

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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Border Bushwalking Club walkers break for lunch at Wallace Hut, Falls Creek.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 08, 2022

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: Legal changes over time

Speaker: Geoff Romero

ALBURY LIBRARY MUSEUM

Questacon-

Science on the move

June 11 – July 31

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR JUNE

Unfortunately, due to Covid, Digby Jacobs was not able to speak on water management at our meeting and we will hear from him later in the year. However, we were pleased to hear from Eileen Clark about the history and activities of Border Bushwalking Club. We also had a good session, led by Jenny Romero, discussing and suggesting modification of a draft of new Objectives. The edited Objectives accompany the mailout of this Bulletin prior to a vote on their adoption at our AGM in July.

With this Bulletin is notice of our Annual General Meeting to be held at 7.30pm, Wednesday July 13 at the Commercial Club. That meeting will be followed by July's General Meeting and a light supper.

At our June meeting, member Geoff Romero will speak about some 19th century legal documents he has collected. He will explore changes in the use of language and changes in social and professional customs. The documents relate to Albury as well as Australian national history. Geoff has said that he will try to make it more interesting than it sounds.

A reminder that our new Privacy Policy is now posted on our website. There are two more new policies on the website, a Patrons Policy and an Honorary Life Member Policy. All three of these policies were drafted by our Constitution sub-committee. After discussion and modification over three committee meetings, the policies have been formally adopted by our committee. With the new Constitution adopted in 2021, these new policies finalised and once our new Objectives are endorsed at the AGM, the sub-committee, Ralph Simpfendorfer, Jenny Romero and Geoff Romero, will be in recess. My thanks for the many hours they spent ensuring that these important aspects of our Society's governance are in place.

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Biosis Pty Ltd, a Melbourne based heritage consultancy firm, is currently conducting an archaeological investigation of the Albury Police Hut site. The police hut was built on a vantage point overlooking and guarding the Murray River crossing place in 1838.

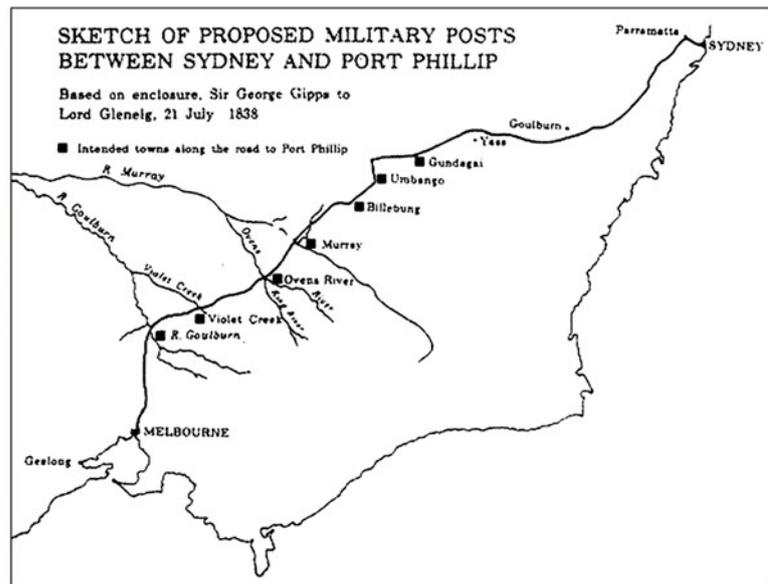
The statements of significance, which guide the investigation, suggest the place may be important to the state for the ways it helps explain (i) the development of law enforcement; (ii) the formation of the town; (iii) interchanges between groups of Aboriginal people and settlers; (iv) Aboriginal occupation of the river reserve where it is located.

The police hut at the Murray River, its fenced paddock surrounds, the river, the crossing, the native encampment, the public inn and its cultivated field were the prime elements in ‘a contact zone’, where people geographically and historically separated, encountered each other, and where they were beginning to establish ongoing relations. Settlers and Aborigines were finding ways to live together and separately. Some were starting to form an integrated economy.

The place holds heritage values important to the local community and to the state. The undeveloped nature of the police hut site and its immediate river reserve surrounds help make it ‘a place of evocation’, that is a place for sharing stories among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people relating to the productive lives pursued nearby before the intrusion of Europeans and to learn about the impact of that intrusion.

Nine people – three government officials, two visitors, a worker, and three artists – have associations with the site or have provided evidence that helps in establishing why the place is significant to the founding of a township at Albury.

1. Governor George Gipps established the police huts and their adjacent towns to enforce law and order along the route after the Faithfull Massacre of April 1838.



2. Samuel Augustus Perry, the Deputy Surveyor General of New South Wales, recommended the sites for the huts and towns. He dispatched Thomas Townsend to survey the place, locate a good crossing place, a police hut, and give the layout for a town.



3. Major J W Nunn, the Commander of the Mounted Police, personally supervised the building of the police huts.

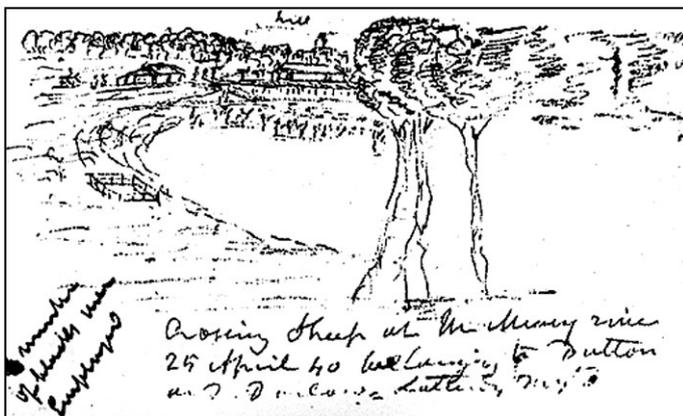
That is in heritage terms, a strong connection – architect, builder and overall manager. Nunn’s association with the hut strengthens argument for the hut being interpreted as an expression for the forceful dispossession of the native people. Nunn had won wide renown for his forcefulness at the time of the building work in September 1838. That reputation was strengthened by the brutality of the Waterloo Creek massacre he was responsible for in January 1838, before he oversaw the building of the hut in Albury.



4. Lady Franklin visited the police hut and camped in the police paddock on her overland trip between Melbourne and Sydney in 1839. She told her husband in the letters she wrote about the track and how it was travelled. She commented on the landscape and on unusual aspects of the flora and the fauna. She mentioned crops, livestock and potential markets. She told him of people she met and the buildings they lived in at the Murray River Crossing and other places.

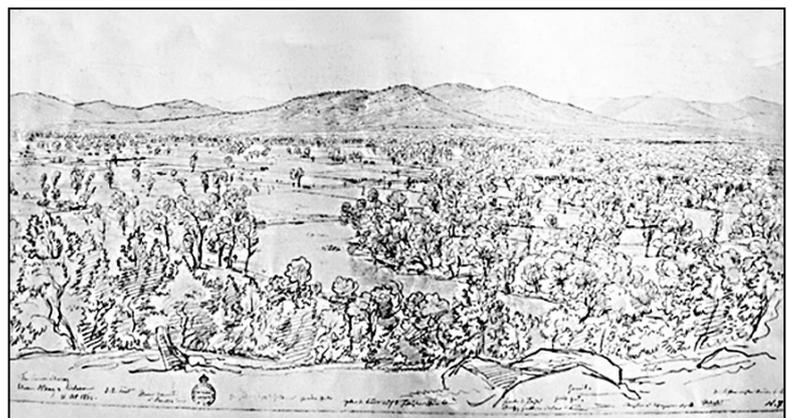


5. George Augustus Robinson, Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Port Phillip District visited in 1840 and 1844. He recorded his impressions of the ‘small settlement’ near the police hut in 1840, then a busy crossing place four years later. His journal contains his analysis on how Europeans and Aboriginal groups were interacting and his observations on how Aboriginal people used the land and river.
6. Wor.rum.me.yeer, alias Joe, a Wiradjuri man, lived with his family on the hill known as Deerremmer, near Bungambrawatha. He and his family had a longer and deeper association with the site than all of the above. The testimonies of Lady Franklin and George Robinson portray him as good humoured, a respectful husband, a hard worker, a possum hunter, a good singer and storyteller. His association is illustrative of not only the long-term association First Nations Peoples had with the riverside site, but also of the ways some displayed resilience in negotiating places for themselves and their families in the contact zone about the Murray crossing place.



In 1840 Robinson was amazed by the noise coming from the crossing. A large mob of 14 000 sheep were being forced to cross the river. He saw the work done by Aborigines including Worrummeyeer, in getting them into the water and safely across. Many sheep did not survive, and Aboriginal people from nearby had gathered to feed on the drowned sheep. He sketched the scene and his stick figures represent the Aborigines helping to get the stock across the river. Three more skilled artists have created images that either tell of the place or help explore ways of tapping Aboriginal understandings of the beginnings of the police hut.

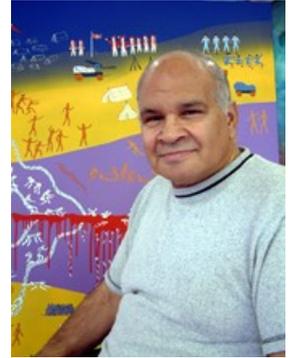
7. Eugene von Guerard, visited in 1862 and recorded a pencil drawing of the River Murray between Albury and Belvoir, in “Sketches in Victoria, 1862,” NSW State Library PXC 310. The drawing is made from the same vantage point and may illustrate the hut and its out-buildings.





8. Tamarra Murray's sculpture is beside a footpath near the police hut site, It is a vivid reminder that the riverside is redolent of First Nation Peoples' stories of their long-term occupation of the area.
<https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/leisure/arts-and-culture/public-art/connection-to-country>

9. Eddie Kneebone's series of paintings show the impact of the Faithfull Massacre. A slash oozing blood through the canvases is a reminder of frontier violence.
<https://www.facebook.com/murrayartsregionalartsdevelopment/posts/eddie-kookaburra-kneebone-bones-of-contention-a-full-house-to-celebrate-opening-/1342627582451609/>



An interpretation of George Robinson's sketch appears in the *Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria* this month, titled 'Picturing Sound and Song at the Murray River Crossing Place.'

That article suggests that the documentary evidence related to the police hut site provides one-sided contact stories. But they may start, or even advance, conversations about how European and Aboriginal groups related to each other. And they depict something of how the land, the river and the crossing place were being used at a stage in white Australia's black history.

Locally, we should commemorate a place that showed the Fort of Albury preceded the Port of Albury.



A SHORT HISTORY

Eileen Clark

The Border Bushwalking Club began in 1978 after a 'Letter to the Editor' in the *Border Morning Mail* generated sufficient interest for a public meeting. This was followed soon after by a walk to Table Top attended by 120 people in the rain! I cannot verify that some ladies turned up in high heels, nor that the leader carried a stepladder to assist people over fences, but they are good stories that exemplify the Club's friendliness, can-do spirit and slight tendency to exaggeration in trip reports. We now have about 140 members, with a committee elected annually.

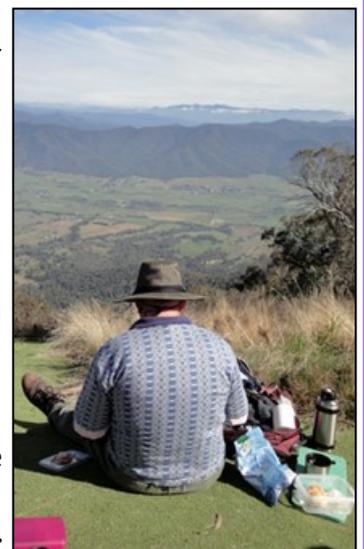
Our main activity is bushwalking, with trips from half a day to weekends or longer, locally, interstate and occasionally overseas. We also do cycle rides, cross-country skiing and canoeing, while some walks have focused on leaders' talents and knowledge of plants, birds and, more recently, community singing. We also have social activities including the (in)famous Sliding Bottle nights, where members would gather to show a few slides of activities while partaking of a drink or two. In 2018, we held a weekend in Beechworth to mark the 40th Anniversary and planning is underway for the 50th Anniversary.

Many of the practices initiated in the early days of the Club remain in place today. Activity leaders are all volunteers and are supported by a coordinator who arranges a mentor for new leaders. Walks are advertised on the website, and members must contact the leader by phone to find out the meeting place, and for them jointly to ascertain that the activity is within the member's ability. Visitors are welcome but must pay a token temporary member fee.

To assist new members, the Club has good-quality equipment such as tents, stoves and rain jackets for hire for a nominal fee. While most of us can stand a little discomfort, having good gear can mean the difference between life and death in an emergency, especially in the mountains.

Until Covid struck, we used car pooling to get from a meeting place in central Albury or Wodonga to the start of the walk. This promotes sociability while reducing costs and pollution. A complicated formula is used to work out cost sharing between drivers and passengers and calculating 'petrol money' is one of the more onerous tasks for leaders, especially the mathematically challenged!

We hold monthly meetings, and these are just getting back to normal post-Covid. Meetings consist of a guest speaker, updates from the President and socialising over a cuppa. The meeting venue has changed several times, reflecting changes in



The View from Mt Emu, Tawonga

Albury's streetscape. We started at Burrows House (now part of MAMA), then the Nurses' Recreation Room at the old Base Hospital in Wodonga Place (demolished), followed by Age Concern in Townsend Street (now Live Better), and currently we use the Senior Citizens' Rooms in Wodonga.

We have a monthly newsletter 'Footprints', once produced laboriously by typing on a stencil, printing with a hand-operated printer while getting covered in gooey black ink, followed by a team of newsletter elves who did collating, addressing and posting. Today, the magic of email replaces all this, but we rely still on a volunteer editor and contributors to send in items. Like most groups, we also have a website (www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au)

We have also seen many changes since the early days, and I'll highlight just a few of these. In 2011, a small number of disaffected members split from the Club and set up the Murray Valley Bushwalkers. While the split was painful at the time, the Clubs now have harmonious relations, and many members belong to both.

One big change is immediately obvious when comparing photos of the old days and now. The style and standard of clothing has improved markedly! Back in the 1970s, bushwalkers' clothing came from Army surplus stores and Op Shops. Wool was the fabric of choice; it kept you warm even when wet so walkers wore khaki trousers, flannel shirts and hairy sweaters. One Op Shop used to have a rack of 'Bushwalkers' Specials' each autumn, selling surplus ageing sweaters and flannel trousers cheaply. Now we have synthetic fabrics for all seasons, and outdoors gear has become high tech and high fashion, with a range of designer labels for those so inclined and price tags to match.

Another big change has been the march of bureaucracy, or the change from 'she'll be right' to 'where's the paperwork'! By their very nature, outdoor activities are inherently risky, and clubs are now expected to undertake risk assessment and minimisation. As a consequence, adverse incidents beyond bumps and bruises are mercifully very few. This change began in 1985, when, like many groups across Victoria, we became incorporated following changes in legislation to protect volunteers. This required hours of meetings where we pondered over the constitution, model rules and reporting requirements. We were also required to organise insurance for the Club, which we now do through Bushwalking Victoria, the umbrella group for clubs in the State. This has become progressively more expensive over the years and now takes about two-thirds of each member's annual fee.



Hazards on the track, Bogong Village.



Navigation exercise, Chiltern Forest.

Over the years, the Club's operations have been codified in a book of policies, covering everything from commercial advertising to conduct of the AGM, and most things in between. With the advent of social media, one recent policy governs the taking and posting of photos in which members are recognisable (permission required), and another requires that a responsible adult with a Working With Children Check must be present whenever people aged under 18 years are taking part in activities.

Leaders are expected to provide reports on each activity, which are published in the newsletter and archived, and should an incident occur, a detailed form must be completed for examination by the Committee to determine whether it was handled properly or could have been avoided. Following one serious incident, an illness emergency on the High Plains requiring helicopter evacuation, a full debrief meeting was held for those involved.

These changes have meant that training for leaders and members is now important. While every activity is an opportunity for informal peer learning, we have also organised training days, a first aid course and navigation exercises to ensure that all activities are safe and enjoyable.

Like many clubs, the average age of members is rising, and we would welcome some younger members and a few more volunteers, but we intend to keep putting our best foot forward for many years to come.

RYAN'S MARKET HOTEL

Greg Ryan

In June 1878 Fanny Brady wrote to the *Albury Banner* protesting the refusal of her license application for a public house on the south west corner of Dean and Olive Streets. Fanny pointed out that she, “a widow with a family to provide for and educate,” had been refused a license while “immediately before, Alderman Barrington applied for a license for his new house in Townsend-street: license granted!” She went on to state that if she has “acted in any way that would bring a blush to my face, I certainly would not have made any application for my license.”

The application was re-heard the following month and the first license for the Market Hotel granted to Fanny Brady in July 1878. The hotel was named for Market Square on the opposite side of Dean Street – it later became Dean Square then Queen Elizabeth II Square.

In 1881, by which time she had remarried to Joseph Douglas, Fanny built the Railway Hotel in Smollett Street for its first licensee, James Pool. Pool died in October 1883 and the license of the Railway Hotel was taken over by his wife, Jane Pool.

There were several licensees of the Market Hotel before John Flynn took over in 1889. Flynn’s license expired in July 1894 and he transferred the license to James Soden for £30. Fanny Douglas proceeded in the police court to recover possession of her hotel in what papers referred to as “The Market Hotel Ejectment Case.” By September, the £30 had been refunded and Fanny was advertising that she “has taken the hotel.”



The 1895 Market Hotel, just visible at left is the cottage of Fanny Douglas.

The architect WT Thorne invited tenders in early 1895 for the erection of a two-storey brick hotel at the same site for Fanny Douglas. In September 1895, the *Albury Banner* noted that the hotel had just been rebuilt and Patrick Fagan had taken over the hotel lease. The newspaper described the hotel as “now a fine two-storey building, replete with all the latest appliances for the efficient working of the business, and for the comfort of visitors.”

When Fanny Douglas died in December 1911, it was reported that she “possessed considerable property in Albury, where she was an old resident. She was a native of

Newry, near Belfast, Ireland, and arrived in Australia about 50 years ago.”

A verandah was added to the hotel in 1898, built by local builder Ernest Sharpe to a design by local architects Gordon and Gordon, the *Banner* describing it as “another striking improvement to the future Federal City.”

Thomas L Ryan, well known and popular in Albury, became licensee in August 1901. Ryan had been captain of the Albury Volunteer Fire Brigade since 1890 and continued in that position until 1916 when Albury had its own professional firemen. He was also president of Albury Football Club for many years and a committee man at Albury Racing Club.

Tom Ryan died in December 1928 and was followed as publican by his sons Reg and Les.

The hotel was still officially known as the Market Hotel and it was not until December 1937 that permission was granted for the name of the hotel to change to Ryan’s Hotel.

In 1937 it was announced that the Ryan brothers were to rebuild the hotel in an art deco style. In March 1938 the new hotel reopened, built at a cost of £20,000

MARKET HOTEL,
DEAN STREET, ALBURY.
MRS. FANNY DOUGLAS,
LATE MRS. BRADY,
BEGS to inform her friends and the public that she has taken the above hotel, which has been newly furnished and renovated throughout.
Country visitors at Show time will find every comfort and convenience.
WINES, SPIRITS, ALES, &c., of the best brands.
GOOD STABLING and good Accommodation Paddock

September 1894 advertisement

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Tom Ryan’s Market Hotel c1915.

On the balcony: M Coughlan, B Harris, Mrs Thomas Ryan (née Wynack), Maria White, Tess Kendall;
Footpath: Les Ryan, Ern Sharpe, Bob Healey, Tom Ryan (with ‘Bully’), Gertie Ryan, Gladys Seymour, ?, ?, Jim Langford, Bob Emerson, Bill Lee, ?, Bill Kotthoff, ?, ?.

(about \$1.9 million in 2022 money). An advertisement in the *Border Morning Mail* boasted a “luxuriously furnished lounge, first-class accommodation, excellent cuisine, hot and cold water throughout and lock-up garages.” The building also included several shops, both in Dean Street and between the hotel and Hoyts Theatre in Olive Street

The hotel was purchased in April 1948 by Ansett Airways. A spokesman for Ansett’s was quoted in the *Border Morning Mail* “It will be one of the finest hotels between Melbourne and Sydney when we are finished with it.” The paper went on to report that “it is the company’s intention to give first priority in accommodation to travellers by their services — Airways, Pioneer Coaches and Eastern Roadlines.” Harry Bennett, who had worked at the Globe Hotel for the previous four years, took over the license from Les Ryan.



The Art Deco style Ryan’s Hotel in about 1963

Albury lost a well-loved building in 1977 when the hotel was demolished to make way for shops.

HOWARD’S JOTTINGS

LABOR PIONEER: Violet Primrose Clingham was among the first Albury women to become involved in local politics as a party branch officer. She came to Albury in 1937 with her husband, Bob, a Gallipoli veteran who was wounded in Belgium and held the Military Medal. He became caretaker of the Albury Court House that year.

Both were active Labor Party members, Bob as president of the Hume federal electoral council and Violet as secretary, then treasurer, of the Albury branch. She also presided over the local Australian Railway Workers Union women’s auxiliary. In 1939 she helped start the Albury Trades & Labor Council, which among other things demanded a 40-hour week and a minimum weekly wage of five pounds.

Violet, a mother of five, lobbied politicians, the town council and newspapers, particularly to help unemployed men and their families and for “adequate housing” for them (some 40 to 50 impoverished families lived in huts or humpies on the Albury Common in 1939). During the war, Bob Clingham was transferred to the Goulburn Court House.

By 1944, his wife had become president of the Goulburn Trades & Labor Council, the first woman in Australia to hold such a post. She campaigned in NSW for the McKell Labor Government to take over all nursery schools. Bob later chaired the Goulburn Hospital Board and campaigned on mental health issues for ex-servicemen. Violet died in 1953 in her 60th year and her husband in 1956.

WOMEN CHAMPIONS: In 1937 and 1938, young women cyclists set many long-distance records in Australia. Albury’s Marjorie Smithenbecker, aged 16, set a record of 12 hours 58 minutes for riding the 194 miles from Albury to Melbourne overnight in November 1937, knocking several hours off a record set by Joyce Barry, of Lidcombe.

Marjorie left Albury at 5.30pm in a temperature of 39 degrees and rode mostly against a strong wind, arriving in Melbourne for breakfast. But in December a Wangaratta rider, Dot Edney, set a new record of 10 hours 53 minutes. The Victorian Women’s Amateur Cycling Association did not confirm Dot’s record for another six months, because Dot had cycled on the wrong day allocated by them.



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



Meanwhile, Joyce Barry (trained partly by Hubert Opperman) had set a record for the Sydney-Melbourne distance of 51 hours, 21 minutes. Amazingly, a Wangaratta milliner, Irene Pyle, aged 25, broke that in October 1938 by riding the distance in 40 hours, 23 minutes, only 41 minutes behind Opperman's record set in 1929. Unfortunately, her time between Albury and Melbourne is not available. The Hume Highway was so bad north of Albury that Irene had to carry her bike for over a mile on broken metal.

BETRO ABICARE (ABIKHAIR) AWARDED A BLUE PLAQUE

NSW's Blue Plaques celebrate our heritage by recognising noteworthy people and events from our State's history. It has been inspired by Britain's Blue Plaques program which originally started in 1866.

The Blue Plaques tell stories that should not be forgotten as part of our history. There will be a dedicated digital story linked to each plaque.

Betro's is one of the first 17 Blue Plaques to be announced, selected from over 750 nominations received in 2021 from community members, organisations and local councils. Our Society, through local Member of Parliament Justin Clancy, nominated Betro, not just for the prominent buildings on the corner of Dean and David Streets, but in recognition of the Lebanese/Syrian community and its contribution to the Albury community.

The plaque will be installed later in 2022 and already there has been consultation with our Society as wording for the plaque is finalised under strict guidelines. We will also be invited to contribute to the web based article telling the story of Betro and other immigrants from Lebanon/Syria.

The list of all 17 recipients can be viewed at [NSW Blue Plaques](#).



An impression of what Betro's plaque will look like.

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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.

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