

# Albury & District Historical Society Inc



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Foundation members of Albury Business & Professional Women's Club  
Standing from left; Doris Watkin, Thelma Abikhair, Marion Chambers (secretary), Madge Cuthbert, F G (Michael) Huey,  
Seated from left; Lilian Boyes, Letitia Costello, Vera Chubb (president).

## Next Meeting

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

## A&DHS HELPING MEMBERS DEAL WITH SOCIAL ISOLATION

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## IN THIS ISSUE

I hope that all are safe and well during these crazy times. Many of us belong to the demographic that is more vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19 so take extra care. Continue to follow all health recommendations to control the spread of this disease.

We know this can be difficult as the situation is continually changing and evolving, with rumours and misinformation spreading, with sensationalist reporting on social media causing some anxiety. The Australian Department of Health website (<https://www.health.gov.au/>) is particularly useful in getting accurate and up-to-date information.

'Social distancing' is a phrase that most of us have never encountered until this year. But using online resources is obviously safe. By continuing to publish our Bulletins, we will be endeavouring to provide members with interesting content relating to our past. We will also be keeping members up-to-date on history news and providing links to online resources.

This month we have an article from Jan Hunter describing the work of Albury's Business and Professional Women's Club which operated in Albury from 1953 until 2008. Jan researched the topic to coincide with the Albury LibraryMuseum exhibition that unfortunately few have been able to enjoy due to coronavirus forcing closure of the LibraryMuseum.

Also this month we start an 'Albury Timeline Quiz' with 16 questions that should have you searching Richard Lee's 'Albury Timeline' for answers. If members like the concept of a quiz it may become a regular feature of our Bulletin.

My thanks to members who have provided articles for inclusion in this issue: Jan Hunter, Richard Lee, Ray Gear, Howard Jones and Bruce Pennay. As 'social distancing' continues, further ideas for inclusion in future Bulletins will be very welcome.

## WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER

Jan Hunter

The history of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Albury is a story, not only of a women's club, but of 50 years of social changes.

What a wonderful group of women they were! In 1953 Jean Arnot, the president of the Sydney BPW club visited, and encouraged women to begin a club in Albury. At a subsequent meeting Vera Chubb was elected president and Marion Chambers the secretary. 'Chubbie' had always been part of the music scene in Albury, performing, conducting and teaching. Marion, from Bungowannah, had been educated at Albury High School and worked for CML Insurance from when she left school till her retirement. She is remembered as a most highly efficient secretary. Other early members were saleswomen, teachers, and a hair salon owner.

The Albury club joined many other BPWs in Australia which were affiliated with the world wide association. Members attended regional conferences although it took some years for them to take an active part in the debates. In 1967, however, Albury delegates were sitting quietly when the suggestion was made that the next conference be held in a country area. When Albury was mentioned the delegates with trepidation accepted on behalf of their club.

In 1968 there was no Albury Council officer offering to help with organising a conference for 300 delegates. Albury club members explored every accommodation avenue – Sodens, Boomerang, New Albury, etc then they put their mind to venues – Methodist Hall, CWA Hall and the Plaza Theatre. Minor hitches occurred. The tablecloth provided for the official table on the raised stage was skimpy and would, of course, show the knees ('some graceful and some not') of those out front. Modesty was assured when damask material was procured, dyed to match the stage curtains and draped over the table. Another problem was Sunday lunch. In 1968 there were no counter lunches, no cafes open, no catering firms. The problem was solved with member Dr Ruth Barry offering her garden in Wood Street and the Club would provide a basket lunch. Mercy Hospital Ladies catered. The whole conference was a huge success, owing to the pleasure of being together with other members from around the country, having Dame Zara Holt as guest speaker, and no doubt to the meticulous planning of every aspect.

Early Club meetings took the form of 'supper meetings' held in the CWA Hall. Doris Watkin of Lola Wigg Salon was praised for always having the fire going when members arrived. New members were asked to provide a cup and saucer, 'plain ones please as floral ones take too long to match up.' After the Cedar Reception Centre at 610 Olive Street opened in 1968 the group met there but by 1992 the meetings had moved to the Albury Golf Club.

Documents from the fifties mention various sub-groups within the Club contributing to the education of early members and the setting up of formal structures in accordance with BPW protocols, eg public speaking courses for members, a long running discussion group, a group to look at legislation that affected women, as well as a group committed to running the Club and increasing membership.

Along the way things could go wrong despite careful planning. Albury folk will remember the spare block on the south of the CWA Hall. A meeting of BPW with important guests was set up on a Saturday – the same Saturday as the Kindergarten Fete was held right under the open windows. And Ella Allan remembered the time that a private room was organised at the Boomerang. Yes, the room was private but the walls were paper thin and it was Dance Night next door.

The topics of guest speakers, conferences and discussions show that BPW were aware of changes happening in society. Early subjects included 'The Changing Discipline of Motherhood' and 'The Changing



Gladys Rutzou (podiatrist), Marion Chambers (secretary), Ella Allan (teacher), Doris Watkin (salon owner), Fran Garrett (teacher)

Pattern of Work.’ But ‘Superannuation for Women,’ a study on the 1962 book ‘Women in Australia,’ and ‘Challenges to the New Woman and the Family’ showed that the Club was keeping up with what was happening in the lives and the status of women. Along with ‘The Importance of Laughter’ came ‘The Responsibilities of Individual Freedom,’ and a seminar on Women in Literature, guest speakers including Blanche D’Alpuget and Beatrice Faust. A one-day conference in 1995 on ‘Women and Parliament’ listened to a female MP, a female Senator and local woman Cathy McGowan, whose subject was ‘I have a vision.’

The Albury BPW researched, discussed and reported on Divorce and Family Law (1964), a review of the Adoption Act (1992), the pros and cons of the effects of the Hume Highway bypass as well as the ecological effects of the proposed Australian Paper Mill (later Norske Skog.) A lengthy project was the pictorial representation of women in sport in the local press. This involved counting photos in the local paper, writing to district school physical education teachers asking for their opinions, and commending the local Harness Racing Club for their equal opportunity policies. When they pointed out to the editor of the *Border Mail* that pictorial coverage for sport (in 1992) was 89.4% for men and 10.6% for women he gave justifications for the figures, but did admit there were some shortcomings.

Homelessness, family violence, the plight of outworkers and moves to use non-sexist language were all subjects for study and action for BPW Albury. A strong thread through all of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs worldwide has been the issue of equal pay and conditions for female workers. Research, studies and constant representation to the highest levels of government has been ongoing – not only for women in the western world, but those in poorer regions as well.

In 1960 a monetary prize was awarded to the girl from the public secondary school who gained the highest Leaving Certificate Pass. That category later included St Joseph’s Ladies’ College and Albury North High when it opened. Awards were also given to Best Female Student in Business Studies at Albury TAFE as well as scholarships for girls in Year Ten for excellence in Science and Maths. Schools from Wodonga were included in these prizes in 1981 when there were several BPW members from over the border. The prize amount gradually increased over the decades. In 1992 it was \$100 and by 1997 the Year 10 ‘Sustained Effort’ award over five schools was lifted from \$50 to \$90.

Giving a prize for best girl in Maths and Science meant that the same girl was winning in Years 10 and 12, so in 1992 the Year 10 prize was changed to the girl who best showed Civic Participation and Personal Development. That year also the HSC award was widened to include Corowa, Walla and Billabong. Also in 1991, an award was given to the female vocalist with the highest point score at the Albury Eisteddfod and the following year \$50 was awarded to a female student at the Murray Conservatorium towards her musical education.

Though not essentially a fund-raising body, nevertheless the Albury club supported many charities such as the UPA Aged Care Lavington, Guadalupe House Thurgoona and the Albury Wodonga Epilepsy Association. Donations were sent further afield to help a girl in Karachi, Pakistan finish her education, they supported a World Vision child as well as a women’s drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Mozambique. One way of fund raising was a fashion parade by M Spence and Co held at The Cedar (1976) and admission donations for day conferences.

In 1997, Career Woman of the Year was inaugurated with the aim of ‘giving prominence to the contemporary women in business and society’ with a \$500 prize. Two female and one male judge interviewed the applicants (25 in 1997) and at the Dinner and Awards Night each nominee gave a two-minute talk about her career. Over the next decade the title of these awards changed slightly, sometimes Women of Achievement, another time Professional Woman of the Year. The invitation to the award dinners specified ‘Dress semi-formal or after 5’ and the occasions were fund raisers for the Year 10 and 12 awards.

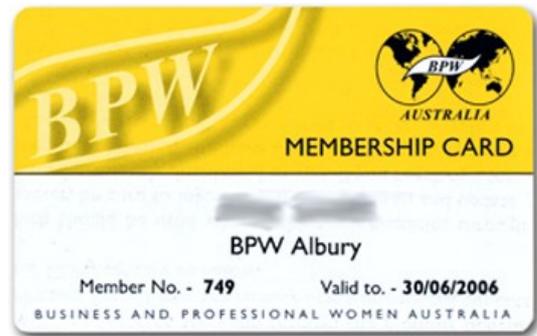
This brief history of the Business and Professional Women’s Club of Albury, and the exhibition at Albury City Library Museum (currently closed), has been made possible by the donation of documents from the estates of Ella Allan and May Smith. Ella spoke at the Club’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner and her draft and completed speech has been invaluable in filling out the early history, as no minute books are available. May was awarded the Diana Trener Trophy for Outstanding [Club] Contributor throughout the year in 2005 and was an active member up until the Club’s closure in 2008. Her papers and memorabilia are also a valuable contribution to the preservation of the history of Business and Professional Women’s Club of Albury.



**Official Collect of Business & Professional Women, said at every meeting.**

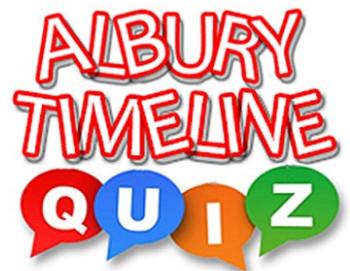
Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;  
 Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.  
 Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.  
 May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face –  
 without self-pity and without prejudice.  
 May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.  
 Let us take time for all things;  
 Make us grow calm, serene, gentle.  
 Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
 straight-forward and unafraid.  
 Grant that we may realize it is the little  
 things that create differences,  
 that in the big things of life we are at one.  
 And may we strive to touch and to know the great  
 common, human heart of us all, and,  
 Oh, Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!

Mary Stewart, 1903



Richard Lee has spent many hours over the last two or three years compiling a comprehensive Albury Timeline. Answers to this 'Albury Timeline Quiz' can be found by referring to his timeline at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/about/albury-timeline/> and clicking on 'Comprehensive Albury Timeline.'

Apologies to members who do not have internet access (but perhaps you won't need to look up answers). Internet users, conduct searches of Richard's document (Ctrl+F or Command+F) to find answers. Thanks to Ray Gear for compiling this quiz. Answers in next month's Bulletin.



1. What name did the European explorers Hume & Hovell give the river, known by the local Wiradjuri nation as Milawa Billa, that they came across on November 16, 1824?
2. Skipped by Captain George Johnston what was the name of the first paddle steamer to reach Albury in 1855?
3. What was the title of Albury's first newspaper established in 1856 and who was its first publisher?
4. The Albury and Murray River Agricultural and Horticultural Society was formed, on what date?
5. The foundation stone of St Matthew's Church of England was laid on July 24, 1857. Who laid this foundation stone?
6. Municipality came to Albury in 1859 with James T Fallon elected first mayor. Why did this happen?
7. The second Union Bridge across the Murray River at Albury, completed in 1898, replaced an earlier bridge. When was the first bridge opened, and who were its builders?
8. What was a feature of the first meeting of the Albury Coursing Club, formed in 1885?
9. In which year was the Ovens and Murray Football Association formed?
10. In which year was Phylloxera first found in the vineyards of Albury?
11. When was the name 'Lavington' substituted for the name 'Black Range'?
12. Who first started scouting in Albury, and in what year did it begin?
13. Who turned on Albury's first electricity scheme and when?
14. Why was 'Noreuil Park' chosen as the name for a park developed south of the western end of Hume Street, and adjoining the Murray River?
15. 'Pneumonic influenza' reached Albury in 1919. What was done to combat the impact of the outbreak?
16. In which year did Amalgamated Textiles Woollen Mills later known as Macquarie Worsteds, begin operations in Albury?

## ONLINE GRAVE VISIT



The Society's cemetery walk has been postponed, but that has not stopped Bruce Pennay presenting a visit to one grave in the Pioneer Cemetery.

I invite you to pause at an unmarked grave in the Lutheran portion of the Pioneer Cemetery.

This is where the body of Ingeborg Radevic lies. The surname indicates a Slav connection and both the first name and the location, midst Lutheran graves, hint at a German origin.

There is no sign at the grave, but documentary evidence related to her death shows she was 24 years old. She had arrived in Australia with her husband Milo Radevic on 27 March 1950. They were both displaced persons. Their selection papers attached to an Immigration Department file show she was from Germany, but became Yugoslav on marriage to Milo. He was 16 years older than her.

Ten days after arriving at Bonegilla Milo killed Inge, stabbing her repeatedly with a knife. He was charged with murder and appeared before a court on 29 June 1950. He argued he was provoked by an instance of her constant infidelity when he saw her kissing a Bonegilla Customs Officer.

The jury found him not guilty of murder, but guilty of manslaughter. The judge sentenced him to two years gaol with remission possible for good behaviour. Both seemed to be swayed by the defence's argument that the murder was not premeditated but sprang from the jealous rage of wronged husband from a cultural background where infidelity caused deep hurt and shame.

In April 1951 Milo made an application asking that he might not be deported when he had served his sentence. He made much of his military service with the Allies and his otherwise good character. He was released after he had served about twelve months of his sentence and he was not deported. In October 1953 he was killed by an electric train.

Inge fits the category of 'forgotten women' which may have been the theme of this year's Cemetery Walk. Howard Jones told the story of her murder in *Startling Stories from Albury*, 2018. I referred school students to the Immigration Department file in *Investigating Bonegilla a virtual study visit*, 2019.

I invited students to go to the records item barcode 1882953 named 'Radevic M' in National Archives of Australia <http://www.naa.gov.au/>. There they could find a compilation of records including a report of the trial in the *Melbourne Sun* on 8 June 1950; the chief patrolman's account of the incident made in the immediate aftermath; a social worker's report explaining the uneasy relationship between the couple; the judge's speech on sentencing and Milo's argument why he should not be deported once he had served his sentence.

They would also find description of Inge's meagre possessions consisted of little beyond well-worn clothes, three pairs of shoes and a packet of new nylon stockings. They were insufficient to pay for a grave marker on what her parents called her 'anchorage' in Australia. Hers remains an unmarked grave in Albury cemetery. The social worker decided not to send a photograph to Germany of 'only a mound of earth.'

Inge's voice is missing from the file. I asked them to speculate on how her account of her relationship with Milo and her version of events would have made a difference to the verdict of the jury, the sentence imposed by the judge and the decision of the prison authorities to grant early release. I asked them to consider if her voice have made a difference to their view on whether Milo Radevic got away with murder.

The story indicates two important aspects of the plight of displaced persons arriving at Bonegilla. First, it shows their poverty. Second, it shows the tensions migration put on family life. Many Bonegilla stories tell of young German girls marrying unwisely to get out of Germany. As the wife of a displaced Yugoslav, Inge could escape the misery of post-war Germany and make her way to a new land and new start.

The story is also illustrative of domestic violence. Inge's zest for life prompted her to flirt with men other than her older husband. Provocatively she allegedly taunted him about his manhood. But there is no doubting she was the victim. War trained Milo to kill.

This grave site tells a tragic story of two flawed people who did not long survive in the aftermath of war.



## FILLING THE VOID

During this time of lockdowns, closures and cancellations, staying connected with the history community can be quite difficult. However, that doesn't mean we can't enjoy quality history online while in social isolation.

**Albury LibraryMuseum** have 'Library at Home' with eBooks (using BorrowBox) and online journals (using RBDigital) & lots more. Go to: <https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/leisure/museum-and-libraries/library-at-home>

Explore the **Bonegilla Migrant Experience** via a 3D walk through. Go to: [Bonegilla virtual tour](#)

**ChatterPack**, free, online, boredom-busting resources!

Go to: <https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/list-of-online-resources-for-anyone-who-is-isolated-at-home>

The **Royal Australian Historical Society** (RAHS) have many online resources available, including:

An **Intimate Pandemic**: The community impact of influenza in 1919, especially its effect upon NSW.

Go to: <https://www.rahs.org.au/an-intimate-pandemic-the-community-impact-of-influenza-in-1919/>

Community stories, memories and experiences of the pneumonic influenza.

Go to: <https://www.rahs.org.au/an-intimate-pandemic-community-stories/>

For **Women's History Month 2020** – 12 biographies of women who have contributed to Australian history in various and meaningful ways. Biographies include Louise Mack (war correspondent), Dame Roma 'The First' Mitchell (first female Queen's Counsel), Mary Ann Bugg (Aboriginal bushranger), and Mary Jane Beattie (colonial businesswoman). Go to: <https://www.rahs.org.au/womens-history-month/>

The **Australian Centre for Public History** and 2SER Radio explore the fascinating histories of informal wills, fortune telling, forensic science and the authenticity of signatures. Go to: <https://2ser.com/history-lab/>

**The History Listen**, stories from Australia and around the world, told by some of our most popular and trusted historians. Go to: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/past-programs/>

**Rum Rebels and Ratbags**, history not for the faint-hearted. Historian, and author of 'Girt,' David Hunt and ABC Radio Sydney's Dom Knight uncover the characters and events left out of your high school history class. Go to: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/rumrebelsratbags/episodes/>

**Little Tiny**, explore world history through the small things that have shaped it.

Go to: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/little-tiny/episodes/>

**The Eleventh** is a new ABC podcast that relives the events that led to the Whitlam Government dismissal on 11 November 1975 – an extraordinary moment in Australia's political history.

Go to: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/the-eleventh/>

**Myths of War**, historian Mark Dapin tackles some of the biggest misconceptions of Australian military history, examining their origins and why they have been misremembered into the present.

Go to: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/myths-of-war/>

**BBC In Our Time**, historian and author Melvin Bragg invites expert guests to discuss the history of ideas (almost 900 episodes to listen to or download).

Go to: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/bo06qykl/episodes/player>

**BBC Great Lives**, Matthew Parris hosts a biographical series in which guests choose someone who has inspired their lives (almost 500 episodes to listen to or download).

Go to: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/bo06qxsbs/episodes/player>

**BBC Witness**, accounts of historic events in world history as told by the people who were there (2700 episodes including an episode on the Australian rabbit plague featuring A&DHS member Bill McDonald).

Go to: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004t1hd/episodes/player>

**12 Famous Museums** – virtual tours you can take on your couch. Go to: [Tour World Museums](#)

Explore **13.8 Billion Years of History**. Go to: [Big History](#)

Access **500 Art Galleries and Museums** – a great way to discover old & new online exhibitions or virtual exhibitions from museums across the world. Go to: [Collections](#)

Journey with the **Australian National Maritime Museum** as they showcase not only images of objects in their collection but also beckon you to immerse yourself on a virtual tour through their vessels and galleries.

Go to: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/australia-national-maritime-museum>

A **real history of Aboriginal Australians**, the first agriculturalists (by Bruce Pascoe)

Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqgrSSz7Htw>

**City of Sydney** – a great online resource to explore! Go to: <https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/>

**The National Museum of Australia's** new exhibition, 'Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians', has launched online.

Go to: <https://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/endeavour-voyage>



Future citizens of Albury might well wonder what sort of place we lived in during 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some statistics that might help.

Residents numbered about 54,000 (the 2018 Census counted 53,767), and signs at the city entrances note this is traditionally Wiradjuri country. However, the present Aboriginal community is drawn from many parts of Australia.

We are an ageing city – with 8000 people over 65 years old, and that includes more than 1400 people over 85.

About 19 per cent of the city population was born overseas, recent migrants coming from India, Bhutan/Nepal, South-East Asia and several African countries. You are quite likely to hear Nepali, Punjabi, Hindi, Greek, Chinese or an African language spoken in the streets.

Public buildings such as the police station and city offices display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and those of Australia and NSW, but this is very much a multi-cultural city.

The Albury LibraryMuseum has a permanent display of Aboriginal culture heritage items plus displays of early settlement, social life, transport and migration through Bonegilla. Murray Art Museum Albury regularly shows contemporary Aboriginal art as well as other Australian art.

Albury people live in more than 23,000 homes, and work in more than 1700 business properties from tiny shops to the Commercial Club. About one third of all homes are rented.

More than 320 new homes a year have been built in recent years, mostly at Thurgoona and Wirlinga. The main shopping areas are around Dean Street, Lavington Square, East Albury and Thurgoona Plaza.

About 25,000 citizens were in full-time or part-time employment in 2018 but the COVID-19 virus temporarily had reduced this by hundreds, if not thousands.

Albury Wodonga Health is the biggest single employer across the two cities.

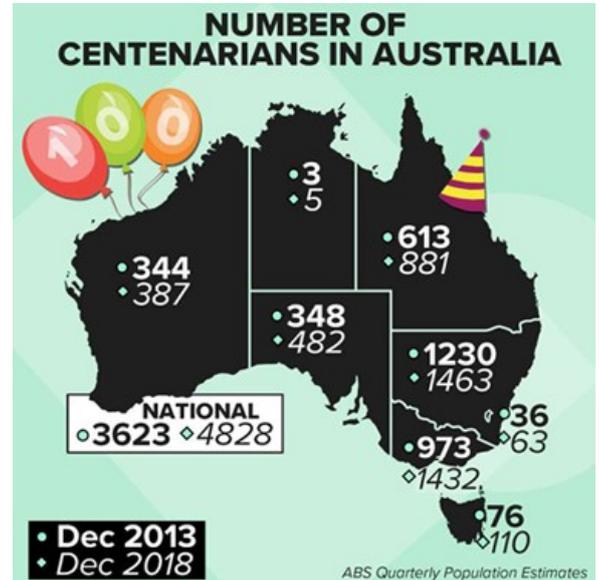
In Albury alone, nearly a fifth of the workforce is in the health and social assistance sector, followed by retail, with manufacturing having fallen well below 2000. The Australian Tax Office is the largest office employer.

More than 2300 worked in education at the time of the 2016 Census. There were then roughly 8500 children in schools, and about 3000 in university or TAFE, though many of those were also counted as working part-time, often in hospitality.

Albury municipality covers 306 square kilometres (30,600 hectares or 75,614 acres) and that includes the Murray River and much of Lake Hume.

In 2018 the city council controlled 520km of sealed roads (not counting the freeway or state highways), 530km of sewer pipes, 421 of stormwater pipes and 641 of water reticulation pipes – all categories being increased year by year. And we were thirsty! The city consumes around 9000 megalitres of water per year.

The combined Albury-Wodonga population is widely acknowledged to be about 100,000 if one counts out-of-towners who usually work in the city’s area. If present growth rates continue, Albury-Wodonga will gain another 27,000 people by 2036.



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/>

## HOWARD JONES' JOTTINGS

Nicknames can often be humorous but also unkind. Albury's Federal Labor MP from 1943-49, Arthur Fuller, was a tall, thin man with a long neck. Fuller was nicknamed "Pilsener" due to his resemblance to long thin pilsener bottles. Boundary changes in 1946 created the seat of Farrer but Fuller represented the "new" Hume until 1949 and again in 1951-55 and 1961-63. He was Government Whip during part of the Chifley Government. He lived at Tumut until his death in 1987.



Arthur Fuller

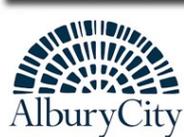
Harry Davies, elected Mayor of Albury for 1925, was a strong temperance advocate. He announced on his election that, owing to his temperance principles, no intoxicating liquor would be dispensed at any public function over which he had control during his term of office. In 1927 he resigned from the council because he objected to smoking at the council table. Aldermen had voted 7-4 to allow smoking. The Labor Party stalwart and Presbyterian died in 1937.

A census in NSW in 1901 counted only seven Aboriginal people in the Albury district (including Mulwala, Corowa, Henty, Holbrook and Tumbarumba). The "white" population numbered 11,539 males and 9,225 females and the Chinese 183. (*Argus*, 8 May 1901). It is unclear how the enumerators identified people termed Aboriginal.

Herbert Beresford, an ex-British Army major, 54, was a powerfully-built man renowned for his feats of strength on the Hume Dam construction site in the 1920s. Indeed, he was called Albury's strongest man and once lifted 700 pounds (317.7 kilograms) onto a table. One Saturday afternoon in May 1927 he went to see a movie at the Mechanics Institute but when it ended, he failed to leave his seat. Manager George Osbourne found him dead, apparently from a heart attack. People had not noticed anything was amiss as the body was sitting upright, as if looking at the screen.

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gmjryan@bigpond.com

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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 LibraryMuseum.

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