

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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467

REPORT ON THE MARCH MEETING (14/3/07)

Twenty nine members and guests attended the meeting and heard two most interesting presentations by Roma Freeman and Jan Hunter. The meeting concluded with a presentation and farewell supper for Max and Ruth Barry who are moving to Port Kembla to live.

Both our speakers are active members of the Historical Society. Roma is currently engaged in 80th anniversary celebrations for the Albury Branch of the Country Women's Association. Jan is continuing her research into the development of Central North Albury in the first half of the 20th century.

THUMBNAIL HISTORY OF ALBURY CWA by Roma Freeman

A group of Albury women met in the Show Society's room on 5 April 1927 to form the Albury Branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) with Mrs Norman Welsh, President, Mrs D. A. Thompson, secretary and Mrs J. Stephen treasurer. Mrs Stephen resigned during the first year and was replaced by Mrs Belbridge. The branch had 55 members at the onset and its first venture was to establish a rest and tea room like Wagga. The rest & tea room was located in AMP Lane, but within a short space of time moved to Dean Street

Early in 1928 Dr Woods

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

11 APRIL 2007

8pm at Commercial Club
Albury

Speaker: Doug Hunter
"History of the Albury
Battery: citizen soldiers in
Albury 1903-1940."

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What are some of the
many resources available
to us to find out about
the history of Albury &
district?

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$22
Family: \$30
Corporate: \$50

History Meetings: 2nd Wednesday
of the month 8pm at Commercial
Club Albury.
Committee meets 4th Tuesday of the
month 5.15pm at Albury City
Library.

A&DHS website:
www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum/heritage

spoke to the Branch on the need for a Baby Health Clinic. This was no easy task. The Branch had to get Dept of Health approval and employ a Baby Health sister. But, by the end of 1928, the Baby Health Care Clinic was up and running. Socially the tea room was a good thing, but financially it had its problems. When the depression came the tea room ceased and fund raising ensured the continuation of the Baby Health Clinic. Card parties and stalls were good money raisers also balls and an annual fair. The Branch also conducted a rest room at the Albury Show, but that seemed aimed at providing respite for show goers as it raised little money. Catering for the annual Motor Show in Albury in those days was another fund raising effort.

The Health Clinic had immediate popularity as these figures from Sister Swannell for the year 1929 showed.

Number visited at home	1215
New cases	300
Number of test meals	282
Pre-maternity cases advised	108
Number of baby weighing	4,279
Ave daily attendance at Centre	29
Record attendance for 1 day	57
Total attendance for year	5,070
plus at Hume Weir	343

In 1931 the Branch had 181 members, but not all attended meetings, and from the beginning participated in the wider affairs of CWA. A motion to

State Conference promoted the practice of purchasing Australian made and grown produce.

A CWA Younger Set was formed soon after the parent branch. This comprised young women, usually until they married, and they would help in the more adventurous and youth oriented functions. Younger Sets were very active, but faded away in the 1970s when the average age dropped to 18.

In 1933, negotiations began with the Department of Lands for land in Kiewa Street to build a Baby Health Centre. Seventy-five percent of the money had to be on hand before building could begin. With money in hand and land acquired, Dr W Cleaver Woods laid the foundation stone on 18 December 1934. The Albury CWA supported and maintained the Baby Health Centre until 1981 when it was taken over by the Department of Health. The Baby Health Clinic moved to the Mercy Hospital and subsequently to the Community Health Building in Smollett Street.

During the war members made jackets, socks, mittens, caps, and also camouflage nets for the services. With the end of the war came the immigration scheme and maybe the first friendly contact these newcomers had with Australian women was the Albury CWA. With the

activity of entertaining busloads from Bonegilla, the Rest Rooms proved to be too small and an extension was proposed which came to fruition by the end of 1956. At the close of 1964, the need to entertain the newcomers had declined so members took on the task of delivering Meals on Wheels when that service began in 1963. This work continued until 1975 when a few were doing several runs in a week. As members became less able, fund raising became more arduous. These days we knit and sew garments for premature babies and sick children and make up emergency toilet packs among other things, for emergency services and people in hospital

We like to think that our branch played a part in the establishment of the Murray Campus of Charles Sturt University when, in 1974, we undertook, a survey covering Albury and Wodonga for the Riverina College of Advanced Education.

In 1982, the branch mounted a successful campaign to have overnight accommodation made available to parents of children in the Albury Base Hospital.

Over the years Albury CWA has assisted people in need of care and support. We have contributed to projects at hospitals, nursing

homes, women's and youth refuges and other care facilities with garments, rugs and toys. We have supported the Special Children's Christmas party and also Wewak Street School and provided specific equipment to the Children's Ward.

The CWA Hall in Kiewa Street has been a never ending project. The debt on the building was finally cleared in 1974. In 1973 an alliance was negotiated with Albury Apex to maintain the hall and this agreement remains in force today. Income from permanent hirers helps keep the Hall viable, although rent on the land has risen 700% in the last 2 years. We rarely lease the facility for parties because of bad experiences where damage has exceeded the bond. In the past, most of our funds have been raised by catering. This is something we have done well, but unfortunately, age is catching up with our Albury members so we do very little catering now. Our two oldest members are 94 and 90 and we have a membership of 32. The lease from the Lands Department expires in 2017, so that and our aging and declining membership will have a bearing on the future of the Albury Branch.

I am writing a history of the Branch, but sadly records



CWA Hall Kiewa Street that housed the Baby Health Clinic 1935-1981.

encompassing 20 years are missing. If any one has amongst their accumulated memorabilia any records, press clippings, photos, programs, etc. pertaining to Albury CWA, that I could borrow I would appreciate it. We will be celebrating our 80th anniversary on June 12th and any one desirous of attending may contact me for an invitation (02 6021 1920). Thank you.

RECREATION & SPORT IN CENTRAL NORTH ALBURY 1920-1950

by Jan Hunter

This is an extract from Jan's talk. Her book on the history of Central North Albury is expected later in the year.

TENNIS CLUBS & COURTS

In 1923 the *The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* ran *twenty* articles on tennis to cater for the local interest in the sport. By 1927 the Albury and Border Lawn Tennis Association had ten affiliated clubs. In March 1928 the North Albury Progress Association held a public meeting at Stantons to discuss the formation of a tennis club. By

the end of the night, Ernie Stanton had donated land behind his nursery at 426 Stephen Street, as well as the materials for one court; a committee was set up and volunteers swung into action. Fund raising euchre parties were held regularly at Stantons and by October, two courts were officially opened.

At the opening, the President of the Lawn Tennis Association, referred to North Albury as "a really go-ahead centre" and the Border Morning Mail wrote that it was a "highly progressive part of town."

The club grew quickly and more land was purchased. Fees were £1/11/6 for males, 15/6 for females and 7/6 for non-playing members. The basic wage around this time was £4/2/6 per week, so the fees were quite hefty. After a year the club employed a caretaker and issued debentures for one guinea. Fourteen months after the first subscription in 1928 there were 70 members - 98% of whom lived close by

The club was ready to enter teams into the Albury competition within two years and continued to do so until the middle of the war when the courts closed. Weeds grew waist high until peacetime, then re-opened. The Glenly Tennis Club shifted to Glenroy in 1980.

I want to pay tribute here to Marie and Les Bell, long time members of Glenly Tennis Club. It is because they kept some original

documents that we have such a detailed account of the first two years of a neighbourhood tennis club.

Also at the end of the twenties, Clara Marshall was holding euchre parties in the greenhouse at the Marshall nursery in Smith Street. She was raising funds for another tennis court. This time the council donated a block in North Street close to the railway line. The neighbourhood men got to work, cleared the land of big gum trees and made the courts. As most of these men were ex-servicemen, living close to the courts, the new club was called Diggerville. This club operated until 1996 when it combined with St. Pats and the courts closed around 2000.

Private tennis courts were part of North Albury life. The earliest would have been the Hunter court in Perry Street. They also had a croquet green.

Roy Collings wrote about the Middleton court and describes playing there in 1914:

The Middleton family consisted of Mr and Mrs., Billy and Vera... Bill was a keen cricketer and a stylish and correct tennis player. Vera played a very good game of tennis too, but in an unorthodox manner. She served underarm - but you had to be good to get her first service back. The Mids had a tennis court laid out at the corner of Young & Tribune St., and many a good game I had there.

Other courts belonged to Quinlan, George, Simpson, Bleasdale, Forge and Kiss (nee Stanton).

Myrna Vandenberg, nee Rittwig has happy memories of the Simpson court:

I loved it when Mum went to tennis at Mrs Simpson's. I was al-

lowed to go inside and play with a set of teaspoons Lt Col Simpson had sent home from Egypt. I remember one spoon had a tiny Moses in a basket on the top of the handle.

NORTH ALBURY YOUTH CLUB

In 1938 All Saints Anglican Church was opened - it was an all purpose hall and quickly became the centre of community activities.

In the mid forties Arthur Knoble and Ron James started a youth club at All Saints Hall with gymnastics classes, netball teams and boxing training. The gym classes included training on the vaulting horse and parallel bars and was augmented by physical training. PT included work with weighted clubs, in the shape of skittles. On exhibition nights these were wired with tiny lights and gave an impressive display. Tommy Barnes, Norm Brumm and Erwin Nelson were the instructors. Netball courts were laid out in the church grounds and a boxing ring was set up outside for exhibition matches.

In February 1946, the Youth Club purchased two blocks of land in Buckingham Street, Arthur Knoble being the guarantor. Over the next few months, the Red Shield Hall at Bonegilla was bought through the Disposals Commission for £500. The hall was transported to Buckingham Street and a great community effort got it in working order.

There were many lofty speeches at the grand opening, but Arthur Knoble's response was that he believed 99% of boys and girls are good and will automatically become useful citizens if

given a guiding hand.

A few months after the opening of the hall, the club had 180 members and four cricket teams, two netball teams, two football teams,



The Dance Board used at dances at All Saints Hall and NAYC Hall. A A Chick Collection held by Mrs Dawn Lindner (nee Chick)

and a gymnasium class of 33 young men. High wire work was taught by Erwin Nelson who had been with Wirth's circus. The star of this activity was Gwen Koehler from West Albury.

The North Albury Youth Club Hall became the hub of community activities, including many fund raising events. The regular dances that had been held at All Saints hall continued at the new venue and local young women made their debut at the balls. Reggie Koehler's band was popular, as was Alan Chick as MC. Alan is remembered for his immaculate three-piece suit with gold watch chain. The hall was used for regular card parties, euchre being a favourite game. The hall was hired for baby shows, 21st



North Albury Youth Club Hall , formerly Red Shield Hut at Bandiana Army Camp, relocated to Buckingham Street 1946.

birthday parties and wedding receptions and used by the NA Presbyterian and Catholic congregations.

The North Albury Youth Club was unique because it was secular, and completely run by the community. It became the model for similar clubs in South and East Albury.

ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH.

Geoff Hamilton gave a comprehensive answer to the question: How, when and why was Albury's Noreuil Park so named? An article in the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* 3 October 1919 records the process and reasons for the name.

"At a meeting on 30 September 1919, the Works Committee of the Albury Municipal Council took up the suggestion of the Mayor, Alderman Alf Waugh, to name a newly created park on the bank of the Murray River, Noreuil Park. The park, in an area known as Bean's Baths Reserve, had been cleared and levelled by ex-servicemen working on a Commonwealth grant project. Other names had been suggested for the park including AIF Park, ANZAC Park and Victory Park, but Alderman Waugh thought it likely these names would be used in many towns and cities and become hackneyed as a result. He wanted something distinctly 'Albury' about the name.

He interviewed a number of ex-members of the Albury Battery and the consensus was that their principal achievement during the war was the action just outside the village of Noreuil in April 1917. There, the Battery had been surrounded by the enemy, but had stood to their guns and played a major role in driving the enemy back."

A plaque commemorating the Albury Battery was placed near the kiosk. This has been relocated adjacent to the berth of the paddle-steamer, *Cumberoona*.

The spelling of the name Noreuil was never easy. In 1940, the *Border Morning Mail* called for the a standard spelling to be adopted.

"Once again discussion has arisen regarding the spelling of the name Noreuil applied to the river resort known as Noreuil Park. In practice this has generally been spelt Norieul, which has come to be regarded as the correct way. The name however is definitely associated with the exploits of the Australians in the Noreuil Valley in France during the Great War where a number of Albury men saw service and because of this the Albury Municipal Council officially recognises the French spelling of the name - Noreuil. Actually little trouble has been taken to procure a uniform spelling, the notice board at the park using a different spelling again. If council took some action to clarify the position and have all notice boards painted with the correct name, the controversy would be ended. Authority for the spelling of the name may be found in Mr C W Bean's official history of the war; also in several war maps. All these use the spelling "Noreuil." *BMM* 18 January 1940.

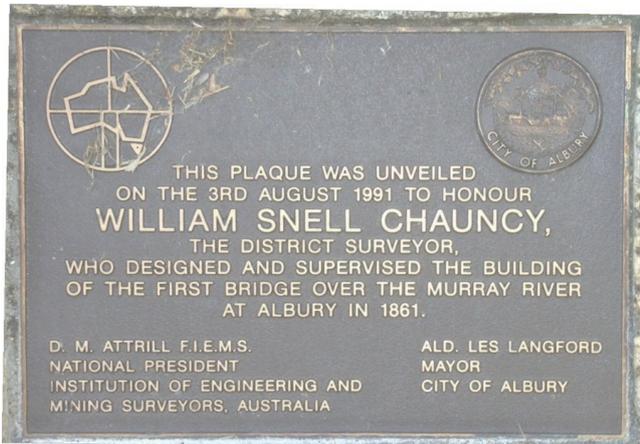
OPENING THE BRIDGES

The opening of the first bridge at Albury on 2 September 1861 was a grand affair. A procession led by the Oddfellows Lodge, followed by dignitaries and school children, began at the Court House and made its way to the bridge. It was watched by 1200 people. Actually on the bridge, a banquet chaired by T H Mate Esq., MLA for Hume was waiting. At the appropriate juncture, the Mayor J T Fallon Esq introduced Miss Sophia Chauncy and invited her to name the new bridge.

This she did with a bottle of champagne, naming it "The Union Bridge." Miss Chauncy was the daughter of William S Chauncy, District Surveyor, who designed and supervised the construction of the bridge. The Beechworth Mail then drove across the bridge to complete the celebration.

The opening of the Spirit of Progress Bridge by the Prime Minister The Hon John Howard MP on 4 March 2007 showed some similarities to events 146 years earlier. There was a procession of citizens, albeit more informal this time round; a gathering of dignitaries, many more this time; a banquet, refreshments anyhow, for guests on the bank of the Murray River adjacent to the bridge; and music and entertainment for the community at Alexandra Park. This opening however had nothing in common with the opening of the second Union Bridge 31 December 1898.

On that occasion it seems the bridge foreman galloped his horse the length of the bridge and declared it ready for use. Traffic began to flow immediately. A belated attempt to have an official opening on 26 January 1899 failed because no VIPs



Plaque at Wodonga Place entrance to Noreuil Park commemorating William S Chauncy who designed the first Union Bridge. Erected by the Institute of Engineering & Mining Surveyors 1991.

could attend.

The current Union Bridge was opened on 7 April 1961 by The Hon R J Heffron MLA, Premier of NSW. The Premier was in the first car to cross the bridge accompanied by Mr Doug Padman MLA for Albury and Ald Cleaver Bunton, Mayor of Albury. Following the official car however, seemingly in the tradition of 1898, the bridge foreman Mr G Bartly drove across the bridge in a "smoke spouting faded 'bomb'."

Security, on this most recent occasion, would have precluded any impromptu, or unscheduled action by the bridge foreman.

ELECTING THE MAYOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The question of how the mayor of Albury should be elected has been around for a long time. In 1907 it was, as it is today, a sensitive issue.

"Council Meeting lapses when four aldermen walk out" reported the *Border Morning Mail* 8 February 1907.

The controversy arose over a petition seeking a popular vote to elect the mayor. The timing of the petition was awkward because the mayor had to be elected by the 15 Feb otherwise the Governor-in-Council would make the appointment.

It seems as soon as the council went into committee, Aldermen Ringwood and Daniels moved the petition be agreed to. This was followed immediately by a motion from Alderman Kennedy that council business be handled in order, thus placing the petition well down the agenda. The mayor, Alderman

Ten Brink, refused to accept the second motion. When the second motion was refused, "Alderman Wilkinson rose from his seat and saying something, walked out of the chamber followed by Alderman Kennedy and Alderman Brann, in single file, Alderman Waugh going into the back room."

Ratepayers, who had attended to hear the issue of the petition debated and had been moved from the chamber to the footpath while council discussed matters in committee, heard 'raised voices' even though later, aldermen denied 'angry words' had been exchanged in the chamber.

The meeting lapsed and a special meeting was convened for 15 February (the deadline) to resolve the issue.

At that meeting conflicting legal advice was presented. The legal opinion of the Department in Sydney was that the council should elect a mayor immediately. Advice obtained by the mayor from Albury solicitor, Mr F Tietyens, was that Alderman Ten Brink should continue as mayor for a further 12 months allowing time to settle the matter. Council decided to follow departmental advice and Alderman Alf Waugh was elected mayor.

Border Morning Mail 16 February 1907

RENAMING WODONGA PLACE?

Part of AlburyCity's recently released Murray River Experience master plan is a proposal to change the name

of Wodonga Place to Riverside Boulevard. Changing the name requires public consultation. Do members have an opinion? Please think about it so we can discuss the proposal at the next meeting.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

by John Craig

Links "n" Chains: Liverpool GS Journal. February 2007.

1. Voyage of Arthur and Barry Cleveland, Gravesend to Melbourne 1867.
2. Mary Malone. Irish convict 1840 on ship "Isabella".

Richmond River (Lismore) HS Bulletin. Dec 2006.

1. Vivian Yung of Lismore 1906-1941. A proud Chinese Australian in White Australia.

Argyle Bulletin: Goulbourn HS and FHS Journal, Feb 2007.

1. "A bad Tennant: John Tennant 'First' Bushranger in Canberra?" *Mansfield HS Bulletin*, Feb 2007.

1. Memoirs of a stockman by Harry Huntington Peck Part 1.

Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter Feb-Mar 2007.

1. Publicans of the Black Swan Hotel Part 2.

Borderline News: Wodonga FHS Newsletter, Feb 2007.

1. Apr 17; Shauna Hicks presentation of what is available at the Public Records Office (PRO) of Victoria.

University Of The Third Age (U3A) Albury/Wodonga, Feb 2007. 1. Vale Alan Cracknell, Company life membership 2003; Advocate for the commencement of Albury/Wodonga Community College; Instrumental in the establishment and expansion of U3A in the 1980s.

Incites: Historic Houses Trust of NSW Magazine, Autumn 2007.

1. Tough Men, Hard Times: policing the Depression. Without a strong police presence, 'Civil War, the aim and hope of vicious and foolish Communists' would have convulsed the country.
2. Calendar of events for Mar-Apr-May 2007.