



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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489

REPORT ON THE MARCH MEETING (11/3/09)

Louise Arnold brought us an entertaining and informative talk on the history of her family "Arnold Albury: A Family Fruit & Vegetable Success Story Since 1892." This is the title of the recently published book that Louise co-authored with Howard Jones.

The Question of the Month asking how and when the types of fruit and vegetables we eat today came to Australia, brought forth a variety of answers. In short, they came with migrants, both European and Asian, from the First Fleet onwards.

There were a number of things to report on in our business meeting including the Society's success in obtaining a grant from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to purchase a Data Projector and a portable Public Address system. We used the PA system on Sunday in our CBD walk. It was very satisfactory. These two pieces of equipment will give us the flexibility to conduct a wider range of activities in the community.

Our web page has been updated to include details of coming meetings and events and the addition of a downloadable guide for secondary teachers wishing to conduct a visit to the Bonegilla Migrant Experience Heritage Park.

A copy of Ray Gear's well researched paper on "Hotels in Albury & District 1840-1900" has been provided to the Library-Museum to be placed in the History Room.

Some members visited the Library-Museum storage building at Thurgoona on 16 January and were suitably impressed with the standard of the facility. Some also attended the Volunteers Information session on 3 March.

NEXT ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

19 APRIL 2009

PIONEER CEMETERY
WALK

Meet at the Lychgate
northern end of David
Street at 2.30 p.m.

Convener:

Chris McQuellin

The walk to be followed
by a BYO thermos after-
noon tea.

NOTE: No evening
meeting in April

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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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 3rd Wednesday of the month 5.15pm at Albury LibraryMuseum.

A&DHS website:

www.alburyhistory.org.au

Society finances remain sound. The treasurer reported \$3619 in the general account (pending payment for the PA system) and \$16,768 in the term deposit.

In correspondence, Ros Walls of Albury City sought our assistance on two matters. She invited the Society to submit ideas on how the Lavington 100th and Albury 150th year anniversaries might be celebrated. (The Society has already arranged to have Lavington historian Betty Dunn speak at the May meeting, and Mayor Patricia Gould to speak at the June meeting.) Secondly, in conjunction with the Chamber Business Awards, Ros explained it is planned to acknowledge businesses that have contributed in significant ways to the life of Wodonga, Albury and Lavington and are still operating today.

Bridget Guthrie, Collections Coordinator, Cultural Services Albury City reported briefly on progress at the Library-Museum. The Turks Head buildings have been cleared with the relocation of all paper documents, photographs and maps to archive storage at the Library-Museum.

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ARNOLD ALBURY

Report on a talk by Louise Arnold

Johann Gottlieb (JG) Arnold, son of German immigrants, moved from Walla Walla where he was working as a farm labourer to Albury and started the business now carried on by his fourth and fifth generation descendants.

The business began in 1892 with JG cultivating a vegetable plot and selling the produce door to door from a barrow. Early days in Albury were hard for the family with eight children. JG's wife Elizabeth took in washing from hotels to supplement the family income. The business thrived and the barrow was replaced by one then two horse drawn carts. A shop was opened in Wilson Street opposite Sodens Hotel.

In 1897, circumstances made it necessary for Arnolds to quit the Wilson Street premises and move to Olive Street mid-way between Dean and Swift Streets. Eventually Arnolds acquired land behind the shop and extending through to David Street. Vast storage sheds, a banana ripening facility and a box factory occupied the site. Arnolds Lane off Swift Street was the access for an in-

creasing volume of transport involved in the wholesale arm of the business.

The establishment of the Bonegilla and Bandiana Army Camps during WWII provided opportunities for Arnolds and challenges too. The 8,000 troops had to be fed providing a huge market boost to the business. On occasions, the entire stock could be requisitioned leaving Albury customers wanting. The downside included petrol rationing, manpower shortages and price control. Arnolds staff was classified as in reserved occupations, however the company never refused to release a man who wished to enlist. Everyone just worked a bit harder.

The Olive Street shop and the associated handling and storage facilities remained the home of Arnolds till 1979 when Myer acquired much of the land for its major development. Arnolds moved to Osburn Street Wodonga.

In her talk to the Society Louise touched on many aspects of the Arnold story from the formal wording on postcards to order bags of potatoes for delivery to Germanton, to her father Paul's canny use of an aircraft to assess the likely harvest of the Queensland potato crop. There is so much more in the book.

Arnold Albury: A Family Fruit & Vegetable Success Story Since 1892, by Louise Arnold and Howard Jones makes fascinating reading. It is a story of social life and the working culture of the 20th Century in a country town, as well as a family history. As such it adds greatly to the history of Albury and district. The book is in the Albury Library, and is available from Louise Arnold through the shop in Osburn Street.

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PEOPLE & BUILDINGS OF THE CBD

Sixty people attended the walk on Sunday afternoon, 15 March. The walk began at the Library-Museum proceeded south along Kiewa Street past the Albury Club, Belbridge Hague, the Post Office, Mates corner, New Albury Hotel then along Volt Lane to the Electricity Sub-station. Then AMP Lane where T & G and AMP Buildings were discussed, across Dean Street to the Court House, Burrows House and the Regional Art Gallery. Bruce Pennay finished with comments about the civic nature and function of QEII Square.



Crowd listening to a presentation during People & Buildings in the CBD Sunday 15 March 2009

Other presenters were Howard Jones, Ray Gear, Joe Wooding and Doug Hunter.

Good use was made of the portable PA unit purchased by the Society with grant money from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

KELL MOORE PART 2

By Patricia Strachan
(Continued from Bulletin 488)

The next partner to join the firm must have been Jim Purvey and the name of the firm changed to Kell Moore & Co. If you've seen his car, you know he was born in Dundee, Scotland. He was 10 years old when he came to Australia.

Jim was going to give me some personal detail, but he hasn't done so. I am under the impression he was educated in WA. The partners came into contact with him when he used to come down from Sydney for the Court sittings, when he was representing the Government Insurance Office. I know Jim spent some time in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) and had some fun with his CMF mates. I assume Jim responded when the CMF contacted legal firms, looking for young men who could be officer material. I know that Peter Lucas and Lou Lieberman both volunteered.

I admire Jim for taking on a family of six step-children. A local solicitor, Kevin Walls, lost his wife to cancer, leaving him with three little girls. Kevin married Elaine and they had another three children. Robert, the youngest and only son, was born three weeks after his father died. Jim courted Elaine and they married. In time they had a

child of their marriage. There is no doubt that Jim did everything he could to be a real father to Robert. He was always chatting in the office about things they had done together. I remember him talking about a father and son camping weekend organized by Rotary.

Jim retired from the firm in 1992 but continues to practise.

YOUNG BILL KELL

I think we have about reached young Bill Kell. Bill finished his education at Scots College in Sydney and was articled to Peter Macreadie, a partner in one of the big firms in Sydney. The advantage of being articled in Sydney was that you could attend lectures at Sydney University. Having been admitted as a solicitor, Bill came down and joined the firm. His sister, Judy, says that both of them started working at Kell and Moore in 1964. She had been to Stotts Business College in Melbourne and had worked at Blake and Riggall, a big firm of Solicitors in Melbourne. She tells me that she taught Kell and Moore to send out accounts rendered. She speaks very highly of one of the long-time employees, Stan Grenell, who was a law clerk/accountant and did all the tax returns for clients. He taught her that no-one is indispensable. He died not long afterwards.

Young Bill handled a lot of the Holbrook work. His father died in 1980 and Bill left the firm in 1981. No-one really knows why Bill made that decision. Of course, we kept in touch. When Bill became an accredited specialist in Victoria, I went down for his special dinner. He died on 6 February 2003 from the same brain cancer as his father, though they had been assured that it was not hereditary. Visiting him in hospital, during his last weeks was an ordeal. He'd look at me, his face would crumple up and he'd start to cry. I'd cry too and we would end up hugging each other and crying. Words wouldn't come.

BRIAN CURPHEY

Brian Curphey joined Kell & Moore as an articled clerk in February 1971. Apart from "the Colonel" and IGK he has

probably been a part of Kell & Moore for longer than any other person.

He is a Howlong boy, the youngest of a family of four who was educated at Howlong Public School and later at Albury High School. He was articled to Don Moore. I started working there three months later and I was impressed that, at Kell and Moore, Brian was treated by the partners with more courtesy and respect than I had ever received from Stan Jackling.

Brian completed the Solicitors Admission Board course and joined the partnership in 1982. For country articled clerks the SAB course requires you to work through the day and study at night as well as trying to fit in social and sporting events.

Brian has seen many changes but considers that the catalyst for the growth of the firm to what is now the biggest and best law firm on the border as being the appointment as solicitors for the Albury City Council. Kell Moore now acts for 8 councils in both New South Wales and Victoria.

Brian is of the same opinion as me and that is to say that IGK was the most brilliant of lawyers and Don Moore was not far behind him. Times have changed but IGK would still outdo all of the so-called city specialists when it came to knowledge and common sense. Brian recalls asking IGK very early in the piece what it was that he should aspire to be as a solicitor. IGK told him common sense and the keeping of clients out of court were the two most important aspirations.

Brian has undertaken many roles as a lawyer but now operates mainly in the property and development fields along with local government having worked on such projects as shopping centres from start to finish at Batemans Bay and beyond.

In Victoria, students used to have to complete their degree course at University and then do 12 months articles with a firm of Solicitors. In this way, the firm acquired Charles Overman (partner in 1973) and Matthew Rogers (partner in 2005).

CHARLES OVERMAN

Charles was a Melbourne boy, educated at St. Bernard's College, Essendon and Melbourne University. He graduated in Law

and Commerce. He was always interested in financial planning and finally left the firm in 1989. He has only just retired from the firm of Overman Shay and, as one of his clients, I am impressed with his knowledge and ability in the field of financial planning.

ANDREW WILLIAMS

Andrew Williams became a partner in 1989. He came originally from Nhill. He went to Scotch College in Melbourne and Melbourne University. During his years at University, he worked at Mallesons, one of the big legal firms in Melbourne. Andrew spent a year travelling abroad before settling down to work with Warren, Graham and Murphy at Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance. He was there for 12 years and his work related mainly to Commercial Property and the Fishing Industry. He married Judy and they came up here in November 1988. For the first few years he concentrated on commercial work, but he has been involved in litigation since 1994/5. When I asked whether he remembered any anecdotes, he mentioned the former client who picketed the office because he was unhappy about something.

MATTHEW ROGERS

As I mentioned, Matthew became a partner in 2005. He is from Melbourne and was educated at St Kevin's College, Toorak and Deakin University, Geelong. His father is a partner in McKean and Park in Melbourne. Matthew specialises in town planning and local government law and I doubt if McKean and Park will ever entice him away from the country.

TEN PARTNERS

There have only been 10 partners in the 128 year history of Kell Moore Solicitors. It is an "elite little club".

Most of the other law Albury firms are the result of amalgamations and mergers. KMS is probably the only law firm that can be tracked to its origins in 1881.

'FAMILY' FIRM

Kell Moore is very much a "family" firm. Girls may leave, but they never lose touch. Olive Crisp and Barbara Yule were two of the oldies. If the firm needed new staff, the Tech. College used to send a couple along for interview. That's how we got Chris who has been with the firm for 35 years. I'll never forget one girl who came from the

Tech. College. She didn't stay long. She didn't turn up for work one day and we found out that she and a friend had spent the day canoeing on the river with their boyfriends. Young Bill was the only partner around at the time and he asked me what I thought he should do. I remarked that he really didn't have much choice. He sacked her.

"THE NOOK"

In 1990 the firm purchased "The Nook" on the corner of Kiewa and Mitchell Streets. The house had been built in 1927 for a Mr. Stockmann and it was occupied for many years by his daughter, Mrs. Moll, and her family.

The bosses invited us to a "bring your own" picnic lunch, to have a look at the place where we were going to work. It had been empty for some time, so it wasn't ex-



"The Nook" 571 Kiewa Street

actly impressive. It looks a lot different now. Chicks handled renovations and built a wing along the west using the bricks from the original garage so as to match up the additions with the house. Subsequently a "baby" building was built alongside, facing Kiewa Street. Initially Banksia occupied it, but staff has extended to the extent that Kell Moore Solicitors Pty. Ltd. now occupies the whole building.

The firm was incorporated as Kell Moore Solicitors Pty Ltd on 1 July 2002.

Some of the Holbrook clients chose to remain with the firm when young Bill resigned. The firm retains a continuing connection with Holbrook because Matthew Rogers married a Holbrook girl.

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TURKS HEAD CONNECTION ENDED?

The clearance of the Turks Head effectively ends the Society's association with the heritage building which began in 1961 when a group of concerned members of the embryonic Albury & District Historical Society delayed the bulldozer long enough to arrange a hasty site meeting with Mr Jack Sarvaas, the City Engineer, and save the building from demolition.

Council reversed its decision to demolish the Turks Head when the historical worth of the building became apparent and also its suitability as a home for the local collection of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, and the proposed heritage collection of the A&DHS.

Members who met with Mr Sarvaas were Messrs Otto Schilg, Joe Wright, Wattie Fielder and John Henwood, and Captain Phillip Heywood. John Henwood is the only one still alive. He lives in Melbourne and remains an interested member of the Society.

The A&DHS shared the building with the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences till 1983 when the Society took over the entire building. The expanded Albury Regional Museum was officially opened by the NSW Premier Neville Wran in 1983.

A series of meetings and agreements between 1982 and 2003 transferred the collection from A&DHS to Albury City Council. Today it forms the basis of the Crossing Place exhibition at the Library-Museum.

The future of the Turks Head lies in the greater scheme of the Murray River Experience Master Plan.

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JOHN (JOCK) WILSON

By Denise Bartsch (nee Wilson)

My dad, John (Jock) Wilson came from Scotland in the early depression years and had an interesting business life during his time in Albury. I have recalled some of my father's successful endeavours:

Designing, building and installing a Mechanical Hare racing track for Greyhound Racing Club, after live hare racing was banned.

Manufacture and design, plus installation of a machine for slicing and packaging ice cream wafers for Holdenson & Nielson.

Designing a machine to blow loose grain directly into bulk grain trucks. Previously it had been bagged by farmers and the bags loaded onto rail trucks.

When Mr Baker from Baker Motors purchased army tanks in New Guinea after the war and shipped them to Albury, Jock converted these monsters into bulldozers and front-end loaders as such things were unavailable at that time.

When Pat Lee, a winner of more than one King's Shoot, designed a special gun sight for competition shooting, Jock manufactured it in his workshop. This would have been a precision instrument.

Jock also designed, built and installed the first Ski Lift at Fall's Creek in the early 50s.

Jock purchased one of the first Holden cars to arrive in Albury. He was not satisfied with the drawbar, so designed his own which Holden then bought the patent for all such installations.

Mr Clifton Mott of the Border Morning Mail depended on him for manufacturing parts unavailable during the war to keep the presses rolling during that period.

During WWII, Jock manufactured 17 different parts for 25pounder guns and their carriages for Chas Ruwolt Pty Ltd of Melbourne.

After the war he designed a jet-propelled aluminium boat, which the NSW fisheries purchased because of the economical running plus shallow draft for waterways that had many unseen trees and rocks. These were sold all over Australia. De Havilland intimated that they regretted having purchased the patent of the New Zealand, Hamilton jet boat, as it was more expensive to run and maintain. He also designed crop duster conversions for planes. Lyn Stewart would know more about these two things.

These are just a few of his achievements. He entered a partnership with Bert Winstanley around 1949. They combined their two properties in order to expand. Later in the 60s when Bert wished to retire, Wilson Winstanley was sold to Viscount Holdings. Me being a girl with not a smidgen of my dad's talent, he felt he had no alternative but to sell.

Thankfully his talent has passed to my eld-

est son who was responsible for the design and installation of the computerised communication system for the new Nuclear Reactor at Lucas Heights. He is now at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) with the Bragg Institute designing and working on something my feeble brain cannot comprehend.

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JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter, December 2008/January 2009.

◆ First banks in Wagga, Pt1.

Momento: National Archives of Australia Magazine, January 2009.

◆ Shell-shocked: Australia after the Armistice;

◆ The Battle of Bardia 1941.

Ances-Tree: Burwood FHG Journal, November 2008.

◆ Dr Middendorf on ship "Caesar" 1855: his long letter home.

Argyle Bulletin: Goulburn HS & FHS Journal, November 2008.

◆ Time frame: Old Goulburn;

◆ Conn Flynn: convict on the Bulee Mountain Gap.

Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) Journal, December 2008.

◆ Convicts lost and found in the East Indies;

◆ Dr Richard Machatte (1813-1876) Ships Surgeon.

Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) Journal, December 2008.

◆ The Eton-Harrow Travelling School in NSW 1908;

◆ Anatomy of an Election Riot in Sydney during the Great Depression.

Insites: Historical Houses Trust of NSW Magazine, Summer 2008.

◆ Corrugated heritage: the Nissan Hut;

◆ Brushes with rifles: NSW Volunteer Rifles 1854.

History: RAHS Magazine, December 2008.

◆ The strange birth of Canberra as the National Capital site;

◆ The Writer: the Griffins and Canberra.

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WANTED

A photograph of Mr Foster Cooper, Editor of the Albury Banner c.1883 and also Captain in the Albury Volunteer Corps 1st NSW Infantry.

Chris McQuellin (02 6021 3697) would like to copy it for a project.