

July 2019

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Dr Arthur Andrews with four of his grandchildren, the children of his son Arthur John, and John's wife Blanche.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 10

7.30 pm, Commercial Club
Silk Farms at Glenroy

Speaker: Ray Gear.

What were you doing as man
first walked on the moon?

LAVINGTON LIBRARY

**Toys & Games
from the Past
Until October 19**

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REPORT ON JUNE MEETING (12.06.2019)

The Annual General Meeting of the Society chaired by Greg Ryan was held at the Commercial Club. Twenty five members and two guest were in attendance and there were seven apologies. Minutes of the previous AGM were read and confirmed and the President's Annual Report received together with the Treasurer's end of year report. Greg called Ron Haberfield to the chair where he declared all positions vacant and those duly elected were President: Greg Ryan; Vice President: Joe Wooding; Secretary: Helen Livsey; Minute Secretary: Jill Wooding; Treasurer: Simon Burgess; Committee: Howard Jones, Bruce Pennay, Marion Taylor, Ray Gear and Chris de Vreeze.

Special guest Greg Aplin was congratulated on his 16-year parliamentary career by Greg Ryan on behalf of members. He was then unanimously endorsed as joint Society patron, joining Patricia Gould. Greg Ryan pointed out that previous Society patrons include Cleaver Bunton (38 years), Gordon Padman, Gordon Mackie, Harold Mair and Ian Glachan. Mr Aplin then spoke briefly thanking the Society for the honour, going on to say that "in preparing for our future, we must hold onto our past" and he is looking forward to assisting the Society in our efforts to record our local heritage.

As previously notified, the committee had recommended a modest increase in membership subscriptions—singles to \$30 and families to \$35. The new fee structure was endorsed by the meeting.

Our guest speaker, Charles Stitz, gave us an account of his research into the multi-faceted life and achievements of Albury doctor and historian of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Dr Arthur Andrews.

The meeting heard from Albury LibraryMuseum curator Emma Williams providing us with news of coming exhibitions before the meeting closed and a light supper was enjoyed to wind up the evening.

Good news for all who are interested in exploring our local past

The *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* is now available back as far as 1881 and the *Border Morning Mail* for the years 1938-42 thanks to funding from the NSW Regional Cultural Grant. The *Border Morning Mail* for 1943 is available thanks to a \$4805 grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society. The next stage in improving Albury's

coverage on Trove will see the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* covered from 1875-1881 (thanks to a \$14400 grant from the Public Records Office of Victoria).

Our Society continues to explore ways to fund further local coverage on Trove.

TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE LOCAL PAST WITH TROVE

Try the *Australian Women's Weekly*, one of the frequently searched magazines to find when local news became nationally newsworthy. This magazine is so popular it has its own site.

- ◆ Go to <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
- ◆ Trove spotlight *Australian Women's Weekly* at the bottom of the page.
- ◆ Search for words eg Albury.
- ◆ Or have more fun by exploring stories on Royalty, Fashion, Food or something called 'Ravelry'.
- ◆ Or look to the lists made by other Trove users for collections of articles they found interesting eg "party ideas", "Christmas puddings", the "promotion of cosmetics".
- ◆ Note that if searching phrases, use within double inverted commas – for example try your own searches for things that interest you like "equal pay" or "women's rights".



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Diaries, letters, archives	Archived websites (1996 - now)	People and organisations
		Lists

Trove spotlight:  

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

The Australian **WOMEN'S WEEKLY** 1933 ~ 1982

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Wodonga Historical Society was successful in winning a grant from the Public Record Office of Victoria to digitise the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* from 1875 to 1881. This extends coverage of the *Albury Banner* now from 1875 to 1938. Altogether \$72,422 has been raised from grants to digitise the *Albury Banner* and \$28, 480 has been raised to digitise the *Border Morning Mail* from 1938 to 1943. Photo: Secretary/Treasurer of Wodonga Historical Society, Uta Wiltshire, with a copy of the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*.

THE COUNTRY SURGEON

Towards a life of Arthur Andrews – A work in progress.

Charles Stitz

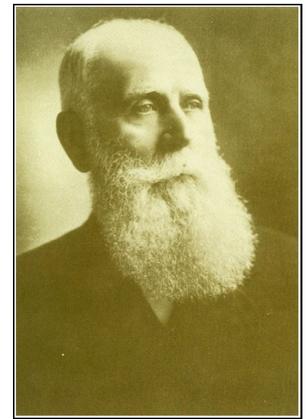
Thank you for inviting me to talk to you about our current project – the life and times of Dr Arthur Andrews, who played such an important part in the development of Albury in the latter years of the 19th, and the early years of the 20th centuries, a role which, until now, has gone largely unremarked in any substantial way

I worked with Gary Kent of Canberra on *Australian Book Collectors*, and when the final volumes of that work were completed in 2016, after ten years of fairly constant toil, it left a gap in my calendar, which needed to be filled, so when the Andrews project came up, it was serendipitous that Gary and I already had a working relationship. He shares my interest in local history, has early family links to Albury, and has significant talents in historical research and computing, which camouflage my own quite limited abilities in those directions, although I'm on the spot to do local spadework. So we are ideally suited as joint authors of the draft biography.

I can't recall what sparked my recent interest in Dr Andrews, but I first heard of him some 60 years ago, during my coin collecting days in Sydney, when I was much impressed by his 1921 landmark work on *Australasian Tokens and Coins*. He had also been President of the Numismatic Society of Victoria in 1914, and I had filled the same role in the Sydney-based Australian Numismatic Society in the 1960s.

When we began to look for information on the doctor, we discovered a complex and fascinating character, and wondered (as I still do) why no-one has previously sought to record in detail the life of such an interesting, many-faceted and public-spirited man who, though he largely sought to avoid the limelight, played a very significant part in the development of the town for over forty five years.

Arthur Andrews was born into an old-established family of builders and timber merchants in the village of Brickendon in East Hertfordshire in 1848. His mother, a remarkable woman, who though academically untrained, would now be described as a polymath, in addition to raising eleven children, was an accomplished musician who could also draw and paint. She was also an archaeologist, a geologist and a numismatist, and it's tempting to conclude, without any supporting evidence, that she was the source of Arthur's enquiring mind, and his wide-ranging intelligence and energy. Certainly, the connection between the two of them and the science of numismatics is clear. Sadly, she died at the age of 38, when Arthur was only five.



Dr Andrews

The Picts of ancient Scotland were the tribe of the ancestors of the Andrews, and the name Andrews is derived from the baptismal name Andrew, which in Greek means “manly.” The name Andrews appeared in the list of pilgrims who left England in the *Mayflower* to found the new settlement of Plymouth in Massachusetts. Thomas Andrews, Arthur's earliest known ancestor, died in Hertford in the early 17th century, and his son, also named Thomas, and the son's wife Ann, were laid to rest in Hertford Churchyard in 1654 and 1664 respectively, the first of more than seven generations of the family to be so interred. Family legend has it that they originated in Plymouth, in England, and that they and their descendants, of hardy Puritan stock, were narrow in their outlook on life, but totally honest, and lived their lives in accordance with the precepts of the Bible as they saw them.

Soon after his birth on February 4, 1848, Arthur was baptised at All Saints, Hertford, and the 1851 census recorded him, then aged three, living in Castle Street with his parents, four siblings and three female servants. Little is known of his early education, but in 1861, aged 13, he was a boarder at Burford House, Hoddesdon, in Hertfordshire, which housed the Agricultural and Scientific School, established there a few years before his birth. We can see Arthur's early education at Burford House reflected in his later passion in Australia for all things agricultural.

In 1863 he passed the University of Oxford Local Examination at Apothecaries Hall, a necessary prelude to higher education, and on February 4, 1864, his 16th birthday, he was apprenticed for five years to his father's doctor, general practitioner Thomas O'Dell of Hertford.

When Arthur began to attend lectures at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London he met Samuel George Sloman, a fellow-student whose father practised as a surgeon at Farnham, and after passing their final exams, both were admitted as members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on the July 21, 1869. In so doing, Arthur chose the branch of the medical profession which he was to follow for the rest of his life – that of surgeon, rather than physician. Thereafter, in all public reports while he remained in England, he was accorded the title 'Mr' rather than 'Dr' in accordance with professional convention, which identified him as a specialist. After his later migration to Australia, which was at that time somewhat less meticulous in such matters,

particularly in country areas, the honorific disappeared, and he became plain 'Dr' again, although still practising as a surgeon.

After his admission to practice, Arthur served for a time as a resident at St Bart's, and it was in this period that he gained invaluable experience in the smallpox epidemic which raged between 1869 and 1875 in England and Europe. It appears to have originated in the last quarter of 1869 in France, and quickly spread throughout Europe, facilitated by the events surrounding the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. In England, it didn't assume serious proportions until the last quarter of 1870, when there was a considerable influx of refugees from France, but there had been a gradual increase in the incidence of the disease for some time previously. Experience gained in the course of that epidemic confirmed that compulsory vaccination was an effective weapon to prevent its spread, and Andrews became a lifelong convert to that cause, applying the lessons so learned, to great effect in his practice in Australia.

After leaving St Bart's, Arthur became an assistant, and then junior partner, to his friend's father, Samuel George Sloman senior, in his practice at Farnham, but in 1872 the young surgeon travelled for postgraduate training to Vienna, where he enrolled in three courses. After these studies were completed, he continued travelling on the Continent for a time, in particular in Italy and Switzerland.

After his return to England, Arthur's health declined, and deciding to emigrate to a kinder climate, he chose Australia. The nature of his medical problem at that time is unclear. Walter Fielder, who wrote his entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography in 1979, thought that he was simply "worried about his health" while his daughter and grand-daughter in their biographical note published by this Society in 1989, said that "his health showed signs of breaking down, so he decided to try a different climate." His brother Walter's 1927 *Journal* recorded that "by reason of a serious threatening of chest trouble he was ordered hurriedly to Australia where he completely recovered his health." A common medical reason in those days for escaping the cold and damp of England for sunnier climes, was to treat consumption, the colloquial name for tuberculosis, which was still a major killer in the mid-nineteenth century, and it seems possible that this was the case here.

In November 1873 Arthur boarded the three-masted barque *Yorkshire*, which docked in Melbourne in February 1874. What followed his arrival in Melbourne was recorded many years later, when he was about to move to Sydney to live in retirement. He was interviewed by a reporter from one of the local papers, who asked how he came to make Albury his home. "Well," he said, "several of my shipmates were making for Albury, and as the railway had shortly before been opened to Wodonga, I thought I would see what the bush was like." He said that he came across the Murray from Wodonga in a bus (which at that time would have been a horse-drawn omnibus) as the railway from Sydney had then not been extended beyond Goulburn. "In 1874," he said, "Townsend Street was the main street. The Club Hotel was then being built, but there was no house beyond it until the gaol and the old hospital were reached, while in the vicinity were a few bark huts for the warders to live in. On the eastern side, what is now Macauley Street was then a narrow watercourse, and it formed on that side the town boundary. The Star Hotel was the only building north of Guinea Street, the showgrounds then being a swampy scrub. The population was then well under 2000."

Arthur was soon followed to Australia by his fiancée Edith Cookson, who travelled out aboard the *Lord Warden*, and they were married in St Matthews Anglican Church, Albury, in August 1875. Tragically, Edith died in childbirth only a year later, and was buried in the Pioneer section of Albury Cemetery. Arthur was later remarried to Caroline Lemarchand, the daughter of a retired Indian Army officer, and they had a long and happy marriage which produced six children, two of whom, however, died in infancy. Touchingly, these two, Leslie Charles and Brenda Violet, were buried in the same grave as Edith, and their names are inscribed on her gravestone.

The Andrews family lived first at 'Chelvey' a substantial double-fronted brick cottage in Olive Street, Albury, where the Hume Bank head office now stands, just south of the Dean Street intersection. In 1901 they moved some blocks north to 'Wheatleigh,' on the south-eastern corner of Olive and Wilson Streets, (on land which was later occupied by the Seaton Arms Motel). They lived there until 1919, when Dr Andrews retired, and he and Caroline moved to Sydney, where he died in 1925. 'Wheatleigh' was the site of a hotly-



'Chelvey' in Olive Street,
later the first Mercy Hospital

contested equity suit in 1911, when the doctor took legal action against builders Frew and Logan, seeking an injunction to restrain them from continuing to generate loud noise from their joinery, located on the opposite side of Wilson Street. He won a Pyrrhic victory, with an injunction and a nominal award of damages, but was left with a large bill for costs, as the court action had run for some weeks, with expensive legal teams on both sides.

From the time he arrived in Albury as a young surgeon in 1874, Arthur Andrews involved himself in a very wide range of community activities which advanced the development of the town, and the welfare of its citizens. In the course of the next 45 years, he was variously a leading local surgeon, the Government Medical Officer and Deputy Sheriff, five-times President of the Albury Show Society, promoter and Chairman of Directors of the Albury Butter Factory, promoter of the local Gas Company, Chairman for 12 years of the Albury Pastures Protection Board, first President of the Mechanics Institute, promoter and supporter of the local museum, Chairman of the Albury School Board, first president of the Albury P&C Association, Churchwarden of St Matthews Church, one of the leading figures in the prolonged push to make Albury the National Capital at Federation, a noted local historian, farmer and stockbreeder, hotel owner and property investor, to name but some of his many interests. With several others, he also formed the Riverina Pastoral Company, which owned extensive grazing property in western NSW, but as so often happened, continual years of drought crippled that venture. On his retirement in 1919 he was publicly farewelled, with many expressions of regret by leading citizens, and described as “a member of practically every public institution in the town, except the municipal council,” to which, in fact, he had never aspired.

In addition to several of his professional papers which appeared in leading medical journals, Dr Andrews was well-known as a meticulous local historian, and published a number of significant works, including histories of the Albury and Border Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Society (1907), the Wine Industry in Albury (1907), the Albury Hospital and Benevolent Society (1910), the History of Albury (1912), Notes on the First Settlement of the Northeast of Victoria (1915), Early Settlement in Victoria (1916), The Border Duties (1919), The First Settlement of the Upper Murray, 1835 to 1845 (1920), Australasian Tokens and Coins: A Handbook (1921), Murray Pioneers (1922), Struggles of Wheat Farmers in the Riverina (1923), and a history of St Matthews Church, Albury.

It's hard to imagine how he found time for all these activities, as well as carrying on a busy medical practice, and still having some personal life, but he was also a keen numismatist, with a significant collection of Australasian coins and tokens. He sold it to Sir William Dixon, whose total collection, thus enlarged, was eventually housed in the Dixon Wing of the Mitchell Library. Dr Andrews was also an accomplished furniture maker, who created much of the furniture in his own home.

Arthur Andrews was devoted to his patients, and much loved by his family and friends. Dr Andrews' daughter Dorothy North, in a reminiscence published by this Society in 1989 wrote that his children heard many stories from their mother of his experiences when called on to attend cases in the country, which he did on horseback, or in a buggy where that was possible, and he often had to act as nurse as well as doctor. In the early days he bred his own horses, usually having two pairs available at the same time, one pair in work, and the other resting at a farm he owned just outside town. His practice was always a very large and busy one, and it was commonplace for him to answer calls three times in a night. For town calls he often rode his bicycle, rather than calling out the groom and horses for short trips.

In addition to the demands of his busy practice, Dr Andrews was Government Medical Officer almost from the time of his first arrival in the town, inheriting this mantle from his first partner, Robert Newbury Cobbett, who soon retired due to ill-health, and the demands imposed by this post were time-consuming, unpredictable and imperative. He was called on to investigate a host of deaths and serious injuries, suspicious and otherwise, and when the call came, he had to drop everything and respond immediately. There are many press reports of his involvement in cases of death and accident, in all of which the public was, of course, keenly interested.

In his allied capacity as visiting surgeon at Albury Gaol, Dr Andrews was required to witness the execution by hanging of Henry Wilkinson on June 1, 1881, in the gaol in Thurgoona Street, the only execution ever carried out in the town, and an event which the doctor later described as the worst experience of his life. Wilkinson had been convicted of murdering Mary Pumpa, the wife of a shanty-keeper at Jindera Gap by shooting her, and the Sydney press described the execution in great detail, including the fact that prisoner's body was left hanging for a quarter of an hour, after which Dr Andrews certified the death, and it was cut down.

Notwithstanding his normally mild nature, Dr Andrews was always forthright in promoting the causes which he championed, and he could be quite fiery when challenged. He carried on for many years a quite rancorous

feud with the committee of the Albury Hospital and some of the doctors employed by it, concerning the operation of the hospital, and in particular the favouritism shown to some of those doctors by the committee. He also had a number of sparring matches with the town council in his capacity as Government Medical Officer, as he was quite fearless in identifying what he saw as shortcomings in the council's approach to public health, which, of course, didn't endear him to councillors.

In the course of researching his story, we have encountered all the usual problems of identifying primary sources of information, but have been greatly assisted by the staff of the Albury Library Museum, by Jan & Doug Hunter and other members of this Society, and by a range of other people. Exercising his genealogical skills, Gary Kent located Giles Andrews in England, a descendant of one of Arthur's brothers, and Giles has been tremendously helpful in relation to the early history of the Andrews family. Gary also located Robin Betz, one of Arthur's great-granddaughters who lives in Melbourne, and she was able to supply us with a family tree of his descendants. We were also fortunate to obtain from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria copies of a series of letters written between 1912 and 1921 by Dr Andrews to Alfred Woolley Greig, then Secretary of the Victorian Society, concerning research at that time by Andrews for his book on the First Settlement of the Upper Murray, and those letters included much useful personal information.

But we found that the most prolific source of information on the doctor was the series of newspaper reports provided by Trove, the invaluable online service administered by the National Library of Australia, which includes a great deal of relevant information, as he was such a public figure, and always newsworthy. Those reports are, of course, only secondary sources, to be treated with appropriate caution, but they have nevertheless supplied a wealth of information which would have otherwise been totally lacking.

The work still has a long way to go before finality, and at this stage no completion date is in sight. The next challenge to be faced will be that of publication, and the amount of material processed to date suggests that it will be a substantial volume. We feel that it will be important enough to warrant a hardback format, with as many original illustrations as possible. Though we envisage a strictly limited edition because of the probable size of the potential market, we believe that the cost of production will be not insignificant. This will be one of the next hurdles to be faced, and we will need to turn our minds to ways in which the project can be funded.

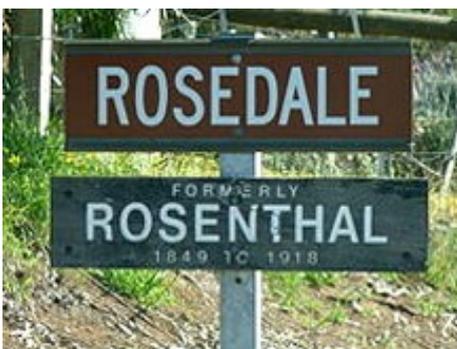
History News in and Around the Region

Place names

The latest issues of *Placenames* traces German names given to Australian places.

It notes that Rosedale was Rosenthal before the First World War.

The magazine did not note that within our region, visitors to Pleasant Hills can now trace the original German names given to streets.



Population Changes

In its last newsletter *Id Insight* looked at drivers of population change in regional cities. Albury City has a population of 53,767 and Wodonga 41,429. The migration summary material shows Wodonga City to be a "sponge city" taking in population not only from its rural surrounds, but also across border from Albury. Future local historians will note that at the end of the second decade in the twenty first century more people were moving from Albury to Wodonga than vice versa.



History News in and Around the Region



Pyjama Girl

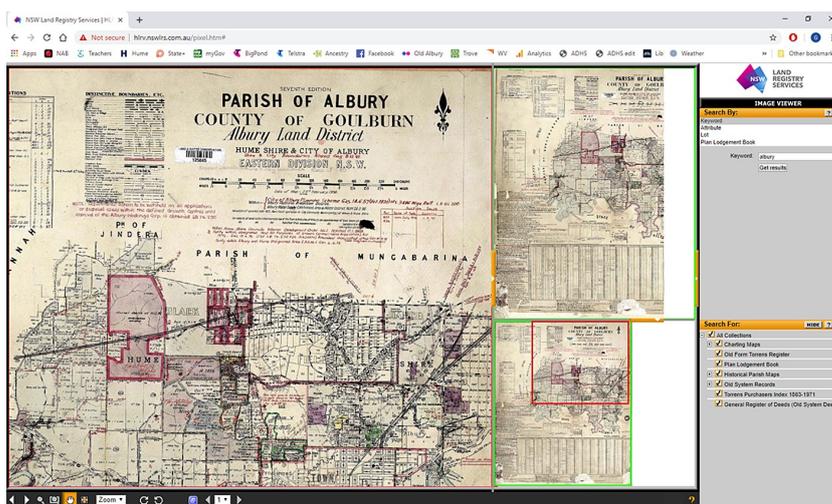
Elizabeth Rankin's art exhibition at MAMA explores memories of the NSW Police exhibitions relating to the case at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This exhibition Pyjama Girl will be on 13 June to 28 July Brindley Family Galleries, MAMA.

New version of Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) is coming soon

NSW Land Registry Services will soon launch a new version of the Historical Land Record Viewer (HLRV). HLRV is an important source of historical land records for the State of NSW. Key improvements include:

- A cleaner look that is easier to navigate
- Updated Search and Refine Search functions, with the ability to browse the collections much like browsing a library catalogue
- Faster return of search results
- Smoother, faster image viewing, and
- Updated Record Information Sheets.

This version of HLRV will provide easier access to the 6 million historical documents currently in the system, including the ability to download without a fee.



What's on at the LibraryMuseum

At our July meeting, Albury LibraryMuseum curator Emma Williams gave us news of happenings at ALM over the next few months:

- ◇ The permanent exhibitions are being reviewed/refreshed so visitors can expect to see some significant changes.
- ◇ A photographic exhibition opens in October at Lavington Library commemorating the centenary of 'turning of the first sod' for the Hume Dam project.
- ◇ A major exhibition, 'Aftermath,' investigating the impact of WWI on our local and regional community, will be opening on November 11.
- ◇ Later in the year there will also be a smaller exhibition looking at the Dutch in Albury and their contributions to the Albury and district community.
- ◇ Nominations were being called for in June for two community representatives on the AlburyCity Museum, Social History & Archives Acquisition & De-accessions Committee.



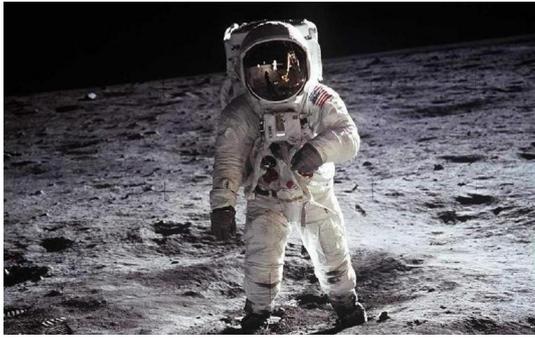
Visit our website for photos of old Albury, history articles, past Bulletins and much more.

Go to:
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What were you doing as man first walked on the moon?

On July 16, 1969, Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins were launched towards the moon.

At 12.56pm on July 21 (AEST), it will be fifty years since Neil Armstrong became the first man to take a step on the moon. Many members will have their own memories of that amazing event in world history. At our July meeting, you will be invited to share those memories with us. So be prepared to let us know what you were doing that day.

Membership Subscriptions are now due for 2019/20.

Please note the small increase, the first since 2010:

Single members \$30 and Family members \$35. Members requiring a posted copy of the Bulletin, please pay \$10 extra for this service.

Corporate membership is \$100 p.a. and includes recognition on our web site and in the Bulletin.

Membership includes the monthly Bulletin emailed to your preferred email address.

It is not necessary for renewing members to return the membership application form except where details have changed.

For members renewing by direct deposit (BSB 640 000 Acc No 111097776) please ensure you include your name when making the deposit.

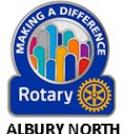
Welcome to new members, Jenni Gay and Barbara McDermott; also new corporate sponsor 'Think Pilates.'



A&DHS Corporate Sponsors

Albury & District Historical Society receives generous support from the following sponsors.

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 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 Library Museum.

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