



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN



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JULY 2015

558

## REPORT ON JUNE MEETING (10.06.2015)

Our President Michael welcomed a larger than normal crowd to our monthly meeting who were receptive to a well broadcast presentation by our local State Member for Albury, Mr Greg Aplin. Before embarking on a career in politics Greg was the station manager for Prime TV (previously AMV4) from 1988 to 2001. He brought with him some memorabilia collected for the 50 year anniversary of the station in 2014 and two TV awards which were won during his time at the station. In introducing his talk Greg stressed the importance of history and his concerns about saving and storing the remaining collection of AMV/Prime documents and video footage. The A&DHS Committee share Greg's concern and will look in to what Prime intend to do with their collection. Members were amused to see rare film footage of an elephant race down Dean St which took place in 1965 where AMV4 personalities were involved as the jockeys. Old children's favourites Bernie and Butsy, Horatio Hound and Prime Possum also received a mention. Community involvement by the staff was encouraged as Greg believed what was good for the region was good for the station.

At the end of the meeting Michael thanked our two retiring committee men Joe Wooding and Peter Whitbourn for their service and contribution to the running of the Society. Joe is our current Vice President and has served on the Committee for nine years. Members were informed that the popular Antiques and Collectibles Valuation Day will be held again in August.(Page 7)

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

8 JULY, 2015

7.30pm at Commercial  
Club Albury

The history and nature of  
open field, plumpton and  
tin lure greyhound  
coursing in Albury and the  
effect of the landing of the  
Uiver on the sport.

Speakers: Noel Jackling &  
Doug Royal

Annual General Meeting

See Agenda Page 8

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM  
BORELLA'S WAR - THE  
MAKING OF A LEGEND  
OPENING: 20 JUNE  
A NORTHERN TERRITORY  
LIBRARY TOURING  
EXHIBITION.

Page 2 AMV4/Prime Television.  
Page 5 Prime 7 Albury turns 50.  
Page 6 Small the Tailor.  
Page 7 Antique Valuation Day.

## 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



## **CONTINUED: AMV 4/PRIME TELEVISION HISTORY BY GREG APLIN**

These were the Directors:-

Chairman: Douglas Wainwright Hague. Senior Partner Belbridge Hague & Co, Solicitors

Managing Director: Arthur Ray Kidd. Manager 2AY Albury

Secretary: Frederick William Johnson. Accountant

Directors: Haydon Weldon Gray, (General Manager of Mates Ltd), William Cleaver Gadd, (Grazier, Guys Forest), Robert Frederick Wiltshire, (Director Wiltshire & Rattray), Frederick Wilson White, (Retired Pharmacist), Douglas Keith Milham, (Accountant).

Letters of support from organisations throughout the community were supplied and also the Albury and Wodonga Councils. They indicated that an Albury based television station was much more preferable than one broadcasting from Shepparton. The certificate of incorporation was granted in April 1962 with a paid up capital of 250,000 pounds divided into 1.1 million five shilling shares. The total share issue was oversubscribed. Mr Arthur Kidd was the first managing director, he had previously been the manager of 2AY and formerly worked for Amalgamated Wireless Australasia. Denzil Howson was the Program and Production executive. He had worked at GTV9 since it opened in 1956, produced the Tarax Show and was in charge of the comedy production for In Melbourne Tonight. John Worthy was the first newsreader and special events coordinator who had extensive radio experience. Olgamary Whelan was the program personality who came from Albury and was a well known theatre performer with the Albury Reperatory Company. She hosted the AMV children's show until she married. Ross Sellars was the chief announcer who also had a background in radio. He had been a master at Albury Grammer School, a theatre performer and a prominent Ovens and Murray League footballer. Bernard Harper was the film manager who had worked as an assistant director on the film Jemma and had worked in Brisbane filming TV commercials and documentaries.

Regional television didn't operate in the same way as television stations in the capital cities. Here you fulfilled numerous roles and that continued into the 1980s. You gained an enormous amount of experience as a result and many of the staff went on to network stations in Sydney and Melbourne as they were so multi-skilled. So many of those individuals have had great careers. There were camera people who went on to become war correspondents, others went on to have very successful careers in the media such as Chris Bath who started as a weather presenter at Prime and was later a Channel 7 anchor.



The AMV4 regulars plus other local amateur thespians were recruited to perform. Videotape was still too expensive for country television, so all local programming was transmitted "live" (and thus never captured for posterity). Seen here is Denzil on the left with hand in the air. Next to him are Bernie Harper, Ken Palethorpe and Alan Frost. The "teacher" is Ross Sellars, an AMV4 on-air personality who went on to a management role in the Nine Network.

Photograph and Caption Courtesy: The Denzil Howson Family

In 1985 the Paul Ramsey Group took over AMV, it was his first television station. Paul Ramsey was familiar with the area as he owned the Albury Private Hospital and his family had originated from Tumbarumba.

Every three years the TV stations had to re-apply for their licences, this involved presenting financial reports, programming reports and logs of audience complaints and comments. We had to describe how we served our audience in our role as a local station. The broadcast area was very wide and included Holbrook, Henty, Corryong, Yarrawonga and Benalla. We were involved in broadcasting emergency warnings for bushfires. Tours were conducted around the station facility and work experience was provided for high school and Riverina College (CSU) students. A series of courses were provided jointly with 2AY on the operation of television and radio stations. In the pre-Xmas season a program of carols was produced sung by various school choirs. The length of commercials and commercial breaks had to be strictly adhered to as programs were

## **CONTINUED :AMV 4/PRIME TELEVISION HISTORY BY GREG APLIN**

coming in from other stations. We had a set time limit, usually two and a half minute time slots for community announcements, Xmas carols and commercials. Income from sponsorship and commercials were vital for the financial survival of a station. Local theatre and the arts were always strongly supported. AMV sponsored Riverina College drama productions as well as the Albury Music Theatre, Wodonga Citizens Band, Albury City Band and the Tallangatta Arts Festival. The station maintained strong links with service organisations, charitable institutions, local councils and business leaders. The station executives held positions in the Albury Wodonga Chamber of Commerce and many sporting committees. As the general manager I encouraged this involvement by the staff, it was a big commitment but excellent public relations. Prime and AMV broadcast across the border, what was good for the region was good for the station. One of the important elements which changed dramatically was the supplementing of film material with local programming. You saw that in the early days with the children's shows such as Cohns Cobbers and Bernie and Butsy. The popularity of Bernie and Butsy was legendary. It was reported in a Border Mail article that they were mobbed by 600 children at Coles New World supermarket in the 1960s. Horatio Hound was another popular character inhabited by Trevor Kells. He was presented with the Horatio Hound suit when he left the station.

It was local content for local people. This continued under my management when we produced programs such as About Town a half hour womans' program covering fashion, current affairs, celebrities, health and gardening. Our Xmas special was A Country Christmas including music, dance and choirs singing carols from the region. For the 25th Anniversary Cliff Chamberlain fronted a series of one minutes vignettes which portrayed local identities. Another production was Courage & Hope on the story of Camp Quality. This one hour documentary won a Penguin award. When the Miss Australia Quest was held in a regional area for the first time in 1988 Prime filmed the Gala Presentation night in Albury for which they received a TV Award for Excellence for the Best Regional Outside Broadcast Event. Other local productions were: The Bicentennial Opening in Albury, Ovens & Murray Grand Final replays, Olympian Profiles, Albury Gold Cup direct telecast, International Lawn Bowls at Corowa, Alpine Rally, Queens Visit to Albury, Meet Your Member and Election Specials. Billboard provided a low cost advertising service for community and charity announcements.

In 1987 the planned amalgamation of the local news bulletins from Albury and Wagga caused an uproar. The people believed it would lead to a loss of local identity and there was widespread displeasure from the audience and the sponsors. So much so that Alan Hoy who was the new managing director for Prime Television Group rang me where I was working at Orange and said I've got a job for you at Albury. I had never been to Albury before. It was a step up the career ladder for me so I accepted. In December of 1987 I came down for a look, it must have been one of the hottest days of the summer, over 40 degrees. I drove along Union Road which was only a narrow tarred strip with wide dirt edges and the car park had no trees for shade. We were appointed as part of a new management group to actually break away from RVN Wagga and form an autonomous station with a new news service. Colleen Bray was the newsreader who was introduced and promoted by fronting a Meet the Candidates program for the 1988 State Election. As Prime was aligned with Channel 7 many personalities such as Sandy Roberts, Peter Landy and Jennifer Keyte were brought up to Albury for functions such as the Gold Cup. The Festival of Sport was a big event with seven weeks of activities run by Graham Hicks and Peter Wilson. Prime staff were involved in an entertaining shopping trolley derby down Dean St cheered on by Prime Possum. Back then it was the role of the TV personnel to be involved in the community and local productions. They produced the local news, weather, commercials and community announcements. One person would often film, edit and cut several stories using what seems now to be very cumbersome equipment. Our resources were very limited, this became obvious one day when a reporter left his microphone behind on the grass and it was unfortunately mown over by a council mower. The remains were displayed at the station as a reminder for staff to be more careful with equipment! Developing technology has brought great changes in the television industry. Originally Prime was the only commercial station in this region then from 1992 there were three plus SBS. Now you have a multiplicity of stations, services and programs.

## **PRIME7 ALBURY TURNS 50**

The launch of Albury's first TV station AMV4 — now known as Prime7 — sparked an unusual TV rivalry, albeit a friendly one.

Because Albury did not have any local TV station prior to AMV4's debut in September 1964, local viewers keen to access television had installed large antennas so they could receive Shepparton stations GMV6 and ABGV3 (ABC) which had been broadcasting since 1961 and 1963 respectively.

Even the local newspaper, The Border Morning Mail, was printing TV listings for both ABGV3 and GMV6 (and RVN2 for those able to get TV signals from Wagga Wagga!)

GMV6 was more than aware of its presence in the lounge rooms of Albury viewers and would often send its local presenters to Albury for promotional appearances. GMV also gained interest from Albury viewers by inviting performers from the Albury region to appear on its own variety and children's programs. So when AMV4 made its belated debut the two stations had to compete for viewers' attention.

The company to operate Albury's first TV station, Albury-Upper Murray TV Limited, was awarded its broadcasting licence in October 1962. Principal shareholders in the company included Amalgamated Wireless Australasia (AWA) Limited, Hoyts Theatres, The Border Morning Mail and other local businesses — complying with the requirement that at least 50 per cent of the company's shareholding must be locally based.

The new station built a single-studio building in Union Road, Lavington. The studio was equipped with AWA Vidicon cameras — with AMV claiming to be the first regional station to install the new technology. A 150 metre tall transmission mast was constructed on top of Mount Baranduda, approximately 20 kilometres south of Albury.

"Everyone in the Albury area is keenly interested in what is happening about their own television station," managing director Ray Kidd told TV Week in July 1963. "At the moment some areas receive GMV6, Shepparton, and this is adding to the interest in the Albury station." The new channel was planning to have around 44 hours of programming each week from the time of its launch.

With test transmissions starting from the morning of Thursday, 3 September 1964, AMV4 was officially opened the following Monday, 7 September 1964. The first program to go to air was local children's show Cohns Cobbers' Teleclub, hosted by Olgamary Whelan. The program was due to start at 4.55pm but following the official station identification announcement the new channel's historic first words to be broadcast on air were to come from the station's film manager, Bernard Harper: "Anybody seen Olgamary?" It turned out that Whelan had been delayed getting to the studio and Cohns Cobbers' Teleclub ended up being a minute late in starting — but not that the enthusiastic crowd of an estimated 100 children who had assembled in the studio seemed to mind. After Whelan and station colleague Ross Sellars finished their introductions and threw to a segment of The Mickey Mouse Club, there was much cheering from the studio audience who later gave a roaring rendition of Happy Birthday as cake and candles were brought in the studio. Cohns Cobbers' Teleclub was the creation of Denzil Howson who had come from Melbourne's GTV9, where he had worked both in front and behind the cameras, to become production manager at AMV4.

The official opening program, Were You There With AMV, appeared just after the debut relay of ABC's national news at 7.00pm.

Were You There With AMV presented film coverage of events from over the previous ten months from around the channel's viewing area as well as performances from local artists. The following night AMV4 launched its local news service, a ten-minute bulletin presented each weeknight by John Worthy. Other local programs launched in the channel's early days included a variety show that alternated between the titles Take Four, Music At Four, The Four Star Show and The Big Four Show, quiz show The Mates Show and weekly women's magazine Roundabout With Olgamary.

## **CONTINUED: PRIME7 ALBURY TURNS 50**

Ross Sellars hosted the local current affairs program On Target, weekly interview segment Face, the Friday night Sports Preview and Saturday night Football Inquest. The station had also signed up former Collingwood footballer Murray Wiedeman, who had relocated to Albury to coach a team in the local league, to appear on a weekly football round-up.

AMV4 had assembled a line-up of imported programs including Candid Camera, Coronation Street, Singalong With Mitch, Cheyenne, McHale's Navy, My Three Sons, Bonanza, The Saint, Mike Hammer, International Showtime, Harrigan And Son and Superman. Australian programs sourced from the capital city networks included Bandstand, It Could Be You and children's programs Ampol Stamp Quiz and The Terrific Adventures Of The Terrible Ten.

By the early 1970s the station was experiencing financial challenges in response to rising operating costs and an arrangement was soon made to merge Albury-Upper Murray TV Limited with nearby television station RVN2, Wagga Wagga. The new company, Riverina and North-East Victoria Television Limited, eventually linked RVN2 and AMV4 via microwave, enabling the broadcast of a uniform program schedule across both channels — though the AMV studios in Union Road would continue to produce a local news, and AMV4 would split from the RVN2 program to broadcast Australian Rules football coverage for its predominantly Victorian audience.

In the mid-1980s, RVN-AMV became known on-air as The Prime Network in a partnership with fellow regional stations CBN8, Orange, and CWN6, Dubbo — and in 1987 production of AMV's local news was merged with RVN2's news bulletin from Wagga Wagga, though this was not a popular change and was soon reversed.

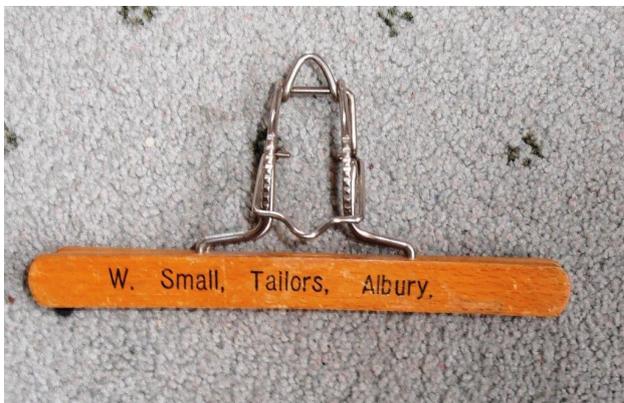
The Prime Network later became Prime Television as regional networks were preparing for the change to aggregation, with Prime aligning itself with the Seven Network for program supply. AMV then became the hub for the Prime Television network (now Prime7) broadcasting across regional Victoria, while RVN was amalgamated with CBN in expanding across Southern NSW and ACT.

Prime7 has now vacated the old premises on Union Rd and transferred its news, sales and production staff to an alternative location in Dean St nearer the Albury CBD.

Source: The Canberra Times, 5 October 1962. The Age, 5 October 1962. TV Week, 13 July 1963. TV Week, 16 May 1964. TV Times, 2 September 1964. The Border Morning Mail, 8 September 1964. The Border Mail. The Riverina's Own Television Service, Maikha Ly.

## **SMALL THE TAILOR**

W. Small, Albury tailor, began with W. Low in 1906, then c 1911 Small took over the business working from 596 Dean Street (opposite present Albion Hotel). In 1924 W Small and Son was touted as having 'grown rapidly and the firm's reputation stand high.' And should you have wanted a pair of cream trousers in 1931 they would have cost you dapper gentlemen 30/-. Jan Hunter is looking for a pair of trousers made by Small, to go in this trouser hanger. Check out the cupboards when you are clearing grandfather's house or rummaging in op shops please. Also keep an eye out for any clothing with the Adelyn brand.



## **GREYHOUND COURSING PHOTOS WANTED**

If anyone has photos of greyhound coursing at the Albury Racecourse or at the Borella Road premises could they please bring them along to the July Meeting or contact the Society.



A group of children perform Christmas carols for a live broadcast. The Albury studio was tiny compared to the GTV9 studio and had only two Vidicon cameras. It did, however, have an "infinity cyclorama", another innovation Denzil brought from GTV9, which can be seen behind the children in this photo. (The cameraman is Terry Dexter.)  
Photographs & Captions Courtesy: The Denzil Howson family



Barney Sludge alias Denzil Howson. Denzil introduced an ambitious lineup of live programming unusual for country television. He launched the "Cohns Cobbers Teleclub", an afternoon childrens program modelled on the Tarax Show which he had successfully conceived and guided at GTV9.  
Photograph by Vic Anastasi

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES VALUATION DAY 8 AUGUST**  
**THE VERY POPULAR ANTIQUE VALUATION DAY WITH LIZ STEVENS WILL BE**  
**OFFERED AGAIN UPSTAIRS AT THE ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM.**  
**FROM 10AM TO 4PM COST \$5 PER ITEM**

"Liz has worked in the antique industry since 1993 and has acquired a wealth of knowledge in her specialist field in that time. She has often been called upon to lecture for various organisations such as the Historic House Trust (HHT) and the NCJV (National Council of Jewellery Valuers), performed customs valuations and has appeared on many TV & radio shows.

Liz is a qualified diamond grader & diamond technician, Gemmologist and a registered valuer with NCJV. You also may have heard Liz on the Sydney radio station 2UE. Liz started her radio career back in 2006 & has worked for 2UE and affiliated stations bringing the "Antiques & Collectables hour" into many homes every Saturday Morning. The show is also broad cast through various other radio stations Australia wide on the Southern Cross broadcasting network along the east coast of Australia. The show takes around 20-30 calls a morning & deals with on air valuations & appraisals.

Liz has built a trusted reputation within the community & was honoured in 2011 with the title of Paul Harris Fellow. Paul Harris Fellow award is awarded for exemplary work in community service."

Source: Chilton's Antiques Website

**QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH**



1. Does anyone know the origins of the name and why greyhound coursing was called "plumpton"?
2. What year was the greyhound racing track closed on Borella Rd?
3. How many gentlemen assembled at Mrs Darby's Bungowannah Hotel in 1885 for the first open meeting of the Albury Coursing Club in Mr Grieves' paddock?

### MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH

Thank you to Leo Coyle who brought along a picture of Geoffrey Kiddle from a photo which hung in the Walbundrie School. Our mystery photo does not seem to be Kiddle as his uniform is from an artillery regiment whereas the man in the photo has chain mail epaulettes which indicates a cavalry regiment. So perhaps the photo is of Morgan Roston D'Arcy of Albury who spent 5 years with the 8<sup>th</sup> Bengal Cavalry before WWI, so more research is needed.

Photograph Courtesy: Albury LibraryMuseum



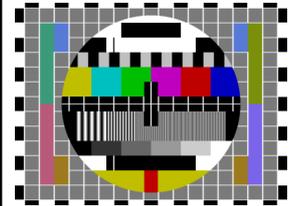
### AGM AGENDA

Welcome. Attendance and apologies.  
Minutes of 2014 AGM and Special General Meeting 12 Nov 2014.  
President's Report  
Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts  
Appointment of Interim Chairman to conduct election.  
Election of Office Bearers, Committee, and Public Officer;

#### **Nominations received:**

President	Michael Brown	Committee:	Ray Gear
Snr Vice Pres.	June Shanahan		Ron Haberfield
Jnr. Vice Pres.	Vacancy		Greg Ryan
Hon. Secretary	Helen Livsey		Marion Taylor
Hon. Minutes Sec.	Catherine Browne		Jill Wooding
Hon. Treasurer	Vacancy		Vacancy

Public Officer Helen Livsey  
General Business. Setting of annual  
subscription. Recommendation: Unchanged. Single \$25, Family \$33  
Corporate \$50  
AGM Meeting Closure.



RVN and AMV amalgamated in 1975 when colour was introduced which helped to absorb the financial costs of the new technology. How many viewers in the Gen Y age group would know what a test pattern is? Today's children have grown up with 24 hour a day television transmission.



Many of our members would remember the popular soft drinks produced by Cohns and sold in Albury for many years. The company was an iconic Bendigo cordial, soft drink and beer manufacturer started by three brothers from Denmark who came to the Bendigo gold diggings in 1853. There was a Cohn's factory at Wangaratta in the 1970s.



### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS QUESTIONS

1. The opening of AMV was planned for 19 June 1964 but very heavy rain delayed the construction of the mast resulting in the station not making its first transmission until 7 September 1964.
2. The opening program included an introduction by David Fairbairn, Federal MP, footage of the construction of the building, I Love Lucy then the movie, The Dam Busters.
3. Transmission ceased at 10pm.

**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>

