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Albury War Memorial illuminated at night and looking splendid

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 09, 2020

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: ABC Goulburn Murray and its role informing about our local past.

Speaker: Gaye Pattison

**ALBURY
LIBRARYMUSEUM
Early Photography from
Australian Museum
Until October 11**

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Salutation Inn

REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING (12.08.2020)

Our first meeting since March due to Covid-19 restrictions was very welcome and good to get back to some sort of normal even though some members were trapped south of the Border, unable to cross.

The meeting got under way with the Annual General Meeting of the Society, chaired by Greg Ryan, in The Elizabeth Room of the Commercial Club. Twenty six members and guests were in attendance and there were fourteen apologies. Minutes of the previous AGM were read and confirmed and the President's Annual Report received together with the Treasurer's end of year report. Greg called Society Patron Greg Aplin to the chair where he declared all positions vacant and those duly elected were President: Greg Ryan; Vice President: position not filled; Secretary: Helen Livsey; Minute Secretary: Jill Wooding; Treasurer: Simon Burgess; Committee: Marion Taylor, Dennis Hickey, Colin McAulay, Ashley Edwards, Ralph Sempendorfer and Sue Haberfield. Greg took the chair again and a motion was passed recommending that no change be made to subscription fees.

Following the AGM, our guest speaker, Graham Docksey OAM, JP described changes that have been made to the Albury War Memorial. His talk highlighted the significance of the Memorial to the people of Albury and the work done by Chris McQuellin and RSL members to ensure that wording on memorial plaques at the site are both accurate and complete. He then went on to describe proposals for changes at the Memorial Bowl and asked us for input into design plans.

Most members have by now paid their subs, but we ask that all members who have not paid do so as soon as possible. Single members \$30, family members \$35, posted copy of the Bulletin, \$10 extra.

20/21 Subs Overdue

We welcome to the Society new members Geoff Emerson, Geoff & Jenny Romero and Belinda Nash.

THE ALBURY WAR MEMORIAL AND BOWL

Graham Docksey

Prior to being elected as an Albury City Councillor in 2012, Graham was a member of the Australian Army for 46 years serving as both a soldier and an officer. He is the President of the City of Albury RSL Sub-Branch. He is also historian for the 2/23rd Battalion Albury's Own Association and as such he has travelled to Libya, Egypt, PNG and Labuan Island conducting research. As a councillor Graham has been working hard to secure the \$1.35-million refurbishment of the Albury War Memorial and is now working to refurbish the World War Two Memorial Bowl.

Graham started his presentation with a reminder that August 15 marks 75 years since VP Day, Victory in the Pacific, the surrender of Japan and the end of World War II. He drew a parallel between Tom Mitchell, highlighted in the article in our August Bulletin written by Tom's daughter Honor Auchinleck – and Graham's



Early days of construction of the Albury War Memorial, mid 1920s

own two uncles, both captured in Singapore and POWs on the Burma Railway. They both survived the ordeal.

One of Graham's passions since on Council has been improvements to the Albury War Memorial. After the 1914-18 War, a movement was started to erect a memorial to the fallen, but there was a stronger movement to start a Soldier's Club. The latter won the day and a club was started. However, the scheme was not a success and after three years was abandoned.

In 1922 the question of a memorial was revived, and many suggestions were made including a wing to the hospital, high school buildings, gates to Dean Square along with many others. Finally, a decision was made after much discussion to proceed with a monument even though the final outcome was different due to cost.

On ANZAC Day 1925 in the early evening a ceremony was held and the monument was formally opened by General Paine. The monument was the first in Australia to be illuminated at night. The new lighting further illuminates the monument at night.

The Albury War Memorial remains as a strong and powerful symbol of freedom and sacrifice.

Monument Hill Redevelopment

Construction work for stage one of the redevelopments began in October 2019 and concluded in April 2020. Construction of stage one cost approximately \$1.3million with \$1 million from AlburyCity and \$300,000 from the NSW Government.

The refurbishment work provides:

- smaller named plaques
- Seventeen viewing alcoves and plaque structures
- A wing wall structure to display individual name plaques
- 271 replacement plaques and 16 descriptive plaques
- Three new CCTV cameras
- Upgraded lighting and power infrastructure
- Landscaping and irrigation
- Two new flag poles.

Earthworks started in October 2019 and continued into 2020. The forecourt area is now flat so problems from the past of chairs on slopes will be avoided.

In the past, at the rear of the Memorial were 271 plaques, basically at gutter level, often covered in litter and not appropriate for the memory of the veterans represented on the plaques. Nor were the plaques complete, so with the help of A&DHS member Chris McQuellin and members of the RSL, detail for all plaques was researched and missing details such as age and place of death and burial were found and wording for each of the 271 plaques is now complete.



The Wing Walls with 271 Plaques

The plaques will be placed along the wing wall, with the first plaque that of Gunner Gowing from the Boer War. Then will be plaques for World War I deaths, on the opposite side World War II deaths through to Vietnam and Korean Wars. All plaques will be at a height making them easier to read.

Each of the seventeen alcoves will have a top plaque covering the specific war, from the Boer War to Gulf Wars I and II. The lower plaque in each alcove will give a brief description of each war. For the first time there will be a plaque commemorating the role played by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the various conflicts.

Stage 2 of the development project will include:

- Eastern viewing points overlooking Dean Street
- Upgrade to lower retaining walls
- Upgrade of the southern viewing point overlooking the river and Victoria
- A western viewing point overlooking West Albury
- Upgrades to the linking path network including lighting on the path coming up from Dean Street.

World War II Memorial Bowl Draft Masterplan

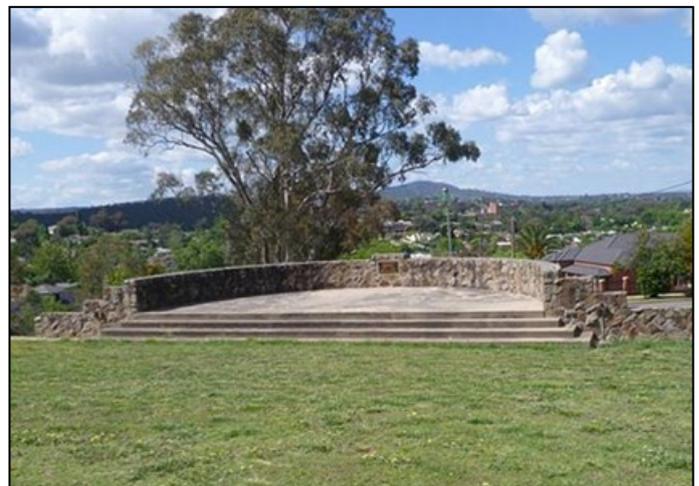
This Memorial was established seventy years ago with no change to the structure and layout over that time. The masterplan is conceptual and in the developmental stages. The preliminary plan has not yet been through a public exhibition process or endorsed by Council.

The proposal to date consists of the following:

- A local level play space for families
- An outdoor fitness station
- Improved car parking including for disabled
- Shade sails over areas
- Seating in areas adjacent to plaques (work is proceeding in consultation with A&DHS member Bruce Pennay for wording on plaques dealing with Albury during World War II)
- Restoration of existing retaining walls
- Improvement of bicycle/walk path network
- Landscaping including incorporation of the aboriginal garden which is opposite.

The RSL is supportive of the need for changes at the Memorial Bowl but conscious that the changes must be made sensitively taking into account reasons why the Memorial was established in the first place.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chris McQuellin, in thanking Graham, pointed out that they had both been working for several years on researching war graves at the Pioneer Cemetery and the War Memorial plaques – Chris went on to thank Graham and his team from RSL for the ‘power of work’ they have done in commemorating Albury’s service men and women.



The Stage of the WWII Memorial Bowl

THE ALBURY WAR MEMORIAL

An abridged version of Jan Hunter’s article, printed in A&DHS Bulletin No 556

The Albury War Memorial, known to us all as ‘The Monument,’ has been standing on the hill at the western end of Dean Street since 1925. Every ANZAC Day several thousand people gather before dawn for a moving ceremony.

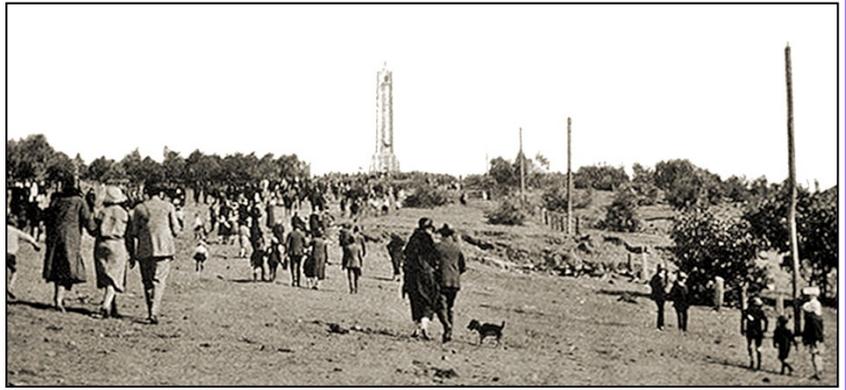
After WWI, a Memorial to the fallen was discussed, but a Soldiers’ Club was begun instead. This wasn’t a success, so the idea of a Memorial was revived in 1922. A committee was formed of fourteen well known men. Stuart Logan, builder and timber merchant, and Louis Harrison, an architect, submitted designs and estimated costs. Harrison’s design was 120 feet high and very expensive. By reducing the height to 100 feet the cost was considerably reduced.

The design was approved by the Secretary for Local Government in July 1923. Four quotes were received and T H Bartleson & Son’s quote was accepted. By eliminating the cross and stars from the design the contract price was reduced to £2,460, and with a few guarantees from upright citizens, the contract was signed in August 1924. Adding poignancy to the contract was the fact that Bartleson’s eldest son had been killed at Pozieres in France in 1916. Bartleson was an Albury resident and a concrete specialist.

Louis Harrison designed many Albury buildings including St Patrick’s Hall, the Regent Theatre and the

Ambulance Station. The Municipal Engineer raised the question of flood lighting. Albury's Monument would be the first War Memorial in Australia to be lit up and the installation cost £110.

Finally the Monument was unveiled on Anzac Day, April 25, 1925. The night was perfect – clear weather and no moon. The crowd gathered at the junction of Dean, Thurgoona and Garden Streets. The main speaker was General John Jackson Paine who switched off the street lighting. A bugler, half way up the hill played the last post in the darkness and, as the sound died away, a hidden electrician brought the lights on slowly and the Memorial came into view, high above the crowd and floating on air. It was a solemn and inspiring sight.



Albury residents arriving for the opening of Albury War Memorial, Anzac Day 1925

The event was reported in the *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* of Friday May 1, 1925:

“They [the committee] finally decided to accept Mr Harrison’s design. The monument was a great tribute to his ability as an architect ... The contract had been let to Mr Thomas Bartleson, who had carried out his work faithfully ... The monument would be the first floodlighted memorial in Australia ... Mr Waugh gave some particulars about the memorial, and said that the cost of it (over £3000) was a tribute to the people of Albury ... Mr Waugh then called upon General Paine to unveil the memorial, and presented him with the key of the monument, which, he said would finally be handed to the Mayor for safe keeping on behalf of the community ... The lights were shut off and the “Last Post” sounded. The monument was gradually bathed in a soft white light. As the light reached its full power, a burst of applause came from the crowd, which was thrilled by the solemnity and splendour of the apparition. Several rockets rose into the sky. The Mayor then, read a prayer, and asked for a moment’s silence, which was duly observed ... The key bears the inscription: ‘This key is the key of the Albury and District War Memorial, erected on Monument Hill, unveiled April 25, 1925, by General J J Paine.’”

BORDER CLOSURES

Greg Ryan

Sources: ‘Colonial to State Border’ by Bruce Pennay, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Border Morning Mail*, *Albury Banner*.

There were two other occasions, both between the two world wars, that the border between NSW and Victoria was closed. In 1919 the aim was to prevent the spread of influenza. A less well-known closure was from August 1937-April 1938. This time children under the age of sixteen could not cross from Victoria to NSW unless they could produce a medical certificate vouching that they had not been exposed to infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis).

The *Albury Banner* informed its readers on Friday September 3, 1937 that:

“In an effort to prevent the spread of infantile paralysis from Victoria into New South Wales, policing of the Murray River border was begun at noon on Saturday. All the bridges over the Murray are being watched day and night by New South Wales police, and all vehicles from Victoria are being stopped to see that no uncertificated children are allowed into this State ... 100 extra police were sent from Sydney to efficiently carry out the patrol duties. Altogether 180 police are engaged in the work. Superintendent Chaseling said that every consideration was being extended to border residents to permit them to do their ordinary business where it was found that they travelled from one State to another to do their work or to visit their homes. In other respects the terms of the special law were being strictly enforced ... The instructions issued from Sydney state that all vehicles must be stopped, and unless the persons in charge of the vehicles possess a certificate signed by a doctor, the medical officer of any school, a clergyman, or a police officer of or above the rank of sergeant, stating that for 21 days previously any child in the vehicle under the age of 16 years has neither been in contact with, nor exposed to infection during the last 21 days, the vehicle shall not be allowed to come into New South Wales ... A special squad of police meets every train coming to Albury from Victoria, while there are also police guarding the railway bridge over the Murray.”



Border checks in August 2020 outside Albury’s old Turks Head Hotel

The restrictions continued into 1938, with the *Sydney Morning Herald* reporting on January 12, 1938 that:

“Eighty-eight police cadets, known as the Khaki force, have reached Albury, for distribution along the Murray as far as Wentworth, for the supervision arising from the Infantile paralysis epidemic in Victoria. The regular force will instruct the cadets until Thursday, when the cadets take charge, under six sergeants, mounted on motor cycles.”

The ‘Khaki force’ was sent to 21 river crossings, seven road crossings, six railway stations and three airports. Local business houses complained that the border patrol did little to prevent the spread of disease and much to disrupt business.

On Saturday April 16, 1938, the *Border Morning Mail* reported that:

“The infantile paralysis border patrol ceased to function on Thursday, shortly after noon. Orders that the ban be lifted were given by Inspector Bower, of Albury police, after he received an urgent telegram from the Chief Secretary’s Department, Sydney. The telegram announced that restrictions on children entering NSW from Victoria had been lifted and that the patrol would cease to operate at once. The announcement was received with wild excitement by some of the members of the patrol stationed at some of the dreariest of outposts. They could not pack their gear quickly enough to return, as they called it, ‘to civilisation’ ... There is little doubt that the ban was an effective barrier in preventing the epidemic reaching large proportions in NSW.”

On July 11, 1945 it was announced in the *Border Morning Mail* that Albury Grammar School would close for four weeks due to an infantile paralysis case at the school. By July 17 the Albury District Hospital reported that four children had been admitted to the isolation ward with the disease.

Further Reading

A paper that ‘examines the history of epidemics and pandemics in Victoria over the past 200 years, focusing on the political, social and cultural impacts and legacies of these health crises, and considers what lessons they may—or may not—offer in helping comprehend the current challenges presented.’ (40 pages) can be downloaded at:

<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/publications/research-papers/summary/36-research-papers/13957-epidemics-and-pandemics-in-victoria-historical-perspectives>



Border Morning Mail, August 1937

HOWARD’S JOTTINGS



News item – due to the chaos caused by the pandemic at MAMA, they’ve put up a great new exhibition drawn from their own collection (should say OUR collection as ratepayers!). It includes Alfred Eustace’s painting of the PS Albury, apparently Mrs Helen Fielder donated it, and because it’s not fantastic artistically, it has not been shown for years – it’s more important historically and probably should be in the library museum. Also on show is a painting by Auriel Alford, a prominent local artist and gallery-promoter, and a big painting by Gustav Pirstitz, who was curator before Audray Banfield.

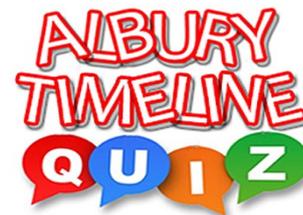
Answer to “guess where this is, and what is it?” (page 8) It’s on the old Younghusband woolstore in Wilson Street, almost opposite Centrelink. This was built in the 1930s, I believe, opposite another Younghusband woolstore which became the old Harvey Norman store before it was pulled down for Centrelink.

RICHARD LEE'S SEPTEMBER QUIZ – answers can be found by referring to Richard's timeline at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/about/albury-timeline/>

1. Who first surveyed the site of Albury and when were the first allotments sold?
2. By how much did the population of Albury increase between 1851 and 1861?
3. In what year did James T Fallon open his wine cellar?
4. On what date was the official opening of Albury Railway station?
5. In what year did the Border Morning Mail Newspaper begin?
6. What was the weight of Malcolm's cake made for Australia's 150-year celebrations?
7. Who is Lambert Park named after?
8. When was the first Nail Can Hill fun run held?
9. When did the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation shift to its new offices at Thurgoona?
10. When was the MV Discovery launched and what was its purpose?

Answers to last month's quiz:

1. 1851
2. Carsten Street
3. 1907
4. Viscount Holdings in 1962
5. Market Square in Dean Street
6. 1861
7. 2016
8. It tripled the size of the city to more than 300 square kilometres
9. The Town Hall
10. 1985



HISTORY NEWS

The Impact of World War II on Wodonga and its Surrounds

This online exhibition was prepared to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It looks to the ways war proved a catalyst for change in Wodonga and its surrounds, by providing place memory prompts, access to trigger stories and an accompanying four-part essay.

<https://historywodonga.org.au/the-impact-of-the-second-world-war-on-wodonga-and-its-surrounds/>



Commemorate from
wherever you are



World War II at Home

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is featuring key places that paved the way for modern Victoria by launching 'World War II At Home.' The site revitalises storytelling through an interactive website, featuring 18 significant Victorian places and demonstrating the transformative impact the Second World War had on the state.

The website invites us to explore the impact of WWII on Victoria through three lenses: our local responses to the war effort, how we reflect and remember the sacrifices undertaken during the war, and the corresponding post-war rejuvenation and blossoming of modern society.

Through Virtual Reality, 360-degree photography and interviews with veterans and their descendants, visitors to the website can discover historic sites such as the War Cabinet Room and the Tatura Internment camp, both normally closed to the public.

This is a unique opportunity to reflect and connect with those who came before us.

<https://www.wwiathome.com.au/>

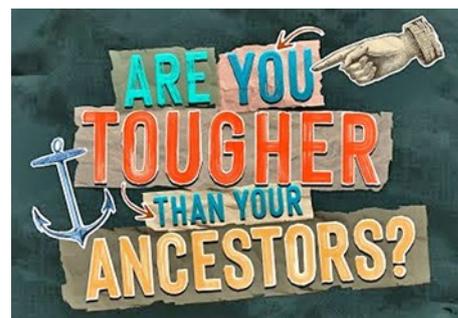
ABC Show: Are You Tougher Than Your Ancestors ?

The producers of this ABC programme are looking for new stories for series 2. The program is an immersive living history series that pits the skills of today's kids against the exploits of children from Australia's past to find out how they measure up.

The producers would greatly appreciate letting them know if any members have any suggestions for children from the past that have performed amazing deeds or achieved heroic feats that they could potentially explore for our next series.

They are particularly interested in more recent history from the 1950s-70s, but are also very open to all and any ideas from any period of Australian history.

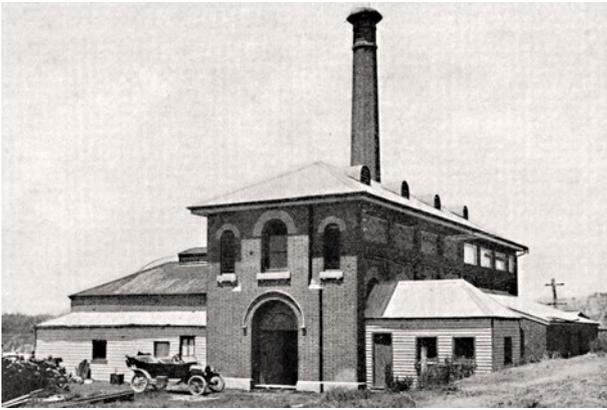
Send your suggestions to: Kirrilly Brentnall (Researcher/Producer) kirrilly@19films.com.au



STACK COMES DOWN

The photo right is from the *Border Morning Mail*, March 9, 1961 with the following text:

“One of Albury’s oldest landmarks is disappearing – brick by brick. It is the 80 feet high chimney stack at the Albury City Council’s water pumping plant, off Skillin road, East Albury. City Council decided to remove it in the interest of safety. The stack will be levelled for approximately £100 – slightly less than it cost to erect it.



“Yesterday, rigger Mr Albert Green, pictured, removed loose bricks at the top of the stack in preparation for an early morning start today. City water and sewerage engineer, Mr Hogan, expects the job to be completed in two weeks.

“Council staff were unable to pinpoint when or by whom the stack was erected [1]. Mr Hogan said Albury implemented a reticulated water supply from the Murray River in 1885.

“The stack was in use long before that. Through it funnelled smoke from furnaces kept burning while Albury’s first electricity supply was at the plant. When the building was converted to a water supply plant, the chimney was no longer needed [2].

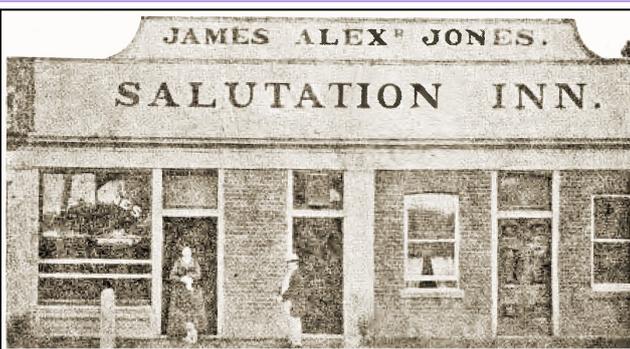
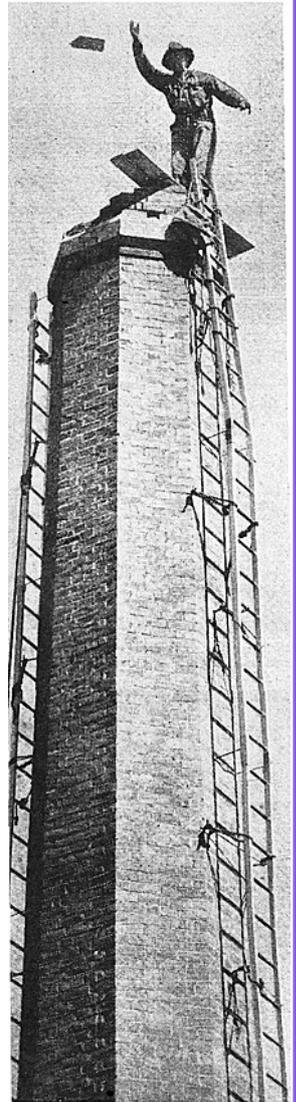
“For years it has stood, a monument to the workmanship of the era – and now judged a hazard to the safety of people in this one.”

Addition/Correction

[1] In May 1884, Wagga firm H G Evans and Son were announced as the successful tenderers for construction of the pumphouse and its chimney stack. The *Albury Banner* reported in November of that year that “Foundations for the engine-house have been laid in 15in of cement concrete, a start has been made with the chimney stack, which is to be 85ft high, on a base of concrete 15ft square by 2ft thick.” Albury Mayor, Luke Gulson, of Albury Pottery Works, won the contract to supply 250,000 bricks for the pumphouse and chimney, using clay sourced from Tabletop.

[2] Albury’s reticulated water supply was switched on in January 1886 – at that time, the chimney “funnelled smoke from furnaces” to pump water, not generate electricity. Albury’s electricity was generated at the waterworks much later, turned on in 1916.

STACK COMES DOWN



Albury Banner July 1870 “**The Salutation Inn**, Dean Street Albury, has been opened by Mr James A Jones, late of the Star Hotel Goulburn and brother of Alderman W F Jones of this place.” Jones died in January 1875 and the license was transferred to his wife Elizabeth.

A single-storey building (a verandah added later) on the site of the Commercial Club entrance today, it was delicensed in 1921 when the licensee was Maurice Flynn and his family were the owners. It then had 19 rooms.



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/>



Can you guess where this is, and what it is?
See Page 5 for an answer.



Chris McQuellin took a photo of the 26 members who attended our AGM and General Meeting on August 12. The Commercial Club provided a safe Covid environment by opening up the Elizabeth Room at the far end and spacing the tables to provide us with 'social isolation.'



We are pleased to welcome two new corporate sponsors to join sponsors who provide our Society with generous support. Click on the logo to visit their respective websites.

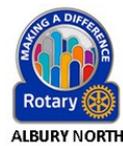
Manny Gonzalez from Elders Real Estate is there to help if you are looking to buy, rent or sell your property in or around Albury.



Jeff and Krittaya Claxton at Citi Café, 504 Olive Street, can provide a quick takeaway coffee or snack, a hearty breakfast, or a place to meet friends or colleagues for lunch.

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Thanks to Commercial Club for many years of support.



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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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