



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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472

## REPORT ON THE AUGUST MEETING (8/8/07)

Twenty-three members and visitors were at the meeting to hear three speakers and conduct business. Our scheduled speaker Chum Watson was unable to be with us owing to ill health. We trust Chum is on the road to recovery and look forward to hearing his memories of growing up in Newmarket at another time.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of long-time member of the Society, Keith Orford. Keith has been unwell for several years following a stroke.

The Question of the Month was a poser. The name Alexandra Park dates back at least to 1878 and there were Alexanders residing in East Albury in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modern street maps show both the Park and the Street as Alexandra.

Ann Brennan gave an informative and light hearted re-

port on the Albury Base Hospital (ABH) archive project.

Impressions of the new Library|Museum were favourable. People spoke of the sense of space and light, the enthusiasm of the staff and the popularity with the public. A suggestion to be passed on is that photos be placed on temporary display with a book to allow the visiting public to identify people and places depicted. In addition to gaining information it would add to the interactivity of the display.

Our speakers on the night were Ann Brennan, Ray Gear, Howard Jones and Kevin Monte. Time prevented us hearing all of Kevin's talk on his working life in Albury, but he will continue next meeting.

## NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY

12 SEPTEMBER 2007  
7.30pm at Library|Museum  
Albury

Speaker: Phillip Shanahan  
"A History of 100 years of the  
St Patrick's Tennis Club  
Albury."

Kevin Monte will continue his  
work history begun last meet-  
ing.

Small plate for supper  
please

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

*How and when did  
Papua & New Guinea  
become 'part' of  
Australia?*

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### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

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

**History Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday  
of the month 7.30pm at Commercial  
Club Albury.  
Committee meets 4th Tuesday of the  
month 5.15pm at Albury  
Library|Museum.

A&DHS website:  
[www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum/heritage](http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum/heritage)

**BEDPANS & BROOMSTICKS  
ABH ARCHIVE PROJECT**

Report by Ann Brennan

The staff in admin at the Albury Base Hospital has been most welcoming towards the members of the Historical Society. We had to submit to a police check and we were issued with a photo ID, like any other staff member. Elle, Manager of Environmental Services, had salvaged whatever memorabilia she could when the hospital moved to its new building in East Albury but the collection has been languishing in less-than-ideal conditions.

I had pictured this volunteer undertaking as working in an air-conditioned office where we would sort photo, and documents in comfort, but instead we were lead past the kitchen, the laundry and a loading bay, stopping at the mortuary then one step to the right where a staff member unlocked a door and switched on the light to reveal a storeroom. This was a basic large cupboard with shelves floor to ceiling, a raw concrete floor, and evidence of flooding. We could not actually walk into the room because of the big blue wheelie bins, which are used for shredded documents. We had to roll these out and place them along the passageway, without blocking access to the mortuary. We squashed past the Santa suit to remove another stainless steel trolley and an air cooler. Then four of us stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the new-found space.

The room was packed with toilet rolls, hand towels, and cleaning aids, including clusters of mop heads in bright blue and yellow. There was a small step ladder and the tallest member of the group climbed up to hand down boxes from the top shelf. We sorted through each one, measured items and Margaret wrote a description in a book, with carbon copy. Where possible, digital photos were used for

recording purposes.

A few items showed signs of water damage, especially an album of photos of the area where the hospital now stands. We repacked the boxes, giving each a big label and a number.

There was disappointment that many photos were not labelled in any way, with us using a mixture of knowledge of the area, recognition of local identities, as well as much ingenuity, to make sense of the discoveries. We were fascinated with the development of bedpans over the decades as well as many other items which had us puzzled.

When we opened a boxed set of equipment used years ago for the colonoscopy procedure, there was a hushed silence as we studied the contents. At our age, many of us have to succumb to this indignity and coming face-to-face (so to speak) with this reality, triggered a range of individual emotions and then we all looked at each other and burst out laughing.

It was cold weather but we worked in the loading bay with the open roller door as we sorted and recorded details of large framed photos of board members. Heavy plaques were set up outside to get the best light for digital photographs. Later Margaret and I adjourned to a more civilised office space to sort through old photos, annual reports and souvenirs of important events. All the time we worked, we hoped that one day we could get others to understand the importance of preserving this history.

Admin staff showed us a space in what they call "The Dungeon" and as this area had good temperature control and some free shelves, we took the opportunity to move the collection to



ABH Archive Project. Margaret Royle on ladder handing box to Ann Brennan. Bins and water damaged ceiling in background.

this more safe and dry position.

The staff seemed to be surprised at our initiative as we formed a team. Doug found a few tools in his car and we altered the steel shelves to better fit the sizes of the boxes. Luckily most containers were small and not too heavy. Helen packed trolleys - plenty of those in a hospital - and Margaret trundled them along a corridor. She cooed when she got to a one-way door and I would mind the door (if it closed we would have found ourselves locked out 'in the cold') while the trolley was rolled along the verandah to the Dungeon. Items have been placed in number order, matching the records in the carbon copy book.

Where to now?

Wandering around the internet reveals that hospitals all over Australia have displays of memorabilia. It seems that all larger hospitals in NSW have museum displays. We will be making contact with others in order to learn what type of cataloguing and data base systems are commonly used. Perhaps there is some funding somewhere to apply for? This is a work in progress and in the meantime we have taken the positive approach of referring to "The Dungeon" as the "Hospital Museum."

# # #

## ALBURY'S HOTELS 1938-1964.

by Ray Gear

In the early decades of the twentieth century there was a growth in car ownership in Australia that led to changes in society including how people travelled. As a consequence hotels began to change the way they operated. In 1938, 'Albury was fast establishing itself as a tourist centre and becoming a stop-over place for travellers that caused the executors of the Ryan Estate to rebuild.'

The **Market Hotel** (est 1878) on the corner of Dean and Olive Streets was rebuilt at a cost of £20,000 and renamed '**Ryan's**'. The rebuilding was overseen by licensee Reginald G Ryan the son of Thomas L Ryan who took over the running the hotel in 1901 before purchasing it in 1924. Thomas Ryan died in 1928 and the license of the hotel was taken over by Reginald who was well known in the local racing world and, an active member of many Albury organisations. The rebuilt Ryan's had a 32ft by 22ft public bar, private bar, lounge, accommodation, dining room seating 60 people, staff rooms and garages for seven vehicles.

In early September 1938, the Victoria Hotel at Wymah, north east of Albury and known as Wagra up to 1912, ceased trading and its license was transferred to Gavin Sarsfield O'Shaughnessy who built a two-storey hotel building costing £15,000 on the corner of Union Road and Urana Road Lavington. It was called the **Continental**, but in an advertisement in the *Border Morning Mail* of October 3 1938, the name used was '**Sars**. By the end of 1938 O'Shaughnessy had transferred the hotel license to Cornelius O'Keefe who then transferred it to Elizabeth Williams. By April 1939, Charles Hunter of Melbourne was the fourth licensee of the hotel. Over the years the

hotel had a number of name changes: including **MacWhites**, from about 1959 and the **Garri-son** from about 1969. At the start of 1959 when known as MacWhites, it had a bar, three lounges, kitchen, dining room, two bedrooms and four shops plus an open beer garden at ground level. On the first floor were a private lounge and 13 bedrooms. Today, the hotel is known as the **Northside Hotel Motel**, the motel addition to the hotel being built in 1963.

Transferred also in 1938 was the licence of the **Border City Hotel** to a new hotel building at No 476 Townsend Street. Originally proposed for rebuilding the Border City Hotel owners Messrs Charles C Waterstreet and James M Cox opted instead to build a new hotel next door at a cost of £10,000. Opened on the 1 November 1938 it was named the '**Pastoral**' because of Albury's 'association with the pastoral industry.' Charles Waterstreet sadly passed away just before the opening of the Pastoral. He was survived by his widow, Mary Josephine (nee Carroll), well known as a singer and who later became proprietress of the hotel in 1958 holding its licence until 1984. The Pastoral, a two storey building was designed by Robert H McIntyre an architect of Melbourne. It contained a bar, two parlours, lounge, thirteen bedrooms, private lounge, dining room and other ancillary rooms. The Pastoral's first licensee was James Cox who held it until 1941 when he suddenly passed away. A keen coursing enthusiast and sportsman he instituted the Pastoral Hotel Cup for team swimming in Albury. The Pastoral was demolished together with the nearby **Gloucester** in 1984 when K-Mart was built.

The month of November 1938 also saw the demolition of the old **Golden Fleece Hotel** of 12 rooms at 491 David Street that had closed in 1922, and the sam-

pling rooms at No 491 Kiewa Street that were part of the Albury Hotel at 579 Dean Street. In early 1935, Richmond Breweries Ltd had purchased the Albury Hotel and originally proposed to replace it with a new structure. Three years later they decided however to erect a new five storey hotel costing £35,000 on the Kiewa Street part of the Albury Hotel site, Designed by Architect W H Merrit the **New Albury Hotel** as it was named, opened for business on the 1 July 1939 the day after the **Albury Hotel** ceased trading. Its first licensee was Sydney Charles Short who in August 1939 transferred it to Edwin Wallace Jewell who held the licence until 1941 when he moved to Melbourne.

At the western end of Dean Street the 64 year old **Club Hotel** at 648 Dean Street was being rebuilt on the lines of an Old English Inn. It was reopened in July 1938 under the name **Carlton Hotel**. The licensee was Lewis Ibbertson who remained at the Carlton for some 21 years. When rebuilt, the hotel had two lounges, dining room, bar, writing room, sitting room, 30 bedrooms and first floor balcony. The Carlton was to exist for the next 32 years before being demolished in 1970 to be replaced by the **Travelodge Motel** the following year.

East of the Carlton, at 595 Dean Street, the **Albion Hotel** together with adjoining shops that shared its Dean Street frontage was, in late 1940 being demolished to be replaced in the following year by a three storeyed hotel designed by the architect Frederick Morsby. When rebuilt the Albion covered the property's whole 50 feet street

frontage and, contained on its ground floor a bar, public parlour, public lounge, dining room and kitchen. On the upper two floors were 21 bedrooms, four staff rooms and two private lounges.

In 1959 Albury's then oldest hotel **The Royal**, sited at 421 Townsend Street on the corner of Hume Street, closed its doors. The last licensee was Mrs Marjorie Estelfe Doy. Said to have been built in 1850 by William Wise, The Royal was in its early days a 'favourite stopping place for early settlers travelling overland by bullock wagon.' Today, a Mobil Service Station covers the site.

By the early 1950s the dominance of hotels in serving the car traveller began to decline as the concept of the roadside motel ascended. In late 1957 just over two miles south of where Accommodation Australia a year earlier, had built Albury's first stand alone motel, Thomas E Pearsall and C G Frauenfelder proposed a hotel-motel for Lavington. While a combination of service station and motel had existed at 359 Wagga Road since about 1955 the **Boomerang** as the hotel-motel was eventually named was, according to the *Border Morning Mail* of 24 October 1959, 'the first of its kind combining hotel and motel features.' While objection was made in the Corowa Licensing Court by all of the then hotels in Albury, against the licence of the Albion Hotel Corowa being transferred to Lavington, the transfer of licence was eventually granted in 1959. With this transfer the **Boomerang Hotel-Motel** was opened in October 1959 at 312 Wagga Road, its first licensee being George Cheadle.

In central Albury at 545 Dean Street, the **Town Hall Hotel**, established in 1881 and licenced to F Matthews, closed its doors

in 1962, its licence being transferred to the **Astor Hotel-Motel**. The Town Hall's last licensee was Tommy Lamb and the building became, according to the local newspaper, 'Albury's first arcade of shops'.

The Astor Hotel-Motel was built at 629 Young Street on the corner of Guinea Street, a site previously occupied, by a large brick residence known in the early 1900s as "Mugwee". The Hotel-Motel built for the Astor Hotel-Motel chain was opened in late March 1962 and, was the seventeenth building in that chain. Designed by Architects Rudder, Littermore & Rudder of Sydney it contained a public and club bar, two lounges, cocktail bar, dance floor, dining room, managers unit and 44 motel rooms.

In 1964 Mates Ltd on the corner of Dean and Kiewa Streets purchased the neighbouring site in Kiewa Street, occupied by the **Court House Hotel**. Established in 1872 at 490 Kiewa Street, the Court House Hotel closed its doors in late June 1964 its last proprietor being, seventy five year old Joe McCarthy who had held the licence for 38 years. Mr McCarthy who passed away on the 4 December 1967 was an active charity worker and over the years earned a name for his debonair headgear.

To the end of the 20th century Albury was to see a further net loss of one hotel. Five established hotels, the George, Carlton, Ryan's, Gloucester and Pastoral closed, while opened were the **Ettamogah**, **Ritz**, **Kinross** and **Springdale Heights Tavern**. Relocated west in 1967 from the corner of Dean (No 572) and Kiewa Streets, to No 586 Dean Street, was the **Globe Hotel**.

Principal Bibliography Sources: *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express*, *Border Morning Mail*.

# # #

#### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

*Alexander Street and Alexandra Park; a recipe for confusion. What are the origins of the two similar names in East Albury?*

We made little headway on the question except to say the spelling of both park and street is shown on modern maps as Alexandra. So perhaps there is no Alexander Street at all.

Alexandra Park is shown on the 1886 map as an area bounded by Young, Perry and Short Streets and Sydney Road (Borella Rd/Guinea St). The area is bisected by the railway. Later maps show the closure of Perry Street east of the railway to Keene Street and the gradual extension of the Park to North Street. Perry Street east of Keene Street is renamed Alexandra Street. Dr Andrews in his *History of Albury 1824-1895 pp.70-71*, recorded in 1878, 5 ac of Alexandra Park Reserve granted for Show Ground.

An Alexander family lived at 245 Perry Street from 1922 but whether their name was associated with the changing of the street name to Alexandra/er is not known.

The reason for the naming of Alexandra Park remains unknown, but the Danish princess Alexandra married the future Edward VII of Great Britain in 1863 so that is a possibility. Someone might like to look at the newspapers round that time.

# # #

#### HUGO ALPEN

##### ALBURY MUSICAL PIONEER

by Howard Jones

We know plenty about Albury's former mayors, business people, doctors, explorers and sportsmen, but not so much about its musicians. Why are musicians so important? Because they improved the lifestyle of our citizens, helping them to sing or play a musical instrument or to sit back and enjoy the entertainment. In short, they made people happy! Hugo Alpen was such a musician.

He spent about 15 years in the

town, from 1865 to 1880. He was very busy with his music, and in other ways: He had 13 children.

Alpen came from Schleswig Holstein, that bit of northern Germany near Denmark. He was born in 1842 and migrated to Melbourne when aged about 16, in 1858.

A famous musician and composer, Charles Horsley, a friend of Mendelssohn, arrived from England in 1861 and Alpen took lessons from him.

Horsley was conductor of the Melbourne Philharmonic Society from 1862-1865 and organist at St Francis Church and Alpen may have been associated with him in those areas.

He moved to Tumut, when he was about 21, probably riding a horse or sulky through Albury.

Alpen gave singing classes, taught the piano, tuned musical instruments, conducted choirs, sang, provided dance music and played the organ at the local Anglican church.

In 1865, he became a church organist in Albury, at Saint Joseph's Church, I think.

Anyhow, he accompanied Father Con Twomey to Bowna village to play the harmonium at the new Catholic Church there in December 1865.

Alpen followed the same musical occupations as he did in Tumut. In 1866 he offered to put on a concert to raise money to form a library at the Mechanics Institute.

In 1868 he married Sarah Mary Jane Brown in Albury. Their 13 children were born between 1870 and 1894. Some died in infancy. One daughter married George Crisp.

In 1871, Alpen was the first conductor of the new Albury Choral Society. He also led the singing when St Patrick's Church was opened by two bishops in 1872.

He now came to the attention of the NSW Council of Education, which appointed him an

itinerant singing teacher in district schools in 1872.

From 1880 he lived in Sydney, teaching singing in schools, and the Fort Street and Hurlston teaching colleges.

In 1884 he was the Department of Public Instruction's superintendent of music.

All this time, he continued to compose music, mostly for choirs, and eventually produced a book, *Songs for Schools and Singing Classes*.

In 1890, the Earl of Jersey became Governor of NSW and Alpen befriended his wife, the Countess of Jersey. She wrote the words for an Arbor Day Cantata for school children.

He wrote music for the 1888 Centennial of NSW, and for Federation.

His Patriotic Cantata was performed by a massed choir at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1900.

On January 1, 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was inaugurated at Centennial Park in Sydney, watched by 250,000 people.

First came the swearing in of the first Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, followed by Prime Minister Edmund Barton.

The ceremony ended with a massed choir singing God save the Queen and the Hallelujah Chorus followed by 10,000 school children singing Advance Australia Fair and Rule Britannia, conducted by Hugo Alpen. He had come a long way from a little bush church at Bowna.

Alpen was then 58 and had many years left to teach and compose. He played the organ at several Sydney churches and retired in 1908. He then toured Europe, 66 years after leaving it.

Alpen lived at Strathfield until his death in 1917. His papers and music sheets are in the National Library and State Library, much of it on-line.

Most of this information comes from the [www.music.org](http://www.music.org) website, supplemented by a few entries from the A&DHS *Bulletins*.

## GIFT

Thanks to member Mary Leithead for giving to the Society a collection of news clippings and supplements including the opening of the Myers City Centre (1983) that included a display of aboriginal achievements in the past 40,000 years; the opening of the Uiver memorial at the Albury Airport (1980); an article about SM Abikhair's General Drapery store (1987) and a Readers' Digest 1985 supplement of 'Victory in Europe.'

## MOTORING RECORD AT ALBURY

Melbourne member, Leighton Passant, sent in this item from *Wheels across Australia* by Pedr Davis (1987):

"In March 1974, John Duncomb covered 211.6 km (131.5 miles) in 5.5 hours. A big deal? Well...he went backwards all the way. Driving a rotary-engined Mazda RX2 (with 48,000 km already on the clock), John travelled at an average speed of 38.4 km/h at the Hume Weir racing circuit in Victoria. He easily beat the existing world record of 136 km which had been set in 1967. Afterwards, an elated Duncomb admitted to a slightly stiff neck."

## SPARROWS & BLACKBIRDS

These birds have been in Albury for many years as these two snippets show.

"Albury has been visited within the last few days by several sparrows and the little feathered strangers with their natural pertness have made themselves quite at home in the street. Some of the orchardists and vigneron are apprehensive that the invasion of the district by the sparrows bodes no good to their interests, but we think that the mischievous propensities of

CHARLOTTE McALLISTER  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

MATRON  
1.11.34 TO 14.11.40  
1.4.46 TO 4.2.58  
DEDICATED 7.10.77

THE ALLAN HOGAN  
CASUALTY DEPARTMENT

NAMED IN HONOUR OF  
DR. A.B. HOGAN  
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT  
1961-1985

THE  
OWEN DALY  
WARD

1ST NOVEMBER 1938

L. S. WOODS  
MEDICAL OFFICERS' LIBRARY

IS NAMED IN MEMORY OF  
DR. LESLIE SAMUEL WOODS  
1895 — 1968  
GENERAL PRACTITIONER ALBURY  
1924 — 1968  
FOUNDER & HONORARY LIBRARIAN  
1932 — 1968  
SERVING BROTHER, ORDER OF  
ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM

THE  
FLUORESCENT LIGHTING  
IN THIS WARD  
WAS PRESENTED BY  
THE  
WALBUNDRIE AUXILIARY  
1953.

ERECTED BY  
THE GENEROSITY OF THE  
PEOPLE OF ALBURY & DISTRICT  
OPENED BY  
D.G. PADMAN M.L.A.  
FOURTH DAY OF DECEMBER 1949  
L.D. ELLIS. SEC. J.C. KING. PRES.

THIS BUILDING  
WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED  
BY  
H. D. MAIR M.P.  
MEMBER FOR ALBURY  
ON BEHALF OF  
THE HON. L. J. BRERETON M.P.  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
ON  
28TH MARCH, 1982  
K. H. MILLER REGIONAL DIRECTOR MURRAY REGION  
B. L. WILSON CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DR. RODERICK MCEWIN CHAIRMAN HEALTH COMMISSION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

History told by a selection from the plaques in the Archives of the Albury Base Hospital

the birds has been a good deal exaggerated. At Beechworth they have been acclimatised for years, and although they commit depredations on cherries and other descriptions of fruit they are accredited with atoning for their fruit loving by their insectivorous propensities." *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* 23 October 1875.

"From the Curator of the Gardens, reporting progress. He had received some blackbirds from Mr T H Griffith and liberated them in the Gardens. They were destructive to certain fruits, but he had not known any gardener

to kill them on that account, as they were useful in the destruction of snails, grubs, etc.

"Alderman Butler thought the Council should be consulted before birds were liberated. - Referred to the Gardens Committee." *Banner* 24 Feb 1905.

### STOP PRESS

Reading Albury's Heritage 2, *Albury, All Change!* and 3, *Saluting Their Service*, are fresh off the press, together with *Calwell's Beautiful Balts: Displaced Persons at Bonegilla*. Congratulations to Bruce Pennay on a job well done.

### WHAT ARE YOU RESEARCHING?

- Chris McQuellin is interested in Albury's Boer War soldiers and Air Training Corps in Albury;
- Ray Gear is interested in Early Hotels in Albury & District, especially any photographs.
- Pauline Harbick is researching the history of Lester & Son Funeral Directors and early Albury undertakers generally.

If you would like to be included on this list please let the Editor know.