



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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524

REPORT ON MAY MEETING (9/5/2012)

The topics chosen by the speakers at the May Meeting were very different, but both had strong links to Albury's founding. Leah Warburton and Mike Tesch spoke about a project to clone the Hovell Tree, and Faye Stevenson and Joe Wooding spoke about Thomas Scott Townsend, the government surveyor who laid out the township.

The meeting was chaired by Chris McQuellin, president of the Society. Chris welcomed members and visitors and reminded members the Annual General Meeting would be held at the Commercial Club on Wednesday 13 June, and that nominations were being received for the positions of president, vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, minute secretary and committee.

Chris brought to the attention of members a request for support from the "Friends of Cerberus" who are seeking to have the Victorian colonial ship *HMVS Cerberus* stabilised and preserved as a monument in Port Phillip Bay. Chris also conveyed a request from Chris Edgar at AlburyCity LibraryMuseum for information about Eric Woods, a member of the Albury family, who served in a medical capacity in World War One.

Leah Warburton, the AlburyCity arborist, spoke about the iconic Hovell Tree located beside the Murray River in Hovell Tree Park. This is the tree marked with an inscription in 1824 by the explorer William Hovell on his journey of discovery with Hamilton Hume and a party of six convicts. Hume also marked a tree but all trace of it is long lost. Hovell returned to the fledgling town which had grown up around his tree in 1859 and recut the inscription. Hovell's tree has survived to recent days, more

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

13 June 2012

7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury

Annual General Meeting

(See agenda page 4)

DVD "Albury-Wodonga
Regional Parklands"

c.1986

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What are the names of the first five streets in Albury, and for whom, or what were they named?

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Patron: Patricia Gould OAM

Honorary Life Members

Howard Jones, Anne Davies,
Helen Livsey,

Public Officer: Helen Livsey

President: Christopher McQuellin
02 6021 3697

Vice-Presidents: Joe Wooding, June Shanahan

Secretary: Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671

Treasurer: Michael Browne

Minute Secretary: Catherine Browne

Committee: Jill Wooding, Doug Hunter, Ray
Gear, Bridget Guthrie, Marion Taylor and Eric
Cossor.

Bulletin Editor: Doug Hunter 02 6021 2835
<djhjrhlaptop@bigpond.com>

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

Journals, Stock & Meeting Greeter: John
Craig

Membership list & Bulletin dispatch: Ray
Gear

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.

Enquiries in writing with \$25

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

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

A&DHS website:

www.alburyhistory.org.au

by good luck than good management. However, today, owing to good tree care and protection against the ravages of possum occupation it is flourishing.

Five years ago, AlburyCity took steps to have cloned specimens of the tree grown. This work has been carried out by large production nursery, Humphris, of Mooroolbark Victoria. Leah introduced Mike Tesch who is overseeing the project.

Mike explained that cloning, though a more difficult process, results in an exact reproduction of the original tree, whereas growing a seedling from seed gathered from the tree will also have the characteristics of surrounding trees owing to cross-fertilisation. To achieve cloning, plant material gathered from the original tree has been grafted onto River Red Gum rootstock. To date about a hundred cloned specimens are growing and some are ready for transplanting to suitable sites.

Leah reported that sites for planting Hovell Tree clones with appropriate signage might include: Hovell Tree Park, Mungabareena Reserve, Browns Lagoon, Wonga Wetlands, Hume Dam and Ebdon as close as possible to where the explorers crossed the Murray and Mitta Mitta Rivers and at other significant locations on the Hume & Hovell track. AlburyCity is still keen to receive suggestions of suitable planting sites.

VALE JAN MARSDEN

Members of the Society were saddened at the passing of member Janice Marsden on 17 May 2012. Jan joined the Society in 1997 and was elected to the Committee in 2000. She served as

Minute Secretary until 2009 when she resigned to be free to visit her daughter overseas, who had been seriously injured.

Jan also represented the Society on various committees with AlburyCity, helped with the antique valuation days and did sewing for the Library-Museum. Jan faced terminal



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illness with her usual graciousness and she will be missed by the good friends she made within the Society.

THOMAS SCOTT TOWNSEND'S FIELD BOOKS

Report on a talk by Faye Stevenson

Thomas Scott Townsend arrived on the Murray River in the vicinity of Albury in December 1838 to survey the country and to lay out a small township. He was one of a number of surveyors sent out by the Surveyor General's office.

The general tasks of the surveyors were set out in three phases: (1) to survey rivers and creeks and prominent ranges of hills and mountains; (2) the dray tracks created by the settlers, the better used becoming roads; and (3) hills and mountains in detail. The scale of this project was huge and was expected to take decades. As part of the plan, surveyors were allocated zones of responsibility; Townsend was responsible for the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers & creeks in between. [For further reading see "On squatters, settlers & early surveyors: historical development of country road reserves in southern New South Wales," Peter G Spooner CSU Albury, in *Australian Geographer*, Vol. 36, No 1. pp. 55-73, March 2005. Available on web.]

Explorers used a magnetic compass to determine direction and sometimes a measuring wheel to measure distance. They confirmed their longitude and latitude by sun and star observations, similar to the way navigators find position at sea. Early surveyors used a device called a circumferentor or surveyor's compass (later superseded by the more accurate theodolite), barometer, pegs, & the chain for their readings of direction, distance and elevation.

All readings were recorded in a surveyor's field book, together with notations of physical features such as creek junctions, prominent hills, trees and rocks and man-made features such as fences, huts and yards. It is these notations that make the field books such rich repositories of history.

Field books were also a diary of the day's work and events; sketches of stations and dimensions of buildings; names of stations; observations of water, soil and vegetation; and native burial grounds. There are some things not recorded: there is little about the workmen. They were mostly convicts and most left as soon as they obtained their ticket-of-leave.

In April 1838, Surveyor Charles Hoddle copied a map of the Gundagai to Port Phillip road drawn by H C Butler who had surveyed the track probably using a measuring wheel. Charles Hoddle is credited with planning the first three towns in the Port Phillip District, Melbourne Williamstown and Geelong.

Following Butler's work the Colonial Secretary requested that townships be laid out at significant points on the road. Thus, Townsend arrived at Mitchell's station at Mungabareena on 24

November 1838, bringing with him a copy of Butler's map as a basis for his more detailed survey.

He spent two weeks carrying out a terrain survey following the Murray River upstream for a few miles then downstream as far as the Bungambrawatha Creek. He followed the Creek to the range of hills north of Albury and reached the Bowna Creek before returning to Mungabareena Station. He then moved his camp to the Crossing Place where he took river soundings and completed a survey of the ridge line west to Dight's station at Bungowannah.

He decided the Crossing Place with its ford and suitable location for a ferry was the best place for the township. In his field book he sketched a plan of five town blocks, or sections, on a north-south, east-west alignment 'anchored' on a peg on the corner of Wodonga Place and Hume Street. No street names are shown on his plan.

Entries in his field book for the 10 days at the crossing place (7-19 November 1838) are:

- 7 Friday Surveying river & moving camp to Crossing Place
- 8 Saturday Surveying Murray R – Bearings of hills or depth Murray R nr Police paddocks down to stockyard on left, wheat paddock on right, no names
- 9 Sunday Drawing
- 10 Monday Surveying ranges 4 miles – From Major Munts post on Road
- 11 Tuesday Surveying road to Dights
- 12 Wednesday Surveying road to Huons Stn & range & lagoon
- 13 Thursday Surveying marsh land & creek nr Bungambrewatah
- 14 Friday Surveying ranges and small ck
- 15 Saturday Plotting map for Town & making a design & ascertaining width inundation & bearings Hovell & Hume trees
- 16 Sunday
- 17 Monday Laying out town allotments & putting down stakes
- 18 Tuesday Do & Do
- 19 Wednesday Putting up 19 posts at corners of Sections & numbering them

Townsend returned to Gundagai, arriving there on New Year's Day 1839. He drew a better map which he forwarded to Sydney with the following letter:

39/1 Entd TST Camp near Yass
12th January 1839

Sir

In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter No 38/358, in which you informed me that His Excellency the Governor, having been pleased to approve of the establishment of a Township at the point where the Road to Port Phillip crosses the Murray and having directed you to take measures for carrying this into effect in order that a Post House, Police Station and Houses of Public Entertainment, as well as a

Ferry, may be established there. You request me to proceed to the spot and make a careful survey of the ground from three miles above Mongarbarina, Mr Ebden's Station, now Mitchell's, to three miles below the Crossing Place and transmit you a plan of it, with every possible detail relating to the River and its banks, together with a report specifying the changes to which it is subject at different seasons of the year, the formation of the Country and the nature of the soil, and desiring me to furnish sections at the several points where the approach is conducted either for fording the River or placing a Ferry. Also instructing me, after having satisfied myself of the proper position for the Township to prepare and transmit to you a Plan of the ground for its site in the customary scale, and report what portions of ground may be advantageously divided into Allotments, not exceeding twenty five acres each for cultivation and paddocks and that I will observe with respect to the Building Allotments, that no ground will be appropriated that is within five chains of the River, so that the approaches to the Ferry may be unobstructed. Referring also to the postscript in that letter in which you direct that if the position where the Road crosses the Murray be found decidedly the most eligible spot for the Town, I have to lay it out at once and transmit a Plan and Description of five sections in Blocks of Allotments.

I have the honor to inform you that I have traced the Murray River downstream from a Point about three miles above the mouth of Bouna Creek for a distance of fifty seven miles which took me about nine miles below the Crossing Place.

The River in all places excepting those where I have shown hills abutting on it on my Plans, makes its course through large flats which are all intersected more or less by lagoons and marsh grounds. Its banks are in many places, covered with high weeds and briars and are for the most part, formed of scrub, varying from about nine to twenty feet in height. Its bed is generally gravel and in a few places soaky. The current at the time I tried its rate was about two miles per hour but varies much both at levies and in places. The greatest depth I found was fourteen feet, the least three. It will fall about one foot more during the summer. Sections of the soundings are shown in the plan of the Town.

I have no doubt there are many deeper places than those I found but from the want of a boat, I was unable to try anywhere but at the Cross-

ing Place where there is a very unwieldy canoe.

The highest mark the floods have left is not much more than seven feet above its present level and that appears to have been years back. The hills in the neighbourhood of Bungambrewatah are principally of an inferior granite soil covered with stringy bark bastard box, box and apple trees.

The flats are mostly alluvial covered with timber. The punt near Brown's house appears to be the best for a punt which is much required as the banks are easy of access, the River narrow, the current not very strong and the water bold besides which the ford is very convenient to it. I think the present line of road must always be used for driving teams and stock in consequence of the water, although I have little doubt that a track nearer south might be found by bearing the present road on the left in the neighbourhood of Mullengandry and crossing the Murray by punt near Howlong, Mr Hawden's Station which is about twenty miles below Bungambrewatah, but this would be without water consequently not practicable for teams etc. The road could not cross the Murray above Bungambrewatah without being intercepted by either one or two considerable streams, the Kiewa and Nuragong, both of which would form great obstacles as they are of considerable magnitude. The Kiewa is from twenty five to forty yards wide and the Nuragong from thirty to fifty, both having rapid currents and apparently are very deep. Under these circumstances I considered Bungambrewatah to be the best place for a town as the ground is level and apparently without a possibility of it being inundated.

I have therefore marked out five sections and transmit a plan of these on the usual scale, together with description of the Allotments. In laying out all the town I was compelled to keep eight chains from the bank of the River rather breaks in the surface of the earth which run about six chains from the River and would have rendered the street impassable. I beg leave to observe that my reason for not drawing my maps and writing this report on the Murray was that I might have an opportunity of resting the bullocks for a few days on the road which I was forced to do by the arrangements I made without any loss of time to the public.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obed Servant

Thos S Townsend

Ass Surveyor

In June 1839 a Survey Department draughtsman, Ryan, drew a plan of Albury township based on Townsend's survey and the first sale of

urban lots in the town took place in Sydney, 10 October 1839.

Townsend returned to the district several times over the next decade. In 1850/1 he extended his survey of the town adding street blocks up to and north of Dean Street.

Thomas Scott Townsend died in London, England on 26 August 1869. The *Sydney Morning Herald* 3 December 1869 p. 6 reported "Thomas Scott Townsend Esq., surveyor, formerly an old and much respected colonist, and for upwards of twenty years connected with the Survey Department of New South Wales."

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011/12

The Society again has had very full year with the active contribution of members engaged in local history publications and historical research and excellent participation in our community events. We also have a number of our members active in the AlburyCity LibraryMuseum volun-

AGM AGENDA

Welcome, Attendance & Apologies

Minutes of the AGM 13.7.2011

President's Report

Treasurer's Report & Audited Accounts

Appointment of interim chairman to conduct election.

Election of Office Bearers:

Nominations in []

President [*Chris McQuellin*]

Vice-presidents (2) [*Joe Wooding, June Shanahan*]

Secretary [*Helen Livsey*]

Treasurer [*Michael Browne*]

Minute Secretary [*Catherine Browne*]

Committee of 6 [*Bridget Guthrie, Ray Gear, Jill Wooding, Eric Cossor, Marion Taylor & Doug Hunter*]

Appointments

Public Officer [*Helen Livsey*]

Honorary Auditor [no longer applicable]

Bulletin Editor [*Doug Hunter*]

Publicity Officer [*Jill Wooding*]

Journals, Stock & Meeting Greeter [*John Craig*]

Membership list & Bulletin dispatch [*Ray Gear*]

General business:

Setting of annual subscription

[*Recommendation: Single \$25; Family \$33; Corporate \$50*]

To appoint June Shanahan an Honorary Life Member of the Society, [*see citation below*]

Meeting closure

teer programs of digital scanning, cataloguing and event volunteering.

On a reflective note the Society lost esteemed members Anne Holloway and Patron Harold Mair OAM who passed away last year and very recently our past Minute Secretary Jan Marsden.

Community activities: June Shanahan again had a very successful valuation day in partnership with Wodonga Historical Society. Thank you to the volunteers who assisted June on this day. Peter Whitbourn gave some lectures and displayed his Indian Motorcycle during the Albury Art Deco exhibition both at the Albury Art Gallery and the Wagga Wagga Museum. Heritage Week in April this year at the LibraryMuseum was about innovators and inventions and the talks by six members covered a broad spectrum of topics from poison carts to Albury built-motorcycles.

Helen Livsey again has done a great community service for us as our Research Officer in fielding many requests for assistance on historic locations, facts and family history.

I am also pleased to report that the Society has had a very successful affiliation with AlburyCity LibraryMuseum over the last 12 months.

A special thank you to Carina Clement, the Libraries and Museum programs team leader and her staff [including our own Carole and Bridget] for the provision of their support and use of the meeting rooms. All the LibraryMuseum staff have been extremely helpful to myself and our members.

The Society started the 2011 - 2012 year with a talk by Bruce Pennay on Drysdale's war time Albury and concludes with a DVD on Albury at the AGM.

Our guests during the year included Nancy Sarre, Dr Rosemary Farrell, Duncan Rolley, Peter Moll, John Haskell, Leah Warburton, and Mike Tesch. There were a great variety of member speakers without whose passion and research competence we would not have the society we have today.

Our members who presented talks included Faye Stevenson, Bridget Guthrie, Peter Whitbourn, Dr Bruce Pennay, Richard Lee, Marion Taylor, Eric Cossor, Noel Jackling, Ann Brennan, Doreen Widdison, Jan Hunter, Joe Wooding, Ray Gear, Doug Hunter, Michael Browne and Chris McQuellin.

Membership has remained stable but we were able to welcome some new members.

It is pleasing to report that the A&DHS web site has become increasingly popular with nearly 25,000 individual visits to Society web pages. The Society thanks Dallas Sergeant Website Design for maintaining the A&DHS web pages. There has been a modest financial cost to the society with this new technology. The treasurer will

give you a breakdown of our working account income and costs in his report.

The A&DHS Committee has been again working consistently to bring informative guest speakers to our meetings and also to encourage member participation in historical research for the educational enrichment of all our members. Special thanks to Doug Hunter, our A&DHS *Bulletin* editor for his work in putting the *Bulletin* together and also to Ray Gear for his work in getting the *Bulletin* to us again.

Donations have been made to the LibraryMuseum for light hoods to be used with the reader/printers in the research area, and a set of *Bulletins* to Vision Australia Radio in Albury for use in their programmes for the visually impaired.

The Society is delighted to welcome Councillor Patricia Gould OAM as the Patron of the A&DHS. Cr Gould was awarded her OAM for services to the Albury community and Local Government, and it is very pleasing that she has accepted our invitation to be Patron.

The 2012-2013 committee is to be formalised on 13 June 2012. I hope that the coming year will allow for another active educational history program to be put into place.

May I also offer my sincere thanks to everyone on the A&DHS research team for your support during this last year.

Chris McQuellin June 2012

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP CITATION MRS JUNE SHANAHAN

For services to the Albury & District Historical Society through the administration and organisation of Society activities, and research and recording of Albury history.

June Shanahan first joined the A&DHS in 1987 shortly after she was instrumental in founding a Family History Group. In 2000, she was elected to the Committee as treasurer. She has remained on the committee since serving terms as treasurer, secretary, secretary/treasurer and vice-president. In additions June has filled appointments as media & events officer and *Bulletin* editor. She has organised the highly successful Antiques & Collectables Valuation Days conducted by A&DHS and has represented the Society at community consultative group meetings organised by AlburyCity.

June's interest in family and Albury history culminated in her book, *Ancestors of a Wimbledon Champion*, published in 2011.

WOODS, KENNEDY, SCANLON AND WATSON X-RAYS IN ALBURY

By Chris McQuellin

[Carried over from April Meeting]

The first report regarding Roentgen's Rays appeared in the Albury *Border Post* of Friday 21 February 1896. It was however some time before any experimentation began in Albury-Wodonga.

Both the *Albury Daily News and Wodonga Chronicle (ADN)* and *The Border Post* reported on the first demonstration of the Roentgen rays by Dr Woods and Mr W Watson, a photographer, on Wednesday 2 September 1896. There followed a flurry of reports:

- 2 September: Demonstration of X-rays in Albury
- 2 September: Advertisement for Raleigh and Stanley Cycles
- 8/9 September: Exhibition of the Roentgen Rays in the window of *The Border Post* by the photographer W Watson
- 9 September: Demonstrations to the public at Albury Industrial Exhibition
- 15 October: First report of a patient receiving treatment for cancer with Roentgen rays
- 16 October: First demonstration of X-rays in Wodonga.

The Albury Cycle Agency's advertisement indicating that radiography was being used to check for flaws in bicycle frame joints is possibly the first recorded claim for industrial radiography in Australia.

Whilst appropriate credit has been given to Dr Cleaver Woods and the photographer Mr Watson for initiating the radiographic process to the Albury district at such an early date, the experimentation with Roentgens Rays for the treatment of cancer is the more historical fact.

In the *ADN* 5 October 1896, a report appeared regarding experiments in Munich and in France with Roentgen Rays. The British Medical Journal had documented a case where a patient had been treated for two sittings per day for a tumour of the stomach. It reported the tumour had diminished in size with each application of the rays.

When Dr Patrick Kennedy arranged for Mr W Watson to treat one of his patients with these X-rays it would have seemed a logical step as other forms of treatment had been of no avail to the patient.

Patrick Kennedy was born in 1852 in Killaloe, County Clare, Ireland. He qualified as a doctor in Ireland before emigrating to Melbourne. He practised in Wagga Wagga and Adelong before settling in Albury in 1880. He practised in Albury till his death in 1923.

Why was Dr Kennedy consulting a photographer to treat his patient? Commercial photographers in England embraced Roentgen's discovery and established X-ray clinics to cater for the new



**Doctor Patrick Kennedy (1852-1923).
Probably the first practitioner in Australia to use X-Ray as a treatment for cancer, 1896.**

demand from doctors. It seems likely Mr Watson saw a similar opportunity. This new treatment was not cheap. The news report of 15 October indicated the cost of treatment was ten shillings per day, so a public subscription was raised to defray the expense to the patient. By the next day an amount of £8/16/0 had been raised.

It was obvious to Dr Kennedy that this experiment with the Roentgen Rays was based upon scanty information from an article in the *ADN*. However, they had the X-ray equipment on hand and an opportunity to conduct the experiment. Dr Kennedy was not optimistic. He thought very little if any impression had been made upon the malignancy and that he was not very hopeful of the result.

The first patient to be treated was Patrick Connor of Murrumbidgee Station in the Kiewa Valley. His death was reported on 10 December 1896. The radiation dose possibly had some short term effect on his throat cancer and it might have prolonged his life a little. It would be many years before appropriately controlled doses would see any long term positive results for patients receiving radiation therapy.

Research shows that Connor was the first recorded case of a patient in Australia being treated by a doctor who used X-ray therapy as part of the patient's treatment; quite an innovation at the time.

Dr Cleaver Woods and Dr Patrick Kennedy both gave a lifetime of service to the people of the Albury district and both showed amazing foresight in utilising Roentgen's discovery. They were indeed early pioneers of radiology in Australia. Dr Kennedy however should be recognised as the first experimenter in using X-rays for the treatment of cancer.

James Scanlan deserves recognition for his use of X-rays to check the bicycle frames he was manufacturing in his cycle shop in Kiewa Street. I can find no other reference in Australia to anyone contemplating the use of industrial radiography for safety and sales as early as this. The use of X-ray facilities by Scanlan and Watson was highly innovative.

ALBURY CULTURAL PLAN

The Society was represented at a volunteer cultural planning forum as part of the community consultation in the development of the draft 2012–2016 Albury Cultural Plan on 7 May at AlburyCity .

Members of local community groups were invited to participate in order to put a community view on funding, priorities and co operation between the cities of Albury and Wodonga in cultural planning.