

Albury & District Historical Society

September 2018

No 593

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www.alburyhistory.org.au

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Barclay and Winifred [nee Smyth] Dowling with children Gordon, Ben, Gwyn, Charles and Shirley.
Photograph Courtesy: John Dowling

Next Meeting

Wed 12 September

7.30pm Commercial Club

Jindera's 150 year
Celebrations

Speaker: Denise Osborne

**ALBURY LIBRARY
MUSEUM**
**MAY GIBBS:
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS**
19 OCT - 2 NOV

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REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING (08.08.2018)

Ann-Marie Ellis, the coordinator of the Write Around The Murray Festival, invited members to join into the activities being held from 5-9 September at various venues. The diverse program offers participants to Explore, Discuss and Wonder about the literary world. The Festival is supported by exhibitions at the Albury LibraryMuseum, MAMA and the Lavington Library.

Greg shared the exciting news that the Society, with the support of Albury LibraryMuseum, has won a \$65,433 grant from the NSW Regional Cultural Fund to help towards extending Albury newspaper coverage on National Library of Australia's Trove website. Trove is a huge online resource, hosted by the National Library of Australia. It contains almost 600 million Australian online resources, including books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more. It is available online free of charge and over 60,000 people use it each day. Currently Albury newspapers on Trove cover just the years from 1896 to about 1940. Scanning will be done by the National Library of Australia and get under way in early 2019.

Stories of the very sporty and multitalented Dowling family were shared by John Dowling. The Dowling family has made a substantial contribution to the Albury community over many years. Car clubs and car accidents were a feature of 50 years ago presented by Richard Lee. Members enjoyed Howard Jones's visual presentation using photographs of usually unnoticed features hiding in the CBD of Albury.

Stop Press: Albury City Council have notified the Society that the architect's report in the development application for 595 Kiewa Street does not justify demolition of Meramie due to insufficient information being supplied and not addressing the criteria for demolition. If the developers wish to continue with their plan for demolition they will have to commission a new report.

REFLECTIONS ON THE DOWLING FAMILY

By John Dowling

From Colchester, Somerset to Launceston, Van Diemen's Land to Camperdown and Ballarat, Victoria to Albury, New South Wales

Henry Dowling was born in 1780 in Stone Easton, Somerset. Henry had 10 children with his wife Elizabeth (nee Darke) of whom 8 survived; all were born in Somerset; the first two born were each named Henry and died in infancy; the third born, also called Henry, survived. They came to Hobart Town in 1834 on "The Janet" with three of their children. Henry was attracted to emigrate after hearing glowing tales of the riches in NSW and Van Diemen's Land from his friend Captain Hon, who also bemoaned the lack of ministers of religion in the colonies. The Dowlings' four older children had already emigrated to Australia in 1830, also lured by Captain Hon's tales. Henry, the oldest child of Henry and Elizabeth later became the second Mayor of Launceston.



Dowling Family Crest
God Feeds The Ravens

Reverend Henry Snr. started the Baptist Church at York St, Launceston. He died in March 1869 at Launceston.

Robert Hawker Dowling was the youngest son of Henry and Elizabeth. He was the first locally trained professional artist and the first colonial artist to forge a career in London.

He has many of his portraits hanging in notable galleries including The National Portrait Gallery, National Gallery of Australia, Hobart Art Gallery and The British Museum.

Thomas Dowling, the son of Henry and Elizabeth married Maria Ware in August 1842 at Launceston. They had 11 children. Moving from Tasmania, Thomas managed Koort Koort Nong near Camperdown Victoria, for his brother in law Jeremiah Ware in 1849. He also operated a dairy at Lake Coragulac. In 1853 he purchased Jellalabad, a station of 16000 acres, near Darlington, Victoria. Thomas built it into a fine merino stud, winning numerous Royal Show awards. In 1854 he was the magistrate for the Southern Bailiwick. In 1864 he was elected to the Mortlake Shire Council where he served for 50 years, being President for 20 years. He was a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly from 1886 to 1904. Thomas died July 1914 at 'Mamre', Richardson St, Albert Park, aged 94.

Benjamin Dowling was born in June 1855 at 'Jellalabad Station', the 7th child of Thomas and Maria. He married Jenny Graeme Thomson in July 1877 at South Yarra, Melbourne.

They had three children – Barclay, Graeme and Ina Maderanook. Benjamin studied engineering and architecture at Warrnambool. He took up the management of Koort Koort Nong station for his grandfather, Jeremiah Ware in 1872 where he stayed for 12 years. He then moved to Ballarat to join Hepburn and Crawford, stock and station agents. In 1885 a new firm Hepburn, Dowling and Crawford commenced business. This partnership was dissolved and Benjamin formed an agency, Dowling and Son, with his two sons. Upon his death in June 1907 his son Graeme became the principal of the business. His other son, Barclay had already accepted a position as auctioneer at Younghusband's in Albury.

Barclay Dowling was born 23 August 1878 at Koort Koort Nong Station, near Camperdown. He married Winifred Emily Smyth in June 1909 at St Luke's Anglican Church, Wodonga. They had five children – Benjamin, Gwynneth, Gordon, Charles and Shirley. Barclay worked as an auctioneer for Hepburn, Dowling and Crawford and Dowling and Son at Ballarat until 1907. In 1907 he accepted a position as auctioneer with Younghusbands in Albury. Over the 32 years he worked for Younghusbands he established an enviable reputation from Corryong to Deniliquin.

Barclay lived in several places in central Albury until his death at 569 Bonegilla St on 7 July, 1940. He was active in the swimming club, Albury Diggers Football Club, Albury Football Club, Bowling Club, Albury and Commercial Clubs and the Albury Racing Club, where he was President on several occasions, and was judge at a number of local courses. He was involved in the Uiver landing at the race course, allegedly organising the vehicles that lit the area where the plane landed.

His wife Winifred was the only child of Robert Hamilton and Agnes Gertrude Smyth. Robert was an auctioneer in Wodonga. Story has it that Winifred and Barclay met after he became ill at an auction and Robert Hamilton Smyth brought him to his home to tend to him.

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Winifred was born at Warragul in Victoria and educated at Merton Hall, Melbourne. She played cricket on the MCG, in those days in long skirts! She was a well known equestrian, member of Albury Golf Club, foundation member of Albury Tennis Club and a knitting judge at the Albury Show. She held court regularly with her social group at the Globe Hotel, including Raie Langley, Grace Adcock, 'Bub' Smith and the Beasleys'. "Tashiny" 523 Thurgoona St, where she lived from 1942, was a stock route and often large mobs of sheep or cattle were driven down the street to the sales yards or abattoir. Winifred passed away at the age of 81 on 8 April 1970.

Barclay and Winifred's five children were born between 1910 and 1921 at Albury. All were educated at Albury Public School and Albury High School. All were excellent swimmers and were foundation members of the Albury Amateur Diving Group. Perhaps this led to the formation of the Krazy Kruet Krackers, a group that entertained at the Albury pool. Benjamin followed in his father's footsteps, joining Younghusbands in Albury and serving at Walla and as manager at Leeton before returning to Albury. As a young man in Albury he competed successfully in all freestyle events and was a member of the inter town swimming team. Gwynneth worked at Hoyts Theatre in Albury and Melbourne. She joined the WAAF, serving in Sydney. She married Col Nettlefold in Sydney in 1941; he was sent overseas and was a POW until the end of the war. Upon his discharge they lived in Hobart for many years. Gwyn was an avid sportswoman, playing tennis and golf and excelling at swimming and diving. At age 12 she won the high diving open championship of the Riverina; the judge, Dick Eve, former Olympic diver, said Gwyn 'had the best swallow dive he had ever seen'. Charles trained in Albury as a dental mechanic with F.H Jackson, later working with Bill Suhr and Neville Grove in Beehive Chambers. He then worked for many years in the men's department at Mates. He was a member of the diving troupe and won many trophies for swimming and diving; he held the 50 metre record in the Creek Street baths of 29 seconds. Shirley commenced a hairdressing apprenticeship with Raie Langley before marrying Ken Jones and moving to Bairnsdale. She was the undefeated womens' diving champion in both the North Eastern district and Riverina and won numerous Albury Club titles in swimming and diving. Gordon started with Younghusbands before joining the Border Mail in the press room. He went to Melbourne to start his own free sports paper before returning to the Border Mail where he worked in all departments before becoming Advertising Manager, then Manager on the death of Milton Mott – the first non Mott family member to do so. The family holidayed every summer at Gray's Willows or Weidner's where a love of the river developed and their swimming and diving skills were honed. Many tales were told in later years of swimming across the river, pinching watermelons and floating them back to camp!

Gordon Dowling married Kathleen Mary Murphy in January 1943 at Albury. Kathleen was one of the nine children of Walter and Mary Ellen Murphy. Kathleen pursued a career as a homemaker, raising four children, Judith, Jocelyn, Barclay and John while being active in school parent groups and Gordon's sporting pursuits. In later life she was active in many charitable organisations including VIEW and Adamshurst Rehabilitation Auxiliary, Mercy Hospital Fete, Red Shield and was a Paul Harris Fellow for her work with Adamshurst.

Sport played an important part in Gordon's life.

He played Rugby League for Albury Blues, becoming a life member of the club and Group 13.



REFLECTIONS ON THE DOWLING FAMILY

By John Dowling



When he finished playing he reported for the Border Mail under the pseudonym 'Touch Judge'. He was a swimmer and diver of note, winning competitions throughout the region; many were team events with his siblings, Gwyn, Charles and Shirley. They successfully issued a challenge to Riverina swimming families and were undefeated 1928 – 1933. (See left.)

Gordon was instrumental in forming the Ovens And Murray Swimming Association, serving as both President and Secretary; his work was recognised in the awarding of life membership at the club. In the 1940s he formed a comic diving troupe, the Krazy Kruet Krackers, who entertained at the Albury pool. They were a troupe of Albury Swimming Club members that provided entertainment at swimming events at the Albury pool; activities involved diving from the board and tower and crazy water activities.

Members included: Gordon Dowling, Fred Jacobs Snr., Jim Roxburgh, John and Terry Freeman, Ross Drake and Max Gifford. Gordon also performed daring and crazy feats as 'Iceberg' including on one occasion riding a bike with tyres flaming off the high board. Unfortunately the tower also caught on fire!!! Gordon dived in the Murray, often to recover bodies following drownings; often to recover false teeth and on one occasion to retrieve a lost diamond ring. The Border Mail reported on Gordon's exploits in recovering a diamond ring from the river. 'Diver Gordon Dowling added a feather to his much be feathered diving cap on Monday when he dived for and found a diamond ring in the Murray River at Norieul Park. In a photo he was shown below the surface going down to explore the shifting sands with his hands. The ring belonged to Mrs C.D. Horne and was recovered only after a two hour search. Numerous soldiers had previously dived long and earnestly in vain'. In the 1960s he was presented a NSW State Swimming blazer by the Mayor (Ald. Bunton), one of very few awarded. Gordon was secretary and founder of the Ovens and Murray Amateur Swimming Association, and vice president of the Albury Swimming Club, Authority to wear the State blazer was a rare honour, and was issued only under the most extreme circumstances. The NSW A.S.A. unanimously granted the authority in recognition of his long and outstanding services to swimming in Albury and district.

Gordon was also active in many service groups and clubs being a Paul Harris Fellowship winner with Rotary, part of the Floral Festival committee, St Patrick's Junior Football Club (Life Member), chairman of the Salvo's Red Shield Appeal; member of the Kalianna, Mercy Hospital Fete (he was the promoter of the car art union), Guadalupe House and Adamshurst committees. He was President of Albury & District Chamber of Commerce and the Promotions Council. In 1985 he was awarded the OAM for his contribution to community. In 1990 he was Albury Citizen of the Year.

Gordon had a talent as an artist, drawing with pen and ink and often colouring black and white photos. Two sketches in the family collection are of his father Barclay Dowling and J.E. Arnold of Arnold's Fruit and Vegetables fame. Gordon retired as General Manager of the Border Mail when it was still an independent paper owned by the Mott family.

He was active in the NSW Country Press Association, being President on a number of occasions; the plaque is recognition of this service. (See right.)



EXTENDING ALBURY NEWSPAPER COVERAGE ON TROVE

Albury & District Historical Society, with the support of Albury LibraryMuseum, has won \$65,433 from the NSW Regional Cultural Fund to help towards extending Albury newspaper coverage on National Library of Australia's Trove website.

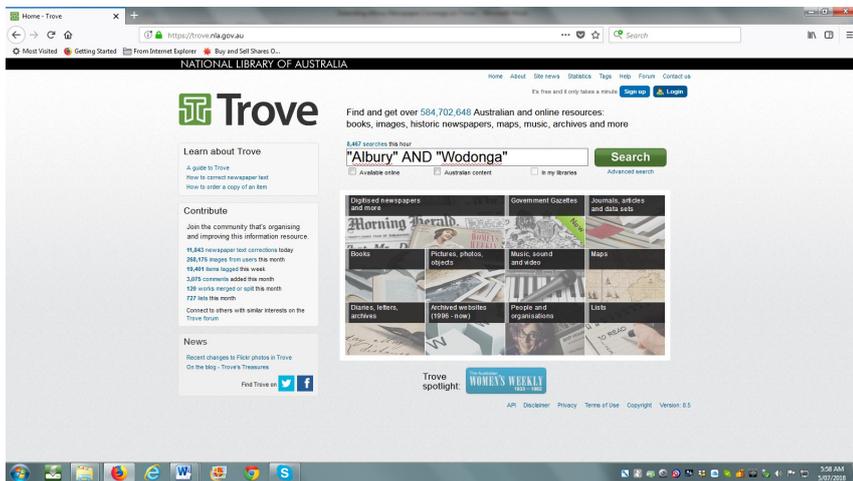
In a press release, NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro said "By preserving the past we are enabling opportunities for future generations to explore and enjoy NSW's rich cultural wealth." Greg Ryan, the President of the Society, explained that currently, only a quarter of the time span covered by Albury newspapers is on Trove.

The money would be used to extend the coverage back from 1896 to 1881 when the NSW railway reached Albury and forward from 1941 to 1942, in the midst of the Second World War. Both times saw massive changes to the border district.

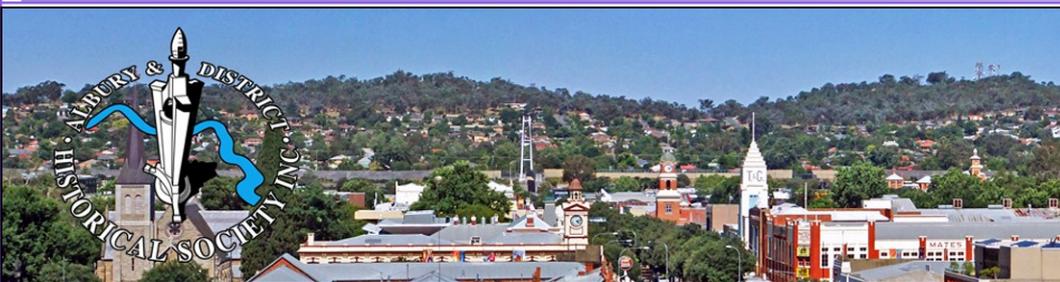
The Society, he said, has a five-year goal to get papers back to 1873, when the railway first reached Wodonga and forward to 1947, embracing all of the Second World War and its immediate aftermath.

Trove, he said, is a huge online resource, hosted by the National Library of Australia. It contains 583 million Australian online resources, including books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more. It is available online free of charge and over 60,000 people use it each day.

It has optical character recognition which means a reader can search the record for mentions of a word, phrase or name.



The success of the grant application means that local and family historians and people interested in the local past have made a giant step towards being able to go full steam ahead. Greg acknowledged the hard work over several months of the sub-committee who put together the successful grant application, led by Dr Bruce Pennay with assistance from Society Secretary Helen Livsey and past-President, Joe Wooding.



Visit our website for photos of old Albury, history articles and much more. Go to: <https://alburyhistory.org.au/>



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Facebook

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HISTORY NEWS IN AND AROUND THE REGION

Turks Head Hotel

Albury City has given notice of intention to lease the former Turks Head Hotel (then Albury Regional Museum) building as a Photography Hub and Gallery Café.

Beneath QE2

The ALM exhibition of archaeological finds in QE2 runs through to Wednesday 13 February. The curators cleverly invite people to look in, under and around the exhibit in the foyer.

Talks with a Fork

Yass and District Historical Society offer three local history stories with afternoon tea and music as an event.

If these Halls could Talk

Seven halls from across the villages of the Northern Rivers have been celebrated as places of stories and keepers of secrets in a multi-arts project.

http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/project_report/if-these-halls-could-talk/

History Week in Victoria

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is running History Week 2018 from 7 to 14 October with events across Victoria. <http://historyweek.org.au>

Flu Pandemic

The RAHS 2018 conference at Port Macquarie 19-22 October, will include a workshop on the Spanish flu that circled the world in 1918-19. The practical workshop will review the bigger picture of the pandemic before considering how its impact might be commemorated locally. The full conference program is available at <https://www.rahs.org.au/rahs-conference/>
The RAHS is looking to run similar workshops in communities state-wide.

Life and Death

The NSW History Council History Week, 1-9 September explored the theme Life and Death. An exhibition at MAMA picked up on the theme of 'Immortality' for an exhibition that runs through to 4 November. The Society's guide to the Albury Pioneer Cemetery was featured in the ALM bookshop. There were five cemetery walks organised state-wide.

<https://events.historyweek.com.au/>

Accommodating Border district first people

A PRO Victoria web site on Aboriginal Mission Stations and Reserves includes records related to Lake Moodemere, Wahgunyah, Cummeragunja and Coranderk, where many first people families from the border district were housed around the turn of last century.

<https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/aboriginal-victorians-1830s-1970s/aboriginal-mission-stations>

Uncle Jeff on Trove

During the First World War children wrote to "Uncle Jeff" at the children's page of the Albury Banner. They told of their fund raising activities and offered some patriotic verse. Other letters explained the hardships caused by drought and by mice. Several mentioned sacrifices made by a brother recently returned from the front. We don't have Trove coverage for the best set of letters in 1947 which won its contributor, Colleen Mullavey a bus trip on Murray Valley coaches.

King of the Weir

"King of the Weir" is a new book by author Guy Ellicott following the success of "The Little Circuit that Could", a history of car racing at the Hume Weir circuit near Albury. The book documents motorcycle racing in the Albury Wodonga region which has a rich history dating back to the 1920's when speedway was king. Speedway gave way to scrambles, and then tarmac racing on aerodromes, army bases and circuits. The Hume Weir circuit held the "King of the Weir" race for ten years attracting such riders as Ron Toombs, Greg Hansford, Murray and Jeff Sayle, and Kenny Blake. Overseas champions Jim Redman, Tom Phillis, Geoff Duke, Bill Lomas and Dickie Dale came to do battle with the locals in the 50's and 60's. The author has brought together a colourful scrapbook of information, photos and programmes covering many meetings.

The book is a must for any motorcycle racing fan.

The price of the book is \$40 including postage and GST and can be ordered through the author at sharkbite@idx.com.au.

Cars were a big feature of the news in August of 1968. The Albury and District Car Club had an article describing its growth. It had recently purchased new club rooms near the Union Bridge. The club was to renovate the house and the 50 acres of land. Mr. Jones was the Chairman and said the club has had its most successful year. A new Holden 'Monaro' sports car had just been released and was available from \$2,575.00 including Tax. I have done this segment on 50 years ago for some time now and something I've not drawn attention to was the large number of car accidents that occurred in the late 60's. Nearly ever newspaper read over the past few years has photos of serious car accidents and the number of people killed was quite staggering. On one weekend alone in August of 1968 there were 15 Victorian people killed. Individually these car accidents don't feature as historical items for us. But these car accidents certainly affected a large numbers of families in the local area.

Early in August the Albury Football club didn't submit a team list on the Friday due to an influenza virus outbreak. A few days later the Woodstock Presbyterian Girls' school closed classes due to the Flu. News then followed with a national article saying that Influenza virus was sweeping through Sydney and parts of Australia.

A large set of scales was presented to the Albury & District Historical Society by Mr. B Ryan of the Commercial Bank Company of Sydney to the then President Mr. Hazelwood. The scales were originally from Kia-Ora, Bank of New South Wales and would have weighed thousands of pounds in gold during their useful life at the bank.

A new home for the Aged was opened by St Vincent de Paul Society. These units were located at the corner of Hovell and Macauley Streets and were opened by Bishop F Carroll on 4 August. The artist Mrs. Auriel Alford of Crisp Street had completed a painting of the local member Mr. Gordon Mackie. The artwork was to be entered in the Archibald Prize awards later in the year. In Griffith Street, something still topical; The Albury Horticultural Society were protesting against Albury City Councils drastic pruning of the Griffith Street trees. They said the trees haven't been pruned in 50 years and needed attention. The Society was up in arms but became somewhat happier at the conclusion of the pruning.

Sport reporting featured Albury's Johnny Gorkom. He had appeared on Monday nights boxing television show, TV Ringside. He made short work of his opponent to win with a TKO in the first bout. It was his first fight in five years. Further news was that he was also in doubt for selection on the weekend for Albury Football Club due to a burst blood vessel sustained in his boxing match. Interestingly I spoke to the Society a couple of years ago on an East Albury Cricket Club scorer, Mr. Tom Jones. A letter to the editor from Mr. Harry Heyme appeared on 21 August. The writer had read a previous article in the Border Mail on Tom Jones, Mr. Ried of Wodonga and Mr. Thompson. All had been to the First World War. The veterans had all sailed to England on the ship Ballarat This ship was sunk in the English Channel before arriving in England. Mr. Heyme sent his best wishes to the men as he had not seen them since he was wounded on 21 October, 1917. So here I end with news from 101 years ago and 50 years ago.

SAVE THE DATE!! October 21.**Bus Excursion to Lake Urana and district.**

The Society is organising a bus trip hosted by Chris de Vreeze. Chris will be pointing out subtle features along the way which indicate indigenous sites from thousands of year ago. At Lake Urana we will be visiting an area with important links to the Wiradjuri people – "The lake's Aboriginal history dates back 25-30,000 years ago with burials, grinding dishes and ovens being found in the lunette on the eastern side of the lake."

A bus (22 seats only) will leave at 10 am, returning at 4 pm
Cost will be \$10 to cover cost of fuel and bus hire.

We will be stopping by the lake for lunch so BYO picnic and thermos.



Lake Urana

SEPTEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Murray Valley Coaches bought Meramie in 1949, why did they sell it in 1955? Despite war time restrictions on fuel, MVC were given essential service status but were forced to curtail many services. What was the most severe restriction placed on them?



ANSWER AUGUST QOM

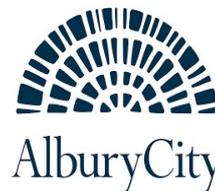
Murray Valley Coaches serviced Sydney – Adelaide via Wollongong, Canberra, Albury, Swan Hill, Mildura. Several feeder services like Shepparton to Echuca and Bendigo to Mildura also existed. A continental breakfast was served to each room. For other meals, the New Albury Hotel was used.

Object of the Month. The Montford Albury Flight Memorial: A tale of two losses but two recoveries: Following the crash of the Uiver in Iraq in December 1934, Albury people raised £150 for a memorial to be given to the people of Holland by mayor Alfred Waugh. Waugh presented a bronze and marble statuette created by sculptor Paul Montford to the burgomeester of Amsterdam. In September 1935, Montford sent a similar version in plaster to Albury, which remained in council chambers until 1976. The bronze and marble version could not be located in Amsterdam in 2014, and the plaster version in Albury had disappeared. Due to two sets of extraordinary circumstances, both of these significant sculptures have been recovered. View the Montford plaster Uiver Flight Memorial: Where: Store room, Albury LibraryMuseum When 2:00pm. 12 September 2018.



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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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Publications & Stock Officer: Ray Gear

Bulletin dispatch: Richard Lee

Meeting Greeter: Jill Wooding

Web Editor: 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 LibraryMuseum.

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