

# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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SEPTEMBER 2012

527

## REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING (8.8.2012)

President, Chris McQuellin welcomed another fine roll up to the meeting in the Banksia Room at the Albury Commercial Club to enjoy an interesting and varied program. Chris welcomed speakers and special guests from the Twin City Bowmen and Pamela Gordes, a photographer who has compiled a photo-essay of the demolition of the old Burrows/Bunge/Allied Mills flour mill in Young Street in July 2012.

Chris gave a resume of activities involving the Society for the previous month:

- AlburyCity are planning a planting ceremony in the near future to plant one of the cloned trees near the original Hovel Tree.
- Chris and Joe Wooding have contributed information to an AlburyCity project to place buildings of interest on the Historypin website. Historypin is a world-wide online user-generated archive of historical photographs and personal recollections. Tourists will be able to access information on their smart phones.
- The Society has been invited to be represented at an introductory meeting at Anzac House to commence planning for the centenary of WWI (1914-1918).
- He also asked if the person who gave him a photograph of VDC officers at the July meeting could give him an idea of the date the photograph was taken.
- A request from Bridget Guthrie, Museum and Social History Coordinator, AlburyCity, in relation to a forthcoming history and exhibition of the Albury Botanic Gardens. Bridget

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

12 SEPTEMBER 2012

7.30pm at Commercial Club

Albury

Speaker: Beechworth author Noelene Allen speaking about Ellen Kelly: "Ellen, a Woman of Spirit."

~ *THREADS* ~

NSW HISTORY WEEK

Sunday 9 September Nicole Jenkins, author of *Love Vintage*, will be speaking at 2pm at the LibraryMuseum.

See page 5 for details

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**Patron:** Patricia Gould OAM

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Helen Livsey, June Shanahan

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**President:** Christopher McQuellin  
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**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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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)

writes: the Gardens are more than plants and statues. They are also about place, the people who visit and the events that occur within and surrounding them. Please assist us to add to the AlburyCity Collection and record these significant personal Botanic Gardens stories. Bridget wants stories about events, the social scene, play, especially children's use of the gardens, Indigenous connection and relationship to the river. Do you have a story to tell? Please contact Bridget at the LibraryMuseum before 17 September.

Joe Wooding asked for information about the location of a Chinese cemetery at Wodonga, and about land purchased for the Ambulance in the vicinity of Dallinger Road and Catherine Crescent Lavington. He also spoke about the first of Albury's roads to be tar paved.

Jan Hunter introduced guest speaker, Ken Ashley. Ken with his wife, Dianna, came to Albury in 1969 where he worked for five years at Palings music store. Ken completed a course at the Sydney Conservatorium and qualified as a Piano Technician. He established his own piano tuning business in Albury, retiring this year.

**FORTY YEARS OF ARCHERY IN ALBURY  
TWINCITY BOWMEN**

Report on a talk by Ken Ashley

Archery is thought to have begun in Mesopotamia about 30,000 years ago. The use of the bow spread quickly so by about 10,000 years ago archery was common in Egypt, Europe, Asia, parts of Africa and into the Americas. Australia and the Pacific Islands are among the few regions where the bow was not used. Bows became a major weapon of war especially when used by archers on horseback. The Mongols and Huns were feared for their mounted archers. Bows were made of a variety of materials, wood of course but also of horn and sinew. Saxon invaders introduced the bow to Britain where it was adopted particularly by the Welsh. In the Middle Ages, Welsh archers were an essential mercenary component of British and some European armies. Battles such as Crecy and Agincourt showed the power of skilled archers who could fire to a range of 240 yards

(220 metres) at a rate of 12 arrows a minute. This plunging fire would kill or wound everyone in a large beaten zone.

As gunpowder and firearms replaced bows on the battlefield and to a great extent in the hunt, archery morphed into a sport. Archers have competed in the modern Olympics appearing first in 1900 and 14 times since. It is also a Paralympics sport.

When Ken Ashley arrived in Albury there was no archery club. In 1972, he put an advertisement in the Border Morning Mail seeking those interested in starting a club. At a meeting in the CWA Hall there was sufficient interest to form a committee and approach Council for a piece of land on which to establish a range. A suitable site was found at Lavington just off the Jindera Gap Road and arrangements made to lease it. At first the members erected a canvas shelter on site for range days, but there was a need for something more permanent. Another advertisement seeking a shed or carport to be relocated to the club site brought donations of bricks and other building materials.

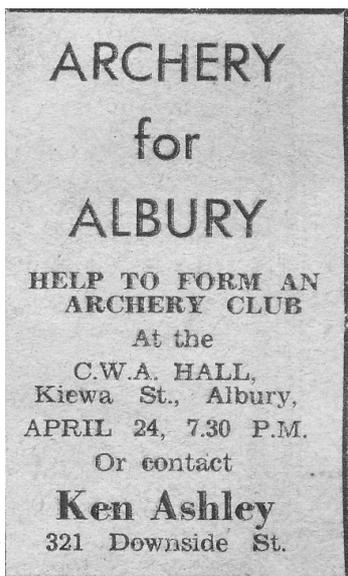
President of the club, David James, explained that in 1978 members with trade skills were able to erect a fine club house which now boasts meeting area, storerooms, a kitchen and bar. A toilet block was built and there are now all the necessary amenities to enable visitors to camp on site during tournaments.

Ken spoke of laying out the field archery course using the creeks and natural features of the land and the system of scoring as competitors fire four arrows at a series of targets. Arrows are marked with the crest of the owner so they can be identified for scoring.

David James elaborated on the different types of field competition. Targets depicting Himalayan tahr, a large goat like creature, are used with a system of scoring where maximum possibles diminish if the bowman misses the target. A popular competition was the Rabbit Round where the winner is presented with a badge which is mounted on a shield in the club house.

The club caters for all comers, children through to seniors, men and women. The club has equipment to allow newcomers to have a session on the practice range to decide if archery is for them. On occasions the club has hosted visits from school children and young people involved in YMCA holiday activities.

Equipment includes bows, arrows, gloves and arm guards. Bows are graded by pulling power; as archers



Advertisement placed in BMM by Ken Ashley in April 1972. It resulted in the formation of an archery club in Albury.



**Field archery involves shooting at a series of targets situated around a rough bush course. The club caters for all members of the family with beginners able to practise and develop skills on the fenced practice range.**



develop they increase the power of their bow. There are different styles of archery, arrows differ, anchor points ( the nose or cheek where the archer pulls to), and the angle of the bow are an individual preference.

Bows can be left or right handed and children's models are also available. A composite bow often used in hunting has a configuration of stringing using rollers enabling the archer to pull a much heavier bow and increase the energy 'stored' in the bow. Ken has used this equipment to hunt pigs. It ensures a very clean kill.

Longbows are the only type used; cross bows are illegal in Australia because they can be small enough to be concealed. No licence is need to buy or own a longbow. Members of the archery fraternity are conscious of this and stress the need for safety training and responsible handling of bows.

Some archers make their own arrows using points of different types. Fletching, the attaching of feathers to stabilise the arrow in flight also conform to a designated pattern. Arrow shafts are graded to suit the pull of the bow.

Paul Sparkes explained his duties as secretary of the Club. These included the digitations of records, the production of a newsletter, maintenance of the Club's website and the writing of a history of the Club. Twin City Bowmen is the only independent club in NSW and is an approved hunting organisation for the Game Council of NSW and is authorised to offer members accreditation for the licence to hunt game and feral animals in NSW.

Ken showed a slide of four life members of the club inside the club house with the wall richly decorated with shields and trophies which have been won in competition. Outside a shipping container decorated with a bushland mural has increased storage capacity.

What is the future for archery? It is not a spectator sport, but a participant sport, one that can be enjoyed equally by all members of the family. Once one develops the passion for archery it is intensely rewarding. Archery seems set to enjoy another forty years in Albury.

### **PHOTOGRAPHING THE MILL**

Photographer, Pamela Gordes went to the site of the Allied Mills Flour Mill in Young Street every evening for months to record every aspect and stage of the demolition of the silos and mill buildings which have been part of Albury's streetscape and skyline for a century. Often she spent 5-6 hours on site and over the months took 6,000 photographs. The Melbourne firm conducting the demolition were very accommodating allowing Pamela, complete with hard hat, vest and safety boots, access to many areas of the buildings.

Pamela assembled a short photo essay of 40 slides which give an overview of the project and the systematic demolition. Some photos show the work being done at night when it was possible to close Young Street to traffic. Others show the 'Rooster', a large machine able to bite sections of brick and concrete wall from the building and reduce them to rubble.

Pamela plans a more comprehensive documentary of the demise of the Albury landmark, but is uncertain of the final form it will take.

### **THOMAS HODGES MATE A MAN OF MANY PARTS & ONE OF ALBURY'S FIRST BUSINESSMEN**

**Short talk by June Shanahan**

Thomas Hodges Mate was born in Kent England on the 5 April 1810. In 1833, he left England for Sydney where he stayed for about 18 months. Then, acting on the advice of his friends, he went up country to gain experience working on a station owned by Mr Fuller. Two years later he made his first speculation in sheep, purchasing a small flock from Hannibal

Macarthur, nephew of John Macarthur. He travelled south with his flock and settled on the Tarcutta creek about eighty miles from Albury. There were between 300 and 400 Aborigines camping around him at Tarcutta Creek and he showed commendable aptitude in befriending them.

There were no townships where Wagga Wagga and Gundagai now stand and Yass was just assuming the appearance of a village. His association with Albury and pastoral pursuits in the Riverina dated from the year 1835.

In the 1840s Thomas Mate became associated with a Mr. Bardwell in the management of Tarcutta Station. On 8 February 1836, Mate married Maria Bardwell, sister of his associate. Mate purchased Brae Springs Station and this was his home for many years. He retained his interest in Tarcutta and also acquired other properties including Kulki, formerly known as Yanko block, Tumbarumba Station, Woonoona which was managed by his son William and Wongong, managed by William Jnr.

Despite his pastoral and business responsibilities, Thomas Hodges Mate entered public life and had a record of honourable service. He was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly in 1861 as the member for Hume and held the seat for eight years. He succeeded in passing an act to deal with the careless use of fire a measure which proved to be beneficial to pastoralists. He held a seat on the Albury municipal council between 1886 and 1889 and was mayor in 1888. His determination and strong advocacy resulted in the establishment of the municipal sale yards. Mr. Mate was a generous supporter of St. Matthews Church of England in Kiewa Street.

Thomas Mate established a general store with Mr W Evans as manager, on the corner of Hume and Townsend Streets, Albury, in 1850. The discovery of gold at Beechworth and Yackandandah shortly afterwards brought an increase in the population of Albury and huge opportunities for business. In 1899 Mate's expanded to its iconic department store on corner of Dean & Kiewa Streets. Mate's Store became the largest store of its kind in the Riverina.

Thomas Mate's wife Maria died in 1878 and in 1883 he married Florence Brown who had been born in Albury in 1865. They had one daughter Florence Ada Mate, born in 1885. She married Augustus Lewis Lemerle and died in 1963 in Balmain, Sydney.

Thomas Hodges Mate died aged 84 on 21 July 1894 at Manly, Sydney and was buried in the Anglican Cemetery Waverley. He left a widow, three sons and four daughters. The name of

Mate's was a household one in Albury and the wider district for more than a century.

#### **PAVING THE STREETS**

The streets of Albury were never paved with gold, but in 1905 a section of Dean Street between Kiewa and Olive Streets was paved with tar. Tar is short for Tarmac, the process using asphalt with a cement additive to produce a durable road surface which was patented by Edgar Purnell Hooley in the UK in 1901. Tar paving had been used on some Albury footpaths earlier, but this was the first time it was used on a roadway.

The *Albury Daily News* gave a detailed description of the procedure. First the road surface was scored to provide a key for aggregate and sand to be laid over it. Tar was then spread over the surface which was compacted with a heavy roller.

Two years previously, Melbourne had laid tar paving on some of the city streets. Albury Council engineer, Mr Horsfield, visited Melbourne to study the process then supervised Council staff in paving the section of Dean Street. Horse drawn rollers were unsuitable so a government roller and traction engine was hired from Mr Schulz of Wodonga. The road surface was ready for use as soon as rolling was completed. Tar paved roads were cheaper to maintain because they did not require watering.

#### **WARTIME INCIDENT**

"Hello Viktor", said Constable Biggs of Albury police as he approached the man railway workers had discovered hidden under a tarpaulin in a railway wagon on the morning of 19 January 1945. "How do you know my name? I suppose you have seen my photograph."

On the night of 10 January 1945, 20 German POWs escaped from the Dhurringile Homestead Camp near Murchison Victoria. The prisoners had spent six months digging a tunnel from the broom cupboard in the homestead to a point 40 metres beyond the perimeter wire. The escape was discovered at rollcall next morning and a search begun. Photographs and descriptions of the escapees were circulated to police and the press. Escapees were recaptured quickly, few managed to get more than 50 km beyond the camp. By 19 January only two remained at large, First Lieutenant Victor Somann (Merchant Navy) and Lieutenant Heinrich Menge (Air Force).

When workers at Albury railway yards lifted the tarpaulin on a rail truck to commence unloading, they discovered a stowaway hiding underneath. Albury police were notified and Constable Biggs arrived to take Lieutenant Victor Somann into custody. He was taken to Albury Police Station and questioned. He gave no information about Lieutenant Menge, but other enquiries led police

to believe he was in the locality.

Menge's taste of freedom ended with a milkshake and ice cream at the Regent Café, Dean Street, on the following Monday. Alert waitress, Mrs R Lawrence, described as blue-eyed and attractive, the wife of a soldier, notice him outside the café and rang police. She had seen photographs of the escapees in the *Border Morning Mail* and recognised Menge. He came into the café and ordered refreshments and was enjoying them when the constabulary arrived to take him into custody. The police believed he had been camping on the bank of the river and wandering round Albury unrecognised for several days.

The reason for the escape was never explained. It is unlikely the escapees thought they could get to Japanese held territory; it is more likely it was to prove they could tunnel their way to freedom from the prison at Dhurringile and be a nuisance to the authorities. A derailment near Benalla was initially blamed on the escapees and sightings were reported as far away as the Hunter Valley. Possibly the prisoners were just bored, both Somann and Menge had been in the camp since 1940.

Lieutenant Menge went quietly when the police arrived, perhaps because he knew he had won the 'kitty' for being the last re-captured!

[I made this bit up, but the practice was common among escaping POWs. Ed.]

Epilogue.

Heinrich Menge was apparently repatriated to Germany after the war, however Victor Somann never went home. He was 'released to Tasmania' so his documents said, in November 1946 and in March 1948 applied for registration under the Aliens Act stating he was married and working as an orderly at the Launceston General Hospital. It seems likely about this time he was joined by his widowed sister and her two children. In 1955 he applied for naturalisation.

It is not known whether Viktor visited Albury again, but if he did it would have been under different and happier circumstances.

#### **SOCIETY PROJECTS & ACTIVITY**

Members might be interested in progress on these areas of the Society's work:

**Hume Monument:** The Society arranged the cleaning and refurbishment of the monument in the Botanic Gardens to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of A&DHS. We are still determining the wording and positioning of a suitable plaque at the monument to mark this.. It is proposed to list the names of the eight members of the exploration party and our member, Faye Stevenson, has researched the correct spelling and names of the convict members. These vary somewhat from those on the plaque at the Hovell Tree

placed there in 1980 and reflect access to sources not readily available then.

**Index to Jean Macdonald's book:** Catherine Browne has completed typing an index of *Albury-Wodonga The Chosen City* Vol I.

**Robbins & Porter replica aircraft:** The sub-committee, Chris McQuellin, Michael Browne, Peter Whitbourn and Bridget Guthrie meets regularly to review progress. They are currently awaiting the result of a grant application to prepare construction drawings and documentation.

**Uiver bulbs:** Remnant bulbs from a gift from the Netherlands which were collected from the Thompson house in Guinea Street by Joe Wooding are flowering at the Albury Botanic Gardens.

**Waterwheel:** Chris McQuellin and Michael Browne are in consultation with AlburyCity officers regarding the future of the Waterwheel currently in Australia Park and in a near derelict state. One proposal is to relocate the structure to Wonga Wetlands and restore it to full working order.

**Interpretive panels:** Chris McQuellin and Joe Wooding are working with AlburyCity officers preparing text and providing advice for a series of interpretive panels planned at places of interest in the central part of Albury.

#### **THREADS**

#### **NSW HISTORY WEEK**

**8-16 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**The theme of NSW History Week this year is "Threads". In conjunction with Write Around the Murray Festival, Nicole Jenkins, author of *Love Vintage*, will be speaking at 2pm Sunday 9 September at the LibraryMuseum.**

**For thirty years Nicole has been collecting, restoring and trading vintage clothing and we will be able to see and touch garments as she shares her passion for what was worn from WWI to the 70s.**

#### **ARMY AT BONEGILLA**

On Wednesday 25 September 1940, the 2/23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion (Albury's Own) marched from Albury Showgrounds to the newly constructed Bonegilla Camp becoming the first battalion to occupy the new barracks. Pat Share, in his book, *Mud and Blood: "Albury's Own" Second Twentieth Australian Infantry Battalion*, recorded the occasion:

We were paid on the afternoon of our arrival at Bonegilla and took the opportunity of an easing of discipline after the march to inspect our new

and delightful quarters - the great canteen, hot and cold showers, laundry, drying room and post office. The cool waters of the Hume Weir offered a splendid swimming pool set in ideal surroundings. This was in direct contrast to the cramped quarters at the showgrounds where conditions were primitive to say the least.

The 2/23<sup>rd</sup> was soon joined by the 2/24<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Wangaratta's Own) which marched from Wangaratta Showgrounds and the 2/21<sup>st</sup> and 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalions from Trawool, between Yea and Seymour. They took 10 days to march to Bonegilla. Other units arrived by train, so by the end of 1940 there were 5,600 troops at Bonegilla.

An exhibition commemorating the Army at Bonegilla 1940-1947 is being installed in the Tudor Hall, part of Block 19, the Migrant Experience Heritage Park. The exhibition complements other exhibitions commemorating Bonegilla's role as Australia's largest and longest running migrant reception centre, 1947-1971.

The Army exhibition is the work of volunteers from the 8/13<sup>th</sup> Victorian Mounted Rifles Regimental Collection and draws on material from the Unit History Room of the local Army Reserve regiment, 4/19<sup>th</sup> Prince of Wales's Light Horse at Bandiana.

#### MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following is a list of financial members of A&DHS as at 23 August 2012. If your name is not there and you think it should be, please contact the Treasurer.

**Life:** AlburyCity, Commercial Club Albury, N C Douglas, B Geddes.

**Honorary life:** A Davies, H Livsey, H Jones, J Shanahan.

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

**Family:** D & C Arnold, C & M Browne, E & B Coscor, B Dunn/W McGrath, B Guthrie, R Haberfield, G & D Hamilton, R & J Harrison, D & J Hunter, H & H Jones, S & C Judd, K & S Monte, W & B Moriarty, P Palffy, Petts family, K & L Porter, N Reid/L Rayner, F & D Riley, G & C Ryan, B & I Strang, P & C Whitbourn, J & J Wooding.

**Individual:** D Bartsch, R Boadle, J Bullivant, A Brennan, R Burdack, V Colley, M Comitti, J Craig, K Crossley, R Freeman, R Gear, V Gherashe, M Gleeson, K Hamilton, P Harper, F Higgins, A Hodge, L Howard, N Jackling, A Kelso, R Lee, H Leggatt, M Lenehan, D Lindner, D Lonergan, C McQuellin, A Newnham, A Nugent, N Oke, R Paech, M Passant, B Pennay, M Royle, T Ryan, K Scholz, P Scott, J Shanahan, B Sheridan, F Stevenson, M Stokes, P Strachan, V Symons, G Trampusic, V Wharton, J Whitla, M Widdison.

#### JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

*Links-N-Chains: Liverpool GS Journal*, June 2012.

- Notes of a water diviner;
- Liverpool State Hospital & Home inmate records.

*Stockman's Hall of Fame Magazine*, July 2012.

- "The Anzac on the Wall", a poem;

- Unsung hero: Ram Chandra.

*Ances-tree: Burwood FHG Journal*, March 2012.

- German migrant ships to Australia, *Johann Caesar*, 1856.

*History: RAHS Magazine*, March 2012.

- History of cooperatives in Australia;

- RAHS Annual Report.

*Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter*, April/May 2012.

- History of river crossings at Wagga Wagga Pt1.

*Argyle Bulletin: Goulburn FH & HS Journal*, May 2012.

- Affray at Bolong Hassell Station.

*Murrumbidgee Ancestor: Wagga Wagga FHS Journal*, June 2012.

- Henty history: *Footprints of the Pioneers*.

#### CHILTERN EXCURSION

SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2012

An excursion to Chiltern is being planned similar to the successful visit to Henty earlier in the year. More details next *Bulletin*, but note the date in your diary.



**Richard Lee is researching the history of Logans in Albury. He is seeking information about this building on the corner of Olive and Wilson Streets. When was it built and was it part of an early Logan building?**

#### ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES VALUATION DAY SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2012

June Shanahan has been successful again in gaining the services of valuer and radio personality Elizabeth Stevens to attend the annual A&DHS Antiques & Collectables Valuation Day to be held in the Activities Room at the Albury LibraryMuseum, 20 October 2012.