

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019

NOVEMBER 2011

518

REPORT ON THE OCTOBER MEETING (12/10/11)

A good attendance of members and guests were treated to a full, eclectic and dynamic program at the October meeting. Peter Moll outlined settlement in the Albury area and the arrival of German families who took up land to the north of the town in the 1860s. He traced the rapid development of Jindera as a village servicing the needs of the farming community then its gradual decline as access to Albury improved. Peter then spoke of the conversion of Wagner's Store into a Folk Museum to preserve a snapshot of the pioneering era.

Noel Jackling reported briefly on his recent research visit to Holland. During a visit to the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision in Hilversum, Noel discovered a series of interviews with ten Albury residents: Clifton Mott, Arthur Newnham, Jessie Seymour, Jack Rowe, Robyn Merritt, Geoff Colquhoun, Roy Colley, David Mann, Clive Cossor and Ron Braddy, who shared their recollections of the unscheduled landing of the *Uiver* in October 1934. The interviews were recorded when the DC2 called at Albury during the 50th Anniversary flight in 1984.

June Shanahan lightened the evening when she read a story sent to her by Frank O'Rourke. Members will remember Frank spoke to the Society in August 2010 on the subject of the Mundawadra Soldier Settlers scheme

Bridget Guthrie reported on planned exhibitions at the Library-Museum, 2012: Botanic Gardens and Wiradjuri heritage; 2013: Albury Wodonga Development Corporation and Robins & Porter aircraft; 2014: MacRobertson 1934 Air Race and World War One.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

9 November 2011

7.30pm at Commercial
Club Albury

Military theme

Speakers: Chris
McQuellin, Joe Wood-
ing, Michael Browne and
Doug Hunter

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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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

Doug Hunter reported that the 8/13 Victorian Mounted Rifles Museum will install an exhibition entitled "Things Military" at Lavington Library in mid-October. The exhibition will be of four months duration.

Graham Docksey, historian of 2nd/23rd Battalion (Albury's Own) Association spoke of a project he has been working on for two years, visiting and photographing graves of all 316 members of the Battalion who died during the WWII. He has all but two of the graves. The two he is missing are located in the West Bank territory in Palestine, an area he is unable to gain access to owing to the dangerous and unstable political and military situation.

GERMAN SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN NSW

Report on a talk by Peter Moll

White settlement in the southern Riverina followed the exploring work done by Hume and Hovell's party in 1924. William Wyse came first taking up the *Mungabareena* run for Charles Ebden. The Huon brothers followed, taking up the *Woodonga* run and buying *Mungabareena* from Ebden for their sister Elizabeth Mitchell. John Dight arrived in 1837 and took up the *Bungowannah* run also known as Dight's Forest. It was located just to the west of the Crossing Place and extended north to encompass the present town of Jindera.

Concurrent with this early settlement around Albury, events in Germany were causing upheaval in that country. A split in the Lutheran church and the establishment of one branch as the state church hastened the emigration of many of its citizens. In 1838, a small group encouraged by George Fife Angas, arrived in the colony of South Australia. They took up land and established productive farms in the Barossa Valley.

More German migrants followed over the next half century, less so for religious reasons and more so for economic reasons. Many were in fact adherents of the state reformed church. This was to have an interesting effect in Jindera well into the 20th century.

By 1860, arable land in South Australia was becoming scarce, so

when the Robertson Land Act in NSW (1861) made vast areas of the old squatting leases available for selection, settlers from South Australia were attracted.

A Mr Schultz was dispatched to visit the Riverina and report back on suitable land for farming. Schultz recommended land in the Jindera district. In 1868, 56 people with 14 wagons and 2 spring carts left the Barossa Valley and trekked to Dight's Forest. The journey took six weeks. Some were German born, but most were Australian born children of migrants. The trekkers established a base camp just north of the current township of Jindera and set out to select and acquire land in the Jindera, Gerogery, and Walla districts; some ventured as far as Temora.

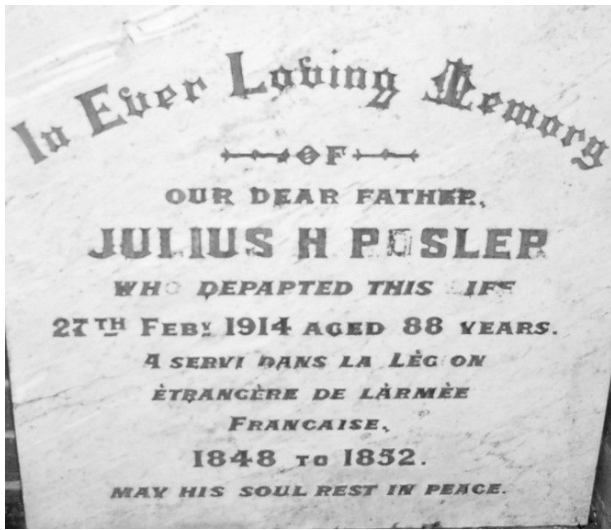
The German settlers added their numbers to the English and Irish settlers already in the district, and the town of Jindera was gazetted in 1868. The track to Albury was almost impassable so commerce in Jindera grew to serve the needs of the farming community. By the 1880s it boasted 4 hotels, 2 blacksmiths, post office, general store, butcher, baker, saddler, dressmaker, carpenter, flour mill, bush hospital and a police station. There were two Lutheran churches, two pastors, two cemeteries, but only one school. Population at that time was about 400.

The situation of the divided church was finally resolved in 1963 when the churches combined.



German wagon of the type used by settlers moving from South Australia to take up land in the Jindera district in 1868. The wagon was drawn by a team of two draught horses. This wagon is on display at the Jindera Pioneer Museum.

In the first decades of the 20th century, the road to Albury improved and motor transport became more common. This caused the decline of service industries in Jindera leaving only one hotel and one general store and one blacksmith. The decline has been reversed in



Portion of a slab removed when the grave of Julius Rosler in Henty cemetery was renewed. The inscription gives details of Rosler's service in the French Foreign Legion between 1848 and 1852. This slab is on display at Jindera Pioneer Museum.

more recent times as Jindera has become a thriving dormitory suburb of the growth centre of Albury-Wodonga.

The Jindera Museum had its beginning in 1874, when two German men, Peter Wagner and Julius Rosler built a small store fronting the Urana Road. Rosler had an interesting past, claiming to have been an officer in the Prussian Army, to have served in the Foreign Legion of the French Army and to have been a big-game hunter. He arrived with his family from South Australia in 1868. Wagner, a baker by trade, had migrated to Melbourne in 1864 and grew tobacco on the Leneva Creek flats prior to moving to Jindera. He married Rosler's daughter.

In 1884, Rosler moved to *Doodle Cooma* station and established a store in what became the township of Henty.

Over the years the Wagner family extended the store and attached house several times. Peter Wagner was succeeded by his son until the store was sold in 1952 and finally closed in 1958.

In 1966, a local group headed up by Marge Wehner and Kate Clark set about establishing a museum in the old store with a view to

showing how the pioneers lived, worked and played. It was opened by Sir Russell Drysdale in 1968. The Drysdale family had had a property just west of Jindera in the 1920s.

The Jindera Pioneer Museum currently opens six days a week, closed Monday. Passing visitor numbers are steady and the museum is well established on the tour bus circuit. Financially the Museum is healthy, but a scarcity of volunteers is a concern.

A SNAP SHOT

Story told by June Shanahan

Frank O'Rourke found the story published in a New Zealand newspaper in 1887. The writer was "An Old Squatter" and told of his hair-raising adventure when travelling from Porepunkah near Bright to Wangaratta.

He became lost and with night falling happened upon a shanty run by a red haired man and his wife. They put him up for the night, but the presence of a one-eyed lodger who showed an unhealthy interest in his wallet made him very uneasy.

His fears were realised later in the night when an attempt was made on his life. He escaped owing to his trusty pistol. A lucky shot severed three fingers of the assailant's hand. He rode on to Wangaratta and reported the matter to the police. Two troopers returned with him, but the birds had flown. Evidence of earlier murders was found in the shanty.

Many years later during a visit to Berrima Gaol he spotted a one-eyed man with missing fingers; a convicted murderer he was told. Even stranger, many, many years later, at a civic reception in a NZ town he danced with the lady mayoress. He felt they had met before and asked "had she ever been to Victoria?" The question obviously disturbed her.

She hurried to talk to her husband the mayor, now grey haired, but could once have been red. After a brief discussion the couple disappeared from the function leaving the squatter with his question unanswered.

HOVELL TREE CLONED TREES

Report by Chris McQuellin

I attended a meeting on 12 October with Ms Leah Warburton, the AlburyCity Arborist, regarding the A&DHS's part in the Community Consultation regarding the placement of the Hovell tree clones.

AlburyCity and others including the CSIRO, has been working for over 10 years to clone the Hovell tree to preserve this historic tree. The A&DHS, the NSW Lands Department, Friends

of the Botanic Gardens and relevant AlburyCity staff have or are being involved in selection of appropriate planting locations in the immediate district.

All trees planted in public open space will be given a GPS location and be suitably tagged.

It should be noted that the trees are not for backyard use and will require adequate water so river or lake foreshore is considered the best location for river red gum trees. There are only 100 trees being prepared and currently they are small seedlings.

The current planting suggestions include Hovell Tree Park, the Australian section of the Albury Botanic Gardens, an avenue leading to Mungabareena Reserve, and one specimen tree near each of the upstream markers of the Hume and Hovell party's crossing places at the Hume Weir and Ebdon. Any remaining trees may be sold at a cost of \$60 each and will be subject to agreed planting locations.

VISIT TO JINDERA PIONEER MUSEUM

Eighteen members and guests of the Society visited the Jindera Pioneer Museum in Urana Road Jindera on Sunday 16 October. Peter Moll met us there and together with another volunteer, Lee Howard, welcomed us to the museum housed in the old Wagner store and residence. Some met a little earlier to have lunch at the Jindera Hotel.

Our group spent two hours marvelling at the huge collection of artefacts and the effort of the museum volunteers to keep everything dusted and tidy. The building is in itself an outstanding artefact, having been extended and altered in the near-century of its working existence as a general store and residence.

The outbuildings add interest to the large site. The wattle and daub hut is among the oldest buildings in the district, thought to have been built by John Dight for one of his shepherds. It is possible he lived in it himself for a time. The slab hut is a fine example of early timber construction. It was found on a site in East Albury, dismantled and transported to Jindera and re-erected on the museum site.

Attached to it are several panels of post and rail fence. Displayed on the porch of the slab hut is a broadaxe for shaping rails and a mortise axe used to punch mortises into the posts to hold the rails.

We were able to view a book of Russell Drysdale prints and a number of fine framed photographs that once hung in the Shire Offices of Hume Shire in Kiewa Street and a selection of stained glass panels which came from the Valetta house that once stood in Swift Street.

A rifle with engraving on the butt: "J R Atkin-



**Visit to the Jindera Pioneer Museum
L to R Bridget Guthrie, Peter Moll, Chris McQuellin,
Kay Dale, Jan Hunter and Michael Browne.**

son Gaba 25/4/15 Tepe" intrigued military buffs in our group. Subsequent research suggests the soldier who carved his name into the rifle butt was Private John Robert Atkinson of Sydney who served with the 4th Infantry Battalion on Gallipoli. Just how the rifle became part of the Jindera collection is the subject of ongoing enquiry.

The visit concluded with a tasty afternoon tea in the tea rooms where we enjoyed slices of *Deutscherkuchen* (German cake) made with a dough containing mashed potato and a crumble topping.

JOURNEYING ROUND THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

Borderline News: Wodonga FHS Newsletter, August 2011.

- An overview of the census;
- Snippets of not so boring history.

Richmond River (Lismore) HS Bulletin, September 2011.

- Hospitals in Lismore 1890-1948;
- Brothers in Arms: Casino mayors.

The Argyle Bulletin: Goulburn HS Journal August 2011.

- Timeframe: extracts from 1873 Penny Post;
- Galloping parsons, Pt 2: Robert Cartwright.

Insites: Historic Houses Trust NSW Magazine, September 2011.

- Tales of Vice-regal life;
- Sydney's surf mania 50s, 60s & 70s; and
- Events and exhibitions calendar September/October 2011.

History: Royal Australian Historical Society Magazine September 2011.

- Norfolk Island heritage;
- Kingston: Capital of Norfolk Island; and
- Book notes: Henty's early settlers by Henty Community Committee

LOST SOULS IN PIONEER CEMETERY

June Shanahan spoke briefly about a list posted on the internet by researcher Bonnie Cooper listing 1679 persons recorded in the gravediggers' records as being buried in the Albury Pioneer Cemetery between 1905 and 1930. The records include 119 stillborn babies, 81 infants, 70 children, 40 Chinese nationals and one Indian national.

The records show 10 of the Chinese paid for their burials. The charge for a burial in 1910 was ten shillings and sixpence. The Indian national was Jundan Singh who died in 1907 aged 30 or 33 years. There were a number of hospital paupers. Seven hundred and twenty burials have no recorded location in the cemetery.

Some graves had been reopened, some were buried in other graves possibly with relatives. One record states that Dr Woods' grave in Block D was opened and a child of the name of Rice was interred there.

[While the records state 'Dr Woods' grave,' it is more likely it was the grave of Dr Woods' infant son Cleaver who died in 1889 that was opened to receive the body of Dr Woods' granddaughter Margaret Rice who died in 1919.]

EVENTS AND PEOPLE WHO SHAPED ALBURY'S HISTORY

Patricia Strachan offered these events and people:

Robert Brown and the Crossing Place, T S Townsend, First Union Bridge opened by Miss Chauncy, Railways and the transshipment of goods, J T Fallon and wine, T H Mate, Dust storm that enveloped Albury during inspection to select a national capital, the *Uiver* landing, the Hume Dam, WWII Army Camps and Military Hospital, Declaration of Albury as a city and Albury Wodonga Development Corporation.

Others added these thoughts:

Hume and Hovell, C H Ebdon, Wool sales, Burrows Flour Mills, Textile industry (Woollen Mills and Adelyn), C E Bunton, local business families: Haberfields, Arnolds, Motts.

Doug Hunter would be happy to receive suggestions from more members.

GERMAN SCHOOL BOOKS

Noel Jackling showed several books that had belonged to his grandmother. They are in German and were used by his grandmother when she attended school at St Pauls Walla Walla in the 1880s. Maria Klemke was the daughter of Pastor J T Klemke who had accompanied the German settlers in 1868. Maria was the first child baptised at the Lutheran Church Walla Walla.

Maria Klemke married Johann Arnold in 1891 and moved to live at Back Creek near Yackan-

dandah. The day WWI broke out in 1914 was the last day German was spoken in the Arnold home. There was no Lutheran church at Yackandandah so the pattern of integration in NE Victoria was different from that in the Walla-Jindera area where a strong Lutheran community existed. Noel mentioned a book by John McQuilton *Rural Australia and the Great War: from Tarrawingee to Tangambalanga* (Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 2001) which dealt with this issue.

STRATA TITLE

Noel Jackling also related a problem put to his father, Albury solicitor Stan Jackling, many years ago.

Seems a lady had died and in her will asked that she be buried with her husband who had predeceased her. The Anglican minister charged with the interment was faced with a dilemma; the husband had been buried in the Infidel section of the cemetery, hence in un-consecrated ground. What could he do?

Stan Jackling hit upon a solution. He suggested the principle of strata title could be applied. Could not the ground be consecrated to a depth of so many feet allowing the husband to remain undisturbed in un-consecrated ground, but his wife be buried in consecrated ground?

Noel left us pondering the end of the story, did the Jackling solution work?

OPENING OF EXTENSIONS AT THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER MUSEUM AT CORRYONG

The official opening of the extensions began with the singing of *God Save the Queen*? Why? Because the Queen is in residence in Australia and protocol demands that when this is so then *God Save the Queen* is played on official occasions.

Albury-Wodonga and district was well represented: Bridget Guthrie, Doug & Jan Hunter from Albury, Jean Whitla and Uta Wiltshire from Wodonga and Grant Collie from Beechworth Burke Museum.

Man From Snowy River Project officer, Marita Albert, chaired the proceedings and related the story of how a rug, knitted by Corryong resident Jim Simpson while a prisoner-of-war in Germany has finally been housed in a purpose built gallery in the Museum. The rug has been recognised as of national significance, but it has been Jim's wish that it be retained in the Corryong Museum as a memorial to his mother who taught him to knit.

The Man from Snowy River Museum is conducted by the Upper Murray Historical Society and has occupied the former Shire Offices since

1971. It is staffed by volunteers. When it was determined that there was no suitable area to display the rug, the UMHS embarked on a program to obtain funds for extensions to the building and upgrading the facilities to ensure the rug could be



Plaque unveiled at Corryong Man from Snowy River Museum 21 October 2011

displayed and conserved.

UMHS President John Whitehead spoke of the cooperation and financial support from Towong Shire and the financial assistance from the Victorian Government which has made the project possible. He thanked Shire President Councillor Peter Joyce and Ms Kaye Darveniza MLC for Northern Victoria, both of whom were present at the ceremony.

Group Captain C. Crowley of the RAAF Base at Wagga Wagga unveiled the plaque that will be attached to the new extensions and a panel depicting Jim Simpson and the rug he knitted. It will hang in the gallery where the rug is housed.

He presented the Museum with a framed photograph of an Avro Lancaster bomber of No 460 Squadron RAAF. This was the type of aircraft and the squadron that Jim Simpson was serving with when he was shot down over Hamburg on 8 October 1943 and spent the remainder of the war as a POW. Group Captain Crowley also presented Jim Simpson with a RAAF cap to replace one lost in a fire at his residence some time ago. As Group Captain Crowley concluded his presentations a RAAF Hercules C130 transport plane flew over the Museum.

The ceremony ended with the singing of the Australian National Anthem. This was followed by afternoon tea served by the Corryong Red Cross and at which a birthday cake for Jim, who turns 97 in two days, was cut.

NSW HERITAGE FESTIVAL 14-29 APRIL 2012

EARLY NOTICE

Amazing Stories: Innovation & Invention is the theme for next year's Heritage Festival. Chris McQuellin gave an example: In 1896, when Drs Woods and Kennedy were first using radiography in the medical field, James Scanlan was using x-rays to check for flaws in the bicycle frames he was manufacturing in his workshop in Kiewa Street. Chris believes it must be one of the earliest uses of industrial radiography in NSW and thus an excellent example of innovation and invention.

Chris is compiling a program for a special meeting for next April and would welcome other examples of Albury & district inventions and inventors, innovations and innovators.

TOUR OF CEMETERIES

Members are invited to attend a motor tour of four cemeteries in the Gerogery district: Gerogery General, St Peter's, Bethel, and Bur-rumbuttock, Sunday 6 Nov 2011.

First stop Gerogery General Cemetery at 12.45 pm. [From Gerogery West School take gravel road south to the cemetery.]

BYO afternoon tea to be had at a stop along the way.

For more details contact

Rupert Paech 02 6029 2150

WODONGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

WHS Christmas lunch is to be held at the Wodonga Football Club, Martin Park on Wednesday 30 November 2011. Cost \$25 per head.

Booking with payment to Secretary Uta Wiltshire (02 6024 1079) by 23 November.

Helen Livsey will accept money for Uta.

BORDER HISTORY TEACHERS' NETWORK

Dinner Forum III

6.30p.m. Friday 11 November 2011

Crown Lounge New Albury Hotel, Cost \$40 (3 course meal)

Keynote speaker Dr Bruce Pennay OAM "Taking in strangers: the reception of post-war immigrants, revisited." For details contact:

<CHRISTOPHER.KEENAN@det.nsw.edu.au>
or phone 0447 669 481

MCPHERSON COLLECTION WORKING BEE

If you missed the working bee on 19 October to put the collection of negatives from McPherson's photographic studio into boxes ready for cool storage, don't worry.

By popular demand another session is to be held on Wednesday 30 November starting at 10 a.m. at the LibraryMuseum. Attendance is encouraged. There is fun for all. Entry free!