

# Albury & District Historical Society

April 2018

No 588

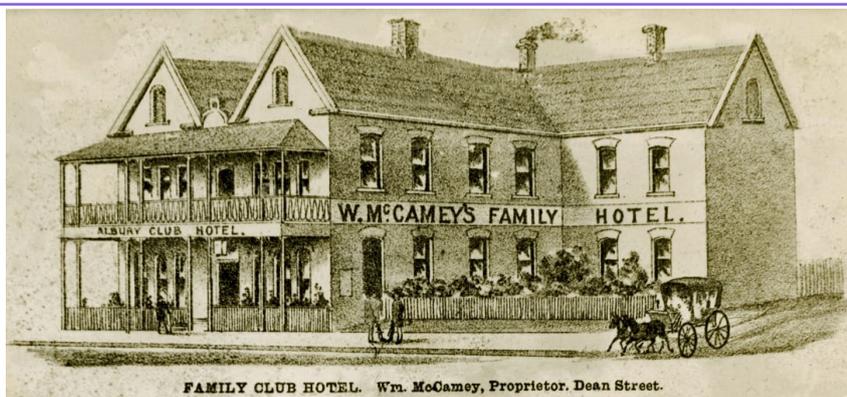
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[www.alburyhistory.org.au](http://www.alburyhistory.org.au)

For Membership Payments A&DHS account details are:

BSB 640 000 Acc No 111097776

Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019 ISSN 2207-1237



Albury Club Hotel 648 Dean Street, Albury (on the corner of Elizabeth Street) opened in 1875. It was likely named after the Albury Club, which proposed to establish itself there. Within a month of obtaining a license for the Hotel, James McDonald formerly of the Albion Hotel in Swift Street, abandoned the premises in October, 1875. The building was described in 1877 as containing sitting rooms, private dining rooms, bedrooms, billiard room, bar and public dining room, kitchen and bathrooms. Following the death of William Edgcumbe in 1881 and after two further changes William McCamey purchased the Hotel in 1884 from Mr & Mrs TD Henderson for 863 pounds. At the time, McCamey left the Hotel, it had a "reputation as a comfortable family hotel". From August 1897 the Hotel was under the control of H O Cannon who transferred the Licence to F W Petch in 1898. Later refurbished as the Carlton Hotel.

## Next Meeting

Wed 11 April

7.30pm Commercial Club

Indian Hawkers

Speaker: Dirk Spennemann

**ALBURY  
LIBRARYMUSEUM  
FAMILY BUSINESS:  
ALBURY FAMILIES AND  
THE LEGACIES THEY  
BUILD**

**SAT 5 MAY - SUN 24 JUNE**

Page 2 The Albury Club

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## REPORT ON MARCH MEETING (14.03.2018)

The Society applauded the awarding of Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau to member Noel Jackling in recognition of his commitment and dedication to the Uiver Collection and the endless hours of research he has spent in discovering new items and information. The medal was presented by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Erica Schouten. Tony Brandt spoke on the history of the first one hundred years of the venerable institution, the Albury Club. The Club originated in 1877 as a bolt hole for gentleman in the Albury Club Hotel on the corner of Dean and Elizabeth St until 1883 when they purchased land and built rooms in Kiewa St where the Club still operates. Tony is now researching the next forty years of history from 1977 which, amongst other things will document the endeavours in the 1980s that ensured the survival of the Club and buildings. Greg Ryan was our time traveller tour guide back to the 1880s and 1890s using different photographs of the CBD and surrounds including the Botanic Gardens, the original showgrounds and the Albury Cricket Ground. Greg's virtual tour made it much easier to visualise the locations of many early buildings which are sadly no longer in existence. Fifty Years Ago with Richard Lee was focussed on the Floral Festival and the contestants for the title of Queen, listing the names and organisations who had sponsored them. Ralph Simpfendorfer reported on his visit to the Tracking the Seven Sisters Exhibition in Canberra. Greg Ryan dazzled us with physics explaining the Precession of the Equinox which has a 26,000 year cycle involving the tilt of the earth! Walking in central Albury was a dangerous pursuit in 1874 as Joe Wooding reported a shooting incident when shotgun pellets intended for a marauding cat wounded passers by in Kiewa St. Joe wished members and guests a Happy and Safe Easter.

## THE ALBURY CLUB– The First 100 Years

Presenter: **TONY BRANDT**

“For a long time past the want of a common place of resort, where gentleman coming into town might meet and be met by their acquaintances without the inconvenience of hunting from one public house to another, has been felt, and an attempt is now being made to supply it. It is proposed to form a club, to be called “The Albury Club”. The Club will have a clubhouse, consisting of reading, dining and other rooms which will be under the control of a committee elected annually by the members. The entrance fee has been fixed at one pound, the annual subscription at five pounds, payable half yearly in advance. Already good progress has been made in the formation of the club, several gentlemen having consented to join and there will be no difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation.”

Albury Club Hotel (also known as Club Edgcumbe's) 648 Dean Street, Albury on the corner of Elizabeth Street, opened in 1875. This hotel was built on the design of Architect John Gordon, and was constructed for Russell M Wilcox. It was likely named after the Albury Club, which proposed to establish itself at the hotel.

Albury Wodonga Express 11 May 1883 advised Members of the Albury Club have, we understand, accepted a tender for the construction of their new Clubhouse adjoining the premises of Mr J H Mathews in Kiewa Street, Albury.

The earliest records of the Club have been lost or destroyed, and the information contained has been gleaned from the record of members (1892), the Debenture book (1893) and the earliest minute book available (1906).

The Club was one of the first thirty clubs in NSW and was exempt from the Licensing Act until about 1912, when private clubs lost their privileges and all registered clubs were brought into line under the one Act.

Dr Andrews records in “Early History of Albury”, that the Albury Club was formed in July 1875 and that the Club rooms were located at the Club Hotel, which was known as the Carlton Hotel and now the site of the Atura. Leaving the Club Hotel, the present site was purchased in 1876. The first Club house was built and opened in 1877. Despite an extensive



Albury Club, Kiewa St. Albury.

search, details of the purchase and date of the building cannot be traced. The issue of debentures was the method of raising the finance. From a description of a sketch which is now lost, the original Club house was a small four roomed brick building set well back from the street with two or three hitching posts for horses at the edge of the road.

The foundation members mentioned in 1877 were:-

George T Fleming Solicitor. The original member of the firm of Fleming, Henderson and Stedman. It is told that one day he walked into the Club and saw at the bar a well known butcher, who had just become a member. He exclaimed: “My God! My butcher!”, and he turned on his heels and never entered the club again.

A H Emerson Solicitor, partner of Emerson and Fowler, later Emerson and Tietyens. A very active citizen. Mayor on two occasions. Club Vice President in 1892.

C H Douglas Grazier, Walla Walla Station.

James Hayes Flour Miller, Townsend Street.

J Walker Jones Manager Bank of NSW. President in 1892.

W M Lyne. Later a Member of Parliament as Sir W M Lyne.

V F Nagle Solicitor. Founder of the old established legal firm V Flood Nagle and Nagle.

1878 – Dr Arthur Andrews. He was GMO for many years and had an extensive midwifery practice. He was greatly interested in the Mechanics' Institute and the Show Society, writing histories of early Albury and the first fifty years of the Show Society.

1879- C L Griffith Stock and Station Agent. For many years President. A tall, fine looking man, very generous and noted for his quick temper.

1880- Balme Grazier, Urangeline, H B Johnson, Dr Patrick Kennedy. A very active club man noted for his Irish wit. William Kiddle, Walbundrie.

1881- J R Fowler Solicitor. Partner in Emerson and Fowler. Con ten Brink, Arthur Watson Grazier.

1882- Chas Gibson Grazier, Bulgandra, W S Chaucey, Wodonga, T D Thatcher.

## THE ALBURY CLUB -The First 100 Years

In 1883 the following members joined the Club –

Herbert Bromfield Grazier Howlong, Andrew Paton Grazier, Upper Murray, Dr W C Woods, Albury, Arthur Phillips, John Tenner, O J Abercrombie Banker, CBC of Sydney, George Anstey, William M Cowley, C H Dight, Bungowannah Park, W G King, James Mitchell, Tabletop, J S McPhillamy Grazier, W S Norman Agent, Sam Watson Grazier, Gerogery, C F Warden, H A Allen, Hastings Cunningham.

1884 –John J Hore, Bowyer Smythe Surveyor & Superintendent of Roads, Foster A Cooper Journalist of the Firm Adams, Cooper and Adams. Owners of the weekly paper, Albury Banner.

1885- William Watson Grazier, GE Mackay Secretary of the Show Society for 20 years (1882-1902) G H Billson Brewer, Archibald Paton.

1897- Few facts are known of this era. The membership was 49, 28 town and 21 country members Annual subscription – Town 5 guineas. Country 3 Guineas.

Lists of members are complete from 1897 but all the general business and minutes covering the period from 1875-1906 are missing.

In 1906, membership has increased to 79 consisting of 49 town and 30 country members.

Interesting items from that year: The residential quarters were erected and furnished throughout for 356 pounds; Two new spittoons were placed in the reading room.

In 1906 we have the first recorded list of office bearers.

President – C L Griffith Grazier and Stock Agent

Vice President – Dr Patrick Kennedy

Committee: John Chenery Stock Agent; F Nagle Solicitor; J H Allan Gentleman;

R

H Smythe Agent; G H Roxburgh Accountant; Dr W C Woods; Jr Chapman Banker, NSW.

The five guineas subscription of the early eighties would probably compare with a \$125.00 fee today.

The number of Foundation Members in 1875 is not recorded, but in the first 10 years i.e 1885 there were about 40 members. In comparison 1964 membership was 359 – Town 221, Country 135 and Life 3.

Until 1925, new members were elected by the Committee only, when the present method of election by Committee and Members ballot was adopted.

During the 1928-1932 era it was noted that at nearly every Committee Meeting misconduct of one or more members was brought to the notice of the Committee. The defaulting member in most cases was reprimanded and his apology for misconduct accepted.

Reciprocity with the following member clubs was made

1906 Riverine Club, Wagga

1922 Cooramundry Club, Cootamundra

1933 Stock Exchange Club, Melbourne

1972 Canobolas Club, Orange

The Suggestion Book as such, is a thing of the past, but many of the present Club facilities were provided as a result of submissions by the members and communication with the Committee. Electric bells were unheard of until inconvenience to members inspired their installation. The inability of country members to contact home with news of their movements brought complaints, which in turn led to the providing of telephonic communication.

Someone suggested that a record of rainfall would be useful. This record was very well and consistently kept and even some Stock and Station firms rang regularly for the weekly record. Evidently some stewards employed in the early part of the century were under 16 years. They made too many mistakes when marking billiards. This soon led to their dismissal after members' complaints. Ash trays were placed in the Reading Room to help members save carpets and cheque books were kept at the Club to save time when cash ran short.



1925 Albury Club Ball

## THE ALBURY CLUB -The First 100 Years

The first entry in the Suggestion Book was dated 1882, 2 February. Even in 1885 the evergreen complaint is apparent. Viz "that the billiard cues be reasserted, some at present in the racks being useless", also "That a set of 'round' black pool balls be obtained."

In 1892, one member who was probably suffering from a hangover wrote "that members be requested to avoid, as far as practicable and consistent with their professions, the rustic habit of hand shaking. That a notice be posted to this effect".

In January 1898, another member suggested "that something be done to reduce the temperature in the WC as the heat is intolerable".

5/5/84 - That the Secretary write dates of arrivals of periodicals on each publication so that members may know when they can be borrowed for home perusal;

12/8/84- That a proper supply of cigars be provided;

5/9/84- That a proper supply of whiskey be left out with the caretaker;

22/3/85 - That a dictionary and an atlas be procured;

2/6/87 - That the water served to members at the bar be boiled, as it comes off the roof is contaminated;

3/1/88 - That a sufficient supply of note paper be left in the Writing Room. For the second time in seven days there has been no paper available;

25/3/88 - That a pair of slippers be procured for the convenience of gentlemen troubled with tight boots (no size is mentioned).

26/4/89 - Would suggest all subscriptions and fines be paid at once;

26/9/91 - It is suggested that the "Turf Register" for 1891 be procured;

29/10/91 - Any member with a grievance must have the courage to bring his trouble into the open because anonymous suggestions will not be taken notice of.

20/3/94 That Yackandandah Soda Water be provided in future as it is preferred by the majority of members;

8/8/1910 - That the Reading Room be used as such, not for conversation to the discomfort of those wishing to read;

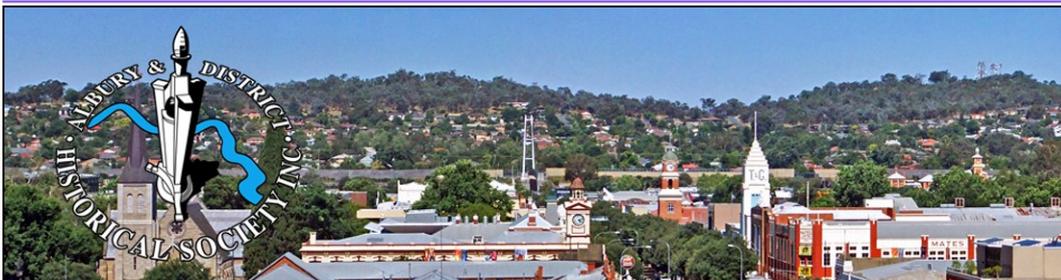
4/4/13 - That two bedrooms should be added to the club for the convenience of members;

27/6/14 - That the question of payment of overtime be fully considered by the Committee.

29/8/25 - That new sets of dominoes be purchased;

17/11/28 - That a wireless be installed for the convenience of Club Members.

From before 1897 until 1918, W I Johnson was the Secretary at a salary of 50 pounds per annum. For the next 28 years the post was filled by A G Young. On his retirement in 1946 he was made a Life Member. Quoting from the minutes, "He was always courteous and helpful to members and assiduous in promoting the Club interests, in which he often sacrificed his own interests. He had at one time unknown to the Committee reduced his own salary when the fluid assets of the Club were not as they might have been. Again when supplies were short during the War, he often travelled at his own expense to Melbourne to bring back supplies of tobacco, cigarettes for the bar". He was a fine sportsman in his younger days, a non drinker and non smoker.



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## **THE ALBURY CLUB -The First 100 Years**

In 1946, Colonel Booker was secretary for a short time, followed by Colonel Sparrow who resigned in 1953. H W Calder was appointed in 1953 and he was followed for a short period by F S Wright till 1960. From this time J Walker filled the post until his retirement in 1964. H W Calder returned for 1965, followed by R Kersley (temp.) 1965, Colonel H Guinn 1965-1966, T H Scott 1966-1972, G G Gregory 1972-1972 and T Chubb 1973-1974. Mr Basil Ryan was Club Secretary in 1977. Roxburgh, Snare and Co have been the auditors for many years and they have in difficult times provided much valuable assistance.

There was a time when the service of staff was much more personally appreciated than perhaps it is today. Tipping was an established custom. In a gentlemen's club this custom was frowned upon. Hence the establishment of a "Gratuity Box" in which members could anonymously show appreciation for staff service.

The ceiling in the bar is not only one of the Club's prides but it is unique. It is admired by all who see it and to maintain it is one of our problems. Its structure not only has cultural value but on many occasions has provided many of our sporting members much enjoyment. There are still a number of cent and two cent coins resting in its recesses. At one time it was pennies and shillings. Frank Player was a steward for many years before the first World War and Head Steward from 1912 to 1939. Leith Elder was Resident Steward from 1949 till his sudden death about 10 years later. For the long service record, we have to name Frank McManus steward for a term of 3 years around 1920 and then a continuous stewardship of 40 years from 1924.

The appointment of Vin Davies as Senior and Resident Steward gave the Club a new lease of life and with his wife, who did most of the catering, he gave the Club grand service.

Joe Collis and his wife were in residence at the Club in 1964 and did a very good job.

The first Ladies' Night was held at the Club in 1914. For many years it was held in the month of May, and as stated in the minutes, "at the time of the full moon".

In 1922, the new Billiard room was used as a Ball Room before the tables were placed in position. Malcolm's Hall on the south side of the Club was the Ball Room on Ladies' Night for a number of years afterwards.

In 1928, the Club Ball as it was then called was held in Younghusbands Wool Store, Wilson Street, but it was not as successful as the functions held in the Club itself. In later years a New Year's Eve Party was started and the Winter Ladies' Night was dropped. In 1956 the Albury Cup Cocktail Party became an annual event.

In 1929 the first of the cricket matches against the Riverine Club was played and this annual event was one of the main sporting events of the Club.

In 1964 the J O Cox trophy was presented by the Albury Club to perpetuate and commemorate these matches. The late J O Cox, a former member of the Albury Club and Riverine Clubs, was an enthusiastic cricketer and sportsman and played for many years in the event.

In October 1941 the Club buildings were taken over by the Army and occupied by 3 Base Ordinance Division commanded by Lt. Col. Gordon. The total occupation was from October 1941 to the middle of 1944. The base was commanded by Col. Christenson till 1943 when Col. Ray Tovell took over and commanded till 1944, when Base Ordinance was moved to Bandiana.

Meantime the Club itself was moved to Beehive Chambers, where it was conducted to service the members who remained during the war years. Frank McManus was Chief Steward and some good times were enjoyed at the new chambers. One of the main pastimes were renowned Spelling Bees. These provided some very erudite competition.

Generally amid the war crises a very good time was had by all and Club activities were well maintained during what could have been a most uncomfortable period.

During the Army occupation quite a few of our records disappeared, otherwise nothing much was disturbed.

As in most Clubs, sport of most sorts gave extra-curricular recreation to members. The chief indoor games over the years were billiards, cards, dominoes and poker machines. The piano frequently provided happy times as spirits rose at night. The original billiard table was situated in the present bar section but when the present billiard room was built in 1921, three high grade tables were installed and from then on the game became very popular.

## **THE ALBURY CLUB -The First 100 Years**

Many good nights were spent at the tables and annual tournaments were held.

Dr L S Woods was responsible for many years for the enthusiasm shown in billiards, snooker and pool. When Dr Woods passed on, the Committee and his friends established the "Dr L S Woods Annual Billiards and Snooker Tournaments" and they are conducted every year at present. Several enthusiasts like Harry Flood and John Mamouny made themselves responsible for the organization. The Billiard Room has also been used for functions of various kinds, particularly as the Dining Room for social occasions.

Cards, Poker and Solo were very popular at one time and the two card rooms were well used. According to his taste, a member joined one or the other of the schools and happily won or lost his money pleasantly. After the Second World War enthusiasm in this field seemed to wane. The squash court was built in 1940 and during the Military Occupation was not used much for its original purpose. After the 1939-1945 War, with the influx of returned members and new younger members, the game gained impetus and today the court is still utilized.

Dominoes for a number of years was played by various groups and provided wonderful occupation on winter nights when the open fires drew members from the bar. Some became quite expert and the competition was very keen.

Some bowls games were held and at various times members' teams went to the Riverine Club to play their particular opponents, usually for a dinner.

As previously mentioned, interclub games were commenced in 1920. Before the 1939-45 War cricket matches were played between the Riverine Club-Wagga and the Albury Club.

These games lapsed during the Army occupancy of the Albury Club.

However, on Australia Day 1954, Albury Club played Riverine Club on the Wilson Oval at Albury Grammar School and since that date regular matches have been played each year, either in Albury or Wagga.

Australia Day 1954 was a fine sunny day. A strong committee headed by Alan Hamilton-Smith, Alec Sellars and Tom Moore had made all the arrangements for a magnificent picnic day. The ground and pitch were in wonderful order, marquee erected, refreshments organized by the ladies. Those who were not playing brought their families and picnic lunches to follow the fortunes of the game. Buffet tea at the Club itself finished off a memorable occasion. Albury were lucky enough to win and it was decided to present a pewter jug for the competition named the J "Ollie" Cox Memorial as Ollie Cox was the only player who had played in pre-War matches, as well as the "revived" match. From this match developed the City Colts Cricket Club, whose purpose is still to foster young players.

Some two years later, Arthur Bradshaw was instrumental in arranging a match with the MCG XXIX's team. One match each season; one in Melbourne and one in Albury become a permanent fixture. Many club members have enjoyed the thrill of playing on the turf at the MCG. Occasionally other matches have been organized against the Cricket Club of India and the South Canterbury Cricket Association of New Zealand. Plaques placed above the bar lintel record these matches.

In passing it should be mentioned that in moments of high spirits, many unauthorized and uncensored games were played in the bar area and in sporting spirit.

Recreation is part of Bar Service so it was natural that the poker machine became part of the fun as well as providing added income. The first poker machine was introduced in 1912 and was of token form. What you got in tokens you took in stock value. Several of these machines were installed. Some were small and of different structures but older members will remember the big one, which a number of the more affluent played avidly.

There have always been what might well be called the popular sessions. The Friday night attracted the biggest crowd and the buffet was always well received. It provided professional groups to exchange views and ideas and groups of mates to end the week on a happy note. Saturday morning brought together friends and during the football season gave the sporting enthusiasts a chance to give tips, make their bets and prepare for the afternoon matches and frolics. Age has had its effects on the older members. However, some great times were had by all. Sunday supplied the needs of the "stayers" with a refrigerator, self service and a chit system.

## THE ALBURY CLUB -The First 100 Years

### Bits and Pieces

1906 The Resident quarters were erected and furnished throughout for 356 pounds.

1913 The original safe was purchased.

1915 All gas lighting was removed and electricity was connected in 1916.

1919 Sewerage was installed.

1920 Blacklock's Olympia, which was the block of land on the southern side of the Club was purchased for 1050 pounds. The Billiard Room, the driveway and garden located thereon

1921 The Billiard Room was erected and the Bar Lounge was remodeled for 1792 pounds.

1923 The barometer was donated to the Club in 1923 by A S Mitchell.

1934 Major alterations to the Bar Lounge, Card Room and Lavatories and improvements to the Club entrance were made in this year. The land at the back of the Club which is the present car park, was purchased for 764 pounds. The Stag's head in the Club Entrance was presented to the Club by C P Fairbairn.

1937 The land on the northern boundary known as Scanlans, which is now A.T Jones, was purchased for 1860 pounds and this land was sold again in 1940 for 1500 pounds.

1940 The Squash Court was built for 990 pounds.

1946 The piano was bought for 80 pounds, and the Club refurnished for 1150 pounds

1967 Member Tom Griffith, son of early member Chas. Griffith gave the bell to the Club.

It came from "Delaware" and now announces the magnanimity of some host who wishes to "shout for the bar".

In recent years the Club has become a meeting place for business luncheons, and when necessary a meeting place for various organisations and committees.

Today the Club is governed under the new act which makes us a Limited Company. We were registered on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1971.



### MILITARY QUILT

The Albury LibraryMuseum would appreciate any information regarding an 1800s military quilt in the collection.

In 1972 Mrs C.S. McIntyre was the donor of the 19th century patchwork quilt made by her grandparents in England from colourful service uniforms.

Mrs McIntyre and her daughter, Rebekah, both died in 1997. It is believed Mrs McIntyre had a son named Duncan but his whereabouts is unknown. The quilt has been featured in historian Annette Gero's *The Fabric of Society and War and Pieced*.

Information about the family or the quilt would be appreciated. Please contact Museum Curatorial Officer, Vicky Cooper, on 6023 8369 or [vcooper@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vcooper@alburycity.nsw.gov.au)



### WELL DONE NOEL !!

Mr Noel Jackling was awarded the Order of Orange-Nassau (Knight) for his longstanding and dedicated work on the promotion of the Uiver story and the preservation and extension of the now heritage-listed collection at the Albury Library-Museum. He received the award from the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Erica Schouten. "The story speaks to so many people, a story of bravery, adventure and risk ... it has a very appealing factory to many people," she said. "Over the years he has put in so much work to maintain this collection and to expand it and also to tell the story." Alfred Waugh, who was Albury mayor at the time of the Uiver landing, was also honoured with an Order of Orange-Nassau.



Picture: Kylie Esler

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

In February 1947, the first 6 Housing Commission homes were completed in Albury. Where were they, who was the builder and how much was the weekly rental ?

## ANSWER TO THE FEBRUARY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Where were Popp's Lane and Strawbridge Lane ?

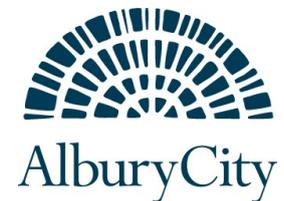
What did they have in common?

Both ran east west – both originated from Mate Street. Strawbridge Lane was Logan Rd west of Mate St. Popp's Lane was Union Road east of Mate Street. Night soil was deposited there.



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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.

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**Vice-President:** Greg Ryan

**Secretary:** Helen Livsey

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**Public Officer:** Helen Livsey

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**Publications & Stock Officer:** Ray Gear

**Bulletin dispatch:** Richard Lee

**Meeting Greeter:** Jill Wooding

**Webmaster:** Greg Ryan

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

The Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 3 pm at the Albury Library Museum.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

Single: \$25 Family: \$33

Corporate: \$100

Note: There is a \$10 surcharge for mailed Bulletins.

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