



# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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## REPORT ON MARCH MEETING (8.3.2017)

The idea of a new logo for the Society was floated again with examples displayed for consideration. The Committee aims to be in a position for the matter to be decided at the AGM in June, so more options will be offered at the April and May meetings. The Cemetery Walk is planned for 30 April and will include some vocal identities such as Charles Griffith (Auctioneer) and Foster Cooper (Newspaper Editor).

Dr Jennifer Munday and Dr Bruce Pennay spoke on the history of the Charles Sturt University, which in the early days of its conception involved conflict and emotional turmoil as the various educational facilities were dragged into the melting pot of amalgamations. Dr Munday extended an invitation to members to visit the Thurgoona campus which is now a model of peace, sustainability and community engagement.

Lance Johnson, another of our Albury LibraryMuseum team who works as an exhibition coordinator shared his interest in photography and his previous work at the Lock Up in Newcastle which is a contemporary art space and museum combined.

Greg Ryan expanded on his recent article for the Border Mail weekly feature "Then and Now" with a talk on Albury-The Federal City. A fascinating story of Colonial politics and the early days of Federation.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority provided us with copies of a new book titled "Sharing the Water: One Hundred Years of River Murray Politics." These books are available for members to read. Heritage in my street by Joe Wooding was held over until the next meeting.

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

12 APRIL, 2017

7.30pm at the Commercial  
Club Albury  
Townsend St: Up to 1870  
Speaker: Ray Gear

Fires & Fire Fighting in  
Albury, 1865-1916

Speaker: Greg Ryan

**ALBURY CITY  
COUNCIL FOYER**

**ALBURY CITY BAND:  
A CELEBRATION**

**MAY 1-21 JULY**

Page 2 CSU Your Local Uni  
Page 3 Towards Higher Education  
Page 6 Albury-The Federal City  
Page 7 Fifty Years Ago

## ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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

For your reference A&DHS account details are:

BSB 640 000 Acc No 111097776 (Albury & District Historical Society Inc)

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**Webmaster:** Greg Ryan

**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

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

**Research** undertaken \$25 first hour.  
Enquiries in writing with \$25

## “CSU, YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITY AND HOW WE GOT HERE.”

### DR JENNIFER MUNDAY

Charles Sturt University has been part of building stronger communities for 25 years and the new campus at Thurgoona has won many architectural and environmental awards. In 2016 CSU became the first carbon neutral university in Australia. It is a leading distance education campus and has a high enrolment of indigenous students. From its early beginnings which included the amalgamation of several Colleges of Advanced Education and the Wagga Agricultural College, Australia’s first regional University now boasts a large range of courses. As well as Albury-Wodonga, CSU is located in Wagga, Bathurst, Orange, Port Macquarie, Dubbo, Brisbane, Wangaratta, Canberra, and Goulburn. Study Centres are open in Sydney, Melbourne, Parkes and Griffith. Canberra and Parramatta offer Theology courses. Goulburn has the Police Academy and Manly the Graduate School of Policing. CSU Pathway Programs are also offered in partnership with TAFE Institutes.



“During 1971, the Riverina College of Advanced Education was formally established and on 1 January 1972 the Wagga Wagga Teachers College was dissolved and the Riverina College of Advanced Education was established on the site of the Teachers College. Study centres were also opened in Albury and Griffith. On 1 January 1976, the Wagga Wagga Agricultural College was merged with the Riverina College of Advanced Education and became the School of Agriculture within the College. During the 1970s, the Council of the RCAE decided to purchase a greenfield site adjacent to the existing campus of the Wagga Wagga Agricultural College known locally as 'Boorooma' Campus. During the late 1970s and into the 1980s, a great deal of building development was undertaken at this new site in readiness for the transfer of staff, students and amenities to the new Boorooma and Agricultural campuses north of the Murrumbidgee River, from the old Teachers College Campus in the city proper.

Effective from 1 March 1985, the name of the College was changed to the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education to better reflect the geographical areas served by the institution, with the two main campuses located at Albury-Wodonga and Wagga Wagga.

In 1989, the Charles Sturt University Act brought together the Riverina Murray Institute of Higher Education and the Mitchell College of Advanced Education to form Charles Sturt University. Wagga Wagga Campus became one of the three foundation campuses of CSU, along with Albury-Wodonga and Bathurst.

Read more at <http://www.csu.edu.au/about/history/university-campuses>



The name of the University honours the noted explorer, soldier and public servant Charles Sturt.

Commenting on his own commitment to exploration, Sturt wrote:

*A wish to contribute to the public good led me to undertake those journeys which cost me so much ... I sought that career, not, I admit, without a feeling of ambition as should ever pervade a soldier's breast, but chiefly with an earnest desire to promote the public good, and certainly without any hope of any other reward than the credit due to the successful enterprise.*

In the tradition of exploration, learning, inquiry and discovery as embodied in the life and work of Charles Sturt, the University has as its motto - *for the public good*. The official floral emblem of the University is the Sturt Desert Pea or *Swainsona Formosa*.” (CSU Website.)

Dr Cliff Blake was the first Vice-Chancellor of CSU from 1990 to 2001.

Professor Ian Goulter reigned from 2001 to 2011, he was an engineer who listened to the community and aimed to retain graduates in employment in the regional area. The current Vice Chancellor is Professor Andrew Vann.

Building Stronger Communities for 25 Years  
Dr Margaret Van Heeker





Riverina College of Advanced Education  
Albury Study Centre Townsend St

Higher education had an uncertain start in Albury-Wodonga with abrupt changes best summarised within a short story which focuses on three sets of buildings.

But the story has a building-less beginning. In 1943 local enthusiasts contacted the University of Melbourne asking it to establish a university college, like that at Armidale. They had no success. In 1947 Tom Mitchell, the member for Benambra, suggested that the former Bonegilla army camp be turned into a university college, like that at Mildura. He, too, had no success.

Dr William Merrylees, a classics trained Murrumbidgee farmer, took up the championship of a Riverine University in the 1950s, assisted locally by Allen Martin and Bill

Franken. The Riverine University League won spoken approval for a rural university but no action was taken. In 1968 the Askin Government, with Wal Fife, the member for Wagga Wagga, as an Assistant Minister for Education decided to establish one of the new Colleges of Advanced Education in Wagga Wagga. The argument was that there was an Agricultural College and a Teachers College which could provide facilities. The population tables in the appendix, however, showed that Albury-Wodonga was growing faster and was consequently promised accelerated development by both states.

The new Riverina CAE based in Wagga Wagga established a study centre in Albury, conducting classes for mature-aged/second chance learners briefly at St Matthews Parish Centre then at 512 Swift Street until a small purpose-built study centre was constructed in Townsend Street.

The prospects of a university firmed into a Prime Ministerial commitment with the Albury-Wodonga growth centre in 1973. It was proposed that Albury-Wodonga University might start midst the office blocks proposed for public servants at Baranduda. But that dream fizzled in 1976 with the change to a government, which had less enthusiasm for the growth centre.

In the meantime, the study centre outgrew its Townsend Street beginnings and took over the former Technical College in Dean Street and a former health department building in Olive Street, which was used as a music centre.

With resources from the former Goulburn CAE, which had become a Police College, the study centre became a campus of Riverina CAE and began further development of a city campus.

The first full-time students were enrolled in 1984.

Dissatisfaction with the range of courses and rate of growth drew both the NSW and Victorian Ministers of Education to Albury to announce that the Murray Campus would become an Independent college by 1993. Wagga Wagga administrators thought that decision way too ambitious.

In the meantime Victoria, having lost the promise of a university, looked instead to an Albury-Wodonga post-school community college incorporating a TAFE college in Wodonga as well as Albury and a cross-border CAE - all coordinated.

To forestall moves that might result in a new independent institution, Wagga adopted the title Riverina Institute of Higher Education with Murray as a campus. It increased the course profile and student numbers in Albury.

Victoria founded Wodonga Institute of Tertiary Education as an interim measure to spur the growth in courses and student numbers in the region. It did not want to exclude nurse education in the same way that teacher education had been earlier excluded from local offerings.

In the wake of national review of university education in 1989 (the Dawkins reforms), colleges of advanced education were subsumed within universities and, in the case of Charles Sturt

University, amalgamated to serve the southern part of inland NSW. Latrobe University assumed responsibility for Wodonga and for much of regional Victoria. Not everybody was happy about the way each of the states had gone its own way on the border.

Both university campuses grew rapidly. The new CSU abandoned its limited city campus site. The growth in facilities at Thurgoona led to more courses and greater student numbers.

The moves towards higher education read like a sequence of tales of two city rivalry between Albury and Wagga, Goulburn and Wagga Wagga, Bathurst and Wagga Wagga and, then, tensions between Albury and Wodonga. Urban rivalry is common, particularly between near sized and near placed regional cities. Tamworth and Armidale, Orange and Bathurst, Lismore and Grafton have all competed for government largesse. Since the doubling of the number of regional cities in the immediate post-war years, the cities have vied with each other for higher education presence in much the same way as earlier country towns vied for cathedrals.

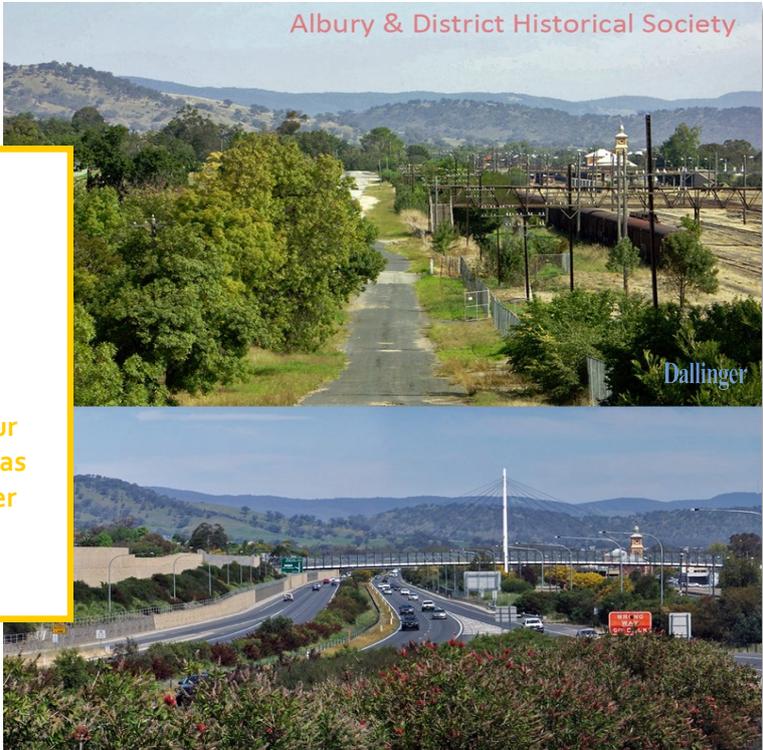
The Coat of Arms reflects something of the urban rivalries that limited early developments. Three rivers and three Sturt Desert Pea pods on the Coat of Arms showed that the new university was initially to comprise of three campuses based in Bathurst, Wagga Wagga and Albury. In Albury itself, the story of the move towards higher education is best encapsulated in three sets of buildings – the study centre, the college-in-the-street city campus and the greenfield site campus at Thurgoona.



An Historical Society relic: a timber table lectern and a chromed steel stand were discovered recently at the Manual Activities Centre, Lavington. Chris McQuellin saw the object during a clean out at the Centre and realised the connection to the Society by the ‘ADHS’ in recessed gold lettering on the front. It was made in the 1980’s out of red meranti by Gerry Curtis who was a cabinet maker by trade. A decision needs to be made now about its future.

**The Power of Facebook.**

**This photo on our Facebook page has been viewed over 60,000 times!**



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.



The notion that Albury should become Australia's Federal capital had its origins in the 1850s. The member for Sydney, Henry Parkes, was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of November 8, 1856: "if ever a Federal Government was called into existence, Albury was the very place where the sitting of that Government would be most likely held ... on the borders of both colonies." In the late 1850s Albury started to be referred to in the press as the "Federal City." In July 1868 the *Border Post* reported that for the NSW Governor's visit, outside the Globe Hotel a "triumphal arch bearing the motto 'Welcome to the federal city' was erected." Parkes repeated his claim visiting Albury in September 1874 "he knew of no better place more central or in every way more suitable to be the seat of a federal government on the border of two great colonies."

A great boost to Albury's claims on the site was given in October 1876 when Governors of NSW and Victoria met in Albury. Sir Hercules Robinson of NSW and Sir George Bowen, his Victorian counterpart, walked symbolically across the aptly named Union Bridge. Several times in speeches, Robinson referred to Albury as the "Federal City."

In April 1883, at a meeting in Albury's Salutation Hotel, the Federal City Football Club was formed. There were also several businesses that took on the name "Federal City," for example the Federal City Hotel.

Back in Albury in December 1889, Henry Parkes was still supporting Albury as the Federal capital "Albury is most progressive, and in forty years when he counted back he expected to see the cathedral, opera house, and town hall in the Federal City ... the seat of Government, might very properly be partly in Victoria and partly in NSW with the Murray as a silver stream of friendliness between them ... having the national Parliament on one side of the river and the offices of the national Government on the other side."

A meeting of locals was held in January 1891 to form a 'Federal Capital Association' in Albury. They had decided "that the present was a most opportune time for bringing forcibly before the members who will form the Federal Conference, to be held in Sydney in March next, the many claims that Albury has to be chosen as the future Federal City."

In the 1890s, several Federation Conferences were held across Australia including one at Corowa in 1893. At the 1891 Federal Conference in Sydney, a draft constitution was composed which became the basis of our current constitution. The Mayor of Albury, T H Griffith, was said to take advantage of the pause at the break of railway gauge to press Albury's claim - when Victorian Premier Munro and 15 delegates changed trains on the way to the 1891 Sydney conference, the Mayor met them with a glass of champagne. A month later, each delegate at the conference was presented with a lavishly illustrated book, written to help people "visit, investigate, discover and describe whatever there may be of the beauty and advantage within what may someday become the Albury Territory - the governing centre of Australia."

For a while though in the early 1890s the move to Federation lost momentum. Politicians from the smaller colonies disliked the idea of delegating power to a national government. They feared that any such government would be dominated by the more populous New South Wales and Victoria.

Edmund Barton was a delegate to the March 1891 conference and it was he who kept the Federation movement alive. Barton, a NSW parliamentarian, began a campaign to spread support for federation to the people - meetings were held in both Corowa and Albury in December 1892.

Referendums on Federation were held in 1898, 1899 and 1900. In 1898, in spite of a majority 'Yes' vote, New South Wales fell short of a required 80,000 'Yes' votes, so at the next Federal Conference the draft constitution was amended. Premiers agreed to site the capital in NSW, but Premiers of other states insisted that the new federal capital must be more than one hundred miles from Sydney. Subsequently at the next referendum in June 1899, NSW had over 100,000 'Yes' votes and with a majority voting 'Yes' in all colonies (Western Australia in 1900), the way was clear to proceed to federation.

Many other contenders for the capital site now emerged. Contenders in southern NSW included: Bombala-Eden, Bowna, Cootamundra, Corowa, Hay, Howlong, Junee, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Wagga Wagga, Yass and Young.

October 1897 saw a public meeting held in Albury when a strong committee was appointed to take steps to impress on the Federal delegates the suitability of Albury as the site of the Federal capital. The *Albury Banner* reported: "A public meeting was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday evening to consider the question of giving prominence to the claims of Albury for selection as the site of the Federal Capital. The Mayor occupied the chair, and amongst other leading citizens present were Messrs. G. Adams, G. A. Thompson, T. H. Griffith, Carew, J. Brann, Alderman Carkeek, Dr. W. C. Woods, Alderman Watson, Dr. A. Andrews, Alderman Ten Brink, Burnell, Roxburgh, Dr. Muller, Dr. O'Shaughnessy, Messrs. J. Maloney, J. Wilkinson, J R Chapman."

Meanwhile, Federal Commissioners compiled a list of factors that contenders need consider in their submissions. These included such things as climatic conditions, accessibility by road, rail and water, physical conditions such as soil type and water supply and the cost of future land purchases. A preference was also stated for a site of at least 100 square miles in area.

Federation Commissioner Alexander Oliver visited Albury to assess the site in October 1899. His report in October 1900 concluded that any of the three, Orange, Yass or Bombala-Eden would be suitable sites for the capital. Albury, he commented, "while technically and topographically within New South Wales, would be within the commercial sphere of influence of a border State to such a degree as to make the statutory direction as to location, in effect almost nugatory."

Albury remained in the running and a delegation of senators arrived in Albury on 11 February, 1902 to inspect the town as one of the proposed sites for the new Australian federal capital city. Unfortunately for Albury's prospects, the weather was terrible, with a hot blustery wind and a dust haze over the town. The *Albury Banner* reported "it looks as if a malicious fate had sent along a northerly buster and uncovered a fierce sun to affect the Senators with a disgust for Albury." Senators were reported to comment "Nice position for a Federal cemetery," and "Hot as a stovehole."

Another report was released in July 1903. By now Albury's proposed site had changed from an area centred around Table Top to an area centred on the 'Five-Ways' intersection at Lavington. This time Albury was rated higher.

The Report listed the top contenders in this order: 1. Tumut; 2. Albury; 3. Lyndhurst; 4. Bathurst; 5. Lake George and Orange, equal; 6. Armidale; 7. Bombala.

Albury scored the highest grading for accessibility, topography and general suitability. The town scored poorly for climate and water supply.

Albury was still a contender as the federal capital site right down to the final debate in 1908.

Albury became aware in early October 1908 that a final decision was about to be made and a public meeting was convened in Albury on Monday October 5 which resolved that a deputation (Mayor Alf Waugh, Ald ten Brink, Chas Griffith) proceed to Melbourne "to advocate the claims of Albury." They also decided "to resuscitate the old Federal Capital League."

However, the effort proved too late. On Friday October 9, the *Albury Banner* reported that in the first ballot, Albury received just two votes in a field of eleven then zero in the second ballot and was eliminated. By now Dalgety (east of Jindabyne on the Snowy River) was the favourite and they led the voting all the way to the seventh ballot. In the ninth and final ballot, only two sites remained – Yass/Canberra received 39 votes, Dalgety 33 votes.

An actual site in the selected area was yet to be determined - the *Sydney Morning Herald*

commented that given that the chosen area was a 2000 square mile area "there is room in the area known as Yass-Canberra for half a dozen sites."

Note that Albury's 'Five Ways' proposed site was just 62.5 square miles in area and this could well be the key reason that Albury was not a strong contender in the final ballot. The Australian Capital Territory finished up as 910 square miles (about 49 x 49 km).



Sir Henry Parkes touring the district with prominent Albury identities. Around 1889 at Ettamogah.  
Courtesy: Albury LibraryMuseum Collection

Border Morning Mail Wednesday 8 March 1967. The day's temperature was warm and humid with a minimum of 55°F or 12°C and a maximum of 87°F or 30°C.

The front page opened with a story on forged ten dollar notes found in Wodonga which had no metallic strips. In Melbourne eight men were arrested and two charged with this fraud.

Albury Wildlife Conservation Society was wanting a wildlife sanctuary for Albury. They wanted a site on Nailcan Hill but Jack Carter said they need to raise \$50,000 dollars to get it going.

Albury Art Society was holding a silent auction of art pieces. People needed to put a bid on a piece of paper associated with the art work they favoured and the draw would be on the 16 March. Beer was going up in Victoria but NSW was remaining the same.

A new Corroboree Club was being formed at the Globe Hotel. This would provide more entertainment for the just over 18's. The Entertainment section listed the Hoyt's Theatre and the Drive Inn, the Gala had a cabaret, the Astor had a supper dance and the Civic had a comic opera. Semi retired grazier Mr Kruze, a bachelor won the Apex Club prize, a round the world ticket, valued at \$2,800.

Interesting Government Notice; Norman Douglas was requesting a purpose pipe to direct water from the Murray River for the purposes of a Fish Farm.

Couple of prices from the day were New World Supermarket, two frozen chickens for \$1.50, soft drinks cans: four for 32c and tissues 150 box for 28c. Car tyres from Goodyear varied from \$12.50 to four wheel drive tyres at \$30.00.

The St Patrick's Gold Cup would be on the 11 March and the Floral Queens would be appearing for the first time.

25 years ago in 1992, a Monday, the temperature in Albury was 33 degrees. Sport seemed to be the only news; 'Howard Jones must have been on holidays.'

Pat Scammell won the Australian 1500 metre title at age 30 years. He had competed in this race for the last 10 years and finished second on eight occasions.

Twenty one year old Danielle Lemond was the inaugural winner of the Ford Festival of Sport prize of \$4000. She was in the Australian Karate team. The weekend activities included the Mitta Muster, Tallangatta Show, Towong Cup and Homestead Hardware Triathlon, Boxing was at PCYC and Bernie Bell won the Wodonga Country Club Championship.

### **JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS**

*'Ances - Tree' - Burwood - March 2017.*

Government Assisted German Immigrants (Vinedresser Families) to NSW 1849-1856.

*'Descent' - Society Australian Genealogists - March 2017. - (Online)*

Look past the names in Family History Research.

*'History' - Royal Australian Historical Society Magazine - March 2017*

More to pictures than meets the eye: Looking at pictures as historical resource.

The Women's Cooperative Silk Growing and Industrial Association.

*'National Trust' - New South Wales - 2 March 2017 - (Online)*

Submissions close 15 March for National Trust Heritage Awards 2017.

*'Placenames Australia' - March 2017*

Early names of Australia's coastal regions. Part 1 - Dutch names

Toponymy 101. E: How placenames help define our world.

*'Royal Australian Historical Society e-Newsletter' - 8 March 2017 - (Online)*

History of NSW Aboriginal Trackers. View on the website <http://pathfindersnsw.org.au/>

*'Unlocked' - Sydney - Autumn 2017.*

Listening to the Past: Rediscovering Our Musical Heritage.

<https://www.facebook.com/Albury.DHS>



## NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THE AGM

As required by the Constitution, the Society's Committee advises a proposed change to annual membership (to be put at the AGM in June 2017) for the 2017/2018 year.

The Single (at \$25 pa) and Family membership (at \$33pa) will remain unchanged with members receiving the monthly Bulletin via email. If members require a posted printed monthly Bulletin there will be an extra charge of \$10 pa. Corporate membership will rise to \$100 pa and will include recognition of their sponsorship, having their logo and web link included in the Bulletin and on the Society's web site.

### **Twenty Reasons why Albury should be the Federal Capital.**

1. It is near the centre of Australian population.
2. It is on the main line of railway connecting the four principal capitals
3. It is on the principal river in Australia.
4. It is on the border of the two principal colonies.
5. It is between the two principal cities.
6. It is far enough from the seaboard to be safe from sudden invasion.
7. It is a splendid district for sheep, cattle, and horses.
8. It produces corn, wine, fruit, and flowers in abundance.
9. It is a splendid tree-growing district, both for use and ornament.
10. It has a never-failing water-supply for all purposes.
11. It has splendid brick-clay, granite, freestone, etc., for building.
12. The site is picturesque, beautiful, and unique.
13. It has a beautiful portion of land and water for a Federal Park.
14. It is in the temperate region of Australia.
15. It has a healthy, equable, and pleasant climate.
16. It is near the highest mountains and the greatest number of streams in Australia.
17. It is convenient to the fertile Riverina and the rich Murray Valley.
18. Because Sir Hercules Robinson, the greatest governor, and Sir Henry Parkes, the greatest statesman, of New South Wales, both recommended it as the most suitable site for the Federal Capital.
19. Because there is no other site on the Australian continent that has so many points in its favour, in all main essentials, as this one.
20. It would be a fair and peaceful compromise between conflicting claims, and consequently permanently satisfactory.

### ADDENDUM FROM TIM FISCHER

Additions to the Key Train Changers list: Sir Isaac Isaacs (1933) and Phar Lap!

Finally, it is true many famous VIPs used rail notably in Europe and the USA 1850 to 1950 but because the big capital cities all had multiple stations for long distance trains, eg London then and now has seven grand terminal stations, the good and great were dispersed amongst various stations.

Conversely Albury had total command of all rail passenger traffic between the two largest cities of Australia for eight decades, hence justifying the claim:

Albury Railway Station = The world's most used railway station 1883 to 1962 by the bold and the beautiful, the famous and the greatest !



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