

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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JUNE 2010

502

REPORT ON THE MAY MEETING (12/5/10)

The Bonegilla Migrant Centre theme drew a crowd of thirty-three members and guests to the Albury Library Museum for the May meeting.

Bridget Guthrie spoke on the curatorial aspects of interpreting the Bonegilla Collection held by Albury City and showed images of the fledgling museum being established at Block 19.

John Alker-Jones spoke of the trials, tribulations and latterly, success of managing the Bonegilla Migrant Heritage Park in the wider context of Parklands Albury Wodonga, Wodonga City Council and Albury City. John paid tribute to the work of Bruce Pennay in the project.

Ann Hawker gave an excellent address telling of her rather unique experience of firstly being a teenage migrant at Bonegilla and later a staff member at the Centre.

Several members responded to the Question of the Month, telling of their recollections of the coming of migrants, New Australians, to the Albury Wodonga district.

The evening ended with supper and a chance to walk around the Bonegilla Exhibit in the Crossing Place Museum.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What do you remember about the coming of migrants to Bonegilla and the Albury-Wodonga district?

Roma Freeman remembered a migrant who came to work for her father on the farm. He was German and before the war had worked at the factory that made Bulldog Diesel tractors. Roma's father had a Bulldog tractor and better still had a manual written in both German and English. Their worker taught himself English using this manual.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

9 JUNE 2010

7.30pm at Commercial

Club Albury

ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING

See agenda on page 6

*Also: Reminiscences of Adelyn
Clothing Factory, Dot
Hennessy & Henry Livermore*

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

**What do you remember of
photographers who took
photos in Dean Street and
at the Albury Show?**

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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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

June Shanahan remembered the very rudimentary housing erected by migrants. Such was their determination to move out of Bonegilla and get on with their lives.

Shirley Monte was working in a real estate office and remembered the conscientious way New Australians came into the office each week to make repayments on their blocks of land.

Joe Wooding's father was a jeweller and visited Bonegilla to recruit watchmakers. The Wooding's house in Dean Street was large enough to accommodate several of his father's employees. Joe as a boy was intrigued by the practice of making yoghurt. To Joe it seemed like just sour milk and was astonished anyone would eat it.

Ron Haberfield took up this theme. Many New Australians worked at Haberfield's Dairy. They too used stale milk and some cheese whey to make feta cheese. Ron has remained friends with men who worked at the factory for many years.

John Craig worked at Bandiana with New Australians. He remembers the frugality and strangeness of their lunches. He also remembers his first taste of chilies.

Geoff Hamilton remembered the efforts of Apex to provide Christmas presents for the children at the camp especially those in hospital. The director, Colonel Guinn, welcomed any assistance from the community to improve the lives of the Bonegilla residents, especially the children.

EXPERIENCES OF BONEGILLA

A report of a talk by Anne Hawker given at the A&DHS meeting 12 May 2010

Anne Hawker (nee Verloop) was born in Holland. During the Second World War German troops invaded Holland and occupied it for five years. Anne's family was forced to move from their seaside home town to the city of Delft. Anne grew up in wartime conditions of food shortages, occupying troops, air-raids and forced deportation. Anne's father narrowly escaped deportation to Germany. He was taken to the railway station with other able-bodied men, but managed to escape in the confusion as a train arrived.

After the war they returned to their home, but in 1952 decided to leave war ravaged Europe and seek a better life for the children, overseas. The family considered a number of destinations and decided on Australia.

The voyage out was a great deal of fun for a sixteen year old: new friends, swimming, dancing and games filled the days. The ship berthed in Melbourne and the family was put on a train for the final leg of the journey to Bonegilla. The train rolled on through seemingly endless empty countryside: trees, sheep, an occasional farmhouse, a village, then more trees, more sheep.

It was night when the train stopped at a raised mound of earth in a paddock that proclaimed itself to be Bonegilla and had a notice that instructed intending passengers to flag the engine driver as the train approached.

Buses took the passengers to the Migrant Centre: first stop the Reception Centre then two small rooms in an accommodation block. Anne's parents shared one room with her young brother while she and her sister shared the other. In the darkness, the sisters heard their parents laughing. "What's going on?"

"We were just thinking what would our relatives in Holland think if they could see us now!"

The next morning the family viewed their new home for the first time in daylight. The waters of the Hume Weir made it look not too bad.

Anne was offered a job working at a hotel. "No!" said her mother. "Yes!" said Anne, "I will improve my English."

Anne's first impression of the Jindera Hotel with its hitching rail and horse trough was that it was the Wild West and she would be a barmaid. "How exciting!" she thought.

But no, the landlady made it clear she was not to go near the bar, she was only sixteen. So it was sweeping, cleaning, making beds, washing up.

At the time, migrants were allowed to leave Bonegilla only if they had a job, and more importantly, accommodation. Anne found accommodation for her family sharing a farmhouse at Jindera and her father found a job, so they were able to move from the Migrant Centre.

Several months later, however, there was an advertisement in the *Border Morning Mail* seeking someone with a knowledge of European languages. Anne had studied four languages at school in Holland, so at her mother's insistence applied for and got the job.

Thus, at seventeen, Anne moved back to Bonegilla to work as an interpreter in the office and at the hospital. As a staff member she gained a unique insight into the psyche of the migrants passing through Bonegilla.

She saw their desperation. Many were stateless people whose families, communities and countries had been shattered. They had been gathered in to Displaced Persons (DP) camps across western Europe where they spent years waiting for resettlement. Most arrived in Australia, not by choice as had Anne's family, but through a desperate wish to escape the frustration and boredom of the camps and the reminders of the horrors and wretchedness of post-war Europe. Somewhere, anywhere as long as it was far away.

She remembered hearing the doctor in charge of the Bonegilla Hospital saying the medical orderlies he supervised were better qualified doctors than he was, but were not able to practise in Aus-

tralia till their qualifications were verified. Many did go on to distinguished careers.

German was the lingua franca of the DP camps and during the early years became so at Bonegilla. Anne found herself speaking German during her visits to her family when she was sure she was speaking Dutch.

By mid-1950 the source of migrants changed from DP camps to people, especially young men, escaping economic turmoil in Europe and seeking jobs in Australia. Conditions in Australia did not always deliver the promised jobs and disturbances occurred at Bonegilla. The food too was a source of discontent. The food itself was not bad, but the cooking and presentation was unappetising.

Anne married in 1957 and resigned from her job, concluding a unique five year experience of Bonegilla Migrant Centre.

For a fuller account of Anne's story see interview with Bridget Guthrie on <www.belongings.au>

ALBURY LANEWAYS GUIDED WALK 18 APRIL 2010

Notes prepared by Joe Wooding with additional information by Chris McQuellin and Ray Gear.

The walk began and finished at Woods Lane adjacent to the Albury Library Museum.

WOODS LANE - Named after Dr Cleaver Woods who lived at *Valetta*, one of Albury's finest residences, built in 1898 and demolished in 1969. The Convention Centre now stands in its place. The lane ran all the way south to St Matthews Rectory and serviced the rear of Belbridge Hague, Champions Auto Electricians & Batteries, The Hub Arcade, West Motors to name a few. It had a Kiewa Street entrance about half way down. Somebody built a Library Museum over this end of it 3 years ago.

NORMAN & HEATH LANE - is a right-of-way and not owned by Albury City, although negotiations on its future are at present under way. The first structure here was the Temperance Hall built in 1885. This then became the Federal Theatre in 1890 with Norman and Heath taking over in 1908, when it became a skin and hide store. After the war, Ron Moss operated a service station fronting Kiewa Street dispensing 4 different brands of petrol. The site was demolished in 1965.

ALBURY CLUB LANE - seems to have been swallowed up for parking. Around 1910, William Malcolm had a reception hall and an open air picture theatre next to the Albury Club with access from Kiewa Street. The Albury Club has grown considerably since first established on this site in 1877.

Incidentally, the first moving pictures ever seen in Albury were shown in the Mechanics Institute in Dean Street when the Fitzsimmons-Corbett

title fight in Nevada, USA, was shown in November 1897.

GLOBE LANE - In 1849, John Roper bought 5½ acres from the Dean & Kiewa Streets corner to the Bungambrawatha Creek. The creek in those days flowed roughly down Elizabeth Street. He built the Globe Hotel in 1860 and in 1862 was Albury's second Mayor. In 1847, he was appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions in Albury. The Roper River in Northern Territory was named after him when he was a member of Leichardt's exploration of the northern parts of Australia in 1844/45. He died at Merriwa in September 1895. Numerous additions have been added, the verandah itself in 1870 from which many political speeches were delivered. Some notable visitors have stayed at this establishment over the years. Mr Price, an American aeronaut was one. In 1890 Price conducted a hot air balloon flight that went wrong forcing him to parachute to safety. He landed on the roof of the Globe, ironically his lodgings during his visit. His calico balloon landed on the Court House.

In 1891, the amateurs of the touring English test team in transit from Sydney to Melbourne by rail, stayed overnight while the professionals stayed at the less prestigious Albury Hotel just across the road.

The cream of the amateurs was none other than Dr W G Grace whose tour retainer was £3,000 plus expenses for him, his wife and 2 children. The English manager at the time was Lord Sheffield who chose to make a more comfortable journey from Sydney to Melbourne by ship where he was to leave £150 pounds for the establishment of the Sheffield Shield trophy between the Colonies. It was first contested in 1892.

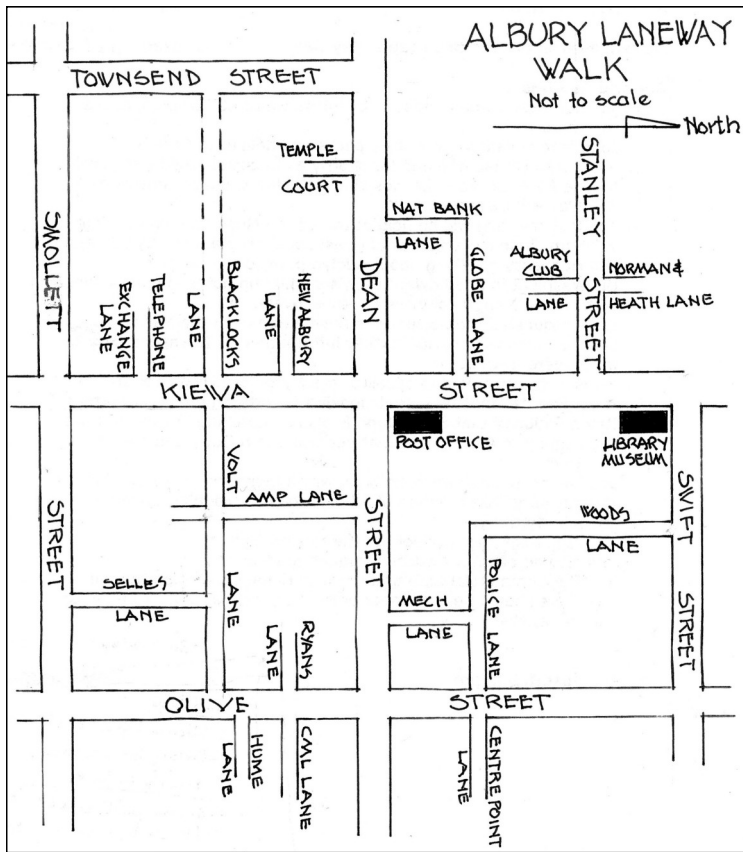
In 1934, the crew of the *Uiver* stayed after they had an unscheduled visit to Albury.

NATIONAL BANK LANE - The American Dry Cleaners had all of the western side of this lane. There was a 'tradesman's entrance' to the Commercial Club and Bowling Green. It is only in more recent times that the two lanes were joined.

TEMPLE COURT - is best remembered for dentists. Tom Moore practiced here for many years. He took over from Dr Kenna, who died in 1948 after 32 years in Temple Court. Both were seriously good Albury cricketers. Radio 2C0 also had a studio here.

* *

Travelling east in Dean Street, you can see the top of the New Albury Hotel where Ray Gear will cover some of its history. The Albury



ies Ltd had purchased the Albury Hotel at 579 Dean Street and originally proposed to replace it with a new structure. Three years later they decided however to erect a new five storey hotel costing £35,000 on the Kiewa Street part of the Albury Hotel site.

The New Albury Hotel, as it was named, was designed by Melbourne architect W H Merritt in the international style and opened for business on the 1 July 1939, the day after the Albury Hotel ceased trading. Its first licensee was Sydney Charles Short.

The building was placed on the NSW Heritage List in 1985.

BLACKLOCKS LANE - The story will be relayed by Chris McQuellin. This lane spans the full block from Townsend Street to Kiewa Street. For many years Madge Mangan ran a bicycle shop with a few petrol bowsers at the western end, while F C Blacklock had his showroom at the eastern end. In between was an assortment of repair shops and sheds. Access to the Palais Skating Rink and open air dance area was possible from this lane. Originally, F C Blacklock had all new cars at the Mangan end.

Hotel, built in 1877, now ANZ Bank and Fletcher Jones, is where the English professionals stayed. The license was transferred to the New Albury.

The Post Office was built in 1878 and the clock first struck in November 1879. This site was originally the Telegraph Office built in 1861 and converted to a Post Office in 1870. Traffic lights were installed on this intersection in 1967.

NEW ALBURY LANE - At a Council meeting in August 1886, a dirty lane was discussed, Mr Charles Schmiedt of the Albury Hotel wanted permission to spread gravel there to make it passable. This was a problem because the lane was not under Council control and any drainage work would set a precedent for other quagmires to attract Council action. Alderman McDonald stated that if Schmiedt's Lane was to be improved, he would seek to have the lane beside the Rose Hotel to be treated in the same manner.

On the site of the New Albury at that time were stables belonging to the Carter Bros. Apart from making a mess of the lane, their main claim to fame was that they provided stabling, rest and recreation for well known 1890 Melbourne Cup winner Carbine when he was being railed between Melbourne and Sydney.

Additional information from Ray Gear

The sampling rooms at No 491 Kiewa Street that were part of the Albury Hotel were demolished in November 1938 to make way for a major redevelopment. In early 1935, Richmond Brewer-

Additional information from Chris McQuellin

The Kiewa Street part of Blacklock's was originally used for used car display whilst the section in Townsend Street was an exclusive Ford dealership show room and petrol station.

The garage with floor space of about 11,000 square feet was erected by Messrs Frew and Logan behind the premises at one time used as a drapery shop by John Mullarky and the late K McLauran. Steady expansion of his business continued and in 1923 the new premises and showrooms were erected by Mr S M Logan.

Fred Blacklock held the Riverina agency for Ford cars, and in 1929 he erected the fine garage for the exclusive use of Ford cars in Townsend Street. Blacklock was a large employer of labour, his staff numbering from 45 to, at times, 60 workers.

The building located on this site had all the facets of the motoring sector not seen in any one business today. He had a panel beating and repair shop including painting, trimming, radiator repairs and mechanical repairs including engine building. Today these trades are separate businesses.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE LANE - simply a right-of-way to the rear of several shops - made the news recently when a worker dislocated his shoulder in a small roof space.

VOLT LANE - The Rose Hotel built in 1853 was on the corner facing Kiewa Street. In 1868 the owner, Mr John Nicholls, put it up for sale. Part of the description reads: "Frontage to Kiewa

Street, 132 ft' frontage to Olive Street, 66 ft. 15 Rooms and large Public Room (Bar), Coach Houses, Stabling for 19 horses, Hay Loft, 3/4 acre vines and excellent orchard."

Volt Lane obtained its name in 1916 when Albury first got electricity. The Rose Hotel was the venue for some early Council meetings and housed Albury's first Telegraph Office in 1858 until a new office was built on the current Post Office corner in 1861.

A.M.P. LANE - had the insurance giant on the corner of Dean Street since 1870s, hence the name. T H Mate & Co applied to the Council in 1924 to extend their department store with a six storey building in A.M.P. Lane. When the futuristic plan was brought before Council, the civic fathers were mortified and opposed the move and the plan was scrapped. In 1929 Mate's completed the second storey over the entire building. Prior to that it had only had a second storey section on the Dean Street frontage. Other features of the 1916 building, it was rebuilt after a fire the previous year, was a basement and Albury's first cantilevered verandah.

SELLES LANE - Virtually unknown, but in the 1880s, Mr F A Selle owned considerable property in Dean, Olive and Smollett Streets. In August 1877, improvements in Dean Street were announced. The additions included a large room extending over the right-of-way adjoining Mr Higgins' premises. Off this lane, Mr Selle also had 2 acres set aside with stables and accommodation for farmers who brought their produce to town

RYANS LANE - rear access to numerous shops in Olive Street is provided.

C.M.L. LANE - In 1924, the C.M.L. was constructed amid much controversy. The building encroached on Olive Street footpath by 7 inches; the awning was unsatisfactory and had to be strengthened, and the right-of-way at its Southern end was only 6 ft 3in at Olive Street instead of 10 ft as planned. Albury Municipal Council voted 4 - 3 to allow the encroachment to remain. The building was officially opened in October 1925. In 1937, a shop and eight two-storey living units were added to the south end - you can see the new alignment of the newer section.

HUME LANE - This lane is only used by Hume Building Society. At one time it joined to the CML right-of-way with an exit in Harrison's Lane.

CENTREPOINT RIGHT-OF-WAY - gives access to rear of several Olive Street shops, but not Centrepoint. Motor Spares used to be on the northern corner.

POLICE LANE - was opposite, but now covered by the Courthouse. The Police Station was on one corner with the brick hall of St Matthews

on the other. Both were demolished in 1963.

MECHANICS LANE - joined Police Lane at right angles outside St Matthews Tennis Courts. Criminals were marched down these lanes to the Courthouse cells.

WOODS LANE south end, and back to the Library Museum.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

The Muster: Gosford FHS Journal, April 2010.

• Annie's Story.

Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists Journal, March, 2010.

• Presidents and Councilors reports for A.G.M. 2010.

Murrumbidgee Ancestor: Wagga FHS Journal, February 2010.

• The Murrumbidgee Squatting District by Henry Bingham 1839;

• Indian hawkers; yesterday's travelling salesmen. *Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter*, April/May 2010.

• Days of Yore; St. Marks Church and Parish, Tarcutta;

• Historic properties, Riverina Club.

Ancestry: Burwood FHG Journal, March 2010.

• German Migrant ships to Australia Part 16. "Commodore Perry" 1855.

History: Royal Australian Historical Society Magazine, March 2010.

• Calendar of Events March/July 2010;

• Annual Report 2009;

Macquarie Place Park added to State Heritage Register

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009-2010

By Chris McQuellin May 2010

The Society has had a good year with the active contribution of members engaged in history research, local history publications and active participation in our events. On the community activities front, June Shanahan again had a very successful valuation day, and we had a great street (laneways) walk hosted by Joe and Jill Wooding, and of course our very well-attended Pioneer Cemetery walk in April this year. Helen Livsey also has done a great community job for us as our Research Officer in fielding many requests for assistance on historic facts, family history.

I am also pleased to report that the Society has had a continuing harmonious affiliation with AlburyCity LibraryMuseum over the last 12 months. A special thank you to Carina Clement, the Libraries and Museum team leader and her staff.

The Society started the 2009-2010 year in the AlburyCity Council Chambers by celebrating 150

years of local government in Albury including a welcoming ceremony by Nancy Rooke, our local Wiradjuri elder. We ended the year with a meeting hosted by the staff at the LibraryMuseum. The annual retirement village community meeting was at Dellacourt Hostel, with the remainder of the monthly meetings held courtesy of the Commercial Club Albury. We are again indebted to the Commercial Club for their provision of a room for our meetings.

Our guests during the year included Patricia Gould, David Nicholson, Stuart Richardson, Kevin Wild, Bill and Susan Hayhoe, Anne Hawker and John Alker-Jones. There was a great variety of member speakers without whose enthusiasm and research capability we would not be the society we are today. Our active speaking members included Howard Jones, Jan Hunter, Joe Wooding, Ray Gear, Doug Hunter, Doug Royal, Catherine Browne and Chris McQuellin.

Membership has remained almost static but it is pleasing to report that our website has become increasingly popular with over 10,500 individual enquiries to date. There has been a modest financial cost to us with the Society moving to this new technology. The A&DHS website has some recurring costs which have had some impact on the financial position in our working account, as have upwards cost pressures due to insurance and administrative costs of the A&DHS as an incorporated body. The Society Investment Account remains unaffected.

The A&DHS Committee has been working consistently to bring informative guest speakers to our meetings and also to encourage member participation in historical research for the educational enhancement of all our members. Special thanks to Doug Hunter the A&DHS Bulletin editor for his untiring work keeping us all informed.

We have three retiring committee members this year, Carole Whitbourn, John Craig and Jan Marsden. I would like to thank each of them on behalf of all the Society members. Carole, John and Jan have given us their dedicated service and they will be sadly missed.

SWIFT MOVES IN RAT WEEK CAMPAIGN

Border Morning Mail 12 August 1948

A number of people have already had notices to kill rats on their properties served on them, said the Chief Health Inspector for Albury (Mr T Morrow) yesterday.

Mr Morrow, who is carrying out an inspection as part of the "Kill the Rat Week Campaign," said people must be made to realise the danger carried by these pests. Diseases were spread by them, and unless residents took care and assisted in driving

AGM AGENDA

Minutes of the AGM 10.6.2009
President's Report
Treasurer's Report & Audited Accounts
Appointment of interim chairman to conduct election.

Election of Office Bearers:

Nominations in []

President [*Chris McQuellin*]

Vice-presidents (2) [*Joe Wooding, June Shanahan*]

Secretary [*Helen Livsey*]

Treasurer [*Michael Browne*]

Minute Secretary [*Catherine Browne*]

Committee of 6 [*Bridget Guthrie, Doug Hunter, Jessica May, Ray Gear, Jill Wooding, vacant*]

Appointments

Public Officer [*Helen Livsey*]

Bulletin Editor [*Doug Hunter*]

General business:

Setting of annual subscription

[*Recommendation: Single \$25; Family \$33; Corporate \$50*]

Meeting closure

the rats out of the district once and for all, the menace would become so bad that it might become uncontrollable.

Mr Morrow said Holbrook, like Albury, was also going through a rat plague, and the whole-hearted support of all sections of the community was required.

It was difficult to ascertain how many rats had been killed in the early days of the campaign, because rat poison, which did not kill for 36 to 48 hours, was being used.

Mr Morrow said he hoped for a great response and excellent results from the effort.

FACES IN THE STREET

A History Week Project in September

Do you have any photos of yourself or relatives & friends taken in Dean Street? If so, Jan Hunter would like to hear from you. Ph 6021 2835 or <djhjrh@bigpond.com>