

Albury Cricket Association's First Game

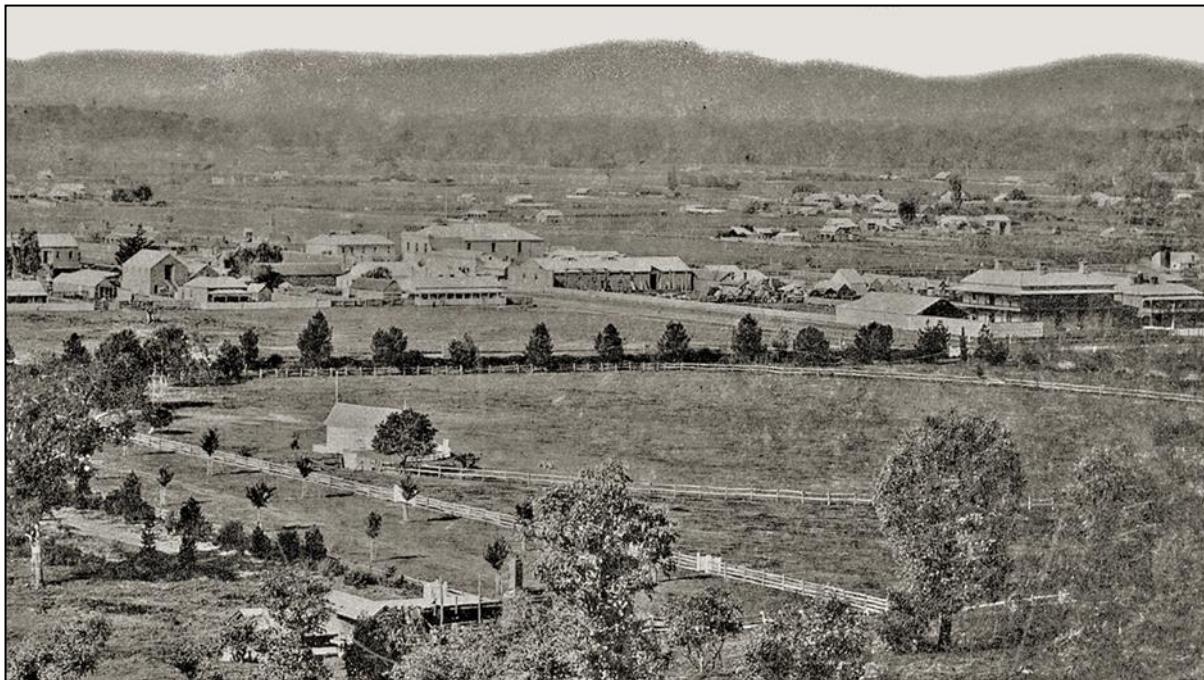
Adapted by Jill Wooding from Joe Wooding's "150 Not Out"

Albury Cricket Association was formed at a meeting held at the Mechanics Institute on October 10, 1894.

The first President was Charles Hilton Dight, a wealthy landholder. He gave freely to charities, two major beneficiaries being St Matthew's Church of England and the Albury Hospital. He was also responsible for the turf wicket at Albury Cricket Ground. Vice-presidents were John Wilkinson representing Albury Club (he was a lawyer and member of Albury Reserve Corps, Volunteer Infantry, eventually with the rank of Colonel) and Jacob Brann representing the Waratahs Club (he was a local store owner).

The Association's first match was Albury v Tallangatta on Saturday, November 3, 1894. It was noted that all the players turned up on time for the Crawford and Co coach ride to Tallangatta. The coach, leaving at 5.45 am, was piloted by Christy Monk.

The Albury team in batting order was Burrows, Tobin, Schmiedt, Hawkins, Griffith, Wood, Compton, Chenery, Hayes, Hamilton and McDonald.



Albury Cricket Ground and Pavilion in about 1888. Established in 1868, it was re-modelled and re-named Albury Sports Ground in 1900. Corner of Hume St and Wodonga Place centre right.

Albury Daily News reported that "Foard's Hotel was reached at 7.30 am, a capital breakfast was in readiness ... The road so far had been fairly good and the road from Foard's to Huon Lane was devoid of incident.

"Past Huon Lane Railway Station it would be impossible to find on any main road to equal this portion of road and one could not help wondering how travelers got along in winter time. The water was almost into the bottom of the coach and occasionally the wheels would go down with a lurch on one side or other, sufficient to make one think the vehicle would turn over ...

"Tallangatta was reached at 11.30 am and after a wash and a reviver at Dyring's Hotel, we reported to the cricket ground [probably nothing more than a cow paddock], where we were in time to assist in laying down the matting."

The game resulted in a win for Albury Association, scores being Albury first Innings 118, Tallangatta first Innings 59, Albury second Innings 5/83.

"A start was made for home about 7 am the next morning. Notwithstanding the roughness of the roads, the trip was very enjoyable for one and all, the more so as the first match under the auspices of the Association had resulted in a win."

They certainly were a tough lot in those days. Playing a game of cricket after such a journey was no mean feat.