

Albury & District Historical Society Inc

October 2021

No 627

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A view of Albury taken by Greg Ryan in 2020 looking north-east from the roof of the New Albury Hotel.
Albury is preparing to celebrate 75 years as Albury City.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: 160 Years of the Globe

Hotel

Speaker: Howard Jones

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM

Bird's Eye View – the
World of Jan Horacek
Until October 24

Page 2 From the Ground Up

Page 4 Bicycles and Crime

Page 5 Margaret Mullavey

Page 6 75 Years Ago

Page 7 A Landing Mishap

Page 8 Howard's Jottings

VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR OCTOBER

As all are aware, we could not meet in September, but thanks to Bruce Pennay, there was lots of material to absorb in his 'Albury From the Ground Up' series. The videos that Bruce produced are available to view on YouTube and there is a link to our YouTube channel on page 7 and also links on our website. This is a precursor to commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Albury being proclaimed a city in December 1946. The proclamation was gazetted in December 1946 but officially declared in April 1947. In his article that you will find starting on page 2, we can read Bruce's outline of his research and his major conclusions.

Considering issues with Covid restrictions, it has been decided that Albury will leave commemorative activities for the 75th anniversary until the April date. More information will be available as the date gets closer.

This month's meeting will start with the Special General Meeting concerning our Constitution, as detailed in a separate letter. We will then hear from Howard Jones on the history of the Globe Hotel in Dean Street. Since the opening of the most recent renovations, Howard has been researching the history of the hotel. He has focused on the colourful characters who have been associated with the Globe over the last 160 years, including each of the publicans and many of the famous and infamous guests of the hotel.

A reminder to members that due to the requirement that we must give 21 days' notice of a Special Resolution, our meeting date has changed to the third Wednesday of the month, October 20, 7.30 pm at the Commercial Club. Members can find details of the Special Resolution to be put to members in last week's mailout.

ALBURY FROM THE GROUND UP

Bruce Pennay

Albury & District Historical Society contributed to History Week 2021 with an online presentation of three video previews of work being prepared by Bruce Pennay ahead of the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of Albury as a city. The presentation went online on 8 September, the day our regular monthly meeting was cancelled because of pandemic restrictions. The videos can be accessed at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/eventsactivities/>. Bruce supplied this explanation of the video previews.



I use the group of three previews to explain the writing strategy I am using in developing materials ahead of the *Albury 75: Our Place, Our Story* in April 2022. They are previews in two senses: they provide a viewer with an overview of what is to come; they are work-in-progress. I hope to refine, revise and to present a series of short videos, some of which will include moving images.

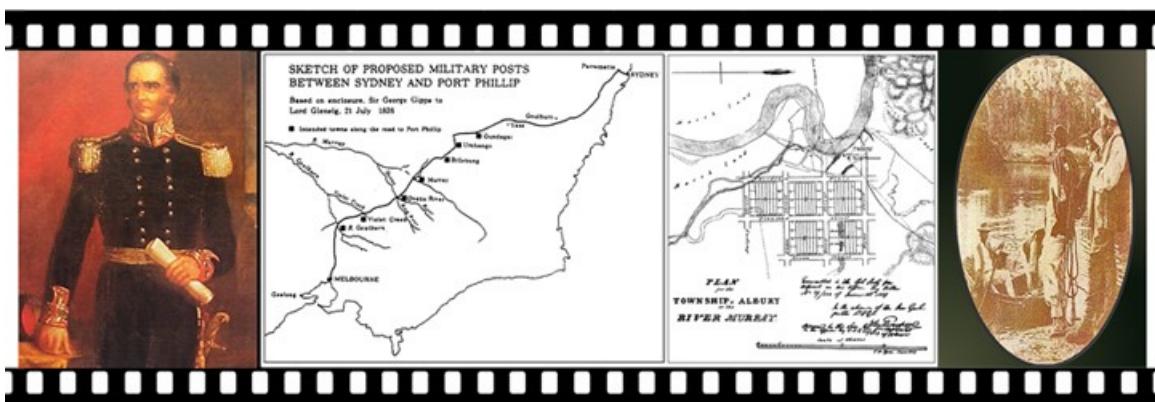
I thought it appropriate for a 75th anniversary to explore something of the character of Albury, something of its identity – by looking to its past. To do that I have followed loosely an approach developed by Graeme Davison and focused on three groups of planners, dreamers, visionaries. The planners or groups of planners were leaders involved in the beginnings of the town; in the inauguration of the city; and in imagining and re-imaging Albury in the present day.



Governor Gipps, Jack Sarvaas, Kevin Mack & Anna Speedie

I have selected three phases, three turning points, three thresholds, three sets of influential planners. And I do so visually. That has meant interrogating three sets of key visual evidence.

Becoming Albury (11 minutes)



The first video is an argument about the importance of the police hut established to safeguard the Murray River Crossing Place at a place the First Nations Peoples called ‘Bungambrawatha’.

I tell something of the Faithfull Massacre, near Benalla in April 1838, and relate it to the Waterloo Creek Massacre, near Moree in January 1838 and the Myall Creek Massacre, near Narromine, in June 1838. I explain how increasing frontier violence pushed Governor Gipps to establish ‘military posts of protection’ along the line of the route from Yass to Port Phillip in July 1838. To make the posts substantial, it would be best to site a town nearby, for it could provide travellers with provisions and ‘houses of entertainment.’ They could become stopping places, settlement outposts.

I argue that the site of that police station at Murray River Crossing was not a place of mass murder, but it is significant, as it is a reminder of how Australia was occupied by armed force. It shows why a place to be called ‘Albury’ was formed. It marks the town’s founding moment.

I want to nudge public memory to enlarge Albury’s two creation stories, most frequently depicted as tales of

Hume and Hovell and Robert Brown. The story of Albury being founded as a post of protection reframes and encloses the other two within the wider discourse of dispossession, which fits better with the truth-telling required in the 2020s.

Becoming Albury City (20 minutes)



There are three parts in the second video.

- i. In the first part I explain why Albury was declared a city as part of a new post-war state interest in regional planning. At the same time the Commonwealth expressed interest in a wider-scale regional planning, proposing there be a Murray Valley Region. All hoped that after the war there would be 'decent houses in decent surrounds.'
- ii. Local people had different ideas about how Albury might become bigger, better, even greater after the war. They were aware that if the city became bigger, city life would become more complicated. Thinking about the present day and the future were shaped by political, religious, gender-based, race/ethnicity-based divides.
- iii. Town engineer and later town planner, Jack Sarvaas, looked closely at the kind of place that Albury had become and imagined what it could be. He planned for facilities that would 'civilise' the community, mainly based in a civic cultural centre. He noted inequities expressed most plainly in the range of housing available. The town planning thesis Sarvaas wrote explained that Albury had developed as a thoroughfare town, a transport hub servicing a rich, rural area. For him and for others road, rail and river were the 3Rs of regional development.

Becoming Albury-Wodonga (11 minutes)



- i. The recent Local Strategic Planning Statement provides a picture of the kind of place Albury City Council thinks Albury has become at the beginning of the 2020s. That statement was prepared to establish 'the special characteristics which contribute to local identity.' The distinguishing features relate to its economic drivers, its natural setting and its heritage places. Albury City has developed and will continue to develop as part of an Albury-Wodonga complex.
- ii. Comparatively little heed was taken to the National Growth Centre experience in the Local Strategic Planning Statement, but that experience laid the basis for a cohesive community developing with two separate local governments. I make note of the arrival of Aboriginal families with the introduction of the Family Resettlement Scheme in 1974. 'A mixed mob' from different places they have been active in connecting to country in a variety of ways. Their stories deepen connection to country for both Indigenous

and non-Indigenous people.

When Albury became a city, planners were worrying what would happen after six years of war.

Now, nearly eighteen months in the pandemic, they worry about what will happen after the pandemic. New plans sprang out of war fatigue. New plans will spring from pandemic fatigue.

I wonder what will be the impact on a cross-border community of living with a policed border, an elastic border bubble, the anti-metropolitan sentiments that come with realisation we live in a federal compact made of city-states?

I know that proposed changes in the school curriculum will have our children and grandchildren learn more about how First Nations Peoples have fared, both before and after white settlement, at both a national and a local level. Stories of early contact sites (such as the police hut in Albury), of the great Australian silence of the post-war years and of Aboriginal family resettlement in the 1970s and 1980s will be explored. These shared stories form part of this city's character/identity.

Acknowledgements

Picture credits appear in the videos. In brief I thank members of Albury & District Historical Society for their help, particularly Greg Ryan, Helen Livsey, Ray Gear, Richard Lee, Chris de Vreeze and Howard Jones. I thank the Institute of Land Water and Society at Charles Sturt University for its support. With the final products I will provide detailed information on the following sources of information and inspiration.

Principal primary sources

Becoming Albury: Townsend (1839) Plan of Albury, State Records A1040a; Franklin letters (1839) NLA Ms114; Gipps despatches, *Historical Records of Victoria* vol 2a (1987); BIOSIS (2017) archaeological report 24491; Heritage significance statements (2021) Waterloo Creek, (2019) Myall Creek; 'Bones of Contention', Wodonga TAFE. *Becoming Albury City:* Aerial photographs (1949) Albury City Town Planning Department; Trove searches including Albury town planning, post-war reconstruction; *Border Mail* (1996) 50th anniversary of proclamation; Bayley (1957/1976) *Border City*.

Becoming Albury-Wodonga: AW collection at Albury LibraryMuseum; Interviews (2021) Mayor of Albury, Mayor of Wodonga, Cross Border Commissioner; Indigenous artworks (2017 et seq.) Murray River Parklands; 'Local Strategic Planning Statement' (2021) Albury City. *Border Mail* pictorial records (2021).

Principal secondary sources

Davison (2016) *City Dreamers*; Prowse (2012/2015) on country town historical identity; Appadurai (1996) on place-making. Bassett (1988/ 2015) on the Faithfull Massacre; Richard White (1998) on war and Australian Society; Macintyre (2015) *Australia's Boldest Experiment*; Widdins (2021) on New Directions in Border Studies; ACRA (2021) HASS Curriculum proposal; Megan Davis (2021) on Uluru statement truth telling; Pennay (1994) on Post-war Albury JRAHS, (1998) PhD thesis Deakin, (2006 et seq.) on Albury-Wodonga.

BICYCLES AND CRIME (an article from the Albury Banner, April 20, 1900)

The bicycle is doomed. It is not so much that it is in itself an instrument of moral and physical destruction to the human race. The public have long recognised the fact that a bicyclist is bound by the laws of his malevolent cult to maim and kill a certain number of the Queen's subjects. The public has become accustomed to this, and probably regards it as a useful check upon an undue increase of population. The public has also long known and tolerated the spirit of boastfulness which is evolved by the unholy practice of biking — a spirit which leads an erstwhile reputable man to romance about his achievements, and unduly to glorify the merits of his particular make of infernal machine. All this is comparatively trivial. It has recently been discovered, however, that the bicycle has the property of stimulating wrongdoing in other directions by increasing the mobility of the criminal. The discovery has been made by an Indian expert, Professor Simbroso, who lays down the theory "that no modern mechanism has assumed the importance of the bicycle either as a cause or an instrument of crime."

This is becoming serious, and I would put it to my friend, Mr Blacklock, if it would not be a graceful act for him to abandon his present reprehensible calling and take, say, to the manufacture of skeleton keys and 'jemmies,' which would seem on the whole a less nefarious avocation.

"How to be Happy?"

WHY,

** BUY A RELAY CYCLE

FOR £17 10s.

Built by EXPERT tradesmen from the BEST of materials to your own order.

Some machines may cost less at first, but! — RELAYS R RICHT.

So ARE Blacklock and Fuller, TRY THEM,

ALBURY CYCLE AGENCY.

An advert in the *Banner* from the same month in 1900.

ALBURY PIONEER CEMETERY WALK, APRIL 2021

Continuing our series of articles to publish the presentations at ‘Distinguished, ordinary and forgotten women’ on April 18, 2021 at Albury’s Pioneer Cemetery.

MARGARET MULLAVEY (née HICKEY)

Cheryl Ryan

Margaret Mullavey was born Margaret Hickey in 1847 in Bansha, County Tipperary, Ireland, about 10 km south-east of Tipperary township. She was the second child of Benjamin Hickey and Mary (née Ryan).

The Ireland Margaret was born into was poverty ridden and with potato being the primary food source of the country, they were primed for failure of the potato crop. The horrors of the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s are well documented – hunger, disease, forced evictions and death dominate these years.

It is reported that two million people left Ireland for America, Canada, England and Australia, while at least one million perished at home or in work-houses. This was the country that Margaret left behind, along with older brother Owen, who is also buried in Albury Pioneer Cemetery, just 20 metres from Margaret, and younger siblings John and Alice. It is unlikely that parents Benjamin and Mary and two other siblings came to Australia.

Several Margaret Hickeys arrived in Australia at about the right time and the one most likely as our Margaret, had arrived in Melbourne on *Champion of the Seas* in 1866.

What led her to the Albury district? We don’t know! In the Catholic section of the Pioneer Cemetery there are many other names of people from Tipperary and other Irish counties with similar stories.

Margaret Hickey was working as a servant at ‘Twelve Mile’ (Bowna) at the time she married Peter Mullavey, aged 42, on February 2, 1872 at St Brigid’s Church Albury (St Patrick’s Church was not completed until later that year).

Peter had arrived in Australia in 1862 from County Cavan, Ireland. He is said to have been to New Zealand in search of gold and later worked for Nicholas Devine of Bowna. In 1869 he purchased his original 271 acres for £1 an acre about 3 or 4 km north-east of Bowna township along Mullengandra Creek, on the Sydney Road.

Land had become available in the colony of NSW after passing of the Robertson Land Act of 1861. Margaret and Peter called their property Greenville and went on to have a family of five boys and five girls. Oral history tells us that before they could take possession, Margaret camped on the land to secure it, rifle by her side. Bowna at the time was an expanding village, the site is now under the waters of Lake Hume.

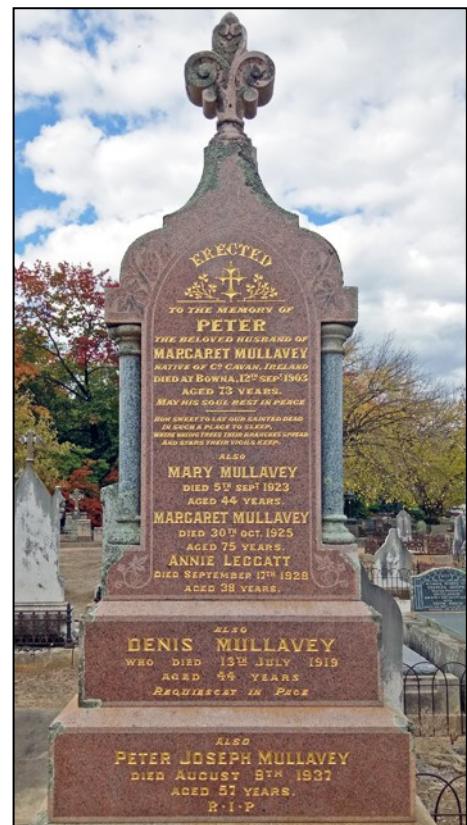
Reports of Margaret’s personality by her grandchildren are few, but colourful. She was known to protect the property and livestock vigorously, perhaps a reflection of the harsh childhood she experienced. In Albury, she enjoyed time at the Advance Australia Hotel (Sodens). She was said to smoke a clay pipe and spoke to her grandkids in a broad Irish accent of the challenging times back in Ireland.

Peter predeceased Margaret in 1903 and she continued farming on Greenville with the help of her children until her death in an Albury private hospital in October 1925.

Margaret shares the plot in Albury Pioneer Cemetery with her husband and four of her children, Denis, Mary, Annie and Peter Joseph. Daughter Mary died aged 42, two years before her mother, at her sister’s home in Gerogery. Mary had spent her adult life cooking, cleaning, sewing, and travelling from one family farm to the next to provide food for workers at harvest time. She owned a few acres at Bowna and for some time a general store at Bowna.

Like many other single women in farming communities, Mary became the full-time help, often unpaid, able to turn her hand to most farming tasks. I have her recipe book which includes recipes such as cooking boiled mutton for thirty. Mary is quoted as saying that her greatest joy was in work.

In remembering these two women, we are also honouring the many others in the Pioneer Cemetery who came from impoverished and difficult conditions and made a life for themselves and their families in a new world – distinguished to their families, ordinary, but not forgotten.



Shortages after the World War II were still troubling, coupons being used for meat, tea, sugar and butter. Peanuts were in short supply, the usual 8,000 tons of nuts not arriving in Australia from India. India is in turmoil with a newly elected Prime Minister and riots in Bombay and Calcutta in opposition to British rule. On occasions the British army remained in their barracks due to the unrest.

Riverina cycling championships were in the news. A race from Wagga to Dean Street, 102 miles, was won by Tom Glazebrook. He was off scratch and won in a time of 5 hours 34 minutes and declared Riverina Champion. But wait, a letter to the editor from the Albury Amateur Cycling Club, they held a 100-mile race from Wagga and their winner had a faster time. But wait, another letter "... the course traversed by the professionals event was more gruelling and more mountainous than the billiard table ride of the Amateur Club."

There were some disparaging letters in the paper re Italian prisoners of war at Bonegilla. However, a further letter arrived, sticking up for the good nature of the POWs. Later in the month, Myrtleford's POW camp near Whorouly had 16 POWs escape. A few days later two were found, one at Corryong and one at Tallangatta, the prisoners had walked the entire distance.

Albury Greyhound owner sold his dog 'Farndale Lad' for £600, a record for a greyhound in Albury.

A Federal election and referendum was called for September 28, so local newspapers were filled with advertisements for local candidates. Our electorate was Hume with Arthur Fuller (a draper) of the Labor Party the sitting member. Other candidates were Mr G Davey, Liberal (a civil engineer) and Mr Warren McDonald, Country Party (an engineer). Polling booths at Albury High, North Albury, Lavington, Thурgoona and West Albury Public Schools, and Jindera School of Arts. At the end of September, Fuller was ahead.

"An airport for Albury or not." Discussed were two proposals, the present location, requiring £100,000 to upgrade or seek another location. Hume Shire would work with Albury Municipal Council for an all-purpose aerodrome. A later newspaper edition reported Albury Council discussing the lease for the airfield paddocks and the need to extend the lease. Alderman Logan said a plane recently aborted landing as there were too many sheep on the runway. A war of words continued with no conclusion.

Something you don't see often was a Premier replying to the editor of a newspaper (*Border Morning Mail* editor, H C Mott). His editorial criticised the Premier Mr W J McKell regarding a state-wide water conservation scheme. The Premier sent a letter in reply which was printed in the *Border Morning Mail* outlining his position.

Gossip: "Impending engagement of Princess denied. Press Association reporter says nothing in court circles of any impending engagement between Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip of Greece." (Prince Phillip was at Balmoral Castle with the King and Queen, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret had a cold and were isolating).

The first post war wool sales in Sydney saw prices up as much as 60%.

The NSW Local Government Convention to be held in Albury mid October, Council expecting several hundred delegates and seeking local residents to offer their homes as accommodation for around 100 delegates. A fee would be paid for breakfast and accommodation. Rotary was appealing for Rotarians to volunteer their cars and service, for the purpose of sightseeing tours for women folk who were accompanying the delegates.

Albury Young Liberals held a meeting on September 9 to form an Albury branch, the meeting held at Mate's lounge with about 20 people in attendance.

Albury Technical Collage is popular with enrolments totalling 400, including students from outlying district towns where teachers often visit. The registrar of the Albury Technical Collage, Mr A Jones was speaking at the Albury Rotary Club meeting on the wide-ranging courses available and the importance of education.

"Albury railways record broken." In May the railways had moved 60,000 tons of goods; the previous best was October 1945. In August, the May record would have been beaten but heavy reductions in coal and a strike dampened the figures.

Albury Ambulance Women's Auxiliary had their AGM. Mrs Alf Waugh was returned president and Mrs Pardey treasurer. Both had served for 15 years in these positions.

'Right of way for Ambulances' proceeding to and from accidents will be introduced in the next few weeks.

'Bombshell from council.' Future street stalls could only be held on Friday nights and must be held on Dean Square (now QEII) footpath. Leading female stall worker the next day: "I was furious when I read about it in the paper" Another letter: "It is hoped public opinion will force them to rescind this stupid decision." After years of fund raising for the war effort the ladies were not impressed by their male councillors.

Footy results: In the Ovens & Murray Grand Final, Wangaratta beat Albury by 5 points in front of 4,000 spectators at Rutherglen. Albury's Jim Matthews was best on ground. In the Albury & District Football League,

Mangoplah won by 20 points over Culcairn. Richmond turned up at the Albury Sportsground to play a combined O&M side and kicked 29.18 to beat the O&M 10.16 in front of 1,500 spectators.

Albury Municipal Council was to hold a referendum on Sunday Sports, to be held November 2. The question: "Are you in favour of the sportsground being used for sport on a Sunday."

SPECTACULAR LANDING IN ALBURY, 1920

A Sopwith Gnu plane, from the Larkin Sopwith Aviation Company, made a spectacular landing at the Albury Showgrounds in July 1920. It had flown from Melbourne "against a very strong head wind in 2 hours 40 minutes." Melbourne newspaper 'The Argus' reported that "copies of 'The Argus' were handed to the mayor ... in the ordinary way it takes seven hours by train." The following is how the 'Albury Banner' described the landing on July 2, 1920.

On Monday morning at about 11.30 the mayor, Alderman Waugh, received a telegram apprising him of the arrival of a Larkin Sopwith aeroplane at about noon, and asking him if he would arrange a smoke fire on the aerodrome (Alexandra Park) for the guidance of the airmen. He at once got in touch with Mr Dore, town clerk, who succeeded in getting a man to light a good smoke fire on Alexandra Park. But, apparently, the airmen failed to observe the smoke. Mr Harry Bollinger, the caretaker at the Albury show grounds, was repairing the fence around the arena, when he heard

the noise of an aeroplane, which landed almost immediately. First the aeroplane struck the electric wires which connect with the electric light poles around the ring. These were snapped in various places, and found lying in all directions on the ground. The aeroplane touched land firmly, but not ungracefully, and everything would then have been all right had it kept a straight course. But it shot through four panels of fencing near the Jersey cattle pens, snapping off the decayed posts like carrots, and came to a standstill. The airmen thus had a wonderful escape from serious accident. The propeller shows only a slight bruise, whilst the only other perceptible damage is a torn wing, with the framework slightly broken.



A Sopwith Gnu

The Larkin Sopwith aeroplane is 200 hp, and is piloted by Captain Roy King, DSO, DFC. He has with him Mr G Bailey, mechanic. The plane is on its way to Brisbane. It left Melbourne on Monday morning, and upon arrival at Albury at noon the pilot delivered several Melbourne papers, printed that morning, at the town hall and one or two local hotels. Captain King said that when he left Melbourne, he was told that he would land at Albury north of the town, and when he was 3000 feet up, he picked out the showgrounds as the landing place. He admitted that it was an error in judgment on his part, as he took the showgrounds to be the racecourse.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

You may have noticed the change at the bottom of this page drawing attention to the A&DHS YouTube Channel. By following the link below, you can access our current range of videos:

From the Ground Up – A series of three videos to celebrate 75 years of Albury as a city (Bruce Pennay)

Hume Dam Construction – A series of four videos (Greg Ryan)

Hume Dam Construction , 1919-1936 (Gerry Curtis, 2001)

Albury Town Hall 1908-2008

A Virtual Tour of Nineteenth Century Albury (Greg Ryan)

Indian Cremations in Jelbart Park Albury

William Brickell's Albury Connection



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HOWARD'S JOTTINGS

A Quiet Bushranger

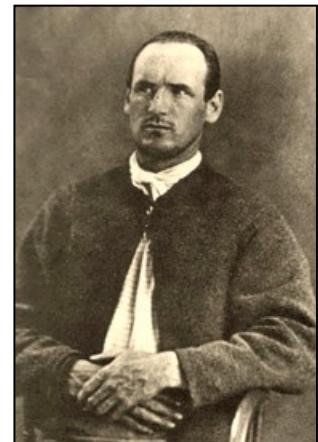
Not all bushrangers were hanged or otherwise killed. James Long lived the last years of his life quietly on the Wodonga flats, often coming to Albury or Wodonga to sell his whips and help drovers. His real name was Larry Cummins, according to the *Border Morning Mail* of 21 October 1909, in recording his death.

One of his first encounters on the Abercrombie, about 1863, was to try and rescue his brother Johnny, who had been arrested for horse-stealing and was being taken on horseback to jail. Long fired a shot at a mounted policeman but instead hit the prisoner, who fell dead off his horse. Long was jailed for life at Berrima but escaped. He went on to stick up the Mudgee coach, among other highway robberies for which he was subsequently jailed for long terms until receiving a pardon.

Telephone Duet

The first time a telephone connection was made between Albury and Wodonga was great fun. Early in 1878, the Albury telegraph office first spoke by telephone with Melbourne officials but this experiment was limited to a few cooey words like "fire" and "all right". Oddly enough, laughter could be heard at both ends.

Shortly afterwards, the Albury officials sent over a telephone to the Wodonga telegraph office. Cross-border conversations were clearly heard and a local singer, Mr Smith, rendered songs such as "Silver Threads," "Parisian Harry" and "Let Me Like a Soldier Fall." As a further test (the *Border Post* reported) "two telephones were adjusted to the one wire and a duet was sung – strange to say, each voice being distinctly heard at the other end." Albury's first official telephone line was installed in 1883 between the railway station and the customs house in Hume Street.



Larry Cummins
1843-1909

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Bulletin Editor: Greg Ryan
gjmryan@bigpond.com

Publications & Stock Officer: Colin McAulay

Bulletin dispatch: Richard Lee

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The Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 3 pm at the Albury LibraryMuseum.

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