



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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JULY 2010

503

## REPORT ON THE JUNE MEETING (9/6/10)

Our June meeting incorporating the Annual General Meeting was surprisingly well attended given that a number of regulars could not be present. The meeting began with a presentation by Dr Tuija Turenan and Dr Rosemary Farrell, both of Charles Sturt University, explaining an oral history project they are engaged in, "Narratives in Transition". They are seeking people willing to be interviewed about their recollections of starting school. (Contact details later in the Bulletin)

Guest speakers Dot Hennessy and Henry Livermore then gave a highly entertaining and interesting talk about working for Albury clothing factory, Adelyn. The factory, initially known as Alamac, first operated from premises in central Albury and was engaged in war production. With a change in ownership, the business became Adelyn and moved to a purpose built factory in South Albury. Henry began as a boy just out of school and worked as Dot's assistant in the cutting room. He later left to work for Albury City Council. Dot ran the cutting room and had a long career with Adelyn. She also had a sometimes hilarious night job as usherette and later hostess at Albury's Regent Theatre.

Several members of the Society remembered professional photographers in Dean Street. Laurie Macaulay, who with his wife started Marguerite Studios, was one. Before striking out on his own Laurie worked for Raynes Studios.

Jan Hunter spoke of the up-coming project in Heritage Week that is to be on the theme "Faces in the Street". There will be a talk at the LibraryMuseum featuring five women who have been

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

14 JULY 2010

7.30pm at Commercial Club  
Albury

Speaker: Bruce Pennay  
"Drysdale's wartime Albury"  
also  
Michael Browne's mystery ob-  
ject

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

A park in Creek Street is named Gertrude Colquhoun Park. Who was Gertrude Colquhoun and what did she do in the Albury community? Is she commemorated anywhere else in the city?

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**Patron:** Harold Mair OAM

**Honorary Life Members**

Howard Jones, Anne Davies,  
Helen Livsey,

**Public Officer:** Helen Livsey

**President:** Christopher McQuellin  
02 6021 3697

**Vice-Presidents:** Joe Wooding, June Shanahan

**Secretary:** Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671

**Treasurer:** Michael Browne

**Minute Secretary:** Catherine Browne

**Committee:** Jill Wooding, Doug Hunter, Ray  
Gear, Bridget Guthrie, Jessica May and Eric  
Cossor.

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PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

**Journals & Stock:** John Craig  
**Membership list & Bulletin dispatch:** Ray  
Gear

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.

Enquiries in writing with \$25

**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)

prominent in Albury and a montage of photographs taken in Dean Street over the years. Jan thanked members who have agreed to be speakers on the day and also those who have responded to her request for photos taken in Dean Street.

Bridget Guthrie gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the transformation that has been wrought at the Museum Collection Store at Thurgoona. Racking and shelving, labelling and boxing has transformed the chaos of a year ago when everything was moved from the Turks Head.

Doug Hunter spoke briefly on the Light Horse Museum at North Bandiana where the collection is being removed from the present building and placed in storage. It is very much in the chaos stage at present, so Bridget's example at Thurgoona should be an encouragement to the team. The present building dates from 1942 and has been condemned owing to structural deterioration of the roof trusses.

Chairman Chris McQuellin then declared the Annual General Meeting open. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed; president's and treasurer's reports were received, and election of officers and committee was conducted. See separate report.

#### **ADELYN CLOTHING FACTORY**

**Report on a talk by Dot Hennessy & Henry Livermore**

Two gentlemen, Alan Jones and Ken McCargill began a clothing factory which they called Alamac in 1943. The workrooms were located in a building just south of CML in Olive Street. The factory was engaged in defence production and had contracts for drill trousers, drill berets and bandoleers. Dot Hennessy (nee McMahon) had always been interested in fashion, but opportunities were limited in Albury. She would have needed to go to Melbourne to train and her mother would not allow that.

So Dot began an apprenticeship as a hairdresser with the Lola Wigg Salon in Dean Street. Out of the blue came an advertisement in the Border Morning Mail; Alamac was seeking the services of a fashion cutter. Dot's mother was not impressed but Dot applied for and got the job.

The cutting room was located across the



**Adelyn factory, on the corner of Wodonga Place and Hovell Street.**  
**The building was used by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus from 1979 to 2009 when it was demolished to make way for a new purpose-built training facility**

road from the factory in Volt Lane behind Hoyts Theatre. Dot loved the cutting, but lifting the large bolts of cloth was beyond her and the rather tiny lady assisting her. A strong man was needed. That is where Henry Livermore came in. Henry was just out of school and seemingly did not quite fulfill the description of a strong man. But, it was wartime and boys, and girls, stepped up to take the place of those away with the forces. Henry did the job, and between games of basketball in the back lane, the pair managed to keep the two lines of machinists in the Olive Street factory fully occupied.

The machinists were arranged either side of a conveyor belt. Each machinist sewed a single process then passed the article to the next girl who sewed her piece. In this way, the article began at one end of the line as pieces of cloth and reached the other end as a finished article. There were about thirty girls in each line, so the Olive Street factory employed sixty on the floor.

Sometime about 1945, Mr P J Phibbs died. He was Dot's uncle and owned a parcel of land in South Albury on the corner of Wodonga Place and Hovell Street. About this time, the owners of Alamac sold the business to a Melbourne based company, White Manufacturing. White Manufacturing changed the name to Adelyn. They purchased the Phibbs land and built a factory.

Dot and Henry moved their cutting operation to the partially completed building. Building materials were in critically short

supply. There was no floor in most of the new building, so the machinist lines remained at Olive Street until the factory was made ready for occupation. Eventually four lines of machinists were set up at Hovell Street and the factory in Olive Street closed. Henry left to take up a position with Albury City Council. Dot was promoted to line supervisor. Mr Alain Gregson took over the cutting operations. Mr Gregson being one of very few men in a factory of girls suffered a great deal of teasing. The factory manageress, Miss Rogers, sought Dot's advice on how to get the girls to stop, but Dot was at a loss too. They were a wonderful, but boisterous lot of girls she recalled.

Dot was offered an evening job as an usherette at the Regent Theatre. She approached Mr Ray Woods, the manager of Adelyn and asked his opinion. "You'll be too tired to work", he told her. She took the job and remembers running up and down the carpeted stairs with her little torch. The owner, Mr Pivot Smith, was a wonderful person to work for.

One evening Dot was called to the office. The usual hostess, the lady in the hooped ball-gown who stood at the top of the stairs to welcome patrons, was absent and Dot was to fill in.

"The dress won't fit me," said Dot.

"Yes it will!" said the manager's wife, Mrs George Osborne, and proceeded to unpick and pin. The other girl never did return and Dot graced the stairs for years. The hooped dress was much admired by children. Dot found it was useful because it covered the hot-water bottle she laid across her feet to counter the cold draught from the door to the roof garden on winter evenings.

Following the end of the war, Adelyn switched



**Adelyn factory surrounded by flood waters. The factory itself was not flooded, but the staff had to be ferried to work on the back of a truck.**



**Adelyn float participating in the Albury Floral Festival.**

to peacetime production. Women's wear was produced under a number of fashion labels. At its peak Adelyn employed 400.

Social activities among the staff were many. Adelyn sponsored a queen in the annual Floral Festival and many hours were spent in fund raising and in the design and construction of the float for the parade. Dot's flair for design was put to good use in the design of the float. On one occasion the queen Maureen Hogan was perched on top of the float with her dress spread over the flower encrusted superstructure. Dress materials were still hard to come by so the queen's dress was made from Mrs Woods' wedding dress. Mrs Wood was the wife of the Adelyn manager.

After Dot married and left Adelyn, her float designing skills were still called upon by the Floral Festival organizer, Alderman Cleaver Bunton. She designed the Albury Football Club float for a number of years.

Floats consisted of a light wooded frame covered with hessian and mounted on a utility or truck. Thousands of flowers were made from crepe paper. The flower's thin wire stem was poked through the hessian to get the desired effect. The work took many hours and involved the club supporters across the town.

Dot and Henry look back with pleasure on their time at Adelyn and the many friends they made there.

**NARRATIVES OF TRANSITION  
a CSU Project**

**Contact detail if you are interested in taking part in the project:**

**Dr Tuija Turunen  
Post Doctoral Research Fellow  
Charles Sturt University  
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### REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The president's report, printed in Bulletin 502 June 2010, was received, and Geoff Hamilton moved a motion congratulating president, Chris McQuellin and the officers and committee on the conduct of activities for the year.

Treasurer, Michael Browne, presented a report showing an \$85 decline in the balance in the operating account compared to last year.

He pointed out that the current balance included \$535 of unspent funds raised at the annual collectables valuation day (September 09) and earmarked for the purchase of local history reference books to replace those transferred to Upper Murray Regional Library when Albury withdrew from UMRL last year. We have a list of books to acquire, but because they are out-of-print finding second hand copies takes time.

If the money set aside for that purpose is not taken into account, then a truer picture of the Society's finances is that income fell \$620 short of expenses. At the same time, our fixed deposit has continued to accumulate with the interest being compounded. To date it has not been necessary to draw on that interest, but that will change in the future.

Major expenses have been: insurances, printing & postage, A&DHS website and email facility, and auditor's expenses. With this in mind the treasurer moved a committee recommendation that annual subscriptions be increased to \$25 single, \$33 family and \$50 corporate. This was accepted by the meeting.

The following office-bearers and committee were appointed for 2010-2011:

**President:** Chris McQuellin

**Vice-presidents:** Joe Wooding & June Shanahan

**Secretary:** Helen Livsey

**Treasurer:** Michael Browne

**Minute secretary:** Catherine Browne

**Committee:** Jill Wooding, Doug Hunter, Ray Gear, Bridget Guthrie, Jessica May and Eric Cossor.

The president thanked the three retiring committee members: Jan Marsden, Carole Whitbourn and John Craig, and welcomed the new committee members: Jessica May, Bridget Guthrie and Eric Cossor.

Helen Livsey was appointed **Public Officer** and Doug Hunter, **Bulletin Editor**.

### LEWIS JONES IN AJHS NEWSLETTER

Howard Jones' article "Pickpocket to Pioneer Publican" a history of convict Lewis Jones, an Albury publican who became mayor in 1867, appears in the Australian Jewish Historical Society

### CONDOLENCES

The Society extends sincere condolences to Helen & John Livsey on the loss of their daughter Carmel, and to Carole & Peter Whitbourn on the passing of Carole's mother, Mrs Jean Spurr.

Newsletter No 88 June 2010. In the article Howard mentions two other prominent Albury citizens with whom Jones shared a Jewish heritage: Morris Asher who served a brief term as Member for Hume, which included Albury, in the NSW Parliament, and Lewis Solomon a fellow publican who in 1871, also became mayor of Albury.

### RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Members of the Society who are engaged in research include:

- Joe Wooding: studying the letters of surveyor Thomas Scott Townsend relating to Albury;
- Michael Browne: The plane built in 1914 by aspiring Albury aeronauts Vivian Porter & Azor Robbins;
- Edward Dale: Railway stations between Henty and Albury and the rail motor that ran a daily service for school children;
- Bill Washington: Albury business-woman Madge Mangan and her bicycle shop; and
- Jan Hunter: Albury glaziers Arthur Brown and Bruce & Herb Styles.

In research, one needs to have luck and the more people who are aware of one's particular interest, the luckier one becomes.

If you think you might know something that would interest these researchers please talk to them.

If you would like to make our members aware of your project, please tell the Editor who will put it in the next Bulletin.

### ADVANCED NOTICES

#### *Faces in the Street*

a NSW History Week activity

Sunday 5 September 2010

at the Albury LibraryMuseum

Talk commences 2 p.m.

Jan Hunter Coordinator

\* \*

Antiques & Collectables Valuation Day

Saturday 9 October 2010

commencing at 10 a.m. at the

Albury LibraryMuseum.

June Shanahan Coordinator