



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN



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**MARCH 2015**

**554**

## REPORT ON FEBRUARY MEETING (11.02.2015)

Our Vice-President Joe Wooding took the chair for the evening and conveyed the apology of our President Michael Browne to the meeting. Joe introduced the theme of Valentines Day to the Members and mentioned that even though his wife Jill has her birthday on February 14th she only ever gets one present! Carolyn Dudenko from Flowers of Distinction in AMP Lane spoke on the changing trends in floristry over the last sixty years and how it was once commonplace for 50 to 100 wreaths to be ordered for a large funeral. However Valentines Day still remains their second busiest day of the year. Joe continued with the theme of the night telling the story of his father Joseph, known as Valentine who was also born on the day of love. Valentine was a very successful jeweller and optician who wrote his own poems which were used in a clever and extensive marketing campaign in the local newspapers in the 1920s. He had shops in Melbourne, Beechworth and Albury and also visited Tallangatta, Corryong, Mitta and Eskdale. Wodonga Council would like to hear from anyone interested in attending a celebratory dinner to be held at the Wodonga RSL Club on February 28. To coincide with the Anzac centenary, the dinner will offer residents an opportunity to share and celebrate childhood memories of World War I. It is aimed at older generations who may remember the stories of people who lived through the war. Stories, photographs and artefacts shared during the dinner will be documented and a short film produced. Contact Wodonga Council on (02) 6022 9211.

## NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY

**11 MARCH, 2015**

**7.30pm at Commercial**

**Club Albury**

**History of the Electric  
Telegraph in Albury**

**by Joe Wooding**

**Smoke signals to the NBN  
by Greg Ryan.**

**From the early days of  
communication to the  
National Broadband  
Network today.**

**Members Show & Tell  
Communication items**

## ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM

**BAKE**

**UNTIL 5 APR 2015**

**BE INSPIRED BY THE TRADITIONAL METHODS OF BAKING THROUGH THE STORY OF THE HOWLONG FEDERAL BAKERY.**

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## ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

<[www.alburyhistory.org.au](http://www.alburyhistory.org.au)>

For your reference A&DHS account details are:

**BSB 640 000 Acc No 327006S10 (Albury & District Historical Society Inc)**

**Patron:** Patricia Gould OAM

**Honorary Life Members:**

Howard Jones, Helen Livsey,

June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.

**Public Officer:** Helen Livsey

**President:** Michael Browne 0428691220

**Vice-Presidents:** Joe Wooding, June Shanahan

**Secretary:** Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671

**Treasurer:** Catherine Browne

**Minute Secretary:** Catherine Browne

**Publicity Officer:** Jill Wooding

**Committee:** Peter Whitbourn, Jill Wooding, Ray Gear, Marion Taylor, Greg Ryan and Ron Haberfield.

**Bulletin Editor:** Marion Taylor

<[marion.taylor7@bigpond.com](mailto:marion.taylor7@bigpond.com)

**Journals, Stock:** June Shanahan

**Meeting Greeter:** Jill Wooding

**Bulletin dispatch:** Ron Haberfield

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

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

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25

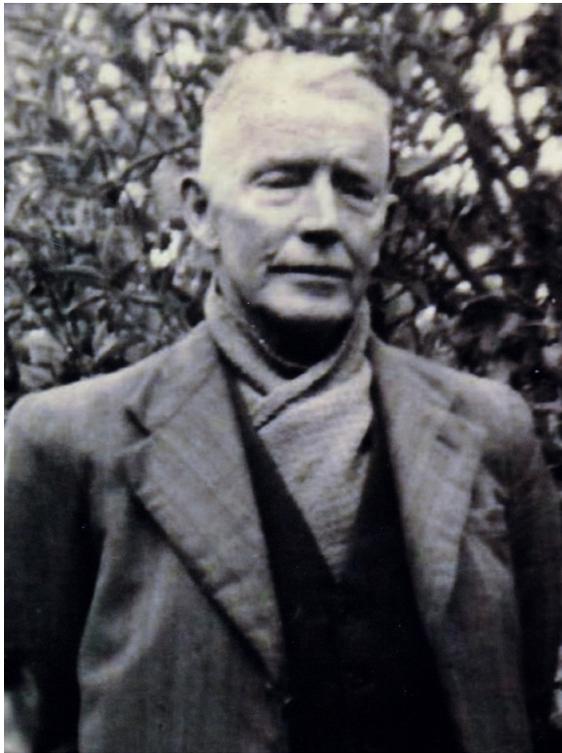
Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

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

**“TODAY IS THE TOMORROW WE WORRIED ABOUT YESTERDAY AND NOTHING HAPPENED. CHEER UP!” VALENTINE WOODING 1920**

**“REMEMBER, TODAY IS THE TOMORROW YOU WORRIED ABOUT YESTERDAY.” DALE CARNEGIE 1948**



Joseph Henry Wooding 1873-1959

There is a perception florists and jewellers are seen as the big winners when it comes to the commercialisation of Valentine’s Day. If that is true, they have been on a winner for a very long time. That source of all knowledge, the internet, tells us this special day dates back to Roman times. Tonight’s story relates to a jeweller who ran stores in Beechworth, Melbourne and Albury. My father was born Joseph Henry Wooding on Valentine’s Day, 14th February 1873 at Maryborough, Vic. The use of Valentine was assumed and extensively used throughout his lifetime, we presume because of his birth date. There are many gaps in his story but an extensive paper trail of advertising and press reports gives some insight into his life. He was twice married, the first in 1909 produced 2 sons, the second in 1936, a daughter and 3 sons. He registered his only daughter as Rosebud which my sister detested and subsequently changed to Rosily. He liked to produce words of wisdom and was something of a poet.

Maths was not his strongpoint, on my birth certificate, 6th February 1938, he gives his age as 54 years, when in fact he was 65. He was 13 years older than his father-in-law, and he never had a funeral, He willed his body for medical research. It went to the University of Melbourne after his death in 1959.

He was an alderman on Beechworth Council from 1911 – 1916 and an alderman of Albury Council from 1922 – 1925. He was Secretary of the New State Movement and held rabid views on a push to form a new State of Riverina. There was considerable agitation at the time to split the States into smaller entities. He was involved in the Methodist Choir in both Beechworth and Albury.

**VALENTINE WOODING**

**Riverina’s Largest Jeweller,  
DEAN STREET, ALBURY.  
PHONE 38.**

Just paste this rhyme inside your hat,  
Or nail it on your door,  
The finest range of goods is found,  
At WOODING’S JEWEL STORE.  
Elsewhere you get things not so good,  
and have to pay much more.

**WOODING SLICES PRICES!**  
Nelson, the great sea captain, said, “When I don’t know whether to fight or not, I always fight” — Fight for the Riverina New State Movement.

**“The Golden Grain,” “The W heatsheaf,”  
Badge of Riverina.**



Wooding’s “New State” Brooch or pendant, registered design, solid 9ct. gold, 20/ and 25/ each, post free; exact size of illustration.  
Wooding’s Gold-plated Brooch, 1/6; post free anywhere.

He learnt at least some of his watchmaking skills with Jabez Edwards, a watchmaker and jeweller at Talbot in the Victorian goldfields. Jabez sacked his apprentice half way through his time without giving a valid reason. My father could not have been more than 14 years old as in 1886, Jabez became a Methodist minister, renowned for putting the fear of God into his congregation. In an odd twist, Jabez Edwards is Catherine Browne’s great great uncle.

Little is known of Valentines' early life, education or how he started in business but he spent some time in New Zealand toward the end of the 19th century. Beechworth, around 1901 is the earliest verifiable date found where his watchmaking/optometry pursuits began. The Melbourne Argus ran several news reports in 1904, making it a memorable year. The first, in May was headed 'Jewel Robbery – Brick Wall Broken through at the premises of Wooding & Co Jewellers and Optometrists of 377 Elizabeth Street. The firm, which formerly carried on business at Beechworth has only been in these premises but a few months. Valentine Wooding lives on the premises but was out for tea at the time'.

In November 1904, there were 2 references to Wooding & Co Jewellers. A fire next door caused his front window to break, causing damage to his stock. Weeks later a rock was used in a smash and grab raid at 3 in the morning. In December, Bert Munro pleaded guilty to larceny. He had conned Valentine Wooding into advancing him some watches and jewellery as he had orders from customers at Leongatha in Gippsland, signing for the goods on credit. Munro pawned them instead. He was sentenced to 3 months in gaol.

A brass business plaque, still in possession of the family, from this era reads – 'Valentine Wooding, Ref.D, Eye and Spectacle Specialist, Consulting Optician'. Many newspaper advertisements exist showing both Beechworth and Melbourne, then Dean Street and Melbourne addresses. It is yet to be resolved, how he could run 2 businesses at the same time, when they were 300 miles apart. When he moved to Albury from Beechworth in 1916, he still advertised the Melbourne connection in 1917. He produced pendants for returned soldiers in 1918 and many of his advertisements contained 'witty ditties'.

On the back of the photo showing his Dean Street shop, he wrote – "1921 – Valentine Wooding's Shop, Dean Street, Albury. The largest jewellery establishment outside Melbourne and Sydney, employing 7 – 12 hands for 7 years".

In 1921, he mentions the guns in Dean Street. Two heavy German Trophy Guns from WW1 were located in Dean Square, the unveiling of which by Governor General, The Right Honourable Henry William Forster was reported by the Albury Banner on Friday, 9th September 1921. Even Nelson, the great sea captain, gets a mention on 25th January 1922. Numerous advertisements included a reference to the New State Movement in the Riverina. This groundswell group unsuccessfully agitated for the new state of Riverina to be formed between the Murray and the Murrumbidgee. On 8th November 1926, his last advertisement was found. On 10th November, his shop was under the new management of CH Smith, later to be known as Pivot Smith. Jewellery stores have been part of both sides of my family. Soon after WW11, Grandfather AH Rose opened a shop south of Ryans Corner in Olive Street. Around 1950 he moved to premises in the CML Building in Dean Street. My grandfather employed Vince Harangozo from Bonegilla Migrant Centre in 1948, prior to Harangozo opening his own jewellery store, The Coronet, on the CML corner.

RG Bray sold The Pivot to Coles in 1960. Woolworths opened next to Coles in 1961.

Today, City Walk occupies the site of Wooding's Jewellers/Pivot, 517 – 519 Dean Street, Albury.



The Pivot 1960  
Note that the sign for  
Woodings Jewellers is still  
visible on the parapet.

## **CHANGES IN THE FLORISTRY INDUSTRY OVER THE YEARS**

Carolyn Dudenko has owned Flowers of Distinction in AMP Lane for the last 25 years. She was a hairdresser by trade who started out helping her father, Ron Martin in his florist shop for a few weeks but then stayed on. Her parents came to Albury from Melbourne in 1957. They had a business in Chapel St, South Yarra. In that area there was a large Jewish population and when there was a big function, all the ladies, over 200 of them, would wear a shoulder spray. In Albury in the 1950s there were very few florist shops, mostly people operating from home and as Carolyn's mother was originally from the area they decided to open a new business where there was little opposition. Their business prospered, as in those days a funeral of a well known identity would require anything from 50 to 100 wreaths to be made.



Carolyn can remember working all night sometimes to get the wreaths finished in time. Nowadays it is more accepted for monetary donations to be given to a charity of choice and flowers are more likely to be sent to the bereaved family's house as a gesture of sympathy before the funeral.

Wedding bouquets were large and reached down to the ground, now the trend is toward the more natural look as if the flowers have just been picked from the garden. This is understandable as now many wedding ceremonies are being held in gardens. There were many formal balls in those days where ladies outfits were not complete without a shoulder spray. Five girls worked in Martin's florist shop in the 1950s. Today there is a much wider range of flowers available and the presentation is more professional. If a young person wants a career in the industry they can do a three year apprenticeship of the Box Hill TAFE in Melbourne. Flowers are delivered by a wholesaler from Melbourne after the Tuesday and Thursday flower markets and the quality of flowers and speed of freight is greatly improved compared to sixty years ago. Out of season flowers can even be sourced from overseas but they are very expensive and tend not to last nearly as well as those grown in Australia.

## **HISTORY OF THE KOALA FUR TRADE**

On behalf of the Australian Koala Foundation I am writing to seek your assistance with a research project we are currently conducting into the history of the Koala fur trade in Australia. We are wishing to enquire about historical records on the koala which your organisation may hold. The aim of our research project is to improve understanding of the historic distribution of the species and the impact of the fur trade. In order to achieve this, I am consulting historical societies located within the pre-settlement distribution of the species. We are particularly interested in gathering records of the collection, trade and export of koala skins and personal accounts of residents with regard to the species and the fur trade. I would greatly appreciate any insights or information members of your society might be able to offer on the following:

Personal accounts of residents during the late 19th and early 20th centuries

Koala sightings - year/s, location/s and estimate population (many or few)

Fur Trade - participation, observations

Attitudes toward koalas during this period - individual and societal

Photographs - koalas, skins, fur products (coats, slippers, door mats)

Historical records

Koala skins - number of skins, year/s taken, location/s

Shipping/transport records - i.e. ports where skins were shipped from

Local skin dealers - name/s, location/s

There is a survey form available that will assist you in providing this information.

Douglas Kerlin [www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com)

Australian Koala Foundation

GPO Box 2659

Brisbane QLD 4001(07) 3229 7233 or via email [douglas@savethekoala.com](mailto:douglas@savethekoala.com)



## **QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

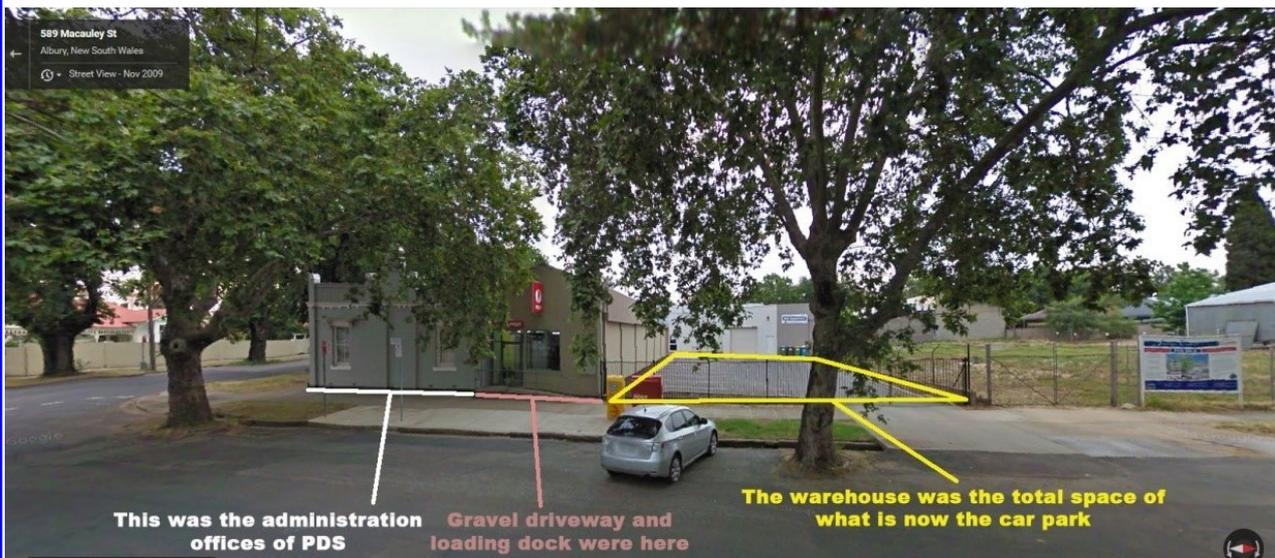
**How many telegraph offices have there been in Albury and where were they?  
Answer provided at our next Monthly Meeting.**

Producers' Co-operative Distributing Society Ltd (PDS) was on the northwest corner of Wilson and Macauley Street in a building now used by Australia Post. The postal box area was the original gravel driveway with a timber loading dock the full length of the large corrugated galvanised iron warehouse with double doors facing Macauley Street. Leighton Passant, son of shopkeepers in Tribune Street remembers the wide wooden staircase up to a long counter on right; behind which was butter cutting room then a screen door downstairs to the cool room. The cool room was timber lined, most likely insulated. On the ceiling was the cooler with 'tubes' in a timber box frame with water curdling down a panel on the north side. In one back corner of the warehouse, away from the food stuff, was a small tobacco/cigarette store-room; the other corner on the loading dock side, was stacked with CSR sugar in 70 lbs hessian bags.

Ken James, a son of grocers in Guinea Street also has memories of that cool room. "The administration offices were on the corner with a dock off Macauley Street with the store's floor at the level of the dock. The cool rooms were below the store floor level. They stored the bulk cheeses and the 56lb blocks of butter there. The butter was cut in a screened refrigerated room on the floor level, into ½lb, 1lb and 5lb sizes and wrapped under the Allowrie brand. We carried the ½lb and 1lb sizes for general sale and the 5lb size was sold to the Grammar and Woodstock schools. We also carried Tallangatta Butter for sale, but this was a penny or so more expensive."

Staff included managers, Mr Smith, Jas. Blackburn, Alan Anderson, Gordon Lamb was the last manager before it closed, ; Jock Coutts in the warehouse; Mr Eisenhauer, in charge of potatoes; Bill Kaylock on the delivery truck; and Miss Phyllis Rojo, YWCA, Wyse St.

PDS was a wholesale co-operative of primary producers and grocers with headquarters in Sydney. Albury PDS was still open in 1971. Does anyone know when it closed?



Google Maps Street View of 589 Macauley St



If you have handcrafted poppies for "The Trumpet Calls" Anzac exhibition in April at the Albury LibraryMuseum could you please drop them off as soon as possible. Any extra poppies are welcome as the more the artist has to work with the better the display will be.

### **HISTORY OF HOMES & OTHER BUILDINGS IN ALBURY**

The Albury property database was funded by a community grant of \$500 from AlburyCity. The aim of the database is to have available a searchable history of as many buildings in Albury as possible. The housing files collected over many years have been transferred to the database and the next step is to enter housing details from local history books and to add photographs where possible. Photos have been taken for some years of houses listed for demolition from the AlburyCity advertisements.

The task is huge and any help would be greatly appreciated. A blank form can be downloaded from the A&DHS website.



### **HELP WANTED: DO YOU OWN OR KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS A COMMONWEALTH PIANO?**

Richard Lee is researching the life of Albury business man Abe Nathan. Richard has found out that Mr Nathan was the sole agent for Commonwealth Pianos (Reg.) which were specifically manufactured in England for him. Please contact Richard at [rlee024@gmail.com](mailto:rlee024@gmail.com) if you have any knowledge of the Commonwealth brand of pianos.

### **JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS...COMPILED BY JUNE SHANAHAN**

1. Links and Chains- Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc. February 2015
  - (a) The arrival of the Light Horses in Egypt. - The Australian Light Horse Studies Centre
  - (b) Unexpected History
2. The Argyle Bulletin February 2015 - Goulburn District Historical Society and Family History Group.
  - (a) Goulburn at War
  - (b) Letters from the Front in 1915.
3. Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society Newsletter February-March 2015.
  - (a) The "Great War" Memorials
4. Placenames Australia March 2015
  - (a) Tiger in the Corner
5. Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society Dec. 2014
6. The Argyle Bulletin No. 62. 2014
  - (a) District Soldiers
  - (b) Back from the Grave
7. Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society Dec- Jan 2015
8. Placenames Australia December 2014



**You can now find the Albury District Historical Society on Facebook!  
It is not necessary to sign up for Facebook to view the page. To have a look please go to  
<https://www.facebook.com/Albury.DHS>**