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February Meeting

A&DHS
meeting
cancelled !

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM
100 years of
Albury Swim Club
Until February 27

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An embroidered cloth sent from Cairo to Lucy Abigail Pape by Ernest Sharp, 1916 (see page 4).

PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

Unfortunately 2022 is off to a bad start with a cancellation – due to uncertainty about the spread of Covid-19, we have made the early decision to cancel our February meeting.

In December Jan Hunter related “A Story through Postcards” about a young Ernest Sharp who was killed in 1917 during WWI. He sent postcards to his sweetheart, Lucy Abigail Pape during the war. After Jan finished, Graeme, Abbie’s son addressed the meeting recalling how he found the postcards and other items.

Connor Fedorowytch described how he goes about fossicking with his metal detector. Connor is a keen detectorist and fossicker. He started by going through the rules of fossicking, then showed and described some of the many and varied items that he has found.

That was followed by December’s ‘Show & Tell’, a popular and interesting part of our yearly program.

Until February 27, an exhibition at the LibraryMuseum celebrates the 100 years of the Albury Amateur Swimming Club, with images and memorabilia highlighting the achievements of the club and its members.

Reminder to members about our ‘Memory Hunt’ in preparation for celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of Albury as a City. So far the response has been very poor so if you are inspired to participate, please read more on page 8.

Congratulations to Society member Ashley Edwards on her election as a councillor at AlburyCity. Ashley has been a valuable member of our committee for two years. There is the possibility of a conflict of interest between her role on our committee and her role as a councillor so Ashley has resigned from committee. Our sincere thanks to Ashley and best wishes for your role on Council. Ashley remains a Society member.

After many years as our ‘Meeting Greeter’, Jill Wooding has stepped down from the role. Jill received much deserved thanks at our December meeting. Cheryl Bromley has very generously agreed to take over the role – thank you Cheryl.

METAL DETECTING

Connor Fedorowytch

Connor started his presentation with a list of rules for a metal detectorist to follow:

- Research your sites, and seek permission first
- Fill all holes – beach, bush or park.
- Take all items with you – including trash
- Leave the area cleaner than you found it – like camping and hiking.
- Report any items of historical significance to the appropriate body/organization
- And last, share what you find.

Connor shares his significant finds with a friend, who makes YouTube videos to share with his subscribers. His channel is “Diggers Down Under the Comic Chef.”

Before having a look at some of his finds, Connor pointed out that research pays off – local maps are extremely helpful and talk to locals about the location of places such as old schools or hotels, then ask for permission.

Below is Connor’s description of some significant items found.

Maker’s name plate from a horse drawn sulky or something similar. The plate reads “J MONK M.” Found in the Bowna village area with no further information regarding the original owner.



Beer barrel bung rings, (keg rings) from the brewery in Albury just north of the old Union Bridge. The brewery was adjacent to “Brasseurville” house, still standing in a derelict state. The bung rings would be screwed into the barrel, and the barrel emptied or filled from them. A plug or bung was pushed into these rings to seal the barrel.

Brass padlock made by Jacksons, one of the oldest lock manufacturers in Australia. This padlock was made for the NSW Government (possibly railways) and was recovered from the nature strip outside Albury Public School on Smollett Street.



Porter’s hat badge, NSW Government Railways, employee number 5179. Found in a paddock in Lavington, and may have belonged to someone named Jackson who worked at the Albury Railway Station around the 1940s.

Hat badge found in the front yard of a house on Prune Street Lavington, badge from the Christian Brothers College. In 1983 the school amalgamated with St Joseph’s Ladies’ College to form Xavier High School.



Victory Medallion from WWI, given to school children after the end of the war and found in Mullengandra at an old house site. One side reads “PEACE 1919 – Australia”, the reverse reads “VICTORY – The triumph of Liberty and Justice. The Peace of 1919”.

is an example found online for sale. The badge reads “Municipality of Albury” above the boomerang shape, and “Back to Albury Sept 1919” inside it. The shield depicts a paddlesteamer in the centre, with the Hovell tree above, and mining tools below.

Back to Albury Sept 1919 – one of Connor’s favourites, made by Stokes and considered rare. Left is the one found at the Bowna village site, right



1824-1924 Medallion found in a Chant Street paddock in Lavington. It is an enameled brass medal reading “1824 – 1924 Hume & Hovell Centenary Race Meeting. 20th & 22nd Nov 1924.” The hole at the top of the medallion is depicted inside the branches of the Hovell tree, and below it can be seen an Indigenous Australian man holding a boomerang and two spears looking over a street with two buildings. The reverse has the number 1193C which

may be the medallion number or member number. Below that is the maker's mark "Simpson".

Collection of Chinese cash coins and a gold locket recovered at the northern end of Prune Street above the creek. This area was known as "Chinaman's Flat" and was where the Chinese gold miners camped during Albury's gold rush period. Unfortunately, this area is now being developed, and houses are being built over the site.



Key-ring charm, enameled and depicting the Hume Dam. Albury is written along the top of the image, and Hume Weir is written in the red banner. The object predates the installation of the spillway gate in the late 1950s.



Brass miner's ring, found at a house site outside the village of Bowna. The signet area depicts mining tools. Inside the ring is the word "BALLARRAT". This ring dates to the 1850s and was sold as a memento to miners.



Old English Coin – a King William and Queen Mary half-penny, recovered at the site of Yambla Public School, near TableTop. The school building was an 1880s weatherboard single-room building, now demolished. This coin predates European



settlement of Australia and may have been taken to the school for a history lesson or as a show-and-tell by one of the students. First thought to be a George III coin, based on the ribbon in the figure's hair. The right-hand image reveals its true identity, on the left is a "G" almost touching the figure's shoulder, and on the right just visible is the "IA" of Maria.

Sterling silver pocket watch – one of Connor's more significant finds relevant to an Albury person. This watch was assembled by Frederick Husing. The silver hallmarks in the case indicate that it was made in Birmingham in 1864. Frederick Husing owned a watch and jewellery shop in Kiewa Street. He started business in Albury in the 1850s.

Connor managed to take the movement out of the silver case to reveal the lovely signature, which reads "Fred^k Husing Albury". The watch was found at Bowna Village, and in another spot in the township, Connor found the pocket watch key on the right which reads "F. HUSING ALBURY".



F. HUSING'S,
WATCHMAKER and JEWELLER,
KIEWA STREET, ALBURY.
F. H. begs to announce that he has just received
A NEW AND CHOICE ASSORTMENT OF
JEWELLERY,
 Both in Colonial and English Manufacture.
 Also, an assortment of
GOLD AND SILVER PATENT LEVER
WATCHES,
 By the Best London Makers.
Meerschaum Pipes, Spectacles, & every description of
FANCY GOODS.

Connor would welcome help from anyone who might be able to add any more detail relating to these items, or the persons they may have belonged to. You can contact Connor through Helen Livsey (contact details on page 8).

An advertisement in the *Albury Banner* of December 18, 1860

A SMALL SAD ROMANTIC STORY FROM POSTCARDS

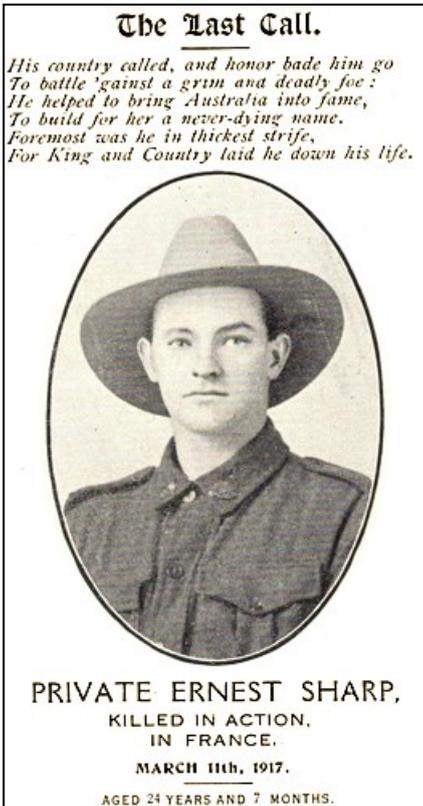
Jan Hunter

In 1915, Lucy Abigail Pape (known as Abbie), 17, who was born in Walwa, was living in Albury.

Ernest John Sharp, 22, was the eldest son of Ernest William Sharp, well known bricklayer and builder, of 355 David Street Albury. Ern loved motor bike riding and in January 1915 he was awarded a medal for taking part in the Melbourne to Sydney Endurance Race. Later that year Ern enlisted in WWI and said goodbye to his sweetheart Abby.



Lucy Abigail Pape



Ern sailed from Sydney for Egypt on the TSS Themistocles in October and wrote a postcard to Abbie even before they set sail. He sent brief postcards regularly to 'Dear Abb' and 'Darling Abbie' and also sent embroidered textiles from Cairo.

In March 1916 Ernie was sent to the front in France and in August he was wounded in his right arm by rifle fire. He was transported to England and recuperated at the Beauford War Hospital in Bristol for two months. After recovering, Ernest Sharp returned to France in November of 1916 and was killed in March of 1917.

Ern's mother, Mrs Mary Sharp, received a letter from the Chaplain who had buried Ern. He told her Ern had been living in a dugout with comrades and five of them were killed by a shell. His mates were going to put up a memorial cross. Mrs Sharp also received a letter from Ern's mates, signed by his comrades and with a picture of the cross erected in his memory. He was buried in the Martinpuich British Cemetery.

The Sharp families arranged for a window to be put in the Methodist Church at Albury, now part of the Albury Police Station, in memory of Ernest, his uncle Charles and two Maloney cousins, all of whom were killed in action.

But what of Lucy Abigail Pape? Abbie left Albury and lived in Wodonga, Mitta and Kooyong Melbourne. We next hear of her in 'The Romantic Circle' in the Border Morning Mail in 1939. Abby was 41 when she married Arnold

(known as Gillie) Moncrief at Wangaratta. They lived at Tallangatta and had one child and later three grandchildren.

Abbie kept her postcards, the gifts from Egypt and copies of the letters to Mrs Sharp. These were found in a little bundle on top of a wardrobe after her death in 1990, aged 92.

Only now, over 100 years later, has the story of Abbie and Ern come to light. Abbie's family recently gave these mementos to Ron Haberfield, a descendant of the Sharp families. The cards and the textiles, telling this small, sad, romantic story will go into the Albury LibraryMuseum Collection, to be preserved and displayed every so often over the next 100 years.



KEEPING COOL

A notice in the *Border Post* of Monday January 11, 1864:

“Just received at Clem Necro’s Empire Hotel, Albury, a supply of Wenham Lake Ice. Those who appreciate cool drinks are invited to come to the Empire.”

Editor’s note: Wenham Lake is a 92 hectare (224 acre) body of water in Essex County, Massachusetts, USA.

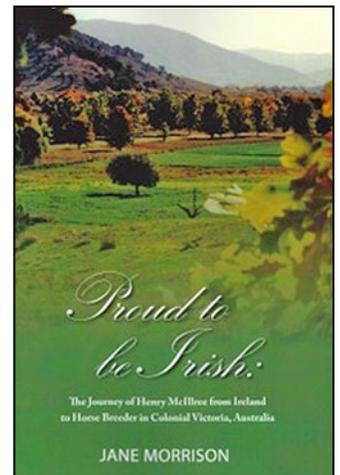
In the 19th century, the lake was an important source of ice for export. It was especially popular in Britain because of its purity. Ice from Wenham Lake was so popular that Norwegian ice exporters even renamed the Norwegian Lake Oppegård for a short while into Wenham Lake so that they could trade ice from this Norwegian lake as ice from Wenham Lake.

PROUD TO BE IRISH: THE JOURNEY OF HENRY MCILLREE FROM IRELAND TO HORSE BREEDER IN COLONIAL VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

This book by Jane Morrison tells the story of Henry McIllree (1824–1882), born in Belturbet, County Cavan, Ireland. Runaway, sailor, miner, pastoralist, pound-keeper, grazier, and horse breeder, he was a determined, enterprising resident of early Belvoir (Wodonga) and the Upper Murray.

Some descendants and related families lived in Albury. Among them were Robert Gordon McIllree (1869–1958) and Alfred McIllree (1871–1937). Henry's grandsons, bank officer Gordon, and auctioneer Bob, served in WWII. Gordon, commemorated at the Albury War Memorial, did not return with the 2/4th Battalion. Bob, an 8th Division signaller, was a POW in Japan but survived to become Regional Manager of Younghusbands in 1951.

The book costs \$39.95 plus postage. Contact: Jane Morrison, Calico Bag Books, PO Box 3139, Weston Creek ACT 2611, calicobagbooks@gmail.com



75 YEARS AGO DECEMBER 1946

Richard Lee

You could meet Santa Clause at Mate's department store. They were holding a picture show in the Lounge level. It was important to book your tickets as they were selling out quickly.



Angle Parking in Dean St, 1940s

“Dean Street parking– need for change in interests of safety” – the problem was the existing angle parking. Chamber of Commerce's Mr Phillips asserted that Dean Street was “the greatest testing ground of driving skills of any he knew.” Police disapproved of angle parking but wanted to work with Council. There were hours of debate in the chamber comparing angle parking with parallel parking and numerous letters to the editor of the *Border Morning Mail*.

“Albury declared a city. Minister made announcement. The mayor pays tributes to pioneers ... this Christmas box to the townspeople is one that will never be forgotten ... declaration makes a fitting termination to 1946.” The mayor received a telegram from the minister reading “Please accept my felicitations and congratulation on the overdue honour being conferred on the Queen City of the South.”

That evening Mayor Bunton hosted a gathering of about 200 people at the Plaza Hall “to thank the 120 town organisations, my deputy mayor, colleagues on the council, officers and staff for loyalty and support during my first year as Mayor.” A presentation of a cedar jewel case (cedar from Albury's first Town Hall) was presented to Mrs Alf Waugh on behalf of Mr & Mrs E Sharp in recognition of Mr & Mrs Waugh's fine service to the town (Mr Waugh was a long standing Mayor and Sharp the Town Hall builder). The article stated that Mr Waugh was “the grand old man of local government.”

Other items included: 2CO radio operated from 6.00 am till midnight, and 2AY radio operated from 7.45 am till 10.30; grasshoppers were on the move; the Regent Theatre was screening ‘Billy the Kid’.

Blackie House the new maternity block at the Hospital had been built, but supplies of linoleum and furniture had delayed the opening. The Minister announced the opening would take place in February.



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



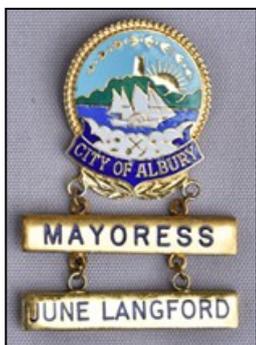
CORONATION MUGS

Howard Jones

An unusual pair of 1937 Coronation china mugs were shown by Howard, who bought them at a Wodonga charity shop recently. One shows the face of King Edward VIII, who was scheduled to be crowned in London on May 12 1937. The other depicts his brother, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Edward abdicated in December 1936 “to marry the woman I love” and Prince Albert then became King. The authorities kept the original Coronation date at Westminster Abbey. Both mugs were produced by the Empire potteries in England, the latter AFTER the Coronation, to make sure nothing went amiss this time.



While the Coronation was celebrated through the British dominions and Empire, the big event in Albury that day was the formal opening of the new Commercial Club and Wool Exchange, together with a six-rink bowling green and tennis courts behind (the old club premises later became Anzac House). In 1937 the club had 420 members, all men over 21. A Miss Grant was supervising architect during construction but could, of course, not become a member.



MAYORESS BADGE

Howard Jones

June Langford’s official badge as Mayoress of Albury was a reminder that the office disappeared with the passing of the 20th Century. June’s husband, Les Langford, (who died on December 1, 2021, aged 91) was mayor four times, from 1989 to 1992 and again in 1999. June ably assisted him at official functions. Since 2000, the practice of having an active mayoress was abandoned. Notable past mayoresses included Ellen Waugh, Eileen Bunton and Yvonne Jackson, John Roach’s cousin. The badge was shown courtesy of Mark Langford.

TWO DOLLAR COINS BY HH

Narda Reid

Narda had 3 x \$2.00 coins from 1988 and 1989 that had the HH mark on them. It is a special mark and after 1990 the mark was removed. The coins were designed by Horst Hahne, the Royal Australian Mint chief engraver at the time the coins were first introduced (hence the HH). Further research reveals that the coins are becoming sought after and may be quite valuable.
[Right: HH circled in red on a \$2 coin]



GOLD MEDALLION WITH SWASTIKA

Doug Hunter



Doug had a beautiful small gold medallion, 17mm diameter, featuring a swastika inside an engraved circle. Engraving: “F. C. BLACKLOCK 1922”. The donor is unknown nor is there any information as to how it came to be in the 8/13 Victorian Mounted Rifles Regimental Collection.

Frederick Charles Blacklock (1871-1930) was a well-known Albury identity and businessman interested in cycling from the 1890s then graduating to selling and manufacturing bicycles with friend and business partner James Scanlan. Motor cycles then car sales followed. Blacklocks continue as motor vehicle retailers in Albury and district in 2022, advertising they have been in business since 1892.

Blacklock and his wife were on a cruise from New York to Liverpool in 1922. Blacklock may have been in contact with American tool manufacturer Buffum who used the swastika as a trademark. Buffum borrowed the symbol from designs used by Native American cultures.

The swastika symbol was historically known in many cultures, and in western culture had the symbolism of auspiciousness and good luck. It was however adopted by the fledgling National Socialist Party (Nazi) in Germany in 1920 and became a symbol of infamy prior to and during World War Two.

The medallion has been offered to Albury Library/Museum by Trustees of 8/13 Victorian Mounted Rifles Regimental Collection.

PORCELAIN CUP & SAUCER**Roma Freeman**

Roma Freeman had a beautiful porcelain cup and saucer from her crystal cabinet. It belonged to her mother, and it was dated 1924 to celebrate the centenary of the Hume and Hovell expedition.

WWI Medal**Jenny Romero**

Jenny Romero had a 'Show and Question,' asking if anyone knew anything about a medal found in Geoff's grandmother's house after she died, and was to honour her brother killed in WWI? The only answer was from Doug Hunter who said he knew of Local Government's issuing medals of the kind displayed, to a fallen soldier's family but he was not aware of any being issued locally. He later came across a similar one presented to Private S G Carley by "his Mountain Creek friends for services rendered the empire."

The front of the medal has "With Duty Nobly Done" and on the reverse "Pte Dick Livermore Enlisted July 21 1915 Killed in Action May 3 1917". 'Dick' was the nickname of Henry James Livermore.

**BECOMING THE CITY OF ALBURY****Bruce Pennay**

On 18 December 1946, 75 years ago, Albury became a city.

At first sight it seemed that this was simply a change in title. Locals might expect the Town Hall, the Town Clerk and even the Town Plan to be rebadged. But the endowment of cityhood on the municipality meant more than that.

The Premier, Bill McKell, expected a great deal of the eight large country towns declared cities through 1946 and 1947. He claimed his was a country-minded government which wanted each of the new cities to provide better services to the primary producers in their surrounding regions.

The State would support the new cities to extend electricity and water supplies to rural areas. It would help them establish high levels of education and health services. The State would establish government offices in the new cities to decentralize its activities to a regional level.

Government would invest in the new cities. So, too, would private investors. They were expected to be attracted by the recognition that came with the title of city. Albury would be something more than just another country town.

Albury had already attracted city brewery and insurance company investments in hotels and office buildings. It could expect to attract more city investment in secondary industries and in its shopping centre.

The recognition of cityhood would revitalize local government. Councils were now elected by residents, not just ratepayers. Voting was now compulsory. Councils had easier access to loan money and stronger planning powers. They could extend the community services they offered through libraries, museums, kindergartens, and youth support. They were expected to have wider interest than just roads and gutters.

Albury would grow bigger and better.

The announcement of the declaration of cityhood in 1946 was exciting. Flags were flown and speeches made. The recently re-elected Mayor, Cleaver Bunton, hailed the occasion as a coming of age.

But the declaration came, Mayor Bunton said, at an awkward time, midst the bustle of Christmas time. It was, he said, a good way to end 1946, but a bad time to organize celebrations.

He announced that a program of special birthday festivities would be arranged.

Council fixed on the following Easter to have a formal Proclamation Day, and the first three months of 1947 were spent organizing a festival of commemorative events.

The festivities showed Albury's claims on being a city. Albury was growing economically stronger, serving a prosperous wheat, and dairy countryside and a busy railway and road crossing place. It had acquired the facilities to host regional sporting events, be they regattas, swimming carnivals, bowls competitions, rifle shoots or horse and athletic races. It had a rich cultural life that offered up to date entertainments.

What is more, the community had mustered energetic volunteers to work together to promote 'our Albury'.

Declaration Day, on 18 December 1946, preceded Proclamation Day, on 10 April 1947. They both marked a significant turning point. They have both become commemorative moments.

We await the celebrations of Proclamation Day which was hailed at 'Albury's Greatest Day'. But it is also

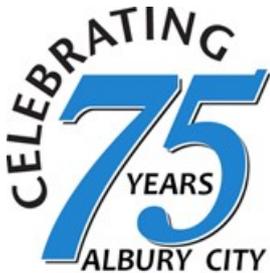


timely to note Declaration Day when the new City of Albury first appeared in the Government Gazette.

Nowadays, we might reflect on the role the Regional City of Albury-Wodonga may be expected to play when the regional deal is finalized. Now, as then, we might ask in what ways the place where we live might become bigger and better.

Happy birthday Albury City.

REMINDER: HAVE YOUR SAY



A&DHS is compiling a 'Digital Time Capsule' in preparation for the April 10 celebration for 75 years since Albury was proclaimed a City. Tell us about Albury as a place to live in or nearby as a child, teenager, young or mature adult or elderly person.

Why did you come, leave or come back? How do you recall social divides based on class, gender, race/ethnicity, political or religious affiliations impinging on your life – or the lives of others? What do you recall of the social character of neighbourhoods within and around Albury? What have been this place's strengths and weaknesses as a place to live in? Which key buildings, places or community activities act as your most vivid memory anchors? Are there places associated with pleasant or unpleasant turning points in your life?

We need responses by mid-March. You can submit up to 200 words by email to alburycity75yo@gmail.com or by mail to Albury & District Historical Society, PO Box 822, Albury.

Please include your First Name, your Age Group (Under 20 yo, 20-40 yo, 40-60 yo, over 60), your Place of Birth, your Length of Time in Albury.

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Bulletin Editor: Greg Ryan
gjmryan@bigpond.com
Publications & Stock Officer: Colin McAulay
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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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