

Albury & District Historical Society Inc

October 2020

No 616

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

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ABC Goulburn Murray Studio, 1 High Street Wodonga

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: 'Our Tim's last train ride' and some local railway history.

Speaker: Ross Jackson

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REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MEETING (09.09.2020)

We had good attendance at our September meeting with Covid restrictions still in place. Gaye Pattison, Chief of Staff at ABC Goulburn Murray, our guest speaker, gave us a brief overview of the history of ABC radio in Albury before explaining that it is now much more than a radio station with a multimedia output of radio, TV and digital. She then went on to describe the role of ABC Goulburn Murray during the recent bushfires and the Covid pandemic.

We then heard from Albury Botanic Gardens curator, Jason Kimball. He described his role and what has changed in his time at the Gardens. We then heard about changes that are planned and in particular, the review of their Conservation Management Plan. Our Committee discussed the key elements of the 1998 Plan and prepared a submission for consideration by Council.

At our September committee meeting the 'Cemetery Walk' proposed for October was discussed. These events have been very popular in the past and given the uncertainty re Covid restrictions relating to the permitted size of gatherings, the decision was made to postpone until 2021.

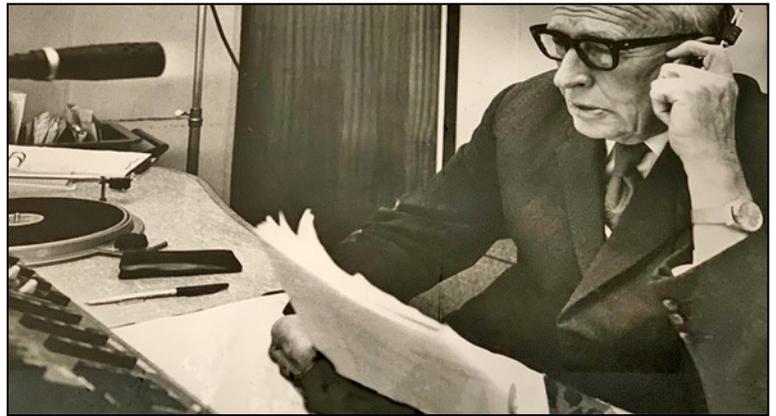
Guest speaker at our October meeting will be rail enthusiast Ross Jackson speaking on "Our Tim's last train ride" organized for Tim Fischer's funeral and some aspects of local railway history. That will be followed by Fr Peter McLeod-Miller of St Matthew's Parish with information about the future of the Rectory in Kiewa Street.

Welcome to new Society member Trudi Knight. Trudi lives in Geelong and is a great great granddaughter of Luke Gulson, owner of Albury Pottery Works and mayor of Albury in the 1880s.

As notified at our September meeting, Jill Wooding has resigned from our Committee after 12-13 years. I'm sure all members will join me in thanking Jill for all those years of committed work for the Society. Many thanks also to Yelly Evenhuis who has offered to be the Society's interim Minute Secretary.

Gaye began her presentation with an image on screen of Cleaver Bunton, 2CO presenter (and foundation member of A&DHS) who, according to legend, would commence a news broadcast with “ABC News, prepared by Cleaver Bunton, read by Cleaver Bunton, the mayor of Albury Cleaver Bunton said today ...”

We then heard a quick comparison of the technical equipment used by 2CO in the 1930s with equipment used when Gaye first arrived at ABC in 1993 and then the modern studio equipment of 2020. ABC Goulburn Murray, as it’s known today, is based in Wodonga and Shepparton and covers Southern NSW, North-east Victoria and the Goulburn Valley, with a multimedia output of radio, TV, digital and social. The station has one of the most powerful Victorian FM radio transmitters.



Cleaver Bunton’s final broadcast on ABC Radio 2CO, February 1975

ABC Goulburn Murray (ABC GM) started life as 2CO so is one of the oldest of ABC stations.

December 2021 will mark 90 years of ABC broadcasting. For more on the history of ABC in our local area, refer to an A&DHS article by June Shanahan, ex-ABC employee and life member of A&DHS, at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/History-of-2CO-Albury.pdf>



Gaye Pattison commences work at ABC 2CO

Gaye commenced with ABC 2CO AM:FM on May 3, 1993, in the studio at 601 Olive Street Albury as the morning presenter. Ashley Walsh was manager at the time. In 1996 ABC relocated to their headquarters at 1 High Street Wodonga. The Shepparton Studio is located at 50A Wyndham Street. Since coming to Wodonga, the ABC has moved from AM to FM transmission and changed its transmitter site from Corowa to Mt Baranduda. Both the old 2CO transmitter and the AM frequency are now used by ABC Riverina.

In her role with ABC GM, Gaye has been able to change jobs and locations having worked at ABC Bega, Alice Springs, Hobart and Melbourne. She has produced, presented and managed programs and projects both in Australia and abroad. In 1997 she took a year off from ABC and worked at the BBC in London and Liverpool LIVE TV. Gaye commented that “It was quite an experience working in the UK media at the time of Princess Diana’s death.”

Gaye is a story collaborator and enthusiastically looks for the untold gems we have in our community to share on radio, on TV, and online. She found 2020 an amazing year working with the community, starting with the bushfires and being on-air throughout the night of New Year’s Eve and the week that followed. Later came what she described as the biggest local story since the Uiver landing in Albury – the closure of the NSW/Victorian border due to Covid restrictions.

There are many reasons to celebrate ABC GM’s involvement with our community. One of the most significant roles that ABC played was helping to save the Uiver, the Dutch plane in need of a miracle towards the end of the great air race of 1934. 2CO helped save not only the plane, but also its crew and passengers – you can listen to an account at <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/archived/hindsight/the-uiver-emergency/5810300>

Covering Emergencies

The ABC GM team worked tirelessly covering fires in the Upper Murray of Southern NSW and North-east Victoria during December 2019/January 2020. Many of the team forfeiting leave to be there for their colleagues and their community.

Corryong, Cudgewa, Jingellic, Walwa, Tintaldra, Bright, Myrtleford and surrounding areas had fires burning or were blanketed in smoke. Lives and properties were lost – NSW Rural Fire Service volunteer Samuel McPaul lost his life in the Green Valley fire near Jingellic when his truck flipped. Forest Fire Management Victoria worker

Matt Kavanagh lost his life in a fire related car crash on the Goulburn Valley Highway.

Homes and properties were razed, prime agricultural land burnt, North-east Victoria's wine industry's prized crop was smoke tainted and this year's vintage is likely to be non-existent, thousands of stock were dead, native animals decimated, and a rough estimate of 5000 kilometres of fencing in the North-east alone is still needing to be replaced.

ABC GM's team covered the stories on the ground and in the air. Erin Somerville and Ashlee Aldridge were among the first to get a bird's eye view of Corryong when they flew on an RAAF plane to get crews into the area to restore power to the Upper Murray community. Ray Terrill and Shane Goldsworthy helped muster tools for the local men's shed of the Upper Murray. They took their show on the road and went to the Jingellic 'Blazeaid' epicentre and fencing stations of Corryong and Jingellic, all the while mustering more volunteers and support for the worthwhile projects underway.

Sandra Moon and Bronwen O'Shea, took the breakfast program on the road to Corryong's main street and Bright's information hub, assisted by the team of Erin Somerville, Ashlee Aldridge and University of Melbourne intern Anna Chisholm.

Allison Jess and Gaye visited Corryong, Thologolong, Jingellic, Walwa and surrounding areas collecting stories and images of the Upper Murray's resurrection.

Everywhere the ABC GM team went, comments were heard such as: "thank God for the ABC" or "we listened to you all night long, you helped save us." The team had calls, emails and face-to-face feedback echoing similar sentiments. Many communities lost power and/or mobile phone coverage – battery powered radio or car radio was their life line, ABC GM was that salvation.

Before the pandemic hit, ABC GM had planned partnerships with communities impacted such as the 'Mount Beauty Music Festival' and the Corryong 'Man from Snowy River Bush Festival,' but all sadly cancelled when Covid restrictions were introduced.

The team at ABC GM do not do this for the pay nor because it is their job, but they do emergency coverage as a genuine public service.

Engaging Election Forums

ABC GM loves being an integral part of our community and they have a reputation for hosting robust and informative election forums across the Goulburn Murray. In 2019 they covered the NSW State and Federal elections. The hotly contested seat of Indi again saw a full house and was broadcast live on air and online.

Fast forward through 2020 and we are in lockdown and the demand for ABC GM reporters to do crosses and TV segments seems to be growing daily. The pandemic has been one of the biggest stories in living memory. The border closure saw a week of continual live crosses and the demand is not slowing for the ABC GM team.

Challenges ahead

- Surviving lockdown and ongoing Covid
- Bushfire Season 2020/21
- The constant changing media landscape

ABC GM looks forward to

- Coming out of lockdown and Covid
- Planning for our 90 years' anniversary on December 16, 2021.

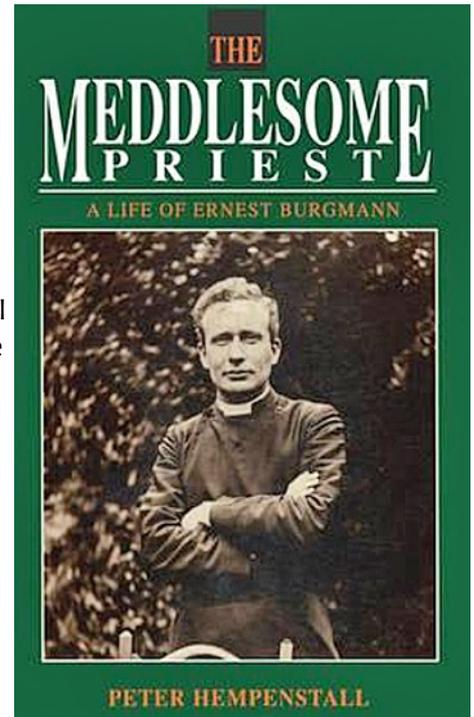


Bronwen O'Shea, Sandra Moon and Erin Matthews doing an outside broadcast from Bright during the January 2020 bushfire crisis.

All their equipment comes out of the case on the table, a laptop with music etc, microphones and a small transmitter to send the signal back to Wodonga for broadcast.

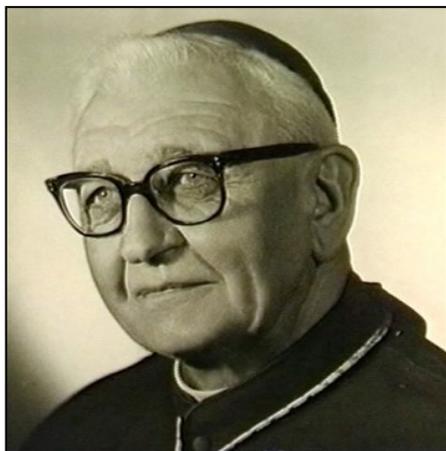
Three churchmen with Albury connections were remarkably influential Christians involved in making the peace that followed the Second World War. All three were giving effect to the prayers of thanksgiving at the end of the war: 'God our help in ages past' was to be 'our help in years to come.'

- ◆ Albury's Church of England bishop, Ernest Burgmann, was a social activist who pestered governments with his support for ordinary peoples' causes. In his addresses to Synod, his letters to the press and his publications, Burgmann was energetic in expressing sympathy for the unemployed and support for trade unionist strikers. He admired much that was happening in Soviet Russia. He was a 'meddlesome priest,' who earned the Cold War nickname of 'the Red Bishop.' Burgmann was a champion of post-war decentralisation. He believed Australia should develop its large country towns with industries, cultural facilities and amenities. But it was a decentralisation built on equity. He worried his St Matthew's congregation in Albury about how they could live comfortably in town and yet have the poor, out-of-sight, over hills to the west and north-west, living with dirt floors in hessian-bag walled huts.



Burgmann's ministry had national, indeed international dimensions. He moved his seat from Goulburn to Canberra, as the national capital began to develop. As bishop of Goulburn, he led the national thanksgiving services on VE Day and VP day at the appropriately secular site of the Australian War Memorial, which Ben Chifley, a Roman Catholic, could attend as Prime Minister.

Burgmann was appointed an episcopal advisor to a delegation drafting a charter of human rights for the United Nations. For Burgmann the peace was going to be about trying to secure full employment and introducing a wider range of social welfare services. The peace was going to be about Australia finding its place in international affairs.



- ◆ Albury's Catholic bishop, Francis Augustin Henschke, was a champion of the National Catholic Rural Movement which flourished 1939-1955. The NCRM was formed as part of Catholic Action and was spear headed by BA (Bob) Santamaria in Melbourne. Its broadest goals were to accept a Christian responsibility for community development. More narrowly it advocated a 'back-to-the-land' program. It wanted to arrest the drift from the country with small scale rural settlement. The NCRM encouraged part-time farming on small blocks. Local priests, Fathers Norman Duck and J H (Harry) Larkins, helped organise the movement in Albury and its national conference was held here in 1953. At the same time a set of Catholic laymen were actively involved in a form of muscular Christianity, raising funds for and helping to establish, first, a new 'ultra-modern' Catholic maternity and general hospital and

then a building society to help those who had trouble in getting housing loans from banks.

For Henschke, whose seat was in Wagga Wagga, the peace was going to be about reconstructing the rural landscape with small holders and increasing town services and town housing. Catholic laity were going to play active roles in community development.

- ◆ Albury's Lutheran pastor, Bruno Muetzelfeldt, was appointed the first Lutheran chaplain at the Bonegilla Reception Centre. His family had migrated from Germany in 1934, fleeing the rise of the Nazis. He spoke German fluently.

There were no social workers at the reception centre, consequently Muetzelfeldt, together with the first Catholic chaplain, Father Patrick (Paddy) Collins, had to deal with the most troublesome cases – principally those who could not readily take up the jobs they were designated without separating from their families. He and Collins frequently championed the rights of the newly arrived, sometimes to the displeasure of the camp managers.

Muetzelfeldt founded the Lutheran World Service at Bonegilla, ministering to all migrant people. Subsequently he moved to headquarters in Geneva. The Lutheran World Service he had founded, broadened its remit to deal with overseas aid as well as the needs of migrant people.

For Muetzelfeldt the peace was going to be about helping people Australia and meeting the needs of migrant people world-wide.



Above left: The Muetzelfeldt family arrives in Adelaide in August 1934. From left: Elfrieda, Mrs Getrud Muetzelfeldt and Pastor Karl H T Muetzelfeldt, Dorothea (in front), Hannah and the young Bruno. Bruno Muetzelfeldt's own immigrant background and language skills made him highly suited to his lifelong ministry among migrants and refugees. **Above right:** Many European migrants passed through the Bonegilla Migrant Centre, near Albury in New South Wales. It quickly became the centre of Pastor Bruno Muetzelfeldt's ministry. (Photo: Rachel Kahul)

In Albury, all three churchmen – Burgmann, Henschke and Muetzelfeldt – added to the clamour of voices about a different kind of Australia after the war.

Oral history footnote.

About 35 years ago I interviewed several Society members and others who remembered their involvement in or impressions of such post-war reconstruction ventures.

Ron Braddy conducted Sunday School at Happy Valley as part of his church's ministry to the people of the area. Good hearted Ron enjoyed the Sunday School picnics.

Laurie Esler was active in the NCRM. He remembered alerting Frank Higgins (still a member of A&DHS) to a block within a settlement he and Father Duck had acquired on road leading to the old Fallon's Vineyard beyond what is now Quick's Hill in Lavington. Laurie said he was always ready to give something worthwhile a go and thought the same of Frank and his wife.

At Laurie's suggestion Frank Higgins took up an acre in a seven-block NCRM settlement of 9 acres. Frank remembered the dictum 'one peasant, one cow, one acre.' He recalled, however, there was not that much rural activity, though one person sold eggs. Frank himself had a small poultry pen, a vegetable garden and fruit trees. He flattened a wider area for kicking a football, and later installed a swimming pool. Lavington's NCRM settlement was not as big as the NCRM Christian settlement at San Isidore in Wagga Wagga.

Gerry Curtis remembered a divided society. Nobody spoke very much about sectarianism in Albury, but there were secret signs such as displays of fingers on lapels and secret handshakes to determine 'them' from 'us.' All Catholics were Roman. Schoolyard taunts had Catholics ringing the bell while Proddies went to hell. Australia's Roman Catholic Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, and Elizabeth, his Presbyterian wife were to be buried in different graveyards in Bathurst. Gerry remembered the other Cold War divide. He signed a letter of protest for a school teacher friend complaining about Bill Gollan, the deputy headmaster at Albury High School being a Communist.

Robert Muetzelfeldt was not a member of this Society, but he remembered his father's dislike of Nazism. Robert was disappointed he was not allowed to join the scouts. His father knew what could happen when you put boys in uniform.

A bit extra: The Freedom of the City of Wagga Wagga was granted to Bishop Henschke on May 18, 1967. Prime Minister Ben Chifley was granted Freedom of the City of Bathurst on August 27, 1949. Has the City of Albury ever offered a church person or a politician the Freedom of the City?

'Victory Vanities' are to have their farewell season as the War is over. The show 'Harlequinade' at the Plaza, 4-7 September with Miss Raie Langley in charge. 'Victory Vanities' are a performing group who have performed all over the district fund raising for War causes. Miss Langley is a well know hairdresser who throws all her weight behind Albury causes. The performances are a great success. After the final performance Miss Langley is presented with an inscribed silver tea -set by vice president Miss Shirley Arnold, a supper follows and many presentations of flowers.



The local newspapers have very little information about Albury. Many pages are devoted to the return of prisoners-of-war and the horrors and conditions of the camps. Changi built for 600 prisoners holding 50,000. The starvation, disease, beatings, fiendish tortures and atrocities are described. There is an article about Hiroshima, starving Japanese, is Hitler really dead and General Tojo's unsuccessful suicide attempt.

Petrol is still heavily rationed. Censorship of telegrams & radio broadcasts is lifted on September 14. Restrictions on manufacture of clothing is lifted October 1, but there is a shortage of worsted and cotton yarn. Albury wholesale milk producers state that cream can only be sold for commercial purposes.

In recognition of the grand work of public schools and the War Auxiliary having raised over £25,912, an extra week of school holidays is granted (not for private or church schools).

A 'Rotary Street Carnival' is held on September 7 with a vehicle procession, Grammar School physical & cultural display, mobile concert parties with entertainers, chocolate wheel and lucky envelopes.

The official opening of the Albury Free Kindergarten by mayor Alderman Padman is on September 15.

A BMM editorial reports that Ben Chifley's budget announcement 'was as dull as a mourning card.'

Grand finals are under way – in the Border Football League South Albury defeat Wodonga. All the local teams have their banquet evenings. Hawthorn Club shows up the week after the VFL Grand Final playing a combined side from the district. Hawthorn wins with their full forward kicking 20 goals.

Topical back then also, Australia Day is being discussed and January 26 proclaimed. However Justice Brennan insists it should be late April when Captain Cook arrived in Botany Bay.

The financial statement of Albury & District Patriotic & War Fund committee released, they raised £67,774.

Alderman Bunton is pushing for an Easter Festival in Albury, a sports day and festival calling it 'A Pageant on the Murray,' possibly the first hint of a future Floral Festival. He is also on the committee for the Soldiers' Memorial Hall appeal. The Hall would eventually open in 1964.

A new ferry is needed for the Wymah crossing. The vessel to be installed as soon as possible. Alf Waugh is elected President of the Albury District Ambulance Association for the 20th year. Shirley Temple marries 17 year-old Sgt John Agar. There are rumours that Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip may be engaged.

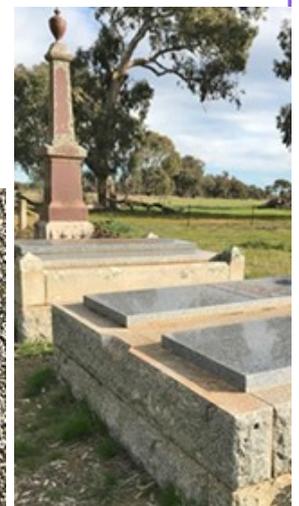
Albury & Wodonga Cricket Association re-forms at a meeting at the Beehive Chamber after a lapse of 4 years.

Answers to Richard's Quiz last month: 1. Thomas Scott Townsend, October 10, 1839 2. It went from 442 to 1587 3. 1869 4. June 11, 1883 5. 1903 6. 1200 pounds (544.3 kg) 7. Harry Lambert (Albury Alderman and sportsman) 8. 1977 9. December 1987 10. May 2, 1992, it was a tourist boat. No quiz this month.

At our August meeting Jan Hunter asked if anyone knew why there were buttons spread on the path at the Moorwatha Cemetery? No one did, but a member gave Jan a phone number of someone involved with district cemeteries. Jan called and spoke to Mac Maxwell, now of Howlong, but a long time Moorwatha local and trustee of the cemetery. It was Mac who researched and put up posts & plaques on the unmarked graves and shared the maintenance work load with other trustees, and it was he who spread the buttons on the path.

He explained, "I once bought about a ton of buttons at an Army Disposal sale. When the path at the cemetery got very boggy I spread some of the buttons in the mud to firm it up. I've still got a lot of buttons and they'll probably end up in the Howlong tip."

Mac Maxwell, now 96, bemoans the fact that the grass at the cemetery will need mowing soon and he won't be able to do it.



JASON KIMBALL, CURATOR ALBURY BOTANIC GARDENS

As part of our Community Engagement section we invited Jason Kimball to speak about his role as Curator of Albury Botanic Gardens, how he has advanced through his career to this position, the highlights of his role and the future plans for the Gardens.

Jason started his career in horticulture by completing a landscape trade certificate at the Hume Weir Trout Farm, where he worked for 14 years, progressing from apprentice horticulturist to Manager in that time. He left the Trout Farm through a change in ownership and managed to secure a position at the Albury Botanic Gardens with AlburyCity, where he has worked for the past 21 years. He progressed to Leading Hand and is now Curator. Jason considers it a privilege to manage one of Albury's most beautiful heritage assets.

Jason has been involved in and responsible for some of the major improvements to the Gardens, enhancing and upgrading the Gardens and features:

- ◆ Redesign and installation of the Rose Section, 2001
- ◆ Development of the Children's Garden Masterplan and installation of the Children's Garden, 2010
- ◆ New perimeter fence design and installation (modelled on the heritage entry – R M Wilkinson Gates), 2017
- ◆ R M Wilkinson entry restoration (brick piers, panels and gates), 2018.

One of the most challenging projects, but most rewarding was the Flying Fox relocation project in 2013, which was unexpected, unprecedented and required vast amounts of research to achieve the desired outcomes for the facility and community.

Jason is responsible for overseeing all functions of the Botanic Gardens, providing the strategic direction and ensuring the conservation of this amazing heritage asset.



Jason Kimball



ABC Television presenter Costa Georgiadis with Gardens' staff at the Children's Garden



Elm Avenue showing evidence of the poor condition of many of the remaining trees, especially on the northern side.

The new fence design can also be seen.

The major focus at the moment is a review of the current Conservation Management Plan (CMP – 1998) for the Albury Botanic Gardens, with the aim of developing a new CMP to provide the long-term vision, whilst conserving the style and heritage of the Botanic Gardens.

Some of the key areas that are likely to feature in the masterplan outcomes from the new CMP :

- ◆ Elm Avenue upgrade (24 trees are left of original 48)
- ◆ Rotunda access and path linkage
- ◆ Ornamental Ponds area redesign
- ◆ Signage strategy
- ◆ Curator's Cottage functional review
- ◆ Vegetation Management Plan.

Note : A&DHS Committee discussed each of these key areas at September's meeting and submitted a detailed submission outlining our recommendations. Thanks to Dennis Hickey for his work in drafting the submission.

SNIPPETS FROM BRUCE

Members disappointed in SBS's "Looky Looky Here Comes Cooky" might prefer the version of the story told at the National Museum of Australia. <https://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/endeavour-voyage/the-message>

The Heritage Council of Victoria has launched a series of heritage videos. <https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/get-involved/watch-heritage-videos/>

Continued Page 8

MORE SNIPPETS

Trove has an online video with pdf attached which helps readers moving from Classic Trove to the New Trove to update their search strategies and navigation skills.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/announcement/2020/07/24/watch-discover-troves-newspapers>



Rogues Gallery – State Archives have released an online index.

Click here: [Gaoil Inmates/Prisoners Photos Index 1870 – 1930](#).

Searches via ‘Albury’ throw up information on getting the images of people with that name, and more importantly the inhabitants of Albury Gaol.

Among them are the hapless Chinese caught up in the 1890s by border restrictions, including Willie Poy Ah and lots of other Ahs. There are too the female inhabitants of the gaol.

Members using their **ALM library card** can search newspapers including the *Border Mail* and *Sydney Morning Herald* on ‘Factiva’ or on ‘Newstand’ at the State Library of NSW. The search engines are not as fine as on Trove but they include stories beyond 1955.

The journey of the Bogong Moths – Mungabareena

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/this-place/series/0/video/RA19o8H019Soo>

RAHS Finding Your Ancestors – New content on Website & YouTube.

A series of online videos – created in collaboration with members of the NSW Aboriginal community and historians Paul Irish and Michael Bennett.

Click on this link: [RAHS YouTube channel](#).



October is History Month in Victoria

Heritage NSW announce the launch of three new social media accounts, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn in joint collaboration with the Heritage Council of NSW and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC). Their new digital presence will bring immediate benefits.

To locate the accounts, click on the following: [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

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Please click on the logo to visit their respective websites.



Thanks to the Club for many years of support.



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02 6021 3671

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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.

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