

Albury & District Historical Society Inc

June 2023

No 645

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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

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St Matthew's Church and the northern end of the Post Office
re-imagined in *Minecraft*

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: Detectoring

Speakers: Connor Fedorowytsch
Neil Coulston

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM
Australia in the
Space Age
Opens June 10

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR JUNE

At the invitation of the Registrar of the Albury Court, myself and Life Member Howard Jones attended a ceremonial sitting to mark the opening of a new court (Court 3) in the Albury complex. On behalf of our Society I addressed His Honour Judge Sean Grant, their Honours Magistrates Melissa Humphreys and Sally McLaughlin and members of the legal community. The opening of a new court is a significant advancement in the administration of law in our city and it was fitting that our Society was included in the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Judge Grant gave me a guided tour of the 6.5 million dollar extension. In addition to the new courtroom, it includes magistrates chambers, a jury assembly room, two jury deliberation rooms and a secure corridor for the transfer of prisoners from the Police Station to the dock inside the court.

Every person who comes forward to speak to us at our monthly meetings gives their time in preparation, and again when they entertain us with their story. I take this opportunity to thank them all. They are the highlight of our gatherings. At our meeting in June our favourite detectorists, Connor Fedorowytsch and Neil Coulston, will share the history they have uncovered at two significant local sites. They will also display interesting objects for us to touch and feel.

In March Lindsay Poy, a member of a long-time Albury family, joined our Society. Welcome Lindsay.

Our Annual General Meeting will again be held in July. If you are considering putting your name forward for a position on the committee now is the time to speak up.

Finally, on the subject of volunteers, Emma Williams at Albury Library Museum is seeking help from any of our members who have some time to donate. Please consider contributing your time and energy.

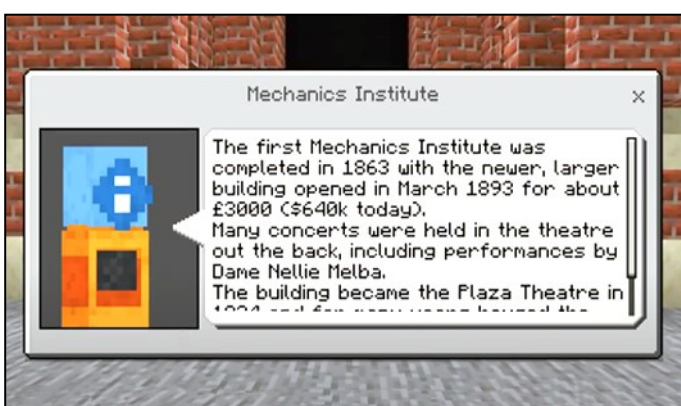
In the fast-paced digital world we live in, finding ways to get young people to productively engage with technology has become an essential concern. With parents often left scratching their heads or defeated in frustration, it has continued to be an issue which divides opinion on the role of digital devices in daily life.

However, there is one game in particular that has successfully overcome this and is standing as a source of hope amongst many families. While it may initially appear as just another video game, *Minecraft* offers a unique and immersive experience that goes beyond mere entertainment.

For those who may not be familiar with the game, *Minecraft* is a popular video game developed by Mojang Studios, which was later acquired by Microsoft in 2014. In the game, players are placed in a vast virtual world made up of blocks. They can explore, gather resources, build structures, and engage in a variety of activities. What sets *Minecraft* apart is its open-ended nature, allowing players to shape the world according to their imagination.

Many older generations may question the value of video games, often perceiving them as a distraction from more traditional learning methods. However, *Minecraft* has proven to be an exception, demonstrating how technology can be leveraged for educational purposes. *Minecraft* serves as a virtual sandbox, akin to the creative potential found in playing with LEGO bricks. Just as LEGO bricks have long been recognized as a tool for creativity and learning, *Minecraft* enables users to build, collaborate, and problem-solve.

At its core, *Minecraft* offers two primary modes of play: Survival and Creative. In Survival mode, players face challenges and must gather resources to survive, including constructing shelter, acquiring food, and defending against creatures. On the other hand, Creative mode allows players to build freely without constraints, providing an ideal platform for creative exploration. In this mode, users have access to an extensive inventory of blocks and materials, enabling them to construct anything from simple structures to complex architectural wonders.



An interactive feature—users were able to access historical notes on prominent CBD buildings

The creative possibilities within *Minecraft* are boundless. This virtual world empowers players to transform their ideas into tangible creations, much like building with LEGO bricks. Whether it's constructing an elaborate castle, designing a sustainable city, or recreating famous historical landmarks, *Minecraft* offers a canvas for artistic expression and problem-solving. Through such endeavours, young learners develop critical thinking skills, spatial awareness, and an understanding of design principles.

With these very concepts in mind, the project *Albury Reimagined* was born. As the beginning of 2022 came around, the upcoming 75th anniversary of Albury being declared a city presented a unique opportunity for both

a gesture to a significant occasion and a foundation to a greater idea: a full virtual recreation of the heart of Albury aimed at educating children and families on the historical significance of key buildings.

Through this experience, people of all ages would explore a familiar environment to discover unfamiliar stories of decades past. After many revisions and months of work, the project would be completed and launched as a pop-up display during the summer school holidays at the Albury LibraryMuseum.

All over the world, the impact of *Minecraft* in education has been consistently demonstrated through several

initiatives like these. As one example, the Museum of London collaborated with the design collective Blockworks to create a “Great Fire 1666” experience. This virtual representation of the historical event allowed users to step back in time and witness the devastation caused by the fire, promoting an immersive and engaging learning experience.

Another noteworthy example is the Block by Block program, initiated by United Nations Habitat in collaboration with Mojang Studios. This program harnesses *Minecraft*’s creative potential to involve local communities in the redesign and planning of public spaces. By allowing individuals to virtually construct and visualize urban environments, *Minecraft* becomes a powerful tool for promoting community engagement and participatory design.



Albury Reimagined: The Mate’s building – past (from 1899 until 1915 fire) and present.

Minecraft serves as a shining example of how video games and digital technology overall can be harnessed as educational tools to engage young learners. Its open-ended gameplay unlocks creativity, fosters critical thinking, and provides a platform for immersive learning experiences. By tapping into unconventional programs such as *Minecraft*, we can begin to develop more positive relationships with technology and ultimately empower the next generation of creative thinkers.

You may like to view Colbey’s demonstration of Albury Re-imagined at <https://youtu.be/xOBDfx4ZRy4>

SANDY THE WAR HORSE – UNVEILED

Greg Ryan

A not very familiar statistic is that in addition to the horrendous loss of human lives in World War I, an estimated eight million horses died.

A crowd at Tallangatta, estimated to be over 2000, braved bleak weather on Saturday May 20 to witness the unveiling in the Town Square of a statue of ‘Sandy the War Horse.’ There were also 200 mounted horses that paraded to Tallangatta’s main street to form a guard of honour for Sandy – many of the riders were wearing the uniform of the Australian Light Horse.

130,000 Australian horses were sent to World War I. They carried mounted troops of the Australian Light Horse, they lugged ammunition and hauled heavy artillery under shellfire. Some of the surviving horses were sold to the British and Indian Armies, some given to locals and many older or sick horses put down.

Sandy was the only Australian horse to return home. He was the favourite horse of Major General Sir William Bridges.

Sandy was from Old Tallangatta, bred by the O’Donnell family. On May 23 it was 100 years since Sandy was put down due to ill health at Maribyrnong. His head and three hooves are in the Australian War Memorial and the fourth in a Western Australian museum.

Sandy’s sculptor, Brett ‘Mon’ Garling spoke at the ceremony, saying that over the past two months he had been working 100-hour weeks to finish the project. He said that “it’s a real Australian story and Sandy, in a way, represents all those horses that didn’t come back.”



ADDITIONS TO THE UIVER COLLECTION FROM SPAIN

David Crotty

The Uiver Memorial collection has received a major boost with the recent large donation of original objects, images, books and postal items. This rare and significant collection was assembled by Dutch film-maker Robert Paul who now resides in Spain. Mr Paul decided that they should find a home in Albury to help tell the story of the famous 1934 emergency landing of the KLM airliner 'Uiver' and generously decided to gift them to the Uiver Memorial Community Trust which is restoring an original DC-2 at Albury Airport.

Once restoration work is complete, the hangar will become a home for a permanent exhibition of the Uiver story and the dramatic 1934 MacRobertson Centenary Air Race.

Among the items donated are three original high-quality press photographic prints showing the Uiver at Albury Racecourse that were not previously known. Other items include an original 1930s souvenir jigsaw puzzle, air mail envelopes carried by Uiver, an original 1930s souvenir pennant and a rare copy of the autobiography of the Uiver's pilot in command Captain Koene Dirk Parmentier. It is hoped that some of the collection may go on temporary display for the 90th anniversary of the Uiver's arrival at Albury in 2024.



Captain Parmentier in the cockpit prepares for takeoff



A souvenir puzzle

CHEERS FOR MIAMI HISTORIANS CESAR BECERRA AND ALAN CROCKWELL

Claire Doolan

Cesar Becerra is undoubtedly the celebrity historian in Miami and amongst countless other commitments he conducts regular boat tours of Biscayne Bay. Recently our family was very fortunate to join Cesar on his history tour. The tour drifts around the beautiful much loved waters of Miami and the islands that were home to indigenous populations of Florida, sea explorers and pirates. These are the historic locations that Cesar re-counts tales about with gusto!

As the sun sets on Biscayne Bay the skyline of Downtown Miami becomes stunning, to say the least. Glistening glass-walled skyscrapers along busy Brickell Avenue are silhouetted. Named after Albury's own Mary Brickell, the Avenue which runs through the financial district became one of Miami's fastest-growing neighbourhoods in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Cesar is fervently passionate about the Brickell family as members of A&DHS know well. Likewise, and thanks



Logo on a Cabin Blanket

Eastern Air Lines Souvenirs from Miami:
Captain's Badge

Belt Buckle

to a chance discussion with Greg Ryan, Cesar is also very enthusiastic about the 1934 landing of the Uiver at Albury Racecourse after it became lost in a thunderstorm on it's last leg of the London to Melbourne air race.

As a consequence, whilst I was in Miami, Cesar arranged for me to meet with fellow historian Alan Crockwell. Alan is a fan of aviation history including Miami's Eastern Air Lines. Albury's DC-2 is one of the planes that ran daily flights from Miami to New York between 1935 and 1941 and was known as the Florida Flyer. The DC-2 was a 14-passenger, twin-engine craft built by the American corporation Douglas Aircraft Company in the 1930s.

In consultation with Russ Jacob from the Uiver Committee Alan generously donated souvenirs that are relevant to the Uiver collection here in Albury. The collectables included a wool blanket issued to passengers, a captain's badge and belt buckle. The memorabilia whilst not from the original Uiver are none the less iconic representations of the era and the bits and pieces akin to DC-2 aircraft.

The Uiver committee and the devoted restoration volunteers expressed to me their gratitude to Cesar Becerra and Alan Crockwell for their exceptional donation and support of the project.

REFURBISHMENT OF PATRICK HARTIGAN'S GRAVE (POET JOHN O'BRIEN)

Greg Ryan

This article was prompted by an article in a recent Royal Australian Historical Society Journal.

Parramatta and District Historical Society recently checked on North Rocks Cemetery. They noticed that Monsignor Patrick Hartigan's grave was in a poor state of repair. The sandstone headstone was cracked, and Monsignor Hartigan's plaque had slipped off. The Catholic Cemetery and Crematoria Association was notified and they offered to refurbish the grave as an important headstone for Australian cultural heritage.

On All Souls Day, 2 November 2022, a blessing of the new stone was carried out with Monsignor Boyle officiating. Judith Dunn from P&DHS gave the welcome and spoke of Monsignor Hartigan's life. Also in attendance were several members of the Sisters of Mercy, as four of Hartigan's sisters had entered that order. The sermon from Hartigan's burial in 1952 was read, and the stone was blessed. A solo violinist played *Danny Boy*, a reference to Hartigan's Irish heritage displayed in much of his poetry.

Patrick Joseph Hartigan (1878-1952) served at St Patrick's Parish Albury from 1903. When he left Albury in 1910, the town granted him a farewell social with Mayor Daniel presiding. There was a packed Mechanic's Hall with prominent Albury citizens of all faiths. Canon Bevan of St Matthew's Church of England in a speech of thanks said "he considered it a high honour indeed to be asked to add his views to the general acclaim of commendation." Hartigan was presented with a purse of 70 sovereigns from the people of Albury.

Based at Thurgoona, Hartigan was appointed inspector of schools for the vast diocese of Goulburn in 1910. There is now a Hartigan Street in Thurgoona. In 1916 he was appointed priest-in-charge of Berrigan and next year parish priest of Narrandera where he spent the next 27 years.

Hartigan was better known to many as poet John O'Brien. In 1906 he began publishing verse in such journals as the *Albury Daily News*, *Catholic Press* and the *Bulletin* under the pen-name 'Mary Ann.' He published *Around the Boree Log* under the pseudonym 'John O'Brien' in November 1921 and is perhaps best known for poems such as *Said Hanrahan* and *The Bush Christening*.



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



NEW MEETING SEGMENT

Narda Reid has suggested a new segment to be added at our monthly meetings.

Many of our parks are named after a person. Members are invited to select a local park/playground and research the reason behind its name.

Then prepare a short presentation (about 10 minutes), including one or more photos to share with members at a future meeting. There more than 100 parks, most are named so there are many to choose from.

To avoid duplication of research, let one of our committee members know which park you would like to research so that a list can be prepared.



A FEMALE PUBLICAN

Howard Jones

Some society members will recall Mrs Josie Waterstreet, former licensee of the Pastoral and Railway Commercial ("Waterstreet's") hotels, who died in 1997, aged 96. It's almost been forgotten that her mother-in-law, Mrs Honora Waterstreet, née Ryan, was a female licensee in Albury from 1902 to her death in 1920.

Born in Tipperary in 1847, Honora migrated to Australia in 1864, and married German-born Charles Waterstreet in 1867. They had twelve children before her husband died in 1891. In 1902, the Albury bench granted Honora the licence of the Railway Hotel. In 1911, she sold it to James Brady and bought the Commercial, renaming it the Railway Commercial. The former hotel has been known as Brady's ever since, while the latter was popularly known as "Waterstreet's" until it closed and was later converted to apartments.

Some of Honora's sons and daughters helped her run the two hotels, notably Charles Christian Waterstreet, who married Josie Carroll in 1925. Josie was also widowed young (in 1938) and at different times ran either the Pastoral or Waterstreet's until 1985.

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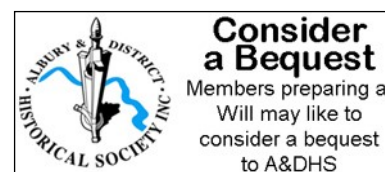
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Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month
(except January) at 7.30 pm usually at the
Commercial Club Albury.

The Committee meets on the third
Wednesday of the month at 3 pm
at the Albury LibraryMuseum.

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