ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

MARCH 2012

521

REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING (8/2/12)

The Elizabeth Room was again packed to capacity for the February meeting of the society. President Chris McQuellin congratulated four of the Society's members for recent community achievements: Doreen Widdison received an OAM in the Australia Day Honours; Pauline Harbick was named Albury Volunteer of the Year; June Shanahan was a nominee for Citizen of the Year; and Bronwyn Cossor was a finalist in the Albury Art Prize 2012.

Richie Lee was the main speaker. His topic was the history of the East Albury Cricket Club and in particular a 'legend' of the club, Tom Jones. Richie was ably supported by Ray Gear who spoke about postcards from the early 1900s which were produced by two Albury stationers, P W Blake and J B Thomson. Ray showed cards from his extensive collection. The views of early Albury were of considerable interest to the audience.

One of our members, Mavis Stokes, was surprised to see her grandfather James Hodge in a large photograph displayed by Noel Jackling. Noel's collection included images of the *Uiver*, passengers and crew members. Also on the *Uiver* theme, Helen Livsey and her granddaughter Elissa have reassembled a puzzle which Noel brought back from the Netherlands.

Two staff members of Vision Australia attended the meeting. Peter (Pedro) Doyle gave a clear, succinct presentation of a proposed series of programs featuring local history which will be aired on Vision Australia Radio 101.7 FM. Pedro is keen to speak with members of the Society who would like to participate in the research, preparation and perhaps presentation of the

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NEXT MEETING
**WEDNESDAY
14 MARCH 2012
Speakers:
John Haskell "Aspects of Napoleonic warfare"
Ann Brennan & Doreen Widdison " The Lampitt Family history."**

CURRENTLY SHOWING AT THE LIBRARYMUSEUM
**The Governor:
Lachlan Macquarie
1810-1821**

A visit recommended!

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programs. Vision Australia would provide training in preparation and presentation techniques. Initial point of contact on Ph 6041 8800; Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning are the best times.

Chris McQuellin reported on recent meetings with members of the Lee Tet family and the Porter family. Both families have made available collections of photos relating to the Lee Tets in early Albury, and Alex Porter, who with Azor Robbins, built and flew the first aircraft in Albury in 1913.

The Lee Tet photos give unique views of the family's life and business in early Albury. The Porter collection will be of assistance with a budding joint project between the Society and AlburyCity to build a replica of the 1913 aircraft.

EAST ALBURY CRICKET CLUB AND TOM JONES
Edited talk by Richie Lee

I would like to speak tonight about the East Albury Cricket Club and what I have been doing at the Albury LibraryMuseum Infozone for the last two and a half years. Joe Wooding, who is a life member of East and the ABCA and was my club captain for a few years till he retired to become an umpire, showed me how to work the old microfilm readers at the Library. Joe started with East in 1961 in "A" Reserve and retired at the end of the 1983 season. I commenced in the juniors in 1972 and played till 1996. So Joe covered my whole career, either playing or umpiring.

For my research, I collected pages from the *Border Mail* containing the Friday teams, Saturday match articles, Monday results, and weekly articles either on Tuesday or Wednesday. From the scanner I saved these to my USB then to my computer; about 7000 pages, or 16 GB in computer talk. This took more than two and a half years.

EAST ALBURY WEB SITE

The East Albury Cricket Club had its first meeting at the Wool Exchange on the 25 October 1945 so I have covered the 67 years of *Border Mail* reports and articles.

If you go on to the East Albury web site <www.eastalbury.cricketvictoria.com.au> and go to the headings Club and History you will find I have created a number of sub-headings listing life

members, captains of the various grades, batting highs (if you scored over 80 runs); bowling highs (if you got six or more wickets in an innings); East's best batting partnerships, hat tricks, premierships played in, highs and lows of the various grades. The pubs we frequented are listed and the venues for the AGMs. You can look at these at any time on the web!

TOM JONES

Now I am not going to bore you with any more of that, I would like you to listen to a story on a life member of East Albury Cricket Club and long-serving senior vice- president and scorer for A grade. His name is Tom Jones, but he was not the Welsh singer at whom women threw their undies.

My interest began when Arthur Allen, who was my coach in juniors and then into seniors, told me a little about a bloke called Tom Jones. Now I looked up to Arthur and it was obvious he looked up to Tom.

Arthur, himself was an East legend, playing his first game in 1952 and remaining involved with the club until his death, 7 June 2010. Arthur's contribution to the club and to the community was recognized in 1985 with an Albury Citizen of the Year award. Arthur wrote four paragraphs on Tom Jones before he passed away and that was enough to get me started.

EARLY LIFE

Thomas Ralph Jones was born 3 July 1886 in Wandiligong, Victoria. His parents, Thomas (snr) and Margaret were of British descent and had come to Victoria attracted by the lure of gold. The Melbourne Argus carried death notices for Thomas (snr) in November 1901, and Margaret in November 1937. They had seven children, five girls and 2 boys, Tom and Harry. Harry was subsequently killed in action in WWI.

Tom Jones attended school at the Wandiligong State School and then worked on one of the many steam dredges which were operating in the Ovens Valley extracting gold. He married and moved to Melbourne residing at 4 Tennyson Street Seddon. He and wife Margaret had two children, Kathleen and Jack.

It seems likely Tom continued his association with steam engines. Arthur Allen said Tom had worked on Wirth Circus train. Wirths had its own train up till 1960. He gave his occupation as Fireman on his AIF enlistment papers in 1917. It is possible he also worked at the Newport Railway Workshops located two miles from his home.

FOOTBALL

Arthur told me that Tom played for North Melbourne and supposedly played 109 consecutive matches, so I contacted the club and their historian, Barb Cullan, gave me information, much of it drawn from Father Gerard Dowling's book *The*

North Story.

Tom played in the 1911, 12, 13 & 14 teams in the Victorian Football Association (VFA). The VFA was the forerunner of the VFL and today's AFL. Teams fielded 16 players and placekicking was a feature of the game.

North Melbourne were runners up to Essendon in 1912 and premiers in 1914, defeating Footscray. *The Age* reported, "Jones in the centre and several other players were all fine."

WAR SERVICE

Tom Jones enlisted in the AIF on 31 January 1917 in the Railway Unit reinforcements. He gave his occupation as fireman, was promoted to the rank of 2nd corporal and sailed on the A70 *Ballarat* in mid-February. He was 30 years of age.

The A70, with a complement of 1752 troops and crew, sailed via Capetown and was approaching England when it was torpedoed by a German submarine. The evacuation of the ship was achieved without loss of life, but efforts to tow the damaged vessel to port failed and it sank.

Tom was a member of the Troopship *Ballarat* Survivors Association which was formed in 1919 and met every Anzac Day to commemorate the sinking of the *Ballarat*. The *Argus* newspaper reported meetings through the 20s, 30s & into the 70s. Dinners were held around Little Collins Street in Melbourne. The late King George VI sent a congratulatory telegram to Colonel R M McVean and the group on the 19 April 1938. There is an article in the *Border Morning Mail* 25 April 1970 explaining the *Ballarat* going down and that Mr Alex Reid from Wodonga and Mr Tom Jones would not be attending the reunion of the Troopship due to illness. There was a another article in 1972 which stated the reunion has been going 55 years and Mr Reid of Wodonga and Mr Jones are both in hospital and ill and would not be attending.

Tom served with the 1st Australian Light Railway Operating Company (ALROC) in France, transporting ammunition and supplies to the front and returning with sick and wounded. He was evacuated to hospital in England on several occasions with illness. He returned to Australia on 8 June 1919 having served 2 years and 4 months overseas.

MALAYA & WWII INTERNMENT

Following the war, Tom went to Malaya to work on tin mining dredges. He worked on 3 year contracts, returning to Australia for a holiday at the end of each term. Tom was still working in Malaya when the Japanese invaded in 1941. He was interned along with 3000 other civilian internees in Changi Prison following the fall of Singapore in February 1942. He was 59 years of age. Tom was released after the war, but the four and a half years of malnutrition and privation left him severely disabled and unable to work again or walk far. He received several grants from the Civilian Internment Trust in the years following the war as well as his pension from his WWI service.

Tom and his wife came to live in Albury after the war and became active in the newly formed East Albury Cricket Club. Tom was scorer for the A Grade team and for the Albury & Border Cricket Association (ABCA) team at Country Week.

Tom's daughter took him to the cricket and after the game, the boys would take him down to the Pastoral Hotel. The East Albury Cricket Club drank there for over 25 years and I remember the hookey board sponsored by Thomas Chubb's Sports World, Phone 252. I also remember enjoying large raspberry lemonades prepared by Mrs Waterstreet, or Josie, Mary, Nora, or Noel.

Tom was a highly respected and loved figure in the Club. Younger players especially saw him as a father figure always available for a helpful chat. He was made a life member in 1957.

Tom Jones died at Albury on 28 July 1973 aged 87. His wife Elizabeth pre-deceased him in 1965.

HERITAGE NSW GRANT

Restoration work is progressing on the façade and verandah of the Commercial Hotel in Smollett Street Albury as the building is being converted into apartments. The restorers received a $30,000 grant from the $5.458 million 2011-13 NSW Heritage Grant scheme.
Heritage NSW Magazine, Summer 2012.

ALBURY'S FIRST SERVICEMAN IN WWI

Eric Cossor has discovered a WWI serviceman with an Albury connection who served with the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) which captured Rabaul, the capital of German New Guinea on 12 September 1914, six weeks before the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) sailed for Egypt.

He was Leading Signalman Albert Charles Norman Thompson and he was serving on the Australian submarine A2. His adventures were not over with the New Guinea expedition either. In April 1915, Thompson was on the A2 when it penetrated the Turkish defences in the Dardanelles where it was sunk. He spent the rest of the war as a prisoner, escaping twice but was recaptured each time.

Albert Thompson was born at Albury on 24 May 1888. His mother died at the time of his birth and his father took him back to Scotland in the 1890s. He joined the Royal Navy in 1906 and qualified as a signalman. He volunteered for service on the Aus-

tralian submarine A2 in 1913 and was serving in Australian waters when war broke out.

After the war Thompson re-enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy and was serving on HMAS Platypus, a submarine depot ship located at Cerberus, when he was killed in a motor accident on 29 May 1922. The *Argus* 2 June 1922 carried a report of the coroner's enquiry. The coroner was told the accident had occurred at a particularly dangerous turning on the road from Melbourne. He said he hoped the road would be deviated or widened to avoid a reoccurrence.

PYJAMA GIRL

Ms Emma Gibson, an emerging playwright living in Canberra, is writing a new play about the pyjama girl. She wishes to talk to people about what they remember, or what their parents (or now, grandparents) said about the pyjama girl/Linda Agostini. What was it like living on the Border at the time? What was the impact of the murder on the local community? Emma will be at our March Meeting. Her phone number is 0407320654.

POSTCARD VIEWS OF ALBURY
PUBLISHED BY P W BLAKE AND J B THOMSON.
Address by Ray Gear

Postcards can be attractive for a number of reasons, they offer a local historical record and they can add to family history. The late Jim Paterson of this Society said in 1998, "Albury is well photographed and documented in Postcards." A postcard of a church where an ancestor married can supplement a formal wedding photo in a family narrative.

Most cards were published by the major city businesses, in particular, Rose Stereograph Company and Valentine & Son Ltd. However, there were a number of local businesses who published postcards. Two were P W Blake and J B Thomson.

Postcards, known as postal cards until 1898, first appeared in Austria in October 1869 and were introduced into Australia six years later in October 1875. According to the *Albury Banner:*

> ...one side of the card (the front side) was for the address only in addition to the words 'Postal Card'. The reverse side any communication

whether of the nature of a letter or otherwise may be written or printed. Later from 1905 when the illustration had taken over most of the non-address side, this became known as the 'front' side with the address side being known as the 'back'.
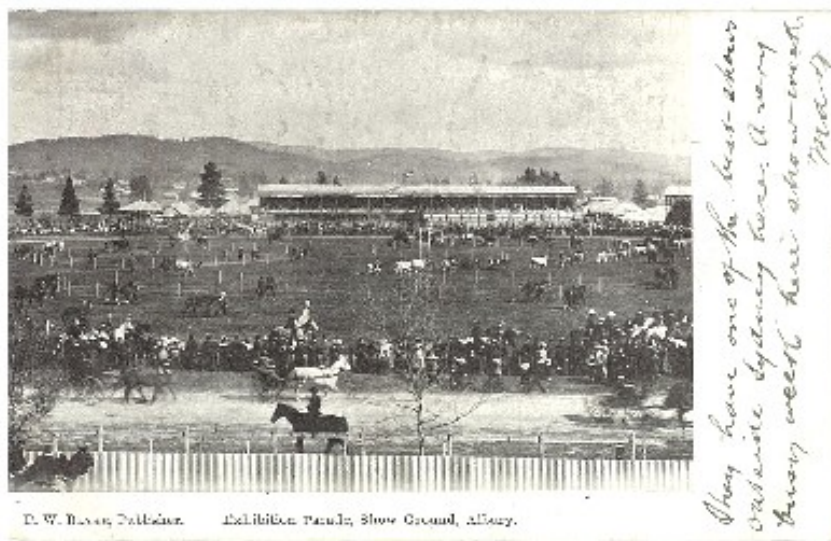
According to many deltiologists, (people who collect and study postcards), "the illustrated postal card became popular in 1889 and, the next twenty to twenty five years were the golden era or heyday of the postcard around the world." In the *Albury Banner* of December 1904 it was stated that, "pictorial post cards were the present day craze." Australian deltiologists consider 1903 or 1904 was when collecting commenced in Australia.

In April 1904, both *Albury Banner* and *Albury Daily News* reported they had received samples of local pictorial post cards from P W Blake and J B Thomson. In November, Thomson was advertising a booklet of local views entitled *Albury Illustrated.* Blake followed closely, advertising a similar booklet a month later entitled, *Albury Greetings*.

Peter Wesley Blake (1860-1921) was born in Ontario, Canada and arrived in Australia in 1881 aged 21. In 1890, he married Mary Jane Bray in Talbot Victoria and six years later in 1896 arrived in Albury having purchased the newsagency and stationary business of Messrs T F Hughes & Co in Dean Street, renaming it 'P W Blake.' Just over eight years later, in March 1904, John Brown Thomson (1873 - 1942) who was in Blake's employment, opened his own business as stationer, music and book seller and newsagent at 580 Olive Street. Born in Launceston, Tasmania, Thomson arrived in Albury in the 1890s and joined the firm Messrs T F Hughes & Co.

Blake's 1904 series of cards consisted of fifteen local views including one titled *Botanical Gardens Albury*. A black and white postcard, it shows the Hamilton Hume Monument on the left side which was moved to the Botanic Gardens in early 1884. Posted in December, 1904, the card is an

P. W. Blake, Publisher.   Exhibition Parade, Show Ground, Albury.

Exhibition Parade Show Ground, Albury.
Published by P W Blake 1904. It is an example of an 'undivided back' card where one side of the card is for the address alone and any message is written on a margin on the picture side of card.

example of an 'undivided back' and vignette style card where room is left on the view side of the card, to write a short message. *Exhibition Parade, Show Grounds, Albury* also from Blake's 1904 series is an example of a social history subject card because of its view and message. The message on the card reads: "They have one of the best shows outside Sydney here. A very busy week here show week."

To postcard collectors, a postcard's value can be added to because of information given about the view. On Blake's, *Union Bridge over the Murray River* card postally used in 1905, the message identifies the building that is in the top right side, as a brewery.

Published originally in black and white, the view of *Dean Street, Looking West*, also part of Blake's 1904 series, was reused in his 1905 series which he was advertising in July. This time his series was in colour including the view of *Dean Street, Looking West* that he published in 1904. According to a local newspaper the 1905 series views, 'were executed in Sydney on the three-color process'.

While the 1904 black and white cards had an 'undivided back' (originally known as the 'front' side), the 1905 series card had a 'divided back', a design feature only allowed on cards in January 1905. Both Blake's 1904 and 1905 series of cards carry his imprint as publisher however most local publishers throughout Australia 'had their cards produced by others.' In the case of Blake's 1904 and 1905 series their backs carry the word 'Graphic' on a image of Australia, the trademark of Collins Brothers and Co. Ltd's. In the 1905 series, cards also have the words 'C.B.& Co., Ltd' underneath this trademark.

To many historians, Albury has been intrinsically linked to the Murray River which provided residents with many opportunities for recreation, to relax and to enjoy, and to postcard publishers, peaceful river scenes were popular. *Murray Scenery at Albury* and *River Scene, Albury* published by P W Blake and, *River Murray at Albury* by Thomson shows various views of the river at Albury.

The appetite for post cards can be seen by the numbers that shops carried. In December 1905, when Albury had an estimated population of 6,414, T H Mate & Co Ltd alone were carrying 13,000 different kinds of postcards and two and a half years later, Thomson was carrying some 17,000 picture postcards. In the month of November 1906, 5,655 cards were delivered to Albury residents, at a time when the number of dwellings in Albury was estimated at 1107 dwellings.

Both Blake and Thomson at the end of 1906 had in their premises, separate departments for postcards. Thomson's advertisement mentions twelve

local views which he put on sale in June 1906 for one penny each. According to the *Albury Banner* "the scenes were well selected, the colouring which was done abroad, is really fine." For Christmas 1906 Thomson printed a special postcard titled, *'Greetings from Albury'*.

In March 1907 Blake was advertising new Albury postcards executed in Colotype. Included in the 1907 series was, *Post and Telegraph Office, Albury*. Part of the message on this card, posted on the 5 August 1907 to a lady in Manly asked that the receiver, "please don't call Rugby football. There's only one game i.e. the Australian for Australians."

Advertisements in the *Albury Banner* of 11 December 1908 show that both Blake and Thomson were publishing new sets of Albury view cards. Included in Thomson's new set of sixteen cards which were printed in Germany, is one depicting the *Roman Catholic Church, Albury* that was postally used in July 1909. Cards like churches can be attractive to family history researchers, showing buildings associated with family events like weddings.

Albury had one of the earliest town reticulated water supply schemes in New South Wales. Its scheme was turned on in January 1886. The 1884 pump house and the two storey pump house-keeper's residence is shown in a Thomson card titled, *Water Works, Albury, NSW* which has no borders and was postally used in 1910. It gives a glimpse of the change in the way services were provided to the community. In particular the 22metre brick chimney stack, demolished in 1961, indicates the pumping machinery was steam driven. The pumping station was converted to electricity shortly after supply became available in 1916.

In 1912 Blake moved to Sydney after disposing of his business to English-born Arthur Hewish (1866-1942). Hewish, who kept the name 'Blake's Busy Book Bazaar' for the business, came to Albury after eighteen years in Blayney, where amongst other businesses, he owned and operated the Sunlight General Store. While Blake's Busy Book Bazaar still sold post cards of Albury local views it is unclear whether Hewish published them. Thomson on the other hand appears to have continued for a number of years.

Kiewa Street, Albury N S W Showing Globe Hotel & Post Office published by Thomson is postally unused however, postcards like photographs can roughly be dated using visual clues. Richard Rankin whose name is on the Globe Hotel in the top left hand corner, was licensee of the hotel between 1908 and 1918. In the centre of the Kiewa and Dean Streets intersection, is a G E S

suspended electricity lantern. Electricity was turned on in Albury in 1916. From these clues we could date the view as taken between 1916 and 1918.

While local businesses like Thomson continued to publish postcards, advertisements in local papers advising of new local series appear to cease after 1910. This reflects the views of some deltiologists that, "in about 1910 postcard use began to decline."

Principal Bibliography Sources: *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express; Albury Border Post and Wodonga Advertiser; Albury Daily News & Wodonga Chronicle; Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times; A&DHS Bulletin No.371, July 1988; David Cook (1996).*

ARE YOU GOING TO HENTY?
COMBINED MEETING WITH WAGGA WAGGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
VISIT PLACES OF INTEREST IN HENTY.
Sunday 11 March 2012
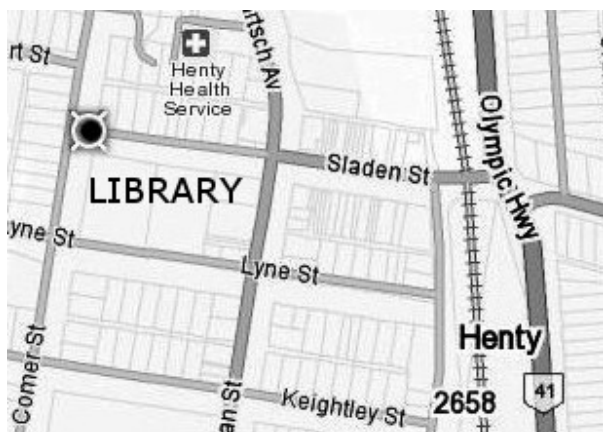
Meet outside the Henty Library (see map)

Printing Museum, Judy's Dolls & Gifts, Cellar Mini Museum, Headlie Header & Blacksmith Shop, Railway Station and Henty Cemetery.

Cost of the day $22 per head which

includes morning tea and lunch.

RSVP to Jill Wooding 6021 4887

absolutely no later than Thursday 8 March.

If you require transport, please contact Chris McQuellin 6021 3697.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS
By John Craig

Royal Australian Historical Society Journal, December 2011.

• The origins of White Australia: the coolie question.

The Argyle: Goulburn HS and FHS Bulletin, November 2011.

• Gone are the days: reminiscing Goulburn.

History: RAHS Magazine, December 2011.

• List of Cultural and Heritage Grants, awardees & Groups;

Ances-Tree: Burwood FHG Journal, November 2011.

• German migrant ships to eastern Australia, San Francisco arriving Sydney from Hamburg 1855.

Insites: Historic Houses Trust NSW Magazine, September 2011.

• Sydney's real underbelly: Tilly Devine, Kate Leigh and associates; and

Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter, December 2011-January 2012.

• Histories of Edmondson and Co., and properties on Fitzmaurice Street.

A&DHS MEMBERS 15 MINUTES.

As part of the Society's regular Members 15 Minutes during our monthly meetings, the committee is encouraging members to also use this time to include questions from the floor about any aspect of the management of the A&DHS.

The Members 15 Minutes recently has reflected reports on members interests and research projects, but the committee is keen to also update members of the work done in administration should any member be wishing to be so informed.

This time is yours to use however you see fit.

Chris McQuellin for the A&DHS Committee.

REVISED MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following is a list of financial members of A&DHS as at 17 February 2012. If your name is not there and you think it should be, please contact the Treasurer.

Life: Albury City Council, Commercial Club Albury, N C Douglas, B Geddes.

Honorary life: A Davies, H Livsey, H Jones.

Corporate: Julie-Anne Betteridge (Sweethearts Pizzas Albury), Lester & Son Albury.

Family: C & M Browne, E & B Cossor, E & K Dale, H Glachan, B Guthrie, G & D Hamilton, R & J Harrison, D & J Hunter, S & P Jack, H & H Jones, S & C Judd, W & B McGrath, K & S Monte, W & B Moriarty, K & L Porter, N Reid/L Rayner, F & D Riley, B & I Strang, P & C Whitbourn, J & J Wooding.

Individual: D Bartsch, R Boadle, M Bollenhagan, J Bullivant, A Brennan, P Browne, V Colley, M Comitti, K Crossley, M Curtis, R Freeman, J Ford, R Gear, V Gherashe, M Gleeson, R Grace, R Haberfield, P Harper, L Howard, N Jackling, A Kelso, B Kurdian, R Lee, H Leggatt, D Lindner, D Lonergan, J Marsden, S McDonald, C McQuellin, J Morgan, A Newnham, A Nugent, R Paech, S Palmer, M Passant, D Ross, D Royal, M Royle, T Ryan, N Sarre, K Scholz, P Scott, J Shanahan, B Sheridan, F Stevenson, M Stokes, P Strachan, V Symons, M Taylor, J Thompson, G Trampusic, W Washington, P Waterstreet, V Wharton, J Whitla, R Willmett.