

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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JULY 2012

525

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meetings of organisations can sometimes be rather uninteresting, even boring. Our AGM was anything but. It had a fine balance of procedure, historical interest, celebration and supper; in all a meeting which fulfilled the expectations of the forty members who filled the Banksia Room B at the Albury Commercial Club.

The meeting was chaired by A&DHS president Chris McQuellin. Minutes of the previous AGM were read and confirmed; the president's and the treasurer's reports were presented and accepted. Howard Jones took the chair for the election of the following office-bearers and committee for the coming year: president Chris McQuellin, vice-presidents Joe Wooding and June Shanahan, secretary Helen Livsey, treasurer Michael Browne, minute-secretary Catherine Browne and committee members Bridget Guthrie, Jill Wooding, Ray Gear, Marion Taylor and Doug Hunter. Eric Cosser did not seek re-election and no other nominations were received, so one committee place remained unfilled. The following appointments were noted public officer Helen Livsey, publicity officer Jill Wooding, *Bulletin* editor Doug Hunter, membership & *Bulletin* dispatch Ray Gear, journals, stock & meeting greeter John Craig.

Re-elected president Chris McQuellin resumed the chair and proceeded with the Question of the Month before asking Doug Hunter to introduce the short film "Albury-Wodonga Parklands." This film had been found in a collection of material donated to the Albury LibraryMuseum by the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

11 JULY 2012

7.30pm at Commercial
Club

Albury

Speaker: Jan Hunter
"Albury Cemeteries,
Alive and Well"

Also

Members' 5 minutes, and
Quiz with a difference

Reminder:

Annual subscription is
due, see page 4

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Patron: Patricia Gould OAM

Honorary Life Members

Howard Jones, Anne Davies,
Helen Livsey, June Shanahan.

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, and Marion Taylor.

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

Publicity Officer: Jill Wooding

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

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

Doug watched all the cassettes when cataloguing the collection. Almost all were short advertisements for TV, 15 and 30 second duration, advertising residential land for sale. Among the cassettes however, was this short film of 11 minutes duration produced in about 1986 which set out a vision for the Murray River frontage and its potential as parkland.

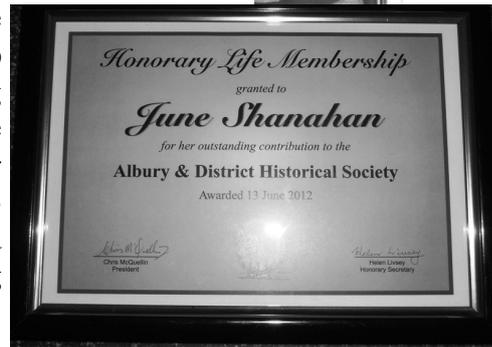
It included speakers Gordon Craig (Chairman AWDC), John Roach (Mayor of Albury) and Les Boyes (Mayor of Wodonga) who all expressed the hope that the twin-cities would capitalize on the opportunity to develop the river flood plain, stretching from Howlong to the Hume Dam, as a recreation amenity for future generations. The film contained aerial views of the flood plain and scenes including Noreuil Park, Gateway Island, Sumsion Gardens and Huon Hill.

Viewers were pleasantly surprised at how much of the planned work has been achieved and continues to be done by the respective councils. Julie Betteridge was able to tell us that AlburyCity is continuing to pursue the vision through its Murray River Experience Master Plan and the Wagirra Trail Project.

Chris McQuellin showed images taken from a book prepared in 1890 to support a proposal to have an Albury Territory established with Albury as the Federal Capital of a federated Australia.

The book, titled *Albury*, is by Telemachus the *nom de plume* of Francis Myers, a journalist with the *Argus* newspaper. There are 23 full page photographs from negatives by Brittlebank & Arundel photographers of Albury. It was interesting to see the city 120 years ago especially the Botanic Gardens when most of the now towering trees were only saplings.

Chris also showed photographs received from Mr Eddie Cilliers, a school teacher at Tiger Kloof School, Vryburg, North West Province, South Africa. On 31 May, Mr Cilliers laid a wreath on behalf of the Albury RSL and the A&DHS at the monument where Gunner Bernard Gowing is buried. Gnr Gow-



June Shanahan awarded Honorary Life Membership at the AGM.

ing was an Albury soldier killed in November 1900 during the Boer War. We thank Mr Cilliers for his willingness to do this for us and for sending the photographs.

Chris has enlisted the help of Wodonga and Lavington Family History Groups to find relatives of Bernard Gowing.

JUNE SHANAHAN—LIFE MEMBER

The final event of the evening was the induction of June Shanahan into Honorary Life Membership of the Society. Doug Hunter brought the recommendation of the Committee which was duly passed by the meeting. June was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Life Membership by president Chris McQuellin and flowers by secretary Helen Livsey. June responded thanking the Society for the honour.

The meeting concluded with supper.

VALE

BILL WASHINGTON

The A&DHS was represented at the funeral of our valued member William Bruce (Bill) Washington at Sacred Heart Church on 15 June. Bill passed away 11 June 2012.

Bill was born in Albury, attended Albury Public and Albury High Schools. After leaving school he went to work at Madge Mangan's bike shop. Later he branched into the automotive brake and clutch industry. He was regarded by his peers as the best brake mechanic in Albury.



**Mr Eddie Cilliers laying the wreath sent by Albury RSL at the memorial to Albury soldier Gnr B Gowing and others at Vryburg South Africa
31 May 2012.**

Photo: E Cilliers 2012

Bill was a keen member of the A&DHS and his prodigious memory of the city and its business venues and personalities, together with his collection of photographs was of assistance to members engaged in recording Albury history. He will be missed by his friends in the Society.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

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

The first maps of Albury showed seven streets. We know them to be: Hume, Hovell, Ebden, Nurigong, Kiewa, Townsend and Wodonga. But, as we don't know who named the streets we can only assume the following:

Hume Street, named for Hamilton Hume (1797-1872), explorer and farmer who was the first European to see the Hume/Murray River.

Hovell Street, named for William Hovell (1786-1875), sea captain, explorer and farmer who was a co-leader of the 1824 expedition to Port Phillip.

Ebden Street, named for Charles Ebden (1811-1867) businessman, pastoralist and parliamentarian who established the first station in the Albury district, *Mungabareena*, and is credited with using the Crossing Place to ford the river with cattle.

Nurigong and **Kiewa Streets** are named for the two other major rivers Townsend describes in his covering letter accompanying his town map (see Bulletin 524), Nuragong (later to become known as the Mitta Mitta) and Kiewa. He cites the two rivers as reasons why Albury

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LIBRARYMUSEUM EVENTS

WIRADJURI TALKBACK

A new exhibition will open at the Albury Library-Museum on 1 July 2012 to celebrate NAIDOC Week. The exhibition captures contemporary Aboriginal perspectives and local traditional knowledge from the Wiradjuri and surrounding regions. It combines traditional and modern elements and places the National Apology alongside a display of Aboriginal tools and a stunning bark canoe.

All are invited to attend the launch of the exhibition at 1 p.m. Sunday 1 July 2012.

RSVP 02 6023 8333

THOROUGHFARE: INSIDE ALBURY'S TRANSPORT HUB

27 July 2012-28 February 2013

Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the LibraryMuseum

Thoroughfare: Inside Albury's Transport Hub looks at Albury's transportation industry as it progressed from the horse-drawn carriage to the motor car. The exhibition draws on the site history of Albury's 526-540 Kiewa Street now home to the LibraryMuseum. It will bring to light the stories behind some of the businesses that operated along Albury's major transport thoroughfare.

The site has had a myriad of owners and its uses are a reflection of the time, advances in technology and the people who occupied that place. The exhibition will feature significant objects and stories relating to Crawford & Co stables, West's Motors garage, Azor Robbins and Alex Porter mechanics, Blacklock's motor cycles and car repairs and Murray Valley Coaches depot.



Karlie Hawking is seeking people who worked in, or have photographs or objects related to these businesses while they occupied the Kiewa Street site: Ampol Service Station, Preston Motors, West's Motors, J A Champion, Albury Tyre Service, BM Motors, Albury Cars & Tractors, E A Machin & Co.

Contact Karlie at: 02 6023 8360, or email <khawking@alburycity.nsw.gov.au>

township had to be downstream of the confluence of these rivers with the Murray.

Wodonga Place is named for Paul & Charles Huon's pastoral station on the south side of the river. Townsend surveyed a route from the Crossing Place to Woodonga Station in 1838.

That leaves **Townsend** Street apparently named for the assistant surveyor himself. Townsend laid out other towns including Wagga Wagga, so are there other Townsend Streets?

SHARING BONEGILLA STORIES

A new publication complementing both Block 19: the Bonegilla Migrant Experience and the Bonegilla Display in the Crossing Place Exhibition at the Albury LibraryMuseum. By Bruce Pennay

You can tell from the cover that *Sharing Bonegilla Stories* is a book about everyday things that belonged to ordinary people.

The book explores the objects and memory pieces that the post-war migrants, refugees and resident staff of the Bonegilla Reception Centre gave to the Albury museum in the hope that they might one day be used to tell something of their stories about what it was like to arrive and settle in a new land.

The cover catches something of the spirit of the place. It is wrapped around with a 1943 grey army blanket. It features pictures of objects that

suggest something of the burden of paperwork involved in migrating. Others show how Bonegilla was bleak and cold in winter and a lakeside holiday place in summer, and how luggage-less refugees relied on the Red Cross for their basic toiletries. One indicates that dunnies were a long way from the sleeping quarters. Another suggests good cheer was maintained with familiar tunes and songs that travelled lightly in the minds of the long distance travellers. Yet another suggests the first discouraging encounters with strange food, especially endless servings of mutton. The memory pieces within the book follow through such tales.

The focus on the arrival and early settlement experiences of ordinary people follows the interpretation strategy at Bonegilla of chasing through a bottom-up history and heritage.

The book production is stylish, even plush. Bridget Guthrie, Megan Zawertailo and Jo Bartels are responsible for gathering and reproducing lots of colour photos.

The words are by Bruce Pennay, the principals of some of the agencies caring for the heritage site, and, time and again, the migrants and refugees themselves. It is available for \$25 at Albury LibraryMuseum.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL 2012/13

Please Print Clearly:

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss).....

Postal Address:

.....

.....Post Code.....

Are you happy to receive the *Bulletin* by email (less than 2MB file)? If so:

Email Address:.....

Annual subscription to 31 May 2013:

Individual: \$25.00 Family: \$33.00 Corporate: \$50.00

Cheques to: A&DHS P.O. Box 822, Albury. NSW 2640, or

BSB No 640 000 Account No 327006S10

in the name of Albury & District Historical Society

(Be sure to enter your name in reference field and if possible send a confirming email)

Albury and District Historical Society fosters the study of the social history of Albury and District.

The Society offers members and friends:

- Monthly meetings.7.30 pm - second Wednesday of each month - February to December usually at the Commercial Club Albury;
- 11 Monthly issues of the A&DHS *Bulletin* via email or hard copy;
- Research via the Archives at the AlburyCity LibraryMuseum; and
- Street walks, talks and Pioneer Cemetery tours.

Internet: www.alburyhistory.org.au

Email: alburyhistory@bigpond.com