

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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532

REPORT ON FEBRUARY MEETING (13.2.2013)

Doug Hunter chaired the February Meeting in the absence of Chris McQuellin who was away and Joe Wooding who unfortunately was hospitalised earlier in the week. Doug welcomed members and guests especially current and former members of Albury Apex Club.

Doug noted the achievement of David Ryan, husband of A&DHS member Trish Ryan, who was recognised as Albury Citizen of the year for his work with Splitters Creek Fire Brigade and the Albury-Wodonga Prostate Cancer Support Group.

Doug advised that work on the Robbins & Porter aircraft is progressing with the availability of a work space in central Albury where the airframe can be assembled, and sourcing timber, metal tubing and wheels.

The Society was represented at the second meeting of the WWI Commemoration Group held at Anzac House on 5 February. The Society is working closely with the Albury Library Museum by providing information for the planning of commemorative exhibitions.

Doug then introduced our first speaker for the night Ron Haberfield. Ron is an Albury boy who was educated at Albury Public and Albury High Schools, then 3 years at Hawkesbury Agricultural College 1954-56.

Returning home he joined the family milk processing business where he remained, later as Director of Administration until the business was sold to Parmalat in 1996. Following the sale Ron continued working with Parmalat and became a working direc-

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2013

**7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury**

Member's short talks:

**Ray Gear
Chris McQuellin
Michael Browne**

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Why was it called the Turks
Head Hotel? Who named it
and when?

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June Shanahan

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriptions are due 31 May

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.

Enquiries in writing with \$25

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm at Commercial Club Albury.

Committee meets 3rd Wednesday of the month 5.15pm at Albury Library Museum.

A&DHS website:

www.alburyhistory.org.au

tor of Parmalat Australia when they purchased the shares of Pauls Ltd.

Scouting was an early interest. Cub Master was Geoff Hamilton, and Scout Masters were Ian Palframan and Lindsay Knight.

Ian Palframan nominated Ron for Apex and he became a member in July 1957. Thus began a 20 year association with the Albury Apex Club. In 1982 Ron's son David also joined Apex and was a member for 18 years. Both are life members of Albury Apex.

APEX IN ALBURY

Talk by Ron Haberfield

Apex is a volunteer community service organisation that offers active Australians aged 18 to 40 (more recently extended to 45) an opportunity to learn more about themselves, gain new skills, make new friends and help those in need.

Albury was involved in the formation of Apex in Australia from the earliest days. Young local solicitor Stanley Jackling wrote this history of the beginnings of the movement and Stan's son Noel will read it.

It was in 1931 that three or four Albury Rotarians including J.E. (Jack) Arnold, Ken Moore and Steve Frew called together a number of young men in Albury from a variety of trades and professions and told them of the opportunity to form in Albury a club under name Apex which would be affiliated with the foundation Apex club in Geelong. At that stage there were three clubs only, namely Geelong, Ballarat and Camperdown. It was explained to us that the clubs were based on concepts of fellowship and community service.

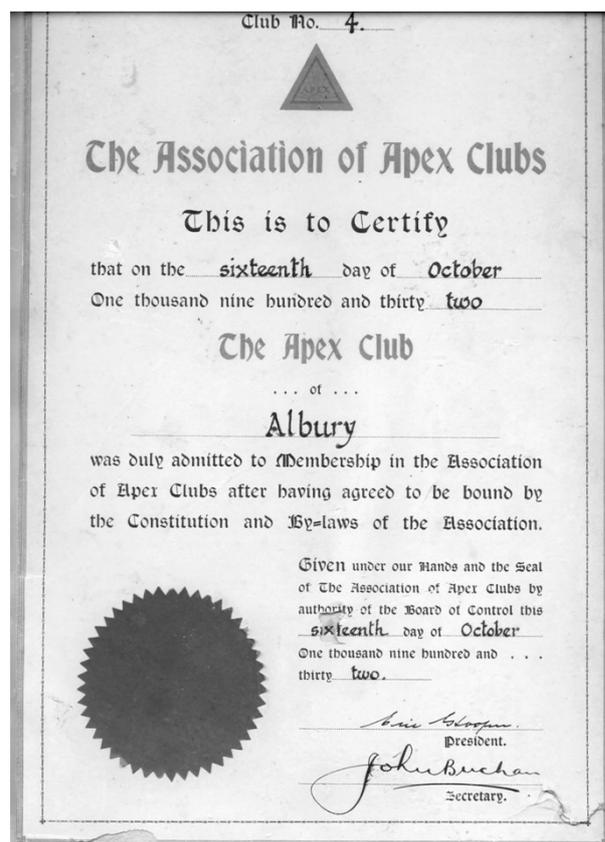
Apart from a small number of organisations for young people within the churches there was nothing in Albury at the time which gave to young men the opportunity of meeting together, enjoying the fellowship of good company and demonstrating a willingness to give time in helping those who stood in need of assistance—whether it was an elderly lady who needed some Saturday afternoon woodchopping or a charitable organisation that would welcome a little financial support from the running of a dance or some sporting event.

There were some 20 to 25 young men who were attracted to the idea of membership and accordingly there came another meeting held in the banking chambers of the Commonwealth Bank in Dean Street, Albury, at which needful formalities for the formation of the Albury Apex Club were taken. I be-

came foundation President with an Albury accountant, Fred Lambert, as secretary.

At the time when the club was formed, the concept of an association of Apex Clubs had already developed but the organisation was very much in an embryonic stage. The constitution of the Albury club, following the form of the Geelong constitution, was as I recall it, a single page, or perhaps two page document. With some ongoing encouragement from Rotary, the local club became readily accepted in the local community and was quickly able to demonstrate that there was a willingness to serve any good cause which was within the capacity of a couple of dozen young men eager to be of help and to have the satisfaction of that particularly fine form of fellowship which comes from being of service to others.

In 1933 there was a conference of all clubs at Geelong and there, over Saturday and Sunday sessions we endeavoured to draft Club and Association constitutions which would be reasonably adequate for an organisation which we perceived as likely to spread at least throughout the eastern States. Late on the Sunday afternoon with the drafting far from complete, a bright wit from Ballarat, a vendor of shoes, by name Alan Pittard, moved 'that this verbal diarrhoea cease'. He had no difficulty in getting support for the motion because he had earlier ascertained that I, as the only lawyer present, would be prepared to stay behind for another



day in order to complete the document drafting, with the assistance of two or three of the Geelong members.

I had earlier phoned my employer solicitor Fred Tietyens and enquired whether I might have leave for the Monday. This leave, as I recall, was granted but not over graciously.

As things worked out I laboured on the constitution all Monday, it was torn to pieces on Monday night by John Buchan, one of the founders of Apex, and Eric Hooper who was secretary of the Geelong club. So I had to face a second phone call to Fred Tietyens. Again I was granted another day with firm indications that 'enough was enough'.

By the Tuesday night I had the documents to a state at which they could at least be taken away for final polish without falling foul of the basic instruction that had emerged from the conference.

I worked further on the documents back in Albury. I do not recall how they became accepted by the clubs. I think it must have been that in the closing minutes of the conference at Geelong some very general authority was given endorsing the introduction of a constitution in such form as might be acceptable to named persons, probably John Buchan, Ewan Laird, Eric Hooper and myself. If this was the way in fact the matter was handled, then clearly the view was taken that if the constitution had some blemishes, as well it might, no great harm would be done if amendment had to await the next meeting of all clubs which would not have been more than one year down the track.

My work as the principal designer of the organisation of the Association was recognised by my appointment as Association President for the year 1934-35. It was in this year that Apex undertook the first National Service Scheme—the provision of a truck for Australian Aerial Medical Services. I continued to be active in Apex both at Club and Association levels until I attained the age of 40, except, of course for years of war service. Life Governorship came my way in 1947.

With 1991 came the 50th anniversary of Apex when I was fortunate enough to be one of a small number of the old brigade who attended a celebratory luncheon in Geelong at which Prince Charles was the guest speaker. I had the opportunity to speak with him for a short time.

Albury received its charter in October 1932 and is Club Number 4 following Geelong, Ballarat and Camperdown. Not long after the club commenced meeting it became aware



Members of Albury Apex at the launch of the Blood Transfusion Corps at Albury District Hospital, 1947.
Back row L to R: Doug Heath, John Windridge, Tom Miller, Eddie Arnold, Ray Harrison, Wal Purnell, George Harvey.

Front row: Warwick Palframan, Ken Scholz, Frank Craze, Len Ogilvie, Roy Crouch.

Photograph courtesy Ray Harrison

that the Albury Baby Health Centre located in the CWA building was in danger of closing because of lack of funds. Apex provided funds to keep the Centre in operation and also took over the responsibility for maintenance of the CWA hall. The club continues to maintain the hall to the present day and holds its meetings there. A booklet was produced for the first 25 years of Apex.

Pete Garnsey was another who had a profound effect on Apex, locally, nationally and internationally. His story was told in this document written by Ray Harrison:

The 1959 handover Dinner of the Albury Apex Club, which will be held this coming Saturday evening in the Albury football Club pavilion, will also mark the retirement from Apex of that well known Albury personality Pete Garnsey, an Apexian with the finest records of service throughout the Australia wide Association.

Albury Apex Club executives expect a gathering of some 250 Apexians and wives at this function, many of whom will have travelled long distances in order to bid farewell to a man who has given so much of his time and energy for the progress of Apex in the community, the country and the world.

Pete has been an Apexian just as long as

any man could be, for he entered Apex at the minimum age of 18 in 1937, and as the constitution decrees that "a man shall retire from Apex at the finish of the Apex year in which he turns 40" and Pete reached that age a fortnight after the 1958 Annual dinner, he was able to forestall that final day for virtually another 12 months.

During the term of his membership in Albury Club Pete was most active as a Board Director and held the portfolios of Music, Publicity, Fellowship, Service, Programmes and Social. Pete saw service with the Armed Forces in New Guinea during the 1939-45 conflict and at the cessation of hostilities he returned to lead the Apex Club as President, and inspire other young men with its ideals of service and fellowship.

It wasn't long before Pete was nominated for higher office in the Association and in 1950 he was elected to the position of District Governor for District 5. From there for Pete it was a short hop to Zone Vice-President then to Zone President of Zone 1, an area covering all of Victoria and part of South Australia.

After a very successful and fruitful 12 months in this position Pete moved into the background for the next two years, but still continued, as always, his extensive and most worthwhile Apex service in the Albury community. He has been associated with such schemes as organisation of Blood Transfusion Corps (well before the Blood Bank days) Anti-TB X-Ray campaign, Migrant Children's Xmas Tree and party, Australia Day celebrations, wood drives for pensioners, flood relief appeals and most other schemes which are part of an Apex Club's activity.

Club Life Membership was conferred upon him in 1953.

In 1956 at the National convention of the Association of Apex Clubs which was held in Lismore N.S.W., Pete was elected Chairman of the International Relations committee, (a position which he held for the next three years) and also Apex delegate to the meeting at Jasper in Canada of the World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs – a body comprising of similar organisations in other parts of the world. At this meeting he was elected as Vice-President of World Council.

As IR Chairman Pete conducted the affairs of the Association in anything concerned with activities outside Australia and he made



Poster drawn by Ken Maynard for the committee campaigning for the National Conference to be held in Albury.

great contribution to the establishing of Apex in the near East.

The year 1958 saw Pete once again representing Apex as a delegate to the World Council Meeting, this time in Hamburg in Germany. Pete covered many thousands of miles during this trip and among his most important visits, were those made to clubs in Ceylon, Singapore and Malaya. With his great personality he encouraged these clubs to do their utmost in being Apexians and their efforts and results show that they are.

In Hamburg Pete was elected President of World Council, and as such, he has been striving for the closer association of members within the Council, as well as in their everyday existence.

And here his service does not end, for due to his Apex teaching and experience, Pete will continue to give of his best, wherever he may be. We, as Albury Apexians, are proud to have him as a member and to have been able to work with him, and an indication of the Association's opinion of his efforts was the granting of the position of Association Life Governor last Easter, at the 1959 National Convention at Newcastle.

Apexians are drawn from all walks of life and are united in service to the community and fund-raising. Meetings are conducted in strict accordance with meeting procedure. Members thus obtained training which made them valuable members of organisations and institutions outside Apex. Two Albury Apexians went on to become mayors of Albury, John Roach and Jim Paterson. Apexian Eddie Arnold had a passion for public speaking and donated a trophy which was competed for annually. To win the Eddie Arnold Trophy was an honour keenly sought.

Some of Apex's most successful ventures were joint ventures with other similar organisations. Annual wool drives were conducted in cooperation with Albury Legacy from 1947 to 1993. Specially coloured bags were delivered to graziers who filled it when shearing and returned it with their own bales. The wool brokers took charge and sold the wool in the bags and forwarded a cheque which was split 60/40 between Legacy and Apex.

The Albury Trade Fair held annually in the Farmers & Graziers Wool Store in Smollett Street was another successful joint-venture, this time with Albury Rotary. The idea arose over the Haberfield dinner table in a conversation between John Haberfield who was president of Apex and his father Jock, who was president of Rotary. The Trade Fair was held from 1962 to 1988 and attracted on average 30,000 visitors annually and put thousands of dollars into the local economy.

Other projects of Apex included hosting camps in conjunction with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence for boys from Melbourne; visits to Bonegilla Migrant Camp each Christmas; sponsoring international exchange students; catering at car races at the Hume Weir Circuit; bottle drives; paper drives; jam drives for the hospital; wood drives for elderly citizens; painting residences for pensioners; the funding of the Comforts Centre in the NSW Government Offices in QEII Square, and the establishment of Apex Park on the shore of Lake Hume.

The Hon Gough Whitlam, Prime Minister of Australia, opened the National Convention of Apex at the Albury Civic Theatre on 28 March 1975. It was the culmination of a three year effort by a dedicated committee of 10 supported by the

whole club and district clubs who campaigned on an "ocker" theme backed up by cartoons drawn by Ken Maynard of the Ettamogah Pub fame

It was a huge event; 888 delegates registered, 1186 attended the dinner which had to be split between the Convention Centre and St Matthews Parish Centre; and 1560 went by steam train to Tallangatta for the picnic.

In the eight decades since its inception at Geelong, Apex has had something in excess of 1000 local clubs and many tens of thousands of members. Today there are 159 clubs and 1344 members. The decline is in line with that of organizations and institutions across modern society. Albury Club has 13 members and continues to meet at the CWA Hall and render service to the community.

Current and past members ended the presentation with an impromptu rendition of the Apex Song.

NED KELLY'S FINAL RESTING PLACE

By Doug Royal

Following his execution at 10 a.m. 11 November 1880, the body of Edward (Ned) Kelly was taken down and his head removed. His hair and beard were shaved and a death mask made. The brain was removed for scientific examination. The body was then buried in a plain wooden box, without a nameplate, in the grounds of the Old Melbourne Gaol. There it remained until 1929 when the old gaol closed and part of it was demolished to make way for the construction of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Ned's bones were disturbed during excavation work and were disinterred and reburied at Pentridge Gaol in Melbourne's north. The letters 'EK' were carved on the wall indicating the approximate position of the grave.

Pentridge Prison closed in 1997 and the site sold for redevelopment. In 2009 archaeologists began a program of locating and removing bones from inside the prison grounds for reburial elsewhere or returning to families. Ned Kelly's remains were exhumed in 2011 and returned to his surviving descendants for a proper family burial. His skull however was missing.

A claim that the skull was in the possession of a collector in Western Australia was disproved by DNA testing. It seems likely Ned's skull was simply destroyed when the bones were disturbed during excavations at RMIT or in the subsequent relocation to Pentridge.

On 21 January 2013, the remains of Edward (Ned) Kelly were buried at Greta Cemetery in northeast Victoria where other members of the family are buried. A number of graves were pre-



Albury Apexians in their 'ocker' gear at the 1973 National Convention where they campaigned successfully for the 1975 Convention.

Back row L to R: Noel Guthrie, John Harris, Ron Haberfield.

Front row: Jim Kettle, Phil Worsley, Barry Thompson.

pared and the actual burial concealed from public view. It is understood the casket was surrounded with concrete to prevent any attempt to disturb the outlaw's final resting place.

An unfortunate conclusion to the day was the action of an onlooker who poured a can of beer over a grave. A photograph of the action appeared on the front page of the *Border Morning Mail*. Kelly family descendents were saddened that the incident occurred and that it received such media coverage.

CHILTERN EXCURSION

Eighteen members attended the excursion to historic Chiltern on 27 January. We were met at the Athenaeum Museum by curator Rex Fuge who gave us an introduction to Chiltern and its fabulous mining history. It is hard to believe today that Chiltern in its heyday had a population of 15,000 when Albury's population was about a third of that. With the decline of gold in the early decades of the 20th century the population also declined till today it is about 1000. Other areas of interest in the Athenaeum are The Rt Hon Sir John McEwen collection and an extensive WWI gallery.

From the Athenaeum we moved to Dow's Pharmacy which served the community from 1859 to 1968. The pharmacy was operated by David McEwen, father of former Prime Minister of Australia John McEwen. It was purchased by Mr and Mrs Dow in 1936 who operated it until its closure in 1968. The building was acquired by the National Trust in 1988. We viewed the dispensing pharmacy and the tools used to make tablets and potions in the days before they came ready packaged.

After a lunch at the Telegraph Hotel we drove to another National Trust building *Lakeview*, the house once occupied by Dr Walter Lindesay Richardson, whose daughter Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson wrote under the pen name of Henry Handel Richardson. The house has been well maintained and furnished with pieces from the period including HHR's desk which was acquired some years ago at auction.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By June Shanahan

Links 'N' Chains: Liverpool GS Journal, No 103, February 2013.

- Going digital at Cemeteries;
- Holsworthy Internment Camp.

Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society Newsletter, No 399, February to March 2013.

- History of *New Lawn* 1858-1976 by Phillipa Garnsey 2013;
- Scottish Agricultural Commission toured extensively throughout Australia in 1910-1911.

TROVE

Researchers will be interested to know *The Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* is currently being added to Trove.

NOTICES

Holbrook excursion Sunday 7 April

Combined Albury & District and Wagga Wagga & District Historical Societies visit to the Holbrook Museums.

Meet at 10.30 a.m. at the Submarine Museum in Wallace Street Holbrook. Following Submarine Museum, move to the Pottery Museum for a guided tour and valuation of your treasured piece of Australian pottery.

Lunch at the Riverina Hotel ('middle pub'), for those who have booked with the Society.

After lunch, guided tour of the Woolpack Inn Museum.

We thank John Lynch of the Woolpack Inn Museum for his help in organising this day out.

Cost Museums and lunch \$40 pp

Museums only, \$15 pp (children free).

RSVP by 1 April: Attendance and lunch booking if required, to Jill Wooding 60214887; <jandjwooding@bigpond.com>

Hume Dam Exhibition: Excursion & Light Show Sunday 14 April

3.00 p.m. Hume Dam Exhibition opening at the Albury Library Museum.

3.30 Excursion coach departs Library Museum for the Hume Dam. There will be short presentations on the way at points of interest including the Bethanga Bridge.

5.00 One River official ceremony at the Hume Dam followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to walk along the Dam wall.

6.40 Coach departs Hume Dam and returns to Library Museum arriving 7.00 p.m.

A folding chair or picnic rug and a torch might be useful.

Cost \$10 pp. Members are encouraged to travel by bus please.

Bookings at Library Museum 60238333, confirmation by payment no later than 6 April.

Bulletin Editor

Are you interested in becoming the Bulletin Editor? Currently the *Bulletin* is produced monthly using MS Publisher program. Proposed handover date would be July 2013 i.e. after the Annual Meeting. Template is available and on-the-job training could be arranged. Please talk to Chris, Helen, or Doug if you see yourself performing this interesting role in the Society.
