secured very satisfactory prices.

### **2 Nov 1933 (331102, CA)**

JC – The scour presents a nice sight just now with all the big stacks of wool there being some 6000 to 7000 bales waiting to be scoured so this should carry work on well into the 1934 year.

The RC Church Children's Ball was a huge success last Friday week some 300 children being present besides adults. There was a great array of costumes and the winners well deserved their prizes.

### **11 Nov 1933 (p31, NA, NQR)**

JC – During the past week or two we had quite a few experiences with dust storms and whirl winds but on Friday last we witnessed one of an unusual terrific force which unfortunately happened to strike Sullivan's building on the south east corner taking in its stride many sheets of iron off the roof and quickly depositing same on the eastern dining room wall of Hudson's Hotel causing much damage thereto. A few stray sheets landed on the roof of the hotel doing further damage while the wall of Sallen's Store also suffered a slight damage as the result of flying sheets of iron. The boarders of Hudson's Hotel who happened to be enjoying their midday meal suffered considerable shock from the terrific blow but fortunately all escaped without any injury. The whirlwind madly continued on but apart from several benzine tins and so forth being transferred to one's neighbour's yard, no further damage has been reported.

### **26 May 1934 (p25, NA, NQR)**

JC, 22 May – A most unfortunate accident happened to one of our well-known shearing contractors, Mr Jack McCarthy, yesterday afternoon. Last Saturday Mr McCarthy left town for Cabanda and he had only proceeded along the road about a mile when the car he was driving suddenly turned right over. Mr McCarthy crawled out from underneath, little worse for his experience. The car was towed back to town and repaired.

However, yesterday a fresh start was made and when only about two miles from town it is stated the car began to shimmy and Mr McCarthy thought it was going to overturn again so he jumped out and on landing he had the misfortune to break his leg just above the ankle. Luckily, sometime after the accident, Mr Doubleday of Consentes happened to come along and he was able to bring the sufferer in to medical aid. We sincerely hope that the sufferer will soon be about and well.

Another accident just happened, details of which are not too clear. It appears that Mr Cyril Campbell, an electrician who was on his way to the JC woolscur by car, had the misfortune to run into the scour gate. The result was a very badly gashed face, other minor injuries and shock. I understand over a dozen stitches had to be inserted by the doctor. We wish him a speedy recovery.

### **9 Jun 1934 (p68, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jun 5 – A mob of 650 Iffley fats bullocks in charge of Drover W Winton are due at the trucking yards with a few days followed by a similar mob in charge of Drover Reg Fickling.

It is pleasing to learn that Mr Jack McCarthy who recently broke his leg badly in a motor accident is now out of danger of losing the leg. From recent reports from Hughenden where Mr McCarthy is in hospital it is learned that the doctor has now been able to set the leg and it is now only a matter of time when the patient should be able to resume his occupation as a shearing contractor.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Horace Downey on the arrival of twin daughters at CT all doing well.

### **14 Jul 1934 (340714, CA)**

JC – On Friday the first day of the Digger's Hack Club Race meeting took place in glorious weather. The arrangements for a succesful meeting were complete in every detail. Mrs Grace Horton had charge of the tea stall and soft drinks and confectionary whilst Mr WG Gannon manned the booth. A splendid crowd rolled up to make the occasion the success it deserved. Sixty seven cars were parked in the parking area and £27 was taken at the gate with the small entrance fee of 3/- for gents, 2/- for ladies and children free. A 5/- tote was in the capable hands of Messrs Jack pointon and Fred Jeffries who carried out their duties very creditably indeed. Four bookmakers fielded at a fee of £5/5/- each for the two days. The starter was Mr EJ Barnes of Wensley, Nelia who sent his fields away evenly and smartly... Mr John Peut of Sunny Plains kindly consented to act as Judge and his decisions met with unanimous

approval of the patrons.

Mr Charlie Byrne, effectively acting as a stipendiary steward, missed not a detail with his hawk like eye. He kept the ball rolling, the owners and jockeys up to the mark, kept an eye on the betting, in fact he was everywhere. The racegoers will remember the genial, jovial, evergreen Charlie...

At a meeting after the races it was learned that the Club will benefit to the tune of over £150.

On Friday night we had the Race Ball organised by members of the RC Church Committee. We were very fortunate indeed in securing the Merrymakers Jazz Band from Richmond for the occasion their music and time being excellent. The Belle of the Ball even was won by Miss V Waters of Hilton Park, and besides the Belle there were numerous pretty girls with, if possible, prettier frocks... [lots of other dull stuff re the ball and racing]

#### **14 Jul 1934 (p22, NA, NQR)**

JC, 10 Jul – Both Messrs Dalling Bros, of Homeland and Mr R Harbutt, of the local dairy, have just landed an Illawarra bull each from the well known Harrogate Stud at Maxwelton. These two bulls show a lot of quality and will certainly be the means of improving the herds at the two places mentioned. Mr Harbutt also purchased four very good cows from the well-known Kamarooka Stud at Gilliat and before very long he should have a fine dairy herd together.

On Thursday night the C of E Ladies Guild held a very successful children's cretonne ball and the result should swell the funds of the church considerably.

#### **28 Jul 1934 (p19, NA, NQR)**

JC, 24 July – The town is very quiet at present and unless the next wool sales are a success I cannot see the sheep market getting much brighter.

Messrs Magoffin and Co Ltd of Rosevale have just landed three very high class stud rams from the Haddon Rig Stud. These rams, or really two of them, are the highest priced rams that have ever come into the North of Qld and will be the means of greatly improving the already very fine stud at Rosevale.

Shearing is in full swing throughout the district. Mr J McCarthy should cut out at Haddington about the end of this week. Mr RC Peut should also finish the Wallacooloobie shearing this week. Mr WA Mathews is still busy on the Bunda Bunda flock whilst Messrs Duncan and Co have nearly completed the Buckingham downs shearing. The Eddington shearing in charge of the Graziers's Shearing company finished last week and the local wool scour is busy on the clip.

Mr T Guest, motor engineer, has commenced to build an uptown shop next to the Bank of NSW and when this shop is completed it will be one more step to making Burke Street the principal business street in the town. He still intends to carry on with his motor works in Coyne St as well.

#### **11 Aug 1934 (p77, NA, NQR)**

JC, 7 Aug – The McKinlay Shire Council is endeavouring to get the Government to build a morgue in JC but the department interested, or really disinterested, in these matters, advises that the district does not warrant a morgue and the cost of building one would be too great an expense on the Government. If I remember correctly a member of the government when told about the non-existence of such a necessary building said he would do all he could to have one established. A morgue is an absolute necessity in a town of this size. We do not want anything elaborate just an iron building would do with a concrete block in the centre on which post-mortems could be held. The usual practice here is for a body to be placed in either of the churches until burial can be arranged. Recently the carpets were ruined in a church besides causing other inconvenience. The last post-mortem held here had to be held in the Shire Council shed. Still we have to go without a morgue. However, should this meet the eye of some interested person in the government of the State Affairs let us hope they will make some move to have a long felt want satisfied.

Contractor Herb Wilder has commenced building Mr Tommy Guest's new garage.

JC – Beyond the usual weekly Talkie entertainment, there has not been any amusement of late and the

town seems quite dead. However, much interest is being taken in the forthcoming Cabaret which will take place at Eckford's Hall about the end of this month. A very good orchestra has been engaged from Richmond and good local talent are very busy rehearsing for the ballet and other events. This function should be the success of the season.

### **18 Aug 1934 (p? NA, NQR)**

JC – Local talent are now getting together for the musical and dancing events for the Church of England's cabaret to be held at the end of August. Arrangements are already well in hand and the cabaret should be better than ever this year. This is an event that is looked forward to annually and everyone usually has a good night's entertainment.

### **8 Sep 1934 (p21, NA, NQR)**

JC – The new plant at the JC Wool Scour is very nearly completed and when the work of erecting is finished the work will be speeded up to about twice the present capacity of the scour and it will then be one of the most up to date scouring plants in Australia.

### **15 Sep 1934 (p29, NA, NQR)**

JC Cabaret

On Friday night at JC, the social of the year took place in Eckford's Hall. "The Cabaret," which was the effort of a committee of the C of E ladies, could well be described as an outstanding success. About £60 was taken at the door. Ninety-six persons booked seats at private supper tables and about 250 adults sat down to the dainty supper provided. The Merry Maker's Jazz Band which was engaged from Richmond supplied their usual very bright music for the dancing, Mrs E Kendall (piano), Mr Artie Smith (saxophone) and Mr Charles Armstrong (drums, etc). Special mention must be made of the way Mr Armstrong brightens up the music; he is really a tradesman at his job and would be an acquisition to any jazz band anywhere. Mrs CJ deWarren accompanied the singers and ballet items on the piano and Mrs J Pederson had charge of the ballet items. Mr EH Doubleday of Consentes made a very efficient Master of Ceremonies and did not call dancing to a halt until about 4 o'clock on Saturday morning.

The "Cabaret" opened the evening with a waltz after which came the opening chorus by the ballet. This event was loudly applauded and the ballet responded to the strains of "Look here comes a Rainbow" After a One Step the juvenile ballet pleased very much with a sleigh dance to the music of "Jingle Bells" and they were applauded again and again. After a fox trot Mr W Murray sang "Eileen of Killarney" and was assisted with her item by the ballet. This was very deservedly applauded and was repeated. A waltz, then Miss V Waters sang "Serenata," her voice being heard very much to advantage and being loudly applauded, she again pleased very much with "Christina's Lament."

A very amusing turn by the juveniles was then given in "The Wedding of Micky Mouse," and after being well applauded, they repeated the item. Miss O Gannon then sang "Sylvia" very nicely indeed and the well deserved applause was responded to by her singing "The Lilac Tree" in equally good voice. A fox trot, then "By the Zuyder Zee" from the ballet brought forth well deserved applause and was repeated, this to the music of "Leetle Mr Baggy Breeches" which the whole crowd joined in in singing. A waltz, then Miss F Stanley pleased very much when she sang, "Caring for the Rose." She was loudly applauded and gave as an encore "Just Keep a Thought for Me," which she sang as sweetly. Miss Edna Eckford then gave a very nice dance "Serpentine Dance" to the music of The Parisienne Waltz. This dance was very gracefully done and the applause she received was well merited and the dance was repeated.

The Grand Finale "Pierott Dance," by the full company was well executed to the music of "Not that sort of Person" from "Miss Gibbs." This event was also well applauded and was repeated. The dance was then commenced and, as said above, was an outstanding success, and everyone present had a most enjoyable time.

Mrs Pedersen, Mrs Clark, Miss O Gannon are to be complimented on the way they trained the ballet and everyone who helped to make the evening such a success deserve great credit for their efforts. The frocking was as follows...

### **22 Sep 1934 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Sep 18 – Mr Herb Wilder has made a start on Mr Roy Hampton's new billiard room also Mr Dave Christeson's flats.



**6 Oct 1934 (p20, NA, NQR)**

JC, Oct 2 – There is very little of interest to report and the town is rather quiet, although the business houses report satisfactory turnovers.

Mumps and flu have left us now and the town is in quite good health again. We are rather unfortunate now in not having a doctor and it is to be hoped that we shall not be long before we again have a resident doctor.

**24 Nov 1934 (p24, NQ636, NQR)**

JC, 20 Nov – Mr WA Mathews is at present busily engaged shearing several hundred sheep skins at his Motor Sheds in Coyne Street. Three stands have been rigged up for the purpose. The skins are placed on benzine drums so as to have them on a solid smooth surface. When the skin is shorn a lad carries the wool to the classer's table where the wool is carefully classed by Mr Alex Duncan who also supervises the pressing weighing and branding. The shed hopes to cut out before the end of the week and Mr Mathews told the writer that the men are taking a keen interest in their work and will be sorry when the last skin goes over the board. The wool, before going to market will be scoured at the JC Wool Scoring Co Ltd works at Gunjoola.

Building contractor Herb Wilder has now made a start on the new refreshment rooms in Burke St, next to the Post Office, for Mr Bert Burrows.

It is time that some move was made to establish a hospital in JC. Although our local Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of having a hospital and resident doctor, it has apparently fallen on deaf ears as far as the Government is concerned. The town and district has a population quite big enough to warrant a hospital but until we can get someone with the necessary power to act, caught out here miles away from medical aid, we do not appear to have any chance of our wishes being fulfilled.

It is rather a queer world this, and unless you can get the powers that be in sympathy with an urgent necessity you still have to suffer all sorts of pain, worry, expense and hardship. In the meantime you can content yourself by reading about £20,000 being spent on nurse's quarters in one part of a city and £23,000 on another quarters and ward in another part of the same city, whilst we return empty after begging for a paltry few pounds to build a small wooden structure that would house some poor sufferer who has no funds, and is miles away from any medical aid.

Still the ratepayers area asked to contribute to three different country hospitals – for what?

I very much regret to have to report the death of the Matron of the JC Cottage Hospital, Mrs deManthe. Deceased had been suffering from influenza but carried on with her work and suffered a relapse from which she never recovered. The AIM plane with Flying Doctor Rosell came to JC and took the patient to the Cloncurry District Hospital where everything possible was done to save the patient. The deceased was a war nursing sister serving four years abroad and prior to the war she, as sister Cardew, nursed in the Cloncurry Hospital. The funeral took place in Cloncurry the deceased's husband being present having to travel from Vindex Station in the Winton district where he is overseer. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and four returned soldiers acted as pall bearers. To the husband we extend our deepest sympathy in his very sad loss.

**8 Dec 1934 (p96, NA, NQR)**

JC, Dec 4 – The stock movements are as follows: 50 rams from Glenbervie to Kamarooka, R Wharton owner, by motor lorry; 18 bullocks from Manfred Downs to JC, CS Byrne, butcher, owner; 7 cows from Maria Downs to JC, Harbutt Bros dairy, owners; 2000 ewes from Barooma to Winberg, H Hulbert owner, T Kelly with four horses in charge; 25 fat wethers from Wyvenhoe to JC, CS Byrne butcher, owner ...

**22 Dec 1934 (p97, NA, NQR)**

JC, 18 Dec – Despite the fact that the seasonal outlook is bad, the town still continues to go ahead in the building line. Mr Herb Wilder is now putting the finishing touches on Mr Bert Burrows new refreshment room which the latter hopes to be well established in by Christmas. Mr Wilder will then go on to a new residence for Mr George Peut.

Mrs Grace Horton is making extensive inside improvements to her refreshments rooms in Goldring Street which will help her to cater for the public in a more efficient manner than heretofore.

All the business houses in the town have their windows dressed with all the good things for the Festive Season and after a walk around the town during the cool of the evenings he realises the work that the various business people of the town have done in making their windows so attractive.

**29 Dec 1934 (p85, NA, NQR)**

THE JULIA CREEK

WOOLSCOURING

Announce that they now have Two Scouring Units in Operation

With other extensive improvements assisting towards an Ideal of Good Service at Moderate Cost

Much more scouring is done in the excellent waters of Western Qld than throughout other woolgrowing areas; while thriving business at coastal selling centres testify to profits from wool dealing or on commission work for Buyers similar to which we offer Growers at such moderate cost when freight and handling charges from far distant centres are taken into consideration.

The Matter deserves more searching analysis than is commonly given to it

We can supply all realtive information and appreciate visits from woolgrowers and others interested

Consignment: Gunjoola, QNR

Postal Address: Box 56 JC

**12 Jan 1935 (p20, NA, NQR)**

JC, 8 Jan – Mr Herb Wilder is at present busy with the new building of a residence for Mrs GL Peut at the western end of Goldring Street and when completed this building will greatly improve the appearance of that end of the town. Mr JW Shaw's new residence at the eastern end of the town is very nearly completed too. This is a very fine house indeed.

Contractor Duncan and Co are at present shearing at Fairview whilst WA Mathews has one plant at Kenellen and one at Bunda Bunda. Other graziers are seriously considering shearing their flocks with from six to nine months wool on.

The town is very quiet and men on the lookout for work would be well advised to keep away as there is practically no work at all offering.

**23 Mar 1935 (p103, NQ637, NQR)**

FAINTING AT TALKIES

Melbourne, 22 Mar – With the coming of the talkies a new profession came into being, that of a theatre nurse who is in a position to judge the effect of pictures upon the emotions of an audience.

Matron McIlwraith, one of Melbourne's first theatre nurses, has tabulated the number of fainting cases which occurred during several recent talkies. Her figures, incidentally, bear out the belief it is mostly women who are physically affected. Her list is as follows: "Tarzan" 37 faints (29 women, 8 men); "Treasure Island 24 faints (23 women, one man); "Barretts of Wimpole Street" 20 faints (all women); "Night flight" 17 faints (16 women, one man); "Mystery of Mr X" 17 faints (all women); "Dinner at Eight" 16 faints (all women); "Dancing Lady" 10 faints (nine women, one man).

Any Laurel and Hardy film she says is certain to cause at least 20 cases of hysteria. Women make no excuse for their lapses, but the men generally refuse to admit the picture had anything to do with their condition. It is usually overwork, "flu" or worry they say.

**20 Apr 1935 (p83, NA, NQR)**

JC, 16 Apr – The weather continues dry and now that the wet season period has vanished we can set ourselves for the bad times ahead. The country is in a deplorable state and any stock left in the district will have very little chance of pulling through to the end of the year. Train load after train load of sheep have gone to doubtful relief country and it is a doubtful chance of even half of them returning. Many graziers have decided to make the first loss the only one and have decided to let their sheep take their chance on home pastures. This is rather a sorry state of affairs, still, from a financial point of view it would appear to be the soundest proposition. Suitable agistment country is impossible to secure and

even though a grazier saves his sheep to the end of the year he has to bring them home again should rain fall. This is going to be a very dangerous time for the man who has his sheep away. a good deal of the agistment country secured is in what might be termed flooded country and in a lot of cases the sheep will have to start back after storms have fallen and before a wet season. North Qld is noted for its dangerous watercourses in the wet season and a whole flock can be wiped out in a night if unlucky enough to be caught in the many flooded area. However, those who have taken their sheep away have to be admired for their pluck and the writer's best wishes go with them.

Shearing is still going on through out the district but in very few case are the sheep carrying their full growth of wool Many flocks that are being shorn are only cutting about 10 bales to the 1000, or about 40 percent of the normal cut, or between 3 and 4 lbs to the sheep.

A wedding of much interest to the town was solemnised at the C of E, JC, by the Rev Bro Norton. The contracting parties were Miss Florence Mavis Turner and Mr Herbert John Burrows, both of JC. The pretty bride, who entered the church while the congregation sang a hymn, on the arm of Mr EH Doubleday, of Consentes, who subsequently gave her away, looked charming in her gown of while lace over satin, gored skirt, long tight fitting sleeves, handkerchief trimming from shoulder, cowled neckline held in place with diamente gabot. Long tule veil beautifully embroidered and held back off the face with a wreath of orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of arum lilies and asparagus fern and wore silver shoes to tone. The veil was kindly lent by her sister-in-law Mrs Fred Turner.

She was attended by Miss Olive Gannon as bridesmaid in pink georgette frock, flared skirt from knees, Martna cape, trimmed with many rows of French pleating, clasped in front by a large blue flower, small pink hat, trimmed beneath leaf with tiny pink and blue flowers. Long white kid gloves, white open work shoes and carried a bouquet of cream roses and asparagus fern. She wore a single stone dress ring the gift of the bridegroom.

The bridegroom was attended by Mr Fred Jeffries as best man. Mrs CJ de Warren presided at the organ and played the Wedding March.

After the ceremony the happy couple entertained a number of guests, principally close friends and relations at a sumptuous wedding breakfast held at the Blue Bird cafe, a beautiful wedding cake occupied a central position on the table. Many nice speeches were given and all wished the happy couple long life and happiness. The wedding gifts were both numerous and costly, and included a large number of cheques.

Mr and Mrs [Bert] Burrows are now settled down in their new home, the Blue Bird cafe, Mr Burrows being the proprietor. We wish the happy couple all the joy and happiness possible for the future.

The town is particularly quiet at present and there is no work offering anywhere.

At the present time the council's plant is busily engaged in laying the water along the streets that did not previously have a water main. The work is proceeding under the supervision of the Leading Ganger, Mr Geo Foster. When the work is completed it will fill a long felt want for the residents of the northern and western end of the town.

### **11 May 1935 (p91, NA, NQR)**

JC – Lat Sunday a football match between the Scour Team and the Town resulted in a win for the latter by 18 points to nil. The scores were not a true indication of the game as both teams were fairly evenly matched and hopelessly out of condition. JC will be able to field a pretty decent team of representatives players this season providing the boys take an interest in the game and get themselves into condition with plenty of hard training. This year the players and supporters are taking a much better interest in the game of football and it is to be hoped that this interest does not want. I feel certain that the players will do their part and get themselves into condition and carry of all the inter-town matches to be contested during the season. Mr Peter Dawes has generously donated a gold medal for the most improved player during the season and the young bloods should take advantage every man try and win the trophy. The community are looking forward to some good club games not to mention the intertown games during the season.

Last night the JC Football Club in conjunction with the Scour Club held a most successful dance in the

School of Arts hall and the effort will help swell the funds to the extent of about £6 when all expenses are taken off. This was one of the most enjoyable dances held in JC or some time and when the last dance was announced about 1 am the crowd was reluctant to leave the hall. Mrs CJ de Warren supplied the music.

The town is very quiet and very little work is offering. After a few weeks time there will be no work of any description to offer and the town will be quiet until rain falls to relieve the depressed state of the district.

### **25 May 1935 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC – Last Sunday and also on Sunday week the Town team gave the Scour football team two more hidings although on Sunday the Scour thought they were unbeatable. Personally I think the Scour will have to train in earnest if they ever expect to register a win. There are some very good individual players who will certainly represent JC at Inter-town matches providing they are in condition but they have a tail that needs a lot of sparking up and it would not be a hard matter to put the team on a good sound basis. It is a team without combination and if they will only get together and take more interest in the game they will give the locals something to think about. The Town team are far from world beaters and there has been too much playing the man instead of the ball. They do not train either and if they are not going to get themselves into good condition they cannot expect to win inter-town matches not can they expect to compete in club matches without feeling tired and sore after their game.

Next Sunday the married men will play the single men and a good game is assured. If all the good old buffers will take the field the young uns are in for a very hard game and the old chaps will be unlucky if they suffer defeat.

### **15 Jun 1935 (p95, NA, NQR)**

JC, 10 Jun – On Wednesday night in the School of Arts Hall, a very successful boxing tournament was held. The door takings were about £20 and the crowd that turned up to witness the events exceeded all expectations. The boxing was both good and clean. Messrs AE Hudson and H Butt acted as judges, Mr Cliff Parker as referee and Mr CJ de Warren as timekeeper. Mr HJ Burrows was the energetic Hon Secretary.

The programme went off without a hitch, and there was no lost time between the events. Beyond the crowd being a bit disappointed at one of the contestants not turning up for one of the principal events, the evening was voted a most enjoyable one and the committee have been asked by a large number of the public, as well as intending boxers, to stage another tournament in the near future. The committee would like to see as many representatives as possible come along from other town to compete with our boys at the next tournament to be held in the very near future, so please send along names as soon as possible.

The results of the various bouts were as follows: Laverack and Basher Whiting, both two stone, fought a very lively draw for three rounds. This bout was both fast and furious and brought forth loud applause from the crowd...

Reg Fickling, 5 st 5 lbs and John Somers, 5 st 6 lbs fought one of the outstanding matches of the evening and after a three hard and fast rounds the judges decided in favour of Fickling. Another good bout was fought between Clive Wilder and Les Peut, two 5 1/2 stoners. The judges could not separate these boys so the referee ordered another round; however, Peut who was not too well threw in the towel and the judges gave the fight to Wilder. Albert Wilder, 4 st, fought Spider Pattison, also 4 st a good solid three rounds draw. Neither Joe Kaeser, 7 st nor Tom Tracey, 6 st 2 lbs could get a match owing to a shortage of boys. The boxing concluded with a lively three rounds draw between Buff Gillett and Lightning Brown two 3 st midgets followed by a ring full of blindfolded boys which caused much merriment.

A challenge by Charlie Ahearn was accepted by Earnie Hewitt to fight a six rounds contest at a later tournament. This bout is eagerly looked forward to and should prove one of the best bouts seen in JC. Both bouts are good sports and are always in fairly good condition. The dance that followed the boxing was a decided success and everyone present had a most enjoyable time. Mrs C de Warren supplied the music whilst Mr Col Leonard made a very efficient MC.

Mr GA Jaques of Richmond has decided to open a branch of his butchering business in JC and already carpenters are busy with alterations and additions to Mrs Horton's shop recently occupied by the Qld National Bank Ltd which will now be leased to Mr Jaques as a butcher's shop and freezing works. A new freezing plant will be installed and when completed the public will be well catered for with this new shop and the already existing butchering business of Mr CS Byrne.

Football is still in full swing and the last two Sunday's matches were played between the Scour and the JC team. The latter were victorious in both matches the first Sunday to the tune of 27 points to 5 and last Sunday 3 points to nil. In the latter game the Scour were very unlucky indeed to be beaten; they were the aggressors during the whole of the game but just could not connect. On last Sunday's performance the Scour should be a good bet at the next match.

### **6 Jul 1935 (p35, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 1 – We have had wonderful soaking rain. You could say we have had six to eight inches general throughout the district. Thousands of weak sheep must perish owing to the severe cold. although the rain has now ceased after four wet days the strong cold wind that is blowing will be the means of wiping out any weak sheep that are left in the district. A goat is a pretty hardy animal; but I saw three dead on my way home to lunch today.

The mail train that arrived here on Sunday morning is still here and there is no chance of its leaving before tomorrow owing to flooded creeks and washaways between here and Oorindi. Eastern Creek just this side of Gilliat is now 2 feet 6 ins over the railway bridge but falling fairly fast.

To give you some idea of the state of the sheep I might mention that a friend of mine had 500 sheep (all that was left out of 7000) in his wool shed during the rain. He had been feeding these sheep for some months now but owing to there being insufficient room in the shed to feed them whilst the rain was falling they had to go without feed. After two days he let them out to feed them and found that about 200 were dead and big numbers of them half eaten. They were eating one another.

Although splendid rain has fallen the grazier is in a sorry plight.

### **20 Jul 1935 (p35, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jul 15 – Since the rain the weather has been very mild and the last few days have been on the warm side and they should help considerably to make the grass grow. Up to the present the grass is responding very slowly and it will be a week or two yet before the majority of properties have any decent feed.

Generally speaking the losses among sheep have been very heavy and few graziers saved many sheep worth mentioning. Many thousands of strong sheep in the wool perished in the cold and bog and where there was only very dry feed many of the graziers lost practically every hoof.

There is a slight demand for sheep but not at the high prices asked. If stock owners are prepared to offer attractive lines of wethers or ewes at from 12/- to 14/- per head they may find buyers ...

### **3 Aug 1935 (p? NA, NQR)**

JC, 29 Jul – The JC woolscouring Co Ltd made a start today after a spell of a few weeks and they expect to have the two plants going full swing early next week.

Mr GA Jaques new butchering business will commence about the 1st August and the carpenters and painters are now putting the finishing touches to the shop in Goldring Street.

Mr James Eckford's new residence is just about completed and it is a very fine home indeed. The contractors was Mr Frank Whiting.

The CWA Younger Set held a very successful children's fancy dress ball in Eckford's Hall on Friday night and the financial result of the effort was in the vicinity of 19 which was very satisfactory indeed. Mrs CJ de Warren supplied the music and Mr J P Ahearn made an excellent MC. The Younger Set worked very hard to make the function a success and it was very gratifying that their efforts were not in vain. The fancy costumes were numerous well got up and nicely displayed and the judges had a very hard task in selecting the winners in each grade and their decision were well received.

## **5 Oct 1935 (351005, NQR)**

Last weekend a representative of this journal was afforded the opportunity of a motor run from Cloncurry through Gilliat on to JC and then sixty miles north east to Bow Park. The trip was taken with Mr J Lynch of Tara who had purchased 2,000 ewes from Mr V Chambers the owner of Bow Park and he had to take delivery of them on Monday morning.

Leaving Cloncurry about 2.30 Saturday afternoon, Gilliat was arrived at in plenty of time for tea, the road being in splendid order, more especially that portion in the McKinlay Shire. From Cloncurry for about 30 miles fair grass could be noticed but once on the downs a weed called bastard boggabri takes control and seems to have choked the grass off. It is only occasionally that patches of Flinders and Mitchell grass were noticed.

Miss Cis Saltzman is the guiding genius behind the Gilliat Arms Hotel which is one of the oldest hotels in the district and with the assistance of her sister, Mrs Watson, makes all visitors more than welcome. After an early cup of tea Sunday morning the 14 miles to JC were covered in about double that number of minutes. There is no doubt the McKinlay Shire is fortunate in one respect that is the roads in their Shire need little attention and are great to ride over.

Arriving at JC it is truly an oasis in a desert of weeds. The town was quite lively when we arrived and many old timers were noticed, amongst them Mr J Peut who is one of the original settlers of the district and of genuine pioneer blood. He takes the bumps nature has given him in his pastoral experience quite philosophically, in fact with a smile, and is ready to restock his properties as soon as the country will carry sheep. Other selectors were met, and though they count their sheep in ten, twenties or hundreds, they are quite optimistic and are sure good times will come again. With the wool scour employing twenty men, shearing going on in the district and a number of railway men working in the vicinity of the town, besides the travelling public, the town is quite lively and the two hotels make a good living. It has a water scheme which comes direct from the town artesian bore and also silent cops in the street which could do with a coat of white paint. The driver of our car quite unconsciously committed a serious breach by running over a silent cop when entering the town.

After a few hours renewing acquaintances we proceeded on our way to Bow Park and it was then we realised how fortunate we in the Cloncurry district area that there are hills, trees, and creeks to break the monotony of the outlook. For miles we drove across downs covered with yellow coloured weed; fences have a dilapidated and neglected appearance and heaped against them is a pest called sweetheart - it gained its name I was told because of its clinging propensity. Then, as if floating in the air, a visual deception caused by the mirage, can be seen a house, the homestead of one of the numerous 20,000 acre blocks, just dumped down on the plains, and in some case with not a tree around them. What a house and surroundings in which wives and children have to spend years of their lives.

One redeeming feature of the downs is the bore drains. They meander over the plains nobody seeming to care where they go or where they come from. and a surprising thing is that in a district where practically anything would grow, in most cases no attempt has been made to grow shade trees near these drains.

In our many miles of travel very little grass was noticed, the major portion of the herbage being weeds, until nearing the Saxby river where the country is fairly well grassed. Very little stock was seen during the trip.

At Punchbowl, the crossing of the Flinders River, a party of men were met, they being employed by the council pulling noogoora burr which is an every present a menace to the sheep industry in the district. Several other gangs are employed at this work.

Mr Chambers property was arrived at just at sundown on Sunday and after a good night's rest on the bank of the Saxby we were up early and the drafting and branding of sheep continued until 1 pm when all was OK and we headed the old car for home and the hills of Cloncurry.

A curious thing was noticed in connection with the telephone lines which run out to the different selections. It would be thought that in a district where timber is at a premium and each telephone pole must cost a fair sum by the time it is erected, that each pole would be used to carry as many wires as

possible. They do not do this in the JC district. We noticed as many as four telephone poles side by side each pole carrying one wire running for miles and miles. There must be some reason and it makes one wonder what it is.

At 9 pm after travelling 155 miles and sending an hour with our good friend the Saltzman sisters at Gilliat we arrive back home in Cloncurry and though the last twenty miles is rough we were leased to see the hills and creeks again. Someone has to live in the north west and some on the downs but we in this district should consider ourselves fortunate it was not our lot to have had to reside on those scorching sunburnt plains.

### **7 Dec 1935 (p32, NQ702, NQR)**

#### **FIRE AT JC**

JC, 3 Dec – WA Mathews grocery and drapery store in Coyne St was destroyed by a fire breaking out at 4 o'clock this morning and by its proximity to a petrol dump seriously threatened a large proportion of the town's business premises.

Mathews, who lives with his daughter in premises close to the destroyed building – a wooden and iron structure – awoke when the fire had gained an extensive hold on his property. The town possesses a voluntary Fire Brigade, with a reel and hoses to be attached to the town bore, which ensures a strong force of water, but when the Brigade arrived, nothing could be done to save the building, which was by then practically demolished.

The Brigade stood by until only a few glowing embers remained, for there was the fear that the petrol dump situated close by might explode. However, there was practically no wind and the fire burnt itself out without extending.

It is understood that the business was insured for £1000.

### **2 May 1936 (360502, CA)**

#### **Hickman & Co**

#### **Stock and Station Agents**

#### **JC**

Tom Brabazon wishes the Stock and Station owners and General public in the JC and adjacent districts to know that from the 3rd June 1936, the above well-known business will be conducted by him.

Prompt service to all your demands will be his objective.

### **23 May 1936 (p98, NA, NQR)**

JC, 19 May – Early on Monday an aeroplane flew over JC and passing down the street near Hickman and Co's office, they dropped the same day's "Townsville Bulletin," which shows how news can be brought to the outback promptly by aeroplane service. We are grateful to the owners of the plane for the quick delivery of the paper and the news in it.

Several lines of sheep have been purchased for the JC district amongst the purchasers being: T Dalling Homeland, 1300 weaners, PJ Byrne, a nice line of ewes from Gladevale, Messrs Stainkey Bros, Maria Downs and Rose Downs, also purchased a line of ewes from the central district. Toorak Station has landed a consignment of 300 rams from the South. They arrived in very good condition and were driven out to Toorak by Drover T Kelly. It is pleasing to see a few sheep coming to the district as it is a healthy sign although restocking is only being done in a very limited manner. The banks and forms are not as yet making a definite move as regards restocking.

### **30 May 1936 (p74, NA, NQR)**

JC, 26 May – Members of the Ambulance Brigade from Cloncurry convened a meeting in the School of Arts on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd, to ascertain if it is desirable to establish an ambulance centre at JC. Whilst there are some who desire to see an Ambulance established here, there are others, although they realise the advantages and good work of an Ambulance, consider that as we are building a new up to date hospital in the near future, it will take us all our time to maintain this, without an Ambulance, also it is felt that most country persons in this district possess cars or their neighbours do, and, in the case of accidents, persons can be conveyed quickly to JC where we have a Bush Nurse, and will have as early as possible, a hospital. No doubt the powers that be will consider well before taking a definite step

having in view the state of the district being practically unstocked, and not much hope of being fully stocked for some considerable time.

**13 Jun 1936 (p69, NA, NQR)**

Mr Hennessey passed through JC on Thursday en route to Byrimina Station and returned home on Saturday. He reports that the rain has done a lot of good on Byrimine and the stock there are in good order.

Mr W Triffett met with a nasty accident as a result of being kicked by a horse on the knee which was dislocated. The Ambulance rendered first aid and the patient is getting along nicely. We wish him a quick recovery.

The Ambulance has opened a centre at JC and has had several calls to the country since the commencement of operations.

**19 Jun 1936 (p? NQ429, SBT)**

FOR SALE – 4 heavy draught mares, from 4 to 8 years old. Three in foal. Price from £20 to £35 each; also 1 sulky and Harness, £5 – RL Burns, Wondai

**20 Jun 1936 (p61, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jun 17 – The aeroplane landed here on Tuesday and had as a passenger for JC Mr Bleachmore who is on a visit to Lyrian Downs on business. Mr Bleachmore instance the prompt service and stated that his partner, Mr Beasley, had left Townsville days before him and he saw him bogged near Pentland and he arranged for the plane to circle around so that he could drop a note to Mr Beasley. This gives an instance of the benefit of a plane service to the outback and we wish those progressive persons who instituted the service every success.

During the week we lost an old resident in Mr E Lowe, saddler of JC.

It is with regret that we report the death of Mrs Sneyd's mother who died suddenly on Wednesday, the 10th of June. The funeral took place the same day and amongst the pall bearers were members of the Ambulance Brigade of which Mr Sneyd is president. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs Sneyd and her relative in her sad and sudden loss.

We are pleased to report that Mr W Triffett who recently had an injured knee is well on the road to recovery.

**27 Jun 1936 (p65, NA, NQR)**

JC – Shearing operations are in progress at Rockvale where Contracotr Mathews is operating on the Nelia Pond's flock. Contractor March (Flinders Shearing Co) is operating at Buckingham Downs and contractor Jessup has just completed the shearing at Kellosheel.

The drop in wool values has caused alarm in this district especially in view of the fact that the rates for shearing and station hands have been increased and there are very few sheep in the district and since last June and July losses very few sheep have come into this area. The financial houses do not seem to favor a policy of restocking and the position of our district is a very serious one as without stock prosperity cannot be expected to come to our midst.

The tennis dance held on the 19th inst was a great success the music and the supper arrangements being well carried out. The dance lasted till well after midnight before a halt was called. All concerned seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly and the funds of the tennis will be considerably improved by the proceeds of the dance.

**4 Jul 1936 (360704, CA)**

We have experienced some of the coldest weather this week that we have had for a few years. Wednesday the thermometer registered 30. Ice was reported from just outside town.

Mr Benson officer in charge of the ambulance here, has been kept fairly busy of late with numerous minor injuries in town and last week end took a patient to the Cloncurry hospital. Wednesday he received a call to Quarrell siding where a line worker had a piece of steel lodged in his arm. First aid



was rendered and the patient brought to town and went by first train to the Richmond hospital.

#### **4 Jul 1936 (p46, NA, NQR)**

JC, 26 Jun – The Airlines aeroplane landed here on Tuesday with one passenger for JC. They effected a good landing and were guided by fires lit by Mr A Brabazon of Hickman and Co Agency who takes a keen interest in the aeroplane service and he is endeavouring to get the local council to make improvements to the landing ground and make it a good one for aeroplanes to land on.

The weather cannot pass this week without mention as it has been extremely cold. On Monday morning it registered 30 degrees and the next day was 32 degrees in the early morning.

We now run pictures twice a week in JC and they are well patronised. The programmes are very good only the best of pictures being procured.

#### **11 Jul 1936 (360711, CA)**

The boxing match between Taylor (Winton) and Leo (JC) brought a packed house, the door being over £25, but the fight was not one that would encourage people to become devotees of the fistic art. It is nights like this that ruin a good sport. Taylor took the count for 8 or 9 in nearly every round and most of the time never appeared to have been hit. Sam Burmister refereed.

Quite a lot of side shows have been here last week but most have moved on. We still have Sam Fuller's buckjumper show which will show on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

#### **11 Jul 1936 (S8, NQ639, NQR)**

Moving Day in the West

With their entire belongings packed on a tabletop wagon, drawn by 15 horses, Mr Wm Crosby, his wife, two sons, and three daughters left Normanton on the Gulf of Carpentaria, for Cloncurry on 17th May 1936. They arrived at their destination exactly one month later on June 17. Mr Crosby considered that they could have done the trip in three weeks but were delayed owing to a spell of heavy rains. Two goats accompanied the convoy and supplied the party with milk.

The party made the trip in the opposite directions 17 years ago. The distance between Cloncurry and Normanton is 280 miles by road.

Above is a close snap of the wagon. The womenfolk travelled and slept in the front hooded portion. The youngest son and one of the daughters are riding on the outriders.

#### **1 Aug 1936 (p70, 360801, NQR)**

JC, Jul 27 – The conference for a discussion regarding the base hospital at Cloncurry was held at that town last Wednesday and JC was represented by Mr Allison (Chairman of the McKinlay Shire Council), Mr Doubleday (Chairman of the McKinlay Hospital board), Councillor O'Sullivan and the Shire Clerk (Jim Parsons). Attending the conference were representatives from Mt Isa, Boulia, Normanton, Camooweal, Burketown and other centres who are vitally interested in retaining a doctor for their local towns a privilege which the majority maintain is of paramount importance to the health and life of the community in the North-west and something which they have been fighting for for years. The majority contended that they were against the principle of the establishment of a base hospital at Cloncurry; the expense would be enormous and it would be disastrous to deprive the smaller towns of their resident medical attendants. It was natural to assume that Cloncurry would be in favor of a base hospital in their town. The treatment that the delegates received in Cloncurry was very hospitalable and friendly. We understand that resolutions carried at the conference were forwarded to Mr E Hanlon, Home Secretary.

JC tennis players were expecting a visit from their rivals in Richmond but the Richmond players were unable to make the trip at present. We are looking forward to seeing them at some future date when they will receive a cordial welcome from the local players and townspeople.

#### **8 Aug 1936 (p21, NA, NQR)**

JC, 3 Aug – The big event in JC for the week was the C of E Cabaret. This annual cabaret is always looked forward to by town and country people as a good performance and many people look forward for months for this event. This year they were not disappointed as no effort was spared to put on a good show. The parts played by local talent were very good and showed that a lot of work had been

put into the training and as for the costumes of the artists, they were very creditable to Mrs Peterson, who made them. All other workers deserve the greatest praise for their untiring efforts to bring the cabaret to such a successful issue. The programme for the Cabaret was as follows: 'Oh it's a Healthy Life', ballet; 'On the Good Ship Lollipop', Meldie Eckford; A Quarter To Nine, ballet and song, Miss Gannon; novelty dance, Miss Stanley. The ballet girls were Misses Downey, Beauchamp, Stevens, Kath Gerahty, Ivy Peterson, Betty Kaeser and Dadie Eckford.

Contractor Peut is still on the Wallacooloobie flock and expects to be finished next week. Contractor McCarthy is busy at Oxton downs and starts at Cabanda during the week.

The Shire Council are arranging to make a landing ground at JC for the regular plane service and this will be welcome news to passengers and to Airlines of Australia Ltd who are running the weekly service.

### **15 Aug 1936 (p71, NA, NQR)**

JC, 10 Aug – The Shire grader is busy in the reserve fixing up the ground for the aeroplane landing ground. This will be a big thing for aeroplanes landing at JC and will bring JC in line with other landing centres on the Townsville-Mt Isa route.

### **22 Aug 1936 (p31, 360822, NQR)**

JC – The blowfly is again troublesome and has been very active this year. The mortality from it has been very great and is a problem to sheep owners.

The streets of JC have been graded by the council plant and are an improvement on the rough grounds after the recent rains. It is not often that we have rough roads after rains at this time of the year and whilst winter rains are unusual they are greatly appreciated this year and in fact any year that they do come provided sufficient rain falls. The country around JC is in very good order for this time of the year and the stock that are travelling are experiencing good routes with plenty of grass and water.

### **29 Aug 1936 (360829, CA)**

Our local ambulance bearer is kept pretty busy and had had to do a few hundred miles by car to cases but it is very inconvenient at time hiring cars to go out and the committee will be very pleased when the new Cloncurry car arrives and we take over the old one. The Ambulance has taken over new quarters here now and they are much more convenient than the old place having now an office, dressing room and bedroom and shed space that would hold two cars.

The wool scour is having a break for 8 or 10 days waiting for wool to come in and expect to get enough to carry on till Xmas.

JC is still going ahead, Carpenter Whiting having just about completed a nice big residence for Stanley Brothers. Carpenter H wilder is completing another nice house and putting additional storerooms to AJ Smith and cos shop. Carpenter Pollard is working on a new shop for Roy Hampton opposite the Blue Burd Cafe and each carpenter has a lot more building to do when their present jobs are finished.

The Cloncurry golfers are down on Sunday for a return match with the locals.

### **5 Sep 1936 (p70, NA, NQR)**

JC, Aug 31 – Another building is in course of erection in the main street of JC, being near to the Post Office on the opposite side of the street and adjoining the building of Mr Hampton.

### **26 Sep 1936 (p40, NA, NQR)**

JC, 21 Sep – Contractor Pollard is building a shop in the main street for Mr R Hampton, which, we understand is to be let as a saddler's shop. Contractor Wilder is busy on a house in the main street and Contractor Whiting is busy building a house for Mr Stainkey in JC.

### **3 Oct 1936 (p72, NA, NQR)**

Twenty sheep to each Person

According to the latest report of the Government Statistician (Mr J B Brigden) there were nearly 20 sheep and six cattle to every person in Qld on January 1.

Sheep suffered severely from drought in 1935, the total of 18,060,093 at the end of the year being a decrease of 3,500,000 or 16.3%. The total is the lowest since January 1, 1928, the greatest losses being in the far western and central area. The number of cattle remained practically steady at 6,003,004. The drought cause serious declines in the far west and central divisions and in the Townsville-Bowen area on the east coast but there were increases in other districts.

The usual decline in the number of horses continued the total being 441,013 compared with 448,604 a year earlier. The decline of 6691 was the greatest since 1932.

#### **24 Oct 1936 (p63, 361024, NQR)**

JC – It has been rumoured that the property known as Bodell a few miles from JC has changed hands, the purchasers being Mr Harrington of Ewan Plains, Prairie.

During the past week Mr Doubleday of Consentes had the misfortune to get a piece of wood in his eye which necessitated a trip to see the doctor in Hughenden. He returned home last Friday and is progressing favourably. The same old question crops up, 'Fancy a town the size of JC with a big district, a total population of about 2000 people, being without a doctor'.

#### **31 Oct 1936 (p54, NQ640/641, NQR)**

Two photos of Nelia

#### **7 Nov 1936 (361107, CA)**

Mr Henry Benson, bearer of the JC Ambulance Centre, was a visitor to Cloncurry last weekend. Henry has been successful in starting a centre in JC where one was badly needed and his visit to Cloncurry was made to take delivery of the Dodge Ambulance car which was given in when Cloncurry Centre purchased a new car. The car has been thoroughly overhauled and should give good service to its new owners.

#### **14 Nov 1936 (p74, 361114, NQR)**

JC, 7 Nov – Mr Mathews, shearing contractor, advises that he is still operating on a few sheds around the Oorindi and JC districts having just completed shearing at Hampden Downs. The other contractors have almost completed their runs for this year.

A basket party was held at Garomna on Sunday, Nov 1, when swimming was indulged in in the afternoon in the swimming pond and dancing and music were the features of attraction at the homestead at night. The party had a most enjoyable time and returned home about midnight.

On Sunday last a party of bathers visited the Punchbowl to cool off in the swimming hole and returned home on Sunday night. The punchbowl swimming hole is situated about 28 miles from JC and is a popular swimming and fishing resort for the summer months.

The tennis club expect to again commence their weekly tournaments which give an impetus to tennis in spite of the great heat. The tournaments are always keenly contested and the finals are very close. They also tend to improve the standard of play.

We still see a few keen golf enthusiasts visiting the golf course in spite of the heat.

#### **5 Dec 1936 (361205, CA)**

The death occurred in the Hughenden hospital on Tuesday last of George Arthur Foster, overseer to the McKinlay shire Council. Deceased had been ill for some weeks and was on his way to Townsville to seek further medical attention when he took a bad turn and had to enter the Hughenden hospital.

Born at Ben Lomond, NSW, 53 years ago, deceased came to Qld as a young man and 14 years ago was appointed overseer to the McKinlay Shire Council which position he has held ever since. He was well-known and popular all over the McKinlay and JC districts and sympathy is extended to his wife and eleven children, 6 boys and 5 girls, who are left to mourn his loss. The eldest boy and girl are married

#### **5 Dec 1936 (p33, 361205, NQR)**

JC, 30 Nov – A travelling circus paid us a visit over the weekend bringing with them two elephants, lions and a troupe of wild animals, monkeys and dogs. A great trade was done with children riding the

camels and paying admission to look at the wild animals. It is an education for the children in the outback to see a circus and the wild animals attached to it.

We understand that Mr JS Tracey who has been in our midst for several years may be leaving us in the near future. He is disposing of his property in JC and is going on holidays. We wish him every success in any new venture that he may take up and will be sorry to lose such a good townsman who was a great help to everyone being noted for his honesty and the interest he took in every kind of sport. He was a great friend of the drovers who will sadly miss him.

**12 Dec 1936 (p40, 361212, NQR)**

JC – We regret to report that Mr Chas Byrne met with an accident during the week and lost part of two fingers. First aid was rendered by the local ambulance who conveyed Mr Byrne to the Cloncurry Hospital where he is progressing favorably.

It is with deep regret that we report the death of George Foster who has been road overseer for the McKinlay Shire Council for a number of years. Our deepest sympathy goes to his relatives and numerous friend. The Council will lose a good staunch worker and leave it hard to get such a suitable overseer.

**19 Dec 1936 (p70, 361219, NQR)**

JC, Dec 14 – Weather conditions are still favourable for storms and isolated falls have been reported over the district. Here and there is to be seen a green shoot and if we could get good general storms in the next few days it would make a good Christmas box to all.

With crackers going off every day goes to show that the spirit of Christmas is with us and the shop windows are being decorated accordingly. In spite of the bad times through which we have been we will have a good Christmas as the season has been a good one. The price of sheep is high and the price of wool is satisfactory.

**23 Jan 1937 (p72, 370123, NQR)**

JC, Jan 16 – In the... [check what has been lost by looking at archives of NQR]

The good news that Mr Hornung senior, who is working on Bunda Bunda had drawn a big prize in Tattersall's Sweep, reached JC a few days ago and the news was conveyed to him by telephone when he could scarcely realise his good luck. Mr Hornung is a hard working citizen and very careful. We are all pleased at his good fortune and pleased to see it come to our centre.

The shield for the Easter fixtures run under the auspices of the North West District Tennis Association has been generously donated by Sallens. The shield will be played for at JC for the first time this year.

We understand that Mr Sneyd, our chemist is contemplating going to Cairns. He will be missed from our midst being a keen golfer and sportsman.

**30 Jan 1937 (p33, 370130, NQR)**

JC, 25 Jan – In the early part of last week the heat both night and day was very intense being very humid and not much of a breeze at night time to cool the atmosphere down. Relief came to us on Wednesday night when we had a very heavy storm which yielded 240 points at JC and up to 5 inches in the district but the rain did not extend far to the north east or over the Flinders River except in isolated places. South of the railway line near Nelia the falls were very good and extended. Places that previously had not had rain were fortunate on Wednesday night to get a good fall, amongst these being Wensley, the property of Mr Barnes. Parts of this were rather on the dry side but they were lucky enough to...

The streets of JC were saturated but are now drying up. Thank goodness we have footpaths which were extended recently to various parts of the town and they have proved a great boom to pedestrians and, at times, to cyclists delivering orders in spite of the fact that it is against the regulations.

**13 Feb 1937 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 8 – Twenty two hundred mixed sheep arrived here by train from the Emerald district and are

being driven to their new pastures at Huddersfield by Drover Jim Edwards.

Contractor Frank Whiting is going ahead with the two houses which is building for Mr Stainkey and at the rate he is going it won't be long before both jobs are finished.

**20 Feb 1937 (p91, 370220, NQR)**

JC – Mr and Mrs Sneyd left by Monday night's train for Cairns where he intends to continue his work as chemist. Mr Sneyd has been our chemist for the last five years and he will be missed by the people of JC and district. As far as we know there is no one to carry on in his place.

The Gannon family returned from a holiday in the south during the week and all look well.

**27 Feb 1937 (p97, NA, NQR)**

JC, 23 Feb – Mr Leahy held a Land Court here on the afternoon of Thursday 18th and a great many of the selectors attended. As far as is known, it was decided to allow Dalgonally Station to retain the country that was previously allotted to certain land owners as additional areas, and resume portion of Eddington Station, which is also owned by the company that owns Dalgonally. Claims for additional areas were lodged and should they be granted it will mean a lot to the man with a small selection, for, with the seasons which have prevailed for the last 10 or 11 years, small places cannot carry sufficient stock to make them pay for themselves.

The death of Mr HJ Wilder [father of Cooe], one of our local contract carpenters, came as a shock to everyone in the town and district. He and his men were working on Winslade at the time and it is thought that they drank some water that was impure and all got ptomaine poisoning. His companions eventually recovered but owing to Mr Wilder having a weak heart and also having suffered from ptomaine poisoning a short time prior to this, the strain proved too great and he passed away on Tuesday night, leaving a wife and two small children to mourn their loss. He was quite a young man, being but 23 years of age, and had lived all his life in JC. He was very well liked by all who came in contact with him and will be sadly missed.

Mrs HRL Halloran left by Monday night's train for a holiday of six months, portion of which well be spent in Ceylon.

**13 Mar 1937 (p97, NA, NQR)**

JC, Mar 11 – Drover J Edwards shifted 6500 wethers the property of Messrs Brumm & Co from Lindfield to Eureka Downs where they are agisting a few months. They are to be shorn in about a fortnight's time.

Contractor Jessup is at present shearing at land's End and he expects to cut out early next week or the end of this week.

**27 Mar 1937 (p20, 370320, NQR)**

JC, Mar 22 – The weather during the week has been fine with a southerly wind blowing which has had a tendency to dry up the heavily soaked ground from the recent rains. The roads are still in a bad state and cars find it hard to negotiate them. The feed in the district is responding very well and we are assured of green feed for the winter.

The rains have made the season definitely assured being of a general nature and very heavy and coming as late as they did, when the summers is almost ended, the grass will not wither off as quickly as it would have had the rains come earlier in the year.

The stock market is becoming active there being a number of enquiries for breeding ewes and mixed weaners and a few lines have changed hands while a few lines are under offer at time of writing.

The town is very quiet after the rains as the people from the country cannot get to town on account of the roads being in a bad way. A few cars have ploughed through the mud to get to town but the journey has been a very hard on.

Amongst the visitors to town we observed the following: Messrs Wall. Tooth, Byrne and Mathews.

**10 Apr 1937 (p94, NA, NQR)**

JC, 8 Apr – Contractor Pollard is busy building premises for Mr R Hampton in the main street adjoining his billiard saloon. Contractor Whiting is also busy building in JC and improvements are being effected at Winslade Station.

A number of our local workmen have got work on the railway line near Oorindi whilst others are engaged in fencing and stock work. The fence repair work is considerable this year and many selections report miles of fencing washed down and generally the fences are in a bad state and require a lot of work done on the. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good.

**24 Apr 1937 (S2, NQ642, NQR)**

Photo of wool at scour

**8 May 1937 (p93, NA, NQR)**

Disaster to Zeppelin

Explosion on Hindenburg

Death Roll placed at 33

The giant Zeppelin Hindenburg, Germany's aerial pride, has crashed to her doom following an explosion, and fire then consumed her.

The Hindenburg, an 800 feet long monster of the air, had triumphantly circled New York after crossing the Atlantic. She was escorted by a myriad of aeroplanes, honouring the first of the season's transatlantic flights.

The Zeppelin flew to Lakehurst and her nose lines were thrown out. Suddenly there was an explosion and a terrific burst of flame shot out. The liner collapsed and crashed to the earth.

Latest lists give the death roll at 33.

New York, 6 May – The Zeppelin Hindenburg, exploded while landing at Lakehurst. When the airship tossed her nose lines to the ground, light rain was falling. Suddenly there was a terrific burst of flame from the stern and the explosion was heard for miles. The Hindenburg collapsed and crashed to the earth, and in a few minutes there was only the twisted steel frame on the ground.

There seemed to be no possibility of anyone being alive but it is believed from latest messages, that 30 escaped alive, including the Commander. It is understood there were 39 passengers and 61 crew aboard. The ship was less than 500 feet above the ground at the time of the explosion.

A large crowd had gathered to witness the landing and as the huge vessel crashed earthwards, shrieks and screams broke out. Only a few moments before, the ship had triumphantly circled New York, escorted by a myriad of aeroplanes, honouring the first of the season's transatlantic flights.

**22 May 1937 (p75, NA, NQR)**

JC, 17 May – Contractor Peut is operating on the Delbella flock at Argyle and Brynes and Jessop are operating at Ivy Downs, McKinlay. Contractor Mathews, having operated on the Rockvale and other big flocks near Mt Isa, is now busy in the Nelia district.

**29 May 1937 (p20, 370529, NQR)**

JC, May 27 – Work throughout the district has been fairly plentiful of late and this is a pleasing feature showing that the district is slowly recovering. The advent of a few lines of sheep to the district goes to show that a little confidence is being displayed by the financial houses but the recovery is very slow and there are a great number of persons still without any stock and relief is urgently needed for the more necessitous cases.

The stock routes are in very good order for grass and water and cattle that are either going through to the south or to truck at JC will have a good trip on the road. The country being lightly stocked will ensure good feed on the stock routes for some time to come.

A few lines of ewes and mixed sexes have changed hands at satisfactory figures and the wool market is still satisfactory and the forthcoming sales should be good although one never knows the vagaries of the wool market. but we always hope for the best and we have been very fortunate so far this year.

### **12 Jun 1937 (p61, NA, NQR)**

JC, 7 Jun – The very cold snap which we experienced during the past week made everyone search for blankets and instead of the Western term “a sea breeze off the bore drain,” it is now a case of a breeze off the South Pole. Sheep recently off shears would suffer from the severe cold winds and if rain were to come within the next week or so there would be losses in recently shorn sheep.

The Hon EM Hanlon, Home Secretary, passed through JC early on Sunday morning by train for Cloncurry. We are pleased to report that news has been received from the Home Secretary that a grant has been approved for the building of a hospital at JC. It has been a long and anxious wait but we are pleased that the good news has come at last for a long-felt want and the Hospital Board will now be able to proceed with arrangements to build. The hospital may not take as long to build as it took to get the approval and grant, still it was worth waiting for.

The North-West Qld tennis championships are being held at Mt Isa over the weekend. The representatives from JC are Mr W Gannon (jnr) and Miss O Gannon. These young players are to be congratulated on their efforts to represent JC and we hope they have an enjoyable trip apart from the results.

### **19 Jun 1937 (p68, 370619, NQR)**

JC – The North-West Qld tennis championships were played at Mt Isa on the 5th, 6th and 7th June. Two juniors went from JC in W Gannon Jnr and Miss Olive Gannon. Miss O Gannon was successful in winning the ladies singles championship of North West Qld and W Gannon was the runner up in the men's singles championships being defeated by Hans Dermott after a close contest. He was also runner up in the men's doubles final being partnered by Albert Charles of Cloncurry. We congratulate these young players on their fine effort also their sporting spirit in making the trip.

The Shire Council have been advised of the despatch of portrait of His Majesty the King. This on arrival will be hung in the Shire office.

### **3 Jul 1937 (370703, CA)**

The weather is keeping on the cold side at nights although a few of the days have been rather warm.

On Sunday night last an evening was given in Eckfords Hall as a send off to sister Dean of the Bush Nurses Association and to welcome the two new sisters, Barefield and Hay. The Country Women presented Sister Dean with a nice handbag with £10 enclosed which they had collected. The BNA also presented sister Dean with a cheque for £5.

Miss Edna Eckford was hurried to Cloncurry by plane early Monday morning to be operated on and we wish her a speedy recovery. She was accompanied by her mother.

The meeting of graziers was well attended in the School of Arts on Sunday night when an address was given by Mr McMaster on the question of restocking drought stricken areas.

Mr J Hulbert, dentist of Cloncurry, was at JC.

### **3 Jul 1937 (p58, NA, NQR)**

#### **A Suicide**

After carrying a portmanteau and a swag out of a railway carriage upon the arrival of the second division of the Brisbane mail at Townsville on Saturday morning, a man named John Francis Feenaghty, aged about 25, single, returned to it and was found soon after with his throat cut with a safety razor blade. On top of a second portmanteau, it is stated, there was an open cardboard box, its contents including a safety razor and blades.

Word of the tragedy quickly spread, and Sergeant Wilson of the City Police, who was on duty at the platform, was almost immediately at the dying man's side. The Ambulance were straightaway notified, but Feenaghty, suffering from severed veins and arteries in the throat, was beyond aid. The police took

charge of the body and it was conveyed to the morgue.

Fellow passengers of the dead man state that after leaving Rockhampton, he appeared very despondent, though he subsequently seemed to recover his good spirits. His bank book revealed a credit of £300. Deceased, who was travelling on a ticket made out for Julia Creek, is survived by his mother, a resident of Ascot, Brisbane. His body, embalmed, was placed on the outgoing mail on Sunday night for carriage to his home.

### **3 Jul 1937 (p32, NA, NQR)**

#### **Conjugal Rights**

Sydney, 29 June – Doris Winifred Attwell (formerly Duggan) who has been granted a decree for restitution of conjugal rights against William Attwell, by Mr Justice Roper, stated in evidence that her husband, who is about 35 years of age, was employed as a traveller for British Products, Pty Ltd, in territory covering Northern Queensland, and that he had been engaged in that capacity for the 2 1/2 to three years. Before that they were living at North Bondi, Sydney.

She wrote to her husband in September, 1936, asking him whether he intended to make a home for her in Qld. To this letter she received a reply in which he said, "I thought you knew that I have no intention of living with you again. I hate to be too blunt about it but I am in love with someone else. I have not any complaint to make about your behaviour, and you have always been a good wife in every respect."

His Honour, in making the order for restitution of conjugal rights directed that a copy of the decree be served on the respondent, directing him to return or take back his wife within a specified period.

### **10 Jul 1937 (370710, CA)**

JM Hulbert

Bsc, LDG

Dentist

Extractions Painless

Children 2/6 – adults 5/6

Large reduction for numbers

Dentures; full upper or jaws from £5 - £8

All classes of restorations and fillings

### **10 Jul 1937 (370710, CA)**

370710/370717: Wirth's Circus Ad

Roy Mornington, Advance Manager for Wirth's Circus, was in town Friday making arrangements for Wirth's visit to Cloncurry appearing for one night only on Tuesday July 22. That this circus attracted crowds in Sydney that constituted a record for Wirths and has played to capacity houses town after town along the northern rivers of NSW and is still enjoying phenomenal business in Qld, is a tribute to the programme Wirth's provide.

Towards the end of last year, Wirth Bros absorbed Ivan Bros American Circus and as a result of this deal they are justly able to claim that Wirths is now a spectacle you will never forget and truly upholds Mr Phillips Wirth snrs claim that is is the most gigantic and costliest circus ever presented to the Qld public. Accompanying this gathering of new international circus stars is Wirth's Colossal Menagerie of Wild animals, the largest travelling zoo in the world.

Some of the newest acts which Wirth's present are those of the Four Kobes' equilibrist and rope walkers in their Japanese wonder act, the climax of which is reached when Mayeda Kobe after walking up a slanting rope to the king pole with only the aid of his clever toes, slides backwards eighty feet to the ground. Also the Ten Ziganites, a flashing Spanish troupe the cleverest of whom is little Ronald Zigante who makes a triple somersault from a spring board into a chair without the use of safety nets. Markoni the world's champion barrel jumper who in one leap clears a motor car and a company of men, together with several breath taking stunts and antics of uproarious comedy acrobats. For a daring and spectacular turn, that of the four daredevil Onotes would be hard to beat. A motor cyclist roars round a staging high in the air while above him three other members of the troupe in precarious positions sail through



space. The climax comes with the cyclist turning dozens of forward and backward somersaults while his cycle is travelling at terrific speed. Clever Bicycle is performed by the four Misses Wirths in a thrilling Basket Ball act on wheels. A monkey and Pony act displayed by Mr Phillip Wirth jnr who later gives a splendid display of bareback riding accompanied by Miss Nellie Conolly. While Wirth's clowns royal hold the audience continually in a state of mirth. Some wonderfully clever animal acts are those of Mon Henri Martel's performing dogs and geese. Miss Gladys Wirth with the beautiful golden horse Duke in the high school act. Captain Eric Flyers performing riggers and Wirths pygmy elephants. There are 27 acts and the interest never flags.

Accompanying the Circus is a herd of nine elephants and sixteen cages of performing wild animals and all who enter the splendor of Wirth's big top which will be located on the sports ground will be thrilled with its huge spread of canvas claimed to be nearly three and a half times larger than any other circus touring Australia. The show opens with a Grand Parade displaying a panorama of gorgeous pageantry, brilliant acrobatics and equestrians. Reserve seats may be booked at May's Cafe. Wirth's also appear in JC on Wednesday July 21st and Mt Isa on Friday and Saturday July 23rd and 24th.

#### **24 Jul 1937 (370724, CA)**

The largest assemblage of people seen in Cloncurry for many years gathered on Thursday night last to witness the famous Wirth's Circus which arrived in Cloncurry by special train early on Thursday morning.

Hundreds of people watched the erection of the big top during the morning. The intelligence shown by the elephants in the work was wondered at by all; these mighty beasts must save the labour of many men. Children and adults amused themselves during the day feeding the elephants on peanuts and fruit. To see one of these huge beasts weighing four tons pick up a single peanut from the ground and put it in its mouth was very amusing. There were also monkeys of all sorts, a gorilla, lions, tigers, leopards etc and three of the smallest horses in the world. At night, with the tent practically packed to capacity, every act was interesting, especially the Japanese troupe, Spanish acrobats, the hurdle race for ponies with monkeys as jockeys, horse events and the last death-defying turn when a motor cycle is raced around a small track with girls doing stunts as they are wheeled around and as the climax the bike leaves the track and spins round and round in the air. The show lasted for three hours without intermission and everyone seemed satisfied that they had their money's worth. Visitors were in town from ... [Nelia, Kynuna, McKinlay, and almost every station in the district.

What with paying to see the menagerie, rides on the elephant and in the little pony sulky, purchasing of peanuts, lollies, chocolate and icecreams, and books of the history of Wirth's besides the prices of admission to the circus, many hundreds of pounds must have been taken out of the town.

The circus packed up immediately after the show and went on to Mt Isa.

#### **31 Jul 1937 (p32, NA, NQR)**

JC, 26 Jul – Great excitement prevailed in JC during midweek. It was not a case of “Johnny’s in town” but a case of “The circus is in town,” and from near and far both adults and children came to such an event as Wirth’s Circus.

#### **7 Aug 1937 (p30, 370807, NQR)**

JC, Aug 2 – The weather during the week has been very pleasant and on the mild side except for one warm day which gave us a touch of the summer.

Shearing during August will be in full swing. Toorak expect to start operations on the 9th August the contractors being Higgins and Braithwaite. Auckland downs will cut out during the present week and Werrina have completed their shearing. Wallacooloobie will cut out during the week. September is perhaps a busier month for shearing than August; last year a great number of September shorn sheep were shorn in August on account of the fly trouble.

A team of basket ball players left for Cloncurry on Sunday morning and returned early Monday morning tired but victorious. The match was keenly contested and a brilliant display by both teams resulted in a win for JC, the scores being 11 goals to 8. The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by the girls who are looking forward to further intertown competitions. The JC team consisted of Misses K Gerahty, G Young, O Gannon, M Kaeser, S Triffett, R Triffett, H Landers and L Gerahty (emergency)

**28 Aug 1937 (p95, NA, NQR)**

JC, 24 Aug – The Airlines of Australia mail plane brought two passengers to JC during the week. JC can now boast of a good landing ground in dry weather, but it would not be suitable for wet weather.

JC tennis players are busy at practice lately, probably getting ready for a return match with Richmond in the near future. The football and golf seasons are also in full swing.

The weather is all that can be desired at present for the outdoor sports, and our players, including the active basketball players, are taking full advantage of the good weather conditions. The basketball players, having been very active this year and have played several matches, they are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Plans for the local hospital have just come to hand and will have to be considered in the near future...

**4 Sep 1937 (p20, NA, NQR)**

JC, 30 Aug – Contractor Pollard building flats for Roy Hampton.

**9 Sep 1937 (NA, CA)**

Tommy Guest sold out, 3/2/1936, and went to work for Lance Lewis. Info from court case between T Guest and ?

**2 Oct 1937 (p65, NA, NQR)**

JC, 26 Sep – A fancy dress ball for children (children's debutante ball) and adults was held in Mr Eckford's Hall on Friday, the 24th instant when there was a good attendance and an enjoyable time was spent by both children and adults. Adults took the floor after 10 pm. Mr Doubleday acted as MC. Dainty refreshments were provided.

The JC School of Arts Library is now open every Friday night and already a few members have enrolled. It is the intention of the committee to try and popularise the reading of books from the library.

**6 Nov 1937 (p95, NA, NQR)**

JC, 4 Nov – The JC Woollscour Scour is still going strong and there is a fair amount of wool coming to hand which means work for scour hands and, in consequence, a help to our town. Work has been fairly slack of late, on account of the shearing season nearing a close and most of the fences having been repaired for the season. The electric light scheme for JC, when it starts, will relieve the situation a good deal.

**27 Nov 1937 (p61, NA, NQR)**

JC, 22 Nov – Mrs Hampton returned home last Sunday from Townsville where she had been spending a short holiday and also buying furniture for the furnishing of Mr Hampton's flats in JC which are being built near the JC Hotel and opposite the railway station.

We regret to announce that Mrs C Byrne is an inmate of a private hospital in Townsville. She is now progressing favourably after a serious operation. Rita, Greg, Joan and Stewart Byrne have also been in the hospital but are now convalescent and are having a short holiday in Townsville. It is a case of it never rains but it pours. The Byrne family have had more than their share of sickness.

**11 Dec 1937 (p71, NA, NQR)**

JC, 6 Dec – Fred Peut, who is an employee of Sallen's [Samuel Allen] store, JC, went away by plane on Sunday, the 28th ult. He was operated on in Cloncurry a few days ago for appendicitis and is progressing favourably. We sincerely trust that he has a speedy recovery and soon regains his former health.

WA Mathews returned home from Townsville on Sunday morning. He came as far as Hughenden by car and thence by train as the weather looked too threatening to continue the trip further by car.

Sundry improvements are being effected at Mr Eckford's picture show, JC, Contractor Dillon being in charge, whilst Contractor Pollard has contract work to do for Samuel Allen's store and has the contract for the Roman Catholic Presbytery, so he will be kept going for some time to come. Mr Hampton is

contemplating further buildings in Coyne Street, and Mr V Faithfull is having repairs effected to his residence in Burke St.

The party telephone lines around the district have been giving a lot of trouble lately and efforts are being made to see if something cannot be done in the matter as it is a constant source of annoyance and often when the phone is wanted there is something amiss and one cannot get urgent messages through. We understand that the Department is sending an officer up from Townsville to see if anything can be done in the matter.

**18 Dec 1937 (p66, NA, NQR)**

JC, 12 Dec – During the last weekend, 4th December, the children had a preliminary picnic after their successful concert of the Friday night. Watermelons were the order of the day, assisted by soft drinks.

The real picnic, however, was held on the 10th instant when justice was done to all the good things provided such as cakes, sandwiches, watermelons, fruit, ice creams, etc. The picnic will be long remembered as a wonderful effort on the part of the organisers who spared no pains to make it a day of days for the children of JC. Every credit is due to those who successfully carried out all the functions.

Mr Braggs, relieving schoolmaster at JC, and his able band are to be congratulated on his achievement. His concert was good but the children voted the picnic as better.

WA Mathews has completed shearing operations at Lindfield Station and the Flinders Shearing Co have completed shearing at Flers and go from there to Fairview to commence shearing there.

Tuesday, the 7th December, being a very hot day, a swimming party was organised to go to the Eddington Waterhole. It took a lot of organising to get the party together but when they got going they felt the beautiful breeze in the lorry and cars as they speeded along to the swimming pool and felt it more so when they got into the water. It was a cooling down after a frightfully hot day. Games were indulged in till it was time to return home.

**25 Dec 1937 (p34, NA, NQR)**

JC, 20 Dec – The school children are now on holidays and they are making the best use of the freedom from school work. Some are going to the seaside with their parents, about Christmas time, while others are spending their holidays at home.

The head teacher and the teaching staff left last week end for CT and the seaside where they are spending their holidays which will refresh them for further efforts in the new year, when they resume duties. They certainly escape some of the Western hot season.

**8 Jan 1938 (380108, CA)**

On the morning of the 1st instant a fire occurred at the residence of the Stock Inspector (Mr Seamer) at JC. Mr and Mrs Seamer who were sleeping on the verandah were awaked by the flames sweeping through the windows over their beds. Mr Seamer entered the burning building in an endeavour to save some official papers and in doing so was severely burned. He drove in his car, the only thing saved, to the local nursing home where the sisters dressed his burns and decided that it would be necessary to bring him to Cloncurry. The services of Mr J McAlister were requisitioned and Mr and Mrs Seamer were brought with all speed to the hospital. Mrs Seamer suffering from shock. A Sister from the nursing home at JC also made the trip in order to give constant attention to the injured man. Mr Seamer is at present improving.

**8 Jan 1938 (p46, 380108, NQR)**

JC – Soon we will be breaking into 1938 and we trust that it will bring with it good luck, good seasons and prosperity and good health to all. For those out in the Far West 1937 was a great improvement on 1936 and let us hope that 1938 shows further improvement.

Among the visitors to town during the week we observed the following: Mary Fairbairn, Mesdames Wall, Hennessey (Rosevale), Ball (Rockvale), Arden, Jensen.

**15 Jan 1938 (p66, NA, NQR)**

JC, 10 Jan – We regret to announce that the Stock Inspector's residence was destroyed on New Year's

day with all its contents with the exception of a few small articles; the car was saved but in getting this out Mr Seymour was badly burnt and had to be taken to Cloncurry. He is still seriously ill and Mrs Seymour is suffering from shock. We trust that they soon regain their good health. To lose your all is very bad but to lose your health is far worse and let us hope that neither Mr or Mrs Seymour are affected in health in any way.

After the fire Mr and Mrs Seymour were driven to Cloncurry to seek medical aid. Numbers of people came to their aid at the time of the fire but little could be done as the fire got a quick hold and starting at an early hour of the morning had the advantage of being well on its way before being noticed. The contents were insured but not to an extent to compensate the owners for their loss.

During the week several swimming parties were organised in the afternoons to visit the Eddington waterhole, where a swim was indulged in, and after a short stay the journey was made back to town in the cool of the evening and the members of the party felt much refreshed after their outing.

### **15 Jan 1938 (p72, NQ643, NQR)**

#### **Transport of Goats**

Mr Archie H Morrison of Marouan, Oorindi, has been breeding Saanen goats since 1922. He has imported the best blood and has worked up a big connection. Recently he loaded 46 goats on a motor truck and transported them to clients, some of the goats being taken as far as Sydney. It was a long trip running into 3761 miles there and back. The goats travelled splendidly and were delivered in sound shape and in good condition.

### **22 Jan 1938 (p53, NA, NQR)**

JC, 15 Jan – Contractor Pollard has completed additions to Sallen's [Samuel Allen] store in JC which has made a great difference to this store and makes it look up to date and must be a big improvement for the working staff. Contractor Pollard is busy on other buildings and improvements in JC and is completing a building for Mr R Hampton whose buildings lately go to show that he has faith in JC and the West.

Stock sales have been very quiet of late and there is nothing to report. There have been a few enquiries for young sheep but those who have sheep are inclined to hold on to them as they took some getting and would be hard to replace if they sold; in any case the average person in this district is very much understocked.

There has been a keen enquiry for agistment country but there is little to offer as the rain has been so patchy and those that have a little green feed are anxious to hold on to same in case the season does not break well and so give us a lean time.

### **29 Jan 1938 (p69, NA, NQR)**

JC, 24 Jan – Swimming parties have been organised every other day this week to go to Eddington waterhole, which is a popular place during these hot days for cooling off and a cool drive home in the evening is very refreshing.

The JC woolscour commenced operations on Monday last and will have a run for about six weeks unless further wool comes in to be scoured which will increase the run. This will help to brighten things up for the town.

Miss Olive Gannon left by last Monday night's train for a tour to New Zealand. She expects to be away a few weeks and will be back in time for the Eastern tennis fixtures to be held in Hughenden at Easter.

We are pleased to advise that Mr Seymore, Stock Inspector, JC, who was recently seriously burnt when his house in JC caught on fire, is progressing favourably and is now considered out of danger. For some time his condition was looked upon as serious and we are pleased to hear that he is now progressing towards recovery.

Cabanda sheep which were agisting on Kamarooka, are returning home in charge of Drover Fickling.

Roderic Browne was also a passenger on last Monday night's train and is journeying to Sydney.

**5 Mar 1938 (p64, NA, NQR)**

JC, 28 Feb – For a week there has been remarkably cool weather for this time of the year. During February, extreme heat is expected and this cool change has been very acceptable. The country is looking wonderful with abundance of green grass. It is rather hard to account for the shortage of grasshoppers, they being mostly thick after rain, but we have none at present and trust it may continue so. Insect pests of numerous kinds are also noticeable by their absence.

Building operations are again in progress now that the weather has taken up. Work is rapidly going ahead with the Roman Catholic Presbytery and should be completed in the near future. Additions are also being made by Mr Peter Dawes, an extension on the side of his main building, and it is nearing completion.

The people of JC are at present fortunate in having a swimming pool adjacent to the town. The rain having flooded the creek has made this possible and may people take the opportunity of bathing there. Unfortunately, this resort is only temporary and is dependent on further floods.

**2 Apr 1938 (p59, NA, NQR)**

JC, 28 Mar – Stock movements are very quiet but a few drovers are getting ready to proceed out to the cattle country to bring in mobs to JC and perhaps then taking them South.

Mr Reg Fickling and his son, Herb Fickling, expect to be leaving for the Gulf shortly to lift two mobs of cattle for JC.

**9 Apr 1938 (p54, NA, NQR)**

JC, 4 Apr – The grasshoppers have paid us a visit and are doing a lot of damage to the herbage and young grass. It is to be hoped that their visitation will not last long as we are not well off for a big body of feed this year and even if we were, grasshoppers are never welcome.

The little flies are very troublesome and do a lot of damage to the horses. The blowfly is not as bad as usual.

The weekly plane service from Townsville to Mt Isa is a great boon to all Westerners and one can get to the coast very quickly if occasion arises.

**16 Apr 1938 (p33, NA, NQR)**

JC, Apr 8 – During the week we had a visit from the dentist and quite a number of country people came to town to get their wants attended to. The townspeople also availed themselves of the opportunity to get their teeth attended to if required.

**23 Apr 1938 (p76, NA, NQR)**

JC, Apr 18 – Both tennis courts are kept going early in the morning and again in the afternoon soon almost every week day which speaks of the keenness displayed by the tennis players. In the morning there is hardly light enough to see before they are on the courts. the courts are now in fairly good order.

**21 May 1938 (p65, NA, NQR)**

JC, May 16 – The football match between JC and Oorindi played at JC on Sunday resulted in a win for JC by 8 points to nil. It is to be hoped that this match will liven up football in JC and will be the forerunner of many more matches in the future. A social was held at night in the JC School of Arts after which the visitors returned home.

Mrs Hickman returned home on the 15th inst after spending an extended holiday of five months in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra.

We are pleased to report that Miss B Downey is progressing favourably after her operation for tonsillitis in Townsville Hospital. She has returned to her home in JC.

Stock movements consist mostly of sheep going to agistment country from other parts of the West. A few stock sales of cattle are pending and the inquiry for store and fat bullocks is still keen. A few lines of sheep have changed hands. a line of young sheep from Dagworth Station were sold to a JC buyer which

means more sheep for our district.

**28 May 1938 (p63, NA, NQR)**

JC, 23 May – Now that the grasshopper pest has gone we note that several people are attempting to have gardens and to produce vegetables such as lettuce, tomatoes, etc. The hedges in town which suffered from the ravages of the grasshopper pest have come on a little during the past few weeks and efforts are being made to improve them. The grasshoppers make it very disappointing to persons who want to have gardens and to beautify their homes.

**4 Jun 1938 (p60, 380604, NQR)**

JC, May 31 – News of rain during the week first on the downs and places adjacent then fair falls in the Central West around Longreach, Blackall and Tambo made us consider that it may be coming our way but so far there is no sign of rain although the weather has been on the arm side during the day but taking it all round has been very pleasant. As usual we are not looking forward to light rain which really frightens the grazier in this area as it would only blacken the grass and light feed. The weather over the week has been clear with now and then a few clouds on the horizon and lightning has been observed at night time in the East.

**11 Jun 1938 (p66, 380611, NQR)**

JC, 3 Jun – During the week the goats were rounded up and registered, those not having owners were either sold or destroyed. With the Sanaan strain introduced to the Julia Creek herd of goats the quality has improved considerably of recent years. Having a good milkman in JC we are now now so dependant on goats as formerly.

The Super Shell pump at Hickman and Company's office having sprung a leak was taken down during the week and replaced by a new one from Townsville. The new pump was laid in sand to prevent a repetition of the trouble of the tank being eaten away by the soil by the action known as soil stress which is peculiar to the soil in JC. During the week the Shell representative, Mr Alexander paid us a visit and was accompanied by a representative from Townsville.

**18 Jun 1938 (p61, 380618, NQR)**

JC – The C of E Cabaret which is a big even of the year and attracts many visitors from the country and adjoining towns was held in Mr Eckford's Hall on Friday night, June 10. The hall was well decorated and lighted for the occasion and the items which were well prepared went off with a good swing and without a hitch. Great credit is due to Mrs Peterson for her untiring efforts with the itema and for her excellent work with the costumes. The music and refreshments were all that could be desired and those attending had a very enjoyable time. Dancing was indulged in till the early hours of the morning. The attendance was very satisfactory and will greatly assist the funds of the Ladies Entertainment committee who will put the money to good use.

**2 Jul 1938 (p42, NA, NQR)**

JC, 27 Jun – The JC Tennis Club completed their tournament over the last weekend which had commenced on June 18. It was a most interesting tournament and gave everyone an opportunity of plenty of play, being a secret handicap, where every pair met every pair and so gave all a lot of varied practice.

The JC Basketball team paid a visit to Richmond for the weekend to try conclusions with that town. They had a very pleasant try and time in Richmond and the match resulted in a draw which showed the evenness of both sides. The basketball team returned home on Sunday night.

The JC footballers also paid a visit to Richmond during the weekend to pay a return visit to that town and they also spent a pleasant time in Richmond. The match was won by Richmond by 14 points to 5. The footballers returned to JC on Sunday night.

The golf tournament played on the weekend of the 18th and 19th resulted in a tie between Messrs J Miners and H Kent which was played off on the 25th instant and resulted in a win by a narrow margin by Mr J Miners who is to be congratulated on his win after a hard struggle. The Golf Club are having a good and keen season and the course is often used during the week as well as at the weekend.

**9 Jul 1938 (p37, 380709, NQR)**

JC – The Project Club held its annual meeting on Monday. This club is under the supervision of Mr AR Cann head teacher, JC State School. Mr AG Aitchison, Chief Project Club Organiser was in attendance also a number of townspeople who were surprised at the progress made by the children in their work. The homes of the poultry section were inspected in the morning there were nine home members and the highest marks were awarded to Ann Brabazon with 83.5 marks, Harold Walters came second with 79.5 marks; Norman Whiting received 78.5; Valerie Ahern 77.5, Eric Blanch 70, Noel Peut 69, and Gloria McCarthy 69.

During the afternoon a meeting conducted by the children with Harold Walters as chairman was held in the School room and this was well attended by both children and grown ups. Every praise is due to those responsible for the splendid work of the Project Club which will serve to give the children experience in later life and the work already accomplished is commendable.

### **16 Jul 1938 (p72, NA, NQR)**

JC, 11 Jul – The Hospital Board held its monthly meeting on the 9th instant when there was a fair attendance of Board members. After the formal business was dealt with members of the Board visited the Hospital site and to arrange for the position of the Hospital building which is to be started on in the next few days by Contractor Acton, of Richmond, whose tender was accepted, being the lowest tender.

The Hospital at JC will be an accomplished fact at last and those who have worked so hard at the Hospital business, often under very adverse conditions, are to be congratulated.

### **27 Aug 1938 (p64, NA, NQR)**

JC, 27 Aug – The JC Hospital is at last showing shape in the form of a building and Contractor Acton is losing no time with the work which will take a long time to complete. We are naturally proud of this building which is a mark of progress and reflects great credit on those who worked so hard to achieve their ends. It has taken a long time to get a hospital but will be well worth the work put in to get same. The Chairman of the McKinlay Hospital Board, Mr E Doubleday looks on the building with pride and is watching its progress from time to time. He among others has worked tirelessly in the efforts to get the hospital an established fact.

Drover Fickling is bringing a mob of Millungera speyed cows to be trucked at JC in the comign week. Drover tierney's plant has just delivered a small mob of sheep on to agistment at Glenberbie account Mr Grecean of Glengall, Maxwelllton. Mt Grecean has a large number of stock on agistment in our district and we wish him luck with his adventures.

### **3 Sep 1938 (69, 380903, NQR)**

JC, Aug 29 – During the week the weather has been at times on the cool side. towards the end of the week it warmed up a little. The minimum temperature for the day, ended 9 am Friday was 46 and the maximum 82 degrees. We now have in our midst a thermometer which registers maximum and minimum temperatures and a record is kept which can be secured at any time. This is often a great help to residents as the temperature varies so much. The nights have been for the most part very cold but no doubt we will be soon getting warmer weather as the summer approaches.

The JC Hospital is progressing very favourably and is beginning to look more like a hospital every day. We are looking forward to its completion which will be about January or February 1939.

### **1 Oct 1938 (381001, CA)**

#### **Hickman and Co**

Live Stock and General Agents

JC

Agencys: Dodge car and trucks

Plymouth Cars and trucks

electrolux refrigerators

Blowfly Oils

Quotes given for all Station Requisites

### **5 Nov 1938 (20, 381105, NQR)**

JC – The first annual fancy dress ball of the children of the JC State School was held in Eckford's Hall and proved a huge success. There were 90 children in fancy costumes and the judges, Mr and Mrs HH

Osborne, and Mr and Mrs SU Browne, had a most difficult task in selecting the winners. The winning entrants were: best set 'Fleet is in Port Again' comprised V blanch, Q Chilcott, A fickling, B Fickling, G Byrne, M Chilcott, P Faithfull, B Morrissey. Second Prize: 'Night in vienna' comprised C Harris, C Fickling, K Peut, A Eckford, G Lavarack, S Norton, D Wilder, N Chilcott. Best dressed girl over 10: 'Katherine the Great', Shiela Sheridan. Best dressed boy over 10: 'Venetian Dancer' Harold Walters ...

### **3 Dec 1938 (S1, NA, NQR)**

Poem – The Past revived [see Poems]

### **17 Dec 1938 (p36, 381217, NQR)**

JC, The putting down of pipes at Gilliat township for the water supply of that town is progressing very favourably and it will not be long before the reticulation service is completed which will be a relief to the residents of Gilliat and district. There is a good supply of water from the new bore put down by Contractor James.

JC township expects to shortly have some main roads work started from the railway down Julia St to the end of the street, thence down Byrne Street and on to the Dalgonally road. This will, it is expected, provide some work for the unemployed of JC for a few weeks as it is fairly quiet this time of the year.

JC had a bad fire on November 27 when the residence of Mr Walters situated in Mathews street near the Church of England was destroyed in a short space of time and it looked as if the residence of the north side of the house would also be enveloped in flames and so endanger further buildings, but a change in the wind brought great relief and so spared one or even two more buildings being burnt. There was a great number of assistants at the fire but the flames could not be subdued.

The local wool scour has closed down for a few weeks and expects to then start up again, unless of course more wool comes in when they will at once put the machines into action.

### **24 Dec 1938 (p75, NQ644, NQR)**

Hitler Doomed, Will Fall

Next Year

Says Horoscope Reader

Upheaval In Central Europe But No War.

(From a Special Correspondent. By Air Mail)

London, 3 Dec – Next year will see the eclipse of Hitler according to a leading horoscope reader who prophesied the abdication of King Edward VIII and the succession of King George VI. The prophet is the Hon Ralph Shirley, a former editor of the old quarterly review known as 'The Horoscope.'

In the third issue of his paper, 26 years ago, was published the horoscope of Prince Albert, then a child, now King. It was stated that "the boy will be extraordinarily lucky and will reach in due time the higher sphere than that to which he was born."

Forecasting the doom of Hitler he declared this week: "Hitler will, I am convinced, be right out of the picture after next summer. Then the outlook will be brighter. Watch the summer round about August in connection with Hitler. I think there is some upheaval coming in Central Europe. We may have serious cause for anxiety, before then.

"But I do not believe in any repetition of the Great War, but menace of war I daresay and fighting in Europe and popular riots."

### **31 Dec 1938 (p58, 381231, NQR)**

JC – The wedding of Miss Kathleen Gerahty, daughter of Mr and the late Mrs Gerahty, JC, and Mr Stanley of JC, took place in the C of E, JC on Monday the 19th December, the Rev Brother Russell officiating. The happy couple left by Monday night's train for the south and Tasmania where the honeymoon will be spent. We wish the happy couple every success in their future life.

Contractor Mathews is busy operating on the Lyrain flock and expects to cut out in a few days time. Other contractors are having a quiet time at present.



**28 Jan 1939 (p24, NA, NQR)**

JC – Some minor improvements are going on in the town. Mr Hampton is effecting some repairs to his home and is getting a verandah on the Eastern side which should make it much cooler. He is also getting louvres on the front of the house. Several houses are being painted in the town which is a good sign of things being kept in order and an interest taken in the town buildings.

The work on the streets in JC being Main Roads work, is progressing favourably and several men are engaged on this work and the work will last for some time which will be a help to JC.

Several persons left by train during the past two weeks for Townsville and Brisbane. No doubt the heat that we have been having has been responsible for them seeking cooler climates. We saw in the paper where Thargomindah for 18 days had registered over 100°. We can go a long way ahead of that as since October 10th to the January 14th we have registered over 100° a day except for one day on January 12, 1939. These records are taken daily in a building in the main street of JC which keeps a maximum record and same are available for inspection. The highest registrations are 122 and 120, both good scores.

**11 Feb 1939 (P69, NA, CA)**

JC, Feb 6 – The Council have again started work on the bitumen road from the Railway Station in JC running down Julia Street thence in a westerly direction. Work was held up for a short while on account of the roller coming to hand. This arrived a few days ago and operations are now in full swing.

**25 Mar 1939 (P?, NA, CA)**

JC – The next dance will be held on Friday 24th in the School of Arts. Arty Smith's orchestra will again play the music.

The first Ball of the season will be the Masonic Ball which will take place shortly.

Mr Eckford is considering building an open air theatre alongside the present theatre as the hall then can be used entirely for dances and the floor will not be spoilt. This should be an asset in the hot weather as the present theatre is very hot in summer.

Mr Lord was also in town during the weekend.

Mr and Mrs Thomas and Miss Thomas of Nelia were in town and attended the pictures on Wednesday night.

**1 Apr 1939 (p? NA, CA)**

JC – On Monday night a meeting of the storekeepers of JC was called. It was held in the private residence of Mr P Dawes. The object of the meeting was to come to some satisfactory arrangement concerning shopping on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The storekeepers have found that most country people come in on Saturday afternoon to get their supplies and to go to the pictures afterwards. Also mail orders come on Sunday and must be delivered then.

The outcome of the meeting was that the motion would be put to the council for Saturday afternoon and one hour on Sunday morning, the corresponding time being taken off during the week.

The weather here at present is very mild the maximum ranging from 80 to 90 and the minimum from 70 to 80.

The flies and insects are very bad as usual after rain.

We have had some good showers in the last week, one shower giving 220 points. This brings the total since January up to about 9 inches.

**15 Apr 1939 (390415, CA)**

Mr M Sills who sometime ago was taken to richmond hospital is reported to be in a very serious condition. Mr H Benson states he is suspected of having typhoid and pneumonia. On Tuesday night he was not expected to see the night through but he rallied though he is still in a critical condition.

[Mr Lucas to hospital]

Miss J Campbell, who is the sister of Mrs A Campbell of JC, became ill and Dr Jean White flew to town and diagnosed her case as typhoid. She was taken to the station and placed on the train and conveyed to the Richmond Hospital where she is now progressing satisfactorily.

Owing to the cases of typhoid many of the residents of the town and district have been inoculated by the bush nurse. Those who came in contact with the persons affected have been isolated until infection was rendered inactive. Mr Cameron's store was closed for 10 days as a result.

## **22 Apr 1939 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC – Drover Tierney is taking a line of 10,000 ewes from Rosevale to Byrimine Station on account of Mr R Magoffin. Drover B Hansford is taking about 4500 sheep from Rosevale to Tonkaru, account R Magoffin, of Rosevale Station. Drover H Fickling is taking a line of sheep from Tarbrax to McKinlay and R Fickling Snr is expecting to make a long trip with a line of cattle from Cloncurry District.

M Sills is seriously ill with typhoid and pneumonia in the Richmond Hospital and we trust that he will soon be reported as well on the mend but at the present time he is causing his parents and relatives much anxiety as regards his health.

A great number of persons in JC are availing themselves of the inoculation against typhoid which is being carried out by the bush nurse in JC under instructions from the Shire Council. The cost is borne by the Shire council and people are well advised to consider the inoculation as prevention is better than cure.

## **6 May 1939 (p58, NA, NQR)**

JC, 27 Apr – The clearing up of the weather for the week ending the 23rd April came as a welcome relief to shearing contractors as every few days we had showers that did harm to the dry feed but did a little good where the feed was green. There were isolated heavy falls over small areas one of these was on Bodell JC which had about 250 points but this did not go far from Bodell. A mob of sheep travelling through and camped on Bodell the night of the heavy storm had a very bad time and suffered losses. The weather has been much cooler for the week under review the nights and mornings being quite cold.

For the week ending the 30th April the weather was much warmer at the commencement of the week than the previous week and rain again developed. The weather is seasonable and pleasant as it always is at this time of the year.

We regret to report the death of James Edwards during the week. He was accidentally drowned at the crossing known as the Punch Bowl in the Flinders River, about 28 miles from JC. He was in charge of a mob of cattle from Esmerelda on account of Mr JW Fletcher. The cattle had already crossed the flooded river and James Edwards (known as Boy Edwards) went to cross over the made-crossing at the road and was swept away.

Deceased was well-known in our town, his father, Wm Edwards, is a well-known drover and resided in JC with his family for many years until the family went to Townsville to reside. Mrs Edwards is living in Townsville.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, family relatives and many friends. The body of deceased was found on the 23rd April and the burial took place in JC on the 24th April. The funeral was well attended by his many relatives and friends.

All the drovers of the district are having a busy time taking sheep to agistment or travelling sale sheep to their new homes. The Stock Routes are in fair order only, being lightly grassed in places and in other places in fair order. Between McKinlay and Cloncurry the route is in good order but near JC and towards Kynuna and near Gilliat it is only lightly grassed but stock can get along all right for the time being.

Golf has been quiet in JC of late but no doubt a start will be soon made in this popular sport. Tennis enthusiasts are numerous and this popular sport is always kept going in JC and on Saturday and Sunday the tennis courts are well occupied.

A number of people in JC are availing themselves of the inoculation against typhoid which is done by the bush nurse at JC under instructions from the McKinlay Shire council. Over 150 persons have already received treatment and more serum has been procured from Townsville.

### **3 Jun 1939 (75, 390603, NQR)**

JC, 29 May – The Sunday School children of the Presbyterian Church gave a pre birthday party to Sister Barefield bush nurse, JC, who will be soon leaving JC for Brisbane. Mr FA Hickman on behalf of the children and party presented Sister Barefield with a travelling rug and in a few well chosen words spoke of the good work done by Sister Barefield in JC and how she was loved by the children. The Rev Mr Lang, Presbyterian Minister from Cloncurry spoke of the good religious work done by Sister and stated that our loss would be someone else's gain. After the presentation afternoon tea and refreshments were served at Mrs Baxter's home. A sumptuous cake made and donated by Mrs Telano was very much enjoyed by all, also the ice creams which came after a lot of other good things had been handed round. The pleasant afternoon proceedings terminated with a treasure hunt for the boys and girls. This caused a lot of excitement and a real hunt to find the articles which were well hidden.

On May 26, Colonel Hoade and Captain Tansing held a meeting in the School of Arts, JC, to ascertain if sufficient recruits would be forthcoming to form part of a battalion to be drawn from Longreach, Winton, Hughenden, Richmond, JC and adjoining districts which could be trained at above centres. The response at JC was very good and the meeting was attended by 25 persons and prior to this meeting, Mr SU Browne of Garomna drove Colonel Hoade and Captain Tansing to the JC woolscour where they addressed a meeting. The cooperation of the employers is most essential and was forthcoming in the majority of cases. The men will be required for Home Defence only.

Councillor JJ O'Sullivan presided at the meeting held in the School of Arts and apologised for the absence of the Deputy Chairman (Mr Doubleday) who could not get in till the afternoon. Councillor O'Sullivan explained that the Council would give every assistance to their men who were joining up and he also explained that the JC branch of the Graziers Association would do all that they could to assist the movement. After the meeting in the School of Arts, a number of men joined up and the response in JC was very satisfactory. Colonel Hoade and Captain Tansing left by Friday's train for Cloncurry to carry out further work.

### **17 Jun 1939 (p75, NA, NQR)**

JC, 13 Jun – Several of the townspeople and a few country people assembled at the Blue Bird cafe to bid farewell to Sergeant Miners who has been with us for the past few years. He has been transferred to Roma St branch and we trust that he enjoys the best of health in his new sphere. Mr Miners has been a keen supporter of golf in our town and will be missed by the Golf Club and other sporting bodies. He intends leaving JC on the 12th instant to take up his new duties.

Matron A Benz newly appointed matron of the JC Hospital and the sister in charge for the new hospital are now duly installed in JC and they are getting to know people and the district. It is to be hoped that ere long we will have the furniture and light in order that they can take up their abode and duties in the new hospital; in the meantime they are taking up the work that was carried on by the Bush Nursing Association in JC. Sister Bearfield, our bush nurse, left here about 10 days ago for Brisbane.

### **30 Jun 1939 (p? NQ678, CA)**

Hickman & Co

LIVESTOCK AND GENERAL AGENTS

JC

Agencies:

Dodge Cars and Trucks

Plymouth Cars and Trucks

Electrolux refrigerators

Blowfly oils

Quotes given for all station requisites

### **30 Jun 1939 (p? NQ679, CA)**

AJ Smith ad

**1 Jul 1939 (p74, 390701, NQR)**

JC – At the second annual club day of JC Project Club, Master Harold Walters was in the chair. Mr RC Peut was present the donor of the handsome silver cup. The competition resulted: 1. Ann Brabazon 91.5 marks (cup winner); 2. Harold Walters 84; 3. Billie Kupfer 82.5. Boys woodwork: Albie Wilder; Best Cake: Cynthia Fickling; Bst fancy work: Cynthia Fickling; Large Map of Australia: 1. Ann Brabazon, 2 Elma Guest ...

**15 Jul 1939 (p23, 390715, NQR)**

JC – The Main Roads contract in Julia Street and then down Byrne Street has just been completed and is an asset to the town and district. The Shire plants are at work on roads in the district.

Advice has been received that Master Harold Walters, chairman of the JC State School Project Club has been invited to attend the Brisbane Show Camp as a guest of the Royal National Show Committee. This honor is extended to club members of outstanding ability. As 25 members only are selected throughout Qld, Master Walters is to be congratulated. The JC Project Club has been in operation for about 18 months and has made good progress.

**29 Jul 1939 (p75, NQ645, NQR)**

Woolscour ad

**2 Sep 1939 (p74, 390902, NQR)**

JC – The McKinlay shire Council are holding their meeting on August 31, also one is being held on the previous day. The budget for the following year will be considered. Let us hope that there is a reduction in rates to cope with the bad times through which we are passing.

The contingent of soldier boys to camp in Twonsville for about 10 days made several business places short handed for the time being but it will not belong before they return; at least let us hope so.

A pre wedding tea was held at Mrs Brabazon's residence on August 25, Mesdames Browne, Clarke and Brabazon acting as hostesses in honour of Miss Margaret Mitchell of Carrum JC, who will be married in September to Mr Netterfield of Hamilton downs, Maxwellton. Those present included Mesdames Brabazon, Clarke, Browne, Fairbairn, Mathews, O'Neil, Wharton and Hickman. Many nice and useful gifts were received by Miss Mitchell and many dainties were served out for afternoon tea which was appreciated by all.

**15 Sep 1939 (390915, CA)****Summons Court**

JC, Sep 13 – In the Summons court at JC before JH Moore, Exq, PM, William George Gannon, Licensed Victualler, JC, pleaded guilty to furnishing a false income tax return for the year ended 30th June 1938.

Mr Philp, Prosecutor, stated that the return for the year in question was prepared by the defendant from records kept by himself. This disclosed a net income from personal exertion of £1126 and from property £149, total £1275.

As a result of an investigation, it was found that defendant's income for the year amounted to Personal exertion, £3071, and from Property £138, total £3209. The tax assessed on the figures submitted in the return was £114/4/4 but the defendant should have paid £516/12/7. The return understated sales amounting to £3559 and deductions to the extent of £1625.

The Commissioner was of the opinion that the defendant must have been aware that the return furnished considerably understated the income earned particularly as there was evidence of an understatement of net income amounting to approximately £13,000 over a period of years.

Mr Faithful for the defendant, stated that defendant was not a book keeper and this had accounted for the understatement of income.

Mr Philp pressed for the maximum penalty. Defendant was fined £100 and ordered to pay 6/- costs of Court. It was further adjudged that the defendant pay to the Commissioner of Taxation the sum of

£600.

### **JC Wedding**

Seldom have we witnessed a more brilliant and decorous scene than that which met our eyes at St abigails Church, JC, on Sunday 10th September when Mr P Dawes son of Mr and Mrs Peter Dawes of Cloncurry was married to Miss Dadie Eckford, JC. The members of both families were present for the ceremony which was performed by the Rev Father Colleran, PP. Mr PR Dawes has been Treasurer of the Holy name Society for a number of years and Miss Kathleen Eckford has been President of the children of Mary Sodality since it was formed in the parish. Both groom and bridfe are ex students of Mount Carmel College and St Mary's Convent, CT.

The choir was in its full strength and Miss Faith Smith presided at the organ. The 'Kyrie' of the 'Missade Angelis' as well as other suitable hymns were beautifully rendered. Seldom have we seen a congregation, which was comprised of Catholics and non-Catholics, so deeply impressed and moved to silent prayer. The whole ceremony was a lovely outward expression of the people's inward faith in God and a realisation of the dignity of the sacrament of marriage.

Mr Don McInnis acted as best man and Mr Colin Dawes as groomsman. The flower girls, Misses Amelda Eckford and Hanna Evans, with the bridesmaids, Misses Edna and Coral Eckford in gorgeous frocks added great beauty to the scene. The church was artistically decorated for the occasion by Misses Coral Eckford and Faith Smith. Eucharist and tiger lilies with a background of fern were mainly featured. The bride carried a satin bound missal and mother of pearl rosary beads while the bridesmaids carried boquets of Eucharist lilies, white roses and fern. As the procession lead by the bride and bridegroom left the church after the ceremony they passed through a guard of honor formed by the members of he Children of Mary Sodality.

The wedding party was afterwards received at the home of Mr and Mrs Eckford when the wedding breakfast arranged by Mrs Evans was enjoyed by all. Rev Father Colleran presiding, proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom. He added words of warm congratulation to both families on the happy union. He spoke in glowing terms of the outstanding qualities of the bride and bridegroom. both were a credit to the community because of their practical belief in God and religion and they were true to the duties of their state. They had been particularly honored that morning by receiving the blessing of Pope Pious XI1 over the signature of The Cardinal Secretary of State at Rome.

Prior to their marriage the happy couple were recipients of many gifts and good wished from various sections of the community...

Mr and Mrs Dawes are now spending their honeymoon at Hayman Island.

### **16 Sep 1939 (p88, 390916, NQR)**

JC – JC township was roused to enthusiasm on Sunday morning by the return of the troops from their training in Townsville.

The marriage of two well-known residents of JC, Miss Edna [Dadie, not Edna] Eckford, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Eckford, JC, and Mr Peter Dawes, whose parents reside in Cloncurry, took place at the weekend. The bonds of Holy Matrimony were performed by the Rev Father Colleran. We wish the happy couple every success and happiness in their married life.

The boys who returned from Townsville after their training look fit and well and they all enjoyed their training in Townsville and are very keen in their work. JC is proud of them and their great effort and we know that all that is expected of them will be done.

Mr Mathews, newly appointed overseer and engineer for the McKinlay Shire Council, duly arrived here during the week and is busy getting operations in hand. He has plenty of work ahead of him, for his en to carry out. The council plants are at work throughout the shire one plant being engaged on the JC Cloncurry Road, between Gilliat and Oorindi siding.

The JC Hospital expects to be in full going order during the week. The lights will soon be in order and the furniture has arrived and is being installed.

The township had a quiet appearance whilst the boys were away on militia duty, but now that they have returned it will make a difference.

Contractor WA Mathews is in full swing at fort Constantine putting their sheep over the board. This is a big shed and will take some time to cut out. Prior to its purchase by Chaplain Bros it was a cattle property but it is now mostly used for sheep.

Contractor Peut is operating at Spreyton and Crendon and T Jessup has just completed shearing the Cairo sheep at Boorama Shed. The sheep are on agistment on an adjoining property. He expects to commence shortly at Homelands, JC.

### **30 Sep 1939 (p21, 390930, NQR)**

JC – The shearing contractors are having a busy time getting the fleece off the sheep before the hot weather sets in; a fair amount of wool is going to the scour whilst a lot is going away in the grease to market.

Drover Tierney is shifting a mob of sheep from Bannockburn to Lanark, for Messrs Glasson and Osborne. Drover H Fickling has just returned from a long trip and is having a few days spell in JC. Drover Reg Fickling who has been on the road for some months is still on the road and is not expected to return to JC for some time.

The JC branch of the Graziers Association held its meeting on the 23rd September and amongst the resolutions carried was the following: 'That we circularise our members re giving any black wool of other oddments of wool to the JC branch of the Red Cross and that the wool be left at the scour and when sufficient is in hand it to be pressed and sent away in the name of the Red Cross.'

A meeting of the Red Cross was held at the JC School of Arts on the 23rd September and there were present Mesdames Halloran, Sheridan, Mawhiney, Peut, Norton, Peut, Doyle, Hickman, Cann, Barlow, Brabazon, Barton, Browne, Clarke, Osborne, Graham, Chambers, O'Neil, Jaques, Taylor, Brennan, Jenkins, Eckford, Parsons, Stevenson, Taylor, Downey, Cameron, Kelly, Walters, Peterson, Crawford, Clifford, Misses Eckford, Mitchell, Burrows, Mackay, Mawhiney.

Mr Doubleday occupied the chair and explained the duties of the Red Cross which would have to be under the control of the Shire Council. Mr Parsons, Shire Clerk, outlined the duties to be performed, method of procedure, etc. The officers and committee were then elected and before the gentlemen visitors left the meeting, Mr SU Browne paid a tribute to the splendid roll up of women folk and said they were to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and felt sure that they would do excellent work.

A pre-wedding party for Miss Mitchell was held at Hilton Park on the 23rd September, the matrons of honour being Mesdames Mathews and Faithfull. During the afternoon a silver entree dish was presented to Miss Margaret Mitchell.

Several recruits have been training in JC during the past two Sundays and seeing the boys in khaki gives the town a military appearance. JC has shown its usual keenness in the number of its recruits for service.

Military Ball, the funds of which are to be used for Red Cross purposes, is to be held in Mr Eckford's Hall, on the sixth of October when a good attendance is expected. The dance is well advertised with posters and there will be good music and refreshments. The cause is such a worthy one that it does not need much advertising.

Drover Reg Fickling, who has been on the road for some months, is still on the roads, and is not expected to return to JC for some time.

### **14 Oct 1939 (p22, 391014, NQR)**

JC, 1 Oct – A wedding of great interest to town and country people took place at the C of E, JC, on September 25. The bride was Miss Margaret Campbell Mitchell, second daughter of Mr and Mrs CW Mitchell of Oriel Road, Ascot, Brisbane and the bridegroom was Mr Eric Netterfield of Hamilton Downs, Maxwelton. The Church was nicely decorated by Mrs J Carden Collins, of Bezuma, JC. Mr

Murray Knox, of Dimora, Maxwellton, officiated as best man. The reception was held at the home of Mr and Mrs Waldron-Taylor, JC woollscour.

The JC Hospital is now in full swing and has already had a number of patients to attend, the average so far being approximately five patients and no doubt this number will be increased when people get to know that the hospital is in good order and a going concern.

The streets of JC are getting very dusty on account of the hot weather and the continued dry time that is prevailing as a rule at this time of the year. The main road which runs along Julia St is a big improvement and keeps the dust down a little.

There is still a fair amount of wool coming to trucks at JC which keeps carriers busy together with the loads of lucerne hay and chaff going out to various stations for feeding horses, rams and in isolated cases, sheep. The goats make best of the time whilst the feed remains on trucks or on the lorry. By getting the scraps that drop off they benefit by these windfalls. What would a Western town be without the goats? They endure hardships which are typical of the west and live where other animals would die.

Mr Jack Hickey an old identity of JC had the misfortune to break his thigh in JC and is at present an inmate of the local hospital. Mr M Byrne is an inmate of the local hospital and is getting along as well as can be expected after his operation. Mr G Jaques, JC, is an inmate of the local hospital suffering from burns from an engine explosion.

Every Sunday sees recruits training at the local sports ground which shows the keen enthusiasm and the desire to get fit should they be required at any time. The Military Ball held on October 6 in Mr Eckford's Hall was a great success. The town and country people turned up well to a good cause that is funds for the Red Cross, JC branch. There good music and good refreshments and everything went with a good swing until the small hours of the morning when all...

### **21 Oct 1939 (p56, NQ646, NQR)**

Ad for Charcoal Gas

The Minister for Defence has notified the public that plans have been made for the substitution in "an emergency" of Charcoal Gas units on Military Transport equipment in Australia.

Why Wait For This Emergency? Any handy man can now make his own efficient gas plan to operate Tractors, Trucks, Cars or any kind of spark plug stationary engine – from the crude oil drum type to the latest design.

A good gas plant can be made out of odds and ends for a few shillings so simple is the principle. Our set of easily understood drawings and complete instructions, which cost £1 shows you how to do the job in a practical way and the engine is not altered. You can drive on petrol or charcoal at will and SAVE 90% in fuel costs. Send now.

F Maher

17 O'Connell St, Sydney

### **25 Nov 1939 (p36, 391125, NQR)**

JC, 20 Nov – For the week ending November 13 we had very pleasant weather for this time of the year. It was quite cold at times in the morning and the nights were at times on the chilly side, being unusual for this time of the year. The following week was much hotter with signs of storms at times which will be very welcome to this district as we are badly in need of rain to bring on the green shoot which we have in places in the district.

The swimming baths at JC are well patronised during the week and also at weekends and they fill a long felt want. It is somewhere to cool off in the hot weather and good exercise in the mornings, especially in summer. In the winter the baths will no doubt have a lean time.

Tennis has been fairly quiet of late, no doubt partly on account of several of the players being away doing military duty, and of course the warmer weather always has a tendency for the easing off of sport generally.

**9 Dec 1939 (p93, 391209, NQR)**

JC – The scour is at present closed down but expects to be starting up again in a few days time when they should have a fair run. Mr Waldron Taylor manager of the local works, has just returned from a holiday to Townsville and good news came to the scour today of the record price of 34.5d being paid for six bales of scoured wool sold on account of JH Mathews, Hilton park, JC. We offer congratulations to Mr Mathews for this good price and he deserves all the good price he can get for his untiring efforts through adversity to keep going as he has done.

The Amalgamated Builders are nearing completion of the building of Mrs Wilkins in Burke St and Mrs Wilkins is to be congratulated on her enterprise and launching out and shows that she has faith in our town and industry and we wish her every success in her new building.

Messrs Harris Bros are erecting a new cafe in the main street of JC and have taken over what used to be Mr Hampton's Billiard saloon with the adjoining shop next door, which they intend to improve and almost make into a new building. Messrs Harris Bros are at present established in a cafe in Goldring St, JC.

Tennis in JC has been fairly quiet of late, no doubt on account of the great heat which we have been experiencing. The tennis cups won at the recent JC championships were presented to the various winners on the 4th December. Mr FA Hickman, Secretary of the local tennis Club, secured the trophies whilst he was in Brisbane and he and the captain, Mr Jenkins, made the presentations and congratulated the winners on their efforts.

The JC swimming pool is very popular during the hot weather which we have been having, and a number of enthusiasts are to be seen at the pool every morning which develops into a big crowd on Sunday afternoons.

Mr and Mrs Gannon and family left by train on Sunday, 3rd December, for a holiday in Brisbane and Sydney. They expect to be away a few weeks. No doubt a good few will shortly be following the example of either going south or to the seaside to enjoy the cool breezes.

A children's picnic organised by the Presbyterian Women's Guild, JC, was held at Eddington Waterhole on 11th November. Swimming was indulged in, also fishing. Each child received a gift at the picnic besides ice cream, lollies, soft drinks and other good eats which were served out generously. The party was a most enjoyable one and after dusk they all returned home to JC after having had a very enjoyable time.

The McKinlay Shire Council plant is at work on the footpaths in Julia Street and will shortly be doing further work on the footpaths in Burke St. Some of the men are out of town on road work.

**16 Dec 1939 (S5, NA, NQR)**

JC photos, not copied: PO, Shire Office, School, Courthouse, Pool, Turkey's nest, Hospital, scour

**23 Dec 1939 (p39, 391223, NQR)**

JC, 17 Dec – Building in JC has been very active of late and the new improvements make the town look much brighter. Mr Roy Hampton is now established in his new billiard saloon in Julia St while Mrs Wilkins is established in her new building in the main street of JC, it is a very nice building and is a big improvement to the main street of our town. Other improvements are in progress and the carpenters are kept busy.

The Council plant has been cementing some of the footpaths in the main street of JC also some of the footpaths in Julia street, one place being in front of Mr R Hampton's new billiard saloon. The new cement footpaths make a big difference and will be helpful in the wet season, if we get a wet season, of which we are of course in hopes.

The stock routes around JC are in a bad way and we want rain badly to make them fir for any large numbers of stock; towards Winton and Longreach and around Cloncurry the stock routes are in good order.

The raffle for the JC Red Cross Fund was drawn last week and was won by J Jensen, JC. The amount



collected was £7/1/- which is a very creditable effort for the Red Cross. The prize which was donated by Mrs SU Browne of Garomna, JC, was four roosters and will be a very nice Christmas gift for Mr Jensen. Mrs Browne's generous gift is much appreciated and will help to swell the funds of the most worthy cause.

### **30 Dec 1939 (p88, 391230, NQR)**

JC – Building operations are still going on in JC. Mr Sheridan, of Burke St had repairs done to his house and RC Peut, Byrne Street, has had improvements effected to his home in Byrne Street. Mr R Hampton is well established in his new billiard saloon and hairdressing establishment in Julia St, JC. It is a nice new building being large and roomy and we wish Mr Hampton every success in his new venture.

Christmas Day was fairly busy in JC. It had the usual spirit of Christmas, and Christmas Eve was busy for the business people of the town. Graziers and others discarded their worries for a few days.

We are in receipt of advice that Harold Walters who sat for a Postal examination with others at JC was successful in securing top position thus enabling him for a position in the local Post Office for one vacancy. We congratulate Harold on his good pass and wish him every success. From enquiries made Harold is taking up duties at the Post Office in the near future. He was educated at the State School, JC.

### **20 Jan 1940 (p39, NA, NQR)**

Canberra, 14 Jan – Early announcement by the Ministry of supply regarding the use to which the 400 producer gas units ordered for experimental purposes are to be put, is expected. A large importer of petrol, Australia must consider in advance alternative of transport power, assuming the possibility of supplies of petrol being cut off, or dollar exchange being restricted to such a point as severely to reduce overseas supplies of petrol.

For two years the transport section of the Department of the Interior has been experimenting with a producer gas unit installed on a five-ton lorry and the results have been extremely satisfactory. It is claimed that the return trip from Canberra to Sydney, nearly 400 miles, can be made by the producer gas lorry for 16/-, including the cost of charcoal and oil. The consumption of charcoal is less than 2 lb a mile even when the vehicle is fully loaded.

Professor Burstall of Melbourne University created much interest at the science congress at Canberra a year ago by driving a producer gas-powered car from Canberra to Melbourne at a cost reported to be under 1/2d a mile. The unit was inspected with great interest by the engineering section of the congress after its journey.

The Department of Supply proposes to use 400 producer gas units, mainly to ascertain the probable cost of a large scale change over from petrol, if a war or financial emergency made this step necessary. Research will be undertaken with a view to ascertaining the minimum cost of mass production of producer gas units capable of being fitted to ordinary touring motor chassis.

The Commonwealth Liquid Fuel Committee has reported that producer gas is an attractive fuel for farm tractors and road vehicles in country districts, but for vehicles making frequent short journeys with frequent stops it does not show to advantage.

The committee recommends that the wide use of producer gas for propulsion of motor vehicles should be encouraged by a five-years' remission of 50% of the road taxation on vehicles properly equipped for producer gas.

The committee found that the capital cost of fitting complete producer gas equipment to a light lorry is about £100, but this could be reduced appreciably by the adoption of standard designs. There are already 500 producer gas units in operation in WA.

The committee thus summarise the advantages and disadvantages of producer gas transport.

The outstanding feature is the use of a home-produced fuel, which can be manufactured in Australia at about a quarter of the pre-war price of petrol. In country districts charcoal can be produced for about £2 a ton.

The producer plant increases the cost of the vehicle by £70 or more and the weight by from 5 to 10 cwt.

The fuel is heavier and bulkier than petrol, leading to reduced carrying capacity.

Unless special adjustments are made, speed will be slower, and in any event, starting time is longer.

More attention is required on account of clearing out purifiers, filters, grate and ashpan. Engine wear may be more severe.

The committee considers that the producer gas vehicle will find its best field in lorries from two tons up and in all classes of vehicles in areas where petrol is above normal Australian prices.

About 16 lb of charcoal is the equivalent in power result of a gallon of petrol. Taking charcoal of £3 a ton, the producer gas cost equivalent of a gallon of petrol is only 5d.

The committee considers that the importance of this alternative fuel should be brought to the notice of motor firms, agricultural manufacturers and engineering bodies with a view to encouraging them to undertake the manufacture of cheap producer gas units.

The recommendation suggest the lines along which the Department of supply will work in using its 400 units. It will draw up plans for the large scale manufacture of the units against an emergency so that whatever interruption to petrol supplies may take place, there be no paralysis of transport within Australia.

### **3 Feb 1940 (p17, NA, NQR)**

JC, 30 Jan – During the week the weather has been trying, the thermometer at times reaching 118° in the shade. One day it was 112° at 6 o'clock. Little respite was felt until Friday when a storm spread over the district bringing patchy rain of a few points but relieving the great heat with a cool breeze. It was again hot next day and let us hope we get some good storms over our district and so give relief to the terrible time that graziers are experiencing especially north of the line whilst a fair number of those South of the railway are also having a very bad time and have their stock away on relief country, and this relief will not last much longer. At this time of the year a general break in the drought is expected but that expectation has unfortunately not yet come to pass.

Drovers are having a busy time with sheep going on the roads for relief and to agistment country. Drover Fickling, having finished one mob, has another lot to lift, whilst Drover Reg Fickling is taking a mob from the Cloncurry district and after that if the weather is suitable he lifts a line of cattle from Saxby Downs. Drover Mathews is busy on the Auckland Downs with sheep going to Werrina. At present no drovers are available in JC. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good.

### **17 Feb 1940 (p62, 400217, NQR)**

JC, Feb 12 – Splendid wet weather conditions have prevailed in the JC and adjacent districts during the past ten days and very good falls ranging up to nine inches were experienced. North of the line the falls were fairly general and some places have had as much as ten inches during the past fortnight. JC falls in the town itself were lighter but very useful, whilst those south of the line have had light beneficial falls but want a good deal more to make an assured season. It is generally accepted that north of the line most graziers are assured of a fair season at least until the winter months are over. Conditions are still unsettled and further rains are likely.

On Friday night a very heavy storm broke over JC district and gave falls ranging from two to four inches again the north side of the line got the heavy falls but the south side got their best falls ranging to an inch, isolated falls being a bit heavier than this.

At night time in JC we have a great infestation of insects which are particularly bad where lights are exposed, but where lights are covered with coloured paper they are not so bad, but even there they are at time numerous and cause inconvenience to the trades people, especially refreshment rooms which are open at night time. During the week thousands of flying ants were observed around the lights, some predict this to be the sign of a big wet season.

Drovers are pleased over the rains, as with the recent rains it will mean that graziers will be able to bring their sheep back to their home pastures. Some of the flocks have been away for 12 months paying agistment up to £20 per 1000 per month with working expenses on top of this, which meant that the wool clip was spent in keeping the sheep alive. Who would be a grazier in the North west?

Tenders are being called for the purchase of the School of Arts building which was blown down with the wind, also tenders are being sought for the lease of the School of Arts ground with the reservation that the rooms used for School of Arts purposes be left on the ground.

[From unknown source: A big heavy storm on Friday 9th Feb, blew down the School of Arts – 2 to 4” of rain.]

### **23 Feb 1940 (400223, CA)**

We are running short of rations. The mail train has been held up since Monday. Three tons of flour were sent down on Thursday night to the JC baker and the Cloncurry butchers have also been called on to supply meat for JC. Speaking to Mr AJ Smith, he says that there is not much fear of a shortage of food stuff in Cloncurry for at least another week. butter and beer were the only exception. Mr Smith who has experienced wet seasons in the north-west and gulf for the past fifty years, says the shortage of beer is generally acute when there is a hold up of services but in his long experience he has known of no undue hardship being inflicted by this shortage.

Mr Henry Benson, Superintendant of the local ambulance, had a strenuous time answering a call to a sick man on Wallacooloobie. Mr Benson left JC with a party of helpers in Mr George Peut's truck on Thursday and proceeded to the Grave Hole, beyond Dalgionally. Here the chains broke in the boggy earth and as darkness was coming on the party returned to Dalgionally. Next morning Mr Benson set off in a light utility loaned by the station but had only gone a few miles when he experienced engine trouble. This meant returning to the station where he obtained a spare coil and condenser. During the time it took to go to the station and return 4 inches of rain fell and the ground had become so boggy that he returned to the station once more. Mr Affleck the manager, loaned him a spare telephone, and with Mr Kirkman, head Stockman, Mr Benson rode down to the Wallacooloobie phone line. They connected the phone and got in touch with Mr Mick Byrne who informed the Superintendent that he was starting for Dalgionally with the patient. Mr Benson returned to the station and started off with the utility to meet the patient. After many difficulties on account of the boggy ground the patient was met and transported to Dalgionally. At Dalgionally the manager made a bed available and Mr Benson carried out treatment which gave the patient relief. Further rain that night made it impossible to move the patient by road, all rivers were in flood.

Next day Mr Affleck prepared a landing ground in front of the station, putting up a wind indicator and a large tarpaulin in the centre of the ground. Mr Benson got in touch with the flying doctor Alberly who sent the plane to Dalgionally and asked Mr Benson to bring the patient to Cloncurry. The plane arrived within forty minutes of the call but was only able to take the patient because of the short runway. Mr Benson was marooned at Dalgionally for several more days and reached JC again after seven days strenuous effort. The patient, Mr A McPherson is now an inmate of the Cloncurry Hospital and speaks highly of the effort to reach him and of the treatment given by Benson.

On the return journey Mr Benson had to ride 20 miles to reach Mr George Peut's lorry in which he returned to JC.

### **A Keyes Defeats J Kaeser**

There was almost a record crowd at the Stadium o Friday night to see the splendid boxing match between J Kaeser (JC) and Arthur Keyes (Cloncurry). The fight lasted the full eight rounds and it was the best fight witnessed for a long time. Keyes, who is a southpaw, has a terrific punch with the left hand and is a very rugged fighter. Kaeser is a solid and a very clever boxer; plenty of gameness and can take a solid punch. The first round saw some solid punching, Keyes using his left solidly tot he head and body. Kaeser was doing good work in avoiding some of the attack. The second round was the best seen here for some time. Kaeser was trying to get inside the left of Keyes and half way through the round, Keyes unwound a terrific left to the side of Kaeser's mouth. Kaeser fell to the floor helpless. At the count of nine he just rose. The was the deciding punch as during five rounds Kaeser was fighting half stunned. Keyes was using his smashing left to success. Kaeser avoided a lot of the attack. The last two rounds Kaeser was at his top, but although Keyes was tiring, kaeser could not give the knock out,

which was required to win.

This was the best fight seen here and fought in a clean spirit. Keyes is a natural fighter and in best condition will take a lot of beating. Kaeser is a clever boxer and should not be discouraged as he will be heard of again.

### **2 Mar 1940 (p61, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr Lewis returned from CT and Townsville. He came part of the way by car but owing to the rains had to complete his trip home by train and arrived in JC on February 18. He got as far as Maxwellton by car and then found the roads too bad to travel on.

A leak in the main of the water supply at JC in Coyne St facing the railway yards caused a little flooding in that street but the Council hands soon got the work under way and repaired the main pipe which supplies this street with water.

### **23 Mar 1940 (p65, NA, NQR)**

JC, 18 Mar – Building contractors in JC have been kept very busy in spite of the wet. Contractor Pollard is busy on Harris Bros cafe in the main street. Mr F Whiting has practically completed the alterations to the Qld National Bank Ltd building at the corner of Julia and Burke Streets while Amalgamated Builders have completed a contract at Longford Plains, near JC.

The JC tennis players are practising hard for their trip to Mt Isa to take part in the Robinson Shield fixtures and the Williams Cup to be played there at Easter. The team chosen for the Robinson shield is: Miss E and C Eckford, Messrs Jenkins, Harris, Ryan and J Eckford.

### **20 Apr 1940 (p21, NA, NQR)**

JC – The streets of JC are again very muddy from the recent rains but if no further rains fall they will soon cry up and be in good running order again. The new bitumen road is a good hard spot for the goats who make best use of these dry spots in wet weather.

Contractor Whiting has completed alterations to the Qld National Bank building in Burke and Julia St, the residence of the manager is now attached to the bank premises.

The military ball held on April 5 was a great success. It was organised by the CWA and others interested in the military ball. The total takings were over £20 and it appears that the nett result will be about £18 which is to be divided between the CWA and the soldier's funds (26th Battalion)

### **17 May 1940 (400517)**

Ad for Masonic Ball on 7/6/40

On Friday afternoon last, a man named Archie Campbell, 80 years of age, left Ciawarra Station on horseback to bring the cows in and as he had not returned by sundown the owner of the station, Mr W Clarke, set out with a hurricane lantern to search for him. After seven hours of searching through the channels and waterholes he found the unfortunate man suffering from a fractured leg. Campbell explained that he was riding across a waterhole in the Gilliat channels when the horse stumbled and fell. He tried to get clear of the horse but the animal fell on him fracturing his leg. With the greatest of fortitude he dragged himself on to the bank and lay there until Mr Clarke arrived. The night was wet and bitterly cold and Campbell was found to be suffering severely from exposure. Mr Clarke did what he could to make the man comfortable by wrapping him in his overcoat and lighting a fire.

Walking back the two miles to the homestead Mr Clarke then left by car for Gilliat at which place he got in touch with the JC Ambulance and Mr Benson left immediately for the scene of the accident. Meanwhile Mr Clarke and Mr Harry Bulley of the Gilliat Hotel went back to Ciawarra with a supply of food, blankets and spirits.

On arrival at Gilliat Mr Benson was met by Mr Bert Marsh, Postmaster who had instructions from Mr Clarke that the station car would be left at the turnoff to the scene of the accident. The ambulance car was taken as near to the scene as possible and then the stretcher and necessary equipment was carried about half a mile through the channels, long grass and mud to where the old chap lay. First aid was rendered and the patient taken to the car and transported to the JC hospital. Later in the day the

Medical Officer advised that the man would have to be taken to Richmond hospital for an X ray examination. It seems unfortunate that such an up to date hospital should be without such essential equipment because it means that patients needing to be X-rayed have to be transported 110 miles. Mr Campbell was transported to Richmond arriving there seven hours after leaving JC. The X-ray revealed that the patient's leg was fractured three inches above the knee joint; below the knee; and the femur and tibia were broken in several places.

After the examination he was transported to JC hospital and is reported to be progressing favourably.

William Fortune, eight years, was riding a horse on Numil Downs when the animal bolted and threw the boy into a tree. The lad received a badly fractured skull. Word was sent to Millungera and the JC ambulance responded to the call. First aid was rendered and the patient transported to the JC hospital.

#### **8 Jun 1940 (p36, NA, NQR)**

JC – Contractor Whiting is still busy on building operations in JC. Building Contractor Pollard is building a house for Mr Lewis and removing a house from JC to Dalkeith. Mr Whiting is removing the iron and timber from the School of Arts ground which is a long felt eyesore, caused of course by a cyclonic blow.

JC goat owners have got most of their herd back, although there are a few still at large and some were seen down near Nelia. A number of selectors in the district have also lost their goat herds and in some cases they have been seen many miles from home and still wandering.

#### **21 Jun 1940 (400621, CA)**

NW Districts Tennis Championship

The championship was played in good weather as far as wind was concerned, but it was just a little too warm for comfort for the final matches. The matches were played at JC on Saturday, Sunday and Monday last when the following towns were represented: Mt Isa, Cloncurry and Hghenden. Toorak Station was also represented...

The visitors were splendidly treated and one of the most popular features was the dainty morning and afternoon teas served by Mrs Walters and her willing helpers. On the Sunday night a dance was held in Eckford's hall to welcome the visiting players.

The courts were in splendid condition and the older supporters were willing to umpire matches thus saving players unnecessary strain. JC is to be congratulated on retaining all except one of the championships. Miss O Gannon winning the Ladies Singles Championship and with the runner up Coral Eckford, also won the Ladies double Championship... [results given]

#### **29 Jun 1940 (p79, NA, NQR)**

JC, 27 Jun – Lance Halloran, who was an inmate of the hospital for some time is now well again and is back on the selection.

A very quiet wedding was celebrated at the residence of Mr and Mrs Baxter, JC, on the 10th June when Alice Maud Baxter was united by the bonds of holy matrimony to Sydney Robert Harbutt, of JC. The Rev Lang officiated.

#### **13 Jul 1940 (p68, 400713, NQR)**

JC, Jul 9 – The weather during the week has been very mild and of a pleasant nature so far we have not had much winter but the past two days have been very cold. We had a few points of rain in JC and some places in the district near McKinlay had 90 points of rain whilst places around Winton had up to 150 points. For our district this was not enough to do any harm or any good and it is to be hoped that we do not get any more showers during the winter as they may do damage to the grass. So far we are fortunate in having a good season and it would be a tragedy to have light rains to blacken the good feed over the JC district.

The Scour is still at work and expects to be kept going for some time; wool still keeps coming in in small lots but the shearing season seems to have a bit of a lull at present which may affect the local scour. The blowfly is still active in the district but not quite so bad as formerly. Lambs that have been marked recently have in a lot of cases been restruck and in a great number of cases have to be put over

the rails and redressed.

Several lots of cattle have been trucked to JC and retrucked here to go on the roads owing to the buffalo fly restrictions. There are a few sheep on the roads travelling for sale. A line of wethers in charge of Dover R Fickling passed through JC a few days ago en route to Moscow they are for sale to likely buyers. There is still an enquiry for store cattle but not many lines of cattle are offering except fats.

### **27 Jul 1940 (p63, 400727, NQR)**

JC, Jul 22 – The weather during the week has been very cold in the mornings and warmed up during the day at times the thermometer went as low as 30 degrees which is very cold when we get these strong south winds. At various places the frost has done damage to tomatoes and other vegetables. The grass has not been affected by the cold and frosts. As we are approaching August the weather will be getting much warmer and the hot summer will come only too soon.

Shearing will soon be in full swing in this district; some of the graziers are starting their shearing a little earlier this year partly on account of the blowfly and partly on account of the possibility of a shortage of ...

On Friday 12th July the CWA, JC Branch, held a war rally day in Eckford's Hall, JC and they made over £200 which will help the patriotic funds considerably. The Comforts Fund and Red Shield Hut (Salvation Army Hut) will receive a handsome sum. The CWA JC Comforts Fund send an individual monthly parcel to AIF men from JC serving abroad, and further, they give a gift to every person going from JC to enlist. It is a case of a worthy institution for a worthy cause, we feel sure that the gifts are warmly appreciated and the CWA are to be congratulated on their splendid loyalty and service to those who are fighting for their country.

### **3 Aug 1940 (p68, NA, NQR)**

JC – A stall held in the streets of JC for Red Cross purposes was a great success and is to be one of many such functions for the funds. A large number of parcels in the shape of knitted socks, etc have already gone forward from the JC centre of the Red Cross and this branch is gradually forging ahead always looking for funds for a worthy cause.

### **31 Aug 1940 (p63, NA, NQR)**

JC – The cement skating rink built by Sidney Williams Ltd Rockhampton, on account of Mr JP Eckford, JC, is nearing completion and is a mark of progress for JC. We congratulate Mr Eckford on his enterprise and wish him every success in his new venture of open air pictures and skating rink.

### **14 Sep 1940 (p24, 400914, NQR)**

JC – A large number of men, 92 in number, passed through JC by train during the week for the road work from Mt Isa to Camooweal. They had a meal in JC and made the town quite busy for an hour or so. We have observed lorries and tractors going up on the trains lately and no doubt these are going for the construction work of this road.

The stock routes although getting dry as regards grass, are still in a good state for travelling stock there being ample feed and water. The plague of rats, especially on the south side of the line, is doing a little damage to the grass and towards McKinley the stock are falling off a little in condition on account of the prevailing rat menace. A good heavy downpour of rain would no doubt cause them to leave this part of the country.

A number of bushfires have broken out in the district during the past week. In one case about 8000 acres was burnt but in all the other cases only very small patches were burnt and the fires were extinguished ...

The JC woolscour is getting a lot of wool and expects to be kept going some time. It is running full swing. We understand that the annual meeting of shareholders will be held at Longreach on Sep 17 when, no doubt, the two local directors, Messrs Browne and Hickman, will attend.

The open-air picture show and skating rink which is being build by Mr JP Eckford in Burke Street, JC, adjoining the other picture show owned by Mr Eckford, will be completed this week so skaters will be

able to show their skill. We wish Mr Eckford every success in his new venture and it shows that he has faith in the town and district and he is to be congratulated on his venture.

#### **14 Sep 1940 (p57, NA, NQR)**

##### **The Rat Plague**

"The serious plague of rats in Western Qld may mean a big falling off in Mitchell and Flinders grass seeding in that country," said Mr SW Jackson, ornithologist, in Sydney this week. "These rodents – they are of the long-haired type indigenous to Central Australia – appear to live mainly on grass seed and seem to migrate in unusually dry seasons.

"I remember a great plague of them in the Boulia district in July and August 1918. They were in millions and spent their days in large cracks in the black soil. At night they spread over the country so that we had to hang all our belongings on wires suspended from the branches of the coolabah trees. They were fearless of man. The tracks they made across the plains to billabongs or waterholes were like sheep-pads. The aborigines had a great time cooking and eating them.

"Along with the rodent," Mr Jackson continued, "come flocks of the beautiful letter-winged kite hawks, inland birds somewhat resembling silver gulls. Curiously enough, because of their subsisting largely on rats these birds have changed their habits and become night feeders. Out on the plains after dark we could hear the call of the birds as they caught their prey and could also hear them feeding their young in the nest. The nocturnal instinct had also been developed in the young which remained quiet during the day.

"Another thing we discovered was that the male rats ate many of the females and devoured all we killed about the camp."

#### **21 Sep 1940 (p58, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr Eckford's skating rink opened up on the 16th September and there was a good attendance of skaters and onlookers.

Quite a number of tennis players are starting practice again and a few of the keen players are indulging in morning practice. On several afternoons of the week one of the courts is occupied whilst at the weekend there are quite a number indulging in the game.

As the weather gets warmer there are a number of persons visiting the swimming baths in JC and a few go down and have a dip at night time. It is a good way of cooling off.

Rats are still numerous in our district and are doing a little damage to the grass in places.

#### **19 Oct 1940 (p53, NA, NQR)**

JC, 14 Oct – Bush fires have been all the rage in the district and a few places have lost some good grass. The worst fires were over the Flinders River and it is really hard to say how they start. With the big body of feed and a bit of a wind a fire soon gets a start on and it takes a lot of willing hands to extinguish it.

At the present time the oleanders are in bloom in JC and in places there are nice hedges in front of the houses and they present an attractive appearance. The Parkinsonia trees are also in bloom.

The skating rink in JC is still popular and good crowds attend this popular pastime.

A few tennis players are seen on the courts in the mornings, but the sport has been a bit quieter than usual and many of the tennis players spend their weekends out fishing or shooting.

#### **26 Oct 1940 (p70, 401026, NQR)**

JC, Oct 21 – The weather has taken a decided turn towards summer and we have had some very hot days. In one case the thermometer went up to 109 degrees in the shade which is hot for this time of the year. No doubt with this heat we will get thunder storms which may clear the atmosphere. So far it has been a dry year. Although at times the winds veered to the north was not much moisture in the air. Storms of a heavy nature would be welcome but storms bringing only light rain would do a lot of damage. In spite of the hot days the nights have been cool and pleasant and quite a contrast to the hot days. One

would not think that such cool mornings could become such hot days.

The local branch of the CWA had a busy time in JC during the week ending October 27, getting ready Christmas hampers and Christmas to the boys from JC serving overseas. The goods will be despatched on the 28th. Overseas parcels were despatch in July by the CWA, JC and they also advise having sent another case of goods to the refugees in Brisbane, care of Lady Macartney. A case was also sent to the Australian Comforts Fund, Townsville. The JC branch of the CWA are very active in war work and are to be commended on their activities.

Contractor Whiting is busy on the building for Mr W Mathews in Burke St and this will be an acquisition to the town. Mr Mathews is to be commended on his venture and we wish him every success.

### **8 Nov 1940 (401108, CA)**

The ambulance Queen competition was finalised last Friday night when the Coronation Ball was held. The three Queens, Miss E Riley (JC), Miss D Tracey (McKinlay), and Miss N Crawford (Nelia) collected £147/7/1, £50/10/9 and £35/4/-. Mr W Allison chairman of the council, placed the royal cloak and Crown upon Miss E Riley the winner. All three girls made a splendid effort for this most deserving cause and as a reward received ten percent of their gross amounts. The Ball was a success financially and socially and credit for the sumptuous supper is given Mrs J Walters and her helpers. Mr EH Doubleday (Consentes) ably carried out the duties of MC and with the aid of Mr Frank Norton's orchestra, kept the light fantastic moving.

The money raised will go a long way towards the purchase of a new car for the QATB which is urgently needed. Any further donations, small or large will be gratefully received by Mr H Benson, Superintendent.

The town and country folk alike are playing a most pleasing part in the purchase of War Savings Certificates and other War Loans. Continuous efforts are being made by the Red Cross Comfort fund, CWA and other organisations. Approximately £180 has been received to date for the Lord Mayor's Bomb Victims relief fund. We hear and read enough about the hardships being borne by those in Britain who form the front line of our defense. Comparing the peace we still enjoy should be sufficient to urge us to give all possible assistance to our friends across the sea. Mr J Parsons, Shire Clerk, will acknowledge any donations.

The intense heat has forced the strenuous sports to a standstill. Skating is popular despite the bruises and the swimming pool is becoming first favourite.

[Mr Brabazon returns from hospital, Clarice to marry W Pedersen]

Bush fires continue to menace the countryside and the station employees are kept busy almost every night of the week. The plague of rats which is still running the downs is said to cause many of the fires.

The heat does not help to make things comfortable. For the past week the temperature has not been below 100 degrees.

### **30 Nov 1940 (p59, 401130, NQR)**

JC – There are still odd shearings going on in the JC district but the shearing will soon be brought to a close as it is getting very hot to work sheep. Generally speaking, the shearing season has gone very smoothly considering the shortage of labor through enlistments etc.

The train leaving JC on Monday night (mail night) is generally packed which shows the rush of people during the hot months to the coast. The Christmas excursions start early in December when no doubt there will be a steady flow of persons to a cooler climate or at least to the seaside to enjoy the sea breezes and a change of climate.

### **4 Jan 1941 (p69, 410104, NQR)**

JC, Jan 1 – For the closing period of the year 1940 we had a nice surprise in the weather, having recorded 375 points of rain on the 28th December in a storm which gave some good falls in scattered places throughout the district; this rain will do much good and it is to be hoped that it is soon followed



by further rains. In places it is noticeable that there is a response in the grass of which there is a good body in our district. We have experienced very hot weather at times and the thermometer went up to 112 degrees in the shade. The storms cooled the air a little for a few days.

The stock routes are in fair order for grass and water, but there are only limited movements of stock.

Christmas was fairly busy in JC and the trade was equally on a par with former years. Country people came to town to buy their wants for the festive season. As usual it was very orderly in JC with everyone enjoying themselves to the full extent and in spite of our many troubles we all looked on the bright side and forgot the past and looked to the future with confidence and hoped that the New Year would be a brighter one than the one we are about to leave behind. Farewell 1940 with all its war troubles and good luck to the British Empire in 1941.

### **17 Jan 1941 (410117, CA)**

Fall of Bardia, not yet transcribed.

### **23 Jan 1941 (p3, NQ430, SBT)**

“Killed in Action” Trooper George Burns

The stark realities of the World War were brought vividly home to residents of Wondai and district on Friday, when Mr and Mrs RL Burns received a telegram advising that their son George had been “Killed in Action” and a gloom spread throughout a wide area as publicity was given to the sad announcement.

Sorrow, however, was tempered with pride in the circumstance – for George, of the Tank Corps of the Reconnaissance Regiment, had met his death while in the front line of the fully victorious attack against the Italians in the Bardia region, where the men of the 2nd AIF added further lustre to the undimmed record of our “Diggers”.

One of the finest types of young Australian manhood and popular with all with whom he came in contact, George enlisted shortly after outbreak of war, in 1939. His transport left Sydney early in January last year, after he had spent final leave coinciding with Xmas, with his parents who had retired from Mr Burns’ well-known “Avondale” property at North Mondure to live in Wondai, after George’s enlistment and also enlistment of his brother Bill in the RAAF.

In a letter – one of many received by his parents and all of which were most interesting and informative – George advised of arrival in the Middle East in February. That the secret of the transport’s destination was perfectly kept is best illustrated by the fact that none of the Troops, right up until disembarkation, knew other than that they were bound for England.

In Palestine the Troops had nearly twelve months of intensive training. Of the earlier enlistees from Wondai George was the only one drafted to a Tank Corps in the work of which he entered enthusiastically.

In the last letter received by his parents – written on Boxing Day – he told of his life in the front line trenches in Egypt, from which there was shortly afterwards launched the attack the brilliant success of which will forever be featured in history.

The Tanks were in the forefront of the attack, flattening the barb-wire entanglements and making openings which the Infantry used so effectively. Really the marvel is that so few of the spear head of the attack paid the Supreme Sacrifice. But George was fated to be one of them. He passed to Valhalla on January 3rd, the day after his 24th birthday.

Citizens of a wide district accord heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved relatives, whilst sharing with them the pride that a ‘dinkum Aussie’ played his part to the full, for the maintenance of those democratic principles which are of even greater value than life itself.

At a suitable interval at Wondai Pictures on Saturday night, in response to a request screened by the management, the numerous attendance stood for a minute in silence in honour of the memory of a gallant citizen who had paid the Supreme Sacrifice, the silence being followed by singing of the National Anthem.

Throughout Friday the Australian flag at the Memorial Hall was flown at half mast.

**24 Jan 1941 (410124, CA)**

Many friends gathered at the Railway Station last Friday to bid farewell and god-speed to Lance Bombardier WJ Gannon. Bill has been home on final leave before leaving with the AIF and we wish him happy days and a safe return.

Dr and Mrs Carter have arrived after waiting many weeks to leave Isisford, which on several occasions was in danger of being inundated by flood waters. When only in town a few hours the doctor had many patients.

**25 Jan 1941 (p47, 410125, NQR)**

JC, Jan 18 – The season for 1941 is shaping very well in our district. Almost every day up to the middle of the month brought some rain to certain parts of the district and all places have had a good start. The weather has been hot and muggy and the nights hotter than usual which is to be expected in the wet season period of January and February. We are looking forward to further rains as at time of writing it is muggy with clouds about which look like further storms.

The streets are drying up well and the footpaths having been done up recently are in fair order and are not causing much discomfort to pedestrians in the town. The roads around the country are in bad order from the rains and it is difficult for cars to move about especially over the Flinders River and towards Nelia. The roads are heavy from the rains.

During the heavy storms which we had recently most houses got a good deluge inside, especially on the verandahs as the wind blew with hurricane force and forced the water in. The town of JC has had approximately nine inches since late December and the whole district has had good relief rains ranging from four to nine inches some places getting a little over nine inches which is a good start.

Owing to the recent rains, shearing and crutching have been suspended. In isolated cases some crutching is being done between the storms. In some cases shearing has had to be put off on account of the weather.

**1 Feb 1941 (p65, 410201, NQR)**

JC, Jan 30 – At last the weather has cleared after almost three weeks of continual rain. The rainfall for JC for late December to about the 25th January measured about 14 inches which is very good for our district the average being about 12 inches. All places seem to have fared well. It was at times muggy whilst the rain lasted but the past few days brought cooler weather and the nights were at times chilly and quite a change for the time of the year. The rainfalls were heavier north of the line although the falls south of the line were very good. The country is a sea of green and is quite a change to what it was a few weeks ago and the weather is far more pleasant but no doubt we can soon expect more hot weather.

From the rains the losses in stock were not so heavy as last year, no doubt due to the fact that the rain was not so heavy and fell at longer intervals and the stock were in better condition and more able to withstand the conditions. Car traffic was held up for some time and for a while it was difficult to ride far even on horseback except with a strong horse as the ground was very soft. Mails have been interrupted and also supplies to the country have been difficult to get out for some time but now that the weather has cleared no doubt it will not be long before traffic is resumed in its normal conditions except for creeks and rivers which will be hard to negotiate for some time.

Stock movements have been very light only a couple of lines of mixed cattle coming to trucks to fill a gap for butchers.

**7 Feb 1941 (410207, CA)**

No rain has fallen within the past few weeks and the bright sunshine is a pleasant change from so much mud and moisture. The rain registration for are 438 points for December and 912 points for January and has given us a most picturesque outlook. The mailmen welcome the easy going after ploughing through mud for days at a time. On one run packhorses were in evidence.

[shearing, council]

The mail train on Monday night was run in two divisions on account of the return of the School children to their schools. There was barely standing room in the first division and the second although only a few passengers were aboard here, was well packed by the time it arrived in Hughenden.

Mr E Nalder, Oorindi, arrived in town yesterday seeking medical attention. When out riding his horse too fright and threw him, kicking Mr Nalder in the face. He will return home today.

Sister Donohue has taken up duties at the hospital. She comes from Brisbane and has had quite a lot of experience of this part of the country.

Mr CS Byrne had an unfortunate mishap last week when his car stalled in the mud about 17 miles from town. In an attempt to start it the crank handle kicked back and broke the bone above the wrist. His companion had to walk five miles to the nearest telephone to ring the ambulance. Mr Benson went out to the patient and he was brought to the hospital where Dr Carter set the bone immediately.

### **22 Feb 1941 (p69, NA, NQR)**

JC – A dance organised by the Younger Set of the CWA for the funds of the X-ray plant for the JC Hospital was held in Mr Eckford's hall on the 14th February, there was a very good attendance for the worthy cause and the threatening weather did not affect the dance goers.

Skating at the local rink is a great source of amusement in JC and a big improvement is noticed in what a few months ago were beginners. Skating is held on several nights of the week and is well patronised.

### **28 Feb 1941 (410228, CA)**

The Local QATB has been very busy of late and the condition of the roads make transport very difficult. When attempting to bring in Mr p Schatzel from Arizona, Mr Benson and his assistant Mr T Fickling found that the rope on the flying fox across the Flinders has been left loose and was entangled in debris. The two men had to swim in and release it before continuing to their destination. People using the flying foxes should be careful to note that the ropes are secure to avoid any incidents or delay to those who follow on.

Mr Rod Quilty returned to town on Monday for medical attention after being conveyed from Euroka springs.

More evidence that the X-ray plant is urgently required is in the fact that Mr W Glasson Jnr of Lara who has a dislocated elbow had to be sent to Richmond for further attention.

A large crowd gathered at the station to bid farewell to Messrs Les Triffett, Ray Hayden, Len Thompson and Scotty Marshall who have joined the AIF. It is good to see all these young lads answering the call to defend their country and liberty and must be an inspiration to us all to do all in our power to make their lives comfortable and happy in the camps.

News has been received of Bill Gannon from Malaya, also from Henry [killed in Tobruk] and Bob Baxter, and Lionell Wall who are in the Middle East.

A great improvement is noticed at the Railway Station since the erection of lamp posts along the platform and there should not be any further complaints from people falling into the pit.

### **8 Mar 1941 (p47, 410308, NQR)**

JC, Mar 1 – During the latter part of February the weather was for the most part hot and dry with cool nights which are a feature of the hot dry western climate. One would never think that such cool mornings could precede such hot days and then again cool off so quickly at night. We have had a few hours of North wind on different days and this may bring up rain for March which is predicted by so many weather prophets. Now and then clouds work up but they soon disperse. During the past few years we have had good rains in march and this month may bring us further rains which are wanted in places near Kynuna and some places near McKinlay and scattered places in the North west. Rain in march will of course be very helpful in keeping the pastures green for months to come.

A picnic organised by the Rev Father Collieran was held at the Eddington Waterhole on Feb 23, when there was a good attendance of pleasure seekers, who enjoyed the day's outing. It was a hot day and swimming was the favourite pastime. The picnickers returned home late, after a good day's outing.

On February 24 five of JC's stalwarts left by train to join up with the AIF. They left in high spirits and keen to do their bit for a good cause and their country. We wish them Godspeed and a safe return to JC.

Building operations in JC have been held up for iron which is hard to procure. It is also hard to procure fencing wire to carry on fence repairs on selections.

### **22 Mar 1941 (p34, NA, NQR)**

Are Corsets Essential?

Auckland (NZ), 15 Mar – Is corset-making an essential industry in war time? A NZ Military Appeal Board was told that all women – young and old – and some men wore them and not merely for keeping up their stockings!

The case arose when an Auckland corset-making firm sought the postponement of military service for an employee on the grounds of public interest.

But, after the following dialogue, the Appeal Board ruled that corset-making was not an essential industry.

Chairman (Mr Walker, PM): What are corsets?

Appellant: Women's wearing apparel.

Chairman: It can hardly be claimed that the manufacture of corsets is in the public interest.

Appellant: They are essential.

Chairman: Do all women wear corsets?

Appellant: Yes.

C: Young and old?

A: Yes

C: Is it not a fact that some men wear corsets also?

A: Yes.

C: Do not women merely wear corsets to keep up their stockings?

A: The garments have more uses than that.

C: What would happen if the output of corsets was cut down? I could understand the alarm of stout ladies, but would slim ladies worry?"

A: Yes, they all wear them.

Although the appeal was dismissed the board said that the employee would not be called up before June. The board's ruling has left NZ's womanhood unmoved.

According to Auckland fashion experts, fashions have changed so rapidly in recent years that many girls have never felt the embrace of whalebone. Girls who are now wearing the loose-cut military uniforms of the women's auxiliary war services find corsets unnecessary and undesirable.

For instance, women mechanics in the National service Corps cannot work in them. Many girls in NZ offices gave up corsets when they ceased wearing stockings as an economy measure, it was stated.

### **29 Mar 1941 (P26, 410329, NQR)**

JC, Mar 22 – The weather for the past fortnight has been very wet and the district has had enough rain to assure us of a good season for 1941; three to five inches in March was just what we desired to top off a good season and we were lucky enough to get that amount; some places got over five inches. Kynuna, McKinlay and Cloncurry also fared well.

As a result of the recent good rains the country is in a very good state and the stock routes are well off for grass and water for months to come. Shearing has been delayed on account of the recent rains but then we can put up with a bit of inconvenience so long as we get a good wet season. Graziers are well pleased with the rains and we should have a good clip this year. So far reports indicate that stock losses from rain were not heavy. The weather seems now to have taken up and it is much cooler and the roads will soon dry up and become trafficable.

We are soon to lose Mr Whale who has been the local Assistant School teacher for a period of four years. He has been called for duty in the RAAF and we wish him every success in his new sphere. He was given a sendoff by the JC School children.

### **11 Apr 1941 (P1, NA, CA)**

JC – A gala night took place on Monday [7/4/1941] when WA Mathews' new Hall was opened. Mr Mathews gave the Hall free of charge and the proceeds from the Dance and Euchre Tournament went to the Ambulance.

Although the weather caused a postponement of the affair from Friday to Monday the Hall was well packed and dancing continued till early in the morning. The Hall was gaily decorated in red, white and blue, and the Orchestra, consisting of Mrs L Thompson (piano), Messrs L Thompson (drums), F[rank] Norton (saxophone and violin) and N Langtree (trombone) was at its best. The Euchre prizes were won by Miss P Richards, and Mr P O'Connor respectively. The Lucky Door number was drawn by Mr R Hampton and a novelty dance was won by Miss N Ah Chee and Mr N Peut. The raffle of a double Easter Egg was won by Mrs Kaeser.

The dance was a success socially and financially, the Ambulance should greatly benefit by the result.

### **19 Apr 1941 (p69, NA, NQR)**

The streets in JC have been graded since the rains and are now in fair order. An attempt has been made to raise the streets in the centre so that the water will not lie in the streets and this should meet with success and after any further rain that we may have the streets will not be so boggy as previously. There is a lot of Council work to be done in the country as soon as the plants can move out.

Contractor Pollard is busy on a house for Mr L Lewis in Goldring St next to Hickman and Co office, he has been held up for some time on account of the shortage of iron which has been hard to procure. Contractor Whiting is awaiting the delivery of blocks to build a house for Mr Keith Dalling in Coyne St.

Drover Herb Fickling is lifting a mob of sheep from Devoncourt Station to Kynuna Station, Scottish Australian Co owners. Drover Reg Fickling is lifting a line of sheep from Cloncurry to pick up another mob near McKinlay and thence proceeding to the Hughenden district to their new owners. All these lines have been help up owing to the recent heavy rains.

### **2 May 1941 (410502, CA)**

The weather continues to be pleasant but the clouds gathering every afternoon signifies the possibility of more rain before long. Rain at this stage will be more harmful than helpful. The whole country is covered with a wealth of Flinders and Mitchell grass. Many of the older identities say that the abundance of Flinders grass exceeds that of any previous year. The roads are trafficable again and the mails are running to time table. Fishing and picnic parties are very popular over the weekends now. A large party had a pleasant day at the punch Bowl last Sunday but the fishing was not successful.

Anzac day was observed with a gathering at Eckford's Hall. Mr W Allison, Chariman of the shire, presided and during an address appealed to the young men of the district to do thier bit to support those gallant lads across the seas. Mr V Faithfull expressed great pleasure to see such a gathering of town and country people on this great day and was supported by Mr SU Browne who spoke most feelingly with reference to the part our boys are playing in the Greece campaign. Mr N Langtree played the last post and which revived memories for the older generation. During the musical concert many old and popularsongs were rendered by Mr T Lowman. The Air force was not forgotten when Mrs J Lowman sang 'Wings over the navy. Misses Laurel Norton and Ivy Gannon added popular songs to the programme, and finally Miss Olive Gannon sang 'The AIF is Marching'. The musical items were accompanied by Mrs L Thompson and Mr Frank Norton on the piano. Community singing brought forth all the old and popular songs of the Great War.

Although the War has been going on for well over a year now, it is hard to realise such a thing in this peaceful countryside. But with the appearance of casualty lists the war is being brought to our doors. The sad news that a Richmond lad, Ronnie Spragg, was killed in action in Greece was a shock to many in this district for Ronnie had often visited here. Deepest sympathy is felt for his relatives who must have the consolation in knowing that he died doing his duty.

We are still unaware as to whether the Tennis Championships will be held in Cloncurry but the local players are very keen and both courts are always occupied during the late afternoons and weekends. Owing to the cool evenings the swimming pool has been almost deserted. The Skaters are practicing for a competition to be held on the 20th June.

**1 May 1941 (p? NQ431, SBT)**

“He like a soldier fell”

Tribute to Late Trooper George Burns

From Major Macarthur Onslow

“George fell at Bardia, as the result of a direct hit from a shell which killed him instantly, and we buried him the following day upon the escarpment overlooking Bardia,” wrote Major Macarthur Onslow, OC of a Rec Regiment of the AIF from “Somewhere Abroad,” to Mr and Mrs RL Burns of Wondai, re the death in action of their son Trooper George Burns, whose passing was previously advised in these columns.

The letter continued:—

“George proved himself to be a grand soldier and a good comrade and you may be sure we are one and all proud of him and his comrades who have given their all for Australia. They have added lustre to the record of our Troops and will for all time be an inspiration to those who are carrying on the work they commenced.”

Major Macarthur Onslow added his expressions of personal sympathy to Mr and Mrs Burns and enclosed “a few lines that have been penned by one of his comrades which will give you a true indication of the esteem in which George (known among his comrades as ‘Dave’) was held by all members of the Squadron.”

The lines are:—

TO “DAVE” WHO SLEEPS AT BARDIA

A lonely cross with a starlit sky,  
A windswept hill and a wistful cry;  
Hushed, drowsy wavelets kissing the shore,  
A brave heart stilled for evermore.  
Gladly you fought with us; gladly you died,  
Your cobbles around you, your eyes full of pride;  
with the enemy routed and victory in sight,  
Whilst the thunder of battle shattered the night.  
We shall always remember you; think of us, ‘Dave’!  
Of the fun that we shared and the hardships too;  
A man every inch of you, a man at his best:  
Sleep well old fellow, God guard you in rest!

[My version written in JC library 27/8/2003]

A blood-laced hill, a starlit sky  
Fingers trace a mournful score  
A bugle wails its solemn cry  
A heart now feels a pulse no more.

Cobbers beside you, fear cast asunder  
Bardia’s fallen, surrenders and cowers  
Gladly you sallied for King and Down Under  
Dave you’ll not taste it, but victory is ours!

Diggers a’wondering, salute a fresh grave;  
Entombed for your journey, the hour gone tide’s neap  
Forever in Libya – vale friend Trooper ‘Dave’  
The Boatman awaits, charged with your keep.

Rest easy great uncle... rest ever and sleep.

#### **24 May 1941 (p15, NA, NQR)**

##### **AT TOBRUK**

Cairo, May 21 – The British United Press correspondent, John Yindrich, who has returned from Tobruk, declares food and water is plentiful at Tobruk, but beer is unobtainable, which is the only complaint from the Australians who receive letters regularly. They also bathe in the Mediterranean when out of the front line, despite German planes dive bombing and machine-gunning the beaches and bathers. One camp has erected showers, which attracted troops from all over the 30 mile perimeter of the defences. So far the Germans have not located the shower baths.

For a time, the band of the Victorian Regiment daily practised in the open, although the thunder of guns frequently drowned the strains of “Waltzing Matilda”, while the programme was often interrupted by a hasty dive to the trenches as raiders swooped down.

The Australians in Tobruk have started two daily newspapers, “The TOBRUK Truth” and “The Libyan News Bulletin,” also a weekly “Happy Valley News.”

“The Tobruk Truth”, a cyclo-styled sheet gives the BBC news and occasional local items. It rushed out a special edition announcing Hess’ flight. “The Tobruk Truth” boasts it “always appears. It proved the truth of this proud claim by coming out when a 150 lb bomb landed on the building where it is produced. The only casualties were six persons who received scratches.

The “Libyan News Bulletin” began openly as a rival to “The Tobruk Truth” and consists of two typewritten foolscap pages and boasts it has a better news service because the editor listens to the Moscow radio also the Deutschland Zender and BBC. A padre writes, edits, types and cyclo-styles TOBRUK weekly, which does not profess to give news, but journalism.

“Men from the dead” who were posted missing after the German dash across Cyrenaica are still turning up at Tobruk. A Bristolian has arrived at Tobruk after taking five weeks to walk from Mersa Brega with the help of Arab guides who fed him and two companions, and steered them clear of the German lines.

In the last few day attacks by German dive bombers have not been so frequent, nor bombers so numerous. The raids are now only three or four times daily, sometimes only nine planes participate. Hardly a single building in Tobruk has not been hit, but work is still going on inside the town. The harbour shipping is the dive-bombers favourite target but ships arrive and unload despite the difficulty of negotiating the harbour because of wrecks.

The troops in the front-line are constantly on the alert but the worst enemies of the 39 days defence are lack of sleep, flies, boredom and dust.

#### **7 Jun 1941 (p67, 410607, NQR)**

JC – A house party will be held at the Presbytery on tuesday as the boys will be going into camp on the following Friday. This will be followed by a skating carnival and a send-off on Thursday night. Approximately 30 lads will be leaving the town of JC and their absence will be felt.

A dance in aid of the C of E Ladies Guild was held in Mr Eckford's Hall on friday last when there was a good attendance and dancing as enjoyed till the early hours of the morning.

#### **13 Jun 1941 (410613, CA)**

Last Thursday night Mr Eckford held a skating carnival and dance. A good crowd was in attendance and the talent among the local skaters was surprising. Trophies, donated by Mr Eckford were distributed as follows: School girls: Joan Byrne; school boys: Clem Foster; gents: Mr Laurence Byrne; ladies: Miss Faith Smith; mixed: Miss J Byrne and Mr L Byrne. Dancing continued until the small hours of the morning with a Euchre tournament for non dancers. Stella Norton who was a competitor for the school girls event was unfortunate in injuring her wrist and had to have the bone reset.

Between twenty and thirty lads left for the Military Camp at Selheim last Friday. Several of these intend joining the AIF from Camp. It is gratifying to see such a response to the call for duty from a small

district and it is evident that many more are gradually realising that there is a job for every able bodied man to assist the war effort.

With the constant appeal for more voluntary assistance we realise that unless War Savings Certificates, Stamps, War Loan etc receive more attention the contributions will become compulsory. We cannot all go to fight but we can help equip our boys and put them on a level footing with the enemy. Do you belong to a war savings group? If not do not hesitate. Join one at once. Every shilling means so much and helps to keep the enemy from our shores.

Mr Fred Peut of Brisbane who for many years lived in JC and district, recently visited his many friends here. Mr Peut is another to answer the country's call having enlisted in the AIF. He returns to Brisbane by plane this week to enter camp.

The monthly meeting of the CWA Younger Set was held on Tuesday night. The effort this year has been poor on account of the increasing lack of interest shown by many of the local girls. However, the few who are still keen are doing knitting and want to increase the war work. It is hoped that this example will bring in more girls interested.

#### **21 Jun 1941 (p69, NA, NQR)**

JC – The skating carnival in JC quite recently created a lot of amusement and there was some good skating witnessed on the local rink. The prize winners were: Schoolboys, C Foster; schoolgirls, Joan Byrne, with a special prize to Stella Norton; ladies, Miss F Smith; men L Byrne; couples, Miss A Byrne and Mr L Byrne. There was a good crowd of onlookers and also a lot of skaters on the floor. The competition was very keen and the events closely contested.

#### **4 Jul 1941 (410704, CA)**

On Friday night a Merry-Go-Round Concert was held and once again a generous response was given to a patriotic cause. The concert was held under the direction of the CWA and the proceeds will purchase Canteen Orders for the boys from this town and district who are overseas.

Our local 'Sweethearts of Song' Misses S Norton, O Gannon, Mrs R Osborne and Mrs F Norton, were well received and the ever popular voice of Tom Lomond as applauded again and again. Lance Halloran, the 'Dinkum digger' amused the audience with old Digger jokes. Miss Joyce Nicholson (piano) and Mr N Langtree (cornet) were two of the talented musicians. Misses J Byrne and L Norton contributed a variety item entitled 'Gentlemen, the King'. One of Hal Percy's popular and stirring patriotic poems, 'Don't Ring Your Tail' was rendered by Miss Ivy Gannon. Musical Proverbs, Window Shopping and Build-a-Word competitions were also enjoyed. Dancing continued until the wee hours of the morning. Approximately £110 was collected during the evening which included two raffles and supper and sweets stalls. The hall was kindly loaned by Mr WA Mathews and Harris Bros generously donated the supper. The music was supplied without reserve by Mr Frank Norton's Orchestra.

#### **18 Jul 1941 (410718, CA)**

Three more recruits for the AIF left JC during the week. They were Sgt D McInnes and Sgt J Pedersen of the 26th Battn and Patrick Byrne. Their many friends gathered at the station to say au-revoir and good luck and already many of the lads are hoping to join them before they leave for overseas. Several local boys are spending leave from Selheim Military Camp at present.

Mr and Mrs R Hampton and daughter Merle left for Townsville on Monday for the show. Mrs McCarthy and daughter also went to Townsville.

#### **19 Jul 1941 (p19, NA, NQR)**

Tobruk

London, 16 Jul – "You can tell the world we are determined to stick out, confident of the result," said General Morshead to an Associated Press representative inside Tobruk. He thus epitomised the spirit of the South Australian, Qld, Tasmanian and British soldiers holding Tobruk against the mighty crack Panzers.

Tobruk will go down in military history as where the Nazi onslaught was brought to a standstill. The men there will form a threatening bulge in the side of any Axis attempt to advance towards Egypt. For more than three months, the guns of Tobruk were seldom stilled.



The Australians are strongly entrenched behind miles of barbed wire in a sweeping semicircle round Tobruk and will defend themselves aggressively against all attacks. Reliefs move up just as they did in France.

An Australian voice twangs through the darkness, "No smoking, no talking, forwards, single file."

The trenches are narrower than last war. Bombs made this necessary. The trenches contain strong-points bristling with machine-guns, antitank and Tommy guns.

The Australians at strong-points equipped with several days supply of food and ammunition, cut off a German tank drive. They crippled many tanks and others retreated in wild disorder. It needed all the available troop-carrying Junkers to pick up the enemy casualties. The Australians in a counter-attack on June 24, penetrated 500 yards on a 2000 yard front, cutting a large slice off the bulging enemy's salient position. Patrols then calmly and heroically crept out through the barbed wire and established listening posts close to the enemy lines.

One officer climbed a telegraph post to direct machine gun fire. The corporal, finding himself on the wrong side of an Italian post, ordered the men to charge. He smashed a field telephone with a lightning kick before the startled Italians could open fire. As a Tasmanian captain said, "It was like taking candy from kids."

### **26 Jul 1941 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC – The Red Cross Committee had a stall in Mr Lewis' building in Burke St on July 12 and good business was done in the afternoon and morning when lollies, jams, fruit, vegetable etc were sold at moderate prices. The local branch of the Red Cross will greatly benefit by the stall and great credit is due to those who worked so hard to make it a success.

### **2 Aug 1941 (p52, NA, NQR)**

Bombs on Tobruk

Cairo, 30 Jul – A Major from Tobruk reveals the town has been bombed 1000 times since the siege began. "On the average," he said, "we have been bombed every two hours, either from a high level or by Stuka or by Sutcliffe bombers. Sutcliffe bombing derives its name from the famous English test cricketer's well-known sneaked runs. Jerry drops his bombs from the sun and runs for home like 50 hares. The Stukas used to come down to 50 feet but our accurate small arms fire has now forced them to keep at a healthier height. One machine-gunner alone has shot down six planes.

Supplies arrive regularly by sea, despite the bombing. Our constant raids from Tobruk are designed to gain information of the enemy's strength and positions, to shatter the enemy's morale and to inspire the townspeople, who like to hear we are taking the initiative. The raids particularly demoralise the Italians, who run like the Dickens screaming through the night, when our chaps get into them with their bayonets.

The morale of the garrison is first rate. One interesting feature of the defence is the 'Australian bush artillery,' comprising outmoded guns captured from the Italians. The Australians in Tobruk have manufactured shells for them and constantly blaze away at the besiegers."

### **16 Aug 1941 (p13, NA, NQR)**

(By Sergeant Fitchett, Official Australian Correspondent.)

Tobruk, 13 Aug – The action round the salient in the Medawuar sector, established by the German break through on May 1, provides the main story of Tobruk for the past three months.

It is certain that nowhere else in this war have men lived and fought in such conditions for this length of time – patience, skill and courage that has resulted in material shortening of the German front here typifies all that is Tobruk.

In the fierce defence action of early May we finally halted the German advance, but, with the sacrifice of a salient of 10,000 yards round and nearly 4000 yards at its greatest depth. Today it has been reduced to a front of little more than 6000 yards, with a maximum depth of under 3000. All through May the Germans retained the hard won territory. Whilst both sides dug into the hard and rocky soil,

minefields were rapidly sown by either side.

Soon the position began to look like a stalemate, but, in early June, our constant patrolling revealed some weaknesses in the German front. Soon a plan was afoot to try and win back some of the lost territory. The advantages to be gained were manifold – better observation, shorter front for us to maintain and, above all, close contact with the enemy, with greater opportunities of striking him hard.

The difficulties to be faced were great. Apart from savage conditions, heat and dust, little or no movement was possible in daylight. The Germans occupied the higher ground giving them extensive fire power over the area, and by now, they were bringing their artillery to bear, in addition to their mortars.

Our men lay in a series of rifle pits, with little shelter from the elements of fire. Night after night, patrols reported innumerable German booby traps, which made any movement hazardous.

It was finally decided to use infiltration tactics rather than a direct attack.

The first advance was made in a north-west direction. On the first night, the engineers went forward with an infantry escort. Their job was to lay an initial wire and clear the area of booby traps. They dismantled over 60 of the various types that night, without casualties. In trenches and vacated weapon pits, danger was ever present. Hundreds of Italian hand grenades lay about set to explode on the slightest movement. Explosives were attached to trip wires or concealed in every day objects, such as ration tins, bread and clothing. Others exploded when the nearby ground was trodden on. It was nightmare work.

With the patrol lying 200 yards forward, the infantry were soon up and digging new positions. Others brought up wire that had been carefully prepared in back areas. Every time a trap exploded heavy fire would sweep the area from the aroused enemy. By dawn the occupying company was in scattered pits, rarely four feet deep. The whole of the new front with the exception of 100 yards, was wired. By 4.30 am water and rations for three days had been rushed forward. Thus, in two nights, the troops on this sector got forward 400 yards on a front of 2000 yards. They shortened our front by 600 yards.

The first few days here were touch and go. In rocky spots some men lay in pits only two feet deep. Here they had to lie all day under the burning sun not daring to move. Only at night could they improve their pits. A fortnight later a consolidating infiltration was made from the western sector of the salient. Here again the sappers were at work on the first night, mapping the route forward and searching for traps. The next night digging and wiring commenced, great care being taken to camouflage any sign of new activity. Again next night parties went forward, digging, and on the fourth night, positions were occupied – an advance of 700 yards on a front of 1400 yards. How completely the enemy were fooled on this occasion is shown by the fact that he heavily shelled our old positions after they had been vacated, nor was the salient lightly held by him. During the whole period he had three infantry, one engineer and slightly more... [not copied]

### **16 Aug 1941 (p? NA, NQR)**

#### **Life In Tobruk**

Cairo, 11 Aug – An English captain among a party of Tobrukites on leave said: “The situation is Tobruk, paradoxically, is entirely lively and entirely stable. Our Axis pals seem slow in learning from their own mistakes. They persist in dive bombing, which is most wasteful, because the bombs usually bury themselves in the sand.”

He added his party had no difficulty in leaving Tobruk although the ship was unsuccessfully bombed. Tobruk was being serviced better than other front-line positions because there was no trouble in getting large consignments of supplies by ships.

### **20 Sep 1941 (p42, 410920, NQR)**

JC – There have been several bush fires in our district but with plenty of helpers these were soon extinguished. Nevertheless bush fires have done a lot of damage in our district this year no doubt to wax matches and the plague of rats. The rat plague seems to be getting worse and they are becoming a nuisance. Nothing seems safe from them and they are causing damage in homes. Rat traps are being used extensively in JC but the numbers do not seem to lessen. This is the second year of the rat plague

and they are worse than ever. It will be a relief when they take their departure.

Drover E Mathews with 5000 wethers from Arolla to agistment on St Elmo is due in JC in the next few days. Drover Fickling is still doing droving for Kynuna station.

**4 Oct 1941 (p49, NA, NQR)**

JC – The Blowfly Demonstration School was held at “Garomna” on the 29th and 30th September. On the first day there was an attendance of over 50 persons and the second day was almost as popular as the first. The school was most interesting to graziers and will go a long way towards the solution of the blowfly pest.

The demonstrations were given by Dr Roberts, Mr Mole and Mr Swinburne. The Miles treatment was carried out and graziers were able to practice the operation under the direction of the expert instructors. The CWA Patriotic Fund Committee provided morning teas, afternoon tea and lunch at moderate cost and this will help a good cause.

Mr Browne, of Garomna, rendered valuable assistance with the use of his shed sheep and his time and he is to be commended on his valued help. He also provided accommodation to the CWA for their refreshments etc.

**10 Oct 1941 (411010, CA)**

WVY of Augathella writing to Qld country Life, says that every effort he has made to induce rats to eat wax matches has failed. He even mixed wax matches with food, the food being eaten, he says, but the matches are carefully avoided.

Either the Augathella rats are a different species to the North-western rats or a different brand of matches is used in the South. During Digger's Race Week when country people were in town from all parts of the district, the prevalence of bush fires and what starts them was a constant subject for discussion and the rats were generally blamed. Two different graziers told of trying the rats out with wax matches. One said he put three wax matches amongst some dry grass. For two nights they remained untouched. On the third morning a heap of ashes marked where the matches had been. Another grazier put wax matches out and they were ignited but wooden matches remained untouched. These countrymen tell of fires springing up in the middle of the day and almost invariably it is found that the fire started at or adjacent to old camps where there was a possibility matches could have been dropped. Another old Westerner who has seen many plagues of rats stated that the rats are always accompanied by bush fires.

**18 Oct 1941 (p8, NQ648, NQR)**

WHAT TO SEND TO TOBRUK

If you want to help the boys at Tobruk, send them:

As many bright letters as possible

Newspaper clippings (which arrive faster than newspapers)

Small parcels (which go more quickly than big ones), using newspaper for the internal wrappings.

Frequent small canteen orders (not more than 2/- at a time)

Tea, cocoa and chocolate

That was the advice given in Melbourne last week by the Rev HL Hawkins, a YMCA representative with the AIF who has returned from Libya.

The use of newspapers for internal wrappings, he said would give the troops additional home news.

“Conditions in Tobruk are appalling,” he said. “Dust, flies, heat, fleas, sand that gets into everything, not much water to wash in, and continuous dive-bombing make it an uncomfortable spot, but the boys are wonderfully bright. They are so busy backing each other up that they always find something to amuse them.”

It was always noisy at Tobruk with some form of warfare, but bombing did not do much harm, although Tobruk was such a landmark, standing out clearly in the desert. Most of the bombs missed their mark and the boys had become expert at dodging them.

**18 Oct 1941 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC, 11 Oct – At the present time there are over 20 patients in the JC Hospital which will make the average for October a big one. Every week the hospital is proving a great boon. It is hard to get nurses and we are often left short staffed, which, of course, is unavoidable.

Some of the enthusiasts for the old Pastime Club are trying to re-form this club and the first evening was held in Mathews Hall on Oct 9, funds in aid of the Queen Competition for the Red Cross funds. We wish the Pastime Club the success that it had in former years, when there was always a good roll up and many enjoyable evenings were spent. The fees are moderate and in the easy reach of all and there is always a good night's entertainment for a very worthy cause.

The JC Tennis Club has had a rather quiet time lately, Sunday being practically the only day that there are any players on the courts.

### **25 Oct 1941 (p8, NA, NQR)**

JC – The JC Pastime Club had its second night's entertainment on October 16 when there was a good attendance at the hall. Dancing, ping pong and quoits took up the evening, and there was a little community singing which added variety to the night's entertainment.

Several of the water services to the householders in JC has burst lately, caused by the rotting of the service pipes which do not last long in this soil unless laid in sand. The breakaways have been repaired.

A number of boys from JC will be going to a military camp early next month and will remain in camp for about three months at least. Another lot will have to go to camp in February.

### **25 Oct 1941 (p33, NA, NQR)**

#### **TOBRUK ESTABLISHES SEIGE RECORD**

(From Lieut. Roy Macartney.)

On October 10, the Australians in Tobruk completed six months of active operations in the defence of the fortress. This is the longest period any garrison has withstood siege during this war.

It was Spring when the siege commenced on April 10, 1941, and the enemy were still sweeping on into Egypt. However, the nights were becoming increasingly colder and the chill of the Western Desert winter was in the air when I returned from Tobruk a few days ago, after five weeks within perimeter and the front lines.

In retrospect, the value of the defence of Tobruk cannot be assessed too highly. It was the rallying point for the Cyrenaican forces during the March retirement and the presence of the garrison astride the German's long lines of communication contributed materially in putting a halt to their advance early in the siege.

During the April and May attacks the Germans lost heavily in tanks and men when the garrison showed how panzer units could be repelled by resolute men making efficient use of antitank mines and artillery.

For six months this valuable port has been denied the enemy. During this period more than 20,000 Germans and Italians have been needed to encircle the defences and these men have had to be supplied and provisioned through the already congested ports of Tripoli and Benghazi. For six months Tobruk has been a key point in the Western Desert defence.

The defenders have endured from spring to winter, days, weeks, and months of ceaseless fighting. Bombing, shelling, patrolling, attack and counterattack, ceaseless vigil under relentless sun and biting dust, dangerous reconnaissance and occupation duties, night scouting and fighting through the most trying conditions of a vicious Libyan summer. They are six months of which Australia may be truly proud.

### **1 Nov 1941 (p54, NA, NQR)**

JC – The JC Pastime Club are holding their weekly dances on Thursday night of each week and these are well patronised.

Contractor Peut is busy with his team at Oxton Downs and Clive Holland is at present at Hamilton Downs, whilst Contractor Mathews is operating at Fairview. The Flinders Shearing Co have just

completed the shearing at Flers and Contractor McCarthy completed the shearing at Lara and has gone to Haddington to shear the Balootha sheep.

### **7 Nov 1941 (p? NA, CA)**

#### **WEDDING**

#### **WALL – MILBURN**

St Coleman's Roman Catholic Church, Home Hill, was the scene of a very pretty wedding recently and of great interest to the Lower Burdekin residents, as the bride's grandparents were among the first to settle in Home Hill. The Rev Father Naughton officiated. Aileen (Lana), youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R Milburn was married to Alexander George Wall, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T Wall, Lindfield, JC.

The bride looked charming as she entered the church on the arm of her father who gave her away. She was frocked in white satin and lace, cut on classical lines, buttoned to waist at back, and fitting sleeve finished with satin buttons. Her embroidered tulle veil was held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms. She carried a lovely bouquet of white posterity roses tied with satin ribbon. The only ornaments worn were a beautiful ring of crystals, falling to the waist, and a sapphire and diamond ring, gifts from the bridegroom's mother.

Her bridesmaids (Miss Thel. Hudson and Miss Marj. Milburn) were frocked in lemon and pink georgette with full circular skirts and shirred bodices. They wore fan-shaped coronets, trimmed with flowers to match their frocks, and tulle veils falling to shoulders. Their bouquets were gerberas and roses. Each wore a matching pennant, gifts from the bridegroom. The duties of best man and groomsmen were performed by Mr Bob Bawden and Mr Bill Buchan. Miss Madge Stapleton presided at the organ.

The wedding breakfast was held at the home of the bride's parents where the large number of guests were received by the bride's mother, assisted by Mrs T Wall. The beautiful three-tiered wedding cake, made by the bride's sister (Mrs W Whitman) stood on a lovely embroidered cloth sent from abroad by Lieut L Wall, brother of the bridegroom.

On leaving for the honeymoon, the bride chose a blue ensemble, with black accessories. Their future home will be Agate Downs Station, Kuridala, via Cloncurry.

### **14 Nov 1941 (p?, NA, CA)**

#### **GOAT NUISANCE**

(To the Editor)

Sir, – Goats to the right of us, goats to the left of us, goats all round us bellowed and thundered. A stranger entering the town of Cloncurry from any point of the compass would feel sure he had at last found the town of goats, galahs and glass bottles. But the trouble is that these goats are mostly unregistered and out of control. People work hard making a garden and these pests jump the fences and in a few minutes undo months of hard work. There are others that seem to think they own the town and one falls over them walking along the footpaths of a night. They have developed into town scavengers and even though they are recognised as the friend of people who live in the bush as they supply milk and meat, there is a limit to what townspeople can endure, recognising as they do that 90% of the goats are not milkers and are too poor to make mutton of. What is our Council or inspector of nuisances going to do about this public nuisance? Yours, &c. – “Pro Boney Publican.”

### **15 Nov 1941 (p50, NA, NQR)**

JC – Shearing operations are in operation at Oxton Downs which contractor Peut is operating. Contractor Jessup is operating near Nonda whilst Contractor McCarthy is operating at Haddington; contractor Mathews is busy in the Cloncurry district.

Mr J Miners who was for some time police sergeant at JC passed away at the local hospital on the 11th instant. The sad news came as a great blow to us all and to his relatives and many friends we extend our heartfelt sympathy at their sad loss.

### **28 Nov 1941 (p? NA, CA)**

#### **FIRES STARTED**

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## SEVEN WEEKS' TEST WITH RATS AND MATCHES

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Mr ECC Luck (writing in the "Qld Country Life"), states that to prove or disprove whether rats cause fires, he carried out a test on Portland Downs for seven weeks.

Results, for the benefit of those interested, were as follows:

Sep 4: Four pairs of rats were placed in two petrol cases and two in 2 cwt carbide drums. With each pair dry Flinders grass and 24 wax matches were put in. On the 10th, 10 more matches were added making a total of 136 in all.

Sep 12: Two rats died and two were substituted. On the 16th another rat died and another was added. By the 21st there were still no fires so the eight rats were transferred to a cage measuring 5 ft by 3 ft with an earth floor to give more natural conditions. The cage was filled to a depth of six inches with dry Flinders grass and 145 wax matches were put in.

### OUTBREAK OF FIRE

Sep 26: Grass took fire during the night. (The rats had been starved for two days previously, except for the grass of which they ate considerably more than one would think.)

A fresh supply of dry Flinders grass and 50 matches were added.

Sep 29th. No more fires. Rats and cage removed into tennis court so that gates could be locked and so prevent the human element coming into the picture. Dry Flinders grass but no matches were put in, as we wanted to see if the spontaneous combustion theory would work.

### CAGED WITHOUT GRASS

Oct 10: No fire. Four out of the eight rats were transferred to a cage with a wooden floor, the idea being to see what happened to the matches. No grass was put in, only 10 matches.

Within a couple of seconds a rat sat up with a match, bit the business end and ignited it, the match falling on to the floor still alight. I might mention that rats had been starved for two days previously.

Seven hours later only one of the ten matches remained intact. Four had been bitten but heads had not been ignited; one head of another was found and the remnants of the other matches still remained.

Rats were then fed and the four in the last mentioned cage were returned to their former cage.

Oct 14: Four rats were put in a cage with a wooden floor. Dry Flinders grass and 10 matches were added. On the 16th 10 more matches were added. On the 18th three of the four rats died and substitutes were introduced and on the 21st the cage caught fire. On the 26th the test was discontinued.

### DEFINITE PROOF

The above definitely proves that rats do cause fires by igniting dropped wax matches, and judging by the test, one would say the risk of their doing so – after taking into consideration the few matches available to them – was so small that it was not worth considering. The fact remains, however, that rats in the last four months have caused any fires.

If dropped matches are the only means by which rats can cause a fire, it surely is logical to assume that as the circle radiates from a point of habitation, so should there be less matches dropped and, therefore, fewer fires, but in fact this is far from the case. Matches apparently are not the only means by which rats can cause a fire.

Although under the above test, no fire took place without matches, I am still not convinced that rats do not cause fires without the presence of matches, and am inclined to think spontaneous combustion is the principal cause.

Mrs AG Wall (Agate Downs) left last week for Home Hill on a short visit to her parents (Mr and Mrs

Robert Milburn) and is expected to return next week.

**29 Nov 1941 (S1, NQ649, NQR)**

Photo of Bardia

**10 Jan 1942 (P44, 420110, NQR)**

JC, Jan 7 – The weather these past few days has been almost overbearing and thunderstorms are expected at any time. Good rain was welcomed at many of the surrounding stations.

Drover Fickling has just completed the droving of the Eddington fatts. The only other stock movement is 4000 sheep taken from Oxton downs to Lara by Drover Jim Tierney.

Mr Hudson, carpenter, employed by Samuel Allen and Sons has arrived in JC in order to rebuild the bulk store which was blown down in a cyclonic storm.

Carpenter Whiting is busy repairing the destructive work of the same storm which destroyed the fence of the post Office.

Mr and Mrs WG Gannon and daughters have left for the south to enjoy their well deserved holiday. Mr Clive Jaques from Richmond has for some days been helping his brother George in the butchering business. He expects to return in a week or so.

The Superintendent of the Ambulance, Mr H Benson has been kept busy by the numerous cases which required his attention at Sedan Dip, Kynuna and Oorindi.

**31 Jan 1942 (P34, 420131, NQR)**

JC, Jan 23 – For the past fortnight we have endured broiling heat and sweltering nights the town as yet having received no relief rain to cool the atmosphere. Seventy four and 30 points fell on Werrina and Eureka Stations respectively and other localities have had variable showers.

Contractor WA Mathews commenced shearing last week at Lindfield the property of Messrs Wall and Walker.

It is with pleasure that we have to record the names of the five successful candidates in the recent State Scholarship examination. They are: May Cummins, Vincent Ahern, John Blanch, Keith Pollard and Alan Whiting. To these children we extend our heartiest congratulations.

Sister Blanch has arrived from Mt Isa to take over the matronship of the local hospital. Miss Enid Parsons has returned to the Mater Hospital, Brisbane after spending a short holiday with her parents. She was accompanied by her sister Pixie who also intends to follow nursing as a career.

Mrs RB Hampton and daughter Merle departed on Sunday's train for Townsville where they will spend the remainder of their school vacation. Also travelling down on Monday night's mail was Mrs Bob Taylor.

Rather painful injuries were sustained by Mr Bill Everingham at his employers's (Mr J Shaw) station, Fairlea, Nelia when he collapsed beside the stove and upset a kettle of scalding water over himself. He suffered severe scalds and was conveyed to hospital by the ambulance.

Mr H Fickling, drover, had the misfortune to break his left arm whilst handling a young horse.

**6 Feb 1942 (P5, NQ676, CA)**

NOTICE

—————  
AIR RAID WARDENS'  
ORGANISATION

—————  
A complete blackout of  
the town of Cloncurry  
will take place

TONIGHT

Friday, February 6, 1942.

Motorists are requested  
to carry out the in-  
structions contained in  
the pamphlet.

FS Hope

Chief Warden

**7 Feb 1942 (p34, NA, NQR)**

JC – The rat plague on JC is very bad and the townspeople have resorted to trapping and killing which must tell a tale in the long run. Last night over 1000 were killed in the town area and carted away by a Council man. If this rate goes on for a few nights the rodents will be a minor pest and will soon be wiped out.

A large meeting of townspeople assembled in Eckford's Hall on Tuesday night to consider the question of evacuees from Townsville and other important matters. Mr Allison occupied the chair and explained the purposes of the meeting. A large committee was appointed and this committee met again next night and appointed Mr Waller, chairman and Mr Parsons, secretary. Messrs Waller and Parsons have already done very valuable work regarding evacuees and they are to be commended on their work. Subcommittees have already been appointed and the townspeople are doing all that is possible in these very stressful times.

The sporting bodies of JC are inactive at present.

**14 Feb 1942 (p46, 420214, NQR)**

JC – The rat plague in JC is still acute and all persons are keen on catching them and the Council are attending to their destruction. Thousand have been destroyed already.

The local hospital is experiencing a very busy time and always seems to have a large number of patients. Dr Carter is kept very busy.

**21 Feb 1942 (p42, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 10 – We regret to report that Mr Bert Burrows had a nasty accident when a tent pole fell on his head and made a nasty gash in his head. The local ambulance was quickly to the rescue and rendered first aid and Mr Burrows was taken to the hospital. He is now out of hospital and well on the mend.

Owing to the recent rains the council plants have not been able to get far from the town as they donot want to get caught out in teh wet should we get a good wet season and so be held up away from the sheds probably for weeks.

The local swimming baths are well patronised in the hot weather and are a great boon. Some enthusiasts go down at night time to cool off in the baths. On Sundays the baths are very well patronised. The evacuees are also wandering down to the baths and are pleased to know that such a small town has these conveniences.

JC township has bucked up a little with the advent of people coming here from the coast, and also shearers coming back for the shearing season. Not that there is much shearing yet, but crutching will start in earnest soon.

**27 Feb 1942 (p? NA, CA)**

THIS WAS TOBRUK

How They Lived

Details of what the defenders of Tobruk went through during the long siege are given in a British official message.

They lived mostly by night, especially in the hottest sector, on the west side of the outer defences facing the Germans, and lived dangerously, it says. Their only exercise was the slow, stooping approach to



enemy position, a sudden leap forward at a given signal, a maelstrom of movement in hand to hand battle, a bayonet jab, the swing of a rifle butt, the toss of a grenade.

The defenders came out at night from their daylight wait underground, from caves, subterranean forts of concrete and dugouts, only when on battle bent. After dawn many of them could not appear above ground. At some points only half a mile apart, enemy machines covered the holes which led into the light of day. At intervals shells crashed down on their positions.

The Royal Navy saw that the garrison was supplied with the necessary things – food and war equipment. Anything else, such as books, magazines, cigarettes and beer came last, if there was room.

The defenders of Tobruk might be up in the forward areas for two weeks at a time. Their respite was only comparative. Going back meant returning to shelling, bombing and machine gunning from the air.

Each night a patrol of eight men was ordered to approach a German post, creeping round on it from behind and wiping it out if possible. The main thing, however, was to get prisoners. With the moon behind them they needed their wits about them to avoid silhouetting themselves against the skyline. In the stillness of the night the slightest sound was magnified. In addition, tufts of thorn, barbed wire, shell holes, trenches and telephone wires had to be avoided. The two miles to an enemy post might take an hour or more. The last lap meant crawling along in a prone position. When the Germans eventually saw them a flare went up from the post and as the eight men dashed forward a shower of grenades burst at their feet. Disregarding wounds, the men did their work gallantly.

Finally a report went out to the world something like this: “One of our patrols penetrated two miles into enemy territory and successfully attacked a German post, inflicting casualties on the enemy and bringing back prisoners. Our casualties were one officer and one other rank wounded.”

**27 Feb 1942 (p? NQ675, CA)**  
LINES WRITTEN IN A DUGOUT  
(By Lieut AG Austin, Vic)

In my cave lives a solitary rat  
(A celibate rat,  
I can vouch for that);  
He hasn't a mate for miles around  
And he lives on what he finds on  
the ground,  
Though the country's such  
That that's not much.  
I don't like he  
And he can't stand me,  
But we need the roof, so there we be.

In my cave lives a type of flea  
(A scurrilous flea,  
Believe you me);  
And though he's such a tiny thing,  
His bite is worse than a scorpion's  
sting.  
He lives on rat,  
But worse than that  
He lives on me,  
This scurrilous flea,  
With all his numerous progeny.

Near my cave lives the octave bird  
(The queerest bird  
You've ever heard);  
He sings eight notes as he climbs

the scale,  
Though the topmost note is known  
to fail,  
He's very small,  
Just like us all.

So in we fit,  
Though we're cramped a bit –  
Old rat,  
And flea,  
And bird,  
And me!

**14 Mar 1942 - 5 Feb 1944 missing NQR copies in Qld State Library**

Plus: 3,10,24 Nov 1945; Dec 1945 - 16 Mar 1946; 30/3/46; 11/5/46

**9 Oct 1942 (p? NA, CA)**

**GAS PRODUCER**

**Questions and Answers**

Mr Barney Long of Barney Long and Co is at present busily engaged fitting gas producer units to trucks and cars needed for essential industry, but the following hints may be handy to those who have already installed the gas units. They will be continued next week:

Q – Will a Producer Gas Unit harm any engine?

A – Definitely no. According to Professor Aubrey Burstall, Professor of Engineering, Melbourne University, ordinary petrol and air mixture contains 20 milligrams of dust. This is more than twice the dust content of gas produced by a Pederick Gas Producer unit. Actually it would be possible to decrease the dust content even further by increasing the number of cleaners, but performance would be sacrificed due to the resultant decrease in pressure of gas from the unit to the engine. The Commonwealth Government test imposed on gas producers offered for sale makes certain that engines will not be harmed, providing of course, that proper care is taken to carry out the simple instructions of the manufacturers.

Q – How do I start my vehicle running on charcoal gas?

A – You start the engine on petrol in the ordinary way, then light the furnace with a simple taper, and at the end of one mile the engine will be running perfectly on producer gas by merely changing your foot from the ordinary petrol accelerator to the producer gas accelerator pedal which is placed conveniently alongside.

Q – How far can I go without adding more charcoal?

A – This depends on hopper size, type of vehicle and load, but in all cases a minimum of 50 miles can be arranged and in most cases easily exceeded. To obtain the best results it is advisable to keep the hopper as full as possible by regular "topping up", a matter of a few moments, which can be done while the engine is running. Charcoal for this purpose can be conveniently carried in special paper bags.

Q – What service does producer gas require?

A – Only the cleaners require service, a short operation which needs to be carried out every 300 to 500 miles, according to the quality and cleanliness of the charcoal.

Q – How does producer gas affect performance?

A – Cruising speed is not affected, but power falls away on hills unless a little petrol is used. Because of the arrangement of the accelerator pedals, petrol is conveniently and instantly available, and by using about one gallon of petrol to 100 miles, no time need be lost at all.

Q – What about charcoal supplies?

A – Arrangements are being made by government and private concerns for suitable charcoal to be obtainable everywhere.

Q – What will happen if I forget or neglect to clean the filters?

A – A removable security filter placed conveniently at the last point of the filters will gradually choke up and stop the engine, but no damage whatsoever will take place. This will be the first thing to look for and if choked, merely take it out, shake it, and replace it, but act on the warning it has given.

### **16 Oct 1942 (p? NA, CA)**

#### **GAS PRODUCER**

#### **General Hints When Using**

**CHARCOAL:** It is essential that screened charcoal is used; a careful operator sieves each bag before using as the handling and friction of charcoal in transit causes it to disintegrate and become dusty again, and, if used without sieving, means more frequent cleaning of the filters. Size of charcoal is important, and no pieces should be larger than will pass through 1 inch mesh. Hardwood, particularly Red Gum timber, gives the most power and the longest range per bag. It should be well burnt, otherwise it may contain tar, which is difficult to remove and causes sticking valves.

The charcoal should also be dry. If it is wet, the moisture in it will be converted into steam in the generator and pass to the filters, interfering first with the Primary Cleaner by making the dust wet, then by condensing in the oil cleaner and overfilling it, then getting in the wood-wool and preventing it acting as a cleaner and drier, and finally saturating the final felt cleaner and preventing the gas from passing through the felt. If this happens, clean everything out properly and refill with fresh charcoal.

**DRYING CHARCOAL:** One way of drying charcoal is to fill the hopper at night, or after a run when the hopper is warm or hot, leaving the hopper lid slightly open by inserting something just under it to allow the evaporated water to escape, but be sure to close the lid after about an hour or the entire hopperful will burn away.

**FILLING THE GENERATOR WITH CHARCOAL:** Open top lid of generator, taking care not to damage the gasket, and stand clear, as ignition will occur when the unburnt gas in the generator comes in contact with the air. If this ignition does not occur, throw a lighted match into the open generator, otherwise ignition may take place unexpectedly. It is then safe to fill the charcoal.

After filling, clamp down the lid. It will be found necessary to drive for 100 yards or so on petrol to again draw the gas through. Normally the fire will remain alight for several hours; experience will teach when it is necessary to relight. After short stoppages (say five to 10 minutes duration) the engine should restart on gas, although many prefer to idle on gas for short stops. Expert operators always stop to refuel on the down slope of a hill so as to start without using petrol. Every 100 miles clean primary. Check water drop feed. Check oil level.

**A DRIVING TIP:** When coming to a corner, especially out of minor streets, where the car is slowed down, it is advisable to change down so that the engine revs can be kept up, rather than try to pick up in top gear, as the gas flow is lessened if the suction is dropped.

**EASY STARTING:** To make sure of lighting up quickly, break down any “arching” which may have occurred overnight, i.e. pole the charcoal in the hopper right to the bottom before lighting the fire, particularly near the lighting orifice.

**WATER:** Some people will tell you water is not necessary in the fire; this is not so. You will find you get more power, better idling, use less fuel and generate less heat by using water in proper proportions. Water should be turned on when hopper has warmed up which usually takes about three to four miles. Turn on to drip at no less than 50 drops a minute. **AND MORE IF CONDITIONS FAVOUR IT.** The more heat there is, due either to weather or fast running, the more water should be used. This will enrich the gas and keep the fire from spreading and causing too much heat.

**OVERHEATING:** Causes – (1) Charcoal too low in generator; (2) not enough water being used; (3) charcoal too big, allowing fire to spread; (4) improper air mixture; (5) clinker formed in generator; (6) generator lid gaskets leaking.

**IGNITION:** The ignition system of the engine is of major importance when using producer gas. Troubles, such as loss of power, difficult starting, inability to use proper amount of water, etc, have been traced to weak ignition. If these symptoms occur, have spark plugs tested, set spark plug gaps at about 15 thousandths, advance octane selector to full advance.

**BACKFIRING IN ENGINE:** If popping occurs in engine the cause is most likely to be, either too much water from tank, wet charcoal, or a hot spot. Reduce water supply and retard spark.

**FIRE SLOW TO LIGHT:** This is due to no draught, or not strong enough draught. Causes – (1) Gas throttle not sufficiently open; (2) clinker or ash in generator preventing draught from getting through. The remedy – open lid at bottom of generator, remove clinker and dust, replace with fresh charcoal; (3) bad leak somewhere – possibly generator lid not shut properly; (4) sometimes when refilling generator with charcoal a cavity may have formed near lighting orifice so that taper does not contact with the charcoal, or if the charcoal has been alight before it may have burnt an “arch” near the lighting orifice. Remedy: Poke down with iron spike which should always be kept handy.

### **13 Nov 1942 (421113, CA)**

Comments on the Austerity War Loan

### **11 Dec 1942 (421211, CA)**

Word was received in town during the week that Justin Shanahan and Lance Bode of the AIF had been reported killed in action.

... Lance Bode is also a Winton boy and is a nephew of Mr Len Bode of Bodell. Lance was a lieutenant and was recently decorated with the Military Cross for distinguished service against Rommel's forces in Egypt.

To his relatives we extend much sympathy in their loss.

### **8 Jan 1943 (p? NA, CA)**

JC – Congratulations to Mrs L McPherson on the good news that her son (John) has been awarded the Military Medal. He is the first lad from this district to receive honours in the field. John Angus McPherson is a native of Richmond and is 21 years of age. He is the son of the late Mr McPherson. His many friends wish him the best of luck.

Nurse Marcel Blanch has returned to Brisbane.

A dance in aid of the Ambulance was put on in a hurry and it was a most enjoyable night for the young folk and it was a great success.

The heat is terrific and it looks as if we are in for plenty of rain in the New Year.

Have heard that a first-class milk bar is to be installed at the shop of Mr W Mathews. It will be an added attraction to our town.

JC, 6 Jan

Quite a gloom was cast over the town when the sad news was received that Private Leslie Triffet was killed in action on December 22. Leslie was a very popular lad and came to our town at a very young age. He was 26 years of age at the time of his death. The flag flew at half-mast from the Shire Hall and at night, at Eckford's Picture Show, all stood for one minute in silence in honour of our hero. His eldest brother, Private Ted Triffet, is a prisoner of war. To his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers, his many friends extend their sincere sympathy.

The town is looking very fresh, and green grass is to be seen everywhere. The house fly is being very troublesome, also the mosquitoes by night.

The local scour is out of operation, the trouble being a shortage of wood.

Miss Ivy Gannon left by Monday's night's train to take up nursing at the General Hospital, Brisbane. She will be a great loss to the town, being a member of the Younger Set and an energetic patriotic worker. Her sister Olive is on the staff of the Brisbane Post Office. A host of friends wish Ivy the best of luck.

**15 Jan 1943 (p?, NA, CA)**

JC – Mrs Smith, accompanied by Miss L Triffett, arrive home to spend a holiday with her parents (Mr and Mrs T Triffett). Both these ladies are sisters of the late Private Les Triffett.

The town is very quiet at present. Drivers Kelly and Fickling are still hung up owing to the state of the roads since the recent rains.

Our new health inspector (Mr Dhu) and family arrived and have taken up residence in Burke St.

Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis arrived home after spending an enjoyable Christmas with relatives in CT.

The heat is again terrific and the grass is beginning to look dry owing to the heat. We have had a few drops of rain but we need much more.

A number of our young lads have received their military call-up.

Quite a few of our sports went down to attend the Nelia races. Messrs Fickling, Stanley, Graham, Parker and Mr Benson (our local Ambulance) was in attendance. All voted it a splendid day's outing.

**15 Jan 1943 (430115, CA)**

Bottle shortage

1/- extra deposit

Owing to the acute shortage of bottles through non-return we, the undersigned are compelled to charge a further 1/- per dozen deposit on same as from Monday next, 18th inst.

**22 Jan 1943 (430122, CA)**

Sapper Joe Mathews arrived home on Sunday and spent an enjoyable holiday with his parents at Hilton Park. Miss Mary Cummins is spending an extended holiday in Townsville as the guest of her uncle and aunt (Mr and Mrs Joe Clark).

Misses Jennie Byrne and Dorrie Triffett (Post Office staff) have received notice of their transfer to Townsville. These young ladies will be a sad loss to our town as at all times they rendered their best service to the public.

Mr and Mrs John Shaw are spending a holiday in Townsville as guests of Mr and Mrs Haughty.

**29 Jan 1943 (p?, NA, CA)**

JC – At last our local canteen is opened. This should prove a great comfort to our travelling forces as often large bodies of men could be seen wandering the street in search of food and cool drinks. Our town has two ice works and will supply ice at all times. At one station along the line soldiers report having paid 3s per bottle for soft drinks. When asked why the over charge the reply is that there is a war on. Cordials are sold here for 9d per bottle from both factories.

Corporal Lennie Thompson arrived after spending a week with his parents in Townsville. Len enlisted from here. He reports all our lads in the fighting forces are looking splendid.

Mr WA Mathews arrived home from Sydney and has opened up a first-class milk bar, all soft drinks and fresh fruit being for sale. The shop is in the capable hands of Mrs B Fiddler. This should be a great boon to the children being so near the school and also will be an added attraction to our town.

Regret to report news of another sad death, that of Private Willie Munro who died of wounds. He was better known as "Texas" Munro and was employed at the local scour before he enlisted; he was a very popular lad. It is pleasing to note that his mate (Corporal T Fickling) was with him when he was called

upon to pay the supreme sacrifice.

Mr W Watson (line foreman) is at present doing repairs to all telephones.

Constable Fred Murray has been transferred and has left, accompanied by Mrs Murray and two sons, for an extended holiday before taking up duty.

Constable McCallum has arrived and taken up duty.

### **19 Feb 1943 (430219, CA)**

Corporal G Sills on his way south spent a few days with his mother and sister in Brisbane.

Great news to hand that all our girls in Brisbane are looking splendid. Misses Olive and Ivy Gannon, Lucy and Rita Byrne, Enid and Ellen Parsons, M Blanch, J Perrett. Private Lily Gerahty is now stationed in Townsville.

### **5 Mar 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

The JC branch of the QN Bank will close on March 15.

Owing to the delay of mails no southern papers arrived and were sadly missed by readers.

Glad news to our town is that Lieut Lionel Wall, Privates Bob and Fred Baxter, Private George Varry and Private Proudfoot arrived safely back in Australia. We are looking forward to their next leave, when they will visit their home town.

Mr George Cummins, of the JC Hotel, has lately purchased Calwewa Station and is now in possession. We wish George the best of luck in his new venture.

Don't forget to come along to the baby show on March 13.

The St Patrick's euchre party and dance will be held in Eckford's Hall on March 20. All are assured of a good time. There will be good music.

Mrs George Cummins returned home after visiting her daughter (Mrs Edwards, Djarra).

### **5 Mar 1943 (p? NQ674, CA)**

#### **RESTRICTIONS ON PETROL**

#### **Council Severely Hit**

Many received a shock during the week when they attended the Court House to collect their petrol ration tickets. Private cars are practically forced off the road, their allowance being one gallon fortnightly, whilst other cars are reduced proportionately.

Mr C Attridge, Council overseer, called into our office and said the Council allowance had been cut 34 gallons per month, they now receiving 280 gallons per month.

He says in February the Cloncurry sanitary wagon used 44 gallons and garbage truck 30 gallons. Mt Isa sanitary 66 gallons, garbage 40 gallons, dodge truck which does road work 80 gallons, whilst the electric light utility was responsible for 48 gallons, or a total of 308 gallons of benzene were used in February, 28 gallons more than the allowance, without any petrol being used by the overseer's truck.

The overseer has been instructed to make an inspection of various roads in the shire but unless some reduction is made in petrol consumption by other Council trucks, he will apparently have to travel per boot or push bike – if the Council can get a bike and tyres and tubes.

### **12 Mar 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

The weather is still very hot. Last Saturday night we were fortunate to have light misty rain. Sunday was a very hot day and towards evening a good shower of rain fell, yielding 59 points in all. This has cooled the air somewhat.

Mr and Mrs Tom Wall (Lindfield) were visitors to town to meet their son (Lieut Lionel Wall). They

spent the weekend in town. Lieut Lionel is looking in the pink and will spend extended leave at home.

Mr and Mrs Sam Cummins and daughter Vanda (Railway) arrived home after spending six weeks holiday at Picnic Bay. Sam is much improved in health.

Mrs V Faithfull and son Paul arrived home after an extended holiday spent in Townsville with relatives.

Congratulations go out to the Sisters of Mercy Convent, JC, for all pupils gaining successful passes in their recent examinations.

Mr and Mrs Harry Mathews (Hilton Park) left by Monday night's train for Sydney, where Mr Mathews will seek medical attention. His many friends wish him a very speedy recovery.

Mrs G Sills arrived home after spending an extended holiday in Brisbane with her son-in-law and daughter (Mr and Mrs Anger).

Private Proudfoot arrived home looking very well. His mother and sister were in town to meet him and after a short stay left for their home at Dalgonally Station.

There is no doubt all our returned lad and lassies can be safely voted as looking tiptop.

The house party held at the Presbytery last Friday night was a great success. The euchre was won by Mrs T Brennan (lady's) and Mr Jim Parsons (gent's). The basket of fruit disposed of was won by Mr Jim Parsons. Looks as if it was Jim's lucky night. All present had a most enjoyable time.

### **19 Mar 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

Ann Norton Champion Baby of Show

The first baby show to be held at JC was conducted under the auspices of the Presbyterian Women's Guild, with Mrs E Dhu as promoter and took place in Mathew's Hall on Saturday afternoon last. Rev Bruce, Cloncurry, was present.

Mr EH Doubleday (Deputy Chairman, McKinlay Shire Council) officially opened the function and struck a note of humour when he stated it did appear to him as ludicrous to think that he, a bachelor, should be called upon to open a baby show.

The photographic section of 32 entries was suitably arranged on a table in the hall and caused much interest. These photos, which were classed in two sections – (a) tinted photos (b) untinted photos – were judged by Dr Carter (Medical Officer), who stated his task was not made easy with the fine exhibits offering. His decision was as follows: Tinted Section, Baby Ken Ahern, 10 months; Untinted Section Miss June Fiddler, two years.

The judges for the baby show were Matron Blanch and Sister Hough and both stated their task had been most difficult and they found it hard to differentiate lovely specimens of childhood. The judges were presented with a beautiful bouquet each by Misses M Dhu and E Mann. The prizes were awarded as follows:

Class A, three entries, six months and under: Ann Norton, five months, daughter of Mr and Mrs F Norton, JC.

Class B, four entries, 6 months and under 12 months, Francis Neal Fayers, Quarrel Street, JC.

Class C, seven entries, 12 months and under 18 months: Joy Peters, 16 months, daughter of Mr and Mrs A Peters, Quarrel St, JC.

Class D, two entries, 18 months and under two years: Jill Jensen, 20 months, daughter of Mr and Mrs J Jensen, Burke St, JC.

Class E, nine entries, 2 to 4 years, Gail Stanley, 3 years 3 months, daughter of Mr and Mrs W Stanley, Coyne St, JC.

Champion Baby of the show: Ann Norton.

The winners were presented with their prizes by Mrs LE Dhu and the applause which met each award was evidence that the judges selection had met with the approval of all present. The prizes consisted of War Savings Certificates which had been generously donated.

The stalls – cakes, sweets, jams, ice cream, soft drinks, artificial flowers – all under the supervision of Mrs H Mann speedily sold out. Mr Mann guessed the correct weight of the fruit cake and little Martin Lowman held the winning number in the basket of sweets.

Afternoon tea was served by the Presbyterian Women's Guild which body takes this opportunity to thank Mesdames Blanch and Hough and Messrs Doubleday, Parsons and Dr D Carter and others too numerous to enumerate here, who helped to make this function the grand social success all present agreed it was.

### **19 Mar 1943 (p6, NQ663c, CA)**

#### **HORSE AND RIDER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING**

##### **16 YEAR-OLD LAD KILLED**

The residents of JC and district were shocked when they learned on Monday evening that James Malone, the 16 year-old son of Mr and Mrs Ted Malone, of Toorak Station, had been struck by lightning and killed, writes our JC correspondent.

From the meagre details to hand it appears the lad was riding a horse near a cattle camp on Eddington Station when a fierce storm arose and after a vivid flash and crash of lightning it was found that both Jim and his horse were struck dead.

The unfortunate lad's body was taken to JC for burial, the funeral taking place at 4 pm on Tuesday from the Roman Catholic Church, it being largely attended.

Jim, who was the eldest of the family, was a good son to his parents, was well-known, had many many friends, and was of a bright nature.

Mr and Mrs Malone and family were well-known in Cloncurry and to his sorrowing parents, sister and brothers, sincere sympathy will be extended in their sad loss.

**JC** – Corporal George Sills arrived home on Sunday to spend leave with his parents (Mr and Mrs Sills).

Private George Horning arrived home and is spending leave with his sister (Mrs W Winton).

Private Lilly Gerahty let by Wednesday's train for Townsville after an enjoyable holiday spent with relatives. Lilly also spent a few days in Cloncurry as the guest of Mr and Mrs Riley.

A party held at the home of Mrs W Winton last Sunday night was a great success. Dainty supper was served and all present spent a most enjoyable night.

On Monday evening last we had a severe electric dry storm. The lightning was terrific. During the night rain fell yielding 49 points of rain.

### **26 Mar 1943 (p6, NA, CA)**

JC – ... the home of Mrs W Winton in honour of her birthday. The above lady's hospitality is always to the fore in entertaining the young people, her spacious home being always at their disposal. Dancing, singing and games took up most of the night. A dainty supper was served and all wended their way home tired out, but happy, after a most enjoyable night.

Mr Roy Hampton bought the QN Bank buildings. The furniture was auctioned and sold like hot cakes, all bringing good prices.

Quite a lot of town sports held a picnic at Punchbowl and it is reported caught some nice fish, including two small small shovel-nose sharks also a sword fish.



Private WJ Glasson (Lara) is spending leave in town and will return to his station for a few weeks.

**2 Apr 1943 (430402, CA)**

Sgt John Walters arrived home and is spending leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs J Walters.

Last Sunday night in Mathew's Hall a very pleasant farewell party for our lads in the forces was given by the ladies of the town. Dancing, singing and games took up the night. A dainty supper was served. Lieut Lionel Wall in a few well chosen words, thanked all present for the enjoyable evening and said the lads would always remember the good times they had in the small town of ours. The music was supplied by Miss M Kaeser (piano), Mr Jaques (drums), and private J W Glasson (piano). The evening ended with the singing of 'For they are Jolly Good fellows'. All had a splendid time.

**30 Apr 1943 (p1, NQ673, CA)**

On Monday last at 6 pm, JC witnessed one of the prettiest and most brilliant weddings held at that town for many years. The ceremony took place in the RC Church, the Rev Father Brennan, PP, officiating. The contracting parties were George James, second son of Mr and Mrs J Magoffin, of Etta Plains, and Valerie Joan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs JP Ahearn, JC. The church was artistically decorated for the occasion. The kneeling rests were prettily draped and tied with small bows, and satin cushions, and was the work of the Sisters of Mercy.

The graceful bride made a very charming picture as she entered the church on the arm of her father, who gave her away. Her gown was of rich white-silk organza, prettily trimmed with silk lace frill on bodice, forming a deep square yoke. Dainty buttons from neck to waist in front and silk lace frill encircled the waist. The smart ankle-length skirt with inlet silk lace fell gracefully, forming a very smart Edwardian train. The pretty silk embroidered veil was worn well off the face showing a dainty fan-shaped uplift tulle. The veil was kindly loaned by Mrs Anderson (Spreyton Station). The bride's pretty bouquet was of beautiful St Joseph lilies tied with a satin bow and was made by Mrs Doyle (Huddersfield Station)

The bride was attended by two charming bridesmaids, who were daintily attired. Miss Joan Doyle chose a pretty green ankle-length frock. Dainty ruffled frills trimmed the bodice and skirt and the [?] green tulle heart-shaped headdress was held in place with [?], the long tulle veil falling to her shoulders. Her pretty bouquet was made of pink roses of many shades tied with satin bow and streamers.

Miss Mary Winton chose a pretty pink ankle-length frock daintily trimmed with [?turbed] ribbon on the [?bodice]. Pretty pink ribbon bows trimmed the dainty skirt and the green tulle heart-shaped head-dress was held in place with dainty flowers, the long tulle veil falling to her shoulders. Her pretty bouquet of pink roses of many shades was tied with satin bow and streamers. Both the bridesmaids' bouquets were made by Mrs Doyle.

The bridegroom was assisted by Mr J McInness (Argyle Station) as best man and Mr Vincent Ahern (brother of the bride) acted as [groomsman?]

Mrs J Ahern (mother of the bride) wore a dainty green frock of Lotus silk richly worked in white on the yoke. She wore a smart hat with accessories to tone. Her dainty bouquet was tied with a green main bow.

Mrs Magoffin (mother of the bridegroom) chose a smart mustard crepe [?Deso] frock. She wore a dainty [ciliament?] and a smart black hat and accessories to tone. Her dainty bouquet was finished with a green bow to match.

The reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, where Mrs J Ahern, assisted by Mrs Magoffin, received her 80 guests. The spacious verandah was nicely decorated in blue and gold streamers and a wedding bell. The table was prettily arranged with flowers, and dainty bell-shaped place cards. Pride of place on the table was given the three-tiered handsome wedding cake made by the bride's grandmother (Mrs G Ahern) and was artistically decorated by Miss Beryl Reid (State Rural School, Ingham). The table was laden with every conceivable delicacy. Rev Father Brennan acted as chairman and in his usual bright manner kept all present very happy. The toast of the King was honoured. Father Brennan spoke in glowing terms of the happy young couple wishing them every happiness. The other usual toasts were honoured.

Visiting relatives were Mrs Peut, Mrs G Ahern, Mrs L Peat, Mrs T Ahern and daughter, MC Vaughan and D Kendall.

Presents received were numerous and valuable, including many substantial cheques.

The happy couple left by Monday night's train for Brisbane where the honeymoon will be spent. A number of well-wishers farewelled them at the station. The bride travelled in a blue Lupin Cordetta frock, smartly made and forming a bolero effect. She wore an edge-to-edge coat and a dainty hat and grey accessories.

Miss P Kelly presided at the organ and played the Wedding March as the bride entered the church.

Mr and Mrs GJ Magoffin will return to Etta Plains where they will reside. We join in wishing the happy couple the best of luck.

### **7 May 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

JC – I regret to report that Mr A Cameron, well-known storekeeper and Casket agent, is closing his business. Alex is an old Digger and intends joining in war work. He will be a great loss to our town. Here's wishing Mr and Mrs Cameron the best of luck.

Pte Eddie Fickling arrived home and is spending leave with his brothers and sister-in-law.

Congratulations to four of our local ladies – Misses M Winton, M Brisbane, M [?] Pollard and M Hampton – who volunteered to join the AWAC and are now anxiously awaiting their call-up.

The local scour is still out of operation but will soon be working, when a long run is expected.

The euchre party held at the Presbytery last Friday night was well attended. Prizes went to Mrs W Stanley (ladies), Mr Frank Whiting (gentlemen). Dainty supper was served by the ladies. The arrangements were in the capable hands of Messrs T Brennan and G Hampton. All present had an enjoyable night. The tin of sweets disposed of was won by Mr S Byrne.

Sallens [Samuel Allens] and Sons' store is closed and the large building and private dwelling are for sale.

### **21 May 1943 (430521, CA)**

Sorry to report that Mr W Davis was taken suddenly ill and was hurried to hospital. Here's wishing Bill a speedy recovery.

Four of our local lassies have received their call-up and expect to leave about the 27th. They are Misses M Winton, M Brisbane, H Hammond and E Pollard.

Mr and Mrs H Downey and daughters left by Monday's mail to spend a holiday in Brisbane.

Several large mobs of cattle can be seen passing through our town.

[Gaden]

### **28 May 1943 (430528, CA)**

Although the mornings are somewhat chilly we are having most enjoyable weather for this time of the year.

Mr W Mathews is opening a cash and carry store on his premises. Mr Percy Thompson will be in charge. This store will be an added attraction to our town.

Mrs I Wilkins returned after spending a holiday in Longreach as the guest of her daughter.

On Tuesday night in Mathew's Hall a most enjoyable farewell dance was held in honour of our four young ladies who have received their call up – Misses Mary Winton, M Brisbane, E Pollard and H

hammond. During the night Mr J Parsons (Shire Clerk) in well chosen words said he was indeed proud to compliment these young ladies in volunteering their services to such a good cause. He wished them good luck and god speed. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the pleasant evening to a close.

### **11 Jun 1943 (430611, CA)**

Go to Mrs Flo Watson's Cafe for service.

Mrs Ben Burrows is an inmate of the local hospital also son Ben who underwent an operation for appendicitis. Both are reported to be doing well.

Congratulations to Mr Percy Thompson who has just announced his engagement to Nurse Agnes Reardon of the local hospital. It looks as if this keen-eyed business man is going to be well nursed.

Mr WA Mathews cash and carry store is in full swing.

Mrs H Hivers has received the sad news that her son (Mr Bert Burrows), employed in the railway at [?] was accidentally killed. Deceased was well known in JC. He leaves a widow and seven small children. To his sorrowing relatives we extend our sincere sympathy.

### **11 Jun 1943 (p?, NA, CA)**

#### **WHY BUTTER IS RATIONED**

From Monday last, every person in Australia was rationed to half a pound of butter a week. E coupons in the new ration book will be used for butter.

Towels, towelling, sheets, sheeting, pillowslips and certain types of tablecloths and soft furnishings are also couponed. Clothing coupons must be used for these items of household drapery.

This extension of rationing in food and clothing was announced on Sunday by the Minister for Trade and Customs (Senator Keane).

“Australians may query why butter rationing is necessary when our supplies have always exceeded our requirements,” said Senator Keane. “The fact is, that urgent demands are being made on our butter at a time when our output has dropped slightly because of necessary manpower being diverted to essential war production. Supplies must be maintained for our own and allied fighting men in Australia. Britain is urgently in need of butter and we cannot ignore this need. Britain must have all the butter we can spare her. No Australian will complain of the half-pound ration per week when Britain survives on two ounces per head weekly – only a quarter of our ration. Our contribution of butter will only help Britain maintain her meagre ration – no more.”

Senator Keane pointed out that the average consumption of butter per head in Australia has been about 10 ounces per week but the ration of half a pound per week will be ample for health and nutrition.

Under butter rationing he said, farmers who made their own butter have a particular responsibility. They must collect coupons whether they give away, sell or exchange butter. They will also be required to register. Every farmer realises the importance of his role in Australia's war effort. He is now a vital cog in the rationing machine – an essential weapon of war – and his enthusiastic cooperation will not be missing when Australia is depending upon him.

### **9 Jul 1943 (p1, CA)**

Regret to report that the sisters of Mercy intend leaving JC about the end of this month. This will be a great and sad loss to our town as their many pupils already show great talent with music and singing.

P6: It is with regret that we have to report that the RC Convent is closed and that the sisters left for the South on Tuesday morning.

### **18 Jul 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

#### **WOOLSCOURING**

The woolscouring works at JC, Carrar (near Richmond) and at Ilfracombe (in the Central district) are in full swing and they operate continuously for some considerable time.

The present season's clip generally is scouring to an excellent colour and many pleasing prices were obtained at the recent appraisals. A number of choice clips from the Northern and Central Districts will be included in the June catalogues and it is expected that many topflight prices will be obtained.

The proportions of wool appraised during the 1941-42 season were 93 percent greasy and 7 percent scoured, an increase of one percent in favour of scoured compared with the previous year.

Considerable savings in storage and transport space could be effected if a greater percentage was scoured in country centres. Considering the accumulation of wool at Western rail centres and the storage difficulties in our appraisal centres, this is certainly an urgent matter for Qld.

Being even in quality, Western Qld wools lend themselves to scouring. They are often heavily laden with dust but this does not reduce their yield as seriously as might be estimated, taking into consideration their very earthy appearance.

It is not suggested that all wool be scoured but it would be a reasonable suggestion to scour more under present conditions. Western scours could handle the work.

In North Qld alone there is sufficient machinery available for the treatment of 55,000 to 60,000 bales of greasy wool per year (more than three times the quantity handled there at present).

As at least 35 percent of space can be saved by scouring, it is possible that the transport and storage space of approximately 20,000 bales of greasy wool could thus be saved from one part of the State alone.

If 40 percent (150,000 bales) of the Western Qld clip of approximately 400,000 bales were treated, it would mean saving the space occupied by 56,000 undumped greasy bales.

### **23 Jul 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

Regret to report that Mr and Mrs George Peut have received the sad news that their son Private Leslie Peut has been wounded in action. We sincerely hope it won't be of a serious nature. To his grieved relatives we extend our sympathy.

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Smith, Sunny Plains, was born with an extra thumb on the right hand. This was removed by the Medical Officer and baby was taken home quite well.

Mr and Mrs Fred Edwards brought their month old baby boy who was born in Boulia with two extra small fingers. Doctor has removed same and the baby is quite well.

### **25 Jul 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

Pte Erick Blanch, RA Navy, is spending an enjoyable leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs W Blanch. Erick is one of the town school boys.

It is with regret we have to report that the RC Convent is closed and that the Sisters left for the South on Tuesday morning. Last Friday night the young ladies of the town organised a euchre party and dance in Eckford's Hall proceeds to be given to the Sisters as a parting gift. The night was an outstanding success. Norton's Band supplied bright music, a dainty supper was served and all present voted the night a happy one.

### **30 Jul 1943 (p1, NQ672, CA)**

The town is very quiet. Drover Fickling reports the country is very dry and it looks as if the men on the land will have a very bad time.

Mr Peter Dawes has a very nice stock of clothing etc, call and have a look.

Miss Leslie Morris is at present an inmate of the local hospital. All wish Leslie a speedy recovery.

### **TOMATOES**

9d per lb. If take 1 bushel or over 8d per lb.

**27 Aug 1943 (p1, NQ671, CA)**

Drover Fickling is visiting his relatives and is the guest of Mrs Herb Fickling.

George Ryan, the well-known black tracker, passed away at JC last week. George was employed at the police Station for many years. [See DW62]

Our local ambulance is doing some splendid trips.

The young folk held a house party at the Presbytery. Dancing, singing and games took up the evening. All present had a splendid time.

Ad for Sunshine Milk

**10 Sep 1943 (430910, CA)**

The early hours of last Friday morning rain fell and continued until midday on Saturday, yielding 45 points. The night was clear and people were able to attend the pictures. On Sunday morning our town was enveloped in heavy fog.

Miss Betty Kaeser left for Townsville to spend a holiday with her sister, prior to her marriage to Mr Roy Donald. Both parties are very popular in our town and all join in wishing the happy couple the best in their future wedded life. Betty's sister, Mrs Farrell will be Matron of Honour at the wedding.

**24 Sep 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

JC – After twenty long months of waiting, great was the happiness in the home of Mr and Mrs W Gannon when they received on Thursday a letter card from their only son William J Gannon stating that he was safe and well, a prisoner of war in Singapore. Bill was a fine type of young manhood, being a splendid footballer. He was a very popular young lad and it is safe to say that the telephone rang all day from his many friends asking if the good news was correct. Let's hope it won't be long before we see Bill happy and reunited with his family.

A very painful accident occurred last Friday at Nonda when the small son of Mr and Mrs J Fickling whilst playing with his brother pulled a dish of hot water from the table over himself causing very severe burns on his face and chest. Allen only received slight burns on the arm. The ambulance brought both sufferers to Hospital where the ... [NC]

**24 Sep 1943 (p1, NQ670, CA)**

TS Ad – Monkey-tail scoop for sale

**1 Oct 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

Quite a gloom was cast over our town on Saturday when the sad news was received that Sapper Clive Frederick Wilder was killed in action in New Guinea on the 13th September. Clive was born at CT, 22 years of age, and was the second son of Mrs Skinner and the late Mr Herbert C Wilder. He came to JC with his parents when quite a young lad and received all his schooling at our State School. Possessed of a bright and happy nature he was well liked by all who knew him. He was a good son. Both flags from the Shire Council and CWA Cottage flew at half mast all day. At the Picture Theatre all stood for one minutes silence to honour another one of our Heroes who has been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice. Clive was a lover of horses and was a good horseman and his many friends will always remember this smiling youth riding his favourite horse over the downs. To his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers we extend our very sincere sympathy in their great sadness.

**5 Nov 1943 (p1, NA, CA)**

The Presbyterian ladies held their yearly dance in Mathews Hall. It was a great success. Dancing went on till midnight. All had a very happy time.

Last Friday the flags from the Council office and CWA Cottage flew at half mast when the sad news was received that Sgt Keith Glasgow, was killed in action in New Guinea on the 17th November 1943, and at the Star Picture Show on Saturday night all stood for one minute's silence in honour of the young hero. Keith was well liked and respected and carried out the duties as overseer on many stations before joining the forces. Some time before leaving he married Miss Mary Fairburn of Malvie Downs. To his sorrowing widow and relatives we extend our very sincere sympathy in their great sad loss.

**26 Nov 1943 (431126, CA)**

Quite a gloom was cast over the town when the School flag, Council flag, and CWA flag flew at half mast on Tuesday 16th November when it was learned that pretty Shirley, third daughter of Mr Tom Graham and the late Mrs Graham, passed peacefully away at the local hospital. On Sunday morning Shirley attended church and was so happy as all children were going out to attend a picnic at Eddington arranged by the Rev Father Grennan. In the afternoon it was noticed that Shirley was in convulsions. The ambulance was called and conveyed the little sufferer to hospital where she was admitted. Dr Carter and staff did all possible that could be done but in spite of all medical aid it was soon seen that the little child was sinking fast. The Rev Father Grennan administered the Last Sacrament. All relatives were at the bed side when Tuesday morning at 10 am the little soul passed peacefully away. The deceased possessed a bright and lovable nature, although at times did not enjoy the best of health and was loved by all who knew her. After Divine Service was held, the funeral left the Catholic Church at 11 am on Wednesday and was largely attended. Numerous wreathes were sent, many from her school mates.

**17 Dec 1943 (431217, CA)**

Our dairy man Mr Harbutt, regrets owing to no grass he is compelled to close down his dairy, but will endeavour to supply the hospital and infants and later on when grass is plentiful will only be too pleased to supply is many customers.

Congratulations goes to Mrs J Francis and Mr V Faithfull who won the most games at the euchre parties for the year held at the Presbytery. both parties received handsome gifts.

**7 Jan 1944 (440107, CA)**

1943 will go down in history as Cloncurry's quietest Christmas (that is, of course, if 1944 is not worse). The shops had very little to offer to entice the public and purchasing of Christmas presents was therefore restricted. The usual exchange of presents between relatives and friends in most cases did not take place. The time honored custom of Santa Claus was also missing in many homes as parents were unable to purchased toys and the dinner table on Christmas Day was not loaded down with good things as is usually the case. The ham was missing in most homes and dates, figs, lollies and other luxuries were also conspicuous by their absence. Most hotels had saved a little beer for Christmas Eve but the police report on the town is that everything was quiet. New Year's Day the town was much livelier there being numerous visitors from the country for the races but the extreme heat took much of the pleasure from what would otherwise have been a most enjoyable afternoon's sport.

**21 Jan 1944 (440121, CA)**

On Saturday morning at about 11 o'clock great was the shock when smoke was seen to be coming from the government House in Byrne Street occupied by Mr and Mrs Vince Fickling and family. The fire fighters and reel were quickly on the scene and although many worked with great skill and courage, the building was totally destroyed. We understand the house would be insured but Mr Fickling had no insurance on his furniture. In spite of the heat, many helpers rushed in and saved a few things. Mrs Fickling and three children were in Townsville when the fire took place. The news to her will be a great shock. to Mr and Mrs Fickling we extend our sympathy in their great sad loss. These bad times furniture is hard to get and one has to pay the highest prices for same.

Great credit and thanks goes to all those who helped at the fire in saving the large home of Mr RC Peut next door to Mr Fickling's. If this fine building had caught fire many buildings at the back would have been in danger as a strong wind was blowing. At the time Mr and Mrs RC Peut are holidaying in the south. Once again we say many thanks to the band of willing helpers in their splendid results.

On Sunday night last our town had another cyclonic blow when two very old houses were blown down.

Cloncurry has been experiencing a heat wave since the beginning of the year and the following maximum and minimum temperatures have been kindly supplied by the Post Office. Day after day the sun has shone down pitilessly and the heat has been accompanied by a scorching wind which scalds the face when one perspires. Saturday and sunday last were the highest registrations the mercury soaring to 114.8 and what it must have been in some of the glavanised homes in town one can only imagine. On Tuesday morning a cool breeze was blowing and all hope the almost unbearable weather is now at an end.

Jan 1 108.4, 76  
[through to Jan 19]

**21 Jan 1944 (440121, CA)**

Once again our dairy man Mr B Harbutt can be seen delivering on his milk run.

At the home of Mr and Mrs J Parsons, shire clerk, on Sunday night a most enjoyable Farewell party was held prior to the departure of their three daughters. Dancing, singing and games took up the evening. the charming hostess assisted by her daughters, served a dainty supper. all present had a very happy time.

Nurses End and Helen Parsons accompanied by their sister Joan left on Monday night for Brisbane where they are on the staff of the Mater hospital. Miss Joan will spend a holiday in Townsville before school commences when she will return to the Winton Convent.

Miss M Brisbane AWAS leaves on Thursday to rejoin her unit.

**5 Feb 1944 (p35, 440205, NQR)**

JC – Several places around JC have commenced crutching operations and are getting in early against the blowfly pest. The Grazier's Shearing Co are operating at Garomna and a small plant will be operating at Kelloshiel. Several other graziers contemplate starting crutching shortly. Shearing operations are very quiet at the present time due no doubt to the wet weather.

Tennis and swimming have been on the quiet side lately owing to the disturbed weather conditions which have been prevailing.

Miss alma Gannon who is nursing at the Brisbane General Hospital has been on holidays with her parents Mr and Mrs Bill Gannon, JC.

**12 Feb 1944 (p33, 440212, NQR)**

JC – Drover Triffet is on the road with a line of ewes from Toorak to Lara. The ewes are being crutched at JC. Drover Kelly is expected home this week. Drover H Fickling is at present in JC arranging the trucking of cattle.

We had a fat wether buyer here during the week, but, apart from odd lines he stated that most of the sheep were not quite ready but should be in good order in about six weeks to two months time.

Owing to the threatened wet weather sport has been very quiet. Even the swimming pool has not had the crowds it had during the very hot spell.

**25 Feb 1944 (440225, CA)**

JC, Feb 16 – The recent heavy rains held up the train carrying many passengers from Friday till the following Monday when the mail train left for cloncurry and the usual mail train left for Townsville on Monday night. We have already had 12 inches of rain and it is still raining heavily with no sign of it clearing up and although quite a large number of people were hung up owing to the delay of trains all were well catered for by the business places. Great credit goes to our only baker, 'Bally' Kaeser, who kept a bread supply to one and all, also the two butchers were kept going. Meat and bread had to be sent down in large supplies to the men carrying out the good work repairing the line. These men under Inspector Mathews went out early and returned home late.

Word has been received that Oorindi has had another three inches of rain in three hours and it is still raining heavy so it looks like as if a further delay of trains will be in store.

Both the Dalgonally and Millungera mails are unable to go out.

The birthday party held at the home of Mr and Mrs C Byrne on Sunday was a grand success when daughter Miss Jennie Byrne was 21. Dancing, singing and games took up the evening. The charming hostess served a dainty supper. Many friends wished the happy young woman the best. The singing of 'For She's a Jolly Good Fellow' brought the happy party to a close.

On Wednesday night after many had attended the Star Picture Show, Dr Donald Carter engaged Mathew's Hall and entertained quite a large number of young folk to a very happy dance, when many of the lades in the forces were present.

Quite a gala week of dancing took place in our town in spite of the rain. Friday night the red Cross dance held in Eckford's Hall was a grand success when all had a happy time. Mr Norton's band supplied bright music. Mr H Walters MC kept the dancers moving. The bright spots of the night were that many lads in Khaki were able to attend...

### **3 Mar 1944 (440303, CA)**

At the dances held during the hold up of trains in our town the young ladies were given some thrills as many khaki clad partners were on hand.

Mr D Lavarack left for a short holiday to Townsville. Mr R Watson, Blue Bird Cafe, left to spend some time in Townsville.

A very pleasant evening was spent on Tuesday 15th instant when members of the QCWA invited members of the RSSAILA and visiting soldiers of the present war to a dinner party in the rest room to welcome home Private Hugh Lavarack, brother of Lt Gen Sir John Lavarack.

Private Lavarack who is an old resident of JC was an ambulance driver taken prisoner in Greece and was imprisoned in Austria. He was recently repatriated with other reserved personal.

The tables were decorated with gum tips and fruit and jellies not to mention the bottles added a very festive air to the sumptuous dinner which was served by the QCWA ladies of which Mrs CJ Jensen is President, Mrs W Marsh Secretary and Mrs Ahern Treasurer. Mr VF Faithfull, president of the RSSAILA was Chairman and after the toast to the King was honoured Mr Faithfull welcomed Private Lavarack back to JC and spoke in glowing terms of his many excellent characteristics, both as a civilian and a friend. In supporting the toast Mr J parsons representing the Shire council, also expressed his pleasure at Pte Lavarack's safe return from overseas, and hoped it would not be long before he was once again settled into business amongst his old associates at JC. The drinking of Pte Lavarack's health was accompanied with musical honours.

In responding to the toast, Private Lavarack thanked the guests for their warm welcome and said he was glad to be among his old trusted friends again. He gave a short description of his capture by the Germans in Greece and gave a few side lights on camp life. He mentioned that the bread was made of pumpkin and potatoes also sawdust and was very heavy and of a greenish colour. He told something of the countryside through which he passed on his way to the camp in Austria and spoke of the symmetry of the farms and the gay national costumes worn by the peasant farmers and remarked at the hundreds of geese seen from the train altogether making a very pretty scene.

Other toasts honoured were 'The Old Diggers', 'The Young Diggers' and 'Absent Friends', the latter observed with one minute's silence.

Interspersed with the toasts the guests indulged in a little community singing and many old time songs came back to memory and were sung with gusto. The evening came to a happy ending with 'Auld Lang Syne.'

Private Lavarack spent a few days attending to his business interests and visiting his brother, Mr DM Lavarack, and returned to Brisbane on Wednesday 16th instant.

### **4 Mar 1944 (p36, NA, NQR)**

JC, Feb 22 – Since the last JC notes beneficial rain has fallen over the district to such an extent that any fears of having a lean season can be discarded. Along with the rain has come the usual horde of flies, mosquitoes, sandflies and the thousands of different species of insects that only a professor of entomology could handle with any degree of accuracy. The sky is still overcast with clouds very low at time of writing and some of the oldtimers are waiting for the fulfillment of their weather prognostications - a heavy thunderstorm ere the rain finally clears away.



There has been no loss of stock to date other than a pack horse belonging to one of the local drovers. The animal was unfortunate enough to be carried under the water and being packed had no chance of regaining his balance.

Drover Herb Fickling and son, Clarrie, have been doing a bit of breaking-in in between showers, and start out in a few days to assist with the mustering for crutching at Toorak. Manpower is very scarce in the district for station work.

Drover Bill Triffett arrived in town in the thick of the rain and is waiting for the weather to take up before starting out again.

The town has been very quiet owing to the weather conditions, and some of the country folk are having an enforced holiday, pending the roads becoming trafficable.

Stock movements are nil and shearing activities are at a standstill, but it will not be long before the whips will be heard along the stock routes and the whirl of the headgear heard in the sheds.

The khaki burr, referred to by some as the star burr, is proving something of a problem in some of the backyards in town and it has been noticed since the rains on parts of the roads and bywalks. This burr, according to some of the pastoral periodicals, is fast becoming a menace in other parts of the State and the possibility has been mentioned that it may, in a few years time, prove worse than the Nogoora and Bathurst burrs. It should be the duty of everyone to do his utmost to keep this menace under control.

#### **10 Mar 1944 (440310, CA)**

Private John Somers, only son of Mr and Mrs P Somers, has announced his engagement to Miss Lily Gerahty, AWAS. To the above happy young couple and Mr and Mrs P Somers we congratulate on the good news, as both are well-known in our town where we understand the wedding is to take place when both parties will be on a spot of leave.

#### **11 Mar 1944 (p35, NA, NQR)**

JC – Members of the QCWA combined with the RSSAILA to welcome home Pte Hugh Lavarack, brother of Lieut-Gen Sir John Lavarack. The guest, an old resident of JC, was an ambulance driver who was taken prisoner in Greece and had been imprisoned in Austrian prison camps. He was among those recently repatriated. Mr VF Faithfull, president of the RSSAILA, welcomed the guest and was supported by Mr J Parsons on behalf of the Shire Council.

Private Lavarack, returning thanks, gave a short description of his capture by the Germans in Greece and a few sidelights on camp life. He mentioned that the bread was made of pumpkin and potatoes, also sawdust, and was very heavy and of a greenish colour. He told something of the countryside through which he passed on his way to the camp in Austria and spoke of the symmetry of the farms and the gay national costumes worn by the peasant farmers, and remarked at the hundreds of geese seen from the train, altogether making a very pretty scene.

Community singing interspersed with toasts, provided an enjoyable evening. Private Lavarack spent a few days attending to his business interests, and visiting his brother, Mr DM Lavarack, and returned to Brisbane.

#### **18 Mar 1944 (p36, NA, NQR)**

Australia's part in Lend Lease began with the battle of Corregidor, when an urgent request of the US army for 10,000 tons of processed foods was met quickly. The aggregate value of the equipment, services and foods furnished by this country to the American forces in 1942 was about \$186,000,000 and during the present financial year (1943-44) it will amount to \$323,000,000, or about one-sixth of our total war expenditure.

"Every American and Allied serviceman in the South-west Pacific," the article proceeds, "is being fed by Australia or NZ on a ration scale comparable to the basic allowance of the American Army. This tremendous contribution to the food supply of the United Nations has not been made without sacrifices on Australia's part. For nearly four months civilians went without potatoes so the commitments to the services could be met. Such foodstuffs as dried and citrus fruits, pork products, tomatoes and tomato juices, and chocolate were virtually unobtainable for a six-months period but during that same time

they were available to the army.

“Reciprocal aid from Australia to the United States has been rendered in other ways. Uniforms for US soldiers and nurses are being made in Australian mills. Munitions factories have greatly multiplied their production with the help of tools and materials from the United States and some of the munitions they turn out are going to US forces. Many types of harbour craft and coastal vessels have been procured or chartered by the US Army. The Australian Shipbuilding Board is constructing small craft such as tugs and landing barges. Millions of tons of US shipping damaged by enemy action have been...

Comparisons of contributions of the US to Australia and vice versa, it is added, are meaningless in a global war in which Australia has become the “quartermaster” for the Allied forces of the south-west Pacific. And the statement of Mr Curtin is quoted that “many forms of mutual aid do not lend themselves to expression in money value comparisons.”

But what are the effects of Lend-lease going to be after the peace treaties? “Lend-lease aid has been a catalytic agent in Australia’s change from a nation of primary producers to a nation of secondary industry, on the foundations of an already existing cheap and efficient steel production. Lend-lease equipment has helped to establish in Australia modern industrial plants fabricating all types of industrial products, including munitions ranging from 10,000 ton merchant ships to two-engined bombers. One hundred factories now produce machine tools compared with three in September 1939.

“This remarkable industrialisation has been assisted very definitely by American machinery, standards and practices – factors which will affect the post-war development of Australia industry and the nature of Australian foreign trade relations with Great Britain, and pointed up important questions of her future status inside and outside the British Commonwealth. The pre-war pattern of Australia’s trade has been drastically altered.

“The improvement of her standard of living, an aim encompassed in all her plans for post-war reconstruction, demands widened trade relations and continued industrialisation of her economy. Even more important, this industrial development will contribute to the peace and security of the Pacific by assisting in the industrialisation of the Dutch East Indies, the Philippines, China and India.”

### **25 Mar 1944 (p31, NA, NQR)**

JC, Mar 21 – The week began with a few drops of rain which cleared the haze that had been enveloping the district for the past few days and returned to us the cool nights we look forward to so much. This leap year however is leaking over the bounds of reason insofar as rain is concerned and it brings to mind a few lines of 'The Bushman's Farewell to Qld':

And then it never rains in reason  
There's floods one year and droughts next season.

A few points over 24 inches have been registered on one property and 23 inches on another so far this year and it is said by some that the wet season has not begun that the recent rains were not predicted and what rain we got was the back wash of an oceanic disturbance.

There are a few places our from JC and Nelia who have not seen the mailman for five weeks and not likely to for another couple as I was told on Friday that the Flinders River was down again 5 feet at Hulbert's Bridge so that settles any chance for those on the wrong side getting mail just yet as the crossing will be silted over afresh.

At time of writing there is a shower falling along the Kynuna road. Ray Parker the Millungra mailman told me he got out as far as it was possible to travel and for the last 30 miles he was never out of second gear. Tom Graham the Dalgonally mailman, left at midday last Wednesday and never got back till midnight Friday. George Peut the Kynuna mailman had a fair trip last week but a rough one the week before. It is no fun being a mailman at the best of times let alone in the wet. The three of them are good mud larks and if there is a possible chance they will have a go in spite of the odds.

The children lined up before the local medical officer, Dr Donald Carter, last Tuesday for the anti-diphtheria needle. The doctor has the kiddies welfare at heart and if an adequate supply of green vegetable was forthcoming into the town, his job of keeping the children fit would be lightened

considerably.

Drover Herb Fickling and sons left for Millungera to bring in a mob of fat cattle to truck coastwards.

Bill Davis is busy getting ready for his seasonal run of fire-ploughing and so are Ted Triffett and Roy Paterson.

The blowfly is still making itself felt on a good many places and work is cut out endeavouring to hold them in check till such times as crutchers are available. The district is in a sorry state as regards labour. On more than one property one man is doing all the work as it is hard to get men to assist. In some cases it is "help me, help my neighbour" basis. I know of one case where the owner, a man over 60, is battling along on his own with about 20,000 sheep spread over 80,000 acres of country.

### **31 Mar 1944 (440331, CA)**

The Grand Concert and Dance to follow, held in Eckford's Hall on March 24th was a great success. Door takings were £30. The stage was artistically decorated with flags.

After the opening march played by Mr Norton, Mr H Walters gave a suitable address to the audience and said owing to war conditions the costumes were not what we would like them to be, also owing to sickness the performers are few, however, what we lack in quantity I hope we shall make up with quality.

The first item, solo song, sweetly rendered by Miss Stell Norton when an undeniable encore was given.

2. Mr H Walters witty joke.

3. Song and dance by the Company, they were splendid and could be called the six little gleesome lassies.

4. Community singing chorus: Tipperary boys, Roll out the Barrell, Nursie Sarah.

5. Mr J Lowman and Miss Stella Norton in a novelty act were both in fine voice and sang 'They are coming in on a wing and a Prayer'. They were clapped until they returned singing the chorus again.

6. Solo by Mr Tom Willett was well rendered and enjoyed by all . Tom had to give an encore.

7. The brightest item of the night was the singing of the three Norton sisters, Mrs L Thompson, Mrs W Chanutler, Miss Shirley Norton singing in seconds. Mrs Norton's fine voice could also be heard. This brought the house down and was encored and enjoyed by all present.

The dance by Miss Jenny Byrne was done in grand style, dressed in overalls. Jenny showed she is just as good as ever on the toe.

Interval of fifteen minutes.

The next item was the alabama Sisters, Miss J Byrne and Miss S Norton dancing the black out canter. This brought the house down again.

Community singing was enjoyed by all.

'Down on the Farm' was well rendered by the Company: Misses J Byrne, Stella Norton, Marie Kaeser, Joan Byrne, Audrey Kaeser and Hazel Stainkey.

H Walters thanked all for their attendance and said the younger set were indeed pleased with their splendid results. Great credit is given to Mrs Norton who was assisted by her daughter Mrs Thompson and she should feel proud of the great success of the concert as she only had a fortnight to train the girls. All carried out their duty in a pleasing manner and the public voted the concert a very happy one. The hall was cleared and dancing went on till midnight when all made they way home tired out but happy and hope it won't be long before another such concert will be held in our town.

Proceeds go to the boys serving in the forces.

**14 Apr 1944 (440414, CA)**

[Dance, Party at lance Lewis]

The 13th May should prove a red letter day in our town as races are to be held. It is some time since races have been held here so should be a good attendance as already some of our local sports are getting their favourite gee gees in trim for the day so roll up and see the fun, when a dance at night will be held, good music, good floor, and a good time assured, so don't miss the race day.

**15 Apr 1944 (p35, 440415, NQR)**

JC – Several cattle buyers will be in JC during the next few weeks on the lookout for fat cattle. There is keen demand for fat wethers and we expect that a few will change hands during the next few weeks.

The blowfly has been giving a lot of trouble in the district and a number of graziers have crutched their sheep. Even the crutched sheep have at times been struck by the fly and this will mean that jetting will have to be resorted to.

The hospital is kept busy and we are looking forward to the installation of the X ray plant which will fill a long felt want.

The stock routes are very well off for grass and water and they have not been better for years past. There is a very good body of feed and plenty of water. Travelling stock will do very well this year.

**5 May 1944 (440505, CA)**

It looks as if the Returned Soldiers Race Meeting to be held on the 13th May will be a great success as 35 horses are nominated for the great day. So roll up as all visitors are assured of a great time. Big dance will be held on Friday night and Saturday night pictures. So come along and attend the Diggers' Races.

**Anzac Day at JC**

'Their name liveth for ever more'

The following was the programme for the 29th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, 15th April 1915.

9.40am: Muster of Soldiers and Scouts on school ground.

10am Anzac parade of soldiers, ex-soldieers and boy scouts at Post Office.

10.15am: march to the cemetery, saluting the flag at mCKinaly Shire Council Chambers.

10.30am: Cemetery. Militarū respects to departed comrades after their graves have been put in order. Laying wreaths.

12.30am: CWA dinner for old soldiers, men in uniform and their ladies.

2.30pm: Annual genral meeting of RSSAILA JC sub branch.

At sundown when the flag was lowered the wreathes were brought from the cemetery and placed on the stage. Lieutenant Browne called everyone's attention to the Honour Shield a splendid piece of work made by Mr Henry Benson bearing the words: "Their names liveth forever." In the centre is a phot of the late Pte Leslie Winston Triffett and the names of all the fallen heroes of our town.

Official Anzac badeges sold at 1/- each, 10.25d to local RSSAILA funds and 1.75d to Returned Soldiers Distress Fund.

Public observance in Eckford's Hall at 8.45pm. Chairman FA Hickman representing Shire Council. Also on the stage were Warrant Officer Jones, Mr PJ Byrne, VF Faithfull, Captain W Taylor, Lieutenant Ulick Browne. The National Anthem, Frank Norton pianist. One minutes's silence. Reading the honor roll, Capt FAJW Taylor – Henry James Baxter, William Lindsay, Peter Cribb, Harry Walter Harris, Leslie

Winston Triffett, Keith Glasson, Norman Frederick Babb, William Melville Munro, Lloyd Miners, Clive Frederick Wilder.

The Last Post N Langtree Esq; a patriotic solo, Mrs Norton. The first resolution, QMS VF Faithfull President Local Diggers, Sec PJ Byrne Vice Pres

"On the 29th anniversary of the immortal landing on Gallipoli, this meeting of citizens of Qld expresses its unalterable loyalty to the throne and Empire and its admiration of the magnificent heroism, self-sacrifice and endurance of the Sailors and Soldiers and Nursing Sisters of Australia and New Zealand who on the first Anzac Day and throughout the Great War conferred a glory on Australia and NZ that will never fade and which will serve us as an ideal to those who in the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth on sea on land and in the air are following their example."

Solo Miss Stella Norton; Solo Mr W Edwards; duet Misses Wilma and Mairu Dhu. The Second Resolution It SU Browne, Sec F/O H Jones:

"This meeting voices its heartfelt sympathy with the relatives of those who dies and with those who have suffered on behalf of the Empire and its assurance that those who have fallen and those who have survived the perils of War, and will ever be remembered with gratitude by the people whose hearths and homes and free institutions they voluntarily went forth to save."

Solo Mr Edwards, solo Mr T Willett, solo Mr Edwards, solo Mr Taylor.

Community singing – Anzac, Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag, Keep The Home Fires Burning, Tipperary, Somewhere in France With You, Swinging Along the road to Victory, There'll Always Be an England, Mrs Fairbanks pianist.

Solo W Edwards, solo Miss Mairi Dhu. Hymn, Abide With Me.

Never was there such a crowd seen in the hall. All singers were heard at their best.

### **6 May 1944 (p11, 440506, NQR)**

JC – The scour is hard at work treating the wools that it has on hand and those that are coming in. They expect to be kept going for some time to come.

Crutching is in full progress at many places throughout the district. some people who have had trouble with the fly are doing their own crutching whilst the various contractors are having a busy time. Contractor McCarthy is busy at Yorkshire Downs. Fayers is at Caiwarra and goes from there to Carjoan. Mr Peut is busy at Crendon and WA Mathews in the Cloncurry district. Jessup and the flinders shearing company are also busy.

Drover Herb dickling is on his way to Granada near Cloncurry to take delivery of a line of cattle for droving. Drover Triffett is on his way from Bow Park to JC with a line of sheep. He goes from here to the Cloncurry district to lift a line of sheep.

The Esmeralda cattle, about 1200, with Drover McConochie in charge, were in JC on Thursday and dipped on Friday and if clean will go on early next week. The Glenore cattle are to be trucked at JC next week, Drover Cooley in charge.

### **19 May 1944 (440519, CA)**

[See 1/9/44 for another description of the next race meeting, including bit about Lance Lewis]

Quite a gala time was had in the old town on the 13th May when the Diggers held one of the most successful race meetings after a lapse of some four years. The race course was well done up showing the Australian and Union Jack flags flying. The gate takings were outstanding. Eight bookmakers took the stand to call the odds and seemed to be doing well. The tote was well patronised. The day being warm and pleasant the ladies were seen at their best and many attractive costumes were worn. The tea stall was in the capable hands of the CWA ladies and every one voted the afternoon teas as first class. The booth did a splendid trade. The fruit stall run by Mr Powderham a great success. Ambulance Superintendent H Benson was in attendance and doing the rounds of the course. Also looking spick and span was

Doctor Donald Carter and pleased to report no accidents occurred. The racing was good. The new Guinea Bracelet race was the most enjoyable race of the day as many ladies were interested. Shady Bill won in fine style ridden by Mr Smith and was greeted with cheers from the crowd. Congratulations goes to Mrs EM smith of Baroona Station.

After the last race all made for home with Mr Lance Lewis sparking on all cylinders made it only a matter of seconds to town. All visitors were well catered for by the two hotels and cafes who served an excellent hot dinner at seven o'clock. Crowds attended Eckford's Picture show where a splendid programme was screened.

After the pictures, Eckford's large dance hall was a glare of lights for the Diggers Ball. Mr Norton's band supplied bright music. Mr W Brown capable MC kept the ball moving. The door takings were excellent. At midnight the digger's wives served a dainty buffet supper that was enjoyed by all. Space does not allow us to print the frocks but many belles attended in multi coloured long evening frocks to trip the light fantastic toe to the small wee hours of the morning when many visitors after spending a happy time in town left by car to return to their homes after this very successful race meeting. It is said we are to have races sometime in August. Let us hope so. Three cheers for the working committee and all those who attended to make the races such a success.

[results]

### **26 May 1944 (440526, CA)**

Last Saturday was very warm and in spite of the heavy clouds many pleasure-seekers made their way to see the talkies. At interval it commenced raining but many folk saw the show through. The rain kept on till Monday evening yielding 4.5 inches of rain. We can expect cold weather after this.

Mrs W Gannon and daughter Miss Alma arrived home on Sunday's train both looking well after spending three months holiday in Brisbane. Mrs A Graham arrived home after spending an extended holiday in Townsville as the guest of her son-in-law and daughter Mr and Mrs George Young.

The rain has hung up the shearing contractors for a few days. The scour is still in operation doing three shifts. Many town men are employed.

Mr Peter Dawes has on show a nice range of winter materials and hats, also children's wear.

The town is very quiet. Saturday should be a very busy day as the CWA are holding their 21st Annual Meeting and many country folk will be in town to attend...

### **2 Jun 1944 (440602, CA)**

The boy scouts had a meeting at the Ambulance Centre on Friday night under the supervision of Scout masters Walter and J Parsons, and Superintendent H Benson. After this meeting all were entertained at a happy birthday party at the home of Mr and Mrs Blanch the occasion being son Vincent's birthday. The young scout is twelve years of age. Speeches were made by the scout masters and the many songs rendered by the boys were enjoyed by all. The lads did justice to the delicacies served and thanks Mr and Mrs Blanch for the lovely party. The singing of 'They are Jolly Good Fellows' ended the happy evening.

Trooper Gordon Grant arrived home and is spending leave with his parents Mr and Mrs Marsh.

[Mrs Farrell and Bill, Mrs Bill Stanley]

Mr Powderham had the misfortune to meet with an accident whilst cranking up his old lizzie. she kicked back and dislocated his arm. After doctor's attention he left for Richmond for X-rays.

The annual CWA meeting was take place on Saturday at 2 pm. It was put off last week owing to the wet weather.

Saturday and Sunday are Ration Book days and should prove busy days for the town as country folk as well as town people will be seen doing a spot of shopping and will attend the pictures at night.

**24 Jun 1944 (p32, 440624, NQR)**

JC, Jun 15 – The weather has been very pleasant for the past fortnight. Shearing operations are going forward well in the district although we hear of some stoppages here and there due to wet sheep. Eddington shearing is in full swing with a board of 15 shearers under the United Grazier's Shearing Co with Mr Hall over the board. Contractor McCarthy is operating at Lara, having just finished shearing at Somerville. The Flinders Shearing So is operating near Boulia; the Graziers shearing Co is operating at Consentes; T Jessup and RC Peut have their plants in going order for the big season ahead. There has been a lot of crutching done this year owing to the blowfly. Contractor Fayers is a Carjoan, Bookin siding, having just completed the Keloshiel shearing.

Mr FJ Bennett of the scour staff has received advice that he has completed successfully his examination in accountancy. He has now secured his degree under the Federal Institute of Accountants. We congratulate Mr Bennett on his success and wish him every success in the future.

**30 Jun 1944 (440630, CA)**

Wedding – Somers Gerahty

The JC RC Church on Monday 19th June at 4.30 pm was the scene of a very pretty wedding. The Church was artistically decorated for the occasion. Dainty kneeling chairs were prettily draped with streamers and satin bows and white satin cushions.

The Rev Father Deveraux performed the ceremony when he joined in bonds of holy matrimony, Lilian Margaret (second daughter of Mr Cecil Gerahty and the late Mrs Ce Gerahty) to John Michael Somers, AIF, only son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Somers. The charming bride made a pretty picture as she entered the Church on the arm of her father who subsequently gave her away. The wedding march was played by Mrs L Thompson. The bridal gown of white satin bodice was dainty interlaced with raised satin flowers forming pretty T neck line, dainty split waist-line was worked to match the bodice. Long tight fitting sleeves pack [?] on wrist finished with satin buttons and loops. The long toe length full circular skirt gracefully away forming a large court train at the back. Her beautiful silk tulle veil was richly embroidered and was held in place with dainty halo of pearls and orange blossoms. The bride wore a ...

The bride was attended by the bridegroom's charming youngest sister Miss Mary Somers daintily... The bridegroom wore AIF uniform and was assisted by Mr W Ryder AIF who wore uniform. During the signing of the register Mrs J Arnold sweetly rendered 'I'll Walk Beside You'.

The reception was held at Eckford's Hall where Mrs W Stanley, the bride's only sister, assisted by the bridegroom's mother entertained 85 guests. The Hall was prettily decorated with blue and white streamers and large white bells... The table was laden with every conceivable delicacy. Pride of place being given the handsome two-tiered wedding cake made and decorated by Mr A Kaeser and was a gift of the bridegroom's mother...

The wedding cake was handed round by the bridegroom's three charming sisters. Numerous congratulatory telegrams were received, the chairman busy reading same. The presents received were costly, including many valuable cheques. After the singing of 'They are Jolly Good Fellows', Mr W Stanley thanked the Rev Father Deveraux who made an excellent chairman and three lusty cheers were given by the guests. A most enjoyable dance went on till the train arrived when a happy band of well wishers gave the popular young soldier and his AWAS bride a grand farewell at the railway station. The bride looked very smart in her uniform. The couple left to honeymoon in Townsville. Both will later rejoin their units.

**14 Jul 1944 (440714, CA)**

Mrs Fidler held a sale of house hold goods on Friday and all were bought up like hot cakes.

Don't forget to roll up on the 21st July to the Grand Debutante Ball held in Eckford's Hall.

Improvements for the local hospital will be the removal of the Kynuna Hospital to be erected for the nurses quarters and the present nurses quarters are to be the maternity ward and with the completion of the X-ray plant we will have a first class hospital with good staff where every patient gets the best of attention.

**28 Jul 1944 (p? NA, CA)**

JC – Mr Jack Beach arrived by Sunday's mail after spending a holiday in CT.

Mr and Mrs Dhu and family left by Sunday morning's train for Blackall where Mr Dhu has been appointed Health Inspector. Mr Spencer, newly appointed Health Inspector, arrived by Sunday's mail and has taken up duty.

[Dhu received word of his transfer approx. 16/6/44]

**4 Aug 1944 (p1, NQ669, CA)**

JC ASSAULT CASE

Health Inspector Sues Picture Show Proprietor for Alleged Assault

Stipendiary Magistrate Dismisses Complaint

(Before Mr JC Baker, SM)

Mr V Faithfull appeared for plaintiff and Mr Williams for defendant.

Lionel Edward Dhu, Health Inspector of the Shire of McKinlay, said he was complainant in the action and knew defendant and his brother Joe.

"On Wednesday evening July 5th I was at the picture show, owned by defendant, with my wife and daughter. During the interval I was discussing a matter with Jack Jensen, and when the second half commenced Jensen left me and rejoined his party. I then left my seat to proceed to the urinal block situated at the back of the theatre. As I approached the back door, the exit door at the rear of the hall, I noticed Jim Eckford standing there on my right. I opened the door and proceeded to go outside. Immediately I did so I was followed by Defendant who was joined outside by his wife and brother Joe. Defendant then grabbed me by the right arm. His brother Joe grabbed me by the back. D said,

"You b... b... you came out here to sneak around again to see what you can find and report back to your Council."

D then said,

"Don't go over the men's urinal block, come over and have a look at the ladies urinal block and see if you can see any urine on the floor there."

I was dragged about five yards in that direction by D and his brother who was pushing me from the back. I then said,

"What is this all about. Take your hands off me."

D then said,

"You b... b... you got the Council to summons me. I'll fix you. I'll get you the sack."

I then said,

"Don't talk foolishly."

I was dragged five yards in that direction. D then said and kept repeating,

"What about Gannon's cow yard. You close your eyes to Gannon's cow yard."

His brother Joe kept repeating the same. D then said,

"You b... b..., just because he is a Councillor he gets away with it."

I was then grabbed again by D. D grabbed me by the right arm and his brother pushed me from behind. D said,



“We will show you Gannon’s cow yard. Come on over.”

I was dragged approximately another five yards in that direction. I then said,

“Stop acting foolishly. That won’t help in the matter.”

I then managed to free myself again. D then said,

“You b... b..., just because Gannon is a Councillor he gets away with it.”

I then said,

“The situation of Gannon’s cow yard is not controlled by a Council bylaw. I have pointed this out to you before. I never came out here to make a further inspection of the sanitary conveniences but to enjoy the rights common to all of His Majesty’s subjects.”

D’s wife then said,

“You sneak, you pimp, you have come out to see what you can find to report back to your Council.”

D said,

“You b... b..., I have taken this matter up. You will be sacked . You will be fired.”

I said,

For Heaven’s sake, quieten down. I can assure you that I just came out here for the express purpose of relieving myself at the urinal block.”

D then said,

“You b... b..., you are hostile on me just because I would not give you a free pass to the pictures. You wanted that concession, I have two railway men to prove it.”

I said,

“Such a generalisation is absurd. McKinlay Shire Council’s by-laws give me free entry to the picture theatre but I have never taken advantage of this. I never discussed this matter with any railway employees.”

D, his wife and brother Joe then left me and proceeded to enter the picture theatre through the exit door at the rear door. The door was opened. D stood there and yelled out,

“Get out. Get out. I’ll fix you.”

The door then closed. I then proceeded to enter the picture theatre the same way. I followed these people and as I approached the exit door I noticed D’s wife standing on the outside. I did not see the D again. I proceeded in the door and went back and rejoined my wife. I did not give the D any reason to catch hold of me when I went through that door. I was very surprised as a matter of fact. I have taken this action for my protection truly.

Witness was lengthily cross-examined by Mr Williams saying to his knowledge neither he nor his wife had had a disagreement with Eckford.

“I did not report him to the Prices Commissioner but my wife may have. The Prices Inspector came to my place and discussed matters with me. A matter regarding Eckford was discussed. My wife is the only one in the hall I can discover who heard defendant call out “Get out, get out.” I have a weak case but am prepared to fight it. It is not right. I recommended a prosecution under the Health Act against Eckford and not against Gannon. It is not a fact that I have not prosecuted Gannon because I have not the guts and it is not a fact that I did not defend myself because I have not the guts.”

Phyllis Lilla Gertrude Dhu, wife of complainant, said that on the night of July 5th she was with her husband at the pictures. After interval he went to the rear of the pictures and was away about a quarter of an hour.

"I heard an altercation at the back and looking back saw D coming in the back door. He was singing out,

"I'll fix you, get out, get out."

My husband came in after."

In reply to Mr Williams, witness said she asked the Price Fixing Commissioner if Eckford was within his rights to charge full price for mine or any child.

"D told me if the children sit with me they must pay full price. One of my children is 13 years and the other 10 years. I was annoyed. Mr and Mrs Jensen and the girl Pollard and her brother were close to me and could have heard what I heard if they had been listening. I heard D give an angry growl and he was mumbling. I did not put it to D to admit myself and family free to the pictures or tell him the Health Inspector at Longreach got those concessions."

Case for complainant.

James Patrick Eckford, picture show proprietor at JC, and D, said he saw Dhu at the pictures on July 5th. At about 9 or 9.10 pm witness was at the front of the theatre and heard a beast bellowing at the back. He went out the back and there saw Dhu.

"When I got out there Mrs Eckford and my brother Joe were there. Complainant Dhu was not there before I got outside. I saw Dhu. I turned around and I saw Dhu. I called out to Dhu. He did not reply. I called out again to him,

"Dhu, come here. Come over here and see if you consider this a nuisance over here."

Dhu came over to within a couple of yards of me. Dhu replied,

"No there is no bylaw to deal with it."

I said, "You got no bylaw to deal with that but you say that there is a nuisance here on my property. There appears to be a bylaw for the ratepayers and one for the Councillors"

He made no reply. I left then and went inside. When I went outside I saw a cow standing in the lane near Councillor Gannon's cow yard. It was not bellowing then. Joe was almost on my heels coming in. Had the door been wide enough we would have come in together. Having entered the theatre I went to where I had come from. That's all that happened out there as far as I know. I did not follow Dhu out of the theatre. Joe has an assigned task at intervals. It's Joe's job to oil the engine. The engine is over on this corner of the allotment some distance from the theatre. I did not drag Dhu by the right arm. Joe did not push him from the back. I did not say to Dhu,

"You b- b- you came out here to spy around"

or anything like that. I am not in the habit of using language such as that, more especially in the presence of my wife. I have never used such language in the presence of my wife. I did not say

"Don't go over the men's urinal block. Come over here and have a look at the ladies urinal block and see if you can see any urine on the floor there."

I did not say any of the statements that the complainant has sworn I said or anything like it. The C did not have any of the conversation he said he had with me or anything like it. I could not say where Mrs Dhu was sitting. I did not mumble or give an angry growl as Mrs Dhu has sworn she heard. I did not that night put my hand on Dhu or touch him at all."

D was cross-examined by Mr Faithfull but did not alter his evidence in chief.

Joseph Frederick Eckford, sworn, states:

"I am a labourer, defendant is my brother. I remember the 5th July 1944. During the interval that night at the pictures I had been down oiling the engine up. I finished the job and when I was coming back I met Mrs Eckford just at the foot of the operating-box steps. She said something. I went over towards Gannon's cow yard and I saw a beast over there. I was two or three feet away from Mrs Eckford in the direction of the cow yard. My brother came out of the picture show. He said,

"Where is that beast bellowing."

I said, "There it is over against the cow yard."

D said to him, "Come here Dhu"

and he came over towards us and D said, "You said there is a nuisance in my yard. Come over here and see if this is a nuisance."

Dhu said, "No."

D said, "Why don't you come over."

Dhu said, "There is no bylaw to deal with it."

D said, "There must be two bylaws. One for the ratepayers and one for the Councillors."

Then D and myself went into the picture show. I went into the buzzer and defendant went up to the front entrance. Neither myself or D put a hand on Dhu that night. None of those statements that Dhu has sworn were made by D, by me, by Mrs Eckford or by Dhu himself, were ever made that night. None of those statements were made by any of those persons. I did not push the complainant while my brother grabbed him by the right arm.

This was the case for the D and the Stipendiary Magistrate dismissed the complaint.

Mr Williams applied for cost and was allowed witness's expenses (JF Eckford 15/-, LM Eckford 7/6), £1-2-6, professional costs £2-2-0, a total amount of £3-4-6 in default levy and distress.

**11 Aug 1944 (p1, NQ668, CA)**

JC Summons Case

(Before Mr JC Baker, SM)

On July 20th last in the Court of Petty Sessions, JC, the McKinlay Shire Council proceeded against James Patrick Eckford for not abating a nuisance said to exist at the urinals at his picture show. Mr V Faithfull appeared for the prosecuting Council whilst Mr Williams appeared for defendant.

James Parsons, Shire Clerk, gave evidence of Eckford being owner of the allotments on which the urinals are situated. With Health Inspector Dhu and Doctor Carter, witness inspected the urinal block and before entering the block noticed a smell of urine, and inside the enclosure an attempt had been made to cover some damp patches. "There was urine in a pan and one pan cabinet was not fly proof. At the ladies lavatory there were damp patches on the ground floor. There were two compartments and only one cabinet which was not fly proof. Dancing and pictures are held in the hall, also skating occasionally. I have seen the urinal crowded and people waiting outside. The proceedings have been instituted to compel the defendant to abate the nuisance."

Donald Ashley Carter, medical practitioner, gave evidence of having inspected the urinals. "In the men's the urinal has an open trough which contained urine and from which there was a strong ammoniacal aroma. From my inspection of both the ladies and gents compartments I formed the opinion the condition of them was potentially detrimental to the public health. There would not be

greater than two pints of urine in the trough when I inspected it.”

In reply to Mr Williams the doctor said he would expect to find urine in a urinal.

Lionel Edward Dhu, Health Inspector, also told of making the inspection in company with the other two and of what he had found. In reply to Mr Williams he said in his opinion Eckford's premises were prejudicial to the public health. He had inspected Councillor Gannon's place and found everything in reasonable order. "I found a breach of night soil regulations in 1941, there was no screen around the ladies convenience. I or ratepayers could not get material to do work. Nothing was done about screening Gannon's lavatory. I interviewed Gannon about his cow yard pointing out I would like the manure cleaned up at regular intervals and during the past six months the yard has been kept in a reasonable state. There is no proper flyproof receptacle for manure provided at Gannon's cow yard. Fly borne diseases are not prevalent at JC."

Bertram Arthur Pollard, carpenter, gave evidence that he installed cabinets at JC and that in the past six months defendant had not approached him regarding new cabinets.

This was the Council case.

William Edmund Blanch, sanitary contractor, gave evidence of the condition of the urinals, and of serving them, and that in his opinion the urinal arrangements in both ladies and gents compartments are adequate to cope with requirements.

Henry Bell, stock Inspector stationed at JC, said he used the urinal and lavatory at the picture show frequently and he had never noticed anything objectionable about the pan cabinets or undue presence of flies. "I have the opinion defendant should not have been summonsed for a nuisance."

This was defendant's case.

The Stipendiary Magistrate's decision was as follows:—

I find a nuisance exists on defendant's premises. I find defendant has been served with a notice to abate the nuisance in accordance with the provisions of the Health Act. I find defendant has been at fault in complying with the requisitions in such notice. I find such requisitions are not unreasonable. I make an order requiring defendant to comply with the requisitions of such notice within a period of forty days from this date. I impose no penalty.

Cost allowed: Witness expenses £1, costs of Court 8/6, professional cost £6-6-0. Total costs £7-14-6.

### **18 Aug 1944 (p1, NA, CA)**

JC – The Younger Set, at the home of Mrs Fairbanks, held a very happy farewell party in honour of one of their popular young members, Miss Jennie Byrne, prior to her departure to Brisbane. Dancing, singing and games took up the evening. The charming hostess, assisted by the girls, served a dainty supper.

Mrs Fairbank, supervisor of the Younger Set, said it was with regret that all were gathered together to say farewell to Jennie who, for many years, was on the postal staff and always gave the public the best service. As well as being a good working member for the Younger Set she will be greatly missed at the concerts as Jennie was a good dancer and sings very sweetly, and her charming smiles and manner won her a host of friends.

However, when this young lady leaves for Brisbane she takes with her the best wishes from her many friends in JC. Many other speeches were made and all spoke in glowing terms of their young friend, and the singing of "She's a Jolly Good Fellow" brought the happy party to a close.

Twenty-eight horses have been nominated for the JC Diggers Races to be held on 26th August. Ball at night, so roll up and make a good day of the Diggers Races.

Our popular sister, Bernice Keating will say 'I do' to soldier boy, Pte Leslie Peut on the 24th August at the RC Church. Mrs GJ Keating will arrive to be hostess at her daughter's wedding.

At the home of Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis a very happy card party was held. Music and games took up the pleasant evening. The charming hostess served a dainty supper and all voted the night a very happy one and hope it will not be long before Mr and Mrs Lewis have another card party.

### **19 Aug 1944 (p47, NQ650, NQR)**

#### **GERMANY AND JAPAN TO BE OCCUPIED EVEN IF SURRENDER**

Washington, 17 Aug – President Roosevelt, on his return from the Pacific, announced the Allies would occupy Germany and Japan, even if they surrendered before the actual borders were entered. He added Germany would not escape the military occupation she had dodged by the Armistice last war.

The President's announcement was made at a news conference in a special train. It was the first definite assertion that Germany and Japan would be unable to use the Allies' war goal of unconditional surrender to keep Allied forces from their homelands.

Mr Roosevelt said he planned to discuss his Pacific tour as soon as possible with military leaders, Mr Hull and Congressional leaders, but intended to make no formal statement to Congress.

Mr Roosevelt's return to Washington has aroused immediate speculation regarding the possibility of another meeting with Mr Churchill, particularly in view of the progress in France.

President Roosevelt said he knew nothing of internal trouble in Germany which could make us feel sure the Nazi war machine would blow up early. "We hope there will be more troubles inside Germany, but that may turn out to be wishful thinking. There is an interesting psychological study, not only of the German people but the High Command – a characteristic of throwing up the sponge when borders are menaced.

**"Because they did not want Germany overrun, they quit before we got in last time, but they will not be spared invasion this time. If we let them quit, the next generation would be told Germany had won the war."**

Mr Roosevelt said Japan must be sealed off from the peace-loving world until she proves willing and able to live with peaceful countries.

Mr Roosevelt called the Pacific campaigns, except Burma, America's major responsibility, because she is stronger than Australia and NZ.

### **25 Aug 1944 (440825, CA)**

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs A Kaeser on the announcement of the engagement of their daughter Miss Marie Kaeser to Pte Willie Ryder of CT. The happy couple are very popular in our town and many friends wish them the best of luck.

Mrs Roy Hampton and daughter Merle left on Monday night for Brisbane where Miss Merle will join the nursing staff at the Mater Hospital.

Many visitors have arrived to attend the Peut and Keating wedding that takes place on Thursday including Mrs GJ Keating, CT and Mrs ...

Mr and Mrs Peace [Lysle Halloran?] have arrived back after honeymooning in Townsville and have taken up residence.

### **1 Sep 1944 (p1, NA, CA)**

#### **JC Races**

About fifty Cloncurry sports went down to the JC races by the 1 o'clock train on Saturday morning. All report a good time and that the race meeting was a real good one with plenty of money and bookmakers and owners not afraid to back their horses. Mr Cleve Trenfield won a race with each of his horses, Norillo and Fivepence, and Mr Bill Chaplain won with his good Karuma horse, Amurak, twice, but the horse lost one race on account of the leadbag falling off whilst the race was in progress. Timothy, owned by Mr Chaplain, and Dark Class raced by Mr Jerry Hulbert, were both just beaten in their races.

The visiting sports only had two complaints. One was that the horse yards are in a very bad state and horses may be injured if repairs are not carried out before next meeting. The sanitary conveniences are also rather crude. In France urinals are covered from knee to neck, but there is a new idea on the JC race course we are told. The hessian reached from the ground to above the knee and from chest to forehead. Otherwise our sports say everything is OK. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and will go again.

Next week we will publish a full report of the meeting by our local racing correspondent.

### **1 Sep 1944 (440901, CA)**

School opened on Monday to the delight of the parents. all the children had a good holiday.

Don't forget the 9th September that is the date for the Nelia Races. All sports are assured of a good day's racing and ball at night. Roll up and join in.

Saturday the 25th August the Diggers again ran a race meeting. People came from Cloncurry, McKinlay, and Kynuna and all station folk were in attendance... [very similar description to previous meeting]. Mr Lance Lewis had three cars in operation and after the last race all made a rush for home. The two hotels has an excellent hot dinner ready for all visitors and later the picture theatre was packed. After the pictures the Diggers's Ball held in Eckford's Hall was a grand turn-out door takings being £76. Nrtton's band supplied tight music and Mr Ulick Browne was a capable MC and kept the dancers moving. Many pretty frocks were worn by the ladies. The dance went on till the small wee hours of the morning ... [results]

### **2 Sep 1944 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC – The local trucking yards are feeling the stain of this year's use. Parts of them are about to collapse and they would bog a duck after rain. I am informed that a quantity of metal is to be spread in the yards to help overcome the bog. As long as the metal isn't too large, causing work in the yards to be rough on man and beast, it should serve the purpose admirably.

The cattle passing through these yards this season can be counted in thousands, as they are used for dipping as well as trucking, and ten thousand trucked to date would be a conservative estimate.

Drovers are busy and rarely are any of the local drovers seen at home, as operation ranges as far south as the Charleville district, as far out as Boulia and well north of Cloncurry.

Shearers are at a premium and contractors are finding it hard at times to fulfil contracts to the time of a few years back. Needless to state, it throws extra work on the grazier in his efforts to cope with the fly.

### **8 Sep 1944 (440908, CA)**

The RC Church, JC, on Thursday 24th August at 5.30 pm was the scene of a very pretty wedding. The Church was artistically decorated for the occasion with crystal vases of dainty flowers. The Rev Father Dillon PP performed the ceremony when he joined in bonds of holy matrimony (sister) Bernice Mary second daughter of Mrs GJ Keating (and the late Mr Keating) of Hamilton, Brisbane, to Pte Leslie Peut, eldest son of Mr and Mrs GL Peut, JC, to the strain of the wedding march played by Miss P Kelly. Three charming maids and dainty flower girl with the charming bride made a pretty picture as they entered the Church, the bride on the arm of Mr C Hayden who gave her away [description of dress ...]

The first bridesmaid, Miss Maybell Cochran ... 2nd maid Miss Gloria Tracey ... 3rd maid Miss Betty Markwell ...

The bridegroom wore uniform and was assisted by his brother, Mr N Peut, best man, and Mr Vincent Ahern, cousin of the bridegroom and his brother Mr K Peut as groomsman. The bridegroom has been wounded in New Guinea but is quite recovered. During the signing of the Registrar, Mrs A Kaeser sweetly sang, 'Ave Maria'.

The reception was held at the spacious home of the bridegroom's parents, where Mrs Peut assisted by Mrs G Keating, bride's mother, received and entertained 180 guests to a sumptuous wedding breakfast. The spacious lounge was attractively decorated with red white and blue bells and streamers over the

large table. Bouganvillea and flags draped the walls and tied with ribbon. Pride of place on the table was given the handsome three tier wedding cake made by Mr Kaeser, iced and decorated by Mrs Cochram bridegroom's aunt ...

Bride said she was coming back to JC to carry on with the noble work at the hospital this was greeted with cheers.

Doctor Carter proposed the toast of the fighting forces. Pte Roberts of the 65th Battalion responded. Pte James Parsons endorsed Dr Carter's words and said that the doctors and nursing staff in New guinea are doing an excellent work for the sick and wounded. all were asked to charge their glasses and drink tot he fighting forces and sing 'They are Jolly good Fellows'. Beer was on tap and plenty of other drinks were supplied. Numerous congratulatory telegrams were received and kept the chairman busy reading same. Pte Hill presented the happy couple with a gift of Japanese money as a souvenir on their wedding day. The bride cut the cake with a knife decorated with the bridegroom's colours, red and black. The bridesmaids handed the cake around whilst Mrs Kaeser sang 'The Sunshine of your Smile'. George Peut thanked his many friends in the great assistance given to his wife and is relatives who came such a long way to help make his son's wedding such a happy one and said as soon as the table could be cleared dancing would begin. The happy couple received many costly presents including many cheques.

The couple left to spend a honeymoon in CT. The bride's travelling frock was made of cyclamen linen with smart navy hat and accessories.

### **8 Sep 1944 (p1, NQ667, CA)**

JC Races

(By JM)

Arriving home full of spirits on Friday evening I announced to my household I was going to the JC races at 1 am and would have a few hours rest. Was soon in the land of Nod to be awakened at 12 pm and told the taxi was waiting to take me to the train. It was cold and I was sorry for making rash promises. However I joined our party at the station, Joe Twible of Advocate fame, the one and only Ron, Private Jack Purtell and Ted Anderson.

The train was crowded and we had just time to crowd into a four-seat compartment along with N Reid and Charlie Anderson. As we went along Teddy decided to do the "Flying Fox" act by climbing up on to the luggage rack about 36" x 12" where he lay on his chest with legs hanging down. He did not look too comfortable, but gave us more room. I was telling a fellow passenger about this on my return journey and he said, "Oh yes, last week two women did the same and one had her legs..." but this is another story.

We had all about dozed off when Jack Purtell yelled out, "Someone pinched my Wong." The carriage was in darkness so we could not see who the culprit was. In striking matches we found his Wong pinched between the seat and the back of the carriage and all was well. (Wong in Fuzzy wuzzy means money).

We were a sorry lot as the only refreshments we had brought were, a-la-camel, inside. Next carriage had been more sensible and we listened to the corks popping and now and then a dead marine would hit the earth.

We arrived at JC about dawn, very hungry and cold, and made for the nearest pub to try and get a room. The hostler [hotelier?] told us, however, we could not even get a shakedown to change in, and away we went to the next place, Gannon's, where we were told by that genial host we might get a room if we waited 3 months. As we had no desire to stay even 3 minutes at the hotel unless the beer was on, away we went and found an old friend, Geo Rosenskjar who has a saddler's shop. Here we were able to dispose of our luggage.

By this time we were nearly frozen and starving so we made for Mrs Edwards hotel and our troubles were soon ended. We were met by that charming young hostess and were soon seated before the best repast ever. What a wonderful service – good meal, excellently cooked, and splendid service by pretty waitresses. It was good to see the sheikh of our party, Teddy, drink 5 cups of tea to make a good impression on these pretty maids.

Like giants refreshed we sallied forth and the streets were crowded with visitors. Cloncurry was in strong force and we met the Knights of the popping corks of last night. Trennie, J Bulley, Boomararra Bill, Les Franzman and Bill Alman. They had been fortunate in getting a room at Gannon's and had changed into their race costumes.

The owner of Five Pence wore a red Cardigan and an expectant look. BoomararraBill sported a Broadway tie, brown surcoat of nigger brown with ringer boots of the same hue, and a suspicious bulge on the hip. The Prince of Wales Rep was frocked in a roll of grey serge topped off with a stetson of pre-war vintage, and a ton of confidence in the Cloncurry horses. Mine host of the PO Hotel chose a royal-blue sweater with socks to match and his nicely marcelled hair attracted many sheep eyes. The Squire of Roxmere chose a two-tone ensemble of brown and grey with hat of the latest green "cowette" (cowette Fuzzy Wuzzy for beaver of felt).

I left my party and wandered round the town and was surprised to see the nice homes with green lawns etc. The architecture of these homes was refreshing after the old style of two rooms and back skillions that go to make up the majority of Cloncurry dwellings, and Curryites would be well advised in post War to visit JC and copy these nice styles of homes.

Another thing that surprised me was Lewis' Service Station which is equal to any I have ever seen even in big towns. Marvellous stocks, well shown and excellently serviced. Why not, Cloncurry Service Men?

In my roamings I missed the beer session but my party were successful. To an excellent lunch and then per boot to the race course led by Jack Purtell who usually walks 28 miles per day on route marches in New Guinea where Jack has just come from on leave. It's a mile and a bit to the course and we enjoyed the march in the heat over the loose downs.

We were encouraged by Joe Twible with the promise of beer at the course, but when we arrived the beer had not. When it did, however, it consisted of bottled ale at 6/- per bottle or 1/- for 6 ozs. I resolved to obtain and drink water, but of water there was none. Neither was there shade for man, woman or beast. Not a seat, not a log, not a stone, not a tree. What a place. The appointments at the JC race course are the most primitive in the Commonwealth and a disgrace to any civilised Club. This Club has been in existence for over 20 years and surely the public who make the sport are worthy of some consideration. No attempt even to provide a place for women and children to rest or change, and my sympathy went out to the mothers with little ones (and there were quite a number) who had to put in that hot afternoon on the Downs with nowhere to have a wash or change.

There is one thing about the race course appointments – everything is equal. No bell to denote weigh in, weigh out. No flags to advise public of protests etc., and in the case where a horse slipped his weight, it was fully ten minutes before the public woke up to the fact, and by that time, numbers had torn up their tickets on the second horse. No bell to warn that a start has occurred or when the winner has been OK'd. The yards are a menace to horses, being in a disgraceful state of repair. Last, and not least, are the sanitary arrangements which would not be tolerated anywhere but JC. The mens' convenience which faces the road from town, and over which all traffic must pass, has a WC minus a door and the latrine is enclosed with old torn hessian which, as one writer has written, covers the person from head to chest and from knees to feet. What about it Mr Health Officer?

Apart from the appointments, the course is good, and on this occasion the meeting was very good also. A good class of horse in good condition. The programme was a good one and must have suited the owners. (Cloncurry could learn a lot from this Club about a programme. I often wonder why Cloncurry does not put on 7 half-mile races for the day, they seem to favour 1 mile maiden starts.) It was grand to see 11 acceptors for the first race and a great race it was. The next also was a grand race and everyone was on their toes. The racing was very good right through, with the Cloncurry horses on top.

It was bad luck for Boomararra Bill to lose the race when his horse slipped the lead bar. Had there been proper supervision by the stewards this would not have happened. Part of a steward's duties are to see the horse properly saddled, as a tricky owner could lose a race easier this way than by pulling a horse. However, on the whole, it was a very good day as far as racing goes and everyone seemed to have plenty of cash.



There was a big attendance of the fair sex and some pretty costumes that would have graced even Flemington. I was sorry I was not able to give a description of these, because nothing pleases the fair ones more than to see what the other one said she wore.

I met a very old friend in that Beau Brummel of amateur riders, Jacky Walters, neat and active as ever. Jack is Handicapper and starter for the JC Club and he certainly did his part credibly. Meeting Jack brought back memories of the good old racing days and I could see him bringing home horses like Kurgan, Royal, and Crown Scholar and others in many stirring finishes.

I saw Harry Hulbert and his pipe wandering round, and I'll bet this old-time amateur watching his son Alan riding, would in his mind, ride over again the champion old timers – Come On, Burdekin and Co.

And so back to town per hoof and when I got to the railway line I sat on a sleeper block and thought of the time over 30 years ago when I walked from JC to Cloncurry, of which some day I may describe.

### **15 Sep 1944 (p1, NA, CA)**

JC, 8 Sep – The RC Debutante Ball held in Eckford's Hall on Friday 1st Sep was an outstanding success, door takings being £54-7-0. The large spacious hall was prettily decorated in pale mauve and two tones of green and white showing dainty wheels of multicoloured flowers. The stage was artistically decorated with a background of flags, lattice work on both sides showing pretty purple bougainvillea. Crystal vases of Camilla roses and multicoloured gladiolas, dainty baskets of peach blossoms, bright mats and dainty carpets covered the stairs on both sides of the stage and a miniature white palings carrying peach blossoms completed the setting.

His Lordship, Bishop Ryan, of Townsville, arrived at 9 pm and was received by Mrs Waller (president) and Mrs H Mathews (Matron of Honour). The official party took their seats on the stage and were His Lordship Bishop Ryan, Mrs Waller, Mrs Mathews, Rev Father Lyons, PP (Winton), the Rev Father Dillon PP (JC), Mrs T Quilty, Mrs W Browne, Mrs Spencer and Mr P Dawes. The "Blue Danube" waltz was softly played by Mrs Thompson.

Two dainty little flower girls were Misses Janice Waller and Carmel Fickling, dressed alike in white early Victorian frocks, dolly varden hats and carrying dainty bouquets of fresh flowers. These they presented to the President and Matron of Honour. The little lasses made their curtsy to His Lordship.

In grand style, seven charming debs were presented to His Lordship, Bishop Ryan by the President, and Mr J Ahern, the capable MC, announced the names of each deb as they entered on the arm of their partner. The following were the debutantes:–

Miss Doris Tunny, partner Mr P Byrne  
Miss Margo Flemming, partner Mr W Roberts  
Miss Betty Markwell, partner Mr V Ahern  
Miss Shirley Malone, partner Mr G Shepherd  
Miss Shirley Collins, partner Mr E Lord  
Miss Pat Chardon, partner Corporal T Foster  
Miss Valerie Anderson, partner Sergeant G Sills

His Lordship addressed the debs and their partners and said he was indeed very proud to be present at such a special occasion as this Deb Ball. He congratulated the young ladies on their splendid introduction into public life and he wished them a long and happy life. He also said their partners looked very well and who knows that some may not only be their partner for tonight but may be their partner for the rest of their life.

His Lordship said this grand turn out reflected great credit to the President and Secretary and the many helpers and to those who decorated the hall for the special occasion. He bestowed God's blessings on one and all present tonight. His Lordship was loudly applauded.

After the debs waltz a very sumptuous supper was enjoyed by all present. A special table was nicely arranged for the official party, the debs and partners. Pride of place on the table was the dainty debs cake made and decorated by Mr A Kaeser, a daintily dressed doll being on the cake.

The cutting of the cake was drawn for and the honours went to Miss Betty Markwell. Mrs Waller and Mrs Mathews handed the deb's cake around to everyone present. Norton's Band supplied snappy music and Mr Ahern MC kept the ball rolling till the early hours of the morning when all made their way home tired out but happy.

Frocks worn by the deb's:-

Miss Doris Tunny, pretty net frock over satin foundation, full-flared skirt richly trimmed with lace and bows. Hair poesy, silk mittens, early Victorian bouquet of roses.

Miss Margo Flemming, dainty pale lemon organdie over satin foundation. Dainty frilled lemon mittens, circular skirt, Lemon bouquet, net background.

Miss Betty Markwell, dainty net frock over satin foundation, flared skirt, dainty lace trimmings...

### **1 Oct 1944 (p1, NQ666, CA)**

Heading for:

JC

(By a valued correspondent)

### **6 Oct 1944 (p1, NQ664, 441006, CA)**

By A Valued Correspondent

Quite a number of our lads serving in the forces who have been spending leave at home, leave on Monday night's mail to rejoin their units. They include Pte James Parsons, Cpl T Foster, Sgt G Sills, Pte Roberts, Pte E Hill. With the departure of these bright lads many of our young lassies will be kind of lonesome.

Sad news was received that Mr CJ Brabazon (Clarafield Station) passed peacefully away at his station on Saturday. The deceased was well known and highly respected being an old pioneer in this district. To his sorrowing wife and grown up family, many friends extend their sincere sympathy.

Mr Bradley, dentist, Richmond, accompanied by Mrs Bradley arrived on Saturday and as it is some time since a dentist has been in our town it looks as if they are in for a busy time.

Mr Allison, Chairman of the shire Council, accompanied by Constable McNaught, McKinlay, visited the town to attend the funeral of the late Mr Fickling.

Pte Edward Fickling left to join his unit after spending leave with his wife and small son.

Reports are that Mr A Kaeser our well-known baker who has not had a holiday for eight years is making the most of it. He is relieved by his son Albert, who owing to ill health was relieved from military service. Mr A Kaeser is spending most of his holidays with his three married daughters in Townsville.

Quite a gloom was cast over the town on Wednesday 27th September at the sad passing of Mr Vincent Fickling who was 37 years of age and, with his wife and young family, has been a resident for many years. The deceased was well-known and highly respected by all who knew him and is the second son of Mr Herbert Fickling and the late Mrs Fickling, and twin brother of James Fickling, and at the time of his death was in the employment of the Shire Council where he faithfully served for many years. He was previously chairman of the local ambulance, also a member of the School committee, and although Mr Vincent Fickling had not been enjoying the best of health lately, he was ready to help with other functions held in town. The Council, CWA and School flags flew at half mast.

The sad funeral took place on Thursday at 5 pm. The cortege moved from the home of his brother, Mr Herbert Fickling, where the Rev Bruce held service and read the last sad rites of the Presbyterian Church. The pall bearers were members of Ambulance Committee, Mr W Stanley, Mr N Langtree, Mr T Hutton and Mr Powderham. The funeral was largely attended and numerous wreaths and messages of sympathy were received.

The deceased was laid to rest next to his mother who predeceased him some three years ago. He leaves a

young wife and three small children to mourn his loss – Beverly, 12 years, Carmel, 3 years, Vincent, 3 years.

To his sorrowing young wife and family, his father, and many relatives, many friends extend their sincere sympathy in their great sad loss. Relatives to attend the funeral of their late brother were Mr and Mrs Herbert Fickling and family, Mr and Mrs James Fickling and family, Mr and Mrs Tom Fry and family, Mr and Mrs Edward Fickling, Mr W Fry.

Mr Fickling's aged father is at present living in Winton with his daughter Mrs Curry, and another son lives at Longreach, and two sons, Edward and William are serving in the forces.

#### **6 Oct 1944 (p1, NA, CA)**

##### **BEDOURIE IN CLONCURRENCY**

On Monday last, Cloncurry was subjected to one of the thickest bedouries experienced for some years. A dust haze hung over the town all day almost obscuring the sun, and the surrounding hills were shrouded in the haze.

This dust storm is no doubt the result of the visit of Mr Devries, MLA, member for Gregory, to Bedourie. Whilst there recently, Mr Devries had occasion to change a cheque for £10 and states the five and twenty men, women and children residents of this far-flung outpost of his electorate had to dig up almost every penny change in the town to get him his tenner. This dust is the result of their frantic digging to please their member as it is the first time a member of parliament has ever visited Bedourie.

#### **6 Oct 1944 (p1, NQ665, CA)**

##### **WHO'S LISTENING**

Detecting the eavesdropper on the old party telephone line  
(By Ray Harris in SMH)

Among the miracles of radio frequency [...] of telephone service. And there is no doubt that the radiotelephone of the brave new world will remove the necessity for running long lines to farmsteads and longer ones to outback stations.

Such an amazing development must ring the knell of that amazing development of the pre-twenties – the party telephone. Yet how sadly we relinquish the old things. Many country dwellers will regret the passing of this strange device which has become a commonplace and a part of their lives, the wide spread use of which assails the opinion that rural Australians are averse to co-operative living.

A party telephone line is simply a single wire used by perhaps 10 homesteads to avoid the expense of 10 wires and the heavier poles they would require. Our line, I remember, led much of the way above fences on supports bolted to fence posts, and when it came through timber it zig zagged nonchalantly from tree to tree.

The town exchange rang a separate signal for each farmhouse – say, a short-long for Baxter, three short for Wyndhams, and so on. Every house heard every other signal as well as its own. There was the rub and also one of the spices of life.

In some ways it was like a game of chess. One of the prime moves was that when you heard your signal you rushed like a stag to the instrument in an effort to hear which of the other receivers came off. By certain peculiarities – sharp clicks, tingles, clatter and so on – you could tell just who had decided to listen in. You then adopted a certain course of procedure. For instance, if in addition to the person calling you, Mrs Pilkington and young Miss Alsopp had joined you on the wire, you would take the opportunity of recounting the tale about old George Pilkington (under the influence) driving his car into the dam for a drink; and you would be first to spread the news that Miss A's boyfriend had only half an hour been run over by his Suntyne cultivator. The click of the Alsopp receiver would reduce the number of eavesdroppers by one and you could get on with your own business which nevertheless would become public property in the district within a short space of time.

The old hands didn't worry much about this sort of thing but some of the youngsters evolved a sort of telephonic code which was so enigmatic that often were unintelligible to themselves. Still, it was good fun.

To indulge in fond endearments was suicidal. Every amorous phrase would, within a day or two, startle the ear of its inventor. He would hear it whenever two or three neighbours were gathered together, during smoko round the chaffcutter, or outside church on Sunday. But no real harm came of this for we knew just how far to go.

Only once a Philistine appeared in our midst, filled her leisure reading yellow backs on a settee under the telephone in her vast detached kitchen. When a ring sounded for any subscriber she would languidly mark her page and as languidly reach for the receiver. Such conduct was quite legitimate, but she made the mistake of publishing distorted accounts instead of authentic news.

Mechanical defects in any one instrument affected the performance of the whole line so it became a point of honour to replace blown fuses, see to earth wires, and so on.

After rough weather a volunteer repair gang removed trees or tree branches and checked up the insulation.

There were several advantages about our line. For instance, one could ring a neighbour at no cost by merely skirling his signals with the phone handle. In times of emergency – say with fires threatening or a school picnic pending – it was usual for all 10 farmers to go into telephone conference for half an hour or so before retiring.

The one really exasperating feature of a party line was the womenfolk and their hour-long chats. I wasn't that they had anything to tell one another. They just enjoyed being together.

"Hullo, Mum!"

"Hello, Gwen!"

"How are y', mum?"

"Aw, I'm all right, dear. Me backs' achin' a bit that's all."

"I s'pose y' been washin' something 'eavy again then?"

"Only a coupla blankets."

"Now, 'ow many times 'ave I told y' to send them across by Jim?"

The details of clothes, health, babies, and jam making would be interspersed with long silences pregnant with love and felicity. Occasionally exchange, with an in-call waiting, would have to shatter their happiness. And if you were tactful, they would make a real effort to prize their souls apart, but it took time. Still, they were generous with their apricots and peaches, and at pig-killing time.

Scores of party lines are still operating. Ours may have been unique in some respects, I don't know. I do know however that it gave us first-class entertainment and contributed vastly to our ability to see (and hear) the other fellow's point of view.

#### **7 Oct 1944 (p4, NQ662, NQR)**

Death Notice of Vince Fickling

#### **13 Oct 1944 (441013, CA)**

Miss Joyce O'Sullivan has arrived and has taken up duty at the Post Office.

Pte W Fickling arrived home to spend leave with his many relatives. It is some time since Bill has been home and he is looking very well.

Mr Mick Byrne (Kalmeta) is at present an inmate of the local hospital but he is reported to be doing well.

The Star Picture show has been out of operation. Mr James Eckford has purchased all new machinery and as soon as it is installed he hopes to open about 21st or 25th. The pictures have been missed by young and old.

Mr Bradley, dentist, and Mrs Bradley are still in our midst and are kept very busy.

The nursing quarters at the hospital are completed and are an added attraction the the hospital.

The town is very quiet since no pictures have been shown. Dancing seems the only amusement. The RC Church is holding a dance on Saturday 14th October in Eckford's Hall, so roll up.

Don't forget the school children fancy dress ball on the 3rd November and the Diggers Races on 4th November. Don't be out of the fun.

Sapper Joe Mathews accompanied by his wife arrived home on a month's leave and are the guests of Mr and Mrs H Mathews, Hilton Park.

The subscription list for Mrs vince Fickling and children will close shortly. Any kind person wishing to send donations address to Superintendent H Bensen, Ambulance Centre, JC.

#### **14 Oct 1944 (p2, 441014, NQR)**

JC, Oct 11 – With the last nip of winter gone and the embers of summer about to burst into life we can resign ourselves to the long, dreary, languid days which are our lot six months of each year. The tail end of a half hearted 'Bedourie' is still in the air and the straggling dust make it hard for the women folk in the house. Numerous 'whirlies' some with a fair amount of velocity have whirled their way through the town leaving clean swept streets behind them with the dust and debris generally finishing up in someone's back yard or house. One hit a car and blew it off the blocks it was jacked upon. They may be the relics of the equinoxial gale we used to experience up to a few years ago. It is hard to tell as the seasons of late years have changed to what they were in the late teens and early twenties. About the only weather prediction we are sure of is that on an average one year in every three produces a lot of grey hairs and one in about every seven a clear cut drought.

The grass along the stock routes is still holding its own despite the number of stock that have passed over them in the last few months. The water is holding out well and should hold out easily enough till the end of the year.

There have been a few reports come in about the activity of dingoes. Two well grown pups were run down about 30 miles out and the mother of them was caught up with four miles from where she had been trapped with the trap still on the leg. Two other pups barely a month old were run down not 20 miles from town. The life of the grazier this year has been anything but a happy one as it has been an uphill fight all the time against the blowflies, dingoes and occasional foxes.

The town has been very quiet of late. Most of the sheds are a long way out of town. Some of the shearers have started to work their way south as the season out here is slowly drawing to a finish.

The local trucking yards have been working overtime of late and the strain on them can plainly be seen by the make shift repairs done on them by people anxious to keep their stock yarded when once the gates are closed on them. Everyone who has occasion to work in the yards complains about them and for once the complaints are warranted.

Drover Herb Fickling is still out in the Cloncurry district and Bill Triffett is out Kynuna way. Tom Kelly is bringing in weekly drafts for one of the coastal meatworks and will be for the next few weeks.

Shearing contractors are operating at the following properties: Bert Peut at Brinard cuts out this week; Tom Jessup at Etta Plains; Jack McCarthy at Yorkshire Downs; Arthur Fayers at Spreyton and Bill Mathews has Lindfield and Bunda Bunda.

The new issue of the petrol rationing coupons brought a few visitors to town but by night they had all departed to their properties.

Mr HE doubleday returned from the south during the week and after a few hours stay in town left for Consentes.

A fire broke out at the Gilliat last Sunday just as the mail train pulled up at the station. The residence of Mrs Fitzsimons was destroyed. The kitchen and store room was all that was left standing.

**20 Oct 1944 (p1, NA, CA)**

JC – Monday last our town suffered one of the severest bedourie dust storms experience for many years.

The Presbyterian ladies held a most enjoyable evening on Friday night in Eckford's Hall to entertain Dr Flynn of the Inland Mission, also the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church. The Rev Bruce, Cloncurry was present. Mr McCorcordale, as Chairman, welcomed the visitors and during the evening speeches were made by Mr Parsons and Mr Waller. Songs were sweetly rendered by Mrs Kaeser, the Misses Norton (two) and Miss Alma Gannon. The ladies served a dainty supper and the visitors left next morning by plane.

Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis arrived home after holidaying south.

**21 Oct 1944 (p47, NA, NQR)**

JC, 18 Oct – Everything mentioned in last week's notes regarding the weather has been reversed. The hot days have regained a moderate temperature, the nights call for doubling up with the blankets, and the "half-hearted Bedourie" has developed into the worst out here since October 1927. That dust storm, about the same time of the year as the present one, was the aftermath of a good season, and the present one that is still with us, only somewhat lighter, appears to be in keeping with 1927.

The town had a visit last Thursday from the Rev. Dr John Flynn, founder of the AIM and the man responsible for the Flying Doctor Service. Accompanying him was Rev Brown, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Qld, and secretary of the AIM for the past eight years. Church was conducted that night by the Rev Brown and after the service a social evening was held at Eckford's Hall. Mr W McCorquedale, as chairman, introduced the Rev Dr and Moderator, each of who gave a fine speech. The function lasted till well after 100 o'clock. Mrs A Kaeser, Miss Stella and Shirley Norton, and Miss Alma Gannon entertained with a song each with Mrs Fairbanks accompanying at the piano.

One thing mentioned by the Moderator that does credit to the JC branch of the Presbyterian Ladies Guild, is that since the war began they have taken a material interest in our lads in the fighting services, being first to send regular subscriptions for comforts etc which created an incentive for other branches to do likewise and they have continued doing so without letting up.

A dance and euchre tournament was held in Eckford's Hall on Saturday night in aid of the RC Church.

The local picture theatre is still out of commission but by all reports it will not remain so for long now.

**27 Oct 1944 (441027, CA)**

The weather for the last few days has been very warm but one good thing we are free of the Bedourie dust storm.

The picture theatre showed on Saturday night and a good crowd of young and old attended. The new machinery seems to be working well.

Many of our local sports attended the Richmond races and came home much lighter in pocket. Pte Jim Eckford arrived home to spend leave with his parents Mr and Mrs Eckford, Star Picture show. Miss Shirley Norton one of our popular younger set has taken up duties with the firm of AJ Smith.

**28 Oct 1944 (p46, 441028, NQR)**

JC, Oct 26 – The passing of the dust storm has left a lot of work in its wake, both in the offices as well as the houses. It left a lot of blood shot eyes as well. The postponed cleaning days have been caught up with.

There appears to be a decided change at present. The temperature is high and muggy with barely a breeze and the sky is three parts covered with clouds and a light haze. There have been a few cool nights during the past week but the last two nights have been very warm. Weather prophets claim rain at the change of the moon.

From reports heard from outside drovers the stock route is in good condition between here and the Gulf

while the local routes are still in good order. Herb Fickling returned from the Cloncurry district during the week by train and left his son Clarry to bring the plant home. Bill Triffett arrived in from Kynuna a few days ago. His stay was brief as there were a few local jobs he wanted to catch up on. Tom Kelly is on the road with 800 fat wethers to be trucked to a northern meatworks. This is his fourth draft of 800 out of a 4000 lot.

The installing of the X ray plant in the hospital was completed during the week and the try out proved successful. This is a definite asset to the district and a great help to Dr Carter.

The local picture theatre opened on Saturday after having been closed for a number of weeks through breakages.

W Mathews has his team still at Lindfield; Bert Peut is shearing at Oxton Downs; Arthur Fayers is at Spreyton; and Tommy Jessup finishes at Balootha in a few days time.

### **3 Nov 1944 (441103, CA)**

Mr Peter Dawes has a nice range of ladies dainty hats and pretty material on show. Call and inspect.

### **4 Nov 1944 (p46, 441104, NQR)**

JC, Nov 1 – The first storm of summer passed over the town and surrounding district last Thursday night but with hardly enough rain in it to wash the dust off the grass left by the late dust storm. There was plenty of lightning and about 2 am a clap of thunder reverberated throughout the town with enough energy in it to waken all bar the most dormant of sleepers. It cooled the air for about 24 hours and for the past three days we have had typical summer weather with the usual cool southern breeze for most part of the nights. At the time of writing there are a few wind-swept rain cloud floating beneath a semi-mackerel sky. The temperature has been over the 100 mark for the past few days and there appears no sign of it letting up for a while.

The spirit of All Halloween night was upheld by the Presbyterian Church last Friday night in Eckford's Hall. Jumble stalls, sweets and cake stalls displayed some fine wares and efforts and when there was nothing left to sell the dancers took over. Mr Bill Stanley as Master Of Ceremonies handled the job well while excellent dance music was supplied by Miss Alma Gannon, Mrs Smith and Mrs Fairbanks relieving at the piano. Mr F Norton on the saxophone and Miss Shirley Norton on the drums. Miss Joan Kupfer and Mr H Foster won the novelty dance and Miss Edna Eckford and Mr H Mann took the Monte Carlo. Supper was served at interval after which dancing was resumed. A euchre tournament was part of the programme for those who wished to join in. Mr E Powderham was the successful player of the night. At midnight all lights went out and the guest of a ghost shuffled rather than glided across the hall at one corner accompanied by shouts and cheers from the gathering and once again an ancient rite was respected in a little town in North West Qld to the delight of all who were present. The proceeds of the evening, or the greatest part of them, go to help buy some Christmas cheer or comfort for the lads who are doing their bit in the front line.

### **10 Nov 1944 (441110, CA)**

Many friends will be pleased to learn that Mr and Mrs W Gannon have received pleasing news that their only son William who is a prisoner of war in Malaya is now in Borneo and is well.

### **17 Nov 1944 (p1, NA, CA)**

JC – Regret to report that about half past nine o'clock Tuesday night a fire broke out in Horton's Cafe situated in Goldring Street. The fire quickly spread to Mr Dick Cooper's Billiard Room and also to the private house owned by Sallen [Samuel Allen] and Son occupied by Mr and Mrs Dwyer and family (Railway). All the three buildings and contents were completely destroyed. Luckily there was no heavy wind blowing at the time of the fire as more damage could have occurred. Willing hands saved the big store owned by Samuel Allen and Sons. If this had caught the Railway Hotel kept by Mrs Edwards would have been in great danger. Many boarders got their ports ready to move out. Our sympathy goes to all those who were unfortunate in losing their homes and belongings.

Mrs Grace Horton was taken to hospital. Many friends wish this popular lady a speedy recovery to good health.

Dance held on Tuesday night by the Younger set in Mathews Hall was well attended. All present had a

happy time.

#### **24 Nov 1944 (441124, CA)**

The days are still very warm. Monday night another Bedourie dust storm blew up. Tuesday was one of the worst days we have experienced for sometime.

The popular young lady Miss Olivia Ellen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gannon, flew from Brisbane accompanied by fiancée Sapper CH Hely of Rockhampton to be married at her home town on Saturday (25/11/44). The young couple spent a few days with the bride's parents and left on Monday for Cloncurry where they will go by plane south for their honeymoon.

#### **25 Nov 1944 (p40, NA, NQR)**

JC – According to reports from out in the country, there has been a thinning out of the dingoes, and although there are still a number making themselves felt, it is good to know that the position is getting under control a lot.

In the town a few of the local dogs have met with untimely deaths through poisoning. These potential doggers must have very little to do to allow them to go about dropping poison baits indiscriminately round the town as the danger of some little child picking them up is always there. It isn't always the streets where these baits are dropped, as quite a number of dogs, and some valuable sheep dogs, have been poisoned on the chain in their owner's back yard.

On Tuesday night a devastating fire broke out in the premises of Mrs G Horton whose cafe was burned to the ground, also the old billiard room of Dick Cooper's, and the residential next to the cafe, belonging to Samuel Allen's and Sons. Sallen's [Samuel Allen] store, which is only a few feet from the residential, was in the balance for quit a while and it was only the untiring work of the townspeople that saved it from meeting the same fate as the other three buildings.

The fire broke out about 9 pm and some of the fire fighters never left it till close on 2 am. Good work was done in saving most of the furniture belonging to Mrs E Dwyer who was renting Sallen's [Samuel Allen] house, but except for a few personal belongings of Mrs Horton's, nothing was saved from the cafe. The full contents of the billiard room were lost and only the twisted iron and a few charred pieces of timber were left of the oldest cafe and billiard room in the town. Mrs Horton was the proprietress of the Austral for 25 years or more.

#### **1 Dec 1944 (441201, CA)**

On Saturday 18th November 1944 a wedding of wide interest took place in St Barnabus Church of England, JC, when Olivia Ellen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs WG Gannon, JC, was joined in holy matrimony to Sapper Cedric H Hely, AIF returned, son of Mrs K Hely, Rockhampton. The ceremony was performed by Rev LG Crowe BSB.

The graceful bride who entered the Church on the arm of her father, was frocked in water-wave organdi cut in late Georgian style with trimmings, festoon shape on the full skirt. The tightly fitting bodice was relieved with fine lace. The veil, held in cornet shape with orange blossoms was kindly loaned by Mrs R Park, Brisbane and the Dolly Varden bouquets carried by the bride and bridesmaid were kindly made by Mrs de Warren, Cloncurry.

The bride was attended by her sister, Alma, who looked charming in a full length frock of pink floral organdi which was richly embroidered on bodice and sleeve. A pink coronet and veil were worn to match.

The duties of best man were ably carried out by Lieut RE Ward, AIF returned, The organist was Mrs L Thompson.

As the only brother of the bride is a POW it was the wish of the bridal couple to have a quiet reception at the home of the bride's parents. The party was received by Mrs WG Gannon mother of the bride who was frocked in pastel pink georgette with navy accessories. Brother Crowe acted as chairman and after the usual toasts a toast was called for dear ones who were unavoidably absent – Mrs Hely, mother of the groom, Nurse Ivy Gannon, Brisbane and L/Bdr WJ Gannon, POW Borneo.



The happy couple left by plane for the south where the groom will rejoin his unit.

**8 Dec 1944 (441208, CA)**

The CWA ladies are working very hard making toys of all kinds and are holding a toy stall and dance on the 15th December. Funds go towards Xmas hampers for our lads serving in the forces. so roll up and buy joy toys for the children and have a good night's dancing.

Congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Norton on the safe arrival of an infant son at the local hospital. The Nortons have five girls and now with one son in the family the wee chap is very welcome.

The Boxing tournament held on Friday night last in Mathew's Hall was an outstanding success. Door takings were £29/3/-. Proceeds go towards the Boy Scouts seaside holiday. Eight or nine bouts were fought by the school boys...

Mr Ray Parker whilst loading wool met with a painful accident when the wool hook ran into his hand. Mr Benson conveyed the sufferer to hospital and after doctor's attention he returned home.

Quite a gloom was cast over the town on Wednesday night when the sad news was received by Mrs T Kelly that her nephew, Sgt Norman Whiting, was killed in action in the south of England. Deceased was well known and his smiling good nature won him a host of friends. He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Frank Whiting and was born in Townsville 20 years ago. He came with his parents to JC and lived here for many years and attended the State School. Norman was always a smart lad and passed his scholarship at the Cloncurry convent School. He then went to Abergowrie where he finished his education. He returned home and joined his father who is a carpenter. Norman soon became his father's right hand man and helped his dad build many of the main buildings in JC. As soon as he became of military age he joined the Air Force and was no time in receiving his wings.

On Wednesday night at the Star Picture show all stood for one minute's silence in honour of another one of our young heroes who has been called upon to pay the supreme sacrifice. The school, Shire Council and CWA flags flew at half mast.

**22 Dec 1944 (441222, CA)**

JC – Pleasing news that Mr and Mrs W Gannon have received another letter card from their son W Gannon who is a POW in Borneo stating he is well. It was signed WG Gannon, Prison Camp, Borneo.

Mr Whitley, Head Teacher State School left to spend holidays in the South where he will be joined by his wife in Mackay.

Labour is at a premium in the pastoral and shearing industry and almost every business in town is working short handed but valiant efforts by those remaining in their jobs are enabling most places to carry on. It was a good year for the man on the land as the rain fall was above average on most places.

In town business is fairly quiet. The beer restrictions force the hotels to remain closed most of the time and rationing of other commodities prevents the grocer and draper from giving their customers the attention they would like to. With confidence in our leaders and fighting men we, who are left at home, can only carry on and hope that before another Christmas is with us peace has come again to the world.

To our many soldier friends both in and out of Australia we extend the compliments of the season and sincerely hope they are back home in the near future and to those who have lost ones we offer sincere condolence.

**23 Dec 1944 (p34, 441223, NQR)**

JC – The death occurred last Monday of Mr ML Byrne of Kalmata at the JC hospital. Mr Byrne had experienced ill health for some months past. Deepest sympathy is felt for his wife and family.

**5 Jan 1945 (450105, CA)**

Mrs Peter Dawes [Dadie's mother-in-law?] and Mr A Dawes [Peter's brother], Cloncurry, arrived to be with her son Mr P Dawes whose wife [Dadie] is seriously ill in hospital. Pleased to report that Mrs P Dawes has shown slight improvement.

Mr Ben Burrows has taken over the grocery store of WA Mathews [not the OK Store – see 23 Mar 1945] and opened up on 2nd instant. We wish Mr Burrows the best of luck in his new venture into business.

To Mr and Mrs Peter Dawes we extend our very sincere sympathy in the sad loss of their infant daughter at birth in the local hospital. Many friends wish the popular Mrs Dawes a very speedy recovery to good health.

[Lance Lewis entertaining for Xmas]

**12 Jan 1945 (450112, CA)**

Many of our lads serving in the forces report that they all had a good Xmas dinner well cooked. Not forgetting the issue of good old beer. The officers waited on the boys in grand style. They also received from the Comfort Funds a beautiful packed hamper including Xmas cake. This was enjoyed by all and many canteen orders were received for which the lads send their great thanks.

**19 Jan 1945 (P? NA, CA)**

The Rev Father Deveraux, P.P. has arrived and taken up duty.

**20 Jan 1945 (p31, 450120, NQR)**

JC, Jan 11 – The old year closed with a parting gift of a few inches of rain throughout the district. For last year there was 31 inches of rain in the township and though the outside country in places never registered that amount while parts registered higher, it can be said that 1944 was a bumper year for rain in the JC district.

As a parting shot the holes along the stock routes have been filled. Before the last few inches there was plenty of grass and no natural water. Now the routes are in a good condition to meet the stock travelling early in the new season.

The little black flies are very thick in the town causing a little sickness among the children and a lot of discomfort at meal times. Still, they are part of this country and have been accepted not without prejudice since the West has been the West.

There has been little stock movement of late on account of the holidays. For the year 1944 a conservative estimate of the stock that have changed hands in the district would be 90,000 sheep and about 20,000 cattle. The trucking away of cattle through the JC yards would exceed the above number by a fair margin.

Reports have come to hand re number of dingoes caught by various syndicate in the district. One dogger accounted for over 60 dogs in his area while in the same are about another 20 dogs have been accounted for by men working on the different stations. Another figure to hand is 40 dogs by the syndicate dogger while sundry catches were 20. These numbers indicate a lot of work on the doggers part as the syndicates have been formed but a few months.

Mr B Burrows, late of AJ Smith and Co, has taken over W. Mathews' store which is now known as the OK Store.

**26 Jan 1945 (p? NQ690, 450126, CA)**

Great is the spirit of old Mrs Grace Horton who lost her shop by fire some time ago. She has rented a house and still continues sending her many customers their usual case of fruit and vegetables.

Mr H Walters, Postal staff arrived home after spending a week with his grandmother, Mrs I Walters, Townsville, and will leave on Thursday morning for Brisbane where he joins the telegraphist training school.

Mr J Parsons, Shire clerk, arrived home after visiting Townsville with the Boy Scouts. He also spent a few days with his paents Mr and Mrs Parsons.

**2 Feb 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

JC, Jan 31 – Mrs T Quilty and daughter Miss Doreen left for Brisbane here they will in future reside.

Their station home Euroka Springs where they lived for many years has been sold. Many friends wish Mr and Mrs Quilty and family the best of luck in their new home.

**9 Feb 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

Mr and Mrs A Dawes, Cloncurry, are spending extended holidays with their brother, Mr P Dawes.

Mr Roy Hampton who purchased the [National] Bank Buildings [cnr Julia/Burke St] some time ago has made it into an up-to-date barbers' saloon.

It is rumoured that we are losing our popular MO Doctor Carter and his charming wife.

**16 Feb 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

Mrs Flo Watson and son, Mr R Watson of the Blue Bird Cafe arrived home on Sunday after holidaying in Sydney. Mrs Watson will be pleased to meet old and new customers, so call at the Blue Bird Cafe for service and cool drinks.

The dance held in Matthew's Hall on Monday night was well attended and all dancers had a happy time.

The funeral of a well known and highly respected old gentleman, Mr William Edwards, aged 79, took place last Friday evening. His daughter Mrs T Kelly had the body conveyed from Cloncurry where the deceased passed peacefully away in his sleep. Mr Edwards lived for many years in JC together with his wife and family of six daughters and three sons but later years live in CT with his son William. His eldest son, Jim, who was accidentally drowned in the Flinders River is also buried in JC. The cortage moved from the RC Church the Rev Father Deveraus officiated. Many friends paid their last respects to their late comrade. To his wife who lives in Brisbane his six daughters and two sons we extend our sympathy.

William Edwards was found dead on the verandah of the Selwyn Hotel, Cloncurry, on Thursday morning having passed away in his sleep from heart failure. Deceased arrived in Cloncurry Monday after visiting his son Fred, manager of Montague Downs, Boulia. He was spending a few days in Cloncurry renewing acquaintances and intending visiting Fort Constantine Station where he was to take delivery of a thoroughbred and appeared to be in excellent health. For many years deceased followed the occupation of drover in the JC and Cloncurry districts assisted by his sons one of who, Jim, was accidentally drowned in the Flinders River some years ago. He is survived by his wife who resides at Hamilton, Brisbane, six daughters and two sons. The body was conveyed to JC for burial.

**23 Feb 1945 (450223, CA)**

[Dance in Mathews Hall, ambulance]

Ambulance received a call on Saturday to Millungera Station to transport Mr J Conway of Doravale Station to hospital. Mr Benson left JC at midday and arrived at 2am at Millungera. As the weather was looking like rain the superintendent collected his patient and made back to town but he struck rain and was held up at Lara Station for a couple of hours to allow the road to dry. They set off once again and got to Manfred Downs and made inquiries as to how the road was and were assured by Mr Charlie Stadder that the rain had fallen all to the left of the road. Charlie was evidently a bad judge of the rain falls as the superintendent found to his dismay that the road some 10 miles on had copped all the rain however after being held up for 16 hours arrived in JC at midday Sunday taking 23 hours to do the trip, heavy going. Being an ambulance superintendent is not all it is cracked up to be.

[Description of Jensen birthday party for 7 yo]

**24 Feb 1945 (p46, NA, NQR)**

JC – About 50 miles from town, rats are reported to be swarming the country. "A rat for every blade of grass" I have been told, the worst they have ever seen. It appears that they are slowly working in from the Gulf country as they were fairly bad 20 miles further out a fortnight ago. South of the line the grasshoppers are starting to show up in their usual countless millions.

A letter from the Qld Medical Co-ordination advises that it has been decided by the committee to transfer Dr D Carter, and to appoint Dr EJ Khan as Medical Officer to the JC Hospital. It is understood

that Dr Khan will be in JC some time in March.

[from CA 23 March: Doctor Carter who has been medical officer for the past four years has carried out his duty in a very pleasing manner and was always at hand at any hour and is still carrying on with the good work until the appointed Dr Khan arrives.]

The hospital staff has been very depleted of late but two new nurses are expected to arrive this weekend from Brisbane. With two more nurses on the staff the pressure will be reduced considerably.

## **2 Mar 1945 (450302, CA)**

JC, Feb 27 – The town is very quiet. The shearers strike is still on. Last Saturday night's pictures had a great attendance and all interested when it started to rain with plenty of lightning. All made for shelter and were able to see the pictures through, 30 points of rain fell. On Sunday night the town had one inch of rain.

Mr J Eckford Star Picture Show, will hold a Picture Benefit for limbless soldiers. Watch for the date and roll up.

The hospital has been working short on the nursing staff side. They will be greatly relieved with the good news that Nurse H Parsons and Nurse M Blanch have returned to join the staff. Both the above young ladies are well known having their homes here. Great credit goes to the matron and nursing staff of the JC Hospital who carried on with the good work.

[Ad for Diggers Hack Race for May 1945]

## **23 Mar 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

Mr Powderham, who for some time conducted a very successful fruit business, has closed down and intends going into business in Brisbane.

Mr Ben Burrows of Mathew's Store has removed his groceries and goods to the shop vacated by Mr Powderham next to Mr Lance Lewis' shop [future OK Store building? or the old Bank of NSW – see DW029].

Congratulations go to another popular young couple of our town, Mr Clarence Fickling and Miss Grace May (Pat) Graham, whose wedding will take place at the Roman Catholic church on 31st March.

The Presbyterian Church ladies held a most enjoyable party at the CWA cottage to farewell Dr Carter and Mrs Carter. The large T-shaped supper table was decorated with flowers and laden with delicacies when some 38 guests were entertained. Mr Ben Burrows, Chairman, said it was with regret that they were gathered together to bid farewell to Dr Carter and his family. Dr had been MO to our town for the past four years and had always at all times carried out his duty in a pleasing manner to every one and by his cheery manner he had made quite a lot of friends who will regret him leaving. The only thing is that by leaving JC he will we hope settle down in a much bigger town where he will better himself. He wished the Doctor and his wife and family the best of luck in their new home. During the evening solos were rendered by Mrs Norton, Dr Carter, Messrs Varry and Little Miss Delvine Fudge. A competition given by Mrs Whitby was won by Mrs Burrows. All prizes were handed to the guests of honour. Community singing was enjoyed by all. Mr Burrows presented Dr and Mrs Carter with a wallet of notes from their many friends. Dr Carter suitably responded. The singing of 'They are Jolly Good Fellows' brought the happy party to a close.

## **24 Mar 1945 (p46, 450324, NQR)**

JC, Mar 20 – Further rain of a more general nature has fallen over all the JC district. North of the Saxby River didn't fare as well as the Flinders River belt though some parts of that area got up to four inches. Highest fall recorded was 8 inches. Falls as great as 6 to 7 inches were measured at more than one gauge. One place had a two pound jam tin out for a gauge for want of a proper gauge and the tine overflowed: the summing up was 6 inches. Four inches fell in less than two hours about 30 miles from town and one owner surmised that close on 10 inches fell on one portion of his run.

The Flinders River was 36 feet at Hulberts Bridge at one point and motor traffic was held up for a few days till the creeks and gullies ran down. JC was a swim for a horse at the 20 Mile so the water along the

stock route should be safe for a while now.

There is a fair amount of agistment offering in the district at the present time and one or two inquiries are being made regarding same.

**29 Mar 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

Mr and Mrs J Ryder, CT, are spending holidays with brother and sister-in-law Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis.

Dr Khan, accompanied by Mrs Khan and daughter, arrived on Sunday and has taken up duty as medical officer.

Mr and Mrs Frank Norton and family left on Sunday for CT where they will live for some time before taking up residence in Ayr. This is a family that will be greatly missed in our midst as Norton's Jazz Band was always at hand to supply music for all functions and Mrs Norton was the tops at training children and organised many successful concerts. The result of one of Mrs Norton's successful concerts, together with the old committee's assistance, is the splendid wireless in the State School. Misses Shirley and Stella Norton possess splendid voices and were always willing to sing at any function. Many friends wish Mrs and Mrs Norton and family the best of luck in their new home.

Dr Carter accompanied by Mrs Carter and two children left for Brisbane where they intend holidaying [remainder of article not copied].

Don't forget to roll up for Picture Benefit for Limbless Soldiers to be held in the Star Picture Show on the 16th April. Mr U Browne has donated a sheep to be raffled. Tickets are sold by Miss Alma Gannon.

Mr K Dunn (Barber) has arrived and taken up duties at Mr Roy Hampton's saloon. [Mark Forde had a photo that may have been of inside this barber shop]

Last Sunday night at the home of Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis a farewell party was held prior to the departure of their friends Dr and Mrs Carter. Music resulted in a very pleasant evening. Mr Lewis said it was with regret they were losing their friends but was pleased Dr Carter was going south after spending four years in JC. He wished the Carter family the best of luck wherever they may go to live.

Congratulations go to Miss Mary Winton of the AWAS whose wedding will take place on Easter Monday to Private Stanley Hodgetts in the C of E. Miss Mary is the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Winton and is well known having passed her scholarship at the JC State School. Private Hodgetts is attached to a medical unit.

**31 Mar 1945 (p45, NA, NQR)**

Poem at the end of story about Leichhardt – see Poems

**6 Apr 1945 (P? NA, CA)**

Wedding of Clarence Fickling and Grace May (Pat) Graham

The RC Church, JC, on Saturday 31 March was the scene of a very pretty wedding when the Rev Father Deveraux PP, joined in holy bonds of Matrimony Grace May (Pat) second daughter of Mr JB Graham and the late Mrs Graham, and Clarence eldest son of Mr and Mrs Herbert Fickling, JC. The Church was artistically decorated with vases of fresh flowers. The kneeling chair was draped with bow and ferns and white satin cushions the work of Mrs B Byrne and Miss Hampton. The graceful bride made a pretty picture as she entered the church on the arm of her uncle, Mr Tom Graham, who subsequently gave her away in the absence of her father.

**7 Apr 1945 (p38, NA, NQR)**

JC, 31 Mar – The second recommendation was swimming baths for western towns. The advantage of having swimming pools in western towns was stressed by Mr Gannon. In respect to the local baths, he pointed out that they had not been permanently repaired, for the reason that materials were not available and a loan could not be arranged for the outlay involved. It was suggested that something out to be done to effect some temporary improvement so that the baths could be used by the local residents.

A resolution was passed that an appeal be made to the McKinlay Shire Council to have the swimming baths put in order so that they might be used in safety by the public, and, at the same time, express

appreciation for the work already performed in providing the swimming pool in the first place.

### **13 Apr 1945 (450413, CA)**

The town is very quiet as all shearing contractors are busy at the different sheds. From Saturday till Monday our town had a three-day heavy bedourie dust storm, the heaviest we have experience for many years. all homes had to be kept closed but that did not stop the dust getting in.

At the spacious home of Mr and Mrs T Hutton on Sunday night a happy farewell party was held prior to the departure of their eldest son, Leading Seamen Frank Hutton RAN. During the evening songs, dancing and games were enjoyed by all. The charming hostess served a dainty supper. Leading Seaman Hutton had had some very unhappy landings and although badly burnt in the last attack has come out alright and well enough to carry on with the good work. Many goodbyes were said and all friends wish the young seaman the best of luck and safe and happy landings. Mr and Mrs Hutton also have a son in the Army and the youngest son intends leaving with Frank to join the Navy so with three sons in the forces they can be called the fighting Hutton boys. A shower of good wishes goes to these lads.

Mr and Mrs Joe Smith of AJ smith's Store have taken up residence here. Mr Smith's son is spending his leave at home.

[Nelia races, Mary Winton married Hodgetts, divorces him a few years later, W Stanley & W Douglas in hospital, Fred Murphy has son]

### **14 Apr 1945 (p38, 450414, NQR)**

JC, Apr 10 – At daylight last Saturday morning a light dust haze could be seen hanging over the town; the sun rose partly obscured and by midday it was practically hid from vision and visibility was limited to 75 yards. It was the densest dust storm witness out here for a great number of years. With the dust came a cool change.

On Saturday afternoon last, at 4 pm, a wedding was solemnised in the RC Church by the Rev Father Devereau between Clarence Fickling, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H Fickling, JC and Grace May (Pat) Graham, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Barney Graham. There were a great many friends to wish the happy couple the best of everything. The couple will reside in JC as Clarrie has taken over his father's droving plant, and JC is his centre for work.

### **20 Apr 1945 (450420, CA)**

The CWA of JC cordially invite old and new diggers and their wives, also members of the VDC, to dinner held at their rest room on Anzac Day after parade.

The picture benefit held in Eckford's Hall for the Limbless Soldiers on the 16th April proved an outstanding success with a total of £72/11/6 profit from pictures, auctions of fowls and case of fruit. Raffles of the sheep and bridle together with donations. Miss Melda Eckford thanked all those who helped to make this benefit such a success and those who gave donations to this deserving cause. The bridle was won by Mr Roy Hutton and the sheep went to Mr Charlie Hayden. Great credit goes to the two young ladies who did do well with the raffles, Miss Alma Gannon and Miss Melda Eckford. Nice work girls.

Nurse Ellen Parsons left for Brisbane where she will take up duty.

Last Friday evening at her home Mrs Hampton entertained quite a number of friends and relatives to a very happy party in honour of her mother, Mrs A Graham. This grand old lady celebrated her 70th birthday. The table was decorated with delicacies center of attraction was the birthday cake made by Mr Kaeser. Mrs Marsh said she felt proud to make the toast on behalf of all the guests and said it was very nice of Mrs Hampton to give such a nice party and she wished Grandma the best of luck and a happy birthday and hope she will se many more birthdays and always be able to do for her family as she has done in the past. Dainty afternoon tea was served, music and singing took up the pleasant evening. During the day Gran received telegrams and good wishes from many old friends.

### **28 Apr 1945 (p46, 450428, NQR)**

JC, 24 Apr – The weather over the past week has been mild to warm with a slight change towards rain over the weekend. There has been a variety of bird life about town of late, which is as a rule foreign to

JC other than the usual scavengers and a few galahs.

Stock movements for the ast week include: 1400 fat wethers from Maria Downs to JC, Stainkey Bros owners, Alf Stainkey in charge.

Shearing contractors TA Jessup has finished Answer Downs shearing and his next shed is Broadlands, McKinlay. Contractor Bert Peut finished the Crendon clip and starts at Mimong Station. Arthur Fayers has begun the Nelia Ponds shearing.

During the past week there have been quite a number of town dogs poisoned. The poisoning was not confined to the street wanderer but to dogs that are rarely seen outside the house gate. Baits that were dropped have been laid indiscriminately and without authority and it is about time that those who take pleasure in poisoning dogs and laying baits for random catches, fully realises the seriousness of such baiting.

During the week one of the town residents got a bait from off his roof and one out of his backyard dropped on each occasion by hawks that have picked them up and, in the scuffle with another hawks for ownership, have dropped them. There are a number of little children aged from three to school age who wander the streets every opportunity they can dodge their mother's eye, and should one of these little toddlers chance to pick one up, and it is a possibility, there is no telling what the ultimate results would mean.

#### **4 May 1945 (450504, CA)**

Constable Goan who has been stationed in our town for some time has returned to Cloncurry. This dashing young cavalier will be sadly missed by one of our fair young gals who will be kind of lonesome and blue since Kevin left.

Many friends will regret to learn that Mrs Jim Parsons has received word that her brother Corporal A Dawson (better known as Do Do Dawson) who was wounded had the misfortune to lose his eye. He is in the Greenslopes Hospital in Brisbane. Friends who have visited this popular solder report that in spite of his great loss Do Do seems very cheerful.

#### **18 May 1945 (450518, CA)**

Miss Olive Underwood spent a few days in town. Miss Mary Byrne, Kalmeta Station, spent a few days in town on business and returned home on Tuesday. Mrs J Anderson, spreyton, is in town and is staying at Gannons Hotel and those who need their hair done in the latest style visit Mrs Anderson, hairdresser.

Mr Tom Quilty spent a few days in JC.

#### **25 May 1945 (450525, CA)**

Visitors came from all parts to attend the races: Cloncurry, Richmond, McKinaly, Kynuna and all station folk were in town.

Saturday morning broke with a beautiful clear blue sky when at 7 o'clock people were amazed at the sudden change of darkness when one of the prettiest halo clouds of white and dark grey appeared over the face of the sun. In about 20 minutes this strange cloud travelled all over the clear blue sky and faded away leaving quite a smell of dust and rain however all ended well and a very fine day was at hand for the Diggers Races when at 1 o'clock all could be seen on their way to the course. Mr Lance Lewis had his three first class cars doing the trips. Flags flew over the booth that was well attended. The gate takings were £97/10/0. The Diggers again had a very successful meeting never was their such a crowd. Added attraction was the loud speaker run by Mr Moran Byrne assisted by Mr W Stanley giving a description of each race as it was run. Eight bookmakers took the stand and seemed to be kept busy. The tote was well attended. Mrs ES Maxwell's horse Lark won the bracelet. Great credit goes to the CWA ladies who served an excellent afternoon tea and sold sweets. The local ambulance was seen doing the rounds. Please to report no accidents. Dr Khan was in attendance.

After the last race all made for home where the two hotels kept by Mr W Gannon and Mrs J Edwards had a first class poultry dinner served to all visitors who are loud in their praise of the great attention. The two cafe's run by Mrs Watson and Mrs Webb served excellent luncheons and hot dinner to all visitors. All attended the Star Picture show where two good pictures were screened. After the pictures it

was a case of on with the dance, the Digger's Ball went with a swing to the bright music supplied by Mrs Fairbank's orchestra. Mr W Browne assisted by Mr M Byrne MC kept the Ball rolling. The dance went on to the small wee hours of the morning all visitors left for home tired out but happy after having such a great time and will be ready for the next Diggers Races Great credit goes to our worthy Secretary Mr FJ Bennerr who has done such good work together with all members of the Diggers Club.

## **2 Jun 1945 (p33, NA, NQR)**

WOUNDED "LORD HAW HAW"

JEERED AT BY SOLDIERS

London, 30 May – William Joyce ("Lord Haw Haw") was wounded in the thigh when captured, stated the British United Press correspondent with the British Second Army. He spoke to two British officers near the German-Danish frontier, who immediately recognised his voice from broadcasts. They said: "Are you William Joyce?" He admitted his identity.

After admitting his identity, Joyce made as though to draw a gun, added the British United Press correspondent. The British party, taking no chances, immediately fired, and Joyce fell, wounded in the thigh. When examined Joyce had no weapon but he had a German passport in the name of Hansen. He was alone.

An Englishwoman believed to be his wife was taken by the British a few days ago.

The American press correspondent at Luneburg says Joyce's condition is critical according to a senior intelligence officer of the British Second Army. He was brought to Luneburg by ambulance.

The shooting occurred on Monday near Flensburg.

"You yellow traitor, you are in our hands at last," shouted troops when the ambulance containing Lord Haw Haw arrived at Second Army Headquarters from Flensburg. British soldiers around the ambulance as it drew up cried: "Traitor, why not make him walk."

The furious shouting went on until an officer called in the troopers.

## **9 Jun 1945 (p18, NQ652, NQR)**

MOTOR CAR THEFT AT JC

JC, 5 Jun – There was some excitement in JC this morning when it was discovered that a motor car has been stolen from Lewis' Garage and some clothing was missing from AJ Smith's store. The car and the clothing were discovered this afternoon at a point about 15 miles east of JC.

The thefts were discovered when the premises opened for business this morning. The motor car was a 1939 model Chevrolet. The missing clothing comprised a shirt, a pair of trousers and an overcoat. A bundle of baby woollens had been dropped.

Enquiries by the police revealed that a car resembling the missing one had been seen at about 5.30 am.

About 4 o'clock this afternoon Mr Lance Lewis and Constable McCulloch discovered the missing car abandoned. It was undamaged and was out of petrol. Inside, the missing clothing was found.

## **16 Jun 1945 (p17, NQ651, NQR)**

SHORTAGE OF CORSETS

Melbourne, 12 Jun – The shortage of corsets in Australia is reported to be more acute than in any other country.

Only one in two of American and British Empire women can expect a corset next year. The year after that there should be enough for all.

## **22 Jun 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

The JC woollscour is in full swing. Send your wool to the JC Scour to be well treated.

The local dairy owned by Mr Bob Harbutt changes hands at the end of the month, the property being sold to Mr W Blanch. Bob has successfully run the dairy for 12 years and always gave the public the



best of service. He intends going for a short holiday before settling down. We wish Bob and his wife and son [Henry] the very best wherever they go and good luck goes to Mr and Mrs Blanch in their new venture.

Regret to report that the sad news has been received in our town that Private Howard Neilson AIF was killed in action. Deceased is a Townsville lad where his parents live at present. Howard was a painter by trade and painted many homes in JC during his twelve months here. Deceased was well liked by all who knew him.

#### **29 Jun 1945 (450629, CA)**

Congratulations also go to Mr and Mrs Watson on the safe arrival of an infant son at the local hospital both doing well.

Last Saturday night at the Star Picture Show all stood for one minute silence in honour of Private Howard Neilson AIF who was killed in action; another young hero who has been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice.

After Saturday night the Picture show will close down owing to repair work to be done on the machinery. Many dances are to be held on the Wednesday and Saturday nights so roll up and have a good night's dancing instead.

#### **6 Jul 1945 (450706, CA)**

Corporal John Somers arrived home to spend short leave with his parents Mr and Mrs P Somers. John is thrilled about his wee daughter; the arrival of this infant makes Mr and Mrs P Somers proud grandparents for the first time.

[School boys boxing, Donald, Harbutt]

At a welcome at Buckingham Palace given to Repatriated troops we feel very proud of one of our local lads. The first Australina to whom the King spoke was Warrant Officer T Triffett of JC who spent 15 months with Italian Partisans. Guess Ted's thoughts were: 'This was worth fighting for.' Ted is the second eldest son of Mr and Mrs T Triffett who have resided in our town for many years.

The local picture show will be closed till August 4 owing to a break down in the machinery but the young folk will be able to attend the many dances to be held on Friday and Saturday nights; euchre will be on for the card players.

Mrs Bob Harbutt and son Henry left on Monday night for the South. Mr and Mrs Blanch and family have taken up residence at the dairy.

Mr and Mrs Tracey and family from McKinlay have also taken up residence in our town.

Mr and Mrs J Walters leave on Monday to spend holidays with their son Harold. They will also visit Mr Walters mother who resides in Townsville and is enjoying good health at the age of 85.

#### **14 Jul 1945 (p35, 450714, NQR)**

JC – Mr and Mrs Eckford left for the coast last week to enjoy a holiday at the Island. During their absence the picture theatre will be closed but the inclination for dancing is strong and every Saturday night is booked for a dance till such times as the picture are on again. Tennis, Patriotic and Church dances are the order of the nights and last Saturday night a dance was put on in aid of the Catholic church when euchre tournaments were held and stalls opened in conjunction with the dancing.

The old Manfred Downs Homestead was the scene of gaiety when Mrs AB Barton entertained a number of friends to a luncheon and tea in honour of eldest daughter's 20th birthday, Pamela Barton. The old house is built of stone quarried by released convicts in 1879. It has walls two feet through, large airy rooms with high ceilings and very wide verandahs. In the courtyard there is a 25,000 gallon underground tank. Recently Mrs Barton has put down a bore and has beautified and modernised her home with trees and palms set in a wide expanse of lawn. Sweet peas are flowering the whole length of the front verandah and there are troughs of marigolds and beds of lilies and other flowers in odd corners whilst the back verandahs are a mass of hanging baskets of ferns and creepers and a large

variety of pot plants. Two large old wool washers are full of ferns and coloured shrubs and there is also a very fine kitchen garden with every kind of ingredient for salads a wide range of vegetables and quite a number of fruit trees which are showing excellent growth. One end of the house, covered by creeper and forming a piazza, was the setting for the luncheon and tea.

The surprise of the party was when Mrs Barton announced the engagement of her daughter, Pamela Houghton to Sgt Marshall Ralph (Din) Woodhouse, Millungra Station and at present on active service in New Guinea. The health of the young couple was toasted with musical honours and Mr Phil Woodhouse responded on behalf of his brother and Pamela. Later, the guests were entertained with competitions, music and dancing. Mr Ulick Browne reminisced on Manfred's past glories on a wide scale when the walls echoed to the merrymaking of the youthful days of the older guests present. Among the guests were Miss Crossley and Mr Phil Woodhouse of Millungra, Mr and Mrs JD Taylor of Auckland Downs, Mr and Mrs WH Glasson of Lara, Mr and Mrs SU Browne of Garomna, Mrs Nevill Browne and John, Mr and Mrs Walden Taylor, Mr and Mrs CJ Jensen and Dr and Mrs Khan.

A farewell supper was given to Mr H Bell Stock Inspector in the CWA rest room after church services.

### **20 Jul 1945 (450720, CA)**

The town is quiet and we find it difficult to remember the days when our local lads were not in the fighting forces. It is impossible to mention all those of whom we constantly hear news but all those lads are anxiously awaiting the day when they can return to the old town and have happy reunions. Though it is a long time since many of those familiar faces were seen around none of us will forget what those boys are doing for us.

### **27 Jul 1945 (450727, CA)**

Corporal Irene Triffett returned to her station in Brisbane on Monday after spending a short leave with her parents. Mrs H Burrows of Nonda was the guest of Mr and Mrs G Jaques for the weekend.

The local were thrilled to see the picture of one of our lasses in the Courier Mail this week, Miss Coral Eckford the girl in question. She is the only woman film operator in Australia and with her sister Edna they are the only female members of the Bio-operator's Union. Congratulations Coral and Edna. These two girls are at present spending a well earned holiday in Brisbane with their parents.

It is most regrettable that two of our lads in the AIF have been wounded in action. One is Pte Doug Willats and the other Pte Len Thomson. These boys are both among the youngest members to join the Army from this town and their many friends wish them a speedy recovery. To their parents we offer sincere regrets. Mr and Mrs Tom Willats are at Millungra and Mr and Mrs A Thomson now reside in Townsville.

A popular feature for mothers last week was the visit of the Clinic Car. One often hears controversies whether this country is fit for white women. An immediate answer could be gained from a view of the bonny youngsters paraded by fond mothers on Clinic Day.

### **19 Jul 1945 (p2, NQ691, CM)**

JC HAS ONLY GIRL FILM OPERATOR

[See also 28 Nov 1945]

While Australia's only woman film operator is holidaying in Brisbane the picture show at JC has been closed for three weeks. The operator, Miss Coral Eckford, 24, works the film projector at her parent's theatre there.

She is now in her fifth year of the profession, having taken over from her brother Jim when he joined the AIF in June 1941.

"We all thought film operators were reserved, and that Jim would not be joining the army but he went with a week's notice on June 1, and I had only two lessons before taking his job," said Miss Eckford yesterday.

"I started the job on June 7. I was terrified all night and for several weeks later I used to become nervy every time I thought of the control room.

"I didn't know very much when I started and used to run the films on a trial and error method, but never made any serious mistakes, like putting the last reel of the film on first.

"But the audience was always sympathetic. Whenever anything went wrong they would shout up encouragingly to me, 'What have you done now, Coral?'"

"Now I am quite confident and can tell when the sound track or the film is going wrong, often before it happens."

As there is no electricity in JC Miss Eckford also has to manage the power-driven dynamo for the projector. And if the projector runs hot and the film breaks she floods it with a fire extinguisher.

"If anything needs repairing it has to be sent to Mt Isa which means improvising while the parts are away," she said.

Miss Eckford belongs to the Bio-operators's Union. She and her elder sister, Edna, who has been assisting her for the last six months, are the only women in the union. She has been spending a bushman's holiday in Brisbane – going to the pictures every night.

"I hardly ever see the pictures at home," she explained.

"I can only glance through the operator's window about every 10 minutes to see that the film is running well."

#### **20 Jul 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

Those ideal days and cool nights of last week have given place to cold sunny days with those ever dreaded westerlies whistling across the open spaces. As for the night, anyone who does not retire early has not the fortune to own a bed.

The town is quiet and we find it difficult to remember the days when our local lads were not in the fighting forces. It is impossible to mention all those of whom we constantly hear news but all those lads are anxiously awaiting the day when they can return to the old town and have happy reunions. Though it is a long time since many of those familiar faces were seen around none of us will forget what those boys are doing for us.

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#### **4 Aug 1945 (p50, 450804, NQR)**

JC – There have been a few accidents in the district of late. Nurse Godier has her hand in plaster the result of a fall. Mr Ted Blanch sustained a severe sprain to his wrist whilst fitting a tyre at Lance Lewis' garage. Mr Bob Harbutt had several stitches in his ear, the result of a fall from a horse.

Mathews Hall was gaily decorated with Allied flags, gum tips, streamers and flowers when the QCWA Younger Set held their annual ball on Saturday evening. Bright music was supplied by Miss Tracey, piano, Mr Smith, saxophone, Mr Jaques, drums, Mr Tracey, piano accordion, while Moran Byrne carried out the duties of MC most efficiently.

#### **24 Aug 1945 (p1, NA, CA)**

From the first broadcast that the Japanese were prepared to accept the Potsdam terms until days after the

acceptance, this little town, like every other corner of Australia, celebrated right royally. The first burst of celebrations, however, have passed over and everyone awaits news of our prisoners who have had little or no contact with their homes since the fall of Singapore, and for the return of all our local lads who are serving in forward areas. Until these things are realised peace cannot fill our hearts and minds.

On VJ Day, Wednesday 15th August, 1945, the townsfolk set to preparing for a procession. With only a few hours in which to prepare, a demonstration, unequalled by anything previously seen here, was put forth. Every available motor car, lorry, trailer, bicycle, pram and billygoat cart was thrown into the effort and all were creditably decorated by their owners. The procession was led by Constable K Goan on his motor bike. Then followed three sedans, owned by Messrs Lewis, Gannon and Stainkey respectively, representing Victory, Freedom and Peace. Each was most artistically decorated to represent these three achievements which are the birth rights of our nation - Victory, Freedom and Peace. Space does not permit an individual description of each vehicle in the grand parade but each owner deserves the highest praise for his or her co-operation and enthusiasm and congratulations to each person who donned fancy dress and sang and danced on top of lorries and cars as they wended their way through the cheering crowds.

An account of this gala day would not be complete without mention of Mr Moran Byrne, recently discharged from the RAAF, whose untiring efforts made the demonstration so successful. Thanks to Mr Lance Lewis who released this employee for the job and to Mr Byrne's unbounding enthusiasm with his loud speaker Public Address system. JC certainly proclaimed VJ Day in a fitting manner. Day and night Mr Byrne toured the streets at intervals with his loud speaker system advising the people of the doings and where and when following celebration would take place. During the Victory parade he drove to the main points in town and announced the owners of the various vehicles and details of their representations.

That night a Grand Victory Ball was held in Eckford's Hall. Rollicking music was supplied by Miss M Kaeser (piano), Mr G Jaques (drums), Mr J Smith (saxophone), W Tracey (piano accordion) and dancing continued until after 4.00 am.

The following day a sports Day and Basket Picnic was held in the school grounds and at night a huge bonfire took place at the sports Reserve. The Scouts, under the keen supervision of Mr J Parsons, were responsible for the monster fire and for hours the very young and the very old dances, and sang around the blazing pile. The evening was completed with a dance in Mathew's Hall

### **25 Aug 1945 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC – The town celebrated the news of peace with dancing and singing and with a procession through the streets of the town. The news on Friday night was transmitted through the town with the ringing of bells, blowing of sirens, cars doing the rounds of the town with the sound of the car horn reverberating through the night air, with songsters and musicians on motor lorries adding to the rejoicings. All met as if by mutual understanding at Matthew's dance hall where the news was further celebrated well on into the early hours of morning with dancing and community singing.

The rejoicing of the premature peace news lulled a little, and all waited expectantly for the news of Japan's acceptance of the peace terms, and when it finally came through one of the finest processions seen in JC organised at a short notice, paraded the streets of the town led by Constable Kevin Goan on a motor cycle, followed by Diggers, old and new and all branches of the services, VDC nurses, school children and Boy Scouts, after which came decorated cars and motor lorries. A mobile orchestra, comprising a piano, saxophone, piano accordion, magic flute and mouth organ, supported by a couple of "Fuzzy Wuzzies", helped towards the gaiety of the parade. Guided by "The Man at the Mike", the procession finished in the main street where singing and dancing went on for some time after. It was JC's Victory parade.

Everyone in JC, and a great number from the country, attended the Victory Dance held in Eckford's hall on Wednesday night. Music was supplied by willing players and the floor was still crowded when the National Anthem was played in the early hours of Thursday morning. Mr EH Doubleday spoke for the occasion on behalf of the McKinlay Shire Council.

Thursday was Children's Victory Day and they congregated at the school grounds to compete in various branches of athletics and sports, including bicycle racing. Most of the little ones got a silver

coin of some denomination and all were happy.

Everyone met at the sports ground on Thursday night to witness the end of "Tojo." A huge pile of firewood had been stacked in the centre of the grounds and an effigy of Tojo was laid to rest on top of the stack and the Boy Scouts brought the open air celebrations to a close and a dance finished off the evening at Mathew's Hall.

**31 Aug 1945 (p? NQ689, CA)**

JC

**DIGGERS HACK RACE MEETING**

To be held at the Racecourse at JC

Saturday 8th September 1945

**31 Aug 1945 (p55, NA, NQR)**

JC – JC was very fortunate during the week to get a supply of fresh fish from Normanton by lorry under the charge of Messrs Porteus and Evans. These two young men are to be congratulated on their enterprise and it is to be hoped they meet with every success. They intend to make fortnightly trips from Normanton to JC with supplies of fish and expect to bring up 7 cwt of fish each trip. The fish were packed in ice and arrived in very good condition.

The JC Tennis players paid a visit to Cloncurry last weekend to try conclusions with that town and they were successful in securing a win over Cloncurry. The players were highly pleased at the cordial reception accorded to them by the Cloncurry players who treated them right royally. It is pleasing to have such a friendly town as Cloncurry who spare no pains to make the visitors very welcome and it is to be hoped that we can give Cloncurry players as good a time in JC as they gave us in Cloncurry. Tennis is a very popular sport here at present as also is football and we are hoping in the near future to have a cricket team.

**7 Sep 1945 (450907, CA)**

Due to the impossibility to procure domestic workers and the inability to get sufficient trained Nursing Staff for the Cloncurry Hospital that institution has been forced to close down. The Flying Doctor has paid many visits to our town and the Hospital is over taxed with patients. Great credit is due to our local doctor, Dr E Kahn, and the Hospital Staff here who have carried on so nobly in the face of all difficulties. Mention must also be made of Ambulance Superintendent Benson who adopts the "We never sleep" slogan and can be relied on at any hour in any weather.

The Diggers Race meeting for Saturday 8th September promises to attract a record crowd. All places of accommodation have been booked out for about two months and many private homes are having their share of visitors.

**15 Sep 1945 (p41, NA, NQR)**

Race meeting

**15 Sep 1945 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC – Last Friday saw quite a number of early visitors to town for the Diggers meeting held on Saturday. There was a dance held by the ALP on Friday night as a forerunner to the following day's outing. A good night was enjoyed by all present.

Saturday saw visitors flocking into town and a first class meeting was witnessed in the afternoon. Race books were available the day before and the boys selling them were on the job in salesman style.

There are always humorous incidents when small boys take to selling programmes for any occasion, but one of the best "lurks" as one of the youngsters told me, was the selling of lead pencils as a "private sideline." You buy them for tuppence, cut them in half, sharpen each half and sell the halves for threepence each." It certainly is one way of 'raising the ante' for running expenses.

**21 Sep 1945 (p? NQ688, CA)**

Ad for Aunt Mary's Baking powder

**21 Sep 1945 (450921, CA)**

## Boxing JC vs Cloncurry

The best entertainment offered to the Cloncurry public since prewar days was provided in the Bio Theatre last Saturday afternoon the occasion being the intertown schoolboys boxing tournament between JC and Cloncurry. While the £22 gate and a 'shower' of another £8 could be regarded as satisfactory from many viewpoints, and were sufficient to pay all expenses and provide a surplus to be divided between the two schools, the seventeen splendid bouts which were fought merited nothing less than a hundred pound house. However, those who failed to attend were the losers for every bout had the crowd on its toes and while we have lads who show such skill, courage and determination as the young contestants on this occasion did, we need have no fears for our country's future. It is of such stuff that the two AIF's were composed and it behoves the public to give every encouragement to the sponsors of clean amateur sport. The old saying about the battle of Waterloo being won on the playing fields of Eton and Harrow has its parallel in the amateur playing fields of Australia.

The JC boys arrived on Saturday morning accompanied by Mr N Stanley (manager), Mr L Whitby (HT JC School), Mr P Donaghy (HT Nonda) and Messrs Varrie and Skinner (supporters). They were entertained to lunch at the school by the Cloncurry children and soon the visitors felt at home. After lunch, Master Russell Crane in a neat little speech expressed his thanks and those of his team mates to the Cloncurry children for their hospitality.

In the meantime various helpers had been hard at work erecting the ring, tables, buckets etc. The only fault was the failure to have the ring covered as the sponsors had miscalculated the heat of the mid-September sun. No doubt this mistake will not be repeated on future occasions.

The public were given a lesson in punctuality for everything was in readiness to start at the scheduled time 2 pm. However, in deference to latecomers, fifteen minutes grace was given but still many missed the early bouts.

Boxing commenced with the bout between K Robertson (JC) and N Richardson (C). Richardson put up a splendid fight until his condition gave out and the visitor secured the decision.

An evenly fought contest followed between two of the smallest entrants, Lionel Fry (JC) and William Clarke (C). There was little between the two little fellows but the decision went to Fry.

Cloncurry's seconds ...okied the towel at the end of the second round of the next fight between K Landers (JC) and G Wrigley (C).

M Wilkinson (C) made no mistake about the next fight. In a splendid display of boxing he secured an easy win over Claude Wilder (JC) and the locals made mistake about showing their pleasure at Cloncurry's first win.

Another close fight was then fought between F Wilks (C) and Kenny Kaeser (JC). Condition told however, and the score was now four to one in favour of the visitors.

W Gibson (C) made a bad start in the first round of his bout with F Jaques (JC) but he came out of his corner for the second round a different fighter and he easily won the next two rounds.

R Sawyers (C) gave one of the best displays of two-handed boxing of the day. He carried the fight on vigorously to his opponent that the seconds of R Jaques (JC) threw the towel in at the end of the second round.

JC won the next bout when Mick Fortune (JC) defeated D Taylor (C) after a good fight. Fortune early drew blood and this caused Taylor trouble for the rest of the fight and probably accounted for his defeat.

Cloncurry's idol, 'Killer' Jenkin, entered the ring to the accompaniment of rousing cheers. The slaughter of A Robertson (JC) was expected but Jenkin was lucky to secure the decision. He was obviously suffering from nerves and in his attempt to carry the fight to Robertson he made many misses that normally would have been telling punches. Probably his aggressiveness weighed with the referee but

the decision was about the only one that found any large section of the spectators in disagreement with the referee. However, Jenkin has plenty of ability and he will be seen to better advantage in the future.

The next two competitors mixed it well. N Roberts (C) however was the more determined and aggressive and his win over R Crane (JC) was well deserved.

Pat Skinner (JC) took his place in the ring with no fanfare but his vigorous assault on KE Reid (C) had the Cloncurry boy sheltering from a tornado of heavy punches. Reid took considerable punishment and was knocked through the ropes on several occasions but he stood up to it well considering the strength of his opponent. Skinner was the most promising of the fine lot of pugilists who took part in the contests and it is hoped that a suitable opponent will be found for him in the return bouts.

The referee awarded the first draw of the day at the end of the bout between R Cooke (C) and H Wilder (JC) Cooke. Cooke led on points till near the end of the fight when his condition gave out and enabled Wilder to make a draw of it.

Nervousness proved the downfall of KD Reid (C), one of Cloncurry's most rugged fighters. He met a splendid boy in B Robertson (JC) but Reid will do better in a return bout. He may not win but he'll make Robertson fight every inch of the way. Both boys have popular appeal and the return fight will be worth seeing.

R Clair (C) secured a TKO over A Fickling (JC) in the second round with a beautifully timed punch to the solar plexus.

This was the end of the interschool matches and left the tally seven wins to JC, six to Cloncurry and one draw.

Little fighters in G Winton (JC) and L Fickling (Nonda) who had fought a draw previously at JC now appeared in the ring for a challenge match. They entertained the crowd immensely in a skillful display but the better man will have to be decided another day as the referee gave the result a draw.

All the bouts were refereed by Mr Fred Buttin in a most efficient and impartial manner. He earned the appreciation of fighters, managers and onlookers. His job was no sinecure but the splendid sporting spirit of the boys, their sponsors and the public made his task as easy as a referee's could be. The duties of timekeeper were ably carried out by Mr E Pengelly.

Both teams were fortunate in having very capable seconds, Messrs D Toohey and H Garland for Cloncurry, and Messrs Nugget Stanley and P Donaghy for JC...

The return matches are planned to take place at JC on Saturday night 13th October and the JC people are in for a treat.

### **21 Sep 1945 (p? NA, CA)**

The chief interest now is centred on the long lists of names being published or broadcast of released Prisoners who have endured hardships and atrocities at the hands of the Japanese since the fall of Singapore. The names of many boys who have lived or worked in the town and district have been noticed and it is hoped that many more familiar names will yet appear.

Mrs G Jaques, Mrs F Watson, Mrs H Fickling and Mr Baldwin all advise that their brothers have been released.

Privates Chas Taylor (Hughenden) and Victor Anderson who worked with the local Council prior to enlistment have been located at Singapore and Thailand. Chas Taylor is believed to be at present at Labuan.

Everyone looks forward to reunion with these lads who have endured treatment that only the Japanese could be capable of metering out to human beings. To those who have not yet received word of relatives or friends who were known to be in Japanese Camps we trust that good news will soon be their lot.

**22 Sep 1945 (p50, NA, NQR)**

JC – Last week saw the revival of town and inter-school amateur boxing among the school lads. In an effort to revive the sport amongst the juniors, Mr W Stainkey, chairman of the JC school committee, challenged the Cloncurry lads on behalf of the JC lads, to a boxing contest. The challenge was accepted by Cloncurry and last Saturday a local troupe left to back up the challenge.

A good reception awaited them by the Cloncurry school committee, officiated by the CSC secretary, Mr C Dipper and Mr W Wilkinson, head teacher. There were 17 bouts in all, 14 between the school boys and the others between Cloncurry locals. Of the 14 bouts JC won seven, Cloncurry six and the other was drawn. The job of referee was handled skilfully by Mr F Butt of Cloncurry.

There was a “grudge” match between J Winton at 3 st 8 lb of JC and L Fickling, 3 st 8 lb, of Nonda and after three good rounds a draw was decided. Another bout was between “Butch” Robinson of JC and “Killer” Jenkins of Cloncurry which ended in a win for the “Killer.” The JC lades were trained by Mr W “Nugget” Stanley who, with Mr Mick Skinner and Mr LJ Whitby, head teacher, escorted the boys to Cloncurry.

**28 Sep 1945 (p? NQ687, CA)**

WP OLIVER

General Storekeeper

Uhr St – Cloncurry

Can supply you with –

Wheat, Whole and Crushed Maize, Lucerne Chaff and Hay.

Fly and Insect spray containing DDT

Mynor Cordials, Orange, lemon, Grapefruit

All Breakfast Foods including Rolled Oats, Breakfast D’light

Granums and Cerelean. Millet Brooms (best quality)

PHONE 12 PO Box 59

**29 Sep 1945 (p51, NA, NQR)**

JC – Wool keeps coming into the town, some going away in the grease, and a fair amount going up to the JC Scour which is working at top speed and by the look of the wool going there, will be for some time to come.

All shearing plants are out working. T Jessup started at Kamarooka this week and J McCarthy hopes to finish at Wensley this week. He then starts on the Yorkshire flock. B Peut is just about finished the Kalmeta shearing. A Fayers is still operating at Buckingham Downs. J Scott is out at Oban Station. W Mathews has his team working on the Whinmoor clip. F Murphy is due to start on the Osbert flock.

**5 Oct 1945 (p1, NA, CA)**

A sad death occurred at Garomna Station on Monday last when a well known and highly respected gentleman, Private Pierce Blaney, of the 4th Machine Gun Battalion, passed peacefully away. The body was brought to town where a military funeral took place. Deceased did 4 years service in No 1 war, was 56 years of age, a native of Toowoomba, and has lived for the past 12 years on Garomna Station.

The funeral left the RC Church. The Rev Father Deveraux PP officiated. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack flag. The pall bearers were President VF Faithfull, Secretary SU Browne, Waldon Taylor & W Brisbane (1st AIF), Lionel Wall (2nd AIF), Moran Byrne.

The funeral was largely attended. The Last Post was sounded as their late comrade was laid to rest. To his many relatives who reside in Brisbane we extend our sympathy.

The deceased suffered from a bad heart and war injuries, and at the time of his death was writing a letter to his sister who had recently lost her husband. His Catholic Prayer Book, at a page “Prayers for a happy death”, lay open on his table.

**5 Oct 1945 (451005, CA)**

It is some years since we have had a Casket Agent in our town and anyone wishing to try their luck, tickets can be purchased at Mr Peter Dawes’ shop.



Since the closing of the Cloncurry Hospital the JC Hospital has been kept extra busy, our doctor and nursing staff are doing great work, also the ambulance is seen doing many trips with Superintendent Bensen at the wheel.

**6 Oct 1945 (p6, 451006, NQR)**

JC – Sunday was a busy day at Gilliat as Gilliat challenged JC at cricket and the losers paid for dinner which happened to be the Gilliat team. It was a good match considering the JC had a greater number of players to draw from but the game has started the ball bowling and there is every indication that a return match will be played at JC in the near future. Dr Khan topped the score for the day with 30 runs. The players finished the day off with a dance which attracted quite a number of JC people who travelled the 18 miles to Gilliat in the cool of the evening and had a great time at the dance.

A tennis match was played on Sunday between the married players and single which proved a victorious day for the married players on both sets and games. The match was keenly contested and there was very little difference between the two teams. The day was ideal for tennis being calm, though a little hot. There was very attendance at the courts, both courts in play for the whole of the afternoon.

Mr Joe Mathews returned back from Brisbane during the week where had had been visiting for some three weeks. Mrs Mathews is expected home next week.

The marauding pigs that have frequented the town of late, molesting town gardens and disturbing the rest of the public, met their end during the week much to the relief of the suffering townspeople.

**19 Oct 1945 (451019, CA)**

Mr and Mrs Peace and small son left for Ayr where Mr Peace has been transferred. Mrs Peace will be remembered by many friends as Nurse L Halloran prior to her marriage. We wish the above couple the best of luck in their new home.

[Jaques, C Fickling appendicitus]

Don't forget to purchase your Golden Casket tickets at Peter Dawes Casket Agent, JC.

The return boxing tournament between the school boys of Cloncurry and JC took place at the latter sports centre last Saturday night. The local boxers and a number of supporters together with a team of basketball girls arrived at JC at 10am after a sleepless night's journey in the train. They were met by Mr Whitby, HT JC and he quickly had the children dispatched to various homes for breakfast, a sit down lunch was arranged at Mathew's Cafe. This was presided over by Master Ken Robertson and the young Chairman carried out his duties in a very efficient manner.

Various toasts were honoured and JC certainly won out in the matter of entertainment. The Curryites were loud in their praise of the hospitality of the home team and the parents.

At 3.30 a large crowd assembled to witness the Basket Ball match. Cloncurry won by 10 goals to 5 after a fast a keenly fought contest. The visitors presented a contrast to the JC girls as they were of uniformly big size while the Creek girls ranged from big girls down to small. Height gave the Cloncurry girls a definite advantage but in addition to this the sparkling play of Cloncurry's centre, Sheila Seymour and attack wing, Ruby Dorman, had the Cloncurry girls attacking JC's goal almost throughout. They were ably supported by their team mates and but for the splendid defence of Joyce Fry for JC the margin of points in Cloncurry's favour would have been much larger. Time and again Joyce saved the situation and got the ball away from dangerous situations and at the same time started movements which carried the ball to JC's goal. On these occasions the ball frequently travelled the length of the field without the Cloncurry girls touching the ball, their defence being much weaker than their attack. The goal throwing of Adelaide Hammond for JC and Betty Robertson and Anne Ah Sam for Cloncurry in the face of heavy gusty wind was really excellent.

The match was played throughout in a happy spirit of friendly rivalry and Miss Alma Gannon umpired in a most impartial manner. A medal was awarded to Ruby Dorman as Cloncurry's best girl while Joyce Fry secured a similar award for JC.

The stage was now set for the big event of the weekend and quite early the crowd began to gather at Eckford's Hall for the boxing. The boys of both teams were in high spirits and it is most unfortunate that Cloncurry had occasion to be dissatisfied with many of the decisions. While JC was awarded eight decision on points, Cloncurry was awarded only two and this certainly did not represent the relative merits of the boys. On the four occasions when the decision did not reach the judges, Cloncurry made certain of gaining the decisions by securing TKOs. The satisfaction felt with Mr Fred Butt's refereeing in Cloncurry was not evident in JC. It speaks volumes for the Cloncurry boys that they stuck to their task in face of disappointing decisions and showed no signs of 'squealing'. They have evidently learnt bigger lessons than the sport of boxing teaches.

Boxing commenced with a curtain raiser draw between two JC boys, Fickling and Winton.

Merv Wilkinson (C) 4.3, then entered the ring to face what was generally accepted as a foregone defeat from 'Butcher' Robertson 4.6 of JC. Wilkinson was giving away two years in age and Robertson's fighting ability was well known. When the gong went Robertson came with a rush but Wilkinson countered the rushes with clever boxing and after an exciting contest in which there was nothing between the boys, Robertson gained the decision.

N Robertson (C) 5.0 convincingly defeated T Jaques (JC) 4.9. Jaques fought well but Robertson was a much improved boy. In addition to his previous aggressiveness he showed that he had assimilated much of what he had been taught during the last month.

Mick Fortune (JC) 4.11 was brimful of confidence when he faced D Taylor (C) 5.0. He had gained a good win over Taylor in Cloncurry but he found Taylor a different proposition this time. After the first spasm Taylor completely out boxed Fortune and he was unlucky not to be awarded a clear-cut win instead of a draw.

J Bradley (C) is a boy who will go far in boxing. His usual style consists of beautifully timed powerful straight punches but his nervousness in his first ring fight caused him to throw caution away and to swing wildly. However, a lucky haymaker in the first round completely knocked out B Anderson (JC) 4.12. It was unfortunate that the fight finished so early for Bradley gained nothing in ring experience and he'll find next time that his opponent might be the one to land a lucky hit. Another round or two would have enabled Bradley to settle down and put his knowledge of boxing to better use.

The most glaring bad decision of the night came in the next fight. A Dorman (C) 4.4 convincingly won every round against B Godier (JC) 4.2, but the judges gave Godier the decision. How they arrived at their decision is hard to understand.

M Fortune (JC) 4.2 had an easy win over W Clarke (C) 4.6.

H Landers (JC) 4.1 came like a whirlwind against M Lawlor (C) 4.0 but Lawlor fought well and never yielded an inch willingly to his more experienced opponent. Landers secured a well-earned decision.

R Sawyers (C) 4.6 is a boy who will entertain fight fans on many future occasions. He has outstanding ability and W Ramsay (JC) 4.11. never had a chance. For about a minute after the first gong, Sawyers pasted Ramsay with every variety of punch and JC seconds wisely skied the towel. The crowd would have liked to see more of Sawyers and no doubt Sawyers will have to give away weight when asked to fight again. It will take a skilled boy to best Sawyers.

The next fight resulted in another TKO for Cloncurry. R Crane (JC) 5.0 stood up to A Hanson (C) 4.10 until nearly the final gong but the towel came in just before time. Crane put up a good fight but Hanson was tougher and more aggressive.

Little Key Hanson (C) 3.10 was unlucky not to secure a clear-cut decision over L Fry (JC) 3.8. Fry is an attractive little fighter but Hanson seemed to have much the better of him. The third round saw Fry in tears seeking refuge in his corner looking for the towel to be thrown in, but his seconds pushed him back in the ring. The judges awarded a draw.

H Ah Kup (C) 4.0 would have needed a pair of running shoes to catch up with Claude Wilder (JC) 3.11. The few punches which were landed in this fight were landed by Ah Kup. Perhaps Wilder was wise in

keeping away for Ah Kup shows up best with an opponent who will come at him. He delivers punches from any position but on this occasion he couldn't get close enough to land many. Ah Kup secured the decision.

J Lawlor (C) 5.9 and P Faithfull (JC) 5.9 fought a hard hitting fight which went the full distance. Both boys were extremely aggressive. The first round saw little between the two but in the second Lawlor had several beautiful opportunities for a KO and failed to follow his advantage. The third round saw the position reversed. Lawlor's chin presented an enticing objective and Faithfull hit it time and again but the two previous rounds had taken toll and Faithfull could not muster sufficient strength to land the decisive punch. Faithfull secured a well earned decision.

The superior strength of K Kaeser (JC) 5.3 completely beat KE Reid (C) 5. Reid boxes well but he lacks ruggedness. Kaeser also boxes well and his sturdy build and aggressiveness are great assets. He has improved immensely since he fought in Cloncurry a month ago and he thoroughly deserved his win.

The next fight was easily the best of the night. KD Reid (C) 5.7 was asked to fight K Robertson (JC) 5.9. Robertson is a splendid fighter and has all it takes to make good in amateur boxing – a pleasant personality, courage, determination and skill. Reid was given a formidable task but he never faltered. He displayed the same attributes as his opponent and fought every inch of the way. Though beaten by Robertson, Reid's gameness and ability earned the plaudits of the crowd equally with Robertson. The delight and excitement of Mr Toohey, Cloncurry's trainer, was evident when he jumped into the ring as the gong went and picked Keith up bodily and carried him to his corner. Keith had put into practice everything Mr Toohey had taught him. Losing the fight against such a fine fighter as Kenny Robertson was nothing to be ashamed of. Robertson was awarded a medal for the best fight of the night and Reid a medal for the best loser.

The next fight was a foregone conclusion. R Clair 6.8 is one of Cloncurry's outstanding fighters and Pollard (JC) 6.1 never had a chance. Clair jumped into Pollard from the start and Pollard was lucky to survive the first round. The towel came in early in the second. Matching boys like Clair is difficult. Few boys of his weight could stand up to him and it is unwise to match him against older and more mature boys and risk injury.

The last fight saw another decision go to JC which was hard to account for. Skinner (JC) 5.8 had shown up to advantage in Cloncurry against a lighter and weaker opponent. On this occasion he was matched with a fast hard-hitting boy in N Richardson (C) 5.8. Skinner's initial rush immediately ran him into trouble. He ran straight into vicious right and left punches from Richardson and thereafter Skinner sought refuge in ducking. This made Richardson miss for a time but then instead of straight punches with both hand he followed his straight left with powerful right uppercuts which found their mark on every occasion. Throughout the fight Skinner landed few effective punches. Most of the time he was avoiding Richardson's attack. Richardson was most unlucky not to secure the decision.

The following were the officials who acted: Messrs Losberg (Referee); Gannon and Donaghy (judges); Stanley and Mathews (JC seconds); Toohey and Rooke (Cloncurry seconds); Faithfull (timekeeper).

## **26 Oct 1945 (451026, CA)**

The town is very quiet and the day extra warm. Heavy clouds gather but we don't seem to be lucky enough to get the badly needed rain.

Trooper Gordon Grant arrived home to spend leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs W Marsh.

Congratulations go to Sapper and Mrs CH Hely on the safe arrival of a son. This infant makes Mr and Mrs W Gannon very proud grandparents for the first time. Let us hope it won't be long before Sapper C Hely will return home to meet his son.

Mr and Mrs W Gannon who have conducted a very successful hotel business in our town for many years have leased the hotel to Mr and Mrs Alex Dawes of Cloncurry who are no strangers to our town having managed their brother's shop in a very pleasing manner to all and we wish Alex and Mrs Dawes the best in their new venture, Mr Gannon hopes to hand over about the end of November. The Gannon family will be a great loss to the town and will take with them the good wishes of their many friends.

## **2 Nov 1945 (451102, CA)**

The State School concert held in Eckford's hall on Friday night was a grand success. Proceeds go towards a school piano. Door takings were £35. The stage was decorated with flags, ferns, bells and crystals and coloured lights. The curtain raised to 'Waltzing Matilda (boys and girls).

Recitations: Noreen Godier 'Grandma's Spectacles'. this little lady gave an encore "Baby Seed Bang". Solo Miss Alma Fortune "Red River Valley" ... [detailed listing]

Master W Fickling, mouth organ solo, was well played. Miss Melda Eckford was excellent in her waltz tap dance and the applause was so great that the young lady returned and dance the Irish Jog. all items were well rendered and the girl ballet dance done by the school children was indeed a very bright item. They could be called the Sunshine Kiddies. Great credit goes to Miss Edna Eckford who trained the girls. Mr Stanley thanked all those who helped bring about this splendid result. Thanks goes to Mr J Eckford who kindly lent the hall.

[Reception for Chas Taylor, POW] ... as Mr Taylor was not feeling the best a response on his behalf was made by Mr W Gannon who stressed that it is the duty of every Australian to see to the future of every returnee. J Parsons briefly mentioned that our appreciation to our boys must not terminate at reception. As well as material assistance these boys need our kindness, understanding and friendship.

Following the addresses an entertainment section took place. Vocal items wer rendered by Mrs A Kaeser, Miss A Gannon, Messrs J Jensen, W Gannon and D Dawson. Misses P and D Downey contributed a tap dance and Mr H Downey demonstrated his version of the Sailors Hornpipe. These items were intermingled by community singing.

## **16 Nov 1945 (451116, CA)**

Regret to report that master Greg Byrne is at present an inmate of the local hospital. All wish Greg a speedy recovery.

Although the days are very hot the tennis courts are always in use.

## **28 Nov 1945 (p12, DW055, NI)**

### **AUSTRALIA'S ONLY WOMAN FILM OPERATOR**

Twenty-four year old Coral Eckford of JC, North Qld, has been Australia's only woman film operator for the last four years.

By Margot Streeter

Manpower shortages due to the war have caused women to take over many jobs formerly held by men. Quite different to tram conductresses, post-women, female mechanics and farm hands is the work of twenty-four-year-old Coral Eckford, of JC, North Queensland. She has been Australia's only woman film operator since her brother joined the Army four years ago.

For the last few weeks, Coral has been spending a bushman's holiday in Brisbane. She has been going to the pictures every night.

Coral works the film projector at her father's theatre in JC – a town of 1000 people, 400 miles due west of Townsville where everything is in terms of sheep and cattle. She has lived most of her life there and, as a result, always has a sympathetic and friendly audience at the shows. The theatre is closed during her absence, as she is the only qualified operator for miles around. Wednesday and Saturday nights will be dull in the town until she returns from her holiday.

Miss Eckford took over her job after only two lessons from her brother Jim, who received his military call-up unexpectedly. Her novel career began on June 7th, 1941, when she ran off *Edison the Boy*, starring Mickey Rooney.

'That's one film I'll never forget,' she said.

For the first few months she found the job extremely nerve-racking. She used to run the films on a trial and error method, but managed to get by without making any serious mistakes. Breakdowns are

always taken in good part by the audience who fill in the time by shouting, 'Are you asleep up there, Coral?' and other such remarks.

When talking of her work, Coral becomes most technical. That she has a thorough knowledge of 'AC's' and 'DC's' and all the other intricacies of film projectors is obvious.

Before she took up this job, Coral worked in the local newsagency at JC. She says she is quite prepared to return to that work when her brother comes home and she is just another woman doing a man's job, taken on during the war.

For the last six months, Coral has been assisted by her elder sister, Edna, who combines this with her work as manageress of the theatre. The Eckford girls are the only women members of the Bio-Operators Union. Coral received a thorough training from a Union representative soon after she joined, and from that day, has had little trouble carrying on her work. She is mistress of any situation that arises in the control room. Often the projector runs hot and the film breaks, causing fires. Coral deals with them by flooding the projector with a fire extinguisher. At first, when she was inexperienced, the audience used to get the jitters, but now they have confidence in her and take it as a matter of course.

A film operator's job in JC is a very different proposition to one in a city. As there is no electricity in the town, Coral has the man-sized task of managing her own power driven dynamo to run the projector.

'The only time it ever let me down was in the middle of a film, *The Youngest Profession*, with Herbert Marshal,' Coral said. 'For three days, until the engine was repaired, the main topic of conversation in town was whether Herbert Marshal would drink his prospective son-in-law under the table. Even money changed hands as to the outcome and when they finally discovered it several nights later, for many the result was disappointing.'

At JC, they have to cater for the tastes of an extremely mixed audience. Rip-roaring cowboy films always have a priority between June and August of each year, when the drovers come up from the Gulf Country with their cattle stocks. Owing to the war-time shortage of labour in the district, some of these drovers are aborigines – only half civilised. 'These pictures appeal particularly to them,' manageress Edna said.

Coral's job has become increasingly difficult each year since she started. Owing to the war, replacement parts have been hard to get and even the most minor repairs have to be sent to Mt. Isa – the nearest large town. She has become an expert at improvising while the parts are away, and somehow she has always kept the show going.

In JC and other similar pastoral centres in Queensland, films are the main source of entertainment for residents in areas covering many miles. In these districts, competent film operators are few and thus, Coral and others like her are key members of the community. The work they do is of direct importance to everyone. And this is the reason why Coral Eckford has the appreciation of everyone in her home town for filling the gap left when her brother joined up, and for the way she has stuck to her job under even the most difficult circumstances.

### **30 Nov 1945 (p1, NA, CA)**

Mr W Gannon has handed over his hotel business to Mr and Mrs A Dawes from Cloncurry. Mr W Gannon, wife and family intend leaving on Tuesday, the 4th December for Brisbane where they will in future reside. Many friends wish the Gannon family every success and happiness in their new home and the best of luck to Mr and Mrs A Dawes in their new venture.

The JC Cricketers left on Sunday to play the Gilliat team, the results were a win for the JC boys. They say Sammy is improving and scored 19. Good old Sambo.

Mr Bluey Baker has arrived from Richmond and has taken over Mr R Hampton's Billiard Room. Mr W Douglas who successfully ran the billiard room for a number of years is going on for 81 years of age and would like his old friends to know that he has taken up residence in JC.

Drover Tom Kelly had the misfortune to have his plant burnt, the cause of the fire was a spark, blown by the heavy wind, from the camp fire. Only one swag was saved.

**30 Nov 1945 (p? NQ686, CA)**

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**7 Dec 1945 (451207, CA)**

The days are still very hot with every indication of rain and today a slight bedourie is with us.

Mr and Mrs Tom Brennan arrived home on Sunday after spending several weeks holidays in Brisbane. Sgt Brennan has again taken up duty. Constalbe S Henry and Mrs Henry arrived on Sunday and have taken up residence in Burke St.

Quite a gloom was cast over the town on Monday at the sad passing of Gregory Byrne, 13 years of age at the local hospital. Greg was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Charlie Byrne and was a native of JC being a pupil of the local school also a member of the Boy Scouts. The council, School and CWA flags flew at half mast. Deceased was a bright lad and was popular with young and old who regret is sudden death. After the service the cortege moved from the RC Church, the Rev Father Deveraux PP officiating. The coffin was draped with the Scouts flag. The Boy Scouts and Cubs marched and acted as pall bearers under supervision of their Scout Masters Mr Parsons and Mr Whitby. The funeral was largely attended. To his sorrowing parents, sisters and three brothers, Lawrence, Pat and Stewart who are still serving in the forces, many friends extend their sincere sympathy.

Corporal Rita Byrne arrived in Cloncurry by plane and was brought to JC by motor on Monday arriving in time to attend the funeral of her late Brother and will spend time with her parents Mr and Mrs C Byrne before returning to Brisbane.

[Kelly, Eric Blanch]

A happy band of well wishers were at the station to say goodbye to the popular Mr and Mrs W Gannon and daughter Miss Alma also Mr and Mrs C Hely and wee son Bill who left by Tuesday's mail for Brisbane. The best wishes for success and happiness to the Gannon family in their new home.

Mr AJ Smith has disposed of his store in JC to Mr R Portions and intends to hand the business over on the 1st January.

On Sunday last a Cloncurry team journeyed to JC to test their skill against a team chosen from that district and came out winners after a most unusual game played under peculiar circumstances and very trying conditions.

The JC wicket leaves much to be desired – the field had just been graded and was a mass of soft soil many inches deep, and was extremely slow and dead. The game was due to commence at 9.30 on Sunday morning but owing to the late arrival of the local side play did not begin until almost an hour later, when Oliver sent the JC side to the batting crease after winning the toss, in the hope that the Cloncurry players would be able to gain some idea of the playing of the wicket and the true condition of the field.

Maxwell and Mawhiney opened for JC whilst Pat Jones took the new ball and secured a wicket with his second delivery... This early dismissal gave the visitors confidence which was apparent throughout the game...

**21 Dec 1945 (p1, NA, CA)**

Our former doctor, Dr Denard [?] Carter, has taken up practice at Ipswich. We wish him the best of luck.

Mr James Eckford AIF arrived home on Friday to spend leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs J Eckford. Jim has got his discharge and will relieve his sisters, E & C Eckford, who have carried on the operating at their picture show during the war.

Mr and Mrs P Thompson and son Danny left to spend Christmas at Bundaberg with Mr Thompson's parents.

**11 Jan 1946 (460111, CA)**

At midnight the RC Church bells rang for the first peace-time Christmas for six years. Father Deveraux PP celebrated midnight mass. Although the night was very hot the attendance was one of the largest seen in the Church. The crib was well arranged by the Misses R and K Byrne and M Hampton. The choir sang sweetly after a short sermon. Father thanked everyone for the great attendance and was pleased we were living in peace time and wished all a very happy Christmas and the best of luck in 1946.

Last Monday night in Eckford's Hall the English Church held their annual Old Year Out and the New Year In Ball. Miss M Kaeser's Orchestra supplied bright music when at midnight all joined hands to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' leaving the war years to fade away with the coming of peace in 1946.

Mrs Flo Watson has sold her Blue Bird Cafe business to Miss Kath Byrne and Mr Frank Byrne. We wish the Byrne family every success in their new venture.

[Engagement of Marjorie Brennan to Frank H Hutton]

**1 Feb 1946 (460201, CA)**

In spite of the recent good rain we are still having dreadful hot days and nights and quite a number of young and old are ill from the heat.

Miss Kath Byrne arrived home on Sunday and has taken over the Blue Bird Cafe from Mrs Flo Watson. Kath will be pleased to see old friends and new, so call at the Blue Bird Cafe when in town. [Mrs Flo Watson]

Mr Jack Ahern who has bought the Ice works from Mr Jack Jensen, left on a business trip to Townsville. We wish the popular Jack Ahern the best of luck in his new venture.

The JC hospital is so short staffed both in the nursing and domestic staff that it may be compelled to close. This would be a great sad loss to the town and district. We have an up-to-date hospital, excellent reliable doctor, together with a splendid nursing staff, and people come from everywhere to enter the hospital for operations, this speaks for itself.

People who have lived in JC before the hospital was built will know what a great loss the closing down will be to the public. The war is over, surely there are many folk who could help carry on this noble work for the sick. The matron and nurses are at present doing the cooking.

**1 Feb 1946 (p? NQ682, CA)**

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**1 Feb 1946 (p? NQ683, CA)**

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**1 Feb 1946 (p? NQ684, CA)**

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**8 Feb 1946 (p1, NQ685, 460208, CA)**

JC, 5 Feb – Mrs Bradford who will be remembered by many friends as Mrs Wilkins arrived home on Sunday and will open her Drapery Shop in Goldring Street. Mrs Bradford will be pleased to see her old customers and new ones come along.

Mr Wicky Wilkinson, AIF, is at present spending leave with his mother, Mrs Bradford.

Mr Harold Walters, Postal Staff, who joined the training school in Brisbane has been successful in passing the Postal Clerk's exam. Harold received all his education at the JC State School where he passed his scholarship and joined the local Post Office as a messenger boy at the age of 14. He is now at Warwick.

**15 Mar 1946 (p1, NA, CA)**

Mr Peter Dawes is shifting his groceries and goods to Sallens [Samuel Allen] Store and will then have his own shop renovated. The carpenters have not completed their private house so call at Sallen's Store in Goldring Street.

**22 Feb 1946 (460222, CA)**

Congratulations goes to another popular young couple who have just announced their engagement: Miss Phylis Murdoch (school teacher) and Mr Moran Byrne.

Congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Joe Harbutt whose son John apprenticed Jockey in Brisbane rode his first winner on Caution. Mr Joe Harbutt was a great amateur jockey and rode many winners. Friends wish his young son John the best of luck and hope he wins as many races as his dad.

Flags flew at half mast on Monday. a wave of sadness was cast over the town on Sunday afternoon at the sad and sudden passing at the hospital of Mr Thomas Gould who underwent a successful appendectomy previously. In spite of all medical attention the unfortunate man passed away peacefully. The deceased was born at Rockhampton and was 50 years of age. He was employed as linesman for the PMG. Deceased was always called Nat Gould after the writer. Possessed of a bright and kindly nature he was extremely popular with all who knew him. Nat was a Digger of No 1 War and was a good soldier. It was evident that deceased carried out his work as Linesman in the same way. He had not been feeling well for a few days and was seen doing a big job on Friday. He should have consulted a doctor earlier. Deceased was given a military funeral and was largely attended, the coffin being draped with the Union Jack. Mr J Parsons read the last rites of the English Church in the absence of Rev Brother Crowe. The pall bearers were six young Diggers of No 2 War: Sgt Norman Downey, Don/R Frank Byrne, Cpl Jim Parsons, Cpl J McPherson, Cpl Tom Foster, Cpl J Roberts. Mr Langtree sounded the Last Post as their late comrade was gently laid to rest in the JC cemetery.

**23 Mar 1946 (p48, 460323, NQR)**

JC – The dingo menace is very bad in this district. Even on the open downs a few miles from JC the doggers are being kept busy but the overgrown state of the country and the presence of water and grass



everywhere make it most difficult to track the dogs and find their beats, and also to trap them. The position at present is very serious and threatens to force a lot of graziers out of sheep altogether. Doggers are hard to get although a few are operating with good results.

**29 Mar 1946 (p1, NA, CA)**

JC, 26 Mar – The town is very quiet and a heavy bedourie dust storm is in the air.

Mr and Mrs R Hampton and daughter Merle arrived home after spending an extended holiday in Townsville and Bowen.

Mr G Sills arrived home on Sunday after holidaying in Brisbane, the guest of his brother -in-law and sister, Mr and Mrs Auger.

Miss Gloria McCarthy, hairdresser, intends to return to JC and open up a beauty parlour in Mr Roy Hampton's shop. So ladies needing the latest sets and marcell waves call at Miss McCarthy.

**22 Feb 1946 (460405, CA)**

Mr W Wilkins, AIF, arrived home on Sunday. "Wick" has received his discharge and will take up residence with his mother Mrs Bradford.

Our popular Dr Khan left on Sunday's mail train for Townsville where he will go by plane to Sydney and join his wife and wee daughter.

**12 Apr 1946 (p1, 460412, CA)**

Nurse Helen Parsons arrived home on Sunday to spend holidays with her parents, Mr and Mrs Jim Parsons, shire clerk.

Mr and Mrs W Marsh of JC have purchased the large business of Mr AJ Smith, Draper and grocery shop in Goldring Street. We wish the Marsh family the best of luck in their new venture. [Innes family]

Ladies don't forget to pay a visit to the Gloria Beauty Parlour where Miss Gloria McCarthy, Hairdresser, will be in attendance.

The dance held on Friday night by the Red Cross was indeed a great success and was enjoyed by all. The cool weather is ideal for dancing.

Fairlea Homestead in the Nelia district was destroyed by fire on Monday. It is understood that it was insured for £1120. It was the property of the Fairlea Pastoral Company and was previously owned by Mr John Shaw.

A barrier is being installed for the JC Diggers Races. Many horses are in training and beginning to look well.

The town is still without a doctor and the hospital is closed. Sister Blanch is at present attending to the dressings of the out-patients. The Committee is doing their best and hopes to have a medical officer together with a full staff and the Hospital will soon be opened.

**26 Apr 1946 (460426, CA)**

Pleased to report that our popular matron, matron Blanch, has arrived and has taken up duty at the hospital and it looks as if the hospital will soon be opened once again. It is badly needed.

Mr Gordon Grant, AIF, arrived home. Gordon has received his discharge and will be staying with his parents. His brother, Douglas, also spent leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs Marsh. Douglas has returned to duty.

**3 May 1946 (460503, CA)**

Grant Bros (Gordon and Douglas) are taking over the business so long conducted by Mr AJ Smith of Cloncurry. It will seem strange not to have AJ Smith store trading in our town. We wish then Grant Bros every success.

**10 May 1946 (460510, CA)**

Mr and Mrs Victor Cummins have taken over the JC Hotel from their sister Mrs J Edwards. Victor is better known as Bill. We wish the young couple the best of luck in their venture into business.

congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Clarence Fickling on the safe arrival of a son on the 28th April. The infant is a great grandson of Mrs A Graham and makes Mr and Mrs Herbert Fickling grandparents for the first time.

**18 May 1946 (p59, 460518, NQR)**

JC – A general meeting of the members of the Flinders River Dingo syndicate was held on Sunday last with a full attendance. It was decided to step up operations against the dingo pest by engaging two doggers for the inside areas and one to work the northern fringes. Such decision has now been put into effect and must have beneficial results within a short period.

The wool scour has swung into stride once more and the main season is under way. All machinery is working in tip top style due to concentrated repairs during the slack period. A sorting department has been opened and it is expected that much work will be handled by the scour's expert sorters in this line.

**24 May 1946 (p1, NA, CA)**

Next Sunday week a football match is arranged when Richmond team will arrive to play the JC team. The local boys are playing well and can be relied upon to play their usual good game. Spectators can look forward to a fine afternoon's sport. In addition the Richmond school girls will play the JC school girls Basket Ball, so roll along and see the little girls play.

Mr Peter Dawes' new shop is going up in fine style and no doubt will be an added attraction to the town when completed.

**31 May 1946 (460531, CA)**

Mr Charlie Byrne will soon have his butcher shop opened and with his sons Lawrence and Stewart to help, people are assured of the best of service.

**14 Jun 1946 (460614, CA)**

Miss Joff Casey who has served several years as a sister in the US Army, arrived accompanied by her sister Miss Pat Casey to spend holidays with their great friends Mr and Mrs Bill Davis.

[Crane local CPS]

**15 Jun 1946 (p60, 460615, NQR)**

JC, Jun 11 – As predicted the cold southerly did not sustain its blow for long and the weekend opened up sunny and calm. An ideal day was in evidence for the sporting fixtures at Richmond in which our local teams, both football and tennis, met and defeated the opposition. An excursion train was arranged by the energetic football committee and practically the whole town took advantage of the cheap return fare offering and hastened away from the drudgery of the housework to witness the games at Richmond. The final score in the football match was 4 points to 3. V Cummins converted two penalties for JC while Richmond scored once for their three points. The game was rugged throughout and consisted mainly of forward work without a great deal of open passing movement by the backline. The play was very interesting and attracted quite a bit of keen barracking with the result that the interest of the spectators was sustained right to the end. The gate takings amounted to £20.

The local tennis club sent down rather a strong combination and we won comfortably. The tennis nevertheless was extremely enjoyable and the majority of the matches played were closely contested. Richmond produced a young team and the experience gained from this and future matches will build up a formidable side. It is expected that a return match will be played on our courts on Sunday next.

**21 Jun 1946 (p1, NA, CA)**

Another young digger to arrive home is Mr Douglas Grant who has received his discharge. Douglas will join the Grant Bros store in JC.

Victory Day Celebrations were carried out in right royal style. The spectacular procession was indeed a pretty sight as it formed at the Recreation Reserve and then proceeded through the streets and then out

to the racecourse. The procession was led by two dashing horsemen, Mr Doubleday riding Harro Flash and Mr H Fickling riding Lawn Laddie, ex-servicemen, Boy Scouts and Red Cross girls marching, then came the many colourful decorated cars.

Mr Lance Lewis' car was decorated with flags, large V sign in front and silver bells. Mr J Parsons' car was decorated with flags and brightly dressed girls wearing model silver wings over the navy hats and waving flags. Mr Peut's lorry, with Messrs Hardy's complete jazz band aboard, provided bright and snappy march music. Mr Dave Kiddles' car with his loud speaker in action.

Mr Tom Graham's lorry advertising Victor Cummin' JC Hotel, with a complete bar service aboard and the boys seemed to be having a few nips on Victory Day. Mr Fairbank's car any many others were prettily decorated. The happy holiday spirit was indeed abroad on the day of gaiety.

A dance was held at night where Messrs Hardy's orchestra supplied excellent music, and Mr Doubleday, capable MC, kept the dancers rolling along during the evening.

The names of the fallen heroes were read by Mr U Browne.

### **22 Jun 1946 (p15, 460622, NQR)**

JC – An enjoyable dance was held on Monday night organised by Mrs Fairbanks. The proceeds went to the Red Cross Society and the result must have been satisfactory. this entertainment followed on a pleasant picnic held at the Eddington portion of Eastern Creek arranged by Misses Rita Byrne and Pixie Parsons.

We have with much regret to report the death of Mr JS Fairbairn of Malvie Downs, Gilliat. Mr Fairbairn's death was the result of being kicked by a horse. The late Mr Fairbairn had been on Malvie Downs for quite a number of years ...

### **5 Jul 1946 (460705, CA)**

Last Friday morning flags flew at half mast from the Shire Hall, State School, and the CWA cottage. A wave of sadness was cast over the town and district at the sad passing at her home of Mrs Victor faithful, beloved wife of Mr Victor Faithfull and mother of Paul. Deceased was well known and highly respected by young and old and was noted for her many acts of kindness. Deceased was a good wife and took a great interest in her home et always found time to help at the many public functions and was a zealous worker for the soldiers and was a member of the RC committee, the Red Cross, the CWA, the School children Welfare Committee. At the passing of this kindly lady many have lost a good friend. The cortege moed from the Catholic Church after devine service, the rev Father Deverauz read thelast sad rights of the Church the pall bearers were soldiers of No 1 and 2 wars: Messrs W Taylor, W Brisbane, D Dawson, C Byrne, A Waring, W Browne.

The funeral was largely attended, many country folk as well as town folk paid their last respects to one of the towns greatest ladies. To her sorrowing husband and only son Paul, many friends extend their sincere sympathy.

### **19 Jul 1946 (460719, CA)**

A shower of beef brisket fat descending on Amberley on Wednesday probably heralded mass death for Qld dingoes who killed millions of pounds worth of stock during the war.

Experimental droppings of unpoisoned dingo baits conducted by Qantas empires Airways for the Lands Dept was, in the words of Minister Jones, 'More than satisfactory'.

Mr Jones who watched the test said that millions of tablets each containing half a grain of strychnine would be flown from England next month and inserted in baits for aerial dropping. Several thousands of ounces of strychnine would be distributed to graziers for individual baiting.

The job would have to be done by October when pups would begin moving away from their lairs. A light plane, probably a Fox Moth, would drop the baits. A Qantas Lockheed 10 was to have been used but the Civil Aviation Dept would not waive the regulation forbidding the throwing of any object from a civil plane.

An RAAF Liberator with a service crew was borrowed from Amberley and baits were dropped from four altitudes, ranging from 500 to 2000 feet. It was found that the baits wrapped in a greaseproof paper, but containing no strychnine, suffered less damage when dropped from 1500 to 2000 feet.

A Fox Moth flying at 80 mph against the Liberators 180 will probably prove more successful and will reach hitherto inaccessible places.

### **16 Aug 1946 (460816, CA)**

Anderson - Goan

On Tuesday 23rd July at 5 pm the RC Church, JC, was the scene of a picturesque wedding when Valerie Mary Anderson, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J Anderson, JC, said "I will" to Kevin James Goan eldest son of Mr and Mrs TJ Goan of Esk.

The church was artistically decorated by Miss M Hampton. The Rev Father Deverauz PP officiated. To the strains of the Wedding March played by Miss M Hampton the charming bride made a pretty picture as she entered the Church on the arm of Sgt Tom Brennan who gave her away in the absence of her father. The beautiful brideal gown was of cream magnolia satin, softly shirred bodice, sweetheart neckline, three quarter sleeves, long full circular skirt and three quarter tulle veil, held in place with dainty heartshaped head dress...

The dainty bridesmaid, Miss Marcella Blanch, prettily attired in heavenly blue georgette frock, bodice daintily trimmed with beads and sequins...

The twin sisters, Pat and Dot Downey were dainty little flower girls and were frocked alike in long white crepe frocks ...

The bridegroom was attended by Mr F Keefe Cloncurry.

During the signing of the Register Mrs A Kaeser sweetly rendered "I'll walk Beside You".

After the ceremony the reception was held at the Kool Cafe where Mrs Anderson (the bride's mother) entertained 40 guests to a sumptuous breakfast. Mrs Anderson chose a navy crepe frock ...

The cafe was decorated with streamers and white wedding bells hung over the table...

Songs were rendered by Mrs A Kaeser, Messrs Hampton and K Dunn, recitation by Miss Hampton. The happy young couple left by Tuesday's mail to send their honeymoon in Esk and Brisbane. The bride's travelling frock was lupin blue wool and accessories. Constable K Goan and his wife will return and make their home in Cloncurry.

Congratulations go to another popular young couple who have announced their engagement, Miss Hazel Barry, fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs H Barry, C, and Mr George Sills late AIF only son of Mr and Mrs Jim Sills, JC.

### **16 Aug 1946 (p? NQ681, NQR)**

JC Death

A wide circle of friends will regret the sad passing on Saturday evening of a well-known and highly respected old gentleman, Mr Herbert Fickling, who passed peacefully away at the home of his son-in-law and daughter Mr and Mrs Tom Fry. Deceased was a native of Moree, NSW, and was 75 years of age. He had been a very active man and with his many sons carried on droving, but, of late years owing to ill health, had retired.

Mr Fickling together with his wife lived many years in JC where by his kind nature made many friends. The funeral left the English Church on Sunday evening and was largely attended. The deceased was laid to rest near his wife's grave who predeceased him some five years ago.

This grand old couple reared a family of seven sons and two daughters and were always ready to help those in need. Two of their sons were for many years in the forces. To the sorrowing sons and daughters we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

**24 Aug 1946 (p54, 460824, NQR)**

JC, Aug 20 – On Sunday last a special train took three football teams, a basketball team and a tennis team to Hughenden for matches against players from that centre. Players and supporters were along in invasion force and the scene at the Hughenden railway station was reminiscent of the old days when excursion trains brought Richmond sportsmen down in full force. JC played hard and keenly in all matches demonstrating the great desire to win further laurels for their home town. The school boys match came first and the keen rivalry was good to see. JC won this by 9 points to nil. The JC basketball girls then improved the position by giving a splendid performance winning by 5 points to 2. The B grade footballers then met and JC again proved the masters, defeating Hughenden by 8 pots to nil. The A grade game proved very even, only one try scored during the match. Hughenden gained their only victory in this encounter and the scores were 13 points to 2. The tennis was finalised 1st of all and JC again won the day by 13 matches to 9. The games were keen and the scores were close.

It was a great day for JC and all were jubilant at the successful outcome of the clash with the 'bigger fish'. It is expected that return matches will be played on Sunday September 1. The tennis players are off to Cloncurry on Sunday to meet a team from that town and a keen tussle is expected. Our footballers go to Richmond to play on the same day.

**26 Oct 1946 (p54, NA, NQR)**

JC – The McKinlay Shire Council is in receipt of advice that it has received a grant of £5000 for improvement to the town of JC. It will take some time to carry out these improvements as a survey of the town will have to be made before much can be done. The Council are also advocating the removal of the cattle yards to a more suitable site which will not only be a boon to the townspeople, but also to stockowners, especially cattle owners, as it is most difficult to yard cattle in the present position of the yards.

The JC Tennis Club is still very active in spite of the approach of the summer weather and on Sunday the courts were occupied nearly the whole day. Some improvements are still being carried out to the grounds for the convenience of players and onlookers.

**2 Nov 1946 (p55, NA, NQR)**

JC – It was learnt from members present that, as a result of further requests from the State School Committee, the Shire Council had decided to fully cleanse the swimming pool and action would be taken to prevent further acts of uncleanness and hooliganism so that the pool would remain a healthy place of pleasure. If however this work was not appreciated and no respect was given to the improvement, the pool would be closed permanently. We understand that the work involved in the alteration will be completed at an early date to allow full use over the oncoming hot months. In regard to the new cement baths, we are advised that a start on these is held up by lack of cement and other materials.

**9 Nov 1946 (p57, 461109, NQR)**

Not transcribed - boring. Stock routes, shearers (Jessup, Fayers etc), scour, fancy dress, Melbourne cup.

**15 Nov 1946 (461115, CA)**

The commencement of the aerial bait laying for the destruction of dingoes commenced on Monday morning with the Dragon Plane. The total number of baits to be distributed will be 367,000 over an air mileage of 6800 covering approximately 9700 sq miles of country. The baits will be laid in the breeding area of NW Qld. On Monday two flights were made, 60 baits per mile were dropped, flying at approximately 80 mph. The area covered the Selwyn Ranges west towards Duchess, across the Leichhardt River back to Cloncurry. The bait comprises of boiled brisket fat approximately 1" cube in which is a lethal dose enough to kill a dingo.

**22 Nov 1946 (461122, CA)**

On Saturday night the pictures were just started when down fell the badly needed rain, 76 points being registered. Many got under cover and saw the show out whilst others made for home. It has cooled the air, the clouds are still promising with light rain falling. The lightning was very heavy. We need a good shower to do any good.

Mr Do Do Dawson left for Brisbane to have medical treatment for his eye that he had the misfortune to loose during his war service. We hope to see Do Do home in a very short time.

Our popular Postmaster, Mr N Carlton, will leave on Monday on relief duty in Richmond. Mr Carlton will be a great loss to the town as he has been post master for many years and always gave the best of his service to the public at all times. He will take with him the good wishes of his many friends and we hope to see Norman back with us in a short time.

### **23 Nov 1946 (p58, NA, NQR)**

JC, 19 Nov – The shearing season is nearing an end. Mr R Peut is operating at Crendon Station whilst Mr Fayers is conducting crutching operations near McKinlay. Mr J McCarthy is operating at Lara and expects to be finished there next week. Mr Stainkey is conducting his own shearing at Argyle.

The JC Tennis Club members are practising hard for their match against a Cloncurry team which will visit JC on December 1. The local team is looking forward to their match and will do their best to give the Cloncurry team as good a time as they gave us when we visited Cloncurry.

### **30 Nov 1946 (p57, 461130, NQR)**

JC – The race meeting was the big even during the last week and this has been hailed as the best from the point of view of actual racing that has been staged in this centre for many ears. The Diggers, in a progressive manner, opened up their club to allow all horses to compete and it seems that this has been successful immediately. The object everywhere is to encourage the better type of thoroughbred to race and our race cub is falling in line with other clubs in this respect. The gate takings amounted to £88 and 12 bookmakers fielded. In the main event, the Diggers Bracelet, Yokel Boy just staved off a determined challenge by Mrs R Hampton's Golden Flag and the race provided great interest. The race ball at night was well attended and all enjoyed the entertainment. The proceeds amounted to £ 48. After all expense are met it is expected that the Diggers will benefit by a profit of approximately £180 from the race meeting and other functions.

The scour continues its operations. The Manager, Mr W Taylor, advises that certain excellently scoured specialty types have passed through his machines during the recent weeks and he expects high prices to be realised for these wools. At a recent sale the Calewa scoured wool topped the first days sale with 70d. This was treated at the local scour.

The tennis Club expect a visit from a Cloncurry team during the next weekend but, from the latest advice, the visitors are having difficulty in persuading their players to travel on account of the excessive heat. It may be better to postpone the match until the cooler weather of next season.

The bait laying plane has been operating in this district during the week and baits were dropped on the northern fringes of the Shire along the Flinders and Saxby Rivers and more thickly around water holes and along pads. In all 45,000 baits were dropped in this area and 54,000 in the McKinlay district. It is expected that some good will be done.

It is noted that the swimming pool has been emptied and very little further work is required to complete the job so that swimming may be had by enthusiasts. We are informed that the pool will be ready in a very short while to welcome the timid approach of the first to venture down that way.

A 30mm field piece has been presented by the military authorities to the local Shire Council. The gun was captured by the 26th Bn and now carries proudly the names of some of our own solder boys who were attached to that Battalion: Tom Foster, Ernie Hill, Mannie sills, A Ennis and R Hutson.

### **7 Dec 1946 (p55, 461207, NQR)**

JC, Dec 2 – During the week just passed we have experience the real summer weather of the tropics. The thermometer readings were between 106 and 110 degrees and conditions for our daily work have not been pleasant.

The Flinders River Dingo syndicate has curtailed its operations just at present owing to the lack of a suitable dogger. Members of this syndicate are proud of their achievement in clearing the dingo from its territory. In September 1944 when the group was formed the position looked black for those properties on the northern boundary such as Bezuma, Bunda Bunda and Shilmalier and it seemed that sheep would have to be replaced by cattle owing to marauding excursions of the wild dogs. However, as a result of the intensive action of the syndicate, members and the doggers employed, the large area of

this syndicate has been cleared of dingoes. The cost per member for the two year period was £50, which, it will be agreed, is negligible when the great loss which may be brought about by the dingo is considered. Mr Collins for Bezuma advises that his property has been free from wild dogs for six months and he states that at the time his syndicate was formed he contemplated seriously changing from sheep to cattle on account of the dogs operating on his property.

Again on Sunday the cricketers braved the elements and ventured out under a blazing sun. The first team compiled a respectable 78 runs of which 35 were knocked up by J Mackay. Nugget Stanley's team replied with the low score of 17 runs and an examination of the scores is interesting. Albie Kaeser made 12 not out and byes were 1 run. The remaining ten batsmen produced 4 runs and 7 ducks were recorded. No, we will not be sending for the talent scouts in the cricketing world. The game however is taking on splendidly and those organising the sport must have our congratulations. matches with the country district and Richmond area are planned for the next few weeks.

The tennis match with Cloncurry was abandoned until the cooler weather of next season. We are promised then an early visit from this team to return the visit of our local players back in October.

[Level of streets by surveyor]

The scour maintains its high standard and Rosevale wool was sold for 69d when lines of 12 bales of AAAE and 9 bales of AAW were offered in the November auction sales. The company's works at Carrar scoured a line of Essex Downs wool which sold for the State record price of 73d.

**14 Dec 1946 (p53, 461214, NQR)**

JC – [Council] to offer no objection to the renewal of a license of a slaughter house to Mr CS Byrne for premises established approximately 1.5 miles north of JC.

**21 Dec 1946 (p57, NA, NQR)**

JC, 16 Dec – Last Saturday and Sunday saw an influx of people in town. The ration books were distributed. A queue was formed in the early part of the day and Miss E. Eckford and Mr G Cornwell were kept very busy handing out the books. As usual there was the last minute rush and some were unlucky as there were about 50 books short of the number required.

**10 Jan 1947 (470110, CA)**

Miss May Beyers of the Kool Cafe has sold out to Mr Jones. The business will be given over at a later date.

Quite a lot of improvements have been done to buildings in our town of late. The railway station has a waiting room, Mr J Ahern has erected a new factory, Mr A Kaeser has installed an up-to-date bakers oven; Mr Stainkey is building a bootmakers shop and fruit shop; Mr Lowe's new garage will soon be completed.

**18 Jan 1947 (p45, NA, NQR)**

JC – On Sunday last a cricket team motored to Gilliat to oppose a team from that district. Quite an entertaining day was spent and after using the wicket for the full four innings, JC earned a good victory. Lofty Thompson was the destroying agent for JC and his bowling figures were good.

Mrs Brisbane, Miss Maris Brisbane and Master John left for Redcliffe for an extended holiday at that seaside resort. Miss Cynthia Fickling journeyed to Townsville by the mail train on Monday night to spend a short period in that centre.

**7 Feb 1947 (470207, CA)**

The weather for the past week has been very hot. Friday and Saturday night we had very nice rain when 126 points fell in both showers. The picture show was in full swing when the storm started all made for shelter. The rain was so heavy that the pictures could not be shown. Sunday night the weather was fine and the pictures were shown to a full house.

**8 Feb 1947 (p62, NA, NQR)**

JC – The JC Football Club held its meeting on Sunday the 2nd inst and F Bennett was appointed secretary. The club expects to have a good season this year and are endeavouring to get a coach for the

season which would be an advantage to the local talent.

The JC Tennis Club is making arrangements for the Easter fixtures. They realise that there is a lot of work and organisation attached to these fixtures and they are calling for assistance both financially and as regards work and organising. We trust that it will be a great success which can only be achieved by hard work and not just by sitting back and let the other chap do the work. These functions are a great thing for a small town and are a sign of progress. We are pleased to be holding them here this year. Let us hope that we have a good season which puts heat into everyone concerned and means everything to a pastoral area such as ours.

The pictures held in Mr Eckford's Hall on Saturday night were going well when we had a deluge of rain which made everyone scatter for shelter, and even where shelter was available it was very precarious against beating rain. The Proprietor agreed to show the films on Sunday night when there was a good attendance and the rain kept away.

The local swimming baths are being prepared by the Council but will take some time before they are ready for the public. They will fill a long-felt want.

The recent storms cut the streets up a lot but cars and lorries still managed to get about a short while after the showers.

**14 Feb 1947 (470214, CA)**

Mr R Hampton is putting on another shop on his barber's shop site. This will be taken up by Miss Gloria McCarthy, hairdresser, on her return from Brisbane shortly.

The JC ambulance reports the following cases for the month of January: transports 35, accidents 2, office severe 5, office slight 5, mileage 1345.

**15 Feb 1947 (p52, 470215, NQR)**

JC – Droving operations are quiet. Drover Triffett is bringing in a line of bullocks from Haddington which are going to Mr Brownson of CT. These will be trucked next week, weather permitting. There is an enquiry for store sheep and store cattle but not many lines are offering at present. Fat cattle are very hard to procure there being only odd lines offering.

The JC baths are in going order and the public are making good use of them. The Council is to be congratulated in getting these baths in order so quickly.

**21 Feb 1947 (470221, CA)**

Congratulations go to our popular sister Enid Agnes Parsons of the local hospital who has just announced her engagement to Gordon, third son of the Late Mr and Mrs TE Galt of Brisbane. Enid is the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J Parsons, Shire clerk, JC.

**22 Feb 1947 (p48, 470222, NQR)**

JC – The livestock market in this area is not real lively but several lines of sheep changed hands recently at good prices to the seller. At present there is a keen demand for livestock but there is a scarcity of selling lines and consequently the price of such stock has soared.

The Shire Council has paid out the bonus fixed for the destruction of various pests: 507 dingoes, 152 foxes, 98 eagle hawks and 264 pigs for the six months ended Dec 31 1946.

Our young ambulance officer has been getting around some during January. Mr EM Maher covered 1365 miles in the course of his duties, 713 by ambulance car and the balance of 652 by public transport to escort a patient to Eventide Home in CT.

**7 Mar 1947 (470307, CA)**

How JC was named article. This is the article that wrongly ascribed the naming of Julia Creek to Robert O'Hara Burke, and was the source for all subsequent wrong attributions. It was probably written by SE Pearson (see NQR531110) and "The Myth of Scorpion Creek" in *Tanksinker*.



**14 Mar 1947 (470314, CA)**

We feel very proud to see one of our local lads awarded the Military Medal, QX4378, Sergeant Norman Leslie Downey. Norman ? the duties of Signal's Officer for his Battalion in Donis? Peninsular and maintained communication to all units over a front of 8000 yards during advances. Norman forestalled the enemy by the installation of alternative communication and was often under fire; his ability contributing much to the success of the operations of the Battalion group.

**22 Mar 1947 (p45, 470322, NQR)**

JC – Some of the keen footballers are already getting fit and ready for the forthcoming football season. At present the weather is too hot for strenuous football and what is more appreciated by footballers is a dip in the local baths on a hot afternoon.

Several stockowners have visited JC for agistment but on account of the light season in this district there is nothing offering at the present time.

**28 Mar 1947 (470328, CA)**

Mr G Sills has opened his fruit and vegetables shop next to Mrs Bradford's shop [in Burke St]

**26 Apr 1947 (p57, NA, NQR)**

JC – Arthur Fayers is operating in the Boulia district and Peut is at Consentes. The other shearers, Messrs Jessup, Murphy and McCarthy are in full swing and will be kept going for some time. A lot of wool is coming to trucks and some is going to the local scour for treatment.

Mr Eckford has purchased two new engines for his picture apparatus in JC. These were first used on Saturday night and there was an appreciable difference in the sound production.

**2 May 1947 (470502, CA)**

The town seems extra quiet after the big monster sports held on Saturday 26th. The sports were an outstanding success and great credit is due to the Committee who worked so hard to bring about such splendid results. People came from near and far to attend the sports and gala dance held at night. The announcers did a good job and the wise cracks were greatly enjoyed. Mr Dick Byrne was called Darby Munro on Russia. Many events cause great fun. The 100 yards open championship was won by Mr McDonald JC, 75 yards went to Mr Bill Orr, JC. Married ladies Race was won by Mrs B Cook; Old Buffers race won by Mr T Fry.

At 4pm a grand parade of horse and horse events was witnessed it was a pretty sight to see the ladies taking part in the parade. The prize for the best on parade went to Mrs Dickfos. Other riders were Miss Betty Markwell and Miss Pat Chardon. Best gent prize went to Mr R Halloran and we congratulate all the lady riders, runners and sports who came such a long way to help make the sports such a great success it was.

**9 May 1947 (470509, CA)**

Letter to the Editor

Sir – I arrived in JC by plane and liked you greeting me with your pretty little waiting room at the airport surrounded by bougainvilleas of every shade. Then my transport arrived to drive me through your avenues of oleanders into town. Your town greeted me with it's well trimmed hedges and more bougainvilleas and oleanders. Your shops looked so spic and span with their well dressed windows and neat concrete footpaths in front. What a dear little cafe to welcome a stranger. It was so gay and cool.

Next, your children's Playground with its shady trees – gay shrubs and green lawns, swings, slippery slides and lovely sand bed for the little ones to play in. The soldiers monument standing to attention at one end with its flagpole - electric lights dotted about the grounds.

Some organisation was giving the children a treat. I thought – well, the JC people are a kindly people with plenty of civic pride and interest in the young people, who will be the men and women of tomorrow...

Yes sir, just a pipe dream which could so easily be a reality. Make this town of yours the kind of town people passing through will wish to stay awhile and always think and speak of with pleasant memories.

Yours,  
Passing Through

**10 May 1947 (p55, 470510, NQR)**

JC, May 7 – A special train from JC to Richmond and return, convened by the JC football team was arranged for Sunday May 4. The train took football players, tennis players and visitors to Richmond to take part in the football and tennis events. Two football teams went to Richmond to try conclusions with that town. Both matches were keenly contested and both ended in drawn games. The tennis team comprised seven men and six ladies. The play started at 10 am and lasted all day and resulted in a win for the JC team by 1 sets. Some of our team played night tennis at Richmond on the electric light courts. The special train left Richmond at 7.45 and arrived back in JC before midnight. It was a very pleasant day's sport and the Richmond players treated their visitors right royally and all seemed to have had a very enjoyable time.

A meeting of the Flinders Dingo syndicate was held recently and it was decided to put on two doggers. Together with the doggers employed by the shire, the dingoes will get a lively time. At the moment they are giving the graziers a worrying time.

**17 May 1947 (p47, NA, NQR)**

JC – The McKinlay Shire Council plant is busy on the roads and crossings throughout the shire. The new overseer, Mr Blyth, is expected to arrive in JC shortly. Mr Ryder, lorry driver for one of the Council's lorries, arrived here last week and has taken up his new duties.

Mr Benson, Ambulance Superintendent, who has just returned from holidays, reports a very busy time and says he is kept going night and day.

**30 May 1947 (470530, CA)**

At 8am last Sunday morning a special train left JC bringing about 150 sporting enthusiasts and their supporters to Cloncurry to try their skill against the local sports. Football, Tennis and basketball teams each with their followers soon got into action after arriving.

Of course the main attraction was the football games. Cloncurry turned out to barrack for the home lads who played very well to win the three matches. The school boys took the field about 1 pm. JC appeared to have the advantage in weight but Cloncurry showed that weight is no match for speed and combination. They combined both these factors in a convincing win of 11 points, (3 tries one goal) to nil. Although JC looked dangerous in the early stages, the Cloncurry boys soon took control of the game and continually pressed their opponents goal lines. They were rewarded with a try in the corner just before half time. It was unconverted and the score stood at 3-0. After half time Cloncurry's backs showed some really good passing movements resulting in a try between the posts. After conversion the score was 8-0. One more try made the final score 11-0.

In the B Grade match Cloncurry proved to be far too strong for their less experienced opponents and came off easy winners to the tune of 33 points to 6 (7 goals 3 tries to 2 tries)...

The A grade match proved to be a much closer contested and harder fought game with both sides backs showing some good passing movements. In the early stages of the game JC were passing continually but they found the Cloncurry defence sound and failed to register a score. Play moved up and down the field but both sides held. Many of Cloncurry's moves were marred by wild passing and also by lack of support.

The score opened just before half time when Bob Smith kicked a penalty for JC to lead 2-0.

After half time Cloncurry gradually obtained the upper hand. From a ball infringement Cloncurry were awarded a penalty and kicked a goal to even the score at 2-2. The only try of the match came when Cloncurry winning the ball from a scrum about 25 yards from JC lines, combined nicely to send Robertson over in the corner. It was converted and the final score stood at 5-2.

The visitors were entertained at a reception held in the supper room of the Council Hall and later left for home by train at 8 pm.

### **Tennis**

The JC lasses, Misses Edna and Coral Eckford, did not waste any time in their early efforts to take the first two sets from the local girls. However, the Shaw brothers made no mistake about the first set of the men's doubles by taking the set 6-2 from Fred Bennett and Jim Eckford. These two visitors went down 6-5 in the next set after some really good tussles. In the ladies doubles JC had little trouble taking all sets. The men's singles broke even, both teams winning two sets.

At the end of play the scores were in favour of the JC team by 3 sets although on the aggregate they were only 7 games ahead.

### **Basketball**

Both school girl teams were picked at the last minute, therefore very little time was given to practice. However, they put up a good show and deserve encouragement. The visitors had the advantage and won the match 6-1.

### **13 Jun 1947 (470613, CA)**

Miss Kath and Frank Byrne have sold their Blue bird Cafe business to the Misses Lucy, Jennie, Rita and Joan Byrne. The business will change hands on 30th June and we wish the Byrne sisters the best of luck in their new venture.

### **20 Jun 1947 (470620, CA)**

At the North West Qld Tennis championships held in Richmond over last weekend, 14th to 16th June, Miss Coral Eckford of JC had the unique and distinguishing honour of annexing all three championships in which she participated. In the mixed doubles in which she partnered Fred Shaw, Cloncurry, for the first time, their coordination was evident in their winning in four straight sets.

In the ladies Singles Coral had a walkover in the two early sets 6-0, 6-1, 6-0, 6-2, but in Mrs Murray of Richmond she found a hard and seasoned player and it was only youth that stood to her to take the set 7-5, 6-3.

In the Ladies doubles the Eckford sisters (Coral and Edna) took the Championship honours without any trouble at all, taking the sets, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1, 6-6

The tournament brought competitors from Hughenden, Richmond, JC, Cloncurry and Mt Isa and it shows a fine sporting spirit for these enthusiasts to travel such distances to participate in these intertown clashes.

### **27 Jun 1947 (470627, CA)**

Football Excursion Ad, Cloncurry to JC

Sgt Brennan will be retiring on Saturday when he will hand over to constable Sam Henry. Sgt Brennan has kept the law and order in a very pleasing manner in our town for the past nine years and will be greatly missed by his many friends. Mr Brennan and his charming wife will make their home in Brisbane. We wish the popular couple the best of luck wherever they may go.

Miss Lucy Byrne arrived from Brisbane to take over the Blue bird Cafe. Miss Byrne was accompanied by little Eve Graham, Townsville, who will spend school holidays with her father, Mr T Graham.

Master Malcolm Dewar arrived from CT to spend school holidays with his grand parents, Mr and Mrs W Davis.

Sir – Being a visitor to your town I was walking around the outskirts of JC when I came across the cemetery. Those responsible for the upkeep of this sacred place should be heartily ashamed of the disgusting state of affairs that exist there. Grass and weeds, goats, dead cats, broken bottles all point to the state of control that exists. Surely the residents must observe this and it is their duty to those who have passed on to see that the responsible persons are compelled to carry out their duties

Hoping these words will bear some fruit.

I thank you,

Visitor

Sir – [original refers to Cloncurry] There was a time when I thought the perfume of the gidyea rather unpleasant but not after a stroll through the thoroughfares and passing by the backyards of your fair township, the odour of which was overpowering to say the least. My stomach began to twist and turn but I am proud to say it did not let me down. After all, who wants to have a bilious attack in the main street? I fled to escape the unpleasant odour and suddenly a fresh clean perfume came in on the [reminiscences of creek banks]. What was it? The dear old gidyea. Perhaps JC needs some in its thoroughfares.

Some day I shall compose a poem to the gidyea tree. It is only now I realise what a beautiful gift to the world is this, up to the present, despised gift from nature. It deserves a memorial in stone or ink for being able to exude, even if only in memory, a perfume strong enough to help one forget some of the odours which insult our nostrils during a walk about town.

Perhaps we are not able to have a "Keep JC clean" week to inspire a general clean up, but we could have just a daily clean up of smells and a weekly clean up of rubbish for the sake of the health and comfort of the community at large.

Yours faithfully  
"Fresh Air"

[From a long article re Cloncurry]: When the slump arrived and the great plants were dismantled and removed to other parts, the thriving towns of Selwyn, Hampden, Duchess, Mt Cuthbert, Malbon and Dobbyn, vanished from the scene. While the smelting plants were turning out their harvest, the big cattle stations were sending to the Northern works fat cattle in thousands, Dalgonally, Eddington, Fort Constantine, Granada, Devoncourt; and a start was being made to throw open to sheepmen resumptions from the large runs. JC sprang into existence owing to the resumptions from Manfred, Dalgonally and Eddington and very soon thousands of sheep were being depastured on the newly acquired selections. One of the earliest of the JC selectors was Miss Marjorie Lavarack, sister of our present Governor, Sir John Laverack.

[Cloncurry area]: The country carries a good body of Mitchell, Flinders and other good grasses, which are supplemented as fodder by quantities of edible shrubs and bushes that are a grand standby in dry periods. The whole area is well timbered with gidyea, whitewood, bloodwood and ? affording shade in summer and (equally important) shelter in winter. One of the great drawbacks to the JC, Richmond and Winton areas is the absence of timber and edible bushes.

### **28 Jun 1947 (p53, 470628, NQR)**

JC, Jun 23 – The weather turned out with ideal conditions for the week ending June 22 when three football teams, a basketball team and a tennis team came to JC by special train. The day for the sport was calm and it was a perfect day for the sporting events. It has remained fine with cloudless skies and the atmosphere has been dry.

On Sunday we had a visit from three football teams, a basketball team and a tennis team from Hughenden. The basketball team fought a drawn game; the C grade football team was defeated; the B grade was victorious as was the A grade team defeating Hughenden by a comfortable margin. The visitors defeated our tennis team by three sets. It was a big day for JC and one of the largest crowds ever seen here. The railway platform thronged with people bidding farewell to the Hughenden team.

### **11 Jul 1947 (470711, CA)**

The friends of Mr and Mrs Tom Brennan gathered together on Thursday night to tender them a farewell party at the Presbytery. the rev Father Deveraux, PP taking the Chair. the tables were nicely arranged. The Rev Father said that it was with regret we were losing Mr and Mrs Brennan and said Mr Brennan kept splendid order in the town during the term of sergeant. apart from both being church workers , were always willing to help all functions held in town and he wished them the best of health and happiness in their new home...

### **19 Jul 1947 (p72, 470719, NQR)**

JC – Our football team journeyed to Mt Isa on Sunday to try conclusions with that town at football. At

one stage the score was 17 to 7 in favour of JC then with only 5 minutes to go the score was 22 to 20 in our favour. The final score was 27 to 25. It was a closely contested match and our team is to be congratulated on their win. The play the final match in Townsville shortly.

### **25 Jul 1947 (470725, CA)**

Saturday night proved a very busy evening in our town as folks came from all parts of the district to attend the screening of the Overlanders, this being the first Australian Production Picture. Although the night was cold people came with warm coats and rugs. Never was there such a gathering.

Mr and Mrs E Emblem were visitors in town over the weekend. Mr Emblem will be busy putting down a bore for Mr G Cummins on his Calewa property.

### **26 Jul 1947 (p54, 470726, NQR)**

JC, Jul 21 – The JC Footballers elated by their win over Mt Isa and being champions of the western zone are getting into training for their final match at Townsville in August against the winners of the coastal zone. We wish them every success in their final match in Townsville.

The JC tennis enthusiasts are still playing at the weekends and both tennis courts are kept in order. There is talk of golf being started again at JC.

Iffley trucked some speyed cows at JC for the meatworks on July 14. Other lines of fates have been trucked lately and the season will soon be coming to a close for this year. There are still some fat wethers available in spite of the grass being dry. Drover Tierney is bringing a line of 300 ewes from Yanyan, Richmond to Dalkeith, JC Hickman Bros owners.

The hospital is full of patients at present and has been busy of late. We are fortunate in keeping the hospital staff. No doubt the nurses bonus fund has been a great help.

### **9 Aug 1947 (p64, NA, NQR)**

JC – Messrs Wall and Lowe's igloo is rapidly taking shape on the aerodrome and will soon be ready to take under its shelter the planes purchased by this partnership. Already, a dual-control plane is on hand which will be used to instruct ambitious youths in the intricacies of flying. Messrs Wall and Lowe are very keen and have great plans in the melting pot which, in the long run, will be of considerable benefit to the district.

### **16 Aug 1947 (p12, 470816, NQR)**

JC – In the sporting line we are proud to advise that one of our footballers, D McDonald was chosen to represent North qld against South Qld in Townsville on Sunday. The result of the match was a win for South Qld by a narrow margin 13 points to 8. Our player lacks nothing in the way of confidence and enthusiasm and the necessary ability is there also. Against Mt Isa when playing in the presence of selector Mitchell, he showed an amazing burst of speed which baffled the opposing backs. By this means he scored no less than four times. This splendid effort together with his successful past record in Rockhampton no doubt brought about his inclusion in the team for the north.

In other sporting fields we have to welcome back a keen sportsman in Nugget Stanley who took his racehorse Idle Speech coastwards to seek fame and fortune. Idle speech won well in CT but Nugget's dream of a short route to riches were shattered at Ingham when the horse was beaten badly on two occasions.

### **23 Aug 1947 (p64, 470823, NQR)**

JC – Our footballers are hard at their training in preparation for the big match in Townsville on Sunday week. A few are noticed with bandaged wounds from the hard play in past matches and it is anticipated that a strong team will take the arena on the big day.

All shearing contractors are in the midst of their busy period. McCarthy is at Lara, Tom Jessup at Ivy downs, Bert Peut at Crendon, Fred Murphy at Kooroora and Arthur Fayers at Kellosheil.

### **30 Aug 1947 (p45, 470830, NQR)**

JC – The JC Football team will journey to Townsville on Friday 29 to try conclusions with the Herbert River team who are the winners of the coastal zone. A good game is assured in this final match which

will be played on August 31. We wish our footballers every success in this match.

The Nelia races to be held at Nelia in September promises to be a great success. A total of 22 horses have been nominated and there will be the usual ball at night.

The cold weather affects picture lovers but they manage somehow by taking overcoats and blankets.

### **5 Sep 1947 (470905, CA)**

[Death of James Lynch, early pioneer of JC]

### **6 Sep 1947 (p22, 470906, NQR)**

Babinda made history at the Townsville sports Reserve on Sunday when superior team work gave them the Carlton shield. It was a day for record breaking. Herbert River's decisive win over JC by 35 points to 5 made them the Wilson Cup winners and their name goes on the Cup for the first time.

The Wilson Cup match saw Herbert river prove their undoubted superiority when they took the fixture against JC by 35 points to 5. JC were unfortunate in first losing McDonald the North Qld representative and later Kaeser who was shaping well as half back. Tries came at regular intervals over the closing stages and Kayrooz, the Herbert River full back, after missing several, wound up by converting six goals.

Herbert River played all over their opponents in the closing stages and this was due no doubt to the fine shape in which their coach and captain, Bartlett, has his players. Playing last man down the Herbert River captain knows his job and inspired his men to do better things.

JC's five points came from a try and conversion by Ces Morgan, the five-eighth. They were completely outclassed and apart from Cummins the full back who showed great dash early, and Morgan the stand-off half, there was nothing outstanding amongst them. They were certainly disorganised through the loss of their star players but their inclusion would have made no difference to the result.

### **6 Sep 1947 (p47, 470906, NQR)**

JC – The JC Football team played the Herbert River team in Townsville on Sunday and were defeated by 35 points to 5. It was unfortunate for JC to have two of her leading players, Don McDonald and A Kaeser injured early in the game which no doubt made a big difference to the team's play. We are not detracting any credit from the Herbert River team which played a good solid game with good combination and we congratulate them on their good win which makes them premiers for this year.

### **3 Oct 1947 (471003, CA)**

[Kevin Cavanagh, vagrant]

### **11 Oct 1947 (p46, 471011, NQR)**

JC – It seems a time for weddings in JC as several are to be solemnised within the next few weeks. We wish the many couples very success and happiness in their future wedded life. The marriage of Enid parsons daughter of Mr and Mrs J Parsons, JC, was solemnised in St Abigail's Church on the 6th instant and the wedding breakfast was held at Peut's hall on the afternoon of the 6th instant. Mrs Galt, who prior to her marriage was a sister at the local hospital, will be missed very much from the nursing staff. The wedding was a very popular one and was attended by a very large crowd who drank the toast of the bride and bridegroom. The happy couple left by Monday night's train for the south where the honeymoon will be spent. The best wishes of the people of JC and district go with Enid and her husband for every success and happiness in the future.

### **11 Oct 1947 (p57, NA, NQR)**

BIG IMPROVEMENTS AT JC

JC, 9 Oct – The McKinlay shire Council has a big scheme of improvements in hand for JC town and the engineer (Mr CH Wilson) arrived last night to set the scheme in operation.

A £9000 loan and subsidy has been approved which provides for street work, drainage, kerbing and channelling. The street work embraces two, ten feet pavements in each of six streets with flower plots at intervals between the pavements.

To cope with country work the Council has been building up plant to give the country dweller the maximum service. It now has two graders, one new, one recently delivered, and three new motor trucks with four-yard capacity tipping bodies, and a 38 hp tractor with hydraulic trail builder, and a three-yard scoop has just landed in Brisbane and is expected to reach JC at an early date.

Works in hand include the Nelia-Bunda Road and a road towards Kynuna and McKinlay.

**18 Oct 1947 (p51, 471018, NQR)**

Not transcribed - contractors whereabouts.

**25 Oct 1947 (p45, NA, NQR)**

JC – Monday October 20 was a big day for JC, being a big wedding held at Mr Eckford's Hall, the bride being Merle Hampton, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Hampton and the bridegroom, Mr Les Adam. There was a very large attendance at the wedding breakfast and everyone seemed to be very happy and in good spirits. The happy couple left on Monday's mail train for the south where the honeymoon will be spent.

**31 Oct 1947 (471031, CA)**

Monday, 29th at 4 o'clock the RC Church, JC was the scene of a very pretty wedding when Merle Lillian Ruth only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Hampton of JC was joined in Bonds of Holy Matrimony to Leslie, second son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Adam of Mt Isa. The church was artistically decorated and the dainty kneeling chairs were finished with satin bows. The Rev Father Deveraux PP officiating. Master Peter Dawes, Page Boy, carrying a satin cushion and little Miss Kathleen Dawes pretty little flower girl, proceeded the Bride to the alter. The smiling bride made a charming picture as she entered the church on the arm of her father to the strain of the Wedding March played by Miss Ann Keenan. During the signing of the register Mrs A Kaeser sweetly rendered the song "Ave Maria" and hymns. The brides beautiful wedding gown of brocaded ivory satin made on classical lines, pretty heart shaped neck, bodice finely shirred into a dainty uplift waist line at back, tight fitting long-sleeves finished with a peak over the hands, buttons and loops. The long full circular skirt fell gracefully to a long flowing train. Her beautiful embroidered veil was held in place with an all-over lace heart-shaped halo finished with orange blossoms which was kindly lent by the brides's cousin (Mrs R Blowes). She carried a beautiful bouquet of velvet orchids and camillas intermingled with bridal ferns tied with satin bow and silver horse shoe. For something old the bride wore an old world cameo pendant the gift of her aunt, Mrs J Walters. The bride was attended by three charming maids, train bearer and flower girl, and page boy. \*\*

The bridegroom was assisted by his brother Douglas Adam as best man and Mr Vincent Ahern and Mr W Orr carried out the duties as Groomsman. Little Miss Kathleen Dawes, flower girl, was daintily attired in a pretty white silk net frock over a satin foundation, shirred bodice, pretty square neck finished with satin bows, full circular skirt, peplum satin bows and streamers at waist smart Dolly Varden hat and carried a pretty basket of flowers and ferns.

Master Peter Dawes, page boy, dressed in an evening suit. The maids were daintily attired in pastel shades.

Little Miss Evelyn Graham, train bearer, cousin of the bride, chose a pretty mauve georgette worn over taffetta, heart-shaped neck line trimmed with mauve and pink flowers, tight-fitting bodice, puffed sleeves, full circular skirt, mauve lace, heart-shaped halo head-dress trimmed with flowers, mauve mittens.

Miss Delma Graham, bridesmaid, cousin of the bride chose a pretty sky blue taffetta frock, dainty heart shaped neckline, bodice shirred into a pretty uplift waist line, smart cape sleeves, shoulder posy of pink flowers, tulle head dress of lace halo trimmed with flowers, falling veil, pretty bouquet of pink roses and ferns set in tulle tied with ribbon, blue mittens, full circular skirt.

Miss Joy Graham, cousin of the bride ...

Miss Gloria McCarthy ...

The reception was held in Eckford's Hall where Mrs Hampton smartly attired in a gold American silk

frock trimmed with bronze sequins, smart gold hat and brown accessories. Mrs Hampton received 400 guests and was assisted by her mother, Mrs A Graham and her sister Mrs G Young. Mrs Graham chose a pretty ...

The Hall was artistically decorated with streamers and white wedding bells hung over the large tables. Tall vases filled with pastel shades of flowers. The three tiered wedding cake was made and artistically decorated by Mr Kaeser. The Rev Father Devereux assisted by Mr Stanley was Chairman. The toast of the King with musical honours (Mrs Fairbanks piano) and other usual toast were made during the evening. Many solos were sweetly rendered by Mr T Lowman, Mr S Byrne, Mr Brackley, Mrs A Kaeser. Community singing and never was there such a happy wedding.

The sumptuous breakfast was enjoyed and the ale was extra flowing and cool. The young couple received many costly gifts including many cheques. The wires were too numerous to be read.

Dancing went on to the bright music supplied by Mrs Fairbanks till the arrival of the mail train. A band of happy people gathered at the railway to say cherio to the happy young couple who left to spend their honeymoon in Brisbane. Mr and Mrs Adam will return by plane and spend holidays in Mount Isa with Mr Adam's mother. The bride's travelling frock was a smart black and white morracain frock trimmed with white; smart peplum edge with white; small black and white cocktail hat; white accessories, smart edge to edge coat.

#### **1 Nov 1947 (p12, NA, NQR)**

JC – The plane service which is run by TAC Airways brings a few passengers every week to JC. It also brings fish which is a great advantage to our town. The plane has a return service to Townsville on Saturday. This service fills a long felt want to the West in case anyone wants to get away quickly or anyone who has not the time to spend going down by train. Those responsible for this service, also for the supply of fish to JC, are to be congratulated on their enterprise.

#### **7 Nov 1947 (471107, CA)**

The days have been very hot and every indication of rain but it all ends in dust and a few sprinkles of rain. Our ice works is out of operation and the ice is greatly missed. Here's hoping it won't be long before the ice works is in full swing.

Mrs A Kaeser and children left on Saturday to make their home in Townsville. Mr Kaeser is remaining for some time to attend to business. Mr and Mrs A Kaeser successfully ran the baker's shop in our town for many years and during their stay had a host of friends who will miss this grand old couple and they take with them the best wishes from their many friends in JC.

Mr and Mrs Les Adam (nee Merle Hampton) arrived on Saturday's plane from Mt Isa after spending a few days with Mr Adam's mother.

[Cummins, Taylor, Walters]

#### **15 Nov 1947 (p? NQ417, NM)**

Commercial Hotel under new management – Mabel Flewell-Smith

#### **28 Nov 1947 (p2, NQ418, NM)**

All Souls School Annual Speech Night

A large crowd packed the pavillion overlooking the main oval t All Souls on Wednesday on the occasion of the school's annual speech night and prize giving. For Mr RL Mills, the headmaster of All Souls, the occasion marked the close of 20 years association with the school and for five others of the staff it was also their last speech night at All Souls.

The Principal, Canon CC Hurt, stated that new appointments had been made to fill the places of the six masters who were leaving.

In his opening address, the chairman Archdeacon W Hohenhouse, said:

The permit for the building of the first part of the new school has been received and as industrial conditions permit, I hope that we may be able to start. What we have done this year is to level four



magnificent playing fields. This is the first step to the layout of the new school and has transformed our grounds, as no doubt you have seen. Here the enthusiasm of Mr Mills, ably backed by the architect was largely responsible for what has been done, but we should never have contemplated the whole scheme had it not been for Mr Max Burns who has made a splendid job where most contractors would have given it up owing to the rocky nature of the subsoil. We are indeed grateful to him, and additionally so, because he has made a most generous gift of the top field, including the surface dressing.

Stating that he had come to All Souls 20 years ago, Mr Mills said he regretted he would not be here to witness the first matches played on the new fields which the school had acquired. He was sure that next year no other school in Australia would be as well equipped with playing fields as All Souls.

**12 Dec 1947 (471212, CA)**

Mr Tom Graham who has been mail contractor here for 25 years has sold his mail run to Mr Vince Ahern who will take over on the 1st January.

[Childrens fancy dress]

**21st Birthday party**

Mr and Mrs Collins of Isobel Downs entertained a number of friends in town to a very happy birthday party in honour of her daughter Miss Shirley 21st birthday party. The party was a two fold entertainment. During the evening the charming young lady's engagement was announced to popular Mr Jim Eckford only son of Mr and Mrs J Eckford of the Star Picture Show. The happy couple received every congratulations and best wishes.

**27 Dec 1947 (p40, NA, NQR)**

JC – The Crystal Iceworks, JC, has changed hands, the new owners being Messrs WJ Brisbane and Son. Mr Brisbane has been the engineer at the local woolscour.

Mr Ahern has purchased the mail run from T Graham, and Mr G Peut has disposed of his mail run from JC to Kynuna to Mr Fels.

**27 Feb 1948 (480227, CA)**

Mr J Eckford has been able to supply pictures for Wednesday and Saturday nights. This is the town's only amusement as there has been a lull in dancing.

Wide spread sympathy goes to Sgt and Mrs Cooke on the sad loss of an infant at birth. Pleased to report Mrs Cooke is progressing well and will soon return to her home.

The stork has been kept on the wing in our town. Births at the hospital are to: Mr and Mrs Applegar (daughter), Hardy (son), J Adams (son) and C Fickling (daughter).

Miss Betty Beauchamp celebrated her 17th birthday in the form of a happy picnic party at the punch Bowl where fishing, swimming and games were enjoyed and a very sumptuous party with a birthday cake carrying 17 candles. Betty received many good wishes and gifts. The party returned home in the cool of the evening after having a very happy day's outing.

**28 Feb 1948 (p20, NA, NQR)**

JC – The TAA commenced operations this week and has included JC in its schedule.

We understand that the local shire council contemplate erecting a waiting shed and other conveniences at the local drome, also fencing-in of the drome to keep stock off the runways.

At the last meeting of the JC Hospital Board the board received and accepted the resignation of Nurse Parsons of the JC Hospital in view of her approaching marriage to Mr M Taylor of the Bank of NSW.

Mr RC Peut, who has been resident of JC since 1912, has disposed of his interests here and has leased his residence to the Australian Estates, was a passenger during the week for Brisbane where he will in future reside.

Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis and Mrs F Watson were passengers by TAA for the south.

Messrs T Wall, A Lowe and R Halloran returned by air during the week from south.

**5 Mar 1948 (480305, CA)**

The town is still extra quiet. We miss the whistle of the good old train. Many shearers are held up in town by the rain Sunday morning. we had 35 points. There is decided cool change and a heavy wind blowing.

Mr V Ahern who flew to Townsville returned home with his new motor lorry.

Mr H Benson has received word that his mother is very ill in Cairns. Benny will leave by plane and we sincerely hope this grand old lady who is 88 years of age has a speedy recovery to good health.

Births are : E Hill (daughter), Dickfos (daughter).

Mr Roy Hampton's racehorse, Golden Flag, died last week. He was brought in from the paddock and it was soon seen the horse was very sick and although everything possible was done for the poor animal he failed to rally. Golden Flag won many races in JC also the Nelia Bracelet and the Gilliat Bracelet. No more will he carry his blue and white silk colours to victory. Ridden by jockey J Treverton, Golden Flag was like Phar Lap – the ladies idol.

[Jessup, Somers, Eckford, Ahern, Jones]

**12 Mar 1948 (480312, CA)**

Mr and Mrs Netterfield and children were passengers on the TAA plane. Owing to the rain the plane could not land on the JC drome and had to go on to Cloncurry. Mr Lowe left by plane and brought Mr and Mrs Netterfield and family to JC and had a safe landing.

Mr Peut's lorry arrived from Cloncurry with two towns of flour for our baker. The flour was brought to Cloncurry by plane. Let's hope the weather holds out to allow the fruit lorry to arrive in JC. This will be sold by the Council and will be a great treat for the children of the town and district.

Widespread sympathy is extended to Mr and Mrs Ernie Hill at the sad passing of their eight days old daughter at the hospital. After service in the RC Church the Rev Father D PP officiated at the graveside where little Barbara Ann was laid to rest. Mr Hill's soldier friend's paid their last respects.

**9 Apr 1948 (480409, CA)**

Mr M McDonald (Brisbane) arrived by plane to spend holidays with his friends Mr and Mrs J Beauchamp.

Quite a number of McKinlay folk arrived to attend the popular Taylor Parsons wedding on easter Monday.

Mr George Jaques returned from Richmond to attend to his butchering business. Owing to the sad death of his father he intends closing their JC business. To Mr and Mrs Jaques and family, many friends extend their sincere sympathy in their great bereavement.

**24 Apr 1948 (p44, NA, NQR)**

JC, 20 Apr – The Shire Council plants have not been fully occupied on account of the shortage of labour. There is a lot of work to be done on the roads throughout the shire when labour becomes available.

**21 May 1948 (480521, CA)**

Mrs E Malone and son Pat will spend a few days in JC before leaving for the Gilliat where she intends taking over the Hotel at a later date. Many friends wish Mrs Malone every success on her venture into business.

[Tennis]

**22 May 1948 (p27, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr T Parsons of the Eddington Arms Hotel, Gilliat, has disposed of his hotel to Mrs EJ Malone and will be handing over during the next few weeks. Mr and Mrs Parsons will be missed from this centre as they have become popular with the public during their stay at Gilliat. Mrs Malone is an old identity of this district and we wish her every success in her new venture.

#### **11 Jun 1948 (480611, CA)**

21st birthday party held in Peut's Hall on the 6th June when Mrs McCarthy entertained 70 guests in honour of her daughter Miss Gloria's 21st birthday. The large T-shaped table was nicely arranged with vases of flowers and was laden with delicacies and dainty old key place cards, pretty pink and blue baskets. Pride of place was the artistically iced birthday cake with ladder, gold key, 21st birthday, horse shoes, 21 candles and ink roses. This was made and iced by Gloria. Mr Moran Byrne was Chairman and asked all to rise and drink a toast to the king. He said the party was a twofold party because he had a very important announcement to make. He said "We are not only celebrating Gloria's 21st birthday, he had also great pleasure to announce the happy young lady's engagement to Mr James Roberts and he asked them to toast the young couple. The toast was honoured with the singing of 21 Today and They are Jolly Good Fellows. Mr J Roberts responded and thanked all for their good wishes to Gloria and himself. Community singing and dancing took up the pleasant evening. Gloria was presented with a large gold key tied with a blue ribbon. This was handed to all the guests to write their names on. another attraction was a large cake made in the shape of a key was nicely iced. Miss McCarthy was attired in a party frock of floral jusey silk and Mrs McCarthy made a charming hostess attired in dainty floral georgette frock. The engagement ring is a very pretty twin heart of diamonds setting. Gloria wore a pretty gold key brooch set in diamonds the gift from her mother. She also received many costly and useful gifts and congratulatory telegrams of good wishes from her many friends. There was never a dull moment. The guests all joined hands with the happy young couple in the centre to sing Auld Lang Syne, bringing the happy party to a close.

#### **12 Jun 1948 (p32, NQ653)**

JC – It is reported that Balootha, a pastoral property situated some 70 miles to the north of JC, and owned by Mrs Barnes, has been sold to Mr Burns. The same buyer, it is understood, has also purchased two blocks which join Balootha from Lipscombe, Byram and Co of Haddington.

Contractor Fayers at present is shearing at Kelloshiel and Contractor Jessup is still engaged in the McKinlay district. Contractor McCarthy has just completed the shearing at Strathbyrne and will commence shearing at Lara within the next few days. Hickman Brothers have just completed shearing a small mob at Hilton Park depot, prior to going on agistment on Haddington.

#### **18 Jun 1948 (480618, CA)**

Word has been received in town on Wednesday afternoon that a very old and highly respected resident of the JC district, Mr EH Doubleday of Consentes had passed away in Sydney. He had held Consentes for over 20 years, having purchased it from the original lessee Miss Marjory Laverack, sister of the governor, Major General Sir John Laverack.

#### **2 Jul 1948 (p4, NQ419, NM)**

Ad for Ambulance Ball where the photo was taken of Ned, Dawn, Max etc.

#### **5 Jul 1948 (p2, NQ420, NM)**

Ambulance Ball

The Horticultural hall was the venue chosen for the Ambulance annual ball held on Friday evening. The hall was decorated with bougainvillea. The attendance was quite up to expectations and all present appeared to enjoy themselves to the utmost. Approximately 160 couples attended.

Mrs Burns, cherry red crepe. Mrs Flewell-Smith, oyster lame, black trimming.

#### **9 Jul 1948 (480709, CA)**

Mr and Mrs Lance Lewis left by car on Saturday to attend the CT and Townsville Show. Mr Ted Blanch was a passenger with Mr Lewis' car party to attend the Townsville show. Mr Dave Kiddle is also a visitor to Townsville to attend the Show.

#### **13 Aug 1948 (480813, CA)**

Master K Kaeser and his sister Beverley arrived from Townsville to spend school holidays with their

rother and sister-in-law Mr and Mrs J Kaeser.

A young man named Mr Brown was kicked by a horse on Percol Plains and was brought tot he hospital and in spite of all medical attention he passed away and was laid to rest in JC. I is said that the young man served in World War 11.

#### **14 Aug 1948 (p42, NA, NQR)**

JC – Our woolscour continues its industrious operations and the maze of pulley wheels, belts, and rakes move along with unending noise. Growers are sending in their greasy for treatment and the request is always to “make the next wool sales at all cost.” So the woolscour management press on in order that the wool may be sold as early as possible in order to avoid a possible drop in market value at a late date. Proper treatment, however, is not neglected as is evidenced by the Australasian record for scoured wool obtained for wool treated at our local works. Wool for treatment is now arriving from the Richmond district which denotes a confidence in the benefit to be derived from scouring.

#### **17 Sep 1948 (480917, CA)**

It gives us a thrill to see that two of our town's young mechanics employed by Mr Lance Lewis attended the recent exam held by Edgar Motor Works in Townsville and we congratulate Mr Ron Watson and Mr Moran Byrne. Both lads received very successful passes. Mr Lewis has now sent two other lads down – Mr T Turner and Mr Norman Downey to try their luck and we wish them every success.

Another JC State School lad to make good is Harold Walters who received word that he was successful in passing his final postal exam. Harold joined the post Office at JC at 14 years of age. He gained his scholarship at the JC State School where he received all his education and later attended the Technical Training school in Brisbane. He is at present Postmaster at Maxwelllton.

[Benson & car accident]

#### **1 Oct 1948 (481001, CA)**

The town is extra quiet and the days are very hot. Last week we had a heavy bedourie dust storm. Let us hope that this great heat will bring the badly needed rain as the stock routes are badly off for grass and surface water. The local dairy was forced to close down after feeding their cows for some time. They are supplying the hospital and people with small children.

Our congratulations go to Mr T Turner and Mr Norman Downey of Mr Lance Lewis motor works, JC, who in the recent examinations for mechanics held by Edward Motor works, Townsville the above lads topped the school so it is pleasing to note M Lewis had such great results in his four lads receiving splendid passes.

At their spacious home on Tuesday Mrs R Hampton entertained many friends to an afternoon tea in honour of the christening of her first grandchild. The long table was nicely arranged with vases of fresh flowers and was laden with many delicacies. Pride of place was the christening cake, made and artistically decorated by Mrs Hampton. The cake was in the shape of a cot this being iced in pale pink with blue flowers forming pillow and quilt. Mrs Hampton was assisted by her sister Mrs Walters.

The charming hostess after the toast of the King and the singing of God Save Our King, then the toast of the infant Vicki Roylyn Ruth Adam and the singing of "She's a Jolly Good Fellow'. The infant looked very pretty in her dainty white christening robe. During the evening many toasts were made. The most important one being the infant's mother and her great grandmother (Mrs A Graham). A very enjoyable afternoon tea was served. Community singing took up the evening when a toast to the hostess and the singing of FSAJGF and Till We Meet Again brought the happy evening to a close.

#### **9 Oct 1948 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC, Oct 4 – Several thousand sheep were trucked to JC from Cressy, Corfield and are being lorried out to Balootha where they are being agisted. The sheep are in poor condition and are being fed in JC prior to being trucked. It is a long tedious process and we wish the stockowners every success in the venture which must cost a lot of money to save the stock.

The local dairy had to close down owing to dry conditions and is only supplying the local hospital. It is as well for JC that some people keep a good stock of milking goats and these are now giving good

service to JC. The McKinlay Shire Council is to be congratulated on buying well bred billy goats of the Saanen breed from different studs. Most of the owners are feeding their goats and they are worth the attention given, as they are a hardy animal that thrives on little feed and, although they are at times described as a nuisance, we do not know what the West would do without them in the dry periods.

### **15 Oct 1948 (481015, CA)**

The town is very quiet and on Sunday night our town had a very heavy dust storm with plenty of thunder and lightning and it looked as if we were in for a good downpour of rain but only got a few sprinkles of the sadly needed rain. A heavy wind has been blowing for days together with the usual bedourie dust causing much extra work for the housewives.

Sixty homing pigeons were brought from Toowoomba by train and were released on Monday at the JC Railway station.

The town has had few meatless days owing to the local butcher having some trouble in getting killers.

The grass is getting low. The stock route is in a bad way for water and grass. Travelling sheep are dying on the Common.

Mr and Mrs Jerry Francis left by Wednesday's train to spend some time in Townsville with Mrs Francis' sister and will leave later for Brisbane and then Toowoomba where they will make their home for some time.

Our popular Mr and Mrs Holloway and daughter Netta left to take over the Malbon Hotel. Many friends wish George and his wife the best of luck in their new venture into business.

### **30 Oct 1948 (p35, NA, NQR)**

JC – It is with deep regret that the death is announced of Mr Paddy Casey. Of a retiring nature, no one knew much of his family history or where he came from. He was a very capable stockman. He will be sadly missed by those who knew him.

The woolscour is still receiving a fair amount of wool for treatment and is working one shift, but expects to be commencing another shift in the near future. Mr Strachan, general manager of Edkins woolscours, is expected here shortly and will most likely be with us for a while.

### **12 Nov 1948 (481112, CA)**

JC is still in a bad way for fresh meat owing to the butcher being unable to buy killers. The town has had several meatless days.

### **27 Nov 1948 (p33, 481127, NQR)**

JC, Nov 22 – The heat during the week was overwhelming, temperatures reading anywhere from 110° to 114° in the shade. Dust was still in the air making tiresome work for the housewife and the wind was very changeable coming from the north one day and switching to a southerly another day. We had a thunderstorm on Saturday, the rain simply pouring for the short time it lasted. Everywhere we looked was a pool of water but it has all soaked away again leaving the ground quite dry once more and the muggy oppressive heat still with us.

The wedding of Miss Gloria McCarthy and Mr James Roberts will take place will take place on Monday, 22nd Nov, at the English Church, JC.

The tennis is still going well with keen competition games every morning. The courts are usually vacated in the afternoon as it has been far too hot for any extra unnecessary exertion. The rain on Saturday should help the courts a little as three of the men hopped in Sunday morning and rolled them, taking advantage of the fact that they did not have to waste time watering them.

### **4 Dec 1948 (p44, NA, NQR)**

JC – On Monday afternoon a dust storm tore through the town about 5 o'clock, followed by wind, thunder and lightning, but no rain, although some properties in the district received slight falls. All told it was a boisterous dusty afternoon.

During the height of all this blowy weather a wedding ceremony took place in the C of E, JC, when Brother Baille joined in holy matrimony Miss Gloria McCarthy and Mr Jim Roberts. The bride, on the arm of Mr Roy Hampton, who gave here away, looked very charming in white lace over taffeta, whilst the bridesmaids – a local girl Miss Cynthia Fickling and a Brisbane lass, Miss Peg Smith – both looked very pretty in their blue off-the-shoulder styled frocks and big blue picture hats, each rimmed with a big red velvet bow finished with streamers on the back of the large brim, and little Sharon Magoffin, the flower-girl, made a sweet picture in her matching blue frock. Mr J Tunny from Nelia carried out the duties of best man and Mr S Wilkins of JC acted as groomsman. The reception was held in Eckford's hall where the guests were received by the bride's mother, Mrs McCarthy, who chose a lovely mustard coloured frock with which she wore nigger-brown accessories. She looked most charming and the reception was a credit to her. The happy couple left on Monday night's train to spend their honeymoon in Brisbane.

Mr and Mrs Gannon with their daughter and son-in-law (Mrs and Mr C Hely) and children arrived in JC on Tuesday morning. The Gannon family, after an absence of three years from our town, have once more settled into their hotel business which Mr and Mrs A[lex] Dawes handed over on the 25th day of November and we wish them every success and happiness on their return to the community.

Mr and Mrs A Dawes intend spending a few days in town and will then leave on Monday's plane to holiday in Townsville. Mrs Barton gave them a farewell party at Manfred to which a few of the townspeople were invited.

The Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday when it was decided that the Traffic Inspector (Mr H Fickling) be on the lookout for any person violating the traffic laws, issuing such persons with summonses.

The swimming pool is being well patronised these days. Crowds of young people wend their way down to the pool every afternoon and night in an endeavour to cool off.

#### **11 Dec 1948 (p35, NA, NQR)**

JC – Last Monday the two planes left JC with capacity loads of passengers. The reason for the good bookings from JC was that the participants and friends interested in the Robert Smith-Dorothy Foote wedding were desirous of getting to Townsville for the happy event. Ard Cooney missed the bus on Monday's plane owing to insufficient seats, but chartered A Lowe's Moth next morning and winged it to the coast, not so speedily, but yet just as surely.

#### **18 Dec 1948 (p53, NQ655, NQR)**

JC, 13 Dec – At 7.30 on Sunday evening saw the commencement of a very wild storm. The thunder and lightning were bad enough but the wind was terrific which left lots of homes minus roofs and lavatories, and the hangar at the local aerodrome was damaged as well as the planes belonging to Mrs A Lowe and Mr L Wall. The day – as every other day for the week – had been hot and muggy so the resultant storm was not unexpected. The rainfall was registered at 85 points.

The children had their last day's schooling on Wednesday and the scholarship examinations took place on Thursday and Friday with Misses Pauline Pollard, Marion McNickle, Edith Mann and Masters Richard Cooke, Ben Burrows and Billy Godier participating, and we wish them all the best of luck.

During the week the Council brought a lorry-load of bombs from just outside Maxwelton to use instead of blocks for the foundations of their buildings in an endeavour to defeat the white ants, but on arrival here, found the majority to be still full of gas so then had to take them out of the town and fire bullets into them to let the gas escape. Although we do not believe this gas to be deadly, if any touches the skin it will burn and form a very bad sore which will eat into the flesh. The smell will also make one very sick.

Mr MD's Burns who perhaps controls one of the most extensive dam sinking plants under private ownership in Australia is at present operating on Rosevale building two enormous dams holding about 12,000,000 gallons of water each and thence he goes to Mr Richard Magoffin's next property, Rosevale-Byrimine to build two mores such dams. With his huge tractors and scoops worked by competent drivers, Mr Burns expects to complete each of these young lakes in two or three weeks.

**23 Dec 1948 (481223, CA)**

Heavy clouds bank up and all we seem to get is plenty of dust and wind. Let us hope 1949 will bring plenty of the sadly needed rain.

The town has been without meat for weeks, not even mutton being sold at the butcher shop. Business people have to have their meat sent either from Cloncurry or Richmond.

**25 Dec 1948 (p39, NQ654, NQR)**

JC, 20 Dec – Christmas is very close now and we see all the shop windows laden with beautiful toys and gifts of all shapes and sizes. Mrs I Bradford [Mrs Wilkins] and her son have really set a standard of window-display as good as we are likely to see in a little western town. The delightful way in which the lovely things are on show really makes the window-shopper stop window-shopping and start to buy. Peter Dawes, Ben Burrows and Grant Bros. have arranged their good things very nicely and so JC is quite proud of her shopping centre. It really takes Christmas to bring out the joy and beauty in the world as well as the happy carefree holiday spirit in which we all bask.

Mr H Benson gave a free dance in Peut's Hall on Friday night for the Ambulance - free in a sense. No money was taken at the door but the people still parted with their florins before the night was finished. Lowman's Orchestra was in attendance and all the young people had a happy time.

The travelling dentist should have been here on Friday but did not turn up and is now expected to arrive on Monday night's train.

Mr and Mrs Bob Smith arrived home by plane on Monday morning after being married in Townsville a few weeks back.

All the homes damaged in the storm have since been repaired with the exception of Mr Neville Peut's who is having his roof-structure altered altogether.

Mr Johnson the building contractor bought the wrecked house of Mr A Stainkey as it stood and has now lowered it on to small blocks. He intends making his home there. He was kept very busy last week repairing places knocked about by the storm but will now go ahead with his original contracts.

A new footpath is being placed down, linking up the home of the CPS (Mr Brooks) with the footpath in front of the Church of England.

**7 Jan 1949 (490107, CA)**

Since our recent rainfall of 224 points of rain brings about a much brighter outlook for 1949 and a great relief for the stock and the man on the land can smile once again and it looks if there is more rain to follow and a good season is assured.

Christmas went off very quietly in our town. Quite a crowd attended midnight mass. Miss A Keenan and her choir were heard at their best. Mrs J Eckford Jnr sweetly rendered a solo. The choir singing 'Silent Night' brought the service to an end.

**8 Jan 1949 (p18, 490108, NQR)**

JC – JC had a quiet Christmas and New Year. On New Year's Eve a dance was held in Eckford's Hall for the C of E funds. The old year was ushered out and the new year welcomed in. The dance was well attended and everyone with the festive season spirit had an enjoyable time. Dancing was indulged in till the early hours of the morning when everyone called it a day and New Year's Day was ushered in with a spirit of confidence. The recent rains are a good new year's gift to everyone.

Two or three children from JC are taking advantage of the Young Australia League excursion to Sydney. Edith Mann and Harold Mann are going from JC and will be in Sydney about 10 days. They return to JC in late January. They will be joined in Brisbane by other children from all over Qld who journey to Sydney together and are shown the various sites around Sydney.

On account of the rains neither the TAA or ANA planes landed at JC on Friday and passengers had to either get off at Richmond or go on to Cloncurry if they were intending coming to JC.

**14 Jan 1949 (490114, CA)**

The cricket match played between the married men and single men last Sunday was won by the married men. Good luck to the old boys.

JC residents are having a bad time regarding fresh meat. It is a thing of the past in our town. Many homes have been without meat for weeks.

The Byrne sisters have their Blue Bird Cafe under offer of sale to Mt Isa buyers.

I paid a visit to my old town after an absence of over forty years and looking back with regret to those happy boyhood days, realised just how Goldsmith felt when he penned those lines in 'The Deserted Village'

Here as I take my solitary rounds  
Among these tangled walks and ruined grounds  
And, many a year elapsed, return to view  
Where once the cottage stood, the garden grew  
Remembrance wakes with all her busy train  
Swells at my breast and turns the past to pain

**15 Jan 1949 (p10, 490115, NQR)**

JC, Jan 24 – It is difficult to get either fat sheep or fat cattle and the local butcher finds it hard to get meat to keep the town going. In fact, several times lately we have been without meat but during the past week a few cattle have been obtained to keep things going.

The shire plant is having a quiet time. It is risky to venture out far and risk the plant being held up and damaged, possibly by heavy rains. A few jobs handy to the town and in the town have been affected and some of the streets have been graded and leveled off.

[Dingoes, dogger]

**15 Jan 1949 (p?, 490115b, NQR)**

Labour Savers Ruining women

Sydney, Jan 13 – American women were being ruined by labour-saving gadgets in the home, Dr Muriel McIlraith of Tarramurra said on her return by plane after spending five months abroad.

Dr McIlraith said that with machines to do washing up and special kitchen sinks for disposing of garbage, many American housewives had not enough to do. She said that in homes with special sinks for garbage removal scraps were merely placed in a sink and the tap turned on. As the garbage was washed down the pipe a cutter chopped the scraps into fine pieces.

**21 Jan 1949 (490121, CA)**

The Shire Council has taken over the butcher shop owned by Mr Charlie Byrne. The town folk have fresh mutton and beef.

Mr Ernie Hill (shunter) left for Hughenden where he has been transferred. Mrs Hill will join her husband at a later date.

**29 Jan 1949 (p8, 490129, NQR)**

JC, Jan 24 – [Weather]

Mr A Lowe advises that his plane has been repaired by Mr Vine and is now ready for ambulance and charter work. The plane was damaged by the heavy blow we had in December and has been out of commission for some weeks.

A dance in aid of the JC Football Club was held on Friday night in Peut's Hall. There was a good attendance and everyone had a very jolly time.

There is not much movement of stock at present owing to the bad season and to the fact that the stock



routes are in a bad state for grass except in a few places. Mr Lord of Proa, Nelia, advises that he is shifting some of his sheep to agistment country.

**5 Feb 1949 (p23, NQ659, NQR)**

JC, 31 Jan – The weather for the past week has been stormy, with scattered good falls. Rosevale with 308 points topping the list. Several places missed out altogether. A lot of graziers are very badly off for grass and some have taken their sheep to agistment. There is every indication of rain as the weather is very hot and muggy and the skies cloudy so let's hope that during the next week the rain becomes more general and gives relief to all graziers.

The town common is looking nice and green which is a help to the town goats and also to the local dairy. Some of the stock routes are in fair order whereas there is no grass on others.

In the recent Scholarship exams the six candidates from JC all passed which is a credit to the head teacher, Mr D McNickle. The local school committee held a dance in Peut's hall in honour of the successful children and made a presentation of a propelling pencil to each candidate as a memento of the occasion. Mr FA Hickman delivered an address and congratulated the children on their passes. Mr Parsons made the presentations to: Misses Edith Mann, Marion McNickle and Pauline Pollard, and Masters D Godier, R Cooke and B Burrows. Master Godier was also presented with a cheque for £25 from the RSSAILA. The dance was then continued and all went along in a fine style until the medley, a little after midnight.

**12 Feb 1949 (p33, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr Ben Burrows who passed his scholarship in the recent examination has taken the position of telegram boy at the local post office.

**18 Feb 1949 (490218, CA)**

On 11th February 1949 a conference was held at Ilfracombe between the representatives of Messrs Edkins, Marsh and Co Ltd and the Western Qld Meat Co Ltd, the proprietors of the four remaining active woollscours in Central Western qld. A spokesman for the conference stated that the main subject of discussion was the serious decline in the volume of wool treated as disclosed by 1948 figures. It was felt that unless this could be arrested in the current year the position in which Companies might find themselves would be most serious.

The common experience of all concerned was that the recent developments had come as a shock. Opportunities presented since the end of the war effecting extensive improvements and repairs (a policy which then, recent experience seemed to justify) had necessitated heavy expenditure. The scours accordingly today find themselves in the situation that they were better equipped than ever to do their job but their facilities were not in strong demand. The unanimous belief was that the factors responsible for the situation were, first, the high and rising level of the wool market and, in a secondary degree the depletion of sheep numbers.

It was felt that the first of these conditions ought not, of itself, to be inimical to scouring since scoured wools maintained a generally constant relationship to greasy. The difficulties of scourers seemed to stem from the fear of woolgrowers that prices might not hold that the delay entailed in scouring might take their wool on to a receding market. To date these fears have not been justified, in fact, it might be said that if there have been delays then the grazier must have gained by them since the market has been rising. Such however is the situation today that wools go through the scours very promptly.

Those at the conference felt that they should do all they could to lace before growers the fact that the economies of scouring remain the same whether wool is high or low. Scoured wool, by the large, marches in step with greasy. The intrinsic values are the same.

The gains to be made by scouring all low yielding wools are easily demonstrated. in the case of Locks and Stained pieces. Prices of 23d to 58d for greasy locks are eclipsed by scoured prices of 63d to 80d as can be shown from records of the recent sale in Brisbane.

Further, growers ought not to allow the glitter of the prices being obtained for the super lines of greasy to distract their attention from the ordinary prices being realised by the lowest lines of fleece wool. There are a number of these to be seen in the 50d levels, scouring would lift these into the 120d

category and show a very great appreciation.

Woolscourers, in all honesty, make no appeal to growers to send for treatment such wools as will be in the top bracket of prices. They realise that these are satisfactorily marketed in their natural condition. They do feel however, that there is passing them by a very considerable bulk of wool which ought, from the point of view of economy and from the aesthetic aspect of presenting the wool clip in the most attractive state, to be scouring at those plants which have shown themselves to be unrivalled in their ability to perform that work.

**19 Feb 1949 (p34, 490219, NQR)**

JC – Last Sunday night MR HC Fickling, Common Ranger, and Mr E Cronau, Stock Inspector, left by utility to inspect a mob of cattle being dipped at Sedan Dip. The cattle had not arrived there by the time the two men turned up, and seeing storm clouds around, Mr Fickling decided to look around for them. Subsequently the river came down and cut off his return to JC. Finding no place suitable to cross he drove to Cloncurry and made enquiries about the road back through McKinlay. He was told he could get through without any trouble so away he went. In the meantime storms came up and hindered his return in quite a number of places and so he finally drove the utility back into the town on Friday around midday. The two men looked none the worse for wear and they were very lucky that in all that long journey from Sunday to Friday they had to walk only six miles.

Mr Lionel Wall had the misfortune to damage his plane when trying to land on the side of a hill on his own Agate Downs property, but not so badly that he couldn't return to town with it.

Miss Joan Parson who has spent the greater part of her life in JC is returning to take up duties of teaching at the local school in the place of Mr M Kelly who has received a transfer to Dobyn. We expect to see her on Sunday's mail train.

[Lowe]

**26 Feb 1949 (p38, 490226, NQR)**

JC – Mr Stan Hornung when taking the mail out along the JC-Millungera run last Sunday struck a little trouble when the river came down after he had crossed it. His brother Jack went out in a utility and, using the flying fox to cross the river, brought back the mail from the various stations that Stan had already collected. Stan arrived back in town Saturday night just in time to take the mail out again on Sunday.

Water is still running over the crossing at Eastern Creek but not so deeply as to stop traffic. The Eddington waterhole is full once more so we will see picnic parties on its banks as soon as the flies die off a little.

A dance was held in Peut's Hall last Friday night in aid of the basketball club. There was a very good attendance and everybody had a lovely time, even though the heat was terrific.

Miss Joan Parsons arrived on Sunday morning's train. She is residing with her parents, Mr and Mrs J Parsons and will assist Mr McNickle in teaching the local scholars. Mr McNickle is looking very pleased with himself as he has been without assistance for a couple of weeks since the transfer of Mr Kelly.

**4 Mar 1949 (490304, CA)**

The town was greatly shocked at about 4 o'clock on Monday evening when the lovely home of Mr and Mrs George Peut was totally destroyed by fire and although the Council rushed the fire hose to the scene they had no chance of saving anything as a terrific wind was blowing. People living in the street at the back of the building were in great danger of their homes catching alight. Mr w Elliott's wood heap was burnt. Luckily the wind seemed to change at the right time. Our sympathy goes to mr and Mrs George Peut in their great loss of such a nice home.

**5 Mar 1949 (p34, 490305, NQR)**

JC – The JC Football Club held a swimming carnival in the pool on Sunday and gave a most enjoyable display of the sport to the public who had lined the banks. We have some fine swimmers in our midst. The lads put forth a good show. The cream of the afternoon however was when Nugget lost his French bathers – just as well the pool did not run dry at that particular time.

The women's race was a novel event. There were two contestants – one young miss, a much faster swimmer than the other, would swim a little way and then stop and wait for her opponent before continuing; and thus they raced the distance.

**11 Mar 1949 (490311, CA)**

Mr McMahon has purchased the butchershop owned by Mr Charlie Byrne. Mr McMahon will take over the business next week. The council has done good work in supplying the town with fresh beef.

**12 Mar 1949 (p20, NQ658, 490312, NQR)**

JC – Miss Cynthia Fickling has commenced duties as part-time telephonist at the JC Post Office. Mr and Mrs a Cooney of Auckland Downs arrived home by ANA last Monday. They were accompanied by their children. Mrs T Wall has just arrived in Melbourne on extended holidays.

The townspeople wish to express their sympathy to Mr and Mrs GL Peut who lost their home by fire last Monday. The fire broke out at 3.30 PM and carried out its work of destruction unnoticed until it was absolutely too late to save a thing in the roaring furnace. A terrific wind was blowing which fanned the flames and destroyed the building within an hour.

...48 mixed cattle were driven from Nelia Ponds to Balootha for Messrs Burns, Burns and Polgreen of Balootha...

We saw some very fine diving in the last swimming carnival but Bill Gerahty went one better. He nose dived from a bike and had to be attended to for abrasions to his face. We agree, Bill, that diving into the ground requires much more skill than diving into the water.

There is a fair amount of plaster of Paris around JC these days: Mrs Blanch has a broken foot, Mrs Brown of Kynuna, a broken leg, Mr Gibson a broken toe, and Mr Roy Pattison, of Bunda damaged his hand when cranking a motor car. Mr Lowe had to bring Roy into town in his plane on Friday.

**12 Mar 1949 (p? NQ657, NQR)**

**LARGE WATER TANKS IN THE FAR N WEST**

Two large water storage earth tanks have been laid on Rosevale – a Magoffin property – in the JC district. The total measurement of the two tanks is 122,000 cubic yards.

When Mr Richard Magoffin was in Townsville on Tuesday to chair a meeting of the Grazier's Association Cattle Committee meeting, he gave details of the two tanks to a "Register" representative.

"The larger tank," said Mr Magoffin, "is 66,000 cubic yards and the smaller 56,000 cubic yards."

The larger tank will impound [?]100,000 gallons of water and the smaller 9,000,000 gallons, explained Mr Magoffin.

When sinking the larger dam a depth of 46 to 47 feet was reached. The smaller the depth was [?] feet.

The tanks are from eight to nine miles apart, one of JC and the second on another stream. It is estimated that the water will fall about 12 feet per year.

This will give us an assured water supply for four years," concluded Mr Magoffin.

**19 Mar 1949 (p4, 490319, NQR)**

JC – Today the wedding of Miss Mary Cummins, daughter of Mr and Mrs VG Cummins and William James Brisbane, son of Mr and Mrs WJ Brisbane, was solemnised at the C of E. Brother Bale was in charge of the service. Mrs A Edwards sister of the bride was matron of honour; Misses Maris Brisbane and Joan Byrne, bridesmaids; and HV Brisbane carried out the duties of best man. A reception was held afterwards at Eckford's hall and a huge crowd as entertained. The happy pair took the train at night to spend their honeymoon in Brisbane.

The butcher shop belonging to CS Byrne is under offer of purchase. No finalisation has been reached just yet, but it seems certain that the business will change hands.

**1 Apr 1949 (490401, CA)**

The Common is looking fresh and green after eight inches of rain during the past week. The children were delighted when they found it had rained small fish that were three to three and a half inches long. The Creek runs a banker and was very wide and proved almost as popular as the beach. Many town folk walked the mile down on the railway line to see JC in flood. It has been quite a long time since it has run and was a novelty to many. The weather is very cool and winter will soon be with us.

Congratulations to Moran Byrne on the safe arrival of twin sons at the hospital. However, our sympathy goes to the young couple as one of the babes passed away in spite of all medical attention.

Wide spread regret at the sad passing at Cremona Station on Saturday of a well known old JC resident Mr Ted Bright. Owing to the state of the roads, Mr Lowe in his mercy plane went out and brought the body to town. As the runway was boggy Mr Lowe landed his plane on the ridge over JC. Deceased was carried to the railway line by willing helpers and brought to town. The funeral took place on Sunday morning and was largely attended.

**2 Apr 1949 (p45, NQ656, NQR)**

Max's TS ad for 2,000,000 cubic yards. Morty Knut's ad for 4,000,000 yards.

**14 Apr 1949 (490414, CA)**

Miss Rita Byrne has taken over the Blue Bird Cafe and has put in extra fittings and has made quite a nice change in the building and the shop is looking up to date.

**14 May 1949 (p33, NQ660, NQR)**

JC – Mr A Lowe, our local ambulance pilot, was called by the Cairns branch of that service early last Tuesday to fly to the assistance of a patient in the Cape York Peninsula, 60 miles north of Coen. Mr Lowe made a safe trip in his Tiger Moth and covered a distance of 1500 miles safely. During the short period of his service, Mr Lowe has established a reputation of skill and reliability and we are proud to know that he has now been called from as far away as Cairns to handle a case.

After a visit to Iffley on business, Mr LA Wall arrived back at JC after dark in his Tiger Moth aircraft. Sufficient motor cars gathered at the aerodrome in a short time and Mr Wall was then able to make a safe landing.

**27 May 1949 (490527, CA)**

Our congratulations go to two of our popular young town folk who have announced their engagement. Miss Marcella Blanch who is a Nursing sister at the hospital, to Mr Norman Downey only son of Mr and Mrs H Downey. Marcella is the fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs W Blanch, JC

**28 May 1949 (p3, 490528b, NQR)**

JC Drome in Poor Shape

JC, May 27 – The condition of the aerodrome at JC is very unsatisfactory and residents from time to time have made the necessary representations to the Department of Civil Aviation but to date without result.

A letter has been sent by Mrs Lowe, wife of Mr Arthur Lowe of this town, owner of a Tiger Moth who has been to the fore in special mercy flights as far as the centre of the Cape York Peninsula.

In her letter to the District Surveyor at Townsville, Mrs Lowe wrote that cattle are cutting deep tracks across the aerodrome. In addition there is a dairy close by with the cattle from that enterprise wandering over the airfield at will.

The McKinlay Shire Council has tried without success to secure barbed wire in order that the drome can be fenced off.

The letter from Mrs Lowe continued that of recent months a plane had been parked for the period of only one hour but when the owner came to continue his flight it was found that cattle had damaged portion of the wings. Fortunately an aircraft engineer was at hand and was able to repair the damage otherwise serious mishap might have occurred to the plane.

**28 May 1949 (p4, 490528a, NQR)**

Private Planes At JC

JC, May 27 –

This district boasts more privately owned aircraft than any district of similar size in this State if not the Commonwealth. A census of these privately owned planes this week disclosed that at least the following are in service:

Mr Arthur Lowe, the only commercial pilot in the area, has a Tiger Moth with which he has performed many mercy flights as well as several urgent personal hirings. Mrs Robert Green, of Ennis Downs, has a proctor which is used for travelling from end to end of that pastoral property. Morton Bros of Bundoran also are the possessors of a Proctor. Lionel A Wall, of JC, is also a Tiger Moth owner but has since procured a Fairchild.

At the present time Mr Arthur Lowe garage proprietor of JC has his plane in the south undergoing the annual overhaul.

**28 May 1949 (p5, 490528c, NQR)**

JC, May 27 – There is a possibility that JC may have electric light if negotiations which are taking place materialise. Last week, Mr Dowdell of the State electricity Commission visited the district with a view to bringing this amenity about.

Under present indication it appears that it may be possible through the wool scour at JC to secure the necessary power from that source. At the scour any power which is used is generated by steam. Additional machinery however is being added to the scour plant from the defunct scour at Carrar, near Richmond.

It is considered that sufficient plant may be installed at the JC scour which will be able to supply that activity with its need and at the same time supply the town of C. The scour is about 1.5 miles distant from the town.

When enquiries were made this week it was learned that if the plan fructifies the electricity undertaking will be conducted by the Mckinlay Shire. It is nor intended as far as can be gathered that there be a franchise granted to the owners of the scour.

**11 Jun 1949 (p23, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr LA Wall arrived back in JC during last week in his new plane, a Fairchild Monoplane. This aircraft was purchased at an auction sale for £2,500 and has a cruising speed of approximately 160 miles per hour.

**17 Jun 1949 (490617, CA)**

The sad passing of Mrs G Sills on Wednesday 8th at the JC Hospital aged 57 years cast quite a gloom over the town. Mrs Sills was well known and a highly respected resident of JC for many years. she was a devoted wife and mother and was a great worker and always ready to help others in need. Her kindly nature won for her a host of friends. Deceased had not been enjoying the best of health for sometime and went to Brisbane some twelve months ago where she underwent an operation. After coming home she entered the JC hospital where she received the greatest care and attention. Mrs sills before her marriage was Katherine Spence and is the longest resident in JC. She came to JC at the age of 16 years in company with Miss Lizzie Hourihan and Mrs Gillett. They travelled from Richmond in the open trucks as the line was then only as far as Richmond. Miss Hourihan opened the first hotel on the railway line in JC that was 41 years ago. Mrs Sills mother, Mrs A Graham, and family soon came to JC and made their home there to be with her daughter. Deceased leaves a grieving husband and daughter, Sylvia; Mr and Mrs Auger and daughter (Brisbane) and son George...

The cortege left the RC church. Father Deveraux read the last sad rites of the church. The pall bearers were Mr R Hampton, Mr Tom Graham, Mr J Walters, Mr L Adams. The funeral was largely attended as many relatives and friends paid their last respects to a grand lady and a great woman who was gently laid to rest.

**18 Jun 1949 (p44, 490618, NQR)**

JC – On Saturday last a benefit race meeting was held in aid of the C of E. This event was very successful and the racing was entertaining. Only 18 horses nominated but the acceptances in each event were such as to make the racing quite competitive and interesting. Nine bookmakers fielded and gate takings reached £75. Rex Halloran was again very successful and won a treble taking the maiden with Tony, the bracelet with Nolls Pick, and the last race with Lawnette. Our congratulations go to Rex for his success which is well deserved on account of the outlay necessary in racing his string of horses on each occasion.

On Friday night a successful ball was held. The Richmond Orchestra played and a very attractive supper was served by the Ladies Guild of the C of E. The door takings were £67. Again in Saturday night a race ball was held door takings amounting to £35. Both entertainments were welcomed by the young people of this district and all dancers certainly let themselves go on both nights. The good women of the ladies Guild led capably and calmly by Mrs McCarthy did a splendid job in providing a very dainty and tasty supper for each ball and in handling the afternoon tea at the races. The overall result should reach near the £300 mark.

### **2 Jul 1949 (p39, 490702, NQR)**

JC – The footballers are not as keen now as at the beginning of the season and Hughenden and Mt Isa have been notified that the local team will forfeit on account of lack of players. Coaching by an experienced player is very much required for there are quite a number of young and enthusiastic players here who would respond tremendously to guidance in the right direction. With this in view the club intends to build up its finances in order that such assistance will be available to local players next year.

### **8 Jul 1949 (490708, CA)**

Mr and Mrs Pollard and family left JC on Monday night's mail to make their home in CT. Mr Pollard and his two sons are Master carpenters and have lived in JC for the past 21 years and during that time he and his son built many of the nice homes in the town also many station homes. Pollard and sons will be greatly missed. Many friends wish Mr and Mrs Pollard the best of health and happiness in their new home.

Mr and Mrs J Harbutt and daughter Myrtle and son Donald left to make their home in Brisbane with their jockey son John who has purchased a very nice home for his parents. Harbutt family take with them the best of wishes from their many friends in JC.

### **9 Jul 1949 (p39, 490702, NQR)**

JC – Three high-priced rams were unloaded here one day last week and were bound for Mr Magoffin's property, Rosevale, near Kynuna. The average price was 500 guineas and the highest price paid for the best was 650 guineas. These well-bred animals came up from the famous NSW stud of Haddon Rig. Accompanying the rams were 200 stud ewes.

The dogger of the Flinders river dingo syndicate lodged 37 dingo scalps with the shire Council on Friday last, having destroyed these dogs in a month's operations. Only one of these was poisoned, the remainder being trapped. An interesting point is that nine dogs had three good legs only and two had three toes missing in front owing to previous trappings. The syndicate paid their bonus on 155 dingoes for the 12 months ending June 30 and outlayed in this respect an amount of £309 and wages £162.

The death occurred recently of Mrs G Sills at the local hospital. The deceased lady was well known in this district having arrived shortly after the railway was extended to this centre about 42 years ago. Mrs Sills is survived by her husband, son George, and married daughter Sylvia.

### **23 Jul 1949 (p32, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr Arthur Lowe has received word that he has now passed his Aircraft Engineer's examination. This entitles him to a license for aircraft maintenance in respect of Gypsy major engines. Mr Lowe, also carries a commercial pilot's license and a flying instructor's license. He has trained quite a number in the art of flying and has done a thorough job. At the present time Mr Green of Minamere, is under his tuition and is improving satisfactorily. Mrs Roberts, of Ennis Downs, gained her air knowledge from Mr Lowe, being his only woman pupil, and she flies now both a Proctor and a moth.

The town was visited by a travelling circus troupe last Saturday. There are quite a number of these

shows coming out through the west now.

### **3 Sep 1949 (p38, NA, NQR)**

JC – The grass-fed race meeting held at Sedan Dip in this district last Saturday was a great success and the superintendent, Mr H Benson, has to be congratulated on working up a very pleasant day's entertainment. Forty-four horses were sold through the yards and realised £103. The gate takings were £42 and the nett overall profit would be something similar to the figure realised last year at this time. Mrs F Murphy catered in excellent style for the crowd and a free dance was held at night under electric lights and on an open floor specially built for the occasion. The whole affair was something really different and the townspeople entered into the picnic spirit wholeheartedly. Country folk from all surrounding properties were present and a very pleasant time was spent.

### **9 Sep 1949 (490909, CA)**

At the English church, JC, on 22nd August, was the scene of very pretty wedding when Maris Winnifred, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W Brisbane said "I will" to Bryan Donald youngest son of Mr and Mrs Fels. The Rev Bro Bale performed the ceremony. Mrs Muir played the Wedding March. The radiant bride made a charming picture as she entered the church on the arm of her father... [\*\* readable, transcribe at home]

### **Dingoes or sheep?**

Each year more and more properties in Qld are selling their sheep. Quite recently Mr WJ Grimshaw, Burnham, disposed of all his big flock in favour of cattle. Figures show that the number of sheep in Qld at 31st March 1942 was 21, 267,000 but at 31 st March, 1949, there were only 16,743,000, a decrease of 8,650,000 in six years. On last year's wool selling price this means a loss to Qld of £36,000,000. A big loss indeed. If all this money can be made from sheep raising, the logical question then can be asked, why dispose of them?

The dingo is the main reason. All over Qld Local authorities employ doggers to assist in the destruction of the dingo menace. For the 10 months from 1st July 1948 to 30th April 1949, forty council doggers in Qld caught 2207 dogs. The number caught by person other than Council doggers was 18,544.

Recently the Qld Land Administration Board decided to erect a dingo barrier fence on the border. Most graziers favour this. The consensus of opinion is that dingo eradication in the sheep area cannot be achieved until such areas are protected from further infestation from adjoining cattle areas and from the uncontrolled breeding grounds in the NT and SA. However, once ingress to the sheep areas has been effectively prevented, the dogs inside the barrier will no doubt be cleaned up by all means available.

The proposed dingo fence is estimated to cost £450,000 and it will enclose lands carrying from 18 to 20 million sheep. Maintenance cost is estimated at £60,000 per annum which on a basis of 18 million sheep is less than one penny per sheep per annum.

Opinion is divided as to the effectiveness of the governments' aerial baiting campaign. While some shires consider that aerial baiting is doing a great deal towards the eradication of the dingo, others consider that the money expended would be better spent in the employment of more doggers and also for the raising of the dingo bonus to a larger sum than £1 as an incentive to independant trappers and Council doggers alike.

This month another extensive aerial baiting campaign will commence ... the results of this method are far below the results of the dogger's direct action method.

To use the colloquialism, 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating' ...

### **23 Sep 1949 (490909, CA)**

The Grand annual RC Debutante Ball held in Eckford's Hall on Friday night, 9th September, 1949, when seven pretty debutantes were presented to the right reb Monseignor McLaughlin of Townsville. The hall was decorated and the stage made a pretty setting showing curtains of coloured streamers, palm stands of fresh flowers of pretty light shade and dainty chairs. Steps to the centre of the stage were arrnaged with carpets white palings on each side was nicely arranged with fresh flowers. Mrs Noonan's orchestra (richmond) supplied bright music whilst Mr Moran Byrne made a capable MC.

At 9.30 the official party arrived and went on the stage. The party consisted of the Rev Monseignor McLaughlin, Rev Father Donavaon PP (Richmond), Rev Father Deveraux PP (JC), Mrs W Markwell (Matron of honour), Mrs Mullins (President), mr and Mrs Hickman. The MC over the loud speaker announced the names of each debutante and partner whilst the music was played by Mrs Noonan. The debts were received by Mrs markwell who presented them to Monseignor McLaughlin, each deb doing her courtsey in grand style. The Rev Father Devereux PP siad, "It was indeed a pleasure to have Monseignor McLaughlin who came from Townsville to attend the Ball as he ranks next to the Bishop who is away." Monseignor McLaughlin then addressed the debts and their partners also the gathering and said that he was very leased to be resent at such a grand ball as this and he could see the Father Devereux and is committee had done quite a lot of work. He congratulated the debts and partners and said how pretty they looked, wished them the best of luck and hoped they would have a happy time at the ball and he tahnked all who helped to make the ball the success it was. The full orchestra played "The Blue Danube Waltz" and the seven couples presented a pretty sight as they circled the hall gracefully. The debts were loudly clapped. The MC asked all to join in the waltz and it was a case of on with the dance.

The door takings were £104. The debutant frockes were as follows:

Miss Ivy Winton...  
Miss Adeline Peace  
Miss Ivy Burrows  
Miss Lavina Beauchamp  
Miss Irene O'Brien  
Miss Margaret Harrington  
Miss Joan Brennan

A table in the supper room was nicely arranged for the official party, debts and partners. The table carried many delicacies pride of place was the debts cake, this was made by Mrs J Parsons and was iced by Mrs G Peut. An excellent buffet supper was served by the ladies committee that was greatly enjoyed. Dancers tripped the light fantastic until the wee hours of the morning. Those who arranged this function should feel very proud of the great success.

#### **8 Oct 1949 (p34, NA, NQR)**

JC – Last week, Mr W McNickle, head master of the State School, organised a tennis tournament amongst the children. This took the form of singles for both girls and boys and each event was run under championship rules, without any handicaps. The girls singles championship was won after a close game by Claudette Green and the boys championship by Claude Wilder. The children had been practising for some time for the event and the tennis in the finals was proof that improvements had been made. These winners will be presented with a silver cup each.

The local branch of the Red Cross has been notified that a library has been forwarded for use by the patients and staff of the local hospital. This library will consist of a suitable cabinet and various types of books which have been covered with material which may be easily cleaned to keep the books in good order. The annual appeal by the local branch of the Red Cross has now been made and it is hoped that a good response will come from residents of this shire.

#### **15 Oct 1949 (p42, NA, NQR)**

JC – The hospital has the services of three foreign girls who have come from Hong Kong [actually Shanghai]. Since we have already about half a dozen migrants from Europe working for the Shire Council it seems that outside labour of this variety is necessary. Mr W McNickle has added these interesting pupils to his class and now has the task of teaching English to these three young ladies as well as men working for the Council. [McNickle had a few months previously been to Townsville to do a course on teaching immigrant – from Lena].

#### **29 Oct 1949 (p47, 491029, NQR)**

JC – Misses Pat and Dorothy Downey came home for a few days from Range College in Rockhampton to be present at the marriage of their brother Norman to Miss Marcella Blanch. This wedding took place on Friday and the whole function was very happy. The bride and bridegroom spend their honeymoon in Cairns and on the Atherton Tableland.



#### **4 Nov 1949 (491104, CA)**

A very pretty wedding of great interest took place at the RC Church, JC, on the 21st October 1949. The Rev Father Devereux PP performed the ceremony when Marcella Florence third daughter of Mr and Mrs W Blanch, JC, said "I will" to Norman Leslie, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Horace Downey, JC. Miss A Keenan played the wedding march and during the signing of the register Mrs Mullins sweetly rendered "Ave Maria". The dainty bride made a charming picture as she entered the church on the arm of her father who gave her away. The pretty bridal gown was of white water-waved taffeta...

The bride was attended by a charming bridesmaid Miss Coral Eckford who was prettily attired in...

The bridegroom was assisted by the bride's brother, Mr John Blanch as best man. The reception was held in Eckford's Hall where Mrs Blanch entertained some 250 guests and she was assisted by the bridegroom's mother Mrs Downey.

Mrs Blanch chose a very pretty ...

Mr Jim Parsons as Chairman and in his usual bright manner kept everyone happy...

During the evening solos were rendered by Sgt Cooke, Wikkie Wilkins, Bob Smith. Community singing was enjoyed and never was there such a happy wedding. Both the contracting parties were very popular. Marcella was a sister at the local hospital for many years and Norman had been employed by Mr Lance Lewis firm prior to joining the AIF and when war ended came home and took up his old position with Mr Lewis. The happy young couple received many costly gifts and cheques. Mr and Mrs Downey left by plane to honeymoon in Townsville and Cairns and will return and make their home in JC.

#### **5 Nov 1949 (p8, NQ661, NQR)**

Migrants Ordered Back to JC Jobs

Brisbane, 3 Nov – Eight migrants were today ordered by the Commonwealth Employment Services Regional director (Mr E Laws) to return to work at JC.

The migrants, seven Poles and one Ukrainian, had refused to work for the McKinlay Shire Council claiming that the climate was too hot. They left their employment and travelled to Brisbane where they were interviewed by Commonwealth Employment officers. Mr Laws warned the migrants that if they did not return to work at JC they would be turned over to the Commonwealth migration authorities.

Mr Calwell had warned that migrants who did not honour their contracts would be returned to Europe.

#### **No Excuse.**

In his statement, Mr Calwell said, "Heat would be no excuse for the release of any fit person from a contract to work where required in Australia for two years."

Mr Calwell stated that more than 700 new settlers were working, many for their second season, in North Qld canefields under much more trying conditions. Many others were doing good work in Central and Western Qld.

Migrants who completed their second season in the sugar cane industry would be released from their two-year contract he said. Mr Calwell advised migrants who had been in Australia for 12 months to apply for naturalisation.

#### **Passed 100 Mark**

The McKinlay Shire Chairman, Mr WM Allison, said tonight that the migrants gave notice when the afternoon temperature passed the 100° mark twice within a few days.

"It was a dry heat, and not unduly severe," he said. Until then their work had been satisfactory and their behaviour had always been good.

Mr Allison said the migrants had been doing pick and shovel road work for the Council. When they refused to work the Council cancelled an order for six more migrants.

We want them or other migrants if we are to complete our road construction programme, Mr Allison said.

**12 Nov 1949 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC – The migrant workers, who had played truant for a few days down as far as Brisbane, arrived back on the job with the McKinlay Shire Council on Sunday morning. JC citizens are pleased that they chose to return here rather than go back to Europe, for the sake of civic pride, if nothing else.

The library for the hospital, kindly supplied by the Red Cross of Brisbane, has been installed at the hospital, and our matron expressed appreciation for its arrival since there had never been a library cabinet of the nature supplied which would enable her to keep books safely locked away when unused.

Just at the present moment, the affairs of the hospital are in the thoughts of all residents for it is the determined endeavour of the Nurses Bonus Fund Committee to assist the hospital staff in a material way by giving a substantial bonus. For this reason, donations are being solicited and a race meeting will be held here on Saturday to augment funds. We feel sure that all will assist this very worthy local cause which does affect everybody.

**3 Dec 1949 (p42, NA, NQR)**

JC – On Sunday next, two JC teams go out to the twenty-mile to play two country teams. Tales have leaked through that the country players have been practising regularly and hope to produce very stiff opposition for the town teams. The day out should prove very enjoyable and all players are looking forward to the game.

Mr A Lowe had the misfortune to crash his plane while on an ambulance trip to Townsville and much damage was done to the aircraft. Mr Lowe escaped serious injury. The plane had been used to a great extent in ambulance work during the wet weather when the ambulance car could not travel and on more urgent cases where time counted. For this reason a committee has been formed in an endeavour to have the plane replaced or repaired so that Mr Lowe may carry on with such good work. It will be remembered that he was called by the Cairns Ambulance to fly to the aid of an injured miner up as far as Coen in Cape York peninsula. The flight was made safely.

**10 Dec 1949 (p47, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr AR Cooney has added a stud bull to his property. This cost in the vicinity of 350 guineas so the strain on Auckland should benefit from this new arrival.

An old resident of the town, Mr JP Ahearn, has sold his carrying business and home and has leased the Nelia Hotel which he takes over on 1st January.

At the Brisbane wool sales during last week the local woolscour created a record in the sale of a scoured line when the Milgerry wool sold for 148 3/4d per lb. This is an Australasian record, we understand, and Mr J Cameron must be congratulated on his achievement in treating a choice line so excellently. The wool broker handling the Milgerry clip commented very favourably on the work of the woolscourers on this occasion. It is pleasant to note also that scoured wool was selling so well at this sale for the presence of the woolscour has substantial influence on the life of this town.

On Sunday two cricket teams went to the 20-mile to do battle with the country teams. The wind was a little strong and the playing fields were very dusty but what can you expect in this west? The second town team had a comfortable victory winning by an innings and 80 runs; Les Adam and Arthur Lowe getting amongst the runs and Charlie Peet seemed unplayable and was the main destroying agent amongst the bowlers. The town first team also won by the narrow margin of nine runs. For the country who made 171 runs, W Barker scored 85 not out and F McDermott compiled nicely 50 runs. W McNickle again rattled up top score for the town getting 75, and Ced Hely scoured a fast 50 and bagged 5 wickets. The day was enjoyed by all and arrangements will be made to repeat the games.

**17 Dec 1949 (p4, NA, NQR)**

JC – The local entertainment Committee produced a great Christmas tree heavily laden with gifts on Friday night at Peut's hall, to which the children came from miles around. The toys on the tree were by no means paltry ones, and Santa (our one and only "Chips") with the very excellent help of his offsider ("Nugget") did a great job in distributing them to the kiddies. The older children – from 10 to 14 years

– were given lovely books with which they were well pleased. The tree, beautifully decorated with balloons, tinselling, and the colours of the many toys, was really a credit to the people responsible and the kiddies thought it wonderful.

After the presentations were over Santa wended his way to the hospital to see little Valma Fayers who is at present an inmate. The Mills-McDonald orchestra then struck a chord and the dancing commenced with a spot-waltz for the kiddies. A very small couple, Master Billy Hodgetts and his charming partner, Miss Sharyn Henry, were the lucky ones and received a box of jigsaw puzzles and a dolly's set, which were kindly donated by Mrs Harstorff of McKinlay.

Mr John Elliott had his first trip on his newly acquired mail run on Sunday and he and his family will now take up residence in JC.

### **31 Dec 1949 (p41, NA, NQR)**

JC, 27 Dec – Once more the sky presents a cloudless surface so it looks as though we have seen the last of the rain for a while. The beginning of last week looked very unpromising for a fine Christmas but after drizzling on and off for a few days the rain cleared off leaving behind a fine but very hot Christmas Day. Boxing Day saw quite a number of picnic crowds finding their way out to Eddington – our nearest waterhole – to swim, play games and really have a jolly time.

There were a few minor mishaps during the past week. The three mailmen all left the post office to do their runs on time but certainly never returned on schedule – in fact one is not back yet, but is expected home in the next day or so. One of the council lorries broke an axle so the men had to catch the lorry-mail from McKinlay to Gilliat, where they were picked up by Mr A Fayers who had returned to get his lorry which he had also had to leave in the channels a few miles the other side of the Gilliat. He was now driving home and also towing the council's utility which had broken down a little further on whilst on its way out with a new axle to fix the lorry.

Another gang of council men are held up at Kalmata as all the creeks in that district filled up after the recent rains and became impassable.

The local ice works had its share of misfortune as well when on Thursday the engine just literally blew itself to pieces. It looked as though JC would have a very warm Christmas with no ice in the town but all the folks rallied round to see what could be done. Mr Stainkey loaded his tractor and with sundry other loaned items, and different men hopping in to give a hand with manual parts, everything was in order by Saturday afternoon. Mr Brisbane and his son Bert stayed up all night making ice for Christmas Day.

The cold room at the local hospital is still on strike and refuses to go without its supply of ethyl chloride which appears very hard to obtain.

The Ahern family have returned home from holidays in time to start work as they take over the Nelia Hotel this week.

Christmas Eve was chosen as the happy time for Mr McDonald and Miss Betty Beauchamp to announce their betrothal.

### **1 Jan 1950 (Ivers Ad, CA)**

#### **HJ Ivers**

JC

Fibre Beds made and repaired by an expert all fibre teased by the latest teasing machine. Kapoc pillows, pillow slip and mattress covers.

Can supply small tables for shearers' accommodation. All kinds of shearing machinery repaired. Also new sheep hurdles.

#### **Graziers**

Why pay freight on tons of foreign matter?

Average clips contain from 40 to 60 percent of

Yolk, Grease, Dust and Sand

Have it removed close to home and increase your returns

with a more attractive product and lower freight charges.

Facilities exist for the treatment of all classes of fleece wool and skirtings including muddy, blown, dead and dag wool

Consign your wool to  
Edkins Marsh and Co Ltd  
JC and Ilfracombe

#### **6 Jan 1950 (500106, CA)**

Christmas went off well in our town. Many homes were decorated and Christmas trees were laden with toys. an added attraction for children was Santa Claus who arrived by car ringing his bell, Christmas morning, and visited many homes, arranged by Mrs Bradford and Santa Claus was played by Garney Evans. Many visitors attended the pictures then made their way to attend the midnight mass. One young lady wcharmingly attired in white, celebrated her first communion. The choir was heard at its best. After Mass Father Devereux extended Christmas greetings to all.

Miss Alma Gannon arrived home by Friday's plane to spend christmas holidays with her parents Mr and Mrs W Gannon.

#### **7 Jan 1950 (p43, NA, NQR)**

Samuel Allen ad

#### **14 Jan 1950 (p16, NQ001, NQR)**

Ad for All Souls

#### **21 Jan 1950 (NA)**

P2: Wool experts predicted that Australia's cheque for this season's clip will exceed £220,000,000. Last season's cheque was for the record figure of £194,600,000. Price records were smashed at Thursday's wool sales. Greasy merino advanced 12d to a new season's record price of 173d. An 11-1/2d rise in the top price for comeback also created a new record at 128d. The market continued to harden and many lines rose a further five percent on the previous days levels. since the sales opened on Monday, prices generally have advanced 30 percent on last season's rates.

P4: The Federal basic wage in Brisbane will be increased by 2/- to £6/7/- from the first pay period in February. The rise is the result of living increases during the last quarter of 1949.

P4: JCN

Just after midday yesterday the rains commenced in earnest and continued on throughout the night until midday today. The local registration was 660 points for the two days. The whole district has benefited by substantial falls and the rain has been ideal, coming on steadily all through. With the rains coming late last season and the early storms late last year, this present soaking will bring a bloom to the grasses throughout the country hereabouts and provide a thick body of herbage which will provide feed for stock for many months ahead.

The livestock market is comparatively quiet although several lines of sheep have changed hands at good prices.

Many holiday makers left us here to get away from the heat of the west for a short period. Mr & Mrs Downey and daughter Pat and Dot, A & H Stainkey, Mrs & Mrs G Evans and "Wick" Wilkins all sallied forth towards Yeppoon on Friday last. "Mannie" Sills and family set out for the coast air last week and expect to stop around about Mackay. Mrs Green and daughters went along on Saturday morning to join Mr Jack Green at Arcadia for a short holiday near the Pacific.

The drift from these western areas to the coast and cities still goes on. Mr Joe Fels has sold his business to George Peut and will seek fresh fields on the coast. Sid Johnson and family have taken themselves to Townsville to reside. Joe Tunny of the Nelia Hotel for many years has now taken over the Shamrock Hotel in Townsville. Mr Chappel, migrant from England, has given up his work at the woolscour and has taken his family to Toowoomba. There was no scope for his growing family in the way of learning trades here in the west.

The RC Church building looks quite fresh with a new coat of paint. The work was carried out mainly by Rev Father Devereaux who braved the perils of a long rickety ladder in order to reach the top most portions of the building. Ted Mullins was an able off sider.

**28 Jan 1950 (p16, NQ002, NQR)**

St Mary's Ad

**28 Jan 1950 (p16, NA, NQR)**

Two hundred thousand persons, mostly of British origin will migrate to Australia during 1950, the Minister for Immigration (Mr Holt) told the Australian Citizenship Convention today. He appealed to all Australian to work and strive for a population of 10,500,000 by 1960.

Outlining the Government's plans for immigration during the year, Mr Holt said great importance was attached to ensuring that British migration was placed first and foremost. This would enable Australians to maintain her present balance of population as a British community. "In order to maintain that proportion we must keep a proper balance of migration and see the British element predominates."

Another point made by Mr Holt was that in 1950 a total of 70,000 Britons would be brought out under the assisted passages scheme. Thirty seven thousand of these would be cared for by the Commonwealth and 33,000 by the states.

**4 Feb 1950 (p41, NA, NQR)**

p41: The basic wage for adult males has increased 56 percent in 10 years, and for adult females 81 percent. The basic wage at that time was £4/4/- and £2/5/- for males and females respectively. the present rates is £6/11/- for adult males and £4/1/6- for females.

p47: JC News – Mr Lionel A Wall advises that he is studying for his commercial pilot's license, and has now received information that he has passed one of his papers. Lionel does quite a bit of flying and is very keen.

Mr Arthur Lowe advises that he will be replacing his ambulance plane in a short while and that he will be going to Maryborough to take delivery of his new aircraft. The further operation of this air-ambulance will be welcomed in this district where roads are impassable when the wet season bears down on us. Mr Lowe is at present being tutored in the art of first aid and other ambulance work by the local superintendent, Mr Harry Benson who states that he expects his pupil to receive his certificate shortly. We understand that there are no other cases where the ambulance bearer flies his own machine when attending a patient. This will be quite an achievement for JC and a credit to Mr Lowe's industry and enthusiasm in absorbing the knowledge.

The golf club house has been commenced and there now remain only the walls to be set up. As soon as the material is available the building will be completed without much delay. The golfers are to be congratulated for their keenness and it looks as if a further successful season will be experienced again this year.

Mr Lance Lewis and Roy Hampton have taken advantage of the presence of a capable sign writer and their large striking signs have been freshened up. This repainting makes the appearance of the buildings much more interesting.

Bryan Fels arrived by TAA plane on Friday to pay a short visit to his brother Joe. He returns to Brisbane before very long.

**11 Feb 1950 (p4, NA, NQR)**

p4:

8 Feb – The Prime Minister (Mr Menzies) said tonight that Cabinet had approved the proposal to pay 5/- a week to the first or only child under 16 years in each family.

The Minister for Social Services (Mr Spooner) said it was estimated 450,000 families would benefit under the new plan in addition to 640,000 families at present receiving endowment.

p9:

8 Feb – The Prime Minister, Mr R G Menzies, announced in a national broadcast tonight the immediate abolition of petrol rationing in Australia. Mr Menzies said the Australian government had satisfied itself that in Australia the rationing of petrol could safely be removed without any fears of inadequate supplies or of evil consequences in terms of dollars.

**17 Feb 1950 (500217, CA)**

When Alex Wall of Agate Downs was driving with his wife and two young children between Selwyn and Kuridala about midday on tuesday, he found the river crossing too deep for his Jeep so left it and his family on the bank while he went for assistance to get the jeep across the stream. When he returned to the site to his dismay he found the river had flooded totally submerging his vehicle and what was worse there was no sign of his family. A search was immediately instituted and the mother and her toddler and babe in arms were found marooned on an island strip b one of the search party. The marooned party was taken to safety and spent the night on some rocks near the channel. Early next morning Mr Wall swam the flooded stream in search of food as the whole party had not eaten since Tuesday breakfast time and plus the night spent in exposure to rain and cold did not assist the general health of the children. After Mr Wall returned the party had to wait until yesterday morning for the river to go down sufficiently to allow them to cross the railway bridge and proceed to Mr Sid Butler's home where they were restored to comfort.

[500217b is a photo of the heading for dingo story]

One of Cloncurry district's remaining sheep graziers has this to say about dingoes:

Aerial baiting is a farce and every sheepman in north-west qld considers it as such. Nearly forty thousand pounds of grazier's moneys has been thrown away, or rather flown away in aerial baiting with absolutely no evidence of any dog being poisoned by a bait dropped from the air.

Aerial baiting is just a spectacular Hollywood stunt, backed up by propaganda to gull the general public. But it does not and will not gull the sheepman. these Queen St experts are not trying something new on us in the bait line as brisket fat baits were first sent out to this district and used here in the early thirties and were tried by practically every sheepman in the dingo infested area. They were found to be unattractive to the wild dog and an experienced dogger would not use them.

I have laid over twenty cases of prepared fat baits in the hills on my property and I have not known of one dingo to be poisoned by them. But I have seen where they have been trodden into the dirt by dingoes as they walked their pads. If discriminate poisoning cannot produce good results then how can indiscriminate poisoning, which aerial baiting undeniably is, prove effective?

Where are the aerial scavengers - the hawks - that patrolled our town and district in thousands before the aerial baiting campaign came west? It may only be supposition but it is ironically coincidental that they should disappear completely soon after and since that time. Maybe they devoured the 'succulent morsel' instead of the dingo doing so.

We all learned the saying 'prevention is better than cure' at some time or other and we have also learned how true the saying can be. Let us apply it to the dingo question.

[dingo fences:]

The only practical method of dealing with the nation wide menace, effectively and permanently is by direct destruction. If the dingo won't kill himself by eating fatty baits or walking into spring traps then he will have to be pursued and poisoned with lead from the barrel of a rifle. This can be done and would be done if the price per scalp was made attractive enough... five pounds or more per scalp sold be paid by the Board for the destruction of this menace to its complete eradicaion and until the seriousness of the sheep grazing position can be viewed by the powers that be, through the same eyes as those of the sheep grazier, it would appear as if the dingo is ever to remain with us.

The prevention of the dingo menace is to shoot and kill the brute not to fence him in or out whichever you like.

**18 Feb 1950 (p28, NA, NQR)**

Population of McKinlay Shire, 1933 - 1899; 1947 - 1633

**25 Feb 1950 (NA, NQR)**

p6:

JC News

During the last week we had several good falls of rain which usually came at night. In all seven and a half inches of rain fell in the township and all the surrounding district benefited substantially. During the whole of the week due to washaways of the railway line, no trains came or went from here and we were without mails or papers. The first train arrived on Friday night. The rainfall was a record for February and the creeks reached record heights. JC on Wednesday rose very high and almost reached the railway line level at the bridge.

Mr Arthur Lowe has assisted country folk to obtain supplies by way of his aeroplane. He has been busy since he was able to take off from a claypan just out of town. Mr FA Hickman was his first passenger to Cloncurry where he contacted with the TAA plane going south through the west.

Several shearing teams have been held up throughout the rain. Mr Braithwaites shearers were to start at Toorak last Monday but were unable to get out to the job. Arthur Fayers team just finished at Spreyton when the wet set in and these men are waiting to start further duties.

Graziers hereabouts are pleased with the good rains received. The JC woolscour treated a line of Winchester Downs for Mr Scarr to sell for 163d. These are good prices and it is possible that these may be improved upon as the sales go on.

Mr PJ Byrne returned on Sunday morning from Townsville. Mr Roy Stainkey is back after a few weeks spent in Brisbane.

p16: St Mary's Ad

p23: Longreach, Feb 19

A plague of "hairy" rats in the next few months has been forecast for Longreach.

The rats are called "hairy" because of the long wiry black hairs, mostly white tipped and two inches long on the hindquarters. The plague forecast was made by the Longreach Shire Council Health Inspector after he had caught some in the town area. The rats are plentiful in the district when their natural feed dries off they are expected to invade the town.

Longreach had its last infestation in 1942, when it was not safe to leave any sort of leather article within reach of the rats, which ate the leather from one saddle at night.

**4 Mar 1950 (p44, NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr Arthur Lowe has been very busy since the rain relaxed and has carried supplies to various country areas by way of his Tiger Moth aircraft. The trips undertaken by Mr Lowe during last week were: to Balootha (twice) for fencing contractor and employee; to Tarbax to convey the Manager Mr Oates to JC Hospital for treatment on account of his being kicked by a horse; to Jackton to pick up Miss Betty Markwell who wished to catch the train from JC to Townsville; and to various stations in the district carrying supplies to tide over until the mail service was renewed. The people of this district are fortunate in having such a reliable service available at all times and it only in emergency times as now that the importance of this work is appreciated.

During last week's wool sales in Brisbane the local woolscour was in prominence inasmuch as it treated a line of wool grown by Messrs Wharton Bros. of Kamarooka which sold for 172-1/2 d per pound. This was the highest scoured price of the sale and constituted an Australian record. The woolscour has obtained consistently good prices for all wool treated by the machines at their works.

On Sunday morning about 11 o'clock a home owned by Mr WT Elliott of Cremona was destroyed by fire. The house was occupied by Mr M Ditchmen and family who were visiting at Sergeant Cook's home when the fire broke out. The home was a total loss even though the fire hose was brought to the scene without delay. Luckily the wind was blowing away from adjacent houses otherwise much damage would have been done to the place next door occupied by Mrs G Horton.

Since the big rains property owners are being troubled by the appearance of flies amongst their sheep flocks and these need constant attention. Also, several rats have been noticed in town. There it would seem are coming in again in the wake of the good season as they did on the occasion of a similar good season in the past.

**7 Mar 1950 (p? NQ006, NQR)**

JC, Mar 7– (Delayed by floods) The weather has been hot and cloudy from last Tuesday and on Friday we had a very sultry day until late afternoon when a wind began to blow off storms nearby ... On Saturday night about 30 points of rain were registered and on Monday night the rain again commenced quietly with about 30 points falling all through that night. However, today it came in earnest and has continued all day giving the countryside slow soaking rain.

Since the last heavy wet the pastoralists have been troubled to a great extent by the blowflies which have been amongst their flocks striking the sheep in no uncertain way. Property owners have been giving this menace the closest attention and crutching has been carried out by some graziers. The rain now falling will increase the activities of this pest and the sheep will require constant watching.

The local football club is endeavouring to stir up interest in this sport again this year and there have been meetings of those keen on the game. Mr Jack Green has been appointed secretary and it is hoped that enthusiasm will grow as the season advances. A meeting of the NW Qld Rugby League has been called for March 13 and will be held at this centre. the League functioned successfully during last season and close the period with a credit balance of £87.

Mr and Mrs HW Downey have returned to JC after seven enjoyable weeks on Yeppoon's beaches.

Ard Cooney and Bob Smith returned to their station properties during this last week. They made successful excursions on the gold courses and race tracks while in Brisbane. Mr Cooney has again returned to Brisbane after checking on the position at his property, Auckland Downs.

Messrs A. Stainkey, G Evans and H Stainkey have returned to the district from holidays spent in Yeppoon and are now busy amongst the Stainkey flocks in an endeavour to prevent losses from the blowfly.

**11 Mar 1950 (p2, NA, NQR)**

Winton township was inundated on Friday and at least a dozen families were evacuated from their homes to higher ground.

The flood exceeded by a few inches the record level of 1922 and was the sequel to heavy rain over the 24 hours. Six inches were recorded in Winton but the rain was much heavier towards Corfield.

**18 Mar 1950 (22, NA, NQR)**

(Delayed by floods)

JC, Mar 7 – Since the last heavy wet the pastoralists have been troubled to a great extent by the blow flies which have been amongst their flocks striking the sheep in no uncertain way. Property owners have been giving this menace the closest attention and crutching has been carried out by some graziers. The rain now falling will increase the activities of this pest and the sheep will require constant watching.

**24 Mar 1950 (500324, CA)**

Known and highly respected by everyone in JC and district, Mrs Matilda Alice Harriet Graham was laid to rest in the JC cemetery on Monday last, after having been in indifferent health for the past few months. She was conveyed to the hospital on Wednesday last from her son's residence where she had lived for many years and although expert medical treatment was administered, she failed to respond and passed away peacefully on Sunday evening. with one exception all her own family were at her bedside at the time of her passing.

Deceased had lived forty-three of her seventy five years in JC and had the distinction of being the town's old resident. During those forty three years, Gran as she became affectionately known, made a host of friends who will much regret her passing. Not only was she a most devoted mother but a good friend to all. In years gone past this grand old lady rode many a mile on horse back to act as midwife



on a distant selection or grazing property. She spent many hours assisting people in distress and always declared her life had been kept bright by being surrounded by children and young folk.

Born in Coonambie, NSW to the Jenkins family, deceased was twice married and reared a family of five daughters and three sons. Two daughters Florence and Esther, having predeceased her. The cortege left the home of Mr Roy Hampton at 4 o'clock and in the unavoidable absence of Rev Bro Bale? the last rite were read by Mr J Parsons. Pall bearers were Messrs Johnston, Ryder, L Adams, T Graham, T Willett and D Willett. many floral tributes and condolence message were received.

Deceased is survived by ...

## **25 Mar 1950 (NA, NQR)**

p22:

JC, Mar 14 – It has been a very wet week and everybody has had enough of it. There is mud everywhere and this has made the usual duties irksome. The butchers, Messrs Wall and McMahon have worked extra hard to get the necessary meat from the killing yards the road to which was only accessible by way of tractor with trailer for the transport of the meat.

The rain commenced a week previous to yesterday and has continued without much respite since then. The total registration has been over 6 inches making a total of over 22 inches since January. Last night a heavy storm appeared just before sundown and although it was of short duration the registration was one inch. This seemed to be the clearing shower everybody was looking for and when dawn broke today the rain appeared to have gone. However conditions which have developed during the day seem to favour more rain and no doubt we are not finished with the wet yet.

The trains are operating from Cloncurry only and we have been without mails and papers for some days now. The air service can operate only by way of Cloncurry from which centre any mails may be brought here by train. The country mails are of course at a standstill and the roads to these areas will be impassable for some time yet. A heavy fall of five inches at McKinlay last night will no doubt rise the Gilliat channels and stop rail traffic to and from Cloncurry.

A very long term resident of JC Mrs Graham passed away at the local hospital on Sunday night. Mrs Graham came to JC in the very early days and raised a large family. The burial took place on Monday and was hampered by the rain and heavy roads. To the relatives we extend our sympathy.

The Peter Dawes family returned from Brisbane during last week by way of the mail plane service from Cloncurry.

p43: JC Mar 21 – The rain terminated during last week with small showers on Tuesday night and Wednesday. Since then we had had fine weather and the streets have gradually dried to allow the usual traffic about town.

The local woolscour has again commenced operation to treat a good quantity of wool. This is being done so that an early sale may be had for the wool. The recent rain will have held up quite a bit of shearing and until this is again under way the main seasonal run at the scour will not start.

Crutching is going on at several places. The Stainkey brothers are cleaning up their sheep at St Elmo, Argyle, and Belgravia. Messrs Hickman Bros are crutching at Dalkeith, Mr Lynch is doing the Rosevale flocks for Mr R Magoffin. Where shearing is not necessary all sheep in this district will be crutched to combat the operations of the blowfly pest.

The football Club are advertising for three paid players for their League. The fee for each player will be £5 per week and the club will find suitable employment for each. It is hoped that these three will form the nucleus of a strong team to compete in the B grade competition for the season.

On Sunday night last we were serviced by our first mail and good trains from Townsville end for night on a fortnight. The event was hailed with great joy and great bundles of mail and papers were waiting for attention on Monday.

The death occurred at the local hospital on Sunday 12th March of Mrs Matilda Alica Harriet Graham at

the age of 75 years. Born at Coonamble in NSW, Mrs Graham arrive at JC in its infancy 43 years ago. During her lifetime in this town Ms Graham watched her family grown to manhood and womanhood. The family consisted of five daughters: Florence and Esther who predeceased the mother, and Elizabeth, Grace and Gladys; and three sons, Charlie, Barnie and Thomas. Mrs Graham also assisted to a great extent in the upbringing of her two sons families, consisting of six girls and one boy. The deceased was always noted for her kindness to children no matter who they were and in the early days of JC rode many a mile on numerous occasions to attend to sick mothers and others requiring help. Three sons, three daughters, 19 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren remain to mourn the loss of the grand old lady. The sons are Mr C Spence, Bundaberg, Mr B Graham, Townsville and Mr T Graham, JC; the daughters are Mrs E Walters, JC, Mrs Grace Young, Townsville and Mrs R Hampton JC.

### **31 Mar 1950 (500331, CA)**

Sock Socked, While Ticker Ticked  
Wall gets verdict in assault case

When you see the pseudonym either "Boocie", "Ticker", "The Pope", or "Sock" the attachment is being made to one of the Macnamara boys of Mt Tracey selection near Kuridala. Boocie is Lewis Michael, Ticker is Brian, The Pope is Owen, and Sock is Anthony John.

Alexander George Henry Wall, manager of Agate downs, Kuridala, called at the police station in Cloncurry on the afternoon of 19th Jan last and told Constable Magoffin that he had been assaulted the day before in the good old fashioned way and for good measure had received a few blows across the back and one on the side of the napper from the handle of a stock whip. He named the Macnamara brothers as the culprits, and as a consequence, Brian and Owen macnamara appeared before Mr JP Donlevy in the court of Petty Sessions, Cloncurry, on the 2nd March charged with unlawfully assaulting one Alexander George Henry Wall on Agate Downs on 18th January 1950.

Mr S Johnson appeared for defendants. Senior Sgt Quinn prosecuted.

Constable Joe Magoffin gave evidence of Wall calling at the Cloncurry poice sstation on the afternoon of 19th January, 1950 where he noticed Wall had his head bandaged as well as having several large bruises across his shoulders. Wall told him something and as a consequence in company with Constable Pashen he went to Agate Downs on 20th January where Wall pointed out certain marks and blood stains on the ground. He had examined the marks which indicated a struggle had taken place. He had gone to Mt Tracey homestead where he had independant interviews with defendants and their father, Brian Macnamara, had told him he did not know how Wall got the cut on his head.

Johnson: There were only small stones in the gully and although he had a good look he had failed to find any large stones in the gully with blood on them.

Wall: I am a married man with two children and live on Agat Downs property, Kuridala. I am manager of that property. On Monday 16th january, I visited Joe Tunny's Post Office for mail and while i was there i had a conversation with Boocie Macnamara. An argument took place and he assaulted me. I had to defend myself. A few minutes later he called out to me and whn I went outside I saw him and his father there. He again attacked me. I retaliated and knocked him down. He got up and walked away but returned a few minutes later with Sock and Ticker. Ticker called out: "Wall you dingo, come out here." I walked out to where they wee and their father also joined them from the car. Ticker said:

"What's the idea of hitting Boocie?"

"He swung a punch on me"

"Boocie doesn't owe you any money. I know he paid you."

I called him a liar then he swung a punch on to me connecting the side of my face. I hopped into him and after a bit he fell to the ground. Sock was behind me and I said to him: "You keep out of this." By this time Ticker had got to his feet and we carried on the fight. He fell to the ground again and said "I've had enough" as I stepped back I received a punch in the ribs from behind. I don't know who struck me it might have been either Boocie or his father.

I then sat on the bed of Tunny's verandah and Old Mac sat on a chair a short distance away. Ticker,

Sock and Boocie also came on the verandah and Boocie said: "Wall, you have been in this country long enough, you had better get out and make it quick." Hearing this I said to Mac: "Well Mac, it has come to this. You had better shift all your stock out of the company paddock." This paddock forms a portion of Agate Downs where Macnamaras had been given permission 15 years ago to graze their horses. They had never paid any agistment fee and prior to this occasion had always been on very friendly terms.

On the 18th January, two day later, Henry Baxter [not the Harbutt Henry Baxter], Kevin Mykiel and myself left the homestead on horseback to go to the company paddock to get the colts that we wanted to break in and also to see if Mac had shifted his horses. The paddock is about twelve miles wide by five miles long. When we entered the paddock we separated. Kevin and I later joined up and we saw 13 head of horses belonging to Mac. We picked them up and drove them about a mile to the gate and put them on to Mac's Property.

After that we sat down underneath a tree, which is about fifteen yards from the gate on Agate Downs, and had a smoke. About half an hour later Mac and his three sons, Ticker, Sock and The Pope, came over from the direction of their home. I went over to the gate and spoke to Mac and said to him: "Are all your horses here?" he said "No, there are five more away."

They were all seated on their horses at the time. I said to him: "Well we will go and get them", and they all rode through the gate. I said to Kevin: "You go with these chaps and give them a hand to get their horses." I got on my horse and went to ride away and old Mac asked me where I was going. I said I was going to ride up around the fence and he said he would come with me and we rode away together. We had gone about half a mile when Ticker galloped up and I said to him: "Where do you think you're going?" He said he was going to follow me. I said to him: "We don't need you, you had better go and find your horses." Old Mac told him he had better go then Ticker galloped away.

Mac and I rode the fence for about five miles when we met up with Kevin and The Pope. We rode for about a mile together and then The Pope left to take a couple of head of cattle away. We all rode back towards the gate where we were going to have a feed. Soon after the three Macnamara boys Ticker, Sock and The Pope came galloping up and I heard Ticker say: "Wall, you dingo bastard, I'll break every bone in your body." I got off my horse and could see there was going to be a fight and it looked like I might get a hiding. I bent down to take off my spurs so they would not hurt me in the fight. I only had one spur off when they vaulted off their horses onto me. After a few punches Kevin jumped in and pulled The Pope off. It was then I got a swipe across the shoulder with a kangaroo hide stockwhip. Mac pulled Sock off and Ticker had a head-ock on me and we rolled into the gully. I then got a headlock on Ticker and Sock came in and doubled the whip over my shoulders again. Old Mac said "Get up and fight fair." I said "That suits me." I let Ticker go and we both got up and had a few more punches and then I got another double across the shoulders from Sock. The next thing I got a hit on the head with the handle of the whip from Sock. I wheeled around to have a go at him but I was dazed and fell over. After a few seconds I got to my feet and I saw Sock riding away.

I went over to where my horse was tied to a tree, got one it, and rode after Sock and took the whip from him. Sock fell off his horse. when I came back to where the others were, The Pope tried to grab the whip from me and we had a tussle which ended up that he had the thong and I had the handle.

Old Mac and myself rode to the waterhole where we boiled the billy and had a meal. Old Mac went home and later I rode to Farley. Later I went home in a car and next day I came in to see the Doctor as I had severe pains in my head and the cut was bleeding freely. I have suffered black outs since. Dr Sutton put two stitches in my head. The exhibit (stockwhip handle) in court is the one that I was struck with. Mac always makes his own handles and this one looks like one they make. When I first saw it it had a thong on it but The Pope pulled it off during the struggle for possession of the whip. neither Baxter, Kevin or myself had a whip in our possession that day. The assault was quite unprovoked.

By Mr Johnson: I put the horses through the gate that Mac had built to allow them to water at the soak on the company property. The gate is only half a mile from the Macnamara homestead. Some of the horses carried bells, I think two of them. I would say they could be heard at the homestead. I have been manager at Agate Downs on and off since 1935. I was Licensee of the Malbon Hotel where I ran a store. I now own that property. Macnamara bought some household goods there. They were not monthly payers but they generally paid. Boocie owed me 30/- although I sent accounts to him regularly he told me his father owed the money not him. It would not be worth while summoning him for 30/-

as the costs would be too much. I hit Boocie after he hit me at Kuridala Post Office. I do not know why they should call out and abuse me. I did not tell the pope to get out of the Company paddock. I did not see the boys come back for their father. It will be wrong to say that I picked up a stick and threw it at Sock. I could not at all give any reason why Macnamara should want to put me out of the country. I would not like to oblige them by leaving as I have a property to look after.

David Harvey Sutton, Medical Officer of the Cloncurry Base Hospital, gave evidence that he was a duly qualified medical practitioner and that he had attended the complainant, Wall, on the 20th January and had dressed a deep cut over the left temple about 2 inches long. The cut was infected. He disinfected the cut and set it up. He could not remember how many stitches he inserted but it was... Wall was an outpatient for four or five days. His condition would interfere with his health and comfort for eight to ten days, maybe longer. Blackouts would be consistent with slight concussion which could be caused from a blow from exhibit (stockwhip handle). He would say that Wall had recovered otherwise he would have expected to have seen him again at the hospital.

Keven John Nykiel, employed as a stockman on Agate Downs Station in his evidence stated that he was with Alex Wall riding in the Company paddock when the three Macnamara brothers whom he knew as Brian, Owen and Anthony John, rode up to them and one of them was yelling: "Wall you dingo b—, if it's fight you want we're here to give it to you." The three Macnamaras jumped off their horses and attacked Wall who was bending down taking off his spurs. He pulled one of the Macnamaras away and Brian and Wall kept fighting. He saw Sock hit Wall with the riding whip. He also saw Wall and Brian fighting in the gully and later on the bank. They were having a scruff and Sock hit Wall on the head with the handle of a stock whip. Wall fell down and later got up, jumped on his horse and rode away in an attempt to take the whip from Sock. He saw Wall and Sock struggling and Sock fall off his horse. Later, Wall returned where he and Owen had a further struggle over the whip which Wall had taken from Sock. In the struggle Owen gained possession of the thong while Wall gained the handle. The handle as held as exhibit was similar to the one he saw that day. He would class the whole episode as a cowardly and brutal attack.

By Mr Johnstone: Wall gave Macnamaras no provocation to fight so far as I knew. I do not know why they should attack Wall as he was definitely not looking for fight. When Sock hit Wall on the head, he, Wall, could have had a headlock on Ticker. He could not see where Sock would be defending his brother when he hit Wall with stockwhip.

Brian Macnamara on oath stated that he was a stockman employed on Mt Tracey Selection and he had known Wall for about 15 years and had always been on good terms with him. He knew Wall had a store at Malbon. His brother Boocie purchased most of his household goods from Alex Wall. They had an argument over a bill that Alex Wall stated that Boocie owed him, that argument took place at Kuridala Post Office. Wall said that Boocie did owe him the money and when Boocie denied owing it, Wall called him a b— and then hit him once. Wall called Boocie outside and hit him twice knocking him down. Boocie did not hit Wall back. I told Wall that Boocie did not owe him any money and Wall said to me: "Are you looking for a fight too?" Wall called me a liar and we got into holds. Dad broke it up. Wall said he would kill my brother John and told my father to take his horses out of the Company paddock. He told my father he was a coward too. My father said he would take the horses out.

On Wednesday the 18th we heard the sound of bells coming from the direction of the gate near the soak. We rode over to the gate to see what was doing and we found 15 head of horse had been put through the gate, three had been left behind. Wall asked my father if there were any horses left.

(At this stage Mr Johnson asked witness to speak out loudly as if he was talking to the bullocks on his property.)

The witness continued: "I told Wall I going in to get the horses and Wall told me to get out of the paddock and called me a b—. My father told me to ride away and I did so. When my father did not turn up in a reasonable time my brother Sock – that is Anthony John – and I went to look for him. We met Owen and he decided to come along. On the McKinlay-Selwyn road we meet Wall, another man and my father riding in the direction of our horses as soon as Wall saw us coming he came straight at us and I got frightened as I thought he might attack Sock. I got off my horse and I think Sock got off his too. Wall came straight over to Sock but I stepped in and had a fight with Wall, and said to him "Don't touch Sock, he is only a kid." We had a few more hits and he fell backwards into a blackberry bush. Wall said:

"Let me take my spurs off" and he bent down to take them off. We had another fight in the gully and someone sang out "Fight fair" We both said we were fighting fair. Wall had a headlock on me and was choking me. I got away and jumped on to the bank where we continued to fight. He got another stranglehold on me and was choking me. someone called out "Break it up" and i remember Wall called out "I'll choke the b— to death". I punched Wall a couple of times and got away. I noticed his head was bleeding and he was kneeling on the ground. He quickly got up and picked up a stick and pelted it at Sock at the same time saying "I'll kill you, you b—, I'll kill you."

My father told Sock to go home and he made to do so when Wall got on his horse and raced straight to Sock and pulled a whip out of his hand knocking him off his horse. I said to Wall "If you want to kill anyone, kill me" Wall said "No, there's the b— I want to kill and I will too." I galloped up and sock jumped up, double-bank. Wall chased us with the whip. There is no truth that we three brothers rushed Wall. The trouble between Wall and us appeared to be that I took Boocie's part and that Wall wanted to fight. Boocie does not owe any accounts as he always paid them punctually.

By Snr Sgt Quinn: I was there when Boocie paid Wall, just before Wall left the pub. I was present with Boocie each time he paid an account to Wall. Wall never gave receipts ...

I have had odd little rows with Wall but nothing to speak of. Up until this incident we were still good friends...

We have not paid agistment fees on any of our stock grazing on Agate downs to my knowledge...

We had a fight a Kuridala, Wall and I. Boocie may have struck Wall first but I don't think so. Dad broke up the fight I was having with Wall. Wall might have won, I don't know. I'd had enough.

I don't know why Wall would want to kill my young brother Sock. I don't know why Wall would want to say that. I know of no reason why Kevin Nykiel should come into the courtroom and swear lies against me. I have heard him and Wall give evidence on oath and they are both an issue of lies.

Quinn: I put it to you, witness, is it not yourself that is lying?

Witness: I came here to tell the truth, didn't I? Well, that's what I'm doing. Sock did not hit Wall with the ship handle. If any person said he did so he would be lying. My brother Sock did not have a whip that day. When I first saw the whip it was in Wall's hands. When I rode up to Wall I could have said something, I don't remember.

Quinn: I put it to you, you said "Wall you dingo b— ...[as above]"

Witness: Yes, I might have.

It was quite OK for Wall to tell my father to remove the horses, that would not prompt an assault. I did not mind Wall and Kevin mustering the horses and delivering them on to Mt Tracey. Wall was crooked on me and not on my dad or my brothers. He appeared quite friendly when he came over to speak to Dad at the gate but I could see by the look on his face that he was hostile towards me. This evidence is not a result of my father and my brothers and myself putting our heads together. I ask the Court to believe me when I say that Wall and Nykiel gave false evidence against me and that I am the only one so far who has spoken the truth.

Owen Roe Macnamara in evidence stated on oath that although he did not work at Mr Tracey Selection, he considered it his home. He was not at Kuridala with his brothers on 16th January. He was home at Mt Tracey. He gave corroborative evidence to that given by his brother Brian regarding the alleged assault on Agate Downs.

By Snr Sgt Quinn: He would state, quite seriously, that at no time during the fight between Wall and his brother Brian did he or sock enter the fight or show signs of fight. He would say that if Sock admitted hitting Wall over the head he would be telling a lie. He had heard Constable Magoffin, Wall and Nykiel give evidence that Ticker, Sock and himself had assaulted Wall. they would be lying when they said that. He admitted he could give no reason why they should swear false evidence against him and Brian.

Anthony John Macnamara in evidence stated on oath that he was sixteen years of age and lived with his father and mother at Mt Tracey where he was employed as a stockman. He would say Wall was not on

friendly terms with the Macnamara family. Wall had mobs of little squabbles with his father, but they were of no consequence. He would say that Brian and Owen were lying if they stated they had been on friendly terms with Wall. He was at Kuridala the day of the fight, but he took no part in it. On 18th January he rode with his father and brothers to a gate where horses had been put through. He saw Wall and another man there. Wall appeared friendly to all. He would say that later Wall rode up towards them, that is Ticker, Owen and himself, and Wall called out to Brian but neither Brian, Owen or himself replied. There was a fight between Ticker and Wall. Kevin held Owen by the arm and hit Owen in the face. He would say he got hold of Wall and pulled him off Ticker because Wall had a head lock on his brother and was choking him. Wall said he would choke him to death. Brian hit Wall after he released himself from the strangle hold and Wall fell to the ground and he noticed Wall was bleeding in several places. He supposed Brian inflicted a few of the cuts on Wall's head. Wall could have cut himself on the blackberry bush. At no time during that day did either he nor his brothers carry a whip.

By Snr Sgt Quinn: Ticker is not called "The Fighting Macnamara" although he could look after himself against Wall. Sock did not interfere at Kuridala as it was not his fight. Wall and Brian had a fight in the Company paddock. If my two brothers stated in evidence that at no time during that fight was I with 6 yards of Wall they would be definitely wrong. I am serious when I say I don't know where the whip came from – it's not mine. I could have slapped Wall when I was pulling him off Brian. I don't know whether I struck Wall a blow at any time. I could have done so.

Lewis Brian Macnamara on oath stated. I am a grazier residing at Mt Tracey selection. I was at Kuridala the day that Wall had fights with my sons Boocie and Brian. I never had anything against Wall all the time I have known him. Later at the Company paddock, after riding the fence with Wall, we met my three sons, Brian, Owen and Sock. Wall rushed at Sock and Brian got between them. They had a fight and together fell into the gully. Sock called out and told them to fight fair. They continued the fight up on the bank and when Wall fell down it looked like as if Brian had hit him in the belly or somewhere. Sock did not hit Wall at all he was not near him. The whip that Wall chased Sock with does not belong to me or my sons. Wall had it when we went along and had a cup of tea together after the fight. I am quite sure my boys did not rush Wall.

By Snr Sgt Quinn: I have known Wall for 15 or 20 years and have always found him a good neighbour but not always a good friend. I have never paid agistment fee for horses grazing in the Company paddock. I do not consider it a friendly gesture to allow the horses to run there as I have done more for Wall by keeping the fence in order. The horses are not put in the paddock they just stry in and out when they like.

Quinn: You certainly keep the fences in order all right.

Witness: That he was serious when he said Boocie did not attack Wall at Kuridala. Boocie did not owe Wall any money; Boocie told me that and he would take his word for it. I never interfered with the fight at first but after Wall knocked Boocie down three times I walked in between them and told them to break it up. Wall said he would punch me. Wall then attacked Brian and although Brian has sworn in evidence that he attacked Wall, he Brian, would be making a big mistake – not necessary telling lies, just making a mistake.

When he met Wall at the gate between Mt Tracey and Agate Downs, Wall appeared sulky and did not even say 'Good day'. Wall never spoke or addressed me as Mac. Wall might have said good day although he did not hear him. Wall spoke to him and asked him were all the horses there. I told him three were missing. Wall and I rode the boundary and I told Owen to ride with Kevin. Wall told Brian to get out of the paddock so I told him to go home. Wall called Brian a b— mongrel. Brian will be making a mistake if he said these words were not used. Wall never spoke to Sock. Sock was not threatened by Wall that morning. Brian will be making a mistake if he says he did, not necessarily telling a lie, just making a mistake.

When he and Wall rode along the fence Wall never spoke to him, he was unfriendly. Later he saw his three sons riding towards him, they would be thirty yards off, the horses would be walking and jogging, not galloping. Brian and Wall were shouting and swearing at each other. If his three sons said they did not call out at all, they would be making a mistake. Wall jumped off his horse and stated to take his spurs off. He could see there was going to be a fight, so Brian let him take his spurs off, up until then, no blows were struck although there were all off their horses by now. Wall and Brian started

to fight. Wall had one spur off and said "That'll do me, I am satisfied". I had a ring side seat of the fight, like I had at Kuridala. Owen and Sock stood by and did nothing. They took no part whatsoever in the fight that day between Wall and Brian. Owen could have taken a part that he did not see as he was 10 to 15 yards away on the other side of the gully. He saw Kevin hit Owen and he told Owen not to retaliate... It would be an untruth that Owen tried to enter the fight and Kevin pulled him off. It would be an untruth if Wall and Kevin swore in evidence that Owen did enter the fight. Wall was the only man that day that had a whip which he carried over his arm.

(At this stage Bench asks witness to be definite in his statements as some were hard to reconcile)

Witness: I do not know what Wall did with the whip while he was taking his spurs off. Kevin would be telling an untruth when he stated on oath that at no time during that day did Wall carry a whip. He did not see Wall struck with the whip although he could have been struck without him seeing the blow. Wall and Kevin would be lying if they stated Sock hit Wall with the whip. The only whip that he had seen at the Macnamara homestead was a little boy's whip about 8 feet long. He did not even own a whip. If Sock swore in evidence that he had a whip it must be a new one although there could be whips at the Macnamara homestead without his knowing it. The family never discussed the case before coming to court; the boys may have discussed it themselves. Owen would be lying if he swore on oath that they discussed the case at least once a day. Sock would also be wrong when he said I discussed the case with them. I did not have any lunch with Wall although he offered it to me. I did not have a drink of tea.

Bench: You stated previously you did.

Witness: I meant I sat down while Wall had his dinner.

Wall and Kevin never showed any hostility before the assault and I cannot produce any evidence why they should want to come into this court and swear false evidence against my sons or myself.

In addressing the Court, Mr Johnson asked His worship to consider that the assault which both parties took equal part, served no purpose, and that on Wall's own admission when asked why he brought this matter into Court, had stated that the Macnamaras had threatened to run him out of the country. It seemed as if Wall was frightened of himself and asked that the case be dismissed.

Snr Sgt Quinn addressed the Court and asked that the facts as outlined by Wall and Nykiel be accepted as a true and correct version of what took place on Agate Downs property. He asked His Worship to regard the evidence for the defence with the gravest of suspicion. His Worship would have undoubtedly observed during the evidence by the witness the great discrepancies that occurred and also would be in no way impressed after viewing the demeanor of the defendants whilst in the witness box. There was no doubt that the evidence was purely a concoction and a pack of lies. He was quite sure that His Worship would have no difficulty in finding that the assault was a most cowardly one and that the defendants swept down like a pack of dingoes and committed the assault as alleged.

In summing up His worship stated that he had the opportunity of both listening to and studying the demeanor of the witnesses in the box and he was quite satisfied that the evidence given by the Macnamaras was a complete fabrication and unworthy of any credence. "I am prepared to accept the evidence of Wall and Nykiel. I am quite satisfied that the assault was cowardly and premeditated as it appears they could not get at him quick enough. It is hard to say what caused the brawl but Wall had every right to protect himself on his own country and I have hesitation in convicting the defendants and imposing the maximum penalty of £20 each to include £13/17/0 costs of Court, in default three months imprisonment."

Mr Johnson asked for fourteen days in which to pay the sum as he may wish to refer findings of the case to a legal authority in Townsville.

His Worship acceded to the request.

#### **8 April 1950 (p14, NA, NQR)**

Dorothy Priora, a 41 year old single woman, who gives her occupation as domestic, set out, she say, to walk from Brisbane to Cairns, carrying a swag, to look for work. She went as far as Rollingsstone where

she was arrested by Townsville Police and charged with having insufficient lawful means of support. In Tuesday's Court of Petty Sessions she was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. She pleaded not guilty, and during evidence of Detective McIntyre, laughed gaily, and interrupted with remarks of "Oh, isn't that terrible", and "He's telling lies.". At the conclusion of the police evidence, she said that she believed McIntyre had told the story he did, "because he is related to someone in my past."

**15 April 1950 (p30, NQ003, NQR)**

Ad for Petrol iron

**15 April 1950 (p11, NA, NQR)**

JC, Apr 9 – At JC it is still muggy and overcast and whilst we are hoping it will clear off, one never can tell what will happen with an overcast sky. We have now had threatening weather for many weeks with heavy rains in places. It is rather an unusual thing for us to say we are getting too much rain in the west and it certainly looks like a record year for us for rain for many years past.

The season is all that could be desired and the country is a veritable sea of green with an abundance of grass and in some places herbage, even wild carrots, is discernible in places.

Mr Lowe was much sought for during the wet spell and was able to take people to various places which they could not have reached for weeks by car and, in some case, even on horseback, owing to flooded creeks.

**22 Apr 1950 (p22, NQ004, NQR)**

Brisbane, Apr 22 – Eight large tractors to be used for railways, forestry, irrigation, water conservation and main road works through the State have arrived on the freighter Pioneer Tide from America.

The tractors, which are part of a dollar-free deal include two of the biggest and most powerful types in the world – the International TD24. These machines can move a load equal to its own weight. The other six tractors are of the smaller 10 1/2 ton type.

The shipment is the first of £750,000 worth of giant tractors and earth moving equipment ordered for national development by the Federal Minister for Development (Mr Casey) ...

**28 Apr 1950 (500428, CA)**

Mr and Mrs James Brisbane will be handing over the JC Hotel business to Mr and Mrs Willie Brisbane on the 1st of May. The 'Old Digger' and his family are well known in this district having lived here for many years and reared his family here. Two sons went to the last war. Bill and his wife successfully conduct the Ice works and Cordial Factory, assisted by their sons on their return home. Many friends wish the Brisbane family the best of luck in their venture into Hotel business.

[Hampton]

Congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Frank Byrne on the safe arrival of a daughter at the local hospital. Babe's mother will be remembered as the popular Joan Kupfer. Infant makes Mr and Mrs Will Kupfer proud grandparents for the first time.

**29 Apr 1950 (p44, NQ005, NQR)**

JC, April 19 – The days during this last week have given up rather pleasant weather. The early morns have been cool and the remainder of the day was enjoyably balmy. A slight breeze blew from the south-west for most of the time and had its influence on the temperatures.

Last Wednesday about 200 bulls were untrucked at the yards for delivery to Dalgona Station. This new blood will improve the strains appreciably at that property. On Thursday 1500 cattle were yarded and trucked from Dalgona Station for transport to Mt Howitt. They were in the care of W. Triffett. On Sunday morning Mr Reg Thompson accompanied a load of about 100 cattle from Cloncurry, unloaded at the yards and will deliver at his property, Alexmere in the Nelia district.

Mr E. Emblem has now completed his work on Proa, sinking an artesian bore and has transferred his plant to Lara, where he has set up camp preparatory to commencing boring operations.



The shire Council gangs are out on the Flinders River clearing the crossing of that river at the Punchbowl. This crossing has, up till now, prevented residents on the other side of the Flinders from visiting town. The traffic routes here and in other parts of the district have prevented country people from coming to town and for this reason meetings of the Shire Council and Dingo Syndicate have been postponed.

Mr J Beach left by TAA plane this morning for CT where he will spend a few days and possibly will go on to Townsville to witness the North Qld tennis championships.

Mr and Mrs W.E. Barker, of Balootha Station, were in town yesterday. It is quite some time since Balootha has been accessible by way of motor car.

The footballers again played a game between the Reds and Blues on Sunday. The play is speeding up which means that the boys are gaining the necessary condition, and quite a few movements were opened up along the back lines of both sides. With further training and matches against other towns the team should provide good football during the season. Mr George Peut was unable to be present at Sunday's game on account of a broken leg. Mr Peut is a really keen supporter of rugby league wherever it is played and does not miss a game.

Mr G.J. Magoffin has purchased a well-bred sire for his Etta Plains property. This one is by Beau Son and is a big upstanding individual about 17 hands. Along with this sire, a brood mare with foal by the Ajax horse Tenguy was purchased and the mare is also in foal to Tengur. These should give Mr Magoffin who is a keen racing identity here, a good start for future events.

### **13 May 1950 (p42, NQ007, NQR)**

JC, May 9 – The weather this last week has not changed to any extent and although the mornings are cool there is nothing uncomfortable about the weather conditions even in the early hours. The absence of the cold southerlies allows for moderate temperatures each day and all are enjoying this short period between the hot and cold months ...

The efforts of Mr Arthur Lowe in conveying a quantity of delayed mail to the isolated people Kynuna were recognised by the Deputy Director of Post and Telegraphs, Mr JC Stewart in a letter of appreciation and thanks to Mr Lowe during this week. The work of Mr Lowe in this field of flying supplies to people isolated by floods during the wet weather was extensive and is appreciated by all availing themselves of the service.

The footballers were in the arena again on Sunday and are pepping up their game with an eye on the defeat of Richmond next Sunday at Richmond. The local boys are confident and feel that they will offer stout opposition to any League team in the west. On Sunday two young players from McKinley sported jerseys. They were Fegan and Batt and on the form revealed in this their first game, they are sure to mix it successfully with their opponents. Fegan has not long finished his schooling at Mt Carmel College, CT. Batt is a Thornburgh College boy. The team chosen to meet Richmond is: Kaeser (capt), C Foster, Villiers, Crouch, Winton, Banney, Meredith (backs), Campbell, Peut, Green, Hilheimer, Byrne and B Foster (forwards).

Mr Harry Smith, general manager of Messrs Edkins, Marsh and Co Ltd, woolscourers, is spending some time in the north supervising the JC works.

Mr LA Wall left for Maryborough by aeroplane today in order to have his machine overhauled so that the necessary C of A may be issued. Mr Wall has been flying in this for some years now.

Miss Joan Brennan has taken up duties with the McKinlay Shire Council as clerk-typiste. Miss Brennan is from Nelia.

The WJ Brisbane family have taken over the control of the JC Hotel and will dispose of their cordial factory at the beginning of July to Mr GL Peut.

Misses Edna and Coral Eckford arrived home on Wednesday last by ANA plane after being in Townsville for the tennis championships.

**17 May 1950 (p? NQ008, NQR)****WHALING TO BEGIN AGAIN**

Canberra, May 17 – The newly-established Whaling Commission would probably commence operations on the Western Australian coast during the first week of July, the Minister for Commerce (Mr McEwen) announced today. Mr McEwen said £800,000 had been spent in establishing the venture.

One chaser, the Gascoyne, was already in WA awaiting operations to commence. The Carnarvon, named after the centre where the shore factory had been established, was at sea on its way from Glasgow. This chaser was one of the most modern in the world ...

Mr McEwen said a nucleus of very experienced Norwegian whalers had been engaged on contract to operate the chasers.

**20 May 1950 (p46, NQ009, NQR)**

JC, May 16 – The most remarkable point about the early winter weather which we are experiencing, is the absence of the southerly wind, which had a tendency to make conditions bleak. So far, there has been only a mildly cold tinge in the air and this is not disliked by any of us. However, we can expect these unpleasant winds as the winter weeks advance for there is no barrier to prevent their vast sweep up from the cold south ...

A special excursion train was arranged by the football club to take its representative team and all supporters to Richmond for its first inter-town match. JC won the day in the A grade match, winning by 12 points to 7 after a keen tussle. Our team played solid football throughout, and by this means held off the more spectacular efforts of their opponents. All our players were on the job and showed good form for this, their first match. It is expected that Cloncurry will not have their own way in the game next Sunday for the local team will be improved to some extent. The players chosen are: Kaeser, Banney, Fegan, Batt, Villiers, Crouch, Meredith (backs), Fayers, Nichol, Peut, B, Foster, Byrne and Campbell (forwards). An excursion train will bring the Cloncurry players and supporters here next Sunday ...

**20 May 1950 (p14, NQ053, NQR)****RATIONING OF BUTTER TO REMAIN**

Canberra, May 17 – Butter rationing would continue until England did not require such large supplies from Australia, the Minister for Customs, Senator N. O'Sullivan, indicated today...

Senator O'Sullivan said rationing was imposed for the purpose of making more butter available for England. The situation there had improved with greater supplies from Holland, Denmark, Australia and NZ.

"I am quite sure the Australian people are prepared to put up with this inconvenience if they feel it is self-imposed to give some practical assistance to our kinsfolk in England," he said.

Australians were prepared to stand shoulder to shoulder with their British kinsfolk, particularly in the time of sunshine as well as in difficulty. When Britain said "Thanks very much, we no longer require you to impose rationing," the real purpose of butter rationing would cease.

**26 May 1950 (500526, CA)**

Many folk stayed in town to attend the Quiz and Concert held in Peut's Hall; this was the first of its kind and was quite a novelty and was well attended and enjoyed by everyone and those who organised this happy function should feel proud of the splendid success. Mr Bob Smith acted as Quiz master over the loud speaker. Town versus country quiz was won by the town side. Solos were nicely rendered by little Miss C Fickling and little Miss Godier, Sgt I Cooke, Mr and Mrs Mullins, Mr Crouch. A cornet item was given. Two new Australians rendered solos. Every item was greatly enjoyed. During the evening many prizes were won. Mrs Kaeser and Mrs Somers served a dainty supper. Here's hoping it won't be long before we have another quiz and concert evening.

[Walters, manager of scour, Eckford, Hely]

**2 Jun 1950 (500602, CA)**

At the JC Masonic Temple, Saturday, 27th May 1950, was a very gay and happy gathering held at the installation of Bro Ivan Richard Chantry Cooke into the chair. Visitors were...

The long table was decorated in blue with tall vases of fresh white chrysanthemums that arrived by plane. The paper serviettes were another attraction being prettily engraved in blue. The table was laden with delicacies. During the evening many speeches were made and all speakers spoke in glowing terms of the newly elected officer and wished Mr Cooke every success and all speakers said that great credit went to Mrs Cooke and her assistants for the sumptuous knife and fork supper that was served. Many items and solos were greatly enjoyed by all present. The gay evening ended on the happy note of God Save the King.

### **3 Jun 1950 (p? NQ010)**

JC, May 30 – ... Last Sunday night, Father Deveraux arranged a concert and included a quiz session. The show proved popular and many interesting items were produced. A New Australian sang in his native Yugo-Slav tongue and displayed a very strong voice of quality. The quiz master was Mr Bob Smith, of Barooka, who controlled proceedings successfully ...

The tender of Mr HS O'Brien for Mareeba Construction Coy, to carry out street works in JC in accordance with the plans and specifications approved by the Treasury at £8526/14/- was accepted ...

The resignation of Mrs MJ Hodgetts as clerk-typiste was accepted with regret and Miss J Brennan advised she was able to take up duties on the appointment previously made.

The United Graziers Association is to be advised that the council regrets it cannot accede to the request to reduce its charges for dipping at Sedan dip to 4d head owing to the travelling expenses incurred at each dipping and maintenance costs of yards which are not a separate charge as at Government dips.

### **10 Jun 1950 (p46, NQ012, NQR)**

JC, June 6 – One would hardly think that winter had commenced judging by the mild type of weather we have been experiencing. Officially winter started on June 1 but during the week we have had days of the late summer variety. Today there has been blowing a sturdy north wind and the cloud formations have been building up substantially. There seems bright prospects for further rain although there seems no necessity for it just now.

The NWQ tennis championships will be held on the local tennis courts on Saturday, Sunday and Monday next. The members of the tennis club are working and organising with great gusto to have everything just right for the big games and the event should be worth while. the courts themselves are being prepared under the direct supervision of the President, Mr FA Hickman who is always most anxious to promote such sporting events in order to demonstrate the progress of the township in which he has lived and worked for so many years.

The St Patrick's race meeting will be held on Saturday and the relative functions will be balls on Friday and Saturday nights and a concert on Sunday night. These entertainments will allow the visitors from Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Hughenden and Richmond for the tennis championships to really enjoy a very full weekend of sport and social pleasure. The cry over the weekend from the youth will be – "Let Tomorrow Look for Itself." ...

### **10 Jun 1950 (p4, NQ011, NQR)**

#### **DINGO BEATEN IN JC AREA**

JC, June 9 – At a meeting of the Flinders River Dingo Syndicate, Mr JC Carden-Collins stated that the work of the syndicate had been very successful and effective, and, with the assistance of the aerial baiting campaign carried out by the Coordinating Board, the FRG had been able to beat the dingo in their area ...

The dingo syndicate comprises 16 members who are very interested and energetic and the area patrolled run from the Flinders north of Nelia, north of Bunda and as far north as Millungera. It is a vast area but the syndicate's efforts have been entirely successful in clearing the menace of the dingo from the pasture lands.

### **17 Jun 1950 (p4, NQ013, NQR)**

JC, June 13 – ... Recently the Sedan dip Race Committee held a meeting at Sedan Dip to set down the date for their next race meeting. this was fixed for August 26 next, and as this takes the form of a picnic

meeting it will be popular with all those interested in horse racing. The proceeds of this event will go to the local QATB whilst a substantial donation should be made from the funds to Legacy.

On Monday which was a public holiday on account of the King's Birthday, the golfers were out in full force, when a Town versus Country match was staged. The country team were the ultimate winners and it was the good play by the Associates of that team which brought about the success. The members of the Town team more than held their own. A barbecue was held after the game at the Golf Clubhouse and this proved highly enjoyable.

The St Patrick's races were held on Saturday and a large crowd was present. Conditions were favourable except that a strong southerly was blowing. All races were interesting for sufficient starters appeared in each. The main race, the Bracelet, was won by Souvrette, racing in the name of Mrs George Young. On Friday night a dance was held to start the activities and on Saturday night, after the races, there was the race ball. On Sunday night a concert and dance was held so that the really enthusiastic could continue the gaiety. The Richmond Orchestra was in attendance and was supported by a trumpeter from Hughenden. the entertainments provided quite a lively atmosphere over the long weekend but the town has again withdrawn into its quiet shell.

The Tennis Club held the NWQ tennis championships over this last weekend. There were players from Hughenden, Richmond, Cloncurry and Mount Isa as well as the locals. The Mount Isa contingent proved too strong and the finals in all cases are to be played by their representatives ... Of the locals, Mrs Green, W. McNickle and F Bennett reached the semifinals and provided strong opposition ...

### **17 Jun 1950 (p6, NQ014/54, NQR)**

#### **BUTTER NO LONGER ON COUPONS LIST**

Canberra, June 16 – The immediate abolition of butter rationing was announced last night by the Prime Minister, Mr RG Menzies, at a press conference after a meeting of Federal Cabinet.

Mr Menzies would not comment on the prospects of lifting tea rationing, beyond saying, "That is a different matter altogether."

Mr Menzies said the decision would not appreciably affect available butter exports for Great Britain, especially in view of the recently improved position of Britain's fats supply.

Butter rationing was imposed in 1943 ... Cabinet today had before it a report showing the current ration in Britain at present comprised five ounces of butter, four ounces of margarine and two ounces of cooking fats per week. The Australian ration had been six ounces of butter and the equivalent of two ounces of margarine with reasonable supplies of meat fats ...

Q Butter board Secretary, Mr C Sheecy, said there are ample supplies of butter in the Commonwealth to meet any requirements.

Substantial quantities had been stored in Q to carry the state and NSW over the winter. In planning these reserves regard had been given to the possibility of butter rationing being lifted ...

### **23 Jun 1950 (p1, 500623, CA)**

At the Church of England, JC, on Monday June 19th at 4.30 pm was the scene of a very pretty wedding. The Church was artistically decorated by Mrs McCarthy, the Rev Bro Bradford, Mt Isa, performed the ceremony when Ruby Georgina (Betty) second eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Beauchamp, JC said 'I will' to Maurice John youngest son of Mr and Mrs W McDonald of Albion, Brisbane.

Mrs Muir played the wedding march and during the signing of the register Mr I Cooke in fine voice rendered 'The Voice that Breathed or Eden.'

The pretty bride made a charming picture as she entered the Church on the arm of her father who gave her away...

The bride was attended by two charming [?] and Levina Beauchamp, sister of the bride looking a very pretty in a ...

Miss Nora McDonald looked very pretty in an ankle length frock ...

The bride's gift to the groom was a wristlet watch and the groom's gift to the bride was a three string set of pearls and bracelet.

The bridegroom was assisted by Mr Harry Stainkey as best man and Mr Roy Hutton cousin of the bride acted as groomsman. The reception was held in Eckford's Hall that was artistically decorated in pink and blue streamers and a white wedding bell hung over a large U shaped table. Mr and Mr Beauchamp entertained 120 guests...

#### **24 Jun 1950 (p5, NQ015, NQR)**

JC, June 20 – During the last week we have tasted some really cold weather and although the early mornings and late night hours have been severe, the remainder of the daylight hours have been pleasant. Appetites have improved with the cooler spell and work is not nearly so burdensome as in the heat of the summer ...

The woolscour continues to operate and since shearing in all districts is well under way there is every possibility of the works carrying on for some time even right throughout the shearing season. Mr DG Devey, the new manager, is spending much time in supervising the scouring and other aspects in the management ...

Mr Lionel Wall advises a good sale of livestock during this last week. He sold 1700 Auckland Downs bred weaners with nine month's wool, delivery September to the Inverdoon Pastoral Co, Hughenden, for 70/-. Mr Wall expects a further such sale during this week.

Mr FW Clifford was a visitor in town from his property Bethel in the Maxwellton district. Mr Clifford travelled overland in his newly acquired Rolls Royce motor car. He intends going on to Cloncurry. The famous English car created much interest amongst the townsfolk.

Country people noticed in town during the week included: Mr F McDermott (Dalgonally), Miss J Mitchell (Carrum), Mr and Mrs Tuckett (Bunda Bunda), Mr and Mrs L Telford (Spreyton), Mr and Mrs HT Batt and children (Kooroora), GJ Magoffin (Etta Plains) and Mr AH Paine (Burwood).

#### **29 Jun 1950 (p? NQ018, NQR)**

FULL SCALE US AIR WAR TO SAVE SUWON

Desperate Attempt to Aid S. Korean Army

Tokio, June 29 – United States war planes opened a full-scale offensive at dawn today in a desperate attempt to save suwon, the air-base south of Seoul, from the attacking communists and to prevent the collapse of the South Korean Army.

Suwon is the headquarters of the American Military Aid Mission and of the Korean Republican Army and a vital spot in Korea.

The North Korean Communists had captured Seoul and it's big Kimpo airport, along with the port of Inchon to the west and were on the bank of the Han River, only ten miles from Suwon.

General MacArthur left for the South Korean war front today ...

#### **1 Jul 1950 (p? NQ020, NQR)**

JC, June 21 – The FRDS held a meeting in their secretary's office on Saturday in order to discuss their dogger's operations. It was decided to pay the dogger a special amount of £10 for those dogs destroyed when he is specially instructed to deal with such cunning dogs on the inside areas. the properties affected by the destruction of these dogs will contribute £1 each and the Syndicate will be responsible for the balance if any. This extra payment will be an incentive to the dogger to spend some time in clearing up any troublesome dogs which have become difficult to trap or poison as a result of attempts by "amateur" trappers to secure these scalps of these dogs. The secretary was instructed to make a further call, the thirteenth since September 1944, for funds.

His Excellency, the governor Sir John Lavarack, visited JC on Saturday last. The governor was first

introduced to the Deputy Chairman of the shire Council, Mr FA Hickman, the Councillors and shire clerk, Mr J Parsons.

He next visited the State School and after being welcomed by the Head Master, Mr W. McNickie, he addressed the children and then proceeded to Gannon's Hotel where he was entertained at a dinner with the councillors and returned servicemen ...

On Sunday there was a great crowds at the golf links when the President's (Dr EJ Davies) team played the Captain's (RM Smith) team. The former won the day after an interesting struggle ...

#### **1 Jul 1950 (p20, NQ019, NQR)**

JC, June 26 – The bush fire menace has already made its presence felt. During last week there were several bush fires on pastoral properties near JC. One fire was located on Nelia Ponds, two on St Elmo, owned by Mr A Stainkey, and a further two on Oxton Downs, owned by the Oxton Downs Pastoral Coy which is controlled by Mr William Buckland of Melbourne.

All fires but one were of small dimensions and did little damage. However on Thursday a bush fire blazed for about ten hours on Oxton Downs and Ron Foster fought a lone hand against odds for most of that time. Other property owners nearby were busy with their own fires and it was not until later at night they were able to lend assistance to the manager of Oxton Downs. At this time two motor trucks equipped with water tanks, pump and spray apparatus arrived on the scene and the fire was quickly subdued just as it appeared that it would get out of hand.

The firefighting trucks belonged to Mr TA Wall of Lindfield and Mr J Stainkey of Argyle.

The pea bush in this area is quite thick in parts and, being dry, burned easily. The tops of the grass which is seeding also was dry enough to burn and so the fire spread even though the main body of the grass was quite green.

The fire itself provided a drying process on the otherwise green grass as it burned amongst the green grass and that in turn was destroyed. About three or four thousand acres of grassland was burnt by this fire but no fencing was harmed.

The fires started near the railway line, where, it is believed, sparks from passing engines caused the grass nearby to ignite. This is a pointer to what can be expected later when the big body grass dries off. Fire breaks will want to be very effective to prevent the spread of these fires, once started, for, with a strong wind, which is customary on these downs, a fire in the great volume of dry grass will be difficult to control, even with the firefighting apparatus being prepared for such emergencies.

#### **1 Jul 1950 (p2, NQ016, NQR)**

##### **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR TOWNSHIPS IN THE WEST**

Generating Plants for JC, Richmond

Brisbane, June 30 – Electricity development programme in small West Q towns to cost £1,070,000 was announced tonight by the Mines Minister (Mr Power) ...

Mr Power said that generating plant were to be provided at JC and Richmond in the North West, Aramac, Muttaborra and Isisford in the Central West and Quilpie and Taroom in the South West.

A scheme under which local authorities would meet the initial cost of consumer installations, to be recouped over a short period with the electricity accounts was under consideration.

This would ensure that the greatest number of persons would use the service which was essential for the success of the scheme. It was expected that the schemes would be in operation within two years if there were no hold-up in supplies ...

#### **1 Jul 1950 (p2, NQ017, NQR)**

##### **GOVT TO PROVIDE FREE MILK**

Sydney, June 30 – About 1,000,000 school children under 12 years are to be given free milk under the Federal Government national health scheme.

The plan involves the distribution of about 7,000,000 gallons of milk per year ... It was hoped that the use of the milk for growing children would substantially benefit their constitutions and lessen the incidence of disease as they grow older ...

Children attending private and public schools and recognised kindergartens, crèches and nursery schools will receive up to half a pint of milk per day.

#### **4 Jul 1950 (p? NQ021, NQR)**

JC, July 4 – ... On Tuesday night last, Mr J Green organised an official send-off to Mr and Mrs W. McNickle on behalf of the State School Committee in the form of a dance in Eckford's Hall. Mr WF Stainkey chairman of the School Committee spoke of the work done by Mr McNickle as Head Master and of his marked influence on this little community. Mr Hickman representing the Tennis Club and Mr R Taylor the Cricket Club spoke in support. the McNickles go to Maloola just north of Brisbane ...

Mr and Mrs Wilson and daughter arrived on Sunday morning to take up new duties as Head Master of the State School in the place of Mr W McNickle.

It is expected that the local aerodrome will again be open for plane landings on Friday next. An inspector will look over the drome on Thursday and if satisfied planes will again operate in this centre.

[Story of A Lowe, Eckfords going to Melbourne, Tennis, golf]

#### **7 Jul 1950 (500707, CA)**

Toorak auction sale – ad

#### **8 Jul 1950 (p16, NQ055, NQR)**

TEA RATIONING OFF FROM JULY 3

Canberra, July 2 – The Commonwealth government had decided to abolish tea rationing from tomorrow, the Prime Minister, Mr RG Menzies announced tonight. "There are ample supplies of tea in Australia to meet all demands, so the purpose for which rationing was introduced no longer exists," he said.

Mr Menzies said Australian people were not generally aware of the great increase in the cost of tea that had taken place over recent years.

At present the retail price of tea was about 4/1 in the UK, 5/5 in NZ, 7/1 in Canada, 7/8 in South Africa and 14/4 in the USA. In Australia the price had been kept down to 2/9 a pound...

#### **8 Jul 1950 (p16, NQ056, NQR)**

TEA PRICE "WAR" IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne, July 3 – Police had to be called to control housewives who elbowed and jostled each other to buy coupon free tea from price cutting grocers in some Melbourne suburbs today.

Grocers sold tea as low as 2/11 1/2 a lb instead of the maximum 3/4. At Coburg two women fainted in a crowded grocery store.

The "price cutting" grocers refused to sell at the new price of 3/4 a lb their prices ranged from 3/2 to 3/- and 2/11 1/2.

#### **22 Jul 1950 (p43, NQ023, NQR)**

JC, July 18 – We have had cloudy and unusual winter weather for the whole of this last week. For the first few days the clouds rolled heavily during the early morning but disappeared to a certain extent later in the day. This continued until Saturday when, on the morning of the races, the air was even heavier with moisture. However, the day cleared and a pleasant day was had for the event. A rather heavy mist came up on Sunday morning, unusual for these parts, and remained for some little time until the sun cleared the air. Yesterday and today have been warm and still not like winter at all and coats have been hung up. No doubt, further rainy weather will appear with this warm change.

[Story of visit by school minister]

Last Sunday the golfers again gathered enthusiastically just at the edge of town and played competition

stuff. The result was a good win for Mr and Mrs Lionel Wall who have both improved their golf since starting this season. The game continues to remain popular and there are many good trophies to be won before the season concludes.

The Department of Civil Aviation wrote the Council enclosing a copy of the report of the aerodrome at JC stating reasons for closure. It was decided to make representations for a maintenance grant towards the upkeep of the aerodrome and for the information bout landing fees and that all material other than council property be removed from the shelter shed provided. It was also decided to write the Department of Civil Aviation asking the minimum requirements of an all weather runway for small mercy planes operating in wet weather.

[Story on race meeting]

#### **29 Jul 1950 (p? NQ024, NQR)**

##### **LAKE EYRE IS A REAL LAKE**

Brisbane, July 24 – For the first time since white men discovered Australia, Lake Eyre in the dead heart of this continent is now an inland sea.

Phenomenal rains this year have poured new water into this 400 square miles area and the western experts are wondering if it will stay there. Millions of gallons of record flood rains have flowed down Western Q stream into the dry lake.

It has been fed for months by the swollen Cooper, Diamantina and Georgina Rivers. Now it is a deep blue ocean of fresh water up to 60 or 70 feet deep.

When the winds blow strongly 10 feet waves swell over the vast lake which airmen say looks like another Pacific Ocean. Already shrub and Mitchell grass have grown in the desert. Bird and animal and vegetable life are reviving over normally dry clay pans and ironstone flats.

Before the rains the lake 40 feet below sea level was a stretch ...

#### **4 Aug 1950 (500804, CA)**

Congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Norman Downey on the safe arrival of an infant daughter at the local hospital. Babe's mother will be remembered as the popular Sister Marcella Blanch.

[Hampton, Muir leaves as postmaster]

#### **5 Aug 1950 (p6, NQ025, NQR)**

##### **WHALE MIGHT RIVAL BEEF**

Sydney, Aug 1 – Whale meat would soon be a serious rival for beef on the Australian market, stated Mr R Bird of Brisbane, who returned today from NZ after business talks on whale oil with a NZ firm.

Whale meat had a similar flavour to beef, but was much more tender he said. The whale must be killed carefully preferably electrically so that its meat was not mutilated.

Exploited the right way whale meat would retail cheaper than beef, said Mr Bird.

#### **5 Aug 1950 (p8, NQ026, NQR)**

JC, Aug 1 – This last week's weather since the rain has been more in keeping with the season and we have experienced cold mornings and nights with pleasantly mild days. Fortunately the usual boisterous winds are not blowing during this winter and so the weather has been really ideal.

As these note are being written a bush fire is burning just out east of town, apparently on "Garomna" country. The fire seems to have originated from neat the railway line and has been blown by the south wind out across the downs to the north. The fire warden, Mr E Mullins has taken things in hand and there are fighters out to control the spread of this fire. It would seem surprising that so soon after the rain we have had the grass is able to burn so easily.

Miss Ivy Gannon, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gannon, writes from London where she has been doing private nursing that she witnessed the Trooping of the Colour at the Horse Guards Parade when all the



members of the Royal Family attended. Ivy gives a vivid description of the colourful even and as she describes it, "all the glory that was and still is in the pageantry of England today and I am thrilled to have witnessed it." Ivy is a Sister with triple certificates and proposed doing a post graduate course in theatre work at Birmingham after making a tour of England, Wales and Scotland by way of bicycle and attending the Festival at Edinburgh.

[Eckford girls returning]

Mr and Mrs Watson arrived from Ilfracombe to reside at the Woolscour where Mr Watson will take over the accounts for this northern works...

Mr W Stanley has purchased a butchering business in Richmond and has transferred his home to that centre. Mrs Stanley and two daughters will leave this week to take up residence in Richmond. We cannot afford to lose such good citizens who are always ready to assist in the progress of the town. Mr Stanley has been Chairman of the State School Committee for many years and has done an excellent job. As the recently transferred Mr McNickle put it – 'Mr Stanley has the knack of getting things done without creating any dissension'. We wish Nugget good luck in his new venture and feel sure that he will give Richmond the benefit of his personality and energy.

[Mr Muir, Postmaster transfers to Halifax]

### **11 Aug 1950 (500811, CA)**

Mr Lowe flew back to JC on Monday evening in his new Ambulance plane that is nicely fitted with a bed and every comfort. The plane will be used to bring patients from all parts to Hospital and will be a great asset to the town and district and we say good luck to Mr Lowe and his mercy plane.

### **12 Aug 1950 (p4, NQ027, NQR)**

JC, Aug 8 – We have again experienced really cold weather during the last week when the thermometer read as low as 44 degrees. This has not been unduly severe but the earlier hours of the morning are a little uncomfortable.

The bush fire reported last week burnt on Oxton Downs and as this is the second large fire on this property the owners are unfortunate. We are advised by Mr Ron Foster, the manager, that at least 17000 acres of grasslands were burnt, about 100 fence posts and from 50 to 70 sheep. There was a stiff breeze blowing at the time and after leaving the railway line the fire with about a mile face burnt in for approximately 6 miles. The fire then spread to a five mile face and burnt for a further three miles. Much assistance was given by neighbours and townspeople when about 60 men gathered to combat the flames. There were seven plants operating and the fire was put out at 10 PM on Tuesday.

During the recent rain when one and a half inches were registered the town streets became very rough due to vehicles moving about in the mud. The council grader cleared these streets last week and the going is again comfortable.

[Story on golf; Stock Inspector Bill Sullivan; Rita Byrne; Cooney; Lowe; Mrs Fels; Cynthia Fickling; Mrs Underwood]

### **12 Aug 1950 (p47, NQ028, NQR)**

#### **NAMATJIRA'S SUCCESS**

Darwin, Aug 11 – Albert Namatjira, aboriginal painter from Hermannsburg Mission near Alice Springs, was last week offered £50 by a Sydney weekly paper for the reproduction rights of his first seascape.

It is one of three he completed during a recent 10 day visit to Darwin. In addition to the reproduction rights, Albert expects to receive at least an equal amount for the sale of the painting.

In September he will have an exhibition in Sydney when it is anticipated he will make anything up to £2000. For Albert this is no mythical fortune. He is already reputed to have several thousands in his banking account. In addition he owns his own cattle station, his own motor truck and his own house.

Yet with all his wealth he could not buy a drink during his stay in Darwin. To serve liquor to a full-blooded aboriginal in the Territory is a criminal offence. On one occasion when he was feted at the

internationally famous Hotel Darwin he drank "lolly water while his hosts drank their choice.

Keen observers were quick to notice that Albert's Darwin works lack the colour of those of the centre, but his fans state that is because the colour is not here. On his arrival here, he said he was not going to paint at all but Darwin's red white and purple cliffs and tropic blue sea were too much for him. Namatjira hopes to visit Darwin again later and bring his wife with him.

### **18 Aug 1950 (500818, CA)**

Quite a gloom was cast over the town at the sad passing of Miss Ann Keenan at the hospital in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Ann was well known and highly respected, both in Richmond and the JC district, and was the beloved sister of Mrs Grace Horton. Deceased always seemed to enjoy good health and rose early on Saturday morning to meet the train to see the Sisters of Cloncurry Convent passing through JC. However, Ann took a bad turn and went to lie down, but she never reached the bed and fell. Her sister, Mrs Grace Horton and Mrs Donnelly soon had Dr Davies who lost no time in getting Ann to hospital where she received the best of medical attention but it was soon seen the patient was sinking and passed away on Tuesday morning. Mrs Horton was at her bedside.

Deceased was 63 years of age and lived many years in Richmond where she devotedly nursed her mother and at the time of her death came to live with her sister Grace. Deceased's kind and loving nature won for her a host of friends. Her life was made up of always doing things for other people. She was a great worker for the Church and was organist for many years and taught many children to sing hymns and was always willing to play the bridal march for weddings. The altar at the RC church was always a credit to Ann who would walk miles to get fresh flowers for decorations.

The funeral took place on Wednesday at 10 o'clock, the cortege moving from the RC Church after Father Devereux held divine service. The funeral was largely attended and many floral tributes were sent. Father read the last rites of the RC Church. Ann leaves a sister, Mrs Grace Horton, to mourn her great loss, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy. Their only brother was killed in action in World War One.

### **19 Aug 1950 (p4, NQ029, NQR)**

JC, Aug 16 – Nurse F Harstorff has completed her duties at the local hospital and will be married shortly to Mr Stewart Byrne of this centre.

Miss Annie Keenan, sister to Mrs Grace Horton, passed away in the local hospital this morning. Miss Keenan suffered a stroke on Saturday and did not recover. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs Horton. Miss Keenan was a staunch supporter of the RC Church and assisted Father Devereux in many ways in matters pertaining to the church.

The Blue Bird Cafe was destroyed by fire early this morning the outbreak occurring at about 1 am. The cause of the fire is unknown. The building was owned by Mr FA Hickman and was rented by Miss Rita Byrne and Mr F Forde. The building and contents were insured. This was the only cafe in town.

[Hickman & Parsons in Brisbane re firefighting equipment]

### **19 Aug 1950 (p? NQ030, NQR)**

#### **ABO ARTIST'S WORK RUSHED**

Sydney, Aug 15 – Of 41 water colours by the aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira, 35 were sold for 1500 guineas in about an hour in Sydney today. They were bought at the opening of an exhibition of Namatjira's works at Anthony Horden's Fine Art Gallery.

"It is one of the most successful exhibits held in Sydney for some time," the manager of the Gallery said tonight. The watercolours ranged in price from 20 to 65 guineas.

### **19 Aug 1950 (p7, NQ031, NQR)**

Macrossan smash

### **24 Aug 1950 (p? NQ427, SBT)**

Ad for International Truck

**25 Aug 1950 (500825, CA)**

The town was extra busy on Wednesday and Thursday last as many folk came from all parts to attend the Toorak sale held on Thursday and all who were able returned to town to attend Gill Bros Buckjumping Show held on Thursday night. The show was well attended and some of our local rough riders tried their skill on Black Snake and Magpie. The horses were too good for our boys, anyway they were all very game. The school boys had some great spills from Ice Cream and Treacle (the two mules). A few prizes were given out during the night.

The Toorak sale went off well, everything bringing good prices. All were catered for by Sills and Dunne.

Mrs Jim Parson accompanied by her daughter, Miss Joan Parsons, returned home from Bowen after attending her only son, Jim's wedding.

[Beauchamp family]

Mr Kack Ahern has bought the Nelia Hotel so the family will be settled down for some time.

**26 Aug 1950 (p4, NQ032, NQR)**

JC, Aug 23 – On Friday last the local police organised a search party to go to Millungera to look for Mr B Dodds who had wandered off from the homestead and became lost in the scrub. Two planes were out on the job, Messrs A Lowe and L Walll being the pilots. Mr Dodds was missing for 36 hours and covered much country along the Saxby River before he met up with some horsemen and returned by horseback to Millungera.

[Departure of Postmaster Mr Muir; Mr H Smith staying with Devey at woolscour; Mr W Vickory transferred from Richmond PO to JC]

**26 Aug 1950 (p16, NQ033, NQR)**

Max's ad:

TYRES, TRUCKS AND ROPE. Two 11 x 24 tyres, nw, suitable Mack Diesel. Rail paid under list price. Ford 4 x 2, new motor, well shod, Price £375.

Also Ford 4 x 4, good condition, £325. also 3000 feet English wire Rope, 1/2 inch. Cost price.

Apply Max Burns, Contractor, "Burnham," Selwyn

**26 Aug 1950 (p16, NQ034, NQR)**

IRON EXPLODES: WOMAN BURNED

Cloncurry, Aug 23 – Mrs AH Wright, storekeeper of Quamby, aged 60, shortly before 1 o'clock today, was in the kitchen of her residence talking to her daughter who was using a petrol iron. When the iron exploded blazing petrol was showered over Mrs Wright who was sitting on the opposite side of the table. Her clothes immediately caught alight.

Her daughter immediately got a blanket and smothered the flames but not before Mrs Wright was seriously burnt about the arms, neck, hands and lower part of the face.

**31 Aug 1950 (p? NQ426, SBT)**

Ad for Austin A40 ute

**2 Sep 1950 (p6, NQ035, NQR)**

JC, Aug 29 – The Sedan Dip races meeting was held on Saturday and the funds raised will go to the benefit of the local ambulance. A large crowd attended both from here and Cloncurry. Nine bookmakers fielded and the horses sold through the yard prior to the meeting brought £75. There were nine races and these were run off in good time so that the last race finished at about 5 PM. A dance was held at night to entertain the crowds and the festivities ended early next morning when all gaiety-seekers turned homewards towards JC.

[Footballers to Cloncurry; Bank transfers; Jennie Godier; Kids back at school; Tennis club purchased trophies]

**2 Sep 1950 (p10, NQ036, NQR)****AMAZING LEAP IN WOOL PRICE**

Sydney, Aug 28 – About 12,000 bales of wool were sold for £1,400,000 today in what was described as the “most amazing opening” of the wool auction series in Australia.

The jump in prices today as compared with the opening of the 1949-50 series was marked. Some graziers who sold today received nearly 10/- a pound more for their clip than 12 months ago. One clip which sold for 66d in August 1949 and for 114d in June 1950 today made 168 3/4d.

From the outset buyers representing wool interests in England and the continent bid freely and rocketed prices by 40 and 50 percent above the closing rates of the 1949-50 auction sales.

The top price of 173d equalled the Australian record established in January this year. Brokers said that the wool which sold for 173d in January would have made well over 220d today...

“No grazier or broker in his wildest dreams ever imagined they would see anything like this. It is an all time record,” he said.

**2 Sep 1950 (p45, NQ037, NQR)**

Max's Ad:

Tractor Driver Wanted

With experience operating control scoop

Also Truck Driver

Start Immediately

Good Wages

Max Burns, Nelia

**9 Sep 1950 (p6, NQ038, NQR)**

JC, Sep 5 – We seem to have left the cold of winter behind us now for all of last week showed no touch of cold weather. A north wind was prevalent on Thursday and the day remained warm as a result. Friday was again calm and warm but on Sunday a blustering south-easterly developed and we have had it with us each day since then. It is not pleasant and all will be happy when it loses its intensity.

[Fire on Sunny Plains... Mr C Kelman, Pleurisy... Mr W Wilson, Headmaster... ]

The school children have commenced their tennis tournaments and are playing with great interest. Already the boys' singles has been decided when Claud Wilder won the event from Colin Hardy by 9 games to 5.

Matron Blanch and sister Hough will leave JC on Monday next. The public will say farewell to these ex members of the hospital staff with much regret and a public gathering is being organised by Mrs E Mullins in appreciation of the splendid service given by matron and her assistant. We wish them every happiness wherever they may wander.

It was a great day at the golf links on Sunday. The main interest was a competition between Cloncurry and JC for a cup. This was won by JC by a fair margin. Possibly the heavy black soil course proved a little strange to the visitors. The visitors were entertained at a tasty luncheon at the course prepared nicely by Mrs J Walters and again at a camp fire supper at night after the golf was finished. Mr Morrie Taylor, L Wall, Mrs L Wall and Mrs I Fairbairn won trophies during the day's play.

Our new headmaster at the State School, Mr W Wilson, took advantage of Arbor Day on Friday last to plant several trees. The three executive officials of the School committee Sergeant I Cooke, secretary; Constable S Henry, treasurer; JP Green, chairman, were each given the honour of planting a tree as well as Mr J Parsons and Mr W Gannon representing the citizens. As well as these trees, Mr Wilson has arranged to start a hedging along the fences which will improve the appearance of the grounds.

The school children have commenced their tennis tournaments and are playing with great interest. already the boys' singles has been decided when Claude wilder won the event from Colin Hardy by 9 games to 5. It is expected that the tournament will be completed with the next two weeks.

### **13 Sep 1950 (500913, CA)**

The Grand Annual Catholic Belle of the Ball held in Eckford's Hall on Friday night was an outstanding success. Door takings amounted to £95. The large hall was decorated with blended streamers that hung from three large hoops. The stage made a perfect setting with paper curtains and pretty background showing palm trees and beach scene. The white palings on the stage were decorated with plaited paper and fresh flowers and carpeted stairs. This was the artistic work of Mr Mullins. Mr Bob Smith capable MC kept the dancers moving to the bright music supplied by Mrs Bollman's Orchestra. Mr Burrows in the ticket office gave out voting cards for the Belle of the Ball, these were collected by the MC and duly counted at 9 o'clock. The Right Rev Dr Ryan of Townsville and the Rev Father Devereux PP arrived and were escorted to the stage by the President, Mr J Kaeser. Mr and Mrs M Taylor, Mrs Lord and Miss Joan Parsons Secretary. Little Miss Ivon Cooke prettily attired curtsied to Bishop Ryan and then handed each lady on the stage a fresh flower posie. The official party went to supper where a nicely arranged table and a very enjoyable buffet supper was served to all present.

Novelty dances were enjoyed when Mr Smith MC called order to announce the Belle of the Ball won by Miss Patulio, a nursing sister at the JC hospital, with Miss Ivy Burrows a very close second.

Miss Patulio was charmingly attired in a pretty lemon organdi evening frock worn over gold taffeta foundation. The frock featured a tight fitting bodice with the off the shoulder frill finished with black velvet ribbon and wore an attractive velvet neck band finished with diamond trimmings. The extra full circular skirt was frilled at the hem line and finished with black velvet ribbon and wore black lace gloves and wore hand made pink and lemon flowers that fell from waist to hip and pretty hair do. Miss Ivy Burrows chose a charming evening frock of blue floral organdi worn over satin foundation. The tight fitting bodice showing a pretty sweetheart neckline, puffed sleeves, and extra flowing flared skirt, finished at back with large bustle bow matching mittens were worn with diamond necklace and ear rings and smart hair do. Both young ladies were loudly cheered.

Miss Patullo was escorted to the stage where Mrs M Taylor handed her the prize and was decorated with the Belle of the Ball ribbon and was handed a beautiful fresh flower bouquet amidst great cheering. The Belle of the Ball waltz was called. Dancing went on till the small wee hours of the morning...

### **14 Sep 1950 (p? NQ425, SBT)**

Wage and salary earners at work in Australia at the end of 1949 totalled 2,497,000 persons, and increase during the year of 80,000. Rural workers and females in private domestic service and defence personnel are excluded from these totals. The CES reported vacancies for 101,394 workers at the end of 1949. On Dec 23, 1949 only 705 persons were receiving unemployment benefit.

### **16 Sep 1950 (p5, NQ039, NQR)**

JC, Sep 12 – The RC Ball was held on Friday night last and it was a great success. His Lordship Bishop Ryan of Townsville was in attendance to preside over the proceedings. The richmond orchestra provided the music and the dancing continued until a late hour.

[Mr Hale, Civil Aviation... Mr K Dunn...]

The local woollscour is undergoing extensive repairs preparatory to a restart in a few days. The manager, Mr D Devey, anticipates a good run before the close of the season towards the end of the year.

We have to congratulate Sister Noreen Patello of the local hospital who was proclaimed Belle of the Ball on Friday night last. Stiff competition came from runner up Miss Ivy Burrows.

The golf on Sunday was a nine hole competition and the winners turned up in Mrs LA Wall and Dr Davies. The latter's win is long overdue and for this reason his success was popular. The championship has reached the final when Bob Smith meets Morrie Taylor. Bob eliminated Lionel Wall and Morrie accounted for Jack Arden in the semifinals. The final will be decided on Sunday next and will be the titbit of golf for the season. [Date unsure for this and next paragraph]

Last Thursday night the accommodation portion of the Nelia Hotel was burnt for fire. This was a separate building away from the hotel and it is fortunate for Mr Ahern that the main hotel building did

not catch. However, this was an unfortunate loss for Mr Ahern had only just recently purchased the hotel and buildings from Messrs Samuel Allen and sons of Townsville.

[Mr H Benson... Mr W Ormonde]

**16 Sep 1950 (p46, NQ040, NQR)**

Max's Ad:

TANKSINKING

WESTERN QLD TANKSINKERS UNION

Owing to excessive rise in machinery costs the following prices have been agreed upon by WQTU to operate as from October 1st. Tanks of 20,000 yds and over 2/6 per yard; Tanks of 10,000 to 20,000 yds, 2/9 per yd; Tanks under 10,000 yds, 3/- per yd.

The above prices have been agreed upon to enable first-class jobs to be done for graziers and to ensure that the best earth-moving machinery money can buy will remain in the industry and to eliminate cut-throat competition that has ruined so many tanksinkers in the past.

All Tanksinkers still outside the Union are requested to make application for membership fee to Secretary, and to co-operate in making a fixed price for all concerned from October 1st.

MAX BURNS, JC, Sec, W. Kirk, Tambo, President

**23 Sep 1950 (p6, NQ041, NQR)**

JC, Sep 20 – The high wool prices have caused quite some excitement here, due to the fact that Mr J H Mathews, of Hilton Park, about a mile from this township, received the record high price of 262d per pound for some of his scoured wool on the first day of the sale this week. The graziers hereabouts are not too certain what the skyrocketing of values means, but all are certainly enjoying an immensely rich period where wool is concerned.

[Mr Lowe to Bunda St...]

A dance was held in Peut's Hall last Friday night in aid of the funds for the school children...

[Winners of tennis tournament...Mr Russell Ellis...bushfire near Nelia...Mr Ben Burrows]

**23 Sep 1950 (p42, NQ042, NQR)**

NEW PRICE RECORDS AT BRISBANE SALES

Scoured 280d, Greasy 196d

Brisbane, Sep 21 – The Brisbane wool sales which opened on Monday of this week passed from one sensation to another on successive days. Wool sold at the rate of nearly £10,000 a minute from the opening, the day's climax being a new world record of 262d for scoured, which was eclipsed the following day when seven bales from Maxwellton sold for 280d.

Then on Thursday, greasy reached a new high with the sale of nine bales of super combing from Blackall at 196d.

It is estimated that greasy will average about £160 per bale. Wool, representing part of one central-western clip on Thursday realised over £64,000 for about 300 bales, an average of just over £200 a bale.

On Monday an English operator paid 262d per lb for five bales of scoured wool sold on account of JH Mathews of Hilton Park, JC.

**30 Sep 1950 (p2, NQ043, NQR)**

RAT PLAGUE AT JC

JC, Sep 28 – For some time now reports have been coming in from country areas that rats were very numerous. However, until this last week or so the town area has not been bothered too much by them. It seems though that they are now invading the town in rather large numbers and no doubt will increase as time goes on.

The invasion of these rodents is following the same pattern as in the last plague and it seems certain that we shall have to put up with a lot of inconvenience and bother before they finally decide to migrate en masse to other regions.

**30 Sep 1950 (p4, NQ044, NQR)**

JC, Sep 26 – [Golf: Mrs Wall, Dr Davies, Bob Smith, Jack Arden, Morrie Taylor]

Last Thursday night the accommodation portion of the Nelia Hotel was burnt by fire. This was a separate building away from the hotel and it is fortunate for Mr Ahern that the main hotel building did not catch. However, this was an unfortunate loss for Mr Ahearn had only just recently purchased the hotel and buildings from Messrs Samuel Allen & Sons of Townsville.

[Mr & Mrs Wall]

The rates levied by the McKinley Shire Council at the recent meeting were: General 5 1/8d, with Stock Assessment of 7/8d making 6d in all on all rateable properties, sanitary 1/9 per service and water, hotels £15 per annum, cafes and iceworks £5 per annum, improved properties £2/10/- per annum and unimproved properties £1 per annum.

Mr M Laird has arrived to take over control of the local office of the Australian Estates Co Ltd. Mr Laird replaces Mr N. Walsh who transfers to Longreach.

[Ambulance...]

**14 Oct 1950 (p19, NQ045, NQR)**

JC, Oct 10 – ... The streets became quite muddy and the traversing of these by workers and shopping housewives was very pleasant. However, the rain will do a lot of good and the bushfire hazard which was becoming very grim, should be less menacing now for some little time.

The golfers finished their season on Sunday with the playing of the final between Bob Smith and Morrie Taylor. Bob Smith won this play-off and so is the champion for 1950. Morrie Taylor won this event last year and so it is now one each to these two keen players. The member who reduced his handicap most during the season was Jack Arden...

Mr A Lowe was called out to Saxby downs today in his ambulance plane to transport a station hand who was kicked by a horse. He was met on arrival by Mr R Benson, the local ambulance superintendent, who transported the patient to hospital.

Late last week Mr Lowe was called out to Millungera where a stockman called McCann was reported lost. This stockman was attached to a mustering camp and had become temporarily lost, his horse became tired and he had to carry on without the beast. McCann eventually found his bearings and returned to his camp after being away for almost three days. Search parties were organised and a further expedition was stopped by Mr Lowe who had flown low over the stockman's camp to be told by vigorous signs that all was well. Mr Lowe was then able to report to headquarters on Millungera that the lost man was safe again.

Mr Harry Smith, general-manager of Edkins, Marsh and Co, Ltd, paid a visit to the local woolscouring works last week ...

[Cricket]

**14 Oct 1950 (p19, NQ046, NQR)**

JC, Oct 4 – [State School Committee... purchase of radiogram... golf... export tax on wool... Royal Commission into Land Settlement... Fires on Eddington]

**19 Oct 1950 (p? NQ422, SBT)**

Wanted – two farm lads, machinery minded, to learn tractor driving with largest Tank Sinking plant in Australia. Wages £12/10/- per week and keep; fares paid. Wire Max Burns, Selwyn, via Cloncurry.

**21 Oct 1950 (p4, NQ047, NQR)**

JC, Oct 17 – ... There was a small amount of rain on Wednesday night, just enough to prevent the holding of the pictures in the open air show. However, these entertained the fans on the following night...

All the hedgings and young trees that have been planted in the school grounds are showing a healthy progress. The gum trees are coming along nicely the oleander hedgings along the fences reveal vigorous shoots in all cases and it will be no time before they will provide a good show to passers-by. A line of athel trees a variety of fir, has been planted along each side of the walk from the school gate to the school building and these are beginning to show signs of a sturdy existence. In a year or so the efforts of the headmaster Mr JC Wilson will be rewarded.

[Cattle dipped... Lost stockman Alan Doyle... Dance on Friday night... planting trees in school ground... CWA...]

The Australian Estates Co Ltd will conduct a clearing sale at Eddington on november 1 next when their chief auctioneer, Mr W Kenny, will auction cattle, sheep, horses, improvements, materials, plant on behalf of The New Zealand and Australian Land Co Ltd. This clearing sale will be similar to those held at 'Maxwellton' and Marathon and may well be more extensive. The horses which are well bred should attract much attention. Eddington is being resumed to be divided up into smaller holdings for which there will be a ballot.

**26 Oct 1950 (p? NQ421, SBT)**

Ad for Oliver tractors and Britstand scoops  
[Excellent photo and layout]

**28 Oct 1950 (p6, 501028, NQR)**

JC – The Nelia races are to be held on Saturday and there have been good nominations. this meeting looks like being the best ever for Nelia and it is a fitting reward to Mr JP Ahern who has done a lot of work in organising the meeting.

At the recent meeting of the McKinlay Shire Council it was decided to notify the displaced persons in the employ of the council that it is expected that they fulfill the condition under which they were employed and that the council cannot allow them to take up more lucrative positions in the town until such conditions are carried out.

Mr HS O'Brien who operates for the Mareeba Road constructions Co notified the council that he was not able to commence work on the JC streets until possibly the new year when he expected to have suitable staff. It was decided to ask Mr MD Burns if he would be interested in the contract for street works.

**28 Oct 1950 (p8, NQ048, NQR)**

3d TO MAIL ORDINARY LETTER NOW

Canberra, Oct 26 – Increased rates for almost all postal, telephone and telegraphic services were announced by the Postmaster General (Mr HL Anthony) in the House of Representatives today.

Mr Anthony said, unless Parliament approved the increased tariffs the Postal Department would show a loss of at least £8,000,000 for 1950-51. Even despite the increases a heavy deficit in post office accounts for the current financial year would be inevitable, Mr Anthony said... [some telephone rates and a complete list of increases for postage]

**1 Nov 1950 (p? NQ052, NQR)**

NO DROP IN WOOL PRICES

Eight salient factors governed wool prices and would continue to govern them in the immediate future, the chairman of the wool Bureau Incorporated (Mr E Ackerman) said in New York recently. Mr Ackerman said these factors apparently precluded any reduction in wool prices in 1950. They did not preclude further rises so long as demand continued to outstrip production. The factors were:

1. Wool consumption has increased throughout Europe.
2. Increasing population of the areas of the world where wool is a necessity and convenience is opening up larger markets.



3. European textile industries are using more fine wools than before the war.
4. United States has become the world's largest single user of fine apparel wools. Since 1941 US production of wool has declined from about 475,000,000 lb to about 255,000,00 lb
5. US consumption has risen from about 600,000,000 lb to an average of 800,000,000 to 900,000,000 lb annually.
6. World production of fine wools, especially, has decreased.
7. Russia will become a major buyer of fine wools at any price which will ensure the needed quantities with the least loss of time.
8. There is no substitute for wool and no worthy imitation

Mr Ackerman said the price of wool, by present day values, is reasonable.

#### **4 Nov 1950 (p42, NQ049, NQR)**

JC, Nov 1 – ... The town took on a very busy appearance yesterday afternoon and this morning when buyers began to arrive for the sale of live stock, improvements and materials at Eddington Station. However, the sale is now well under way and the town is devoid of all life, more or less.

[Red Cross appeal ... Nelia races... Cricket...]

Mr Lionel Wall was called out to the Northern Territory where he had to attend to business regarding a mob of cattle coming in from the area. He was away for about four days doing the trip by way of his Fairchild aeroplane. Mr Wall is arranging for a show room to display several makes of cars and this should be an acquisition to the business centre here.

Mr Max Burns, earth moving contractor was in town today to attend the sale at Eddington.

#### **18 Nov 1950 (p26, NQ050, NQR)**

JC, Nov 8 – Delegates from the cricket clubs of McKinlay, JC and the north country district met and the JC and District Cricket Association was formed with Mr F McDermott of Dalgonally as president and Mr K Dunn as secretary...

Arrangements for the annual breaking-up picnic Christmas tree and fancy dress ball were finalised at the November meeting of the JC State School committee... The Christmas Tree will be conducted in Eckford's Hall on the night of the breaking-up picnic and a dance will follow. all children of the town and district attending will receive a gift from the tree. The Secretary was instructed to write the Nelia Race Club, seeking the co-operation of that body in organising a benefit race meeting the proceeds of which to be shared by the Nelia Race Club, the Nelia children and the JC State School.

#### **25 Nov 1950 (p4, NQ051, 501125, NQR)**

JC, Nov 21 – ... The Nurses Bonus Fund race meeting went off successfully on Saturday and a big crowd was present at the racecourse. There were six races and the last event was concluded just before 5 PM according to schedule... Twelve bookmakers fielded at the course and there seemed to be spirited betting during most of the afternoon. The gate takings amounted to £75 and an appeal was made at the course for donations to the Nurses' Bonus Fund. There was a certain ready response but not nearly as substantial as last year but it is certain that further support for this really deserving local cause will be forthcoming during the next week or two. A dance was held on Friday night and the race ball on Saturday night. Both entertainments were gay. The proceeds from the door takings for the race ball were £83.

Mr A Lowe was called during last week to make two flights in his Tiger Moth aircraft. He was called to Dimora in the Maxwellton district to transport Mr Knox to the JC Hospital suffering from illness. Mr Max Burns also chartered Mr Lowe's plane to return to Chatsworth Station in the Boulia country. This was a long hop but it was carried out safely.

The cricket on Sunday was interesting when JC played the Sedan Club at the 20-Mile playing ground...

#### **8 Dec 1950 (501208, CA)**

Engagement of Nora McDonald to Roy Hutton

#### **15 Dec 1950 (501215, CA)**

The school picnic held on Saturday was greatly enjoyed by all with good sports. Quite a large crowd gathered, although the day was warm the children had a great day with plenty of delicacies, water melons, fruit and ice cream, and at night in Eckford's Hall a large Christmas tree laden with valuable toys were handed to each from Santa Claus who was in fine style played by Mr Garney Evans. Each child received a toy, even the babes in arms, also a bag of sweets kindly donated by Mr Max Burns. Each toy had a lucky number that was drawn during the night this was won by little Mavey Applegar, the prize was a beautiful sleeping doll dressed as a bride that would charm the heart of any little girl. This prize was donated by Mr Peter Dawes. During the night the president Mr Green thanked all those who helped in many ways to make the school sports and Christmas tree such a success. He said giving the children such a happy time and right royal breaking up was great and the committee of the school should feel very proud of thier efforts. Dancing and singing brought the happy evening to a close. Many little children gave Santa some very tall orders to bring along and fill their stockings at Christmas time.

**20 Dec 1950 (p? NQ432, BA)**

Christmas greetings from Mrs M Burns at the Burnett Hotel, Gayndah.

**6 Jan 1951 (p41, NQ057, NQR)**

JC, Jan 2 – We have experienced a very hot week and since the atmosphere has been humid as well as carrying a high temperature it was so much more intolerable. The nights have also been uncomfortable and this has caused much difficulty in getting the necessary night's rest to enable us to carry on satisfactorily. There was a little rain here on Friday night and Saturday opened up with a heavy rainstorm in the north. Sunday was really hot and on the afternoon a heavy storm swept across the town area. A registration of 139 points was made from this fall. Monday again remained very hot, even worse than Sunday and last night at about 10 p.m. a violent electrical storm broke loose in the west. At the same time very heavy storm clouds rolled up in the east.

The storm in the west provided a continuous blaze of light and an ever present rumble. As the two storms approached one another the whole dome above became one blaze of continuous light with jagged shafts of light shooting from cloud to cloud. Although the lightning was violent, according to the view, the result was only a continued rumble intermingled with louder clashes.

One got the impression that the storm was operating very high for it was giving us its fireworks right above the town. After about an hour and a half the storms met and it seemed as if we might receive something extra special in the way of rainfalls but only 40 points was registered here this morning. This as a most fantastic electrical storm and provided much interest. Today it is quite muggy and more rain seems inevitable.

The C of E Ladies Guild held a carnival night in Eckford's Hall on Sunday night last to allow all revellers to usher in the New Year. The rain earlier spoilt proceedings somewhat but Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Holland, together with their committee, boldly went on with the entertainment and it was quite a success.

We are pleased to report that little Ivon Cooke has improved in health after treatment in Mt Isa. Sergeant Cooke travelled by TAA plane on Friday to Mt Isa to be with his daughter. Let us hope that the improvement continues and is rapid.

[Brother Dams of the bush Brotherhood of the C of E...]

**26 Jan 1951 (510126, CA)**

Mr H Walters (Maxwellton) was a passenger on the Saturday train for Cloncurry and will take up duty at the local post office.

Nursing staff is arriving for the hospital and as soon as a doctor comes the hospital will be opened.

Rain began again to fall during Monday night and we have had well over 2 inches. It is still raining.

The hotels were out of beer for a few days, however, with the arrival of the train, beer was again on tap.

The ice works has again changed hands, Mr Charlie Haden and Mr Dickfos have taken over and we

wish them every success.

Julia Creek is very high and the water can be seen from the town and it is almost as popular as the beach. Many can be seen going in for a swim.

**27 Jan 1951 (p19, NQ058, NQR)**

JC, Jan 16 – The main topic of conversation in the district is “When will the weather fine up”? For many years in the past it was “When is it going to rain”? Not a single day passed during the last week without rain and some heavy falls have been recorded. JC had its heaviest downpour on Sunday evening when the rain gauge measured 166 points. At the moment of writing it looks as if we were in for a lot more.

Owing to the Flinders River being in high flood, the water has backed up in Alick and Boundary Creeks which have submerged the railway line. It is hard to say when railway communication with the coast will be resumed as this is dependent upon the Flinders going down. One train which arrived in JC from Mt Isa on Friday got as far as Quarrell’s siding and had to return. This train with its passengers is still here.

All country mail services are still held up and the only means of transport to and from country properties is by private planes.

[Mr A Lowe, Underwood, Watts, Arden... Misses CN Cooke, NE Godier, JM Wilson... Lance Lewis, Marsh, Mrs C Hardy, T Jessup, Miss Judy Jessup]

**3 Feb 1951 (p41, NQ059, 510209, NQR)**

JC, Jan 23 – (Delayed in transit) It was quite an event when the mail train arrived on Saturday. This train had been on the road from Townsville for a week being held up firstly in Hughenden and then in Richmond. Most townspeople turned out to welcome it.

The usual mail train which leaves on Saturday of each week arrived here on time on Sunday morning.

The train which arrived here from Mt Isa on Jan 12 departed for Townsville on Saturday morning, Jan 20.

After the arrival of these trains mail boxes were filled to overflowing and the PO staff had a very busy time sorting all this accumulated mail. In Peter Dawes’ paper department, people were standing two and three deep. Although we can get most news over the air, everyone craves for their papers.

Sergeant S Cooke returned from Mt Isa during the week where he has been with his little daughter who has been seriously ill. We are very pleased to report that she is progressing favourably and is now walking about but is still in hospital.

Mrs E Emblen whose husband is putting down a bore on Tara Downs was flown to town last Saturday having broken one of her wrists. She unfortunately fell down when getting away from a snake.

Both tiger Moth planes belonging to Mr LA Wall and Mr Arthur Lowe have been kept very busy doing mercy errands and flying passengers.

Through the initiative of two State School committeemen, impromptu dances were held in Champney’s Hall on Monday and Friday nights. There were quite good attendances considering no country people were in town. The school funds will benefit by these dances.

Owing to flood waters, Nelia was inundated by snakes during the week and it is reported that nine were killed one morning outside the hotel. A five-foot reptile was killed when in the act of swallowing another 4 feet long. “Mine Host” Mr JP Ahearn of the Nelia Hotel assures us that there was just normal drinking going on at the time.

[Wensley, property of Mr E Barnes, Nelia district... Mail train held up...]

**7 Feb 1951 (p? NQ433, BA)**

Hotel Lease for sale in good country district, long lease, good beer quota. For particulars see J Semple (Sempde?)

**17 Feb 1951 (p29, 510217, NQR)**

JC, Feb 6 – The weather for the past week has been hot and humid. Little or no rain was recorded in JC during the week but showers have fallen in the country. On Saturday afternoon there were some good falls. The prevailing wind has been from the north and with conditions like this it is certain there will be more rain.

With the sunshine, roads are drying up and mail coaches are again running except to properties the other side of the Flinders River which is still in flood.

The first train from the coast for over a week or more which had been held up in Hughenden and Richmond arrived just before midnight on 1st instant. Rail services are now running almost normally.

Mr E Emblen who is putting down a bore on Lara Downs was unfortunately bitten by a snake on one of his feet. He treated himself until the arrival of the ambulance which took him to hospital. He is progressing favourably.

Three Sisters. misses Z, P and A Thompson arrived from Brisbane on Thursday to take up duty at the hospital. Two are nursing sisters and one a nurse. They were a very long time on the road being held up all along the coast as well as on the western section by floods and washouts. It is pleasing to note that the nursing staff is building up and it is to be hoped it will not be long before we get a doctor.

Garomna finished crutching and lamb shearing last Friday. Manfred Downs started crutching on Monday. Now that it has fined up a number of properties are anxious to do their crutching on account of blow fly trouble. Shearing on Hilton park, given fine weather, should cut out at the end of the week.

Mr and Mrs Peter Dawes and family have returned from holiday on the coast.

Congratulations to Miss Pat Downey on winning the Bronze Medal for life saving. Mrs I RC Cooke and small daughter returned on last night's mail train from Mt Isa. The latter has quite recovered from her recent serious illness.

Miss Ivy Gannon is visiting her parents Mr and Mrs WG Gannon. She recently returned from a trip overseas.

**23 Feb 1951 (510223, CA)**

In the Court of Petty Sessions, Cloncurry, at 2.30 pm, 22 February 1951, Alexander George Henry Wall, 35, Station Manager of Agate Downs, appeared before Mr JP Donlevy, Stipendiary Magistrate charged on the complaint of Snr Sgt VJ Quinn, that on the 12th February, at Kuridala, he unlawfully used one roan bullock the property of Claude Entriken without consent of Entriken, and that on the same day at Kuridala he unlawfully used a cow and a bullock the property of Australian Estates Co Ltd without its consent.

The first beast bore the registered brand of the owner Entriken, the owner of O'Hara's Gap Station near Duchess; the other two beasts bore the brand of Chatworth Station owned by Australian Estates Co Ltd.

The prosecutor in outlining the facts, stated that the three beasts were placed by Wall in railway cattle waggons at Kuridala at about noon on the 12 inst and these cattle went forward by train later that day to JC to where they were consigned. In consequence of certain information received by police, they checked these two trucks of cattle on arrival at JC on the morning of the 13th inst. Constable Henry of JC made a check of the cattle and found that five beasts including the three the subject of this prosecution, were not described on the railway waybill. Later defendant was interviewed at Agate Downs and admitted that he was aware at the time of trucking these cattle that the three beasts were not his property nor the property of his brother Lionel Wall who is the owner of Agate Downs. He further admitted the three beasts were the property of Entiken and Australian Estates. Wall stated his reason for placing these three beasts in the railway trucks along with others that he was short of the number required to send to JC and picked them up to make up the required number.

Wall pleaded guilty to both charges and was convicted and fined £60 with 12/- costs of Court, in default three months imprisonment.

**24 Feb 1951 (p4, NQ060, NQR)**

JC, Feb 20 – Miss Alma Gannon left for Brisbane by last night's mail train and will make preparations for her marriage early in April in that city.

On Monday the marriage of Miss Eileen Somers to Mr Doug Meadows of Mt Isa took place and the marriage service was conducted by the Rev Father Devereux in St Abigail's Church. Eileen is well known and popular locally being the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P Somers of Byrne Street. The reception took place in Champneys' Hall after the service.

... The Flying Doctor from Cloncurry, Dr Morton, paid a visit to JC last Friday, in order to give attention to any patients. He was kept very busy during his visit here. It will be a relief to all in this district when we are able to have our own medical officer. With the arrival of further sisters shortly our hospital staff will be complete and it should be disappointing if the services of a doctor are not made available soon so that the hospital may function satisfactorily.

The local woollscour came into prominence last week when a parcel of woollscoured at the works sold for an Australasian record figure of 364d per lb. This wool came from the property of Mr RJ Magoffin, called Rosevale-Byramine. The record breaking line was 6 bales of AA/W which yielded highly, making the greasy equivalent price proportionately high.

[Mr Siddens, Mr Fred Furness of Euroka Springs]

Mr Max Burns has returned to JC after holidays spent in Brisbane and Sydney. Max reports having watched the American professional tennis troupe while in Brisbane and he saw the third cricket test played in Sydney. He returns to Brisbane again at the end of this week to do further business in connection with his large earth-moving plant.

**3 Mar 1951 (p4, 510303, NQ061)**

JC, Feb 27 – Last week opened up with a cloudy change and it was thought that more rain would come our way. However, the skies cleared and Thursday and Friday came out dry and hot. The weekend was also hot and again during the last two days. We have experienced an uncomfortable heat without any signs of relief. All will be happy when the cooler autumn weather makes itself felt.

Mr H Benson superintendent of the local QATB made a long trip to Rosevale Station last week to transport an injured shed hand to town.

On Wednesday night last, Mr H Benson had the pleasure of presenting on behalf of St John's ambulance a first aid certificate to Mr A Lowe who has passed the examination. Mr Benson acted as coach to Mr Lowe. Since Mr Lowe pilots the ambulance lane operating from here, his newly acquired knowledge will be most helpful to him in his work in this respect.

**3 Mar 1951 (p31, NQ062, NQR)**

Our Wharfies "Slowest In The World"

Brisbane, Feb 26 – The 9140-ton freighter, General Guisan, which arrived in Brisbane today is the first Swiss ship to visit Australia.

It is the first Swiss mercantile vessel ever built. It was constructed in England but the engine was made at Winterthur (Switzerland) and sent to England in wooden cases.

Master of the General Guisan, Captain Marini said today that the Swiss navy had almost 30 ships in its fleet at present. Others are under construction in England.

Captain Marini said today: "Australian wharf labourers are the slowest waterside workers in the world. It had taken us 50 days since we arrived at Melbourne to reach Brisbane. We had to wait four days before we could get a berth in Sydney and then it took another 23 days to discharge cargo. When we were in Sydney the wharf labourers seemed to take time off for everything. They did not take a few hours off for a meeting – they took the day off. They have everything down to a fine art and even have

a picnic day,” he added.

**3 Mar 1951 (p45, NQ063, NQR)**

**EARTH MOVING CONTRACTORS**

Plans are being prepared and contracts will shortly be let for the excavation during 1951 of a minimum quota of 10 Earthen Tanks comprising eight of 15000 cubic yards each and two of 20,000 cubic yards each, a total of 160,000 cubic yards.

The work will be at Vanrook, Rutland Plains, Iffley and Donors Hills Stations all situated in the Normanton district of North Qld.

Additional minimum quotas of work, totalling 350,000 cubic yards will be let during 1952, 1953 and 1954 at the properties named.

Preliminary communications from interested contractors are now invited with a brief description of the contractor's plant and daily earth moving capacity. Successful tenderers for the work (which need not necessarily be allotted to a single individual) will be required to furnish satisfactory business and financial references.

Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Q Station Pty Ltd, 524 Collins Street, Melbourne C1, and copies of such letters should be sent to Mr J McConachy, “Dotswood” Station, Mingela, N Qld.

**9 Mar 1951 (510309, CA)**

An old identity of JC and district, Mr Bob Vaughan passed away at the hospital on Friday. Bob had not been too well and came to town to see a doctor when he had the misfortune to fall and hurt his hip. He went to Cloncurry and received medical attention and was brought back to JC and admitted to the hospital where he passed away. Deceased always did station work and was employed for many years on Eddington in the early days of JC. He was laid to rest on Saturday and a wide circle of friends will regret to hear of the passing of this grand old man who was 78 years of age.

The only cafe in JC has again changed hands and taken over by Mrs Dawson to whom we wish every success on her venture into business.

[Mr and Mrs Devey have a daughter]

**10 Mar 1951 (p4, NQ064, NQR)**

JC, Mar 6 – During the whole of this last week the wind had prevailed from the north with a variation to the west or east on occasions. The days have been stiflingly hot and the temperatures have ranged daily between 100 and 110 degrees. During the early part of the week there were no real signs of rain resulting from the north wind and heat but in the last few days storm clouds began to appear and in the early night storms broke at various parts of the dark horizon. Finally, last night vicious electrical storms accompanied by rain struck several parts of the district. The town area received about half an inch of rain with severe lightning and the crashes of thunder... [Argyle, T Wall of Lindfield]

**10 Mar 1951 (p33, 510310, NQR)**

JC, Mar 2 – The State School Committee has now had installed a radiogram complete with a set of recordings covering history, geography, English, singing and folk dancing. The projector which has been in Brisbane undergoing repairs has now been returned and is ready for use. Trees which were planted last year are showing good progress.

[Jute project at school]

Snakes are becoming plentiful and several have been seen in town. Tennis players killed a snake last Sunday found slithering across the court while they were playing. Another was killed behind Gannon's Hotel, and another in a back yard not far from Burke Street. Ernie Emblen, well borer, was bitten by a Downs tiger while working on Lara and recovered only after hospital treatment at Cloncurry. But the snake yarn of the week comes from the Ambulance Superintendant, Mr Benson, who was called to Mannie Sills vegetable garden just out of town. It was Sunday and all was quiet at the Sills' garden – until George Jnr began squealing from the garden area. George was huddled in a frightened state on an upturned wash tub, staring at a Downs Tiger snake rearing its head above the level of the tub and

gazing in turn at the frightened boy. The reptile was killed immediately and the boy rushed to the ambulance. No damage was done other than George Jnr having a real good scare.

**17 Mar 1951 (p15, NQ065, NQR)**

**US TRACTORS FOR QLD**

Brisbane, March 13 – Mr HR Bell, Queensland general manager of a large motor firm, will leave for the US at the end of this month to arrange on the spot for the supply and shipment of 500 Oliver Tractors and machinery valued at £1,000,000.

Mr Bell said today that the tractors licensed under the dollar loan were mostly of the crawler type and in large sizes. These would be used for developmental work in this state.

He added that he would arrange for the technical knowledge and replacement parts to be made available to Qld so that a high degree of service would be available to users of all tractors and machinery.

**17 Mar 1951 (p32, NQ066, NQR)**

**RISE LIKELY IN PETROL PRICE**

Melbourne, March 12 – Petrol companies which are pressing for a 3d a gallon rise in the price of petrol are likely to get only a penny a gallon at the prices Ministers' conference in Melbourne on Wednesday.

A penny rise would make city petrol 3/2 a gallon – 4d more than the peak war price and 1/5 more than early in 1939. Petrol went up a penny at the end of January. Executives of oil companies said today that if the price was not lifted 3d, Australia would face its worst petrol shortage since 1943...

**17 Mar 1951 (p47, NQ067, NQR)**

JC, 13 Mar? – ...[Mr A Lowe...] Quite a number of our young folk visited Richmond for the St Patrick's Ball. The included: Misses Joan and Pat Brennan, Nurse Strong, Sister Oriak, Misses C Fickling, J Fry, D Downey, A Eckland, and Messrs H Stainkey, R Stainkey, R O'Neil, J and L Paine, R Fry, J Crilley, W Sullivan. These enthusiasts travelled about 200 miles for this entertainment and reported it was worth the effort...

**31 Mar 1951 (p32, NQ068, NQR)**

**SHEARERS CAN NOW EARN £100 A WEEK**

Brisbane, March 28 – Shearing rates in Qld were lifted to the highest rate ever awarded in Australia by a decision of the State Industrial Court today.

The Court's decision provided for an increase of one-third on the former rates bringing the figure to £7/8/- a 100 sheep. The increase also applies to shed hands, pressers, and other workers engaged in the shearing industry under the Shearing Industry Award.

The Selectors' Association Secretary, Mr GE Humphreys, said as a result of the judgement big gun shearers would be able to earn up to £100 a week.

Under the new rates the slowest shearers would be able to earn £37 a week. Good men putting through 200 a day would make £74 a week. Shed hands doing unskilled work would receive £17 a week. Mr Humphries said graziers had less cause to worry over shearing rates than their taxation commitments.

This he said was the position of one man whose clip realised £130,000 this year. After a deduction of the 20 per cent wool tax and when the Federal tax fell due he would have left £6500 without taking into account the provisional tax which he would be assessed.

**31 Mar 1951 (p31, 510331, NQR)**

JC, Mar 20 – We have had rather pleasant weather during this last week.

On Saturday afternoon a meeting of the Flinders River dingo syndicate was held in order to discuss the remuneration of the dogger. It was decided to pay the dogger £25 for each dingo destroyed on sheep properties where the members have been compelled to call in the assistance of the dogger. Otherwise a bonus of £9 per dingo destroyed will be paid for those secured in marginal areas.

Mr and Mrs WG Gannon and Miss Ivy Gannon left by last night's mail train for Brisbane on holidays and to attend the marriage of their youngest daughter, Alma, to Mr Brian Maloney of the Taxation Department, on April 4th next.

The largest crowd ever reported attended the opening day of the golf club which augers well for the coming season and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent by all. The mixed Canadian foursomes was won by Mr KC Boyle and Mrs CM Curr with an astonishing score and it is apparent that the handicapper will be very severe on handicaps this year. The installation of electric light was completed in time for the opening and it helped to make conditions very pleasant and comfortable at the barbecue which was held late in the evening...

[Lance Lewis, Norman Downey]

**7 Apr 1951 (p47, 510407, NQR)**

JC – Fishing excursions into the country area are very popular just now and over Easter many parties went into the bushland for this reason. Mr Ben Burrows had a slight accident while on such a trip and suffered an abrasion on his right elbow. This, after about a week, deteriorated to such an extent that Ben was compelled to seek hospital attention. No doubt this will clear up ere long.

**14 Apr 1951 (p6, NQ070, NQR)**

JC – ... The dogger of the Flinders River Dingo Syndicate notified that he had lodged 11 dingo scalps with the council last week. Again on Monday he advised the secretary of the Syndicate that he had secured a further seven scalps. This total of 18 in one month is evidence that the dingoes are beginning to move in from their forest haunts. The Syndicate pays £9 for each of these scalps...

[Mrs Parsons, Lowe, Lady Albermarle]

**14 Apr 1951 (p33, NQ071, NQR)**

**WOOL PRICES DROP 15 PER CENT**

Sydney, Apr 9 – Prices for the finest types of merino wool at the Sydney wool sales today dropped up to 15 per cent on the rates ruling at the last Sydney sales in March.

Values for other descriptions of merino wool comebacks and fine crossbreds were 20 percent lower than in March. Other descriptions were 20 to 40 per cent lower...

Top price for greasy merino wool was 259d per pound. The UK and the Continent were the chief buyers. Brokers said that they were not concerned about the drop in values. They expect prices to rise when the US reenters the market...

**21 Apr 1951 (p2, NQ072, NQR)**

**7/- BASIC WAGE RISE**

Melbourne, Apr 20 – The basic wage in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane will be increased by 7/- a week from the beginning of the first pay period in May. The basic wage in Adelaide has been increased by 5/-, Perth by 10/- and Hobart by 8/-.

The adjustment, based on the cost of living index figures for the quarter ended March 31, was announced by the Industrial Registrar, Mr J Taylor, today.

It is the second increase this year, the rate having been risen by 8/- in February. The new wage rates in the capital cities will be:

Sydney £9, Melbourne £8/17/-, Brisbane £8/6/-, Adelaide £8/11/-, Perth £8/16/-, Hobart £8/13/-...

The basic wage has almost doubled in the past five years. The Federal wage in the first quarter of 1946 was £4/13/-.

**21 Apr 1951 (p6, NQ111, NQR)**

JC, Apr 18 – [Stock movements]...At golf, trophies were won by L Wall and for the ladies, Mrs R Smith. Again on Sunday these two players won the flag competition...



At the last Shire Council meeting the matter of the supply of electricity to JC was considered thoroughly. Several letters from the State Elec Comm were discusses. These advised that the Government subsidy for electricity supply here has been fixed at 60 per cent and of the estimated cost of £16000, the council will be asked to raise only £6400 ... that the tender of R Svensson, of Cooroy, for the installation of light and power points on consumers premises at £2313/16/6 be accepted and the tender of Econo Steel Pty Ltd of £500/15/6 for the prefabricated power station building be accepted. From this information it will be seen readily that the work in this matter is progressing satisfactorily.

Mr and Mrs Max Burns and daughter Joy returned to JC on Sunday after some time away in the south in Gayndah and Redcliffe. Max is supervising the construction of a new garage at the end of town on the west side and this will be a welcome addition to the business in JC.

Mr E Emblem and Mrs Emblem returned to JC after a short stay on the coast.

#### **28 Apr 1951 (p? NQ073, NQR)**

##### **DINGO CONTROL IN JC AREA**

JC, Apr 7 – At the present times and during May and June the actions of dingoes seem to take on the greatest movement. It is the mating season and these wild dogs appear to step up their ravaging excursions in to the sheep country from the northern forests in the Millungera region and at the back of Bunda.

The FRDS increased the bonus paid to their dogger from £3 to £9 last July on account of the scarcity of dingoes. Since that date, for the nine months period 76 scalps have been secured from the northern marginal areas of the shire for which the syndicate has paid £684 in the way of bonus. Of these scalps 35 have been handed in during March and April of this year showing that the movement inwards of these dingoes is in progress.

From reports received from property owners on the edge of this forest country and from the dingo trapper it is evident that the dogs are becoming more plentiful and energetic efforts must be made to prevent them from overrunning the sheep properties in the north of the shire.

During the three-month period of April, may and June in 1949, 82 scalps were lodged by the syndicate dogger, 26 for the same period in 1950 and so far for March and April 35 scalps have secured for 1951.

This systematic control of a vast sheep area by the FRS has brought about a state of virtual freedom from the destructive action by dingoes. As evidence of this, Bunda, Bezuma, Shilmalier and other sheep properties on the edge of the dog-infested areas report vastly improved lambings which would not have been enjoyed if the entry of the dingoes into the Syndicate territory had not been curbed.

For the period of operations of the Syndicate, namely six and a half years from September 1944, 750 dingo scalps have passed through the S to the Council. This wold point to a continuous and effective effort in the control of the dingo menace in these parts.

#### **28 Apr 1951 (p21, NQ074, NQR)**

Ad for Navy

13-YEAR-OLD BOYS

ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR ENTRY TO

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL COLLEGE AS

CADET MIDSHIPMEN

#### **19 May 1951 (p11, NQ075, NQR)**

JC, May 16 – The race meeting last Wednesday on Jubilee Day went off successfully. There were over 20 horses sold through the yards and seven races were held. Not a very big crowd attended at the course where seven bookmakers operated.

The race ball at night was very gay and the crowd came along early to make merry right throughout the night. The nett proceeds of this entertainment will go towards the construction of a waiting Mothers' Hostel at the CWA cottage site in Burke St...

On Sunday, Mr GL Peut, president of the North Western Rugby League and FJ Bennett, secretary, were in Cloncurry for a meeting of the League...

**26 May 1951 (p39, 510526, NQR)**

JC – The tender of AT Allen of Maryborough for the supply of 94 wooden poles at £571/1/6 has been accepted. The tender of R Svensson of Cooroy, installation of overhead lines at £879/12/5 has been accepted. Messrs Alfred Snashall, Anthon Pty Ltd will supply four generating sets at £7240.

The State Electricity Commission advised the council that efforts should be made to obtain immediately all material for the Power Station. They also advised the despatch of meters and 3500 yards of cable.

Mr LA Wall advises that he has now passed all examinations for his commercial flying license but there remains the night flying test to complete his qualification.

**2 Jun 1951 (p40, NQ076, NQR)**

JC – Several socialites made the journey to Cloncurry 1st Friday night for the Buffalo Ball. These include Misses Meldie and Coral Eckford, Cynthia Fickling, Joan Brennan, Rita Byrne, Mesdames W Elliot and R Dickfos and Messrs Rex and Murray Halloran, Terry Tracey, Frank Forde, R Dickfos and W Elliot.

**6 Jun 1951 (p41, NQ077, NQR)**

JC – The Football Club under the organising guidance of Mrs J Kaeser, held a mock debutante ball in Eckford's Hall last Friday. This was a great success and congratulations to all who took part. Just on £100 was taken at the door and it is hoped that some profit will accrue, although expenses were high owing to the fact that the orchestra had to be brought from Hughenden by air. There were about 22 couples and the young "gentlemen" escorts to the "debutantes" although dwarfed beside their partners were well groomed. The "debutantes" were rugged Amazon types. Miss Rita Byrne as the "Duke" and Cleve Casey as the "duchess" received the "debs" and the ceremony went over with great humour. Mr John Winton received the award for the most attractive "deb" to be closely pressed by Mr Roy Anderson, who, but for his manly size, might have reversed the positions. Miss Rita Byrne, at the conclusion of the ceremony gave a short humorous address which was confidently delivered. This excellent effort on the part of the "Duke" climaxed a very interesting and amusing part of the night's entertainment.

**23 Jun 1951 (p46, NQ078, NQR)**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

JC Engineering works of JC announces having started a Modern Engineering Business in JC. Complete car and tractor overhauls, Electric and Oxy welding, Turning, fitting.

Agencies Austral Motors, Dodge, Plymouth, Fargo, Vanguard Cars, Trucks and Utilities.

Dominion Motors: Oliver-Cletrac Crawler and wheel tractors, Ditchers, Graders, Rippers (Scoop, hydraulic and cable),

Renault Wheel Tractors.

Authorised servicemen for Austral Motors and Dominion Motors Tractors (irrespective of make), service anywhere in North Western Q from Longreach to Normanton to Hughenden to Camooweal.

Max Burns, Proprietor

**30 Jun 1951 (p4, NQ079, NQR)**

JC, Jun 27 – The Cinderella Ball, organised by the golf Club was held on Friday night last and it was a huge success from an entertaining angle. The Mt Isa orchestra supplied the music and pleased all. The hall was pleasingly decorated. The stage was a picture and suitably fitted in for the choice of Cinderella. The voting results for Cinderella were announced at midnight and under the capable supervision of Mrs A Cooney the honours went to Miss Meldie Eckford. It was a most popular win for this young lady who received the silver shoes donated by Mrs R Smith.

Mr and Mrs WG Gannon returned on Sunday from Brisbane after spending three months holiday in

that city. Mr and Mrs C Hely have looked after the management of the hotel in the absence of their parents...

[Mr V Faithfull, solicitor]

Mr Max Burns returned on Monday from Brisbane where he had been visiting on business. Mr Burns has dam sinking, garage and pastoral interests in JC.

The travelling dental clinic is now in JC and is looking after the teeth worries of the public for some days...

An officer of the Northern Road Construction Co was in town last week to confer with the Shire Council on the matter of road construction in JC.

**30 Jun 1951 (p8, NQ080, NQR)**

10,000 TRACTORS TO COME FROM USA

Canberra, Jun 28 – Ten thousand tractors of all types had been ordered from the US under the 100,000,000 dollar loan, the Minister for national Development (Senator WH Spooner) said today.

**30 Jun 1951 (p46, NQ081, NQR)**

TANK SINKERS

Tender for work on Rockwood Station

**2 Jul 1951 (p? NQ082, NQR)**

THE DOLLAR LOAN

How It Has Been Spent

Canberra, Jul 2 – Under the heading “Hundred Million Dollar shopping List” Mr PV Meere of the Ministry of National Development, has written an article for the “Regional Development Journal” giving details of the way in which the loan obtained from the International Bank for reconstruction and Development has been spent.

This was the first loan to which the International Bank had agreed without first sending a mission to study the economy of the borrower at first hand. It was negotiated by Mr Menzies during his visit to the US and the Bank expressed willingness, if Australia desired, to participate financially in Australian development over the next five years to a total extent of \$250,000,000 dollars. The loan is for a term of 25 years and carries interest at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent per annum...

**6 Jul 1951 (510706, CA)**

Ad or JC races

**7 Jul 1951 (p46, 510707, NQR)**

JC – Mr W Blanch advises that the dairy will be closed immediately and he is making arrangements to sell his dairy herd and plant. This is going to be a great setback for the townspeople and especially for the hospital.

The next fixture for the footballers is Cloncurry on Sunday but there is no certainty that this will be played. Now that the coach Mr C Casey has been transferred, much of the enthusiasm of the players has waned. The smaller towns have some difficulty in holding the interest of the players right throughout the season.

The dogger for the FRDS and for the McKinlay shire Council lodged a further batch of dingo scalps during this last week. These numbered 18 and of these 11 were secured on Millungera and seven on Bunda Bunda. The dogger reports that the wild dogs have been fairly plentiful as evidenced by the fact that he has lodged 41 scalps in a matter of nine weeks. The dogger received £10 for each of these scalps.

**14 Jul 1951 (p34, NQ083, NQR)**

Ad for Cletrac FDE

**14 Jul 1951 (p? NA, NQR)**

JC – Mr H Stainkey and P Luhrmann set off for Brisbane by plane on Sunday. They will be purchasing a diesel truck while in the southern capital and will bring this home by road.

**4 Aug 1951 (p38, NQ112, NQR)**

Barcaldine Land Ballots  
Barcaldine, Aug 1

**11 Aug 1951 (p35, NQ084, NQR)**

WOOL EXPORTS TOTAL VALUE

Canberra, Aug 6 – Counting all classes of wool, the quantity exported from Australia in the year ended June 30 totalled 3,604,099 bales and the value amounted to £635,079,000. For the year ended June 30 1950 the exports amounted to 4,196,078 bales and the value was £313,136,000...

The UK still stands out as by far the best customer for Australian wool, with total exports valued at £133,828,000 for the year. The next largest shipments were to the USA and totalled £133,298,000 in value. France follows and Japan, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Poland and the Soviet Union come next in order...

**18 Aug 1951 (p6, NQ085, NQR)**

JC, Aug 15 – ... [Effect of dry weather on stock ... Shearing at Lindfield and Cabanda... Stock routes dry... Hickman and Parson in Brisbane, electric light, road plant and street improvement...]

Sport here is in the doldrums. The football season has closed and the tennis enthusiasm has waned considerably. Some of the younger ones get some entertainment on the courts over the weekend. It is a little too early for the cricket season but it is to be hoped that the interest will be as great as during last year. Golf has gripped the public's attention to the greatest extent and the game has been intensely keen throughout the whole of the season. It is expected that the enthusiasm for this branch of sport will continue for quite some time.

The dance organised by Miss Rita Byrne on Friday night last was again successful. These dances are to be regular affairs and they will certainly be appreciated by the younger members of the social set here who are always keen to find a bright sport in life.

**18 Aug 1951 (p17, NQ086, NQR)**

Heaviest Quarterly Price Increase

Brisbane, Aug 14 – A rise of 5.3 per cent in prices in Brisbane for the June quarter was the greatest ever recorded in one quarter.

The government Statistician (Mr S Solomon) said this today in a release on the "C" series prices index number which determines the basic wage.

Mr Solomon said clothing and footwear showed a record increase of 9.7 percent. The latest rise brought the total "C" series index increase for the 12 months ended June 1951 to 17.4% against 8.1% for the corresponding period of the previous year...

**25 Aug 1951 (p6, NQ087, 510825, NQR)**

JC – ... The preliminary work on the new offices of the Australian Estates Co Ltd here, having been finished, the bricklayers have set to and have made quite a showing during the last fortnight. The brick walls are looming up rapidly and it seems that it will be only a short while before the outside walls are completed. The new building will be a striking addition to the business centre here.

[Golf, Bob Smith, V Kelly]

The dances which are organised on Friday nights are becoming increasingly popular. That on Friday night last was very gay and made interesting by the way of competitions.

Tonight the ladies are meeting in the Gilliat to prepare for the race dance to be held there next Saturday. Over 20 horses have been nominated and Gilliat village should take on a lively atmosphere on Saturday.

The hospital has been kept pretty busy with its patients coming and going. Sister Milburn, who is Acting Matron, reports 13 male patients and 1 female. Two of the older patients, Mr F Brazil and Mr Hewitt, of Dalgonally, have proved very interesting personalities to the staff. These two being bed to bed have discovered that they were in the same battalion in a South African War about 50 years ago.

Dr Simpson is in attendance continuously at the hospital. The Red Cross supplies a certain amount of tobacco for patients who are servicemen.

**25 Aug 1951 (p37, NQ088, NQR)**

Ad for Purr-Pull petroleum products against the intro of "tied house" one brand service stations.

**1 Sep 1951 (p43, NQ089, NQR)**

JC, Aug 29 – The Gilliat race meeting was held last Saturday and was a success. There were six races and all attracted good acceptances. The Bracelet was won by Clarrie Hardy's Sir Bomber. The gate takings were £40 and proceeds from the ball at night were £30. Seven bookmakers fielded coming from JC, Kynuna and Cloncurry. The race ball was a lively affair, many younger men and girls along from JC.

On Thursday night of last week a small bush fire started just this side of Gilliat. This was produced apparently by a passing railway engine. The fire spread a little distance from the line but was soon quenched. As time goes by and the grasses become much drier, the risk of these bush fires will become much more serious although most property owners have their lands effectively fire-broken.

Mr and Mrs W Barker of Balootha have arrived back from holidays spent in Brisbane. Mr Max Burns has been in Brisbane on a business trip in connection with his garage and has now returned to supervise his many interests here.

Mrs M Burns and Miss Joy Burns have arrived back in JC after several weeks spent in Brisbane during Exhibition time.

There was a mixed foursomes event at the golf course on Sunday and a very pleasant day's sport was had by the members and associates. The winners were popular in Mrs J Parsons and Mr W Barker who played good consistent golf. A barbecue was held after play and the chit chat became happy as the tender steaks and chops grilled over the open fire. This pleasant even broke up quite late at night.

The school children have recommenced their studies after the mid-winter holidays and all seem pleased to get back together again. Mr JC Wilson, head teacher, with his wife, returned from Magnetic Island.

Miss Levina Beauchamp has returned from Brisbane where she had taken employment for a few months. However, the west called and this young lady left the hustle and bustle of the big city to return to the quiet of this far western life.

Misses Edna and Coral Eckford have returned from annual holidays which were spent in the north-west of Western Australia and the NT. Both have resumed their duties.

Mr Henry Benson, Ambulance superintendent at this centre, was taken to hospital last night suffering from what seems to be a slight stroke. On enquiry this morning, Mr Benson does not seem to have improved to any extent. Mr Benson has been Superintendent of the Ambulance Centre here since its inception in 1936 and has built up the finances to a remarkable extent until now the funds show a very healthy credit. The service extended to the public in this shire has been first class and the ambulance has met its duties and obligations with all promptitude on all occasions. We hope that Henry will be well again in a very short while.

**8 Sep 1951 (p7, NQ090, NQR)**

JC, Sep 5 – On Saturday there passed away in the hospital an old identity of this district in the person of Jack Crow. Mr Crow had been on Eddington Station for about 40 years in the capacity of station hand and boundary rider. He was said to be 85 years of age.

Mr T Quilty with son Rod spent a few days in JC on their way to Brisbane. They had come overland

from their springvale Station in the Hall's Creek area. Mr Quilty was a property owner in this district for many years owning Euroka Springs.

[Hickman... Henry Benson, ambulance superintendent... Pat Byrne] ...

Mr H Harwood of Northern Road Constructors, tendered for street works in JC as follows: Formation, drainage and metalling of Alison Street, £3271/8/-; bitumen surfacing, £1396/13/4; improvements, kerbing and channelling, reconditioning of footpaths, etc, £10,590/4/- ...

Mr Harold Walters, son of Mr and Mrs J Walters, will arrive to take over duties as postmaster here. Harold is a locally grown boy and started at the post office here as a telegram boy. He has studied hard to obtain all his qualifications as a post master. These he got at the young age of 21 years. Harold is really posted to Ballinger NSW but will do temporary duty here until relieved. We must congratulate Mr Walters for his progress.

#### **14 Sep 1951 (510914, CA)**

The scour is in operation and men are working on the electric light plant, whilst the Australian Estate brick building is going up fast. Mr Max Burns' buildings are almost completed.

Sgt Cooke with Mrs Cooke and daughter Ivon left by car for Hughenden where Sgt Cooke has been transferred.

Sgt Purtel and Mrs Purtel and family have arrived.

Friday night the town folk tendered a farewell smoke concert to Sgt Cooke this was held in Dawson's Halla when a suitable gift was presented to Sgt Cooke. Community singing kept the evening happy.

The Masonic Lodge Committee held a most enjoyable farewell party for this popular member, Sgt I Cooke, who will make his home in Hughenden. Sgt and his family take with them the very best wishes of their many JC friends.

#### **15 Sep 1951 (p40, NQ091, 510915, NQR)**

JC, Sep 12 – We have been enjoying a mildly warm week. The early mornings have been coolish but as the days progressed the sun brought on a rather warming effect. There has been quite a bit of wind and this blew boisterously from the south-west during most days. These days show no signs of any wet weather and the weather prophets are predicting a very dry year. We want only a short sudden storm and the predictions will switch around to a beautifully wet season.

Sergeant Purtle with Mrs Purtle and two sons arrived on Sunday last from Anakie, in Central Qld to take up duties as officer-in-charge of the local police station. They stayed a few days at Gannon's Hotel pending the arrival of furniture for their residence here.

In the north country, and not a great distance from town, cats and snakes abound in great numbers. These have come in since the rat menace drifted on. The wild cats are to be seen in greater numbers than the snakes but the latter are no doubt more plentiful than realised. The variety seen in the Downs Tiger and the big Brown both venomous and pretty dangerous. Musterers just 10 miles north report that several snakes of these types reared their heads at the horses while the work was going on.

The FRDS held a meeting of their members last Saturday and decided to reduce the bonus payable for dingo scalps secured from £9 to £3. The Shire Council has been requested to endeavour to have another dogger operate on their area.

Mr B Stuffin has taken over the duties of Ambulance Officer here. Mr Stuffin comes from Caboolture.

A farewell gathering took place on Friday night last in honour of Sergeant I Cooke who has been transferred to Hughenden. The speakers called on by chairman Mr J Parsons, spoke enthusiastically of Sergeant Cooke's work in this district during his stay and all felt that the Hughenden people would benefit from the service that they would get from our retiring sergeant. Sergeant and Mrs Cooke with young daughter Ivon, left by motor car last Sunday. We wish them all the best in their new district.

The woolscour began operations last week and hopes to have a good run of work. It is to be hoped that graziers will realise the importance of having this works in this district and send for treatment a certain proportion of their clips even while values are still high.

[Council estimates of road works for JC] a Dodge utility has been purchased from MD Burns JCEW.

### **22 Sep 1951 (p7, NQ092, 510922, NQR)**

JC, Sep 19 – Mr A Lowe of JC has purchased a Proctor plane in England and has commenced his flight from England to Australia. Mr Lowe is a keen pilot and has no fears of any hazards which he might strike on his airway out. Speaking of the crossing of the Timor Sea at the gateway to Australia, Mr Lowe said that he had made this hop so many times during the recent war that he did not now consider it a difficulty. Arthur has cabled Mrs Lowe to say that he expects to make the JC airstrip at the end of this month.

[Sedan dip races... The Arthur Paine Trophy went to Coupon ridden Mr Rex Halloran]

Last Wednesday night no pictures were shown owing to some trouble with equipment. Miss Rita Byrne, however, took the opportunity to hold a dance and this was quite a success. A further dance was held on Friday night and so the younger settlers are able to get together for a little enjoyment from time to time.

Mr Eric Blanch was unfortunate to have his lorry turn over on Wednesday night last, out Eddington way. Eric suffered a broken collarbone and was fortunate that no further serious damage was done.

Mr V Faithful has advised that his son Paul who attends St Joseph's College Nudgee has won the cup for the best open athlete for 1951. Paul surprised by winning the 100 yards, 220 yards and broad jump, then being second in 440, 880 and mile. We congratulate Paul on his effort. It will be interesting to watch his progress in the Public School Sports next Saturday.

[Tennis... Mr E Blanch, lorry turns over]

Mr and Mrs Wall and infant daughter returned from Townsville on Wednesday last. They travelled in Lionel's Tiger Moth. Lionel has been training in night flying to complete his commercial pilot's course.

### **28 Sep 1951 (510928, CA)**

Mr and Mrs H Stainkey have arrived home after spending an extended honeymoon in the south. Harry has brought back an up-to-date caravan.

Mr and Mrs Wharton who have made their home in Warwick returned to pay a short visit to JC.

The Grand Annual Catholic Debs Ball held in Eckford's Hall, Friday night 21 September was an outstanding success. The hall was decorated with multi-coloured streamers and was dinished with extra large balloons. The stage was arranged with chairs and cushions. The decorations were the work of Miss Rita Byrne, Messrs Hardy and Ford. Programmes were given to the nine debs who were presented to the Rt Rev Monsignor McLaughlin, PP. At 9 o'clock the MC Mr M Byrne announced the arrival of the official party who were escorted to the stage. The party consisted of Rt Rev Monsignor McLaughlin, Rev Father O'Brien (Richmond), Rev Father Devereux PP, Mrs Blythe (Matron of Honour), Mr and Mrs E Mullins (Mrs Mullins President of the Ball), Mr and Mrs George Peut, Miss Rita Byrne (Secretary). The MC announced the names of each deb as they were presented by the matron of honour. The debs march was well carried out with dignity and grace to the soft music supplied by Mrs Bollman.

Miss Noreen Godier partnered by Mr Henry Winton, looked very pretty in a dainty frock of white net worn over taffetta ...

Miss Shirley Gluyas partnered by Mr H Heath

Miss Beverley Fickling partnered by Mr M Hughes

Miss Carmel Fickling partnered by Mr Terry O'Brien

Miss Edith Mann partnered by Mr Lisle Hardy [?]

Miss Joy Burns partnered by Mr John Crilly

Miss Claudette Green partnered by Mr Ned Kerley

Miss Patricia Patterson partnered by Mr Stacey Brand

Miss Esme McDonald partnered by Mr J Aitkens

The Rt Rever Monsignor McLaughlin ...

The MC announced the debs waltz and that graceful of dance "The Pride of Erin" was well danced by the young couples who were loudly cheered.

The debs and official party's table was nicely arranged with fresh flowers and delicacies, pride of place being given to the beautiful deb cake that was made by Mrs F Smith and artistically iced by Mrs Peut. The doll on the cake went to Miss P Patterson while Miss Noreen Godier cut the cake. An excellent supper was served by Mrs Jones and helpers.

#### **29 Sep 1951 (p9, NQ093, NQR)**

##### **NEW TAXATION RATES**

Income	Wartime Rate	Present Rate	Proposed Rate
£300	£55/-/-	£11/13/-	£12/16/-
£1000	£355/8/-	£135/-/-	£148/10/-
£3000	£1747/2/-	£928/7/-	£1021/4/-
£10,000		£8155/8/-	£5621/13/-
	£6183/16/-		
£20,000		£17405/8/-	£13121/13/-
	£14423/16/-		

#### **29 Sep 1951 (p11, NQ094, NQR)**

JC, Sep 26 – The Roman Catholic debutante ball was held last Friday night, and the crowd attending was a record. The door takings exceeded anything previously and the dancers enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The decorations and supper were something special and we have to congratulate Miss Rita Byrne and her committee for the excellent organisation in this instance. The gaiety concluded at about 4 am. The debutantes were Misses Noreen Godier, Shirley Gluyas, Beverley Fickling, Edith Mann, Joy Burns, Pat Pattison, Esmae Macdonald, Claudette Green and Carmel Fickling.

The PMG post hole digging equipment has been operating in this district for about 5 weeks and telephone posts have been renewed from Nonda to Oorindi. This will assist in presenting a better service in this area.

A bush fire broke out on Garomna on Friday and the small firebreaks could not stop the blaze. The fire spread to Innisfail Downs before it was put out and in all about 6,000 acres of grassland was burnt. The fire apparently originated near the railway line.

Saturday was a busy day for JC on account of the voting in the referendum. All country people were in town and the traffic became quite active which combined with the unusually large crowd of people brought on a lively atmosphere.

On Saturday night a farewell entertainment was arranged by Mesdames J Carden-Collins of Bezuma and AB Barton of Manfred Downs in honour of Mr and Mrs Ulick Browne who are leaving this district to reside in Toowoomba. The evening was held at Mr and Mrs M Laird's residence in Byrne Street and there was quite a merry gathering of both town and country friends of Mr and Mrs Browne.

#### **6 Oct 1951 (p11, NQ095, NQR)**

JC, Oct 4 – We experienced cool pleasant weather for the early part of this last week with the breeze gentle and not so annoying. However the weekend came up hot and a smoke haze on all horizons added to the discomfort of the heat. The temperature mounted up to 100 degrees and there was little wind to modify the sun's intense effect yesterday, a strong north-westerly blew up and, although warm, the severity of the two precious days was not reached. Today the prevailing wind comes from the south-west again and we can now expect a cooler change.

Quietly and with no banners waving, Mr Arthur Lowe came in for his land landing here on Sunday afternoon after his 11,000 miles plane trip from England. JC was in its most casual and docile mood on that afternoon for there was no welcome from her citizens and Mr Lowe, instead of flying 11,000 miles in a single-engined plane and without radio, might just as well have hopped in from McKinlay on one



of his usual ambulance flights. Anyway, it was a great achievement and something which Arthur had wanted to do throughout all his years of flying. He has our congratulations. The natural difficulties of such a flight would be severe enough and when we realise the topsy-turvy state of affairs in the Middle and Far East the real value of such a flight may be assessed.

[R Stainkey back from holidays... ghost town... council two new caravans... Mr Bray, golf...]

Mr Dave Kiddle, of the staff of Lance Lewis has returned from about five weeks holiday spent in Perth, WA.

The CWA held its annual meeting at the cottage on Saturday but there was not a good attendance. As in most other spheres the interest here is waning noticeably. If our citizens do not produce more enthusiasm for the progress of our town we shall most certainly dwindle away into a ghost town.

At a recent Council meeting it was decided to purchase two Allis-Chalmers D tractors at an approximate cost of £3400 each. The general rate was set at 5 1/2d, with a stock assessment of 1d making 6 1/2d in all in £1. Sanitary charge was fixed at 1/9 per service and waste water removal at 4/- per 400 gallon tank. Water rates were: Hotel: £15 pa; cafes and iceworks £5 pa; improved £2/10/- and unimproved £1/10/-.

The State electricity Commission recommended that the tender of R Svensson at schedule rates for the total sum of £2597/10/- for installation in consumers' premises be accepted and asked for the Council's approval. The SEC wrote relative to the principles underlying the electricity scheme for JC and more particularly with reference to certain restrictions in the use of specific electrical apparatus and stressing that the range of appliances to be used and the total loading on the power station must be restricted at least initially or until such time as more loading may be taken...

The Council has purchased two new caravans to augment its plant for use on road in country areas. These will provide living quarters for the Council employees while out on repair work.

### **6 Oct 1951 (p22, NQ096, NQR)**

#### **JC MAN'S FLIGHT FROM ENGLAND**

JC, Sep 30 – Mr Arthur Lowe, well known JC business and flying enthusiast, is back home after a visit to England. Mr Lowe landed here this afternoon after a 17 days' trip in a Percival Proctor machine which he acquired to bring home.

Mr Lowe went to England on a holiday visit. He had thought of purchasing an aircraft and when he faced difficulties in transport for the return trip, he did so. At Australia House in London he met Don Harris, a Sydney man who was also seeking transport and he also made the flight.

The Proctor left Croydon on September 14, and it was flown out by way of France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Lebanon, Iraq, Sharjah, Beluchistan, Pakistan, India, Burma, Malaya and Indonesia. The crossing of the Timor Sea was made from Kepand to Wyndham on Saturday morning and Darwin was reached in the afternoon. The last day's flying was via Daly Waters and Cloncurry.

Mr Lowe said the flight out was uneventful. He avoided landing in Persia and landed in the Sheikdom of Sharjah. Most exciting incident occurred at Soemba in Indonesia. The engine gave a little trouble and he landed at Waringpoe aerodrome. He was standing on top of the machine when it began to rock. He was about to call out and ask that the rocking of the aircraft be discontinued when he was told an earthquake was being experienced.

The worst day's flying was that experienced today. It was very bumpy coming across from Darwin and the visibility was bad.

### **13 Oct 1951 (p39, NQ078, 511013, NQR)**

JC – Mr E Emblen travelled to Townsville on Friday last with Arthur Lowe in his Tiger Moth. Mr Emblen was not able to gain a seat on the regular passenger aircraft and so hired Mr Lowe's Moth. There is no doubt that air travel has taken on permanently and popularly with the moders. Mr Emblen and Arthur Lowe returned early on Saturday morning.

Mrs B Fels of Dalkeith returned from Richmond by ANA plane today with baby who has recovered from the effects of an abscess on the neck. We understand it was touch and go for the little one who is only a few months old. We are pleased that this ending is also happy.

Mr GL Peut had the misfortune to have one of his wool lorries overturn while loaded with wool. This is the second accident of this kind recently and it would appear that the sway of the heavily loaded trucks requires careful and continual handling.

The Shire Council has acquired a further caravan to augment its plant for country areas. This makes three in all.

**13 Oct 1951 (p45, NQ078, NQR)**

Ad for JC Engineering Works

**20 Oct 1951 (p39, NQ097, 511020, NQR)**

JC, Oct 17 – The shearing contractors are in the midst of operations. A Ballinger is doing Messrs Hickman's and Stainkey's sheep at Belgravia, TA Jessup will be starting on the Argyle flock on Monday and George Hardy is working in McKinlay district and A Fayers in the far west.

The woolscour has been working and, no doubt, there will be further supplies for this works from the shearings that are going on. It seems essential that graziers assist this industry more if it is desired to keep the works open for their future use. A certain proportion of all clips for treatment would assist the woolscour and there would then be no fear of the works closing. Now is the time for graziers to consider this point.

The children of Mr JE Mathews were attended to at the hospital during the week as a result of their meddling with poisonous material. There were no injurious results.

There is a certain amount of activity about town now as a result of Council works. The power house in prefabricated form is rising swiftly and in a short while there will be further signs of the electricity undertaking's progress towards completion.

Mr Harwood is here in charge of the Northern road Construction operations which will give us new bitumen streets and we should have much more activity in this direction in a short while. Some of the plant has arrived.

Mr and Mrs G Holloway returned to this district after being in Townsville for some time. They are at Lindfield where George will work.

Word was received from Nelia on the weekend that two citizens of that village had won first prize in the Mammoth Casket. The lucky winners were Mr Bob Lawson and the young daughter of Mr and Mrs J Tunny jnr. This is indeed good news and we are pleased that someone in our area has been successful.

**27 Oct 1951 (p9, NQ098, 511027, NQR)**

JC, Oct 24 – The death occurred here on Sunday of Mr Robert Lawson of Nelia. Only last week Mr Lawson was fortunate enough to win a half share, £15,000, in the Mammoth Casket, but he was not to enjoy the use of this money. The funeral took place here on Monday.

Throughout the whole of last week the weather remained stormy and hot. Heavy cloud suggested good rain but none eventuated. Winds have been variable – coming in from the north, shifting to the northwest and then swinging round to the south. Now the weather has cleared entirely and the air has sweetened and become a fresh spring day.

Mr C Jensen and son Ron, of Eddington, were in town yesterday. Mr Jensen says that foxes are numerous in his area, damaging weak sheep and young lambs.

Mr Creedy of the SEC arrived by plane on Monday to attend to business here in connection with the installation of electricity. He was to confer with Mr Svensson regarding household installations but the latter will work on the Richmond project first. Mr Svensson arrived here to inspect but material was not available just yet and he returned to Richmond.

Mr T Quilty of Springvale St in WA is in town with son Rod renewing old acquaintances before returning to his property.

### **2 Nov 1951 (511102, CA)**

Quite a gloom was cast over the town and district at the sad passing of Mr Robert Lawson in the hospital. Deceased's kind nature won for him a host of friends and he was always fond of children. Mr Lawson was a railway worker and left and took up work around Nelia where he always made his home with Mr and Mrs Tunny. Deceased had not been well for some time and took suddenly ill and was brought to JC Hospital where he underwent a successful operation and he seemed to be doing well but in spite of all medical attention passed peacefully away. The funeral took place at 4 o'clock on Monday evening and was largely attended when almost all the residents of Nelia made the trip to pay their last respects to their late comrade who was gently laid to rest. Mr Lawson had been a good worker and was lucky enough to share in the first prize in the Mammoth Casket with Mrs ML Tunny, Nelia. The unfortunate man never had time to enjoy his good fortune.

[John Brennan: he always wore a blue singlet and was always hanging around the pub; he used to sleep on the verandah. Bit of a no-hoper, never seemed to work]

Mr Henry Benson left by train to spend some time in Cairns. Benny has been our ambulance bearer for many years and has been an inmate of the local hospital for some time and many friends wish Benny a speedy recovery and hope to see him back in our midst in a very short time.

Congratulations go to another of our town's popular young ladies, Miss Edna Eckford who has announced her engagement to Mr Rod Quilty. Edna is the second daughter of Mr and Mrs J Eckford and Rod is the only son of Mr and Mrs T Quilty.

### **3 Nov 1951 (p7, NQ099, NQR)**

#### **824 POSITIVE CASES OF POLIO OUTBREAK**

Brisbane, Oct 31 – Announcing the most serious outbreak of poliomyelitis on record, the Director-General of Health (Dr Freyberg) in his annual report for the year ended June 30 tabled in Parliament today, said there were 824 positive cases.

He said there was a continuation of the tendency of the 1945-46 outbreak to attack more people in the older age groups than was previously the case and there was an explosive outbreak of it in the Georgetown district following a race meeting.

So far poliomyelitis had resisted control efforts that were successful in other infectious diseases. It was easy to allow poliomyelitis to get out of perspective. Even in its worst outbreaks it ranked far below road accidents as a cause of death or crippling. Present helplessness to prevent the spread of polio would not persist he said.

### **17 Nov 1951 (p7, 511117, NQR)**

JC – The golf on Sunday was a special occasion since it was the official closing of the season/ There were many visitors invited along for the gathering including Mr and Mrs Gannon, Mr Gannon being patron of the club. a competition was arranged for the afternoon's golf and this was close going between Mr Bray and Mrs Smith as one pair and Mr Kelly and Mrs Cooney. With a tie resulting from the arranged play a further two holes were played and the former pair prevailed after much exciting play and plenty of good humour. The presentation of the trophies won during the season took place after play finished and the greatest number of these went to Mrs Bob Smith amongst the associates and Mr I Wall for the members. A barbecue was arranged and the gathering took on a jolly turn as the night progressed. It was a fitting finish to a pleasant year's play.

A party was held on Sunday night in Champneys' Hall as a farewell to the carpenter boys working on the Australian Estates Company's building. These will be replaced by fresh men in a day or so. Miss Ivy Burrows took on the organising and all enjoyed the night's games and dancing and not forgetting the dainty supper which was prepared by the young ladies. Such friendly gatherings are appreciated by the young men since entertainment in these small Western towns is scarce.

### **17 Nov 1951 (p7, NQ100, NQR)**

JC, Nov 14 – We have had real summer weather this last week and the days have been hot. The wind comes from the south, but on occasions varies by swinging in from the north. Smoke and dust haze, unaffected by wind from any direction, constant as a curtain, hang on the horizon and depress landholders and townfolk alike. There feels no moisture in the air.

[but is hoped that very soon some storms at least will be experienced in the district. Nights, as usual in the west, have cooled off towards the later hours.]

Shearing operations are progressing throughout the area. Mr TA Jessup is at Argyle doing the sheep of the family of Mr J Stainkey. He later does the St Elmo flock for Mr A Stainkey. Mr Chas [Charlie] Tankard has just finished at Lara and Messrs Hardy Bros have completed operations for the time being in the McKinlay district. Mr AC Fayers is operating in the Boulia district where he has carried out most of his contracts during recent years. The shearing season fades with warmer weather and shearers will be pleased to relax for a while especially on account of the hot conditions in evidence at the present time.

There is much activity about town: builders and electricians at the power house, carpenters at the Australian Estates building beside Gannon's Hotel. Road works have been in progress for some days. The Northern Road Constructors have their full plant on the job, gravelling and making an impression in Burke and Quarrell Streets.

[Gilliat races... Mr Frank Brazil]

The Corner Cafe and Dance Hall has passed through new hands. Mr RB Hampton, well known and popular townsman of JC, has purchased the property and intends to improve it. There will be a reading room available at all times and an alcove for the convenience of strangers to use as a resting place during their stay in town. This is definitely an acquisition to the town and we must congratulate Mr Hampton on his enterprise.

**17 Nov 1951 (p37, NQ101, NQR)**

**BURNS OUTPUNCHED AND OUTFOUGHT DON JOHNSON**

Sydney, Nov 12 – [Freddie Holznagel mentioned this fight]

**17 Nov 1951 (p45, NQ102, NQR)**

**MAX'S AD FOR CARS & TRUCKS**

1948 Bedford 3 ton Truck, excellent condition, £600

1938 Chev...

Willys Jeep...

1934 Chev...

1949 Vanguard...

Apply:– Max Burns, JC

**23 Nov 1951 (511123, CA)**

Quite a gloom was cast over the town at the passing of Miss Mary Alabashena in the Richmond hospital on Monday after undergoing a successful operation. Mary was employed at the JC hospital for the past two years and during that time this dainty little girl with her charming nature won for herself a host of friends and met everyone with a smile. Deceased was 24 years of age and was born some where in China and came from Singapore to JC in company with two other girls, the Misses Akiloff. Mary took ill in JC and was attended by Dr Simpson. The Hospital Board flew the patient to Richmond and everything possible was done for Mary. Her friend Miss Sophie Akiloff was with her at the time of her death. Deceased was very well liked by the hospital staff and she will be greatly missed. Deceased was laid to rest in Richmond. Her people are at present in Korea and she has a sister living in Sydney. To her sorrowing relatives and her many friends we extend our sincere sympathy.

**24 Nov 1951 (p7, NQ103, NQR)**

JC, Nov 21 – ... Last night was rather wild and in the very early hours of this morning lightning was flashing strong in all quarters with the wind blowing in boisterously from the south. This morning has opened up with a north-east wind and with the sky overcast with potential storm clouds. There seems every possibility of rain coming from this change and it is certainly hoped so.

The first game of cricket was played on the oval last Sunday and the players were very keen. A match has been arranged for next Sunday between the Railway and the Town. This is causing much interest and no doubt the best form will be produced on that day.

The golfers still carry on in their enthusiasm even though the season has been officially close. Social competitions are arranged each weekend.

The tennis seems to be right in the doldrums.

Two jillaroos from down Hughenden way and gaily but suitably dressed arrived by the mail train last Sunday. They were met by their employer, Mr Alf Dawson of Gilliat Plains and taken out to his property. These young ladies caused quite a bit of interest that morning.

On Monday a bush fire broke out in the district and parts of Lindfield, Argyle and Oxton Downs were burnt. In all it is reported that about 8000 acres of grass were burnt. It was a sweltering day with the temperature about 107 degrees but fire fighting units were rushed to the fire and managed to bring it under control. There have been no live stock deaths reported.

Mr TNE Champneys has been in town for a few days this week in connection with the disposal of his property at the corner of Burke and Julia Streets.

The Zonia downs Telephone Syndicate are carrying out repairs and replacements to their telephone line running from the local post office out through Oxton downs, Ponjola, Shilmailer, Bezuma, Bow park, Zonia Downs and Debella. This line will be in tiptop order for the wet season when most country people experience a lot of trouble from shaky fittings and posts.

**1 Dec 1951 (p32, NQ104, NQR)**

Ad for Goldsborough Mort & Co, Stock Agents

**1 Dec 1951 (p37, NQ105, 511201, NQR)**

JC, Nov 28 – Mr LA Wall was in Brisbane recently in connection with his commercial pilot's examination. After several practical tests he was notified of his success and Lionel can now take out a commercial pilot's licence.

Recently the death took place in Richmond of Miss Mary Alibasheva of the local hospital domestic staff. This young lady had originally come from Hong Kong with two sisters, Misses Sophie and Lena Akiloff, and had been with the hospital several years settling into the community here quite well. We express our regret at this sad event.

Mr and Mrs Ced Hely of Gannon's Hotel were passengers to Brisbane on Monday night's mail. They, with their children, will spend eight weeks holiday near the seaside before returning here.

There were a few anxious moments at the Australian Estates on Monday morning when the lighting engine caught fire when being started. With a 44 gallon drum of benzine in the shed with the engine there was much action in putting the fire out which proved a little stubborn. However it was quelled without any injurious results.

On Saturday night last a party was held at Garomna where Geoffrey Browne is in charge while his father is in the south. Many of the townspeople, including most of the hospital staff, were present and the fun went on for quite some time to finally cease early on Sunday morning.

The golfers neglected their links on Sunday and spent the day on a fishing trip out near Barooka. The day was very hot and hence the alternative sport chosen would be more suitable for Sunday's temperature.

On Sunday at the cricket oval the Railway team captained by W Pearce played the Town team with J Roberts as captain. The Town team was successful after a torrid day's play. The Railways batted first to compile 80 odd runs, H Villiers being top scorer with 20. The Town replied with 3 wickets for 100. Max Burns, when he settled down, scored freely and retired at 40. Pearce was another who scored well

with 30. The day was very hot but all enjoyed the game.

**8 Dec 1951 (p8, 511208, NQR)**

JC – Early in the week Mr George Peut suffered a minor accident when inflating his motor lorry tyres. The rim of one tyre flew off with much force and struck Mr Peut on the hands and arms. These were jarred severely. He was fortunate that his arms took the brunt of the impact for there may have been more serious results had the rim struck him around the head. George is again at his work as cheery as ever.

Word came through on Friday night that Dr EJ Davies had passed away in Ipswich after a collapse. This was sad news to us here for Dr Davies was our Medical Officer for about two year and was popular both in his work and in his social contacts. Dr Davies was president of the Golf Club from its opening date.

Mr A Lowe flew off to the Gulf on Saturday to do a bit of fishing on the Karumba fishing grounds. He was accompanied by Malcolm Sinton and they returned with some tasty fish to the extent of about 80 lbs. Arthur states that the greater part of the country from Iffley up to the Inverleigh has been devastated by fire and there are some fires still burning. He states that the enormity of the damage can only be gauged from the air and it seemed incredible that this cattle country could suffer so much from fire.

Dr J Simpson has resigned from is position as medical officer here and left for Charleville on Monday. We are now without a doctor and it is hoped that one will be forthcoming without much delay.

Mrs W Triffett has advised that she will be opening the dairy again as soon as the wet weather commences. She feels that she will not have sufficient milk supplies to cater for the whole of the town but will concentrate her deliveries on those who require the milk more urgently such as the hospital and those mothers with young babies. This will be good news.

**8 Dec 1951 (p17, NQ106, NQR)**

St Mary's College CT, held its annual breaking up last week. The prize list was as follows... Commercial, second place in Diocese, Jill Brennan.

**15 Dec 1951 (p42, 511215, NQR)**

JC – The State School held its breaking up picnic and sports on Sunday last and although the day was very hot the kiddies really enjoyed themselves. The watermelons were most popular. The Billy goat race was something new here and this went over all right except that the goats did not know what it was all about. At night a dance was held and this was attended by the parents and younger settlers who really enjoyed the bright music and the gay atmosphere.

[B Groves arrives as new Stock Inspector, from Bill Sullivan]

**22 Dec 1951 (p2, NQ107, NQR)**

Plan To Eradicate Noogoora Burr Soon To Be Launched

Brisbane, Dec 21 – Qld has prepared for its most determined attack on Noogoora Burr in 80,000 square miles of the State's sheep and cattle country.

Arrangements for the drive have been completed but a start cannot be made until the pest begins to flourish after the wet weather...

**22 Dec 1951 (p32, NQ108, NQR)**

DINGOES IN WEST ARE WORST EVER

Cloncurry, Dec 16 – Everywhere in the west the same story is told – the dingo pest has never been worse. From Hughenden to Mount Isa one hears harrowing tales of the losses caused by dingoes and in many places by foxes too. And graziers, to a man, have no faith in the aerial dingo baiting...

**22 Dec 1951 (p39, NQ109, NQR)**

Still Thousands More Jobs Than Men

Melbourne, Dec 18 – There was no "practical prospect" of unemployment in Australia because there were still scores of thousands more jobs than men, the Prime Minister (Mr RG Menzies) said today.

Mr Menzies was replying to an attack on the government's anti-inflation policy by the Federal Labour Leader (Dr HV Evatt) who said in Sydney that Labour "would oppose any disastrous conception of an economy based on a percentage of unemployed." ...

**\*29 Dec 1951 (p10, NQ110, NQR)**

MUSIC EXAM RESULTS - CT Centre

... Brennan, Jill Mary (Pianoforte Fourth Gr, Cr; Singing Second Gr Cr)

**5 Jan 1952 (p6, 520105, NQR)**

Mr Bjelke Petersen Announces His Engagement

Brisbane, Jan 4 – One of the State Parliament's two remaining bachelors announced his engagement today. He is the 40 year old country party member for Barambah, Mr Bjelke-Petersen. His fiancée is Miss Florence Gilmour of New Farm, secretary to the Main Roads Commissioner (Mr DA Crawford).

The only other bachelor is the Attorney General (Mr J Larcombe) who at 67 is the 'Father of the House'.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said the marriage would take place in Brisbane about June. They would live on his agricultural and dairying property, Bethany, outside Kingaroy.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen is the only member of the State House to hold a private flyer's license. He has an earth-moving contracting job in Western Qld and uses his plane – a three-passenger Auster – for speedier supervision. He has been in parliament for four years.

**5 Jan 1952 (p13, 520105, NQR)**

Staff Lack Closes Hospitals

Brisbane, Dec 31 – Staff shortages forced the Hughenden hospital to close today. Two other hospitals at JC and Boulia are without doctors. Operations have been stopped at Mt Isa hospital except for urgent cases and the number of in-patients has been restricted.

An urgent call has been sent to the flying doctor service to help towns without hospital staff or doctors. Three sisters and three nurses left Hughenden Hospital last week leaving only the superintendent and two trainee nurses at the hospital.

The Health and Home Affairs Department today authorised the hospital to rail urgent cases to Townsville or use the Flying doctor service to CT. Outpatients will still be able to get treatment at the hospital.

Both Boulia and JC are without hospital staff and doctors. The flying doctor is making a special trip to these towns once a week to treat outpatients and will make a special trip for urgent cases. At Boulia a resident retired nurse is attending the hospital to treat outpatients.

Mt Isa and Cloncurry have lost about half their staff during the past months and Cloncurry expects to lose more this month.

**12 Jan 1952 (p10, NQ113, NQR)**

JC, Jan 9 – During last week, the weather has been very hot at all times. The highest temperature each day would be around 110 degrees until yesterday (Tuesday) when the maximum was 114 degrees. The air has been stuffy and uncomfortable. The discomfort was not confined to the daylight hours, and at night the stuffiness continued and there has been no relief from the heat wave. A north wind, with some variation to the west and east, has prevailed.

After the intense heat of yesterday, storms broke at dusk, with a vigorous display of electrical energy. Bush fires broke out on Toorak, Dalkeith, Lindfield, Burwood and at Gilliat. Firefighters, with their fire fighting units rushed to the various outbreaks, and the fires were put out, though not without some effort. There were substantial falls to the north and east. Maria Downs received 116 points, Oxton 85, Fairlea 110. The town area received 10 points. The sky today remains overcast and there appears good prospects for further rains. It is to be hoped that a general and definite relief will be forthcoming from this break in the long dry spell.

Mr Ron Jenkins of Townsville has spent a few days with his war time friend, Mr Norm Downey. Mr Jenkins left for Hughenden today.

A party was held at Manfred Downs on Sunday night as a farewell to Mr M Woodhouse who has been manager of Millungera for many years. There were many country people present and quite a few from town were out for the occasion. Mr Woodhouse was for a long time a councillor and was well known and respected by the people in town as well as the country area. He leaves with his son for south immediately where they will reside in future.

### **19 Jan 1952 (p11, NQ114, NQR)**

JC, Dec 16 – All through this last week we have experienced hot and uncomfortable weather. The winds have varied continuously from North to East and south east with sometimes a blow from the west. The nights have also been hot and sleepers are seeking relief by bedding outdoors.

On some afternoons small storms have appeared but little rain has resulted from these. Today a north wind is blowing and we are certain to have another hot and sultry day. Now that rain has fallen in most other parts of the State we should eventually get some relief from the hot and dry conditions operating just now.

Matron Gunthorp arrived on Sunday from CT to take over control at the hospital. Sister E Milburn who has handled affairs at the hospital so capably for the last six months as acting matron, has left for Townsville. She will be joined there by her sister, Sister B Milburn and sister Boyd, who will depart from here on Tuesday next. This loss of staff is serious and it is to be hoped that further replacements will be forthcoming. In the meantime, with a visit each Friday by the flying doctor from Cloncurry, the matron with her curtailed staff will endeavour to cope with the duties arising.

Mr Frank Brazil who has been an inmate of the hospital for some time now is expected to take his leave after an inspection by the Flying Doctor on Friday next. it is pleasing to know that Frank is now able to get about again.

On Sunday night a very bright party was held at Mrs HW Downey's residence with Miss Pat Downey as guest of honour. Pat leaves on her return trip to Sydney in a short while and took the opportunity to bring all her young friends together for a little gay entertainment before leaving.

Early on Sunday morning a fire destroyed the stove recess portion of Mr W Triffetts residence at the Dairy. Luckily this fire was noticed before it had progressed too far and was put out without too much difficulty.

The town remains very quiet these days with very little business done. With very little activity and on account of the uncomfortable heat that has been with us continuously now for many days, the place takes on a very uninteresting aspect. Most western towns are like this.

### **26 Jan 1952 (p20, NQ115, NQR)**

Amazing Work Of Electric Brain

Washington, Jan 22 – The ultimate in “electric brains” has been built for the army’s ballistics research laboratory at Aberdeen (Maryland), the North American Newspaper Alliance reported today.

In a thousandth of a second it could multiply a pair of numbers each containing 12 figures. It could do 10,000 additions a second.

It could “remember” 1024 numbers, recall any one of them in 36 millionths of a second and in five hours could make calculations that would require 50 years for a man with an ordinary adding machine. In two weeks it could solve a problem which would take a human more than 1000 years.

The slowest part of the device constructed at the University of Illinois was the teletypewriter on which it typed its answers. For example, it could extract the cube root of all numbers between one and 2000 in two seconds, but more than an hour was required to put them on paper.

University scientists were planning a typewriter which would work at five times the present speed, but it still would be far slower than the electronic brain.



**26 Jan 1952 (p? NQ116, NQR)****Electric Petrol Browsers in Six Months**

Electrically operated petrol browsers will not be installed in the north for at least six months spokesman for leading Townsville petroleum companies said on Thursday. Petrol distributors said that the installation of the new type browsers had been completed in Brisbane and the service was being extended to country districts.

Service station proprietors say the new system will be a boom to the motoring public. Apart from enabling motorists to get their petrol quicker, the browsers will show the price and amount of petrol being drawn.

**2 Feb 1952 (p11, 520202, NQR)**

JC – The road contractors have commenced the gravelling of Allison Street and there is again much work going on in the town area. The gravelling of the streets will bring on a much needed improvement which will be appreciated both in wet and dry times. There is a great deal of work ahead for Northern Road constructors under the control of Mr H Harwood and this will proceed for many months. With the electricity scheme getting under way we should see much activity about town from these works.

[Tennis]

Australia Day was spent quietly here. There was a little tennis but there was little else and the weather was so unpleasantly hot that there was little inclination to do very much. Sports in the southern capitals were followed by medium of the radio.

Mr Harold Walters our popular Postmaster has been advised that he is to proceed to CT on relieving duty early in February. Harold will go on afterwards to Ballingen NSW to which place he has been appointed.

Mr Max Burns and family arrived back from Sydney where they witnessed the Davis cup matches. Mr Burns was able to get some good shots of the tennis and these have been viewed by many of the tennis enthusiasts here.

The marriage of Miss Edna Eckford of JC to Mr Rod Quilty of Hall Creek, WA took place in Townsville yesterday. Miss Eckford's sisters, Coral and Amelda were passengers on Sunday's ANA plane to be present at the wedding. Mr and Mrs Eckford also were down for this occasion.

Doctor Proctor and Mrs Proctor arrived in JC from Townsville on Sunday and will be our medical officer for eight weeks. A further doctor will come out from Townsville after that time has elapsed pending a permanent appointment. There have been further additions to the hospital staff during this last week and no doubt complete employment will be achieved in a short while.

**16 Feb 1952 (p38, NQ117, NQR)**

JC, Feb 16 – [Cricket match, J Harris, tennis]... Mr and Mrs Bill Nelson arrived back by the mail train on Sunday. Bill will carry out work with local carpenter, Mr Alan Flewell-Smith.

Mrs MD Burns arrived here from Brisbane during the week to join her husband, Mr Max Burns.

[H Winton, P Dawes, Farrell, dentist]

**16 Feb 1952 (p46, NQ118, NQR)****JC Engineering Works & Richmond Engineering Works**

Ad for cars, trucks and tractors.

**23 Feb 1952 (p11, NQ119, NQR)****Atomic Bomb Test In Australia Soon**

Canberra, Feb 18 – Strictest security precautions since the war have been imposed to prevent leakages of information of atomic tests to be held in Australia this year.

These were imposed immediately, the Prime Minister, Mr R G Menzies, announced this morning. "An atomic weapon produced in Britain will be tested in Australia in the course of this year."

**23 Feb 1952 (p36, NQ120, NQR)**

Ad – Austin A125 'Sheerline' Saloon

**23 Feb 1952 (p40, NQ121, NQR)**

JC, Feb 21 – Good rains still hold off and owners of flocks and herds are indeed worried over the season, especially since the period which usually gives the rain, has passed.

Some graziers are already feeding their stock, Messrs Hickman Bros, Mr J Stainkey and the Smiths, of Sunny Plains. The two former owners are shifting the stronger portion of their sheep to the Cloncurry district on agistment. The lot of the grazier in this area is in sharp contrast to his position at this time last year, when the season was bountiful and peak wool prices were operating. At present, with the outlook of a poor season, falling wool prices, high costs of shearing, high taxation, expensive agistment, heavy feed bills, and high railage costs to shift sheep, the grazier is fearful of the outcome.

The bush fire menace is ever present to add to the worry. On Sunday night, several bush fires were started by lightning, but not much damage was done by them, except that which started at Hilton park, just near town. About 3000 acres of country was burnt. The response from the town in the way of volunteers to fight this fire was not good, and it was left to a few only to get the fire under control. This was effected at about 11 pm.

**23 Feb 1952 (p41, 520223, NQR)**

**23 Feb 1952 (p41, NQ122, 520223, NQR)**

JC, Feb 20 – On Saturday both tennis and cricket were played between teams from Kynuna and JC. Kynuna had a good win in both sports. The tennis was close and the result was seven matches to five in favour of the visitors.

At cricket, JC scored 110 with Max Burns getting on top of the bowling with great gusto and scored 70. Morrie Taylor got just on 30 so the remaining batsmen did not help much. Kynuna with a limited time at their disposal set a merry pace and Mick Johnson, with great confidence and ability made the bowling look easy. he top scored and Alwin Tighe helped along with 20 odd. The necessary runs were made with only a few minutes in hand so the match concluded in an exciting atmosphere. The tennis club entertained the visitors at afternoon tea, both tennis players and cricketers and at night after the pictures a dance was held in Eckford's Hall. This lasted until 2 am but all enjoyed themselves immensely.

On Sunday night despite the murkiness of the sky the Tennis Club held a barbecue at the Eddington Waterhole. This was quite a success and there were fun and games under the electric light in the bush. There was the matter of slithering and sliding through a storm drenched part of the road out, but this added to the interest.

**1 Mar 1952 (p7, 520301, NQR)**

JC – The local branch of the Australian Estates Co Ltd have now become ensconced in their new offices. The building is really impressive for JC and the inner construction has been effected and planned to make work in this tropical area as pleasant and congenial as possible. The employees are fitted with quarters on the top floor of the building.

Work still continues on the street construction. Most of the streets ow have their gravel strips and tested during the small amount of rain recently the gravel carried the traffic well. The cross-street sections are now being gravelled and when the whole of the contract is completed we should all be satisfied with the result.

On Sunday the Nelia cricket team came up to play the locals. The challenge from Nelia seemed a bit saucy after the good victory over Cloncurry by JC. However the visitors had a good win. Going in first they compiled 78 runs, with Bill Barker top scoring at 30 odd. JC in their first innings made only 40 being bundled out by particularly fierce bowling by Jim Magoffin.

The tennis players are going out into the country for a match on Sunday. This will take place at Balootha the cattle property of Mr Max Burns. It is a long time since these social matches between town and country have been played and it is pleasing to see them revived. The organising enthusiasm for this game is coming from Messrs Max Burns, Bill Barker and Morrie Taylor.

#### **8 Mar 1952 (p38, NQ123, NQR)**

JC, Feb ? – ... A tennis team from JC comprising Mesdames Devey and Paskin; Messrs M Taylor, M Paskin, D Devey and H Mitchell, journeyed on Sunday to Mr Max Burns' property, Balootha, to play a country team comprising Mesd Beach and Miss C Eckford; Messrs W Barker, Max Burns, J Magoffin and J Beach. The country team proved too strong for the town players.

A strong wind lifted the roof of the butchershop. No customers or employees were injured.

Mr L Hennessey accompanied by his daughter Chris, passed through JC from Rosevale en route to Byrimine to inspect this property.

[Fickling, F Bennett, Lowe]

#### **14 Mar 1952 (520314, CA)**

Well-known JC airman Lionel Wall and a passenger had a miraculous escape from death when their plane crashed landed and was wrecked. At 6.30 pm on Tuesday, Mr Wall and his passenger, Mr Bruno Cattina, left the Cloncurry airport in a Tiger Moth intending to return to JC before darkness set in. After becoming airborne the plane climbed slowly and was soon seen to be losing height. Airport officials who were watching the plane saw it disappear behind a ridge and shortly after noticed a large cloud of dust rise. An alarm was sent out and the emergency airport fire tender, local fire brigade and Ambulance and dozens of cars set out in search of the plane. In the meantime the Drover aircraft was prepared and took off and added to the search. The Moth was quickly picked up by the pilot of the Drover and he directed the rescue party to the spot.

The Moth was found to be a complete wreck and can be written off, maybe the engine can be salvaged. The two men in the meantime had managed to escape from the aircraft and being unhurt save for a few abrasions, set out on foot for the airport. They were picked up by DCA officials.

When one views the wrecked plane, the vision of Lady Luck sitting on the shoulders of the airmen is very definite.

#### **14 Mar 1952 (520314, CA)**

Mr Eckford Senr after the pictures on Wednesday night had the misfortune to slip over and was taken to the hospital and treated by Dr Proctor for a broken wrist. He spent two days in the local hospital. Mr Eckford accompanied by his son-in-law, Mr Peter Dawes flew to Townsville for further X rays as it was thought the hip was injured. Mrs Eckford left on Sunday evening's plane to be with her husband. Word has been received that the hip is badly bruised and it is pleasing to note that the nasty accident is not so serious and Mr and Mrs Eckford will return home on Monday next. Their son Jim flew home from Brisbane and will spend some time in JC and assist his sisters at the picture show and factory.

Mr and Mrs Sam Henry and family arrived home after spending extended holidays in the south. Constable Henry has taken up duties.

Matron Blanch has arrived home and will spend a fortnight's holiday with her parents Mr and Mrs W Blanch prior to leaving for Sydney where she intends taking up duties. Sister V Hough will also leave Townsville and take up duties in Sydney for a period of six months.

JC is without meat since the roof blew off the butcher shop and they will be without for some time as the shop is being pulled down and rebuilt. It will mean at least several weeks without meat.

[Diggers sports, tug of war]

#### **15 Mar 1952 (p21, NQ124, NQR)**

Miraculous Escape: Occupants Walk From Crashed Plane

Cloncurry, Mar 11 – The pilot of a Tiger Moth aircraft and his passengers had miraculous escapes when

the plane crashed shortly after leaving Cloncurry airport tonight for JC.

Piloted by Lionel Wall, the plane left Cloncurry airport at 6.30 pm. After becoming airborne, it climbed slowly, and was then seen to be losing height.

Airport officials saw the plane disappear over a ridge and shortly afterwards observed a large cloud of dust. The airport emergency tender, together with the local ambulance, raced over rough country, while the Flying Doctor's Drover took off in search of the plane.

The Drover aircraft found the Tiger Moth a complete wreck, about three miles from the airport and directed the ground rescue party to the area.

Later the pilot and the passenger were picked up walking towards the airport. Both had miraculous escapes, only suffering slight facial scratches.

### **15 Mar 1952 (p40, NQ125, NQR)**

JC, March 12 – There is little or no cloud formation. No rain fell during the week in the town or district.

A well known local business man and pilot, Mr Lionel Wall, JC, whilst returning from Cloncurry with a friend, Mr Bruno Cottini, had a miraculous escape from death when Wall's Tiger Moth aircraft crash landed and was completely wrecked. The aircraft departed from Cloncurry at 6.30 pm Tuesday and after becoming airborne the plane climbed slowly and was seen to be losing height. Airport officials saw the plane disappear behind a hill and shortly afterwards a cloud of dust was seen rising from this spot. Ambulance, a fire waggon and numerous motor cars were soon on the way to the area of the crash. The plane was found on the side of a rocky outcrop lying upside down. The occupants had crawled out of the plane and were picked up walking back towards the aerodrome. Lionel Wall took up flying in 1947 and was taught to fly by Mr Arthur Lowe who was a noted Air force Instructor. Both pilots are well known for their many mercy flights and for flying medical supplies and food to graziers during flood bound seasons.

At the meeting of the McKinlay Shire Council, it was moved that the council accept the tender of Mr R. Svensson to carry out the work of erecting the overhead lines for the electricity undertaking at JC, at the cost of £1177/15/6.

On Saturday a tennis match was held at the JC tennis courts. This was a return against the Balootha team, and Balootha once again proved to be too strong for the town players. Afternoon tea was served at the courts by Mesdames Burns and Rickertts.

### **21 Mar 1952? (p? NA, CA)**

The town is very quiet, most of the station people are shifting their stock on agistment country. All stock passing through are in very poor condition, even the town goats are in a bad way. Some people are feeding their goats to keep up the milk for small children.

There is still no meat in town. The butcher shop is being rebuilt.

The hospital is still short of nursing staff but is still carrying on with the good work and it is pleasing that a doctor has arrived and taken up duties.

Building operations are still going ahead – Mr Wall's home, also Mrs G Evans home and the new butcher shop will be erected.

### **22 Mar 1952 (p34, NQ126, NQR)**

Drought Position In West Is Desperate

While there were some useful falls of rain on Saturday night in many places in pastoral country between Townsville and the B?rra Range, 150 miles west, none fell in the drought stricken grazing areas beyond. The position of many graziers in the area between Hughenden and Oorindi is becoming more precarious each day.

A Nelia district sheep man said in Townsville at the weekend that he had already lost a third of his

flock. He runs about 20,000 sheep.

Where graziers have been able to secure agistment country stock are being sent away as quickly as possible. The Railway Department last week supplied 85 sheep vans and 70 cattle trucks for the transfer of starving stock to other areas. The sheep were transported to places on the central line, from Longreach in towards Aramac and Blackall. The cattle were hauled to the CT, Mingela and Reid River districts.

[Rainfall figures given for various places]

**22 Mar 1952 (p34, NQ127, NQR)**

20,000 sheep, 3000 Cattle To Be Moved From Bad Drought Belt Soon

Disastrous drought conditions in the Hughenden-JC district of Townsville's normally rich pastoral hinterland are forcing the movement to agistment of tens of thousands of starving sheep and cattle.

Graziers in the area say that their only hope now for relief rains is a late northern cyclone. Between Monday and Saturday of next week more than 20,000 sheep and 3200 cattle are to be loaded for movement to better grassed and watered areas throughout the State. Most activity will be centred at JC and Nelia, but the intensive loading region will extend from Marathon (277 miles from Townsville) to JC (398 miles) in the west. The Hughenden-JC belt received only light rains early last week and remains one of the state's worst drought areas.

[Detailed description of numbers and destinations]

**28 Mar 1952 (p3, NA, CA)**

JC Notes

Mr US Browne, Toowoomba returned to look after his station property Garomna whilst his son Geoff left to spend holidays in Brisbane and Sydney and also spend some time with his mother in Toowoomba. Whilst away Geoff will wed Miss Barbara Milburn who was for some time a nursing sister at the local hospital. The happy young couple intend making their home at Garomna Station.

The wedding of Miss Ivy Gannon to Mr Anthony Bowtle will take place on Easter Monday 14th April 1952 at St Barnabus Church at 5.30 pm JC. The reception will be held in Eckford's Hall.

**29 Mar 1952 (p4, 520329, NQR)**

JC, Mar 26 – The monthly meeting of the McKinlay Shire council was held on the 21 inst when a permit to commence building on the application of Mr W Elliott was granted. The application was for a dwelling in Burke Street at an estimated cost of £2400. Building contractor Mr Flewell-Smith has commenced work on Mr Elliott's dwelling.

Wednesday and Thursday were very hot with heat continuing through the night. Day temperatures of up to 104 degrees have been recorded. During Thursday evening a very strong wind blew from the south bringing clouds of dust. It continued to blow very strongly on Friday and in the afternoon a good bank of clouds appeared in the west but only very light and scattered showers fell. By far the heaviest fall was one inch on Wyaldra station. Since then the days have been warm but the nights have been quite cool and are getting a feeling of approaching winter.

A strong wind still blows from the south bringing with it heavy clouds of dust off the unwatered streets, making life most unpleasant for the housewife. All prospects of much needed rain now appear to be gone and flocks of sheep and mobs of cattle are still being moved to more fortunate areas.

[Wall, Eckford, Devey]

**19 Apr 1952 (p32, NQ128, NQR)**

Drought Belt Soon

[Repeat of NQ127 story almost word for word.]

**19 Apr 1952 (p43, 520419, NQR)**

JC, Apr 16 – During this last week the weather has been beautifully mild although for the first few days a warm change was noticeable. for the last couple of days we have enjoyed much cooler weather and it

has shown a definite sign of approaching winter.

There does not seem to be any prospect of rain now on account of the cooler season commencing. Some of the graziers are hoping that we shall enjoy good winter rains in May and June.

[Tennis in Mt Isa]

The wedding of Miss Ivy Gannon to Mr Anthony Bowtle took place here on Monday and it was acclaimed the biggest and most popular for many a long day. About 500 guests were entertained at the reception which was held at Eckford's Hall. The couple left by Monday night's mail train to spend their honeymoon visiting Cairns, Kuranda and the Atherton Tablelands. They will afterwards settle in Brisbane.

### **26 Apr 1952 (p3, 520426a, NQR)**

JC, Apr 25 – The local Stock Inspector (Mr Ron Groves) is being kept extra busy during these dry days. Stock movements from and through the district have been pretty heavy and will continue to be heavy for some weeks.

About 100,000 sheep have left the district since February and there will be further heavy transfers of sheep flocks to the Boulia country in the next week or two. About 20,000 are anticipated to leave for agistment there while 20,000 cattle are expected through from Djarra this and next week. All will unload and dip to retruck and continue on to better pastures.

About 2000 Millungeras and 1000 Dalgonaalls have been trucked for the Blackall country.

The outlook for stock owners in this district is indeed grim and high expenses and losses are all they can see ahead.

### **26 Apr 1952 (p39, 520426b, NQR)**

JC, Apr 23 – It is pleasing to note the safety precautions being taken by Mr JC Wilson headmaster of the State school to see the school kiddies safely across the main street intersection of the town. All the school children along with their bicycles are controlled as a body until the intersection is safely crossed. Although the streets here are not busy with traffic the younger ones might easily be running headlong without a care and so bring about an accident.

The footballers played their first intertown match of the 1952 season last Sunday. They travelled to Cloncurry and defeated a team from that centre. This early success will make the players really keen and a successful season should result. Let us hope that the training done by the young men will be regular and solid so that the necessary condition will be there for the matches. No other sport is so widely popular with the spectators and we hope to see some good games played by our team this year.

The travelling Rail Dental Clinic cars along with the motor van are at present in JC and will attend to the teeth of the school children.

Mr Don Devey has been out throughout the western properties in an endeavour to secure more wool for the scour. He covered the McKinlay and Cloncurry districts. With the prospects of a drier year the wool will carry much more dust and the scour would then benefit.

### **3 May 1952 (p30, NQ129, NQR)**

Shearer's Pay to Drop By £10 A Week

Sydney, Apr 29 – The average shearer's wages will drop by about £10 a week – from £50 to £40 – as a result of a revision of the Pastoral Workers Award, announced by the Federal Conciliation Commissioner (Mr JR Donovan) today.

Mr Donovan announced reduced wages for pastoral workers in a reserved judgement after he had earlier dealt with an application by the Graziers Federal Council for a review of the wool values allowances operating under the award.

The grazier's move was made following the fall in wool prices this year.

The new rates are the first reductions made in any award since in the last war.

### **10 May 1952 (p33, 520510, NQR)**

#### **Heavy Stock Moves in JC Area**

JC, May 8 – Stock continue to move from the district in what is being spoken of as one of the worst droughts known in this area. Dalgonally are dipping and trucking 1000 head of cattle and Mr Ard Cooney is trucking 4000 head of sheep. Hickman Bros are moving 3000 sheep to Boulia to agistment country. Mr A Netterfield has sold about 1000 sheep and these had to go at a loss owing to the drought. Some property owners are taking the risk of purchasing further sheep, taking advantage of the low prices. Euroka Springs are commencing to move their herds and about 4000 in all will be shifted. The first lot will go off today.

Messrs Beach and Cummins of Lands End and Caleewa are moving their sheep to Boulia agistment country by motor lorry trailers owing to the poor state of the stock route.

### **17 May 1952 (p37, NQ130, NQR)**

#### **Big Stock Movements From JC**

JC, May 15 – During May, 35,360 sheep have been removed from the district, and 1852 cattle. Since February 14 last, 164,225 sheep and 18,046 cattle have gone from this area. This covers a period of 13 weeks. The movements are still going on and will continue for some months.

[Details of numbers and destinations]

A road train, comprising eight motor lorry trailers, commenced to move the Land's End and Caleewa sheep last Sunday. Approximately 10,000 sheep will be taken. The capacity of the road train is about 1600 sheep. The eight large lorries were lined up in the main street here on Saturday afternoon, and presented a novel sight. These have been plying backwards and forwards from the two properties mentioned to the Boulia district in the work of moving the starving stock.

During the whole of this week a summery type of weather has prevailed and we have been hoping that possibly some rain may come even at this late stage.

Last week an old identity of the district passed away in the local hospital. This was Mr H (Ike) Jensen. Mr Jensen was well known throughout the west as an expert dingo trapper and was responsible for the destruction of many of these pests. He is survived by his wife, sons and daughters.

The football on Sunday was to be pepped up by a visit from a number of coloured boys who are working at Nonda as railway fettlers. However, they did not arrive and a scratch match was played. After their good win against Richmond the local players are taking football seriously and expect to do well against Hughenden on Sunday next. An excursion train is being arranged and a basketball team will be going as well.

### **24 May 1952 (p38, 520524, NQR)**

JC, May 22 – At the beginning of the week the prospects for rain looked bright. a north wind was blowing consistently on Thursday and then on Friday the cloud overcast was heavy. About 10,30 am the rain started and was quite heavy. All business stopped while employers and employees were out watching the rain come pouring down. However, it was of short duration and only about half an inch was registered. The country districts did not fare any better and there were no substantial falls in this district. The clouds remained after the rain and these have been building up each day since. The wind has been variable with a southeast wind prevailing. It is to be hoped that some substantial rain may fall before very long to produce the stock feed so very necessary for the prosperity of this area.

The work of shifting sheep has been going on all last week. It is a common sight just now to see motor truck trailers moving through the streets loaded with livestock. During the last two days Mr Peut's lorries have been transporting a small mob of cattle from Burwood to rail. Loads of stock feed are being taken to country area, bagged corn and lucerne, also the open compressed bales of lucerne. The costs to primary producers is high but the stock must be saved for, from losses already suffered throughout this state and the NT, an acute shortage must soon be felt.

Stock moving to the Boulia district by road have to be fed while travelling owing to the bad state of the

stock routes. Messrs Hickman Bros and PJ Brne of Osbert bore this expense during the droving of their sheep last week to Boulia through McKinlay.

Mr Max Burns, accompanied by Mrs Burns, is in Brisbane and Sydney on business. Mr Burns has found it necessary to shift his cattle from Balootha to agistment country.

The number of scavenger hawks and black crows in the town area is most unusual. These can be seen in the main street in large numbers during the early mornings. The crows usually are pretty shy birds but they seem to have been driven in from the country areas apparently on account of shortage of food although there should be any amount of dead carcasses during these drought times. There have been about half a dozen broilgas roaming the streets each day. These have become quite used to the people since the search for food is much easier here in town.

Messrs Fred Sargent and Doug Wilmot were responsible for a strange catch last week while fishing at the Eddington hole. Amongst the crayfish which they caught was a freak. It had two nippers each 18 inches in length. It had a spike out from the head something like a king prawn and had six feelers not four like the ordinary crayfish. The shell of this freak was not nearly as strong as the ordinary cray nor was its colour quite so dark. This unusual crayfish did not survive for long after being taken from the water while the others remained alive even after being brought back to town. The freak was displayed throughout town and quite a bit of discussion took place concerning it.

### **30 May 1952 (520530, CA)**

The death occurred on Sunday evening of Mrs Isobel Walters of 48 Norris St, Hermit Park, Townsville. Deceased was in her 90th year. Mrs Walters met with an accident about four weeks ago and suffered a fractured hip. She was a native of Singleton, NSW. She lived in St George southern Qld for many years and after her husband's death 48 years ago came to North Qld with her family. Mrs Walters bought the hotel at Gilliat in the coaching days and shifted it over to the railway when the line came through many years later. She sold the Gilliat hotel to Mr George Saltzman then built and successfully conducted a hotel at Kuridala for some years and on the decline of copper mining at Kuridala Mrs Walters sold the hotel to Cummins and Campbell who removed it to Cloncurry and is called the Oasis Hotel. Deceased was a keen business woman, a devoted mother and kindly nature to others was well known and highly respected by all who knew her and it can be said that this good old pioneer woman never let a man leave her hotel without money or food. The Hotel was called Walters Hotel because the family helped their mother.

Deceased in her young days in St George was a great horsewoman and always rode in a side saddle.

The cortege moved from St Margaret Mary's Church, West End, at 3.30 pm on Monday... The funeral was largely attended. Numerous floral tributes and sympathy telegrams were received. Mrs Walters made her home in Townsville. She is survived by two daughters and three sons Leslie, John and Harold.

### **31 May 1952 (p9, NQ131, NQR)**

Germany Now Divided Permanently By Dramatic Moves

London, May 28 – Reuter's Berlin correspondent says the Communist Government of East Germany made three dramatic moves last night to split Germany permanently in two.

At dusk, Communist police and Soviet soldiers closed all crossing points except one between East Germany and the British zone. Police driving red Army bulldozers piled up big log barriers on roads which cross the 250 miles East-West border between the Baltic and the mountains of Czechoslovakia, and work began on the construction of a three mile wide no-man's-land.

The action follows closely the signing in Paris of a six-nation European Defence Community which brought into being a European Army with 300,000 West German members.

The nations are West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. At the same time Britain and the United States joined France in a formal pledge to support the new army, and guaranteed that any action against it would be regarded as a threat to their own security.

### **31 May 1952 (p32, NQ132, NQR)**



### **Wild Dogs Attacking Drought Area Sheep**

Dingoes and foxes are decimating sheep herds in the badly-hit Nelia-Maxwelton-JC-Hughenden drought belt. So serious has the wild dog menace become in the Hughenden district that one grazier's herd has been halved by their attacks over the past year.

Drought losses as well are steadily mounting in the stricken region... The Nelia district is believed to have been the worst hit by the drought and only a fraction of its sheep and cattle population remains. One cattle man has moved his entire herd of 3000 beasts from his property there to a more favourable agistment area.

Heavy infestation of dingoes and foxes as a result of the drought is causing a depreciation in sheep and land values. Graziers fear that the dogs will push back the sheep belt even further than in the past 10 years, leaving their land suitable only for cattle.

Graziers in some areas are forming syndicates to fight the dogs and are offering as much as £5 a scalp.

### **31 May 1952 (p39, NQ133, 520531, NQR)**

JC, May 28 – In the school grounds it is pleasing to note the progress of the tress planted about two years ago by the headmaster Mr JC Wilson. The avenue of athel trees from the school gate to the school building is beginning to take shape and the trees are showing a healthy stage of growth. These trees are native of the dry parts of India and have been specially recommended for these dry areas. The gum eucalypts are also growing lustily and will be of great benefit when grown to full height. With the absence of a regular wet season the task of Mr Wilson has been really difficult in the caring for these trees and he must be congratulated for the splendid progress made. a couch grass lawn is coming on along a narrow strip near the main street and this will add to the appearance of the grounds to a great extent.

The work on the streets by the Northern Road Constructors is continuing. The gravel strips seem to have stood up to the traffic on them during the two wet days we have had recently. The drainage at the intersection streets are now having the attention of the contractors and when the water is able to get away freely, it will make a great difference, for in past times, there were large pools of water for many days after rain. The footpaths in the main street have been collapsed and will be ideal during the rainy weather.

The tennis players are not now very plentiful but those that are playing are really keen. On this weekend, a team of four gents and two ladies will go to Richmond on Saturday and play a team at that centre. On Sunday the local team will go on to Hughenden and play there on that day. On the following weekend it is expected that a trip will be made to Winton with a match against Kynuna on the way over. This is the real spirit that will make the sport so much more interesting. Mr Max Burns is the moving element in these games.

### **6 Jun 1952 (520606, CA)**

Mr and Mrs Ben Burrows have handed over their OK store to Mr C Holland who is carrying on the business as a cash and carry store. Mr Ben Burrows has been a storekeeper for many years in JC having managed a store for Mr AJ Smith prior to taking the OK store. It will be hard not finding Ben behind the counter.

Mr J Walters is very ill in the local hospital.

### **7 Jun 1952 (p5, NQ134, NQR)**

#### **Big Drop In North West Sheep Flocks**

Brisbane, Jun 6 – One and a half million fewer sheep will be shorn in the north-west this year. United Grazer's Cooperative Shearing Co Ltd manager, Mr J Yates, said today, that north-western numbers were expected to be down about 40 per cent on 1951 shearing tallies. Less than 2,00,00 will be shorn there compared with 3,500,000 in 1951.

Mr Yates added that apart from reduced sheep numbers volume of wool grown would be set back further by fleeces on the average being 2 lb to 3 lb lighter than in normal seasons.

### **7 Jun 1952 (p9, NQ135, NQR)**

JC – ... The tennis players visited Richmond and Hughenden on the weekend, playing the former on Saturday and Hughenden on Sunday. The team was Max Burns (Captain), Fred Bennett, Don Devey, Bill Barker, Mrs Mary Hodgetts and Mrs Don Devey. The team won easily against Richmond, 13 matches to 1, but against Hughenden the scores were very close with JC just winning by 5 games, the matches being even at 7-all ...[Detailed results]

**7 Jun 1952 (p46, NQ136, NQR)**

OK Store – JC

Messrs Peut & Burrows wish to advise that they have disposed of the above business to Mr CE Holland as from 31st May and wish to thank all Customers for their patronage ...

**14 Jun 1952 (p4, NQ137, NQR)**

£20,000 Wages Lost At JC By Movement Of Stock

JC, Jun 12 – Shearers and station hands will lose at least £20,000 this year, following large movements of sheep from the district.

To date 195,033 sheep and 20,668 head of cattle have left the area due to drought conditions, a total of nearly 220,000 head of stock. In the last week 30,808 sheep and 2622 head of cattle have been moved. The shearing rate at present is £8 per 100, it being estimated other costs – station hand's wages – run out at about £2 per 100.

The heavy loss of money to the district is already being felt in hotels and business houses, but it will become progressively greater as the year advances.

**14 Jun 1952 (p11, NQ138, NQR)**

JC, Jun 11 – The weather for the past week has followed the general trend of the last month or so and we have enjoyed pleasantly mild days... There appears no sign of any winter rain and, no doubt, there will be no relief from the drought conditions until possibly early storms in October and November. This would mean a period of 18 months without beneficial rains.

The tennis club held a meeting on one night of last week, when Miss Joy Burns was appointed Assistant Secretary. Mr Max Burns was appointed captain of the club and was placed on the selection committee. Tennis is becoming very interesting for those that are playing, and three of the keenest have prepared the courts very thoroughly and these are now in tiptop order. A team will be going to Kynuna on Saturday to play against a team from that centre and will then journey on to Winton to meet that town's team on the Sunday. The team to travel includes Max Burns (Captain), Fred Bennett, John Cameron, Mick Johnson, Mrs Mary Hodgetts and Mrs Don Devey. After winning against Richmond and Hughenden recently, this team is confident of continuing the winning sequence. Mr Max Burns has an ambitious programme ahead. McKinlay will bring a team across a week after the Winton match. Then there will be a trip to Cloncurry a fortnight later and Mount Isa a little after that. The Mount Isa scalp is the object of all this tennis and it is expected that a strong team will go to that centre to bring about the defeat of the all-conquering Mount Isa team.

**14 Jun 1952 (p32, NQ139, NQR)**

220,000 Sheep From JC Area

Hughenden, Jun 7 – Removal of stock from drought stricken western areas continues at high pressure. Greatest movement has been from the JC district. It has been estimated that 220,000 sheep have now been shifted from that area to agistment in other districts.

**28 Jun 1952 (p29, NA, NQR)**

Man cuts own throat

**28 Jun 1952 (p3, NQ140, NQR)**

State Shearing Rates Reduced

Brisbane, Jun 26 – The shearing rate in Qld for shearers “not found” was reduced by the Industrial Court today from £8 to £6/12/6 per 100.

Announcing this in a judgement today, Mr Justice Matthews and Mr HJ Harvey, said that these rates would apply as from July 7. “We are satisfied that conditions in the industry have changed to the detriment of the employers, in that the price of wool has fallen considerably...”

**28 Jun 1952 (p42, 520628, NQR)**

JC – Monday and Tuesday were our coldest days to date and a temperature of about 35 degrees inside was registered. The wind broke down a little yesterday and today is quite pleasant with the absence of any boisterous wind.

From the recent Council meeting we learn that the Coordinating board intends to distribute 1,000,000 baits by aircraft commencing late in July and asked if the Council desired distribution in its area. The Council decided to protest strongly against the distribution of baits by air and supported the resolution of the United Graziers Association that money so spent be used to better advantage by increasing the bonus payments.

[Power equipment dispatched]

**4 Jul 1952 (520704, CA)**

The death occurred at the Townsville General Hospital on June 12th of Mr John Percy Walters of JC at the age of 63 years.

Deceased who had lived in JC for 25 years was well known as a sporting personality.

An amateur rider in his youth, he won many bracelets and at one time owned and rode his own horses with great success. Of late he acted as handicapper for the JC, Nelia, McKinlay and Kynuna race meetings.

Mr Walters had been ill in the JC hospital and had to wait for some improvement in his condition before he was allowed to fly to Townsville. He leaves a widow who was Miss Elizabeth Spence, and two married sons, John and Harold.

**5 Jul 1952 (p1, NQ141, NQR)**

Drought Stricken JC

Longreach, Jul 4 – ... Among the hardest hit are the selectors, many of them ex-servicemen, who tool up holdings during 1949 and 1950. Missing the high wool prices of previous years, they were considerably in debt with the initial commitments of stocking and improving their properties. Most of these men are now in a desperate position and are faced with further heavy expenses in restocking after rain falls.

Stock agents throughout the Central West foresee a sharp rise in sheep prices for restocking purposes when the rain breaks and it is already quite clear there will be insufficient sheep to met all needs, since the lambing failures of the past two years, combined with the depredations of dogs have resulted in huge reductions in normal flock numbers.

Most of the stock from JC have been agisted to Boulia, but the stock route is now flogged out and the dingo menace in this area is making movements a gamble. Some sheep men have tried hand feeding their sheep, but the cost is prohibitive and most of the remaining sheep are being allowed to die in the paddocks while pastoralists sink into a cynical hopelessness and wait for rain...

In the township itself, business is slackening and an indication of the economic position was afforded at the end of June when there was practically no spending.

**5 Jul 1952 (p25, NQ143, 520705, NQR)**

JC, Jul 3 – The Milch Goat Project Club of the JC State School held its annual club day at the school on June 13... Some interesting lecturettes were delivered by Club Members. These included Diseases in Goats (Audrey Green), Breeds of Milch Goats (Robert Maher), Goat's Milk (Brian Purtle), and How To Milk A Goat (Peter Dawes). During the meeting, the school choir sang "Horo My Nut Brown Maiden". The Head Teacher, Mr JC Wilson, congratulated the children on their efficient working of the whole project and outlined to the visitors the aims and importance of Club Work. He emphasised how important the Milch Goat was in western areas and stressed that in Europe particularly in the Mediterranean countries 60 per cent of the milk produced is goat's milk. Thirteen goats were paraded before the judge, Mr Herb Fickling, the winnings results: Audrey Green 88 points...

Master Barry and Alan Burns and Tom Jessup are also on holidays from secondary schools and are home with their parents.

[Tennis with Max at Cloncurry, hospital patients, stock movement]

**12 Jul 1952 (p7, NQ144, NQR)**

Myxomatosis As Rabbit Destroyer

Canberra, Jul 13 – Myxomatosis had killed tens of millions of rabbits in the last 18 months, the Minister in Charge of the CSIRO, Mr RG Casey, said tonight.

He said the figure might go as high as 100 millions or even 200 millions. The possibility of complete elimination in wide areas was in sight now, as it had never been before. Mr Casey said the pasture destroyed by eight rabbits was about equal on an average, to that need to maintain one sheep. Myxomatosis had destroyed sufficient rabbits to enable at least 4,000,000 more sheep to be carried – and even as much as 15,000,000 or 20,000,000... [more interesting info]

**12 Jul 1952 (p8, NQ145, NQR)**

UK & Dominion Motors

Ad for Oliver & Britstand equipment.

**19 Jul 1952 (p40, NQ156, NQR)**

Wool Cheque Down 51.3%

At £307,787,401, Australia's wool cheque for 1951-52 was 51.3% below that of the previous season. It was, however, £21,158,490 more than the cheque for the 1949-50 season, and the second-biggest cheque ever earned by woolgrowers.

Perhaps it will not buy as much as the cheque of two seasons ago, nor leave the grower with the same ration of profit for his labour and investment, but this is not a reflection of wool, which still maintains its supremacy amongst textile fibres.

In comparison with the fantastic average of 144d per lb in 1950-51, the fall to 72d this year is unprecedented in its steepness, but it's level bears a more normal relationship to the cost of other raw materials...

**26 Jul 1952 (p43, 520726, NQR)**

JC – [Consulting engineer, electricity project]

Mr Svensson has arrived accompanied by Mrs Svensson. Mr Svensson has control of the contract to erect the poles for the electric light scheme and has already commenced on the post hole digging. The representative of Snashall's Ltd was a visitor here to supervise the installation of engines at the power house. This work also is now progressing satisfactorily.

**1 Aug 1952 (520801, CA)**

St Abigail's Church was the scene of a very pretty wedding when John Blanch, son of Mr and Mrs W Blanch, was united to Thelma Mary, daughter of Mrs Barry, Brisbane and the late Mr Barry. Rev Father Devereux officiated.

The bride entered the church on the arm of her father in law to the strains of the wedding March played by Mrs Les Adam. She looked charming in a jacket of velvet showing long sleeves pointed over the hand and a high neck revealing a peter pan collar. The jacket was buttoned to the waist with self covered buttons and falling into a pleated peplum. The skirt of silk net over taffeta made the finishing touches to a very pretty bride. Her tulle veil was of elbow length. The bride was attended by the groom's sister, Mrs Norm Downey, who wore a jacket of blue corduroy velveteen, featuring a peter pan collar, buttoning to the waist with a gathered peplum. With this she wore a matching blue silk net skirt and tiny blue hat she also carried a muff. Duties of the groomsman were carried out by Mr Norm downey. The grooms mother wore a blue and white continental silk frock, with this she allied navy accessories. A sumptuous supper was prepared at the residence of Mr and Mrs Norm Downey. The thing that took the eye most was a beautiful three-tiered wedding cake which was decorated by Mrs G Peut.

Visitors to town for the wedding were Mr and Mrs Eric Blanch, Mrs L Halloran, Mr and Mrs J Magoffin, Mr and Mrs Vince Ahern and Mrs J Ahern.

## **2 Aug 1952 (p29, NQ151, NQR)**

Dingoes Numerous In Cloncurry District

Cloncurry, Jul 29 – Evidence of the ever increasing numbers of dingoes in the district is shown in figures just released by the Cloncurry Shire Council, of the amount paid for dingo scalps during the last financial year. A £1 scalp bonus amounting to £2925 were paid out, representing an increase of nearly £2000 over the sum paid out for the 1950-51 financial year.

Graziers believe the phenomenal increase in their numbers is largely due to the war, when often, only one man was left to look after thousands of acres of property. It was virtually impossible to control them then, they claim. Now with the ravaging drought, dingoes are coming out of the hills to make their attacks nearer homesteads where there is water...

Catching dingoes is a game of skill and cunning, and station owners find it hard to get men equal to the task...

## **9 Aug 1952 (p8, NQ152, NQR)**

In the preceding financial year national income had risen by £820,000,000 or 36%. Wool prices had averaged 144d per lb. Retail prices had risen by 19 percent and wholesale prices by 27 percent.

In much the same period the basic wage had risen by 37%. Acute shortages of labour existed all over the country.

Since the last Budget dramatic changes have occurred in basic economic conditions. Wool prices fell to approximately half the level of the year before. Imports of every description flooded into the country so that, notwithstanding the drastic restrictions imposed in the later months of the trade year, the total landed cost of the imports brought into Australia was over £1,200,000,000.

Our international reserves fell in consequence by nearly £500,000,000. In the earlier months of the year severe droughts and bush fires devastated large areas of the country. Later floods have taken their toll of rural production and added to its costs.

These factors in combination brought a remarkable change in the economic scene. They threw many unexpected and heavy strains on the economy but at the same time removed many elements in the wave of accidental prosperity which in 1950-51 bade fair to engulf us. They assisted also to lessen the extreme inflationary pressure from which we were suffering.

A year ago there were 139,000 vacancies for jobs registered with the CES and no more than a few hundreds of people drawing unemployment relief, almost all of them for special and temporary local reasons.

Today the registered vacancies have fallen to 32,000 and, while unemployment is still sporadic and I believe, transitional, the number of people on relief has risen to something over 12,000.

A year ago we had just concluded a year of record wool prices, which had seen an addition of £380,000,000 to our export income, with far reaching consequences. Today we have had experience of a year of sharply reduced wool prices with a reduction in the wool cheque to no less than £300,000,000.

A year ago relatively few people were disposed to look ahead, to guard against economic dangers, to encourage steps to steady down the inflationary boom. Today there are hundreds of thousands who have become apprehensive of the future.

From budget speech by Sir Arthur Fadden, 6/8/52

## **9 Aug 1952 (p37, NQ153, NQR)**

JC, Aug 6 – ... Mr and Mrs Max Burns had a speedy trip to Townsville by car last week returning during the same week. This was for business reasons. Mr Bill Barker returned with them.

The woolscour was operating during last week to clear a quantity of wool and has now ceased scouring. With all the sheep practically now out of the district, it is possible that this works will not get so much wool for treatment...

**9 Aug 1952 (p17, NQ155, NQR)**

Austin A40 ad

**9 Aug 1952 (p5, NQ146, NQR)**

JC Huge Stock Movement

JC, Aug 8 – Over 325,000 head of stock have been moved from this district for better grassed pastures. For July the figures were 51,210 sheep and 5804 cattle...

The total has moved as follows:

To Boulia and other western districts: 127,000 sheep and 3500 cattle

Central district properties: 135,000 sheep and 14,000 cattle

Coastal areas: 20,000 sheep and 20,000 cattle.

**9 Aug 1952 (p8, NQ147, NQR)**

Old & New Tax Rates Compared

**15 Aug 1952 (520815, CA)**

Miss Joan Brennan of the Shire Office left for CT where she intends doing her last rounds of shopping prior to her wedding which takes place in October.

Friday evening a dance was held in the Corner Hall for the raising of funds for the establishment of a Convent.

The sad news has reached us of the recent death of Mrs Parsons, Townsville. Mrs Parsons resided in Townsville for the majority of her years and lived to be in her early eighties. Deepest sympathy is extended to Mr J parsons , Shire clerk of our district.

While fishing John Brennan, Nelia, had the misfortune to stand on a cat fish fin. He received medical treatment on Wednesday but owing to an unsatisfactory healing he was admitted to hospital as an inmate but has returned to Nelia again, and is doing fine.

Mr Herb Fickling motored to Normanton for the races where he states he had a bonza time.

Paul Faithfull is at present spending his midwinter vacation with his father.

**16 Aug 1952 (p43, NQ148/149, NQR)**

Stock Pests in JC Area

JC, Aug 15 – The McKinlay Shire Council discloses that 729 dingoes were destroyed in the shire during 1951-52 against 389 for the previous year, 348 foxes against 1119 and 225 eagle hawks against 143 in the previous year.

The Council have employed at present three full-time dingo trappers and these cover most of the shire where the pests are prevalent, in the McKinlay and Kynuna districts and on the marginal areas north of JC and Nelia.

One of the Council doggers arrived in town last week with 60 dingo scalps which he secured in five weeks. These dogs were destroyed on Millungera country, to the north, on the edge of the forest country, and just north of where the main sheep country begins.

Mr Noonan, the trapper, sets suite a number of traps, 72 in all, and travels over the areas by jeep. He has three vehicles, two jeeps and a Fordson utility, and does not confine his travel to the roads. He works seven days a week and covers about 4000 miles during most of these weeks to supervise the traps set.

A huge kangaroo dog has been trained to kill dingoes and he is found to be most useful where the

dingoes are wounded or tired after being chased across country.

In the haul mentioned above four dingoes were poisoned, five shot, two killed by the dog and 49 were trapped.

**23 Aug 1952 (p46, NQ150, NQR)**

Tanksinking

Wanted 2,000,000 yds of tanksinking by the largest tanksinking plant in Australia. No job too large. None too small. Apply Max Burns, JC, phone 7

**29 Aug 1952 (520829, CA)**

Dingo Wins Again

Further evidence of the ravages of the dingo – the greatest menace yet known to the grazing industry, particularly sheep – is brought before the public eye in the fact that yet another sheep property has changed over to cattle.

Last week, Mr HR Homan of Evandean, a well improved property of 26,000 acres and capable of carrying 6,000 sheep sold his entire flock to Hickman Bros of JC who have already moved the purchase to an agistment pasture in the Boulia district. It is believed the flock a since ben purchased by a Winton interest.

Mr Homan has purchased a number of young breeders and will add this herd to the few cattle he already has running on Evandean.

Further evidence to support the case is from Mr J Stainkey who brought 5,500 sheep to Evandean on agistment from Argyle, JC. This week he moved his flock to Boulia but he left with 900 short.

Aerial baiting has proven a failure in the west, the only answer to the dingo problem is to raise the bonus. Man can defeat the dingo but indiscriminate dropping of baits is a waste of public money which could be spent to advantage in trapping.

**30 Aug 1952 (p10, NQ154, NQR)**

Sheep Cleared From Dingoes

Cloncurry, Aug 28 – Further evidence of the ravages of the dingo, the greatest menace yet known to the grazing industry, particularly sheep, is brought before the public eye in the fact that yet another sheep property has changed over to cattle.

Last Week Mr HR Homan, of Evandean in the Cloncurry district, a well-improved property of 26,000 acres and capable of carrying 6000 sheep, sold his entire flock to Hickman Bros of JC, who have already moved the purchase to an agistment pasture in the Boulia district.

In view of this and many other similar cases being constantly before the government, it is hard to understand why those in authority with the supposed interest of their State, or their part of the State, at heart prefer to turn a deaf and and a blind eye to the deputation of the practical man on the land, the man who suffers the continual menace.

Aerial baiting has proved a failure in the west, the only answer to the dingo problem is to raise the bonus. Man can defeat dingo but indiscriminate dropping of baits is waste of public moneys which could be spent to advantage in trapping.

**30 Aug 1952 (p40, 520830, NQR)**

JC, Aug 27 – The shearing contractors are out on various properties: Tom Jessup has been at Dingading and is to do the Ivelen sheep; Messrs Hardy Bros are at Corfield at Venture Downs doing the flock of Messrs Halloran and son; and Mr Arthur Fayers is again in the Boulia district carrying out shearing operations there. Since the major part of the sheep have left this district shearing operations will be scant from now on.

[Golf]

**6 Sep 1952 (p40, NQ157, 520906, NQR)**

JC, Sep 3 – [weather, Manfred crossing, golf, ]

On Monday afternoon while returning to Gilliat from work the railway bridge gang suffered an accident. One of the gang, William Hall, fell off the push pumper and was run over the head and arms taking the brunt of the impact. The pumper overbalanced and other members of the gang fell but were only slightly injured. However, all were taken to hospital for attention. Mr Hall was in a weak condition but is now improving.

The superintendent of the ambulance advises the following cases: To McKinlay to attend John allen for a fractured wrist from cranking a car. He was met on the way in and given general aid and brought to hospital. Trip 81 miles. To Millungera to attend J fortune who had been kicked by a horse. he was given general aid and brought to hospital. Trip 158 miles. On the way in from tis case, Mr Stevens called at Eddington to take four of the railway bridge gang who had been injured in an accident near Gilliat. They were W Hall, seriously hurt on head and arms, T Seymour, severe shaking, J Malmlof, large lacerations and wounds on back, and C Hansen, wound to thumb and both arms and legs with small wounds.

The Council has agreed that the garden plots in the streets may be allotted to citizens residing nearby if desired. The Australian Estates Co have already made application for such a plot and no doubt this will be a lead for others. There is a possibility that some competition will be created in this way and the advantage gained will be shared by all.

The Northern Road Constructors are giving the streets in JC the final touches and it looks as if the town traffic ways will be satisfactory for some time now, except for the fine dust which comes from the newly formed gravel strips and is blown into the houses and dwellings.

The electricity project for JC has had a shot in the arm since the arrival of Mr R Svensson for the erection of the poles and the wiring of the houses. The erection of the poles, 106 in all, has been completed and practically all the wire services from the poles to the building have been completed. A shortage of material prevented the finalising of this work. The internal wiring of the houses is not yet finished but this work is progressing satisfactorily and will be in readiness for a “switch on” about mid October. The engines at the power house are installed and ready for use, but the building itself s not yet finished. Most electrical appliances will be allowed to the consumers with the exception of electrical stoves, radiators and AC jugs. The proper form of electrical jug will be allowed, however. The advent of electrical current to JC will bring about a great improvement in the homes and business houses and will add to the comfort of the people here.

#### **6 Sep 1952 (p43, NQ158, NQR)**

Ad for Ferguson tractors

#### **4 Oct 1952 (p31, NQ187, NQR)**

Snowy Mountain Scheme Will Provide Employment For 3000 Men

Canberra, Sep 29 – Works projects providing employment for between 2000 and 3000 men will be offered for tender by the snowy Mountains Authority shortly.

The Minister for national Development (Senator W Spooner) said the works would include a 15 mile tunnel from Adaminaby Reservoir under the Great Dividing Range to Tumut Pond...

[Also story about Divorce on same page]

#### **4 Oct 1952 (p39, NQ188, NQR)**

JC – The yearly running xosts of a large sheep station in this district taken from the actual accounts reveal the following average yearly cost:

1943-45: £3100 (17,749 sheep)

1946-48: £4800

1949-50: £6600

1951: £11,000

1952: £18,400 (18,300 sheep)

Over the period, the cost per sheep increased from 3/7 in 1943 to 20/3 in 1952. From 1943 to 1952 the



annual station wages increased from £785 to £2851, shearing cost from £1007 to £3960; and repairs from £134 to £2522. High taxation assessed on profit margins leaves little balance for the property owner.

The commission charged by wool brokers on the increased wool proceeds during recent years is not included in the expense figures given.

Our previous Superintendent of the Ambulance, Mr H Benson, who controlled this centre for about 15 years, is now in Mareeba. He has improved in health quite a lot but is still incapacitated, although there may be a possibility of his taking on some form of light work later on. Mr and Mrs Ron Fairbanks who are known to most residents here, are making things as easy and as pleasant as possible for Henry while he is in Mareeba.

On Sunday a team of young tennis players visited Kooroora Station in the McKinlay district to play a McKinlay team. The average age of these local players was 17 and they enjoyed the keen match play very much. McKinlay won but a very enjoyable time was spent by our visitors. The entertainment and provision of refreshments was organised by Mr and Mrs Batt of Kooroora. The team from here comprised Messrs C Wilder (Captain), J Brisbane, L Fry, H Winton and Misses J Burns and C Green.

The local stock inspector, Mr Ron Groves, states that the effect of the drought on the pastoral industry has been that a complete disruption of the normal stock marketing movements has taken place and the cause of an unprecedented exodus of drought-stricken stock in order to save their lives. There is no other record to compare with the stock movements of the first nine months of this year, during which period local pastoralists were forced to leave the district with their flocks and herds numbering 355,000 head. Compared with other years the movements were later starting, as stockowners hoped for late autumn relief rains, but the rush then surpassed the normal monthly average and the movements ended suddenly as the weak condition of remaining stock left them unfit to survive the ordeals of being driven over dry bare stock routes or long rail journeys. It is to be hoped that no future drought will eventuate when the '52 sheep record is broken by the movement of more than 310,000 poor sheep which have left these desolate local pastures during this year.

The long and severe drought period, the removal of 350,000 live stock from the district and the loss of practically a similar number has affected business activity here adversely. A canvass of the business houses reveals that drapery stores, the fruiterer, hotels, the barber and billiard saloon and cafes show a reduction of approximately half the normal business. The garages show a great decrease but repairs have doubled due to the bad state of the roads in this dry period. Shearing contractors have little further work for this year. The storekeepers have not been affected as yet owing to the extra activity of droving plants, but from now on business is expected to recede. Earth moving work is becoming scarce on account of the grazier's commitments now being high due to drought expenses and high taxation assessments. It is expected that business activity will deteriorate progressively until substantial rains fall and the stock return. Dismissals of employees have taken place but not to any marked extent in the town area. However lack of work in the shearing and pastoral industries is most apparent.

#### **4 Oct 1952 (p48, NQ189, NQR)**

Let's Save Up For A Trip To The Moon

If every Australian paid in 10/- a week for ten years we could send into space an artificial moon to circle the earth at a distance of about 1000 miles at the end of that time.

That's about the cost and time scientists nowadays set for performing this feat that men have dreamed about for centuries. Doctor Werher von Braun who developed Germany's V2 rocket and works now for the Americans on guided missile development, is one of many scientists who believe that a man-made satellite by 1967 is well on the cards...

#### **4 Oct 1952 (p48, NQ190, NQR)**

Pills Used For Birth Control

Washington, Oct 10 – Successful use of pills as a method of birth control was reported yesterday by a Boston doctor.

Simultaneously, a Roman Catholic theologian said any use of such pills with the direct intent of preventing conception would be a violation of the divine law as it affected birth.

The report on the new pills was made by Dr Benjamin Sieve, who while reporting preliminary success with them, declared further extensive studies must be made before the general use of this anti-fertility factor was warranted.

**11 Oct 1952 (p11, NQ191, NQR)**

JC, Oct 9 – Last Thursday night there was a boxing tournament held at the State School in order to augment the funds of the committee. This was staged principally with the school boys as main attractions but one or two of the older ones assisted by giving boxing displays. The boys showed plenty of enthusiasm and even the very small boys were ‘breaking their necks’ to get into the ring. There was not a great deal of skill shown but there was plenty of energy and action, especially of the ‘haymaker’ variety of punch. Claude Wilder and Lionel Fry gave an exhibition and also Mick Campbell and Henry Gluszyk. Both of these were interesting. There was a good attendance and the result was about £12 for the benefit of the School Committee.

The ANA plane service on Sundays is to be reintroduced. It is understood that this centre is to be allocated a certain number of plane seats from here direct to Brisbane. This will be a tremendous advantage to plane travellers and denotes the air-mindedness of those in this district.

Mr and Mrs R Svensson, after a couple of weeks visit to Brisbane, have returned. Mr Svensson has been appointed superintendent of the electricity scheme and will remain permanently to carry out his duties. When his residence is constructed, Mr Svensson plans to bring his children up from Brisbane, so that the family may be together.

Young Ray Godier son of Mr and Mrs Jack Godier, suffered from a burning incident last week. The boy somehow set fire to a bottle of shellite and in trying to throw it from him the resulting burst of flame set fire to the clothing on his back. Shirt and singlet at the back were burnt entirely and the boy's back suffered from the burning. He is in hospital and is improving.

**11 Oct 1952 (p18, NQ192, NQR)**

Lifesaving technique

**18 Oct 1952 (p6, NQ193, NQR)**

JC, Oct 17 – ... Mr and Mrs Gannon returned on the mail train on Sunday after an extended holiday of about right weeks with their daughters Alma and Ivy, in Brisbane.

[Claudette Green]

Mr Roy Hampton has donated vigoro equipment for use by the girls at the State School. This will be a new game for the kiddies and we fell that it will become very popular. Mr Max Burns has agreed to assist with his knowledge of cricket which vigoro resembles to a great extent.

**24 Oct 1952 (521024, CA)**

"The light which JC can now regard as its very own proud possession" was the quotation used by Hon EJ Riordan, Minister for Mines and member in charge of electricity undertakings, when he officially opened the JC electricity scheme on Sunday night at the ceremony which took place in Eckford's Hall.

The occasion was responsible for the largest gathering of town and district residents and visitors yet seen in JC. The event had been awaited with interest for many months and as the Hon Minister turned the switch the crowd enthusiastically greeted the transformation of the hall once dimly lit by the doubtful flames of kerosene lanterns to a shadowless sea of brilliancy emitted from big electric lights. Outside, twenty-seven street lights glowed at regular intervals and at street intersections throughout the town while current was available for lighting and domestic use in sixty of the homes in town.

It was a great moment in JC and the residents and visitors were out to mark the occasion in typical western style. During the half hour which preceded the official ceremony Eckford's hall was the scene of the fast gathering crowd and at exactly 8.30 pm the official party mounted the dais. The Chairman of the McKinlay Shire, Cr FA Hickman in his opening address welcomed all residents and visitors to the reception. Cr Hickman stated: "It is a big occasion for JC tonight because we are about to see another very big advancement in our town which will not only serve as an amenity in our homes but will

greatly enhance the prosperity of our district. Tonight the Hon EJ Riordan Minister for Mines and member for this district will address you and later will perform the long-awaited moment of the switching on of the electric light. Before calling on the Hon Minister I would like to express appreciation for the electricity being supplied to JC. This has been made possible by Government financial assistance. Our town is rapidly going ahead and we trust the installation of the electric light will greatly assist, not only in retarding the drift of people to the coast, but encourage a drift of people from the coast to the west. To our Hon Member we owe a debt of gratitude as he has been a great help to us in our work [in obtaining electricity] I now introduce to you our worthy member and Hon Minister, Mr Riordan.

Addressing the assembly, the Minister said that this scheme at JC was once of a number based on plans prepared by the SEC, several of which had already been put into use... The scheme was made practicable by the financial assistance granted by the government which was paying sixty percent of the cost of the work, and by technical devices... that were self regulating and automatic which could be operated by one man...

It is indeed a pleasure, stated the Minister, "to be switching on electricity in JC tonight. The importance of this schemem goes far beyond its size, for, in terms of engine power, it is not a very large scheme compared with power stations being constructed in larger cities. However, it is large in its concept and in the sum of pleasure and profit it will bring a lot to a town such as this. electricity could no longer be regarded as a luxury. It is a necessity to all those who desire to live on a civilised plane and it was with this in mind that the Qld Government set out to bring electricity supply to as many townships similar in size to JC as possible."

After the official switching on ceremony, the crowd moved to the street outside where they witnessed with much interest and enthusiasm one of the finest displays of fire-works yet presented in western towns. To bright music supplied by a four-piece orchestra, the Electricity Undertaking Ball was set in progress and in a gaily decorated hall, dancers celebrated the occasion until the early hours of the following morning.

The Minister, members of the SEC and representatives of the firms who supplied the equipment, were entertained at a civic welcome given by the shire Chairman, FA Hickman. Among the visitors were the Hon Member and his secretary, Mr Frank Quinn, various engineers of the SEC, and Mr Ray Svensson, electrical superintendent of the power house.

#### The Scheme

The power house is situated on the south-eastern extremity of the town and adjacent to the railway line. In a well constructed building, 52 ft by 24 ft, four engine sets are installed. They are single-cylinder horizontal National oil engines, driving through 5 v-belts, Mawdsley generators of 3 phase 415 volts. Each engine is equipped with a special thermostatic tell-tale device connected to its water cooling system, oil pressure lines, fuel line and outer bearings for the purpose of the safety of the plant. Should there be a failure of supply of water, oil or fuel, or a bearing run hot, the plant will be immediately closed down before any damage can be suffered to its parts... It is intended to run the machines in turn and hour meters have been fitted to ensure that the power work is equally distributed among the four engines. During peak hours two engines will be on the line and as the scheme progresses, three engines will be working in parallel with one always held in reserve. With the exception of electric stoves, radiators and hot water systems, the power house caters for all household appliances while commercial loading is accepted with certain limits.

#### **24 Oct 1952 (521024, CA)**

The tennis Club has had notification from Messrs Slazengers Ltd that the film covering the tennis lay in last year's Davis Cup will be forwarded here for screening on 18th November next. Mr Max Burns who is Captain of the Club will carry out the screening on his 16 mm projector. The programme to be covered by this film will include the Davis Cu 1951, Wimbledon 1951, surfing shots and comedy flashes. This will be an opportunity for all in JC to witness the highest class tennis and this will be the first time that the public here have been provided with such details of the top grade tennis matches. We feel sure that all will appreciate the efforts by the Tennis club to secure this film for screening for their benefit. It is expected that no charge will be made for attendance at the screening.

#### **25 Oct 1952 (p10, NQ194, NQR)**

JC, Oct 23 – The official switch-on ceremony for the electricity scheme here took place on Sunday night. This was carried out at a ball arranged by the McKinlay Shire Council with Chairman Mr FA Hickman in control of proceedings. ... switched on at 8.30 pm. There was a brilliant fireworks display. The decorations were colourful including festooning from the dance hall across the main street of the town. The people on this night really threw off the bonds of work and worry and let happiness take over. The gaieties ceased at about 3 am. The whole proceedings carried a happy note right throughout and the atmosphere of gay abandon suited the occasion.

On Sunday the golf competitions were won by Mr and Mrs Max Burns, quite a family affair. This is the first win for these two new and enthusiastic recruits to the game but we feel sure it will not be the last. On Sunday next the season will close and the presentation of trophies will be made at Baroona by the patron, Mr W Gannon.

Last Friday at the school the kiddies played their first game of vigoro. The equipment was donated by Mr Roy Hampton. Mr Fred Bennett was present to explain the finer points of the game and to instruct in the manner of batting and bowling. The children showed great enthusiasm in the game played that day and have since been practising regularly.

[Ambulance cases]

The tennis club has had notification that the film covering the tennis play in last year's Davis Cup will be forwarded here for screening on November 18 ext. Mr Max Burns, who is captain of the club, will carry out the screening on his 16 mm projector. The programme to be covered by this film will include the Davis Cup 1951 Wimbledon Championships 1951, surfing shots and comedy flashes. This will be an opportunity for all in JC to witness the highest class tennis and this will be the first time that the public here have been provided with such details of the top-grade tennis matches.

#### **1 Nov 1952 (p38, 521101, NQR)**

JC – The marriage of Miss Joan Brennan, daughter of Mr and Mrs EM Brennan of Nelia, to Murray Halloran, son of Mr and Mrs HRL Halloran of Flers, JC took place at Nelia on Thursday last. the attendants to the bride were sisters, misses Pat and Jill Brennan. The best man was Mr Rex Halloran. The reception was held at the CWA Hall. The Rev Fr Devereux officiated at the ceremony. These two young people will spend their honeymoon on a car tour which will take in Brisbane and the Tamborine Mountains.

The closing day's golf of this season provided a competition for mixed couples and the patron's trophies were won by Mrs Bob Smith and Sergeant Frank Purtle. After the golf concluded all golfers and visitors went to Baroona, the property of Mr Bob Smith (Captain of the club) where the presentation night was celebrated. Mr WG Gannon as patron made the presentation of the trophies. he was accompanied by Mrs Gannon. The night's entertainment took the form of dancing, card playing and musical items. Mr Bob Smith had the honour of receiving most trophies for the season amongst the associates, and Mr Trevor Wilson amongst the members. Jollifications and entertainments concluded at a time approaching dawn on Monday. Mr Ard Cooney, senior vice-president, advised that he deeply regretted that the president of the Golf club, Mr Jim Parson could not attend because of ill health.

#### **15 Nov 1952 (p38, 521115, NQR)**

JC – Although the official golf season has closed, there were quite a few enthusiasts playing on the course last Sunday, both members and associates, and along with them were some visitors who were trying the game out for the first time. Despite the heat, play will continue for some time yet.

The tennis season seems to have just about closed for there are not many playing at present. Some of the younger players still go along on afternoons for a game but the western heat becomes too great to enjoy this game at any time throughout the day.

Several racehorse owners visited Cloncurry with their horses last weekend for the race meeting. Among these were Roy Hampton, George Young, and from Nelia, Jack and Vince Ahern, and Jim Magoffin. The locals are looking forward to their own race meeting set down for next Saturday and it should be a big success.

The JC Hotel has been sold by Messrs Brisbane and Sons. The latter were in the business for a few years

and gave a good service. The incoming parties are the Shaws from the south-west of the state. The hotel has been newly painted and of course has improved its appearance to a great extent. The business done in the hotels seems very brisk notwithstanding the fact that not as much work as usual is going on.

The Australian Estates Co have taken the initiative in improving the outlook of the main street. They have planted two Athol trees in the lot directly in front of their office. It is to be hoped that more will follow suit in an endeavour to improve the appearance of all streets.

### **28 Nov 1952 (521128, CA)**

Last Wednesday and Thursday night the Davis Cup film was displayed by Mr Max Burns on his lawn. There was not such a great number of people in attendance and this is difficult to understand for both the Davis Cup and Wimbledon Championships of 1951 were shown. It is not often that people in the outback have the opportunity to see the really top-notch tennis players of the world in action. The screening was done excellently and again we must congratulate Mr Burns for his efforts in this respect.

On Sunday last there was social match at the golf course between the Town and Country teams. There was a good attendance despite the heat of the afternoon. As is usual on such occasions the game is not taken too seriously and all enjoyed the afternoon. The course we understand has to be shifted for next season to keep it on one side of the railway line only. No doubt this will provide a good deal of labour but the golfing fraternity have a happy knack of handling anything a little difficult. Possibly, with the valuable assistance of Mr Max Burns earth moving plant, the work may be simplified.

### **6 Dec 1952 (p40, 521206, NQR)**

JC, Dec 4 – This district continues to miss soaking rain. Prospects of storm rains looked promising on Friday but did not materialise. Along the line, however, other areas also in need did benefit from substantial falls.

All week has been exceptionally hot. Monday reached 110 degrees and yesterday – a change came yesterday – 106. Yet that was a more uncomfortable heat; the wind blew boisterously from the north thick with moisture and discomfort. These conditions prevail again today. We may yet have the storms needed to lift the country.

Mr and Mrs Ced Hely and family left for Brisbane on Monday and will stay away permanently. They intend residing in Brisbane. We wish this young family all the best of luck in their new surroundings.

Max Burns and family leave in a few days for Redcliffe on holidays and will spend a couple of months at their beautiful home of Rodville.

The progress of wiring the private homes here for electricity is satisfactory. There are a number already who have got the benefit of this amenity. Appliances, kettles, irons, and fans are proving a boon here in the outback. The fans especially are giving great relief during these exhaustingly hot days that we are experiencing. It should not be long before all homes are wired. Mr Ray Svensson, Superintendent of the power house, has been keeping the power up well.

[ambulance]

### **12 Dec 1952 (521212, CA)**

On 21st December there will be a rather novel function for this town. An open air carnival will be held on the spacious lawn at Miss Rita Byrne's residence. There will be singing and dancing and games for both young and old. This should carry the real festival spirit always prevalent at this time of the year.

Plans for the new convent are well in hand and building operations will commence early in the new year. The architect is Mr I Williams of Townsville and the builders are J Allen and Co of the same city. This will be a boarding as well as a day school and music will be taught as an additional item. The site will be chosen at some point just east of the Court House. The ground will be prepared by Mr Max Burns who has generously agreed to do this work gratuitously through the medium of his earth-moving plant and tractor drivers. This is a worthy gesture and is to be commended.

Again on Sunday the golfers were on the course and once more the Town opposed a Country team. The usual light-hearted spirit prevailed but on this occasion the Townies were successful by a few

strokes. On the previous occasion the Country team won the day and were confident they could repeat the performance. The prize in the form of a case of iced cordials went to the Townies who shared the plunder with their opposition. It was an enjoyable afternoon although a little hot.

School officially closes on Friday next, 12th December, and reopens on 2nd February. At its last meeting the School Committee arranged to have the lawns and trees attended to while the school was closed. The new sound film projector has arrived and will be in operation when school reopens. The energetic efforts of Mrs Kaeser were recognised with much appreciation and admiration by the Committee and they fully realise that it has been mainly due to her organising energy that the substantial funds needed for the various requirements of the School have been raised. We commend Mrs Kaeser for the work done for the sake of all the children at the school.

### **13 Dec 1952 (p38, NQ195, NQR)**

[Audrey Green, Hickman, Lowe]

Plans for the new convent here are well in hand and building operations will commence early in the new year... This will be a boarding school as well as a day school and music will be taught as an additional item. The site will be chosen at some point just east of the court house. The ground will be prepared by Mr Max Burns who has generously agreed to do this work gratuitously through the medium of his earth moving plant and tractor drivers. This is a worthy gesture and is to be commended.

Again on Sunday the golfers were on the course and again the Town opposed the Country team. The usual light-hearted spirit prevailed but on this occasion the Town Team was successful by a few strokes. On the previous occasion the Country team won the day and were confident they could do the same again. The prize in the form of a case of iced cordial went to the Townies who shared the plunder with their opposition. It was an enjoyable afternoon although a little hot.

### **19 Dec 1952 (521219, CA)**

The Flinders River crossing at Manfred is now complete. This crossing has proved a bug-bear to country people living beyond the river for many years. Now this crossing is satisfactory. It is made of concrete raised about 4 feet from the river bed. This will allow a crossing to be made even though a substantial amount of water is lying in the river. At this point in the earlier days a flying fox transport system was used to take both people and goods from one side of the river to the other in times of high flows in the Flinders. This was a rickety and inconvenient method and country people are really pleased that a worth-while crossing is now available at this point. The country people suffer other inconveniences in the way of the telephone services. Some have not been able to raise the local exchange for months but the PMG technicians are now working on this aspect and it is hoped that a correction will be effected in a short while.

Mr Paul Faithfull, who has been training at the Teacher's Training College in Brisbane for all this past year, is home with his father, Mr V Faithfull

[Joan Parsons, Downey, Jessup, Stainkeys]

### **20 Dec 1952 (p6, NQ196, NQR)**

JC, Dec 18 – Mr Max Burns, accompanied by Mrs Burns and daughter Joy and sons Don, Barry and Alan, left by car on Friday for holidays to be spent on the northern coast and Tablelands and in the south, Brisbane, Redcliffe and Sydney. The expect to return about the end of January.

### **27 Dec 1952 (p38, 521227, NQR)**

JC, Dec 24 – The weather for this week has been hot. There is no other way to express the condition. The temperature has topped 100 degrees every day and there has been much discontent. Stock owners would welcome good rains right now to set the Mitchell grass, to strengthen their flocks ready for the monsoon wet of January and February that will mire sheep not strong enough to cope with boggy downs. A short shower fell on Sunday but there was nothing in it for country or town except an increase in humidity to add stickiness to our complaints.

The Government dentist arrives from Cloncurry on Jan 13 to carry out his duties at the hospital. He will be here until the 16th. This is an opportunity for townspeople to visit the dentist in a town where there is no dentist.

Mr G Peut senior of Townsville and formerly of Leslew Downs, Richmond, is visiting Mr and Mrs GL Peut and is one of the old pioneers of this western country and has a large family and many grandchildren and great grandchildren throughout the west. We hope that he will enjoy his stay here.

[Judy Jessup]

Mrs B Maloney is on a visit to her parents, Mr and Mrs WG Gannon. Alma, as she is known universally here, has always been a favourite and the hellos came from all sides when she arrived. She returns to Brisbane mid-January with her parents who are leaving this town permanently. There is no necessity to state that the Gannons will be missed in JC. We will be sorry to see this family depart.

Mr Henry Benson who was Ambulance Superintendent here for many years, returned to spend Christmas with his friends the Gannon family. When Henry lived here it was a set invitation from the Gannons that 'Bennie' have Christmas dinner with them. After a severe illness he is back again for another Christmas. It was pleasing to see the happy greetings extended to Bennie from all sides when it was known he had returned. He was overwhelmed by his western friends ready to open their arms to him after his absence. We hope that he is greatly improved by his visit and feel sure that nothing but benefit can come of it.

The Buffalo Lodge held a Christmas Tree for the children on Sunday afternoon last – a great treat. Father Christmas, as is customary with the Buffalos, arrived in a Tiger Moth aircraft piloted by Lionel Wall and a pleasant afternoon was spent by both parents and kiddies. This body must be congratulated for this kindly thought towards the children during this festive season.

Mr FA Hickman left on Friday last for Brisbane where he will be joined by his wife and they will then continue on to Adelaide to witness the play in the Davis Cup challenge round between Australia and the United states. Mr Hickman has been present at most of the Davis Cup ties played in Australia and having been a very good tennis player in his young days he still retains a tremendous interest in the players and the game itself.

**3 Jan 1953 (p5, NQ159, NQR)**

JC, Jan 2 – JC Lassos To See Coronation [O'Brien, Paine, Harrington]

**9 Jan 1953 (530109, CA)**

Auction of Gannon's stuff

**10 Jan 1953 (p4, NQ160, NQR)**

JC, Jan 8 – There are several new buildings being constructed just now. The power house is not completed and has been painted. It looks most satisfactory...

Mr Lionel Wall is having built a strong angle-iron shed of more than average dimensions. This will, no doubt, house his lorries which ply back and forth to country areas carrying mails and returning with loadings.

Mr W Elliott has had a spacious house built at the to end of Burke St and this appears a very comfortable and suitable building.

[Mrs Hazel Evans house]

**10 Jan 1953 (p37, NQ161, NQR)**

JC, Jan 8 – Some of the sheep flocks are returning to home pastures due to the rain received on the owner's property here. [Currin, Dalling, Glasson, Paine]

The dingoes in some cases caused great losses and on top of the high agistment charges tis worry was an ever-present source of annoyance.

It is pleasing to hear that stock are on the move home, for this will provide more work for the district here and activity in the town will return to normal. At present, the quiet is most noticeable.

**10 Jan 1953 (p39, NQ162, NQR)**

### Graziers Move Back To Properties After Rains

With the early rains in the north-west numbers of graziers are starting a move back to their properties, which had been turned into wasteland for many months by the drought. At the end of the next two weeks about 30,000 sheep will be returned from agistment in the central west to the north-western station properties...

### 10 Jan 1953 (p40, NQ163, NQR)

JC, Jan 3 – The Eckford family left JC last week. They have been many years here in business, first as butchers and ice makers, and lately as picture show proprietors and cordial makers. Recently they sold the whole of their property to Mr Alf Stainkey and his son, and now have nothing to hold them here for the present. Mr and Mrs Eckford will go to North-west to visit their daughter (Mrs Rod Quilty). Misses Coral and Amelda are to spend some time in Townsville and will visit Magnetic Island. We hope that this old JC family will settle down happily wherever they might decide.

The period of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day proved unusually quiet in comparison with other years. A dance was held at night but this was not as well attended as was hoped. There were private parties throughout the town and these as well as the dance, carried on until several hours had passed in the New Year.

There are several new buildings being constructed just now. The Power House is now completed and has been painted...

### 24 Jan 1953 (p? NQ164, NQR)

66,360 Unemployed At Start Of 1953

Canberra, Jan 23 – The number of unemployed persons registered with the CES at Jan 2 totalled 66,630.

Of these 53,865 were men, an increase of 2862 over the previous 5 weeks, and 12,555 women, a decrease of 1221 over the same period...

### 24 Jan 1953 (p5, NQ165, NQR)

Fed Base Pay Down 1/- In Qld

Brisbane, Jan 22 – The federal basic wage in Qld will be reduced by 1/- to £10/15/- from the first pay period next month. This is the first reduction in the Federal wage since Nov 1, 1943 when it fell by 1/- to £4/13/-...

### 24 Jan 1953 (p40, NQ166, 530124, 530116 [CA], NQR)

JC, Jan 14 – The first real rain fell in the town area during this last week. The cricketers gathered at the oval again on Sunday to play a further match between the old rivals, Railway and Town. However, the heavy downpour of rain soon put any idea of sport out of their minds and there was a helter-skelter scurry for home and mother. It is good to see the interest that has developed between these two teams which are just about equal in strength and the matches therefore could continue for some time. The rainy wether has washed out the tennis and this will be forgotten for some time yet.

[Cricket]... There was an auction sale on Saturday conducted by the Australian Estates Co Ltd and some of the property of the Gannon family was disposed of. There was a good attendance and the bidding was brisk at all times.

The mail carriers struck some difficulty on Sunday when they went out on their usual runs with the mails and loadings. After the rain had fallen, the roads became heavy and proved quite an obstacle for these people who serve the country folk regularly each week. However, all are now safely home after a difficult trip. It is to be expected that from now on the roads will become increasingly hazardous and if the usual wet comes then it will be impossible to get mails out as is the custom from time to time. Messrs Arthur Lowe and Lionel Wall then step into the breach and if foodstuffs are required, they fly these out in their tiger Moth aircraft and drop them at prearranged spots. it begins to look as if these two fliers will be kept pretty busy from now on, in connection with this form of service. Mr Lowe, with his plane fitted out as an aerial ambulance will be of immense assistance when roads are impassable for our local car ambulance. He has carried out much of this work in the past owing to the heavy nature of the roads, due to wet weather.



The Gannon family left on Monday last by mail train for Brisbane. They have gone permanently and it is certain that the 'Creek' will not be the same without the Gannons who have been in business here for many years from the early days. There were many friends at the station to bid them goodbye and, no doubt, they felt a little sad to sever their connection with the west, where they have spent so many of their years. We hope that they will find plenty of interest and happiness in the capital city.

Mr and Mrs G Holloway have leased Mr Gannon's hotel and took over control on Monday. These people have had some previous experience in this work and it is obvious already that they will give a good service. We trust that they achieve success for they are well-known through this district.

Mr Paul Faithfull has gone along to south Molle Island just off Mackay for a short holiday before he take up his appointment as school teacher in Cloncurry. Paul has been training in Brisbane during the last two years and so the new job will not be difficult.

[Miss Pat Downey, Miss Judy Jessop, Sgt Purtle, Constable Sam Henry, Wilkins, Lance Lewis]

### **30 Jan 1952 (530130, CA)**

The body of Ray Svensson who was drowned at the punch Bowl crossing, JC, last Sunday has not yet been found.

Circumstances surrounding the unfortunate accident are a little vague but it appears that Svensson, who was electrician in charge of the JC Electricity Undertaking, was at the Punchbowl crossing which is situated 38 miles north-east of JC on the Flinders river. At 11 am on Sunday 24th January, he was in company with his wife and two men friends, Henry Gluszyk and Charlie Corrigan. It appears that Gluszyk was walking along the causeway at the Punch bowl when he got into deep water and appeared to get into difficulties. Corrigan had called out to him and raced off to get a pole or sapling in an endeavour to rescue Gluszyk. When he returned with the pole he did not see Svensson, but gave the pole to Gluszyk who was pulled at the end of the pole to safety. It appears that while Corrigan was away getting the pole, Svensson must have jumped into the swirling waters in an attempt to rescue Gluszyk and disappeared. It is understood that Svensson's wife saw her husband jump into the water and when he disappeared she fainted.

Police and ambulance were notified and quickly went to the scene but no trace of the missing man could be found.

Since then, and up until going to press, a constant search has been carried on by Police and town residents for the body of Svensson. Mr Arthur Lowe in his small aircraft has flown along the river and several of Svensson's friends, using inflated tubes as rafts, have followed [?] the river looking for his body.

### **31 Jan 1953 (p38, NQ169, NQR)**

Gulf country 1864-79

... The Flinders River, flowing to the west and north-west towards the Gulf of Carpentaria, through most extensive plains and downs, traverses a different geological formation to that which the pioneers crossed when coming from the east coast. The edge of the great cretaceous formation which forms the major portion of the western country, is here entered on for the first time, and a new strange world seems to open up.

A new fauna and flora is evident on the very first entrance into the new region; the birds are different and more numerous; galahs, parrots and pigeons abound and assure the newcomer that he has found a new pastoral country, the grasses and herbage of which are more permanent, enduring and nutritive than those he has hitherto met with. That was the experience of Edward Palmer when he travelled from Bowen out westward to the Flinders River in the year 1864.

The year 1864 may be styled the year of hegira or flight of stock outwards to settle new country; they came from all parts and helped to fill the land everywhere with the beginning of civilisation. A boom had set in for pastoral occupation; the reports of recent explorations told of enormous...

and the tide of advancing settlement followed on as fast as was possible, stations being formed to the right and left of the main routes, while others moved forward with a restless energy that nothing would

satisfy but the best country for their stock...

The principal topic of conversation turned always upon new country, the latest discoveries of good grazing lands and the men who were following with sheep and cattle. The way out west in those first day led up the Cape river through poor country with a good deal of spinifex grass and patches of poison bush. A great scarcity of surface water and low stony ridges with patches of red sand are characteristic of poison bush country.

Glad indeed were the pioneers to leave it behind and with great satisfaction to stand on the rocky eminence that bounded it on the western side whence they...

The head of the Flinders River was occupied by a few settlers and two lots of sheep passed Bowen Downs en route to the Flinders. They belonged to Messieurs Kirk and Sutherland and Mr JL Ranken and came from Fort Cooper. Kirk and Sutherland must have reached the Flinders about April 1864 and then occupied and stocked Marathon. Mr JL Ranken occupied Afton Downs but was dried out the following year and he lost a number of his sheep in consequence of having to remove them lower down the Flinders...

### **31 Jan 1953 (p5, NQ167, NQR)**

Brisbane, Jan 30 – Queensland's first air-conditioned train, the Inlander, is ready to go into service. It will leave for Townsville next Wednesday and the following Saturday, February 7, will enter the Townsville-Mt Isa service.

The train consists of steel cars. The first is the power car. From this diesel generators produce the electric power to supply the air conditioning, hot water, lighting and dining car kitchen equipment of the train. At the rear of the train is the mail van, preceded by the baggage vans. Between these operational vehicles are the air-conditioned passenger cars, including sleeping cars, sitting cars and a dining car...[complete details of train layout]

### **31 Jan 1953 (p30, NQ168, NQR)**

JC, Jan 26 – A 27 year-old electrician, Ray Svensson, married, was drowned in the flooded Flinders River at Punchbowl Crossing, 38 miles from JC, yesterday morning.

Svensson, who was the electrician and engine driver at the local powerhouse was on a picnic trip with three other men at the time of the tragedy. At a late hour tonight his body had not been recovered.

Svensson was reported to have been engaged in a rescue attempt of another man when he got into difficulties and disappeared. Members of the party who returned to JC tonight said that one of the men had been washed over the crossing and Svensson entered the water to save him. The two men got into difficulties and one man on the bank secured a long pole. He pushed it into the water and both Svensson and the other man took hold of it. However Svensson lost his grip and his body was carried away in the swirling water.

In the area close to the causeway on the downstream side there are huge whirlpools and it is thought that Svensson was sucked under.

Svensson is survived by his wife and a young family of four. He went to JC from Brisbane. His widow's parents are understood to reside in the Cooroy district.

### **31 Jan 1953 ? (p? NA, NQR)**

[I forgot to date the following article. It is very likely from the JC Notes of 31 Jan 1953 as the Inlander entered service from Townsville on the 7th Feb. See article of 31/1/53 above]

... "Inlander" passes through JC there will be a gathering of practically the whole of the population to pass opinion on it. Country people no doubt will also be interested. These trains surely will be a great advantage on account of the extra speed provided in travel throughout the west which, at present, is monotonously slow on most trains.

Mr Victor Faithfull, who had practised as Solicitor here for many years, passed away on Sunday last. It was a great blow to his many friends. His son Paul was holidaying on South Molle Island off Mackay

and is now returning to look after his father's affairs. There was some difficulty in communicating with Paul owing to his isolation from the coast.

The town will miss the professional service given by the late Mr Faithfull and it will be retarded for that reason. The Returned men organised all arrangements very capably and energetically and Mr Faithfull, who had been President of the RSSAILA for many years, was given a soldier's funeral. Our sympathy goes out to his son Paul in this really great loss of his last loving parent.

The superintendent of the QATB, Mr Jack Stevens, has advised the following cases treated ...

**31 Jan 1953 ? (p? NQ699, NQR)**

[I forgot to date the following article. It is very likely from the JC Notes of 31 Jan 1953. It is identical to the JCN in CA 30/1/53, bylined 28 Jan]

There was a sad drowning at the Punchbowl on Sunday last when Mr Ray Svensson lost his life while taking a swim while picnicking at that spot. Messrs Henry Gluszyk and Charlie Corrigan also were swimming with the late Mr Svensson. Both Mr Gluszyk and Mr Svensson got into difficulties but the former was able to get clear. Mr Svensson disappeared from the surface and his body has not yet been recovered. Large parties have been out each day since and will go out again today in order to endeavour to find the body. Mr Lowe, we understand, will also fly along the river to assist in the search. There is a fair current flowing at the present time and it is expected that in a day or so a further fresh will augment the present flow. It is to be hoped that Mr Svensson's body will be discovered quickly. His parents have come up on account of the tragedy to be with their daughter in law, Mrs Svensson, during this unhappy period. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs Svensson and her children on account of this sad loss.

**7 Feb 1953 (p5, NQ170, NQR)**

The body of the late Mr Ray Svensson was recovered last Saturday morning, about 250 yards downstream from the main bowl of the Punchbowl waterhole. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon and the burial service was conducted by the Rev Hovendon. Constable Sam Henry, officer in charge of Police here, kept up a relentless search with his assistant constable and other helpers, and congratulations must go to Constable Henry for the thoroughness of his work which ended in his finding the body after about a week's continuous and arduous search.

Mr Alf Stainkey has made certain improvements at the picture theatre which he purchased recently. A soft drink counter has been set up inside the theatre with drinks kept cool within a large refrigerator. As well, Mr Stainkey intends covering about 25 feet of the back portion of the open air show in order that picture goers may have some shelter from the rain in summer time and the cold winds during the winter period. This will be a welcome addition since the people practically take their beds along in midwinter and when the rain falls are forced to run for cover to a side awning.

**7 Feb 1953 (p21, NQ171, NQR)**

Ad for Oliver crawlers.

**7 Feb 1953 (p28, NQ172, NQR)**

Successful Debut By State's New Luxury Train  
[Details of first test run to Toowoomba]

**7 Feb 1953 (p30, NQ173/698, NQR)**

JC – Miss Esme McDonald left for her home in CT on Monday after being in JC for several years. She has been employed during the whole of that time at Gannon's Hotel and became well liked by all.

On Saturday night a social was held at the Returned Serviceman's Hall in honour of Mr Fred Bennett who will be leaving permanently in a short while for Melbourne. Mr Bennett was Secretary for the Diggers' Race Meetings from 1942 to 1947 during which time substantial funds were accumulated from those functions. Mr John McMahon as Senior Vice-President, acted as chairman in the absence of Mr PJ Byrne who was looking after his sheep interests.

Mr Tom Jessop is to carry out some shearing and crutching at Answer Downs...

Messrs Arthur Lowe and Lionel Wall also have been helping the country folk during their temporary isolation on account of the wet weather. Mr Lowe flew to Elford Station, out from Maxwellton to transport the body of Mr Forrest to Barcaldine for burial. There will be much more work for these flyers before the monsoonal rains recede.

### **13 Feb 1953 (530213, CA)**

The heavy rain in the McKinlay district has made it impossible to drive sheep from the Boulia district where a great number of local sheep are agisting for the Gilliat channels and Eastern creek are running high, too high even to allow drovers to get through from this end. Messrs Clarrie Fickling and Bill Davis were on their way to Cannington to bring back the flock of Mr AH Paine and Paine Bros a total of about 14,000 sheep. These were to be divided into two lots for droving purposes. However, these contractors were not able to get over Eastern Creek and so returned to town.

Mr Ard Cooney had his sheep from Toolebuc on the march prior to the rain but this was halted at Gilliat when the creeks rose to flood level. The cost during the hold up at Gilliat was £160 per week and so Mr Cooney proceeded to truck them from Gilliat to JC. They arrived on Friday and the slow process of untrucking was undertaken during the soaking rain on Friday and Saturday. The sheep will go to Baroona where a paddock will be made available by Mr Bob Smith until the high flowing water of JC subside to allow the sheep to continue on to their home pastures at Auckland downs. Mr Bob Smith was here to supervise the untrucking of his sheep on Friday when they arrived from central Qld. The general rain will make their transfer from town to Baroona so much more difficult. With the bountiful rains so very necessary to the property owner there come also hardships as well but these are taken in the stride and if our city dwellers could have seen the the two owners Ard Cooney and Bob Smith dripping wet and ploughing through heavy black soil mud on Friday and Saturday and their men as well, probably more thought would be given to the comforts of citizens in this far north-western area.

Mr and Mrs Lewis returned by last Wednesday's mail train after visiting Townsville for business and holiday reasons.

Mr and Mrs HA Stainkey also returned by Wednesday's mail from Townsville. They were down to negotiate with Mr Lance Lewis over the purchase of his garage business here in JC. Mr Harry Stainkey has now completed the purchase of this business but will not be taking over for a few weeks. With this new purchase of substantial portions coming on top of the Stainkey purchase of the Eckford business which includes the Picture theatre, Dance Hall and cordial factory, and several dwellings, it is obvious that the investment in town business concerns by these progressive people is considerable. At the same time Mr Alf Stainkey owns St Elmo a sheep property just out of town and Harry Stainkey is owner of Belgravia another sheep property adjacent to town. The Stainkeys are dealing with their new interests in a business-like manner and we wish them every success.

### **14 Feb 1953 (p1, NQ174, NQR)**

Inlander Reaches Cloncurry

Cloncurry, Feb 13 – The State's new luxury train, Inlander, has aroused widespread interest in the west. Its belated arrival on its inaugural run has not caused any relaxation in the interests of westerners in an amenity which they have awaited for a long time.

The train has suffered further delay at Cloncurry. It reached here at 6 o'clock tonight after some delay at JC caused by the flooding of the line in the Gilliat area and when it did continue its journey, it steamed slowly through miles of waterlogged country...

At Nonda, Nelia and smaller stations, little groups of people looked with interest at the newcomer. At JC there were many visitors including the Chairman of the McKinlay Shire (Cr FA Hickman).

The Inlander has lived up for all the claims made for it. "The answer to the inlander's prayer", was how a lady passenger described it. "A uniform temperature of 75 degrees on a long trip like that made the journey a pleasure instead of the drudge that we have known train travel for so long."

### **14 Feb 1953 (p7, NQ175, NQR)**

Myxomatosis Effect on Rabbit Pest Now Waning

Canberra, Feb 8 – There was now evidence in some areas that up to half the rabbits infected with myxomatosis were recovering, the minister in Charge of CSIRO (MR RG Casey) disclosed last night.

He warned it might well be that in a very few more seasons myxomatosis would have lost most of its killing power...

**14 Feb 1953 (p43, NQ176, NQR)**

JC, Feb 11 – Mr and Mrs Lewis returned by last Wednesday's mail train after visiting Townsville for business and holiday reasons.

Mr and Mrs HA Stainkey also returned by Wednesday's mail from Townsville. They were down to negotiate with Mr Lance Lewis over the purchase of his garage business here in JC. Mr Stainkey has now completed the purchase of this business but will not be taking over for a few weeks. With this new purchase of substantial proportions coming on top of the Stainkey purchase of the Eckford business, which included picture theatre, dance hall, cordial factory and several dwellings, it is obvious that the investment in town business concerns by these progressive people is considerable. At the same time, Mr Alf Stainkey owns St Elmo, a sheep property just out of town and Mr Harry Stainkey is the owner of Belgravia, another sheep property adjacent to town. The Stainkeys are dealing with their new interests in a most businesslike and energetic manner and we wish them every success.

Mrs Don Devey and small daughter Sana returned from a visit to home relations in the Northern Rivers district of NSW on Sunday. As the train went no further than here, Mr Devey secured a four wheel drive Blitz to transport his family to the woolscour siding further west.

**21 Feb 1953 (p32, NQ177, NQR)**

Dingo Menace In JC Area

JC, Feb 17 – JC district graziers are hoping for a relaxation in the ravages of the dingoes in their area. They are hopeful with the breaking of the drought, that the dogs will not come into the district so much to worry their sheep.

Just how serious a menace the dingo is about JC is indicated by the figures of dingo scalps received in the McKinlay Shire council area, of which C is the headquarters.

In the year ended June 30, 1951, payment was made for 389 scalps. In 1952 scalps lodged totalled 729 and in the six months ended December 31 they numbered 413...

**21 Feb 1953 (p32, NQ178, NQR)**

Stock Returning To JC

JC, Feb 16 – JC district, denuded of stock by the drought, there was not a beast within a radius of 30 miles, has already seen the return of some of its sheep.

Several lots have already arrived. Mr A Cooney of Auckland Downs has landed about 4000 he sent to agistment in the central district. Several other lots are already on the road from the Boulia and McKinlay districts...

There are not many sheep offering for restocking but some values are: young ewes with four months wool, at about £4 a head; weaners, well grown, £3/10/- to £4; aged ewes, due to lamb, about £2/10/-.

The store cattle market would be quoted at about £18 to £20 for bullocks, and £13 to £16 for cows. There are very few offering.

**21 Feb 1953 (p33, NQ179, NQR)**

Sheep On Return Trek

JC, Feb 18 – Over 60,000 sheep which were sent from drought-stricken JC properties on agistment in the Boulia and McKinlay districts have commenced the long trek home. Actually the first have already arrived. These were 4000 owned by Mr Ard Cooney of Auckland Downs. They were walked to Gilliat, but owing to the flooding of the channels they had to be railed from there to JC.

Mr PJ Byrne of Osbert, has 4500 on the road from Warena but they were held up after travelling 40 miles... [Detailed descriptions of lots of others including Mathews, Hickman, Collins, Harrington, Lord, Dowling, Beech, Cummins, Powne, Stainkey]

**21 Feb 1953 (p39, NQ180, 530221, NQR)**

JC, Feb 18 – For the past week we have had very heavy rains in the district and have also had good falls in the town towards the end of the week the rain eased off somewhat and we are hoping that we will have some fine weather for a while so that graziers can get their stock moving back their home pastures.

The rains have done a power of good and the season is now assured and the whole district has received good general rains. The response in the grass is very good and there is a great body of Mitchell grass all over the district. The streets of JC are still very soft after the recent continued heavy rain and the street facing the railway is like a lake.

Up till Thursday afternoon we had several trains held in JC and whilst they could get back to Townsville they could not go forward past JC to Cloncurry and Mt Isa.

It is an ill wind that blows no one any good and the trains being stranded here were the means of the people of JC getting cheap vegetables and some cases of mixed fruit.

Some of the passengers stranded on the train took the advantage of buying some of the fruit. Only the perishable fruit such as pineapples was sold. A few bags of pumpkins had to be sold as they were commencing to perish.

In spite of the heavy and constant rains we have been able to have pictures twice a week and although, at times, the people have had to seek shelter under the awning the energetic picture proprietor (Mr A Stainkey) has made extra seating accommodation and provided a lot of extra chairs and generally improved the picture show by having a soft drink bar in the picture theatre and this is well patronised on picture nights.

The Inlander train, the new train for the run from Townsville to Mt Isa duly arrived in JC on Friday and had to be detained for a while in JC. This gave the townspeople a good chance to see this new model train with all its up-to-date conveniences.

**21 Feb 1953 (p43, NQ181, NQR)**

Public auction of Garomna by U Browne, Friday 27th March.

**21 Feb 1953 (p44, NQ182, NQR)**

Ad for RM Williams

**27 Feb 1953 (530227, CA)**

JC, Feb 23 – For the last week the weather has been glorious for this time of the year; during the nights blankets have to be used. If only the flies and mosquitoes were not so bad one would really say it is lovely living out in the west. Everywhere the eye looks it can see fields of green grass. Sheep are returning every day to their home pastures. Owners and drovers are very busy at present and all will be pleased to see their stock running on their own lands once again. Messrs Glasson (Iara), PJ Byrne (Osbert) and Harrington (Consentes) are well on the way home with sheep.

**28 Feb 1953 (p20, NQ183, 530228, NQR)**

JC, Feb 23 – For the last week the weather has been glorious for this time of the year. During the nights, blankets have to be used. If only the flies and mosquitoes were not so bad. It is lovely living out in the west. Everywhere the eye looks it can see fields of green grass.

Sheep are returning every day to their home pastures. Owners and drovers are very busy at present, and all will be pleased to see their stock running on their own lands once again. Messrs Glasson (Tara), PJ Byrne (Osbert), Harrington (Consentes) are well on the way home with their sheep.

Messrs J Mathews, FA Hickman, Alf Stainkey, TA Dalling are on their way over to McKinlay and Boulia district to start their sheep home.

The Inlander stayed the night in JC on its return journey. The townspeople all went over to have a good look at it and many would have liked to have finished the journey on it.

During the wet our two planes owned by Mr A Lowe and Mr TA Wall have done wonderful work. Mr

Wall flew all last week's mail and rations to the following places free of charge as no cars could cross the creeks - Baroona, Wernia, Lands End, Caleewa, Dalgonally, Haddington, Cabanda, Consentes, Homeland and Flers.

He also flew the doctor to Waterloo to attend a sick lady later on flying the patient into hospital. He also flew the sister in charge of this hospital to Cloncurry to see her sister who was very sick and underwent an operation.

On the return trip he brought meat to the town, which was very welcome as no meat had been in town for over a month the butcher being unable to get the cattle across the creeks.

Messrs Frank and Jack Paine, Burwood, are spending the day in town waiting to visit their sheep in the McKinlay district. Drovers Hickling and Davis are on the way out to start them home.

Mr Fred Bennett left during the week for Melbourne. Fred has been in JC many years and will be badly missed by everyone. He was one of the keen tennis and cricket players. Best of luck, Fred, wherever you go.

### **7 Mar 1953 (p34, 530307, NQR)**

JC, Mar 2 – For the past week we have had a change in the weather and have had very little rain which has given the ground a chance to dry up and the roads to become a little more trafficable but as yet there are not many roads that are trafficable but there has been a decided improvement in them and people can move about a bit more freely after the drenching rains that we have had. The grass has responded very well and there is now an abundance of feed with not many stock to eat the grass but no doubt as time goes on graziers will be getting their sheep back to this district and no doubt stocking their blocks to their full carrying capacity will be a slow process as sheep are hard to obtain.

The JC aerodrome is still closed. It needs grading to remove the grass off it and no doubt attention will be given to it as soon as possible by the shire council.

Inlander is a great boon to the west and JC people are making good use of this excellent service. It passes through JC to Mt Isa twice a week and back twice so is kept very busy. It is a great amenity for the west and should assist in getting people out west to be more contented as regards travel not that we are complaining.

### **14 Mar 1953 (p21, NQ184, NQR)**

Everest Climbers are Ready

London, March 8 – Reuter's correspondent at Kathmandu (Nepal) says the British Mt Everest expedition will set out this week for the foot of Mt Everest, ready for a new assault on the world's highest mountain.

Ten attempts have been made to climb the 29,002 foot peak. All have failed.

### **21 Mar 1953 (p11, NQ185, NQR)**

Casket First To JC

Brisbane, Mar 16 – First prize, £6000 No 49664: N Platen and F Freyer, JC

### **21 Mar 1953 (p32, NQ186, 530321, NQR)**

JC – Several lots of sheep have arrived home to their original pastures. Mr PJ Byrne has his sheep home, also Mr Alf Stainkey and Harry Stainkey have just arrived home with their flocks; they had a good trip but everyone is finding it hard to get through the great growth of pea bush which is very thick and high in places especially where the ground is low lying. The first through with the sheep has the hard time in breaking down for those who follow. There is an abundance of grass and water on the stock routes for the stock which is a great contrast to when they went forth to agistment fields. One could hardly realise such a change from barren fields a few months ago to a great body of waving grass and plenty of water. All stock are in good condition in contrast to their poor state a short while ago. Numbers of sheep returning show that flocks are much depleted and it will take a long time before the district is anything like stocked. Every grazier has a few sheep to start again on but it will take a long time to build up to their original numbers before the disastrous drought. The grazier has to be lion hearted to face such odds. The town will feel the pinch also, but things will soon brighten a little.

The Queen competition which is to be held in May at the Coronation Ball for the school is in full swing. Miss Carmel Fickling is Town Queen and Miss Jill Brennan Country Queen. The girls are busy holding dances, games, etc and it looks as if they and their supporters will be busy for a few weeks.

#### **4 Apr 1953 (p27, 530404, NQR)**

JC – Large numbers of sheep are on the roads coming back to agistment. Three mobs are nearing McKinlay coming from Toolebus way, one mob being Gelenbervie sheep in charge of Drover Lloyd; another lot is in charge of Drover Pattel being 2000 weaners, owners Hickman and Mathews; another lot of 7000 mixed sheep in charge of BD Fels owners JH Mathews and Hickman Bros. Further back near Toolebus Mr Patel is in charge of 10,000 sheep owned by Magoffin and Co, Ardbrin. Burwood and Wyaldra sheep are nearing home and Messrs Beach and Cummins will soon have their sheep on their home pastures. Most of these sheep have come from the Boulia district having been there on agistment. The various owners will be pleased to get them home after being away for nearly a year.

Messrs Hickman and Devey made a trip to the Boulia district on business last week and returned home last Wednesday. They reported the country in very good order. They travelled over 600 miles by car and inspected several lots of stock on the roads.

#### **11 Apr 1953 (p42, 530411, NQR)**

JC, Apr 9 – The weather for the past weeks reminds one of mid-December instead of early April. On several days the thermometer reached over the 100 degrees. The nights have been rather pleasant and also the mornings but about 9 o'clock the heat is like that of mid-summer. The sky has been very clear with scarcely a cloud to be seen and on account of the great heat we may get thunderstorms.

March went past without rain and most people are looking for rain in April. The grass and weeds are drying off and the feed will be soon dry enough to burn and our next trouble will be bush fires. Already graziers are making arrangements for their fire ploughing to act as breaks against bushfires which will take a lot of stopping this year on account of the big growth of feed.

[sheep]

The Returned Soldiers held a sports on Easter Sunday. Young and old came from near and far. The sports ground was crowded and cars were all around the field. Everyone had a good time during the day and finished at night with a dance in Dawson's Hall. The hall was overcrowded and everyone was having a good time when the insects appeared in thousands and the dance was ended long before the appointed time. The main sorting events were won by: 50 yds, 75 yds, 100 yds, long jump, hop step and jump - Paul Faithfull; throwing the wicket - WJ Peace; old buffers race - M Smith; putting the shot - Henry Gluszyk; tug of war - town team; kicking the ball - D Denton.

#### **18 Apr 1953 (p9, 530418, NQR)**

JC, Apr 15 – Cloudless skies and cool nights between hot days have been the main feature of the weather during the past week. At times the heat was so intense that we reached the century mark with the thermometer in the shade and it looked as if we may get storms but these did not eventuate.

March went by without any rain but we have time left before the end of April.

Bush fires will be our next trouble as the country carries a large body of feed and it is getting very dry. In order to help cope with the bushfires graziers are busy fire ploughing and a meeting of graziers has been called for April 20 in the Shire Office to form a rural Fires Board to fight bush fires. A small fire started 4 miles from JC on the 12th instant. It took two men an hour to put it out but if left it would have spread rapidly. Smoke was seen from the town and two graziers ran out by car to see it and put it out with bags. The JC Kynuna road was a good break and the wind was blowing from the north which also was against the fire. The fire menace this year will be a serious one.

#### **25 Apr 1953 (p5, NQ197, NQR)**

Melbourne To Keep 1956 Olympic Games

Mexico City, April 19 – The International Olympic Committee officially announced today that Melbourne will keep the 1956 Olympic Games. The Chairman of the Australian Committee said his committee would continue to work with the Australian Government officials in an effort to obtain



relaxation of the Commonwealth's quarantine laws against the importation of foreign horses. Britain had proposed that if difficulties over Australia's quarantine regulations could not be overcome equestrian events should be held in another country...

**16 May 1953 (p3, NQ198, NQR)**

Dingo Fence To Protect Sheep Area

Brisbane, May 14 – The United Graziers Association council today approved the erection of a 3000 mile barrier fence to keep dingoes out of Qld sheep areas. The Lands Minister has agreed to meet the UGA deputation to discuss the barrier fence.

**16 May 1953 (p7, NQ199, NQR)**

Longreach, May 14 – Rather than risk further losses by dingoes, graziers who have not entirely gone over to cattle production in the Hughenden and Richmond districts are only partially restocking with sheep.

The dogs were so bad that practically all the basalt country north of Hughenden had now gone over to cattle and numbers of properties in the Prairie district had also changed over.

Apart from drought losses, Hughenden district was carrying from 200,000 to 250,000 fewer sheep than formerly. Mr Hood added that numbers would continue to decrease until the Government abandoned aerial baiting and attacked the problem more realistically.

Properties at present were selling at 5/- to 14/- per acre around Hughenden.

**16 May 1953 (p39, NQ200, 530516, NQR)**

JC – Grazies are going far afield for sheep for restocking and the railage rebate granted by the Government will be a great help to them. It is a good thing for everyone to see the district restocked.

A general meeting of the JC Playground Association was held during the past week, and a committee was formed. They have shown their keenness in getting things moving as already the ground has been graded and cleaned and arrangements are being made to get the plot fenced and lights put on, so it will not be very long before JC playground will be in full swing. Mr Dawes was elected chairman and Mr Bannah and Mrs Dawes joint secretaries. An active committee was formed which is already showing its keenness in getting going and ordering the necessary things for the playground.

**30 May 1953 (p9, NQ201, NQR)**

JC May 28 – ... The nights and mornings have been bitterly cold and most people take overcoats and even blankets to the pictures, which are open air in JC but it takes very cold nights to stop keen picture goers from seeing a good picture.

**6 Jun 1953 (p11, NQ202, NQR)**

Scaling Of Everest Gave Added Flavour To UK Festivities

London, June 2 – The news that Mt Everest has been climbed by a British expedition was splashed on the front pages of the later editions of the London morning newspapers, and gave an added flavour to a Britain already charged with emotion by the Coronation festivities.

The Daily Mail said today the conquest of the last untopped piece of earth is laid at Her Majesty's feet. So the cheers that greet the Queen today will resound with an even deeper meaning. "No Monarch ever rode to a Coronation with such splendid tidings ringing round her realms", says the Daily Mail editorial.

Thirty three year old New Zealand beekeeper, Mr EP Hillary is perhaps the most experienced Himalayan climber with the present expedition...

**6 Jun 1953 (p? NQ203, NQR)**

Coronation Story

**6 Jun 1953 (p38, 530606, NQR)**

JC – The skies have been very clear with scarcely a sign of any cloud formation. We are not looking for rain unless we get a good downpour as light rains would do more harm than good to the dry grass.

Most of the graziers in the district are having their blocks fire-ploughed as a protection against bushfires. Mr Bill Davis has his team of horses at work and has completed fire-ploughing on Maria Downs, Burwood, Wyaldra and Sunny Plains, and is now proceeding to Mr Mitchell's property Carrum and from there he goes to Kellosiel and Dalkeith. Mr Luhrman is busy with his fire ploughing outfit and there are also other fire-ploughing tractors at work in the district.

**13 Jun 1953 (p39, NQ204, NQR)**

Everest Conquered After 32 Years Of Assault  
Includes photos of Everest and Hillary

**20 Jun 1953 (p5, NQ205, NQR)**

New York, June 19 – Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the condemned atomic spies, remained in the shadow of the electric chair today as the US Supreme court met in an emergency session to decide their fate.

The Rosenbergs, sentenced to death for passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, learned yesterday afternoon that for the fourth time a scheduled date for their execution would pass with them still alive that night.

The electric chair had been tested. The executioner was on the prison grounds. All leave had been cancelled for prison guards and the full complement of 290 men was wither on duty or on call against possible demonstrations by sympathisers.

All but the final preparations for the executions, such as shaving of the prisoner's heads had been made.

**27 Jun 1953 (p39, 530627, NQR)**

JC – Sister Tuppy Blanch of Townsville General Hospital flew up to visit her parents last week for a few days. Tuppy was matron of the JC Hospital for many years and was greatly missed when she left the district. Everyone wishes her the best of luck in her position at the General. Sister was the guest of her sister Mrs Norman Downey.

**3 Jul 1953 (530703, CA)**

A wedding of widespread interest to North West Qld was solemnised in St Barnabud Church of england JC, on Monday 15th June, the contracting parties being Bessie May, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W Elliott, Cremona Downs, JC, and Reginald John (Rex) eldest son of Mr and Mrs L Halloran, Flers, JC. Bro L whereat officiating at the ceremony. The Church was artistically decorated by Mrs F Smith of Haddington, Mrs Roy Taylor presided at the organ.

The petite fair-haired bride who was given away by her father, made an enchanting picture in her gown of snow-white Swiss embroidered voile, the moulded bodice of which featured a scalloped neckline and tiny sleeves. The bouffant skirt, mounted on white organdi was made in gathered tiers with a front panel of gathered organdi and fell into a slight train effect. A misty veil of nylon tulle fell in tiers to finer tip length from a lovely coronet of pearls. White nylon gloves and a most beautiful rhinestone necklace and earrings wee added to her ensemble. She carried a glorious bouquet of orchids and roses.

Her attendants were Mrs Keith Peace (the groom's sister) as Matron of honour, and Miss Thelma Elliott of Cotswold (cousin of the bride) as bridesmaid. They favoured gowns of palest blue and pink organdi respectively, mounted over taffetta in matching shades. Of full-skirted charm, the gowns followed the strapless vogue with contrasting embroidery on the bodices and also on the tin junior boleros which featured tiny rolled collars finished with small embroidered bows. They wore exquisite shell caps of fabric matching their frocks, trimmed with flowers and fragile tulle bows. They carried bouquets of roses and carnations and completed their ensembles with matching sapphire pendants and earrings, gifts from the bridegroom.

Mr Murray Halloran as best man, and Mr Bill Elliott, as groomsman, capably attended the groom. The reception was held at Hampton's Hall where over 200 guests were entertained by the parents of the bride and groom.

Mrs Elliott was smartly gowned in ... Mrs Halloran was becomingly attired ...

Mr Moran Byrne was chairman for the occasion when the usual toasts were honoured and many

congratulatory telegrams received and read. Occupying pride of place on the bridal table was the lovely three-tiered diamond shaped wedding cake which was made and decorated in blue and pink by the bride.

The bride and groom were the recipients of many lovely gifts and valuable cheques. After the reception a dance was held. The bridal couple departed by car on their honeymoon which is being spent on a tour of the Tableland.

The bride's travelling frock was an ultra-smart model in gold threaded iridescent faille and she completed her toilette with black accessories.

On their return the couple will make their future home at Narollah, Corfield.

#### **4 Jul 1953 (p32, NQ206, NQR)**

Dingo Fence To Enclose Sheep Areas

Longreach, Jun 29 – A plan has been drawn up by the Stock Routes coordinating Board to enclose Qld sheep country from dingoes.

The scheme would cost about £347,000. The board proposes to erect a 3200-mile fence stretching from the NSW border north to the Flinders River near JC, then to the east about 50 miles north of Torrens Creek...

#### **4 Jul 1953 (p41, 530704, NQR)**

JC, Jul 2 – A pre wedding shower was given by Mrs Doyle and Mrs Evans for Miss Edith Mann at Mrs Evans' house on June 28 when there was a good attendance. Many useful presents were received and an enjoyable afternoon was spent by all present.

The JC ambulance has had a busy time over the last few days with accident cases. On Tuesday last Mr Jack Fortune a stockman on Millungera was knocked down by a horse and he badly injured his leg. He was brought to hospital and is doing well. On Saturday Mr Arthur a stockman also of Millungera was thrown from a horse and suffered a fractured collarbone. On Sunday Mrs Fegan of Milgery had a fall and fractured her leg. On Monday night a railway employee at Gilliat Siding was badly burnt when a lamp he has filling caught fire. Over 400 miles were travelled to attend these patients and bring them to hospital.

Mr and Mrs Harry Stainkey and baby son motored to Townsville at the weekend on business.

#### **11 Jul 1953 (p? NQ207, NQR)**

Coal, Tobacco Cancer, Cause?

London, Jul 7 – Doctors working for the British Empire cancer campaign cautiously suggested today that coal and tobacco smoke might help jointly to cause cancer of the lung.

They said this in the campaign's annual report published today which revealed that several researchers in Britain were working on the theory that tobacco smoke caused, or helped the growth of cancer.

The report said the incidence of cancer of the lung and larynx had been notably low among coal miners who normally couldn't smoke at work... Leeds University is experimenting to isolate the products of cigarette smoke to see if it contains cancer producing substances.

#### **11 Jul 1953 (p? NQ208, NQR)**

Rinso Ad – Married at 15, wouldn't change places with anyone (7 kids)

#### **25 Jul 1953 (p10, NQ209, NQR)**

Canberra, July 22 – The atomic weapon to be exploded in the forthcoming atomic test on the Woomera long-range weapons range, South Australia, will be an atomic bomb. The bomb would be exploded within an 80,000 square mile target region which was a prohibited area...

#### **1 Aug 1953 (p28, NQ210, NQR)**

Mail Contracts Rise Through Dingo Menace

Brisbane, July 27 – May factors affect the prices of mail carriage contracts in the outback, but this year

is the first occasion on which the prevalence of dingoes has caused higher prices. In some western areas, contractors submitting tenders at higher prices explained that this was due to the loss of wool cartage, because the dingo menace had forced stations in the district to change from sheep to cattle raising.

A higher price for mail and other freight was necessary to enable the service to continue, now that the valuable wool cartage had been lost.

#### **14 Aug 1953 (530814, CA)**

A wedding was soemnised in the CWA rooms at JC on the afternoon of August 6 of Edith Maud, daughter of Mr and Mrs HG Mann, JC, to Keith Selwyn, son of Mr and Mrs HV Hutchison, Greenslopes, Brisbane. Rev HW Hovenden of Cloncurry was the officiating minister.

The bride who was given away by her father, made a charming picture in a frock of pale blue broderie anglaise over satin, the bodice of which featured satin buttons from waist to neckline, satin belt. Her Juliet cap of velvet leaves held in place a lovely waist length veil of tulle. For something old she wore a cameo broach which belonged to her mother. Nylon gloves and a beautiful bouquet of pink and blue artificial flowers completed her ensemble. She was attended by Miss Lavina Beauchamp who looked most attractive in a pink gown the bodice of which was of broderie anglaise trimmed with self covered buttons and the skirt was of taffeta. Her Juliet cap and lovely bouquet of pink artificial flowers completed her toilette.

Little Miss Sonja Roberts as flower girl was a replica of the bridesmaid with the exception of wearing a pink bo-peep bonnet and carrying a basket of pretty pink flowers.

Mr Bernie foster ably carried out the duties of best man. At the reception which was held at Stainkey's Hall, the mother of the bride received the guests. Mrs Mann chose a gown of light mustard shade with light London tan accesories.

The mother of the groom favoured a dusty pink crepe model with black edge to edge coat to which she added a black velvet toque. Mr J Stevens was chairman for the occasion and the usual toasts were honoured. The happy couple flew to Mt Isa for a few days and will then leave for Brisbane.

#### **22 Aug 1953 (p10, NQ211, NQR)**

JC, Aug 20 – ... We understand that Mr Cooney or Auckland Downs has purchased a line of cows from a property near Burketown. The price has not been disclosed...

The JC woolscour is having a short run this week and will have a longer run in a few week's time when it is expected there will be a fair number of bales from this district as we are in the midst of the main shearing of the year.

#### **29 Aug 1953 (p10, 530829, NQR)**

JC – Mrs Hutcheson (nee Miss Edith Mann) and her husband will be returning to JC during the coming week where they will take up residence in their home in Burke St. They have been holidaying at Mt Isa and Molle Island during the past few weeks.

The sheep market is very quiet but the cattle market has brightened up a little and there have been a few sales of both fat cattle and stores but no prices have been divulged.

#### **5 Sep 1953 (p13, NQ212, NQR)**

Swimsuit In Dispute – photo of woman in swimsuit

This is the swimsuit worn by Sydney model Anne Ferguson which Surfers Paradise beach inspector John Moffat objected to at the weekend. Anne claims the suit is not indecent.

#### **5 Sep 1953 (p20, NQ213, NQR)**

New Book Branded "Obscene"

Washington, Aug 31 – A House of Representatives member has branded Dr Alfred Kinsey's new book as obscene. He has accused Dr Kinsey of "hurling the insult of the century" at American womanhood.

Mr Heller demands the book be barred from Post office mails. He asked in a letter to the Postmaster General that Dr Kinsey's "Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female" be banned...

**5 Sep 1953 (p43, NQ214, NQR)**

**Bankrupts Warned On Responsibility**

A stern warning to bankrupts that if they did not obey directions given to them by the Official Receiver they would be dealt with by the Bankruptcy Court, was issued in Townsville on Friday by Mr Justice O'Hagan sitting in Bankruptcy jurisdiction. His honour said he would not hesitate to commit such bankrupts to prison.

His Honour was hearing an application by the Official Receiver for committal to prison for contempt of court of Roberto Fanti against whom a sequestration order had been issued. Section 66, subsection 5 of the Bankruptcy Act set out that when a debtor failed to file a Statement of his affairs he was guilty of contempt.

His Honour: What is the penalty? I can commit him to gaol?

Mr Brasnett: That is so...

**12 Sep 1953 (p41, NQ215, 530912, NQR)**

JC – The JC playground is going ahead in leaps and bounds. Swings, seesaws, dips are already installed and the children are making good use of everything. The shed is nearing completion and will be welcomed by all.

Miss A. Compagnoni after her recent short spell in hospital left on Tuesday by car for Townsville. From there she intends to fly to Brisbane to be the guest of her mother for a few weeks.

[Pat Downey]

**19 Sep 1953 (p5, NQ216, NQR)**

Electric lift for stairs – copy to Murray Halloran. Done.

**19 Sep 1953 (p8, NQ217, NQR)**

Supply Free Wire For Dingo Proof Fences

**19 Sep 1953 (p22, NQ218, NQR)**

Ad for Oliver crawlers

**19 Sep 1953 (p45, NQ219, NQR)**

Ad for sale of wooldscour at JC

**17 Oct 1953 (p8, NQ220, NQR)**

History made as A Bomb Is Detonated

Adelaide, Oct 15 – Australian atomic history was made today when the first atomic explosion on the Australian mainland was touched off around 7.30 am in the arid desert wastes near Emu Field in the dead heart of the Central Australian desert.

Although the blast was heard hundreds of miles away the eminent Australian nuclear scientist, Professor Marcus Oliphant said there was absolutely no danger to population centres from atomic particles.

**24 Oct 1953 (p12, NQ221, NQR)**

The Catholic Debutante Ball held in JC was a huge success, both financially and socially. The 12 lovely debs were presented to the Right Rev Monsignor Kelly of Ayr. The debutantes were... [NQ221a & b show full article]

**31 Oct 1953 (p9, NQ222, NQR)**

Brisbane, Oct 20 – Unless absolutely necessary married women teachers will not be employed in Qld school. The Minister for Education (Mr Devries) emphasised this when he said that married women were employed in a temporary capacity only to provide some relief in the present acute teacher shortage...

**7 Nov 1953 (p17, NQ223, NQR)**

Ad for TC Beirne's toys

**10 Nov 1953 (531110, CA)**

Mr Sidney Evan Pearson, one of the last of Cloncurry's old-time prospectors, was found dead in a camp two miles from Cloncurry last Tuesday afternoon. He was 74. A motorist driving from Alice Springs to Cairns found his body when he called at the camp to ask directions. Mr Pearson had been dead three or four days.

He was known to many people in Western Qld, by name at least, through his numerous articles on mining and historical subjects in different newspapers. The Advocate published many articles by him.

Mr Pearson arrived in Cloncurry while a young man and made the town his headquarters for extensive prospecting trips. It is said he knew the district better than any other man. He often lived alone in the bush and came to prefer life away from town. He would never stay in town overnight but would always drive out and camp.

Shortly before his death he became owner of diaries kept by a Cloncurry pioneer, Mr Ernest Henry. These gave him material for many historical articles. Because of his solitary life he was comparatively little known but his friends thought highly of him. Mr Pearson had a wife and son who lived in Sandgate. His funeral was on Wednesday afternoon. RSL members were his pallbearers for he was a returned serviceman from World War 1.

**14 Nov 1953 (p9, 531114, NQR)**

JC, Nov 12 – Shearing has been completed at Argyle by Contractor Arthur Fayers. He is also doing a few odd jobs of stragglers around the district. Contractor Chas Tankard has put out at Lands End and goes from there to Lara.

Huddersfield has changed hands but no price has been disclosed. It has sold on an unstocked basis.

The building of the new convent in JC is going ahead very quickly and it will not be long before it is completed.

Mr and Ms Ben Burrows left for Townsville on Sunday's train to partake in the coming of age party of daughter Ivy. Brother Bill left by ANA plane on Friday to join in the celebrations.

**21 Nov 1953 (p40, 531121, NQR)**

JC, Nov 19 – For the past week we have had typical western summer dry weather. The scorching winds have been almost unbearable with the thermometer going up to 110 degrees and over in the shade. Friday, Saturday and Sunday were very hot days and there was little to choose between them and Monday and Tuesday of this week. There is no sign of rain, the sky has been without clouds for days. The only storms we get are of dust but these have not been too bad and only lasted a short period.

Stock routes have plenty of grass but the natural water has dried up and the stages between water are long. Stock are in good order and if we get early rains in December it will help us get over the severe drought we have just passed through.

**28 Nov 1953 (p9, 531128, NQR)**

JC – Two Proctor single engined aircraft owned by Jim Montgomery of Mt Isa and Arthur Lowe of JC have arrived after a 12,000 mile flight from Britain. Two other pilots Jack Simler of London and Brian Wales of Victoria flew out with Montgomery and Lowe. The flight took three weeks including 700 mile hops. Jack Simler said that he and Wales had to use a school atlas to navigate from Singapore to Bali. This was necessary because they lost their navigation maps out of the plane window. They had opened the windows to let petrol fumes escape and the maps had been sucked out. Arthur Lowe said that their plane ran into a severe storm in the Bay of Bengal and developed engine trouble. They were forced to return to Calcutta. On the trip out the planes called in to France, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Baghdad, Karachi, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Bali, and landed at Wyndham. Arthur Lowe intends keeping the Proctor for charter work. Simler is a commercial pilot and hopes to get a flying job in Australia. Many friends met Arthur at the drome on his return.

**1 Dec 1953 (531201, CA)**

The JC Citizens Playground Association decided last week to hold the opening ceremony in late March

or early April. It was felt rain was too liable to disrupt the ceremony if it were held earlier.

Mr R Godwin suggested to a meeting of the associates that the opening ceremony be at an afternoon tea party and that a all beheld at night. The meeting decided to complete all work on the playground as quickly as possible. This work which includes setting equipment in concrete will be carried out by volunteers.

The playground has two slides, a see-saw, three different kinds of swing and a gymnasium bar. A shelter shed 40 ft by 20 ft has been built and a lawn laid down and the McKinlay Shire Council has built and ornamental fence at the front of the playground.

All work on the project was carried out by volunteers. The playground scheme was originated by Mr Peter Dawes who called a public meeting on May 2 this year to discuss it. The meeting elected a committee with Mr Dawes chairman, Mr Kevin Bannah secretary and Mrs Dawes assistant secretary. In the next few months the committee raised £230 with a street stall by catering at a race meeting and by holding a ball. Town and country residents supported the committee very well donating a further £340. All expenses connected with the playground have now been paid and the committee has a credit of £24.

At the meeting last week Mr Dawes thanked all residents who had helped with the project. "Had we not received such fine support we could not have completed the scheme so quickly," he said. The pleasure children are already getting out of the playground proves that our efforts have been worthwhile."

The associations balance sheet shows that £565/15/9 was raised as follows:

Donations £338/17/6

Street stall and raffle £50

Tea stalls at races £67/5/4

raffles (cake and sheep) £28/8/-

Ball £101/4/11

Expenses were:

Postage (appeals) £4/15/11

Bank charges 5/-

Playground Equipment £152/19/10

Steel Shed £245/8/9

Railage on shed and equipment £62/15/11

iron for shed £75

grass for lawn £5/6/-

plastic hose £4/10

This makes expenditure £541/0/6 and leaves the association with £25/15/3

Mr Bernie Foster and Miss Lavina Beauchamp announced their engagement at a family gathering at the home of Mr Jim Hanlon on November 21.

The Cloncurry Flying doctor, Dr Gordon Shaw, spent two days at JC last week conducting a clinic. The town has been without a resident doctor for months.

### **12 Dec 1953 (p48, NQ224, NQR)**

JC, Dec 10 – [Jensen, Mathews, Jessop, Downey, Stainkey, Peut]... We have been advised that the property known as Garomna, owned by Mr S U Browne, has been sold to Mr Peter Bell of Longreach at approx. 11/- an acre. Mr and Mrs Ulick Browne have been amongst the pioneers of this district and we owe a lot to these two enterprising people. They were both untiring in public work and they worked hard for the town and district. Both took a keen interest in the CWA, the Red Cross, the bush nursing scheme, and all patriotic work. Mr Browne was a keen member of the Graziers's Association and for many years was chairman of the local branch. We wish them every success in their new home.

### **19 Dec 1953 (p40c, NQ225, NQR)**

A very pleasant evening was spent at the home of Mr and Mrs Norm Downey. The Catholic women met to bid farewell to Mrs Roy Hampton. She will be greatly missed as she was always ready with a willing hand in church functions. They all wished them every joy and happiness in their future home. On

Sunday afternoon Mr and Mrs Roy Hampton left on the first stage on their journey to Townsville where they will in future reside.

**30 Jan 1954 (p39, NQ227, NQR)**

Proctor That Flew From England

The Proctor aircraft which Mr Arthur Lowe of JC recently purchased in England and flew out to Australia, was flown to Townsville by the western airman on Thursday. Mr Lowe and Mr Jim Montgomery of Mt Isa each purchased a Proctor and they were flown out in company. The Proctor has a range of 500 miles and it flew back to JC direct on Thursday afternoon. (Fraley Studio Photo)

**30 Jan 1954 (p3, NQ226, NQR)**

Northlander: Arthur Lowe, Well Known In West As Airman

There is no better known personality in our North West than Arthur Lowe, of JC, whose service to outback stations with his aircraft is legion in the western country. In the wet season many westerners on isolated pastoral properties would suffer privations but for this well known airman.

Arthur Lowe was born in Sydney in November 1911 but he has lived long enough in North West Qld to be regarded as a Northlander.

For a long period before World War 11 he was a motor salesman in the west. He joined the RAF early in the war and soon acquired a reputation as a pilot and he was selected as a flying instructor. At the end of the war, however, he had been able to transfer from instructing to more active work and he was based at Townsville as a flight lieutenant with 35 squadron, flying Dakota transports to the battlefields in the north.

After the war Arthur Lowe settled in JC and established a motor business which he still conducts, but his interest in flying continued and he acquired a Tiger Moth and later went to England to purchase a Proctor and fly it home, to be used in charter work. He recently returned from a visit to England with a second Proctor.

Mr Lowe has found a demand in the west for his aircraft, particularly in the wet season. When road transport is impossible Arthur Lowe lands his plane on district stations bringing medical and urgently required stores. In many cases he is looked upon as a guardian angel, ready to answer any call and bring urgent aid.

**6 Feb 1954 (p6, NQ228, 540206, NQR)**

JC, Jan 29 – Miss Ivy Burrows is a popular visitor to JC from Townsville as the guest of her parents Mr and Mrs BE Burrows. Ivy expects to leave after attending the wedding of Miss Levina Beauchamp to Mr Bernard Foster.

Mr and Mrs WG Gannon have said goodbye to JC once again. They left on the Inlander on Thursday last for Townsville to spend a week prior to leaving for their home in Brisbane.

The sad news of the sudden death of George Peut at JC caused a shock to the people of JC and district and to his large circle of friends. He appeared in good spirits and died in harness [died working] at work as usual. He will be sadly missed from JC being a good townsman, a keen worker on public bodies and of a genial good-hearted nature. He was a member of the McKinlay Shire council and the local Hospital Board and on both bodies he did good work.

[Hickman, Holloway]

**6 Feb 1954 (p27, NQ229, NQR)**

JC gets doctor

Brisbane, Jan 31 – JC townsville, 1230 rail miles north-west of Brisbane, had a celebration when after five months without a resident doctor, they received official word that a doctor would arrive this week.

The Health Minister announced that Dr Geoffrey Bradfield had been appointed medical superintendent of the JC Hospital and would leave Brisbane on Thursday.

Dr Bradfield graduated in medicine at the Qld University under the Government scheme of granting



fellowships to student passing the Senior public Examination and had just completed his practical experience at the Brisbane Hospital.

Dr Bradfield said last night that he was delighted to be going to JC. JC, with a district population of 800, has a 23-bed hospital.

#### **6 Feb 1954 (p43, NQ230, NQR)**

Amazing Scenes Mark Royal Ball

Women Faint In Scores

Sydney, Feb 5 – Some of the most astounding scenes in the history of Australia were witnesses at Sydney Town Hall tonight where more than 250,000 people swarmed to watch the Queen arrive for the Lord Mayor's Ball.

Women fainted and were carried away at the rate of four a minute. Every casualty station was filled to overflowing between 6.30 pm and 9.30 pm. It is estimated that 1000 women were removed by St John ambulance bearers...

#### **13 Mar 1954 (p47, 540313, NQR)**

JC, Mar 12 – The weather for the past week has been hot and steamy with rains at different periods. last Monday night we had over 70 points of rain and this brought the total for JC to over 26 inches since Jan 1. The streets no sooner dry up than there is a downpour which makes a sea of water in Goldring Street, facing the railway line. The Council pumps this out from time to time.

The town supply of flour and vegetables and fruit is getting low. the council is keeping a watch on the food supply. There is one thing for certain we are going to have a very good season and the late rain will be a great benefit in keeping the grass green much longer than usual.

The town is very quiet on account of the continuous rains. The local planes, operated by Messrs Lowe and Wall are kept busy and are a great boon to those wanting to move around also incases of sickness. We are grateful of their great assistance and cooperation in the present crisis when traffic by rail and road is at a standstill.

#### **27 Mar 1954 (p42, NQ234, NQR)**

Longer Trading Petrol Hours

Brisbane, Mar 24 – Any application to the State Industrial Court for seven day a week petrol sales in Brisbane would not be opposed by the State Government.

This was made clear today following NSW moves for longer petrol trading hours. Many government members are swinging to the view that Qld must give greater service to the public if it is to attract tourists.

In Brisbane garages' trading is limited from 7 am to 6 pm on weekdays and 7 am to 2 pm on Saturday.

#### **27 Mar 1954 (p5, NQ235, NQR)**

Northlander:

"Fred" Hickman rose from Bank Clerk to Sheepman

The drawing of a block of land by a young bank clerk in 1913 altered his career. He threw down his pen, went to the Charleville area to raise sheep and later settles in the JC district, where he is well established today. The former bank clerk? Mr FA Hickman.

Frederick Augustus Hickman was born at Oberon, Gooburrum, Bundaberg on October 15 1889. He was educated at the Gooburrum State School and, in addition, received several years private tuition. He joined the Bank of NSW in 1910 and served in different Qld towns.

It was in 1913, when young Hickman was with the bank's Winton branch that he drew a block in the Charleville district and took up sheep raising there. In 1921, "Fred" took up land in the JC district securing Ponjola which was stocked with sheep and cattle for several years. Now he has large interests in sheep and cattle in that area.

It is not strange that Mr Hickman should leave the bank for sheep grazing as he had been brought up

on the land with cattle.

“Fred” Hickman has been chairman of the McKinlay Shire Council since 1952. Prior to that date he had been deputy chairman for many years and has been a member of the local authority for the past 29 years.

He also has taken keen interest in the JC branch of the Red Cross Society and is chairman of the JC centre of the Bush Children’s Health Scheme, being the inaugurator of that scheme in JC...

For a long period, Mr Hickman was member of the UGA committee and a member of the C & N Cattle Committee. The development of watering facilities on stock routes has been a subject which he has pursued continually.

Fred has been associated with many dingo syndicates and has worked hard for the dingo barrier fence...

### **3 Apr 1954 (p20, NQ233, NQR)**

Dingo Barrier Fence to Cost £433,000

Brisbane, march 30 – A total of £433,000 would be spent in three years to protect Qld’s sheep land by a dingo barrier fence, the Minister for Lands, said today...

The Minister said that dingoes were one of the greatest hazards to the sheep industry on the land, which extended west from the Great Dividing Range for an average depth of 350 miles and from the NSW border to 60 or 70 miles north of the Townsville to Cloncurry railway line. That land carried about 16,500,000 sheep and it was flanked on three sides by cattle holdings infected with dingoes. some of that country provided a sanctuary for dingoes.

“Regretfully I am forced to say that the barrier fence has been necessitated to a great extent because of the apathy of cattlemen generally towards the destruction of dingoes and the absence of any organised attempt by many of them to rid their holdings of these pests.”

The complete barrier fence would extend over 3500 miles. It would be a first line of defence against the dingo. Despite efforts in marginal sheep lands to keep dingoes at bay, and many holdings there had been converted to cattle.

The value of the barrier fence had been demonstrated in NSW and SA where the onslaught of dingoes from breeding grounds had been held. The average annual destruction of dingoes in NSW was fewer than 300 but in Qld the average annual number of dingo scalps paid for was nearly 25,000...

### **24 Apr 1954 (p35, NQ231, NQR)**

Mrs Petrov Staying:

Claims Sanctuary in Australia Following Interview at Darwin

Darwin, April 20 – In one of the most sensational incidents in Australia’s diplomatic history, Mrs Evdokiva Petrov, wife of the former third secretary to the Russian Embassy Vladimir Petrov, today claimed and was granted political asylum in Australia.

At Darwin airport, NT police and security men met the BOAC Constellation and Mrs Petrov was given the opportunity to have a private conversation with the Government Secretary in the NT after which she sought sanctuary.

The two Russian couriers escorting Mrs Petrov to Russia made frantic efforts to break up the conversation but were restrained and searched by police. Each was found to be carrying a loaded revolver which was promptly taken from him.

In Canberra today the Prime Minister, Mr RG Menzies) issued a dramatic statement in which he outlined the series of exciting events which began at the Russian Embassy early yesterday and ended in dramatic fashion at Darwin airport.

Mr Menzies said that before Mrs Petrov departure the position was very carefully considered by the Attorney General, the Minister for External Affairs and himself. Three things were agreed upon. The

first was that no pressure of any kind must be put upon Mrs Petrov to induce her to remain. The second was that should she seek asylum and protection of the government her application was to be granted. The third was that the security people and the police should intervene to prevent any assault or intimidation of Mrs Petrov...

#### **24 Apr 1954 (p7, NQ232, NQR)**

Wild Airport Scene:

Mrs Petrov urged to Refuse to go Back To Russia

Sydney, April 19 – More than 1000 screaming, fighting people tonight tried to stop Mrs Petrov from boarding a plane to return to Russia. An eight minute fight and struggle took place at the foot of the BOAC Constellation's steps between police, security officers, Russian officials and the frantic crowd.

Many new Australians in the crowd claimed they heard Mrs Petrov call in Russian, "I don't want to go back"

Mrs Petrov, apparently dazed and weeping and bedraggled, was pushed and pulled for 200 yards around the tarmac and up to the gangway through the press of people. When she reached the top of the gangway the crowd pulled it away from the plane to prevent her from boarding.

Mrs Petrov, her eyes filled with tears, stood on the brink of the 12 foot high platform at the top of the portable stairway until police and security officials fought off the crowd and pushed the stairway back to the plane.

Mrs Petrov was taken into the interior of the plane by the two escorting Russian officials. The crowd shouted wildly, "Don't go. They'll murder you."

Mrs Petrov last saw her husband on April 1 when Petrov went to Sydney ostensibly to pick up staff for the Russian Embassy. He did not return but sought political asylum.

In diplomatic circles today it was suggested Mrs Petrov would not occupy the innocent place in Soviet affairs in Australia that her standing as Mrs Petrov would indicate. It was reported that Mrs Petrov was the real principal in Soviet espionage in Australia.

#### **1 May 1954 (p42, 540501, NQR)**

JC, Apr 28 – Weather, sheep, agistment - boring

#### **8 May 1954 (p1, NQ246, NQR)**

Bannister Smashes Four-Minute Mile

London, May 7 – Roger Bannister (24) medical student of Britain, yesterday became the first man to run one mile in less than four minutes – 3 minutes 59.4 seconds. Bannister ran in unfavourable conditions, there was a strong cross wind. Bannister's time beat the current world record of 4 minutes 1.4 seconds set by Gundar Haegg of Sweden 1945.

John Landy, the Australian miler, said, "This is great, great, just great. Bannister is a great runner. I've waited for this, because I knew the four minute mile was not beyond human possibilities."...

#### **8 May 1954 (p44, 540508, NQR)**

JC – Last Saturday was the opening meeting of the year for the Citizens' Playground Association. The meeting was well attended. A number of trees donated by Mrs Jas Carden-Collins of Bezuma had been planted and despite the grasshoppers are doing well. the main resolution of the meeting was to employ a part-time gardener and caretaker as soon as a man is available. to make funds available for this purpose it was decided to hold a children's dance during the school vacation with musical items by the children to enliven the night. The men also decided to meet one Sunday to set in cement the pieces of playing equipment that were not already cemented in. The grounds are now well lighted making the playground more attractive.

Prior to the departure of the Eckford family for Townsville where they intend making their new home, a family farewell party was held at the home of Mrs and Mrs Peter Dawes. Mr and Mrs J Eckford jnr and their family; Mrs Rod Quilty and her little daughter Amelda Mary, all participated in the happy family gathering. Mrs Quilty continuing on to Townsville with her mother and father before returning

to her home in West Australia.

Mr Tom Quilty of North Western Australia arrived in JC on Friday. He was accompanied by Mr Underwood and party and all were returning from a holiday trip in the south. After reunion with various members of the family the party left for their home, via Cloncurry.

Mr and Mrs J Magoffin and three daughters who have been staying with their father Mr J Ahern late of Nelia Hotel, stayed overnight at Gannon's Hotel, prior to leaving for their station home Etta Plains where they will now reside.

### **15 May 1954 (p6, 540515, NQR)**

JC, May 14 – There has been a blustery southerly wind blowing for the past week which brings with it a lot of dust which is very distressing to housewives especially those living on the north side of the streets where they get the full blast of the wind. Some of them have been watering parts of the street in the early morning and afternoon to keep down the dust. It is good to see people with civic pride who take an interest in their town.

The stock market is still quiet, there being few lines of sheep offering and plenty of buyers. A few line of store cattle are offering but the market for these is quiet at present. Several lines of fats are being trucked to the meatworks.

### **22 May 1954 (p8, NQ245, NQR)**

Espionage Inquiry Opens

Formation of Fifth Column was Major Task Given To Petrov

Canberra, May 17 – The deliberate formation of a soviet fifth column, or underground movement, to operate in Australia in the event of war was one of the specific tasks entrusted to Vladimir Petrov, secret Russian police agent, when he entered Australia early in 1952.

[From accompanying panel: Both Mr & Mrs Petrov were members of the MVD (Russian secret police), dealing with political intelligence and security matters]

His list of objectives was disclosed at the Royal Commission on Soviet Espionage which opened here today.

Petrov had five broad aims to achieve while in Australia and evidence told to the Commission showed that when he was almost due to return to Russia he feared for his life because of the purge of former MVD chief, Beria, who was responsible for his appointment in Australia.

Petrov sought political asylum on April 2 last after having farewelled a party of Russian diplomats who left Mascot aerodrome for New Zealand. From the aerodrome Petrov fled into a waiting Commonwealth security car.

### **5 Jun 1954 (p8, NQ244, NQR)**

Menzies Makes it Three in a Row.

Canberra, May 30 – Apart from leading the coalition to victory on three successive occasions, the Prime Minister (Mr RG Menzies) is the first Federal leader to have led his team to success at four elections. This feat was performed in 1940, 1949, 1951 and 1954...

### **12 June 1954 (p33, 540612, NQR)**

Auction Sale

JC Wool Scour

Account Edkins Marsh & Co Ltd

On Wednesday, June 16, commencing at 9 am sharp

We will offer in suitable lots the entire scour comprising:

Approximately 38 building or portions of buildings for removal, including a large quantity of roofing iron, timber etc.

Scales, shafting, rod iron, generators, electrical gear, engines, piping, pumping equipment, tramlines, trollies, packs, belting, motor truck, firewood, charcoal, tools and furniture of all descriptions, office

equipment etc.

Catalogues and full particulars available on request.

Scouring machines if not sold previously by tender will also be offered.

The Australian Estates Co Ltd  
JC – Auctioneers – Telephone 4, 73, 93

**12 June 1954 (p41, NA, NQR)**

We have experienced during the past week our coldest weather for nearly 12 months. The thermometer at times was as low as 33 degrees, whilst in some places frost was experienced. The coldest night was Saturday and in spite of blankets being taken to the local picture show to keep out the cold, patrons at the pictures complained of the bitter cold snap. It lasted for several days.

We understand the Mr A Lowe has disposed of his motor garage business to Messrs Batt Bros of McKinlay. The purchasers take over on July 1.

The goat herds of JC have had a wandering fit or fits during the past month and have been driven home from about eight miles from town on one or two occasions. Fortunately most of the goats have been recovered and at present several persons are keeping their goats shut up day and night and feeding them until such time as the wandering spirit eases up.

**19 June 1954 (p5, NA, NQR)**

Messrs John Wooderson and Fred Huller, who went to Hughenden for the north west district tennis championships, are to be congratulated on their great effort in winning both the men's single championship and the men's double championship.

Mr Eakins and Mr Forrest arrived in JC in connection with the sale of the woolscouring plant and buildings also Mr Smith has been here from Longreach for the past week making arrangements for same. All were guests at Gannon's Hotel.

**26 Jun 1954 (p? NQ241, NQR)**

Ad for Britstand rippers

**26 Jun 1954 (p41, NQ242, NQR)**

JC – The sale of the buildings at the JC woolscour was well attended and the demand for iron was very keen. The majority of buildings and iron sold well. The firewood was keenly sought after, but was in buyer's favour, and some bargains were obtained in the sale of wood. The houses brought good competition at fair prices. Tools and small lines were sought after also furniture. The latter at times sold very well. As usual at these sales there were some snaps but taking everything into consideration it was a good sale. It is a pity to see the woolscour being pulled down as it will be a great loss to the district and no doubt later on we will very much regret letting it go.

**26 Jun 1954 (p? NQ243, NQR)**

JC, June 21 – The old woolscour at JC which operated for a period of 30 years until six months ago, has been closed down. It was originally acquired by Edkins, Marsh and Co Ltd from the JC woolscouring company. Most of the components parts of the concern, with the exception of the two scouring machines, boiler and a suction gas engine, were sold by public auction last week. This was the last woolscour operating on the northern line.

**3 Jul 1954 (p45, NQ238, NQR)**

Notice of sale of Tunny & Webb mail contracts, workshop and homes at Nelia.

**3 Jul 1954 (p41, NQ239, NQR)**

JC Fliers enter in Trial

Sydney, July 1 – Six Qld entries will take part in the air navigation reliability trial around Australia starting on July 31. a total of 27 aircraft had been entered when entries closed today. The Qld entries are: AM Lowe (JC) Proctor aircraft; CD Kelman (JC) Proctor aircraft; LA Wall & JC Vine (JC) Fairchild [+ others]

**3 Jul 1954 (p24, NQ240, NQR)**

Around Australia Car Reliability Trial

The official Australian Sporting Club map for the 1954 Car Reliability Trial. Black stars and enclosed white numerals indicate major controls and compulsory rest periods (in hours). Dates and times shown are scheduled times for the first car at that control. Circles indicate two minute check points. Large numerals in panels give mileages between major controls, small figures denote average speed for that section.

**10 Jul 1954 (p46, NQ236, NQR)**

Notice of sale of A Lowe's business to Messrs Batt Bros, 1/7/54

**10 Jul 1954 (p4, NQ237, NQR)**

Thought Doom was Sealed:

Mrs Petrov feared assassination by Moscow Couriers

Melbourne, July 8 – Obviously distressed, and weeping at times, Mrs Evdokia Petrov told the Royal Commission on Espionage the dramatic story of her last day in Canberra, her arrival at mascot and her flight to Darwin.

Her eyes flashing as she recalled the indignities to which she was subjected, Mrs Petrov told a hushed court how she had been seized by two Soviet couriers at Mascot and forcibly dragged on to the Darwin bound plane. The court heard from the attractive wife of the ex-spy Vladimir Petrov, how she had feared that it was the intention of her armed escort, under the pretence of accident, to assassinate her before she ever reached Moscow.

**10 Jul 1954 (p37, 540710, NQR)**

JC, Jul 8 – [Playground]

**11 Sep 1954 (p1, NQ252, NQR)**

Green Light Given On TV

Canberra, Sep 10 – The Federal Government today authorised the introduction of television into Australia.

Following broad recommendations of the Royal Commission on Television, the Cabinet agreed one national station and one commercial station should be set up in Sydney and Melbourne as soon as possible.

Today's Cabinet decision follows a very close study of the Royal Commission report by Federal Ministers. The Post Master General ( Mr HL Anthony) impressed on Ministers for some time past the necessity of approaching the matter with caution because of the far reaching effects of television.

Sets are expected to cost at least £120 which will prevent many would-be television audiences from enjoying the new medium.

**9 Oct 1954 (p42, 541009, NQR)**

JC, Oct 7 – The weather for the past week has been warm and sultry, clouds appearing after lunch, and at times a good northerly wind. The night's have been delightful. Early tuesday morning we had a slight sprinkle of rain so it looks as if we may get early storms.

The 1954 golf season is drawing to a close after a record year, with 76 financial members. the very attractive club house surrounded by lawns and ornamental shrubs has been built at a cost of £2000. Visitors from other centres described the club house and links as very creditable for a small town. The town's social life is centred around the golf club and some very nice social evenings are spent there. Next year's membership is expected to reach the hundred mark. The final of the club championship for 1954 was played on sunday last and was won by Mac Burns who surprisingly defeated last year's champion, Bob smith, 7 up and 5 to play. Max in his 13th hole win, played three birdies and nine bogies. The associate's championship went again to last year's winner, Mrs B Smith who defeated Mrs Max Burns two and one. The B grade was won by Mr and Mrs J Mathews, two promising players. An 18 hole stroke event was won by Mrs A Purtle and Harry Tuine.

**23 Oct 1954 (p48, 541023, NQR)**

JC – Mr and Mrs Ernie Hill and family have left on transfer to CT. They will be missed here.

The greatest golf enthusiasts in the world live in JC. Last Sunday a record attendance turned out in spite of the heat and humidity to play for the trophy. some very excellent golf was played and the oppressive weather took nothing from the efforts of those playing. the members' stableford competition resulted in a win for Max Burns, with 37 points and the associates was a tie between Mollie Mathews and Marg Burns. Next Sunday a foursome championship will be played for the Arthur Paine cup. The patron, Mr A Paine is the father of golf in JC and for his generous support in the past has now been made a life member of the club.

**6 Nov 1954 (p34, NQ251, NQR)**

JC, Nov 3 – On Saturday afternoon, Mr Max Burns' lovely two storey home was burnt to the ground. People had to stand by and nothing could be done as the water main was not in that street and the hose supply could not cope with the flames. Mr and Mrs Devries and Mrs McPherson occupied the top storey and Mr and Mrs Burns the lower part. No one saved anything.

Word was received during the week that Mr Jim Parsons passed away at his home in Brisbane. For many years Jim was Clerk of the McKinlay Shire Council and he resided in McKinlay and JC for many years.

Last Sunday JC Golf Club closed the official season with a splendid day's golf, followed by a barbecue and presentation of trophies for the year, at night. A really grand array of trophies was on display and would shame a large city gold club. Their total value amounted to over £300. The trophies were well divided among members, which proved the handicappers, Bob Smith, Max Burns and Lionel Wall did a good job... [long list of trophy winners]

The club captain congratulated all the winners on their efforts and thanked one and all for their cooperation. The club president, Mr Max Burns, in his address spoke of a successful year and of the golf club's achievement in defeating Mt Isa for the Cooney Cup. He said the standard of play and the membership had advanced enormously during the year and prospects for the future were bright. a five minutes silence was requested as a tribute to an ex resident, Mr Jim Parsons, who had passed away two days before.

**13 Nov 1954 (p23, NQ250, NQR)**

What Oil Might Mean To Australia

Australia's place in the world oil picture today can be described in one sentence. We consume 5,250,00 tons of petroleum products per year and we have to import every drop of it. In 1950-51 Australia imported 124,623,000 gallons of kerosene at a cost of £5,922,000 and 783,379,000 gallons of petroleum, including crude oil, at a cost of £39,423,000...

**20 Nov 1954 (p48, NQ248, NQR)**

Thought Pelicans Were Big Ducks

Ingham, Nov 16 – Police claimed that two New Australian cane cutters who had admitted killing two pelicans had said that they had though the birds were big ducks.

Domenico Minchio and Conscesio Miotto, of Hawkins Creek, were each fined £4/10/- with 10/- costs when they appeared in the Court of Petty Sessions, charged on summons with a brach of the Fauna Protection Act in that they took two pelicans – protected birds.

The police prosecutor told the court that the two men had said they were going to eat the birds. The police, he said, had received many complaints regarding the destruction of protected fauna by New Australians, and were giving the matter particular attention.

**20 Nov 1954 (p6, NQ249, NQR)**

Three Die From Burns Received In Bush fire

Three persons lost their lives as a result of a bush fire on Sunday afternoon at Narollah Station, about 100 miles south-west of Hughenden.

The victims of the tragedy are:

Dead  
Reginald John Reid Halloran, 61  
Robert Raymond Batteley, 17  
Rex Halloran, 28

Narollah, a resumption of Sesbania, about 17 miles from Corfield, was held by Mr Rex Halloran, who resided there with his wife and child. His father and mother, who reside at Flers, JC, were on a visit to their son and daughter in law.

When a fire, believed to have been caused by lightning, broke out about four o'clock on Sunday afternoon about 8 miles from the homestead, Mr Halloran and his father and the lad Batteley, who was employed on the property, hurried by motor vehicle to the scene and commenced to fight the flames.

A sudden change of wind trapped the three fire fighters who suffered terrible burns. In some miraculous manner, Mr Rex Halloran is believed to have fought a way out for the party and despite their fearful injuries they made their way to the homestead in the motor vehicle. Mrs Halloran summoned help from Corfield and Hughenden Ambulance was immediately contacted.

While the fire was burning at Narollah, rain was falling between Narollah and Corfield and towards Hughenden and it was not possible for the ambulance to leave Hughenden by road. An ambulance bearer left Hughenden by a rail section car for Corfield and a special train was promptly arranged on which a doctor [named but unclear], Ambulance Superintendent Clark, and two hospital sisters made the 80 mile run to Corfield.

Mr Halloran senior died from his injuries while being conveyed to Corfield. Mr Rex Halloran and young Batteley were given all possible attention and transported to Hughenden hospital. Batteley succumbed to his burns about 10.30 on Monday morning.

Mr Halloran jnr, died on Tuesday morning.

**27 Nov 1954 (p46, NQ247, NQR)**  
Rex Halloran death notice

**4 Dec 1954 (p40, 541204, NQR)**  
JC, Dec 2 – [Merry maidens club, Rita Byrne, Tom Jessup, T Wall,]

Last week a very nice afternoon was spent at the CWA Hostel in a game of wog. First prize went to Mrs Marty Morris and the booby prize to Mrs HE Downey. Afternoon tea was served. Only another afternoon at wog then they go into recess until February.

**11 Dec 1954 (p38, 541211, NQR)**  
JC, Dec 9 – Last Sunday night the JC State School held its annual Christmas tree. Just about seven o'clock rain began to fall but it did not stop the children and parents from attending. Father Christmas was delayed but when he appeared everything was all right. The tree was a work of art beautifully lit up with all coloured lights. Every child seemed to be thrilled with her or his toy. About half past ten the hall was cleared and dancing went on until early in the morning. On Sunday afternoon sports were held in the school ground and prizes and trophies were presented to the children. Lunch and afternoon tea was served to all.

Thursday afternoon's usual wog was held. Mrs K Lafferty being the winner. Mrs W Brisbane won the booby prize.

**18 Dec 1954 (p43, NA, NQR)**  
The convent is looking very nice and should be soon finished. The sisters will be up early in the new year to get things ready for the opening of school.

**15 Jan 1955 (p1, NQ258, NQR)**  
New JC Convent  
JC's new convent which will open with the beginning of the new school year on Feb 1. The building and furnishings have cost £28,000. This double storey building is 74 x 64 feet, with a kitchen annexe



30 x 20 feet. Accommodation has been provided for 30 boarders, 15 boys and 15 girls. Construction commenced in Sep 53.

**22 Jan 1955 (p6, NA, NQR)**

JC, Jan 20 – Congratulations to our two local scholarship passes, Master Brian Purtell and Miss Bernice Hanlon.

The new St Joseph's Convent is nearing completion and is looking a very nice building indeed. The painters have started on the job. It is understood that the sisters and will be arriving next week ready to open the convent at the beginning of the school term.

The Corner Cafe has changed hands and is now owned and operated by Mrs Lafferty.

**12 Mar 1955 (p47, NQ255, NQR)**

Iron Lung Taken To JC

Following a serious outbreak of poliomyelitis at JC, a doctor and two nursing sisters, together with an iron lung, from the townsville General Hospital, left for JC aboard the Inlander on Tuesday afternoon.

Brisbane Mar 10 – Another suspected case of poliomyelitis was reported from JC today. This brought the total cases in the area to two positive and four suspected. A doctor and two nurses from Townsville who have been in the township since Wednesday reported the situation to be under control today.

**12 Mar 1955 (p34, NQ257, NQR)**

JC, March 8 – Mr and Mrs Lionel Wall and two children left by the Inlander for Townsville, where they will now reside.

[Jessop, Luhrmann]

**19 Mar 1955 (p6, NQ256, NQR)**

JC, Mar 17 – The weather for the past week has been just nice, and only a few showers of rain. The nights have been delightfully cool, so it looks as if the hot weather has gone. If only the flies and mosquitoes would go, too. The council have been very busy spraying all yards so it may help to drive the pests away and also help to stop this dreadful polio that has come to this town. A number of grown ups, also children, have had the flu, and it is a bad kind of flu. We were lucky to have another doctor sent along while Dr Bradfield is sick in hospital, also two sisters came along to help.

[O'Brien, Hampton, John Brisbane]

**23 Apr 1955 (p44, NQ253, NQR)**

JC, Apr 15 – [weather and council plant]

At the annual general meeting of the JC Golf club a large representative attendance of members was present. The President, Mr Max Burns, referred to the early history of the club in the days when a kerosene tin full of ice drinks on an open plain was the only thing to represent a club house in the year 1949. In six years the golfers have built themselves a club house with furnishing worth £3000. The club was now almost free of deb and had a good country course and splendid lawns and shrubs around the club house. It was a mighty achievement for six years. Membership was expected to reach near the hundred mark this season. The following officers were elected: aton Mr A paine; President Mr Max Burns; Secretaries Messrs J French and Frank Byrne; Treasurer Mr V Kelly; Senior Vice President, Mr A Cooney; Handicapper, Mr H Mitchell.

Last Sunday the JC Golf Club played a stroke event. Most golfers are still out of form with the exception of Ard Cooney and Max Burns who played considerable golf in the south during the off season. Max Burns won the event with a nett 70, having played the second nine one under the course par off the stick. Mrs Burns and Pat Monchong tied for associates. It was decided to purchase a large new electric refrigerator and a collection among members present resulted in over £100 being collected. It is little wonder that JC has the most progressive golf club in western Qld. The course this year is the best it has ever been was now a hard 72 [? cut off]. Several traps have been installed for visiting golfers for this year's Cooney cup. A new flag pole and flag, and a new handicap board and a coming event board. The associates are very active and doing a great job for the club. The club now has two energetic

secretaries in Frank Byrne and Jim French.

**23 Apr 1955 (p8, 550423, NQR)**

JC, Apr 15 – At the annual general meeting of the JC Golf Club a large representative attendance of members was present.

The president, Mr Max Burns, referred to the early history of the club in the days when a kerosene tin full of ice drinks on an open plain was the only thing to represent a club house in the year 1949. In six years the JC golfers had built themselves a club house with furnishing worth £3000. The club was almost now free of debt and had a good country course and splendid lawns and shrubs around the club house. It was a mighty achievement for six years. Membership was expected to reach near the hundred mark this season. The following officers were elected: Patron Mr A Paine; President Mr Max Burns; Secretaries Messrs J French and Frank Byrne; Treasurer Mr Vince Kelly; Senior Vice President Mr A Cooney; Captain Mr R Smith; ...[other committee members]

**30 Apr 1955 (p47, 550430, NQR)**

JC, Apr 28 – Anzac Day was very quiet.

Mrs Norman Downey has returned home after being in Townsville for a few days. Mrs Peter Dawes returned by the Inlander after spending a few days with her parents, Mr and Mrs Jim Eckford, Townsville. Son Peter also returned with her for a fortnight's school holiday.

Mrs W Brisbane accompanied by her daughter Mrs Bryan Fels, Dalkeith, and two granddaughters left for Townsville and will be the guest of son Bert.

Mr Hickman left by car for Longreach on business.

On Sunday 23rd a stableford competition was held and resulted in a splendid win for the club's captain, Bob Smith with 40 points. The club handicapper acted promptly as a result of the last two week's play and has both Bob Smith and Max Burns playing off five. The associates even was won by Mrs Max Burns. The new refrigerator has been ordered and will be installed for the Cooney Cup weekend on June 12.

**7 May 1955 (p, NQ264, NQR)**

JC, May 6 – The weather has remained fine for the past week with the exception of a few light showers yielding a few points. The weather is getting a little cooler but we have not, as yet, had any winter. The stock routes are in good order, there being an abundance of grass and the waterholes are full.

The movement of stock will commence soon. Drover Fickling is taking a mob of Dalgonally cattle to a property near Quilpie. He expects to commence in a few days time. Drover Bill Triffett is also taking a mob of Dalgonally cattle to Mt Howitt which is also a long trip and will take many weeks droving.

There is an enquiry for sheep, especially ewes, but there are few lines offering. Graziers are well off for grass and water and well able to carry stock.

**23 Jul 1955 (p18, NQ264, 550723, NQR)**

A stroke competition held on the golf links was won by Barry Burns. The Mitchell trophy was won by Mrs A Cooney with an excellent nett 64. The Haller trophy was played for over 18 holes and was won by Mrs Max Burns with a nett 68.

The following team has been selected to play Mt Isa in that city on July 23: R Smith, M Burns, B Burns, H Mitchell, J Mathews, J French, A Mayo, J Walsh. Associates: Mrs Burns, Mrs Smith, Mrs Cooney, and Joy Burns. About 20 golfers will make the trip to Mt Isa for the carnival which includes the far North-West Qld championships.

Two JC golfers, Mr and Mrs Max Burns have nominated for the North Western championship in Hughenden on July 31 and the open championship on August 8. Mr Harold Mitchell has resigned as club handicapper and Dr Geoff Bradfield has been appointed in his place.

Golf stories including all the Burns

**30 Jul 1955 (p33, NQ263, NQR)**

Fanciful story about huge dingoes and shotgun traps. May be of comic interest.

**6 Aug 1955 (p40, NQ260, NQR)**

Golfers from JC journeyed to Mt Isa and met with a fair amount of success. In a field of over 100 golfers Max Burns finished in 6th place with 161 off the stick and Bob Smith in ninth place with 168. Other trophies won were: Best nett for visitors over 18 holes, Barry Burns; mixed foursome, Joy Burns; best aggregate by a visiting golfer, Max Burns...

**6 Aug 1955 (p6, NQ261, NQR)**

May Reach Moon by 2000 AD

London, Aug 1 – The Daily Express today quoted an American scientist as saying that man would set foot on the moon within 45 years...

**13 Aug 1955 (p44, NQ259, 550813, NQR)**

JC – [playground]

Barry Burns, a young 17 -year-old golfer, played magnificent golf in CT to win the C grade championship. His score of 123 off the stick for 27 holes was remarkable for a lad and he finished in 14th place off the stick in a field of nearly 100 golfers. Barry's ambition is to win the B grade next year and the A grade at CT within four years.

**3 Sep 1955 (p6, NQ273, NQR)**

JC, Sep 2 – During the week the reliability cars went through town causing a little excitement [Redex]. Last weekend golfers from all parts of north-western Qld assembled in JC for the Cup. Representative teams from Mt Isa, hughenden and Cloncurry all competed for the trophy. Eighty-four golfers hit off the tournament and some of the best golf seen here was played over the weekend with some excellent scores. Visitors found the JC course rather difficult with its four water hazards and at least 10 dozen golf balls were left in a watery grave. The cup was again won by JC by 10 strokes from Cloncurry who put up a mighty fight. Hughenden was next 30 strokes away, followed by Mt Isa 10 strokes further away. The visitors were given an official welcome by JC president Max Burns and captain Bob Smith. Following were the trophy winners: Best aggregate over 27 holes for members, Max Burns, JC... [long list of other winners] The stroke event was won by Barry Burns.

The cup is probably the biggest inter town competition in western Qld today involving a distance of over 500 miles between players. The following golfers represented JC: R Smith, M Burns, H Mitchell, B Burns, G Mayo, J Kaeser, Mrs R Smith, Mrs M Burns, Mrs A cooney, and Mrs J Walsh.

**3 Sep 1955 (p34, 550903, NQR)**

JC – A large and enthusiastic field of golfers hit off for the Kelly trophy. After some excellent scores Mr and Mrs Max Burns were the winners with a nett 75 and a nett 70 respectively. This competition was played in conjunction with the Wall shield which is beautiful trophy donated for competition by two ex members of the club and is to be played over 54 holes. Mr and Mrs Max Burns are off to a good start in this event. Captain Bob sith is also playing well and returned a nett 71.

**17 Sep 1955 (p44, 550917, NQR)**

JC, Sep 16 – The opening of St Joseph convent by the Most Rev HE Ryan DD Bishop of Twonsville on September 13 was a great success both financially and socially. People travelled from Cloncurry, McKinlay, Kynuna and Nelia. The debutante ball at night was also a great success and all the debs looked lovely.

[Stock movements, golf]

**24 Sep 1955 (p44, NQ272, NQR)**

JC, Sep 23 – The JC Ambulance cases during 1954-1955 totalled 139 accidents, 202 transports and 1614 office cases, a total of 1956. Mileage travelled was 11,051 miles. In the budget for 1955-56 te estimated expenditure is about £10,000 the bulk of same being for the new building.

Mr and Mrs Max Burns who attend all the championships in Western Qld as representatives of JC Club are taking the banner to Home Hill next weekend where the district championships are to be played.

Visits like this by local players let people on the coast know that we at least have a golf course at JC.

The Catholic Debutante Ball held at JC in Stainkey's Hall attracted one of the largest crowds seen in JC for years. The debutantes were presented to His Lordship Most Rev H Ryan DD Bishop of Townsville. The debutantes were: Jeanette Ballinger who wore a frock in angel lace with sweetheart neckline, puff sleeves and full circular skirt; Josephine Allen, made her courtesy in a frock of white nylon tulle, two tiers underskirt stiffened net with satin foundation with silver threaded nylon net bodice, gathered waist with floor-length silver-threaded fish-tail fully [?] skirt, Bertha Collar stole and neckline; Valma Fayers; Bernice Hanlon; Joan Rosenfeldt; Nevis Ives; Helen Ives; Helen Jones

[Results of Sedan Dip races, ambulance story, tennis, golf & Max]

## **2 Nov 1955 (p14, NQ270, NQR)**

JC, Nov 2 – ... Miss Ivy Burrows has been up from Townsville spending a few days with her mother. She left by Monday's Inlander.

[Golfing story including Max]

## **5 Nov 1955 (p10, NQ271, NQR)**

London, Nov 1 – Princess Margaret today found herself hailed throughout the world for her courage in placing duty to throne and country before her love for Group-Captain Peter Townsend. Her sacrifice, announced in a personal statement last night, touched the hearts of millions, and, in the opinion of many, sent the prestige of the British monarchy soaring.

Leading churchmen, politicians and most newspapers were relieved that a crisis which would have involved the Crown, the Church and the State had been averted, but though the princess has made her choice, argument was not over. Some newspapers today warned that there was now a danger that her decision would provoke criticism of the Church, the Royal Family and the Government.

The Manchester Guardian said that discussion of the proposed marriage had shown a degree of intolerance and dogmatism, clerical and journalistic, that was not pleasant to contemplate.

London, Nov 1 – Princess Margaret's decision climaxes three weeks of drama within the Royal circle. All along Court advisers have been against the match. It was on their advice that Group Captain Townsend was sent into "exile" two and a half years ago when he was palace equerry on the brink of promotion. A long parting it was thought, would help Princess Margaret determine the depth of her feelings for the airman, who is 16 years older than herself.

Then more than a month ago it was arranged the Group Captain would return to London. The Royal family put no obstacles in the way of a meeting between the Princess and her suitor. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother kept out of the way, but they worried.

It seemed clear that absence made the heart grow fonder. Princess Margaret and Group Captain Townsend were still in love. Official advisers were adamant that the match would hurt the feelings of many of the Queen's subjects and harm the Monarchy.

## **5 Nov 1955 (p10, NQ271, NQR)**

### **AIR HERO SORROWS AT LOSS**

London, Nov 1 – Group-Captain Peter Townsend strolled sadly today in the grounds where only last weekend he had walked arm-in-arm with Princess Margaret, the woman he loves but cannot marry. Townsend was seen this morning walking in the autumn sunshine with his hostess, Lady Nevill.

About noon the Nevill's butler told the waiting reporters, "The Group-Captain has no statement to make at all today and he will not be coming out today." Princess Margaret remained out of sight this morning in Clarence House where yesterday she had what may have been her last meeting with the man she loved.

## **26 Nov 1955 (p5, NQ268, NQR)**

JC, Nov 22 – ... Last Friday night the returned soldiers held a race dance in Lafferty's Hall.

Mr and Mrs Roy Hampton have been staying with daughter Merle.

The official closing of the 1955 golf season took place at the JC Golf Club last Sunday. A large attendance of country members and supporters was present. A mixed foursome competition played during the day was won by Mrs Mathews and Reg Fuller who played good golf, also during the afternoon an 18-hole competition was played and the following were the winners: Best gross for members: Max Burns. In his annual speech for closing night the president Mr Max Burns spoke of the healthy financial position of the club its large and enthusiastic memberships and the great improvements in the standard of golf in JC. The president was supported in his remarks by the Captain Harold Mitchell and Joe Mathews on behalf of the associates. Mr Frank Forde and Mr Riordan spoke in glowing terms of the JC Gold Club and said that a golf club was a good indication of a town's prosperity.

#### **26 Nov 1955 (p5, NQ269, NQR)**

Shearer's Rates in Qld reduced by 10%

Brisbane, Nov 25 – An Industrial Court Judgement today, reduced shearing rates in Qld by approximately 10%. The reduction in rates of wages and contract rates will take effect on Jan 1.

The judgement said: "We think the present obvious decline in the prosperity of the industry should be shared in all sections of the industry including the employees.

The judgement said the new shearing rate would be £6/18/6 per 100 sheep. An average reduction of 15% had taken place in the price of wool in 1954/55/compared with the average prices for 1953/54...

#### **10 Dec 1955 (p18, NQ267, NQR)**

JC, Dec 4 – ... On November 27 JC Golf Club held its annual general meeting for 1956. Max Burns, president for the past two years, in his address, told how the Golf Club assets had grown from £600 in 1952 to over £200 in 1955. The membership of 59 during 1955 was most satisfactory. The standard of golf has greatly improved during the past two years and was borne out by the fact that there are four golfers in the club with handicaps ranging from three to nine, and several others just over the single figures.

After delivering his address the president announced his retirement from any active part in the golf club and did not seek reelection.

Course maintenance which has been done voluntarily by Max Burns' machinery for the past two years now becomes the club's responsibility and it is to be hoped that the standard set will be maintained for the benefit of local players.

Owing to an unusually cool day a large field of golfers hit off in a match between Australian Estates and Max Burns' Engineering Works which resulted in the stock agents downing the motor industry.

#### **17 Dec 1955 (p8, NQ265, NQR)**

For Fifth Time Menzies Victorious

The Prime Minister (Mr RG Menzies) has led his party to victory on five occasions, being 1940, 1949, 1951, 1954 and 1955. He has increased his former record in this regard. In addition he has set a new record – the first Prime Minister to win four elections in a row.

#### **14 Jan 1956 (p33, NQ262, NQR)**

Graziers Shear As Dispute On Rates Continues

Brisbane, Jan 10 – Graziers in the Goondiwindi district have formed emergency shearing teams and begun shearing operations on two south-west properties.

The graziers are working full time and are accepting payment from their neighbours under the new reduced shearing rates of pay. Their spokesman said tonight the emergency teams would be available anywhere they were needed in the Goondiwindi district while the shearing dispute continued.

The graziers are the first in Qld to begin shearing their own sheep since the shearers refused to work for the new rates which came into force on Jan 1...

#### **28 Jan 1956 (p1, NQ266, NQR)**

Ad for Electric washer, Samuel Allen

**28 Jan 1956 (p1, NQ266, NQR)**

JC – The shearing season is very quiet. Some graziers have done their own crutching and others are getting ready to use their spraying plants which will keep the sheep clean for about three months. The lambing season in this area is from about the middle of March to the end of April or early May.

[Mr Telano, train wreck, Cook]

**25 Feb 1956 (p25, NQ282, 560225, NQR)**

JC, Feb 20 – Good falls of rain have been experienced throughout the district. Though the recorded rainfall at the post office this year totals approximately seven inches, larger recordings have been reported from nearby stations, and JC is running a banker.

At some places the wet is heralded by the disappearance of the local birds. So far the only ones that have gone for a fly about appear to be the brolgas. Thee peewits, kitehawks and parrots are still about the latter thriving on the crushed corn placed in the fowl runs.

[Birds, road construction, Matron Crowley, Mrs Fels]

The gravel that the council placed on some of the footpaths has been appreciated. Several matters that required early attention are dry cross overs at each corner and a constructive programme of drainage. Another item that needs attention is the provision of an all weather drome. The DC3 has not been able to make use of the local drome for some weeks. It is somewhat exasperating to see the big metal chrysalis fly over twice a day and clearly intimate that our mails and papers will be a day longer in transit.

Generally things are quiet. The wet has prevented any shearing operations being undertaken and transport by road cannot be carried out.

Matron K Crowley who has been matron of the General Hospital CT for a number of years will be taking up duty as matron of the JC Hospital today.

Mrs Bryan Fels who had been assisting her parents Mr and Mrs W Brisbane to set up their new home in Townsville returned by the Inlander and reached Dalkeith in time to escape the rains.

**3 March 1956 (p26, 560303, NQR)**

JC, Feb 27 – Last Friday's storm yielding between 70 and 80 points, cooled the atmosphere for a time and converted the roads into quagmires and slippery dips. Danger lies ahead for the unsuspecting motorist who attempts to travel at a speed over 10 miles per hour on such roads. Work outside the town area although regarded as urgent is impossible until the roads dry out.

Mosquito eradication by the anti malarial squad of the council is in full swing. These insects were about in might vicious hordes but the filming of the waterholes with kerosene emulsion has reduced their numbers.

The rail strike at Hughenden affected the transit of goods to and from the coast. No acute shortages of foodstuffs were reported.

While motor vehicles are not useable on some roads, pedestrian traffic flows on. Three of our local young men did a rout march one day during the week. Arriving at Gilliat from McKinlay to find that the road to JC was closed to motor vehicles, and owing to the strike the first available train would not leave Gilliat for JC until the next day, they demonstrated their fitness by walking the distance in a little over four hours.

Mr & Mrs Beauchamp leave JC to live in Townsville.

[Dudley Hickman]

**3 March 1956 (p47, NQ280, NQR)**

[Mosquito eradication]

The aerodrome is still unserviceable for use by the DC 3s. The local pilot was for a while able to take off and land in his Gypsy Moth but eventually the drome became unsafe for that plane. Parking it in a more accessible place was necessary to meet the demands of those who required transportation but it brought the risk of damage by straying stock. Not satisfied with the bounteous herbage provided by nature, the straying stock varied their diet by masticating parts of the fuselage fabric. It was a calamity to the community but prompt action by the owner pilot brought the plane back into action. A movement has been started to compensate the owner-pilot for the expenditure incurred by him in restoring the plane's airworthiness.

**3 March 1956 (p2, NQ281, NQR)**

Black Ban On Non-Union Shorn Wool in Qld

**17 March 1956 (p40, NQ277/278, NQR)**

Protect Shearers Who Will work At New Rates

Sydney, March 12 – The Graziers' Association of NSW at its annual conference today decided to provide protection for shearers and shed hands who defy the AWU and shear sheep at the new award rates.

The conference spent all afternoon debating the strike by AWU men who have been instructed not to shear at the new award rate which is 5% below the former rate.

**17 March 1956 (p34, NQ279, NQR)**

NZ Shearers In Sydney

Brisbane, March 14 – A few NZ shearers already had reached Sydney to operate at the new award rates of pay in Qld, a United Grazier' Association spokesman said today. It is understood the UGA will soon begin an all-out campaign to recruit New Zealand shearers for Qld.

**24 March 1956 (p33, NQ276, 560324, NQR)**

JC – [Railway crash]

Hopes are entertained that the plane service interrupted over two months ago will shortly be restored and the train journey to and from Cloncurry eliminated.

Several business have changed hands or will be under new management early next month. Mrs J Green has acquired the fruit and green grocery business that was conducted by Mr R Baker and Mr FJ Byrne will be the new proprietor of the Mayne Milk bar, as from April 1.

The local picture theatre is to be enlarged to cater for the increasing weekend patrons. Matinees for children will be introduced when the cooler weather arrives.

The first interschool sports between pupils attending the State School and convent took place last Friday afternoon when the lads met in a game of cricket. Each side had one innings and the game was won by the State School team by five runs. It was a closely contested game and a return match will be played on Friday.

**31 Mar 1956 (p6, 560331, NQR)**

JC – [playground, tea party Elliott, Quilty]

Drover C Fickling has taken delivery at Dalgonally of 1000 bullocks and the mob is headed south. In a few days time Drover W Corrigan will be moving off with 1250 bullocks from Millungera.

A week ago the TAA lane resumed its flying service to JC. However, should the guage record a rainfall of 12 points the flying schedule will once more be affected and delay the transport of passengers.

Mr Alec Wall's Gypsy Moth has been repaired and certified as airworthy. It is comforting to know that speedy travel is available if and when the DC3 is unable to use the drome.

**7 Apr 1956 (p46, 560407, NQR)**

It was drizzling slightly when the plane landed on Wednesday afternoon, March 28 and its next landing was on Sunday April 1. The service was again interrupted and not resumed until Wednesday morning. One of these days, let us hope it is not too far in the future, we are able to record that, in spite of heavy rain, the plane landed and took off in accordance with the timetable.

[council]

#### **14 Apr 1956 (p38, 560414, NQR)**

JC – The golf season is JC opened in delightful weather but the attendance of members was disappointing. The course was good for so early in the season. a light seasonal rainfall made only a small growth of grass which was easily graded off and a welcome half inch of rain settled down the soil. The greens were uneven but will improve as the season advances. This year the greens have been made much larger and are now standard size. Much credit is due to the enthusiastic new president Mr Ard Cooney who did considerable work on the course and was ably supported by Alec Wall and members. Now that the season has been officially opened the club is looking forward to fees rolling in. It is now four months since the annual general meeting and there are only 24 financial members.

The new No 9 hole – a mound of earth ten feet high, with a large green on top of it – proved to be a really good golf hole and is now one of the features of the course. Thanks must go to Max Burns for his work on building this mound. Causeways have been built over the three watercourses and are a good advantage in getting buggies around the course.

#### **28 Apr 1956 (p31, NQ274, NQR)**

JC, Apr 17 – [Drover Corrigan, JC races, tennis, football,

At a meeting of the golf committee it was decided to play the Cooney Cup inter town competition over the May Day weekend May 5,6,7. A record of entries has been received and includes teams from CT, Hughenden, Richmond, Mt Isa, Winton and Cloncurry and will be the greatest assembly of golf ever seen in Western Qld. JC has won the Cooney Cup for the past four years but it is anticipated that one of the visiting teams will lift it this year.

The 250 acres of sorghum grown by Mr A Mitchell at Carrum is now being cut and stacked in the prepared ensilage pit. High hopes are held that in the event of a dry period this feed will...

#### **28 Apr 1956 (p10, NQ275, NQR)**

JC, April 25 – The boisterous southerlies have brought a remarkable and delightful change. The mercury no longer soars as high as formerly and it seems that the heavier coverings for the bed and body retrieved from the moth balls, will be in use for sometime. The dust is troublesome and the only things that apparently are thrilled with the winds are the kite hawks. Their wheeling and gliding are a positive treat to watch. The broilgas have returned but they are mainly interested in the activities of the railway bridge carpenters attending to the bridges and coal ramp.

Galaks are pretty and active on the wing but recently a local motorist collected half a dozen or so of these birds under his sun visor. They arose on his approach but before they became properly airborne got into the windstream of the car and were swept against the windscreen. Their wing load may have been too great or their jets had not commenced to function efficiently, for the driver had to reduce speed to enable the galaks to rejoin their companions and let him have clear vision ahead.

You occasionally hear of cargo shifting in the hold of a ship and making her steer like a drunken dray, but you rarely hear of goods shifting in a railway truck. A big freight train came to a stop in a siding at JC during the weekend and one of the trucks on account of the machinery for Mt Isa shifting to one side, just quietly rolled over and pulled another truck off the rails. It could have happened on the main line and cause heavy damage to the rolling stock and permanent way.

#### **12 May 1956 (p31, NQ304, NQR)**

JC, May 7 – ... The streets in JC are in a bad way from the rains being cut up badly by traffic during the wet weather...

A line of bullocks from Balootha are trucking here during the week for the Townsville meatworks, Drover Malone being in charge.



**26 May 1956 (p17, NQ305, NQR)**

First H Bomb Dropped From The Air By US Forces

**2 Jun 1956 (p34, NQ303, NQR)**

JC, May 30 – ... The transit through JC of the diesel engine with its long rake of trucks is always interesting and visions are conjured up of the trains that will be running throughout the west in the not far distant future. The diesel requires no replenishment of water and coal and thus the transport of goods must be accelerated.

[JC races, golf, tennis, football]

**9 Jun 1956 (p6, NQ302, 560609, NQR)**

JC – Last Sunday in lovely autumn sunshine a stroke competition with a large attendance of players was won by Mrs Max Burns and Bob Smith, both playing good sound golf. On Monday a Canadian Mixed Foursome was played and won by Mrs R Smith and Max Burns. By consistent golf they outstripped the rest of the field.

Last Thursday night a very interesting night's golf was held at the residence of Mr Max Burns in the form of a putting championship which was attended by most of the members of the Golf Club. On a turf green some excellent putting was witnessed and the ultimate winners were Mr and Mrs Max Burns. The turf green was in splendid condition and with a little more growth will be perfectly true. These putting competitions will be held regularly and it is hoped will provide happy night entertainment for golfers. The short No 6 hole now has a water hazard 40 yards wide and 100 yards long across the fairway and, as one golfer remarked, it slightly resembles Peeble Beach, California where over 100 yards of water have to be negotiated.

His many friends will be pleased to learn that Tassie Triffett who has been ill in Brisbane has made a good recovery and will shortly be returning to JC.

Mr and Mrs Bryan Fels of Dalkeith spent the long weekend at their residence in Burke St.

[more golf and Max Burns, Tassie Triffett, Fels, Bradfield, Cooper, Beach, football]

**16 Jun 1956 (p48, NQ301, 560616, NQR)**

JC, June 13 – ... Biting gusty winds and bitterly cold nights have alternated with summery days. The thermometer reading of 42° in the early morning has mounted to 90° at noon. Beans, growing in vegetable gardens, are withering away, apparently the effect of the cold weather. The galahs seem to have been affected by the weather too for they have descended on us in larger flocks than usual forsaking those far away places where the noise of stirring wheels never yet disturbed the twilight stillness.

Tenders have been called by the Bank of NSW for the erection in JC of a timber frame building with staff quarters. The new bank offices when completed should improve the appearance of Burke St.

The first grass fire this season has been reported near Eddington Siding and was extinguished by fire fighters after 4000 acres were burnt out.

[Inspection of cattle in US, Fred Edwards found dead, hospital painted]

**23 Jun 1956 (p6, NQ298, NQR)**

Claim Son Murdered 90-year-old Mother

JC, June 20 – Allegations that a son had killed his 90 year old mother on a station nine miles from JC, on May 16, were made in the JC Court of Petty Sessions today. Thomas Jones (67) faces a charge of wilful murder.

Evidence was given that the victim of the tragedy, Kate Rome, had been murdered at the homestead of Longford Plains... [rest of story not yet transcribed]

**23 Jun 1956 (p6, 560623, NQR)**

Jones committed for Manslaughter Trail  
Murder Charge Reduced

JC, June 21 – Thomas Jones (67) was today committed to stand his trial for the manslaughter of Kate Rome at Longford Plains Station on May 16. He had been charged by police with wilful murder ...  
[rest of story not yet transcribed]

### **23 Jun 1956 (p5, NQ299, NQR)**

JC, June 22 – Rats are in such numbers in this district that their presence can be termed a plague of the rodents. They are particularly hungry and daring. They have even invaded some of the more settled areas, including towns of the north-west.

Reports from outside centres reveals that men who are camping out have to take every precaution so that their provisions are not raided overnight. The rats have been known to gnaw through strong canvas in order to get at food which has been so covered.

The position is so bad that guests at hotels have been warned by the proprietors not to leave anything in the nature of leather exposed during the night or it may be devoured by the rats. The rats are particularly partial to leather portions of clothing such as shoes and slippers, belts and anything of a like nature.

The chief hope is that as food for the rodents becomes more scarce that they will resort to cannibalism and in this lies the greatest hope of their early extermination.

In past rat plagues it has been found that cats have been over feeding on the easily secured rats. The result has been that a furry ball develops in the stomachs of the cats often leading to their death.

### **23 Jun 1956 (p4, NQ300, NQR)**

JC, June 21 – Drover Fickling who set out in March with 1000 bullocks from Dalgonally had an A1 delivery at Mt Howitt. Drover W Triffett is adhering to his timetable in order that the 1200 bullocks in his charge will be delivered in august next at Bonus Downs, Mitchell.

Reports in general are that the season is one of the best experienced for many years. Both grass and water are in plentiful supply for stock.

A report on the sewerage project for JC was received from the consulting engineers. [Details of many other projects considered by council]

Rats are increasing in number and have invaded the township. Vegetable gardens are suffering, tomatoes, cabbages and kohlrabbi being picked out as a new diet. Chickens are also being selected to make up a deficiency in calories.

Foxes with striking brushes are being picked up by the lights of cars at night on some roads leading into JC. Dingoes have been shot and trapped in various parts of the shire. One dogger will soon be presenting scalps and claiming the bonus payment. The small levy that is contributed by syndicate members pays a handsome dividend towards the protection of sheep from this destructive pest.

The disappearance of Mrs Jessie O'Brien and her two children from Caiwara Station on Thursday evening has created an atmosphere of anxiety and several in the district have joined the search parties.

The golf links were deserted on Sunday as players were participating in another form of sport, that of football. The ladies were also absent being the cheer party for their comrades. The match between the Old boys and the Young boys – the local representative team – took place on Sunday. After an exciting game, played in good spirit and without any casualties, the Young boys ran out the winner by one point, 13 to 12. J Kaeser was outstanding as rake, winning 20 scrums to three. Bob Smith played well and was ably supported by Joey Mathews and Harold Mitchell for the Old boys. Cooe Wilder accepted all opportunities and Les Adam kicked two splendid goals for the Young ones.

[Foxes, dingoes, missing Mrs O'Brien]

### **30 Jun 1956 (p5, NQ297, NQR)**

### Committed Adultery With Wife's Mother

Perth, June 29 – A 20-year-old wife was today granted a divorce on the grounds of her husband's adultery with her mother last Christmas Day.

Mrs Wright, who admitted the adultery, cried as she told the court she and her husband had since been estranged. Her son-in-law's mother had committed suicide because of the affair, and her own relations with her daughter were on such terms that "we just nod to each other."

Mrs Wright attributed the offence to the fact she had mistaken her son-in-law for her husband.

### 30 Jun 1956 (p9, NQ296, NQR)

Shearer's Strike End Announced (Except Qld)

Sydney, June 28 – The shearing strike has been settled in all states except Qld. The dispute was settled today at talks between the Graziers' Federal Council and the AWU.

A quick fold up of the dispute is expected in Queensland where shearers work under a state award. The effect of the settlement is to give shearers in eastern states £7/9/6 per 100 sheep shorn, 9d more than the AWU latest "minimum"...

### 30 Jun 1956 (p14, NQ295, 560630, NQR)

JC, June 27 – The rodents have been troublesome. Not a vegetable garden has escaped their attention and young chickens and ducklings have been killed by the odorous pest. The dogs and cats have abandoned the chase – they simply got tired of the massacre. If owls could be introduced in large numbers and the hawks converted to the idea of working three shifts of eight hours each after being suitably fitted with equipment for night flying, some diminution of the rat population might be accomplished.

The mail contractor and carrying firm known as Peut and Son has been sold to Brenton Bros who will carry on the business that has been in the Peut family for many years.

A mob of stores from Delta in the Gulf country passed through on the way to Boulia. Some fats will shortly be coming from Esmeralda also in the Gulf country.

### 30 Jun 1956 (p20, NQ294, NQR)

Woman, 2 Children Lived On Bore Water

JC, June 24 – A half-caste aboriginal woman, Mrs Jessie O'Brien, and her two young children, survived in the bush with temperatures at times lower than 50° by just drinking water. She told police today that she and her children had nothing but bore water which they drank from bore drains crossing the country.

Her 18-month-old son, Ian, today was admitted to hospital suffering exhaustion and exposure. Mrs O'Brien and her daughter, Sharon (7) were allowed to leave hospital after examination but were put on a special diet of light food.

A JC ambulance today picked up Mrs O'Brien and her two children at Calwea Station, where they arrived exhausted on Saturday. Caleewa Station is 40 miles from Ciawarra Station which Mrs O'Brien left last Thursday week after shots had been fired.

Mrs O'Brien said she carried her baby in her arms all the time. Her daughter walked...

### 30 Jun 1956 (p31, NQ293, NQR)

Swimming Baths For JC

JC, June 24 – The McKinlay shire Council hopes in the financial year, 1956-57 to lay down a swimming pool in the town of JC. Cost is estimated at £20,000... [more details]

### 30 Jun 1956 (p32, NQ292, NQR)

JC, June 24 – The McKinlay Shire Council, in common with other local authorities of the north-west, is planning to put the Department of Civil Aviation to shame by providing improvements to the aerodrome at JC.

Representations have been made to the DCA and the Federal authorities from the time the air service was established to western towns about 10 years ago but to no avail. All that the Department now allows the McKinlay Shire Council for the maintenance of the drome at JC is from £100 to £200 per annum.

The Council has decided to take the bull by the horns – in other words, help itself. Fortunately the State government grants a 50% subsidy for work which is done in the construction and improvements of aerodromes. With this assistance serving as a spur, the Council hopes to expend from £24,000 to £25,000 to improve the conditions of the JC drome...

**30 Jun 1956 (p33, NQ291, NQR)**

Stock Moving Heavy In JC Area

JC, June 24 – Some heavy movements of cattle have been reported in the JC district over the last 2 1/2 months. They total about 14,000.

**7 Jul 1956 (p40, NQ290, 560707, NQR)**

JC – Several weeks ago a motorist collected a number of galahs under his sun visor before they became full airborne. A couple of days after that incident the same motorist lifted up the bonnet of his car to effect some minor adjustment when a galah presumably caught at the same time as the others, regained its freedom.

The rodents appear to be lessening in numbers in the township or their reserves are not being thrown into the conflict fast enough. Traps and baits of all kinds have decimated their ranks and judging by their weakened attacks it will not be long before this pest will be forgotten history. In the country the war against the vermin will have to be continued for they are burrowing under the stools of Mitchell grass and eating the roots...

The council dogger made his periodical visit to town and deposited some three dozen dingo and fox scalps. He reports that the dingoes are numerous and the lack of traps is hampering his efforts.

Mr and Mrs Max Burns, accompanied by Misses Joy Burns, Ethel Jordan, and Fay Fallen left by car for a holiday in Adelaide, via Alice Springs. Misses Burns, Jordan and Fallen, three year trainees at the Brisbane General Hospital, and now on annual recreational leave, have just arrived from Brisbane and have much to relate concerning their trip in a small car when they were caught in the recent central district floods. The holiday makers will be commencing their homeward journey on July 21.

[Glenville Pike, the author, in JC]

In the Court of Petty Sessions, William Clark jnr, grazier, Leilavale Station, was charged with attempting to unlawfully kill Evelyn Maud Cook and was remanded on bail to Wednesday, July 18.

In the same court on the same day, Thomas Reginald Scott was convicted under the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Acts, with having insufficient lawful means of support and was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

The extension of the powerhouse now in and, will enable the fifth generating set to be installed, which will form a booster to the station. The capacity will be increased by 16 kilowatts and the work of installation should be completed within six weeks.

[Golf, Barry Burns]

**21 Jul 1956 (p30, NQ289, NQR)**

JC, July 14 – Measures to combat the rats are continuing, for it seems that another wave of rodents has arrived in the township. Many of the local residents are devising secret methods to cope with the rat reinforcements. With the use of several traps, one business executive claims a record catch of 75 rats within two hours.

Calweewa Station, owned by the Egan brothers, about 35 miles from JC will be remembered as the place Jessie O'Brien and her two children returned to civilisation after being lost for over a week in the adjoining country...

On a recent afternoon the homestead and furniture were completely destroyed by fire. Mr and Mrs J Egan who occupied the homestead, were holidaying in the south at the time of the disaster. The building and furniture were insured but it will cost a great deal to replace all that was lost.

An auction sale wrote 'finis' to the general store which had been conducted by Grant Bros for some years. The building part of which was removed from Normanton many years ago, has been sold and it is understood will be utilised for the advantage of the township.

[golf]

### **21 Jul 1956 (p47, NQ288, NQR)**

JC, July 20 – It may be difficult to accurately forecast the weather. It is getting difficult to describe it for the changes now during a week are many. For several weeks the cycle has been rain, fine days, howling winds, cold nights, warm days then rain, fine days and a general repeat of the preceding week.

Parts of the district have been singularly favoured by rain and good rain has regularly by-passed other parts. In the former, new growth can be seen, and this augurs well for a bountiful season, whilst, as regards the latter, the natural grasses are losing their nutritive value and this is being accelerated by the rodent pest.

Kangaroos abound and foxes are in sufficient number to satisfy any follower of the hounds. Dingoes have been seen and heard in various areas.

The Flinders River is still carrying a heavy volume of water but the resumed ferry service at the Rockvale Crossing enables communications to be maintained in that region. The boat now in service replaces the one that was lost in last year's flood. Another boat is ready to go into service at the Manfred Crossing when the oars, the propelling power, come to hand.

[Golf story, Mrs Burns, preparations for August championships]

Mr and Mrs MD Burns on their overland trip to and from Adelaide, were accompanied by Miss Joy Burns (daughter), Fay Fallon and Ethel Jordan. The trip was an enjoyable one, particularly for the ladies. Miss Burns and her companions, all third year term nurses at the Brisbane general hospital, will long remember the ideal motoring road of the Stuart Highway, the flourishing town of Tennant Creek, the popularity of baseball at that centre, fostered by the visiting Americans, the picturesque town of Alice Springs, the high class accommodation at those places and the high cost of motor spirit at Srewna, 6/8 per gallon. So often mentioned by tourists, the Macdonnell Ranges, with their colours, tints and shades, afforded them the same interest. Miss Fallon has departed by plane from Cloncurry to visit her parents at Mitchell. Misses Burns and Jordan leave by plane from Cloncurry on Monday, the weather conditions deciding them against journeying overland to Brisbane.

### **28 Jul 1956 (p7, NQ287, NQR)**

JC – Under wet and windy conditions, a fur-ball best ball Stableford nett was played on the local links last Sunday and after a very keen competition Harold Mitchell and Bob Smith tied with Vic Kelly and Max Burns. In a sudden death play-off Mitchell and Smith both played beautiful tee shots of over 200 yards, whereas both Kelly and Burns duffed their tee shots and it looked as if the game was over. However, Burns played two glorious three-wood shots, his second landing on the green. He then sank his putt for a birdie four on the long 500 yards No 1 hole to give his partner and himself an unexpected win.

### **4 Aug 1956 (p40, NQ286, NQR)**

JC, Aug 2 – ... After a hiatus of almost three weeks the air service has been resumed.

The Loan Fund Budget [of the McKinlay shire Council] provided for an expenditure of £20,000 for aerodrome improvements, £19,000 for the construction of swimming baths...

[Golf carnival CT: Max & Barry Burns, Max Burns Captain of golf club, tennis, race meeting at JC, William Clark charged with attempt to kill]

### **18 Aug 1956 (p15, NQ285, 560818, NQR)**

JC, Aug 14 – It commenced to drizzle last thursday afternoon and continued intermittently until Friday night, a little over half an inch being recorded. Since the beginning of t year over 15.5 inches have fallen. February was the wettest month with 465 points, followed by January 295 points, and July 248 points.

The drome has once more been rendered unuseable for the big mail and passenger planes but will be reopened tomorrow.

Following representations by the United Graziers Association to the CSIRO a questionnaire has been prepared and is being distributed concerning the frequency of rat plagues in the past and seeking up-to-date information on the recent rat infestation.

[tennis, football, children returning by train from school]

A considerable improvement has been effected to that part of the township by the opening of the new show room erected by Mr Max Burns at the corner of Burke and Allison streets.

### **18 Aug 1956 (p21, NQ284, NQR)**

Shearers Clash In Winton Hotel

Brisbane, Aug 12 – More than 60 old and new rate shearers clashed in a wild free-for-all in Winton, on Saturday. The brawl began in a hotel bar and ended in the street.

Fighting began in the bar of the hotel about 1.30 pm after loud arguing between shearers and shouts of “scab” by old rate men. Within minutes the crowded bar was spattered with blood as men closed in swinging wildly. The fight spilled out into the street where a large crowd blocked the street to watch.

Winton residents said tonight it was the town’s fifth and most serious clash between shearers in the past few months.

### **25 Aug 1956 (p7, NA)**

JC – Mr & Mrs HJF Stainkey moved to CT

### **25 Aug 1956 (p30, NQ283, NQR)**

Huge Bauxite Deposit Found On Peninsula

### **1 Sep 1956 (p43, 560901, NQR)**

JC – The timber for the hall at Sedan Dip has arrived and is awaiting transport to the place on which the hall is to be erected. The big race day at Sedan Dip attracts followers of the sport from near and far and the day's events are invariably wound up by a dance at night. The dance floor in the open has had to be renewed periodically and the hall will not only counteract the ravages of the weather, but will be the focal point for gatherings of the people in the area. The cost of the hall is being defrayed by the Australian Estates co. This coming Saturday is race day at Sedan Dip and the customary big crowd will be suitably catered for.

At a meeting of the Ambulance Board the budget for the coming year was considered. During the past 12 months the receipts totalled £1740/1/9 whilst the expenditure for the same period amounted to £2047/7/- In the same time 1349 cases were attended to and the distance covered by car was 10,144 miles. The new budget provided for an estimated expenditure of £11652 some of which has been earmarked for the erection of a new building comprising first aid offices, provision for cars and residence for the Superintendent.

### **8 Sep 1956 (p17, NQ321, 560908, NQR)**

JC – In warm spring sunshine with a southerly breeze, the semi-finals of the golf championships were resumed. Some erratic scores were turned in but this was not surprising as every player was battling for his place in the final. In the A Grade, Bob Smith narrowly defeated Ernie Vale who played splendid golf. Max Burns defeated last year's club champion, Alf Mayo. In the B grade Dr Bradfield defeated Ard Cooney. Bradfield's card put some of the A graders in the shade and he will be playing off 14 from now on. The C grade saw two very good contests, when Joe Kaeser defeated Vic Kelly and Joe Mathews defeated Tom Lea. In the associates match, Mrs Kaeser defeated Mrs Hallim. The finals next Sunday will see some titanic struggles over 36 holes match play. The following will be the draw: A

grade, Bob Smith vs Max Burns; B grade, Harold Mitchell v Dr Bradfield, C grade, Joe Mathews v Joe Kaeser. Associates A grade: Mrs R Smith v Mrs Max Burns; B grade Mrs A Cooney v Mrs J Kaeser. A barbecue will be held at the club house following the finals next Sunday and many friends and visitors are expected.

[Story about caravan bought by A Stainkey, golf, draws for championship of following week, including Max and Nan]

### **15 Sep 1956 (p48, NQ320, 560915, NQR)**

JC, Sep 12 – [Stock routes, runway work]...

Under adverse windy conditions the finals of the Golf Club championships were played over 36 holes on Sunday. Some excellent cards were returned considering the conditions and the pressure of championship play. In the A grade championship, Max Burns, playing sold golf, defeated Bob Smith 9 and 8, to become club champion for 1956. Harold Mitchell playing excellent golf, won the B grade championship from Dr Bradfield 8 and 7. Joe Kaeser defeated Joe Mathews, 2 and 1 for the C grade. Kaeser who was down four with eight holes to play really turned it on over the last few holes. he also won the coveted Austral Trophy in stroke play from a large field.

Mrs Bob Smith once again proved her ability by defeating Mrs Max Burns 6 and 4 to become associates A grade champion for the fourth successive year. B grade Mrs Ard Cooney defeated Mrs Joe Kaeser, 3 and 2.

During the evening the captain of the club, Max Burns, announced the winners. The club president Bob Smith in a very appropriate speech praised the various winners and stresses the fine spirit of sportmanship and comradeship that was shown by each and every player during the championships. Next Sunday the Shirley and Lionel Wall Shield for members over 54 holes stroke play begins also the Tom Lea Shield for associates.

### **22 Sep 1956 (p43, NQ318, 560923, NQR)**

JC – On Sunday last, which was a really lovely day for golf, a novel one-stick competition was held on the local links, and judging by the scores, one wonders why so many golfers carry a large bagful of sticks. If some ingenious person made some dummy sticks to make up the usual number for the purpose of appearance, not use, he would do a roaring trade with most golfers. Mr Alf Mayo and Mrs Joe Kaeser proved that one stick is almost as efficient as the bagful and won the competition with normal scores. A drive for membership is being made and it the hope that membership will be built up considerably for next season.

Two lucky round Australia hitchhikers, misses Isabel McConnel and Eva Seidenkranz, both of Melbourne, and formerly of Glasgow, Scotland, and Hamburg, Germany respectively, were the guests of Mr and Mrs MD Burns at the weekend. The young ladies were in an accident, receiving abrasion when the motor vehicle on which they were travelling overturned at Fisher's Creek on September 12, resulting in the death of one of the men riding in the cabin of the truck. They are continuing their journey by road, the journey's end being Melbourne.

Making its debut several months ago on good trains, the small diesel is now hauling the Inlander. The appearance of the whole train is improved and an improvement in the running times is noticeable.

### **22 Sep 1956 (p17, NQ319, NQR)**

Crowds See Television

Sydney, Sep 16 – Thousands watched television make its official debut tonight when station TCN began this country's first regular programme transmissions. They saw TV in private homes, in halls, in electrical shops specially opened for the occasion, and even on footpaths in front of the big city stores which had TV sets in the windows.

The crowds blocked pavements and spilled into roadways as they strove to catch a glimpse of the screens. They jostled each other to get better views and in Kings Cross police had to disperse some of the gathering outside a radio shop because it was interfering with traffic.

### **29 Sep 1956 (p34, NQ316, 560929, NQR)**

JC, Sep 25 – Days are becoming warmer. Strong westerly winds change to northerly, and as suddenly become easterly gales. By early evening cloud clumps that appeared in the afternoon disappear.

The first large fire of the season broke out on St Elmo last Thursday and consumed some pathetic sheep – and 5000 acres of feed – before fire fighters gained control. It's a messy and dangerous business fighting flames with wet bags. Men come away angry from a fire purposely lit, resigned if ...

Three waggons were derailed while shunting on Saturday morning through some rolling stock on a siding being foul of another siding. One of the derailed waggons canted over on its side, spilling its contents of fibrolite piping. A breakdown gang arrived from Cloncurry on Saturday night and shortly had the waggons re-railed, the piping loaded and the lines cleared. Slight damage to the permanent way and rolling stock was all that was noticeable. Through traffic was not interrupted.

Pupils of St Joseph's convent, a cast of a hundred or more, played to a capacity house Friday night. By careful rehearsal one group replaced the next without delay or noise. The drilling of both girls and boys would have been a credit on any barrack square. Throughout the evening the accompanists, also pupils, some having received tuition for less than two years, did a mighty creditable job. Piano items were recited with warm affection. The singing was splendid: voices blended in tune, songs had resonance and tone. Children who took part in the play knew their lines perfectly and exhibited none of those mannerisms that occasionally spoil a performance. Different scenes of the play abounded with varied, specially coloured light. The miming was excellent. It was a night of pleasant thrill. The Sisters of the Convent merit praise for the manner in which they imparted some of their gifts, in so short a time, to the pupils under their charge.

[St Joseph's concert, putting at Max Burns', golf win by Max]... With the season drawing to a close the closing day with presentations of trophies will take place at the end of next month. Playing members are decreasing and unless an enthusiastic drive is made for new members next year, golf will be confined to a few enthusiastic diehards. To be prosperous a golf club must have a large and keen following of both playing and social members and it is up to players themselves to see that new players are continually coming in to the club, especially young players and country members.

### **29 Sep 1956 (p1, NQ317, NQR)**

Increase of 8/- rejected

Brisbane, Sep 28 – Talks called by the Premier (Mr VC Gair) in an effort to settle the Qld shearing dispute broke down after 5 1/2 hours discussion today.

The AWU rejected settlement terms which would have given shearers an increase of 8/-. The UGA accepted a proposal by Mr Gair of £7/9/6 but the AWU refused to consider anything below £7/13/3...

### **6 Oct 1956 (p43, NQ314, NQR)**

JC – Two handsome trophies for competition in the Golf Club are the Lionel & Shirley Wall Shield for members and the Tom Lea Shield for associates over 54 holes. Play for these trophies commenced last Sunday and some excellent cards were returned with Barry Burns leading for the members, a nett of 69 and Mrs Joe Kaeser leading the associates... A Novel trophy for the best nett each week was given by Dr Geoff Bradfield. It is in the form of a silver tankard and entitles the winner to demand a drink from every member during the week he holds it. Ard Cooney was the first winner and thereby becomes King of the Golf Club for a week.

The many acquaintances of Paul Faithfull will be pleased to hear that he won the £150 Wooroolin Gift at a sports meeting held recently at Wooroolin. He started 2 to 1 on favourites and covered the distance in 12.1 sec. He won his heat in 12 sec dead – the fastest time of the day – and his semi-finals in 12.2 sec.

To mark the occasion of the engagement of their only daughter, Hazel Leslie Hardy to Ernest Brazier elder son of Mrs W Lenahan and the late Mr G Brazier, Mrs and Mrs Charles Leslie (Mannie) Hardy of Goldring St, held a reception in Matthew's Hall last Friday night.

### **6 Oct 1956 (p7, NQ315, NQR)**

Government Declares a State of Emergency

Wool Strikers Ordered To Return To Work



The Government today declared a state of emergency because of the wool dispute and ordered striking storeman and packers to return to work by Monday at the latest.

The Premier (Mr VC Gair) said tonight that the Government had taken this action in the interests of the State's economy and the welfare of the people.

"Our export trade in wool is the principal pillar of the State's economy and its loss would have incalculably dire effects for Qld. The time is ripe, indeed overdue for the parties directly concerned and indeed every section of the community to engage in some clear and realistic thinking.

Mr Gair said that such clear thinking must accept the cardinal fact that the choice must be between arbitration and the rule of law or its alternative, industrial anarchy.

### **13 Oct 1956 (p6, NQ313, 561013, NQR)**

JC, Oct 10 – Hot days continue and the grass is rapidly losing its nutritive qualities. On the northern side of the railway line the grass on the stock route between the 17 mile and the 54 mile has almost been eaten out and with the surface water becoming scarce, that section is becoming a horror stretch for drovers. On the southern side, the stock routes between JC and Kynuna and between Gilliat and McKinlay are reasonably good. A few heavy drops of roof splattered the roof Monday night but no evidence could be noticed on the ground next morning.

Country for agistment is being sought. The movement of sheep from the north side to the south side of the railway line is attended with delay through the necessity of dipping the sheep.

The work at the aerodrome is proceeding.

During the last financial year the council paid bonuses on 309 dingoes, 114 foxes, 1975 pigs and 169 eagle hawks.

The cafe which has been conducted for some time by Mr K Lafferty has changed hands and the new owner, Mr E O'Neill, will be entering into occupation next month.

Debella Station has been disposed of by Mr JJ Underwood to Mr AG Wall of JC. Mr and Mrs Underwood will be leaving shortly for their new property in the Kimberleys.

Under summery conditions last Sunday the second round over 18 holes for the Lionel and Silrey Wall trophy and the Tom Lea Shield was continued. Some really good golf was played the outstanding performance being a net 70 by Max Burns the best for the day. Barry Burns maintained his opening form and finished a close second with 71. Barry, amongst the members, has established a beneficial lead of 11 strokes and it would be rather surprising if he were beaten in the last round to be played this coming Sunday. Mrs Ard Cooney had the best card – a nett 68 – for the associates.

Max Burns is the possessor of the silver tankard for the week with a nett 33 on the first 9 holes, excellent golf, being one under scratch off the stick.

General practice was indulged in on the cricket oval last Sunday. The captain is endeavouring to correct some of the faults that were noticeable in the game the previous week.

Tennis has always been popular in JC and the courts on a sunday are invariably filled.

### **27 Oct 1956 (p46, NQ312, NQR)**

JC – In true western style, a large field of golfers turned out last Sunday, in spite of flies and heat, to play for the JCEW trophy, which decided the mixed foursome championship for 1956. This is the first occasion that a mixed championship has been played and great interest was taken in the event. Some very fine golf was played. Mr and Mrs Burns handing in a one under par card to win the event from Bob Smith and Mrs I Hallam by the narrow margin of two strokes with Ard Cooney and Mrs R Smith one stroke away. Socially the game was a great success enjoyed by everybody and it is a pity that there are not more of these events.

... Fred Huller one of the stalwarts of local tennis, will be leaving early next month for Melbourne to

attend the Olympic Games, the second that he has witnessed.

Mr and Mrs Burns, Don and Barry are making preparations for their early departure for Melbourne and the Olympic Games. Mr and Mrs Burns have a soft spot for hitch hikers so their cars and caravan should have their full complement on arrival in Melbourne.

... During the service the infant daughter of Mrs and Mrs HC Winton was christened Ellen Joy Winton.

Whilst engaged on duties at the Max Burns Engineering Works, Master DJ Adams received a nasty blow when the tyre he was inflating tore away from the wheel of a vehicle. After receiving medical attention he was allowed to go home for rest and recuperation.

**27 Oct 1956 (p48, NQ311, 561027, NQR)**

JC, Oct 23 – In true western style a large field of golfers turned out last Sunday in spite of flies and heat to play for the JC Engineering works Trophy which decided the Mixed Four championship for 1956. This is the first occasion that a mixed championship has been played and great interest was taken in the event. Some very fine golf was played. Mr and Mrs Max Burns handing in a one under par card to win the event from Bob Smith and Mrs I Hallam by the narrow margin of two strokes with Ard Cooney and Mrs R Smith one stroke away. Socially the game was a great success enjoyed by everybody and it is a pity that there are not more of these events. The members who failed to secure a partner played a stroke event which was won by Alf Mayo with two excellent par rounds. The Mixed Foursome event will be an annual one from now on.

Next Sunday the town members will meet the country members and as both sides have good teams some keen golf will be played.

[New outpatients block at JC]

**10 Nov 1956 (p4, 561110, NQR)**

JC, Nov 5 – ...apparently lit a fire to boil the billy when the heavy winds fanned it sufficiently to burn about 40 acres of grass. The traces of the visitor's vehicle were plainly evident but he was not seen.

In the Court of Petty Sessions, Barry Hayden Bennett, 22 years, and Brian Joseph Piert, 23 years were charged with unlawfully using on the Ayr-JC road a motor vehicle the property of Dr Clive William Taylor of Ayr. Both pleaded guilty and were fined £50 each in default three months imprisonment at Townsville. The same defendants were charged with stealing a Gladstone bag, value, £3, the property of Dr Taylor and pleaded guilty. Each was fined £3 in default a fortnight's imprisonment.

Mr J Smyth the new owner of Euroka has arrived to take over possession of that property. Messrs Lipscomb, Byram and Co who have been the owners of Haddington Station for many years have the property to Mr J Naylot, of Inverell, NSW. Mr Naylor with his wife and child expect to take up residence on Haddington about the middle of next month.

[Dip at JC, new strip at drome]... Max Burns captain of golf Club, J Burns [Jamie?] secretary, Fred Huller auditor.

**10 Nov 1956 (p26, NQ310, NQR)**

JC, Nov 5 – [Dip at JC, new strip at drome]... Max Burns captain of golf Club, J Burns [Jamie?] secretary, Fred Huller auditor.

**10 Nov 1956 (p32, NQ309, NQR)**

Stolen Car Recovered At JC

**17 Nov 1956 (p4, NQ308, NQR)**

[Lionel & Tom Wall]... Mr Max Burns left by plane on Monday to attend a business appointment at Brisbane the following day, returning to JC on Wednesday's plane.

Mrs Max Burns, accompanied by Don and Barry Burns, left by car on Saturday morning for Brisbane and subsequently the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

**24 Nov 1956 (p7, NQ307, NQR)**

Opening of Olympics

**24 Nov 1956 (p43, NQ306, NQR)**

JC, Nov 23 – Towards the end of last week the north-westerly wind, with full interest, returned the dust that the easterly wind had previously driven west. There was a powerful force in those westerlies and it was impossible to keep the dust out, even in gauzed residences. Friday was oppressive – lightning lit the twilight sky but was too distant for local rain. Saturday, too, was oppressive. That night 20 points of rain fell, and though the days since have been warm, the rain cooled the atmosphere and ensured townspeople of pleasant sleep. This morning the thermometer reading is 60 degrees.

A mob of mixed steers, cows and calves from Consentes and Carjoan were railed during the week to Alpha.

Feed conditions north of the line are not good and water is becoming scarce. Ticks are causing trouble for cattle owners.

[Salk inoculation] ... Mr Max Burns took advantage while in Brisbane last week of visiting Melbourne to witness the players in a golf tournament. He is convinced that the course at JC has no hazards compared to those existing on the Yarra Yarra course, where he considers he would not complete a round under 100. He saw many of the world's champions when he paid a visit to Olympic Village.

**8 Dec 1956 (p35, NA, NQR)**

JC – The motor garage and repair shop which have been carried on for some years by MR HA Stainkey has been disposed of and from January 1, 1957 the business will be operated by Messrs FJ & MP Byrne.

**15 Dec 1956 (p27, NA, NQR)**

JC – Another business in the township has changed hands. The Crystal Ice Works and Cordial Factory operated for some years by Mr RH Dickfos has been sold to Mr GO Harris who took over this business as from December 1.

**22 Dec 1956 (p31, NA, NQR)**

JC, Dec 17 – Messrs FA Hickman and B Fels recently purchased Garomna Station and have entered into possession of the property.

**19 Jan 1957 (p17, 570119, NQR)**

JC, Jan 15 – For several days after the rain the cool change continued, but the days are again becoming warm. Backyards and local roads are drying up and motorists are discarding the chains on the rear wheels of their vehicles.

[The speedier getaway of surface water might well be considered by the council.]

A great volume of water has been flowing down JC and this morning the volume increased, running a banker the second time within twelve months.

JC was the terminus for Wednesday's flood-bound Inlander. Stranded passengers en route to Mt Isa and Cloncurry resided on board in their air-conditioned coaches. Local householders took some of the passengers into their homes; others made bathrooms and washing facilities available.

The enforced stay in JC meant financial embarrassment for those on the train whose funds were running low. On Friday and Saturday nights concerned local residents and members of the CWA catered at each meal for sittings of not less than 100. Nobody went hungry. Four shippers of ice cream consigned to the Mary Kathleen Uranium Mines were donated to the train passengers. The members of the CWA saw to its proper distribution.

On Friday night a dance for passengers in need of financial assistance netted £21 odd. Then, shortly before lunch on Saturday, to the cheers of passengers – an expression of thanks to this community and, it must be said, an outburst of joyous relief from a period of boredom – the westward train departed JC.

This is not the first time that flood water have wet the rails and passengers have been marooned in JC. Now that consideration is being given to the provision of a better and faster service on this line it is hoped that the authorities will incorporate in their project the building of higher embankments and bridges at those places where flooding is likely to occur in the wet season.

The Inlander to Townsville left on Thursday night at its customary time.

### **26 Jan 1957 (p? NQ335, NQR)**

JC, Jan 22 – The weather continues fine. The days are warm and the nights are cool. The puddle holes in and around the township are drying up and the road traffic is increasing. The roads are still in a woeful condition and the Council equipment will be taxed to the limit to effect improvement. There is no word when the drome will be open to the big passenger planes.

In his Gypsy Moth Mr Alex Wall has been kept very busy ferrying passengers and provisions to stations that could not be reached by ordinary transport. A week ago he reported that the water at Sedan Dip extended for miles. The Flinders River at Manfield Crossing was 12 feet deep early in the week, whereas a day or so later it had dropped over 4 feet. At the Punch Bowl the flow of water dropped 7 feet in 24 hours.

Countless numbers of swallows, grey and brown, have been encountered by the aviator and he has had to fly at a greater height to avoid them.

[Dingoes]

### **26 Jan 1957 (p7, NQ336, NQR)**

Canberra, Jan 22 – Hundreds of thousands of workers on State awards throughout four states will have their wages reduced by an average of 3/- a week shortly... Figures show a decrease in living cost equivalent to three shillings a week throughout the Commonwealth.

### **2 Feb 1957 (p16, NQ334, NQR)**

JC, Jan 29 – It may be difficult to measure degrees of pleasure and pain but until the latter part of last week our summer, compared with previous ones had been an agreeable one. Thursday and Friday last were decidedly hot and uncomfortable. Reference to the thermometer, 108° – made matters worse. Those nights were oppressive and there was no effective absorbent to cope with the excessive perspiration.

### **9 Feb 1957 (p34, NQ333, 570209, NQR)**

JC, Feb 5 – Falls of an inch and a quarter were recorded at the Post Office guage last week making a total of over five inches of rain for the month. There have been heavier falls recently in parts of the district as at Oxtown Downs early on Friday morning when three inches of rain fell. After a spell here of 48 hours a good shower on Sunday afternoon saturated the ground. Cloudy conditions persist and more rain is predicted.

Roads outside the town area are really bad in places and motorists are travelling in convoys. One of these motorists arriving in JC on Sunday stated that he left Winton on Saturday and had an almost carefree journey. He had been able to render assistance to motorists from JC who had been bogged at the 12 mile.

Our first large-scale raid of insects took place on Friday night and every light was an attraction. Some of these insects appeared to be miniature grasshoppers although one does not as a rule associate that type of insect with activities after dark. As in past seasons the majority have comprised those brown beetles that offend one's olfactory are when crushed. Praying mantis a foot in length are active day and night. They keep to themselves generally unlike the hordes of mosquitoes whose nightly forays irritate man and beast.

Dingoes are molesting stock on some of the properties in the north-west of the district and a local syndicate has been formed to meet the cost of a dogger to trap the area.

One of the trucks of a goods train on its way to Cloncurry on Wednesday jumped the rails at Eddington Siding. It was replaced by the train crew and the staff at the siding. The train was delayed for several

hours.

School reopens this week and for many youngsters the life will be a new one. The attendance at St Joseph's Convent will increase from 108 last year to 128 this year. If extra accommodation were available twice the number of boarders would be accepted. At Oorindi there are 18 children of school age. For them train travelling is out of the question as the trains do not run at suitable times for school children.

**16 Feb 1957 (p40, NQ332, 570216, NQR)**

JC, Feb 14 – Some motorists have been held up at Kynuna for several days. When the roads became usable again and they were eventually able to get through to Gilliat they found that Eastern Creek barred further progress eastwards. Once at Gilliat, however, the train service was available.

The heat since the rain has been intense and several nights have been truly warm. The easterly breeze blows itself out early into the evenings and from then until after midnight no bush or shrub shows any restlessness.

The monthly meeting of the JC golf club was held on Sunday morning. Bob Smith, Chairman, outlined some of the work necessary to bring the fairways and bunkers into good condition. Max Burns mentioned that a new machine which he had purchased in the south could be made available on its arrival to recondition the fairways. All that was needed afterwards was a grader to lightly fill in the holes made by straying stock. Application is to be made to the McKinlay Shire Council for permission to fence in a portion of the course and to obtain a lease of the area. If that is granted, members have offered without cost to the club fencing post and wire to complete the fence. Suitable gates will be donated in order that travelling stock may pass through without hindrance.

**23 Feb 1957 (p32, NA, NQR)**

Fred Huller treasurer of tennis club

**2 Mar 1957 (p34, NQ331, NQR)**

JC, Feb 28 – [Thomas Fowler drowned in the Diamantina, Mr N Byrne Post Master] ... The hearing of the case against John Walsh (35), station hand, of unlawfully attempting to kill John Evelyn Burrell, was commenced in the Court of Petty Sessions, JC...

[Hampton]... Mr and Mrs MD Burns were passengers on today's Inlander for Townsville. From there they will fly to Brisbane.

The civilian air fleet at JC has been increased by the addition of a Stinson L 5 owned and piloted by Mr Don Burns. The Stinson L5 which was formerly owned by Mr Gordon Lynham of Hughenden is a two-seater monoplane a type used extensively by the Americans as spotter planes during the war. Mr Don Burns received his training in Tiger Moths with the Townsville Aero Club a little over a year ago. The plane will be of immeasurable value to the Burns Engineering Works in travelling to and from places where sam sinking and other operations are being carried out. In these vast areas aeroplanes are sometimes pressed into service searching for missing people and in transporting the seriously ill and injured to hospital for medical treatment.

The services of the Stinson L5 are most assuredly to be co-opted in this class of work...

**9 Mar 1957 (p18, NQ330, 570309, NQR)**

JC, March 5 – [... rainfalls] The grass that appeared to be fading has taken on a green appearance and plentiful feed is assured for several months. A fair demand exists for suitable sheep and some area could support for a limited period, four sheep to the acre. The large number of white butterflies present make a delightful picture as they flit about the green pasture.

Last Friday the JC Hotel which had for some years been run by Mr and Mrs EH Shambrook, changed hands. Mr JE Mathews is the new owner and the hotel will be under the management of Mr H Mitchell.

[story about rail accident]

**16 Mar 1957 (p48, NQ329, 570316, NQR)**

JC, Mar 13 – The roads are in a fearful mess. Every depression is filled with water and the mosquito menace should be constant for the next month of six weeks. Bad drainage or obstructions in the drains fail to allow the water to get away fast enough with the result that in a part of the main street the stagnant water in the concrete guttering is sufficient for a water jump at any show.

A good volume of water is flowing down JC swelling the vast inland sea in the north and which has been a source of interest to those who have been using aeroplanes on various missions during the week. One grazier who has his own plane was surprised to find when flying over the property some 2000 of his sheep in a paddock generally above water mark, standing in water reaching to their bellies. landing not far away he as able to walk in and move the sheep from their watery home to drier ground about 100 yards away. Two old ewes were the only losses.

The road between JC and Kynuna was drying up last Saturday week and dry conditions were prevailing when MR Moles manager of Crendon Station 70 odd miles from JC, set out with Mrs Moles and their two young children to attend the pictures at JC that night. On the way in they ran into heavy rain, were bogged on several occasions and eventually had to abandon the car. They arrived at JC at 3 am on Sunday.

The forms of consent received by the principals of the local schools have been forwarded to the Department of Health and it is anticipated that inoculation of the local school children with Salk vaccine will commence in May next.

### **23 Mar 1957 (p34, 570323, NQR)**

JC, Mar 20 – Hot and humid conditions existed for the greater part of the week. Distant thunderstorms nightly arched the heavens in the north. On Thursday evening heavy rain appeared to be falling in the Gilliat area and the clouds gradually made a wide sweep in the south. At 11 pm rain fell in the township and it seemed that it had set in for the night. However, it as of short duration the recording at the post office gauge on Friday morning was eight points. Friday was as hot as ever but during the night it turned bitterly cold, the thermometer reading 46 degrees Saturday was a more comfortable day and present indications are that our nights for a while will be of a cooler nature.

The rain at the weekend ensured that every puddle hole remained full and schoolboys and those of preschool age spent their leisure time in catching the small fish that abounded in the miniature lakes and flowing gutters. Some of these tiny fish were noticed by humans of more mature years swimming with the current in the concrete watertables in the main street.

Another grazier in the district has eliminated the danger of isolation in the wet season. Mr Ard Cooney, Auckland Downs, has completed a runway that will enable light planes to land at any time near the homestead. It is Mr Cooney's intention to prominently paint the name of his station on the roof of one of the buildings

### **30 Mar 1957 (p1, NQ328, NQR)**

Ad for petrol engine washer - excellent drawing

### **30 Mar 1957 (p6, NQ327, 570330, NQR)**

JC, Mar 28 – Based on reports from fliers, dry parts do not exist in many parts of the district and much water has still to get away before ordinary travel can be undertaken. Horse transport is hazardous owing to the swampy state of the ground.

On Sunday night a week ago the ambulance superintendent went to Kynuna without mishap. Returning on his tracks later, the car became bogged and a companion had a walk of four miles to the nearest homestead to obtain assistance in the form of a tractor. The round trip occupied nine hours. The patient transported was admitted to the local hospital for medical attention.

The playground in the centre of the township is an attraction, not only for the local children but for those children who, with their parents, are passing through to other places. The good rains have improved the lawns which are an open invitation to all who have been temporarily restricted in their movements to gambol on the green sward and enjoy the swings and slides. The fencing and the shelter shed have been freshly painted and a strong table has been installed – set in concrete – in suitable keeping with the general appearance of the playground. With abundance of water handy, the

playground is a boon to mothers and children. Mr P Dawes and his committee are to be highly commended for providing this amenity.

Mr W Kupfer, 67 years, who operates a taxi service, received a nasty cut on his head on Monday afternoon, when the Inlander, pulling into the station, struck him, knocking him against a truck on an adjacent set of rails. He was bleeding profusely and unconscious when the ambulance arrived. After first aid treatment by the superintendent he was transferred to hospital. There he regained consciousness but the wound and the shock will necessitate the patient remaining in hospital for a week or two.

About the same time, Athol Byrne, 36 years, station hand on Osbert, received lacerations to his left elbow when a horse he was riding fell and rolled on him. The superintendent met him four miles out rendered first aid treatment and transported him the remainder of the way to hospital where his wounds were stitched.

...A public meeting presided over by Mr MP Byrne president of the JC sub-branch of the RSSAILA was held last Thursday night in Downey's Hall to consider the celebration of Anzac Day. On Anzac Day there will be a parade of returned men and others, who will march to the cemetery to place wreaths on the graves of former comrades. The march will then be resumed to the post office where the roll of honour will be read by Mr Walson Taylor. Bugler GO Harris will sound the Last Post and on dismissal the men will be the guests of the QCWA at a luncheon in Mathews Hall. At night an entertainment will be held at which the local clergy and others will address those present. Local artists will provide musical items.

[Golf, Max and Barry]

### **30 Mar 1957 (p45, NQ326, NQR)**

Ad for JCEW selling vehicles, with prices

### **6 Apr 1957 (p6, NQ325, 570406, NQR)**

JC, April 1 – ... At Burwood Station, some 30 miles from JC, the rainfall recorded since the commencement of the wet season has amounted to 43 inches, the highest since records were commenced 42 years ago. In parts there the pea bush has grown to such a height that it is difficult to locate stock grazing in the area. This past weekend was the first time for five weeks that a car had been able to travel the distance to JC and in some places the car would not have got through but for the aid given by a tractor.

[opening of drome to DC3]

At the monthly meeting of the JC centre of the QATB last Thursday night a tender submitted by Messrs Byrne Bros for a Holden Panel van was accepted delivery to be made on or before the first week in July 1957. The panel van will be converted into an ambulance. A 1947 Chevrolet ambulance car has been traded in. Tendes will be called in the early future for the erection of a new ambulance centre to cost between £5000 and £7000. Provision is made for the erection of a ramp to enable the superintendent to carry out the essential greasing of and changing the oil in the ambulance cars.

Mr and Mrs J Beach of Land's End Station have gone to considerable labour and expense in order to lay out a good tennis court on their property. Last Sunday the court was inaugurated and a party of tennis club members from JC proceeded to Land's End and were given a remarkably enjoyable afternoon both on and off the court by their hosts. The court is of antbed foundation well spaced and surrounded by a new wire mesh fence. The playing surface compares favourably with any club court in the north west.

Members of the Golf Club have been actively engaged in preparing the course for the opening day next Sunday...

### **13 Apr 1957 (p6, NQ324, NQR)**

JC, April 11 – We are enjoying a very good season and the stock routes are in good order for both grass and water. The natural water in creeks and waterholes off the creeks will last for some time...

[Drovers Webb, Triffett, O'Sullivan; Peter Dawes & playground]

Some of the goat herds of JC have started wandering and one mob wandered as far as Minamere about 50 miles from JC. The owners brought them back by motor lorry. Several other mobs wandered short distances and were brought back before they got too far away. At this time of the year, goats seem to have wandering fits and have to be closely guarded before they get too far away.

#### **20 Apr 1957 (p16, NQ322, NQR)**

Bushfire Victim's Will Dictated By Torchlight

Brisbane, Apr 15 – A 28-year-old Qld grazier, badly burnt in a bushfire, dictated his will by torchlight to three men as he lay dying in a hotel bedroom in November 1954.

The will was written on a sheet of blotting paper attached to a writing pad. This was revealed in an affidavit filed with the will of the grazier, Reginald John Reed Halloran, of Narollah, Corfield, near Hughenden. Letters of administration of his £47,797 gross personal estate were granted in the Supreme Court today.

Halloran died in Hughenden District Hospital on November 16, 1954, after having been shockingly burned two days earlier in a heroic attempt to rescue his father and another man trapped while fighting a bushfire on Narollah station, 60 miles south of Hughenden.

The father, Hugh Reginald Halloran (61), owner of Flers, JC, and the other man, Robert Raymond Batterley (17) of Wynnum Qld, were fatally burned despite the bid to save them. At the same time more than three inches of rain was falling at Corfield only 16 miles away.

Despite his shocking burns, Reginald Halloran drove his father and Batterley four miles by truck to the station homestead. An ambulance was unable to reach them because the rain had made roads impassable and a special train was sent from Hughenden with a doctor and nurse to Corfield.

Later Reginald Halloran was taken to Hughenden District hospital where he died on Nov 16, 1954.

Leslie Keith Paterson, licensed victualler of Manuka Hotel, Corfield, in an affidavit file with the will, said he and the postmaster, John Brooks and a man named James Russel Lawry, on November 14 went to Halloran's Bedside at the hotel where Halloran was first brought from the homestead.

Brooks wrote the will at Halloran's dictation, Paterson added. In one part of the will Brooks wrote the word "Norma" and Halloran said "Lorna". Brooks made an "L" over the letter "N" and they each initialled the word "Norma" except Halloran, Paterson said.

He said the will was written by Brooks in circumstances of great difficulty when the only means of illumination was torchlight. Sometime later it was discovered the will had been written on a sheet of blotting paper attached to a writing pad.

Halloran's will, dated November 14, 1954, read: "It is my wish, in the circumstances of fire emergency, that I desire that all my possessions and assets go to my wife, Bessy May Halloran, and Gary John Halloran, my only son, and I make provision for my mother Lorna Lysle Halloran for the period of her natural life."

In September 1955, Halloran was awarded posthumously the Royal Humane Society's merit certificate for his courageous attempt to save the lives of his father and Batterley.

#### **20 Apr 1957 (p9, NQ323, NQR)**

Canberra, April 16 – The basic wage throughout the Australian capital cities fell by an average of 3/- in the March quarter of this year, according to the latest cost of living figures. Throughout 30 major towns in Australia it fell by an average of 4/-.

The new basic wage in capital cities as a result of the changes will be: Sydney £13/8/-, Brisbane £11/19/- ...

#### **4 May 1957 (p21, 570504, NQR)**

JC, Apr 30 – The weather for the past week has been fine with a few clouds about on Thursday night.



For this time of the year the weather has been unusually hot. The thermometer registered at times over the 100 degree mark. It looks as if summer is dying hard.

[Anzac description]

**18 May 1957 (p48, NQ346, NQR)**

There has not been a practising chemist in JC for some years, and the need of a chemist has often been acutely felt. Mr G Uhlmann a pharmaceutical chemist from the south has been surveying the township with a view to establishing a practice here. He has been able to secure a residence for his wife and family and is now engaged in the search for suitable premises to serve as a pharmacy.

**25 May 1957 (p3, 570525, NQR)**

JC – A fire which raged on St Elmo and Argyle Stations a week ago burnt out about 6000 acres. It was fanned by a strong south-easterly breeze and the fire fighters would have had difficulty in quelling it but for the road to Nelia that runs through the properties acting as a fire break. The loss of stock was light.

Several weeks earlier a solitary black swan made an appearance on Numil lake, Numil Station, about 80 miles north of JC. Its survey of the surroundings must have been favourable for it has now been joined by about 30 more black swans. many years ago a few swans were seen in the same area but their numbers were not comparable to the number now making their home on the lake.

380 children were inoculated with the Salk vaccine last Thursday. The technique adopted by Dr GF Bradfield, assisted by Sisters E Dutton and A McLeod of the Health Department, made the operation in a stramlined manner and easy for the children. The next innoculation will take place about the middle of June.

Father CE Devereux who has been in charge of St Abigails Parish for 12 years and saw one of his chief aims become a reality – St Joseph's Convent – left JC on Wednesday to take over temporarily a new charge: the Railway Estate Parish, Townsville. Last Sunday his parishioners gathered to bid him farewell, wish him well in his new charge, and express the hope that he will return at the end of the year. The high esteem in which Father eDvereux is held by his own parishioners and others in the community was demonstrated when he was presented with a wallet packed with notes. Father J Garvey of Mt Isa will minister to the needs of the parishioners until Father Devereux returns.

**15 Jun 1957 (p42, NQ344, NQR)**

JC, Jun 12 – There is plenty of feed about for stock ad the same applies in the way of water other than the smaller water holes. The observance of some bird life in the district not usually seen is said by some who have studied the changing condition over the years to be a sure sign of drought aspects elsewhere,. Flocks of black cockatoos now about in number with the red fan under their tail feathers when in flight bear out this contention. The increasing numbers of black swans on Numil Lake has been joined by many pelicans. At least 50 of these big birds can be seen on the lagoon at the 7 mile quite handy to the township. Good fishing on the Saxby River has been reported large and small edible and inedible, being ready for the catching and patience.

**22 Jun 1957 (p46, NQ344, NQR)**

On June 8, 1957, in St Abigails Church, JC, Father J Garvey officiating, the marriage was solemnised of Jill Mary Brennan, third daughter of Mr and Mrs EM Brennan, Nelia and Donald Douglas Burns, eldest son of Mr and Mrs MD Burns, JC. The bride frocked in cream embossed nylon, ballerina length, with pink accessories was attended by Miss Flo Swift who wore a gown of pink nylon with pink accessories. Mr Barry Burns attended the groom. The reception was held at the residence of Mr and Mrs MD Burns.

**22 Jun 1957 (p24, NQ345, NQR)**

Ayr, June 16 – The Burdekin bridge is a triumphant and enduring monument to patience, persistence and unremitting efforts in the face of unparalleled difficulties. It has forged the most important transport link in North Queensland history.

Almost yearly in times of flood it had been submerged and traffic was dislocated. On occasion this hold up has extended over 20 odd days.

**29 Jun 1957 (p42, NQ345, NQR)**

JC, Jun 26 –... making the rainfall since the beginning of the year 1334 points.

**6 Jul 1957 (p32, 570706, NQR)**

JC – Staffing at the JC hospital has become a problem. and with a view to its amelioration a meeting of residents in the district was held in the Council Chambers last Thursday night. It was decided to augment the salary paid to nursing staff by means of a bonus payable on the completion of six months service and a slightly increased amount on the completion of 12 months service. Mr A Mitchell Carrum Station was elected Chairman of the Committee that was formed to set in operation the machinery for the raising of the amount that will be required annually.

Mr John William Shaw was born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England on September 18, 1875, and when he died recently at CT where he had been living in retirement, he was in his 82nd year. Shrewd and tolerant by nature he was forthright and vigorous when occasion demanded it. A desire for travel and thirst for enquiry developed a height of versatility and it was inevitable that his interest should lead him into the pastoral and wool production field. He carried on his trade as a barber until he his wife son and daughter sailed from England in 1912. In Australia he continued at his trade until 1914 when he drew the Maria Downs block of 25,000 acres and with his family settled in the JC district. Later Woodlands was acquired and when Mrs Shaw was the successful applicant for the Fairlea block the total holdings of the family comprised 80,000 acres. On this sheep mainly and cattle grazed. Ronald Plains, Richmond, was acquired in the 1920s and after being held for six or seven years this was sold. Mr Shaw sold Maria Downs in 1924 and several years later disposed of Woodlands. About that time he purchased a residence in CT and there Mrs Shaw resided until her death in September 1954. Mr Shaw continued in residence at Fairlea, managing the property until it was sold some nine years ago.

In the early days at Maria Downs horses were the only means of travel between Maria Downs and JC, which at that time was a place similar in size to present day Nelia. The first homestead on Maria was a tent. The number of sheep run amounted to 15,000 and in the days before the boom, greasy wool, a top line, realised 10d per lb. Participation in the wool boom did not fall to his lot. Drought, fire, depression, pestilence he knew well. A son, John William Shaw of JC, and daughter, Mrs H Stainkey of Brisbane survive their parents together with a grandson, Herbert JF Stainkey and four great grandchildren, all residents of CT.

It is not easy to describe the quality of men like John William Shaw, snr. In breadth of outlook he was one of those men who were a little bigger than the rest of the race. Something has gone out of the country with the disappearance of his particular type.

**13 Jul 1957 (p4, 570713, NQR)**

JC, Jul 11 – Most of the 77 points of rain that fell last weekend were absorbed by the arid ground, though, in the main thoroughfare and to the annoyance of the residents living opposite it, a lake 100 yards long by 7 yards at its greatest width formed and clearly demonstrated that water will not flow up a gradient. A more efficient method of disposing of the surplus water in the streets would be the regular flushing of the drains. [trucking figures]

**20 Jul 1957 (p6, NQ343, 570720, NQR)**

JC, Jul 18 – There is a fair body of feed available and the condition of stock, even if there is no rain in the meantime, should not change for a month or two. The rain did little or no harm to the herbage. Brisk sales of cattle at reasonable prices are reported , all classes being in strong demand.

Lorries of wool are now arriving at JC railway station for movement south. The township, during week days is practically deserted, every able-bodied person being engaged in the shearing sheds or on the various stations. Fencing contractors are busy, boring plant are drilling away and tanksinking operations are another form of security against the dry days, if any, of the future. At Mr K Kelman's property Essex Downs, Richmond, a big tank is being constructed by Mr Max Burns.

The open trap door on an empty coal hopper was apparently the cause of the hopper's derailment on the coal loading ramp last Wednesday. The locomotive and two empty trucks were able to return to ground level and when the hopper was replaced on the rails it and a remaining one joined them.

[Redex trial, golf]

... On Saturday afternoon [Richmond] the Mixed Foursomes Championship of Western Qld was played over 18 holes. Mr and Mrs Max Burns won the open event closely followed by Mr and Mrs Bob Smith who won the handicap event... The two best aggregates for men and associates were also won by Mr and Mrs Max Burns of JC. Sunday was a delightful day and it was a sight to see so many golfers from so far and wide in Western Qld lining up on the 9 hole course for the big day. Capital golf was played during the day but JC proved too strong on a course that is similar to their own and won the grand slam of inter-town matches, including the Cooney Cup, the Burns Mathews Inter-Town Championship Cup, and the Ladies Shield. The two best aggregates for men and associates were also won by Mr and Mrs Max Burns of JC. The best nett for men was won by a fine Richmond golfer, Duncan Caldwell.

JC golfers were elated to think they had won the Cooney Cup on foreign soil for never before had it been played away from JC.

### **27 Jul 1957 (p42, NQ341, 570727, NQR)**

JC, Jul 25 – At the committee meeting of the Golf Club held on Sunday morning, Dr GF Bradfield, handicapper, tendered his resignation on account of his leaving the district to take a post graduate course in England. The handicapper in a golf club is not always a popular person but the doctor never lost his popularity. His duties were carried out without fear and without reproach and the President, Mr RN Smith, voiced the feelings of members when he said that the club was losing an invaluable member. Mr AR Cooney is the new handicapper.

In fine pleasant weather on Sunday afternoon the final 18 holes for the Peter Dawes Trophy was the main item of the programme. Dr GF Bradfield the half-way leader returned a good care and when all the scores came in it was found that the doctor and Alf Mayo had tied for first place. A play-off over 9 holes resulted in Dr Bradfield being the winner. Mrs A Cooney and Mrs i Hallam both playing good golf were the winner and runner up for the associate's trophy.

Playing in the Far North-West Qld Golf Championship at Mt Isa during the weekend, local golfers Max Burns and Marjorie Burns acquitted themselves very well on the tough 71 par course, the best in Western Qld. In the Mixed Foursomes, Mrs Burns and C Reid, of Mt Isa playing off eight, finished with par figures. In the 36 holes championship event, Max Burns had rounds of 78 and 75 and finished four under the card to win the 18-hole Bogey with 3 up and to tie for the Stableford with 38 points. Mrs Burns won the visitors best nett.

Tennis is booming in JC at present and the club is endeavouring to interest the McKinlay Shire Council in laying down another court so that all members and visitors can be catered for. Assiduous practice goes on during the week and the courts at the weekend are taxed to the maximum. On Saturday night the Club held a dance in o'Neill's Hall and to the gratification of the committee the hall was packed. The takings at the door amounted to £38.

### **27 Jul 1957 (p12, NQ342, NQR)**

JC Bride

Recently married at St Abigail's Church, JC, was Mrs DD Burns, the former Jill Mary, third daughter of Mr and Mrs EM Brennan, of Nelia

### **3 Aug 1957 (p42, NQ339, NQR)**

JC – After the conclusion of the competition, the associates provided a sumptuous repast and opportunity was taken to farewell Dr and Mrs GF Bradfield who are leaving the district. Dr Bradfield was presented with several trophies that he had won and one which was in transit will be forwarded to him. The president Mr R Smith ably supported by Mr A Cooney vice captain, referred to the good work that Dr Bradfield had carried out as handicapper and the enjoyment members had been afforded whilst competing with him on the course. On behalf of members and associates the president presented to the departing guests a silver jog as a token of their esteem and a reminder of many hours spent on the course at JC. The president further expressed the wish of all that the doctor's studies abroad would be crowned with distinction and the belief that at some future date all would again have the pleasure of meeting the doctor and his wife on the local course.

### **3 Aug 1957 (p32, NQ340, NQR)**

Sydney – The offer of £130 a week for one year to Dawn Fraser for a professional swimming tour was

flatly refused by the Olympic star.

Melbourne promoter Mr Ken Rainsbury had previously offered Miss Fraser £100 a week to turn professional but boosted his offer to £130 a week when she broke two more world records during her current US tour.

Commenting on the offer Miss Fraser said: "The offer could be £200 a week and I still wouldn't consider it. I want to swim in the 1960 Games at Rome and stay in competition till I start to slip. Even the big money Mr Rainsbury has offered couldn't replace the friends and the fun I have won from swimming."

#### **10 Aug 1957 (p35, NQ366, 570810, NQR)**

JC, Aug 7 – A fire started near Lara Homestead on Sunday morning and fanned by the wind swept across parts of Cabanda, Haddinton, Cremona, Etta Plains and Calmeta, a distance of 50 miles. Fire fighters worked continuously to extinguish the blaze and their task was increased by heavy burning thrust apart from the main front. It is estimated that over 50,000 acres of grazing lands have been scorched. So far there have been no reports of stock losses.

The loss of grass is serious. The last rainfall did not benefit all the grass and the continued dry weather is affecting its nutritive value. Already inquiries have been initiated, miles away from any burnt area in this district, regarding agistment areas in the Boulia district.

With Geoff Bradfield, Ard Cooney and Mr and Mrs Max Burns representing JC at the Country Golf Carnival in Brisbane, the attendance on the links will be less than usual next Sunday. It is refreshing to see new members turning up to do battle with the ball. The Pater Dawes Trophy, a leather satchel of fine workmanship won by Dr GF Bradfield several years ago was presented to him by Vice Captain Ard Cooney, who in a happy speech reminded the doctor of the study ahead and visualised him walking down the Strand the stachel crammed with heavy text books. Dr Bradfield suitably responded.

The McKinlay Shire Council has informed the Tennis Club that it is prepared to lay down two new bitumen courts subject to the club contributing towards the cost. It is expected that work on the new courts will commence at an early date.

Mr and Mrs MD Burns departed by car on Friday for CT where they were to participate in the 1957 Open Amateur Championship at the weekend. On Monday they picked up their two younger sons, Malcolm and Alan students at All Souls, and motored to Brisbane to attend the Exhibition.

[Cooney, Bradfield to Brisbane]

#### **17 Aug 1957 (p35, NQ363, 570817, NQR)**

JC, Aug 14 – Foxes are roaming around in increasing packs and are doing extensive damage to sheep of all ages. In one area, several shooters using a spot light, accounted for 27 foxes in three hours.

[albino dingoes, race club]

The absence of a medical superintendent at the local hospital is greatly felt and on two successive days the superintendent of the JC ambulance has had to transport patients to the Cloncurry hospital for medical attention. The mileage is over 90 miles each way and on each trip it means that the superintendent is absent from JC for about seven hours. If these journeys continue consideration will need to be given to the installation in the new ambulance car of a two way radio set so that the superintendent can, if necessary, be in continuous contact with some base. The present juvenile practice of climbing telephone poles to maintain communication by means of a portable telephone set is decidedly hazardous.

The number of children, estimated to be over 300 of school and under-school age in JC was augmented by the return of Misses Kath and Robyn Finnigan, Veronica Sprague, Kath Dawes, Jane Green, June Hanlon, Masters Donald and Morry Hick, Geoffrey Green, Brian and Noel Purtle, Bill Dalling, Tom Jessup and Peter Dawes who are on vacation from their respective colleges at CT and elsewhere.

In St Barnabus' Church of England on Thursday, August 8, Father Tun Yep officiating, Miss Margaret

Rose Chappell and Mr Jack William Winton were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. The bride, daughter of Mrs AI Chappel of Richmond and the late Mr Chappell, carrying a bouquet of white and pink flowers, looked charming in a short frock of white nylon with pink flowers in her white tulle veil and shoes to match. She was attended by Miss Nevis Ives who wore a pale blue nylon with matching accessories. The groom, son of Mr and Mrs W Winton, residents of longstanding in JC was attended by his brother Mr Henry Winton. The reception was held in O'Neill's Hall and later the bridal couple left by car on their honeymoon tour of North Queensland.

[Golf, Barry Burns]

**24 Aug 1957 (p41, NQ365, NQR)**

JC, Aug 21 – Pigs, foxes and dingoes are ever increasing. Graziers area alarmed by the presence of pigs on properties that have never before been visited by them. Rats in larger numbers than usual but not in plague proportions have been sighted in parts of the recently burnt out region. These pests are no doubt sent to stimulate the grazier and not to induce despair but one grazier the other day encountered another type. Mustering sheep on his property he found about two dozen of is sheep had been freshly shorn. This open up great possibilities for the enterprising individual who has a mobile shearing plant.

Doug Bowman, single, 28 years, well-known in this district, met with a nasty accident on Thursday morning when a rifle considered to be harmless exploded and the discharged bullet penetrated his right thigh, shattering the bone. He was removed by ambulance car from the scene of accident to the local hospital and later that day was transferred by the same means to the Cloncurry Hospital for surgical treatment.

[Golf, Nan, Max, Barry is the undisputed champion in the B grade.]

Mr Max Burns who has been holidaying in Brisbane, and between times has been sandwiching in games of golf on the various links around the metropolis, returned overland... [not copied] on Monday. He reported that the country from Roma through Charleville to Longreach looked really buoyant with green grass and herbage about three inches high. From Longreach north the feed is dry but sheep are in fine fettle. He was impressed with the Gregory Hotel which he describes as a travellers' paradise and is a credit tot he councillors of Winton.

The Blue Bird cafe, which was conducted by Mr D Cook, has been sold by him to Mr GR Hughes who is continuing the business.

**31 Aug 1957 (p11, NQ338, NQR)**

Cloncurry, Aug 29 – A 20-year-old JC mechanic was fined £300 in the Cloncurry Police Court today for breaches of air navigation regulations. Donald Douglas Burns pleaded guilty to six charges.

They were based on complaints laid by the Townsville Civil Aviation Department administration officer, Francis Elrick Gregory.

Prosecuting for the Civil Aviation Department the Deputy Crown Solicitor said that Burns had landed his Stinson aircraft at the Cloncurry airport after a flight from JC on February 20 with two passengers on board. Investigations had shown that Burns who held only a private pilot's license, had charged for the flight without a charter flight permit. The aircraft itself was authorised to carry only one passenger.

Then on March 13, Burns was seen carrying three passengers. Consequently on April 10 his pilot's license was suspended.

In defiance of the suspension he had again flown on May 18 with two passengers on board.

Burns told the court that he was not aware that he was not entitled to carry more than one passenger. He had never carried a total weight above that allowed by the regulations.

Mr AG Verry, SM, imposed fines totalling £300 and ordered Burns to pay £17 costs.

**31 Aug 1957 (p35, NQ337, 570831, NQR)**

JC – The appointment of a medical superintendent at the JC Hospital will, in due time, be made, but

until that is done, arrangements have been made for Dr Harvey Sutton, Cloncurry to visit JC weekly. His first visit is scheduled for Friday next and thereafter every Wednesday. The transfer by ambulance car of patients to the Cloncurry hospital persists and on the return journey on Saturday night, the ambulance car broke down 60 miles from JC and had to be towed.

[Golf, Max, Barry, Nan all in finals for 1957]

### **7 Sep 1957 (p42, NQ359, 570907, NQR)**

JC – The finals of the JC Golf Club championship over 36 holes in conjunction with the Cooney Trophy were played on the links on Sunday. Gusty, windy conditions prevailed early in the day which was bad for golf. In the “A” grade championship, Max Burns with rounds of 75 and 76 defeated Bob Smith 12 and 11 to again become the club champion. Mrs Bob Smith won on a forfeit in the associates “A” grade championship from Mrs Max Burns who had not returned from Brisbane. Barry Burns was the winner of the men’s “B” grade championship, whilst Joe Kaeser defeated Frank Purtle by the narrow margin of 1 up for the C grade championship. The Cooney Trophy was won by Barry Burns who played excellent golf with a 64 nett. Attendance on the links every Sunday is growing and golf is again booming.

Attendance on the links every Sunday is again booming. The support of more country people is needed and next year there are high hopes of seeing Mr and Mrs J Beach, of Lands End... and other country people on the links.

The steaks served out at the barbecue at night were truly juicy. A tape recording instrument was made available by Mr and Mrs J Mathews was an innovation in the club house. Speeches delivered and songs rendered by members of the audience were replayed and created much enjoyment. Dancing was indulged in to the music broadcast.

Over the 12 months ended June 30 1957, the McKinlay Shire Council paid out bonuses amounting to £608/18/- on scalps for 383 dingoes, 418 foxes, 152 eagles and 1004 pigs. In addition to that amount are the bonuses paid by the different syndicates which employ doggers to reduce the pest. A scalp shortly to be handed in to the council was taken from a pure white dingo the tips of its ears only bearing a few ginger hairs. A dingo recently trapped on Balootha was of a brown Alsatian type with a bushy tail. In recent trappings the female dingo has preponderated.

A fire on Clifton Park last week burnt out 10,000 acres before it was subdued. Not long after a train had passed along the track on Sunday forenoon a fire spread from the railway line and was halted when it reached the JC-Nelia Rd on the eastern side of the township.

[railway bridge on fire, Sedan Dip races]

### **14 Sep 1957 (p47, NQ358, 570914, NQR)**

JC, Sep 11 – Dry and dusty conditions are the only stable things that can be said of the weather. The sky has been almost cloudless for the past week. Nights and mornings vary but there is still a nippy feeling about them. From midmorning until sunset it is really pleasant to be out of doors. There is still a volume of grass but it is gradually losing its succulence. Trusses of lucerne may now form part of the loadings going out to stations.

Another bush fire brigade has been formed, this one, known as McKinlay No 2, being in the Gilliat area. Many of the fire fighters in that area have had much practical experience of late as for ten consecutive days they were called on to assist in quelling outbreaks.

Persistent barking on the part of Prince, the Alsatian, disturbed Mrs Max Burns in the early hours of Sunday morning and when she looked out to see what the commotion was about, she noticed a woman emerging from the garage and workshop next door. Before Mr Burns could detain the woman she joined a male companion outside and both made a smart getaway. The surrounding area was combed but the nocturnal visitors could not be located. No loss of equipment was reported.

Master Paul Byrnes, 5 years, son of Mr and Mrs N Byrnes, Coyne St, JC, was seriously injured on Friday afternoon when he was the victim of an accident in Burke Street. He was removed by ambulance car to the hospital and subsequently conveyed to the Cloncurry hospital where he passed away on

Sunday morning. His body was brought back to JC and interred in the cemetery on Sunday afternoon. Deep sympathy goes out to his sorrowing parents, brothers and sisters.

Flock organdie and white nylon were featured by the bride, Mavis Ann Ives and her attendants, Mrs C Wilder (matron of honour) and Miss Barbara Ives (bridesmaid) when she was married to Mr GFW Winton, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W Winton, JC. The marriage ceremony took place in St Barnabus Church of England, the Rev George Tun Yep officiating. The bride, who is the fifth daughter of Mrs E Ives, JC, wore the flock organdie with small matching chapeau and the white nylon ballerina-length and tight red chapeaux were worn by her attendants. The bride's bouquet was of roses and lily of the valley. The wedding breakfast was held in O'Neill's Hall

Mrs MD Burns, accompanied by her sons Malcolm and Alan, returned to JC on Sunday after a holiday spent in the south. The next day Malcolm and Alan left by train for CT and further study at All Souls School.

In perfect spring weather the largest number of players so far seen this season turned out on Sunday to compete for the most coveted golf trophy of the year, the Arthur Paine Trophy given by the patron for the foursome champions. After much speculation as to who would win, and after some excellent golf, Max Burns and Bert Hallam proved too good for the rest of the field and won the member's championship whilst Mrs K Mathes and Mrs J Kaeser playing brilliant golf easily won the associate's title. It is a fine thing to look around and see so many keen golfers on the links.

### **21 Sep 1957 (p37, NQ355, NQR)**

JC Annual Race meeting Ad

### **21 Sep 1957 (p46, 570921, NQR)**

JC, Sep 19 – Wintry conditions have returned. The wind has been blowing hard most of the week and has given each quarter its full turn. The east wind on Friday changed over to wind from the north on Saturday. It was blowing just as vigorously on Sunday from the south-west. On Monday the gusts were from the south-east corner.

Monday morning was bleak and the thermometer was down to 50 degrees. August was the first dry month for this year. A total of 1411 points has fallen since the start of the year. Graziers in this district are well established and stronger financially than ever before to meet dry and even drier conditions.

Since it was commissioned for duty three weeks ago the new ambulance car has travelled 1600 miles. The other ambulance car is in good running order and it covered the greater part of the mileage of 2068 for the month of August, during which 45 cases were handled.

The Department of Health and Home Affairs, Brisbane, has approved of the tender of the Parkside Timber Co, Ayr, for the erection of the new ambulance centre which will cost approximately £6500 and it is anticipated that an early start will be made on the work.

[Scout group]

For the first time in JC, the RSSAILA held a ceremony of great importance on Saturday night when Mr FAK Waldon Taylor, a veteran of the First world War – he donned uniform again in the Second – was presented with the League's gold life badge in recognition of his valuable and long service in its interests. The presentation took place in the Memorial Hall and was made by the president of the JC sub branch, Mr MP Byrne, who referred to the fine qualities of their guest, his devotion to duty at all times and his meritorious work performed so well and without any show of ostentation.

Waldon Taylor by his outstanding courtesy and unsparing efforts had endeared himself to all whether in or out of uniform and the presentation of this treasured emblem was a fitting tribute to his high conduct and integrity...

Sport at the weekend was suspended as a token of respect to the late Mr Arthur Paine of Burwood Station who had so generously and so repeatedly contributed to the funds of all sporting bodies. On Saturday morning Mr Paine complained that he was not feeling well and shortly afterwards passed away. The news of his death came as a shock to his many friends and acquaintances for he was one of

the graziers who had lived longer than most others in the district. He had taken up Burwood over 40 years ago and had suffered the vicissitudes of the man on the land. The benefits of his experience and industry were however, realised later and he acquired interests in Wyaldra and Maria Downs. he was a charming host at the homestead or elsewhere and his accounts of the early days contrasted well with the trend of modern times with their attendant amenities. He had seen JC develop from a small settlement to its present status and he had played a prominent part in its development. An appeal of any kind was never turned aside by this reputable resident and these, his memorials in JC, are a lasting memory of his liberality. At the time of his death the late Mr Paine was in his 72nd year. His body was laid to rest in the JC Cemetery on Sunday afternoon. Mourners from near and far were present at the graveside, sympathizing with his family in the loss of a good father and worthy citizen. Mrs Paine predeceased her husband some years ago. He is survived by one daughter, Miss Noreen Paine, Burwood, and three sons, Frank and Jack of Wyaldra, and Leo of Stanthorpe.

It is difficult indeed to summarise the character of a man like Arthur Harold Paine. He was a man of vision, high hope in the future and faith in himself. One of the big men of the early and modern days. Men like him are fast disappearing from the horizon of the west and the country is suffering for their disappearance.

[WD Cooper dies in Brisbane]

**28 Sep 1957 (p5, NQ354, NQR)**

George Ryan to stand trial for cattle theft

**28 Sep 1957 (p48, NQ356, 570928, NQR)**

JC, Sep 26 – The past week has been noted for the great contrast in weather conditions. Early in the week winter returned with its intense cold and turbulent winds. The rally was of short duration for summer has suddenly made its appearance featuring the hot days that may be expected for the next six or seven months.

[flu, school sports, stock movements, dust, fires]

It is high time that some plan was introduced to effect improvement at the local cemetery. Strangers passing by this neglected 'God's acre' must get a false impression of the citizens of JC and their cultural state. To everyone almost without exception it is a hallowed spot and it should not entail much expense in commencing a beautification of the grounds and carrying it through to fruition. The provision of suitable entrance gates, repairs to the fencing the erection of a small shelter shed and a serious attempt to prevent animals burrowing under the graves are essential reforms.

**5 Oct 1957 (p42, 571005, NQR)**

JC – Fire fighters responded to a call to a fire which apparently spread from a camp at the 20 mie and before it was extinguished burnt out about 8000 acra of good gradd country on Consentes. Fourteen fire plants were in operation and soon had the outbreak under control. A fire on Longford Plains burnt out about 1000 acres. It had a frontage of about two miles but the strip burnt was a narrow one. Fire fighting plants from Hilton Park, Garomna and Bodell together with voluntary fire fighters from JC confined the outbreak and finally extinguished it.

[Stock]

Mrs Grace Horton is a patient in the JC Hospital and her many friends hope that her hospitalisation will not be of long duration.

**12 Oct 1957 (p7, NQ353, NQR)**

London, Oct 9 – The Soviet Union's 23 inch baby moon, radioing vital cosmic data back to Russia from the fringes of outer space, had spun 70 times around the earth by midnight tonight...

**12 Oct 1957 (p7, NQ360, NQR)**

Moscow, Oct 7 – Soviet scientists, overjoyed at their success in launching the world's first artificial satellite, announced yesterday that very soon they will launch heavier and larger 'moons' equipped with a more varied range of recording instruments...



**12 Oct 1957 (p42, 571012, NQR)**

JC, Oct 9 – The south easterly wind during the week was saturated with fine dust which was deposited everywhere. Not a thing could be left uncovered for a minute without its bearing signs of this fine matter. A haze has been noticeable for days considered by many to be dust infiltrated by smoke from the fires raging in the north.

Interested person in the district have been listening for signals from the satellite and watching its passage across the sky. Mr L Telford manager of Oxton Downs, on his short wave radio picked up signals from the satellite at 4.15pm on Monday.

**19 Oct 1957 (p6, 571019, NQR)**

JC – Race Weekend.

JC was packed at the weekend the attraction being the big race meeting on Saturday. forty horses had been nominated for the six races but scratchings slightly reduced the number. The handicapping was perfect and several of the finishes were exceptionally close. Very little divided any of the placed horses. At the end of the day's racing, the stewards had nothing to report in the way of misdemeanours. Mrs JE Mathews, wife of the club's president, decorated HL Solomon's Allenid, winner of the Jack Sherwin Memorial handicap and FA Paine's Sication, winner of the JC Cup with their respective sashes both winners being acclaimed by the onlookers. The new layout of the stalls and the saddling paddock was favourably commented upon by all... The takings at the gate were £162, an all time high and at the bar were £185. With other sundries the club should nett a profit in the vicinity of £250.

[race dance]

**26 Oct 1957 (p6, NQ357, NQR)**

JC, Oct 24 – Grass on the common is drying up rapidly and outwardly does not appear to have much nutritive value. Stock, generally are standing the dry conditions well and in places horse are looking better than the have done for a long time. Travellers report that the adjacent country is looking in a better shape than much of the country nearer the coast. Clouds have rolled up and a change of the wind has scattered them Light drops of rain have been felt at Gilliat, Eddington and Toorak. Water in the smaller water holes is vanishing and in pools where swimming is still pursued the swimmers report that pocket size fish abound. Several native companions have returned for the ballet season ad a few kite hawks have made reappearance.

On Sunday afternoon, in spite of terrific heat, a large number of golfers demonstrated that it takes more than heat to stop the game. Dry weather, poor sheep or cattle, the menace of foxes, dingoes and worms are all forgotten for the afternoon, and concentration is given to the hitting of a small white ball. After a four-hour battle in the heat someone hs been acclaimed the winner and, whether tired or dusty, is elated to know that he or she has won the weekend trophy. Those not so lucky relate their sad tales of the hectic four hours and , with the more seriously minded discuss their troubles with the hope in view that next Sunday will be their day. Last Sunday Mrs Joe Kaeser and Barry Burns were too good for the rest of the field, returning a nett 67 to easily win the Hallam trophy.

Mr and Mrs MD Burns who left last week on a short visit to Cairns have returned to JC.

Golf in JC has had a really good innings and is the only sport, apart from tennis, that has consistently existed. some of our new players including Bert Hallam, Graham Uhlmann and Brian Fuery are all showing promise as golfers and with another year's practice will be hard to beat. We also have more active playing associates than ever before...

The singles championship for men was commenced on the local tennis courts on Sunday. Nominations were received from 16 entrants. The first round brought no surprises with the exception of the game between Jim Eckford and Don Jarrett which Jim Eckford won in three sets. In the second round a hard game between Fred Huller and G Browne was won by the former. The tournament continues next Sunday with the quarter finals and possibly the semi finals if time allows.

**2 Nov 1957 (p43, 571102, NQR)**

JC, Oct 31 – Clouds have been gathering all week but each day have been dispersed by the wind. Sunday afternoon, when lightning and thundery cumulus foreshadowed rain, there was fair reason to

believe the dry period since the first Monday in July was about to end. The local forecasters were of the opinion that the continued heat would bring rain, and this time they were correct.

It was a relief to smell the rain; to say farewell for a time to the dust that has been settling over everything for weeks past, piling weight on our lives as in a paraphrased poem ...

With lash and exclamation  
Davis swings into the station  
The dust upon the lading making extra weight to pull  
And the drunken township loafer  
Staggers blindly from the sofa  
Just to cheer Bill Davis onward with the Dalgonally wool

... and to know that soon, green shoots will replace dry herbage.

Eighty points fell at the post office; two inches were reported at Lindfield and Werrina. At Auckland Downs, Baroona, Argyle and Huddersfield, the rain, whilst not satisfying their need in full, was at least beneficial.

During the present calendar year the rainfall has totalled 15 inches.

Three months have passed since there has been rain in the district. With the heat of the day and the dryness of the grass it needed only a flash to start a blaze. The lightning on Sunday soon had half a dozen fires going, most of them being quelled by rain before serious damage was done. A serious fire caused by lightning occurred on Hilton Park West and before rain extinguished it, 4000 acres of good grass country and nearly 1600 valuable sheep were destroyed. There was a strong breeze blowing at the time and in places, the firefighters, owing to the terrific heat – the flames were 30 feet high – could not get to the seat of the fire. From the township this conflagration with the dark clouds behind, looked ominous and further untold damage would have continued but for the timely rain that fell.

Last Saturday afternoon a grave fire started on Oxton Downs believed to be the result of carelessness on the part of some person not dousing the fire after boiling the billy near the main road passing through the property. Experienced fire fighters has the outbreak just about under control when a heavy gust of wind scattered burning embers to set fresh places alight. On the same station lightning started three small fires on Sunday evening but the rain limited the damage.

Members of the Parkside Timber Company of Ayr the contractor for the erection of the new ambulance centre, have arrived and building operations will commence immediately. An Aga stove will be installed in the new centre which will be flyscreened throughout. Tenders will be invited for the purchase of the old centre.

The children's playground in the centre of the township, always popular with local children and young people passing through on their way further west, has been topdressed and the lawn is a picture.

There was an excellent rollup of members and associates on Sunday afternoon when players hit off in a mixed foursomes, the winners of which would receive the RS Vine trophy. Ard Cooney and Mrs Bert Hallam were the winners, Max Burns and Mrs Joey Mathews the runners up. The morning was hot, and Max Burns, the captain, decided to lay in a stock of ice in a suitable container and to place this mobile bar half way round the course for the benefit of those who became arid. The cold water was relished by all. The weather was oppressive when the card were drawn but later on a cool breeze made playing conditions more favourable. Rain appeared imminent but all players were able to reach the 19th hole before the storm broke. Word was then received that fire had broken out on Mr J Mathew's - one of our vice president's - property. Golf and what might have been were forgotten as all members rushed off to stem the outbreak.

The annual Sunday School picnic of the C of E was held last Sunday at the 5-mile lake on Hilton park and was a most enjoyable outing for all. Forty children and 25 adults were treated to a feast of good things and, the day being a hot one, soft drinks and ice cream were popular with the children...

[tennis semifinals, C of E Women's Guild]

**9 Nov 1957 (p43, NQ352, 571109, NQR)**

JC, Nov 11 – Several nice days followed on the downpour of Sunday night and on Wednesday, after a particularly strong wind, another thunderstorm yielded 39 points at the post office. Nature does not take long to respond – green shoots are rapidly appearing. Thursday night was cool but subsequently the heat has been intense. Splendid falls have been reported over a wide area.

At the meeting of the FRDS held last Saturday it was decided to pay a bonus on every dingo scalp produced by any member of the syndicate or by any person employed by him. The erection of the dingo fence is proceeding and action is being taken to have the existing gaps closed up. Gates on the barrier fence are not always being closed as directed. Trigger-happy individuals regard the circular metal notices on the gates as targets and riddling them with bullets. You need a blunt nail and a keg of gunpowder to enlighten some of these careless and destructive individuals.

Local golfers turned out in force on Sunday, like Noel Coward's 'mad dogs and Englishmen in the midday sun' to compete for Mrs Max Burns trophy. After considerable sweat, seasoned with good golf, Mrs Joe Mathews and Graham Uhlmann won the trophies. These two players should soon be among the top notchers of the club.

The mens' singles championship of the JC Tennis Club ended with an unexpected result. Roy McMillan who became outright favourite after H Warren failed to participate, and who had won his semifinal match against Bill Hughes on Friday, lost the final to J Eckford on Sunday. Roy had several hours of playing cricket in his legs when he entered the court, and with temperatures high in the nineties he suffered a bad attack of leg cramp when 1-5 down in the first set. From there on Jim had an easy win in straight sets. Jim was undoubtedly lucky to get past two strong players in the semi final and final, credit must be given nevertheless to his steady and determined play in adverse conditions.

[Golf, fires, Barry Burns, tennis, Huller] ... Golf in JC has had a really good innings and is the only sport, apart from tennis, that has consistently existed. Some of our new players including Bert Hallam, Graham Uhlmann and Brian Carey are all showing promise as golfers...

**23 Nov 1957 (p12, 571123, NQR)**

JC, Nov 21 – Mr and Mrs WT Davis, Coyne Street, JC, quietly celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding which took place at Muttaborra on Nov 13, 1907. They were the recipients of many congratulations. Distance precluded the gathering of several who assisted in the wedding ceremony.

**30 Nov 1957 (p4, NQ351, NQR)**

JC, Nov 28 – Summer has come in early and the heat has been particularly trying for many. A thunderstorm on Saturday slightly cooled the air but there was no rain. Lightning started a fire on Osbert Station and 2000 acres of good grass country were destroyed. On Sunday afternoon another thunderstorm worked up but rain did not fall. Several outbreaks of fire were attributed to the lightning and most were speedily dealt with. Fires on Hilton park linked up and ravaged about 18,000 acres before the fire fighters had it under control. Looking from the township which was lit up by the reflection, the roaring blaze appeared to be just beyond the coal stage in the railway yards but actually it was four miles away. Thirty five fire fighting plants, some travelled 50 miles to join in the operations, and 100 fire fighters were engaged in the task of subduing the blaze which was accomplished at day break this morning. There was a strong easterly breeze at first which changed to a north westerly resulting in the flames extending to Bodell, Eureka and Longford Plains. Again this afternoon a storm yielded no rain but set alight grass on Eureka which burned for a couple of hours until it was extinguished by a number of fire fighters.

In the court of Petty Sessions at JC on Wednesday, October 23, John William Winton, motor mechanic, charged on summons with having unlawfully killed one Paul Byrnes, on September 8 last was remanded until December 4 next, on bail of his own bond of £100. Defendant at this stage was not represented by counsel. The only witness for the prosecution who gave evidence was Daniel Egbert Kleinig, Medical superintendent Cloncurry Base Hospital who related the medical examination carried out by him and the injuries sustained by the patient on his admission to hospital. Dr Kleinig's evidence was given as he was on the point of transfer to Brisbane...

[tennis, cricket]

**7 Dec 1957 (p42, NQ349, NQR)**

JC – [JC race meeting, new ambulance centre, AGM golf club, Max Captain for 1958, auditor F Huller]

**7 Dec 1957 (p9, NQ350, NQR)**

Trial for JC Man

JC, Dec 5 – In the Court of Petty Sessions today the Stipendiary Magistrate found the prosecution had established a prima facie case against John William Winton, charged with unlawful killing one Paul Byrnes on September 8, and he was committed for trial at the criminal sittings of the Circuit Court to be held at Cloncurry commencing on Monday, April 14, 1958. Bail was allowed £100 in his own recognisance. When charged defendant pleaded not guilty and reserved his defence.

**14 Dec 1957 (p41, NQ348, NQR)**

JC, Dec 12 – The hot wind on Wednesday last week sent the thermometer reading up to 112° and contributed to the discomfort of all. Foliage simply wilted. Thursday was not as hot and when the clouds rolled up early in the evening, the atmosphere completely changed.

Before the rain commenced the violent wind distributed fine dust throughout the residences, loose papers and pieces of iron received their movement orders and visions arose of heavier articles becoming airborne. The lightning, fork and chain, sharply illuminated the darkness and ringed the township by fires which fortunately were quelled by the rain before serious damage occurred...

Evidence in the charge against John William Winton, motor mechanic, of unlawfully killing one Paul Byrnes, on September 8, 1957 was concluded in the Court of Petty Sessions, JC, last Thursday. The Magistrate held that the prosecution had established a prima facie case against the defendant. The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge and reserved his defence. He was committed for trial at the criminal sittings of the Circuit Court to be held at Cloncurry, April 14, 1958, bail of £100 in his own recognisance being extended.

Word has been received from Dr G Bradfield that he has accepted the position of Obstetric Registrar, Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart. Mrs Bradfield trained in the block that her husband will administer. The position is one that Dr Bradfield will occupy for two years and is recognised by the English College for the Diploma of Obstetrics. If all goes well the doctor and his family may be back in North Qld about the end of 1960 as, since he has been residing in the south, a longing for the open spaces has developed. There are possibilities that he may return to JC for a short period.

[Flinders River Dingo syndicate, Land Act leases]

**28 Dec 1957 (p5, NQ347, NQR)**

JC is again without the services of a medical superintendent. Dr W Cadzow who had been in JC for several months, left by plane on Sunday morning for Brisbane. Mrs Cadzow was a passenger to Brisbane on the Inlander last Thursday night.

**4 Jan 1958 (p41, NQ362, NQR)**

JC, Jan 2 – Christmas Day was a reasonable day so far as the heat was concerned. After sundown it was delightfully cool and festoons of small lights on the lawns plainly showed up the bridge and canasta players seated at their tables engrossed on the games. Later it became chilly, coats and wraps being utilised. The next three days were the antithesis. The thermometer soared over the 110 mark on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and several nights were sultry. Early on Sunday morning, the lightning which the previous evening was noticeable away on the horizon was considerably closer and after daybreak the claps of thunder could be plainly heard following closely on the lightning flashes. Only a light shower fell in the township but reports from Lindfield and Devella gave falls of 136 points and 200 points.

The rainfall for December was 126 points, amking a total of 1738 points for the year. Only four months of the year were rainless.

The aerodrome is again out of bounds to the big passenger planes. Motorists journeying from the east have resorted to rail transport from Hughenden on to avoid the untrafficable roads.

Another trip to Cloncurry was made by the ambulance on Sunday night. The patient was conveyed from Proa, near Nelia, to the JC hospital and thence to Cloncurry. On the way to and also on the way back from Proa the ambulance was bogged. From JC to Cloncurry the trip was good but on the way back rain was encountered 40 miles out and from there it was a nightmarish journey. On this trip 270 were covered by the ambulance and the time occupied was 14 hours. At this rate, JC will not only be without a doctor but will be without the services of an ambulance superintendent for no person will be able to stand the strain.

On the other side of the world people are living in risky places not knowing whether the atmosphere will become radioactive or the adjacent stock pile of nuclear weapons explode. There surely are some means still existent whereby professional men can be interested in the vacant medical positions in the north-west, be adequately informed of living conditions for themselves and families the type of accommodation available and the income that can be earned. Our students are not passing in sufficient numbers to satisfy the demand. Therefore an attempt might be made to procure the medical practitioners from abroad.

**18 Jan 1958 (p44, 580118, NQR)**

JC – Drilling contractor E Emblem has commenced sinking a bore on Garomna the property of Messrs Hickman and Fels. The depth reached at the present time is between 100 and 200 feet.

The new railway timetable commencing next Monday whereby goods railed at Townsville will be delivered at JC within 26 hours is a progressive move in railway transport in the north-west. Fruit and vegetables which have at times in the past so deteriorated through the lengthy time in transit with serious loss to the railways and to consignees should now be received in first class condition.

Last Saturday when Thomas Wall, aged 15 years, son of Mr and Mrs Alec Wall, of Debella, about 60 miles north-east of JC, was about to water his pony at a small waterhole on the property a seven foot crocodile in the water startled the pony. Dismounting, young Tom seized a suitable stick and made the saurian vacate the waterhole. For a while it sought refuge in a hollow log until it had to make a hurried departure when the log was set on fire. In the more open country the lad bashed the crocodile until its resistance ceased. It was an extraordinary achievement for a young lad armed only with a stick.

**1 Feb 1958 (p42, 580201, NQR)**

JC – [rains] It was drizzling lightly last Friday afternoon when the DC3 passenger plane circled the town and landed on the strip at the aerodrome. The rain had ceased when the plane passed over on Monday afternoon and touched down again. The long breaks in the air service due to rain on previous occasions would appear to be a thing of the past and the erection of the new offices at the drome together with the formation of an all weather road thereto would be in keeping with the new strip.

The final working plans and specifications of the JC swimming pool estimated to cost £27,000 were approved. For this work a subsidy of 1/3 will be contributed by the State Government.

A tender has been accepted for new troughing at Kynuna and Longford watering facilities.

In the Court of Petty Sessions at JC, William Thomas Ryder, Patrick Frederick Mathers, and William Ah Sam were charged with being in possession of a carcass of a bullock suspected of being stolen. Defendants pleaded guilty. Each defendant was convicted and fined £30 to include restitution of £10 to Australian Estates, in default three months imprisonment.

**15 Feb 1958 (p48, 580215, NQR)**

JC – The thunderstorm on Thursday afternoon was accompanied by a heavy wind which played havoc with outhouses, open spaces under roofs, and small trees. Roofing iron on some buildings was lifted and deposited elsewhere. A telephone cabinet on the verandah of the local post office was removed on to the street. The engine shed, an old landmark at the Railway Depot, was completely demolished.

Barely a night passes without an entrancing lightning display ringing the heavens and illuminating the imposing masses of cloud. Conjectures free and many are that beneficial rain is falling on certain known properties. The morning's information is that the displays were far beyond those particular stations.

Dingoes still roam in small and large packs. One of the dingo syndicates has had a good response to an ad for a dogger and preparations are in hand for a wide-scale attack on this pest as soon as the wet season, if it does happen, is over.

No dingo scalps were handed in to the Council last month. Bonuses were paid on 15 fox scalps and 99 pig snouts.

**22 Feb 1958 (p43, NQ371, NQR)**

CT, Feb 19 - Order disposing of Ryan's stolen cattle.

**1 Mar 1958 (p34, 580301, NQR)**

JC, Feb 26 – For the greater part of the week a southerly breeze, at times rather forceful, has lessened the inconvenience of the heat. Away from the breeze, it has been steamy and the persistent flies have been a perfect nuisance. Clouds have been prevalent most of the time and occasionally a few drops of rain were heard or felt. What did fall was too limited for record purposes. The wind had abated somewhat on Sunday and that night, after a warm day, a shower yielded 11 points of rain.

Monday was like one of mid summer and the storm this time devoid of heavy wind which had been working up since midday, broke over the township at 5.30 pm. Lightning in the east and west later on may have been a warning that further rain would fall but those displays have often in the past been negative. At 1.30 am on Tuesday a thunderstorm soaked the place and the vivid lightning flashes revealed an inland sea. It was a good solid fall and the rain recorded at the post office was 295 points. With what had already fallen this month the total is 611 points and makes just over nine inches since Jan 1. The sky remains overcast and the prospects are bright for further rain.

The grayness which has been apparent for several months when looking across the downs from the township is now a vast green field – a wonderful sight – with potential feed that will last stock for the next three months.

**8 Mar 1958 (p4, NQ368, 580308, NQR)**

JC, Mar 6 – Approximately three inches of rain were recorded at the post office gauge last week and following on the three inches of rain that has earlier fallen during February, the country in close proximity to the township is just a green sward.

Our local fliers report that for a radius of five or six miles from the township, the downs, looking from the planes, are just a magnificent sight. Standing out in bold relief here and there beyond that area, like a patchwork quilt are the parts that have had none, little rain or good rain.

Gullies, creeks and rivers have been flowing and immobilising road traffic. Where the roads have not been built up, extensive stretches of water have hindered the movement of vehicles and frequent appeals have been made for their extradition from the boggy region.

Many yards in the township were waterlogged for several days but the council's pumps speeded up the disposal of the surplus water. Generally at this time of the year after heavy rain, there has, at night time been a great influx of insects of all varieties but so far the heavy raids have not taken place. Their vanguard has arrived and is establishing outposts. Mosquitoes are breeding in unlimited hordes and repellants are in full use in most households...

If there ever existed a case for the enclosure of the golf course, the aftermath of the recent rains has provided of it. Prior to the deluge the fairways had been graded and a little exertion on the part of a working bee would have resulted in the course being fit for championship games. Straying stock apparently appointed themselves as a selected band of saboteurs to create as much havoc as possible on and off the fairways, for the depressions so caused are countless in number. Their size and depth are unequalled in any other part of the district. The cost of the grading can be written off as a total loss for the work will need to be repeated.

Schools and curriculum have undergone much change since 1913 when Mr AW Russell, who was educated at Abingdon and Yarmouth, England, commenced teaching at the JC State School and called the roll for 18 children in an old iron building which had once been a blacksmith's shop. Twelve months later, a school building of those times was erected. The school is now a modern airy building

with a headmaster and assistant teacher. From the small beginning of 18 children the attendance has grown to over 70 pupils, and in addition a Convent has been established.

Mr Russell served in the 1st AIF in Egypt and France from 1915 to 1917. In 1918 he was transferred to CT and in subsequent years taught at schools at various places between Thursday Island and Humpybong (Redcliffe) at which place he was stationed for the last seven years of his career. Mr Russell retired at the close of last year and we extend our best wishes to him and Mrs Russell for their future happiness in retirement.

Mrs HG Mann a resident of JC for over 20 years, has sold her residence in Burke St and, with her son, Harold, will in the early future be leaving for her new home in Springsure where her son-in-law and daughter, Edith, live.

**15 Mar 1958 (p17, NQ367, NQR)**

CT, Mar 10 – Cattle disposal of Ryans, Cooney and Max involved.

**15 Mar 1958 (p42, NQ370, NQR)**

JC, Mar 12 – The contrast between the mornings and the afternoons of the past week has been phenomenal. At 9 am the mercury reading of 74° and the strong cool breeze, alternately blowing from the south and north are sufficient to forecast a day of delightful weather. Until lunch time the gradually increasing heat is tempered by the breeze but, after that it seems that the air-conditioning plant has broken down completely for the heat is terrific and the intermittent breeze is like a blast from the furnace. The thermometer reading advances to 108° and at sundown is still around the century mark.

Nocturnal insects have completed their reconnaissance and are now carrying out heavy raids. If the banning of nuclear weapons against mankind ever becomes a reality the ingenuity of the scientists might be usefully directed towards the wholesale destruction of the hard back grey coloured beetle that from dusk onwards is an undesirable visitor. It can penetrate the slightest chink its fiendish pleasure is to pest humans and when bruised emits the most offensive odour. Its total extinction would increase the happiness of the human race.

A regional library is to be established at JC at an early date.

... Robert Thompson, 25 years charged with unlawfully assaulting police Constable Donald Frederick Lane, unlawfully resisting the police, using obscene language and using indecent language pleaded guilty to all charges. He was convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment on the first charge, three months on the second and to 14 days on each of the other two charges, the sentences to be cumulative.

Mr and Mrs MD Burns left by car last Thursday on a holiday visit to Brisbane. They will be absent from JC for a month.

**22 Mar 1958 (p43, NQ364, 580322, NQR)**

JC, Mar 20 – The days are gradually shortening giving us cool mornings. The intense heat of the afternoon and the slow motion of the sun as it dips under the western horizon, however, give the impression that the days are as long as those of mid-summer. Storm clouds worked up on Sunday afternoon and rain fell on widely scattered parts. At Nonda to the east, three inches; at Valwyn station to the west, 95 points; and at Spreyton in the south, 75 points. In the township there was insufficient to lay the dust.

Lightning on Sunday started a number of fires some of which were doused by rain. Firefighters accounted for the other outbreaks. a loss of 1200 acres of grass at Lara was reported.

[floodlights]

A landmark in the district for the past 28 years is fast disappearing under the contractor's hammer. The picture theatre and dance hall erected by Mr JP Eckford in 1930 is being demolished for re-erection at Waterloo Station [definitely wrong - went to Clifton Park] where it will be used in pastoral adjuncts. The architect for this well-known building was the late Mr J Rooney and the contractor was the late Mr W Kammond who also built a two storey hotel in Goldring Street for Mr W Gannon. The latter structure

was later destroyed by fire. The picture theatre had seating accommodation for 500 persons and the dance floor was specially laid to cater for all types of dancing. Its opening was celebrated by a combined Church of England and Roman Catholic Church cabaret and from then on continued as a happy place of entertainment for residents and visitors. The disappearance of the picture theatre and dance hall will be a loss to the township. Motion pictures will still be shown in the open-air theatre next door.

**29 Mar 1958 (p44, NQ369, NQR)**

A large number of members and friends turned up for the opening of the tennis season on Sunday afternoon. The four courts were in use and among those on the court it was pleasing to see a number of young players. In the American tournament the ladies competition was won by Mrs J Beach with Mrs Don Burns runner up.

[Huller]

**5 Apr 1958 (p39, 580405, NQR)**

JC – The new ambulance centre in Burke St will be officially opened at 3 pm on Saturday April 26 by Mr JA Turner Deputy President QATB Executive, Brisbane. He will be accompanied by Mr FW Cash General Secretary, QATB Executive.

Mr J Weir, electrician in charge of the power house, left last week by car on a trip to Brisbane...

**12 Apr 1958 (p43, NQ361, 580412, NQR)**

JC, Apr 10 – The rainfall of 312 points for the 48 hours ended Mar 31 was exceeded the next day when 382 points of rain were recorded at the post office. The rainfall during March measured 436 points [?] bringing the total for the year to 1425 points. The rain has rendered valuable service to a big area in this district.

[Rain, connecting water mains in town]...

Around the township the green belt is a wonderful sight. Local flyers have remarked that it stands out prominently compared to the area around places 100 miles and more to the south.

Road communication with outlying places has ceased.

The runway at the aerodrome has stood up to the test through the wet weather and the time table of the TAA planes has not been affected. Access to the aerodrome has caused anxiety for it is impossible for an ordinary car to negotiate the road from the township. The council's ranger who inspects the runway after rain, made one of his trips on horseback. Passengers were conveyed to and from the planes by means of lorries using chains with a tractor standing by in case of bogging. It should be well within the province of the Council to construct a road that would allow ordinary transport to meet planes and convey passengers in some degree of comfort. Balancing on the back of an open lorry and subjected to driving rain should not be expected of any passenger and the construction of a suitable road should be No 1 priority on the council's programme.

Mr MD Burns returned by plane on Sunday afternoon after a holiday spent in Brisbane.

**3 May 1958 (p46, NQ381, NQR)**

JC, May 1 – Cooler weather has arrived and the discomforts of summer are but dim memories. The days are fine, the nights are cool and blankets are in use before daylight. The stars, like a giant chandelier, seem closer than for months past, and the milky way is more conspicuous. The south-easterly trade wind invariably ceases at nightfall.

... Anzac Day was fittingly solemnised on Friday, April 25. Services at St Barnabas' and St Abigail's Churches were well attended. Preceded by the pupils of the local school, ex-service personnel and relatives made a pilgrimage at 20 o'clock to the cemetery where wreaths were placed on the graves of, and silent homage paid to comrades who had answered the last Call. At the Post Office steps before a large gathering, an address was delivered by Brother Buffee on the significance of Anzac Day, the Roll of Honour was read by Mr Waldon Taylor, a minute's silence was observed and the "last Post" was sounded by Mr GO Harris. The QCWA entertained ex-service personnel at a luncheon in O'Neill's Hall



at midday. That night in Downey's picture theatre, the Anzac concert was held at which visiting and local artists contributed items. Father Garvey was the guest speaker and in his stirring address he emphasised the importance of Anzac Day in Australian History.

The ceremony of opening the new Ambulance Centre in Burke St took place last Saturday afternoon, an enjoyable day to be out-of doors, before a large attendance, representative of every walk of life in the district. Mr J McMahon, chairman of the committee welcomed those present and on behalf of the JC Centre, extended a warm thanks to all present and to absent friends for their wholehearted support whereby the new centre was erected and opened free of debt. The first superintendent, Mr B Benson, was unable to attend but he (the chairman) wished it to be known that Benny Benson and successive superintendents, apart from their ambulance duties had but one aim and that was to have a centre that would be a fit and proper one for the district. In this they were backed to the limit by Mr H Fickling who had, for many years been chairman of the JC centre and the new building which was to be officially opened that afternoon was the culmination of the efforts of these gentlemen.

Mr FA Hickman in his address gave credit to those whose vision was broader than many, in their drive to replace the anxiety of those living in isolated places by the confidence in the knowledge that in time of sickness and accident, the QATB was "always ready"...

Mr JA Turner (Deputy President, QATB Executive, Brisbane) congratulated the residents of the JC district in the erection of the fine edifice he had much pleasure in officially opening.

Mr P Byrne, senior, one of the oldest supporters locally, also spoke and wished continued growth and success to the QATB.

Before dispersing, a general inspection of the building was made and a dainty afternoon tea, served under the direction of Mrs K Macklan, wife of the superintendent, assisted by the wives of the committee members and others, was appreciated by all. A dance at night filled O'Neil's hall with dancers and netted a further 35 towards the funds of the centre.

The results of the postal ballot for the election of chairman and eight members of the McKinlay Shire Council have been announced. Among those elected are new members Mrs GD Cooney and Messrs Downey, McMahon and Telford. This is the first occasion on which a feminine elector has joined the ranks of councillors in the McKinlay shire Council and her election with the second highest number of votes given to members indicates her popularity and the thought of those who voted for her, that women have a right to take their place in local government affairs. Her services should be of great value to all.

Messrs MD and D Burns and VEF Kelly visited Normanton last Friday; Leaving at 7 am in the aeroplane owned and piloted by Burns, they called at Millungera, Iffley, Donors hill, Neumeyer Valley and Milgara before touching down at 5 pm. Fish that had been freshly caught at Normanton were distributed to friends when the travellers returned to JC on Saturday.

#### **10 May 1958 (p46, 580510, NQR)**

JC – For the first time since its inception in 1949, the Nicholson shield, the intertown tennis trophy of the north-west, was won by a team from JC. It must be gratifying to the many tennis enthusiasts of JC to see a team from their town bring back the coveted trophy. The competition for 1958 was held in Hughenden on May 3,4 and 5 and eight teams from Winton, Hughenden, Cloncurry and JC participated. The winning JC team was made up of Mrs R McMillan, Mrs M Beach, Mr R McMillan, Mr J Eckford, Mr J Beach and Mr Fred Huller (Captain). The win of the JC team was mainly due to the magnificent effort of the two ladies in the team but the men also put in some very good performances and more than held their own against strong competition.

#### **24 May 1958 (p42, NA, NQR)**

JC, May 22 – It is difficult to precisely recall what the month of May was like in previous years but, considering the type of weather we have had recently, the belief is accepted that rarely were they noted for such violent heat and absence of cooling breezes.

For over a week the days have been extremely hot and the nights have been little better. Hordes of flies were prevalent during the day and early evening. The mosquitoes took over when the flies were

retreating and were persistent in the efforts to relieve man and beast of blood. In addition, the foul brown beetle reappeared and for several nights were in greater numbers than immediately after the rain in March and April.

Apart from grass fires JC has been singularly free from the ravages of fire but an outbreak last Wednesday has revived the necessity of having a fire brigade. Mr Alec Wall had parked his Auster plane on the Town Common a day or so earlier and through some at present unaccountable cause it was noticed to be on fire. Operators with several fire extinguishers attempted to quell the blaze but were unsuccessful. In a short time the plane was a total wreck. It is a serious loss to the owner and to the community.

### **31 May 1958 (p46, NQ380, 580531, NQR)**

JC – Several shy top-knot pigeons have lately been seen on the lawns affording interesting study. Plots are being turned over preparatory to the cultivation of vegetables. Shearing is proceeding and mail carriers are returning to the trucking yards with back loadings of wool. The slight increase in prices at Monday's wool sales in brisbane has created optimism that higher prices will prevail at subsequent sales.

The perilous practice of pole climbing by the ambulance superintendent to ascertain his bearings when called to isolated stations, or in the event of car mishap, to tap the overhead telephone wire, has been eliminated by the installation of a two-way radio on one of the ambulance cars. Tuned in to the flying doctor Service network, the local ambulance call-up arrangements are over the period from five minutes to until five minutes after each hour daily from 7 am to 10 pm.

### **7 Jun 1958 (p46, 580607, NQR)**

JC, Jun 5 – Summer weather is loth to depart. The days have been as hot as many days in midsummer and there has been little air movement. No rain was recorded during the month of May.

[stock movements]

### **14 Jun 1958 (p43, 580614, NQR)**

JC – [stock movements]

### **21 Jun 1958 (p46, 580621, NQR)**

JC – With drums beating and banners flying, the pupils of St Joseph's Convent, the State schools at JC, Nelia and McKinlay, and the State Correspondence Course, paraded through Burke and Julia Streets on Sunday morning to compete in the sporting events on the oval. These events are open to all school children in the district and nearly 300 children took part in the march past. The 39 events on the programme proceeded with the customary smoothness and the competitors were roundly applauded by the large gallery of relatives and friends.

The Peter Dawes Shield, won last year by JC State School, was wrested from them by the children of St Joseph's with a tally of 161 points. JC was second with 128 points, followed by Nelia 52 and McKinlay 10. Competitors from the last two schools were considerably less in number than those from the local schools.

These sports are held annually and create much interest throughout the district. It is the meeting place for young and old and it fosters in the growing students the desire to excel ...

### **5 Jul 1958 (p43, NQ379, 580705, NQR)**

JC, July 3 – ... low thermometer readings have been reported as the result of the cool change succeeding the rain. Well under cover, the reading has been as low as 31°. In the Nelia district, water in troughing in the open has been frozen. The hours of sunlight are decidedly fine but the sun's disappearance in the afternoon is the signal to don heavier clothing...

The light rain which was insufficient to immobilise all road traffic made a perfect mess of the streets in the township. The same amount of rain in one decent shower may not have been noticeable but the continual drizzle converted the streets to a quagmire which heavy vehicles deeply rutted. Crossing over at any street corner was an ordeal.

[Golf: Mrs Ian Fairbairn, Max, Nan, Barry; tennis against Richmond]

The event of the golf year, the Far North-West Championships is to be played on July 26...

**12 Jul 1958 (p4, NQ378, 580712, NQR)**

JC, Jul 11 – During the 12 months ended June 30, 1958, the Council paid bonuses on: dingoes 599, foxes 674, pigs 1578, eagle hawks 253.

[golf, nan, Bill Davis]

**26 Jul 1958 (p42, 580726, NQR)**

JC – Church Opening

The erection of a church has been the aim of local Presbyterians for many years and the culmination of their efforts was witnessed on Tuesday night when the new church was opened and dedicated by the Moderator of the Presbyterian church in Qld, the Rev S Ballinger of Bundaberg. A large crowd filled the church to hear the Moderator's address. The opening ceremony will long be remembered by those present, for the occasion was marked by three christenings during the service...

**26 Jul 1958 (p45, NQ377, NQR)**

Ad for Auction of Max's plant - 1952 DD Cletrac, 4 yard scoop, ripper, 1936 Thornycroft, 1949 Ford.

**2 Aug 1958 (p47, NQ375, NQR)**

[Headline and photo]

Bill Davis And His Big Team Of Sturdy Horses Have Given Way To Progress

William Davis, a rugged 73-year-old westerner from JC, stood and watched the rush and bustle of the traffic in Flinders Street one day last week, removed his brown broad brimmed hat and sighed, "Motor transport is here to stay."

White-moustached and grey-haired, Bill Davis was watching mechanisation, which has written an end to the romantic story of an era in transport in which he himself played a prominent part.

Bill Davis is one of the last of the great horseman. Before the coming of the trucks and the trains, he used to drive magnificent teams of up to 34 powerful horses through withered grass and over unmade roads to deliver supplies to outback North Queensland sheep and cattle stations.

In Townsville last week he averred, "I still believe horse-drawn transport can compete against the lorries in the west. First of all the outlay is a lot lower. a good team cost about £580, fully rigged up. Compare that with the price of a truck. And there are few running expenses for a team – no engine to wear, no springs to break, no rubber tyres to replace. Lorries need petrol; horses need only grass. It is simply a matter of turning the horse loose – they'll find their own feed."

But this is 1958 and Mr Davis now has his own car. "It comes in handy, sometimes", he says.

Bill Davis was born in Springsure. He will be 74 years of age next October. Most of his early days were spent in Longreach, where he went to school. After that, he had his first contact with the carrying business. Bill used to help cart water from Gin Creek about a mile and a half from the town. Longreach had no bores in those days, and water used to cost 2/- or 2/6 a cask.

For a while, Bill accompanied his father on haulage trips to various stations in the district. The biggest properties in those days were Maneroo, Wellshot, Evesham, Vindex and Bowen downs – probably the biggest of them all. Bowen Downs owned by the Frasers, carried sheep. The biggest cattle property was Mount Cornish.

It was about this time that Bill first saw the motor car. "It looked strange and ominous. It was chain driven and a doctor had it", he recollects.

At the age of 19 Bill became a station hand and worked on the sheep and cattle property of Kennington Downs, in the Longreach district, about 25 miles from Muttaborra. Three years later he went to Hughenden and worked as a wool presser for Alloway Brothers.

Forth-three years ago Mr Davis went to JC and started his own carrying business. He obtained a team of 28 horses, by the method most people buy their cars today – time payment. The man who “had to start from the bottom” soon became a well-known figure in the JC area.

With his big waggon and team of 28 horses, he made regular runs to Millungera station on the Flinders River, about 75 miles from JC. “We carried everything – rations, materials for building and station plant and wire for fencing”, said Mr Davis. For most of the trip there were only wheel tracks through grass-covered country. In some parts there wasn’t even this.

Even in the wet Mr Davis had to deliver the goods. The rain often turned the ground into quagmires causing the heavily-laden waggon to sink well below the rims. Skilled tradesmen built the vehicles. They had to be strong and stand up to the maximum punishment.

Even after the destination was reached, Mr Davis’ job was still not done. He had to unharness the whole team. And with 28 or even more horses this was a big task in itself.

But Bill Davis loved his work. Most of all he loved horses. He knew and understood them but then he had to – it was his life. It took strong hands to control the team of sturdy steeds. Often Mr Davis was on his own in this job.

Bill’s first team was from Harry Mathews of Hilton park, JC. Mathews bred the horses himself in the district and they were light Clydesdales. “The big Clydesdales were perfect on the short routes, but no good on the long hauls,” points out Mr Davis.

Bill was nine years on the JC Millungera route. As back loading, he carried wool from Auckland Downs which was owned at that time by the Taylor Brothers. Then the lorries started to arrive.

“I was beaten by progress,” Mr Davis says. “I didn’t give up the transport work because of the lorries. It was the difficulty in obtaining offsidiers. I just couldn’t get lads to go on the journey with the team.”

So Mr Davis turned his attention to fire-ploughing, still using his horse teams which had up to 34 animals. Mr Davis worked on stations and selections – about 100 in all – from the Flinders to the Diamantina at Kynuna. His job was to plough fire breaks between 10 and 15 feet wide. “The horse were ideal for this work. They pulled hard and usually covered up to 12 miles a day.”

By “a day” Mr Davis meant a 9 [3?] am start and a 5.30 pm finish. But even mechanisation has entered this field. Now tractors are doing the job of clearing fire breaks.

Mr Davis has only recently given up his work and pensioned off his horses. “Age beat me, not the tractors,” he said. I still guarantee I could do the work more cheaply with my horses.”

But Mr Davis is now living in retirement with his good wife, at JC. They have a daughter in Theodore and a son in Bundaberg.

The last of the real teamsters in the district, William Davis and his huge team of pulling, plodding Clydesdales have now entered the realm of memories.

## **2 Aug 1958 (p46, NQ376, 580802, NQR)**

JC, Aug 1 – Our winter has been spasmodic. July is equidistant between autumn and spring and often is the coldest month of the year. The cold days and nights have been curtailed, dovetailed in with longer periods of warm weather. The thermometer during the past week has recorded temperatures between 90° and 100° at midday and with the advent of longer days, the heat is constant until after sunset. The skies have been cloudless, there has been no indication of rain and the dust has been troublesome. Flies abound during the daytime being relieved by hordes of mosquitoes at night time.

Golfers from all over far north-west Qld assembled in JC at the weekend to compete in the far North-west championships. approximately 70 golfers took part in the carnival. Weather conditions, whilst rather warm, were ideal for golf and the usual 30 knot wind was absent for the first time in years during the tournaments. Starting with a mixed foursomes on Saturday afternoon, which was won by two popular golfers in Mrs Bob Smith of JC and Cecil Redi of Mt Isa, the tournament got away to a good

start.

On Saturday night a sumptuous repast which would have earned credit from first class city caterers, was served by the associates to golfers and their friends.

Sunday morning broke a glorious day and all 70 golfers lined up on the tees on time. Owing to our course being only of nine holes the field became congested by midday and some players took nearly three hours to complete the second nine with the last nine not much faster. In the interest of social golf players went out in fours but groups of three would have been faster...

The Cooney Cup was again won by JC which was a forgone conclusion on the local course. This competition is a great event for golfers. The inter town Championship cup, donated by Max Burns and Jo Mathews, was also won by JC by a margin of five strokes. Visiting golfers always find the JC course very tough on account of the many hazards and waterways and the heartbreaking ninth hole. The North-West championship was won by local golfer Max Burns, whose local knowledge plus steady consistent golf, proved too good for the rest of the field. Fay Reynolds of Mt Isa won the Associates Championship by a large margin, this making her fifth North-Western championship...

Prior to her departure on Thursday last for Springsure, where she will reside in future, Mrs H Mann, Burke St, was the recipient of several tokens of respect and high regard for the many acts of kindness that she had rendered in the interests of JC over the past two decades. A willing worker for any deserving cause she will be sadly missed in this small community. The JC branch of the QCWA entertained her at a Wog farewell afternoon tea party when opportunity was taken by Mrs J Williams (President) to present to the departing guest a set of chenille towels. Wishes were expressed by all that Mrs Mann's future days in her new home would be happy ones.

Mr and Mrs Gannon left by Inlander on Thursday last week to spend a holiday in Brisbane.

**9 Aug 1958 (p43, 580809, NQR)**

Max, Marj, Barry, Glad Cooney & Dot Smith to Mt Isa Golf Championships.  
[Dennis John Beccaris, stock movements]

**16 Aug 1958 (p41, NQ374, NQR)**

JC – Straying stock in the township are again infuriating householders. These beasts are well versed in the mechanism of most gate latches and they time their raids after residents have retired at night. Their impressions on the damp lawns are heavy and they are perfect vandals in the ferneries. It is hoped that the new council is capable of devising a lasting method to keep these vagrants in their proper place.

**23 Aug 1958 (p3, 580823, NQR)**

JC, Aug 21 – In the court of Petty Sessions, JC on Wednesday morning, Claude Ernest Wilder, charged with a breach of the Main Roads Regulations in that he failed to renew the registration of his motor vehicle on the due date, was convicted and fined £10 with costs of court 14/- in default 1 month's imprisonment.

On Sunday night lights from a number of vehicles lit up the airstrip in order that local flyer Alec Wall on a trip from Taldor station could make a safe landing.

[Power house fault, power blackouts]

**23 Aug 1958 (p45, NQ373, NQR)**

JCEW - Massey Ferguson Ad, Volkswagen and Landrover, for Max

**30 Aug 1958 (p43, NQ372, 580830, NQR)**

JC – An inquiry into the cause of the fire which destroyed an Auster 4-seater aeroplane on May 14, 1958 was held on Tuesday in the Court of Petty Sessions, JC. After evidence was given by Messrs AG Wall owner of the aeroplane, MD Power, Stock Inspector, and H Fickling, Council Crown Ranger, was adjourned to Cloncurry to hear the evidence of Detective Corbett who assisted in the investigation.

It was revealed that no electrical equipment was on the plane but the tanks contained a small quantity of aviation spirit. Children had been noticed at the time of the fire, playing about the aeroplane where it

have been parked on the Common for several days, one boy having been seen walking on one of the wings.

[See also NQ370 or thereabouts re vandalism signs at airport. Have scanned from NQ360-374 and could not find this article, May 2004]

The burnt-out alternator at the power house has been replaced and the Council appreciates the cooperation extended by users during the period when the power generated was reduced by the mishap. The State Electricity Commissioner has recommended the installation of an additional generating set of 60-80kW, and the McKinlay shire Council will be calling tenders forthwith for the plant. If that is satisfactory the Council will consider the installation of a further similar generating set. With the installation of the second set should it eventuate, the power available will permit the use in business places and residences of electrical equipment that is now prohibited. No additional accommodation at the power house will be necessary for the first unit but if the second unit is installed the power house will need to be enlarged.

[golf]

**13 Sep 1958 (p43, 580913, NQR)**

JC – [St Joseph's concert in Downey's Hall; Father Garvey]

**20 Sep 1958 (p44, NQ390, 580920, NQR)**

Mr Don Burns, Mrs MD Burns and Miss Joy Burns left on Saturday morning on an overland trip to Brisbane. From Brisbane Miss Burns will continue her journey to Melbourne to further her nursing profession.

[Emblen still at bore on Garomna, Feeney]

**27 Sep 1958 (p41, NQ389, 580927, NQR)**

JC – The last visit made by a dentist to JC was in March, 1958. No advice is available when a dentist is likely to include JC in his itinerary. The dentist travelling in the rail dental car is not permitted to treat local patients.

**4 Oct 1958 (p43, 581004, NQR)**

JC, Sep 30 – The days have been hot, dry and dusty. Buffeting northerly winds have been a feature of several mornings but they have blown themselves out by noon. Now and again clouds have appeared and early last Friday morning a light scud on the roofs made a welcome sound but a daylight there was little evidence of rain having fallen.

As a mark of the high esteem held for him and the valuable work carried out during the period of 34 years served by him as a councillor and chairman of the McKinlay shire Council, Mr FA Hickman who did not seek reelection at the last election, was presented during an interval of the council's meeting last Friday afternoon, with a solid silver tray suitably engraved. Mr EA Netterfield (Chairman) made the presentation and referred to the great financial work accomplished by their guest for the residents of JC and district. All wished him many days of future happiness.

A local fishing party at Lavera waterhole about 68 miles north-west of JC, had a remarkable catch just recently. It was a saw fish just on eight feet in length. The weight of this strange fish was estimated to be 200 pounds. How long this sawfish has been in this waterhole is a matter for conjecture as this hole is close on 400 miles from the sea.

[Joachim Kurzcewski immigrant for several years]

**18 Oct 1958 (p40, 581018, NQR)**

JC – Work on the bitumenising of a strip in JC will soon commence and it is hoped that whilst the plant is on the job the Council will give consideration to the construction of cross-overs at the main intersections.

[building additions to Gannons, Dawes, library]

**8 Nov 1958 (p19, NQ388, NQR)**

Divorce judgements

**15 Nov 1958 (p4, NQ387, NQR)**

JC, Nov 12 – The afternoons continue as if they had been cut out by a jig in a mechanical shop. They conform in every detail as regards the heat. Nights have been pleasant and several mornings have necessitated the groping for a light blanket covering. A northerly breeze, which may not be cooling but keeps the air circulating, prevails until noon and from then until sunset the heat is severe. Conditions would have been better had there been a gradual movement towards summer but the sudden drop into the fiery atmosphere is devastating.

The heat has been the cause of refrigeration units working overtime and the consumption of electricity has meant nightly blackouts. The township has been divided into two zones and when one zone is in darkness for half an hour at a time, the other zone has light and vice versa.

[Golf - 1958 season one of the most successful]

**22 Nov 1958 (p44, NA, NQR)**

The annual general meeting of the Golf Club took place in the club's room on Sunday. Mr Ard Cooney in his presidential address referred to the status of golf in JC, the increased membership, the healthy condition of the club's finances, and held out hopes for good games and fine companionship in the coming year. The president welcomed Mr Max Burns to the select few who had been made life members of the club. Mr Burns appropriately thanked the president and members for the high honour which had been given for services that had been rendered more with the view of assisting in a most valued amenity in the district than with a view to self aggrandisement.

Cultural life in country towns may not be so marked as that in the cities but the opening of the new library in JC on Saturday was a distinct move in the retention of knowledge that may be forgotten when school days are past. JC now has an up to date library one of a number that has or will be established in the surrounding shires of Cloncurry, Boulia, and Croydon. The council has made available a room complete with tables chairs and shelves stocked with books that will cater for the tastes of all. The official opening was performed by Mr E Netterfield who fittingly remarked on the value of a good book which enlarged the mind of the reader and increased the desire to know the view point of the author ...

**29 Nov 1958 (p43, 581129, NQR)**

JC – Green shoots can be seen around the township as the result of the 40 points of rain in October and the 116 points on three days of this week.

[Election day]

Last Friday night Mr John Cooney, only son of Mr and Mrs AR Cooney, Auckland downs, was the host to a number of young people of the district who passed the night dancing at the homestead. Supper was to have been served on the spacious lawn but the rain early in the evening compelled other arrangements to be made. The rain also resulted in several cars being bogged after the guests had left for home and the occupants had to return to auckland downs. The breakfast table on Saturday morning included 25 of the stranded guests. On account of the inclement weather sufficient sheep had been slaughtered and the chops at breakfast on Saturday were an additional item to the night's enjoyment and experience.

[Service for John Turner Sherwin, the first in the new Presbyterian church]

**13 Dec 1958 (p21, NQ386, NQR)**

Ad for Massey Ferguson

**13 Dec 1958 (p4, 581213, NQR)**

JC, Dec 11 – [Similar description to next weeks] Every day for the past week has been uncomfortably hot, the thermometer readings being over the century mark. clouds have rolled up in the late afternoons, alternately in the east or in the west according to the isobars, as has the breeze switched from southeast to northwest. The occasional lull has been followed by strong whirl winds which delight

in depositing rubbish inside any open door or window. Once or twice rain seemed possible but the vivid lightning and black clouds only encouraged the development of fierce winds and movement of fine dust.

[BE Stanwell (Bank of NSW), Dr Pegg]

**20 Dec 1958 (p45, NQ384, NQR)**

Ad for Water Conservation, Max Burns

**20 Dec 1958 (p41, NQ385, NQR)**

JC, Dec 18 – [Similar description to previous weeks] Hot and dry conditions continue. Boisterous northerly winds have alternated with strong south-easterlies. Good cloud formations have ringed the township but only a few drops of rain have fallen. There has been a welcome fall at McKinlay, extending to about two miles north of that place and Millungera, to the north received the tail end of rain that came in from the Gulf.

Kangaroos and emus are roaming around in large numbers. Foxes and pigs abound. Judging by the large number of dingo scalps being handed in by doggers to the McKinlay Shire Council, the dingo tribe is suffering serious losses. Calls on the dingo syndicates are continuous for, no sooner are funds available than the accounts are exhausted owing to the delivery of further scalps.

In theory the barrier fence should keep dingoes out of certain protected areas. the delay in closing up existing gaps, the habit of leaving gates open and the lifting up of flood aprons to allow the passage of vehicles without replacing the flood aprons completely nullifies the advantage of the barrier fence. Granted, it is difficult to catch offenders in the act of tampering with the fence, but, it is understood, if an offender is caught, the Minister for lands will press for the maximum penalty prescribed under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Act.

Over 250 children, parents and friends from near and far attended the Christmas tree party given by the QCWA at Nelia. Sports for the children and adults were conducted and the winners were suitably rewarded. Mr E Netterfield (Council Chairman) won the men's race for those over a certain age. Lucky dips, hoop-la and chocolate wheels were other amusements provided. a fancy stall crowded with articles made by members rapidly sold out, netting the sum of £155. Tea was served at 6 pm when the children were helped to, among other things, ice cream, soft drinks, and water melons. Father Christmas arrived at 7 pm and distributed the gifts from the Christmas tree to every child present. A dance at night concluded the day's enjoyment.

[Also McKinlay Christmas tree]

**27 Dec 1958 (p33, NQ382, NQR)**

JC – Friday night last saw one of the biggest functions in JC for many years, the occasion being the Christmas Party given by the Citizen's Playground committee. The large Christmas tree was festooned with myriads of lights and the playground area was brilliantly lit up transforming the grounds into a miniature fairy land. In all 450 children were regaled with ices, soft drinks, blowouts, whistles and balloons. Father Christmas in the traditional costume made the scene more picturesque. Parking space was at a premium for the hundreds of vehicles which brought children, parents and friends from all parts of the district and beyond. A dance, taxing the floor space in O'Neill's Hall, for grownups commenced at 10 pm and finished at 1 am. A barbecue after the dance detained the young and gay until dawn was breaking.

At the monthly meeting of the Council it was decided to amend the existing by-laws relating to the number of goats allowed to graze on the commons throughout the shire. The restrictions on the use of portable electrical appliances in the household are to be lifted so that householders may use electrical frying pans, deep freezers, stovettes, grillers, radiators and small wash boilers. The ban will still remain on the use of large wash boilers and ranges.

Next financial year's programme will include a loan subsidy fund of £3000 for planning purpose in regard to the township's sewerage project.

A sketch of the proposed civic centre was considered and accepted, subject to a few minor alterations.



The design will be available for inspection during the next week or two at the library room. Application is being made to have the amount of £50,000 for the building of the new civic centre included on next year's loan programme.

On account of increasing popularity of the library the hours in which it will be opened have been extended from 4 pm to 5 pm on Fridays.

**27 Dec 1958 (p33, NQ383, NQR)**

Brisbane, Dec 21 – A one-man “save the goats campaign” is being waged in the Central Western Qld town of Longreach where there is one goat to every three people.

The goat lover, Mr JD Mansell, a shop assistant, declares that a “subtle attempt” was being made by some Longreach shire councillors to eradicate the town’s 1000 goats. (Longreach has a human population of 3350) But council officials said Mr Mansell was “tilting at windmills” and there was no goat eradication plan.

Mr Mansell said, “They are bringing pasteurised milk to Longreach now, but a lot of people will switch back to goat milk as soon as the drought is over. The pasteurised cow milk costs 1/- a pint. It only costs 1/6 a year registration to keep a goat.”

The Longreach Shire Clerk said that the council had made no move to get rid of the goats.

“They are supposed to remain on the town common, but we tolerate their wandering through the streets,” he said.

“They are a nuisance because they eat all the foliage from trees, clamber on cars, wander on footpaths and into shops and so on, but the council has done nothing about it.”

**3 Jan 1959 (p24, 590103, NQR)**

JC – A gathering storm on Christmas Eve was a deciding factor in the early departure from the township of country visitors taking advantage of the late shopping night. The fear of being caught on muddy road was the cause of several homestead parties being disturbed on Christmas night when another storm ringed the horizon.

Mr & Mrs W Gannon have taken up residence in Brisbane

**10 Jan 1959 (p41, 590110, NQR)**

JC – During the six months ended 31 Dec 1958 the Council paid bonuses on: dingoes 498, foxes 153, eagle hawks 293, pigs 709.

The council anticipates that the new swimming baths will be opened before the approach of next summer. Parties of swimmers, meantime, are making full use of the cool water at the 5-mile on Hilton Park and at the big waterhole at Eddington.

The big business block which has been vacant since Grant Bros relinquished business several years ago has now been taken over by Hardy and Son as a general store. The interior has been remodelled and another attractive business has become established.

The JC Golf Club house was gaily decorated on New Year's Day when Mr and Mrs HO Hallam entertained a number of guests to dinner and bridge. The club house being isolated and well louvered catches the prevailing breezes and the atmosphere always appears to be cooler than elsewhere in the township. A picturesque menu card elaborated the various dishes and the tropical allusions created much amusement.

Sergeant Frank Purtle has received notification of his promotion and transfer to Mareeba. Sgt and Mrs Purtle who have been residents of JC for seven years will be leaving for their new home in about a months' time. Master B Purtle will shortly be leaving for Brisbane to continue his studies at the University and Master Noel will resume his studies at Mount Carmel, CT.

[Civic centre plans, night soil]

**17 Jan 1959 (p41, 590117, NQR)**

JC, Jan 15 – Every depression in and around the township now contains water. The wet season has truly set in ensuring plenty of surface water and good grass for months ahead. Flood waters are up to the homestead at Glenmore and at Ifley they are 40 yards away. Numil Downs lake is full and overflowing. Rainfall in the last several days have been Canobie 1725 points, Taldora 1369, Euroka 864, Ifley 850 and Gilliat Plains 762. The rain now has immobilised road transport and contact with outside places has ceased.

**24 Jan 1959 (p33, 590124, NQR)****Sale of JC Properties**

JC – One of the largest land transactions ever made in the JC district has just been completed by the sale of Lindfield and Fairlea, comprising 92,977 acres, situated eight miles from JC, together with 15000 sheep and extensive plant on account of O'Dea and Hammond; also the adjoining property, Osbert, of 27,785 acres on a walk-in walk-out basis with 5900 sheep on account of Mr PJ Byrne who has been a highly respected resident of the district for 40 years. The new owners who hail from the Young district of NSW have just taken possession. The combined aggregation is particularly well improved and takes in some of the best country in the JC district where rainfalls totalling 6-7 inches during the past week have been recorded.

Elder, Smith and Co Limited were the selling agents and the overall price is reported to be in the vicinity of £190,000

**24 Jan 1959 (p42, 590124, NQR)**

JC – The main thoroughfare, Burke St, became a morass during the wet weather. The bitumenising of Julia St has been decided advantage and once it was reached, footwear was relieved of the mud.

[stock movement]

**31 Jan 1959 (p40, NQ397, NQR)**

JC – The Main Roads Department has advised the council that the planning of the bitumen strips from the hospital to Allison Street is almost completed... This will mean a bitumen strip will be laid from the hospital at the eastern end of Burke St to Mathew Street, branching out into two strips along each side of the garden plots in Burke St to Allison Street.

Visitors from near and far invaded JC on Saturday to attend the auction sale conducted by the Australian Estates Co Ltd at JCEW. Bidding was brisk and most of the lines of household equipment and engineering lines were disposed of. Mr MD Burns who has, for a number of years taken a prominent part in garage repairs and the marketing of motor vehicles and machinery plant, will, in future concentrate on tank sinking and earth moving operations.

The Golf Clubhouse on Friday night was crowded with members and associates gathered to farewell two of their number, Mr and Mrs Purtle who will shortly be leaving JC for Mareeba. The president (Mr AR Cooney) referred to the great support given to the club by Sergeant and Mrs Purtle and remarked that JC's loss would be Mareeba's gain. In presenting the guests with a set of crystal ware, he added that it would remind them at all times of the happy and strenuous games on the course, their stay in JC, and the high esteem that members and associates had for them...

**7 Feb 1959 (p10, NQ396, NQR)**

Brisbane, Feb 5 – A major step in the State Government's policy of relaxing price controls was announced today by the Minister for Justice. He said that from Saturday next goods and services in many categories would be freed. These would include groceries and foodstuffs, fabrics and piece goods, clothing and wearing apparel, manchester and household equipment, hides, leather, rubber and footwear, oils and greases and boot and shoe repairs.

The government decision meant that only the following goods and services would, after Saturday, be subject to price control: Bread of all descriptions, bran and pollard, breakfast foods prepared from wheat maize, oats and rice, butter, cream, flour, margarine, meat, sausages, whole milk and milk powdered, sugar and tea, galvanised iron, kerosene, petroleum products, rubber tyres and tubes...

**7 Feb 1959 (p40, 590207, NQR)**

JC – Sheep which have been agisted at Kulwin by Burns, Burns and Burns, have been taken delivery of by Mr A Stainkey and are now on the trek to their new pastures at Sunny Plains.

Road communication with places west of Gilliat and JC has again been established and motorists are getting through without mishap.

Mr and Mrs P Dawes and family, Goldring St, returned to JC by the Inlander on Wednesday morning after a holiday spent at their residence at Cape Pallarenda, Townsville.

**14 Feb 1959 (p43, NQ395, NQR)**

JC – The sun has affected some of the young grasses and further rain now would be beneficial. The Mitchell grass in places looks well and is seeding freely. Turkeys in fine condition are roaming about now that there is plenty of cover.

[Farewell to Mrs Purtle]

Mr and Mrs and Masters Malcolm and Alan Burns, left by car last week for Lismore. They were accompanied by Mr and Mrs D Burns and infant son Guy. [590114d is a close up of this paragraph]

**21 Feb 1959 (p43, 590221, NQR)**

JC – A strong wind on Monday and Tuesday dried up the local streets and gutters allowing the council's big grader to again iron out the ruts. Around the township there is a green belt a feast for eyes that had been accustomed to the brown herbage. Fodder and surface water are in plentiful supply for stock.

The local cricket team journeyed to the 20-mile on Sunday to play a game against the Dalgionally team. The latter won the toss and with 14 men batting, rattled up a score of 53 runs. Mervyn Royes gained the batting honours with 15 runs, followed closely by Bob Smith 12, and Peter Currin 10. The batting strength did not extend throughout the side, seven batsmen and the not out man failing to add to the score. Ced Hely for the JC team had the remarkable average of six wickets for eight runs, including a hat trick... JC had lost two wickets for 38 runs when a heavy wind, permeated with dust, blew with mighty force across the playing area, entirely obliterating the players. Further play was abandoned, the final score being cricketers nil, dust storm 1. All players and spectators lost no time in packing up and leaving for home.

**28 Feb 1959 (p40, 590228, NQR)**

JC – A by-law is to be framed limiting to 10 the number of goats that can be owned by any one person in the shire. Executive approval has been given to the formation, drainage, pavement and bitumen surfacing of two, twelve foot wide strips in Burke St between Allison St and hospital at an estimated cost of £25, 464.

**7 Mar 1959 (p43, NQ394, 590307, NQR)**

JC – [rainfall figures] In parts of McKinlay and farther south, there has been little or no rain and graziers are scouring the country seeking agistment for sheep. Those who got in early were able to secure suitable country but on account of the present outlook the tendency of local land owners is to reserve the herbage for home requirements and tempting offers for agistment are being refused.

Representatives in every walk of life in the JC district gathered at the JC Hotel on Tuesday night to bid farewell to Sgt and Mrs F Purtle who have been residents of JC for the past seven years and who intended leaving next day for Mareeba to which place the sergeant has been transferred on promotion. It was fitting that a reminder of their sojourn in JC and the great respect that town and country people had for them should be made and shown to the guests prior to their leaving JC. Mr J Mathews in a few well chosen and happy words spoke for the community when he asked Sgt and Mrs Purtle to accept a canteen of cutlery as a gift from JC, remarked on the high esteem that all had for them as demonstrated by the large number present and conveyed the wishes of all that there would be many happy days ahead for them both, no matter to what place duty called the Sergeant and still further advancement. Sgt Purtle replying for Mrs Purtle and himself, in thanking Mr Mathews and those present said that an officer who took an interest in his work and department could spend happy days at any place and he would look back on his official and unofficial life in JC as days of happy work and congenial company. He

and Mrs Purtle had understood that the evening was to be a quiet one and they were deeply touched by the gift and feelings made and expressed by Mr Mathews. They would regard the gift as a perpetual reminder of their residence in JC and they fully believed that they were held in high respect by the number who were present. Light refreshments were served and before dispersing all present seized the opportunity to personally express their regrets that two staunch friends were leaving the district.

**14 Mar 1959 (p1, NQ393, NQR)**

Damaged Aircraft at JC [includes photo]

This is the Auster light aircraft which was damaged when it crashed during an attempted takeoff from JC last Saturday. Three men in the plane escaped serious injury.

[Keith Coleman at Harvey Bay has an original of this article]

**21 Mar 1959 (p4, 590321, NQR)**

JC – Mr and Mrs Roy Hampton who have been residents of JC for many years, left by car last week for Townsville where they will in future reside.

**21 Mar 1959 (p26, NQ392, NQR)**

The latter part of last week was noted for the daytime heat and the night time sultriness. The exceptionally hot days and the stuffy nights were a solid reminder that summer can extend over a lengthy period. Sunday was more pleasant, clouds filled the sky and the cool south-easterly breeze was welcome. Since then the sun has remained obscured the clouds have become denser and the cool breeze at times somewhat boisterous, has contributed to an agreeable change. Now and again a few drops of rain have fallen but these aided by the Council's watering vehicle have not been sufficient to ally the fine dust.

Stock movements, other than sheep being removed from arid parts by train and motor transport to available areas for agistment, have not yet got under way. In a few weeks time cattle will be coming forward from northern stations. Empty cattle trucks are now forming a larger part of freight trains travelling west getting ready for the transport of prime beasts to meatworks on the coast. Diesel engines are in greater use on the trains and the rhythmic swing of shovel from coal pile to fire box on the steam locomotives will soon be another of those familiar things of the past.

It will not be long before JC has a daily (except for Sunday) bottled milk supply and the children of the local schools, a daily milk ration. Mt Isa already has a bottled milk supply and it is understood that in the near future bulk milk will be railed to Mt Isa where it will be bottled and distributed. JC is linking up with Richmond and Cloncurry in this project and a census has been taken of the milk required here. The milk will be delivered by train from Townsville daily, other than Sunday, and will be distributed to householders and to the schools. For the Sunday supply a double issue will be available on the Saturday. This move is a decided advantage to householders and children.

Goats milk has been the general product over several decades and goats will be in JC long after everything else has gone.

The governor will be accompanied by Lady May and Princess Alice when he visits JC on May 12. he will arrive at JC about midday on that day and his railway coach will remain in the local railway yards until next morning. During their visit the vice regal party will be entertained by the chairman and councillors of the McKinlay Shire Council. a programme of entertainment is being drawn up so that as many residents as possible may meet them.

Barry Burns (21) single, motor mechanic, suffered shock and a large laceration to the left leg as the result of a horse he was riding at Kulwyn Station jamming his leg against the stockyard fence. First aid was rendered by superintendent K Macklan who transported the patient to JC Hospital for medical attention. Subsequently he was allowed to return home.

**18 Apr 1959 (p44, 590418, NQR)**

JC – The stock in the district are in good condition and graziers are looking to a good percentage of lambs this season. So far the blowfly pest has not been troublesome but graziers are taking precautions against a fly wave by jetting and crutching. A very quiet wedding was celebrated in St Joseph's Convent private chapel. Nuptial mass was held. The parties were Miss Rita Byrne, second daughter of Mr and

Mrs Charlie Byrne and Mr Frank Forde, Mr Norman Downey was best man, Mrs N Downey was matron of honour. Only relations and a few friends were present. Mr and Mrs Mathews of Hilton Park received the bride and groom at her place for breakfast. The couple left by car for a few weeks in Townsville.

**18 Apr 1959 (p4, NQ391, NQR)**

Qld's dingo barrier fence, the longest of its kind in the world, is expected to be finished in 1960. The completed fence will extend for 3500 miles and will enclose an area of approximately 135,000,000 acres. In this area about 20,000,000 sheep and 600,000 cattle are depasturing.

Added to the combined length of 1700 miles in SA and NSW it will provide an unbroken line of 5200 miles of barrier netting, extending from the Great Australian Bight, around the sheep lands of SA then along portion of the western and southern borders of NSW and finally around Qld's main sheep area to a point near Inglewood on the Qld NSW border...

**2 May 1959 (p46, NQ406, NQR)**

JC, May 1 – [Reconditioned railway line, painting of town, shooting of road signs,

A matter of grave concern to the Council is the wanton destruction of road and grid warning signs by trigger-happy individuals. As soon as new signs are erected they are perforated by bullets and the cost of their replacement is increasing ... [police supervision] A little thought given by intending offenders to the time lost by motorists when road signs are destroyed and the serious danger attendant on hitting road grids at high speeds when the warning signs have been rendered useless should banish the desire to use them as targets.

Plans and specifications for the bitumen surfacing of Burke St – a Main Roads project – at a cost of £21,222/2/3 were approved and the council will carry out the work.

**16 May 1959 (p3, NQ405, 590516, NQR)**

JC, May 15 – The south-easterly breeze, adulterated with fine dust, is becoming cooler, the days growing tolerable and the nights are approaching the ideal. Other than on one afternoon, when they rolled up with pleasing prospects, few clouds have been noticeable during the week. That particular night, the waxing moon and the stars revealed the conventional cloudless sky.

The dust nuisance has continued probably accentuated by the local road works that are in progress under the heavy cross fire of the council's watering cart.

Bird life is practically non-existent around the township for the time being. The kite hawks have suddenly withdrawn to other haunts. Butterflies are busy in the gardens. Ants are creating havoc among edibles that contain any evidence of sweetness.

Over three decades have passed since a Governor of Qld had visited JC, and therefore the appearance during the Centenary celebrations of our present Governor, Sir Henry Able Smith, accompanied by Lady May, HRH Princess Alice and Captain Abel Smith was awaited with vast interest.

A comprehensive programme drawn up by the Chairman, councillors and Shire Clerk, made complete arrangements for the entertainment of the vice Regal party during their visit of 24 hours. When the train pulled in, a welcome to JC was tendered by Councillor E Netterfield who introduced the visitors to the councillors. Many residents and children were also present at the railway station.

The first item on the programme was a civic luncheon at the Golf Club house where, prior to the luncheon taking place, two girls of tender age, Sally Anne Smith and Margaret Lord, presented sheafs of flowers to HRH Princess Alice and Lady May.

During the afternoon the Governor visited the RRRAIL club house where he was met by Mr MP Byrne (president) and introduced to the veterans of two world wars. In the meantime HRH Princess Alice and Lady May were entertained at afternoon tea in O'Neill's Hall by the president and members of the QCWA, over 70 members being present.

At 4 pm both parties combined to proceed to the Sports Oval to view the parade of 50 children, pupils

of St Joseph's Convent and the State Schools of JC, Kynuna, McKinlay and Nelia. Three young pupils of the State correspondence also appeared in the parade. Misses Lynette Fels and Maureen Downey representing the school children presented sheafs of flowers to Princess Alice and Lady May. Councillor E Netterfield on behalf of the residents of the shire, extended a warm welcome to the Governor, Lady May and Princess Alice. The Governor said that he was pleased to be present on this occasion, and that Qld was well-known to the Royal family, for there was present on the dais, Princess Alice, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, after whom Qld was named.

Before the parade was dismissed the Governor and Lady May walked through the ranks, meeting the teachers and pupils, to many of whom they spoke. Every child on parade was made happy when the Governor announced that there would be a school holiday for them on Friday.

At night a buffet dinner at the Golf Club house was given to the visitors by the McKinlay shire Council and at which 200 guests attended. The Governor and his party moved freely among the guests meeting them all.

Later they proceeded to the ball arranged by the JC centre of the QATB in O'Neill's Hall. The Governor and his party were present when the sash was bestowed on Miss Veronica Sprague as Belle of the Ball. The Governor was on the floor for one dance, his partner being Mrs Macklan.

On Wednesday morning the Governor and Lady May were the guests of Mr and Mrs AW Mitchell at Carrum Homestead and the Governor was highly interested in the production of sorghum on the property. Princess Alice and Captain Abel Smith made a tour of inspection on foot of JC and were delighted with some of the gardens.

The last visit by the governor and Lady May was to the hospital where they were welcomed by Dr SP Pegg and Matron Crowley. A tour of the hospital was made, staff and patients being spoken to.

The train for Cloncurry moved out at 1.30 pm and farewells were waved by the councillors, residents and school children.

The visit will long be referred to in JC and district and the British gift of establishing friendship will ring a bell in the memory of all. Without any doubt, the Vice Regal party slipped inside the life of this small township.

### **23 May 1959 (p46, NQ404, 590523, NQR)**

JC – Preliminary work on the bitumenising of Burke St has commenced and the unwanted excavated earth is being utilised to fill in low lying ground and the pit lying between the southern side of Goldring St and the railway marshalling yards. In the wet season the latter served as a training pool for juveniles, a wading pool for canines and the perfect breeding place for mosquitoes and tadpoles. The railway department might follow suit and have their huge dry lake filled in. The dust though bad would have been more noticeable only for the active operations of the watering cart.

### **30 May 1959 (p41, 590530, NQR)**

JC, May 28 – The light drizzle that commenced early last week was followed by more constant rain towards the close of the week yielding in all 259 points. It was steady soaking rain almost general throughout the district. Roades were rendered difficult to traverse and motor transport, other than tractors and four wheel drive vehicles became immobilised. Excavations in Burke St in preparation for its bitumenising added to the chaotic conditions limiting traffic to wading pedestrians.

Subsequent to the rain a cool southerly wind blowing with restless violence has considerably reduced the temperature. The days are fine and the nights are cold. One morning the thermometer registered 43 degrees. Heavy dews are noticeable before the sun takes over.

Rain and bad roads affected the ambulance. The superintendent, Mr K Macklin, received an urgent call on Thursday afternoon to transport a patient, Colin Campbell, two years, from Braeside Station 30 miles south-west of Kynuna to the JC hospital. Repeated cleaning of accumulated mud from underneath the car extended the outward trip to five hours. On the return journey the car became hopelessly bogged two miles from the homestead and the superintendent, patient and mother were rescued by a four-wheel drive vehicle and returned to the homestead. Home treatment was rendered to the patient by the

superintendent after consultation with Dr Pegg, JC, and the patient responded well.

On Sunday, with the assistance of the station people, the ambulance car was dug out and was driven back to the homestead. The superintendent set out for JC on Monday but owing to the adverse conditions negotiated only 40 miles stopping at Mimong that night. The journey was continued on Tuesday morning but mechanical trouble 50 miles from JC made imperative a call on the two-way radio to Cloncurry for assistance to be sent out from JC. The trouble had righted itself before the relief car was met and all returned to JC shortly before 4 am.

The value of the two way radio on the car was fully realised by the superintendent on the way to and from Braeside. Black soil plains, after rain are a positive hazard to motorists though the vehicles may be in first class order and shod with chains. Four-wheel driven vehicles are then a necessity and as urgent calls for medical and surgical treatment do need heeding serious consideration should be given to the provision of such vehicles for use in ambulance work where sealed roads are unknown.

A Fokker Friendship seating 36 passengers will join the DC3 air service next Tuesday and its landing on the aerodrome at 4.20 pm will be greeted by a larger number of spectators than is ordinarily the case. On the flight from Townsville to JC the flying time will be lessened by over an hour.

#### **6 Jun 1959 (p7, NQ403, NQR)**

Population foreseen as 30,000,000 by 1999

#### **6 Jun 1959 (p39, NQ402, 590606, NQR)**

JC – The by-laws relating to the keeping of dogs and goats in the shire has been drafted and will, after due advertisement and confirmation, be put into operation. The maximum number of goats that any household may keep is 10. Alsatian dogs will be outlawed.

The council carried a motion of appreciation to the resident of the shire for their active cooperation and attendance to mark the visit of the Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, lady May and HRH Princess Alice. The chairman, Mr Netterfield has received a personal letter from the governor conveying thanks for the memorable time the vice regal party recently spent in JC.

Every available motor vehicle and many bicycles were pressed into use to transport the population of JC to the aerodrome on Tuesday afternoon to welcome the Fokker Friendship. Its arrival at each air port on this run was an epoch in the relative districts and caused the time table to be slightly thrown off beam. It flew in from the east, circled gracefully over the drome and came down to a perfect landing, taxing up to the barrier lined with spectators. Advantage was taken by as many as possible to admire the passenger accommodation when it was thrown open for inspection.

#### **27 Jun 1959 (p40, 590627, NQR)**

JC – A long wheel base, 109 inch Landrover is to be ordered for the ambulance. It will be fitted up as an ambulance prior to its being railed at Brisbane the overall cost being in the vicinity of £1500. The brigade motto 'Always ready' will be upheld despite the worst of weathers.

#### **4 Jul 1959 (p46, 590704, NQR)**

JC – The sudden appearance of winter with the chilly southerly wind has made the change seem colder than it really is. Away from the wind which has partially eased, the days are easy to live through whilst the nights and mornings are refreshing. The early morning temperature remains around the 38 to 40 degrees and that at 10 pm 48 to 50 degrees. No rain has fallen during the month.

Drying off of the goats meant a big increase in the consumption of the bottled Malanda milk daily delivered in the township, but the goat clinic has recently been fully taxed by the nannies having single and multiple birth. some of the kids have been kept to build up herds whilst others have been removed to another place from which there is no return.

Carriers are engaged in transporting gravel from the pit to fill in the excavations made in Burke St to form a solid foundation before bitumenising commences. Further gravel is to be laid at the aerodrome to meet requirements now that heavier planes are using the strip.

Several months ago the Council in a clean up campaign went to a lot of trouble and expense in

removing rubbish and old material and residents were requested to, in future, dump their unwanted chattels at the council dump. It is not being used for this purpose. Unofficial rubbish dumps are growing in number and size on the arterial roads adjacent to and leading in and out of the township and are daily becoming greater blots on the landscape. The only way to prevent a continuance of the present practice of dumping rubbish anywhere is for the council to prosecute and make an example of the first offender caught contravening the relevant by-laws.

From Wednesday July 8 Fokker Friendship aeroplanes will displace the DC3's on the Mt Isa to Townsville and return runs.

### **18 Jul 1959 (p46, NQ401, NQR)**

[Index: plane, eaten, cows]

JC – Burke Street is being transformed. The gravel from the quarry is gradually filling in the excavations and machines and men are levelling it ready for part to be sealed with bitumen. The other part will be heavily graveled. The material now coming from the ridge where the quarry is situated is first class. When Burke Street is completed the nightmare of that glutinous mud, which previously formed the thoroughfare, will return only when comparisons are made of old and new methods of road structure.

The contractor has commenced the erection of the up-to-date chambers for the bank of NSW in Burke St. It is expected that the premises will be in use before the end of the year.

Townships in the west depend to a great extent on the light aeroplane owned by local pilots and particularly in the wet season. A light plane owned by Mr L Ryder which was parked on the aerodrome has been extensively damaged by straying stock. The grid at the entrance to the aerodrome is not serving its proper purpose, as it allows stock to gain access to the prohibited area. The fabric of the aeroplane bears ample evidence of animals apparently keen on orbiting the globe.

### **25 Jul 1959 (p33, NQ399, NQR)**

Wool Prices, 1950 - 59

### **25 Jul 1959 (p4, NQ400, NQR)**

JC, July 23 – The phenomenon in the sky early on Thursday morning last week was plainly visible in JC and residents some of whom had never before seen the Aurora Australis were awed by the spectacle. It was a mighty show, the dancing coloured lights thrilling those who had the good fortune to view it. The sunspots must have set in operation a mighty show for the Aurora Australis to be sighted so far north as its occasional appearance is generally confined to the southern parts of the continent.

### **15 Aug 1959 (p44, NQ398, NQR)**

Greatest Aborigine of Australia Buried

Artist Namatjira's Funeral

Alice Springs, Aug 9 – In the tiny sun-drenched cemetery at the foot of the rugged McDonnell Ranges here today a small know of people paid their last respects to the greatest full-blood aborigine Australia has known.

In a poignant ceremony, conducted in his native Aranda tongue, world renowned water colour artist Albert Namatjira was buried in the earth of his tribal country.

Namatjira, who was 57 years of age, died last night of heart failure. Only a small group of about 150 aborigines, a few score of townspeople and a sprinkling of southern tourists clustered around the graveside for the ceremony.

In the soft musical tongue of the Arandas, natives from Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission sang hymns in memory of their tribal patriarch... [include some of the rest of this story]

### **15 Aug 1959 (p44, 590815, NQR)**

JC – The new four-wheel drive Landrover which arrived at the weekend reveals itself as a well fitted up vehicle capable of transporting three lying down and two sitting up cases. Its value when ordinary cars are unable to negotiate the sticky roads will be fully tested in the first wet season.



[dogs poisoned by baits on nearby properties]

**29 Aug 1959 (p42, 590829, NQR)**

JC – The modern shearing shed erected by Mr JE Mathews Hilton Park has attracted many interested visitors since shearing operations commenced last week. It is roomy, well ventilated and allows ample space for every person to carry out his duties without obstruction. At present a two stand electric plant from the town's electric supply is being operated the operators reporting easy running of the machines and considerably less vibration. This plant can be extended when necessary without any alterations. Provision has been made for a large number of sheep to be yarded under extensive cover handy to the sheep pens, which are being fitted with swing gates. Good shade has been built for the freshly shorn sheep prior to their being turned out in to the paddock. Dust in the yard will be minimised by a system of water sprays. The flooring boards have been built in sections so that they may be easily removed and the underneath hosed and swept maintaining a hygienic condition at all times. An electric press is to be installed and when that is done this shearing shed will be, if not the most, one of the most modern in the north west. A great deal of thought has been given to the comfort of men and sheep in the streamlining of the layout and it is a credit to a man who has vision and faith in himself and the country.

A mantle of sadness settled over the township at the weekend when word circulated that an accident on the Normanton Road a few miles north of JC had resulted in both occupants, Masters Reginald McMillan and Daniel Thompson, being rushed to hospital for treatment. Reg has now been discharged and is slowly recovering his health at home. Danny, so known by all his friends, passed away shortly after admission.

Both lads worked at the post office; firm mates interested in healthy sport. That a lad like Danny – 15 years of age, so young and manly, ready to assist in any matter associated with the well being of the community – that he should lose his life became a source of townwide grief.

He was buried on Saturday afternoon. Father Garvey led the service in St Joseph's chapel where Danny, as a boy, had served the altar. Outside the chapel Boy Scouts and students from St Joseph's Convent formed a guard of honour. A long cortege followed his coffin to the grave. The standard bearer stood at the head, Boy Scouts flanked the pall bearers, and all rendered homage to their departed friend.

Condolences go out to the family and the parents, Mr and Mrs Percy Thompson, in this their time of great sorrow.

**12 Sep 1959 (p41, 590912, NQR)**

JC – The freak appears among the rational and irrational animals. At the present time there is running on Gilliat Plains a ram about 18 months old which by the separate growth of four horns each six inches long, is creating considerable interest. Its owner Miss Della Edmonds, has painted each horn a conspicuous colour so that it can readily be singled out in the flock.

**19 Sep 1959 (p44, NQ413, NQR)**

JC – Within an hour of his being bitten by a 2 ft brown speckled snake, which he had attempted to kill by standing on it, John Murray, 65 years, a resident of McKinlay was dead. The incident occurred at McKinlay on Monday afternoon, the snake suddenly making its appearance among a small group engaged in conversation. His body was removed to the morgue at the JC Hospital where a post-mortem was carried out. Death was due to coronary occlusion as the consequence of snake bite. He was buried in JC cemetery on Tuesday afternoon being accorded the rites of the Royal Antediluvian order of Buffaloes of which he was a member.

**26 Sep 1959 (p42, NQ412, NQR)**

A police constable, attached to the Main Roads Dept, paid a visit to JC within the past two months and drew attention of owners and drivers of motor vehicles to the various breaches of the Main Road Regulations that they were committing. The result was that in the Court of Petty Session at JC on Tuesday, seven traffic cases were heard. The defendants, who appeared in person, pleaded guilty to the relative charges and were fined, three each £1, with cost of court, 14/-, in default three day's imprisonment for not having registration labels affixed to the motor vehicles they were driving. Other fines were: using only one number plate affixed to the motorcycle he was driving (£3); allowing a person to use an unregistered tractor (£3); using an unregistered motor vehicle (£10). The breaches had been immediately rectified following their notification to the owners by the traffic constable at the time.

The fines and costs were paid forthwith.

Many motorists may not be aware of their obligations and the risks entailed in not complying with the Main Roads Regulations. These however can readily be ascertained by reference to the nearest police office.

**3 Oct 1959 (p40, 591003, NQR)**

JC – The period October 18th to 25th is National Health Week. The council has authorised a free removal of rubbish. Householders have been requested to place rubbish at an accessible point and the council's trucks will remove it. The opportunity now exists for removing unsightly rubbish that is displayed in so many yards. JC may yet become a model township.

**10 Oct 1959 (p28, 591010, NQR)**

Dr Bradfield who was doctor here for some years, but of late has been practising in Hobart, will be leaving Australia by air early next year to accept a position in the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. Mrs Bradfield and children will make the journey to England by ship via Panama and on arrival there will take up residency with Dr Bradfield in Oxford.

**17 Oct 1959 (p40, 591017, NQR)**

JC – Bitumenising of Burke St has been completed and a vast improvement to this thoroughfare has been effected. Pedestrians, once they get on the formed street, should have clean walking during the wet season.

Health week will be from 19 to 24th October and householders will be able to have all rubbish removed free of charge.

The goat population is dwindling and their depredations on gardens and shade trees are easing up so much so that lawns and further shade trees can readily be substituted for the bare ground remaining after the removal and dumping of the dismantled machinery and other litter.

Alex Wall has opened a gymnasium in JC for the young lads of the district. The main sport at present is boxing and good talent has been revealed by several members. Further materials are being purchased to cater for other physical development. On the occasion of the last Nelia races Mr Wall took some of his proteges to Nelia and that night exciting bouts took place between the lads and outsiders. Last Saturday night, boxing contests attracted a gate of £30 which was, after expenses were paid, distributed between the State School committee and the QATB.

**7 Nov 1959 (p42, NQ411, NQR)**

JC, Nov 5 – Late on several recent oppressive days, clouds have rolled up and given the impression that rain was about to slake the thirsty ground and cool the atmosphere. Claps of thunder and vivid lightning have increased the conviction that the dry spell would be broken, and that not far ahead, lay a good season for graziers and others. The rain in any quantity has not fallen.

True to form, the breeze has blown from every quarter, one afternoon being outstanding for the velocity of the southern wind and its full saturation point of dust. Some nights have been irritating by reason of the suspended movement of air and the all-out attacks by bands of mosquitoes. To study the thermometer simply means further discomfiture for from early forenoon until retiring time, the mercury seldom recedes below 100°. A long range view over the next four months tends to increase uneasiness. Faith however prevails that the present conditions will not endure forever and that as yore, good rains will produce the green outlook where everything is either brown or bare.

Advice has been received by the council that the formation of a fire brigade board in JC district has been approved.... A fire brigade has been long overdue in JC and the dread fear of losing everything once a fire started should be allayed.

The new bank building is nearing completion, the large business store of Messrs Peter Dawes and Co has recently been lined and ceiled and Mr S Crawford is effecting improvements to his store. Self closing glass doors have been installed at the public entrances of the post office and the grounds have been surrounded by a neat cyclone fence.

Cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Stock, now that experimental work on shade trees is being undertaken at Toorak Field Station, might give good results in the planting of suitable trees in the school ground.

The Council has decided to hold a Centenary Ball in O'Neill's Hall on the night of Friday 20, in lieu of the function relating to the opening of the baths this year. Admission to the ball will be free but attendance will be limited on account of the size of the hall, to adults only.

[Tourists, golf]

**21 Nov 1959 (p4, 591121, NQR)**

JC – Rainfall data: May 259, Sep 16, Oct 18, to date 1361.

**21 Nov 1959 (p45, NA, NQR)**

Last ad for Max, Water Conservation

**28 Nov 1959 (p40, NQ410, NQR)**

JC – Initial passing of the new by law dealing with the registration and keeping of dogs and goats and the agistment of stock on the council's commons, occupied the attention of the councillors at a special meeting held last Friday. The registration fees on goats, 2/6 per head and on dogs, 5/- per head, remain the same. Goats and dogs straying on the streets between 6 pm and 6 am will be subject to detention and destruction and generally, goats straying in the streets at other times can be seized and released on the payment of 5/- otherwise they will be destroyed. Alsatian dogs will be prohibited within the shire and the keeping of them will be an offence incurring a fine of £20. The number of animals which any one person can agist on the commons is lifted to 10 head of horses or cattle or five goats. The number than any one household, that is members of one family living together may own is 21 head of cattle or horses and 1 head of goats. The rate for agistment on the commons is 1/- per head of cattle or horses per week. Bona fide drovers will be permitted to depasture 30 head of horses for which the rate will be 6d per head per week.

**5 Dec 1959 (p5, 591205, NQR)**

JC, Dec 4 – The heat has been oppressive every afternoon of the past week and several nights approached maximum discomfort. The mornings are reasonable to bear whilst the northerly breeze is active but at midday when the south-easterly takes over and accentuates the heat, the heat is constant and severe.

Feed on the common is scarce and of small value. Goats have practically forsaken that place. They are not wandering far from town and are developing into a nuisance in the streets their capacity for damage being unlimited and their value as mobile garbage removalists being negligible. The Common Ranger has a task ahead of him in eliminating these unwanted and unlicensed beasts.

The children's playground in Burke St has always been a popular spot for children and mothers as there is shade, seating, swings, slippery slides and a dinking fountain. There has just been completed a new fountain erected in memory of George Leslie Peut and Robert Godwin, who were foundation members of the Playground Association. Instead of the warm water hitherto used for drinking purposes, the new fountain is supplied with cold water from the cooling system in use at the butchers, Champneys and McMahon.

[Travelling science car]

**12 Dec 1959 (p4, NQ409, NQR)**

JC, Dec 11 – Five successive days were identically hot and relief from them at night was negligible. Fierce northerly winds, full of dust, on Monday limited vision, besides depositing the fine sediment in homes and business places. A warm westerly has blown strongly at night and augmented the discomfort. Rain clouds framing the horizon in the evening have not extended to this area to saik the earth.

Last Saturday morning the ambulance superintendent, Mr K Macklan, received a call from Rutchillo station to attend and transport a patient who had suffered serious burns.

Mr LJ Harstoff who has been for many years manager of Lagaven, about 17 miles from McKinlay, had been up and about when he noticed the homestead was on fire. He was badly burnt attempting to retrieve personal belongings. Owing to the telephone being destroyed by the fire he was driven to Rutchill from where the ambulance was called. He was transported by ambulance to JC and admitted to hospital. Mr Harstoff had suffered serious burns to the face and body and with this great shock to his system he passed away early on Tuesday morning. He was interred that afternoon in the JC cemetery. Mr Harstoff was widely known throughout the McKinlay and JC districts.

Another item will be written into the history of JC on Saturday when representatives of contributory insurance companies will meet at the council office for the purpose of electing three members of the JC Fire Brigade Board. A further step will be the formation of a fire brigade, badly needed here, as in the summer time materials must closely approach combustion point increasing greatly the risk of fire.

### **19 Dec 1959 (p43, NQ408, NQR)**

JC – The committee of the JC Golf Club at the meeting on Sunday afternoon, elected Messrs HJ Mitchell, RN Smith, and G Uhlmann as the programme committee for the 1960 season. It was decided that the huge mound in front of the club house is to be reduced to a height of 3 feet.

Mr and Mrs WG Gannon Burke St, accompanied by Master Bill and Misses Olivia and Anne Hely, left by the Inlander last Thursday night to spend a holiday in Brisbane.

Mr D Ney, Balootha, left by plane last Saturday morning for Bourke, NSW.

### **26 Dec 1959 (p43, NQ407, NQR)**

JC, Dec 23 – On three successive nights last week heavy cumulus clouds in the southwest, accompanied by lightning and thunder, heralded storms. Each of those days had been a scorcher and there seemed prospects of relief from the searing heat. Violent winds preceded each storm. Had the gusts been more forceful, damage here would have been similar to that reported from other places.

There was less rain than wind on Wednesday night, just three points. Fierce wind and dust, any amount of the latter, rode before the storm on Thursday night, and again there was little rain. Householders, fearing the lightning and startled at the peals of thunder rattling everything, sheltered in their homes on Friday night afraid at every moment of their roofs disappearing. Sixty-seven points fell on Saturday morning making altogether a little over an inch from the disturbances over three nights.

No storm water remained in the morning gutters. Footwear and horseshoes were not muddied to inconvenience. The ground was thirsty and the rain patchy: some nearby properties measured an inch, others none or a light patter. Where there have been reasonable falls the transition is from death gray to life green. The general feeling is that these storms are the forerunner of the wonderful wet when the black-soil country wakes.

There was little relief from the heat after the Wednesday and Thursday storms. There was no relief from the chore of removing dust.

The Christmas tree in the Children's playground had been illuminated with festoon lighting and the gifts to the children were on the point of being distributed when the wind and dust tearing before a storm on Friday night hit the township and put an end to the festivities. The Christmas tree will again be decorated on Christmas Eve and the children will be ragaled with ices, drinks and gifts.

The committee had taken out a Pluvius Insurance on Friday for £100 if 10 points of rain fell between 5 pm and 8 pm and only four points of rain fell. Sixty-three points of rain fell shortly after that time.

Disposal of the QATB's Christmas ham by the wheel on Friday night was interrupted by the storm. The wheel was blown over hitting Mrs K Macklan as it fell. Her husband, Superintendent K Macklan, rendered first aid. His wife was later admitted to hospital.

The storm on Friday night cooled the atmosphere considerably and both Saturday and Sunday were not December days but those of October.

Goats to the number of half a gross were mustered one night last week by the council rangers and were

transferred to a place from which they will not return. You can plainly notice the effect that this hydrogen bomb had on the local goat population.

**13 Feb 1960 (p44, NQ415, NQR)**

Ad for Max's auction on Friday 26 Feb 1960 at 9.30 am

**13 Feb 1960 (p46, NA, NQR)**

First electrically operated petrol pump in JC has been installed at Byrne Bros garage.

**5 Mar 1960 (p9, NQ414, NQR)**

JC – When the residences, garage and plant in the estate of MD Burns were auctioned last Friday, a representative of the Anzac memorial Club successfully bid for the large garage building. The cost of a new building was rather prohibitive and it is considered that after slight alterations have been made to the garage building now purchases, a modern club, with all amenities, can be established for a greatly reduced amount.

**19 Mar 1960 (p47, NQ416, NQR)**

A public meeting is to be held in the Anzac Memorial Club's new premises formerly Max Burn's garage in Burke St, at 10.30 am on Sunday April 3 for the purpose of proceeding with formation of the club and to appoint trustees to hold in trust the club's leasehold and other assets. This will be a practical indication of providing a long overdue amenity which will be of great value to the district, and it is hoped that a large number of local and country residents will be present at this meeting.

**20 Feb 1965 (p40, NA, NQR)**

Mr A Flewell-Smith has moved to Mackay

**1 Feb 1969 (p39, NQ434, CM)**

At Brisbane Realty – ad for Max Burns, various houses for sale.

**22 Jul 1979 (p71, NQ424a, CM)**

BURNS, Malcolm Douglas (Max), late of JC. The relatives and friends of the late Max Burns are invited to attend his cremation service which will be held in the West Chapel of Mt Thompson Crematorium today (Saturday) at 11.45 am

Funerals of Distinction QLD  
Woolloongabba

**20 Sep 1980 (p75, NQ424b, CM)**

[In Memorium]

Fondest memories of yesteryear from his family.