

Albury & District Historical Society Inc

June 2019

No 601

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www.alburyhistory.org.au

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Next Meeting

Wednesday, 12 June
7.30 pm, Commercial Club

The Life of Dr Arthur Andrews

Speaker: Charles Stitz



Bonegilla Virtual Tour

LAVINGTON LIBRARY

TOY STORIES:

PAST TOYS & GAMES

6 JULY - 19 OCTOBER

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REPORT ON MAY MEETING (8.05.2019)

Members would be aware that next month's general meeting will be preceded by our AGM. Greg asked everyone to give consideration to nominating for our committee – not an onerous responsibility, a meeting on the third Wednesday of each month (except Dec) from 3-5 pm in a meeting room at the Albury Library Museum.

Our membership subscription has remained unchanged since July 2010, at \$25 for singles and \$33 for families. At our last committee meeting we agreed to recommend a small increase – for 2019/20, increasing singles by \$5 to \$30 and families by \$2 to \$35.

Paul Grover, Lecturer in Education at Charles Sturt University took members on a virtual tour around the Bonegilla Heritage site. This will be a valuable educational resource for students and visitors with family connections to Bonegilla. <https://bonegilla.org.au/about-us/>

50 Years Ago by Richard Lee is always a popular segment of the meeting, jogging everyone's memory and proving that everything old becomes new again.

Roma Freeman reported on the Society's visit to Walla to the Fairlight vineyard.

Dawn was a gracious and enthusiastic hostess and caterer, relating history and showing historical artefacts from her extensive collection. Herb Simpfendorfer entertained visitors, showed them the Zion Lutheran Church and played the last post on his bugle at Morgan's Lookout.

Doug Hunter had attended a Probus meeting where Greg Ryan gave a professional talk.

On the cusp of the election, Helen Livsey reminded us that the United Australia Party who met in Albury in 1939 provided us with two Prime Ministers, Joseph Lyons and Robert Menzies.

Egging of politicians is not a new occurrence in Albury as Howard Jones recalled there was an incident involving a communist party candidate and his wife being yolked in the 1940s!

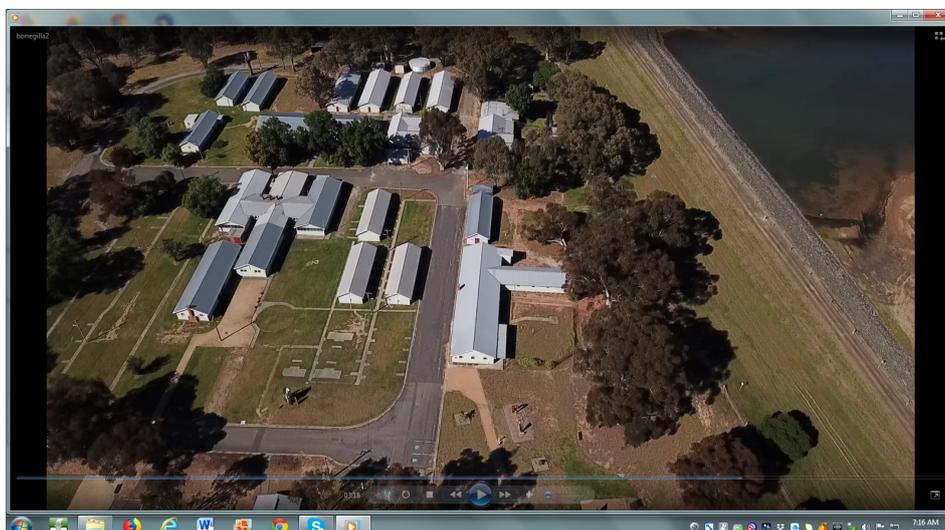
Charles Sturt University, Wodonga and Albury Councils, Albury LibraryMuseum and Bonegilla Heritage Centre have worked together over the past two years to create an online virtual reality tour of the Bonegilla Heritage site and produce a series of online inquiry investigations for secondary school History students around Australia.

The virtual reality online tour site was created by Justin Dallinger of Foto Supplies, Albury, and the online historical investigations were developed by Charles Sturt University's Adjunct Associate Professor Bruce Penny OAM. The virtual reality online tour is controlled by the visitor, who uses a computer mouse or virtual reality goggles to walk through selected sites at Bonegilla, and along the way experience the voices and stories of life at Bonegilla in the world of post war migration. At various points visitors click on links to short animations, soundbyte stories and key images that explain and explore the experiences of people and events at Bonegilla during the 1950s and 1960s. Visitors are able to move from building to building to obtain a sense of what it was like to live at Bonegilla, and encounter fascinating insights into challenges faced by adults and exciting adventures experienced by children.

The three online historical investigations are presented in an online magazine-style format where visitors turn the pages of each investigation 'magazine' using a computer mouse. The inquiry investigations allow students to actually do history, to be the historians examining primary source evidence about major events in the life of the Bonegilla camp over the decades after World war Two. They investigate the migrant experience, the deaths of 23 young babies that rocked the nation and later migrant riots protesting the broken promises of government officials. Students also examine government secret intelligence reports in original documents and other fascinating magazine stories, government propaganda items and official records using the Trove site at the National Library. Students are provided with key inquiry questions and investigation tasks allowing them to explore the experiences and events at key points in Australia's migration history.

Additionally, original film footage is provided from television news reports of the time and clips from special television features about the migrants' experiences, as well as a drone film flight over the whole Bonegilla site created by John Pennay for the project. The whole virtual reality tour, historical inquiry investigations and additional film clips, as well as guides and extra educational resources are located on a Charles Sturt University hosted site accessed through the Bonegilla website.

The official launch of the website and educational resources took place on 30 May at ArtSpace Wodonga, where the cities' mayors and all stakeholders and interested people celebrated this valuable new resource using the latest online technologies to enhance student learning and the visitor experience. We feel this new online resource showcases the valuable historical site of Bonegilla, a rich part of Australia's recent history, as well as allowing people with family connections to Bonegilla to access a sample virtual tour and important historical events from anywhere in the world.



Bonegilla
Heritage
Site
Slide from
Virtual Tour

JOYCE MITCHELL (NEE BRAIN)

Joyce Mitchell's life, as told by Howard Jones at the May meeting, was a "triumph over adversity" story. It sheds light on Albury's past through the life of a single mum who raised a daughter in difficult circumstances.

Joyce Cecelia Brain was born in 1923 to Irene and Roy Brain, who had met and married in New Zealand after Roy returned from World War I. Joyce's brother, Tasman "Tim" Brain was born at sea when his parents were travelling from New Zealand to Australia in 1921. The young family lived first at Coppabella station, near Holbrook, and then at Gerogery. By 1925 Roy was managing Hugh Schlapp's Rockwood estate at Ettamogah. Joyce contracted diphtheria and that affected her to the extent that at school she could not see well to sew, and couldn't join the Army in World War II. At Rookwood, both children learned to ride ponies at a very early age and rode to Thurgoona Public School.

In September 1928, Joyce, aged five, won an under-14 riding competition at the Albury Spring Show and her photograph standing on her pony, Buttercup, appeared in the Weekly Times. Her mother knitted her riding outfit of woollen leggings and cardigan. By 1933 the family had moved into Albury, where Roy became a taxi driver for the Globe Hotel. He was among the drivers whose cars guided the Uiver DC2 to land in 1934. The family lived in a cottage opposite the Botanic Gardens, the children attending Albury Public and Albury High schools.

Irene Brain was a cook at W. Malcolm's, caterers, of Kiewa Street. She probably had a hand in the monster cake made for Australia's Sesqui-centenary in March 1938, distributed to 9000 children. Joyce learned from her mother and Alma Malcolm how to ice and decorate cakes and make crepe paper floral decorations for the tables. When she left school at 16 she went to work at Malcolm's herself. She also worked for Coghlan's, confectioners, and the Chocolate Factory (shop) both in Olive Street. Joyce was athletic, winning footraces, playing basketball and hockey and swimming. In wartime, she worked in a munitions factory.

Joyce drank tea from a cracked cup there and developed an infection that ultimately caused her to lose her teeth.

Joyce married a soldier, George Anderson, in 1944. Lorna was born in 1947. Later Joyce and George separated and eventually Joyce obtained a divorce. She had to support herself and Lorna. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Joyce waitressed at Font's in Dean Street, then run by Lou Porta and his family, and where her mother was the cook. (Font's site is Imperial Chopsticks in 2019). Lorna remembers sleeping at Font's while her mother and grandmother worked, then they would go home, sometimes as late as 11 o'clock and eat a meal before bed. Font's had two "metho" drinkers, characters, Archie and Wombat, who virtually made the men's toilet block their home. Irene would make meals for them.

Among the incidents Lorna remembers at Font's Café was when a Sydney gang of criminals and several well-dressed ladies had a late-night meal there, and the doors were locked. Sydney detectives were trailing them and two local police hid in the premises to observe them, while a third dressed as a kitchen hand. After the party left for Melbourne about 2am, the NSW police informed Melbourne police. At any rate Albury was safe! Joyce worked for later owners at Font's, all from non-English European backgrounds. (Font's name originated with Joseph and Carmen Fontrondona in the Thirties). Joyce and Lorna had lived with her parents in Dean Street, but as single mother Joyce was entitled to a housing commission house. She chose one in Plover Street and shared it with her parents. Lorna in turn raised her family there and still lives there. Joyce married Ron Mitchell in 1964 and they were together for 20 years until Ron died. (Roy Brain died in 1975 and Irene in 1985). From the 1950s to the 1970s, Joyce and Irene worked in several Greek cafes, including the Hume Weir Café, the Red Rose café in Urana Road and Jeffries' fish shop in Olive street. Later Joyce and Lorna worked at Harry's Fish Shop. Joyce took on a different role at Coles Variety Store in Dean Street, that of "matron", looking after the many girls working there. During the 1950s and 1960s Joyce made crepe paper flowers for Floral Festival floats, but this was not new for her. In 1934, aged 11, she had helped make paper flowers for a "Albury Garden City" floral float produced for the Albury Show in 1934, which also paraded in Melbourne. When the 1950s festivals began, Joyce decorated bikes for Lorna. She made outfits for Lorna to compete in fancy dress competitions at the Palais in Kiewa Street.

JOYCE MITCHELL (NEE BRAIN)

Despite her many skills, Joyce never learned to drive, but rode a bicycle with basket for groceries and vegetables, dinking Lorna around Albury. Joyce was well-known for decades for decorating wedding cakes, following her mother and being followed by Lorna in this skill.

When Joyce turned 80, her daughter realised her mother had never had her own birthday party until then, despite all the birthday cakes she had made. She promptly organised one. Joyce died in 2016, aged 93.

(Howard acknowledges Lorna's help and was pleased to welcome her at the meeting).



Joyce and her brother Tim before the Albury Show

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

GREG RYAN

Albury is blessed with a rich history and we at Albury & District Historical Society play a vital role in helping to preserve and record our heritage.

Our monthly meetings are an important fixture in our calendar – we have heard a broad range of topics from quality speakers:

The Sisters of Mercy celebrated 150 years in Albury in July and Sister Shirley Garland outlined their journey from humble beginnings in Ireland to their role in providing education, nursing and community support in Albury.

Stories of the very sporty and multitalented Dowling family and their substantial contribution to the Albury community were shared by John Dowling.

Jindera celebrated 150 years of settlement – Denise Osborne related the story of Jindera's settlement, how it came about and who was involved.

Terry Hillman gave us an outline of some of the impacts of man on the ecology of the Murray-Darling Basin.

A&DHS foundation member, John Henwood, introduced his book "The Days That Are No More: The Sutherlands of Thologolong Station" describing how land was acquired and developed.

Jennifer Jones told us that the CWA was at the forefront of social change in the 1950s and 60s. Norm Halburd spoke about his work as a Commonwealth quarantine officer and his earlier roles as a Fruit Fly Block inspector and a horticultural certification officer.

Peter Spooner from CSU described his research, to investigate our oldest roads, and document the abundance and condition of old blaze trees in the Albury region.

Howard Jones related a story of working in cafes along Dean St in the 1950s and 60s and Paul Grover demonstrated a new website that features an interactive virtual tour of the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre.

In addition, we have had regular segments provided by key Albury City Council personnel who have informed us of their respective areas of responsibility on Council. And there have been our regular segments, Richard Lee with '50 Years Ago' and Joe Wooding's 'Question of the Month.' My thanks to all who have contributed to making our monthly meetings both informative and entertaining. In October a bus load of members and friends were treated to a tour of sites of interest including the 'lost' town of Bulgandry, the land of pioneer Robert Rand and Lake Urana, an area of great significance to our district's indigenous people. A picnic lunch was enjoyed on the banks of Lake Urana. Many thanks to Chris de Vreeze for his work in planning the trip and as tour leader.

Good news came in August with confirmation of a grant of \$65,473 from the NSW Regional Cultural Fund to go towards a cost of almost \$82,000 required to digitise the *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* back as far as 1880 and the *Border Morning Mail* for the years 1938-42. Bruce Pennay has been the prime mover in making application for the necessary funds and everyone in the district who has found Trove such a great asset, is grateful for his efforts. Work is in hand to secure funding for digitising more of our local newspapers to extend the years covered on Trove.

In July we heard that a development application to demolish 'Meramie' on Kiewa Street had been put to Albury City Council. Our Society joined the protest against this development with a strongly worded submission to Council. We also highlighted the significance of the building on our Facebook page. Council rejected the application, but informed us that they expected a revised development application at some further date.

Bruce Pennay has been a prime mover in planning the commemoration of "turning of the first sod" of the Hume Dam project when the Centenary of the event comes around in late November of this year. In order to prepare locals for the event, Joe Wooding has prepared ten articles dealing with aspects of construction. These articles have been appearing monthly in the *Border Mail* and will continue until November. In addition, a dedicated page on our website has been created highlighting the Hume Dam.

Other activities that our Society supported included:

November saw members of our Society playing their part in commemorating 100 years since the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I.

Hosting of a workshop that informed us of the impact both locally and nationally of the 'Spanish Flu' pandemic of 1918/19.

Support for Jindera in celebrating their sesquicentenary last September.

Participation in discussions with consultants considering further options with the Uiver Memorial Community Trust.

Ray Gear completed his booklet 'Before 1880 Townsend Street North.'

Greg Ryan's 'Xavier High School – A History of Catholic Education in Albury' was published in November.

This past year we have received generous support from the Commercial Club who provided excellent venues for our monthly meetings; from AlburyCity who provided a venue for our Committee meetings; from Coxtech who maintain our website; from KwikKopy who supply our printing needs; and financial support from sponsors Lester & Son Funeral Directors, Baker Motors and Albury North Rotary.

Our appointees keep the Society 'ticking' – Joe Wooding, vice-president for his guidance and continued support; Helen Livsey, secretary, public officer and research officer; Simon Burgess, treasurer; Marion Taylor, *Bulletin* editor; Richard Lee, *Bulletin* distributor; Ray Gear, publications stock officer; Howard Jones, guest speaker co-ordinator; Jill Wooding, minutes secretary, meeting greeter and publicity officer; Bruce Pennay, grants co-ordinator; Chris de Vreeze, committee member. My sincere thanks for your competence in fulfilling these roles.

Special mention must be made of our retiring Bulletin editor, Marion Taylor – Marion has been editor since July 2014 and has never failed to put together an interesting and informative monthly Bulletin.

Many thanks also for the support provided by our general membership.

While not all can make it to our monthly meetings, your ongoing commitment to our Society is very much appreciated.

It has been my privilege to serve as President for the last 12 months – my thanks again to all who have contributed in large and small ways to making my role that much easier.

Greg Ryan

Last month I spoke about 'Valetta' the house in Swift Street. Council had passed that it was to be demolished for the new Town Hall (Performing Arts Centre). Letters had kept flowing and a committee was formed. A public meeting took place on 2 May at the Red Cross Hall.

The committee commissioned a Melbourne architect to assess the suitability of three sites in the Albury Civic Centre for a Town Hall. A first for Albury, being that citizens had formed a committee to request a feasibility study. Albury Mayor Ald. Bunton's headline was; 'Backward step if Civic Centre plans are altered.' He addressed the fortnightly meeting of Council. He wanted his talk recorded as a special mayoral minute. He outlined the Civic Centre development commenced in 1943 and said "town clerk Collings, and Sarvass have followed the plan faithfully to create a Civic Centre". He stressed it would be a retrograde step if the plans were not completed.

We all know the result was that council won the debate.

Something forgotten from the past; North Albury Apex were to hold a 'paper drive' on 5 May in the North Albury Area.

Bowna Post office facilities would have celebrated 100 years this month, the first postmaster was John Kirkpatrick who built the post office into his Whitehorse Hotel.

Albury's first sportsman's night was planned, and what a line up, Ron Casey (number one sports commentator), Bill Howard (sprinter), Lou Richards (ex-Collingwood player and commentator), Keith Stackpole (cricketer), Mick Patterson (Richmond ruckman), John Dobbie (lawn bowls) and Pat Hyland (top Victorian jockey). It was arranged by the Lions Club and held at the Commercial Club.

It was amusing to find these two articles on the same page; the Sex education films and education lectures that had attracted 600 people, and the other article 'Concern of influx of overseas pornography.

On 7 May the first 'crossword' puzzle was introduced to the Border Morning Mail.

The Battenfield (Aust) Pty Ltd building had just been completed, a West German company manufacturing machinery for plastic moulds.

Percy Burrows celebrated his 90th birthday on 16 May, he was a former Mayor and a founding member of the Albury Rotary club.

The Historical Society stated that in the past 18 months since opening at the Turks Head Hotel they had 15,000 people visit. In the visitors book is a cryptic comment left by an English lady saying the museum is; 'on par with some at home. 'Is that good or bad?'

Myers Emporium was about to purchase buildings and land on the North East corner of Kiewa and Smollett Streets (Now the Target store). At the time Myers were to invest \$1.25 million on the site for their Lindsay's store. This was to be Albury's biggest real estate deal. There was a service station and house on the corner which were part of the negotiation.

Jean Whitla had her story about her outback travels to Alice Springs published on 20 May.

The YMCA established a child-minding service at St Matthews Parish centre. They were open two days a week allowing mothers some shopping time without the hindrance of pre-school children.

The house of the year in 1969 belonged to Mr & Mrs J D Philips at 552 Whinray Crescent.

(The flat roofed house on the South side of the hill). Included in the paper with this announcement was a 35 page spread on modern living.

Construction of 'KFC' in Young Street had commenced with the building emerging with its unusual roof line, the builders were AB & MA Chick.

Notice was given that the Trade Fair for July had already been booked out.

The new North Albury fire brigade building opened on 27 May in Prune Street.

Those that have glanced Albury's Charles Waterstreets' book 'Precious bodily fluids' will laugh even louder at the letters sent in on the subject of fluoridisation. The authorities and non-authorities were all having their two cents worth. One letter drew attention to readers that to become sick from fluoride poisoning you would need to drink 660 gallons of treated water in four hours to become ill. He closed his letter calling the other side Charlatans. Yes, the toxic effects were both in and out of the water!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Declaration of Annual General Meeting open.

Apologies:

Minutes of AGM 8 June 2017

President's Report

Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts

Special business:

Proposing that Greg Aplin join Patricia Gould as joint Society patrons.

Setting of annual subscription: Recommendation: Single \$30 (plus \$10 for posted Bulletin),

Family \$35 (plus \$10 for posted Bulletin), Corporate \$100

Election of Office Bearers & Committee:

Appointment of interim chairman to conduct election.

Nominations received:

President Greg Ryan

Vice-President Joe Wooding

Treasurer Simon Burgess

Secretary Helen Livsey

Minute Secretary Jill Wooding

Committee of up to seven

Ray Gear, Bruce Pennay, Marion Taylor, Howard Jones.

Closure of Annual General Meeting

A Correction to the May Issue

From Geof Frauenfelder.

"The Schubach cup has been at the LibraryMuseum for many years. The Frauenfelder cup was recently (January 2019) donated to the Albury LibraryMuseum.

There are website notes from many years ago, that state my father Keith Frauenfelder had the Frauenfelder cup at Carmel, Western Australia (Perth region), but that was 1990s information. I am the son of Keith, who inherited the Frauenfelder cup after his death in November 2014. As requested by Keith when he was living, in January 2019 I personally took the cup to Albury, and donated it to the LibraryMuseum. It is good news that the Rau cup has not been lost!"

QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR MAY In March 1930, "The Block" or Ritz Arcade, with 6 shops and an upstairs ballroom were built. Who was the owner, the architect and builder and what was the original name of the ballroom ?

MAY ANSWER: 1. Mr J Dihood owner, Messrs Harrison & Glaskin architects, Mr JW Cochrane builder. 2. The Casino Ballroom.

QOM is being replaced by a "Did You Know" segment.



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



Find us on
Facebook

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

History news in and beyond the region.

Projects in hand

The Society has given an expression of interest for being involved in the first Albury Wodonga Arts and Culture Festival next May.

This involves the production of a five minute YouTube which will focus on the history of the Volt Lane AMP Lane. The Lane will be one of the venues for the Festival.

The Society is involved in planning for the Hume Dam Centenary in November.

Society members are researching the background of the Waterworks Pump House.

Charles Sturt University is preparing a history on the coming of university education to Albury-Wodonga.

Book Award:

Joint winner of the NSW Premier Literature Award for non-fiction was Billy Griffiths book :

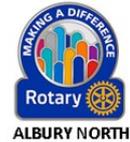
<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about-library/awards/nsw-premiers-literary-awards/douglas-stewart-prize-non-fiction>

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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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Patron: Patricia Gould OAM

Honorary Life Members:

Howard Jones, Helen Livsey,
June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.

President: Greg Ryan

Vice-President: Joe Wooding

Secretary: Helen Livsey
02 6021 3671

Treasurer: Simon Burgess

Minute Secretary: Jill Wooding

Publicity Officer: Jill Wooding

Public Officer: Helen Livsey

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Bulletin Editor: Marion Taylor
marion.taylor7@bigpond.com

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