

# Albury & District Historical Society Inc

September 2019

No 604

PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

<https://alburyhistory.org.au/>

For Your Reference A&DHS account details are:

BSB 640 000 Acc No 111097776

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



## Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 11

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

**Topic:** Growing up as a Dutch boy in Albury

**Speaker:** Chris de Vreeze

## ALBURY COUNCIL FOYER

Merchant, Moderniser,  
Mayor, James Fallon.

Until November 4

Page 2 The Border Mail

Page 4 100 Years Ago

Page 6 Did You Know?

Page 7 DNA Analysis

Page 7 History News



## REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING (14.08.2019)

At our August meeting we heard from the editor of the *Border Mail*, Xavier Mardling. Xavier described for us some of the details of the changing landscape of newspaper publishing. The BM was started by the Mott family 115 years ago as *The Border Morning Mail* and *Riverina Times*. Over more recent years there have been changes of ownership and the introduction of digital versions of the BM. Xavier was adamant that journalists should report the facts and nothing more.

Bruce Pennay followed Xavier with a segment he referred to as "Our Trove Moment" where he informed us that an opportunity is available now to extend our local coverage on the Trove website. Bruce proceeded then to launch an appeal for donations to achieve that goal.

Greg Ryan gave us details of what can be revealed when we submit a sample for DNA analysis. Greg explained how the process works, describing the various tests available and how they can be interpreted. Greg then told us of some of the details of his own ancestry revealed by the DNA sample that he submitted.

Richard Lee gave us some details of what was happening in Albury 100 years ago. The meeting finished with Joe Wooding defining for us the boundaries and extent of the "Albury Common." He was also able to describe the location of the Elizabeth Mitchell's Station and the Mungabareena ford of the Murray River in relation to the site of the old Albury waterworks.

Greg welcomed Victoria Cooper as a full member of our Society. Mary Anderson also joined our Society at the August meeting and we welcome Hume Bank, Albury Hume Rotary Club and Albury West Rotary Club as corporate sponsors.

It's a somewhat daunting task to speak about something with as rich a history as the 115-year-old *Border Mail*, where I've worked for 17 years and been editor for almost three.

I've been asked to speak about the changing role of *The Border Mail* within our community. Well, I don't think the role of *The Border Mail* has changed at all. What's changed is the way news is delivered. Just as we were more than a century ago, we remain the number one news source on the Border. It's just that the printed version of *The Border Mail* is no longer the only way to consume our news.

*The Border Mail* is many things to many different people. I can give you a snapshot from within my family. To my father, it's the newspaper, to my mother it's the website and to my sister, quite astoundingly, it's our Facebook page. A lot has changed in the past century with how news is presented but at the same time, nothing has changed. If you've got a good story, the audience will want it. Regardless of whether that audience is an online or print reader.

In the 19th century, telegraph allowed information to travel faster than ever before, worrying editors and journalists. Why would anyone read a newspaper if news could travel instantly through cables? But far from bringing an end to the industry, the telegraph was co-opted by the best newspapers. The rapid and reliable delivery of information that telegraph enabled, remains a hallmark of the newspaper industry.

Today, anyone with a smartphone can access an unprecedented number of news sources, while sharing content with friends and followers. Consumers are also using the internet and mobile apps to engage with new forms of advertising, putting pressure on traditional ad-supported industries, including news publishers. These changes in consumer and marketing behaviour have profound implications for traditional news business models. But they do not mean the death of journalism. In fact, our appetite for quality journalism is on the rise.

Today, at *The Border Mail*, we continue to provide the quality local journalism you trust and the essential community information that keeps you connected. We take this role very seriously, because it's our community too. We live and work here and our kids go to school here. In short, we want what's best for our region. *The Border Mail* plays an important role in bringing the Border and North-East together, and giving our residents a voice. And we want to remain a vibrant part of our shared future.

That is why we have introduced a local news subscription for our website, [bordermail.com.au](http://bordermail.com.au). Like newspapers all over the world, we have adapted to the changing way people want to consume news and information. As our audience increasingly reads our local journalism on their smartphones and laptops, we need to make sure we can continue to deliver the coverage our community expects and deserves. We've shifted to an online first operating model because our audience demanded it.

Newspaper sales might be down on what they once were, but our audience has never been bigger when you combine print and online. If a major event were to unfold on Dean St on a Wednesday afternoon you could read about it on Wednesday evening, rather than having to wait until Saturday morning. We saw a prime example of this earlier this year with an incident at Barnawartha North. By the time the story of the shooting was in print on Thursday morning, there had been seven updates of the story on our website and a Facebook live video feed of the press conference at Wodonga police station.

Our team of journalists are so much more adaptable than they were 15 years ago. Our website enables them to tell their story via text, video or podcast. As you can imagine, introducing a subscription model, also known as a paywall, caused a few shockwaves in the community. People were used to getting their news online for free and they didn't want that to change. But really, it's no different from walking into a cafe or restaurant and demanding that your coffee or cake be free. We just wouldn't do it. Journalism costs time and money. We go to the court hearings, the sporting events and the council meetings, sifting through documents so that you, the reader, don't have to.



*The Border Morning Mail* office 1912-1963,  
592 Dean St

I've been lucky to work with a lot of amazing journalists in that time but there's been none better than Howard Jones. A newspaper man through and through, Howard used to love the old saying that "if somebody rings you up with a story that's advertising, if they ring you up and they want something kept out of the paper, that's news," he says. He drummed into young reporters that to get a better story, leave the office and meet people because people are at the very core of what we do.

The *Border Mail* has been a daily newspaper since it was first published on October 24, 1903. Having started life as a penny paper called *The Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times*, the Mott family owned and managed the masthead for more than 102 years until it was sold to John Fairfax Holdings in 2006.

These days, we are under the ownership of Antony Catalano and Alex Waislitz, who took control of Australian Community Media, and *The Border Mail*, on July 1. Mr Catalano has spent 33 years in the media, including 17 years as a journalist, and recently outlined his plans to staff, where he told us "My aim is to make us the biggest and best regional group in the country and that means we have to expand not shrink."

Last year I met Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, who in an earlier life was editor at the *Daily Advertiser* in Wagga. We spoke about how, for almost all of his working life, around half of the population think they could do a better job than him – whether that's as a politician or a newspaper editor! I can relate to that!

It's a fact of life that we can never please all of the people all of the time. And that's why *The Border Mail* is as independent today as it was in 1903. For 115 years, we have proudly stood side-by-side with our community. We've been there for the Border and North-East region's successes. We've held those in power to account. We have mourned our losses and tragedies. We have shared your stories and championed the causes that matter – the big and the small.

I'm sure some of you will look at me and think, he's 35 and been editor for less than three years at a masthead that's 115 years old, what would he know! I certainly don't profess to know it all, but I have been at *The Border Mail* since 2001 – that's 17 years so I've seen first-hand the changes that have taken place over most of the past two decades.

It won't come as any shock that journalists from rival organisations don't always see eye to eye but they are united on one thing – plagiarism of their work is a blight on, and undermines, the industry. ABC's *Media Watch* dedicated an entire program last year to the *Daily Mail*'s tendency to rip off stories from media organisations whose stories sit behind a paywall. Journalists from *The Age* or *Sydney Morning Herald* could spend months working on a story, for their subscribers, only to have it rehashed by the *Daily Mail* online within minutes. If that keeps happening, the likelihood of those long and important investigations becomes less and less.

I saw a meme on Twitter a while ago and, while I'm somewhat reluctant to quote it because I can't vouch for its authenticity, a huge trap for journalists, I think the point is important. It said: "First, they got rid of the journalists and I'm not sure what happened after that." Freedom of the press is a contentious subject in Australia at the moment, as evidenced by recent Federal Police raids on the home of a News Corp journalist and ABC headquarters in Sydney. With every display of a document on a screen, with every sanctioned move by police throughout the ABC building, a message was being sent to the public about whistleblowing. And the message was that people need to be afraid. Governments are responsible for national security and protecting citizens. But history shows "national security" can become the blunt instrument governments use to avoid public scrutiny.

It's terrifying to think about a world without journalists. Social media can be a toxic place at the best of times



BMM headquarters in Swift St from 1963-1999

and without the appropriate checks and balances, it can be an absolute minefield. We had an example here in November 2016 where a member of the community contacted us at *The Border Mail* wanting us to do a story about mismanagement at a local fast food restaurant. We checked the story out, couldn't substantiate the claims and opted against pursuing it. The end result? The same person who contacted us with their claims posted them on Facebook, was ultimately found to have defamed the businessperson and fined \$200,000 in the Supreme Court. It's another example where someone in the community wasn't happy with our decision but I think history will show it was the right one.

There's a popular saying in journalism circles that if one person tells you it's raining, and another one tells you it's sunny, it's not your job to report both sides, but instead to look out the window and report which one's right! It's always our aim, without fear or favour, to report the facts and let punters establish their own view on what it all means to them. We are confronted with this challenge every day at *The Border Mail*.

I'm sure, by now, everyone has heard, or is familiar with, the term "fake news." We've got the US President to thank for that. Personally, it's a term I don't like and I think it's too often used these days just because someone doesn't like what they're reading, not because it isn't true. We had a cartoon in *The Border Mail* late last year with a journalist posing the question to Mr Trump, "Is it fake news when we quote what you say, verbatim? Or is fake news when we report your denials of having said it?" We obviously don't live in Washington, but the premise is the same – when someone doesn't like what's been written about them, they'll try to discredit it.

In the past seven months, we've had three elections here on the Border – one for Victoria, one for NSW and of course most recently the Federal poll. In that time, I've had Liberals who think we were supporting the independent candidates, independent candidates who think we've supported the Liberals and then there's Labor and the Greens who think we've backed anyone but them. I reckon that's a pretty good sign we must have been doing it somewhere close to right.

The move toward subscriptions means measuring audiences differently, with analytics that measure deep engagement and not just page views. Perhaps most significantly, the newsroom and business sides of news organisations will be aligned more than before.

The move toward subscriptions places the newsroom, and quality content worth paying for, at the centre of the business strategy. A report by Deloitte's earlier this year predicted that subscription revenue would match advertising revenue by 2020.

When you consider that in 2012, just \$1 from every \$10 of revenue came from subscriptions, that's a pretty big shift. Ultimately, the success of subscriptions in regional centres like ours will come down to people's propensity to pay for quality, local news. I believe in the future of our industry and at 50 cents a day, the cost is very small. It's just my view, but the cost of not supporting local journalism would be catastrophic.

#### 100 Years ago, August 1919

**Richard Lee**

Soldiers are returning in small numbers to Albury, Lavington, Thургона, Wodonga, and all over the local districts. Boys return with celebrations held at local halls and large groups gather to welcome their sons back.

Influenza is still a hot topic even though the plague proportions have dissipated. On the sixth, the hospital has 27 patients with influenza and all are recuperating with no new admissions.

Blankets and other woollen goods in possession of the Defence Department are being distributed free of charge to charitable organisations.

The Albury Sailors' & Soldiers' Imperial League has been formed and heavy debate was taking place. Half the movement was for an Anzac Memorial Hall, which Mr W T Thorne, architect, had drawn up. President and secretary were at loggerheads one wanting a hall the other a memorial to the servicemen and women. Some suggested using part of the Mechanics Hall as the desired meeting place rather than a new hall. At a separate meeting Mayor Waugh was in the chair and a War Memorial was decided – the victory monument should be erected on Western Hill and christened 'Victory Hill' or 'Anzac Hill.'

Sport is high on the agenda for the ladies of town. The Girls' Hockey Club is to have a dance on the Monday night. The golf club, with about equal numbers of female to male golfers, is to hold a dance on Friday night.

Rand and Brocklesby unveil their War Memorials this month.

There is a shortage of sugar and butter, winter lamb numbers are low and the winter is dry.

A committee has been formed to create a 'Back to Albury' event, which is to be held in conjunction with the

Albury Show in September. There are plans for a big lighting show in Dean Street and also on Burrows wheat silos. The light bulbs would be coloured

in red, white and blue. Also, a large boomerang with the wording 'Back to Albury' would appear on the silos. A grand week of amusement and copious bunting is to be used. This event is the initiative of the Chamber of Commerce.

**September 12, 1919.**

## A WEEK OF FESTIVITIES.

"BACK TO ALBURY."

HUNDREDS OF OLD IDENTITIES RETURN.

SUCCESSFUL FUNCTIONS.

Headlines in the *Albury Banner*

Land owners of Bonegilla are donating fire wood to the Albury hospital. The wood is transported to the Albury Railway Station by train and the town is seeking men to transport the loads to the hospital (reported 12 lorry loads).

The hospital committee is being made aware that the nurses are working 9½-hour days, and only half a day off per week. President Stephens has the "house committee look into the matter." More fund raising is still required for the benevolent ward for older people.

The Womens' National Association is having a meeting at 'Springfield,' home of Mrs Wm Norman. It is noted that Mrs Woods has been president for the past five years. The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League is to hold a monster Palais de Dance at the Mechanics Institute. The Ladies' Working Guild at St Matthews is to hold a Fancy Stall and Flower Exhibition. Also, the Reverend is not able to conduct his Sunday service due to the prevailing epidemic. The Albury Town Band meeting is seeking £300-400 from council and elsewhere – Jas Stephens thought the £5 subsidy for each performance ridiculous and not fair to call on the ladies to further fund raise.

Albury Grammar School, meeting at the Mechanics Institute on August 12, to form 'The Grammar School Old Boys' Association – Mr V Flood Nagle elected to the chair.

The Salvation Army wants to form a Girls' Life Saving Guard, for girls of any denomination. Meetings held weekly at which 'club swinging' and other exercises of physical and mental benefit may be practiced.

The Red Cross Annual General meeting is held August 19.

There is a severe housing shortage throughout Australia and Albury and the new solution is the new 'Durabestos' – asbestos cement sheets that reduce the time to build a home from days to hours. Yes, what they didn't know!

An interesting one is horses being spooked by aeroplanes in the sky.

Now along with the 'Back to Albury' arrangements the *Border Morning Mail* has a 'super supplement' on August 30. This edition was the biggest between Melbourne and Sydney. Eight pages of photos of the Mechanics Institute, the railway station, botanical gardens, saleyards and all things Albury. Glowing editorials promoting the virtues of idyllic Albury. The Chamber of Commerce's view is "the bigger the population, the bigger the reserves, and lower the taxes."

## Feedback being sought on best ways to protect Mungabareena Reserve in East Albury

 David Johnston

Local News



Aboriginal community leaders gather at Mungabareena Reserve

The *Border Mail* reported in July 2018:

Mungabareena Reserve was formally declared an Aboriginal Place. This doesn't prevent non-Aboriginal people from visiting the area, but tighter controls and protections against vandalism, feral weed and animal infestation can now be introduced.

Deputy mayor Amanda Cohn was quoted "We have a wonderful opportunity to work with the Aboriginal community to make it a safer place. People want to see an end to dangerous driving and vandalism of the natural environment in this area."

A comprehensive vegetation management plan has also been developed to combat pest species and promote the growth of native plants.  
**Albury City Council has released a draft management plan for public comment.**

**ANOTHER VICTORY!**

**MALCOLM'S**

**"Back to Albury" Cakes.**

For the special occasions and in response to requests, I have decided to make a number of "Back to Albury" cakes. Owing to the rush of work at show time, it is requested that orders be left early.

**W. MALCOLM.**

"BACK TO ALBURY" – SEPTEMBER 8 TO 13.  
"THE PEOPLE'S ALBURY CATERER." PHONE NO. 121.

An advertisement in the *Border Morning Mail*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Joe Wooding

Albury Town Common featured in our new segment ‘Did You Know.’

The 7,000 acres was proclaimed in 1868. Five trustees, Messrs Day, Thorold, Adams, Mott and Liddle, were elected on Wednesday, July 22 of that year.

It was defined as a space within a line running from old Mungabareena ford northwards until it reaches a 50 acre block in the occupation of Mr J Darby, thence running due west (passing through the Murray Valley Vineyard) until it strikes a line running due south, and terminating at the river in a paddock occupied by Mr Layton. These lines circumscribe the town of Albury at a distance of three miles from the limits of the town.

Thirteen regulations were published. They included: each householder was entitled to de-pasture 10 horses, 8/- per head per annum, horned cattle, 6/- per head per annum. Sheep, goats and swine banned.

Of greater significance was the map, drawn by surveyor TS Townsend, dated January 12, 1839. The dotted line traces the path that Townsend followed in completing his survey map.

The map shows the ford with Mongarberinah, Mitchells Station nearby – note that the homestead is almost precisely the later site of the Albury Waterworks pumping station. Dr Arthur Andrews in his *History of Albury – 1824-1895* pointed out that “The Mungabareena Station, which included the site of Albury, was taken charge of by Mr Thomas Mitchell, the eldest son, and a homestead erected about where now the waterworks pumping station is.” In April 1882, *The Government Gazette*, reported that the Minister of Public Works had authorising construction of a waterworks for Albury. Water from the waterworks was turned on for the first time in Albury in January 1886. More details on the Mitchells can be found at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/resources/history-topics/>

The buzzword of the moment, ‘Trove,’ highlights the location of the ford. On page 11 of the *Sydney Morning Herald* Saturday, February 7, 1885, an article describing the Albury Waterworks states that “about 50 yards below the station, there is a ford, where at this season of the year, the river can be easily crossed by vehicles.”



THOMAS TOWNSEND'S MAP, January 12, 1839

GOOGLE MAPS, August 2019

Key: 1. Mongarberinah, Mitchell's Station 2. Murray River

3. Ford 4. Townsend's route in producing the map (dots).



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

Go to:

<https://alburyhistory.org.au/>



Find us on  
Facebook

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

## DNA Analysis – What's it all About?

Greg Ryan

We heard from Greg that DNA testing is done for three purposes that we hear a lot about – catching criminals, medical research and investigations into family origins. At the start of 2019, about 26 million people worldwide had submitted their DNA for testing for genealogy purposes. As the size of the database expands, the results promise to become more accurate and useful to family historians.

The story of who we are is recorded as a code locked into the amazing DNA molecule. Comparing the DNA code between tested individuals is the key to working out family relationships.

Unravelling the secrets can throw up surprises. Greg told us of one of his second cousins finding out at age 85 that the father she grew up with was not her biological father, of tracing a long lost sister of his great grandfather to the west coast of the south island of New Zealand and finding a previously unknown first cousin of his great grandmother living in Albury and having a saddlery in Kiewa Street – all with the help of his DNA results.

The adverts on TV tell us that many mysteries of our ancestry will be revealed. After sending off the tube of saliva, then receiving the results, there is still plenty of work to do to analyse what the results mean and find those missing ancestors.

The results will quickly give an insight into our ethnic origins, highlighting what part of the world the majority of our ancestors came from – that's the easy part.

The hard part is making the connections to ancestors beyond 3 or 4 generations. The results will present quite a long list of people who we have a DNA match with, listed from close relatives to more remote relatives. Many of the listed relative will have uploaded a family tree which can be accessed and be very useful in tracing ancestors. Contact with a listed relative is done through a third party (eg Ancestry.com) to protect privacy.

There are many sources of information on the internet relating to DNA testing and how to interpret the results. A useful Australian web site is the 'Genie' site which can be found at <https://genie1.com.au/> There are at least five DNA testing companies to choose from and 'Genie' evaluates each company's product and gives some handy advice on how to proceed – go to <https://genie1.com.au/which-dna-testing-company-to-use/>



## History News In and Around the Region

### Dam makes top 100 list in new book



ENGINEERING IN SPOTLIGHT: The Hume Dam made the list created by Engineers Australia for a book of 100 significant Australian engineering achievements.



### Remembering Australian Engineering achievement in 2019

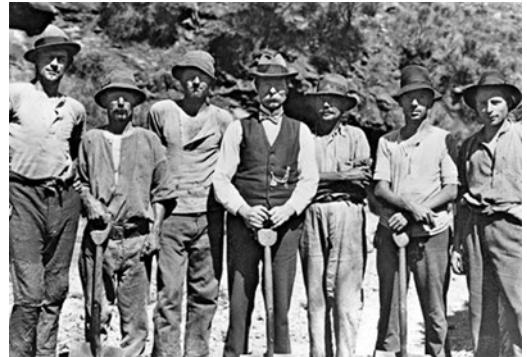
This year Budj Bim has become the first indigenous cultural landscape in Australia to gain World Heritage recognition. Its engineering as an eel and fish trap was ingenious.

Victorian engineers are gathering later this year to mark the 150th anniversary of the Great Melbourne Telescope; the 100th anniversary of the electrification of Melbourne's suburban railways; and the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

## 100 Years of Great Ocean Road

From September 18 to October 6, Lorne Historical Society will be celebrating the centenary of the start of construction of the Great Ocean Road. The project was designed primarily as a job creation scheme for ex-servicemen returning from World War I. The road was built between 1919 and 1932, opening up much-needed land access for coastal communities and creating a lasting memorial to the war dead.

The photo is of some of the Diggers involved in the project.



## Shepparton Heritage



### Heritage in Shepparton

Greater Shepparton Council has a Heritage Advisory Committee. It celebrates Shepparton's heritage with heritage week tours, heritage prizes, heritage grants and a biennial heritage lecture. It provides Council with advice on the heritage of the area.

### NSW Regional and Community History Prize Winners

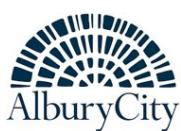
This year's prize winners were:

- ◆ Sarah Luke, *Callan Park, Hospital for the Insane*;
- ◆ Julie McIntyre and John Germov, *Hunter Wine: A History*;
- ◆ Jon Rhodes, *Cage of Ghosts*.

## 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.



Corporate Design  
& Print Solutions  
ALBURY



Thanks to the Commercial Club  
for their support over many years.



### Disclaimer:

The Albury & District Historical Society Inc, and/or its members, through this newsletter, endeavours to provide accurate and reliable information, but does not warrant or make any representation regarding the accuracy or reliability of information contained within this newsletter.

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Society and/or its members shall not be liable for any damages of any kind relating to the use of this information, including without limitation, direct, indirect, special, compensatory or consequential damages, loss of profits or damage to property, even if the Society and/or its members have been advised of the possibility of such damages.

**Patrons:** Patricia Gould, Greg Aplin

**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

**Committee:** Marion Taylor, Howard Jones,  
Chris de Vreeze, Bruce Pennay, Ray Gear

**Bulletin Editor:** Greg Ryan

gmjryan@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: \$30 Family: \$35

Corporate: \$100

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

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