



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019

JUNE 2016

568

## REPORT ON MAY MEETING (11.05.2016)

Members who attended our May meeting were rewarded with a most engaging talk by Lou Lieberman A.M. Lou took us on a journey back to his previous life, not as a politician but as the son of Syd the tailor, growing up in Albury in the 1940s and 50s. We cycled with Lou up the streets of his childhood and met the many characters of that era who made Dean St a very colourful and vibrant place.

Howard Jones then presented his occasional paper, "Blood, Fire, Rotten Eggs and Gaol 1884-1894" which tells of the prejudice and discrimination the Salvation Army had to endure in the early days of their organisation in Albury. The officers were subjected to physical violence as well as being locked up for various offences. It wasn't until the release of a report on poverty by their founder General Booth in the mid 1890s that people started to understand the organisation and appreciate their good work bringing forward a change of attitude in their favour.

Ed Dale from Henty reported that he had taken part in the crawl up the old Hume Highway No 31 which started at the Ford factory in Melbourne. Two hundred and sixty five trucks were driven up the old route. The truck Ed was in carried a 1975 Massy Harris mustard header which is now on display at his farm machinery museum at Henty. Our chairman Michael reminded members that our next meeting is the AGM and that there are a number of positions vacant on the Committee.

## NEXT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY  
8 JUNE, 2016  
7.30pm at Commercial  
Club Albury**

**AGM followed by:**

**Byramine: Establishment  
to the 1850's - The real  
story from the records.**

**Speaker: Faye Stevenson**

## ALBURY LIBRARY- MUSEUM

**FREEWHEELING:  
CYCLING IN  
AUSTRALIA**

**28 MAY- 31 JULY**

Page 2 Syd Taylor the Tailor  
Page 5 Blood, Fire, Rotten  
Eggs & Gaol

## 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 111097776 (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-President:** June Shanahan  
**Secretary:** Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671  
**Treasurer:** Ron Haberfield  
**Minute Secretary:** Greg Ryan  
**Publicity Officer:** Jill Wooding  
**Committee:** Richard Lee, Jill Wooding,  
Ray Gear, Greg Ryan, Marion Taylor.

**Bulletin Editor:** Marion Taylor  
[marion.taylor7@bigpond.com](mailto:marion.taylor7@bigpond.com)  
**Journals, Stock:** June Shanahan  
**Meeting Greeter:** Jill Wooding  
**Bulletin dispatch:** Richard Lee  
**Webmaster:** Greg Ryan  
**Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday of the  
month 7.30pm usually at Commercial  
Club Albury.  
Committee meets 3rd Wednesday of  
the month 5pm at the Albury  
LibraryMuseum.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25  
Family: \$33  
Corporate: Under review.

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



Albury Public School 1948. Class 5A. Lou Lieberman, Third from the left.  
Photograph Courtesy: Ron Haberfield

## **SYD TAYLOR, THE TAILOR**

**BY LOU LIEBERMAN**

Louis Stuart Lieberman AM was born 13 May, 1938 at Swan Hill, educated at Albury High School, and studied law while working as a law clerk for Tietyens, Angel & Jackling. He did his national service training and served with the 8/13<sup>th</sup> Victoria Mounted Rifles. In 1976 he stood for the Liberal Party in the seat of Benambra and was elected. Lou also represented the Federal seat of Indi as part of his political career.

I arrived in Albury in 1942 as a callow four year old. I can still remember arriving at the cold Albury Railway Station in winter. My dad Syd, my mother Irene, known as Poppy, my sisters Juna and Greta, and my elder brother Braham. A few months later my youngest brother Darryl was born. My elder brother Norman was fighting with the Australian Army in Tobruk. He ran away from home at the age of sixteen and a half and joined up. He wrote to Mum and Dad saying: Don't worry about me I'm OK, I'm in the ground crew with the air force. They decided not to blow the whistle on him but in fact he was in the Army in the 9<sup>th</sup> Division and fought through the whole Siege of Tobruk and survived, was wounded and went on to serve in New Guinea where he was wounded again. He survived and is still alive today in his 90's, one of the last few Rats of Tobruk still alive.

Why did my family come to Albury? My father had served in the Medical Corp in the British Army in WW1, as a stretcher bearer in the bloody battle of the Somme and was gassed and wounded and, I think, profoundly affected although he never spoke about it. When WW2 was declared he dyed his hair black so he looked younger and enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corp. He was promoted and sent to Albury/Wodonga where he was in charge of the medical supplies which were warehoused here. The supplies were shipped off when needed to the various Pacific battlefields to supply the American and Australian Allied Forces. He introduced an alphabetical list for identifying drugs, a system of indexation, so instead of sending someone off to the warehouse to get a box of sulphur alanine all the drugs were given a number. It caused less confusion. The first night we arrived in Albury was spent on mattresses on the floor of a lubritorium on the corner of Olive and Swift Streets. It was Abbott's Garage, a Ford dealership which had been commandeered by the army when they couldn't find a house for us. We kids thought it was very exciting but the next day we moved to a house in Swift St close to Dean St and later to North Albury.

One of the best decisions ever made by my mother and father when the war ended was that they would stay in Albury and let their kids complete their education. Dad had ran men's wear businesses in his earlier life so he decided he would open one at 481A Dean St, it was called Syd Taylor The Tailor. He had a radio program on 2AY that people would listen to and there was a musical intro to any advertisement for dad's shop. "North, South, East and West, Syd Taylor's suits are the best." And they were! Mum and Dad ran the business for many years, through good

times and hard times. They had apprentices working for them. I actually went to a funeral for one of them recently, a lady called Golda Block from Wodonga. She did a lot of work for service people. The migrant wave after WW2 into Australia through Bonegilla brought many skilled artisans into the area including dressmakers and tailors. Dad employed some of these people when they first arrived and many went on to open their own businesses, for example, Joe Halicki and Robert Saville. I remember many people coming into the shop dressed in leather hosen/trousers carrying briefcases full of sausages. They carried their essentials with them at all times. To me Albury's CBD and Dean St is one of the best main streets in regional Australia, some of the buildings still there are outstanding. The T&G building, AMP building and the old Court House are great architectural examples of the past.

I went to school at Albury Public School, either walking or on my bike, down Swift and Dean Streets into David St. Often I would go home for lunch and some of the shops would close for lunch also. After school I would help my parents in their shop, doing deliveries and taking the new suits and clothes down to the American Dry Cleaners to be pressed. We used to go in the back where there was a sweating gentleman with white hair and a moustache enveloped in the steam coming off the press. He was always good to us.

As you know Dean St runs east-west and one of the worst things I can remember is riding a bike in the afternoon towards the monument with the sun in your eyes. One day I was riding along, busy looking at an attractive girl in a St Joseph's Ladies' College uniform, when I nearly killed myself running into the back of a parked truck! Dean St has gone through many phases and stages including different rules of parallel and angle parking. You could ride your bike up the street, showing off, then park your bike in the gutter in those metal strips sitting up from the road. If you were a good enough bike-rider you could do the U turn and park your bike stepping off in one motion then coolly walk off down the street. Brylcreemed hair was a necessity!

The educational facilities in those days were all close to the main street. This enhanced the Albury CBD with all the activity involved with children coming and going from school. Later on I got some work experience with Blackie's Pharmacy and Thomas Pharmacy. Other chemists in the CBD included Fred Willson-White, Jack Kenna, Florence Pharmacy, Ian Watson, Don Felton, Paul Wallace and Mr Friedlieb. Now there would be less than half that number. Reflecting on the changes in the dynamics of the street and the shops that have taken their place. Massive changes have occurred in our shopping habits and small businesses have to survive serious competition from large shopping centres. The good thing about Albury is that, despite all the changes and losing many very well run small family businesses, we still have a thriving and vibrant CBD. This is due to the amenities, the architecture, buildings and location. Long may it thrive, who knows what changes may occur in the next 30 years. The other dramatic change is the number of hotels. I can remember the ones no longer there being the George, Ryan's, Carlton, Waterstreet's, Terminus, Court House and the Pastoral. Those remaining are the Albion, New Albury, Globe and Soden's. Most of the original pubs had tiles up the walls and in the morning the old yard man who had free accommodation would hose down the outside. There have been huge changes in the way liquor is sold and supplied, some for the good and some for the bad. There are new nightclubs in Dean St that weren't there before.

There was much cultural and ethnic diversity in Albury in the early days and many benefits flowed on from that. There were many fashion and clothing shops run by families of Lebanese origin, many of those are still here. Jim Bacash who operated the Cedar in Olive St originally had a hamburger shop called Mick's Café. Next to that was a fish shop run by an Italian called Joe Agostino. He was an expert in making minestrone soup for families, including the Lieberman family. There was the Riverina Café run by a gentleman called Miram Andronicos, a very successful businessman who eventually went back to Greece. He and my Dad used to do a very special thing. After WW2 ended there were a lot of returned servicemen travelling through Albury after being in rehabilitation hospitals for months. They were given a one way ticket home on the train but due to post traumatic stress many couldn't bear to sit for hours in a confined space so they would alight at Albury. I can remember they would come into the shop looking very gaunt and ill with a note carrying my Dad and Miram's names. They would then be taken to the Riverina Café and be given the biggest mixed grill you have ever seen.

Dad would organise accommodation for them and get them back on the train the next day. This showed the great generosity of the Greek people. They were very hard working, many families in Dean St, the Liberty Café (good triple malted milkshakes), the Hume Weir Café (Veneris), Font's (Con & Voula Spiros). There was a fish and chip shop in Olive St which had water running down the windows. As a child I found that fascinating. The first Chinese takeaway in the CML building was the Cathay Café. Granny Abikhair had a milk bar and the business next door was owned by the family, drapery, men's and ladies' wear, stock to the roof accessible only by ladder. It was the place to go in Albury for a smart hat to wear to the races. Behind Abikhairs was a garage run by Dan Abikhair, one of the finest motor mechanics that ever walked. He had a beautiful workshop. I would watch him tuning cars after school. You could put a full glass of water on the engine block of a running motor and not spill a drop. An artist at work.

Above some of the shops in Dean St, which I thought were residences, were illegal betting shops. You would climb up the narrow stairs to a large steel door with an eyehole. Inside was a battery of telephones involved in SP betting. Allegedly at that time there was a lot of corruption in the police force and the anti-gambling squads. The Flying Squad would arrive in town for a raid driving big black Ford Galaxies. They would charge up the stairs with axes to find the forewarned proprietor opening the door to them to save them knocking it down. It was said that all the operators of betting shops and illegal casinos would take their turn being raided. A couple of vagrants would be provided by the police free of charge to take the wrap. They would be arrested and locked up and their fine would be paid by someone on the Monday morning after they had enjoyed free food and a warm bed over the weekend. It was then reported that gambling in Albury had been cleaned up and everyone was happy.

The bakeries in Dean St were Thiels and Wynnes, and Worsleys in David St. There are none in Dean St now. I used to help Mr Wynne with his bread deliveries to the Clubs in his little bread van. The smell of the fresh bread used to waft down the street. He used to roast peanuts in the wood fired ovens after the bread had been baked. These smells combined into a tantalising aroma for a young boy.

The Lebanese families were Farrah, Nesire, Buckley, Assad, Malouf, Sarroff, Batrouney and Corban. You can see their names on the top of the buildings in Dean St. These people came to Australia virtually penniless, ran their first business from a horse and cart selling door to door, then opened a retail shop with the family residence upstairs. They worked hard and prospered and were very fine citizens.

Dean St was previously the Hume Highway and most of the buildings were adorned with beautiful ornate verandahs. Unfortunately the truck drivers, as vehicles became larger, would clip the verandah posts and there were safety concerns. The DMR decreed that the verandahs must be removed, given the execution order. As a law clerk it was my job to serve the notices on the owners of these buildings. I am not proud of being a part of that but I was just doing my job.

The overhead bridge was an infamous structure, coming in from East Albury around the curve and down into Dean St. I am not sure who the engineer or bridge builders were who got away with that construction. It was poorly designed and dangerous, probably the only saving grace was that you had to drive over it so slowly to avoid crashing! Now we have the Harold Mair Bridge and the new Baker Motor showrooms, both fitting modern structures.

Tonight I hope I have painted a picture of how Albury was through the eyes of my younger self. Now I am an older guy but still the same fellow. The journeys I made daily from school to home and the shop were ones I enjoyed immensely, so many good things happened and adventures were had. Dean St has served Albury well in its role as a major retail hub and I hope it will continue to do so for many years especially with the heritage buildings being utilised and retained.

#### **COMMITTEE SNIPPETS**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 8 June. Cost of corporate membership is being reviewed. Historical articles published in the Border Mail have been very successful in raising the profile of the Society and have resulted in new memberships and increased attendances to meetings. The Committee would like to thank the following authors, Joe Wooding, Greg Ryan, Noel Jackling and Michael Browne.

Persecution of the Salvation Army in Albury, 1884-1894, is a new publication in the society's occasional series of papers.

The first time I heard how the Albury Salvos had been abused and attacked was in 1985. I wrote a feature on the centenary of the Albury Corps in the Border Mail.

This mentioned the rotten eggs being thrown in the early days, and marchers being harassed.

But I never realised until last year how widespread the attacks were, nor that they lasted a decade. Briefly, persecution arose in the following forms.

1. From some publicans, who resented the Salvos campaigning against strong drink while having the temerity to sell War Cry in the pubs.
  2. From larrikins, who were encouraged by the publicans and even given free grog to attack the Army in the streets and at services.
  2. From "respectable" people like a solicitor and alderman, George Thorold. An Anglican, he disliked the Salvos marching, singing hymns and preaching in the streets, saying: "Religion should be practised in a place set apart, not in the streets."
  3. From the police, who did nothing to stop larrikins throwing stones and other items at the Salvos.
  4. The police magistrate, Harry Keightley, was generally unsympathetic to the Salvos and once summoned the captain to explain in court why he allowed late-night meetings, even though he was not charged with anything.
  5. A Catholic priest in Wodonga publicly attacked the Salvos from his pulpit, saying it was repulsive in the extreme to witness the antics played by these people in the sacred name of religion, and to hear how they uttered the holy name of the Redeemer with the utmost flippancy
  6. Albury Town Council was divided on how to respond to the Salvos, but voted by a majority for a by-law to ban all street processions. The NSW Attorney General ruled a council had no powers to make such a by-law.
  7. A council inspector of nuisances, George Dulley, relentlessly pursued the Army to get convictions for obstruction. A handful of Salvation Army officers and members were jailed for a day or two because they wouldn't pay fines. However, in 1894 the Army and the council reached a compromise about street meetings, charges were withdrawn and the prosecutions ceased. The community as a whole was divided. Some community leaders, including some aldermen and the owner of the Border Post, Thomas Affleck, were sympathetic to the Salvos and said so publicly. Apart from the Catholic priest's attack, the churches were silent.
- After 1894, the Albury Salvos were accepted for the work they did, particularly among the poor and disadvantaged. They have now been present in Albury for over 130 years and their good work continues.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT****MICHAEL BROWNE**

The past year has been a busy one for the Society with some excellent presentations at our monthly meetings and a bus tour of the Yarrowonga area. Meeting topics range from Albury Town Brass Band history presented by Greg Ryan, the story of Dr Harry Brewer, a local GP, as told through the eyes of his daughter, Judy Brewer, a moving history of the Benalla Migrant Centre by Prof. Bruce Pennay, Jockey Jack, the woman who travelled in a man's world by Howard Jones, through to the Return of the Unknown Australian Soldier by Darren Eddy. This is a just small sample of what has been happening each month, please refer to the Bulletin for these and many more stories. The authors amongst us have been busy this year with more occasional papers written and a book by Richard Lee on Abe Nathan is one example. The continuing publication of history articles is an important one and the committee along with Doug Hunter formulated a "Publications Policy" to streamline the process. Members of the Society also began producing short stories for publication in the local paper, The Border Mail, and this has been instrumental in raising the profile of the Society and also our counterparts in the Wodonga Historical Society, well done to all who have contributed. This year Jill Wooding is retiring from the committee and I would like to personally thank Jill for her contribution to the running of the Society. I too am retiring as president and also from the committee. As members would know this past year has been one of great sadness for the Browne and Wooding families with the passing of my wife Catherine who was a very active committee member and held the position of Minute Secretary for many years. I also wish to thank the Society members and the rest of the committee for their support and advice throughout the past year.



Taken soon after the 1889 opening of the Salvation Army Barracks in Kiewa Street (opposite Swift Street).  
Photograph Courtesy: Salvation Army Australia Website

The Wodonga Family History Society has recently released The Albury Border Post Almanac Index Part 1: 1877-1879, 1881-1893 on CD for the price of \$20 +p&p.

Mrs Noelle Oke has painstakingly indexed many thousands of entries including 1500 advertisements, listings for Churches, District Towns has 3000 entries including clergyman, aldermen, JPs, teachers, hotel proprietors and storekeepers, police, bank managers, vigneron, Govt Officers, Institutions with names of those on their committees, Schools naming some pupil teachers and even a sewing mistress. There are mentions of a few deaths (and murders), fires, drownings, official openings, and significant community events of previous years. As well as 4000 for Albury there are multiple entries for Bethanga, Bowna, Bungowannah, Burrumbuttock, Corowa, Corryong, Culcairn, Ettamogah, Germanton, Gerogery, Howlong, Jindera, Little Billabong, Moorwatha, Morven, Mullengandra, Mulwala, Tallangatta, Thurgoona, Tintalra, Tocumwal, Towong, Tumbarumba, Urana, Wagra, Walbundrie, Walla, Welaregang, Wodonga (1000), Woomargama and Yackandandah.

The Index provides the names of individuals together with as much relevant information as it was possible to include. Being searchable it will be of great assistance to local and family history researchers. The Almanacs are held at the Albury Library Museum, though not on open access, but the Index is a treasure trove to direct researches to other sources.

WFHS, PO Box 289, Wodonga 3691. Website [wodongafamilyhistory.org](http://wodongafamilyhistory.org).

Special thanks to the Commercial Club Albury Ltd for supplying a meeting room for many years and also for their continued support. Please click on the logo below to access their website.



**You can now find the Albury District Historical Society on Facebook.**  
**Our Facebook page has now received over 1000 likes!**  
To view our popular page please go to <https://www.facebook.com/Albury.DHS>