



ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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REPORT ON JULY MEETING (12.07.2017)

Our new President Joe Wooding opened the July meeting and introduced the General Manager of Albury City Council Mr Frank Zaknich. Frank gave a comprehensive report on the many new projects being undertaken around the city. With regard to rubbish disposal the improvements made to the "tip" over the last 10 years are extensive and have led to an impressive decrease in the amount of waste going into the landfill. In closing, Frank acknowledged the excellent work of the Society with the LibraryMuseum and the Community & Recreation team saying the relationship is highly valued and important to the Council and to the city.

Richard Lee presented news from 50 Years Ago which showed that the sheep and wool industry was a vital part of the local economy in the 1960s. Jan Hunter spoke on Heritage in my Street giving us an insight into some of the interesting characters who have lived in Bellevue St over the years. Doug Hunter had been cataloguing some letters from World War 1 which were all in their original envelopes. He explained the meaning of the different postmarks and annotations which enabled these precious missives to find their recipients.

A book titled "The Old Hume Highway" produced by the NSW RMS is available for free for members. Doug Hunter presented Joe Wooding and Howard Jones a memento from the Society to applaud their receipt of an OAM. Joe closed the meeting with the unusual story of 25,000 leeches being exported to England from the lagoons of the Murray River in 1884. Apparently they were seen to be superior to the pommy leeches!

NEXT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
9 AUGUST 2017**

**7.30pm at the Commercial
Club Albury**

**History in the Future –
History's future in schools
and community.**

**Speaker: Paul Grover,
Lecturer in Education,
School of Education, CSU.**

**ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE NOW DUE**

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ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

<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

Honorary Life Members:

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June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.

Public Officer: Helen Livsey

President: Joe Wooding

Vice-President: Greg Ryan

Secretary: Helen Livsey 02 6021 3671

Treasurer: Ron Haberfield

Minute Secretary: Jill Wooding

Publicity Officer: Jill Wooding

Committee: Richard Lee, Marion
Taylor, Eric Cossor, Ralph Simpfordorfer
Bulletin Editor: Marion Taylor
marion.taylor7@bigpond.com

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

Albury Wodonga now has a population of 91,660 and a growth rate of 1.4%. It is a thriving regional city with \$331 million dollars of new construction happening annually. Most of the new residential development is occurring in the Wirlinga/Thurgoona growth corridor. Our major industries include manufacturing, rental hiring and real estate, public administration and safety, health care and social assistance, financial and insurance businesses. The visitor economy brings in \$742 million per year.



Major Projects

Nexus is the industrial estate at Ettamogah which includes Norske Skog, Overall Forge and the Rail Hub. This includes the former property “Kenilworth” on the West side of the Olympic Way which is now owned by Albury City Council. Stage 1 subdivision and infrastructure work are now in progress. Nexus is ideally located 10km from the CBD and has access to rail and the Hume freeway.

Wagga Road revitalisation (\$4M) involves improvements to the old Hume Highway corridor from a streetscape and landscape point of view. It aims to encourage businesses to relocate and upgrade along the precinct.

Lavington Sports Ground redevelopment (\$8.5M) In 2007 ACC purchased the ground from the Panthers Sports Club. The focus is to provide an additional multipurpose playing field with lighting and additional parking with improved traffic access.

Albury Airport Upgrade (\$4M) includes an extension to the existing building with a larger arrivals lounge and upgraded cafeteria to be finished by 2019. The airport marketing strategy Fly Albury has been very successful with 180 flights coming in every week, an increase of 6.5% and total of 280,000 passengers per annum. Negotiations are taking place regarding possible new flights to Canberra and Adelaide in the future.

Riverside Precinct (\$10M) redevelopment will see board walks, seating and pedestrian access added to the river area behind the swimming pool. There will be improvements to parking and traffic flow. The community has asked for more access to the river and there is still opportunity to comment on the website.

Wagirra Trail is an ambitious project which will eventually form a 70km link between Lake Hume and the Wonga Wetlands. The project is building lasting skills and leadership using Aboriginal trainees from the Albury community and delivering an outstanding asset to be enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Wonga Wetlands was purchased by the Council originally as a water reuse area linked to the waste treatment works, now it is a series of lagoons which work as a closed system. Recently the Yindymarra Sculpture Walk was completed. New work will include a mountain bike course, regeneration area, bird watching towers, a new 10km walking trail loop and an upgraded visitor information and interpretation centre.

The Cultural Precinct/QE 2 Square is the key to developing Albury as a destination, it includes MAMA (\$11.5M) which opened in 2015, the LibraryMuseum and the Retro Youth Café.

The LibraryMuseum is now celebrating its 10th Birthday and its successful cutting edge business plan as it was one of the first converged facilities in Australia. Over 260,000 visits per annum are now recorded.

Volt Lane Precinct includes the ATO building, Mantra Hotel and Volt Lane car park. New accommodation products like the redevelopment of Rydges into Atura and the recently built Quest Apartments are all signals of strong confidence around the city regarding investment.



New Gatehouse & Weighbridge
Albury Waste Management Centre

Albury Waste Management Centre services a regional population of 135,000 which includes the Federation, Greater Hume, Towong and Indigo Shires and the Albury City and Wodonga City Councils. A review in 2008 showed that the “tip” had limited infrastructure, resources, plant, recycling opportunities and there was little community education. It was not meeting legislation or state targets and had a limited landfill life. Future planning directions were resolved to upgrade the site to meet regulatory obligations, to focus on community education and recycling and to implement new contractual arrangements for delivery and collection which would ensure the site could be used for many more years to come.

Improvements have included a new gatehouse and weighbridge, updated software and new cells for waste disposal. There is a methane gas capture system (see below) which generates enough electricity to power 1500 homes. New leachate ponds to capture and treat liquid generated from the waste. Concrete is crushed and reused for road base onsite. All garden waste is mulched and used for rehabilitation onsite as well as being available for residents. Council has rehabilitated old cell areas by regrassing and



planting with trees. Developed sorting areas for demolition waste. Constructed a recycling centre for the undercover drive through and household problem Aware Industries to the Centre. Implemented the “Halve Waste” comprehensive education program to cater for residential recycling waste. ACC have partnered with reuse shop as part of the “Halve Waste” comprehensive education program to facilitate separating organic waste from the system and

Developed sorting areas for demolition waste. Constructed a recycling centre for the undercover drive through and household problem Aware Industries to the Centre. Implemented the “Halve Waste” comprehensive education program to cater for residential recycling waste. ACC have partnered with reuse shop as part of the “Halve Waste” comprehensive education program to facilitate separating organic waste from the system and halve waste going into landfill by 2030. The kerb waste collection service contract started in 2012 includes 5 Councils, a 3 bin system costing \$146 million over a 12 year term. The household participation in organics is 87% (contamination 1%) some 44,500 tonnes of organic waste has been composted since April 2015 which has increased total recycling tonnages by 7% and achieved 84% diversion of domestic waste away from landfill. There are still some ongoing issues regarding the building and location of a local composting facility. ACC is waiting on a determination from the JRPP. At the moment the organic waste is being sorted at Albury and trucked to Wagga where it is composted.



New recycling centre
and reuse shop.

Albury Waste
Management Centre



Recently the LibraryMuseum received a donation of a collection of letters written during WWI. It was my very interesting task to read and catalogue the collection. A feature of the collection was that the letters were still in their envelopes. Soldiers' letters are not uncommon, many were published in newspapers, but it is unusual to have the envelopes. And the envelopes tell their own story.

The letters were written to Albury resident, Frank Brown, by three friends serving with the AIF. These three were Leslie Hewish, a 21 year old book seller; Jack Park, a 21 year old agricultural student; and Murdock McKenzie a 22 year old carpenter. Their connection seems to have been through the Albury Methodist Church. Brown seems to have been of similar age and was studying to be an accountant while working at the Albury Gas Company. He had been twice refused entry into the AIF on medical grounds.



Above right is a typical envelope; typical that is, except in size and shape. Of the thirty envelopes only two pairs were the same. This shows the variety of sources from which the soldiers obtained them. No doubt some were purchased in villages, but writing materials were also a common inclusion in parcels from home, especially in Christmas billies.

The address is a feature we would expect, but note the lack of street numbers. Numbers were introduced in Albury in the 1920s and did not come into common usage until the 30s.

The envelope also has stamp imprints, signatures and inscriptions. These indicate the number of hands through which the letter passed before it reached Frank Brown. There are a censor stamp and signature; a post mark but no postage stamp; and an inscription across the top.



Sorting mail in Egypt

The first step after the letter was written was the censoring officer. Censorship aimed to deny information of battlefield importance to the enemy in the event of the letter being intercepted along the way, or falling into the hands of the wrong person at home. Soldiers were instructed on what they could and could not include in their letters, locations, future moves, strength of their unit, new weapons.

The censorship duties often fell to the unit chaplain.

Les Hewish was an officer and was allowed to censor his own letters, but as he said: “one must play the game”.

The magnitude of censoring letters was revealed early in the war when Lavington man Bert Danes wrote to a friend in Albury and, among other things, explained why the mail was so slow getting to Australia. “There are 200,000 soldiers in Egypt and Gallipoli from Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India,” he explained, “and if each one writes one letter a week, and many write more, then the sheer volume of mail is enormous. And each letter has to be censored to see no information likely to be helpful to the enemy is included, the censoring officers are just overwhelmed. So the authorities decided on a better scheme. But the bags are held for seven or eight weeks before being placed on a ship, so any sensitive information is long out of date by the time the letter is opened.” He concluded his letter by saying: “All the Albury boys are tiptop. They are all talking about the Albury Show; all wondering what it will be like this year.” By 1918, it was possible for a soldier to send a letter without it being read by the censor. Special envelopes were used and the soldier was required to give an undertaking that his letter contained nothing of a prohibited nature.

Field Post Office stamps



Mail was hugely important to the morale of soldiers on active service. Its value was recognised by the existence within the AIF of the Australian Army Postal Service. Members of this unit established Field Post Offices in camps and behind the line to facilitate the movement of mail.

Mail to and from the trenches was usually carried by ration parties on their nightly visits. Letters went back through unit headquarters to the nearest Field Post Office. From there it went to the base camp at Boulogne, France, then by ship to Folkstone, by motor van to the Australian Base Post Office, London which had a staff of more than seven hundred of whom the greater number were local women who were specially trained for the work. From there it went by rail to Liverpool and finally by ship to Australia. It could take two months or more, before a letter reached Frank Brown.

Mail from soldiers on active service was carried post free so no postage stamp was required. Instead, across the top of the envelope the soldier wrote ‘On Active Service’ or ‘OAS’.



So here is our envelope. With letter enclosed, it was carried back from the trench or gun pit by the returning ration party to unit headquarters where it was read, stamped and signed by the censoring officer. It then passed to the nearest Field Post Office, again stamped, and sent by wagon or motor lorry to base camp at Boulogne, where it took ship to Folkstone, then a motor van transported it to the Australian Base Post Office, London. From London it went by rail to Liverpool and was shipped to Melbourne where the PMG took over and delivered it to Frank Brown at his place of work, the Albury Gas Company in Kiewa Street. And remarkably, a century later this envelope now resides as catalogue number 16.736.01 in the AlburyCity Collection at the LibraryMuseum.

HUNTER'S SHOES CLOSE IN ALBURY

The recent closure of Hunter's Shoes after 117 years in business brought back some memories for Jim Parker of Wodonga:

“John Hunter went to school at Barnawartha when my father was going to school there. My father said it was a traveller from a footwear company that gave John Hunter a start in Albury.

The store used to sell blucher boots and Hugh Thomson work boots. Another line was hobnail work boots for rough wear. Also there were school shoes with blue soles. If I remember they were known as Tresco Blue Soles.

John Hunter’s parents had a store in Barnawartha called the “Hit or Miss”. (See below) This was before Hunters started business in Albury.”



Hunter’s Shoe Store 549 Dean Street photographed in 2008. Upper storey was part of the old Town Hall Hotel. John Hunter bought the free-hold in 1917.



LADIES' SHOES.
NOBBY AMERICAN SHAPES.

Undoubtedly some of the prettiest, nobbiest Shoes worn in this country come from America. Many of the brightest American brains devote all their time to devising new styles and shapes; and they certainly have a knack of hitting the popular taste. Our splendid assortment of Ladies' Enamel and Glace Kid, Large Buckles and Bows, Ankle Straps, and Gibson Tie Shoes explain why America leads the way in Ladies' Footwear.

We would advise you to call in early before the best leaves our store.

JOHN HUNTER. WHERE QUALITY COUNTS,
ALBURY, N.S.W.
AGENT FOR A.N.A. and HUGH THOMSON FOOTWEAR.

Border Mail
12 April
1911

Editors Notes: We are interested to find out what “nobby American shapes” is referring to regarding ladies shoes in 1911. The name “Hit or Miss” also related to a gold mine at Creswick and a mining town located somewhere between Harrietville and Wandiligong (Growlers Creek).

The Albury Sheep show dominated the month papers. Sheep judging, wool classing, Merino, this and that, Dorset this and that, fashions on the field, Miss Sheep Show, a bikini parade.

(In July, jeepers that's cold). Dressmaking, School competitions, shearing, everything was going on. The sheep show had a 36 page feature in the Border Morning Mail. Albury was the largest rural sheep and wool training centre in Australia.

Live theatre was in the spotlight with poor attendances. It was said that the Civic Theatre is too big and local groups and production companies need to amalgamate. It stated the apathy of the Albury people and the council doesn't care.

The local Post Office was striking to obtain five day working week.

The unions aren't communicating their message so well, as some Post Offices strike and others remain open. Later in the month the Postal staff that went on strike for four hours July 1 would be fined \$4.00 for their efforts.

Lion's Club big project for the year was to build a sheltered workshop. The workshop would be Kalianna and would eventually be opened by Gordon Mackie MLA 2 November, 1968.

Not to be out done Rotary donated nearly \$5,000 to St Matthews's Age Care and the Murray Valley Ambulance Service.

Miss Hogan was very concerned about the Gas lamp and roundabout in Poole Street. It's a traffic hazard she said and the police need to look at it.

Now ladies, which one of you did this? Normie Rowe was in town and had his shirt torn off his back by hysterical girls at the Albury Civic theatre.

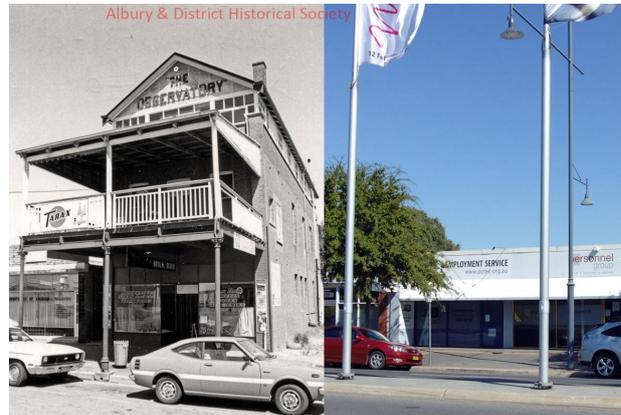
An article on the 'Observatory' in Kiewa Street, near Stanley Street. Stated it was a three storey building, built in 1917 for George McLeod Grant. He had a interest in sunrises and sunsets.

At the time there were not many tall buildings about, so he could view Albury. It was believed that the Army required use of it in Second World War. The new Hume Shire office building was just completed and the official opening date would be 18 August, 1967 by the Minister of Local Government Mr Morton. The South Albury tip was starting to reach capacity and council would consider a few sites over the winter months. Problems of the time: The long haired youth, beards on school teachers,

shoplifters were a headache for retailers but on the upside it appeared that the shop assistants were well trained. Lavington Telephone Exchange was being built by MA Chick Pty Ltd and should be opened by Xmas. The first sod was turned on 13 July at the Albury Technical College in Poole Street, the builders were AB & MA Chick. The editorial of the 24 July explains something that is unique to Albury. The article was regarding the pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights in Dean Street. It was stated that in Queensland pedestrians had the liberty to walk anywhere on the crossing and that Albury should also have that liberty.

The change should be made promptly. So was the editor of the Border Morning Mail the instigator of the way pedestrians cross Dean Street?

The change should be made promptly. So was the editor of the Border Morning Mail the instigator of the way pedestrians cross Dean Street?



The Observatory in Kiewa St. Demolished in 1980.
Before and After.

Marie Lee has provided the Society with a selection of placemats (A4 sized) and greeting cards. The placemats are suitable for framing. These will be for sale at meetings for \$4 and \$3 respectively.

If members have a presentation for the "Members' 15 minute segment", could they please notify Joe of the subject matter prior to the meeting.

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



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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OBITUARY

GEOFF HAMILTON

Our sympathy is extended to Dorothy Hamilton and her family on the death on 17 July of her husband, and our former President, Geoff.

Geoff joined the Society in 1988, the Committee in 1991, and served as Vice President 1992 to 1996. The Society's 40th anniversary came around while Geoff was President 1997 to 2001 and, in December 2000 our Patron, Harold Mair, cut a cake made and decorated by Jan Marsden and Dorothy Hamilton.



Geoff was a regular contributor at meetings with answers to the Question of the Month and as a speaker, particularly imparting Albury railway history from his experience while employed there over many years.

When closing meetings, or giving reports, Geoff was known for his words of wisdom one of which was "*Don't save something for a special day because every day is special.*"

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

????????????????????

Wedged between St Matthew's southern boundary wall and the Post Office in Kiewa Street is a locked and rarely used door. What is its significance?

(Answer to July's QOM: Two mid term resignations saw the Society having 3 Presidents in less than twelve months, Mr Colin McQueen left in October 1980 for warmer climes, while his replacement Mr Robin Brown, returned to Melbourne in April 1981. Mrs Lois Humphries was appointed in July 1981.)



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