



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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APRIL 2010



# 500

## BULLETIN 500

### A treasury of Albury's history

This issue of the Albury & District Historical Society Bulletin is number 500. These publications are truly a treasury of the history of the city. They have ensured that the research, presentations and memories of so many citizens have been recorded for future generations in an easily accessible format. They represent the changing nature of newsletter production, beginning with small offset printed magazines, through foolscap sheets run off on Gestetner machines, to A4 photocopies, to pdf versions sent by email and posted on the web.

The steering committee elected at the inaugural meeting, 8 November 1960, determined that there should be a newsletter and it is included in the Constitution of the Society. It was named simply the *Bulletin*. *Bulletin* 1, of 3 February 1961 stated, "It is the intention of the Society to send out a monthly *Bulletin* which will give a summary of the proceedings, details of coming meetings and other information."

Basil Patman took on the job of editor although he does not appear to have been formally appointed till the following year. He had a background in journalism and established a standard that subsequent editors strove to continue. *Bulletin* editors through the years have been:

- 1961-66 Basil Patman
- 1967 W Fielder
- 1968-1974 Mrs McDonald & Mrs Hazelwood
- 1975-79 Mrs Hazelwood
- 1980 Colin McQueen / Lois Humphries

### NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

14 APRIL 2010

7.30pm at Commercial

Club Albury

Program:

**Joe & Jill Wooding:**

Gallipoli visit;

**Howard Jones:** Lewis Jones, convict to Albury mayor;

**Ray Gear:** North side of Dean Street in 1915.

New South Wales  
Heritage Festival Week  
Activities

See page 6 for details

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Report March meeting	Page 2
A Perl & Co	Page 2
Question of Month answer	Page 4
Thos Townsend letters	Page 5
Mate's Sun Dial	Page 5
Henty attractions	Page 6
Fifty years ago	Page 6
Through the Journals	Page 6
Books needed	Page 6

## ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

**Patron:** Harold Mair OAM

**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:** John Craig, Jan Marsden, Jill Wooding, Doug Hunter, Ray Gear and Carole Whitbourn

**Journals & Stock:** John Craig

**Membership list & Bulletin dispatch:** Ray Gear

**Bulletin Editor:** Doug Hunter 02 6021 2835  
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### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$22

Family: \$30

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

1981-82 Lois Humphries  
 1983-84 Anne Davies  
 1985-86 Helen Livsey  
 1987-92 Anne Davies  
 1993-2002 Janice Lynch  
 2002-03 Helen Livsey  
 2004 Michael Katalinic  
 2005-06 June Shanahan  
 2007- Doug Hunter

The production and distribution of the *Bulletin* requires the work of many people. Speakers have to be arranged for meetings and the presentation recorded either in notes or on tape. Taped addresses have to be transcribed and edited for publication. A draft of the *Bulletin* is produced in time for it to be proofread, corrected and a master copy produced. The master is used to print off the required number of copies. These are collated, stapled, folded, placed in addressed envelopes and posted to reach members before the next meeting.

Using the *Bulletins* for research became harder as the numbers increased. An index was produced making the task easier. Three years ago the *Bulletins* were scanned and saved onto disk in pdf format. The 100,000 words of text can now be searched electronically. [The *Bulletin* set 1961-2006 on CD is on sale at the Library Museum.]

Scanning and saving in digital format shows the advances in technology that are available to amateur organisations such as ours. Computers with desktop publishing programs and digital cameras make the compilation of the *Bulletin* so much easier than it was even ten years ago.

The 100th *Bulletin* came out in November 1970. It gave details on the annual Hovell Tree ceremony. "Primary School students and all schools will as usual be invited and Wodonga West School will take the leading part. The flag-raising ceremony will be in charge of the Senior Scout group." *Bulletin* 200 appeared in November 1982 and included an address by Cleaver Bunton and a report on a visit by members of the Society to Tom and Elaine Mitchell's property at *To-wong Hill*.

*Bulletin* 300 was the first to actually refer to the milestone and was "A Bumper Edition" The Christmas meeting at the CWA Hall was

to be a Bring & Tell and men were reminded they were responsible to provide and serve the supper. Lucy Staton, Ron Braddy and Mrs Alice Haydon told of their most enduring Christmas memories. Howard Jones' book *Albury Heritage* was on sale.

*Bulletin* 400 was outshone a little by the 100th birthday of Mrs Helen Fielder (nee Rosborough). This issue contained a report of a slide show assembled by Mary Thurling and narrated by Helen Livsey.

*Bulletin* 600 will be due out in about 2019 all things continuing as they have, but who will edit it and what its main story will be and whether it will be in paper or digital format is something at which we can only guess.

#### **REPORT OF THE MARCH MEETING 10.3.10**

What an excellent presentation we were treated to at the March meeting. Bill Hayhoe, ably assisted by his daughter Susan, told the story of A Perl & Co, purveyors of men's wear and women's wear for one hundred years in Olive Street Albury. Susan used photographs in a power point presentation to illustrate Bill's comments.

We were pleased to see Joe Wooding back to something approaching his best. Joe spoke about letters written by Thomas Townsend, NSW assistant surveyor who in 1838 was given the task of laying out the town on the Murray River that became Albury. Joe has been working from a microfilm which the Society hired from the National Library of Australia.. The letters are in manuscript and required many hours of painstaking analysis in order to decipher them. Peter Whitbourn provided an answer to the Question of the Month. He had been in the unique position of being the supplier of medical gases to the surgery.

Chris McQuellin completed the evening with an Australiana quiz that proved beyond most of us.

#### **A PERL & CO 1909-2009**

Report on a talk by Bill Hayhoe.

William Hayhoe left school aged 14 and got a job delivering orders for Miss O'Reilly who ran a fruit and vegetable shop in Olive Street located between Ryan's Hotel corner and Hoyts Theatre. When Miss O'Reilly decided to sell out, Bill heard that Geoff Mangan, a junior salesman at A Perl & Co was leaving to work on the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Bill applied for the vacancy



**Mr Alfred Perl 1870-1942 founder of A Perl & Co.  
Mr Perl was remembered as a short man with no hair who always wore brown.**

and got the job. He has been there ever since. "I just love it. I love meeting people," he says 62 years later.

Founder of the business, Alfred Perl was born at Tarnagulla near Bendigo on 25 March 1870. He was the youngest of a family of five children born to Frederick William Theodore Perl and Frances Murrell Perl (nee Harper). Frederick had migrated from Prussia and Frances from Norfolk, England.



**Bill Hayhoe sorting trousers on the cedar shelving units in the shop at 512 Olive Street. Photo c.1965**

Alfred came to Albury as a young man in 1909 and established a drapery business.

In 1910 he bought the stock of J Brann & Co, also a large stock of new and fashionable drapery from a Melbourne House and announced "The Event of the Year, having at an enormous Discount for Cash they will offer the whole to the general public regardless of cost price at their great Opening Sale."

A Perl & Co's shop was at 512 Olive Street. The building was owned by J Brann and later his estate. Various offers to buy, and to sell, did not come to anything and eventually the building was sold to an insurance company. The new owner wished to demolish and rebuild for its own use, so in 1969, A Perl & Co moved to 534 Olive Street, a building owned by Arnolds.

The new building was sometimes characterised by a smell of onions wafting in from Arnold's extensive fruit and vegetable store-houses. The building also had a cellar with a very steep access ladder. The cellar was used for storage. Ascending the ladder with an armful of clothing was a challenge to the fittest salesman. The Hayhoe girls, however, remember how much fun it was to play in the cellar as children. Susan visited the shop recently and asked about the cellar. "Yes it's still there," she was told, "but we don't use it. OHS has deemed it too dangerous."

Alfred Perl never married. When he died in 1942, he left the shop to his original employees Harry Selle and Ambrose Cunningham. He left each of the other staff £100 and his remaining estate to nieces and nephews in Melbourne. Selle and Cunningham jointly managed the store until Selle's death in 1961. Ambrose

Cunningham continued till his death in 1966. Bill Hayhoe then became manager, running the store on behalf of the two men's widows. When Mrs Selle died in 1976, Bill bought her share of the store from her estate and in 1980 upon the death of Mrs Cunningham, he and wife Margaret purchased the remaining interest from the estate, thus becoming joint owners.

In 1981, Arnolds made changes to its business resulting in Perls moving to 550 Olive Street. The new building was renovated and a weekend set aside to move the stock. An amusing incident occurred during the move.

At the time the funeral parlour of Lester & Son was located next door.



**A Perl & Co 534 Olive Street. This was the second of three shops in the one block of Olive Street that have been occupied by Perl's.  
Photo c.1980**

As the day of the move wore on it became obvious stock had to be moved faster. Obliging neighbour Mike Egan, of Lester & Son, offered help in the form of two trolleys. These were loaded with stock, covered with a dust cloth, and wheeled the short distance between the two shops. The process worked wonderfully with only one short interruption when the Senior Sergeant of Police wandered across from the Station opposite, to inquire about the unusual traffic of mortuary trolleys on the footpath.



**Elaine Breen worked at Perls for 27 years. She and Bill Hayhoe are the only staff members who served in all three shops.**

In his 62 years in the business, Bill has seen huge changes in the way shopping is conducted. In his early days docket were hand written in duplicate. These were taken with the cash to the cashier who filed one copy of the docket and gave out the change. Cash registers followed. Now the great majority of transactions use credit cards.

Very little cash is handled. The change from pounds, shillings and pence occurred in 1966 and later clothing sizes came to be expressed in metric measurement.

Furnishings of the new store differ from those in the original store at 512 Olive. No longer are there high cedar counters; stock is no longer stacked on cedar shelves; the flooring is not Murray pine, nor the ceiling lined with cedar panelling. One thing has remained, however; six wooden chairs, rather higher than normal but very comfortable. Today several are in the showroom and the others in the back room.

Over the years the business increased its range of stock to include men's and women's wear, dress materials

and hats. Ladies hats were a popular item especially round the time of the annual shows and various race meetings. Showtime could see sales of 3 to 4 dozen ladies hats. Perl's discontinued dress materials to concentrate on men's and women's wear shortly before major chains Knitwit and Spotlight opened in Albury.

Their clientele included many from the farming community. A popular item of men's wear was shearer's trousers. That was before the Rock & Roll generation took a liking to denim and the ubiquitous fashion item known as jeans was born. Nowadays Perl's draws its clientele from the broad spectrum of society. They still sell jeans.

In the 1950s, shops in Albury closed for one hour at lunchtime. This was inconvenient for farmers who wanted to get their shopping done and return to the farm as quickly as possible. A Mrs Glass from the Kiewa district lobbied for a change with the result shops stayed open all day week days and half day Saturday Late night shopping was restricted to Thursday evening. All this changed when larger stores and supermarkets opened in Albury.

Stability of staff is a feature of Perl's. Alfred Perl was 33 years in the business; Harry Selle 50 years; Ambrose Cunningham 55 years. Mesdames May Clarke and Daisy Gill were 30 and 25 years respectively, and Elaine Breen 27 years. Judy Hayhoe has been 25 years and Bill himself, 62 years and still going.

#### **ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

*The Albury Medical Group Surgery 593 Kiewa Street was demolished recently. What is known about the building and the doctors who practiced there?*

Peter Whitbourn and Helen Livsey provided a comprehensive answer between them. The building was built in 1957 and the doctors began work

there in early 1958. The practice closed in 2008 and the building was demolished the following year.

The Albury Medical Group grew out of a practice known as The Albury Clinic located at 543 Kiewa Street, corner of Engelhardt Street. That building was known to some as the White House. Doctors in The Clinic in 1955 were F G Favalaro, G R Terrey, H M Webber, A B Hogan and H L Brewer. Drs Favalaro and Hogan had left the group by July 1957. Dr D W Oxbrow joined the remaining three for the move into the new building at 593 Kiewa Street.

In 1964 the four partners had been joined by Dr E G Roberts.

In 1970, the group comprised Drs H M Webber, D W Oxbrow, J G Robertson, J Acheson and P H Wearne. Dr Brewer had retired and Dr Terrey had been killed in a motor accident.

In November, 1974, five doctors made up the group: Drs Oxbrow, Robertson, Wearne, Huxtable and Horsfall. Dr J Willinck joined the partnership shortly after. At the time of closure only Drs Robertson and Willinck remained. They both joined the Gardens Medical Group on the corner of Wodonga Place and Smollett Street.

Clinic sisters included Sisters Cottrell, Reiff and A Langlands.

Readers might be able to fill in the gap in our information between 1974 and 2008.

### **THOMAS TOWNSEND LETTERS**

Report by Joe Wooding on letters written by Assistant Surveyor Thomas Scott Townsend 1837-38.

Our interest in Thomas Scott Townsend, Assistant Surveyor with the Surveyor General's Department of New South Wales begins with a letter dated 21 July 1838. Townsend writes to the Surveyor General: "With reference to your letter No 38/358 in which you instruct me to proceed to the Murray River, for the purpose of making a detailed survey of the ground in the neighbourhood of Mungarberrina in order that a Town may be formed there."

At the time of writing Townsend was camped on the Mulwaree Ponds [Goulburn]. He asked for two replacement pack bullocks and boots for his party of seven convicts, along with other supplies before they could set out on an epic journey to the Murray. His request indicates his supplies and equipment were carried on pack animals not on some wheeled vehicle.

He also requested, "two muskets, two pistols and one hundred rounds of ball cartridge... in order that I may defend myself and the party should occasion require it." His request for fire-arms indicates that the region beyond Goulburn was considered uncontrolled and dangerous.

Townsend's survey party comprised seven con-

victs. One was serving a seven year sentence, the remainder, life.

Townsend had a horse, albeit a sick one, but it seems his party walked, leading the pack bullocks. All of his animals were in poor condition owing to poor feed. Presumably, he had no chaff, or grain and had to rely on the animals grazing.

In three letters written in September 1838, Townsend advised that the supplies had reached him, but no replacement bullocks; the survey pegs he had set up in Yass had been removed for the third time; and his horse had died.

He wrote, "After his death, I opened him [the horse] and found his liver in a very (illegible) state and that part of the heart nearest the liver very much discoloured. To this I attribute his death but doubtless it was hastened by the effect of colic."

On 31 October 1838, Townsend wrote from his camp at Gunning. He had almost completed the outstanding surveys in the district, so purchased two bullocks at his own expense in order to push on to the Murray. He did hope to recover the £18 he had outlaid. He does not mention a replacement horse.

The paper trail ends abruptly at that point with a file note: "Townsend's letter dated 12 January 1839 Re Town on the Murray placed with 82 - 19286 Misc."

The Society will endeavour to get this file from the National Library to continue Townsend's narrative.

### **ANOTHER STORY FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS**

Warrawong member, Denice Bartsch, (nee Wilson) responded to the story of the Wishing Well with this memory.



**Mate's sun dial in the Albury Botanic Gardens**

"In 1950 Mate's celebrated their centenary, however now under new management. A Sun Dial was gifted and installed as part of this celebration in the Mate's name. I attended as one of the representative party from Mate's staff.

"Mr Jelbart, a representative of the Hume Shire Council made a speech shocking Mr Gray, the overall manager of Mate's. After praising the emporium for their longevity, he carried on stating that when his family first came to settle in the surrounding area, they loaded their wagons with goodly supplies, returning in a year to make payment and replenish. Then he spoiled the whole thing by stating, now retired, residing in Albury if he did not pay his account in 30 days he was sent a very rude letter! It brought some laughter from the attending people."

### HENTY

Edward Dale brought to the notice of members some heritage attractions at Henty. The Henty museum is located in the cellar at the IGA Supermarket and the office of the historic *Henty Observer* has recently opened. Visits to both are welcome during business hours, or by appointment.

Edward also mentioned that the town is to celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Easter 2011. He appealed for any photographs or other memorabilia people might have. Edward's phone number is (02) 6929 3201.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

#### WODONGA HIGH STREET CROSSING

BMM 2 March 1960

Victoria's Railway Level-Crossing Abolition Committee announced at Wodonga yesterday that it had recommended an underpass to eliminate the High Street crossing.

The unexpected announcement drew immediate abuse and ridicule from councillors. "They said, heatedly, that no attempt to 'foist' either an underpass or overpass would be tolerated by the council, or the rate-payers."

Councillor C F Pollard said: "Surely the government must know that the people won't tolerate any plan for an underpass or overpass. ... Many businesses would be bypassed and therefore ruined."

#### ZEBRA CROSSINGS DEAN STREET ALBURY

BMM 2 March 1960

The distinctive bright yellow zebra crossings which are being painted at Dean Street intersections have been praised by local police as a boon to both motorists and pedestrians. The crossings, the first of which were being put in at the Kiewa-Dean Streets intersection are being painted by council workmen and replace the broken line crossings.

#### ANGLICAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

BMM 3 March 1960

A magnificent community centre, planned to last for centuries, is to be built by the St Matthew's Church of England, Albury, in the Civic Square. St Matthew's Parochial Council envisages a building with an educa-

tional section consisting of classrooms for nursery, kindergarten and primary children, as well as a section for the youth of the parish. There will also be a second, third and fourth sections for various community uses.

### JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

*The Argyle Bulletin: Goulburn HS & FHS Journal*, Feb 2010.

- John Hawthorn: Australia's Bluebeard. *Links 'N' Chains: Liverpool GS Journal*, Feb 2010.
- Transport ship *Fortune* 1813 and the contract for transport of convicts. *Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter* Feb/Mar 2010.
- Auber George Jones 1832-1887, co-founder of *Wagga Daily Advertiser* and property business owner. *Richmond River (Lismore) HS Bulletin*, Mar 2010.
- Barrie Virtue recalls the heady days of Byron Bay 1940-1950. *Stockman's Hall of Fame Newsletter*, Feb 2010.
- Calendar of events for 2010;
- A Drover's story. *Insites: Historic Houses Trust NSW Magazine*, Autumn 2010.
- How we made do in the Great Depression;
- Rouse Hill house and farm.

### BOOKS

A copy of these books is needed for the Albury Library History Room. Can you help?

- *125 years history of the Albury City Band, 1867-1992*, Hannah McCully-Barr.
- *Federation at the border: a thematic history and of places related to federation in the Albury and Corowa district*, Bruce Pennay, 1997.
- *Chinese graves in cemeteries in New South Wales: Albury Pioneer Cemetery, Wagga Wagga Monumental Cemetery, etc.*, Kok Hu Jin, 2003.
- *St Patrick's Church, 1872-1997*, Howard C Jones, 1997.
- *At the going down of the sun ...: a tribute to Lieutenant Ronald William James, 2/23rd Australian Infantry Battalion, 'Albury's Own'*, Neila Foggo, 2005.
- *Murray River people: Aboriginal archaeology/ Aboriginal history*, Tim Murray, 1999.
- *Roll call of the Second Twenty-Third Australian Infantry Battalion, 1940-1945*, Pat Share and Allan Keating (eds), 1994.
- *Mud and Blood: Albury's Own 2/23rd Australian Infantry Battalion*, Pat Share (ed), 1978.

### APRIL ACTIVITIES

as part of NSW Heritage Festival Week

#### Pioneer Cemetery Walk

Sunday 11 April

Meet at Lych-gate, end of David Street at 2 p.m. If you wish, BYO thermos afternoon tea.

#### CBD Laneway Walk

Sunday 18 April

Meet at LibraryMuseum at 2 p.m. Finishes with afternoon tea at LibraryMuseum at 3.20.