



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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OCTOBER 2012

528

## REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MEETING (12.9.2012)

Our September meeting returned to the enlarged and refurbished Elizabeth Room on the ground floor of the Albury Commercial Club. It is an excellent venue and we appreciate the generosity of the Club in making it available to us.

President Chris McQuellin chaired the meeting and welcomed members and guests. He also expressed condolences to Pam Palffy on the tragic accidental death of her husband John. His funeral took place earlier in the day and was attended by members of the A&DHS.

Among our guests was our speaker Noelene Allen who spoke about her new book, *Ellen – A Woman of Spirit* which was launched at the Beechworth Ned Kelly Weekend, 4 August 2012. Noelene moved to Beechworth in 1999 and became involved with the Beechworth Historic Courthouse. She coordinated the Beechworth Ned Kelly Weekend for a number of years, and was Coordinator of the Historic Precinct until her retirement in 2009.

Chris brought to the notice of members some current research projects being undertaken by Peter Whitbourn and Joe Wooding. Peter has been able to put names to a photograph of Blacklock staff members. The photograph was taken in October 1953 and has 46 people in it. Joe is doing a newspaper search of names and events related to Albury WWI as background material for commemorations planned for the centenary of the war. So far he has looked at the first year & a half,

Chris showed a photograph of the large brass plaque which was presented to the people of Albury in appreciation of their

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

10 OCTOBER 2012

7.30pm

Albury Commercial Club

Speakers:

Christine Cansfield-Smith  
and Dr David Lawrence: "A  
history of Albury's iconic  
Botanic Gardens."

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What do people remember  
about the Misses Wallace  
who lived at 604 Wyse Street  
Albury? Did you have music  
or art lessons? Did one of  
them teach you at school?

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**Patron:** Patricia Gould OAM

**Honorary Life Members:**

Howard Jones, 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  
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**Publicity Officer:** Jill Wooding

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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**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](http://www.alburyhistory.org.au)



part in saving the KLM airliner, *Uiver*, in 1934. The plaque is now displayed in the Crossing Place Exhibition at the LibraryMuseum and has corner detail depicting a shield with coat-of-arms. Does anyone have any idea to what this shield and symbols refer?

September 8-15 was NSW History Week with events occurring across the state. The theme of the week was Threads and is marked with a display of dresses at the LibraryMuseum. At our meeting a DVD featuring weddings at St Matthews Church was shown focussing on changing wedding dress fashions throughout the 20th century.

#### **ELLEN—A WOMAN OF SPIRIT**

Report on a talk by Noelene Allen

This book is a biography of Ellen Kelly (nee Quinn) the mother of bushrangers Ned and Dan Kelly and the other members of her family. Noelene's interest in the Kelly family and their relatives began when she became involved with the Beechworth Historic Courthouse in 2000 where she coordinated the Beechworth Ned Kelly Weekend for a number of years and held the position of Coordinator of the Historic precinct until she retired in 2009. During her time in the Historic precinct she became interested in the life of Ellen Kelly and the women of the Kelly family which led her to conduct tours focussing on their lives. These tours were carried out in

the Precinct and for national TV travel shows and resulted in her receiving many invitations to speak to groups throughout Victoria. She was encouraged to write this, her first book, by many who heard her speak or attended her tours. The result is the previously untold extraordinary story of Ellen Kelly which Noelene uncovered during 10 years of research and interviews with descendants of the family and friends of the Kelly family.

*Ellen—a Woman of Spirit* relates the true story of a strong woman whose life journey was one of love, sadness, poverty, triumph, injustice, and tragedy. The love of her life was taken from her at an early age and she was faced with the task of bringing up her children on her own. She would do anything for her children including going to gaol for defending her teenage daughter from the advances of a drunken police officer. No mother deserved the tragedies and losses that this woman endured throughout her long life; she outlived seven of the 12 children.

*Ellen—A Woman of Spirit* is available from <ellen.kelly.book@gmail.com> or Albury LibraryMuseum.

#### **ART IN ALBURY**

When Miss Alice Wallace died in Albury on 28 September 1971, her records, including a wide range of Press pictures and publications on Art, etc, were bequeathed to Albury & District Historical Society. Two of the documents were a History of Realist Art in Albury 1912-1971, and the second a short history of the Albury Art Prize Society. These documents are reproduced here.

#### **A HISTORY OF REALIST ART IN ALBURY & DISTRICT FROM ABOUT 1912 TO 1971.**

About 1912, a Melbourne painter, Hal Waugh was commissioned to come to Albury to paint pet dogs owned by people in the district. He stayed on in Albury, setting up an art class in the Smollett Street CBC School or Hall, where the present CBC larger school is now, in 1971.

On fine days the students hired a cab and painted at Doctor's Point. Among the students were Mrs Alex Hill (died about 1940) H T (Harry) Twomey and R M (Reg) Twomey.

Some years later, the late Harold Herbert, water colourist; Murray Griffin, (who was called "The Prince of Colour painters"), Charles Wheeler, Robert Johnson, the late Alfred Coleman, Peter Bousfield and others came painting in the district; especially round Yackandandah and Bogong. Herbert's famous "Blue Hills" and "Higginson's Farm" were both painted near the Bogong Hotel.



**Harry Twomey, Albury solicitor who was influential in starting the Albury Art Prize Society and instigating the first Art Prize Exhibition in 1947.**

These were both exhibited in the Melbourne Art Gallery.

A few years ago at Manly Art Gallery the "Picture of the Year" was a large oil painting of Yackandandah Creek by Robert Johnson.

Mr Harry Twomey became a painting companion of these visiting artists, absorbing their ideas; which he willingly passed on to anyone interested, including the late Jack Bennett, Alice Wallace, Colin Angus and many others.

At the Town Hall may be seen the portraits of the Mayor, Alderman Bunton, commissioned by Albury Council; and also a portrait of Mr Padman, a former mayor. The Albury Grammar School has the portrait of Mr Alex Sellars, former Head Master. These were all painted by Jack Bennett, as also were some fine still life studies acquired by the City Council through the Albury Art Society.

Colin Angus is now a fulltime painter at El Dorado Victoria, having his own exhibition studio. Mr Angus specialises in paintings of the bushland around Eldorado district.

Alice Wallace at one time had a class of children who often sketched near Mrs Auriel Alford's front gate in Sackville Street Albury. Mrs Alford thought that "if children could paint from nature, so could she," so when Jack Bennett started a painting class, she joined. Auriel Alford is now a first class realist artist and has her own studio in

Edmondson Avenue; her main works are paintings of flowers and still life.

On discharge from the AIF, Mr Bennett studied at the Archibald Colquhoun Art School in Melbourne. Mr Colquhoun belonged to the Max Meldrum School, so Mrs Alford may be said to paint in the "Meldrum" manner.

Harry Twomey, Jack Bennett, Colin Angus, Alice Wallace and Auriel Alford all have work which has been acquired by the City Council through the Albury Art Society.

Mr Reg Twomey used his knowledge of art for many years in judging children's art and schoolwork sections at the Albury & District Shows. He became an expert in doing illuminated addresses for use in public presentations. Cartoonist [Ken] Maynard, the originator of the Ettamogah Pub, is a second cousin of the Twomeys.

Within recent years, Mr John Eldershaw became very interested in the work of Ian Griffith of Wodonga. Ian had won an Albury Art prize section without having any tuition. He later became a frequent visitor to the home of Mr Eldershaw in Sydney. John Eldershaw is one of Australia's leading water-colourists.

About 1961, an Art Group was formed in Wodonga, meeting in a room loaned by the Culture Centre. The students were greatly helped in their work, mainly Realist Art, by Mr Harry Twomey, with his tuition and advice. In 1967, Wodonga staged its first Art Prize Exhibition.

#### ALBURY ART PRIZE SOCIETY.

The present Art Prize Exhibition Society, established in 1947, is largely the result of Mr Harry Twomey's early efforts. For the first number of exhibitions, Mr Twomey bore the brunt of arranging and hanging the paintings and entertaining the judges.

Before the Art Society was formed, Mr Twomey frequently arranged small exhibitions; often in his solicitor's office, to stimulate interest. This helped bring about the formation of the Albury Art Prize Society.

At the first exhibition held in 1947 there was a paid door keeper, and there were fifty-six supervisors. Mr. Twomey died on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 1971.

(Signed) Alice M Wallace  
604 Wyse Street Albury  
July 1971.

(Copied by Otto Schilg, Publicity Officer, Albury Historical Society, 9.4.72)

[Note: for more information about Harry Twomey see *Bulletin* 488, March 2009.]

### **GAS LANTERN REFURBISHED**

AlburyCity staff has completed the restoration of the historic gas lantern in the Poole and Kiewa Streets roundabout at the instigation of the A&DHS. It looks like new. The lantern is one of many powered by gas produced at the Albury Gas Works which lit Albury streets between 1883 and 1916 when electric lighting took over. Street lighting prior to 1883 used kerosene. This lantern was salvaged and erected in 1957 by the Albury Apex Club in conjunction with the Horticultural Society.



**Gas Lantern on corner Kiewa and Poole Streets recently refurbished by AlburyCity**

### **CENTENARY WWI PLANNING**

A&DHS was represented at a meeting on 21 September held at Anzac House, Wilson Street to discuss possible local commemorative events to mark the centenary of the First World War (1914-1918). The meeting was hosted by the City of Albury sub-branch of the RSL and drew thirty people from a diverse range of organisations in Albury-Wodonga and district. Another meeting is scheduled in six months time.

Joe Wooding, Chris McQuellin and Doug Hunter are gathering information about the war and in particular the ways it affected the Albury and district communities. This information will be passed to AlburyCity Cultural Services to aid planning for centenary events and exhibitions.

### **PRINCE OF WALES'S LIGHT HORSE**

Jean Whitla discovered a reference in a *History of Bendigo* by George Mackay compiled in 1891, to the beginning of a military unit, Sandhurst Troop of Prince of Wales's Victorian Volunteer Light Horse in 1862. One hundred and fifty years later that unit continues to serve as the 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment with a troop at Bandiana made up of soldiers from Albury-Wodonga and district.

### **VALE ANNE DAVIES**

A former stalwart of the A&DHS, Anne Davies passed away at The Grange, Wodonga on 18 September 2012. Anne joined the Society in 1970 and exhibited competence and enthusiasm in everything she did.

She was elected to the committee in 1972 and became vice-president in 1975. She was co-editor of the *Bulletin* in 1972 and assumed full responsibility the following year. With few breaks she was editor till 1992. Anne was active in the Turks Head Museum when it was run by the Society and was also a member of the Research & Publication sub-committee 1984-96. Her service on the committee included terms as minute secretary and treasurer. Anne was made an honorary life member of the Society in 1988.

Anne's husband, Roddy, died in December 2011.

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### **WALBUNDRIE CEMETERY NICHE WALL. INVITATION TO DEDICATION EVENT**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 2pm**

115 unmarked graves have been identified in the Walbundrie, Piney Range and Billabong Cemeteries. Recently a Niche Wall was constructed with a panel listing the names of people known to be buried in the unmarked graves.

On Sunday 14 October 2012 at 2pm there will be a dedication event and a brief history offered by those involved with the research and construction of the niche wall.

This will be followed by a cemetery walk when guides will share what is known about some of the people buried here.

All are welcome to attend this event, ending with a cup of tea. RSVP please for catering purposes by 2 October.

For further information and for RSVP, contact Leo & Jan Coyle Ph 02 6029 9087

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### **CHILTERN EXCURSION**

**SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2012**

An A&DHS excursion to Chiltern is being planned similar to the successful visit to Henty earlier in the year.

Details next *Bulletin*.

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### **ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES VALUATION DAY**

**SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2012**

Elizabeth Stevens, valuer and radio personality will be in attendance at the annual Antiques & Collectables Valuation Day conducted by A&DHS and Wodonga Historical Society. \$5 per item.

Activities Room at the Albury LibraryMuseum,  
10a.m.— 4 p.m.

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