



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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REPORT ON THE AUGUST MEETING (9/8/06)



Photo 1: Investment into Cub Scouting, 'Law & Promise'. On left William Holmes Club Assistant, David Murray is the invested Cub. Cub Leader Graham Murray (his Dad). It was about 85 degrees F inside the 1st Albury Scout Hall. (photo courtesy Graham Murray).

The guest speaker was **Graham Murray**, who presented "A History of Scouting in Albury, 1909-1939, by Frank Brown".

Scouting commenced in Albury in 1909 – not long after its inauguration in England – the Scoutmaster being **Gordon Fleming** who served under **Baden Powell** as a Scout in the Boer War. I, with half a dozen others, was one of the earliest members of his Patrol. Others, as I recollect, were **Ken Kingsmill**, **Bill Kinsner** & **Norman Bunton** (no connection with **Cleaver Bunton**). Our "stamping ground" was at the foot of the rifle range near **Alexander's** home (later **Smiths**) & over the

INSIDE this ISSUE:

Page 2: "40 Years of Scouting", by **Graham Murray**.

Page 3: "**Robert Baden Powell**".

Page 4: "Albury Battery" & "Hewish Memorial Window".

★ SEPTEMBER 13 GENERAL MEETING

8pm Wednesday Sept. 13
Commercial Club, Dean
Street Albury.

'SPECIFIC NIGHT'

Please bring along your item of ephemera & tell us about it. (Examples could be catalogues, advertising material, calendars, electioneering material, invitations, lottery tickets, theatre & concert programs, posters, produce labels, & more).

QUESTION of the month:

Who were the army surplus dealers in Albury & district after World War II, & where were they located?

"saddle" to the common via "Old Tom's Hut" (**Old Tom** was a recluse living in a shack there). My first camp was not far from there & I remember we were washed out one night in a storm.

After a couple of years **Gordon** left the town & the patrol gradually >>>

FUTURE EVENTS

11/10/06: History Meeting at the Albury Regional Museum, Turk's Head, Wodonga Place.

Albury & District Historical Society Inc., PO Box 822, ALBURY, NSW, 2640.

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Mr Harold Mair, O.A.M.

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Bulletin 461 Transcription & Editing: Doug Hunter

★Subscriptions★:

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

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

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

A&DHS web page, see Regional Heritage link on Museum web site.

A&DHS Committee Meeting, Tuesday 26/9/06. 5.15pm at Albury City Library.

ALBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM, Turks Head, Wodonga Place, Albury.

Open every day,
10:30am to 4:30pm.
Ph. 02 6051 3450

Website:
www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum

faded out. Our parents had to make our 'Tenderfoot Badges' on our passing the test.

It was my privilege to form the next Troop in 1915, since when I understand First Albury has had an unbroken existence.

I, with *Les Hewish*, had been conducting a Boys Club in connection with the Methodist Church. *Les*, having enlisted, was in *Egypt* & I having been rejected for service, suggested that we convert the club into a boy scout troop. The suggestion was enthusiastically adopted, & *Les*' battalion colours (chocolate & brown) as our troop colours, & a



Photo 2: Layout of Scout Camp, at *Black Dog Creek Beechworth (1959)*. To construct, tents had to be placed over lashed poles & braced with ropes (no floor or fly screening as in today's tents). (photo courtesy *Graham Murray*).

green scarf with brown border was worn to the time of my departure from Albury 25 years later. *Les* was killed in action in *Egypt*.

I have in my possession a book titled "**The Boy Scout Companion**" & on the fly leaf of this book appears, in *Cleaver Bunton's* handwriting, & dated 27/9/15 the following inscription:-

'Boys who have promised to be obedient to the Laws of Scout duties', & the following names are appended – *Roland Lobb, Cleaver Bunton, Jack Kenna, Ernie Henshaw, Howard Edward, Valnton Edwards, Fred Roach, Jim Roach, Roy Sharp.*

Meetings were held in the Methodist Hall & later in St Matthews Hall for a time & also in the Drill Hall. The Troop & later Cub Pack progressed steadily with the aid of parents & a small but good Committee, & it was not until 1925 that a move for a hall was mooted.

As reported in the *Border Morning Mail* of Monday 9th February 1925 – 'At St. Matthews Hall on Saturday night (7th) a representative meeting of citizens took place. The Mayor (Ald. *Davies*) presided & there were also present –

Mrs Clark, & Messrs DA Thompson, WH Callaghan, PA McDowell, WA Welsh, J Foord, Humphrie Morgan, Hewish, Wilkinson, Sheehan, Revs. McCook, Gardner, & Collicott, Sup. Cooke & Mesdames Browne, Hopkins, Nagle Rosler (Henty), Boucher (Corowa), & P Selle. Apologies were received from Messrs *J Stephens, Monaghan, Litchfield, DA Thompson, Moore, AR Dore & Dr RA Robertson*'.

Mr *H Macallister*, Commissioner for Training from Headquarters addressed this meeting after which the following committee was elected:- President, *DA Thompson*, Vice President, Mr *Mc-*



Photo 3: Shows layout of Group's Kitchen with cooking fire area & dining area. Photo shows wooden Patrol Box used to store all kitchen equipment: to the right on tree is a hand wash up stand. (photo courtesy *Graham Murray*).

Dowell & Rev McCook, Secretary *Rev Collicott*, Treasurer *WH Callaghan*, Trustees Messrs *Hewish & Callaghan*. It was then resolved that an appeal be made for funds for a club room & in a few minutes over £20 was given.

Following this report I received a letter from *Gordon Fleming* dated 11/3/35 as follows:-

"I saw in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the Boy Scout Movement had taken a new lease of life. I am indeed very glad of it. I always considered that the two finest movements are the *Masonic Lodge & the Boy Scouts* & there is a very great similarity in the teaching of both ... The Scout is taught *self-reliance, & how to act quickly* for the best in cases of emergency. *Self respect & a due & proper respect* for all others, no matter what their status in society may be, *truthfulness & cleanliness* both of mind & body & above all things, to act '*on the square*' & give a *fair deal* to everyone. Perhaps I am getting a little long winded, but I have always & still have the Boy Scouts very near my heart and when I started them in

Albury the boys were all up to expectations. Wishing you & the boys every success, I remain, Very Sincerely yours, (Signed) *Gordon Fleming.*"

He did not realise that I was one of his original boys. It was not for several years after I came to *Wollongong* that I discovered he was living at *Stanwell Tops* (only a few miles from *Wollongong*). It was then too late for it was his death notice I had read! I wrote to his widow (formerly, I think, Miss *Ringwood* who kindly acknowledged my note & said *Gordon* had often talked about his Scouts.

From February 1925 the Club Room project moved forward. After voluminous correspondence & through the good advice of Mr *Alex Mair*, we were granted an area of land, subsequently extended, for erection of *Rovers' Den* - "at a rental of one peppercorn".

This grant was made through the 'Department of Lands' on the recommendation & concurrence of the Police Superintendent (the area was known as the *Police Paddock*). I believe *Tennis Club, Croquet, & Girl Guides* also have portions adjoining.

Mates Ltd provided the material for the building on long term credit & the tender for erection was given to Mr *Griffen*. The hall was completed at an approximate cost of £600. The foundation blocks were supplied & placed by Mr *Jack Saunders*. The Hall was opened in August 1926 by the State Governor de Chair.

The *Rovers Den* was erected about 1934, the foundation stone being a tribute to the writer & unveiled by Lord *Gowrie*, then Governor-General. Mr *JE Frew* was earlier appointed Rover Leader in October 1932. At that time rates paid by the Committee amounted to approximately £8 per year.

It was my privilege to unveil an *Honour Roll* (about 1940) in the Scout Hall, which bore over 100 names of ex Scouts serving in *World War II*. I left Albury in 1939 & have always taken a keen interest in 1st Albury Scouts.

Valuable assistance as Scout Masters was given by *Gordon Payne, Claude Crowe, Dave Junor, Brench Pascoe, Pat Selle & Vera Webb, Chas Nagle* & others whose names I cannot recall.

I shall never forget the round of "farewells" tendered to Mrs *Brown* & myself on our departure for *Wollongong*. - *Frank Brown.* *

(An audio recording of A&DHS meetings is made for BULLETIN transcription).

GRAHAM MURRAY :-

FORTY YEARS OF SCOUTING

Graham joined 1st Albury Cub Pack as an 8 year old in 1951. Geoff Hamilton & later Gwen Jones, with the assistance of Enid Fleming, were the Cub Masters.

Graham achieved the highest award in cubs, the 'Leaping Wolf' Badge before moving up to scouts. In 1st Albury Troop he met Scout Master Bert Lang. Bert was a retired drover who was working for Murray River County Council. He was a master bushman & guided Graham through Second & First-class Badges & finally the Bushman's Thong.

At age 15 Graham went on to Senior Scouts, now known as 'Venturers'. There he reached the ultimate award, the Queen Scout Badge. David Murray



Photo 4: Parade at Inter-Scout camp at Brown's Island Christmas c1957. Patrol Head, LH Roger Woodward, Tom Lang, Tony Von Ginkle, David Jordan, Unknown, - Wilkinson. Scout Head - Bert Lang, Ken Woodward, Unknown, Eric Gray, Unknown, Unknown, "Spooky" Spence, Lenny Triplet, Graham Murray, Garry Vamp. (photo courtesy Graham Murray).

& several others received the award at the same time.

In 1970, Graham progressed to 1st Albury Rover Crew. Don Dean, a watchmaker from 'Mates' (building) was the Rover Leader.

When the Rover Crew closed in 1971, Graham decided he should give something back to the organisation that had done so much for him. He became Assistant Cub Master at 1st Albury & later took over from Gwen Jones as Cub Master.

Produced with free software by the Worldwide Open Source Community "Ubuntu 'Dapper Drake' Linux", - endorsed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu & Nelson Mandela; & Suse 10.1.

Graham remained as Cub Master for almost 30 years. Bill Holmes, Sue Smith & Judy Haberfield were three of his assistants. Finally in 2001, Graham recognised that the scout movement was moving into a new era & it was time for him to retire & make way for younger leaders.

He looks back with great appreciation of what he received & what he has been able to put back into the movement. Graham's father had died shortly before he joined cubs & the influence of scouting upon his life has perhaps been disproportionately great because of that. He recognises scouting has changed, but believes it is still able to offer much to youth today.

Graham Murray was able to trace the rise & fall of scouting in the local region, the Southern Border District. The Southern Border District once comprised 12 groups beginning in 1915 with 1st Albury, followed in 1929 by 1st Culcairn & 2nd Albury. Barry Lee & Brian Garwood were two influential



Photo 5: Senior Scouts (now Venturers), Warren Knowls, Graham Murray, Ray Murray (no relation), Tony Van Ginkle, Robert Whiting, Grame Bockhoff. Preparing to go on hike from in front of 1st Albury Scout Hall (1960). (photo courtesy Graham Murray).

scouters in 2nd Albury over the years. 1st Holbrook registered in 1930 & a year later, 1st North Albury. In 1953, Bill Foo started 6th Albury at the CBC School. This was preceded by 5th Albury at St David's Church. In 1958, David Junor, one of the original Albury Rover Crew c.1934, started 1st Lavington Troop. In 1964, 7th Albury began at the Baptist Church. Bernie Dyball, Alex Sigmund, Tom Boyd & Doug Hunter were involved there. In 1975 Cheryl Pitman played a leading role in the formation of 1st Howlong. Springdale Heights registered in 1979. It is not clear where 3rd & 4th Albury fitted in. There were scouts at the Albury

Grammar School, but whether it was a registered group is unclear.

The smaller numbers of boys going on to Venturers brought about the formation of a city-wide unit, Etamogah Venturers. Laurie Haberfield was Venturer Leader for many years. In Albury in 2006, only Etamogah Venturers, 1st Albury, 2nd Albury & 1st Lavington are still functioning. Narda Reid began as a scouter at 7th Albury & is now at 2nd Albury following a merger.

A shortage of enthusiastic leaders & helpers has been a major factor in causing groups to merge or close. Another factor has been the cost. While efforts have been made to minimise this, cost does seem to prevent some young people joining, sadly some perhaps in greatest need of the kind of help scouting could give.

Visible changes in the movement since Graham began have included the inclusion of girls & changes to uniform. he, like many others, initially was apprehensive about the inclusion of girls but now believes it works well. Graham Murray thinks the current uniform is less military-like, is cheaper, but not so 'dressy' for formal occasions.

- Graham Murray

(transcribed by Doug Hunter) *

Answer to 'QUESTION for AUGUST':

(Who was Robert Baden Powell? When did he first come to prominence; for what is he best remembered; & did he ever visit Australia?)

◆ Geoff Hamilton gave a comprehensive answer to the question "Who was Robert Baden-Powell, when did he first come to prominence, for what is he best remembered & did he ever visit Australia?". Robert Baden-Powell was born 22 Feb 1857, the son of a clergyman. He was educated at Charterhouse then in 1876 joined the Army. He served in India and Africa. He first came to prominence during the Boer War 1899-1902. He commanded the garrison at Mafeking, besieged by the Boers from October 1899 to May 1900. The defence of Mafeking captured public attention and crowds danced in the streets of London when the town was relieved. BP was a hero.

Baden-Powell is best remembered for founding the Boy Scout Movement in July 1907. The movement and its counterpart Girl Guides flourished,

particularily in the British Empire & USA. *BP* was Chief Scout until his death 8 January 1941.

◆ No one could come up with an answer to the last part of the question: 'did *Baden Powell* visit Australia?' However, subsequent research indicates he visited in 1912, 1931 & 1934. The last visit coincided with the **Frankston Jamboree**.

◆ **BULLETIN 459** asked for information about scouts at Bonegilla in the late 1940s to 1960s. *Jean Whittle* sent this note:-

A senior constable *Alf Besford* started the Scout Group at **Bonegilla** in 1959 & had up to 25 children up until 1968-69. *Lindsay Rapsey* a son of a local farmer was one of the Scouts that attended the group.

There are only 5 'Gang Shows' held in Australia; Albury held their first show in 1964.

District Commissioner Captain *P H Heywood* was presented with the Scout 'White Knot' for Long Service in 1963 by the NSW Chief Scout Sir *Vincent Fairfax*.

The 'Queen Scout Badge' was presented by the Governor of NSW to *Laurie Haberfield* & he also received the 'Wood Badge' for *Youth Leadership*.

◆ (EDITORIAL NOTES: the Governor in 1963 was Lt Gen *Sir Eric Woodward*, although I know what a 'Wood Badge' is, I have never heard of a 'President's Wood Badge'; & a 'Wood Badge' is not for *Youth Leadership*! - it is the highest qualification for Scout-Masters. - *Doug Hunter*) *

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Doug Hunter spoke on his research into the

ALBURY BATTERY

The Battery I am interested in is a unit of artillery consisting of four field guns, & about 100 men. The Albury Battery is linked to the naming of **Noreuil Park** in Albury. That Battery was officially known as the **13th Battery Australian Field Artillery AIF**. However, there is a problem. The pre-war militia battery, the **17th Battery** was also known as the Albury Battery & referred to as such in the newspapers. Therefore, there were two Albury Batteries, **Militia & AIF**.

Sources I have researched fall into three categories: Official, Sacred & Secular.

Official sources include documents & photographs held in the **Australian War Memorial (AWM)**, **National Archives of Australia (NAA)**, & local museums. Researching a soldier at the AWM & NAA is easy if one knows his name & number, but difficult otherwise. The Official History of the War is also a general source.

Sacred sources are memorials at local churches, eg **St Patrick's Gates**, obelisks at **St Matthew's & St David's**, & memorial panel from **Wesley Methodist Church** (now part of the Police Station). This panel is currently stored at the Police Station pending a decision on its future. The **St David's** obelisk includes a panel taken from the **Congregational Church** that closed in 1928 & was demolished c.1973.

Secular sources include Honour Boards at local schools, **Lavington Oval gates**, & Memorial books at **Albury City Council**. The list on the **Lavington Oval gates** is a compilation of **WWI & WWII**. The pages of the books at Council are no longer turned each day. Wear & tear from constant turning had become a concern so the books are now displayed closed in a case. The Honour Board from the **Thurgoona Memorial Hall** is now in the **Thurgoona Community Centre**.

The other important secular source is the newspapers, *The Albury Banner & Wodonga Express*, the *Border Morning Mail* & the *Albury Daily News*. These papers are on microfilm at Albury Library. It is very handy to have other researchers know what you are working on. I have had a great deal of assistance from *Bruce Pennay*, *Chris McQuellin*, *Helen Livsey* & *Jan Hunter* who have copied information they came across in the process of their own research.

I began my research with two pieces of information: the embarkation roll of the **13th Battery AIF** from AWM, & an advertisement in the *Border Morning Mail*

of 23 June 1919. It was an invitation to a function to welcome home members of the "Original Albury Battery and the **12th Battery AIF**". The advert was puzzling until I discovered it contained a typographical error & should have read **13th Battery AIF**. I realised that not all the original, or militia battery, served with the **13th Battery**, so I am trying to find as many who served in the original battery & record their experiences. Good examples are *Les Colquhoun & Roy Collings*, both original battery members who did not serve in the **13th Battery AIF**.

To complicate things a bit more I realised I realise I have to address the period from **1919 to 1940** because the Albury Battery resumed in the militia of that period. I am by no means at the end of my research, so I welcome help from families of those who served in the Albury Battery at any time.

A L HEWISH MEMORIAL WINDOW

Les Hewish, mentioned in *Graham Murray's* talk, was killed at **Passchendaele** on 5 October 1917, aged 23. He was serving with the **3rd Infantry Battalion** whose colour patch was brown & green. Before enlisting, *Les Hewish* was a bookseller. In 1915, his father *Arthur*, was the proprietor of *Blake's Busy Book Bazaar* in **Dean Street, Albury**, so it is likely *Les* worked there. In 1918, proprietorship of *Blake's Busy Book Bazaar* was shown as *Arthur Hewish & A P Radburn*. Was the younger *Hewish* intended to join his father in the business & did his death make other arrangements necessary? The family placed a stained glass window in the **Albury Methodist Church** in memory of **Captain A L Hewish**. It was located on the northern wall, closest to **Olive Street**. The church is now part of the **Albury Police Station**. Is the window still there, or was it moved when the church closed?

- *Doug Hunter* *