

# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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## REPORT ON MAY MEETING (10.05.2017)

Our May Meeting opened with a series of images of early Forest Hill, Albury presented by Ron Boadle.

Then Nancy Massey gave an entertaining talk on the industrious Peard family which illustrated how one man's hobby became a successful, thriving and well known business in Albury and Wodonga.

Narda Reid had an idea about documenting the locations of Empire Day and cracker night bonfires in the area and we received many comments on our Facebook page reminiscing about the building techniques and social interactions leading up to the big night. Members enjoyed sharing their bonfire night stories and locations at the meeting also.

June Shanahan spoke about Gentleman Jack Crawford a famous tennis player from Urangeline who came within one set of completing the first Grand Slam in 1933. He was so named because of his impeccable manners and it was said that he used to pour himself a cup of tea between sets.

Mr Brian Doube invited members of the Society to attend a small ceremony at the Pioneer Cemetery for the installation of a plaque marking his grand mother's grave. She died in 1919 from the Spanish flu.

Greg Ryan reported that the Albury Band 150 Years book commissioned by the Albury City Band is now available at the cost of \$35 at the Albury LibraryMuseum and at Dymocks.

Doug reminded members about the Pioneer Cemetery Walk which was held on 21 May and the AGM coming up on 14 June.

## NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE, 2017

7.30pm at the Commercial  
Club Albury

Annual General Meeting

Johnson, Coughlan and  
Kay accountants.

Speaker: John Coughlan

**ALBURY  
LIBRARYMUSEUM  
CLASS RULES:  
EDUCATING  
ALBURY SINCE  
1850  
10 JUNE-6 AUGUST**

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## 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)

**Patron:** Patricia Gould OAM

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June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.

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**Publications & Stock Officer:** Ray Gear

**Meeting Greeter:** Jill Wooding

**Bulletin dispatch:** Richard Lee

**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



Betty, Marie, Harold, Beverley and Keith Peard outside the new Peards Nursery, Albury around 1984. Photo Courtesy: Nancy Massey

I am Nancy Massey nee Peard the second daughter of Keith and Betty Peard of Ebden, and one of the 4th generation of Peards in this area. The first known Peard in our family line to come to the Albury district was John Peard who arrived in Melbourne aboard the "Sandanka" from County Cork, Ireland in September 1856 aged only 16. He had left the family home which was Coole Abbey at Castlelyons, Fermoy, County Cork because of the hardships resulting from the potato famine. We have photos of Coole Abbey and the family crypt or mausoleum nearby where many Peard forbears are buried. Mum and Dad Peard

visited there in 1982 after discovering a Peard relative in Cork through the phone book while on an organized tour of Ireland and subsequently met Eric Peard who took them to see these places and extended hospitality to them for a couple of days at the end of their tour. They learned that two of John Peard's uncles had preceded him to Australia and there is family lore that these uncles came to the Beechworth and Chiltern areas during the gold rush and became special Constables with Robert O'Hara Bourke of Beechworth.

John Peard found his way to Albury from the Lachlan diggings and then resided in the Albury and Bowna areas until his death on 29 August 1921.

He married Mary Anne Burlton (daughter of Francis Burlton of Bowna) and had twelve children. They were married on 26 March 1868 at Beechworth. He is listed on the certificate as a carrier and she is a farmer's daughter.

Before going into the offspring of John and Mary Anne I will mention a few snippets about other Peard relatives in the area from the mid 1850's. From the Albury Banner of September 1865 a Mr and Mrs Peard were appointed Superintendent and Matron of the Albury Hospital and Benevolent Asylum. St Helier Peard arrived from Ireland in 1860 and took up free selection of land at Wagra, (near Tallangatta) after having lived at Oxley.

In 1874 according to the Border Post Henry and William Peard obtained land at Brocklesby and later records list Elizabeth as William's wife.

According to the Border Post 1878 a Mrs E Peard was the schoolmistress of the Public School at Moorwatha, near Brocklesby, with about 32 pupils attending.

We don't have a lot of information about what John Peard worked at but it seems to revolve around farming and from the Border Post of 1889 we read that he made butter at a Bowna Creamery and in the Banner of 12 November 1897 he was being encouraged to set up his creamery at Wagra. We also have family reports of him having land at Wymah and Walla Walla around 1900. He also built and ran the Ivy Hotel at Bowna around 1890.

The children of John and Mary Anne Peard were as follows:

Francis (Fanny) 1868-1870.

Frances H. 1870

Mary Alice 1872 (Mrs Williams)

Minnie E. 1874 (Mrs Hensel) Henty

Richard P. 1874

William Burlton 1875, Charleville, Qld.

Eleanor Anne 1877 (Mrs Hoffman) Walla Walla

Burlton Herbert 1879 Tumbarumba

Albert E.J. 1882 Charleville, Qld.

Frederick M.

Victor Valentine 1886 Albury

Henry Harrison 1889 Sydney.

## THE PEARD FAMILY IN AND AROUND ALBURY

Mary Anne, their mother, died in 1891 aged 44 years and thus left a large family with the two youngest only 2 and 5 years old.

Before I focus on my immediate family I will mention a special event that caused great pride in our family. Henry Harrison, known as Harry, was in the 4th Light Horse during World War 1 and on 31st October 1917 he was recognised for his bravery at Beersheeba, Palestine and was awarded a D.C.M.

My Grandfather was Victor Valentine Peard and he married Bertha Mary Peucker on 5th March 1908. She was from a German family and was born at Bairnsdale, Victoria in 1884, her father having come to Australia from Bersdorf, Silesia, in 1853 with his parents and siblings. Her mother was Louisa Linke from Magdeburg, Germany. On the marriage certificate Victor is described as a grocer and Bertha simply "private life" which implied living at home on the family farm at Mitta Mitta. Victor had been educated in Albury and worked at Mate's Store for over 20 years. He was based at the bottom store and did deliveries with a horse-drawn wagon .

Their home in Albury was at 442 Townsend St, which was a two storey building which had been a shop and is approximately where the car park is now beside the apartments. They had 4 sons and a daughter while there and their names were: Victor Roy (1908-1971), Herbert Harold (known as Bert (1910-1983), Mabel Lillian known as Lily, (1912-1923), Reginald Valentine (known as Reggie, (1915-1985) and Keith Norman (1916-2004).

Victor Roy (known as Vicky) became a plumber and established a prominent business with his two sons at the corner of High St and Lawrence Streets, Wodonga.

It was later Repco Auto Spares and now Lee Corner Chinese Restaurant. Victor was also a Wodonga Councillor and Shire President from 1954 to 1956. Because of his prominent and longstanding business the Peard name became well-known locally. His wife was Jean Thompson and they had 2 sons and a daughter (Noel, Lloyd and Margaret).

Bert became a carpenter and also served in the 2nd World War and was then granted a Soldier's Settlement farm at Wantabadgery, near Wagga. His wife was Sylvia Bennett and they had 2 daughters and a son (Rosalie, Harold and Joan). He lived in Macauley St, Albury, in 1938 and later with his wife in Millar St. Albury in 1947.

Reggie worked on the railways as a ganger and married Elsie Wortman. They had a daughter Lynette and a son Robert. Unfortunately while Elsie was expecting Robert she contracted German Measles and this resulted in Robert being born with severe Down's Syndrome which had a major impact on the whole family. For many years they lived in Beechworth Rd, Wodonga, but in later years after Robert had died they lived in Melbourne where Lynette and their grandchildren lived.

Victor was a member of the Albury Town Band in the 1920's and played the tenor horn. The story is that my Dad, Keith, used to go along to band events and carry the instrument case. A wonderful find in the family archives I only discovered a few weeks ago is the program for the Centenary Band Contest in 1924 to celebrate 100 years since Hume and Hovell came through the area on their expedition of exploration. The festival involved Albury and several visiting bands and was held at the Showgrounds on 17-19 November 1924.

Victor Peard was on the organising committee although I don't know if he actually competed as he is listed as a Flag Steward. My Dad, Keith had a good ear for music and played the piano accordion and mouth organ with many old favourites played by ear.

Lily was the beloved only daughter but she had frail health (possibly rheumatic fever) and she died aged 11 and is buried in Albury cemetery. Her heart-broken mother walked all the way to her grave every week-end, crying all the way.

The family stayed in Albury when the boys were going through school. Keith attended Albury Public School and then Albury High School. He was good at art and maths but he left school early, aged 15, to help on the family farm during the Depression.

I think this may have been a share farm called Murrawatta at Mungabareena because this is one of several share farms that Victor, Bertha, Reggie and Keith worked on from the early 1930's.



Waterview Property Howlong Rd 1930s  
Photo Courtesy: Nancy Massey

## THE PEARD FAMILY IN AND AROUND ALBURY

They were there in 1938 and Dad made hay on the aerodrome during World War 2 so they must have had several years there.

Other places they share farmed included Waterview along the Howlong Road near Splitter's Creek, on Charlie Schultz's property and at Bonegilla. Dad wanted to join up with the Air Force during the War, but only got as far as the Melbourne recruitment ground where he was rejected because he was deaf in one ear due to childhood infections.

Keith married my Mum, Betty Snowdon in 1946 when he was 29 and she was 19 and living on the family farm at Bonegilla. They met through mutual friends in the Bonegilla area. They first lived with the Snowdons but after a short time Victor and Keith bought a small farm of 106 acres called "Silverlea", at Barnawartha for three thousand pounds and they moved there in 1946 with baby Beverley.

The house was a small 4-room cottage with outside washroom and toilet. Victor and Keith milked cows and sold the cream. They had some pigs and a couple of horses.

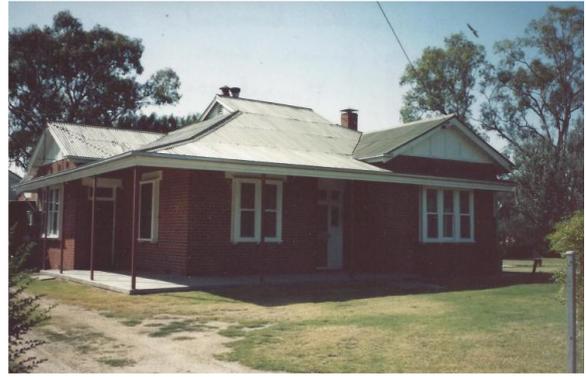
From then until their deaths, Victor and Bertha always lived with Keith and family. I was born in 1948 at Blackie House at Albury Hospital and Kevin was also born there in 1952. On 31 January 1952, when Kevin was only a few weeks old, the disastrous Barnawartha bushfire came racing from the Chiltern direction straight toward the Peard farm. Grandma Peard was in Albury Hospital at the time and so the rest of the family were evacuated in the old utility by Grandpa Peard, along with a few belongings and baby clothes. Dad and Grandpa had herded the cows into the cow yard before we left, leaving Dad on his own to defend the house and animals.

We went to a friend's property near the Murray River at Howlong and spent an anxious afternoon there watching the smoke in the distance.

The family was relieved to have escaped with the house, sheds, animals, haystacks and dairy intact. There were no fences left and the only help in replacing them was from a neighbour and some family members. In the spirit of the Aussie battler they just got on with things as best they could. Maybe the stresses of such an ordeal prompted the family to look elsewhere for a larger farm with a bigger home, and in March 1953 they purchased "Lindryn" at Ebden from Nellie Ryan, the widow of Tom Ryan. This property was 250 acres with some waterfront paddocks along the Hume Weir and a large house with an established garden. We still have the advertising flier from the sale. Kevin and his son Mathew are still living on the property now.

Interestingly, the flier claims the property has "no noxious weeds or rabbits" which was soon proven incorrect and the family have spent many hours each year and untold cost for the past 64 years trying to eradicate the various weeds. The day of the move from Barnawartha to Ebden showed how resourceful and frugal the family could be. The cows were milked at Barnawartha in the morning and then walked over to the siding at the local railway station and put onto cattle trucks and then went by train to the Ebden station which was just over the road from "Lindryn". Then they were walked across the road and milked that evening in a makeshift dairy comprising a couple of bales, probably milked by hand. I think a neighbour, Arthur Schultz, helped move some of the furniture and farm machinery in his truck. Then into the old Chev ute went Mum, Dad, three children, the goat, cat, dog, canaries and chooks. At the corner near the water-tower in Wodonga (no roundabout there then), the ute had a flat tyre and one can only imagine the scene while that was being fixed! Anyway we all made it to the new farm and I think Grandpa and Nanny Peard must have come in another vehicle. Nanny Peard was crippled with severe arthritis and had many spells in hospital and had numerous treatments to try to arrest the disease to no avail.

Things weren't easy at the new farm. There was no mains electricity, it was finally connected in 1965, there was no dairy and the fencing was very minimal. Although there was a woolshed and some stables there were no haysheds. So the first job for the men was to build a dairy, which they did by first making all the cement bricks by hand with a brick mould.



Murrawatta Homestead, Mungabareena, Albury.  
Photo Courtesy: Nancy Massey

## THE PEARD FAMILY IN AND AROUND ALBURY



Then they built the dairy and had the milking plant installed and a generator for the power and a boiler for the hot water.

One of the next tasks was to build a hayshed. So during the harvest in early summer 1953, they erected the big posts for the frame, then filled up the shed with the sheaves of hay, all carted in the old Chev truck, as shown in this photo, then they built the roof over the top.

This shed stood until only a few years ago. Another early addition

was a chaff-house between the hayshed and the dairy and the installation of a chaff-cutter. In those days they grew oats and fed this to the cows in the bales during milking. There was also lots of new fencing to do and the ever constant weeds to deal with. Nanny Peard became quite disabled not long after we moved to Ebden and she spent seven years bed-bound before passing away in 1959. Grandpa Peard and Mum had to do all the home-nursing, including injections, etc. I can't remember ever seeing her out of bed.

Robyn, my younger sister, was born in 1955, completing the family of Keith and Betty. Dad had built a little wooden boat while we lived at Barnawartha so at Ebden he liked to go fishing in the Hume Weir whenever he could get the time. As we grew up we went swimming in the weir every afternoon during summer, always watched over by Mum or Dad, even though he couldn't swim himself, so I don't know what sort of lifesaver he would have been! Other activities we enjoyed during those years were rabbiting with traps or ferrets, mushrooming (selling some from the house to passers-by), picnics up the hill, bonfires, building cubby-houses and euchre parties at the Bonegilla Hall. We children all went to school by bus which came from Tallangatta to the Bandiana Primary School and then Wodonga High School (or in Kevin's case to the Wodonga Tech School). Grandpa Peard continued to help milk the cows until failing health prevented him. From then on Mum became the assistant in the dairy and with all the other farming jobs. Grandpa passed away in 1969 and is buried in Albury Pioneer Cemetery along with Bertha and Lily.

As our generation grew up we each took different career paths, with only Kevin remaining on the farm. Beverley became a pharmacy assistant and worked at Haddons in Wodonga High St and later in Adelaide and North Albury. After her marriage to David King of Adelaide and the birth of two sons she worked for many years in Nurserys, Peards Albury and Wodonga, and Lavington Mitre 10. I became a secondary school teacher and taught at Mt Beauty, Eaglehawk and then in several London schools. I married an Englishman, Peter Massey, and had 2 sons while we lived in Bexleyheath, Kent. We came back to Australia to live in 1989 and settled in Wodonga.

Robyn worked at several local businesses including Mates and Sunicrust doing office work before marrying a Walla farmer, Don Groch, and becoming a housewife, farm helper and mother. Many years later, after the marriage had ended, she set-up and ran a gift-shop within Peards Wodonga Nursery and now assists her new husband in Wangaratta with the book-keeping for his Engineering business. Now to tell about how Kevin came to be a Nurseryman instead of a dairy farmer like the previous three generations of our family. He left school early because he didn't really enjoy it and wasn't too keen on the life of the dairy farmer either, even though he did help Dad for a while. In his teens he began to grow vegetables and watermelons on some land that Dad leased from the Pollards at Bonegilla. He sold the produce at the local Trash and Treasure markets and from the farm gate. Then he started to develop an interest in growing plants and set up a small scale production nursery behind the house at Ebden. He gathered cuttings from various relatives and gained a few tips from Enid Pollard who had a nursery at their farm. By trial and error and self-education he gradually built up a store of knowledge about growing and caring for plants. He gradually expanded the nursery on the farm including the erection of several plastic igloos to house the plants and was gathering a substantial following of customers at the farm-gate and at weekend markets.

## THE PEARD FAMILY IN AND AROUND ALBURY

He was involved in Lake Hume Young Farmers Club and there he met Harry, George and Dorothy Benyon. In 1982 he married Dorothy (known as Dot) and they moved into a new home that he had built on the Peard farm slightly higher uphill from the original homestead. The new property is called Mount Royal. In 1984, in partnership with his two brothers-in-law, he established the Albury Peards Nursery on land owned by the Benyons alongside the home of Dot's parents, Roy and Vicky Benyon. This business was a real family affair with Kevin and Dot, Harry and his wife Yvonne, George and his wife Debbie and Beverley King all involved. It quickly established a reputation as the prime nursery in the region supplying councils and large estates as well as the home customers. However it involved working seven days a week for Kevin and some of the other family members. After differing views regarding structure and processes, Kevin separated from the partnership with the Benyons in 1992 and started planning his new Nursery in Wodonga.

In October 1993 the Wodonga Nursery was opened in Elgin Street on land owned by the Begleys and quickly became very successful. It has become very popular for customers from a wide area and also councils and corporate customers. There are no Peards involved in the Albury Peards Nursery as the two businesses are separately owned and run. There are some family members working in the Wodonga Peards, namely, Kevin and Dot, their younger son Nathan and Andrew King (Bev's 2nd son) is the manager. In recent years Kevin has spent most of his time at the farm where he has a huge production and growing set-up and he and a team of helpers churn out up to 800 plants in a morning and then maybe take cuttings or do weeding and other tasks all afternoon. He has about 90,000 plants on the growing mats out in the open and lots more in shade houses growing-on until ready to take into the nursery to sell.

Now to quickly summarise what the 5th generation are up to. We have a manager with Defence Housing Australia, the manager of Peards Wodonga as previously mentioned, a product designer with a Melbourne manufacturing company, a librarian at a university library, a harvesting contractor with his own business, a stop-at-home mum (previously working as a PA to a faculty head at Latrobe Uni), a property valuer, a landscape gardener running his own business and a nurseryman. Each of them have worked hard and achieved success in their chosen fields. Most of them are now married and there are eleven children in the 6th generation of our family line ranging in age from 1 to 14.

The only one to carry on the Peard name at the moment is Mia Peard, aged 3 and a half, the daughter of Mathew and Kerrie Peard and grand-daughter of Kevin and Dot. She lives in the renovated Peard homestead at Ebden where family have lived since 1953. So this tells the story of 161 years of Peards in this area.

Ancestral Home of the Peards, Fermoy, Ireland.



COOLE ABBEY HOUSE built 1766  
photograph from Michael H. Daniels and Co. REA

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



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## **BONFIRES: EMPIRE DAY, COMMONWEALTH DAY, CRACKER NIGHT BY NARDA REID**

The origins of Empire Day were to inform Australian children that they were part of the glorious British Empire and that the strength of the Empire depended upon them. The day had been considered as early as 1897, the image of a motherly Queen Victoria, Empress of India as paramount ruler would be shared by an Empire spanning almost a quarter of the whole globe. However it was not until after the death of the Queen on 22 January 1901 that the first Empire Day was celebrated on 24 May, 1902. The day was not officially recognised as an annual event until 1916 but many schools in the British Empire were celebrating it before then.

Empire Day was introduced to Australia in 1905 to provide a focus of celebrating Australia's ties to Britain. There were lots of special events including receptions, gatherings, speeches, street parades and flags were flown on public and private buildings. Sometimes children were given a half holiday from school. Though originally celebrated on 24 May which was Queen Victoria's birthday popular observances declined in the post war period. Empire Day was renamed British Commonwealth Day in the 1950s and moved in 1966 to 11 June which commemorated the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. It was known more colloquially as cracker night or Guy Fawkes night and marked by bonfires and fireworks until stricter Government regulations reduced their availability. The last cracker night in NSW was held on 7 June, 1986. Our local member Mr Wal Fife was instrumental in banning the sale of fireworks. His decision was based on medical and safety reports outlining the high number of eye injuries and burns occurring on bonfire nights. So sadly an era was brought to an end. Bonfire night involved the whole community, whether it was the actual building of the fire or attending on the night. For some it was a competition about who could build the biggest one but for most it was just a tradition and a social gathering. For the children it involved weeks of planning and working on building the bonfires. The anticipation and excitement would mount up for days beforehand. The bonfires were built out of anything inflammable that people could get their hands on. A straight timber centre pole was the necessary starting point often ringed with old car tyres. Old furniture, cardboard boxes and tree branches were added and often sump oil was used to start the fire. (No EPA in those days!) Guarding the finished pile was another essential part of the ritual to stop rival groups sneaking in and lighting it up thus destroying your many hours of hard work. Fireworks that were enjoyed included penny bangers, two penny bangers, sparklers, catherine wheels, sky-rockets, roman candles and throw downs. Of course there was always one or two mail boxes blown up on the night. The next morning there was still fun to be had in searching for "fizzers", the ones that hadn't gone off. We can now watch fantastic million dollar fire work displays as they cascade from the Sydney Harbour Bridge or rockets soaring skyward from barges in the Yarra River, yet these spectacular displays somehow lack the resonance and engagement of our local bonfires. The communal spirit, the excitement as the flames crackled up and engulfed the branches that had been scavenged from far and wide, lighting our own Roman Candles and setting off our own penny bangers.

Some locations of bonfires around our district were:

Scouts on Huon Hill

Public Reserve on Colley St

Jelbart Park

Behind the Garrison Hotel

Lyne St

Corner of Kokoda St and Alamein Av

Corner of Denmar and Alana St

Ebden St

Sarvaas Park North Albury

Gap Rd.

Frauenfelder St

Schaeffer St

Hume Weir Village

Reed St, Wodonga

Duffy Crescent off Waugh Rd

Grays, South of Olive St

### **JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS**

'Boongaroon' – Yass – April'17. – (Online)

The Bunyip

Norfolk Island – a small island with the big history

What were Carver Cloths used for?

'Royal Australian Historical Society e-Newsletter' – 11 May'17 – (Online)

An Iconic Event in Cowra's History. Droving 3,000 Turkeys.

## **PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT**

The Society began the year without a president, there being no nominee at the AGM. At the first Committee meeting however I was elected to the position for a one year term. From there we proceeded to cobble together a successful year. Monthly meetings were again the Society's major activity. Attendances were good; the range of topics was extraordinary and the quality of the presenters superb. Faye Stevenson spoke on the Byramine Homestead built by Hamilton Hume for his sister on the bank of the Murray; the Baker brothers, Stewart and David traced Baker Motors from its beginning seventy years ago to the present day; Diane Edmondson took us up the Kiewa Valley to Tawonga and the coming of the Kiewa Hydro scheme and the construction of Mount Beauty; Noelle Oke presented a history of The Scots School from 1876 to the present; Honor Auchinleck spoke about her grandfather General Sir Harry Chauvel and Murray High student Patrick Doyle told of his visit to Fromelles; Bruce Pennay examined the WWI Conscription referenda and the local effects; Tim Fischer entertained with a survey of VIPs who had changed trains at Albury Railway Station over the century; Jennifer Munday and Bruce Pennay introduced us to a history of Charles Sturt University and its impact on Albury; and Nancy Massey spoke about the Peard family in the Northeast and Albury. This wealth of talented speakers were ably supported by our own Society members in particular Greg Ryan, Ray Gear, Jan Hunter, Richard Lee, Joe Wooding, June Shanahan, Narda Reid and Howard Jones.

The Bulletin, under the capable editorship of Marion Taylor had another stellar year recording the great volume of historical information arising from our meetings. Publications this year have been Albury's Early Photographic Artists 1856-1957 by Howard Jones and Helen Livsey, and Albury City Band by Greg Ryan.

New segments were introduced in our meetings: LibraryMuseum Personality of the month; 50 years ago this month; and Heritage in My Street.

Personality of the Month was highly successful. It was fascinating to hear from this diverse group of professionals; who they were, how they came into museum work and what their role is at the LibraryMuseum.

The annual Pioneer Cemetery Walk was held in May, a little late in the year, but the weather was perfect. The walk was part of NSW Heritage Festival so our presenters worked within the theme of 'Having a Voice'. Our subjects included singers, a policeman, a newspaper editor, an alderman and two auctioneers.

Our researchers and writers have contributed to the very popular 'Then and Now' feature in the Border Mail. Society volunteers continue to assist with cataloguing and scanning objects, photographs and documents at the LibraryMuseum. The Society is represented on the Museum Social History and Archive Acquisition and De-accession Committee.

This year we have received generous support from the Commercial Club who provided excellent venues for our monthly meetings; from AlburyCity who provided a venue for our Committee meetings; and Coxtech who rebuilt and maintain our website.

The strength of our Society lies in our appointees: Helen Livsey, secretary, public officer and research officer; Ron Haberfield, treasurer; Greg Ryan, minute secretary and web master; June Shanahan, guest speaker searcher and function organiser; Marion Taylor, Bulletin editor; Richard Lee, Bulletin distributor; Ray Gear, publications stock officer; Howard Jones, Hume & Hovell bicentenary history chairman; Jill Wooding, publicity officer and, with Joe's assistance, meeting greeter. My sincere thanks to them for their willingness and competence in fulfilling these roles. Doug Hunter President.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**



Assoc Professor Bruce Pennay was one of four people shortlisted for the Bathurst Macquarie Heritage Medal. It is a prestigious national award recognising contributions toward the preservation, conservation and protection of Australia's heritage and is awarded annually. The Medal was won by Dr Scott Robertson, a leading heritage architect, who, amongst other things, authored the listing of more than 100 areas of heritage significance from his investigations of extant fabric related to of World War I and World War II. Bruce was impressed with the way the Bathurst Regional Council supports not only this national heritage award, but has also introduced a local heritage award known as the Chifley. That award was won by David Goldney for his publication Cox's Road Dreaming, a multi-media tourism package.



### **PIONEER CEMETERY WALK**

Our Society held a “cemetery walk” on Sunday 21 May at the Albury Pioneer Cemetery as a late celebration for Heritage Week. The theme this year was “having a voice” so speakers concentrated on personalities buried at the Pioneer Cemetery who had a voice: singers, auctioneers, newspaper editors and local council members. So with lovely weather we headed off to listen to what each of our personalities had to say.

For more stories visit our website :  
<https://alburyhistory.org.au/news/>

**Charlie Schmiedt** was a hearty and jovial man who was involved with the Rose, Bridge, and Tattersalls Hotels but was remembered at the Albury Hotel by solicitor W G Henderson who loved to hear old Mr Schmiedt calling the maids in the morning as his rich bass boomed musically through the hotel.

Charlie had a son, Charles, who performed at many local venues, including the Catholic and Anglican churches, and the Sydney Town Hall. He performed with Ella Caspers, also from Albury, and in Faust with Madame Melba. He left Albury for England in 1903 and on returning to Australia taught singing in Sydney. Among Charles’ repertoire was Soldiers of the Queen, The Yeoman’s Wedding, The Mighty Deep, & The Toreador’s Song. He died in Sydney in 1933. Charles’ sister Mary married Frederick Quintrell, another local musician. Mary was a popular soprano and performed at concerts including one to raise funds for the Albury Race Club resulting in it being free of debt.

**Malcolm McEachern** was born in Albury in 1883, son of Archibald the brother of our famous blacksmith John Lachlan McEachern. Walter Malcolm McEachern was educated at the Albury Public School and Howard Tracy was his first singing teacher. He moved to Sydney and then to Perth where he performed with the Melba Concert Company. He toured with Albury singer Ella Caspers and other leading artists.

His voice took him through Asia, North America, and England, performing in Shakespearian productions, Gilbert & Sullivan operas, and Vaudeville, and he was Mr Jetsam in the Flotsam & Jetsam light entertainment act with witty topical songs. He died in London in 1945.

**Mary Josephine Waterstreet (nee Carroll)** mother and publican. During the war years formed a song and dance group called the Boomerangs. She had a wonderful singing voice and was known for her singing of Danny Boy and her generosity with charities especially St. John's Newtown orphanage where she took over from her late husband running sweeps for years as a fund-raiser.

**Charles Lucas Griffith** was the quintessential Australian stock man. His stock and station business saw Albury grow to a city, though not in his lifetime. His help to the general farming industry and to charity was enormous. He played an important role in the growth of the local cattle and sheep industries becoming the largest in country Australia.

**Thomas Hunter Griffith** was another of the ideal townsmen, making his presence known with his ability on committees as an alderman and as mayor. His popularity saw him being elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly. It was an exciting time to be a part of politics as Federation came to Australia. Further generations carried on the Griffith name in the industry that he helped found in Albury.

Special thanks to the Commercial Club Albury Ltd for supplying a meeting room for many years and also for their continued support.  
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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

Declaration of Annual General Meeting open.

Apologies:

Minutes of AGM 8 June 2016

President's Report

Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts

Special business:

Consider motion to change Constitution as notified in May Bulletin.

Consider motion to adopt new A&DHS Logo

Setting of annual subscription: Recommendation: Single \$25 (plus surcharge \$10 for posted Bulletin), Family \$33 (plus surcharge \$10 for posted Bulletin), Corporate \$100

Election of Office Bearers & Committee:

Appointment of interim chairman to conduct election.

Nominations received:

President Joe Wooding

Vice-President Greg Ryan

Treasurer Ron Haberfield

Secretary Helen Livsey

Minute Secretary Greg Ryan

Committee of up to seven

Doug Hunter, Richard Lee, Ralph Simpfendorfer, Marion Taylor.

Closure of Annual General Meeting

### Snippet from the Albury Banner & Wodonga Express 7 May 1900

On Saturday last the residents of our quiet little village were surprised to see a rather elaborate looking carriage containing a couple of gentlemen wending its way at a good pace along the Sydney-road. The carriage was without horses, and its advance was viewed with a considerable amount of apprehension by a group of school boys playing cricket on the road, who made haste out of its way. It proved to be one of the much talked about motor cars and it was greatly admired by all who saw it. No doubt at some not very far away future day it will be no novelty to see a motor car on the Sydney-road.



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