



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019

APRIL 2015

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REPORT ON MARCH MEETING (11.03.2015)

Our members were switched on by the announcement by our President Michael that 2015 is the Year of Light and Light Based Technology. Two of our Committee members enlightened us about the different communication methods since 1858 using both light and electricity. Joe Wooding spoke on the six locations in Albury which housed the Telegraph Stations. Joe's talk was illustrated with some very early photographs of the Rose Hotel and the Albury Post Office. Greg Ryan gave an illuminating address on the amazing technological advances which have brought us from the days of the semaphore to the instantaneous service of the fibre optic cable and high speed broadband. Ed Dale from Henty announced that the Henty & District Historical Society is now two years old and thanked the members of A&DHS for their help in setting up their group. He also thanked Joe and Jill Wooding who spoke at their last meeting.

With April being a very important month in the commemoration of World War One, Michael recommended that members attend our April meeting where in recognition of 100 years since the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli, George Benyon will speak on the building and establishment of the Borella and VC recipients memorials on Borella Rd Albury.

Rowan Borella will speak about the significance of his father's memorial and what it means to the Borella family.

**NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY
8 APRIL, 2015
7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury**

**The Establishment of the
Borella & VC recipients
memorial on Borella Rd,
Albury.**

By George Benyon

**The Significance of the
Albert Borella Statue to the
family.**

By Rowan Borella.

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM

**THE TRUMPET CALLS
ALBURY WW1
BATTERY
18 APRIL-7 JUNE**

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

<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>

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

A Telegraph Office opened in Albury on April 9th 1858 after Mr John Nichols, landlord of the Rose Hotel, Kiewa Street, provided a room free of charge. The locals covered by subscription the cost of bringing the wires into town as the authorities had made no provision to service the population of some 700 – 800 people with a telegraph connection when constructing a line from Melbourne to Sydney. By the end of the year, the government took over, leasing the office at the Rose with Mr H Lay appointed as the first master, but he left the service shortly afterwards to be replaced by Mr CWE Kraegen.



Wynack's Rose Hotel, Corner Kiewa St and Volt Lane Albury C1904-05
Photograph courtesy Albury LibraryMuseum

In 1859, the site for a permanent office on the corner of Dean & Kiewa Streets was allocated and tenders called. Mr Thos Allan was announced as securing the contract for building the 2 storey granite stone office on August 22nd 1860, at a cost of 1650 pounds to be completed in 6 months. At the time, Mr Allan had all but completed the new Courthouse next door.

The lease of the office at the Rose elapsed before the new building was completed and the telegraph officials moved into a room in the newly built Courthouse until the new Telegraph office opened on August 26th 1861, almost a year to the day since its inception. I have been unable to ascertain why it took 12 rather than 6 months. The file shows Mr Allan made numerous requests for payment.

The Border Post reported, Wed. July 10th 1861 :-

This building is now all but completed, the chief part remaining to be done being the painting, plastering, and other inside "tiddliewinking" work. Though not very ornamental, the erection appears to be substantial and commodious. It consists of two separate dwellings for the attaches of the Victorian and New South Wales branches respectively, with the offices in the centre. The mast for the time ball is also in a forward state, so that we shall soon have a better authority for regulating our watches and clocks than the dinner bells of the various hostelries.

Mr Robert Owen had the contract of placing "that great log of rough Howlong Pine into its perpendicular resting place, assisted in his task by the combined intelligence of a lot of town folk who were present to witness the operation.

Our Police Magistrate too, had a finger in the pie, and seemed to enjoy what was going on, giving orders with the greatest sang froid, and with the air of one accustomed to life on the

quarterdeck” wrote the Border Post.

The Time Ball first operated on July 20th 1861 and will continue to do so regularly every day. It will be hoisted at 5 minutes before 1, and fall precisely at that hour. The ball is between 3 and 4 ft in diameter, formed of canvass, stretched on a wooden frame, and painted in alternate stripes of black and white.

Some confusion has evolved over the years regarding a Post Office being incorporated in the new building, however this did not occur until May 1st 1870, when the Postal Department moved into the recently vacated Telegraph Office, remaining the site of the Albury Post Office ever since.

A quote from the Albury Banner of Wednesday, March 27th 1861, provides some explanation for the confusion. The quote begins as follows -

The New Telegraph Office Approaches Completion. One part of it is to be used as a Post Office and an officer will be appointed independent of any other business.

The report however, ends with – *The Government should erect a separate building for the new Post Office, the new Telegraph Office will be but accommodation sufficient for that department only.*

The authorities only 6 years later, decided to build a new Telegraph Office which opened in April 1868 with Mr Kraegen still in charge. It was a single storey, shingle roofed building which was to become the site of Albury Town Hall in 1907 and in 2015 is being re-developed as the Regional Art Gallery.

The Time Ball was re-located at the rear of the new office but a proposal 6 months later, to add 10ft to the spar and place it in a more conspicuous position has eluded my attempts to verify that that actually occurred, as has just how long the time ball operated in its second location. The Post Office was rebuilt and in November 1879, the clock as we know it, struck for the first time.

Mr Kraegen, having left Albury, lost his life from thirst early in 1872 while working on the overland telegraph connection in South Australia.

The early 1880’s again saw the telegraph authorities looking to build yet another office. A proposal to cram a building into the space between the new Post Office and St. Matthew’s Church in Kiewa Street, was seriously considered, as was re-claiming the block where the National School first stood, now known as Mates Corner, from Mr TH Mate. Finally, the corner of Dean and Olive Streets was decided upon, but not without some problems. This was part of Market Square which had been ceded to the Borough Council in 1864. A resolution was reached in September 1882, when Council and the government agreed to swap the existing telegraph building for the vacant Dean/Olive Street corner of the Square. This impressive 2 storey building opened in 1886, and in 1898 it incorporated the Telephone Exchange. In recent times it has been the Murray Conservatorium since 1981. The Borough Council met for the first time in the re-decorated and re-vamped old Telegraph Office on Wednesday, December 8th 1886. During discussions relating to a Town Hall in 1896, it was discovered that the land had never been vested



in Council and in fact was still Crown Land. (That in itself is a story for another time.) The Telegraph Office was again re-located, along with the Telephone Exchange, this time back to the Post Office in 1904, thus giving Albury six locations for the Telegraph service over the years.

Albury Post Office
The Globe Hotel in the background.
Around 1870.
Photograph Courtesy Albury LibraryMuseum.

2015 has been designated as the “Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies” by the United Nations. Prior to telegraph, light was the only means of effective rapid communication over large distances (eg smoke signals, flags or semaphore). After the invention of telegraph, electric current was used for over one hundred years as the main method of long distance communication, sending coded signals along copper wires, initially for the telegraph service and then the telephone. The telegraph used Morse Code invented by Samuel Morse in 1838. The Sydney-Melbourne telegraph link was operational in 1858. By 1861 Australia’s eastern colonies had 110 telegraph stations and over 122,000 messages were sent that year.

The first telephone was invented in 1876 by Alexander Bell and in 1898 Albury’s first telephone exchange opened with 17 subscribers. As the country became more prosperous telephone lines were strung out along roads and railway lines connecting the cities, small towns and the outlying farms. Telephone exchanges employed many women as telephonists who had to manually connect the subscriber to the person with whom they wanted to speak. Eventually new digital technology replaced these exchanges and many still lie empty today.

Coaxial Cable revolutionised telecommunications in Australia. The Sydney/Melbourne link officially opened 1962 after the laying of the cable built in Germany which cost \$12 million. Coaxial cable improved communication by allowing thousands of calls to be made at the same time; enabling Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) across Australia; it can also carry television programs (eg the 1962/63 Ashes series) and computer data; the cable is well shielded so there is less leakage and less electromagnetic interference.

Microwaves are a form of electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths between 1 mm and 1 metre and travelling at the speed of light (300,000 km/s). Microwave transmissions further improved the volume of data transmission with Melbourne and Sydney being linked in 1959. They can carry telephone signals, television programs and computer data. Linked to satellites, microwave transmissions linked the world to Australia - the first international satellite broadcast between Australia and the UK took place in 1966 and to the US in 1967.

Further improvements in the volume of information that could be transmitted came with three important developments: Digital (binary) coding of information - these codes have just two characters, usually represented by 0 and 1. A binary signal via electric current has current on (1) or off (0) and via radiation (eg microwave or light) has pulse on (1) or pulse off (0). Lasers - beams of light that lose very little energy over large distances and can be directed through: Fibre optic cables - flexible, transparent fibre made of glass or plastic, slightly thicker than a human hair.

Fibre optic communication became commercially available in 1970, with Telstra’s first fibre optic links in place in 2000. Information is transmitted from one place to another by sending pulses of light through an optic fibre cable using either Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) or Lasers. Fibre optic cables have many advantages over copper wire: they can transmit significantly more data with less leakage over large distances, with little or no electromagnetic interference; they are very thin, so more can be packed in a cable than copper wire; there is no corrosion so lower maintenance costs; multiple channels can transmit on a single strand, each at a different frequency - currently one single fibre can simultaneously handle about 31,000 telephone calls (a single copper wire can handle about 3000).

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is a project to upgrade the existing fixed line phone and internet network infrastructure of the nation. The NBN will replace copper wires carrying electric current with optic fibres carrying pulses of light.

NBN in Albury - at the end of February 2015, NBN wireless was connected to Walla Walla, Jindera, Baranduda, Gerogery and Culcairn and the build had started in many other areas including Yarrawonga/Mulwala, Howlong, Yackandandah and several rural areas; NBN fibre is connected to several new estates in both Wodonga and Albury; the NBN build was expected to be completed in three years [from March 2015].

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

When and where did Captain Albert Borella win his Victoria Cross and how was it different to all other VC winners to that date?

Answer provided at our next Monthly Meeting.

THE TRUMPET CALLS - ALBURY'S WWI BATTERY

When: Saturday 18 April to Sunday 7 June

Where: LibraryMuseum, Corner of Kiewa and Swift Streets, Albury

Price: Free

World War I (1914 - 1918) helped create our nation's identity. The Trumpet Calls is a compelling exhibition at the LibraryMuseum covering conditions on the battlefield, life on the home front and the role of women and Indigenous Australians during the Great War.

A replica bunker of the dugout occupied by Albury Doctor, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Shellshear, will provide a small insight into the harsh conditions of war.

The exhibition includes a tunic, and medals awarded to Albury soldier, Sergeant George Bishop; a self portrait of Victoria Cross recipient Captain Albert Borella; part of a gun sight from one of the Albury Battery guns inscribed 'Noreuil 2-4-17', and many other objects and stories that reflect our region's involvement in 'the war to end all wars'.

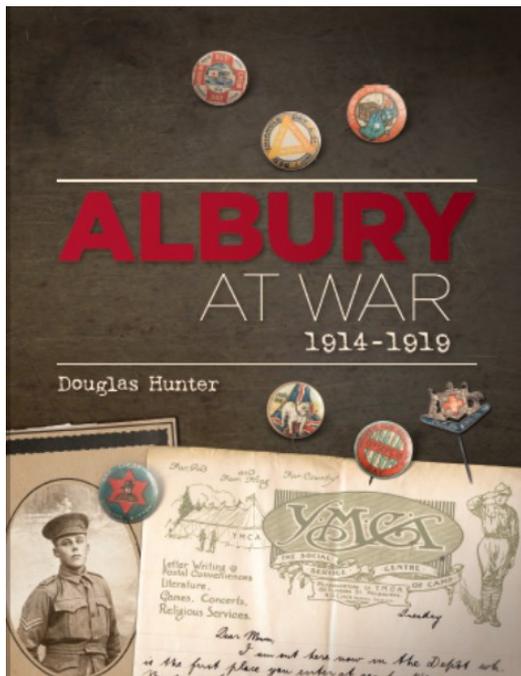
The exhibition has been developed in partnership with the Light Horse Museum, North Bandiana.

Exhibition Opening:

Saturday 18 April at 2.00pm at the LibraryMuseum. Please RSVP to 02 6023 8333

WANTED TO BORROW FOR THE TRUMPET CALLS EXHIBITION

AN OLD SMOKERS PIPE FROM THE ERA, 1914-1918. THE PIPE WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE DESK INSIDE THE WORLD WAR ONE DUGOUT. PLEASE CONTACT BRIDGET GUTHRIE AT THE LIBRARY MUSEUM IF YOU HAVE AN APPROPRIATE PIPE YOU WOULD BE HAPPY TO LOAN FOR A MONTH.



ALBURY AT WAR 1914-1919

This is an image of the front cover of the book Albury at War 1914-1919.

It tells the story of men and women from Albury and district who served in the Great War and of those who maintained and sustained them throughout the five years of conflict.

The book is the culmination of the A&DHS WWI commemoration project is based on research done by Joe Wooding, Chris McQuellin and Richard Lee using newspapers held at the Albury LibraryMuseum in microfilm format.

Publication was made possible by a grant from the AlburyCity Community and Cultural Grants Program. It will be launched on Saturday 18 April 2015 at the LibraryMuseum in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition 'The Trumpet Calls'.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO HENTY.

Ed's Old Farm Machinery Museum at Henty is two years old and there was no better way to mark the anniversary than by entertaining international visitors. Members of the Historic Engine and Tractor Club from Holland were overwhelmed by the size of the collection on display. Ed Dale and his wife, Kay, were happy to show the four visitors around the machinery display.



Photograph Courtesy: Eastern Riverina Chronicle

REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR - BUS TOUR

When: Sunday 19 April, 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Where: LibraryMuseum, Corner of Kiewa and Swift Streets, Albury

Price: \$12.00 per person

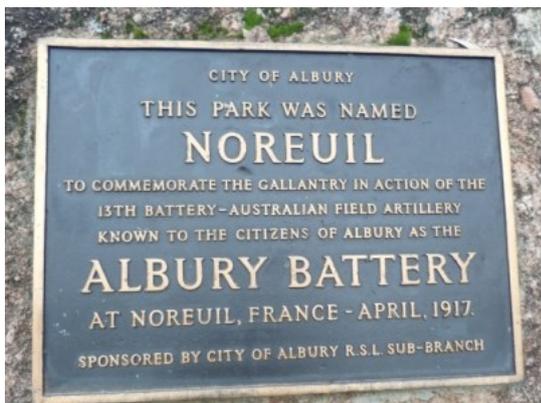
Where does Noreuil Park get its name? The answer lies with the 'Albury' Battery (13th Battery - 5th Field Artillery Brigade) which helped capture the French village of Noreuil in the Pas-de Calais region in April 1917.

Join the Albury and District Historical Society on this bus tour, celebrate National Heritage Week and discover more about local World War I history and the people that served from our communities.

The tour will take in the Pioneer Cemetery, Noreuil Park, World War I Monument, Captain Borella's sculpture and more.

Bookings are essential on: 02 6023 8333.

The Albury Battery in France
Photograph Courtesy: Albury LibraryMuseum



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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>