

February 2019

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Thologolong Station needed to be self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. A successful crop of watermelons is being collected from the Cow Paddock. Peter Sutherland had a smaller vegetable garden near the homestead. Photographer: Gordon Sutherland.

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, February 13
7.30 pm, Commercial Club**

Assimilation of Aboriginal and Non-British Migrant Women in Rural Australia: The Efforts of the CWA in NSW 1952-1973.

Speaker: Dr Jennifer Jones

ALBURY LIBRARY MUSEUM

**CHEERS: THE HIDDEN
HISTORY OF ALBURY
VINEYARDS**

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REPORT ON DECEMBER MEETING (12.12.2018)

Our largest meeting for a long time opened with an official welcome to our Society for Norman and Beverley Halburd. They have been members since July 2018. We also welcomed John Henwood, our guest speaker for the night who was a foundation member of our Society. (John joined A&DHS in Nov 1960). Greg Ryan reminded members and guests that Richard Lee's "Albury Timeline," a 37-page document that continues to expand, is available on the Society's website. (<https://alburyhistory.org.au/about/albury-timeline/>).

A new webpage was also introduced with photos of street art in Albury (<https://alburyhistory.org.au/street-art-in-albury/>).

Nancy Rooke presented the Society with an old framed photo of Albury Railway Station. John Henwood introduced his new book "The Days That Are No More: The Sutherlands of Thologolong Station." John is a grandson of Peter and Ina Sutherland. He described how the land was acquired and developed, using family photographs. We heard the story of members of the large family of his grandparents.

A ten question quiz prepared by Howard Jones was well answered before Richard Lee presented his regular "50 Years Ago." Members enjoyed the December favourite, "Show & Tell" where we heard of the "Fallon Bell" from Greg Ryan. Some reminders of Albury's wine industry from Vicky Cooper. Joe Wooding had a document signed by Percy Burrows. Simon Burgess had a very interesting story of a watch winder from a Beechworth jeweller and Greg showed us some remnants of the Berlin Wall. Greg then wished everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2019. The meeting closed with most members and guests remaining for a supper provided by the Society.



Peter and Ina Sutherland in the 1890s. The couple had 12 children and were active in public life in the Towong Shire and in Albury. Photo Courtesy: John Henwood

The book portrays the life of a country family between 1885 and 1933, their farming activities and the family involvement in the community in the Upper Murray and Albury.

My interest in Thologolong Station and the Sutherlands was basically due to my Mother, Peg Henwood. She was a raconteur, who remembered her childhood on Thologolong and in Albury as though it was yesterday. My father rarely spoke of his childhood at Ballarat and on a dairy farm near Foster in Gippsland. It was a real chalk and cheese difference in their childhoods.

Under our home was a large tin trunk that my sister and I opened to see what was inside. It was a wonderful collection of photographs and letters written by my Grandparents Peter and Ina Sutherland. These included the love letters Peter wrote to Ina before they were married on the 11 April 1887. In a cedar chest in the house there were the kit bags of Jack and Ben Sutherland, who died in World War One. They also contained letters to and from them during the war. Thologolong is a Station with a rather unpronounceable name. It means a creek in a plain according to the Upper Murray historian, Dr Arthur Andrews. The station was about 50 or so miles up the Murray River from Albury on the Victorian side of the Murray.

The story has had plenty of research challenges... probably the worst one was the destruction of the station records after the station ended. It is not unusual to find this has

happened with pastoral station records. I regret their destruction, as it included Peter Sutherland's daily diary that recorded what was happening on the station. Fortunately one station ledger survived. It provided the date 16 March 1885 when Thologolong Station was purchased by Cushing Sutherland and Company. There were three partners, who bought the station in 1885. They were Peter Sutherland, John Gordon Sutherland and Joshua Hersey Cushing. They were all related by blood or marriage. Peter and J.G. Sutherland (Cousin Jack) were first cousins. Cushing, an American from Massachusetts, was married to one of Peter's older sisters. Probably the most colourful was Joshua Hersey Cushing who came to Victoria in 1858 from the USA as a seventeen year old. He joined a firm of Merchants and Importers in which his brother Andrew was a partner. He was a classic 1880s boomer getting into mining and other ventures and always looking for a deal.

Cousin Jack was a gentleman of leisure, as his late father's property was sold in the 1880s boom that provided the money for a mortgage to buy Thologolong.

Peter Sutherland was a wool classer and had gone to school at Heidelberg with Cousin Jack. In fact they lived next door to one another in the Melbourne suburb of Alphington. Their friendship from childhood lasted all their lives.

Peter Sutherland was the manager when the partnership of Cushing Sutherland and Co bought the Station in March 1885. About 2,000 acres of freehold along with leasehold country was bought from Alexander Stewart and ran both sheep and cattle.

On the 11 April Peter Sutherland married Ina, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Carter. He owned Bungil Station down river from Thologolong. The courtship lasted five months. It was their marriage that led to Thologolong Station being well known for its hospitality and family life.

Its involvement in the Towong Shire and its community life began in 1888 when Peter became a Shire Councillor.

The crisis that hit the station partnership was the death of Cushing in August 1895. His estate was found to be insolvent and Peter was his executor. The 1880s boom in Victoria had collapsed in the early 1890s. The crisis ended with Peter Sutherland buying Cushing's share in the property. The former partnership of Cushing, Sutherland and Company became Sutherland and Sutherland.

The homestead at Thologolong was an unpretentious slab building of the mid Victorian period. It was not impressive in the way of station homesteads in the Western District of Victoria.

However, it was notable for its hospitality and visitors who came to fish and shoot. Harry Peck in his classic book "The Memoirs of a Stockman" gives a feeling of what hospitality was like at Thologolong: "Peter Sutherland counted among his many friends (and they were legion) the prince of wicket-keepers, the late Jack Blackham and, dropping into Thologolong one winter evening in 1921 on an Upper Murray round, my son and I found Blackham on one of his prospecting trips ensconced at Thologolong, and we spent a memorable night well into the small hours."

With a large family of twelve children, it must have been a challenge for Peter and Ina to keep the younger ones out of mischief. There is one photo that epitomizes what a country childhood at Thologolong meant. It is the one taken of the 'Sheep Ambulance'. Five of the younger children ran the ambulance. It was an enterprise that must have been done with the approval of their parents. The design could not have been simpler, as it had 'two wheels with a bag on the shafts'. Peg Henwood said: 'We'd get old sheep that were down, and lambs – sometimes they're left without their mothers, you know – we'd grab those till Dad decided the mothers were looking for the lambs, and we had them on the tennis court! ... We got into trouble over that.'

For isolated country dwellers, the goods sold by Sikh hawkers were a valued way of getting items that could only otherwise be bought by going to a country town, like Tallangatta or Albury.

For the Sutherlands and many others in the Upper Murray, there was one hawker who stood out above his fellow traders. Each year, Pollah Singh and Uncle (Isar Singh) came to Thologolong on their way to the Upper Murray. For the family, Pollah's week long visits were one of the memorable events of the year.

The children were educated first by Governesses at the homestead and later at a variety of other schools such as Beechworth Grammar, Tallangatta State School, Albury Convent and the Albury Superior Public School.

Two of their sons, Jack and Ben, enlisted in World War One. Ben was killed on the 19 July 1916 at Fromelles and Jack on 11 August 1918.

On the morning of 28 November 1919, the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson, attended a special service at St David's Presbyterian Church in Albury. In the seats behind the Vice-Regal party were 'Ministers of the various Protestant Churches, and many relatives of fallen soldiers, in addition to a number of returned men. Probably no more impressive service of the kind has been held, and many eyes were filled with tears.'

It would have been a notable and emotional day for Peter and Ina, as the names of two of their sons, Jack and Ben, who died in the First World War, were on the monument. The depth of their distress over the deaths of their sons in the war remained with them for the rest of their lives. The survival of many photos and letters to and from the boys at the front reflects their desire to keep a visual reminder of what they had lost.

For Peter and Ina, like so many other families who lost members in World War One, the grief remained for the rest of their lives.

Probably the most contentious issue in the book is the chapter on crossbreeding of cattle, where I discuss and analyse the evidence for the 1914 date for the start of the Murray Grey breed on Thologolong Station....and compare it to the commonly used 1905.

Peter Sutherland had a long connection with the Albury Show. He was a regular judge of longwool sheep and showed Angus cattle from 1898 from a stud established in 1888.

In 1916 Peter joined the Society Committee and in 1924 he was elected as President of the Albury Show Society and re-elected for another year in 1925. He was the first Victorian elected as President since 1857, when David Bowen Jones of Bonegilla Station was elected as the Society's first President.

In 1925, Peter was elected for a second term as President and the spring show held on 1–3 September that year was headlined in the Albury Banner as: 'Albury Carnival Week: Wonderful Success of Annual Show, Favourable Weather – Record Attendance, Four Thousand Entries'.

Before Ina moved to Albury in 1912 she was active in fundraising in the Towong Shire. Every year after shearing a race meeting was held at Thologolong. Any money raised went to local charity. Another example is in WW1 when Peter was President of the Towong Shire for two years. They were both involved in organizing fund raising for the troops.

By 1912 Ina had a home in Albury during the school term so the six youngest members of the family could be provided with an education. In Albury she continued to focus on fundraising. During the war her efforts were mainly directed at helping the Australian soldiers at the front.

She was not unique in her involvement with fundraising. The amount of assistance to individuals and the community from the Federal and State Governments was at a very low level, compared to the twenty-first century. If citizens in a town like Albury wanted an organization to be effective or a project to be implemented, it was essential to have community support.

In 1917, Ina had been elected as a member of the Committee of the Albury Benevolent Society and in 1920 became the President. Her involvement in the charitable activities of the Society continued for the rest of her active life. On 27 December 1927 Peter Sutherland died in Albury and Ina died there on 1 May 1932.

Thologolong was one of many properties affected by the construction of the Hume Dam and the compulsory acquisition of land for flooding. The long drawn-out process lasted five years and ended with the entire property being acquired by the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission. The final payment for the station was made in the 1933/34 financial year. Most of the land that was not required for flooding was sold to members of the Sutherland family.

On 12 September 1932 at Thologolong 2,000 comeback and crossbred sheep were sold at a Sheep Dispersal Sale and Clearing sale held on the property.

The Angus stud and the commercial Angus herd totalling 1,100 were auctioned at Tallangatta on 6 October 1932. It was described in the press as the dispersal sale of one of Australia's prominent herds of the Angus breed. It was a herd that reflected the culling and selection skill of the late Peter Sutherland.



Welcome and thank you to our new corporate sponsor: Baker Motors.
490 Young St, Albury.

The Days That Are No More: The Sutherlands of Thologolong Station is the story of a family on a Station property in the Victorian Upper Murray. It is an evocation of a place long gone and a family who made their mark on our Australian rural life and landscape.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Apart from being cities in NSW, what do Albury and Gosford have in common?

History week 2019

The History Council of NSW has announced that the theme for History Week 2019 is: *Memory & Landscapes*. Members are invited to explore our relationship to landscapes through the ways that we remember and continue to interact with them. Further details will follow in early 2019, but note that the dates set down for History Week next year are 31 August - 8 September.

WAGGA WAGGA

Wagga Wagga District Historical Society, has an Elvis Presley look-alike patron – Michael McKormack who has organised a historical and hysterical pub crawl. The last Society newsletter included an article by Sherry Morris on the Bills Memorial Horse Troughs.

UIVER

Noel Jackling has published an article 'The Uiver: Memory Creation, Loss and Recovery' in *Victorian Historical Journal* 89 (2) December 2018.

WALLA WALLA

Walla Walla held a 150th Anniversary series of events, which included a German festival over the Australia Day weekend.

SHOW & TELL**Simon Burgess**

Simon Burgess shared the story of a fob watch winder made by William Jameson TURNER who was born in 1815, New Ross, Enniscorthy, Ireland. The tiny object was recently found in a drain between Sackville and Jones St by his son.

William came to Victoria in 1852 at the age of 37. He worked at Williamstown for 5 years then moved his business to Woolshed, then to Beechworth, next to Commercial Hotel. He was awarded a medal at the London Exhibition in 1862. William died on 4 May 1897 at the age of 82. His Step son Mr Chas E Kipling was his business partner.

**WORLD WAR ONE DIARIES TRANSCRIBED**

Two diaries detailing the wartime experiences of Australian soldiers have been made accessible to readers: that of Albert George Hall of Daysdale via Corowa and that of Thomas Henry Fagan of Walbundrie. Both diaries were transcribed by Jan Hunter, published in a limited number of hard copies for local libraries and museums. They are available in digital format on 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles website.

The year-long transcription project brought together the work and interest of 8th/13th VMR Collection (Light Horse Museum) and A&DHS members Leo Coyle, Jan and Doug Hunter. George Hall's diaries and notebooks have been in the 8/13th Collection for many years waiting to be transcribed. When that work was completed the original documents have been donated to the Corowa Federation Museum.

George Hall was a World War One soldier serving in the Anzac Provost Corps (Military Police) stationed in Egypt. An article in the recent 'Corowa Free Press' documents the importance of these writings because they provide a unique aspect of the war. There are no battle or trench scenes, instead 'on patrol, nothing doing, very hot' is interspersed with 'things a bit lively, 10 arrested for being drunk'.

An entirely different diary is that of World War Two soldier, Thomas Henry Fagan who after service in the Middle East was taken prisoner of war in Java and sent to work on the infamous Burma Railway under conditions of great privation. The transcript of a typewritten copy of the diary came from Leo Coyle, formerly of Walbundrie. The Hunters have published this work as Albury & District Historical Society Paper No 31. It too will be placed in district libraries and schools and will be available on the 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles Website.

SHOW & TELL

FALLON BELL

GREG RYAN

The Fallon Bell is a historical and unique Albury bell. It originally stood at the top of Quick's Hill near the Fallon residence, before demolition circa 1987, the Quick residence.

Andy Breen wrote that the bell was cast in Dublin and possibly purchased by J T Fallon when travelling to Ireland in 1873 – he returned in May 1874.

The bell was rung at the Angelus (a Catholic “call to prayer”) at 6 am, 12 noon and 6 pm – workers in Fallon's Murray Valley Vineyards would listen for the bell.

The bell crowned the vineyard from the 1870s until 1930. Then on 12 March that year over 247 acres of the vineyards (the balance of the land) was sold.

This bell was then taken down and stored in Fallon's Kiewa St cellars. Tom Ortiz who married Kath Fallon, Granddaughter of Patrick E Fallon was managing the cellars in 1939 when the bell was found by Tom Goldsworthy. It was purchased from Tom Ortiz by Andy McLoone (one source suggests Andy Breen) for £20. McLoone donated the bell to Sacred Heart Church, Wagga Road. Andy Breen was said to have put in his greengrocer's cart and brought it back to Lavington, ringing it for about 5 minutes to let people know it was back home.

Jack Mutsch of Prune St said that when it was erected in 1939 on the Sacred Heart School/ Church it shook the building when rung. A stand was erected and a plaque attached acknowledging it was donated by Andy McLoone.

When the new Sacred Heart Church opened in Mate St, the bell was removed and stored in a garage at the Presbytery, Wagga Rd. When Holy Spirit Parish was formed in 1970, Father Bongiorno was relieved to give the bell to Frank Higgins to take back to Lavington.

The bell was erected at the entrance to the Holy Spirit School courtyard where it was used and remained for some time. It was accidentally knocked over and damaged and put back in storage.

A December 1991 note states that the bell has been repaired and is to be hung in a frame at Holy Spirit School. For some reason though it found its way to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at Thurgoona for several years before Holy Spirit School decided it belonged to them and asked for its return.

Recently as of December 2018, it was sitting on the floor at Holy Spirit School waiting for a planned new stand to be erected.

The plaque was unearthed in 2012/13 when demolition work was being done before erection of new classrooms at Holy Spirit School. The plaque is now framed with photos of the bell and a brief history and hangs in the Holy Spirit office area.



November and December 1968

The biggest news item of these two months was the triennial election of 12 Aldermen which was held on 7 December. Twenty three people were vying for the twelve spots including two ladies. A very impressive field was assembled.

The two ladies in question were Yvonne Batrouney and Ivy (Bobbie) Derkenne.

The twenty one men included; Max Barry, Cleaver Bunton, John Roach, Tom Pearsall, Karl Weiss, Les Livermore, Paul Wallace, Norm Symons, Ralph Marks, Ed Batrouney, Terrance Collins, James Griffith, Colin Donnelly, Anthony Quinn, Maurice Chick, Les Muir, Clive Westhorp, Doug McFarlane, Neil Shipard, Harold Mair and Bob Garland.

The Results: Cleaver Bunton was elected Mayor on 20 December.

Aldermen; Max Barry, John Roach, Tom Pearsall, Les Livermore, Paul Wallace, Maurice Chick, James Griffith, Les Muir, Ralph Marks, and Ed Batrouney, no females elected.

The papers discussed that only four ladies had previously stood for Albury elections in its 109 year history, they were Mesdames Derkenne, Prosser, Redmon and Batrouney.

On 2 November there was the unveiling of a plaque and the opening of Kalianna by Gordon Mackie. A Ball at the Palais followed the event.

There was a wedding of note between Miss Suzette Saunders and Ian Booton who were married at St Patrick's Church and it was reported that many people attended the event.

On 14 November a very large dust storm hit town. The front cover of the Mail showed an elm tree that had fallen across Dean Street, directly out the front of Coles, opposite QE11 Square.

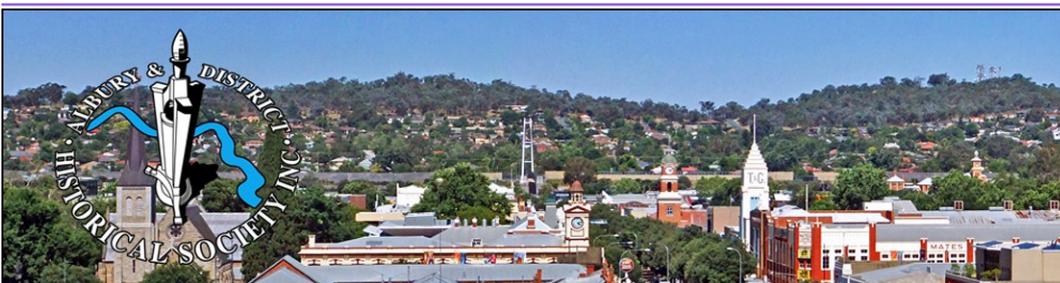
On 15 November the Water Wheel arrived in Albury, donated by David Beer.

The first stage of the St Matthews retirement home opened in Cahill Place on 26 November. Following on the next day, the new Village shopping centre opened. Stores there were Nicholson's pharmacy, Carroll's supermarket, Haig's menswear, Norm Oliver the butcher, Albury Village fruit bowl, Vicki's salon, Everglades indoor plants and the American Dry Cleaners.

Ladies take note; The sub-branch of the Master Ladies Hairdresser's Association announced that a permanent wave will cost a dollar more.

At the start of December there were two notable deaths. One was a Border Mail journalist who crashed at Bonegilla in a hang glider accident. Also Doctor Leslie Samuel Woods, son of Cleaver Woods had died at his residence 'Valetta', Swift Street.

A valedictory event was held by the Old Grammarians for Mr & Mrs A C Sellers at the Civic.



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



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CLEAVER BUNTON'S MESSAGE

If you would like to hear an interesting message sent from Cleaver Bunton to the residents of Albury, Surrey, England in 1947 go to the A&DHS website.

Mayor Cleaver Bunton recorded a message from the people of Albury, Australia to the people of Albury, Surrey, England on the occasion of Albury, Australia being declared a city in 1947.

Click on the play icon to listen to the Mp3 file (a bit less than 8 minutes):

It can be found at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/resources/downloads/>

WORKSHOP AT JINDERA BLACKSMITH'S STABLES

Peter Kabalia, the consultant from our stables project will be offering this workshop on 16 February, with a 9.30 am start at the Museum. This training day will present the blacksmith's stables at Jindera as a demonstration example of conservation philosophy and techniques. Participants will have the opportunity to:

View and understand traditional woodworking tools.

Appreciate the differences between traditional tools and 21st century building technology.

Learn how to measure and record a traditional building.

Place ancient stone tools into a world context.

Identify and date historic artefacts.

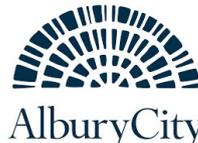
This will be a great day, with morning tea and a relaxed lunch in the Jindera Museum's beautiful grounds, catered by Museum staff. It's going to be an engaging experience, rewarded with a Participation Certificate at the end of the day.

RSVP to info@jinderamuseum.com.au

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Please click on the logo to visit their respective websites.



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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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.

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