

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER 2013

540

REPORT ON OCTOBER MEETING (9.10.2013)

Again, an excellent attendance at the monthly meeting and two informative presentations. Bruce Pennay spoke about the upcoming exhibition in the Temporary Exhibition Space at the LibraryMuseum featuring the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation and Bianca Acimovic spoke about the exhibition being installed in the Lane Gallery at the LibraryMuseum entitled "Doing a Deanie".

Albury LibraryMuseum commissioned Bruce Pennay to assess the significance of a collection of photographs and promotional materials which had been lodged with it by the Albury-Wodonga Corporation. He developed a rationale and structure to help secure funds and to guide the curators for a commemorative exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary of the Albury-Wodonga National Growth Centre.

Bianca Acimovic has held the position of Visual Arts Coordinator for the Albury Regional Art Gallery since 2010. She holds a Bachelor of Visual and Fine Arts from the University of Southern Queensland, graduating with the Dean's commendation of high achievement, and a Masters of Museum Studies from the University of Queensland, again graduating with the Dean's Commendation for High Achievement.

In the Members' 15 Minutes segment:

- Jean Whitla announced the cancellation of the Antiques & Collectables Valuation Day scheduled for Saturday 12 October owing to the sudden and unavoidable withdrawal of the Valuer. Elizabeth Stevens was prohibited from travelling on medi-

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY

13 NOVEMBER 2013

7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury

War-time theme:

Speakers: Joe Wooding,
Michael Browne and Chris
McQuellin.

Members' 15 minutes

Do you have something
Quite Interesting to share?

HOLBROOK MUSEUMS VISIT

SATURDAY

9 NOVEMBER 2013.

See details page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Experiment AWDC	Page 2
Doing a Deanie	Page 3
Pioneer Cemetery Walk	Page 4
Vale Charles Brackenridge	Page 4
Daly Graves	Page 5
Quirk Graves	Page 5
Notice Holbrook visit	Page 6
A&DHS Xmas Dinner	Page 6

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

<www.alburyhistory.org.au>

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McQuellin

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Publicity Officer: Jill Wooding

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Meeting Greeter: Catherine Browne

Membership list & Bulletin dispatch: Ray
Gear

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

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

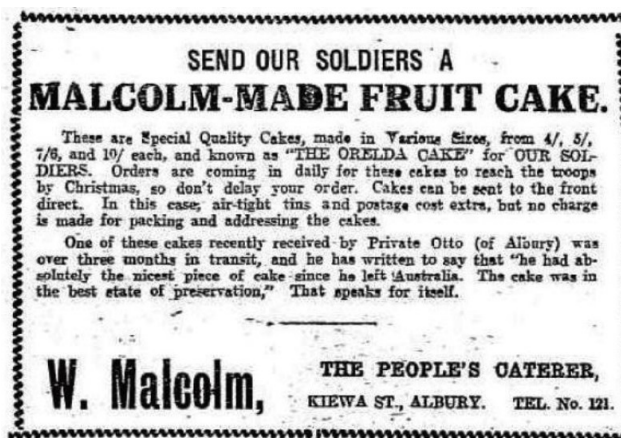
Corporate: \$50

Subscriptions are due 31 May. *Bulletins* will
not be sent to members who have subs out-
standing as at 31 August.

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.
Enquiries in writing with \$25

cal grounds. We wish her a speedy return to good health.

- Chris McQuellin reminded members the Cemetery Walk was proceeding — Sunday 13 October at 2 p.m.
- Chris also asked if anyone had a recipe or a tin for 'The Orelida Cake' cooked by Malcolms of Albury and packed in airtight tins for dispatch to soldiers overseas during the First World War (1914-18).
- Edward Dale thanked members of the A&DHS who attended the meeting to establish the Henty & District Historical Society and reported progress by the steering committee.



Advertisement for Malcolm's Orelida Cake together with a testimonial from Pte Otto (of Albury) writing from France. Chris McQuellin wants a tin and the recipe for the cake. Does the name derive from the Orelida Siding on the Culcairn to Corowa branch line?

THE EXPERIMENT: IMAGINING ALBURY-WODONGA

Report on talk by Bruce Pennay

Albury LibraryMuseum commissioned Bruce Pennay to assess the significance of a collection of photographs and promotional materials which had been lodged with it by the Albury-Wodonga Corporation. Further, he was engaged to prepare a thematic history for an exhibition which would mark the 40th anniversary of three governments signing an agreement to develop Albury and Wodonga jointly and rapidly as a National Growth Centre. In effect, his role was to develop a rationale and provide a structure to help secure funds and to guide the curator for a commemorative exhibition.

Two exhibitions, one dealing broadly with the growth centre, the other showcasing five artists' impressions of living with the experiment in selective decentralisation, will be mounted later this month in Albury and in Wodonga. Bruce thanked Karlie Hawking and Bridget Guthrie at Albury LibraryMuseum, Simone Nolan and Jennifer Wright at Wodonga Art Space who were involved in preparing, designing and presenting the exhibitions. Along with Peter Veneris at Albury-Wodonga Corporation, and Doug Hunter formerly of Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation, they helped refine his thinking. In undertaking these commissions Bruce built on the work he had previously done in preparing a commis-

sioned history for the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation in 2006.

Bruce explained how he structured his storytelling around a dozen or so key words or phrases. 'Imagining Albury-Wodonga' came first, then 'selling', 'crafting' and 'remembering'. All those activities were part of building the place in the mind as well as on the ground and all were important — particularly the last for exhibition purposes. One of the aims of the exhibition is to serve as a memory prompt and to gather more memories about the living with the growth centre experiment.

Exhibitions require passion as well as analysis: they appeal to hearts as well as minds. The rhetoric of politicians, particularly Gough Whitlam, helped recapture a sense of contemporary excitement.

Bruce was pleased to suggest the notion of 'experiment', which carries a sense of novelty, boldness, bravery — and invites assessment, what went right? what went wrong?

To establish contemporary resonance he ventured into what is described as 'hot interpretation' or 'disturbing history', that is 'disturbing in the sense of awakening a consciousness that brings resolve to change'. He invited contemplation of 'the shaky hyphen' between Albury and Wodonga. Not too many exhibitions are focused on a punctuation mark, but the arrangement of the compound noun expresses succinctly the relationship between the two centres. Starting from questions about how and why the hyphen was inserted, he looked to how the compound noun fared as a national brand and a local entity. He worried about the lexical future of the place and asked if the hyphen could/should survive.

In a world of two or three-word slogans, he suggested 'sneer' 'cynicism' and 'synergy' as part of the take-home messages. He wanted to query the sneer at a Whitlamabad that never reached its impossible population target of 300,000 people, even if only to underscore a healthy cynicism about what government can do. There is nothing wrong with daring to dream, but we should always be wary of the phrase 'they should' when applied to government.

At the same time, he wanted visitors to ponder the synergy of Albury and Wodonga working together. Albury-Wodonga is the 18th largest ur-

ban centre in Australia and warrants greater attention than either Albury or Wodonga alone. In other words, Bruce emphasised both facets of the experiment that had them developing 'jointly and rapidly'.

Looking beyond the collection and the exhibition, Bruce sought places that might carry forward some of the story of the Growth Centre experiment as heritage items, anchoring the story in



Rt Hon Tom Uren and Rt Hon Gough Whitlam pictured in Albury to announce the National Growth Centre, 25 January 1973

Photograph: AlburyCity Collection

people's minds. This was difficult as, apart from broad traces of residential estate design, there were no buildings that seemed to have popular appeal as an expression of a joint Albury-Wodonga community identity.

Still, Bruce argued that there were three main forces working towards maintaining the idea of a cohesive cross-border community. The *Border Mail* has carefully fostered the idea of a cross-border print community since its inception. There is one labour market that sees between 1 in every 5 or every 4 workers crossing the border daily: the economic interests of one side of the border are the economic interests of the other. The freeway, too, has helped lace the two cities together.

Perhaps the idea of an 'Albury-Wodonga' will continue beyond 2021 when the legislation introduced by Gough Whitlam is to be finally revoked. Ideas of locality have, however, to be worked at continuously. Nations/communities/individuals use traces of the past to imagine where they have been, where they are and where they may be going. The exhibitions make a good starting point for exploring ideas about this locality's past, present and future.

PS As a migrant to Albury-Wodonga Bruce says he has dutifully devoted himself to mastering the local shibboleths and has learned to say Rau,

Tribune, Bonegilla, Tallangatta and Kiewa as the long-resident insist. He regrets the mispronunciation of 'Kaitlers' in his presentation.

Further, he urges old-timers to help him with the pronunciation (and the meanings of) Wagirra, Winhanganha and Ngan-girra, the names used respectively for Council's new river trail, the Charles Sturt University new learning commons and a long-standing festival. These names came from even earlier inhabitants of a place called Bungambrewartha.

DOING A DEANIE

Report on talk by Bianca Acimovic

Doing a Deanie celebrates the role of main streets in regional centres. It considers the past, present and future roles that Dean Street plays in the community it serves. Main streets are ever evolving, changing in response to the needs of the current community. In the coming years change will again be seen along Dean Street as two historic buildings, the Town Hall and the Lands Department Building, are redeveloped to form the new Albury Regional Art Gallery.

Over the years of the AlburyCity Collection many artists have interpreted and attempted to capture the unique quality of Dean Street. It is through these works that we are able to gain an insight into the past. In *Doing a Deanie* these existing works from the collection are supported by new commissions from four contemporary regional artists: Andrew Pearce, Josh Salisbury-Carter, James Gallimore and Inga Hanover. Each of the artists has considered the role of Dean Street; its car culture; changes to the streetscape; historic myths and stories; and its café culture.

The works in the exhibition were created over a period of decades, yet there are significant synergies among them. They each interpret the way Dean Street is used, and the activities that occur there. Max Dupain's images of Albury from the 1930s present a snapshot of life in Albury at that time; of the growing regional centre, and of the significance of the art deco movement in its physical and social development.

Throughout a number of the works there is a particular interest in the sense of movement and motion created by the vehicles that use the street. This is seen in the works by Ken Altoff, Max Dupain and James Gallimore. While offering their own individual views of Dean Street, each artist has captured the moving light through changes in the camera's shutter speed.

In his film, "The Street Below" photographer and filmmaker Andrew Pearce captures the panic and confusion that would occur on the

street if a catastrophic event such as a Hume Dam failure were to occur. Pearce, who has always been fascinated by the rooms behind the beautiful, ornate facades of Dean Street, shot the film out of second-storey windows. Through this view he captures Dean Street from an almost ominous angle, as if peering out from the edge of the window frame.

The story is told through fragmented views of the street, allowing the viewer to piece together the situation as it unfolds, yet not giving everything away. Pearce believes that the unknown creates a world of possibilities.

Joshua Salisbury-Carter's sound installation "*My Town's Beating Heart*" explores the idea of Dean Street as the main artery of Albury. Recordings of pedestrian crossing sounds, engines, clinking coffee cups, church bells and chatter are blended into a collage and glued together with musical elements that aim to capture the excitement of taking a walk along Dean Street. Pressing the pedestrian crossing button triggers the soundscape that moves down the corridor on consecutive speakers, inviting you to venture down the street. If the button is pressed a second time, the faint sound of a heartbeat can be heard.

Local filmmaker James Gallimore took to Dean Street with his camera to document the importance of the main street to Albury and its surrounds. Gallimore speaks with local retailers, car garage operators, café owners and other local figures to gain a perspective on the past, present and future of Dean Street. The short film contains time-lapse footage which, similar to Gallimore's night photographs, captures the passage of time in the CBD and the constant repetitive flow of visitors to our city's centre.

Decades ago, as a child of a family who lived in a rural setting, Inga Hanover thought of Dean Street as a magical extravaganza of otherworldly window displays. As the destination for a day spent in town, it was anticipated with great excitement, and it never failed to deliver. Years later, for her own

daughter, Dean Street was always an obligatory stop-off after a Pixar film or, later, following a hockey game. For Hanover's mother, Dean Street is an obligatory, monthly, day out for shopping. When Hanover takes her students on excursions to Albury, the question she is asked most often is: "*Will we have time to go shopping?*"

Referencing the notion of shopping in this pencil on Stonehenge paper work, "Dean St 2013", Hanover has used the seductively luscious language of advertising that fills the retail zone of Dean Street. The whiteness of the paper and the 'empty' text of the laser-cut panels evoke the hollowness of the advertisements' promises; the shadow of the text suggests the lingering message of advertising: the constant need to update, a crisis of desire. The lack of colour is in stark contrast to the wild kaleidoscope of brilliant colour along Dean Street, where the appearance of the shop windows constantly changes, depending on the season's fashions.

VALE CHARLES BRACKENRIDGE

The Society notes the recent passing of Charles Brackenridge. Charles, a former treasurer of A&DHS, came to Albury as manager of the ES&A Bank in 1953. He retired in 1992 and began a degree course in archaeology as a retirement project. He studied by correspondence and completed the course in five years. He carried out a number of archaeology studies on district projects.

PIONEER CEMETERY WALK

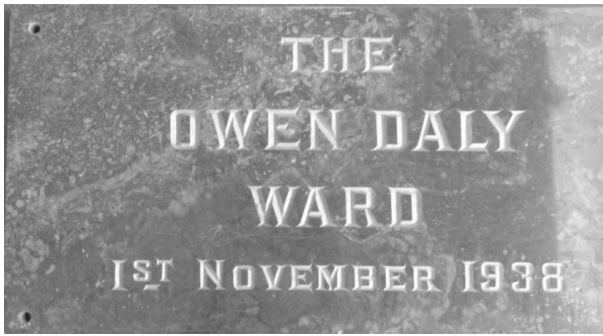
An excellent crowd turned out on a changeable day weatherwise to participate in the Annual Pioneer Cemetery Walk on Sunday 13 October. There were 8 presenters: Jim Parker, Cr Graham



Cr Graham Docksey speaking to the large crowd at the Pioneer Cemetery Walk, 13 October 2013.
 Photograph: Chris McQuellin

Docksey OAM, Margaret Lenehan, Pauline Harbick, Dr Bruce Pennay OAM, Rohan Ardern, Doug Royal and Ray Gear. Subjects ranged from 19th Century pioneers to Post WWII migrant children. Mavis Stokes was unable to make her presentation on James Hodge because of illness. We trust Mavis is back in good health again very soon.

The afternoon was organised by Chris



**Plaque from Albury Base Hospital
now in AlburyCity Collection**

McQuellin and ran like clockwork. The PA system was particularly effective. Thank you Chris.

DALY GRAVES

By Pauline Harbick

Owen Daly was born in County Cork, Ireland about 1815 and came to Sydney with his wife, Susannah about 1840 as a ship's carpenter. He found work with the Australasian Steam Navigation Company for some years.

Owen and Susannah had 5 sons over 18 years and in the 1850s they moved to the Geelong area where Owen worked in the butter trade. He made a good deal of money and bought property at Geelong which he kept until his death.

About 1865, Owen left Geelong in search of land in the Echuca district but was unsuccessful, so tried in North East Victoria before taking up 8000 acres at Mullengandra Estate, near Bowna. About 1866 he went back to Geelong and brought Susannah and the young family to live at the new homestead. Susannah, died in 1877 aged 56. At



Pte William Daly 4th Battalion AIF, son of Patrick and Mary Daly Mullengandra, died of wounds in France 28 February 1917. He had given his age as 21 years 2 months when he enlisted at Cootamundra, but was in fact 16.

Photograph AWM

some later point Owen moved to live in Albury.

On a very hot day in December 1899, Owen aged 85, walked to the cemetery to meet with a tradesman to discuss repairs to Susannah's grave. When he was about half way home, he fell opposite the *Banner* printing works, in David Street and was pronounced dead.

Owen and Susannah's eldest son John married Sarah Simpson in Albury in 1873. They had no children. He was a grazier on Mullengandra Station, with his brother Patrick, for many years. Their wool was much sought after by buyers and frequently topped the market. He retired in 1918 and came to live in Albury but a few weeks later died while walking to Mass on a Sunday morning. Probate records show that his estate was valued at over £46,000. Sarah possibly remarried after John's death. John left money to many organisations including hospitals, orphanages, Catholic groups. Notable donations were £500 to Albury Hospital to establish and maintain an Owen Daly ward and £500 to St John's orphanage to establish and maintain a Susannah Daly ward. There is a plaque at the hospital with Owen Daly's name dated 1/1/1938.

Patrick Daly, the youngest son of Owen and Susannah, was born at Lethbridge near Geelong in 1858. He married Mary Purtell at Germanton [Holbrook] in 1893. They had 3 children all born at Germanton. Patrick worked the Mullengandra station very successfully with his eldest brother John for many years. He was a man of retiring disposition and always supported any charitable or philanthropic movement in his district. His younger son, William, was killed in WWI, aged 16. Patrick died in Melbourne in 1922 after an illness and an operation. Probate records valued his estate at £117,968. Mary died in 1927 in Melbourne after an operation. She was remembered as being a great worker for charity and raised funds for the Holbrook Catholic parish and Albury Hospital.

QUIRK GRAVES

By Margaret Lenehan

John Quirk was born in Nenagh, County Tipperary in 1829 and left Ireland on the *South Carolina* arriving at Port Philip in July 1855. He was the only Quirk on board. On the same ship was Mrs Catherine Eviston, a widow with six children, the eldest of whom was Anastasia who was twenty years old. John and Anastasia were married in St Patrick's Church Melbourne, in October 1855.

They came to Woolshed to try their luck at the diggings. The mining venture did not meet their dreams, but realising miners whether successful or not required food, drink and goods for working

or living, they embarked on a profitable business filling the needs.

In 1858 they opened a well-stocked store at Sandy Creek, and later a hotel. John hawked his goods around the diggings using pack horses and droving livestock - horses, cattle, sheep and pigs to all manner of isolated places - beyond Corryong and back to Beechworth and Wodonga. It is said he bought pigs in Gundagai and walked them to the Murray River where they were ferried across.

In all matters of local and public concern he was ever to the fore. He was a keen supporter of racing, cricket, and all athletics. He was always very civic minded. For many years he was a member of the Yackandandah Shire Council, and served as President. After his move to Albury he also served on Albury Council for 3 years.

In 1888 he bought the Royal Hotel on the corner of Hume and Townsend Streets and he, Anastasia and the family resided there. The hotel closed and was demolished in 1959. In August 1900, after the death of his wife and son, he gifted the hotel to three of his children, Anastasia, George and William. He continued to reside there until just before his death at Rokeby Private Hospital David Street in 1917, aged 87.

Walter Quirk, son of John Quirk of the Royal Hotel, died at 24 years in 1899 from pneumonia brought on by influenza. The *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* said he was a well-informed young man and had been in the employ of Messrs T.H. Mate & Co. for over eight years, ever since he had left school. He was greatly esteemed and respected by the heads of the firm, his fellow employees, and the customers who did business with him in the drapery department. This respect and esteem was fully exemplified by the number of people to follow the remains to the cemetery.

The procession was led by the buggy of Rev Fr O'Connor of Chiltern, and then came the hearse followed by 30 members of the Federal Football Club, then 3 mourning coaches for family and relatives, Fellow employees of the deceased from T.H. Mate & Co followed in a special drag, and altogether there were 120 buggies & 20 horsemen. The procession was fully three quarters of a mile long and said to be the biggest ever seen in Albury.

Two employees of T.H. Mate & Co Ltd, Messrs Vincent & G. Barkley, joined family members as pall bearers. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr J.S. Adams in a befitting manner.

Anastasia Quirk, Walter's Mother, died at the Royal Hotel five days after her son in 1899, aged 64. She was heartbroken after the death of her favourite son, and died of shock and pneumonia.

She had worked so hard rearing ten children and keeping the store and hotel at Sandy Creek operating while Husband, John, was away supplying the diggings.

On moving to Albury she helped to run the Royal Hotel and maintain its reputation, Payments for her funeral were made to Fathers Griffin and O'Sullivan 10 shillings; Catholic ground 10 shillings, grave sinking 15 shillings, first class silver moulded coffin 10 pounds 10 shillings; silver casket handles 2 pounds; frilling 10 shillings; handles 2 pounds; hearse 2 pounds. Selle & Adams mourning coaches 1 pound each; car ten shillings; circular 1 pound. Total 22 pounds 5 shillings.

William Quirk died aged 80 years in 1951. Not so much is known of William but his father transferred the licence of the Royal Hotel to him in August 1900, and he was known to be a horse dealer. He spent a lot of time with relatives - months at a time. Kit Quirk of Wodonga once told us how patient and kind her mother was to her brother-in-law William on his extended stays. He was always immaculately dressed and occasionally "touted" for bookmakers. He died in Sydney where he was living at a hotel.

We have an invoice dated March 4, 1902, to Mr John Quirk, Albury, NSW. It is from Jageurs and Sons Monumental Sculptors, Sydney Road, Parkville: To supplying and erecting in Albury Cemetery over the remains of the late Mrs Anastasia Quirk and her son Walter Quirk a red granite square armed cross monument. Harcourt granite base, bluestone kerbings, slate flags and cast iron railing as per order 112 pounds. 100 letters free of cost. 35 extra @ 8d £1/3/4d. Total £113/3/4d.

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

Saturday 9 November.

Meet at 1.30 p.m. at the Submarine Museum in Wallace Street Holbrook.

Following a tour of the Submarine Museum, move to the National Museum of Australian Pottery for a guided tour and valuation of your treasured piece of Australian pottery, then the last museum visit - a guided tour of the Woolpack Inn Museum.

Cost: \$15 pp (children free).

Holbrook Hotel (near the submarine) is offering a special lunch: roast and sweets for \$13 from 12 noon.

RSVP by 6 November: Attendance, and lunch booking if required, to Jill Wooding 02 6021 4887; or email: <jandjwooding@bigpond.com>

Date for A&DHS Christmas Dinner
Friday 6 December 2013
Details in next *Bulletin*
