

Albury & District Historical Society Inc



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The Dutch Block at Bonegilla Reception Centre, 1955

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 9
7.30 pm, Commercial Club
Integrating recently arrived
refugees into our local
community.

Speaker: Dr Penny Vine

**ALBURY
LIBRARYMUSEUM
Albury & Australia's
Dutch Connections
Until December 15**

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REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MEETING (11.09.2019)

Our September meeting heard from Chris de Vreeze talking about his arrival in Australia with his family in 1952 as a young boy and Dutch immigrant, coming through the Bonegilla Reception Centre and then growing up in Albury. We had a large number of guests from the local Dutch community and several made their own contribution to the story of the Dutch in our local area. Museum curator Emma Williams then gave us a quick preview of what to expect when the exhibition 'Albury & Australia's Dutch Connections' gets under way at Albury Library Museum on September 28.

President Greg Ryan informed the meeting that Albury City Council has made it known that the owners of 'Meramie' at 595 Kiewa St have submitted revised plans for demolition and then residential development on the site. Our submission in 2018 opposing the first development application was significant in saving the historic building. On behalf of members, the committee has submitted a carefully considered objection to the new application. Our treasurer Simon Burgess then gave us a summary of the Society's financial position, particularly in light of the significant expense involved in expanding coverage of our local newspapers on the Trove website.

Greg Ryan gave us a short talk on Australia's first newspaper, *The Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, highlighting some of the articles in the first issue. Ann Brennan gave a short and entertaining story starting with her first experience with computers and progressing to the joys of research using the Trove website. Joe Wooding explained that there is a connection between Albury's first Bank of NSW and earthquakes. The meeting wound up with Jenny Tanner telling us of Uiver Memorial Community Trust's fund raising evening on October 19.

Chris was one of many Dutch who made the local area home – according to the 1971 census, Netherlands-born residents in Lavington numbered 119, in North Albury there were 58, in Wodonga 54 and in West Wodonga 68.



The de Vreeze Family in Crisp St, 1954

The unsavoury “HOT PIES FOR SALE” in Fremantle behind us, the MV Fairsea took an uneventful passage to Port Melbourne. Docking and cargo unloading proceeded on the morning of 23 July 1952 and in the afternoon we boarded our train to Bonegilla. At Seymour the refreshment room was overcome by hungry Nederlanders and stripped bare of anything edible.

Bonegilla station was invisible in the dark, perhaps due to wartime concerns, but torches appeared in the hands of waiting helpers who, unfortunately spoke camp lingua franca, German. The first “Raus” led to reboarding of the train and much consequent argument. The Mylon’s buses arrived well after midnight but had us at block 14 in minutes.

The morning revealed the Talgarno to Bethanga line of hills, a sight that stunned me. The Frisian flatness, much akin to an ant’s eye view of a pancake, had been replaced by mountains. We froze in the winter, not, as our guide to DIT IS AUSTRALIA had written, hot and tropical with noble aborigines scanning horizons, before which they stood on one leg with the other warming the opposing knee.

Food was plentiful but only partially edible, and reeked of elderly deceased rams. Accommodation was a tiny cramped hut with two gates laid horizontal as beds, and one cot. My parents were aghast and thought immediately to the future and our own accommodation. My father, a gifted cartoonist, sketched a camp scene involving a block 14 supervisor in a fibreboard corner of the hut. For his troubles he was fined 5 shillings, for defacing Commonwealth property. The old huts, now on many farms in our Albury area, carry names and addresses and graffiti.

School at Bonegilla, was deemed inadequate and so the Dutch chaplain, Pater van Stokkum, contacted his Albury opposite. Life at the Dynans in Mount Street was kindly. Mrs D treated me as one of her own and overfed me as only a mother can do, and so to school, CBC, over the railway line and into Smollett Street. Third class hosted me, having left fourth class in Friesland. The ignominy of repeating third class was eased by a new and sturdy control of English acquired by deep immersion at the Dynan’s, and a kindly Christian Brother who, for two weeks of school lunches, sat beside me and read text followed by my repetition and correction. Nothing beats one on one tuition.

“Growing up” has at least three components. The lapse of time cannot be controlled and neither can the external milieu. The internal milieu is tractable. The Dutch consul general from Melbourne arrived in the camp and read his version of the riot act to the Commonwealth officials and my father’s trade papers, and those of many others, had the pencilled “unskilled” erased and the “painter” returned. This allowed my father to seek and find work in Albury, courtesy of Mr Harrison’s Hardware, and accommodation in Crisp Street.

My mother’s first act was to enrol me in the Albury junior library, an act that led to an insatiable gluttony for the written word. This was my internal milieu. After school, all school holidays, addiction and a ticket to the senior library, that was my refuge for years.

Percy Burrows lived on the other side of Crisp Street and liked conversation. The wonderful Mrs Waugh was the heart of kindness. Cleaver Bunton naturalised me, in person and in the Council Chambers, but that was in 1964. The Cochranes of Guinea Street were examples of a so kind nature that all of the siblings de Vreeze still revere them.

My darling sister and I explored Albury on foot and then per velocipede for years. Albury was divided into



A Dutch performance in Albury’s Plaza (Civic) Theatre, c1957. L-R: Mrs Bep Hengstmengel, Mrs Aly Evenhuis, Marijke de Graaf, Mrs Jos van Egmond, John Hengstmengel, Andre van Egmond, Yelly Evenhuis

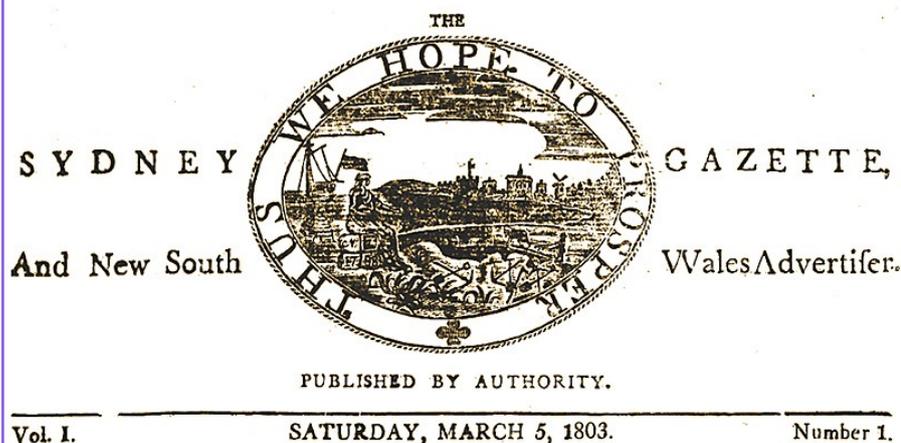
tribal areas, Central, South, West, East and the fearsome Walnut people of Greenfield Park. That universal childish challenge to anyone not domiciled within the boundary led to bumps, bruises and avoidance.

Noreuil Park was neutral country, much as the site was before Europeans trespassed, but care had to be taken lest the river deliver you into the country of West Alburians.

This idyllic life of books, river and school, and family intimacy, ended on Matriculation from the new Aquinas School, where I had been given a charmed and rich education.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Greg Ryan



The *Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser*, was first published on March 5, 1803, printed on one side of a single sheet of paper, folded into four pages. Initially it was printed weekly, with four pages of official material and a small number of private notices. Early editions had shipping news, auction results, crime reports, agricultural notices, poems, literature and religious advice. The masthead carried “an image of Industry, personified as a woman, endowing the fledgling colony with

her bounty” with the motto “Thus we hope to Prosper.”

George Howe, convict, arrived in New South Wales on November 22, 1800. Born in the West Indies in 1769 and well-educated, newspapers were in his blood. His grandfather had founded the *St Christopher Gazette and Caribbean Courier* in 1747 and his father taught young George the printer’s art. He was sent to London in 1790 for further training, working for several newspapers including *The Times*. But he was soon in trouble. In 1799 he was tried at Warwick Assizes for theft. His original death sentence was commuted to transportation to NSW.

His skills in printing were immediately put to use for the publication of government documents. In 1802 he issued the first book printed in Australia, *New South Wales General Standing Orders*, listing Government Orders issued between 1791 and 1802. Howe was later permitted to commence Australia’s first newspaper, which he printed from a shed at the back of Government House. Though about 200 copies of the first *Gazette* were printed, fewer than 10 survive. The first six issues were published on Saturdays, then on Sundays for seven years then back to Saturdays. A critic described it as a mixture of “fulsome flattery of Government officials and ... inane twaddle on other matters.”

The first edition included a statement of the newspaper’s purpose: “Innumerable as the Obstacles were which threatened to oppose our Undertaking, yet we are happy to affirm that they were not insurmountable, however difficult the task before us. The utility of a PAPER in the COLONY, as it must open a source of solid information, will, we hope, be universally felt and acknowledged. We have courted the assistance of the **INGENIOUS** and **INTELLIGENT** :—We open no channel to Political Discussion, or Personal Animadversion :—Information is our only Purpose; that accomplished, we shall consider that we have done our duty, in an exertion to merit the Approbation of the **PUBLIC**, and to secure a liberal Patronage.”

In the first addition:

“**JOHN JAQUES**, Taylor, At the Back of the General Hospital, Sydney. **RESPECTFULLY** acquaints the **PUBLIC**, that in consequence of the reduction that has lately taken place in the Prices of many Articles of common Consumption, he has been enabled to make an Abatement in his Charges, and that all Orders with which he may be honoured shall be carefully and punctually executed.” In other words, the tailor was holding a sale.

“**THE GOVERNOR** having permitted Mr Robert Campbell to land 4000 Gallons of Spirits for the domestic use of the Inhabitants, from the Castle of Good Hope, it will be divided in the following proportion, viz. For the Officers on the Civil Establishment, (including Superintendents and Store-keepers), 1000 Gallons; For Naval and Military Commissioned Officers, 1000 Gallons; For the Licensed People, 1000 Gallons; To be distributed to such Persons as the **GOVERNOR** may think proper to grant Permits to, 1000 Gallons. The above to include the Civil and Military Officers at Norfolk Island. By Command, &c **W N CHAPMAN**, Sec. Government House, March 4, 1803.”

“**BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY**, To be Sold by Auction, At His Majesty’s Store, at Sydney, On Saturday, the

12th Inst. A QUANTITY of DAMAGED PROVISION, and STORES (condemned by Survey): consisting of Beef, Pork, Flour, Wheat, Pease, Blue Jackets, Shirts, Stockings, Caps, Men's Hats, Shoes, Thread, Worsted Yarn, Sein Twine, Duck, Iron Pots, Window Glass, Wire and Hair Sieves, &c &c J PALMER, Commissary."

"The late drought has been severely felt in all parts of the Colony, and has been attended with much loss to the gardener. In fact, vegetation was almost at a stand, and a great part of the seed, for want of rain, perished in the ground. The crop of potatoes has turned out very indifferently; and the maize, but for the late seasonable rain, would have been equally unpromising: We are happy to state however, that in all parts of the Colony, so manifest a change has taken place in the latter, as to assure the grower of an abundant crop."

"ACCIDENTS. On the 16th ultimo (the day following the Insurgency at Castle-Hill) as several constables were loading and preparing their muskets to go in quest of the delinquents, one of the pieces accidentally went off, and shot a labouring man through the body, who soon after expired."

"SYDNEY WHARF On Saturday morning last, between 8 and 9 o'clock, 4 boats came in from Kissing Point with fruit, vegetables, potatoes, and poultry: Melons 4s. per dozen, plants 6d. per hundred, potatoes from 10 to 12s. per 100lbs ... we shall hereafter present our Readers with a Table of High Water at Sydney and Parramatta."

There was news of sentences from the magistrate's court, an account of the escape and capture of fugitive convicts accused of "many acts of violence and cruelty," death notices, news of incoming ships, their arrival dates and the goods they would have on offer.

The *Gazette* folded in 1842, "the victim of economic depression." It had remained the only newspaper in Sydney until the appearance of explorer William Wentworth's *The Australian* in October 1824. The paper was said to have been used as a means of attacking the unpopular Governor Darling. The *Sydney Herald* began publication in April 1831; it became the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1842.

Albury's first newspaper was *The Albury Border Post and Wodonga Advertiser*, first published on October 4, 1856 by proprietor George Mott. On July 4, 1860 the first issue of the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* appeared, published by Samuel Fry Blackmore. George Adams took over the *Banner* two years later and remained at the helm for the next fifty years.



TROVE – WALKING ON THE MOON

Ann Brennan

Last month Bruce Pennay and Greg Ryan from our Society, held an information session on refining keyword access to Trove.

For me, as an older citizen, memories came flooding back. Recently I turned seventy-eight. Friends took me to lunch and an elderly friend died. For me it was a week of four lunches and a funeral.

During the 1970s, I was working as a librarian typing little catalogue cards which fitted into neat little drawers and the boss came along and with a wave of the hand said, "All this has to go onto the computer. This is a small research facility and nearly everything is the same Dewey number. Who has time to type catalogue cards?"

Out of this came an information system with each item having a unique identifying number and keyword access. The technology was limited. There were a few computers with floppy discs (5.25 inch). There was a main frame with terminals and the description of the item was limited to fifty characters. The list of keywords was printed out in alphabetical order.

In those days it was the dream of librarians and researchers to be able to find and read items in the National Library and even other places in the world. But it was only a dream – as in decades previously when many were working to have a man walk on the moon.

More recently I was doing research on the Rev Elliott, the first Deacon at St Matthews – this was for one of our Cemetery Walks. I came to a dead end and Howard Jones suggested I try Google Search. Lo and behold! In my living room on my computer was a whole book which was printed in the 1880s and as I pressed a button, the next page appeared. I was so emotional. This is what we had dreamed of.

So last week there were 30 or 40 history buffs, squashed into a tiny room, sitting on little wooden seats, concentrating on seeing whole editions of the *Women's Weekly* on the screen ... we were WALKING ON THE MOON.

NOTE: The Trove session will be repeated at Lavington Library from 9.45am to 11.15am, Wednesday December 4.



LOCAL EARTHQUAKES

A fissure over 2 miles long and in places, a metre wide and a metre deep, appeared in the earth at Moorwatha (between Howlong and Burrumbuttock) – the *Albury Banner* reported on April 10, 1869, under the heading ‘Marks of an Earthquake.’ This is one of three recorded by Dr Arthur Andrews, who notes there was no perceptible ground movement. Geoscience Australia also had no record of this event but provided dates of other occurrences .

Border Post, September 1, 1869 – People in Albury were woken from their sleep in this town about 5 am. It was also felt in Beechworth and Bright.

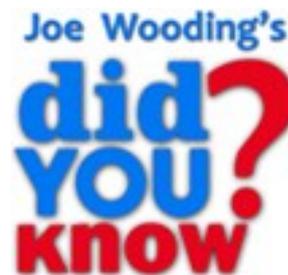
Albury Banner, June 9, 1871 – A shock of earthquake made itself felt in this neighborhood at a quarter past 2 in the afternoon. A good test of the amount of disturbance was seen at the Bank of NSW where the scales used in weighing gold were put into vigorous oscillation. Some persons stated that a rumbling noise was heard.

Border Post, January 10, 1872 – About a quarter past 11 the people of Albury were startled by rumbling sounds, together with the shaking of window sashes and the tingling of glasses and crockery ware, was felt generally throughout the district and more severe in the vicinity of Ten Mile and Wagga. It was also felt in Beechworth and Chiltern.

Albury Banner, May 15, 1885 – A slight shock of earthquake took place a few minutes before 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning. It was very plainly felt on the upper floors of 2-storey buildings.

Albury Daily News, April 3, 1917 – Unusual Experience in Albury: Shortly before 6am, a sharp earth tremor was felt in every part of Albury. The rattling of windows and the visible movement in many stationery objects ensued. In a few cases crockery was shaken from dresser shelves and broken.

Others may care to add to this list.



HISTORY NEWS IN & AROUND THE REGION

New Value of History Statement Launched Across Australia

The four History Councils of Australia have adopted a joint statement about the Value of History. The statement emphasises the value of studying the past and telling its stories. It focuses on seven ways in which history is essential, by:

- shaping our identities,
- engaging us as citizens,
- creating inclusive communities,
- contributing to our economic well-being,
- teaching us to think critically and creatively,
- inspiring our leaders, and
- providing a foundation for future generations.

The History Councils call on individuals and organisations in Australia to endorse, share, and use this statement about the value of history in contemporary life. <https://www.historyrelevance.com/value-history-statement>

HISTORY RELEVANCE

VALUE OF HISTORY TOOLKIT ABOUT CONTACT NEWS



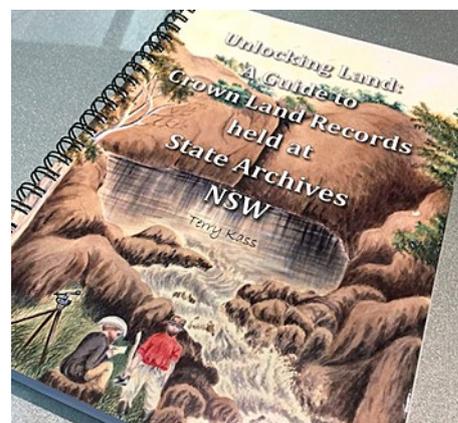
A Guide to Crown Land Records

Are you looking for the family farm? Was that ancestor a wealthy squatter? The long awaited guide to Crown Land records at State Archives is now available.

Land legislation explained. Terminology explained. Step by step instructions for researching different land tenures and holdings.

238 pages. PRICE: \$60 (plus \$12 if posted).

Available from terry@kasshistory.com.au

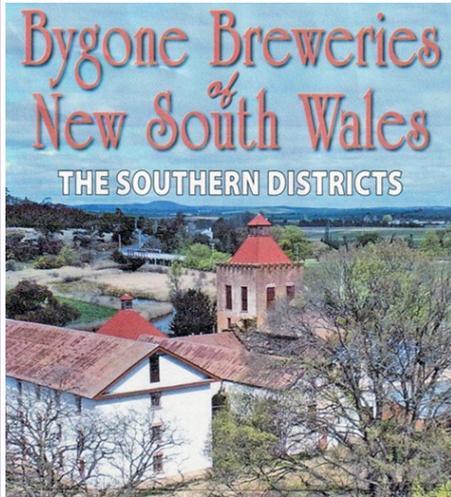


New Grant

The Society has been successful in winning a CSU Community-University Partnership (CUP) Rural and Regional Arts and Culture Program grant of \$750 towards extending the digitisation of border district newspapers on Trove.

Nagle Centre

The new Nagle Centre Albury and St Vincent de Paul housing complex in what was formerly Rich's Lane, was opened and blessed on September 11. It contains 38 units and replaces the former Quamby House shelter for homeless men. It is named after Justice John Nagle and thus honours a bequest from the Nagle family. John Nagle was Albury born and bred and lived in his retirement at Brae Springs Walla Walla. He had an eminent legal career and became Chief Justice of New South Wales.



Bygone Breweries

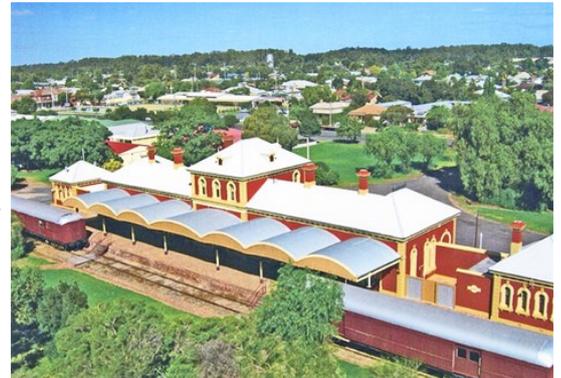
A book for beer lovers and those interested in local history – Brett Stubbs tells the story of beer brewing in our district from 1830. The index has 28 references to Albury and 11 to Wodonga, and the author looks at other brewing towns including Goulburn, Wagga, Beechworth and Deniliquin. The book costs \$45 and can be purchased directly by cheque to the publishers, TANKARD BOOKS, PO Box 4292, St Lucia South, Qld, 4067 or by bank transfer Tankard Books BSB 722744, A/c 100071522. Web tankardbooks.com.au; email orders@tankardbooks.com.au

Extra History help in Indigo Shire

Indigo Council's Burke Museum and Cultural Heritage staff will work with groups in the shire to help them undertake projects of an historical or cultural nature. Staff will spend a block of five days with different groups every two months for a year or more.

Dunera Association Museum

The Dunera Association with its museum at Hay Railway Station, has launched its new website with more accessible information on the 'Dunera Boys' and 'Queen Mary internees'. The website tells the story of the 'Dunera Boys', mainly German and Austrian Jews, many of them refugees from Nazi occupied Europe, who were interned by the British government early in the Second World War. In 1940, these men were deported to Australia, where they were interned in camps at Hay and Orange, New South Wales and at Tatura in Victoria.



'Turning the First Sod' and 'Living with Hume Dam 1919-2019'



Photo Courtesy of MDBA

The Society is involved in helping Albury Library Museum with its exhibition 'Turning the First Sod' at Lavington Library in November.

The Society is also involved in the organisation of a show-and-tell event at the Commercial Club on Thursday 28 November. River system and dam managers, environmentalists, Indigenous scholars, historians, photographers and musicians will share stories and reflect on the centenary of Hume Dam.

President Greg is giving a talk at Lavington Library on the construction of the dam on Wednesday 29 November.

Miami historian and author, Cesar Alejandro Becerra, has been in Albury researching the Albury/America connections of William Brickell and his wife Mary (née Bulmer):

“Due to some luck, aura of a pioneer family and new friends in Australia I have been able to venture thousands of miles from my home in Miami to research two founders of the cities of Fort Lauderdale and Miami, William and Mary Brickell.

“They married at the manse of the Presbyterian Church, Collins St Melbourne on March 20, 1862. The next day they headed for America where they settled in Cleveland Ohio. It is here they met Standard Oil/Rockefeller partner Henry Flagler with whom they would later make land deals that would birth two cities in Florida.

“But before all this, Mary met William in Albury. Brickell, with his partner Adam Casner Kidd, co-owned the Exchange Hotel on the south-east corner of Smollett & Townsend streets (the site became wool stores, then tax office and in 2019 is the Quest Hotel) and a general store providing for a growing population.

“Both Brickell and Kidd had arrived in Australia from San Francisco in 1852. They headed for Yackandandah hoping to find gold but soon established as businessmen in Albury. Amongst many other money-making ventures, Brickell and Kidd won the contract to build Albury’s first Union Bridge for £7500, opened in 1861.

“Mary’s Bulmer family travelled from England as bounty immigrants and originally settled in Goulburn then later came to Albury. Joseph Bulmer, Mary’s father was a carpenter who owned a bit of land and Joseph Jr later would own a timber yard in Albury.

“I have been blessed with help from Australian researchers, Denise McMahon and Christine Wild – their book ‘American Fever, Australian Gold,’ uncovers the stories of hundreds of Americans and Canadians who came for the Gold Rush as Brickell and Kidd did, landing in Sydney in the 1850s.

“Before my journey in Los Angeles I was able to meet with author and actress Beth Brickell and receive the second edition to her book *William and Mary Brickell* and further my understanding of the bigger Brickell history.

“I was indelibly assisted originally by Howard Jones who sent me articles he had written on Kidd and Brickell, Ray Gear who helped with old hotel adverts, and Greg Ryan who welcomed me and helped put me in touch with Joe Wooding who showed up to the LibraryMuseum with no less than 20 pages of Brickell material from old newspapers. Joe also took me on a whirlwind tour where I learned the bigger picture of importance that Albury played in Australia’s history including stops at the Hovell Tree, Brown’s Store site, the Union Bridge, and then to Yackandandah. I also made a trek to see the original burial sites of the Bulmer family in the Pioneer Cemetery led there by Joseph Bulmer Jr’s great grandson Michael who I will meet in Sydney at the end of my trip.

“As I leave Albury to Goulburn I do so with a big heart for a city that has taught me lots. I will be presenting my findings on January 5 at a meeting of the Natives of Dace County Pioneers Historical Society and will see if we can livestream the talk for my new friends in Australia or at least record it.”



Mary (née Bulmer) and William Brickell



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

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



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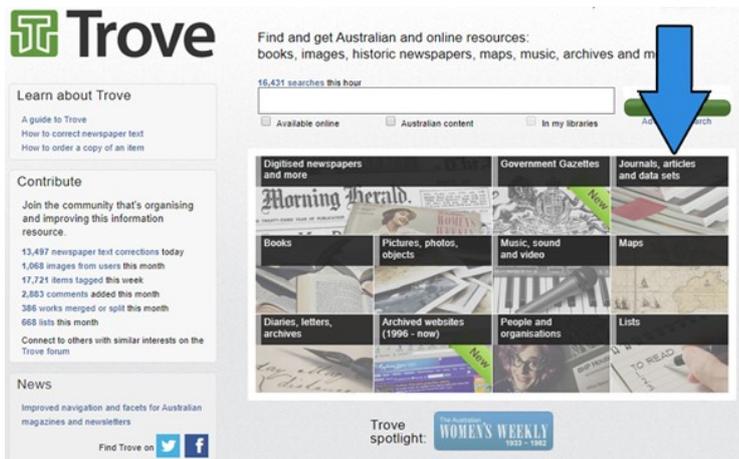
<https://www.facebook.com/Albury.DHS/>

Explore Trove's digitised journals

52 journals and 129,918 articles added since November 30, 2018.

There's lots of exciting new digitised content being added to Trove's journals zone, but it's not always easy to find and search. Dr Tim Sherratt has developed an easy search of the *Journals, articles and data sets* zone. Go to Tim's *Explore Trove's digitised Journals* page. To search inside these journals, just click on the titles you're interested in below, then enter keywords in the search box. Using his search boxes you can search inside the journals Tim has harvested from Trove.

<https://trove-titles.herokuapp.com/> Try "Albury" in *Pastoralists Review* and in *Lone Hand*.



The Burial Files Podcast

Thousands of people travel through Sydney's Central Station every day, but how many know what once lay beneath it? Burial Files digs up the forgotten stories of the Devonshire Street Cemetery and the remains of some 30,000 Sydneysiders buried there between 1820 and 1900.

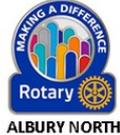
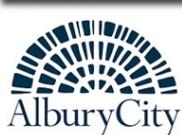
This nine-part series will take you on a journey back to 19th century Sydney, to rediscover a place you thought you knew.

Download free from iTunes, Google Podcasts, Soundcloud, Spotify.

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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

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Corporate: \$100

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

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