

Registered by Australia Post,
PP.225170/00019

BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2005 **450**

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month,
February to December

Albury Regional Museum: (02) 6051 3450
Turks Head, Wodonga Place, Albury
Open every day, 10.30a.m. to 4.30p.m.
Website: www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum

Patrons:
Mr Harold Mair, O. A.M.

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(02) 6021 2835
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Subscriptions:
Individual Member \$22
Family Members \$30
Corporate Members \$50

**2005-2006
Subscriptions
now due!**

New Members Welcome

**THE ALBURY &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MONTHLY
MEETING MEETING
WILL BE HELD IN THE
ELIZABETH ROOM
COMMERCIAL CLUB
DEAN STREET AT 8PM
WEDNESDAY 14TH
SEPTEMBER 2005**

**ALL INTERESTED ARE MOST
WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

- Please note: When you enter the club please check the notice board in the foyer for venue of meeting.

**September Guest Speaker
will be Bruce Pennay
Topic:: 'Living with a
National Growth Centre.'**

**? Question of the Month
What do you think was
the best, or the worst
outcome of the
A.W.D.C.**

The Mercy Health Service Albury Ltd.

*Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy
Goulburn Congregation, is a major
provider of Health Services in the
cross border regional areas centred
on Albury-Wodonga in the field of*

- *Palliative Care
- *Sub Acute Aged Care
- *Parents & Babies

THEIR MISSION: What Mercy Means:

The Mercy Mission derives from the example set by the healing ministry of Jesus Christ the person.

Caring for those close to you means:

DIGNITY

Respect for the dignity of the whole person in mind & body, is fundamental to what they do & how you go about providing health care. A whole -of -person approach to care means concern for the physical emotional & spiritual needs in a person's life.

Human dignity takes precedence over all other interests.

COMMUNITY

Companionship & being part of a community are fundamental human needs. Whether it is in serving the aged, the terminally ill or young families, a vibrant, enriching & supportive community provides an environment where physical, emotional & spiritual health will prosper.

JUSTICE

Justice means we have a special concern for the vulnerable, marginalised & poor. It is a corner-

stone of how we go about our work.

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS:

Quality of life, for the most part, derives from experiencing positive & empowering relationships. We create a health care context enriching life: we build & support the positive relationships which sustain energy & life.

COMPASSIONATE CARE..

Excellence requires quality care. Compassionate care takes it one step further: It requires personalised service, companionship, empathy & hospitality.

Our guest speaker for August meeting was **Jane Evers, Manager of the Mercy Health Services Albury**. Jane was born in the district & has a distinguished career in the field of nursing with appointments in Queensland and Albury. She has been at the Mercy for 30 years and was responsible for the establishment of Mercy Palliative Care Service which commenced in 1984. Jane's work has been recognised by the Albury Electorate Women's award for outstanding community service. Jane will be speaking about the history of the Mercy Hospital, in particular the history of the Mercy Palliative care service.

In 1944 a call was received from the people of Albury for a Catholic Hospital to service Albury & district. In May 1945 four sisters left the Mercy Hospital at Young in New South Wales to come here & established "Chelvey" the original hospital in Olive Street. (Now the site of the Hume Building Society).

Fourteen & half acres were purchased on Pooles Hill as

**BYO PICNIC.
SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER,
2005.**

Members are invited to a picnic cruise on the "Cumbaroona" to mark the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the first paddle-steamer at Albury. Gather at the "Cumbaroona" berth, Noreuil Park at 11.45am. Cost \$3 in coins! Guest Speaker and Re-enactment.

the site for a new hospital. The foundation stone was blessed & laid by Bishop Henschke of Wagga Wagga on 1st June 1946. In 1950 a contract was signed & the first sod was turned.

On 1st December 1957, the new Mercy Hospital was officially opened by his Eminence Cardinal Gilroy. In 1963 "Berrelli" on the site of the present Marinella Nursing Home, was annexed to the hospital to meet the needs of the elderly in Albury. An appeal was launched in 1967 for a Nurses Home which was to be a memorial to the late Mother Hugh who was the Founder & Superior Administrator of the Mercy Hospital.

St. Mary's Nurses Home was officially blessed & opened by Bishop Carroll of the Wagga Wagga Diocese in 1971.

Over the years the Mercy Hospital has been involved in a wide range of acute care services including coronary care, radiology, general theatres, children's ward, obstetrics, gynaecology & urology. The hospital performed all these roles extremely well but lost the services due to the rationalisation of the health system & their Health Policy changes.

In 1982 the first floor of the hospital was converted to a Geriatric Assessment Unit.

In December 1983 a functional brief was followed by commencement of Master Planning for Stage 1 of a major refurbishing & building program.

When the project was completed it cost the Sisters of Mercy 4 million dollars.

A mother & Baby unit was started in 1983, later to be known as the Parent & Baby unit.

A Palliative Care unit was established in 1984 with an extensive volunteer involvement & had a major emphasis on education to the immediate & wider region.

The Palliative care program basically commenced as a community service & that was to support & give people choice to be able to remain at home. When the illness was progressing or in an advanced stage, it was choice within to decide what care was warranted. The Mercy had four back up beds when needed. The team developed over a number of years, the Mercy had a very comprehensive service. Sister Kate worked with me in the early 80's developing the volunteers, pastoral care and bereavement support services.

We had a most dynamic volunteer programme & that programme is still existing today with absolutely fabulous initiatives.

The Palliative Care Centre on level 4 was completed in April 2005 & refurbishment of additional floors later in 2005/2006.

On Level E is a newly refurbished palliative care centre we have now integrated all our community services into the one location, so provide a comprehensive range of services to our patients and families.

We have a 10 bed in patient service there each of the wards have single rooms with en suites we have accommodation for families and carers & a family day room. We have a creative day resource centre, this again is a new initiative to provide a whole range of therapies along the lines of art therapy, music therapy & already provide a whole range of complementary therapies.

The Master plan for stage 1 was submitted to the NSW Minister for Health in 1986, who approved joint funding by the NSW Department

of Health & the Sisters of Mercy, Goulburn Congregation, for major refurbishment with the focus on the hospital being the major obstetric & gynaecological centre for the district with the closure of the Albury Base Hospital obstetrics unit.

The decision was then made to undertake Stage 2, (a Geriatric Assessment unit), at the same time, and that the Sisters of Mercy would meet the whole of the cost of these extensions.

Planning & work commenced in 1988 on Stage 3, the refurbishment of 4th floor and an extension to provide a hospice for the terminally ill, to be known as St. Joseph's. The refurbished and extended building was officially opened on 24th April 1989.

In 1993, as a Public hospital, the Mercy hospital was incorporated into the Hume Health Service which was the NSW Health district body.

The Mercy Hospital is a third schedule hospital within the Public Act of 1929.

In 1994 the Sisters of Mercy, recognising the changing times in the provision of health services commenced a Strategic Review process.

The Mercy Hospital became the Mercy Hospital Health Service Albury Limited in 1995.

The Albury-Wodonga Breast Screening Service of NSW leased space in the hospital building in 1995.

The Obstetric service was relinquished to the Wodonga District Hospital on 30th June 1998 as a result of funding & service difficulties and a desire amongst the local medical profession for a rationalisation of the cross border service to the other facility.

Government recognition, encouragement and approval for the continuation of the Sisters of Mercy in local health care was formalized by Dr. Andrew Refschauge, Minister for Health in September 1997.

Mercy Hospital Albury Limited became the Mercy Health Ser-

vices Albury Limited in 1999 to reflect the Mercy Congregation's involvement in community health care.

The Mercy Health Service initially comprised three core services: Geriatric Medicine & Rehabilitation, Palliative Care & Parent & Babies Unit.

To confirm the Mercy role & service levels, a Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated between the Sisters of Mercy, the NSW Department of Health & the Greater Murray Area Health Service, (GMAHS), for the period of five years between January 1999 to June 2004.

In October 2000, the GMAHS announced endorsement of a plan to co-locate Mercy Health Service on the Albury Base Hospital Site. Considerable negotiation between the Congregation, the local Board of management, GMAHS & the NSW Department of Health in the form of a project feasibility plan. A Statement of Intent was signed off in April 2002.

In 2003, after extensive consultation with the community & health professionals, the Mercy Board of Management approved a proposal to establish the core businesses within the Mercy Health Service, to meet the future needs of Albury-Wodonga and surrounding regional centres

As a result of approving the future directions of Mercy, consideration was then given to the capital requirements to accommodate the new, expanded and innovative services.

It soon became obvious that the project to relocate the Mercy onto the Albury Base Hospital site, had not been placed on the NSW Department of Health forward capital plan, and as a consequence, the Sisters of Mercy and the Board of Management made a decision to refurbish the existing building in Albury to accommodate the new services.

At that stage there was concern if we stayed within the facility and did not refurbish, the service level would deteriorate & well as the building.

So it has been an exciting five years at the Mercy.

In June 2004, the Sisters of Mercy, Greater Murray Area Health Service & the NSW Department of Health negotiated & signed a new Memorandum of Understanding for the period 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2009 which secured funding to provide services in the core businesses approved by the Board.

In 2004, planning commenced to refurbish the existing building in Albury to accommodate the new & expanded services, & construction of the new Palliative care centre commenced in October 2004.

The Mercy Board established the Mercy Million Building Fund Project to raise \$1.5 million to help support the extensive renovations.

In July 2004 the Adamhurst Day Therapy Centre was transferred from the David Street site to the Mercy to form the Mercy Day Therapy Unit which has been a very successful move. The Mercy has been able to integrate their inpatient services & patient programs with that service, so we can all get the benefits of Tai Chi & a total range of therapy programs. The Day Therapy Centre certainly has been expanding as well and is a busy centre.

The Mercy has an Aged Care Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (ACAT) that give people advice on high & low care residential services & assesses care needs for the frail aged.

We have a 10 bed transitional Care Healthy Aged Unit. This is a new program that we have developed in the last 12 months. It is for aged people who take a little longer to heal after an acute episode of care, its rehab is focused on therapy service, so people can have than extended period of time to recover. It has been operating since the 1st July. So far it has been a very successful venture.

On level D we have Geriatric Evaluation Unit that was developed in 1983. Dr. Neil Blair still heads that Unit.

During 2005 the Mercy Aged Care Advisory Centre was estab-

lished to provide information and advise on aged care issues to families/carers, the frail aged & health professionals & providers.

Also in 2005 the 10 bed Transitional Care, Health ageing unit was established to support the transition from hospital to home & the aim to maximize the quality of life & independence, particularly for older people following hospital acute hospital treatment.

Jane Eyers

The August question of the month was:

Q: Who are the sisters of Mercy?

A: In 1944 the people of Albury called for a Catholic hospital to be opened in Albury. Four sister's from the Mercy Order in Young arrived in Albury to establish "Chelvey" which was situated in Olive Street on the site of where the Hume Permanent building Society is today.

Doug Hunter

A: The congregation of the Sisters of Mercy was founded at Dublin in 1841 by Catherine McCauley. She was adopted by a wealthy family. As an heiress to a considerable fortune she formed the Sisters of Mercy and worked with the poor in Dublin.

The foundation of the Sisters of Mercy at Goulburn was made by a group from Westport County Mayo in 1859, well before the new Goulburn Diocese began. Six sisters were recruited in Ireland by Archdeacon John McEnroe at the request of Archbishop Polding. They left Ireland on 28th June 1859 and sailed from Liverpool which took three months and arrived in Melbourne on 2nd October the same year.

Helen Livsey.

A: The Sisters of Mercy originated from Ireland. Their Order was founded by Catherine McCauley about 1841. The story goes that she was adopted as a young child by a Mr. & Mrs. Armstrong who were Quakers, had the love of the

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XMAS PARTY

The festive season is fast approaching , so bookings have opened for the A & D.H.S. Annual Xmas party that will be held in the Commercial Club Wattle Room on Friday 9th December at 7pm.

Cost of Carvery \$24.00

scriptures. They converted to Catholicism before they deceased, Catherine benefited from their estate and started to feed the poor in the streets of Dublin.

The mother house is in Baggott Street, Dublin.

In 1992 they celebrated 150 years of the Order. Mercy nuns travelled from all parts of the world to Ireland for the celebrations.

June Shanahan

Other comments:

A: The sisters came here as nurses from Goulburn.

A: They were teachers and nurses from Melbourne

Some memories of Holdenson & Neilson

by June Shanahan

Some of my early memories of the butter & cream factory on the Lincoln Causeway.

The factory was built & owned by a family company by the name of Holdenson & Neilson, they were a city based company, their Head Office was situated in Melbourne. They had factories spread right around Victoria. They purchased a factory at Numurkah from Barrow Bros in about 1918 which was my Dad's home town.

Early in 1924 the Numurkah factory was burnt to the ground, it was under-stood that the fire started in the office .

The factory at Numurkah had to be rebuilt & they were looking for workers, so Dad decided he would leave his job at Brown and Cork 's

and go and work as a builders labourer.

Meanwhile about 1921 Holdenson & Neilson purchased the old Co-Operative factory in Albury which I believe was situated in the Stanley, Creek & Englehardt Streets area.

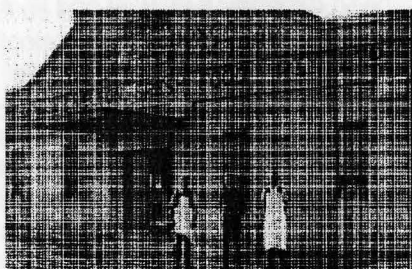
When the Numurkah factory was finished and up & running again, the Company asked him if he would be interested in going to Albury as they had purchased land on the river flats across the Murray River in Victoria on the left side going towards Wodonga.

It was a big decision for Dad, as his mother didn't keep good health & she relied on him as he was the eldest of nine children.

Dad arrived in Albury and he boarded at Mrs. Bennett's boarding house which is now the Turk's head Museum.

After the first part of the factory was finished and in production my Dad was asked whether he would like to stay on as an Ice Cream Maker.

This same building is now the Gateway Tourist Information Centre.



My dad in the middle

The front section of the building in the earlier years was the Butter & milk room. There were two big metal butter churns, they were enormous, actually they looked like something from outer space they were very similar to an octagonal shape. The churns were quite large to me as I would have been around ten years of age, when I first saw them. They were set about 4 foot high on concrete pylons.

Sometimes I would go into the butter room when Ian Hunt was

making the butter, you had to stand quite clear of the machines as they were very dangerous as they were spinning around. There were no safety railings and the staff would have to be very careful when they were switching the machines on & off, as the power points were on the wall behind the churns. Of course there were no safety regulations in the work place back in 40's.

The next room to that was where my Dad made Iceberg Icecream. There were two big stainless steel vats with flat bottoms, they were that clean they were like a mirror you could see your face in them. Everyday especially in the summer months those vats would have first grade choice quality cream poured into them. Dad would add pure vanilla, gelatine & little sugar. It was then feed into the churn that had a cooling effect which had a beater like apparatus inside it, which thickened the ingredients and it then came out as soft icecream like Mr. Whippy. It was so delicious, so you can say I tried soft icecream many years ahead of the soft mixes you buy now. I was so very lucky to be able to try the real product, the children today would not know what real icecream tastes like, unless it is homemade.

As you came out of the butter room there was an alcove, & on the right there was a large freezer room where they use to store the icecream.

Dad was pretty popular with some of the local children that were in the know. Occasionally in the school holidays they would arrive with their billy's & Dad would fill them when he was making a batch of ice cream, he would then put it in them in freezer. The children would come back later in the day to pick up their frozen treat

I use to tease him & tell him that he was giving away the profits. He would say that icecream had 95% air in it, so the company were making a massive profit on the product.

Dad was the first ice cream maker between Sydney & Mel- >>>

MAKING A CITY IN THE COUNTRY

Bruce Pennay our guest speaker for September explores some of the responses of the people of Albury-Wodonga to government intervention in regional & urban development. His book "Making a City in the Country" has just been published.

bourne to make Chocolate coated Vanilla Slices, they were so tasty, as natural products were used back then. During the summer months the Company would have to employ extra staff, as making small goods was very time consuming as it all had to be done by hand especially the Chocolate coated Vanilla slices. At one stage they employed a few women in the ice cream room, I can remember at one time there were three sister's that work there at the same time, they were Ward girls from South Albury.

Blocks of Icecream were very popular back then. The Icecream was put into a cardboard oblong box about the size of the house brick, (that is what they were called then a family brick) they also had small & large dicksies. I think they call them buckets now.

Last year 2004 it was the 50th anniversary of when the first Paddle Pops were made in Australia.

When the larger Icecream Company's in the cities started making small goods like the paddle pops etc Holdensen & Neilson couldn't compete so they stopped making their smallgoods except for the bricks of ice cream. Of course they still had a great demand for their bulk products. In later years Dad use to make the decorated ice creams cakes as they became popular.

Behind the Ice-cream room there was a walkway between there & the ice works. Further down the walkway there were boilers that helped control the temperatures of all the cool rooms and supplied the factory with hot water.

As the business grew they built

another building to the right of the old factory, it was to become the Milk & cheese section for many years. The Factory Offices were at the front to the right of that building. The milk section was built up higher as it was easier for all the trucks to unload the milk cans & the cheese section was on ground level behind the milk section, they had four big long vats where they made the cheese & they had a room off it for maturing the cheese. I will never forget the smell, thinking back may be that is the reason why I don't like cheese.

I can remember when they first started to pasteurise milk, it would have been about 1948 it was quite an achievement.

Way down the back of the factory where the small shops are there use to be two large sheds & that is where they use to do all the repairs on the trucks. The had a big water pump on the river that is where they pumped the water for the factory, they also had a big natural underground well. Anywhere along the river or in South Albury area you don't have to go down far to strike water, it all depends on the height of the river. Also all the factory run off went straight into the river, it would never happen now of course.

The factory employed numerous Albury & Wodonga residents over the years especially new Australians that came here after the 2nd world war. I can remember many students would work their in the summer school holidays, some would stay and others would leave and go back to school or go on to better things. Their first job was either with Dad in the Ice cream room or another section of the factory. Dad made Ice cream there for over 40 years.

Quite a few of Holdenson and Neilson factories was taken over by Peters Pty Ltd., they already had ice cream factory's in the capital cities so the Lincoln Causeway plant wasn't viable. Peters decided to sell the premises to Kiewa Diaries otherwise known as North eastern Dairies which had their main factory out at Kiewa-

Tangambalanga.

Dad stayed on with North Eastern Dairies and looked after the cool rooms to see that they stayed at the right temperatures. Managed the hire of the coolrooms to Small goods companies around Albury-Wodonga that sold frozen foods.

One of the company's that I remembered who use to hire freezer rooms was Mr. Foo who lived on the corner of Wilson & Kiewa Street.

Just a few names of many staff that come to mind.

- *Mac Young, Manager
- *Ms Nellie Skillicorn, Office worker
- *Ron Bray worked in the Milk & cheese section. He finished up as Manager of Murray Goulburn at Shepparton
- *Martin Hoysted, Foreman, finished up as Manager in Gippsland.
- Lawrence Smith, Foreman of Ice Cream section & maker of Ice Berg Ice cream - father of Margaret Court, Tennis Player: winner of 64 Grand & Slam titles.
- Jack Bolton Snr. Milk Truck Driver, Great Grand Father of Patrick Murphy, Olympic Swimmer.
- * Frank Bolton Jnr son of Jack was general factory hand & later became foreman of the butter & cheese section.
- *Keith Coulston Butter Maker No. 1 Moved to Melbourne with family
- *Ian Hunt Butter Maker No. 2 took over from Keith.
- *Darky McDonald Milk Truck Driver
- *Vincent Smith, son of Lawrence Milk truck driver- later a Milk Tanker driver for Holdensen & Neilson, Numurkah.
- *Pop Rowe -Boiler Attendant
- *Frank Rapsey -boiler attendant
- * Jack Wright worked in Milk section. His parents had property on the Wodonga flats.
- *Roy Scholz his parents were the last owners of the half way hotel premises on the Lincoln Causeway.
- *George Milthorpe, Milk and Cheese section

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Valentine Wooding - 1884-1960; Part 1

by Joe Wooding.

A short talk on Wooding's Jewellers was delayed while my memories of working at both the Olive Street and then the Pool-Street Mercy Hospitals in Albury, were recounted after an outline of both hospitals was given by Jane Ayers from Mercy Health Care at the August meeting.

Being apprenticed to local contractor Jack O'Laughlin in 1952, I was to get a behind the scenes look at a great many of Albury's buildings & utilities. Joining the MRCC in 1961 then meant that for the next 35 years, I was to have a legitimate reason to be on the premises which was connected to electricity & included not only Albury but the Hume Shire as well.

My father was married twice. The first marriage producing two sons, the second on 13th march 1936, to my mother, from which one daughter & three sons resulted. Born at Maryborough Vic. On February 14th 1884, Joseph Henry Wooding was to learn at least some of his trade with a Mr. Jabez Edwards of Talbot in Victoria's gold mining belt, around the dawn of the 20th century. In a strange twist, my step-daughter Catherine is related to Jabez.

Little is known of my father's early life other than it appears to have been a struggle. Perhaps the story of him wearing his bike clips & not owning a bicycle to give the impression that he was a little more prosperous than he really was, may give an insight into his character.

He came to Albury in 1916 from Beechworth, where he had been a Councillor for 5 years.

The first indication of Wooding's Jewellers & Opticians, Dean Street, was a large advertisement in the Border Morning Mail on Saturday, November 16th, 1918.

A great many others were found before the last one appeared on Monday, November 8th, 1926. Just two days later, on Wednesday, November 10th, Charles H. Smith

announced that he had purchased the business & property and it was under new management. The business became the Pivot Jewellers & Smith was known as "Pivot" Smith. He and his family's ties with the Regent Theatre are well known even today.

The use of "Valentine" was simply seen as a romantic name for a jeweller. "Valentine Wooding, Albury" was often stamped on pocket watches, cutlery & silverware that he sold. I was around 20 years old when he died & never once heard him called anything but Harry. His birthday was February 14th, Valentine's Day. My birth certificate issued February 1938 lists father's occupation as Commercial Traveller.

References to V. Wooding were found in two Albury & District Historical Society bulletins – August 1968 & February 1992. Neither were entirely accurate & is probably the reason for doing a little research on the matter.

His four turbulent years as an Alderman (1922-25) on Albury Council & a few other snippets of his life can be related at another time.

SHOW AND TELL

Jill Wooding brought a shop bell to the meeting that was given to her by Mr. George Reilly, known to many in the 1950's as "the quietly spoken English Gentleman" from Mid States Record Bar. The Brass Bell was cone shaped, 12cm, in diameter at the base & 10 cm high. When the spring loaded plunger in the top was struck it rang very loudly. It is about 100 years old & was used originally in a Dean Street bakery.

Catherine Browne showed an etching purchased from the \$2 bin at a Christchurch N.Z antique shop. The etching was of the Murray River at Albury. It appears old but its province is unknown. Catherine & her husband Michael have had it framed.

Journals that can be read at the Albury Library.

Wagga Wagga H.S Newsletter –
June/July 2005

1. J.J. Mc Grath – Renowned Saddler to Office of Mayor.

Murrumbidgee Ancestor: Wagga
F.H. S. Journal – June 2005

1. June- A History. Cont. from July 2004 Journal.

Hawkesbury Crier: Hawkesbury
F.H.G Newsletter June 2005.

1. Why Tell Your Story? Why Your History Matters.

Stockmans Hall of Fame
(H.O.F.) June 2005.

1. A wrong – set right, for Mary of Maranda.
2. Letters to the Hall.

Ancest-tree: Burwood & District
F.H.G Journal – July 2005.

1. German Immigrant Ships to Eastern Australia-Part 8 ship "Johann Caesar" 1853.
2. Samuel Haigh-Insolvency Record 1858.

by John Craig

RESEARCH FEES.

The Albury & District Historical Society Research officer Helen Livsey will undertake history research on behalf of the Society at a fee of \$20 per hour, plus printing, postage costs & a business size stamped addressed envelope.

**\$20 should be sent with
initial inquiry to P.O.
Box 822 Albury 2640.**

Helen Livsey

Obituary.

Members of the Albury & District Historical Society regret the passing of long time member of the Society Mr. Mick Ryan late of Albury & Mullengandra.

Deepest Sympathy to Mrs. Ryan & Family.

Whilst a member of the Society Mr. Ryan spoke on the subject of "Ned Kelly and his horse" which is in Bulletin No 286.

