



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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SEPTEMBER 2010

505

REPORT ON THE AUGUST MEETING (11/8/10)

Thirty-two members and guests attended the August meeting of the Society at the Commercial Club. Six speakers made informative and entertaining presentations. Joe Wooding presented a second selection of letters to surveyor, Thomas Scott Townsend giving detailed instructions for his survey of the settlement of Albury in 1838.

Visiting historian Frank O'Rourke spoke on his research into settlement in the Riverina, especially soldier settlers following both World wars. The talk was supported by a PowerPoint presentation.

Roma Freeman showed the Dutch Girl costume that her mother had made for her to wear to a school function at Walla Walla in the 1950s. Roma spoke about her childhood in the rural district.

Geoff Hamilton spoke about the establishment of the Albury & District Historical Society at a public meeting called by the mayor Cleaver Bunton OBE in November 1960 and reminded us of some of the activities in which the Society has participated through the 50 years of its existence. Geoff spoke of the Regional Museum which opened in 1967 at the Turks Head, the work involved in transporting the waterwheel (our logo) from Tallandoon and setting it up at Australia Park ready for the presentation to the City of Albury on 21 November 1969.

Geoff read extracts from Mrs Frank Boyes history of the Society *The First 21 Years*, noting the occasions the Society manned an Information Stand at the annual Albury Trade Fair held in the Farmers & Graziers woolstore before it was renovated for the

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY

8 SEPTEMBER 2010

7.30pm at Albury Library
Museum

Theme:

Faces in the Street: Five women in Albury: Ella Allan, Tija Savickis, Raie Langley, Bobby Derkenne and Margaret Court.

Please bring a plate for supper

NOTE MEETING
LOCATION

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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

Tax Office. The Society became incorporated in 1987.

Chris McQuellin brought a report on efforts to locate Robert Brown's Hut on the bank of the Murray River near the Hovell Tree.

Jan Hunter showed a photograph of a family in David Street with the Betro Abikhair house in the background. The roof of the house is still visible but the lower section of the house is now obscured by extensions to the Australian Building, once the Big Store but now Lighting Bonanza.

Joe Wooding was able to provide a well researched answer to the question about the naming of Garden Street at the western end of Dean Street.

SOLDIER SETTLERS AT MUNDAWADRA

Report on talk by Frank O'Rourke

Frank O'Rourke is currently travelling round NSW interviewing surviving Soldier Settlers as part of a Masters Degree he is doing at UNE. His thesis for a previous degree concentrated on the Soldier Settler Scheme on the Mundawadra estate near Henty and Yerong Creek.

The Mundawadra Run has a long and colourful history prior to being broken up for soldier settlement after WWII. The first owner was Charles Edghill, squatter and property owner in the Howlong district. Later the Scottish-Australian Investment Company took over Edghill properties, built a homestead and installed Henry Eldershaw as manager. Eldershaw, as a youth, once drove cattle from NSW to Melbourne, employing Joe Byrne and Dan Kelly as stockmen on the way!

In an outbuilding at the Mundawadra homestead, Frank was shown an inscription made by one of three Italian POWs while working at the property during WWII. It is thought one of the three returned to Hume Camp near *Hawksview* and drowned while swimming at Hume Weir.

Frank very kindly presented the Society with a book he has written, based on his thesis. The book is called *A History of the Mundrawaddera Run/Mundawadra Station & the Mundrawaddera Soldier Settlement Estate: The very last NSW WWII Soldier Settlement Estate* and will be placed in the Local History resources section at the Albury Library Museum.

THOMAS SCOTT TOWNSEND 1812 -1869 - PART 2

By Joe & Jill Wooding

At the March meeting, (see *Bulletin 500*) some of Thomas Scott Townsend's letters to the Survey Office in Sydney were presented, including his reply dated 21 July 1838, to his instructions to proceed to the Murray in order that a town may



Washington family: Faces in the Street
Note Betro Abikhair house, David Street, in background. Roof line only is still visible behind extended Lighting Bonanza store.

be formed there. I am now able to quote the letter giving him instructions from Captain Samuel Augustus Perry, Deputy Surveyor General, dated 5 July 1838:

The Governor having been pleased to approve of the establishment of a township at the point where the road to Port Phillip crosses the Murray, and having directed that you should take measures for carrying this into effect with as little delay as possible, in order that a Post House, Police Station and houses of public entertainment as well as a ferry may be established there, and give request that you will proceed to the spot and make careful survey of the ground from three miles above Mangarberrina (Mr Ebden's station) to three miles below the crossing place on the Murray and transmit you a plan of it, with every possible detail relating to the river and its banks, together with a report specifying the changes to which it is subject at different seasons of the year, the formation of the country and the nature of the soil.

In order that the ferry may be placed at the most eligible spot, it is particularly necessary that information should be afforded as to the character of the channel through which the river flows. I have therefore to request that you will furnish sections at several points where the approach is convenient, either for fording the river or placing a ferry.

As the present line of road has been adopted upon a very casual examination of the country, there is a possibility that it may be considered expedient to alter it in the neighbourhood of Mr Ebden's station. It is therefore desirous that you should ascertain the nature of the Murray from opposite the mouth of Bouna Creek to another tributary on the left bank.

Having satisfied yourself of the proper position for the township, you will prepare and transmit to me a plan of the ground for its site on the customary scale, reporting upon every point that requires to be noticed, in laying out the streets and showing distinctly what portions of ground may be advantageously divided into

allotments, not exceeding twenty-five acres each, for cultivation and paddocks, and you will observe with respect to the building allotments that no ground will be appropriated that is within five chains of the river so that the approaches to the ferry may be unobstructed. A tracing from Mr Butler's plan of the road is transmitted herewith.

P.S. If the position where the road crosses the Murray should be found to be decidedly the most eligible spot for the town, you will proceed to lay it out at once and transmit me a plan and description of five sections or blocks of allotments which, with the exception of such reserves as may appear expedient for a church, Police Office, Post Office and other public establishments, will be immediately put up for sale.

Thomas Townsend was described as 5ft 11 in tall with a red beard and a very excitable temperament. To understand something of the task given to him and the environment in which he operated, we need to look at some facts before he even set foot in what is now Albury.

All surveying in Eastern Australia was under the control of the Surveyor General based in Sydney. By 1820, the operations of the tiny Survey Department had fallen greatly into arrears owing to the huge demand for grazing land.

Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies in London, ordered in 1825 that a systematic survey of the Colony should be carried out. The land was to be divided into Counties, each about 40 miles square (1600 square miles). These were then sub-divided into Hundreds of about 100 square miles then further divided into Parishes of about 25 square miles each. Rivers, hills and ravines were to be used as natural boundaries. As surveys progressed, areas were to be set aside for properly planned townships, roads, public parks and recreation grounds.

In 1827, the work of overcoming the arrears totalling thousands of square miles and tidying up the disorganized state of maps and plans in the Sydney Office fell on Major Thomas Livingstone Mitchell.

Mitchell, born in Scotland in 1792, joined the Army and served in the Peninsular War against Napoleon where he was mainly engaged in preparing intelligence maps for senior officers. By 1834, the Survey Department, under Mitchell, had measured some 2 million of the 3¹/₂ million acres of land alienated since the first settlement in 1788.

A Government Order dated Sydney 19 August 1829, by Governor Sir Ralph Darling, provided 10 points for the selection and measurement of land including:

- No grant is to include both sides of a water course sufficiently important to be made a boundary.

- The land is to be measured in such a way as to ensure the most equitable division of the advantages of water and fertile soil.
- The general proportion of water frontage is to be as one to four.
- The sidelines when not determined by natural features must be either north and south or east and west and as close to rectangular as circumstances permit.

The year 1836 was of special significance in white settlement in this country. Firstly, the concept of the district of Port Phillip (now Victoria) arose after squatters had settled at Melbourne and also at Portland Bay. While explorers Hume and Hovell, then Sturt, discovered rivers and vast inland grazing country, a caveat had been placed on white settlement by Governor Brisbane because of the impossibility of Government protection being available so far from Sydney.

Between March and October 1836, the Surveyor General himself, led an expedition described as the best ever assembled in Sydney, with horses, wagons and 23 men. The party headed west to verify firstly if Sturt's report of the Darling flowing into the Murray was correct. This point was soon settled.

Mitchell's next move was to travel east or upstream where his party crossed the Murray near Swan Hill, and turned south, crossing the Loddon and discovered the vast plains of the Wimmera, past the Grampians, past the Wannon and Glenelg Rivers, finally coming out at Portland Bay. Here, he was utterly amazed to find unauthorized squatters, the Hentys, who had settled this isolated spot from Van Diemens Land almost 2 years earlier. Returning from Portland Bay, Mitchell struck north east and traversed modern Victoria in a totally different direction. He observed Port Phillip and its squatters from atop Mt. Macedon before he again crossed the Murray this time at Oolong (Howlong) then passing close to today's Burrumbuttock, Walla Walla and Morven. His glowing reports of the uninhabited grazing land through which his expedition had travelled caused a sensation in Sydney.

The trickle of settlers to this area that included Charles Ebdens' stockman William Wise, the Huons, Dights and even Robert Brown became a torrent after Major Mitchell gave his impressions of a foray into the south of the Continent.

What became known as the 'Majors Line' saw both large and small flocks and herds all heading south. Some came through Albury but many went further west past Howlong.

This movement was fine, except for one thing - no one had asked the indigenous inhabitants if they had a problem with it.

The worst confrontation occurred on 1 April 1838 at the Broken River near Benalla.

Fifteen men, who were chiefly convicts and therefore poorly armed, had charge of a large number of sheep and cattle belonging to Mr W Pitt Faithfull, were attacked by a party of blacks, said to number 300. Seven overlanders were killed, the rest fled.

The Faithfull Massacre as it became known, caused much panic among the settlers, most of whom retreated back to the Murray. There had been several murders and a number of skirmishes with stock losses reported previously. Aboriginal losses were not given. An officer and 12 men of the Mounted Police from Goulburn eventually arrived at the scene as did reinforcements from Melbourne.

A military force of 44 was also deployed and a plan for proposed military posts at the major crossings of the Murrumbidgee, Murray, Ovens and Goulburn Rivers and the Violet Creek on the Port Phillip Road between Yass and Melbourne. These are shown on a map dated July 21, 1838. The Governor, Sir George Gipps, however, refused to levy war against the aborigines as many demanded. Instead, he pointed out that as he had the most positive directions from Her Majesty's Government to treat the aborigine natives as subjects of Her Majesty, it is out of his power to authorise war against them, or to give sanction to any measures of indiscriminate retaliation.

It was into this environment that Townsend was instructed to proceed. It seems little wonder that he requested muskets, pistols and 100 rounds of ball cartridge before entering into his journey to the Murray. By also requisitioning 7 pairs of boots for his men, and 2 pack bullocks to add to the 6 he was already working, would indicate he was expecting a very long walk at a pace no faster than his slowest animal.

The work Townsend was able to carry out, and the 1839 map of Albury with all its detail, that he produced, is a credit to this pioneering surveyor, albeit with his 'red beard and a very excitable temperament'.

Further reports on Townsend's letters will appear in future *Bulletins*.

ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH

When, how and why was Garden Street on the western end of Dean Street named?

Joe Wooding provided this well researched answer.

There is nothing pretentious about Garden Street. It is short, parking is difficult if not dangerous for the residents of its 8 allotments, even though those on the west or higher side have no vehicular access from the front. It has no street trees as you find in other nearby streets, and it has, like some other thoroughfares in our town, not arrived without controversy.

In 1879, the area next to the gaol on the corner of Thurgoona and Dean Streets was Albury's first showground, although that year was to see the first of many shows at the new venue at Alexandra Park in Young Street.

An 1884 map showed the area next to the gaol as a reserve, but an untended one because ten years later the *Border Post* reported "the howling wilderness that used to be the showground beside the gaol has now become one of the beauty spots of the town. The area has been fenced in and landscaped with garden beds of flowers and shrubs, paths and a small lake for fish, surrounded by arum lilies and chrysanthemums." No mention of who created or maintained it although a notation on the 1906 map showing the area of 3 acres reserved for gaol purposes would indicate the garden was a gaol initiative.

Between 1920 and 1923, Albury Municipal Council debated the matter of what should happen to the parcel of land referred to as the Gaol Gardens subdivision, at that time owned by the NSW Department of Lands. A lane through the site was constructed to control drainage entering allotments facing Thurgoona Street. Further the Council urged the Department to offer at auction the 12 lots it had subdivided.

An auction was held at the Court House in June 1923 but only 3 lots were sold. Concurrently, Council pushed ahead with plans for a road to provide access to the proposed Soldiers Memorial on Western Hill. On 31 January 1924, Alderman Valentine Wooding moved in Council that the new road linking Dean and Payne Streets be named Garden Street.

To allow work to proceed, a corner of the Gaol site was required. A request to the Justice Department was refused, but following an approach to the Minister for Works, the Hon R T Ball, the request was granted in May 1925.

A 1927 map showed an unnamed street cutting diagonally through 8 allotments from Dean to Payne Streets. In Joe's opinion, Garden Street derives its name from the Gaol Gardens Estate and there is no evidence to connect it with the Botanic Gardens.

RESEARCHING THE LOCATION OF ROBERT BROWN'S HUT

**Murray River bank in the Hovell Tree Park
Albury.**

By Chris McQuellin

A copy of the T S Townsend survey map was scanned and then enlarged. The resultant map was produced by Phil Wilkins Building Design of Englehardt Street Albury in late July of 2010. The design team then did some calculations from the original plan's chain length scale and converted



Joe Wooding watches Phil Wilkins take bearings with theodolite on the bank of the Murray River during the search for the location of Robert Brown's Hut marked on Thomas Townsend's 1839 survey of Albury.

the measurements to a metric scale. This preliminary work enabled an onsite survey to take place at the Hovell Tree Park on Sunday 8 August 2010 with the view to locate the Brown's Hut site.

The method used to locate the hut site, was to triangulate the already calculated distances from the 1839 plan to the current day site. Physical measurements were taken from the fence line corners (South Side) of Hume Street and Wodonga Place and Hovell Street (North Side) and Wodonga Place. The measurements were recorded and cross referenced with the pre-prepared plan calculations.

An additional cross reference measurement was taken from a line extended from the fence line extension of Hume Street (South side) to the crossing place site in Hovell Tree Park and then to the site identified by Townsend on his original map.

A survey point was then identified and marked at a point WestSouthWest from the Hovell tree and close to the AlburyCity Pumping Station building.

Images were taken of the survey process conducted by Mr Phil Wilkins at the historic site. Master James Browne, the son of A&DHS members Catherine and Michael Browne, assisted in placing a survey point in the environs of the building area as depicted by Thomas Scott Town-

send in his 1839 original map of the township of Albury. A&DHS members in the research group were Joe and Jill Wooding and Chris McQuellin.

The Albury & District Historical Society would like to convey a special thanks to Phil Wilkins Building Design for donating time, expertise and surveying equipment to the society for this important research project.

CHILDHOOD AT WALLA WALLA

By Roma Freeman (nee Odewahn)

EARLIEST MEMORIES

I was born at *Boortkoi* Private Hospital in Wyse Street Albury and my first 6 years were spent at *Braefield* on the Walla Burrumbuttock road. My earliest recollection is of Mum milking our cow, Sally. Mum would put my brother Keith in the pusher and I would toddle along beside her. Sally was roan in colour and she really didn't like me, or maybe it was all little people, because she used to snort and carry on whenever she spotted me and she seemed to have super sight because she could be on the other side of a large paddock.

Dad used to take me out feeding the stock with him and she knew I was there and she would come lumbering across and perform and I felt it wasn't just for the hay, however I felt safe in the truck. Sometimes I sat astride a 44 gallon drum of molasses which Dad fed with potatoes to the stock during the 1944 drought. I can also remember staying with Nan, Dad's mother, and going to see my new baby sister, Jenny, who is 4¹/₂ years younger than I.

One day while playing on the wool table in the shearing shed an adze fell off the wall and cut my brother's little toe right down the middle. Dad put him on his shoulder and carried him to the house blood dripping from his foot, me toddling along behind. Petrol was rationed, and my sister was a tiny baby so I think a neighbour came over from *Hill and Dale* to mind us girls while Mum and Dad took Keith into Albury to have his toe stitched. After several days Dad held Keith down on the kitchen table while Mum removed the stitches. [Roma's mother was a nurse!]

HOT WATER

At first, we didn't have running hot water, but there was a fountain on the fuel stove for daily use. Bath nights were Saturday so water was heated in the fuel copper and bucketed to the bathroom. Cleanest one was in first and the bath was topped up in between. It was wonderful after we moved to the farm at *Dallaroo* where the water was heated through the stove and piped to the bathroom. But we still

only had a bath on Saturday unless of course we were going to see the Doctor. We each had our own bath water, but still scarce.

LIVING IN WALLA

Beside our house there was an empty block on which we ran a cow and had some chooks. When the cow was dry I was sent down to Mrs. Heppner with a billy to buy milk. She would always give me a mug of milk while she was milking the cow. I loved it then, but doubt if I would now. I can remember Mum scalding the milk on the stove and also making butter from the cream skimmed off the top. When power was connected to *Dallaroo* Dad bought Mum a Mixmaster and then when Mum made butter it made the job so much easier

BEFORE TV

Before TV we would listen to the wireless, Bob Dyer's 'Pick a Box' and Jack Davey and the 'Amateur Hour', the 'Quiz Kids' and the 'Lux' or GMH Plays. On Sunday evenings as we were preparing tea we would listen to Cliff Chamberlain's 'Down Memory Lane' between 6 and 6.15pm and during the week at dinner-time the 'Country Hour' and 'The Lawsons' later 'Blue Hills' at 1 p.m. In the mornings the 'Hospital Half Hour' from 8.15 to 8.45am just before going to school. In the evening from the ABC at 5pm the Argonauts were on the radio.

SCHOOL

I lived with my grandmother in Albury for a short time and commenced school in Kindergarten at Albury Public School which I didn't like much. I must have been very naughty because I seemed to spend a lot of time in the corner.

When our family moved from *Braefield* into a rented house in Herman Street, Walla, I walked to school. It seemed a long way because home was at one end of the town and the school at the other, My teacher was Miss Boyle and the headmaster Mr. Moy. There was also a Miss Lowne. Later Mr. Pryce came. In 3rd class my teacher threw chalk, and poked us with a ruler if he didn't like what we were doing. He couldn't spell. Mum would correct his spelling mistakes after he'd corrected them.

Mr Archie Dews became the headmaster. He taught me in 4th, 5th and 6th class. Having come from the Haberfield Demonstration School he had a lot of new ideas, and he made

reading, writing and arithmetic enjoyable. We also had a very good verse speaking and singing choir and a flourishing vegetable garden between the school and the Headmaster's house. Sometimes we took the vegies home.

We grew flowers in the front garden, the beds bordered with "pinks". I can remember stocks and snapdragons, poppies and pansies. The headmaster's wife taught sewing; we made things like drawstring bags, aprons and skirts When I first went to school at Walla it was a Central School with classes going to Intermediate and there were about 120 pupils. St Paul's College opened in 1948 Those who didn't go to St Paul's came into Albury to board at either the High School Hostel, *Adamshurst*, or the Grammar School or Woodstock. The Walla School became an Infants and Primary School, with around 100 students and 3 teachers

On Arbour Day in October, we planted trees in the playground; Carob trees one year. They are still there. Another year we planted trees in front of the school around a map of



Roma Odewahn (tallest) with sister, Jennifer, and brothers, Alan & Keith on way to school 1950

Australia signifying the capital cities. I planted a pine tree for Sydney I think. Wattle Day was the 1st September and there were Wattle Queens crowned. We went for bird walks in Wenke's paddock and most students were members of the Gould League of Bird Lovers, girls were members of the Junior Red Cross. The school grounds surrounded by pepper trees comprised a playground, a cricket/vigoro pitch, tennis courts and down the back the western end was

the footy field. We had sport one afternoon a week. The pepper trees were great to play in, I can't remember any casualties from kids falling out. A few pepper trees remain. A store room and the weather shed were at the southern end of the playground. On fine days we had our sewing classes there while the boys did woodwork in the storeroom. I can remember one teacher trying very hard to teach a left-handed girl to sew with the right hand. Left handers were oddities in the eyes of the educators.

The Lutherans had scripture on Fridays. The rest of us had our scripture with whichever minister came. We went to each other's denomination so it was likely we would have the Methodist Minister one week, the Anglican and the Baptist on other consecutive weeks, and very occasionally a Presbyterian minister would come. The Catholics had theirs on Tuesdays we only had 2 Catholic children. If you

were't Lutheran you were in the minority by about 10 to 1.

It was the senior boy's job to make up the ink with ink powder and fill the ink wells in the morning before school commenced, sometimes the ink was very pale. We wrote with a pencil until third class and then with "dip" pens. I and some of my classmates had plaits and if we were unfortunate enough to have to sit in front of the boys, they would dip our plaits in the ink well. There was also a headlice plague and Mum washed my hair in sheep dip as a preventative. My hair smelt for 6 months.

Assembly each morning was held before we went into class and on Mondays we would sing the National Anthem "God Save the King" and recite the pledge and the flag was raised. Our neighbours in Walla were the Bright Smiths who had a stock & station agency. They had no children. Our other neighbours were the Bert Griffiths who had four wild boys. Bert was a fettler on the railways. Across the street on the corner were the Ben Hoffmans, with four more boys.

DALLAROO

When the house at *Dallaroo* was finished in August 1948 and we moved in, we three older children were driven to and from Walla for school. When McLellans moved to *Warren Downs*, the trips were shared; one family had the morning and the other the afternoon run alternating a week about. Later, there were 4 children in our and the McLellan's families and 2 Hogans, so it was cheaper to drive us to school than buy us all bikes. Parents were paid a subsidy for school transport.

In those days there weren't seat belts and we all travelled in any vehicle available, with whichever parent was available. we loved riding on the back of the truck and we always thought it great fun when Mr Hogan would collect us in "Bertha", a little truck/utility which was that family's mode of transport. Mr and Mrs Hogan lived in a little cottage between the two homesteads. We had a big car and so did McLellans. Station wagons did not exist then.

Both my parents were on the P and C for 19 years. Dad was president for a while. In 1952 I left to go to boarding school. My brother and sister began riding bikes to school after my older brother came to board in Albury at the Grammar School. It wasn't until 1971 that the road was sealed, before that it was occasionally graded. Most of the roads were unsealed gravel. I remember when Dad and Les McLellan took a "load" of us from Walla School to the Walbundrie Sports.

If it rained the sports were postponed. A quote from my father's diary says: "Took 40 children into Albury to the school sports." We sat in rows and I assume, behaved ourselves. Dad's Bedford had sides which he put on for those occasions. I can also remember coming to Albury when it was declared a city. We had tea in the gardens.

We had these wonderful Bonfire nights on Empire Day, 24th May, Queen Victoria's birthday, usually a half-day holiday. Several neighbouring families got together having built a bonfire on one of the farms.

There were 'continentals' at the school for a number of years, these days they are called fetes. Fancy dress frolics were held at the Walla Hall. My Mum made me a lovely Dutch costume when I was 8. The following year I went as Florence Nightingale in her old nurse's uniform. During my childhood at Walla the headmasters and their families were part of the community, and along with the "Bankies", would join in activities in the town; very convenient when organisations were

looking for office bearers!

JOBS & WEEKENDS

The fuel stove went all day; first person out of bed lit it. In the winter we would make sure there was a good piece of redgum in it at bedtime so that there would be coals in the morning. In the summer it was allowed to go out. An electric stove was put in when we were connected to the electricity in 1952 and that was great in the summer but the fuel stove was used in winter until right up to the move to Albury.

Life seemed to revolve around the school and the community. We would help Dad and Mum, sometimes reluctantly, by doing the various jobs which they thought we could do. Each night one of us had to fill the chip bucket, and another feed the chooks. Sometimes we would be asked to help muster the sheep which was fun until Dad said we were doing it wrong.

Saturdays my sister and I had to fill the lamps and clean the glasses. My brothers had to clean all the shoes. We almost always had cottage pie made from the leftover roasts during the week. Dinner was always in the middle of the day. Mum and Dad played golf for a while and we would be dropped off at the football. The bread and butter teas on Saturday nights; always herrings and maybe baked beans or spaghetti on toast made on the open fire.

Sundays we all went to Sunday School and afterwards often would go visiting, particularly in



Roma in the Dutch girl costume made by her mother in 1947 for a school function

the winter, or have visitors; grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins and friends. In the summer we had marvellous picnics at Howlong, Kirby's Creek, the Hume Weir, the Gardens. When my brothers started playing football our parents stopped playing golf.

ROUTINE & MEALS

One day was much the same as the other; the cow was milked, we ate breakfast, cut school lunches, washed up. The midday meal, called dinner, was prepared: meat and 3 veg and pudding. The meals for the school kids were carved onto plates and warmed on the top of a saucepan of boiling water for their evening meal [tea]. Otherwise, tea was usually a lighter meal: soup, spaghetti, or cold meat and salad followed by bread and jam and cream. We drank tea at every meal.

When we were all at home meal time was always an event. All seven of us sat down together. Dad had the bread, no sliced bread then, and Mum had the cups and saucers in front of her. Regardless of how many were in the house we always sat down to meals together. The "hired hand" was regarded as one of the family.

SEPARATING THE MILK

Mum had said to me when I was quite young, "Rome, if you ever learn to milk a cow, don't let on because if you do you'll do it forever." I took her advice, so it was usually my lot to put the separator together and do the separating. I'd pour the milk into the bowl on top then turn the handle till the bell stopped ringing, then turn on the tap of the bowl and keep turning so the bell didn't ring till all the milk was gone. The cream came out one spout into a bowl and the skim milk out the other into the bucket.

The skim milk was fed to the poddy calf if you had one, or given to the dogs. We all disliked washing the separator, because it had so many pieces and was so fiddly.

When Mum stopped making butter, the cream was kept and at the end of each week, what we didn't use was sent into the Butter Factory on the Mad Mile (now the Gateway Complex on the Lincoln Causeway).

HOLIDAYS

We all learnt to swim in Albury and usually stayed with relatives during the Christmas holidays. We had camping holidays too and went to Bright, Rosebud and Batehaven. This was usually a major logistical exercise and Dad would very suddenly say to Mum: "We'll leave tomorrow." First we went on the back of the truck with a canopy borrowed from a neighbour. Later Dad purchased a caravan.

RABBITING

Rabbiting was great fun. They were usually dug out or trapped. Sometimes they were run down by Dad's greyhounds. In 1948 when rabbits were in plague numbers, 1812 rabbits were caught in four weeks. The skins, together with sheep skins, were sold at Norman and Heath in Albury. Roast rabbit was often on the menu.

GUIDES & BOARDING SCHOOL

I became a Girl Guide when I was 11 years old and I enjoyed the hikes and camp fires and all that went with it. In 1952 at 12, I commenced boarding at P.L.C. Goulburn. I spent 3 unhappy years there probably because during the first year a new baby sister came into the family.

I know now how much I missed by not enjoying boarding school. I came home and after 7 years commenced nursing at Wangaratta.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

History: R.A.H.S. Magazine; June 2010.

• Thomas Termouth/Turner; Master Stonemason in Macquarie era 1810/1821.

Momento: National Archives of Australia Magazine; June 2010.

• Australia's Constitution; Have your say.

• Family File: ASIO Archives and the Aarons Family. *Wagga Wagga H.S. Newsletter*, June/July 2010.

• The Kapooka Tragedy: Death of 25 men in training accident.

Royal Australian Historical Society Journal; June 2010.

• Origins of Australia's mixed gauge railways.

• Arthur Griffith's despair of Industrial Arbitration in N.S.W.

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• Ella McFadyen 1887/1976; The Pegmen remembered.

Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists Journal; June 2010.

• The Teapot Genies; Kaye Vernon and Billie Jacobsen. *Richmond River (Lismore) HS Bulletin; June 2010.*

• Newsletter Supplement and Annual Report for 2010. *The Argyle: Goulburn HS and FHS Journal; May 2010.*

• Disciples of Ananias from "The Man from Misty Mountain" by James Henry Sturgiss.

Book launch at Tintalra Store & Tea Rooms

11 September 2010 at 11 a.m.

"Grandie": Sydney Grandison Watson - King of the Upper Murray and his Sons to the Gulf and Cape York.

Information & meal bookings: Betty Walton
02 6077 9201

ART DECO IN ALBURY

Albury LibraryMuseum is hosting a Symposium on Saturday 11 September 10 a.m. to 4.30 including a Guided Walk.

Cost \$90; Walk only, \$15

Bookings 02 6023 8340

REMINDER

SEPTEMBER MEETING IS AT ALBURY
LIBRARY-MUSEUM

KIEWA STREET

PLEASE BRING A PLATE FOR SUPPER
TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED