

November 2021

No 628

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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

For Your Reference A&DHS account details are:

BSB 640 000 Acc No 111097776

Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019 ISSN 2207-1237



A new globe sits on top after restoration of the Globe Hotel building in 2021.

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

**Topic:** Colonel Ernest Latchford

**Speaker:** Mark Latchford

**ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM**  
**Albury Swim Club**  
**Celebration 100 years**  
**Until February 27**

Page 2 Aims and Objectives  
Page 3 Ecker's Globe Hotel  
Page 4 Elizabeth Romero  
Page 6 Bruce's Snippets  
Page 7 Changing technology  
Page 7 Earthquakes in our region

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

The result of the vote held at our Special General Meeting in October – 37 members in attendance voted in favour of the Society adopting NSW Fair Trading Model Constitution as our Society's new constitution, replacing the 2015 Constitution; one member voted against the motion.

Following the Special Meeting, Howard Jones spoke on the history of the Globe Hotel. His 'Society Paper', *Albury's Globe Hotel, Such a Nice Place* is complete and copies will be available for inspection and for sale at November's meeting for \$15.

Guest speaker at our November meeting will be Mark Latchford, speaking about his grandfather Colonel Ernest Latchford MBE MC, after whom Latchford Barracks is named. Mark's father, a graduate of Albury High School, rose to the rank of Major-General in the AIF.

Congratulations to Society member Bruce Pennay – an article published by Bruce in the *Victorian Historical Journal*, was one of six short-listed for the John Adams Prize. He did not win the prize which was for the best historical article published in the journal over two-years, in this case 2019 and 2020. His nominated article was *Imagining School at Benalla's Migrant Camp*.

On October 25, the Murray Darling Basin Authority held a commemorative service at the Hume Dam spillway, 100 years to the day after the most serious accident during construction of the dam. On October 25, 1921, Jacob Gehrig Snr, 55, George Pearce, 62, and William Wakeford, 17, were all killed while attempting to retrieve unexploded blasting powder. Greg Ryan and Jenny Romero represented our Society at the service. Joe Wooding's article 'The Human Cost' – see [Hume Dam](#) on our website.

## OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Prior to our Special Meeting on October 20, a member expressed concern that our Society would lose its 'Aims and Objects' by adoption of NSW Fair Trading Model Constitution. They have not been lost. They have remained on record at NSW Fair Trading since they were lodged in 1987 as part of the process of our Society's registration.

Below is a copy – it is now also on our website along with the new constitution at

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

Members may wish to file this Bulletin page as a permanent record of the Aims and Objectives.

### ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

1. The name of the Organisation shall be the "ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED" (hereinafter called "the Society").
2. The objects of the Society are:
  - (a) To encourage the study of the history of the Albury District and of Australia.
  - (b) To promote the compilation of authentic historical records.
  - (c) To acquire, either by purchase, donation or otherwise, and to preserve for the Society, books, manuscripts, newspapers, records, coins, stamps, prints, pictures, lantern slides, costumes, relics and all such objects and materials as may be considered to have a bearing on Australian history or the history of the Albury district.
  - (d) To endeavour to secure the preservation of places of historic interest, including houses, buildings and cemeteries.
  - (e) To foster the interchange of information amongst members of the Society and the general public by lectures, readings, conferences, discussions, and exhibitions of historical interest or value.
  - (f) To arrange ceremonies, functions and gatherings to commemorate events of historical interest.
  - (g) To promote the establishment of folk museums, libraries and other places for the preservation and display of material of historical value or interest.
  - (h) To arrange excursions to places of historical interest.
  - (i) To preserve for posterity the records and photographs of current events and current artifacts in the Albury District.
  - (j) To establish branches wherever and whenever it may be deemed advisable.
  - (k) To affiliate or co-operate with other Societies and institutions having objects similar to those of the Society.
  - (l) To do all such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.
- 2A. These objects shall be furthered by:
  - (i) The publication and distribution of journals periodicals books and other literary undertakings and in particular of a periodical to be known as "The Bulletin."
  - (ii) Any other appropriate activities.
3. Membership shall be open to all persons subscribing to the objects of the Society and paying the prescribed fee. No restrictions shall be imposed on any person by virtue of religious or political beliefs, sex, nationality, race or age but the Committee shall have the right to refuse membership to any person without assigning any reason therefor. The Honorary Secretary shall keep a list of the names and addresses of all members and their dates of entry to and withdrawal from membership of the Society.
4. The subscription shall be such amount per year as the Annual General Meeting of the Society shall from time to time determine. A member shall not be deemed unfinancial until his subscription is three (3) months in arrears. Membership may be determined by the Committee at its discretion when the subscription is six (6) months in arrears.

## JOE ECKER AT ALBURY'S GLOBE HOTEL

Howard Jones

Howard Jones gave an illustrated talk on the former Globe Hotel at the October meeting. His 30-page history of the once grand hotel will be told in an upcoming society paper entitled *Such A Nice Place*. It covers the period from 1860 to 1967. More than 30 licensees were "mine host" to thousands of guests, including dukes, governors, premiers and prime ministers, as well as international show-business celebrities.

In his talk, Howard described how Joseph and Mary Ann Ecker and their family presided over its peak years from 1937 to 1945.

Joe Ecker was born in 1875 in northern Austria, about 10 km from the Danube. At 14 he was apprenticed as a kitchen hand in a fashionable Vienna hotel. He went on to work in hotels in Venice, Paris and London, seeing processions of famous people passing through. At 24 he migrated from Marseilles to Melbourne. He was a waiter in Melbourne when naturalised a British subject in 1906. A younger brother, John, arrived from Austria in 1902 and became a butcher at Northcote.

Joseph Ecker was running fashionable tea rooms in Bourke Street by 1907, the year he married a Tallarook woman, Mary Ann Gairns. They ran Warrnambool hotels successfully from 1908 to 1923. Joseph and John Ecker were affluent enough to holiday together in Britain, and probably Austria, for three months in 1923.

Ecker leased the New Treasury Hotel in Spring Street, Melbourne, from 1923 to 1936, but did not always live there. In January 1927 he bought Edgemoor, a large house at Mitcham with a ballroom used to host parties, dances and charity fetes. The family lived there until they came to Albury.

The New Treasury was a favourite rendezvous for state politicians, as well as Commonwealth MPs and senators who met at Victoria's Parliament House from 1901 to 1927.

In 1935 Ecker saw new opportunities in Albury. He bought the entire Globe "block" freehold from the Bazeley family for £30,000 in October 1935, a record price for Albury. He allowed Harry Telford to complete his lease to November 1936, after which Ecker was licensee until 1945. The Ecker sons, Frank and Jack, came to help in Albury, while Mrs Ecker's sister, Eliza Gairns, known to customers as "Aunty," took charge of the dining room. (John Ecker had died at Northcote in January 1936).

Ecker engaged a Melbourne architect, Vivian Taylor (who had designed the Wool Exchange for the Commercial Club at about the same time) to redesign the hotel, increasing the 57 bedrooms to 75. The art deco parapet was a feature of work estimated to cost £14,000, including £9500 for the hotel. Most new bedrooms had hot-and-cold water while other bedrooms were reconditioned.

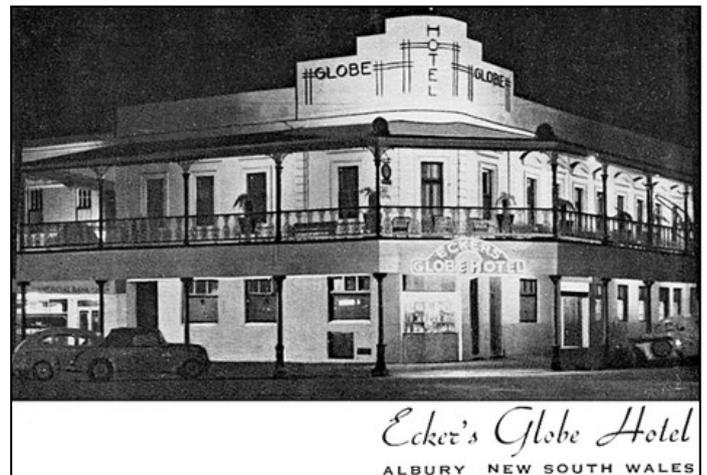
The re-modelling in Dean Street left the Tietyens' office (later Zed Bar) intact but the lawyers moved around the corner to Kiewa Street. Younghusbands then occupied the vacated offices until 1966. Shops replaced the old Younghusbands' offices and those of New Zealand Loan, but the hotel bedrooms were retained above them.

More changes in 1938 created a public bar access on Dean Street, and a main entrance and saloon bar on Kiewa Street. A bottle shop was placed on the Dean/Kiewa street corner. At street level, tiles and new windows replaced the old arched windows. Frank Ecker produced publicity material for the Globe using striking pictures by Max Dupain, when a little-known photographer.

Distinguished guests continued to come. Over a few weeks in 1938, overnight guests ranged from the Austrian tenor Richard Tauber to Prime Minister Joseph Lyons. Other VIPs in 1938 were Admiral Sir Ragnar Colvin, Victorian Premier Sir Arthur Dunstan and Lord Craigmyle, chairman of the P&O Line.

Ecker no doubt greeted Tauber in German (their native Austria was absorbed by Nazi Germany in March 1938). Two prominent Germans visited the Globe the same year: Count von Lucknow, a German Navy war hero, and Baron von Frankenberg, a leader in Australia of Islamic Sufism. But Ecker was so Australian by then that he had a dog named Cobber.

In World War II, his soldier son Jack served in Crete and Palestine. The Eckers were prominent supporters of Australian war-related charities in both world wars.



A postcard featuring a photograph taken by a young Max Dupain



The Kiewa Street entrance after Ecker's renovation

Politicians were frequent guests at the Globe in wartime. Prime Minister John Curtin stayed several times, once accompanied by his Treasurer, Ben Chifley.

In 1942, the Supreme Allied commander for the Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur, lunched at the Globe on March 27 and 28 while travelling by road between Canberra and Melbourne. Other notable guests included a young Russell Drysdale in 1940, the British High Commissioner, Sir Geoffrey Whiskard, the wives of General Thomas Blamey and Robert Menzies and Lady Gowrie (Blamey and Menzies were Globe patrons at other times).

Ecker was a member of the Rotary Club of Albury and the Licensed Victuallers' Association, was a keen horseracing fan and gave trophies to the Albury Swimming Club.

Ecker celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in January 1945 at a dinner presided over by a Victorian judge, A D Ellis. On February 22, Ecker hosted Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, then Governor-General, and his wife, when they lunched there while travelling by Rolls-Royce to Melbourne.

Ecker retired to Melbourne with his wife in October 1945. He sold the lease to the Lilley family in 1945 with an agreement staff would be retained. He sold the freehold to the Lillies for £70,000 in 1947.

Ecker was rarely quoted directly in newspapers, but at his 70th birthday party at the Globe he gave his secret of success: "It's all a matter of studying one's clientele and of setting out to please – a simple philosophy."

Mary Ann Ecker died in 1960, aged 87, and Joe Ecker in 1965, aged 90.



Guests at a formal occasion in the Globe Hotel lounge

### ALBURY PIONEER CEMETERY WALK, APRIL 2021

*Below is the final in our series of articles to publish the presentations at 'Distinguished, ordinary and forgotten women' on April 18, 2021 at Albury's Pioneer Cemetery.*

#### ELIZABETH ROMERO (née LEE)

**Jenny Romero**

When William the Conqueror took control of England, the Lee family moved from Normandy and settled in Cheshire, and there they stayed for the next 800 years. They survived as landowners throughout eight centuries of the flux of British history.

Elizabeth's father's name was Richard Lee, Esquire. Elizabeth was born at Coole Hall in Cheshire. Her home was a grand three-story Georgian house built in 1798.

Where did the Lee family wealth come from? Unlike many of the magnificent country estates of the aristocracy and landed gentry, Coole Hall is not listed as a building built on the profits from the slave trade. Most likely their early wealth was built on salt production but mainly they were farmers. They were landowners and therefore able to accumulate wealth.

Women in the main are not visible in the pages of history during Elizabeth's lifetime. She was born in 1830 and died in 1902. It was a period of extreme oppression for women. It was not until the Married Women's Acts commencing in the various jurisdictions from the 1870s did women have the right to own property or money.

In researching Elizabeth's history and the history of the times in which she lived I changed my opinion of Elizabeth. I think I would have liked her.

Elizabeth was 24 years old when she left England. She was not married. Elizabeth was very important to the economic function of the family farm. She had no right to choose her own path. The only basis for leaving the

family would have been a suitable marriage – one that added to the family fortunes and security. At 24 years of age she was rapidly “losing her bloom” to quote Jane Austin.

Francisco Romero’s family were a family of status in Jamaica. His father was a “Don” which is an honorific title and is the Spanish equivalent of “Esquire”. We know that Francisco travelled to the port of Liverpool as a merchant. He would have been carrying papers, letters of introduction and he had money and he would have been looking for opportunities to trade. Those letters of introduction would have enabled him to attend social functions.

What would give them cause to leave England for Australia, not married but travelling on the same ship? Why would Francisco turn his back on his wealthy family and privilege and emigrate to Australia to be a road and bridge builder in the Albury area? Why did Elizabeth leave her family, a life of comparative comfort and wealth?

We know that Elizabeth and Francisco knew each other before they boarded the *Red Jacket* in Liverpool to sail to Australia as unassisted passengers. Elizabeth travelled as a single woman and under the control and supervision of the Matron of the ship.

We know from the times that Elizabeth could not pay her fare. Women did not have their own money. Her family would not have paid her fare or given her permission to leave Cheshire for Williamstown. Francisco must have paid her fare.

I suspect that from Elizabeth’s family’s perspective, Francisco was not a suitable match. He was of Spanish descent and we know he was a Catholic. Both Francisco and Elizabeth would have known that their match was not one made in heaven.

The Church of England entered a period from 1824, aimed to invigorate the church and Parliament allocated large sums of money to create a burst of church building throughout Britain. Between 1851 and 1875, 2438 churches were built or restored throughout England with the emphasis being on the new and rapidly expanding industrial cities such as Liverpool in Cheshire. Cheshire’s religious history was very conservative in the period before 1850. Elizabeth grew up in a very conservative area.

It was a time of very severe prejudice against Catholics. The Cheshire Catholic diocese was created in 1850. In 1852 there was serious rioting and destruction of Catholic property in Stockport which is just 40 minutes from the Lee family home. It sets the scene for the difficulties facing Elizabeth and Francisco.

Elizabeth left a life of social position, economic security, family and servants. We know she was conservative from the way she lived her very ordinary life after marrying Francisco in Melbourne in 1854. She travelled with him, finally settling in Albury and living out her life in a house on the corner of Macauley Street and Dean Street.

Francisco was a good provider and she lived comfortably. She had 6 children and managed the family home as was the role of women in her day. Elizabeth buried 3 of her 6 children. Willie her first born son died aged 8 months, Amelia died aged 5 and Alice was 29, and still living at home when she passed away. One can only imagine how hard it was for women in those days, to cope with the loss of precious children. On her death the obituaries from her extended family showed she was a family focused woman and much loved.

However, I think it was a determined Elizabeth who arrived in Williamstown in 1854. She was determined to marry the man of her choice regardless of his heritage or religion at a time when society denied her that right. It was an act of rebellion against the constraints that bound the lives of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and that makes her a noteworthy woman.

It was the cumulative effect of all of those acts of rebellion by ordinary and forgotten women, that ultimately improved the situation for women in Australia. It paved the way for the many distinguished women who fought their way into prominence in the subsequent generations following Elizabeth and who brought about significant change to the status of women.



The Romero family plot in Albury Pioneer Cemetery

## BRUCE'S SNIPPETS

### World War I and Conscription

To mark Remembrance Day, the Society has placed two videos on our YouTube channel that explore the battle over conscription during 1916 and 1917. The videos first appeared in a set of teaching materials in the Albury LibraryMuseum and have been made available with the support of Albury LibraryMuseum.

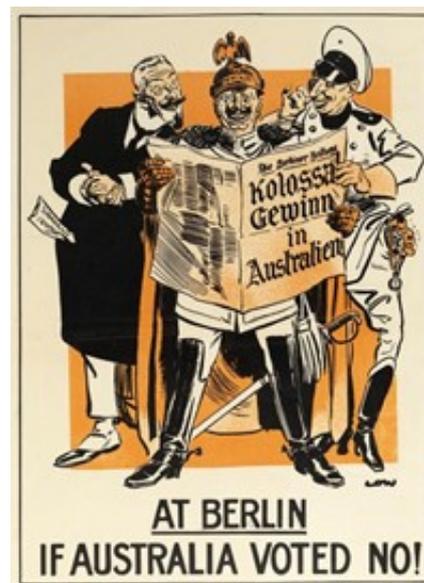
Together they are called 'Fighting the Battle of Ideas about Conscription in the Albury Wodonga District during the Great War.' One traces anti-German propaganda and feeling at the national and local level. The other tries to explain local voting patterns in the two referenda.

To view these and other videos, click on [A&DHS YouTube Channel](#)

NO Vote (% valid votes)	1916	1917
Jindera	71	71
Albury	59	59
Bowna	55	55
Culcairn	54	54
Henty	54	54
Chiltern	59	64
Tallangatta	55	55
Wodonga	52	53
Yackandandah	49	47
Rutherglen	48	50
Beechworth	42	42
Holbrook	43	43
Wagga Wagga	46	46



Examples of Conscription propaganda, 1916



### Re-peopling Bonegilla

*Re-peopling Bonegilla Online*, by Bruce Pennay has recently been published. Migration administrative records, including Bonegilla ID Cards, passenger and ship lists, are held at the [National Archives of Australia](#).

The ID Cards exist for most people who came through the centre and provide information on the dates they arrived and left, where they went to, the ship they came on, the block they lived in, and more. Go to

<https://www.bonegilla.org.au/Family-Connections/Looking-for-someone>

**First Australian History Prize for 2021**—go to [History Prize](#)

### Short list for Victorian Community History Awards

Congratulations to those shortlisted for the 2021 Victorian Community History Awards, including:

**Sarah Pinto** for *Places of Reconciliation: Commemorating Indigenous History in the Heart of Melbourne*; **Eric Eklund** for 'The Dreaded Pneumonic Influenza Has Made its Appearance Amongst Us': *The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19 in Gippsland, Victoria* in the *Australian Historical Studies Journal*; **Fiona Gatt** for *Family History and the Long View of the Great War* in the *Victorian Historical Journal*; **Timothy Jones** and collaborators for 'A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects'; **Robert Reynolds, Shirleene Robinson** and **Paul Sendziuk** for *In the Eye of the Storm: Volunteers and Australia's Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis*; **Barbara Minchinton** for *The Rise and Fall of Lady Gillott in Melbourne's Turn-of-the-Century Society* in the *Victorian Historical Journal*; and **Noah Riseman** for *Victoria's Transgender History*. [Further information](#)

## CHANGING COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Roma Freeman

Long-time A&DHS member, Roma Freeman, has contributed the following article describing some changes in technology as she grew up in the Walla district.

As I sit at the word processor and my computer, I'm thinking how much we have come to rely on technology and the avenues it has opened up for us ... but when it breaks down how much we miss it.

At Braefield we shared a telephone party line, with Hill and Dale and Bona Vista. Our number was 30S neighbours were 30U, 30I, the telephone to the three properties were connected, so neighbours could listen to each other's incoming, and outgoing conversations, considered rather bad manners. It also meant that one could speak to the other without going through the exchange – for incoming calls, three short rings were for us.



A telephone exchange switchboard

A line was connected to the Walla exchange, for 'outside' calls the telephonist controlled and directed the calls to the correct number from the Walla exchange through a switchboard.

The telephone was on the wall and it didn't have a dial but it had a handle one turned to call the exchange. Trunkline calls were charged in three-minute intervals the cost depending on how far away the recipient was. When I was

working as a bush nurse it cost me \$1.60 for 3 minutes to ring home, or for my parents to call me. Albury to Walla was a trunk call but not as expensive as further away. There was a day rate and a night rate.



A wall phone

After moving to Dallaroo it took a year to have the telephone connected and then we could ring up between 6am and 10pm ... we were no longer on a party line. Later it became a continuous service. Our number was 103. The handset still had a handle which one turned to call the exchange. Sometimes the switchboard at the exchange was so full that one had to wait.



The manual telephone was an advantage when there was crisis in a family or an emergency such as a fire, as the operator kept everyone in touch.

In those days a telephone was a luxury and quite expensive. The telephone exchange in Walla was part of the Post Office on the corner of Commercial and Queen Streets. Several local people were employed as telephonists at Walla and occasionally the Post Office clerks filled in, and they all did a wonderful job. Telecommunication was controlled by the PMG [Postmaster General's Department] until about 50 years ago.

Were they really the "Good Old Days"?

## LOCAL EARTHQUAKES

Greg Ryan

With the earthquake of Wednesday September 22 still fresh in people's minds, it is worthwhile reflecting on some local instances of the earth moving.

Most severe earthquakes are felt in areas close to the edge of the tectonic plates that form the earth's crust. The Australian continent is far from these plate boundaries, so generally our earthquakes are less severe. However, Australia's continental crust contains many fractures lines, or faults, and movement along these faults creates our quakes. Earthquakes are commonly measured on the Richter Scale, which is a logarithmic scale. This means that the strength of a magnitude 6 earthquake is 10 times greater than a magnitude 5 quake, and the intensity increases by 100 times between magnitudes 5 and 7. The September earthquake occurred about 10 km deep near Mansfield and measured 5.9 on the Richter Scale.



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/>

Have you visited our YouTube Channel?

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDzIPypinJegksrO-l2ssVg>



Joe Wooding reported on local earthquakes in Bulletin 605 and Dirk Spennemann in Bulletin 345.

Joe told us that in April 1869 a fissure over 2 miles long and in places a metre wide and a metre deep, appeared in the earth at Moorwatha, between Howlong and Burrumbuttock (*Albury Banner*, April 10, 1869).

Then the *Border Post* of September 1, 1869 – “People in Albury were woken from their sleep in this town about 5 am. It was also felt in Beechworth and Bright.”

*Albury Banner*, June 9, 1871 – “A shock of earthquake made itself felt in this neighborhood at a quarter past 2 in the afternoon. A good test of the amount of disturbance was seen at the Bank of NSW where the scales used in weighing gold were put into vigorous oscillation.” Spennemann noted in Bulletin 345 that “the epicentre of the earthquake can be reconstructed as having been in the Adelong-Tumut area. Based on the magnitude of the damage reported and the area affected by the earthquake, a magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter scale can be estimated.” This quake was thus about six times less intense than our recent quake.

*Border Post*, January 6, 1872 – “About a quarter past 11 the people of Albury were startled by rumbling sounds, together with the shaking of window sashes and the tingling of glasses and crockery ware.” This time Spennemann noted that “Based on an analysis of the historic newspaper reports the epicentre of the magnitude 4.9 earthquake [10 times less intense than the recent Mansfield quake] cannot be accurately reconstructed but is believed to have been in Tumut-Talbingo area.”

Spennemann’s 1996 article went on to note that “In subsequent years Albury residents have felt a number of earthquakes, none of them as strong as the 1871-72 events: the ‘great Yass’ earthquake of November 29, 1886; the Mount Hotham earthquake of May 3, 1966; and the Newcastle earthquake of December 28, 1989. Yet, the Lockhart earthquake of 23 August 1976, as well as the series of Wyalong earthquakes in 1982, both much closer to Albury, went unnoticed.”

Based on these reports, the effects felt here in Albury on September 22 this year due to the Mansfield quake may well have been the most severe shaking due to an earthquake that Albury has felt in recorded history.

## A&DHS Corporate Sponsors

Albury & District Historical Society receives generous support from the following sponsors.

Please click on the logo to visit their respective websites.



### Disclaimer:

The Albury & District Historical Society Inc, and/or its members, through this newsletter, endeavours to provide accurate and reliable information, but does not warrant or make any representation regarding the accuracy or reliability of information contained within this newsletter.

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Society and/or its members shall not be liable for any damages of any kind relating to the use of this information, including without limitation, direct, indirect, special, compensatory or consequential damages, loss of profits or damage to property, even if the Society and/or its members have been advised of the possibility of such damages.

**Patrons:** Patricia Gould, Greg Aplin

**Honorary Life Members:**

Howard Jones, Helen Livsey,  
June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.

**President:** Position not filled

**Vice-President:** Greg Ryan

**Secretary:** Helen Livsey

02 6021 3671

**Treasurer:** Simon Burgess

**Minute Secretary:** Yelly Evenhuis

**Publicity Officer:** Helen Livsey

**Public Officer:** Helen Livsey

**Committee:** Dennis Hickey, Colin McAulay,  
Ashley Edwards, Ralph Simpendorfer,  
Jennifer Romero.

**Bulletin Editor:** Greg Ryan

gmjryan@bigpond.com

**Publications & Stock Officer:** Colin McAulay

**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.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

Single: \$30 Family: \$35

Corporate: \$100

Note: There is a \$10 surcharge for  
mailed Bulletins.

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