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BULLETIN

APRIL 2006 **456**

Subscriptions: Individual Member \$22
Family Members \$30 Corporate Members \$50

Albury Regional Museum: (02) 6051 3450
Turks Head, Wodonga Place, Albury
Open every day, 10.30a.m. to 4.30p.m.
Website: www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum

General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month, February to December

Committee meets 4th Tuesday of the month, January to November

Patron:

Mr Harold Mair, O.A.M.
President
Mr Douglas Hunter
(02) 6021 2835
Secretary / Treasurer:
Mrs June Shanahan
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★ APRIL 12
GENERAL MEETING

8pm Wed. April 12
Murray Conservatorium
Cnr Dean & Olive Streets
Albury (Ground Floor).
GUEST SPEAKERS:

Miss **Wilma Friedlieb** will speak on her experiences as a singing teacher & the coming of the **Murray Conservatorium**.

SUPPER: Bring a small plate.

? QUESTION for APRIL:

As we are having supper tonight, *who brought coffee & tea to Australia, & when?*

REPORT ON THE MARCH MEETING (8/3/06): by Joe Wooding

1916-2006; 90 YEARS OF ELECTRICITY IN ALBURY

Providing the light comes on when the fridge door is opened & the shower is hot, very few of us care or even need to know what is occurring at our fingertips, but so reliant have we become on electricity, every aspect of our daily lives is now dependant on it.

90 years have elapsed since Albury first made use of this marvellous 19th century invention.

My involvement with electricity began by being apprenticed to local electrical contractor **Jack O'Loughlin** in 1953 where I spent 8 years. My 35 year career with the MRCC began in 1961, giving me at least a basic understanding of the electricity industry which was to provide me with a trade & my life's income as well.

The story of electricity in Albury is not hard to find.

The Border Post, The Albury Daily News & the Border Morning Mail all contain considerable information, although reporters display a quaint lack of any technical understanding.

In the mid 1990's, the Albury City Council commissioned a brief on early

water pumping & electricity generation. It also contains references to the *Gas Works*, early *street lighting* & *Albury Sewerage Scheme*. It soon became obvious that others had visited this subject prior to me.

The Historical Society's **Helen Livsey** & **Howard Jones** receive considerable acknowledgement in the report. Country Energy's **Ray Gorman** has also been very helpful.

Technical terms have been kept to a minimum, but some are unavoidable when dealing with power distribution & consumption.

Today, energy comes in many forms. Albury's early lighting was provided by candles, kerosene or oil, until electricity was introduced in 1916.

A snippet of early deliberations & difficulties is provided;

1866 October 10th - Border Post complaint; *'On stormy nights when lights are most required, the lamps invariably get blown out by the wind Doubtless this is owing to the lamps having too much draught or ventilation'*.

1874 June 27th - Border Post; *'Gas Lighting - Ald. Solomon enquires re gas lighting of the town. The Mayor could not shed any lustre on the question'*.

1879 May 31st - Border Post; *'Street Lighting - Beyond a joke to hear of the large amount paid by the Borough Council for kerosene when so little light is shed >>>*

FUTURE EVENTS

18/4/06 Research & Publications Sub-Committee meeting.
10/5/06 May meeting of A&DHS.

2/5/06, 5.15pm
Tuesday,
A&DHS
Committee
Meeting, at
Albury City
Library.

Page 3: THE BIRTH OF ABC RADIO, & ABOUT 2CO STUDIOS ALBURY; PART 2, by June Shanahan

Page 8: Uiver Model.

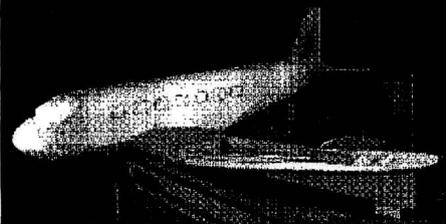


Photo 1: Uiver model on workbench at the Manual Arts Centre.

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in consideration thereof. Last Wednesday night, not a single lamppost in Albury was illuminated'.

1883 June 6th - Border Post: Albury's first view of electricity was reported when the lighting of the engine shed was tested for the forthcoming banquet to celebrate linking the NSW & Victorian railways between Albury & Wodonga.

June 16th - The Border Post; *'The Banquet -1016 gentlemen were seated & 40 Press representatives were served by 225 waiters. The dinner commenced at 3 pm but although daylight was in possession outside, the interior was found illuminated in the most perfect manner'.* (Not a word of the ladies.)

1889 October 25th - The Border Post; Council debate was reported on Albury Gas Company & first reference to Albury electricity found. *'Ald. Tenbrink stated that thousands of pounds would have been saved had the Council adopted a system of electric lighting 3 years ago'.*

1890 February 7th - The Border Post; *'Installation of the electric light in Goulburn, may be of interest to the ratepayers of Albury in view of the proposal to adopt a similar means of lighting here'.* The report contained considerable technical information.

1896 September 15th - The Border Post; *'Lighting of the Town - Electricity Proposed- The Mayor & some of the aldermen are seriously considering a proposal to light the town by electricity. Mr Alcock, of the Alcock Electric Lighting Company of Melbourne, is at present in Albury in connection with the lighting of the Exhibition Building'.*

October 1st - The Border Post; *'The Electric Light for Albury' Report of an Expert - Its Adoption Strongly Recommended - Efficiency & Economy'.*

1906 October 18th - The Border Morning Mail; *'Electricity for Albury - Proposal of an Alderman, Price of gas too high. Discussion at the Council table. Ald Brann stated that the surest way to get a reduction in gas prices would be to go in for electric lighting of their own for the town'.*

Bulletin 456: transcription by June Shanahan & editing by Doug Hunter & June Shanahan. Printing & Distribution by Ray Gear. (An audio recording of the March meeting on CD is available).

1910 April 22nd - The Border Morning Mail; *'Expert recommends a central Power Station driven by suction gas engines, capable of supplying current for public & private lighting as well as electric pumping at the Water Works, & power for any sewerage scheme in the future'.*

December 9th - The Border Morning Mail; *'Electric light for Albury - Another step taken. Council Engineer, Mr WJ Andrew, perused tenders for combined electric lighting & pumping plant for the municipality. The Power Station will be built in the town area & will consist of 2 engines of 150 hp each. Electric current for pumping purposes will be conveyed to the Water Works by cable at a pressure of 3000 volts.*

Special meeting arranged to hear from government expert & the 10,000 pounds to be borrowed had to be referred to the ratepayers'.

1911 January 21st - The Border Morning Mail; The report of Mildura in darkness due to failure of their power supply did nothing to help those pushing for electricity in Albury.

1912 September 26th - The Border Morning Mail; Public meeting called on electricity issue.

5th October - The Border Morning Mail; *'Albury Electric Scheme - Polling today. The town's progress at stake. Voting at the Town Hall between 8 am & 6pm on the question of the Council borrowing 10,500 pounds for the above scheme'.*

3-1 voted in favour with a disappointingly small turnout. Of the 882 ratepayers eligible, only 200 voted.

1913 August 9th - The Border Morning Mail; Albury Electric Light - Scheme Now Assured. Commonwealth Bank advances 10,500 pounds.

1915 - Scheme well under way. Many reports

1916 July 10th - The Border Morning Mail; Main features described. Current available shortly.

July 28th - The Border Morning Mail; *'Electricity Scheme Completed - Albury illuminated last night, a brilliant sight. The street lightings softer brilliancy is so great that the papers on the boards outside the Border Morning Mail office can be comfortably read'.*

July 29th - The Border Morning Mail; *'New Electric Scheme Formally Opened Yesterday when the Mayoress, Mrs PD Burrows, performed the switching on ceremony at the Town Hall. It was described as if day had re-appeared. It was not a twinkling brilliancy but a brilliancy so still & steady that the eye could not detect the slightest pulsation of the burning fluid. (Journalistic imagination knew no bounds). Cost was approx. 20,000 pounds'.*

1917 January 10th - The Border Morning Mail; *'Electricity Works Committee Report - Kite flying near the electric wires was causing problems'. (Footballs were another problem in the 1960 's).*

1919 January 23rd - The Border Morning Mail; *'Albury Council Electrical Engineer, Mr CE Vormister, granted leave of absence to visit England to fully investigate the workings of power plants'.*

Plans were prepared for installing 3 additional boilers & 2 additional generators with a planned increase in capacity from 300 to 1200 kw. This was not carried out.

1922 One new boiler was installed with a new 300 kw alternator, doubling Mungabareena Power House output to 600 kw.

1925 Albury's rapidly increasing electrical consumption persuaded Council to look at other measures, with an estimate of up to 60,000 pounds. Council decided to construct a 3 x 500 kw plant at the Railway Station to alleviate the huge cost of carting coal to Mungabareena. At this time, the SEC were extending their system in North East Victoria & offered to provide Albury with a bulk supply which was accepted - & with good reason.

From 1916 to December 31st 1924, coal used at the Water Works was 16,396 tons at a cost of 28,094 pounds. Total income was 90,563 pounds & expenses, including interest & depreciation 68,099 pounds.

1926 May 20th - *Sir John Monash* switched off the electric current from the Waterworks & switched on the new supply originating at Yallourn in Victoria.

Great emphasis was placed on the fact that power was coming 300 miles from Gippsland. While >>>

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 this is true, the SEC already had in service, a 120 kv line from Yallourn to Thomastown (to feed Melbourne) & a 66 kv line roughly along the Hume Highway from Thomastown to Wangaratta, where 22 kv continued to Springhurst. It was from this point a new 22 kv line to the Union Bridge sub-station at Albury was connected. Two circuits at 3.3 kv then crossed the Murray to a new brick Sub-Station on the Corner of Hoveil & Kiewa Streets, Albury. Five 3.3 kv circuits were used to feed the 9 existing sub-stations scattered around the town.

These were located at the Waterworks, North Street, Schubach Street, Albury Woollen Mills, Nurigong Street, Volt Lane, Guinea Street, Wyse Street & the Hospital in Smollett Street.

Corowa & Wahgunyah had been linked to the Victorian system on February 2nd, with a 22 kv line from Springhurst.

1927 - The supply was extended to Lavington & out to the Newtown Orphanage & a little of the Hume Shire.

In the 1930's, the 3.3 kv was increased to 6.6 kv when supply to **Jindera, Howlong** & the closer parts of the shire were connected. It was not until after the War that Brocklesby, Balldale, Gerogery, Table Top, Mullengandra & Wymah were all connected.

On 28th February 1958, **Murray River County Council** was constituted with Cr. **Bill Alexander** as Chairman, & in late April, incorporated the Albury City Council Electricity Supply Department. This new undertaking, headed by Chief Electrical Engineer **Hec Dawson** & County Clerk **Bill Jackson**, eventually covered the electricity distribution from Wymah in the east to the South Australian border. Each shire or municipality had representation on the Council. There was some resentment to the headquarters being in Albury.

The County area was extended on 1 December 1965 to include the reticulated areas of Wentworth Shire Undertakings & was further extended on 30th October 1974 to include an additional 2 areas of Wentworth Shire.

A further extension of Council boundaries to incorporate those parts of Balranald & Wentworth Shires not

already within the County district, was made by proclamation effective 1st January 1982.

At 5.19 am 7th May, 1958, Albury changed from the Victorian system to the NSW grid. A large sub-station had been built in Union Road where a 132 kv line from Wagga terminated, as did the feed from the Hume Dam. Another 132 kv line from Union Road took power west to Corowa, Mulwala & Finley. Albury & Hume Shire took supply at 22 kv, but it took some years for the MRCC to upgrade its system from 6.6 kv to 22 kv. Some of us may remember when power to Dean Street & nearby areas was placed underground from 1961. This was part of the upgrade.

A devastating fire at the Union Road sub-station in 1989, had Albury's power supply at crisis point. A second sub in Jelbart Road has now been commissioned, greatly diminishing the possibility of a repeat failure.

Who would have dreamed that Albury's 300 kw demand in 1916 could exceed 100 mw in 2006, which does not include 85 mw used by the areas largest consumer, Australian Newsprint Mill at Ettamogah.

The **Murray River County Council** changed its name & became **Murray River Electricity** in 1987. NSW power distribution was in the hands of 28 county councils when rationalisation occurred in 1996. Nine county councils in Southern NSW were merged to become Great Southern Energy. In 2002, nearly all of country NSW came under a new banner - **Country Energy**. The far west of NSW was exempted as was the Newcastle - Sydney ~ Wollongong areas, cynically referred to by country folk as 'NSW'.

 - Joe Wooding, A&DHS, 8th March, 2006. *

THE BIRTH OF ABC RADIO, & ABOUT 2CO STUDIOS - ALBURY;

PART 2. by June Shanahan

 arly in the 1950's the ABC purchased a two story home on the corner of Thurgoona & Dean Streets Albury opposite the

Botanic Gardens studios in Albury it was to serve as newsroom, general office, studio & residence for the Regional Manager.

Miss **Zita Cox**, known affectionately as **Bobbie** lived just around the corner in Wilcox Street she took over as news typist from **Dorothy Vincent**. Some months later her hours were extended to provide some clerical assistance for **Don Lassam**, looking after the growing record collection (at that time shellac, seventy eight records) & acting as receptionist.

"700 Dean Street" had an unique character of its own, with leafy trees overhanging wide verandahs, quaint curtains on the windows & an appearance of peace & tranquillity which often hid the hectic scenes enacted in the newsroom & studio, especially at bulletin times when an important story was breaking.

Don Lassam was succeeded in 1954 by **Tom Roberts** who had moved from Newcastle he stayed during an era which saw much expansion in the broadcasting role of 2CO.

In July 1960, **Basil Patman** retired & was succeeded by **Arthur Moffat**, a dear gentleman who began a new career in radio journalism following a distinguished record beginning as a cadet on the Albury "Border Morning Mail" & then working on the Wagga "Daily Advertiser" before serving in World War 2. Arthur was then Editor of the "Albury Banner" & served as Chief of Staff & Chief Sub-Editor on the "Border Mail" before joining the ABC.

At that time it was quite a close knit operation: **Arthur** lived up the road, **Bobbie** was around the corner, **Cleaver Buntun** was a few doors up the hill & **Tom & Madge** & their son **Dennis** lived on the premises where it was all happening.

Milton (Harry) James who was the part time morning announcer commuted early each morning from his home at Wodonga; he tiptoed through the building so as not to wake the Roberts family & put the Breakfast Show to air. The Roberts did exactly the same as **Milton**, they tiptoed overhead upstairs to make sure no unwanted noise

2CO
 RADIO
 ABC

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found its way into the broadcast studio. Milton was a senior administrative officer with the Department of Army at Bandiana. He had actually worked for the ABC when it first began as a schoolboy member of the cast of 'Auntie Peggy's Children's Show' produced each evening in Adelaide. In later years he played parts in several ABC radio dramas before beginning his 16 year stint from 1960 to 1976 as morning announcer with 2CO. For a period his wife *Doreen* acted as news correspondent in Wodonga, following the death of *Charlie Ryan* who had succeeded his father as editor-proprietor of the "Wodonga Sentinel" newspaper.

The local output from 2CO was two news sessions daily at 8.am & 6.53pm & a Rural Breakfast Session at 7am which emanated from the Wagga Rural Office & a music & sports programme at 6.45pm. Later a music request program was added in the morning & grew over the years to several hours in the morning & afternoon, as the forerunner to today's local programmes of music, inter-views on topical subjects & information.

At the start of 1962 the ABC decided to introduce midday news bulletins at many regional stations, to supplement the existing morning & evening bulletins & for this purpose *Geoff Myers* joined the staff, having previously been News Editor with the Albury commercial radio station 2AY & before that chief sub-editor on the Albury "Border Morning Mail".

At the same time the ABC was entering its television service throughout the country & from 1964 transmitters were installed at **Shepparton, Albury, Wagga & Griffith**. Soon afterwards production of regional television news bulletin began for the Albury & Shepparton transmitters & plans were made although not realised because of the lack of facilities, for similar bulletins for the **Wagga & Griffith**. News staff at the time were engaged in the task of upgrading the basic news-gathering to cater for the expansion of radio news bulletins on 2CO, & at the same time pioneering TV news broadcasting.

Extra contract cameraman were sought to work alongside the existing news correspondents throughout the region.

Organising a daily regional TV bulletin was a difficult process because of the enormous costs. So that prohibited the installation of a local studio & other facilities & the production had to be carried out at the ABC's television studios at **Ripponlea** (a suburb of

Melbourne). At times interstate semi trailers that were passing through Albury were flagged down to carry urgent television film to **Melbourne**. Couriers would meet the transport on the outskirts of the city to collect it. The film would then be raced through late afternoon peak traffic to the processing laboratories & then onto the studio at **Ripponlea** where the film would be edited according to story material sent from the Albury office by teleprinter.

With all the demands the premises in Dean Street were stretched beyond endurance & new leased premises were obtained in the former **Sammon & Edwards Building** in Townsend Street, next door to **Kia Ora** (The **Pastoral Hotel** was opposite but was later demolished for the K Mart complex). The new premises was converted into a modern studio, offices & news room. It even had a display widow which in later years was used the display the **ABC Concert Subscription Series & ABC Merchandising**. The original plans made provision for regional television studio if needed but it never eventuated.

In December 1964 there was a joint celebration of the opening of the new premises & the opening of the Albury television service.

By then the studios were equipped with the most modern type of programme-making equipment, including **tape recording & editing machines** which were a far cry from the **wire recorders** which had been used only a few years previously for outside recording expeditions. Like the old fashioned **gramophones**, they had to be wound up, & if the wire came loose there could be an enormous tangle.

Meanwhile my mother became very ill, so my late husband *Des* & myself decided that we would move back to Albury with our two sons *Phillip & Paul* so Mum & Dad could come to live with us. Believe it or not there were only two homes in Albury for sale at the time; a very old home in **Banff Avenue** which we looked at - but it needed a lot of work, & another in **North Albury** which we finished up purchasing. Actually it was in August 1966 decimal currency change over year. Ironically enough that was the last time it snowed in **Albury & surrounding areas**.

In the New Year I decided to look for a part time job; little did I know that when I moved back to Albury that I would start work at the ABC as a 'news typist' working with *Arthur & Geoff*. I commenced duties on the 16th January 1967. A month or so later *Arthur*

happen to be chatting about family; I was to find out that my mother boarded with his parents when she first came from **Henty** to work in **Albury**. When Mum married my father, *Arthur's* sister, *Margaret Moffat* was her bridesmaid, -so it is a small world!

I was reluctant to tell people where I worked as back then you were sworn on oath not to divulge anything that happened within the ABC; so when I went through the doors at night I left everything that happened in the building behind me. I tend to be still like that even today.

The Manager then was *Tom Roberts* who was very well thought of in Albury. At the time he was relieving at the Newcastle office as Regional Manager, a position he applied for & got. It meant a step up the ladder. The Roberts family came from the Newcastle area originally. *David Lupton* (Talks Officer) was relieving manager while Tom was away.

Our new manager to be was *Athol Emerton*. When he applied for the position in Albury he was Regional Manager at **Mount Gambier**. He & his wife *Margaret* moved into the premises in Dean Street. They had no family, but they did have two Pomeranians & one pug nose dog. Athol was a professional broadcaster; he had two voices - an excellent 'on air' voice & his 'normal everyday' voice. I daresay he acquired that from his acting days.

Athol came from Taree area & in his teens took up part time acting. He started with the ABC doing live shows (radio plays etc). Most of the radio serials that the ABC broadcast were done live from the studios at Newcastle. *Athol* was part of that era.

I enjoyed my work in the news room. I use to take down copy from all our correspondents, who were spread right throughout the Riverina, North-East & Northern Victoria; send all the regional TV news to ABC TV Ripponlea each day for the 6.55 pm Victorian Regional news which was viewed just before the National News.

Our station call sign was 2CO; we broadcasted to a very large listening area. We were heard up into the mountains as far as **Tumut**, up north as far as **Goulburn**, & the north west to **Hillston**, & down west as far as **Wentworth**; down the Murray in Victoria as far as **Echuca** & beyond, & down south as far as **Seymour**. We had correspondents in all those areas & they got paid a fee for each news item that they rang in to the studios, (reverse charge calls!). *Cleaver Bunton* was our Albury >>>

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correspondent. 2CO covered a very wide listening area.

We also received newspapers from all those areas, so it was my job to go through them to pick out any interesting news items. I suppose that is where I got the taste for stories as years down the track I became a producer.

The 2CO transmitter was situated on the left hand side as you drive into Corowa from Albury. It was owned by the Post & Telecommunications Department, Canberra, as it was known then; & was manned by technicians employed by the Post Master General's Department. The Technician in charge was on call 24 hours a day, so there was a residence next door to the transmitter. I didn't tell many people where I worked; if I was asked I would just say I was employed by the ABC & then of course the questions would fly. What do you do? I would tell them I worked at 2CO; well some of them would know it was a government run station, but then there were quite a few that only listened to commercial station. That is why I always said the ABC, as they would relate to that because of Television.

Back in the 60's & 70's a wider cross section of the community in the country areas were commercial radio listeners as the local commercial stations had more the local content in their programs. Back then the ABC catered more to the metropolitan listeners.

People would ask me if I lived at Corowa & I would tell them I lived in Albury; so they then wanted to know if I travelled to Corowa each day & I said "no". I would then proceed to tell them that the transmitter was at Corowa & the studios were in Albury. Even for all our listeners out of town, most of them thought we all worked at Corowa. Why it was so confusing to people, the Technician in Charge at Corowa would tell everyone that he was the manager of the 2CO transmitter station, so naturally everyone thought he was the manager of the 2CO studios.

Cleaver Bunton read the 6.53 pm regional news every night Monday to Friday; he would come in on a Saturday evening to do the sporting results. He also had a programme called 'Evening Melodies' for some time.

While working in the newsroom my boss *Arthur Moffat* had a stroke (about 1968) & didn't live long after that. He is always in my prayers. He made a massive contribution to the establishment of modern radio & television news broadcasting in the region. The found-

ations he laid were built upon in 1974 with the decision to greatly expand news output once again, to cope with the rapid expansion of the "growth centre" of Albury Wodonga. Naturally, *Geoff Myers* became the journalist in charge, so we had relief staff from Sydney while they advertised the position for a second journalist.

The clerical position came up in Programs so I applied for it. It was advertised internally. I was the only applicant, so naturally the job was mine, of course I had to go through the process of interviews etc.. If no one had applied for it internally, it would have been advertised outside the ABC. So it then meant I would be working directly to the manager.

Cleaver Bunton always came to the studios straight after work that's if he didn't have another appointment; you could set your clock on his arrival. We always had a yarn about the weather, gardening, or a topic that might be in the news on the day. One particular afternoon he came in & he looked terrible, he had become an old man overnight. I asked him what was wrong, & he said that he had terrible pains across his shoulders & they were running down his arms, & he wasn't getting any sleep at night. He said the doctors had told him that they were old football injuries.

I was quite worried about him as he didn't look well at all. I suggested to him that he should go to see a chiropractor; there was only one here in Albury at the time. It was dear *Mr Reynolds*; he had his practice in his home on the corner of Crisp & Young Streets opposite Scots School. He said to me that the physios at the Albury Base Hospital would fix him up: his wife being a nursing sister, my *Aunt Molly (Mary)* was a Matron & I know how she felt about chiropractors. Anything 'alternative' in the medical profession eyes was taboo back then.

I went away for a couple of weeks holiday & first day back at work *Cleaver* came bouncing in the door. I always called him '*Mr Bunton*', although many-a-time he told me to call him '*Cleaver*'. I said to him "by golly those physios at the Base Hospital must have worked wonders on you, Mr Bunton, as you look so well". His came over to my desk & lent over & whispered in my ear, & said "it wasn't the physios, I took your advice & went up to see Mr Reynolds, & I have never felt better". He said "I should have taken your advice & gone to him earlier".

In 1975 there were two additional

Journalists added to the strength of the newsroom as it started to produce its own 'State News Bulletins', in the morning & at midday, to overcome the problem of providing two separate state news services simultaneously. As well as this the new techniques of using taped voice inserts in news bulletin were pioneered & developed, & there was a new era of more in-depth coverage of regional news & of service to State, National, News Voice & other programs.

A larger news office was provided, extra facilities, including modern teleprinters & telephones were installed to handle the increased work load & more news operations assistants joined the staff.

People who gave much of their talents & energies in the newsroom during the years I worked at 2CO (between 1967 to 1991) included *Rob Thomas, Graham Kelly, Bruce Turner, Maurie Ferry, Robert Nicolson & Keith Esson*, (Keith actually came from Shepparton. His father was the editor of the 'Shepparton News' in that era.) *Bruce Turner* his wife *Lyn* & family came here from Coffs Harbour. Bruce retired after a couple of years later through ill health. Lyn was a teacher at the Albury High School for many years.

Robert Nicolson came from Sydney Newsroom quite often to relieve when any of the 'journos' went on holidays or sick leave. Robert was into family history; he had traced the *Lawson Quins* that were born in New Zealand over 30 years ago back to 'Alexander the Great'. He had also written two books on the *Christian Family* on Pitcairn Island & one about Norfolk Island.

He use to lay all his family trees that he was working on out on the floor at work, & that is where I got interested in tracing my family history. Being a little reserved back then I asked *Robert* if he would help me start a family History group in Albury, but we never seem to get around to it. He eventually finished up transferring to the Albury newsroom. *Robert* married later in life & had one daughter, *Linda*. who he absolutely adored. *Robert's* mother was a New Zealander; she was a ballet teacher in Sydney until she became ill with cancer. With all the stress of everything & having pains in the chest, he went to the doctor & he said it was from all the worry he had; next day he was dead with a heart attack. He is buried at the Union Road Lawn Cemetery.

Quite a few years later I approached the *A&D Historical Society* to see if I could start up a 'family history

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group' under their umbrella of support. The committee agreed and I really appreciated that. The then Principal of St Patrick's School offered the staff room for the first inaugural meeting.

April Padbury became President, *Dianne Hawksworth* Secretary, & I took on the Treasurer's job. We had our meetings at the Mormon Church (in Wodonga Place). Years later the group is still going & is known as the 'Wodonga Family History Society'.

There were numerous journalists from Sydney & Melbourne that worked for short periods providing relief for local staff taking holidays & sick leave. There were a few local journalists that use to relieve also, one that comes to mind is *Sue Wallace* who now works for the Border Mail.

Some of the News operations assistants over the years included *Dorothy Vincent, Bobbie Cox, Margaret Dainer, Louise Bye, Beverly Spokes, June Shanahan, Peta-jane Crago, Lee White, Julie McKean, Colin Kendall, Janina Katchmarsky, Sandy Brosolo (nee Chamberlain) Cliff Chamberlain's daughter & Jean Whittle*. *Jean* has been Wodonga news correspondent for many years. *Janina Katchmarsky* worked for quite a few years after I retired. She seen the move of the Albury Office to Wodonga. I feel personally it was a bad decision not only for the staff concerned but for the whole of Albury. It was tragic when we lost our AM station 2CO. The old saying is "you can't stop progress".

Over the years there were many other other journos & typists too numerous to mention. There were many relieving journalists. I should have kept a dairy, but some that come to mind are *Peter Bennett*, his father was our correspondent for the Junee area for many years. Also *Mark Suelu*, he presently works for Channel 10 (Southern Cross Television) in Brisbane. *Mercia Masson*, she was the first woman journalist that came to relieve amongst a male dominated world. I will never forget it, talk about male egos, she went down like a lead balloon. It didn't matter what she did, it was never right. Thank God things have changed for the better. During the years the newsroom played a valuable role in providing training for cadet journalists from the Sydney & Melbourne offices.

David Lupton applied for Regional Manager at Bega he & his wife *Clare* & their twin daughters were given a farewell. He was very casual, but a terrific guy. David spent three years as

manager at Bega before he passed away with cancer.

When *David* left we had a relief Talks Officer come from Sydney by the name of *Richard Smith* (another nice guy). He finished up marrying local girl *Carol Rixon*, who was working as receptionist at the time. Her father & mother had the shop in Ebden Street for many years. Her mother & grand-mother were killed in an car accident on their way to Culcairn. *Carol* was only a toddler & she was found wandering on the road at the scene of the accident.

ABC CONCERTS: *John*

Mamouny had a menswear store in Dean Street just near the Commercial Bank on the corner of Dean & Kiewa Streets. *John* use to do the ABC Concert bookings from his business for the subscriptions series for quite a number of years. I can remember the time when people use to sleep all night in front of his shop to obtain tickets for the series.

There was an ABC Concert Committee who use to do a terrific job organising posters of the artists in & around Albury. We use to hold the concert suppers at the studios in Townsend Street. We had a lovely big room that was able to fit every one in. On the day of the concert *Athol* & myself would arrange the tables for the supper, he would bring in some lovely flowers & greenery from the residence in Dean Street to decorate the tables.

There were a lot of people that were involved over the years, *Mr & Mrs Gus Pottyondy, Mr & Mrs Urbanavicius, Mr & Mrs Neville Cann & Ray & Pam Jowett*. There were numerous others that helped but I must apologise, as I can't remember everyone's names. *Ray Jowett* use to dress the window for the ABC Concert Series.

John Mamouny decided to sell his shop, so the 'powers to be' in Sydney thought our office would be able to do the bookings; so *Mr Emerton* ask me if I would be able to manage it with my other duties. I told him that I would give it a go.

The Concert officer from Sydney was due down to organise the Concert Season, & he wanted to know who had dressed the window for the ABC publications. When I told him that I had, he said "you have another job, you can dress the window for the Concert season". I told him that we had someone who came in & did it, & he said to me, "not anymore". So that is one more job that I didn't want, - talk about 'multi- skilling'!

ABC BOOKSHOP: Meanwhile with everything else happening there was a great demand from the general public for written scripts of spoken word programs that were broadcast on the ABC. Back in the late 1960's & early 1970's all scripts were free to the general public. Because there was such a demand, it was decided to put the scripts out in paper-back form & sell them at a reasonable cost.

Educational Booklets: Seeing that I was selling the 'odd paperback', I started to get inquiries from teachers about booklets that were used with the Education Programs on radio, especially the program booklet called "Sing". It was a very popular booklet with the teachers & pupils in primary schools.

A new era had started in the ABC with the printing of publications both for programs & the Education departments. Word soon spread & I was up to my knees in boxes of educational & spoken word books, cassette tapes, videos, tee-shirts etc.. It became a big business for the ABC & still is.

Back in the early 1980's ABC TV would never think of advertising anything on the screen, not even their programmes. I can remember once when I was in Sydney for a Seminar. I happened to be over at the TV Studios at Gore Hill & I met with one of the bosses in the Publicity Department. I asked him why couldn't the ABC advertise their publications when the Test Pattern Music was on TV? Well, my suggestion went down like a lead balloon.

Guess what? A matter of months later they were advertising the ABC Publications on TV. All I asked for was to advertise when the test pattern music was on, as it was surprising the number of people who use to listen to the music while the test was on. How I knew is because they used to ring in & ask me what the music was that was being played.

The Concert Department had some competition now & had to share our front display window with ABC Publications. Now I wasn't only dressing the front window with Concert material, as it had to share space with 'Publications' & 'Education' booklets. So the Concert Department had the window for six months, & then Publications had it for the next six months.

Meanwhile a large crack appeared in the wall of the residence at the corner of Dean & Thurgoona Street where *Athol & Margaret Emerton* lived. *Don Brown*, Engineer from Head Office in Sydney, came to Albury to

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inspect it. It was decided that it was going to cost too much money to repair it, so they decided to sell that home. The ABC purchased a newly built home at 353 Shirleen Crescent, Lavington; so Mr & Mrs Emerton moved there.

Chris Masters who is with 'Four Corners' took over the position of 'Talks Officer'. While here he & his wife purchased a home in David Street. Chris spent about 4 years in Albury; he then decided to move the family back to Sydney. After Chris, our new 'Talks Officer' was Elizabeth Weaver, who originally came from Boort in Victoria. Elizabeth spent about 5 years in Albury; she has a son Andrew.

Meanwhile Athol Emerton wasn't keeping very good health, so the ABC retired him for that reason. He & Margaret decided to move back to Mount Gambier. I had to go out & inspect the premises where they lived in Shirleen Crescent, Lavington, to see what had to be done before the new manager moved in. While visiting there I found a photo album on the lounge room floor. I opened it & was quite surprised to find a lot of photos & old programmes from plays that Athol had acted in. There was even a letter from Sir Laurence Olivier praising him on his acting ability, which made interesting reading. Seeing that he wasn't a local, I felt that the Album should be preserved; so I rang ABC Archives in Sydney to see if they would like it, & they gladly accepted it. Sadly, not long after Athol & Margaret moved back to Mount Gambier, Athol had a stroke & died sometime later. We had numerous relief managers over the years with managers coming & going, & sick & holiday leave.

2CO Albury studios provided a Breakfast Program, News, & Rural Program, which emanated from our Rural Office at Wagga. We also had an local afternoon program. An Albury boy, John Henwood, worked as 'Rural Officer' at Wagga for quite some time; he then moved to 'Rural ABC' in Melbourne. Graham Hornibrook came after John; he was there for quite a few years. Doreen Munro was 'girl Friday'; I suppose you would call her that, as she did all the reception, telephone, & recording of the market reports. All other programs except for what came out of Albury & Wagga, were on relay from Melbourne or Sydney. Alex Nicol moved his programme "Always on Sunday" from Sydney to Albury & then to Wagga.

Some of our part time announcers that

come to mind were Ron Lewis (a solicitor in Albury), Ian Harrison, Richard Moore (a high school teacher), Neil Prater & Cleaver Bunton of course.

Our office got word that we were to have a visit from Michael Duffy, Minister for Post & Telecommunications in the Federal Labor Government. The Duffy family lived on the corner of Macauley & Perry Streets, Albury. Michael was in the same class as me in Primary School at St Bridget's. It was lovely to catch up with him after many years.

Our new manager was to be Ralph Elphinstone from Melbourne; he had a partner Paula. While living here they had a little boy. Ralph was great to work with he always fitted in with everyone. He ask me did I know any breakfast announcers & I said only the one on 2AY. He told me to ring him & ask him if he would be interested in working for the ABC. I made an appointment for him to see Ralph & they had a chat. He told Ralph that he wasn't ABC breakfast 'material', but he knew of someone at 2AY who may be interested in the position. His name was Gerry Oliver, so I made time for Gerry to use the studio, so that he could record his voice. I then sent the tape off to 'Sydney Programs'. They listened to the tape & rang us to tell us to employ him, much to the disgust of a our 'relief manager'.

Meanwhile Ralph had come back & settled in-to his daily routine. In his spare time he was really keen aeroplane enthusiast. He was so keen that he purchased an old aeroplane. He spent a lot of his time working on it, & also time getting his flying hours up so that he could go for his pilot's licence. He use to bring all his books in to show me what he had to learn. It looked all too complicated for me. I dare say if I had been interested in flying I would have studied it a bit more. To me Ralph seemed to get his licence too quickly; often he asked me if I would like to go up in the plane for a flight. I don't like small planes, so I would always knock back his offer. My son Phillip went up with him one day & was very sick, so needless to say he never went up again.

Ralph got 'itchy feet' & applied for the Regional Manager's job at Rockhampton in Queensland; it meant promotion as it was a TV & Radio Station. I was sorry to see him go as he was great to work with & was a good boss.

It was very odd, every time I would hear that a light plane had gone down, I

would always stop & listen to the news report. I really don't know why I did that, but I would get a funny feeling. One night I had just arrived home from work & the phone rang; it was Liz & she asked me had I heard the 6pm news in brief, & I said "no" & she said, "Ralph's plane went down, he & three other ABC staff members died". I just couldn't believe it; I waited for the 7pm news, as I had to hear the news report myself. It was so tragic for all the families.

Management' was approached by the Commonwealth Employment Service to see if we were prepared to take girls that were not trained in any aspects of office procedures. Our 'relief manager' approached me to see if I would be interested in training them. It was a 17 week scheme. I told him that I would give it a go. I trained 18 girls over a period of about ten years, & when their time was nearly up I encouraged them to apply for office positions. All of those girls had jobs to go to when they left the ABC. The government should never have ever stopped that scheme, as it gave the teenagers of this country confidence & a sense of responsibility.

The 'ABC Dix Committee of Review' recommended that highest priority be given to providing a second radio network in country areas. It commended proposals that would see the existing AM radio stations retained as part of an Australia wide 'Radio One' service & the provision of new transmitters (mostly FM) in conjunction with existing TV transmitters, to provide a greater number of smaller & more localised 'Radio Three' broadcasting regions of the ABC throughout Australia.

The raising of these possible developments coincided with the need for new premises in Albury. Everything possible had been done to provide a new building which would be flexible enough to suit all departments.

The ABC eventually decided that we had outgrown our premises in Townsend Street, so an investor was prepared to build new studios on the corner of Wilson & Olive Streets. The new building was built with an 'option to purchase', but it had been designed from the ground up for broadcasting purposes & fitted out with the latest in broadcasting equipment. Local staff played a large part in designing the modern building.

Despite it's busy location the site retained a leafy charm because the building has been designed to fit around

several trees & shrubs. Features of the building included an attractive foyer & There was adequate & well lit working spaces for news & program staff, two fully functional broadcasting studios, a control room & editing suite, & a large general studio & a well equipped record library. In the newsroom special facilities have been provided for sophisticated teleprinter communications equipment, telephone recording & tape editing, & the design incorporates the requirements for any future installation of computerised (electronic) news handling equipment. The program Department also had a large office area, there was also a special display area for the sale of ABC books, records, cassettes & other items which I managed over the years until it closed. The book shop should never have closed country people miss out on a lot at times. My position being re-structured, I was no longer able to run the shop.

During the earlier years with 2CO the announcers had to produce their own programs organise all their interviews, choose their own records & anything else that they wanted to put in their program. **Producers** were not heard of in country radio. One of the first producers to arrive at our new studios on the corner of Wilson & Olive Streets was *John Shovelan* from Sydney ABC (he eventually went on to be an overseas correspondent).

When 'multi-skilling' came in, my position was re-classified as a '**Broadcasting Production Officer**'. They sent staff to Albury from Melbourne for me to train.

My list of duties were to assist the Producer. So I became *co-producer* of Elizabeth Weaver's 'Morning Program'. The producer's contract came up for renewal & our new manager decided against renewing it. So that is when I fell into that position of *producer of the local morning program, & co-producer of the Victorian State Wide program*. The only trouble was that I never-ever was helped by an assistant, so I had both jobs to do. It was a privilege to work with *Elizabeth Weaver*, especially as she gave credit where credit was due. *Elizabeth* was a very intelligent lady & a great interviewer; she had special talent.



- *June Shanahan*, 8th March 2006. *

UIVER MODEL

A 1/12th scale model of the aircraft *Uiver* is nearing completion at the

Manual Arts Workshop North Albury. *Gerry Curtis* is a major participant. The model is made of timber, plywood & plaster & will be painted in the livery of the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines DC2 airliner that made an emergency landing at Albury in October 1934. It is hoped the model might form part of a display at the Albury Airport to commemorate the landing & the resourcefulness of the citizens of Albury. (see Photo page 1).

ADAMSHURST

A restaurant called '*Betty & Muriel's at Adamshurst*' has opened in the recently refurbished building owned by Albury builder *Garry Morgan & Co. Jan Hunter* was the A&DHS speaker at a View Club function attended by 120 women on 8 March to celebrate International Women's Day. *Jan* spoke on the 'History of Adamshurst' & 'the contribution women had made to that building over the century of its existence'. *Jan* mentioned the first & second Mrs Adams, Girls Hostel staff including Mrs Foster, Mrs Yarrington, Mrs Orme & Mrs Landsdowne. When the NSW Health Commission acquired Adamshurst for a Rehabilitation & Day Care Centre in 1976, another group of mainly women staff & volunteers moved in to provide care. [*Jan Hunter* drew heavily on research done by *Bruce Pennay & David Scobie*. Full text of *Jan's* talk is in the History Room at Albury Library.] *

JOURNEYING through the JOURNALS - *John Craig*

A compilation to help members find items of interest. These journals can be viewed at the Albury City Library - History Resources Room:

ARGYLE BULLETIN: Goulburn H S & F.H.S. Journal: February 2006.

1. Paddy the pillager & the murder of John Fuller 1840 Goulburn.

BORDERLINE NEWS: Wodonga F.H.S. Newsletter, February 2006.

1. Research night Tues 18 April 2006. A range of topics for questions & advice.

DESCENT: Society of Australian Genealogists Journal. December 2006.

1. S.A.G. Computer Index (A.G.C.I) second volume just released. Personal

name index to the N.S.W. Government Gazette.

2. Aldine Centennial History N.S.W. Recording missing sections.

3. What's on January to July 2006.

INSITES: Historic Houses Trust NSW magazine, Autumn 2006.

1. Speakers corner in Sydney's Domain; Sydney Soap Box Forum.

2. Costume close up; Rouse Hill costume collection mid 19th to late 20th century.

LINKS' N' CHAINS: Liverpool G.S. Journal, February 2006.

1. Roger & Charles PITT (sons of Samuel). Two contrasting lives.

MANSFIELD H.S.: Newsletter. February 2006.

1. Three Creeks; Site of shoot-out between police & Ned Kelly.

2. Hightt links; William & John Hightt, Hobart 1830.

PROACTIVE: Public Records Office Victoria magazine. Summer 2005/2006.

1. Womens Suffrage Petition (260 metres long) of 1891; now as a fully searchable online database.

2. Digitised images from 1956

Melbourne Olympics available online.

VALLEY GENEALOGIST: Bega Valley G.S. Newsletter, February 2006.

1. Migrations of John Roberts; London to Australia 1853, Part 2. *

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A meeting to discuss the R&P Committee is to be held at the Albury Library on **Tuesday 18 April at 5.15 pm**. Members who are interested in forming a group are invited to attend. There are many opportunities: History Sheets, items for the web page, local history brochures, books & oral histories are but a few. Digital technology open up new opportunities too. Please come along & share your ideas. *

TOUR OF THE HISTORY ROOM

Would you like a guided tour of the History Resources Room at Albury Library? *Carole & Chris* at the Library would be happy to take small groups of on a 1/2 hour tour. Please contact *Doug Hunter* for details. *

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