

# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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494

## REPORT ON THE AUGUST MEETING (12/8/09)

Twenty-five members attended the highly enjoyable meeting at the Commercial Club. John Craig brought news of other district societies; Bridget Guthrie spoke of collections activities at the Albury Library-Museum; and Pauline Harbick, Ann Brennan, Michael Browne, Howard Jones, Geoff Hamilton, Carole Whitbourn and June Shanahan presented a wide variety of items of historical interest. Chris McQuellin utilised the Society's laptop computer and data projector to support the presentations with photographs projected onto the screen. There is no doubt the interest of talks is enhanced by pictures.

Time passed very quickly and there was plenty to talk about over tea, coffee & biscuits at the end of the night. During the supper period a number of photographs from the Albury Collection were examined and information gathered about them.

John Craig reported the Wodonga Family History Society will announce the winners of its Townsend Trophy and Wayne Bedella Award competitions for excellence in family research at its meeting on 15 September 2009. The trophies are named in honour of early member Gwen Townsend and long time member and past president Wayne Bedella. John also noted the launch of *Memories 4*, a publication by the Wodonga Historical Society.

Chris advised that John has assembled our History Sheet Packs for sale at the Library Museum.

Bridget Guthrie, Collections Coordinator at the Library-Museum, spoke of progress with the Paper Collection. Six volunteers are now working to catalogue the extensive collection of photographs. Helen Livsey has volunteered to lead a program to

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

9 SEPTEMBER 2009

7.30pm at Commercial Club  
Albury

Speakers: **Chris McQuellin**  
"N° 12 Squadron Air Training  
Corps RAAF 1940-1946."  
**Joe Wooding**: "Albury's first  
month of the war through the  
*Border Morning Mail*"

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

When did the Albury  
Post Office clock first  
strike, and what hour did  
it strike?

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## ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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**Public Officer:** Helen Livsey

**President:** Christopher McQuellin  
02 6021 3697

**Vice-Presidents:** Joe Wooding, June Shanahan

**Secretary:** Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671

**Treasurer:** Michael Browne

**Minute Secretary:** Catherine Browne

**Committee:** John Craig, Jan Marsden, Jill  
Wooding, Doug Hunter OAM, Ray Gear and  
Carole Whitbourn

**Journals & Stock:** John Craig

**Membership list & Bulletin dispatch:** Ray  
Gear

**Bulletin Editor:** Doug Hunter 02 6021 2835  
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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](http://www.alburyhistory.org.au)

identify mystery photographs. Bridget also thanked Jill Wooding and Ray Gear for their contributions to the “Black Range to Lavington” exhibition at the Lavington Library. The exhibition will close at the end of August, so don’t delay if you want to see it.

Albury City Council has approved the revised Collections Policy, giving clarity for future accessions and de-accessions from the Albury City Collection. As part of the Policy an Acquisition Committee has been established including one place for the A&DHS president.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

*Who made the first telephone call in Albury, when and from where? And how much did it cost?*

Thanks to Joe Wooding for this comprehensive answer.

The story of the telephone in Albury is best told by working backwards. With 4 local newspapers circulating around 1899, one would expect to find the telephone’s history without much trouble. Not so!

*Albury Herald* was a daily, published on one sheet folded in two giving 4 pages. In April 1899 they recorded that Albury subscribers now had 20 telephones with 7 more expected soon. On 21

January 1899 the *Albury Daily News* reported the same information some 10 weeks earlier than the *Herald*. Neither the *Albury Banner* nor the *Border Post* gave any joy possibly owing to some missing issues.

Fortunately, a publication called *Albury One*, written by Howard Jones, contained this quote: "In 1898 a telephone exchange was opened in Albury with 17 subscribers and Roxburgh & Aikens were allocated number 1. Most of the other subscribers were solicitors, doctors or other professionals." A little trivia; Number 2 went to Fleming, Henderson & Stedman, Solicitors.

*Albury Banner* 28 May reported a public meeting to establish a telephone exchange. Mr C L Griffith stated in his own business he had found the advantages of the telephone system and although the cost in his case had been large, he would not forgo the benefits it brought.

The *Border Post* of Wednesday 30 January 1878 reported the first phone call ever made in Albury. Mr McGauran, manager of the Albury Telegraph Office had been engaged in experiments which had proved the most successful that have been made in the colonies as regards distance.

The first call, Albury to Sydney, then Sydney to Albury was not successful. Albury to Melbourne was tried and was satisfactory beyond expectations. Every word could be heard distinctly. Songs and cooes caused great merriment. Subsequently Albury to Wodonga was tried, this being even more successful as ordinary conversation could be held with ease.

How much did the first call cost? We might never know that!

**ALBURY MOTOR GARAGES**

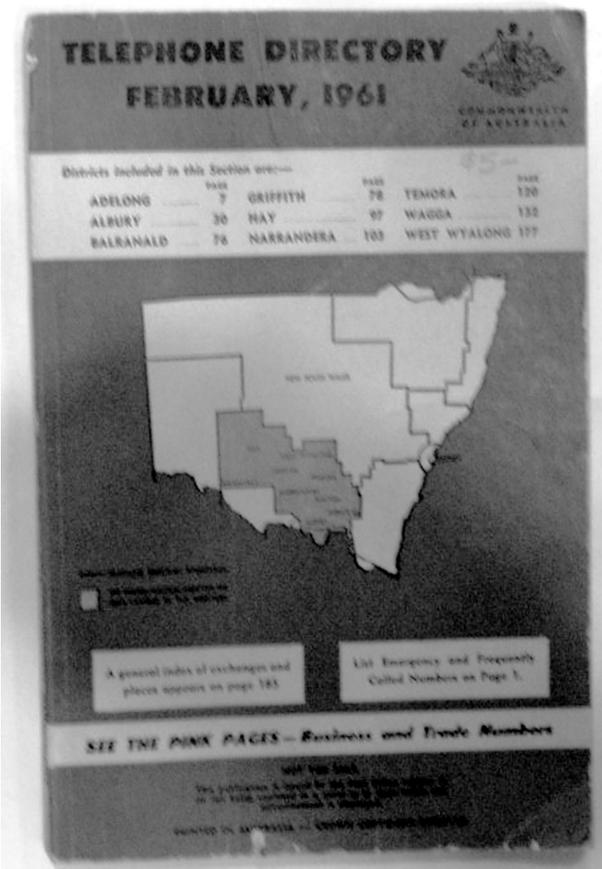
by Michael Browne

Circa 1910 Albury had a number of motor garages that had grown from businesses who had previously sold and serviced bicycles a couple being:-

Conrad Lobbe and Robert Sharp, located in Dean Street, were agents for Speedwell bicycles and later motorcycles.

L. V. Harris, also located in Dean Street, was the local agent for B & B cycles at £6/10 – a strong and dependable cycle. He later carried B & B, Triumph, Rudge and New Hudson motorcycles with a well equipped workshop to service all makes sold. Business must have been thriving as he employed a few mechanics and was himself an excellent mechanic. He was housed in the Daniel’s Building on the north side of Dean Street – also known as the C & C Store in the 1950s – two doors down from Foto Supplies.

Out of Dean Street and into Kiewa Street, we come to the enterprising partnership of Azor Robbins and Alex Porter. These two men were very



**Albury & district Telephone Book February 1961**  
Catherine Browne collection

capable mechanics and had an extensive showroom and garage at 532 Kiewa Street. 532 Kiewa Street was originally part of an allotment owned by J T Fallon and later Cleaver Woods who erected the first building on the site in 1912. This building was Albury's first purpose built motor garage and was advertised as being able to accommodate 40 cars and was used up until the 1930s. The building later changed use and housed Murray Valley Coaches, the Albury Banner, West's Motors and was then converted into offices and shops until 2003 when it was razed to build a prominent Albury landmark. During the 1970s, 80s & 90s it was known as the Hub Arcade. It now is part of the site of the Library-Museum.

As early as 1910 Azor Robbins was working with Aubrey Lock in Melbourne to build the very first Flat 4 Air cooled aircraft engine for one of Australia's pioneers of flight – Lawrence Marshall. The engine wasn't a real success and suffered a number of failures before being replaced by a JAP Vee 4 engine from the UK. Back to the Albury boys – Robbins and Porter were caught up in the phenomenon of flight and in 1913 built their own aircraft – a single winged (monoplane) to the French Bleriot design and powered by the Marshall engine. Reports differ about the success of this aircraft, some say it succeeded in flying but another states that after numerous attempts at flight, the project was abandoned presumably as they ran out of money. The question remains – Was the engine still the weak link? More to come in 2014...

Acknowledgements:-

Dirk Spennemann – CSU, report for Albury City Council

Howard Jones – *Albury Heritage* 1991  
*Good old Albury* 2002

Google – Australian Museum of Flight near Nowra, NSW

## **GETTING TO KNOW THE ANCESTORS**

Edited talk by Ann Brennan (nee Shugg)

I started this story 18 months ago and it just keeps on evolving. I do not mean to cross over anything which has been done by the Wodonga Historical Society but I have not had the opportunity to see the work they have done on our Celtic ancestors in the area. My ancestors came from Cornwall, a stronghold of Celtic culture. When I did a Google on the Celts, I was stunned by the amount of research available, just in Australia.

### **THE CELTS**

It seems that about 2,700 years ago the Celts were the original Barbarians, stomping their way around Central Europe. They were likely to be tall, muscular with white skin, red or blond hair worn long and shaggy, blue eyes and wearing a bronze helmet and brightly-coloured shirts and

trousers with a woven, long shawl clasped on one shoulder with a big clip, resembling the Scottish tartan outfit that Mel Gibson wore in "Braveheart". Anthropologists claim that the Celts are a race of their own with the predominance of type "O" blood group.

The Celts had many groups, languages and spiritual practices but were not known to write things down. They had a tendency to behead their enemies. Then around 400 BC, they came into contact with the Romans and there was a mutual recognition of a courageous people.

When the Roman Empire spread to the British Isles, the Celts who were there were either absorbed into Brito-Roman society, or pushed westward. When Roman rule dwindled, Saxons and other Germanic tribes invaded the country, again containing the Celts in the *Celtic Fringe*: Ireland, Scottish Highlands, Wales and the wild coast of Cornwall where they clung to their languages: Gaelic, Welsh and Erse, and fought for their survival. With the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, the Cornish and Welsh became known as miners able to supply coal and other minerals to the factories. Celtic two-wheeled carts were well-liked for transport and alcoholic spirits and music became popular.

### **THE CELTS FROM CORNWALL TO AUSTRALIA**

I was born in St Kilda, Melbourne, in 1941 and christened Ann Dorothy Shugg. I have been writing my life story for about 20 years and realised that I needed to find out a bit of family background. The name "Shugg", (probably pronounced Shoog), pops up occasionally in Australia, but in Cornwall, it has been a very common name. We are familiar with the Cobb & Co. Coaches in Australia, well in Cornwall they had the Shuggline, incorporating coaches, horses, inns, stables etc. The family seat of the famous royal photographer, Earl of Litchfield, is known as Shuggborough.

The tough people from Cornwall were well represented amongst new white settlers in Australia, especially in gold mining areas where they created enclaves with names like Cornish Town and Gwydir. As with so many other migrants over the years, they kept to their own kind, seeking security in establishing the Cornish way of life in the harsh Australian landscape. In Yackandandah, the newspaper of the time carried items about the evening meetings at the Allans Flat School that promoted the Cornish way of life. There did not seem to be an expectation that they would mix or marry outside their clan.

### JOHN SHUGG

One of the early white settlers in the Yackandandah area was John Shugg. According to shipping documents, John was deaf. He was born in Gwinear, Cornwall, in 1812 and at the time of his marriage to Eliza Vivian in 1837, he was described as a carpenter. Eliza was a school mistress and dressmaker. John and Eliza had four daughters: Jane, Mary, Elizabeth and Julia. Julia died as a baby on the voyage to Australia.

Arriving in Adelaide in April 1855, John left his wife and daughters with relatives and made his way up the Murray in search of arable land. He doesn't seem to have come for the gold, but rather for farming, grape growing and dairying. His holding stretched for several kilometres along the Wodonga-Yackandandah Road and covering some of what is now Yackandandah.

While John was away, his wife, Eliza, died at Onkaparinga in South Australia. She is recorded as dying of "Apoplexia" (probably a stroke), in March, 1856, aged 41. John returned to the Yackandandah property with Mary and Elizabeth. Eldest daughter Jane and her husband Nicholas Temby followed after the birth of their first child, Christopher.

John planted grape vines and set up farming activities. Later when the town was surveyed, grew and expanded, John Shugg is reported to have given areas of land for development – not sure of the legal arrangements. I assume that if the town required a certain block, then this may have been swapped for a clear title to other parts of his holding. At the time of John's marriage to his second wife, Janetta Glasson, he was listed as residing at Growler's Creek, but I have always assumed that the area uphill on the right of the cemetery, where some very old trees are overgrown, is where John's house was. It seems that as he and members of the family, were buried near there, the spot became an unofficial graveyard and eventually surveyed and fenced to become the Yackandandah cemetery. John Shugg died in 1877 aged 65, a highly respected farmer in Yackandandah.

John's daughter Mary married Thomas Thomas, a Yackandandah gold miner from Cornwall, in 1859. They had three children and farmed at Tangambalanga where the Kiewa Consolidated School now stands. Elizabeth Shugg married George Stevens in 1860 and they settled at "Willow Grove". They had sixteen children and resided in the stone house on the Albury-Yackandandah Road. Elizabeth died in 1926, aged eighty four.

### WILLIAM SHUGG MY GREAT GRAND FATHER

John Shugg encouraged his nephew, William



**William Shugg c. 1885 at Allans Flat  
Born Cornwall 1840  
Migrated to Australia 1860  
Died Yackandandah 1916**

Shugg, to come to Australia. He arrived on the ship *SS Great Britain* in 1860. The *Great Britain* made about seventeen trips carrying new settlers to Australia and records list names such as Frauenfelder, and Polkinghorne, and others who have been responsible for building Albury. William had been working in the mines in Cornwall since he was 13 and with gold mining in full swing, he settled and did well in Yackandandah, later taking up land and farming at Allans Flat. William Shugg was my great grandfather. William married Sarah Ann Player in 1863, in Yackandandah. Sarah was eighteen when she married and when she died following the birth of her ninth child, she was twenty eight. Four children survived to adulthood and went on to produce future generations : William born 1864, married Fanny Hodgson, George born 1866, married Augusta Nette, Richard Shugg born 1867, married Elizabeth Brown and Emily Jane born 1868, married Bill Ashford.

William Shugg seemed to have had some initiative and got the bright idea, reported in a newspaper of the day, to use water from the local creek to water his orchard. The neighbours brought along their pipes to join onto the system and there was a ceremony of turning on the gusher (or trickle) followed by an all-night party with much singing and dancing and piano playing. The article didn't mention anything about permits and taxes to be paid on this wonderful new water supply.

William Shugg married again, to a young woman named Frances Fiddes, who had been born on the ship, *Chance*, as it sailed from Cornwall to Australia. William and Frances had six children, with three surviving: Lilian born 1888, married Martin Cramer in 1907, James Watson, (my grandfather), born 1886, married Charlotte Newbound in 1910 and Alice born 1893, married Frederick Mitsch.

In his will, William left the main farm of about 60 acres, to his eldest son, William, and the house with a few acres of orchard, (in Allans Flat), to his son-in-law, Martin Cramer. His wife, Frances, inherited household effects and the right to remain in the family home until she died. As was the custom of the time, the will was left in favour of sons or sons-in-law. It seems that the wife did not own her frying pan or tapestry cushions until they were left to her in the will. Her right to remain in the home meant that she would have to rely on the sons being prepared to maintain the property and support her. This is very different to how we do things these days.

My grandfather, James Watson Shugg, was mentioned in the will. He was not to inherit anything because he had borrowed £100 from the estate, at the time of his marriage to Charlotte Newbound, and had not repaid the loan, or the interest. To be fair, my father had been born in the first year of their marriage and Charlotte died the following year.

#### CONCLUSION

History, as we know it, is shaped by powerful men, wars, inventions and company takeovers, but to get the full picture we need to delve into how ordinary people lived their lives. I have read that when gold mining was at its peak, the area covering the settlements of Osborne's Flat, Whiskey Flat, Allans Flat, Rowdy Flat, Yackandandah etc., had a population of about 125,000 people. It seems that Cornish people, descendent from the Celts were well represented in the history of many parts of Australia, especially this area. I am very saddened by the fact that although those people baked bread, milked cows, fell in love, gave birth and suffered the pain of loved ones dying young, there is little left to indicate that they ever existed, or to tell the story of their daily struggles. We owe a big thank you to all those who seek their family history and to

Historical Groups who treasure and keep alive, our links with the past.

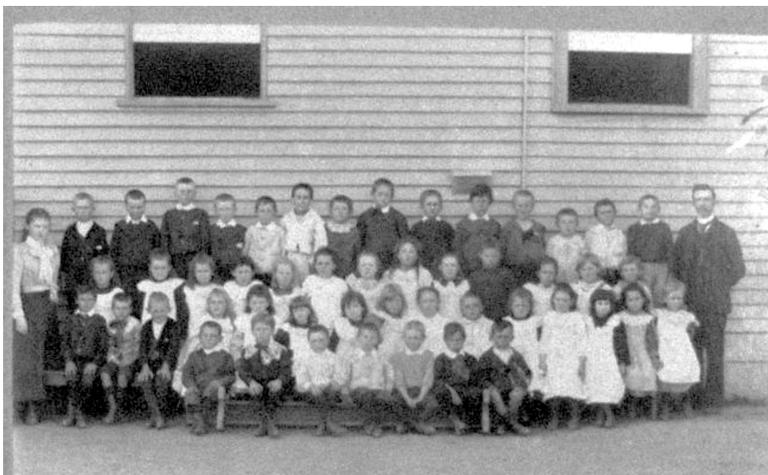
#### PRACTICAL JOKING EXTRAORDINARY

Pauline Harbick found this article in the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* of 7 February 1890:

*Two local undertakers have been put to a good deal of trouble and expense very unjustifiably during the past week. It appears that Mr. F.A. Selle was visited a few days ago by a young man named Ryan, who desired him to make all arrangements for the funeral for a person named Stewart who was said to have died at Bethanga. Full instructions were given for a funeral on a liberal scale, and in due course a hearse and coffin were dispatched to Bethanga, but the driver on reaching his destination discovered that no death had taken place in the locality for some time past. Soon after this discovery had been made, another coffin and hearse appeared on the scene, this time from Mr. Joseph Adams' establishment, and on enquiry it was found that this too had been ordered for "Mr. Stewart" by the same joker. Upon further investigation it was ascertained that the man who ordered the funerals had for some reason what is called "a down" upon Constable Stewart of Bethanga, and it is supposed that he conceived the whole affair as a kind of huge practical joke, to be carried out at the expense of that officer. If, however, the undertakers can manage to lay hands on the joker they will endeavor to make it clear to him that fun of this kind is rather costly amusement to the perpetrator.*

#### WHAT A PHOTOGRAPH CAN TELL YOU

Howard Jones displayed two photographs of children at the Black Range School taken in 1898 and demonstrated the wealth of social history that could be deduced from them. Firstly all children were well dressed. Obviously the occasion of the school photographer coming was one well worth



**Junior Class at Black Range School  
1898**

looking one's best.

Boys wore shirts and bow ties; some wore large lace collars. Girls wore pinafores over striped blouses. Both boys and girls wore boots for the occasion. Some of the boys were in shorts with socks that reached above the knees. Boys had 'short back & sides' haircuts while girls had

shoulder length hair. None appeared to have plaits or ribbons.

The class of 49 junior students was flanked by the headmaster and the class teacher 20 year-old Mary Ormiston.

This, and other photographs will appear in Howard's forthcoming book *Magic Memories of Albury* due out late September.

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#### **BIRTHDAY BOOK**

The Society has an old birthday book with entries for Regan, Hawkins, Flannery, Besnard, Phillips and related families who were at Young, NSW, in the 1870s and 80s.

Some of the other names in the book are Casell, Game, Goldstein, Hooper, Hughes, Knowles, Lawson, Love (1828), McKinnon, McPhillamy, Madden, Marina, Megan, Rumble, Schwind and Strachan.

It is believed that descendants have been in the Albury area and we would like to hear from anyone who is related to these families. Enquiries to Helen Livsey 02-6021 3671 or email [alburyhistory@bigpond.com](mailto:alburyhistory@bigpond.com)

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#### **INFORMATION WANTED**

Craig Tibbitts from the Australian War Memorial is seeking personal stories, diaries, letters and photographs about these Albury men who served with the 56<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF during WWI:

CATO, Reginald John, FRAUENFELDER, Valantyn Charles, HARBER, Harry Norman, DELANEY, Albert Norman, DENGATE, Percy Gordon, EDWARDS, Bertie Henry, EGAN, Henry Ambrose (used alias of Charles Thomas BLATCH), KAYLOCK, William Albert, MANNING, Claude Wilkinson, MONK, Ray Henry, MULVIHILL, Daniel, NORMAN, Edgar Walter, OLIVER, George, ROBBINS, George, McINERNEY, William.

Craig can be contacted at (02)6243 4248, or [Craig.Tibbitts@awm.gov.au](mailto:Craig.Tibbitts@awm.gov.au)

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#### **SOUTH ALBURY SNIPPET**

June Shanahan (nee Smith) used the 1949 Aerial Photo of Albury to point out places of interest in South Albury in the vicinity of the Union Bridge. These included houses, market gardens, a gravel pit and the butter factory. The Turks Head in those days was a boarding house and small shop. Doreen Widderson (nee Lampitt) was able to add additional information.

Chris McQuellin and Ray Gear plan to draw upon local knowledge of this kind in a project to locate residents, shops and other businesses in older parts of Albury on a street by street, decade by decade basis.

#### **ALBURY RAILWAY YARDS**

Geoff Hamilton spoke to a series of photographs of items in the railway yards:

- Signal Box where 54 levers controlled movement throughout the yards;
- Turntable where locomotives were turned round;
- No 9 Transit Shed built for the US Army during WWII;
- Overhead cranes used to transship steel billets manufactured at Port Kembla from NSW rail wagons to Victorian wagons for onward movement to Melbourne;
- Goods Shed damaged by the 1923 cyclone. This shed contained NSW's first inland bond store, 1898; and the
- Locomotive shed struck by lightning in December 1976.

#### **LIVING AT SODENS**

Carole Whitbourn spoke of her experience as a child living at Sodens Hotel, cnr Wilson & David Streets. Carol's father Thomas George Spurr became licensee of the hotel in 1953 and the family moved to live in a flat on the premises.

Carole's mother Jean took over as housekeeper at the hotel that catered for commercial travellers and farmers & graziers from the district on business in the city. The Albury Show and the Wool Sales were particularly busy times. The family left the hotel in 1963 when it was sold to Viscount Holdings.

The early history of this hotel is well documented, however nothing has been written about the 50s & 60s. A booklet on the period is planned.

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#### **HISTORY WEEK**

**5TH TO 13TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

- ♦ Saturday 5 September: Antiques & Collectables Valuation Day begins 9.30 a.m. at Albury Library-Museum.
- ♦ Wednesday 9 September: A&DHS Meeting at Commercial Club commencing at 7.30 p.m.
- ♦ Sunday 13 September CBD Walk, Theme: Crime, Scandal & Corruption. Walk begins at Albury Library-Museum 2 p.m. Takes in Old Court House and Albury Art Gallery and returns to Library-Museum 3.15 p.m. for afternoon tea. Speakers include: Howard Jones, Ann Brennan, Bridget Guthrie.