

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019

NOVEMBER 2009

496

REPORT ON THE OCTOBER MEETING (14/10/09)

Twenty members attended the meeting at the Commercial Club to hear Stuart Richardson, Manager Murray/North East Dams, Goulburn-Murray Water, speak on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Dartmouth Dam.

Joe Wooding presented an interesting short talk on the KLM airliner *Uiver* drawn from newspaper reports in the *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* and the *Border Morning Mail*. Of particular interest was the account of the emergency and the landing by the *Uiver's* wireless operator, Cornelis Van Brugge.

John Craig reported on the journals and newsletters received from other societies and read from an article about the importance of local history collections and museums.

The president noted that Doug Hunter had spoken at the annual dinner of the Ex-graduates & Employees of Albury Base Hospital and had received a generous donation of \$200 in recognition of the work the Society is doing with the ABH Heritage Collection.

GOULBURN-MURRAY & DARTMOUTH DAM

Notes from a talk by Stuart Richardson

Goulburn-Murray Water manages water-related services in a region of 68,000 square kilometres, bordered by the Great Dividing Range in the south to the River Murray in the north, and stretching from Corryong in the east, downriver to Nyah. They have approximately 650 employees.

Goulburn-Murray Water also operates salt interception works on the Murray downstream of Nyah, manages Mildura Weir,

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY

11 NOVEMBER 2009

7.30pm at Commercial Club

Speaker: Doug Hunter:

“Road to Noreuil and the Albury Battery.”

Also opportunity to share stories of WWI servicemen & nurses. Please let Chris McQuellin know if you wish to share a story.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What do you know about the Albury War Memorial Bowl?

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$22

Family: \$30

Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour

Enquiries in writing with \$25

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

delivers bulk water to supply points outside its region and is the Victorian Constructing Authority for the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

Goulburn-Murray Water does not own any water; sell any water or supply water on demand. It operates and maintains the system comprising storages, rivers, channels and pipes to deliver water to domestic, industrial, agricultural and environmental users. Goulburn-Murray Water charges for use of the system.

The Goulburn-Murray region contains 17 storages including 2 of Australia's 5 largest reservoirs: Dartmouth and Hume. When all storages are full they have a capacity to store 6 years of total water allocations. So it is unnecessary to build additional storages. The important thing is to get sufficient, consistent rainfall to replenish the storages.

In recent years, the system has suffered the effects of an unprecedented drought. One hundred and sixteen years of historical records for the catchment are used by Goulburn-Murray to estimate annual inflow to the storages and allocate water to the various users. A minimum level for expected inflows in any year is based on a summation of the worst monthly inflow for each month taken from historical data. That is, the worst monthly inflow in 116 Januarys plus the worst monthly inflow in 116 Februarys, and so on.

Last year the actual inflow fell 50% below that worst possible estimate. Hence the need to limit allocations of water to a fraction of normal. If any good can be seen from the drought conditions it has been the development of a culture of careful water usage at all levels of consumption.

DARTMOUTH DAM

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the completion of the Dartmouth Dam.

The Dartmouth Dam is located at the confluence of the Mitta Mitta and Dart Rivers in North East Victoria. It is 100 km by road from Albury. It is the largest capacity dam in

Victoria and the highest structure of its type in Australia.

The purpose of Dartmouth Dam is to store water for irrigation, stock and domestic use in Victoria and NSW.

The storage is a highly efficient one, having a capacity of 4,000,000 megalitres (almost 25% greater than Lake Hume), but a surface area of only 6,380 hectares.

HISTORY

Dartmouth Dam was designed by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC) in 1969 and built by the Victorian Rural Water Commission for the River Murray Commission. Sir Paul Hasluck officially opened work on 15 February 1973.

The Dam was completed in 1979 at a cost of \$139 million, the cost being shared equally by the Commonwealth, NSW, Victoria and South Australia.



Dartmouth Dam showing the power station at the base of the dam and the stepped cascade below the spillway. (Photo Goulburn-Murray web site)

The reservoir filled for the first time in 1990 and remained about that level till 1997. Discharges are managed to minimise flooding of the Mitta Mitta River and can be scheduled to replenish Lake Hume.

In May 1990, there was a serious accident when steel beams became lodged in the turbine of the power station located at the end of the high access discharge tunnel while it was operating. The turbine was wrecked and the power station put out of operation and the discharge tunnel closed.

Following the accident high spring inflows to the reservoir quickly raising the level to overflowing. Temporary pipes were laid over the dam, but a huge volume of water flowed over the spillway. The design of the spillway, ending in a series of rock steps where rock was quarried for the dam, created a spectacular cascade which drew sightseers from a wide area.

STRUCTURE

By definition, the term dam refers to the earth and rock-fill structure that retains the water, and lake or reservoir refers to the water in the storage.

The Dartmouth Dam is 680 metres long and 180 metres high. It comprises a clay core with a sand-filter layer on either side of the core and a rock wall on either side of the core and filters. At its base the rock embankment has a width almost equal to the length of the embankment.

The purpose of the clay core is to form a waterproof barrier to retain the water in the reservoir. The sand-filters control the flow of any water that escapes through cracks in the core. Earth-fill dams are not rigid structures. They move minutely for a variety of reasons, climatic, seismic or the fluctuating levels in the reservoir, causing small cracks to occur. The sand-filters dampen the flow of water through the crack allowing the clay to 'heal' and close the crack.

The rock-facing has a two-fold purpose. Firstly it protects the core and filter from external damage and secondly it provides the weight necessary to prevent the dam from moving or slipping owing to the pressure of the water in the reservoir.

There are two tunnels through the dam to release water to the Mitta Mitta River downstream. Each tunnel has an intake tower in the reservoir. Water released from the high intake tower drives a 150 megawatt (MW) power station. When the level falls below 30%, discharge is via the low level tunnel that runs directly to the river.

Dartmouth, along with the other dams managed by Goulburn-Murray, is subject to constant maintenance and upgrading work to ensure it complies with the highest standards governing major dams. Because of this policy Dartmouth, though built 30 years ago, is in a practical sense 'brand new' and will remain so for many decades, if not centuries.

ANSWER TO QUESTION OF MONTH

When and where were the first residential estates constructed by the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation?

The early residential estates developed by the AWDC were: Willow Park, Wodonga, released January 1976; Springdale Heights, Lavington, released July 1976; St Johns Hill, Thurgoona, released July 1978; Doctors Point, Albury, released November 1978 and Baranduda Range, Baranduda, released November 1979.

Source: Bruce Pennay, *Making a City in the Country*, Triple D Publishers, Wagga Wagga, 2005.

A SMALL PART OF THE UIVER STORY

By Joe Wooding

A dark and stormy night in 1934 was to see Albury propelled into the glare of world attention. A large amount of press coverage is available on the forced landing of the KLM Douglas DC2 Airliner *Uiver* on the Albury Racecourse at 1.30am, Wednesday 24 October 1934 while competing in the centenary air race from Mildenhall, England to Melbourne, Vic. This brief account is confined to the harrowing story from inside the plane as later told by the *Uiver's* radio operator, Cornelis Van Brugge, and a little on Mayor Alf Waugh's travels and recognition afterwards.

"Leaving Cloncurry after sunset", Van Brugge told the Border Morning Mail, "we received a message that heavy thunderstorms were working up along the entire route, but anxious to gain a place in the air race, we decided to continue. Thunder cracked and vivid lightning made us fearful that our plane could be split in twain. To escape, we climbed to 14,000 ft but the plane became thickly coated with ice. Our machine pitched and tossed like a tiny craft on a merciless sea. By midnight, Capt. Parmentier realized we could not reach Melbourne safely with our dwindling fuel.

"In a last effort to ascertain our bearings, I again manipulated the wireless equipment, but the atmospheric were so bad, I could not understand the messages until a faint signal that we were south of Albury was heard. Looking at our maps, we found that Cootamundra Airport was less than one hour to the north. Was it worth the risk? We decided to attempt to make that place but were fearful that the storms would again force us off course. It was then we heard the announcer of 2C0 Corowa appeal to his listeners to make a search for us and to owners of motor cars to hurry to the Albury Racecourse. Every member of the crew scanned the ground and as we came from behind the banks of clouds, we could faintly see the lights of hundreds of motor cars lining up. We gauged that with some luck, we may be able to make a landing.

"We dropped parachute flares with

each soul on board awaiting his or her fate. Parmentier swooped down to almost tree top level, endeavoring to gauge the dimensions of the field. We circled several times and the decision was made. Yes, We would take the chance and attempt to land. The nose of the plane was set toward the field and with every nerve on fire we waited. Down, down, down, then a bump as the wheels touched the ground. Over the soft earth we glided We were safe. What joy and what a streak of luck.

"The crowd cheered, such cheering as I have never heard before. We were overjoyed at our reception and our good luck."

The plane carried four crew and three passengers, the lone female was a German reporter who also had flying experience.

The outpouring of goodwill, messages and the generosity of the Dutch people toward Albury was extraordinary. KLM sent a cheque for £200 in favour of the Albury District Hospital. A delegation from the Netherlands East Indies handed out numerous presents to deserving individuals as well as a further cheque for £200 which was distributed at £10 each to 20 local organizations. Boy Scouts, the Progress Associations of North, East and West Albury as well as Lavington and Wodonga, the Ambulance, RSL, Apex, Salvation Army, Orphanage and Albury Hospital again benefited, to name just some.

Mayor Alf Waugh was invested an Officer in the Order of Oranje-Nassau by Mr P Staal (Consul General), acting for Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands at a ceremony witnessed by several thousand people in Dean Square on December 17th, 1934. The protocol of a civilian decoration to a citizen of the British Empire from a foreign government required approval of King George V, hence the delay.

Tragedy was to strike and much grief was felt locally, just four days after Mayor Waugh's investiture. On 21 December, the *Uiver* again struck thunder storms and crashed in the Iraqi desert when flying from Cairo to Baghdad. Seven people perished, none had been involved in the Albury landing.

On 23 April 1935, Alderman and Mrs Waugh sailed from Melbourne as members of a municipal party formed from among local councils in NSW to compare Britain's method of running local government to their own. At the conclusion of their tour of various municipalities in the UK, the mayor and mayoress travelled to Holland to present a plaque from the citizens of Albury to the people of the Nether-

lands to perpetuate the landing of the *Uiver*.

On 14 August, Ald. Waugh visited Dr H Colijn, Prime Minister of Holland, who repeated Holland's thanks to Albury. The Queen was unable to receive the mayor at this time, however some three weeks later, while on holiday at St. Fillans, Perthshire in Scotland, Queen Wilhelmina gave an audience to the much travelled mayor, asking him to convey her personal thanks to the people of Albury. The Waughs had been cordially received throughout all of Holland's eleven provinces and entertained by provincial governors and burgomasters.

Among the many presentations he received were a silver replica of the *Uiver* to place in the Albury Town Hall, a large bronze tablet to commemorate the incident and a Gold Cup, a present to the Albury Racing Club on whose course the *Uiver* had landed.

The Waughs returned from their 5 month sojourn on 30 September.

On Thursday, 23 April 1936, the Netherlands-Albury Gold Cup was run and won by a horse named Orange Bitters. Its sire was Nassau, a coincidence not lost on a number of Dutch and other dignitaries present. At the head of the guest list was one Joseph Lyons, who happened to be Prime Minister of Australia.

Sources - *Border Morning Mail*, and *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express*

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

By John Craig

Ances-Tree: Burwood FHS. Journal July 2009.

- German ships to Eastern Australia, part 14 "Marbs" 1855. Another Cholera Ship.

Memento: National Archives of Australia Magazine July 2009.

- Mail and Post; The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Australia's Postal Service.

Stockman's Hall of Fame Newsletter June 2009.

- Vale: Roma Heather, Jim Cuming, also Danny Foster, famed Aboriginal Stockman on Alexandria stock camp.

Insites: Historical Houses Trust of NSW Sept. 2009.

- Unravelling the mystery of Exeter Farm. New start for Newstead; "Newstead" with 150 years of history is now open to visitors.

Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists Journal September 2009.

- Fromelles Project: Assistance needed. If anyone knows someone who may be related to those listed in this issue, please contact the relative authority. Email address provided.

Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter September 2009.

- History of hotels at Alfredtown Part 2.
- History: RAH. Society Magazine* September 2009.
- Sydney- A Chemical Weapons Depot and Dumping Ground.

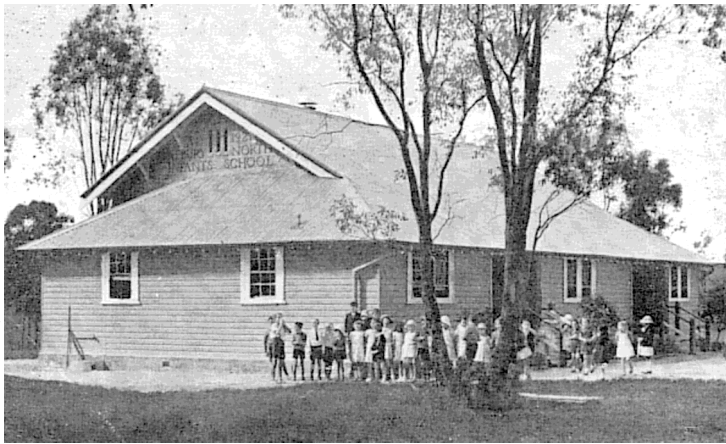
- Calendar of events, Sept 09 to Dec 09.
The Argyle: Goulburn HS and FHS Bulletin August 2009.
- History of the Loop Line Railway, Picton to Mittagong.
Richmond River H.S. Bulletin September 2009.
- Early Dentists in Lismore and district.
The Muster: Central Coast (Gosford) FHS. Journal August 2009.
- Petitioning the Prime Minister Gordon Brown to allow full and open access to registers of birth, deaths and marriages from 1837 to 1908.

NORTH ALBURY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

By Jan Hunter

Tucked away in the information about the *Uiver* aftermath is a gift of £200 from the Netherlands East Indies to Albury. That money was divided into £10 lots, one of which went to the North Albury Progress Association.

The Parents and Citizens' Association was probably the first formal community group in North Albury, beginning the push for a government school around 1923. On 17 September 1926, a special meeting of the association changed its name to include the word *progress*. That night



North Albury Infants' School 1928

16 new members were enrolled in the North Albury Parents and Citizens' Progress Association. The local paper reported that the evening ended happily when, "the committee and all present were entertained to supper and a musical programme."

It seems that the P & C Association and the Progress Association were the same organisation for many years but rarely was the full name used.

RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES ONLY

Shortly after this meeting the group asked the municipal council to declare their area "for residential purposes only". Evidently the council gave tacit approval but did nothing formally. Two years later members were stirred into action again about this matter. In letters to the council and the *Border Morning Mail* the secretary and the president reminded aldermen of the earlier application and citing the Noxious Trades Act 1902!

[It] has now come to our knowledge that it is proposed to erect a small shop amongst the beautiful residences in North Street...This, the property owners, in that street, take strong exception to, claiming that it will affect the beauty of the street, as well as depreciate the

value of their properties. It is hoped that the council will in future use every endeavour to prevent this wrong on its ratepayers and refuse applications of such a nature in residential streets.

The same paper reported that an application for a "brick and wooden shop" in North Street was before the council. The application was from J Terrett who owned a block two doors west of Frauenfelder Street. Had the shop proceeded, it would have been an embarrassment to the secretary of the progress association, Mr Joe Garnsey, as he had sold the block of land to Terrett. The shop did not go ahead and Passants and Mrs O'Sullivan in Tribune Street remained the only "corner" stores in the area for the next decade.

INFANTS' SCHOOL

Some years earlier, as the North Albury subdivisions were getting off the ground, Joe Garnsey, a member of the Albury Chamber of Commerce

had organised a petition and showed the District Schools Inspector around the area. According to inspector's report, "it was time for residents to agitate in no uncertain voice for branch schools." In 1926, the local Member of Parliament reported that tenders would be called for an infants' school in the locality.

The number of households in the immediate area had risen since the original petition, but it required a leap of faith for the North Albury P & C Progress Association to guarantee 80 students for the new school! In 1927 Miss K Mitchell, from the Rural School staff (i.e. Albury Public), was appointed as teacher and the school opened in November. Only twenty six students enrolled. The lower numbers were attributed to the fact that parents were not willing to take their children away from other schools so late in the year. The principal explained that supplies had been loaned but that she would make application for school stationary to be ready for the new year. A newspaper report commented that the rooms were big and airy and that the building was "a veritable palace compared with some of the little bush schools."

The NA P & C Association is deeply interested in the welfare of the school and Miss Mitchell stated that she had never seen a keener parents and citizens' association. That lively body has provided a piano already, and

it is certain that "the instrument will lighten many a weary hour, as a piano gives great pleasure in an infants' school."

POST OFFICE

The Association was involved in what is now called "community consultation". In November of 1927 the North Albury Post Office building on the corner of Fallon and Mate Streets was complete.

Residents in that quarter are very impatient for the opening of the office, as to collect their mail means, very often, a long walk down to the main office. The North Albury Post Office will be conducted in conjunction with a store... With regard to the appointment of a postmaster, Mr. P.V. Becke, District Postal Inspector, stated yesterday that the department had agreed to accept the nomination by the North Albury Progress Association of an officer... That means that the post office will be opened almost immediately after the selection of a suitable officer by the progress association.

TENNIS CLUB

In the early months of 1928, Les Chick chaired a meeting of the progress association in Stanton's home, cnr David and Stephen Street, to discuss forming a tennis club. Ernie Stanton offered the use of some land in Stephen Street and "the material necessary for the first court." Working bees were begun immediately. The Zerbst family made their horse and cart available so Charlie Miles, and others, made many trips to the Nailcan Hill quarry for buckshot to surface the courts. On one trip he "put too much on the cart and a wheel buckled inside out." Two courts were ready in seven months.

At the official opening of these courts, the president of the Albury and Border Lawn Tennis Association said that North Albury had shown itself to be "a really go-ahead centre" and the *Border Morning Mail* referred to the area as "that highly progressive part of the town." The club was named "Glenly" after the Stanton's property in Rutherglen. Expansion of the club continued. In 1930, according to the annual report, the club had an entrant in a local Queens' Competition and the ladies were continuing their fund raising work. The paid caretaker, Mr W Krautz of Buckingham Street was commended, and the club was fielding teams in the "B" and "C" grade competitions. Glenly Tennis Club still exists, although now courts and amenities are in Glenroy.

FOOTPATHS, GUTTERS & CONVENIENCES

In the following years the Progress Association wrote to council about a variety of matters - most of which have a familiar ring. The Association wanted a temporary footbridge erected near the school entrance but were told it was a matter for

the Education Department. The Engineer would however look into the request for the formation of a water channel in Mate and Fallon Streets. The Association advocated urgent action on the provision of a sanitary convenience at the cemetery. This matter was still being bandied about years later.

AFTER THE WAR

The P&C continued to support the Infants' School and began pressing for a lift in the status of the school to primary level, but the 'Progress Association' aspect seemed to fade. In 1947 it was revived as a separate organisation albeit at the instigation of the P&C.

Over 30 residents from North Albury... adopted a recommendation from the P & C Association in that centre to form a Progress Association. Mr J. E. Jelbart was elected president, and Mr N. Haberecht secretary-treasurer, Vice-presidents elected were; Miss Hattersley, headmistress of the Infants' School, and Mr. E Maxwell.

Happy Valley delegates to the meeting indicated that their Progress Association would be only too willing to work in with the North Albury Association:

Our difficulties are as great that those of North Albury, being without electricity and water and above all, the sanitary depot right at our very doors. We have been fighting a long time for attention to our needs with little result. However the fight is to continue until our needs are satisfied.

By this time the bare paddocks between Fallon Street and Union Road were beginning to be subdivided. The population had expanded. Horse-drawn vehicles were causing problems with the shoulders of Mate Street, and Fallon Street needed repairing. Billson Park needed an upgrade, and sharp exchanges were taking place in Council about the provision of a swimming pool in the north of the town. This last matter would continue to occupy the residents of North Albury for years to come.

References: A&DHS Papers 2008 Nos 4 & 9

Christmas Dinner

Sat 12 Dec 6.30 for 7p.m. \$33

Have you told June you are coming?

(02) 6025 1324

Reminder about next meeting.

If you would like to speak for 3-5 minutes about a WWI soldier or nurse, please let Chris McQuellin know (02) 6021 3697, so he can include you on the program.

If you have a photograph and can drop it in to the Eye Clinic Stanley Street marked Chris's attention, he will scan it to show on screen while you speak.