

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

President's Report 2021/22

If we thought that this past year would be any easier after the impact of Covid in the previous twelve months, we were mistaken.

Our biggest challenge for much of the year related to our Society's governance but thanks to the hard work of our Constitution Sub-committee, we can now go forward confident that we are complying with all regulations relating to Incorporated organisations in NSW. As well as a new constitution, we have brought our *Mission Statement and Society Objectives* up-to-date and we now have clear and precise policies relating to members' privacy and nomination of both Society patrons and Society life members.

Covid restrictions again had an impact causing the cancellation of three of our general meetings. But these monthly meetings remain an important part of our Society's yearly program. As in previous years, we have heard a broad range of topics from quality speakers:

- Simon Barlow spoke on the Dallinger family and in particular the photographic and artistic life of Jack Dallinger.
- Peter Harper focused on the practice of dentist Charles Pettitt who, in about 1888, founded a dental practice in Albury that has survived for over 130 years.
- Sandra Endrez highlighted the Wartons, a local pioneering family.
- Charter Member of Lavington Lions Club, Charlie Leaney, outlined the scope of his book entitled *50 Years of History 1970-2020*, describing the history of the club.
- Howard Jones spoke on the history of the Globe Hotel. His Society Paper, *Albury's Globe Hotel, Such a Nice Place* features every Globe Hotel publican and many of the famous and colourful characters that the hotel hosted.
- Colonel Ernest Latchford MBE MC, after whom Latchford Barracks is named, was the subject of November's meeting. In a first for our Society, Mark Latchford, his grandson, spoke from home in Sydney to both a live audience in Albury and an online audience via a video conferencing app.
- Jan Hunter related *A Story through Postcards* about a young Ernest Sharp who was killed in 1917 during WWI.
- Fossicker Connor Fedorowysch explained the rules of fossicking, then showed and described some of the many and varied items that he has found with his metal detector.
- Honor Auchinleck spoke about *A Very Ordinary Extraordinary Man*, her father Thomas Mitchell, his sporting achievements, the impact of time as a POW and his political career.
- Colbey Baines told us how he was preparing to represent Albury's CBD 'Then & Now' using the computer program *Minecraft*.
- Eileen Clark outlined the early days of the Border Bushwalking Club and discussed how things have changed since its formation in 1978.
- Geoff Romero spoke about some early legal documents, exploring changes in the use of language and changes in social and professional customs.

Secondary speakers at our meetings also deserve thanks and especially Richard Lee for his regular entertaining contributions. To the many others who do the little things that help ensure smoothly run meetings, my sincere thanks.

Our Society has secured coverage of local newspapers on the National Library's Trove website from 1860 to 1949 with a few small gaps in our coverage. The *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* is digitised back to its first edition in 1860 and the *Border Morning Mail* covers the years 1903-1920 and 1938-49. Bruce Pennay has been the prime mover in making grant applications and we have recently ordered digitising of the *Border Morning Mail* for 1950 and 1951. This has been made possible with generous help from Wodonga Historical Society and a substantial grant from Albury City Council.

In addition, our Society has secured a grant from Wodonga Council for Bruce to produce a video documentary which will examine the impact of the arrival of rail to Wodonga in 1873 – a proportion of that money will also help fund digitising for the Trove website.

An Albury & District Historical Society YouTube channel has been established. The channel now contains twenty video documentaries dealing with aspects of local history.

Jill Wooding was our 'Meeting Greeter' for many years. Reluctantly, Jill relinquished that role at the end of 2021. Jill was there through some difficult times with the loss of her daughter Catherine Browne and during Joe's illness and his final months, doing the job efficiently and cheerfully. My thanks to Cheryl Bromley, taking over as our new 'Meeting Greeter.'

Thank you again to our generous corporate sponsors: the Commercial Club (venue for our monthly meetings); AlburyCity (venue for committee meetings); Coxtech (website maintenance); KwikKopy (supply of our printing needs); and financial support from sponsors Lester & Son Funeral Directors, Baker Motors, Hume Bank, ThinkPilates, Armstrongs Financial Advisers, Elders Real Estate (through Manny Gonzales) and Rotary Clubs of Albury, Albury North and Albury Hume.

My sincere thanks to all committee members for your continued enthusiasm for the role we play in helping preserve our local heritage. Unfortunately, mid-term we had to say farewell from the committee to Ashley Edwards after her election as an AlburyCity councillor. Ashley brought her significant expertise and experience to the committee and we wish her well in her role on Council.

I have served as President for the past four years and in that time membership has grown to over 120 members. The past twelve months have been challenging with issues to work through relating to Society governance and a serious family illness absorbing a lot of my time. I have appreciated the great support provided by members. Your ongoing commitment will continue to keep our Society strong and achieving the goals set out in our new *Mission Statement and Society Objectives*.



Greg Ryan