

Albury & District Historical Society Inc

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Next Meeting

Due to coronavirus pandemic, meetings remain cancelled.



Albury High School, 1920-2020—On Monday February 2, 1920 classes opened for Albury High School students. Their first home was the old Albury Hospital on the south-west corner of Thургона and Pemberton Streets, next to the Albury Gaol.

A&DHS
meetings!
cancelled!

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THIS MONTH

As notified last month, our Annual General Meeting has been postponed until 7.30 pm, Wednesday August 12 at the Commercial Club. At this point, we are hoping that we will be able to meet then, but nothing is certain at the moment. We will confirm that date as soon as possible.

A reminder that subs are now due for 2020/21. Many thanks to members who have renewed subscriptions over the past few weeks – we have already received subs from over 40 members.

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

Corporate membership is \$100 p.a. and includes recognition on our website and each month in the Bulletin.

Our feature article this week is an account of the early days of Albury High School. It was 100 years in February since Keith Welsh was part of the first cohort of students at the first day of lessons at AHS. He was 100 years old when he recorded his reflections in 2006.

Celebrations for Albury High School's centenary have been postponed until October 2021. Society member and former AHS Principal Keith Crossley has updated his book on the history of the school – it will be available for sale at \$35 in September.

The Albury LibraryMuseum and Lavington Library reopened on Monday 1 June. Opening hours are 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday, with reduced services including library borrowing and returning, public access technology (limited computers) and access to the temporary exhibition zone. Find out more about online resources, exhibitions, collections and services at

<https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/leisure/museum-and-libraries>

A very warm welcome to new Society members, Beryl Bradley who lives at Docklands (Melbourne) and family membership for Mr & Mrs A Whatson from Cooranbong, north of Sydney.

2020/21 Subs Due

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ALBURY HIGH SCHOOL

On Monday February 2, 1920 the 'Border Morning Mail' informed its young readers that "all the High School pupils and also those who have just passed the Qualifying Certificate Examinations, are expected to assemble at the Old Hospital at 9 o'clock this morning. Mr J G Monaghan, MA, formerly headmaster of the Albury District School, has been appointed headmaster of the Albury High School. This step means considerable advancement in the service for Mr Monaghan, who is to be heartily congratulated thereon ... There will now be over 200 pupils at the High School ... it behoves all who have at heart the educational advancement of the town to be up and doing."

The first home of Albury High School was the old Albury District Hospital on the south-west corner of Thургона and Pemberton Streets, next to the Albury Gaol and virtually looking down Stanley Street (named Swift St in 1920).

Keith Welsh was one of the pupils who reported for class on that first morning. In 2006, the 100 year old former student recorded his reflections of attending Albury High School :–

It was one afternoon late in 1919 when the Headmaster of Albury District School entered the boys' senior class studying for the Department of Education's state-wide Qualifying Certificate examination, and said he had an announcement to make – "Albury is to have a new high school of its own as from next year and you will be the first students of this new school."

A wave of excitement swept through the class although there was no outward expression as would be the case today, but it was obvious that something momentous was to take place. And so years of public agitation for a high school had finally succeeded.

The Albury boys could not get home to their parents quickly enough to repeat the news which was confirmed by the *Border Morning Mail* next day. Parents and Citizens' Associations had made incessant claims to the Department of Education for years but beyond acquiring a site for a school in Kiewa Street – the site on which the school now stands – nothing concrete had been done, although the Department of Education did purchase an adjoining house for the John Irvine Hunter Library.

The Albury District School for years had a small secondary department which was wrongly called 'the high school,' but students now no longer said they were going to high school, but they would be attending Albury High School – there was a subtle difference.

For years the Albury District Hospital had operated, pardon the pun, in a complex in Thургона Street adjacent to the now demolished Albury Gaol. As time wore on, the conditions for a healing centre were far from ideal, and one day the Health Department classed it as no longer fit for the treatment of sick and injured, and plans were prepared and work commenced on a modern Albury District Hospital in Wodonga Place opposite the Botanic Gardens.

These [the plans] had reached an advanced stage when the Department of Education announced the establishment of the Albury High School which was to be housed in the old hospital building – a building unfit for the treatment of sick and injured but good enough for the secondary education of boys and girls, the future leaders of the nation.



In 1920 staff and students assembled in front of the old hospital in Thургона St, the first Albury High School.

The Department of Education moved in those days, it galloped. Plans for the conversion of a hospital to a school were hastily prepared and tradesmen were rushed to the site for lightning alterations. Old hospital wards were partitioned so as to provide for two or more classrooms. Smaller rooms were used for smaller classes. The old infectious diseases ward became the science block, a small steel unit previously used as an operating theatre

became a specialist classroom.

Every available piece of space was used except for one large unit at the back which had been the domestic quarters and was still let – but at the end of 1921 this became vacant and the Department quickly converted this to three modern classrooms. There was little playground available and each Monday morning assemblies were held in a small area, brick-paved, and there “we honoured our God, served our King and saluted our Flag.”

Mr Monaghan and his staff laboured under difficult conditions, but there was one thing which was not lacking – spirit. Spirit was engendered from the first day, and students showed great loyalty and enthusiasm, which continues today. The spirit was largely fomented by the first school captain, the late Harry Heath, and by the second captain and the school’s champion athlete and talented cricketer/footballer, Jack Nichols. The students backed them up enthusiastically and from small beginnings the school became an educational institution of renown and the home of talented sportswomen and men.

The school was now firmly established. Success followed success, but there was one setback. The first annual school athletic championships were organised and it would have been an unqualified success but there was something missing – the attendance of parents. A mid-week meeting apparently was inconvenient to them. The quality of events was outstanding and the 100 yards was outstanding, Harry Heath beating Jack Nichols by a fraction of an inch. But Nichols then won every other field event and became the school’s athletic champion with Edith Fromholtz the girl champion. Nichols repeated his championship title next year with Alma McKoy the girls’ champion.

Mr Monaghan was very musical and he and the staff organised the school’s first concert. A varied program was provided and so successful was it that it had to be repeated – and again every seat in the theatre was occupied. The next year the school was more ambitious and it staged the cantata ‘Red Riding Hood.’ Staff and students were most enthusiastic leading up to the big night but at the full dress-rehearsal, they had a set back – the headpiece of the wolf costume, worn by science teacher Mr Lyons, was so heavy that he could not hear the orchestra. Eventually Mr Monaghan sang the number from the theatre wing and the audience was none the wiser. By popular demand the performance was repeated later and again the theatre was packed.



Albury High School staff and students at their new Kiewa St home, 1928

For a long time Albury residents had complained that Wagga Wagga, a comparable city, and Hay, a much smaller centre, had modern High schools while Albury functioned in a condemned hospital. But once again the Department rose to the occasion and that section facing Kiewa Street was built. And it was worthy of Albury.

The old hospital attracted 200 students in the first few years and a small staff of 12 to 17. Today [2006] the enrolment exceeds 1000 with a talented staff of about 70. Truly Albury High School, whose buildings have doubled in size to meet ever-growing needs, is a magnificent educational institution. Students from Albury High School have established themselves in the fields of science, medicine and engineering, they have held important professional jobs, they have established themselves in law and teaching and some fine sportsmen and women have come from the school.

In common with other centres, Albury High School suffered with the outbreak of the Second World War. Youths of both sexes who two or three years earlier had been at school, were now in the uniforms of the King’s services, serving in many theatres of war. They played their parts nobly and well. A return to peace subsequently enabled the school to resume its primary role.

Students who have studied at the Albury High School have one boast – they were once students “At the best High School of all.”

ALBURY'S FIRST VICE-REGAL VISITOR, 1839



Portrait of Jane Griffin
(later Lady Franklin)

Lady Jane Franklin, the second wife of Sir John Franklin, Governor of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and famous Arctic explorer, crossed Bass Strait to Port Phillip and began an arduous journey overland from Melbourne to Sydney. She stayed several days at 'The Crossing Place' which later became Albury. With her own tent and camping gear, she was accompanied by a small party of companions, including Sophy Cracroft, Mr Elliot, Captain Moriarty and Dr Hobson.

The entourage travelled by horse, cart and on foot, Lady Franklin preferring to ride on the front seat of the cart which carried their supplies. She also rode side-saddle. Whilst in the bush the cart also doubled as a bed for the ladies if they did not wish to camp in tents or on the ground under the stars. The 400 miles between Melbourne and Yass took the party 25 days

On April 20, 1839, Lady Franklin addressed a long letter to her husband from "Encampment on the right bank of the Murray" – extracts from her letter:

"On the right bank of the Murray are two inhabited dwellings and a smaller unfinished one; the latter belongs to a Mr Lewis, whose cattle station we had passed two miles on the other side of the river.

"Of the former, one is the spacious hut of Mr Brown, erected for a store, and standing on the forest plain near the water, and the other is the station of the Mounted Police perched upon the steep declivity (which a few hundred yards below Mr Brown's, rises from the edge of the river) of the lofty and undulating bank. On a flat enclosed paddock between these two dwellings, and meant as a reserve pasture for the horses of the Mounted Police, we pitched our encampment, rejoicing to have passed that formidable river which had hitherto been represented to us as the greatest obstacle we had to fear, and at the same time to have accomplished the half of our journey to Yass, or exactly 200 miles in a fortnight.

"The police station here was formed in October of last year [1838], and the house completed in 17 days. The walls are of split boards of stringy bark, and the roof is covered with sheets of bark. It contains four rooms for a sergeant and four men, and is probably sufficiently weather-tight for so fine a climate, though the light and air enter through the gaping boards and the windows are unglazed. A small shed at a little distance is the poultry house, giving shelter to about a dozen fowls, one of which the sergeant said he would immediately knock down for us if we pleased to have it for dinner. On the plain below is a stable shed for horses and cattle.

"Mr Brown's store has been erected about a twelve month. It consists of five rooms and closets built in the same way as the barrack, but is not yet furnished with its supplies. We should not have found it easy to make our purchases here either for ourselves or our horses had we required to do so.

Mr Brown had some cattle here, and four acres of ground on the bank of the river planted with maize, the finest looking I ever saw in any country. Many of the stems were over 12ft high, 'three times as tall,' Sophy observed, as Mr Elliott ...

"A native black, named Jem, dressed in a jacket and trousers, with his gun by his side and a pipe in his mouth, was squatting on the ground by the side of the maize field and on the river's bank to frighten away the crows. He had a heap of burning ashes before him and had placed a plank between him and the ground, all of which signs of civilisation were curiously contrasted by the loss of two front teeth in his upper jaw (one of the distinguishing marks of his tribe) and by a pendant ornament to his shock-head consisting of two kangaroo teeth fastened by strings to the native hairs.

"I heard a good account of the useful and amiable properties of this man as well as of another named Joe, who is particularly attached to the police station, where he and his wife and young daughter perform the drudgery of bringing wood and water to the house, all being paid to their entire satisfaction for their services by such refuse victuals as may be given them. They eagerly seized upon the potato parings and raw outside cabbage stalks of our culinary fare and were ready to make themselves useful in any way they could for the sake of anything left upon the plates, and which would otherwise have been thrown to the dogs.

"We were told that Joe used his gin (wife) very kindly. They were all, including another woman, who was probably Jem's wife ... one was dressed in a cotton shift, the other in an opossum skin ...

"As we have spent a whole day on the banks of the Murray in order to rest the horses, we had time to amuse ourselves a little with these people. One of them has been out to search for opossums and flying squirrels in the

trunks of the trees. Their acute sense can detect by the scratches which these animals will make on the bark in climbing, as well as by holes in the trunks, such trees as they have rested in, and however loft or branchless the trunk, they will by the help of their tomahawk (taw-win) soon notch and toe their way to the spot ...

"Jem was invited on the evening of our arrival to dance at the fire but he seemed to have little inclination for it, whenever he began to attempt it the dogs barked at him."

ALBURY CUSTOMS HOUSE

For most of the second half of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth, custom duties had to be paid on goods moving both ways across the border. In 1874, the average collected each month in Albury was a little under £2000 (about \$250,000 using a programme that uses increase in CPI to convert 1874 pounds to 2020 dollars) – little wonder the colonial administrations were reluctant to remove custom duties.

On January 12, 1894 *The Argus* reported that "The revenue collected at the Albury Customs-house for the year 1893 amounted in the aggregate to £33,673, as against a total of £42,640 for 1892. The chief items levied upon were – brandy, £2,402; gin, £631; geneva, £411; rum, £645; whisky, £5,681; wine, £346; beer, £382; tobacco, £4,900; cigars and cigarettes, £518; sugar and molasses, £2,813."



Albury Customs House

The *Border Morning Mail*, City Supplement, Saturday April 5, 1947 carried an old photo of the customs house and the following report:

"RELIC OF PRE-FEDERATION DAYS – Quaint Customs House Near Union Bridge

"Before Federation and before the customs barrier between the two Colonies (now States) were finally swept away, the little Customs House stood at the Albury end of the Union Bridge.

"In those days the formalities necessary to entitle one to cross from one Colony to the other were just as exacting as if one were crossing from one foreign country to another. Travellers by train between Sydney and Melbourne

before Federation will recollect the delay and inconvenience occasioned by the examination of personal and other baggage at the border station.

"The notice attached to the little Customs House directed that 'all persons driving vehicles and those on horseback or on foot conveying parcels must on passing call and report to Customs House.'

"The little Customs House is still in Albury [1947]. When Albury Bowling Club opened its rinks in the Botanic Gardens, it needed a club house and Sir William Lyne, MLA, filled the bill. About 1906 he loaned the building to the club and it was used at the gardens until the club moved to Macauley St. It was re-assembled at the new grounds and is still in use [1947] as part of the tool house."

The Albury Bowling Club's greens at the Albury Botanic Gardens opened in December 1906 – in this photo from several years later, the old customs house was being put to good use.



Murray River Customs Duties.

Custom House, Sydney,
January 27th, 1872.

NO TICE is hereby given that Customs' Duties will be levied, on and after the 1st day of February next, at Albury, Corowa, Moama, Swan Hill, Euston, and Wentworth, on all Goods, which, being subject to duty under the New South Wales Tariff, shall be brought across or by way of the River Murray from Victoria or South Australia.

No goods of any description will be allowed to be brought into New South Wales across or by way of the River Murray until a list of them, containing their true description and value, shall have been submitted to the Customs' Officers at one or other of the above-named Stations, and duty shall have been paid on such as are subject to duty, at Albury, Moama, Euston, Wentworth, and Corowa.

However, such Goods may be warehoused under the Crown's lock without payment of duty from the 1st of February. If any such goods shall be brought into New South Wales contrary to this notice and to the Customs Laws, such goods will be forfeited, together with the vessels, boats, punts, drays, or other vehicles used in conveying or removing them, and all persons concerned in their conveyance or removal will be prosecuted according to law.

W. N. LLWELLIN,
Acting-Collector of Customs.

Albury Banner, January 1872

Albury Banner and Wodonga Express Friday 13 December 1907:

"RELICS OF THE PAST – UNIQUE FUNCTION AT ALBURY, SOME OLD MEMORIES

When the old Council Chambers in Dean-street were demolished recently, the foundation stone was unearthed, and the memorandum, newspapers, and two bottles of wine interred therein when the stone was laid 40 years previously, were brought to light. The wine, Reisling and Shiraz [BMM says Sherry] was handed over to Messrs Fallon Bros, who organised a gathering at the cellars for the purpose of opening and testing it ... A file of the 'Albury Banner' for the year 1867 and of the 'Border Post' for 1860 were also displayed, and were inspected with much interest by the gathering. The document deposited with the wine was not decipherable, but from the 'Banner' file of November 2, 1867, containing a report of the ceremony connected with the laying of the foundation stone referred to, it was found to be as follows:— The foundation stone of this building [then Albury's Telegraph Office] was laid by Charles Immanuel Kraegen* on Thursday, 31st October, AD 1867, in the 30th year of the reign of Queen Victoria ... Governor of NSW, Sir John Young. Premier of NSW, Sir James Martin. Mayor of Albury, Lewis Jones. Contractors, Hardy and Hodson."

Results of the wine tasting were reported in the *Border Morning Mail* of December 12, 1907:

"The ceremony of testing the two bottles of wine found under the foundation stone of the old council chambers, Albury, took place at Messrs Fallon's Albury wine cellars yesterday ... There were also three coins — a threepenny piece of 1863, a bronze penny of 1860, and a silver penny dated 1859. The latter was not issued for circulation, but was what was called 'Maundy money.' It was also somewhat strange to find that the bronze penny was of a very rare type ... Alderman Waugh said he would take steps to have the coins presented to the Albury Museum ... The two bottles of 40-year-old wine were then opened, one Reisling and the other Sherry ... and great surprise was expressed that it should be in such fine condition ... Nearly everyone present had at least a sip of the old wine. When the bottles were opened, Dr Andrews found a metal label inside the leaden case showing that the wines were of 1860 vintage."

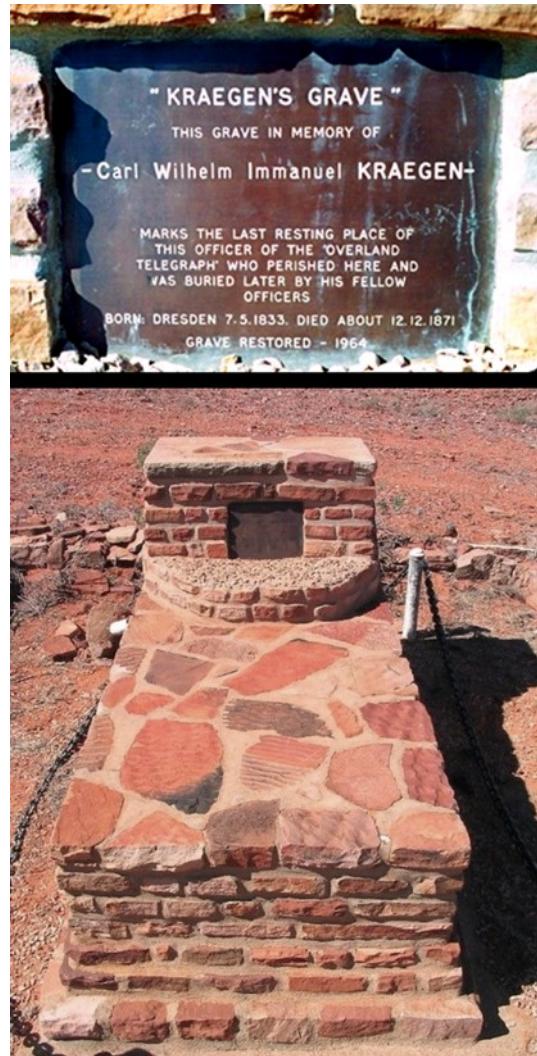
*Charles William Immanuel Kraegen was appointed in charge of the Albury Telegraph Office in about 1858. In 1871, Kraegen was working on the Overland Telegraph Line from Darwin to Port Augusta. As the central section of the line approached completion, Kraegen was sent to Alice Springs. He arrived at Charlotte Waters on November 30, 1871, and with two other telegraph operators, J J Mueller and R C Watson, left on horseback, to travel to Alice Springs where they were to open up communication with Adelaide.

They had a sketch map showing the location of surface waters. However, on the third day they were unable to find water and spent two days in an unsuccessful search. With the situation becoming serious, Kraegen, the best mounted of the three, rode on hoping to find water. In Kraegen's absence Mueller and Watson continued to search for water and with no luck killed one the horses and drank its blood, saving their lives.

A few days later linesmen inspecting the line found Kraegen's body near a pole only about five kilometres from a well-known waterhole. They buried Kraegen and made a headstone of wooden board and on it nailed a piece of tin in which they punctured an inscription with a nail.

In 1926, Edward Kraegen (born in Albury) went in search of his father's grave. The search was unsuccessful, but he did meet a travelling missionary who later saw the grave and sent back a photo of it. This photo and the missionary's directions led Kraegen's grandson Frank and his son John to the grave in 1962. The headstone was still there, fallen over but legible, along with bits of old pole, a broken insulator and some tangled wire.

The family erected a headstone and in 1964 the Northern Territory Government constructed a memorial at the site and incorporated the headstone into the memorial. The memorial has been included in the Northern Territory Place Names Register.

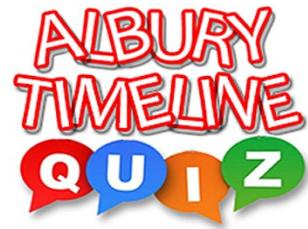


RAY GEAR'S JULY QUIZ – answers can be found by referring to Richard Lee's timeline at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/about/albury-timeline/>

1. The Causeway between Albury and Wodonga over the Wodonga Flats was named after an Olympic athlete. Who was that athlete?
2. Xavier High School was instituted by amalgamating two other schools. What were those two schools?
3. The Albury Symphony Orchestra held its inaugural performance in what year?
4. Which Mayor of Albury opened the Myer Shopping Centre?
5. What name was given to a Rest Centre opened by the Premier of New South Wales in the NSW State Government Offices in Dean Street?
6. The Scots School on the corner of Wood and Perry Streets was created by the merging of two other schools. What were those two schools?
7. What name was given to the shopping centre that opened on the south-west corner of Young and Crisp Streets in the late 1960s?
8. Who was the first Albury person to win a bronze medal for Australia at the Commonwealth Games?
9. What year did a rubbish tip open at Alexandra Park?
10. In what decade did Albury's Botanic Gardens win three Riverina Municipal or Shire awards for best garden?

Answers to last month's quiz:

1. Hon D H Drummond
2. Albury, in October 1931
3. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir John Northcott
4. 1951
5. January 1, 1962
6. North Albury Swimming Centre
7. Corner of Dean and Kiewa Streets
8. 1967, the Globe Hotel
9. Mrs I C (Bobby) Derkenne
10. Whitlam Federal government, NSW and Victorian State governments
11. 30 July 1979
12. 1979
13. Border Shopping Centre
14. The north-east corner of Townsend and Hume Streets
15. 1980
16. Housing.



Have you heard about Trove's new Collection Features? Learn more about how Collection Features work by exploring the Albury Botanic Gardens feature: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/collection/albury/botanicgardens>

The collection traces the creation and development of the Albury Botanic Gardens, bringing together clippings from Albury Wodonga newspapers that have been digitised with the support of the Albury & District Historical Society, the Wodonga Historical Society, the State Library NSW, the State Library Victoria, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the Victorian and NSW State Governments and the generosity of many local individuals and organisations.

It includes articles that tell the stories of the early curators of the Garden, and how plantings and ornamentation helped transform the Gardens from a “barren walk” to the vibrant space it is today.

INLAND RAIL CONFERENCE—ADVANCE NOTICE

The next Inland Rail Conference will be held in Albury Wodonga in May 2021. The two-day conference will bring together key players involved in the Inland Rail project to discuss how this nationally significant infrastructure project is already transforming the movement of freight in Australia, what it means for the Australian freight industry and the benefits it will deliver for national freight customers as the project progresses. The conference will also look at how Inland Rail plays its part in boosting the economy and future-proofing Australia's supply chains.

The Inland Rail Conference was postponed in April 2020 due to the continued uncertainty within our industry and the evolving impacts of COVID-19.



INLAND RAIL CONFERENCE
5-6 May 2021, Albury Wodonga



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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HOWARD JONES' JOTTINGS

DOUBLE HONOUR: Albury has a building that unusually has separate commemorative stones for a husband and wife, Alf and Ellen Waugh. As Mayor of Albury and president of the Albury Ambulance Station Committee, Alf laid the foundation stone of the ambulance station in Dean Street on August 1, 1934. As president of the Ladies Auxiliary, Ellen's name appears on a twin stone recording that she declared the place open on December 13, 1934.

WAR VISITORS: A Messerschmidtt fighter plane captured from Nazi Germany toured Australia in August 1941. It had been shot down over England but was practically undamaged. In Albury, it was exhibited at the Palais Royal in Kiewa Street, loaned free by Charles 'Pivot' Smith. Entry fees and souvenir sales benefited the Red Cross Comforts Fund and Bombing Relief Fund. In November 1942, a Japanese midget submarine, sunk in Sydney Harbour, was exhibited in Dean Street on a similar tour (the parts had been reassembled from two submarines).

OLD SOLDIER'S GIFT: Blood transfusions were rare in the Twenties, but an unusual case was reported in Albury in April 1926. Four volunteers answered a call by the district hospital to donate a pint of blood in the hope of saving a patient's life. The four were tested, and the doctors' choice fell on William Gray, aged 31, a World War I veteran working on the Hume Dam construction. Gray had lost a leg at Polygon Wood on the Western Front and was wounded at Poziers. The transfusion was successful and the patient was saved.

Answer: The hitching ring on a verandah post near Bellevue's front door in Kiewa Street. No horses in sight today!

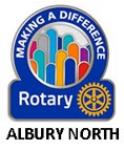
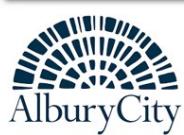


Guess what this is?

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Please click on the logo to visit their respective websites.



Thanks to Commercial Club
for many years of support.



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Bulletin dispatch: Richard Lee

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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
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