



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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576

## REPORT ON FEBRUARY MEETING (8.2.2017)

Tim Fischer was in cracking form for our February meeting and conducted us on a thoroughly entertaining trip from changing trains at Albury to the history changing battles of World War One in 1918 commanded by Sir John Monash. Tim would like the Society to support the erection of a plaque at the Albury Railway station recording the VIP train travellers of the past. He also tendered the Jerilderie Proposition which advocates the posthumous promotion of one step in rank of General Sir John Monash to the rank of Australian Field Marshal.

Our President Doug Hunter floated a suggestion that it may be time to change our logo. We could have a stylised logo modelled on the Hovell tree, the railway bridge or the town skyline of historic buildings. There are numerous options. If you have any ideas or opinions please let a member of the Committee know. The Battle of Noreuil centenary which involved the Albury Battery will be commemorated on 15 April when a storyboard will be unveiled.

There is a cemetery walk planned for 30 April as part of the Heritage Festival and the theme is "having a voice." Sara Korman from the Albury LibraryMuseum Learning and Outreach team shared her aims and methods of making history an exciting and relevant topic for secondary school students. Roma Freeman is writing a history of the 90 years of the CWA in Albury and would like anyone who has relevant memories or stories about the organisation or visiting the Baby Health Clinic in Kiewa St to contact her please.

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY  
8 MARCH, 2017

7.30pm at the Commercial  
Club Albury  
"CSU, your local  
University and how we got  
here."

Speaker: Jenni Munday

Albury's Campaign for  
Federal Capital  
Speaker: Greg Ryan

## ALBURY LIBRARY- MUSEUM

REMEMBERING  
GALLIPOLI

25 MARCH-6 JUNE

Page 2	Maestro John Monash
Page 4	VIP Train Changers
Page 5	Fifty Years Ago
Page 6	Heritage in my Street

## ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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<[www.alburyhistory.org.au](http://www.alburyhistory.org.au)>

For your reference A&DHS account details are:

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**Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday of the month  
7.30pm usually at Commercial Club Albury.

Committee meets 3rd Wednesday of the month 5pm at the Albury LibraryMuseum.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25  
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Enquiries in writing with \$25

Australian Field Marshal Rank Facts - Tim Fischer AC



Sir John Monash  
Copyright :National Portrait Gallery

When a window of opportunity comes along to correct a wrong that goes to the core fabric of the nation, then citizens should step up and seek to ensure action is taken to rectify the wrong. This window exists from now until 11 November 2018, the centenary of Armistice or Remembrance Day.

The Jerilderie Proposition relating to Sir John Monash sets out clearly the objective of the Saluting Monash Council for your consideration and is detailed below, it seeks to right a wrong. However firstly, some matters of fact should be laid out with regard to the rank of Australian Field Marshal:

The rank of Australian Field Marshal is not suspended or abolished, it exists today and there is one current living holder of the rank, the Consort of the Queen of Australia, Prince Philip is an Australian Field Marshal created by then PM Robert Menzies on 1 April 1954.

All three Australian Field Marshals, 1925 Birdwood, 1950 Blamey and 1954 Prince Philip were created in peace time and for symbolic reasons, at the time of their appointments none were in command of an AIF or ADF force of the size normally relating to Field Marshal command.

Minister Dan Tehan has recently laid out some observations on Field Marshal rank as follows below. The Minister admits the 'implicit' requirement to be 'living' but it is not an 'outright' requirement. He also further emphasizes one step in rank as a desirable aspect. Promoting Sir John Monash posthumously to Field Marshal would represent one step in rank and like Blamey, when he was promoted in 1950, some years had elapsed since he was on active command duty. Extract Of Letter From Minister Dan Tehan:

"The careful after the fact confirmation of General Blamey's legal status as an officer on the Active List reinforces the importance of this requirement. Implicit in the requirement for the recipient to be a serving officer is the requirement that the person be alive."

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century it is clearly a matter within the capability of the ADF, Minister for Defence and the Australian Prime Minister of the day to make senior promotions and appointments, it is not a matter that Whitehall or the Palace can prevent or obstruct. It is essentially an Australian matter for determination, one way or another and with indirect precedent. Note Minister Josh Frydenberg has said that a precedent is not essential to have re the promotion of Sir John Monash, he also states clearly and correctly it would complete but not alter history when implemented.

In 1976 George Washington was promoted one step in rank from General to General of the Armies / Field Marshal equivalent. Great Britain continues to appoint Field Marshals, the most recent is Lord or Baron C R L Guthrie who was promoted to Field Marshal (Honorary) after he retired as head of the British Defence Force in June 2012, the same month Prince Charles was appointed Field Marshal. Staying with the limitation of one step in rank only, there are only some dozen Australian Generals ever appointed, three alive today, who notionally are eligible of one step in rank promotion to Field Marshal. In reality only one, maximum two, are within the remit for consideration of promotion to Field Marshal.

#### **Jerilderie Proposition:**

**Following on the outstanding contribution of Sir John Monash to State and Nation before, during and after World War One and reflecting the fact that Sir John Monash received no Australian Awards or Honours post 11 November 1918, the Prime Minister approve by Government Gazette publication, the posthumous promotion of one step in rank of General Sir John Monash to the rank of Australian Field Marshal, with effect 11 November 1930, one year after Sir John Monash was eventually promoted to the rank of General.**

Please visit [www.salutingmonash.org.au](http://www.salutingmonash.org.au) for more information.



[Sir John Monash](#), a soldier, engineer and administrator, was one of Australia's greatest military commanders. During World War I, Monash served in Gallipoli and on the Western Front. His greatest victory was at Hamel. This battle inspired a succession of victories, culminating in the breaking of the Hindenburg Line. Throughout the 1920s, Sir John maintained a strong public profile, represented returned soldiers and frequently advised on military and engineering matters. He held a number of prominent civilian positions, including head of Victoria's State Electricity Commission. Towards the end of his life, Sir John was instrumental in the building of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Source: RBA Website

*Sunday August 11th 1918  
Western Front in Amiens Area*



MONASH



Chateau Bertangles



CHURCHILL

Chateau Bertangles was used by Lt General John Monash as the leader of the AIF Army Corps throughout the critical middle months of 1918, the last and decisive year of the Great War. It is recorded that John Monash met with Winston Churchill, then Minister for War Munitions at Chateau Bertangles on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> of August, before proceeding to the large meeting with the generals nearby at the Red Chateau, Villers Bretonneux.

Churchill was keen to discuss with Monash the performance of the new British built tanks (Mark V) and receive a briefing from Monash on the very successful battle of Amiens that took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, punching 16kms through the German lines and described by the German General E. Ludendorff as "the black day of the German Army".

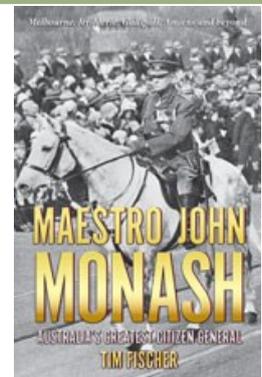
Created by Tim Fischer AC, former Army Officer 1 RAR, and author of  
*"Maestro John Monash: Australia's Greatest Citizen General"*  
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**Maestro John Monash – Australia's Greatest Citizen General**  
**by Tim Fischer**

"A perfected modern battle plan is like nothing so much as a score for an orchestral composition, where the various arms and units are the instruments, and the tasks they perform are their respective musical phrases. Every individual unit must make its entry precisely at the proper moment and play its phrase in the general harmony."

From the War Letters of Sir John Monash.

(Available at Dymocks, Albury.) Sale proceeds to charity.



Special thanks to the Commercial Club Albury Ltd for supplying a meeting room for many years and also for their continued support.  
 Please click on the logo to access their website.



**VIP TRAIN CHANGERS AT ALBURY, NSW: BREAK OF GAUGE PLATFORM :-**  
**A SUGGESTED LIST BY TIM FISCHER**

Albury railway station opened in 1881 with the arrival of the main line from Sydney. In 1883 the Victorian Irish broad gauge was built across the Murray River and at last the rail connection made. From 1883 until 1962, all through rail passengers between Sydney and Melbourne had to change at Albury, across the platform. NSW trains operated on the east side and Victorian trains including the Spirit of Progress on the west side. Nothing can match the list of VIPs that changed trains at Albury, not even at the key stations between France and Spain and between Poland and Russia. Europe being largely standard gauge but with a break of gauge with Spain and Russia.

**Top Twenty Four Great Train Changers at Albury: (\* At various times 1883 to 1962)**

Edmund Barton *	Rudyard Kipling	1891
William Bridges 1915 (horizontal in a coffin)	Douglas MacArthur	1942
Ben Chifley *	John McEwen *	
Agatha Christie 1920	Mary MacKillop *	
Duke of Cornwall (later King George V) 1901	Dame Nellie Melba	1931 (horizontal in a coffin)
Arthur Conan Doyle 1920	R G Menzies *	
Russell Drysdale *	Thomas Mitchell *	
Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester 1934	John Monash	1891
Walter Burley Griffin *	R L Stevenson	1890
W M Hughes *	Mark Twain	1895
D H Lawrence 1922	H G Wells	1939
Enid Lyons *	Duke of York (later King George VI)	1927

**Mark Twain: Excerpt from Following the Equator A Journey Around The World (1897)**

“Now comes a singular thing: the oddest thing, the strangest thing, the most baffling and unaccountable marvel that Australasia can show. At the frontier between New South Wales and Victoria our multitude of passengers were routed out of their snug beds by lantern-light in the morning in the biting cold of a high altitude to change cars on a road that has no break in it from Sydney to Melbourne! Think of the paralysis of intellect that gave that idea birth; imagine the boulder it emerged from on some petrified legislator's shoulders. It is a narrow-gauge road to the frontier, and a broader gauge thence to Melbourne. The two governments were the builders of the road and are the owners of it. One or two reasons are given for this curious state of things. One is, that it represents the jealousy existing between the colonies - the two most important colonies of Australasia. What the other one is, I have forgotten. But it is of no consequence. It could be but another effort to explain the inexplicable. All passengers fret at the double-gauge; all shippers of freight must of course fret at it; unnecessary expense, delay, and annoyance are imposed upon everybody concerned, and no one is benefitted. Each Australian colony fences itself off from its neighbour with a custom-house. Personally, I have no objection, but it must be a good deal of inconvenience to the people. We have something resembling it here and there in America, but it goes by another name. The large empire of the Pacific coast requires a world of iron machinery, and could manufacture it economically on the spot if the imposts on foreign iron were removed. But they are not. Protection to Pennsylvania and Alabama forbids it. The result to the Pacific coast is the same as if there were several rows of custom-fences between the coast and the East. Iron carted across the American continent at luxurious railway rates would be valuable enough to be coined when it arrived. We changed cars. This was at Albury. And it was there, I think, that the growing day and the early sun exposed the distant range called the Blue Mountains. Accurately named. "My word!" as the Australians say, but it was a stunning color, that blue. Deep, strong, rich, exquisite; towering and majestic masses of blue - a softly luminous blue, a smouldering blue, as if vaguely lit by fires within. It extinguished the blue of the sky - made it pallid and unwholesome, whitey and washed-out. A wonderful colour - just divine. A resident told me that those were not mountains; he said they were rabbit-piles. And explained that long exposure and the over-ripe condition of the rabbits was what made them look so blue. This man may have been right, but much reading of books of travel has made me distrustful of gratis information furnished by unofficial residents of a country. The facts which such people give to travellers are usually erroneous, and often intemperately so. The rabbit-plague has indeed been very bad in Australia, and it could account for one mountain, but not for a mountain range, it seems to me. It is too large an order.”

## **FIFTY YEARS AGO**

**COMPILED BY RICHARD LEE**

On this date the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1967 it was also a Wednesday, the Border Morning Mail was leading with Shrove Tuesday and Pancake tossing was the feature. The weather was hot with a rundown of the previous days temperatures; 10am 87.6°F or 31°C. Noon 90.6°F or 33°C and at 4pm 96.5°F or 36°C. Hence full page advertisements for fridges and air conditioners were placed by Mates and Maples featuring Kelvinator, Crosley and Westinghouse appliances. An article outlining how to cool the home was also a feature and stated how air conditioners have become more accessible compared to 5 years ago. Other page adverts were from Carroll's, Woolworths, Foodmart and New World. Although not related to Albury, Tasmania was badly affected by huge bush fires and 47 people had died.



Mann's of Wodonga were introducing a new computerized accounting system to handle customer accounts. The first in the district and it would only take 20 minutes to compile the accounts said David Mann. Margaret Smith was to be guest of honour at a dinner with about 400 guests in attendance. Margaret was coming across from Perth and they were raising funds for the tennis courts. Workmen at the Dean and Kiewa Street intersection were installing traffic signals and on Monday they un-earthed red gum timber estimated to be 100 years old. With a theory that the planks could have been laid as a crossing for a muddy bog hole in 1860. "Its all hooley" Albury City Council engineer Mr Jack Sarvaas said yesterday. "It would have been a timber culvert which was replaced in 1912 by a concrete drain." He suggested the culvert would have run from the Post Office corner into a three feet gutter in front of the Globe Hotel. The newly formed Australian Air League, Albury boy's squadron was to be inaugurated Saturday the 4 March with a march through the city.

25 years ago: 8 February 1992.

The Probus Club was to have its charter meeting next Wednesday at the Albury Golf Club. Uncle Ben's was celebrating 25 years in Wodonga with a big gathering of staff, and featuring side shows alley, Ferris wheels and a mystery guest. The Cumberoona was advertising Valentine's cruises and the Albury Wodonga Festival of Sport was to be sponsored by Ford for a substantial sum. Jeff Bryant, Graeme Hicks, Ron Dennis, Mayor Ald. Les Langford and Mick Reid all feature in the promotion. The new St Vincent de Paul's shelter in Rich's lane was opened to be called Quamby House, this site closed in 2013. In today's Border Mail newspaper there is a proposed development for \$8.84 million for this site. Justice Nagle's bequest is playing a large part in this development.



### **JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS**

'FAHS e-Bulletin' – 159. Jan 2017 – (Online) Thredbo Historical Society Inc.

'FAHS e-Bulletin' – 160. Feb 2017 – (Online)

Advises that funding opportunities are available to owners of local heritage items listed in Councils Local Environmental Plan. Applications close 21 April 2017.

Contact the Office of Environment and Heritage.

'Royal Australian Historical Society eNewsletter – 25 Jan 2017 – (Online)

Draws attention to the NSW governments land titles registry privatisation plans and concerns raised by the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Announces the theme of History Week in September this year seeks to examine, unravel and understand 'popular culture'.

'Unlocked' – New South Wales – Summer 2016

Features the upcoming programs of Sydney Living Museums.

'WWDHS' - Wagga Wagga – Feb/Mar 2017 – (Online) Street Names of Wagga Wagga Gentlemen Only. A History of the Riverine Club.

Miss Wagga Wagga: 1949-1954 Part 1.

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## NEW FEATURES FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS



We are always trying something new in our Society meetings and this new feature will hopefully draw more members from their seat in the audience to the podium to tell us in 3 minutes about Heritage in My Street.

Now you might say there is nothing of heritage note in the street in which I live. But don't be too sure. To begin with your street has a name, it has buildings, it has trees, it has residents past and present.

Perhaps your street has a colourful past, or a dark secret.

Now we are not going to print these vignettes so if you think the myths, or alternative facts, are more entertaining than the facts, so be it. We could call it historical imagination. It works for many

best-selling authors. So, please tell us when you are ready to present Heritage in your Street.

Your street of course, could be the one you live in, or one in which you once lived, or one where you worked, or just one in which you have a special interest.

There will also be a Quiz next meeting to keep you on the ball!

Question of the Month: What happened to Mount Kosciuzko in 1997?



MAMA (the Murray Art Museum Albury) has scores of its works on display in a new free exhibition in the Paul Ramsay Gallery, reflecting 70 years of collecting. As well as famous artists such as Russell Drysdale and Tom Roberts, the art featured includes Jack Bennett's controversial portrait of Cleaver Bunton and dozens of winners and entries from the Albury Art Prize. Many have not been seen for many years. The exhibition runs to 17 April.

\*\*\*\*\*

“Barnawartha Before the 1952 Fires” is the subject of an all-day exhibition on 6 March being organised by the Barnawartha Soldiers Memorial Hall and the Barnawartha Primary School. It promises to be a big day out with a brass band, antique vehicles and lots of family pictures on display.

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