

Albury & District Historical Society Inc

July 2023

No 646

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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

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Found by detectorists is an octagonal percussion cap pistol barrel about 25 cm long made in about 1840. A new stock was crafted out of red gum with other parts from brass plate.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: 1. AGM
2. Life in a Box

Speaker: Jill Aplin

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM
Australia in the
Space Age
Continues until Sept 3

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR JULY

Preceding our July General Meeting we will hold our Annual General Meeting. Accepting nominations to the committee are Geoff Romero to continue as president, Greg Ryan as vice-president, Helen Livsey as secretary and Simon Burgess as treasurer. Committee nominees are serving members Jenny Romero, Yelly Evenhuis, Steve Judd, Peter Harper and new nominee Victor Selway. Col McAulay will not stand this year.

We are prepared to accept nominations from the floor at the AGM so please consider whether you can accept a role on the committee. We meet for up to two hours on the third Wednesday of each month, 3pm at the Albury LibraryMuseum.

There will be an important announcement at the AGM of Life Membership for a very deserving member of our Society.

Following the AGM, Jill Aplin will be our guest speaker with an intriguing story, 'Life in a Box.' Members will then be invited to enjoy a light supper. Our AGM night has always been a good night catching up with friends so we look forward to a good attendance.

Membership subscriptions are now due for 2023/24. The recommendation to the AGM is that the subscription fees remain unchanged – single members \$30 and family members \$35. As postal charges have increased, members requiring a posted copy of the Bulletin, will now be asked to pay \$12 extra.

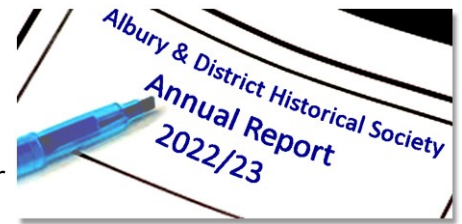
We have two new members joining us, Louise Wheelahan and family and Peter Neaum. A very warm welcome.

2023/24 Subs Due

I agreed to take on the role of President with little understanding of the scope of the job. With the strong support of a very able, active and dedicated committee I have come to the end of the year with a better understanding of the pivotal role our Society plays in the life of the city.

Members who are able to attend our monthly meetings have been treated to a series of entertaining presentations by our members and by invited guests.

In July we heard Margie Wehner, President of the Jindera Pioneer Museum, tell us how the Jindera General Store became the Jindera Pioneer Museum in 1968. She also spoke of the journey of German migrants who came to the area in the 1860s to make Jindera and surrounds their home.



Our August speaker, Digby Jacobs of the Murray Darling Basin Authority, gave us a very topical and informative talk on water management along the Murray River. Flooding along the river and at Noreuil Park was inundating the area as Digby spoke to us.

Cesar Becerra enthralled us in September after being welcomed to Albury by the Mayor, Kylie King. Cesar convinced us that "Albury girl" Mary Brickell (née Bulmer) was indeed a co-mother of Miami. By chance, during a visit to the Uiver restoration hangar, Cesar learned that the plane being restored was a former Eastern Airlines DC-2 which was based in Miami. This created another connection between Albury and Miami. I have a feeling that Cesar Becerra will visit us again soon.

In October the Uiver Memorial Community Trust (UMCT) held an open day at the hangar to advertise their progress in restoring the Uiver replica. We attended with our publications and recently acquired EFTPOS machine. We sold a number of our publications and raised awareness of our group. It was a successful day.

Dr June Factor travelled from Melbourne to speak about her book, "Soldiers and Aliens." In the following Bulletin Bruce Pennay wrote of the origins of the 4th Employment Company (Aliens) in 1942 and their work at the Albury railway station and elsewhere. At the October meeting Connor Fedorowytch and Neil Coulston set up a display of the interesting objects they had found with their high-tech detecting equipment.

In November committee member Peter Harper addressed us on the subject of Hume and Hovell and his project to identify a cycle path linking the various monuments along their route.

On 7 November we were proud to be one of the first cities in NSW to unveil a Heritage NSW Blue Plaque. Betro Abicare was honoured. Also in November we were involved in the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre.

A Christmas theme at our December meeting saw a number of our members speak about Christmas in Albury in times past and others do our traditional "Show and Tell." David Christie, with support from Natalie Wells told us of the various considerations involved in dealing with heritage buildings from a town planning perspective.

In February, Robyn Hawking spoke about the fascinating research, including DNA testing, which allowed her to track lost relatives and to find them as models in the Tom Roberts masterpiece "The Shearing of the Rams."

Also in February Victor Selway and myself conducted a Dean Street walk as part of the Albury Seniors Festival. Our meeting in March took a different format in the shape of a dinner as guests of the UMCT at their hangar. After dinner Russ Jacob and David Crotty explained the progress of the restoration of the aeroplane and the museum which is part of their ultimate plan.

In April Mitchell Judd, an engineer with Transport for NSW explained the work involved in the maintenance and restoration of the old bridges along the Murray River.

At short notice Victor Selway stood in the breach when we had a late cancellation in May. Victor took us again to 1938 and the films of Dr Sam Woods in another entertaining presentation.

We closed out the year with another interesting look at historical objects unearthed by Connor Fedorowytch and Neil Coulston.

All of these speakers were pleased to see such a large attendance by members.

I want to express my thanks to the committee for their hard work and conscientious attention to the tasks undertaken by them:

- Greg Ryan edits an excellent Bulletin full of interesting history and produces and maintains our digital footprint on our website and our YouTube channel. Greg leans in to other tasks he volunteers for and reaches out to the community in public speaking and giving interviews to radio, television and print media. He also writes our fortnightly column for the *Border Mail*.

- Only members of the committee see the vast amount of correspondence dealt with by our Secretary Helen Livsey. Helen is also our research officer and assists numerous members of the community with the multitude of questions directed to her.
- Simon Burgess keeps a close eye on our finances and has played an active role in seeking and applying funding towards our fantastic gains in digitising local papers on Trove.
- Colin McAulay has handled distribution of our publications and Society papers. Colin will be standing down at the AGM and I thank him sincerely for his contribution.
- Jenny Romero has been responsible for the speaking program and her efforts speak for themselves in the quality of the program and the very positive response from members.
- Peter Harper has actively contributed in many ways including in identifying a cycle route linking the monuments along the Hume and Hovell track.
- Steve Judd has made valuable contribution using his experience and knowledge of Albury properties. Steve will be our liaison with the Uiver Restoration group to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Uiver landing.
- Yelly Evenhuis has ably and accurately fulfilled the role of minute secretary and greeter at our monthly meetings after taking over as greeter from Cheryl Blomley who so helpfully and willingly performed that task before her.

Many of our members contribute to the smooth working of the Society. They include:

- Richard Lee as Bulletin distributor and volunteer at the ALM and the Thurgoona facility.
- Chris McQuellin and Helen Livsey help at the ALM with scanning and cataloguing objects, photographs and documents.
- Claire Doolan and Narda Reid represent us on the Archive acquisitions and De-accessions committee.
- Howard Jones and Jenny Romero represent us on the Heritage Community Working Group also with our member Paul Grover.

We continue to work very closely with the ALM and thank Carina Clement and Emma Williams for the welcoming way they interact with us.

The professional work performed by Bruce Pennay over many years will be acknowledged at our AGM and I thank Bruce for his tireless dedication to our cause.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA—JULY 12, 2023

Declaration of Annual General Meeting open.

Apologies:

Minutes of AGM July 13, 2022

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Business:

Notification of new Life Membership.

Confirm membership subs: \$30 single, \$35 family (extra \$12 for posted Bulletin), corporate \$100

Election of Office Bearers & Committee:

Society patron Greg Aplin has agreed to act as interim chairman to conduct the election of a new committee.

Nominations received:

President: Geoff Romero

Vice-President: Greg Ryan

Treasurer: Simon Burgess

Secretary: Helen Livsey

Committee members: Jenny Romero, Yelly Evenhuis, Steve Judd, Peter Harper & Victor Selway.

Closure of Annual General Meeting.



DETECTORISTS AT WORK – ALBURY AREA POW CAMP AND CHINESE GARDENS

Connor Fedorowytch/Neil Coulston

A Chinese camp was established at Mungabareena in the latter decades of the 19th Century.

“Most of the Albury gardens were located between the camp area and the Murray River [near Wodonga Place] but the largest was at Mungabareena, where it extended over several hectares, included pumps, brick and concrete lined water channels and concrete piping.” [Tracking the Dragon in Narrandera, May 12, 2016]

A letter of November 1883 from Sub-inspector Brennan addressed to Superintendent Edward Battye called for an investigation into conditions of Chinese camps. The *Sydney Morning Herald* published the report the following January. Camps inspected included Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Hay, Deniliquin and Albury.

“Sir, having been appointed by the Inspector General of Police ... to visit the various large Chinese camps in the colony in company with Mr Quong Tart, to make inquiry and report under the following headings, viz. :- 1st The population of each camp; Conditions of occupancy; distinguishing Chinese, Europeans, children, and sexes. 2nd Whether the children receive any education, and by what means. 3rd The sanitary condition of the camps, and if sleeping accommodation decent and sufficient. 4th How the Chinese obtained a livelihood. 5th What number of European women are married to Chinese. 6th How many are living in a state of common prostitution. 7th How many indulge in opium smoking. 8th To what extent gambling is carried on; And if European men and boys frequently camp for that purpose” [Sydney Morning Herald, January 5, 1884]

Two years earlier, the *Albury Banner* reported that Dr Andrews inspected the camp. He reported that “To his surprise every place in the camp was scrupulously clean; the interiors of the buildings were remarkable for neatness, and the yards and gardens were also perfectly clean.” [Albury Banner, June 22, 1881]

Other articles found on the Trove website relating to the area include:

- During a flood in 1905, six Chinese gardeners at Mungabareena overloaded a boat with vegetables. One man fell in and clutching the side of the boat tipped the rest in. The first, cold and suffering cramp, had to be rescued, much to the amusement of onlookers. [Border Morning Mail, July 17, 1905]
- A 1930s article mentioned that the camp had burned down. A camp member was particularly scared of insects. To combat his fear, he held a lantern too close to hessian walls which caught alight. Emergency services attended the scene and found a burned man not wearing trousers. They appealed to others to lend him some trousers to wear to hospital. Those present refused, arguing why should they give this man trousers when he had burned down their houses. [Border Morning Mail, December 24, 1938]



The Chinese Gardens site at Mungabareena. The paths are between fields. Foundations present that may be remnants of the Chinese camp. An old road on the left of the site goes towards a house



Arguably the most interesting find at the local Chinese site is this coin. The left hand one was found at Mungabareena. Connor and Neil's research revealed images of like coins on several websites including both [Primaltrek website](#) and [Numista website](#). The sites describe the coin as coming from the Northern Song dynasty and cast during the reign of Emperor Ren Zong, 1039-1054 with inscription *Huang Song Tong Bao*, read top to bottom and right to left and translated as “Imperial Song / Universal currency.” Connor and Neil believe that to date, this coin may be the oldest coin recovered metal detecting in Australia.



Other Mungabareena Chinese camp artefacts:
Cricket belt buckle;
Brooch;
Chinese vase perhaps for ginger.

HUME CAMP

Doug Hunter

Many are familiar with the local Army camps at Bonegilla and Bandiana, some might know of the storage depot at Wirlinga, but few will know of the Hume Camp. So when Connor put up a map of the area where he and Neil had been searching with their metal detectors it came as something of a surprise. The map showed the layout of a camp for 1000+ troops all drawn from various armoured corps training regiments. The map was undated.

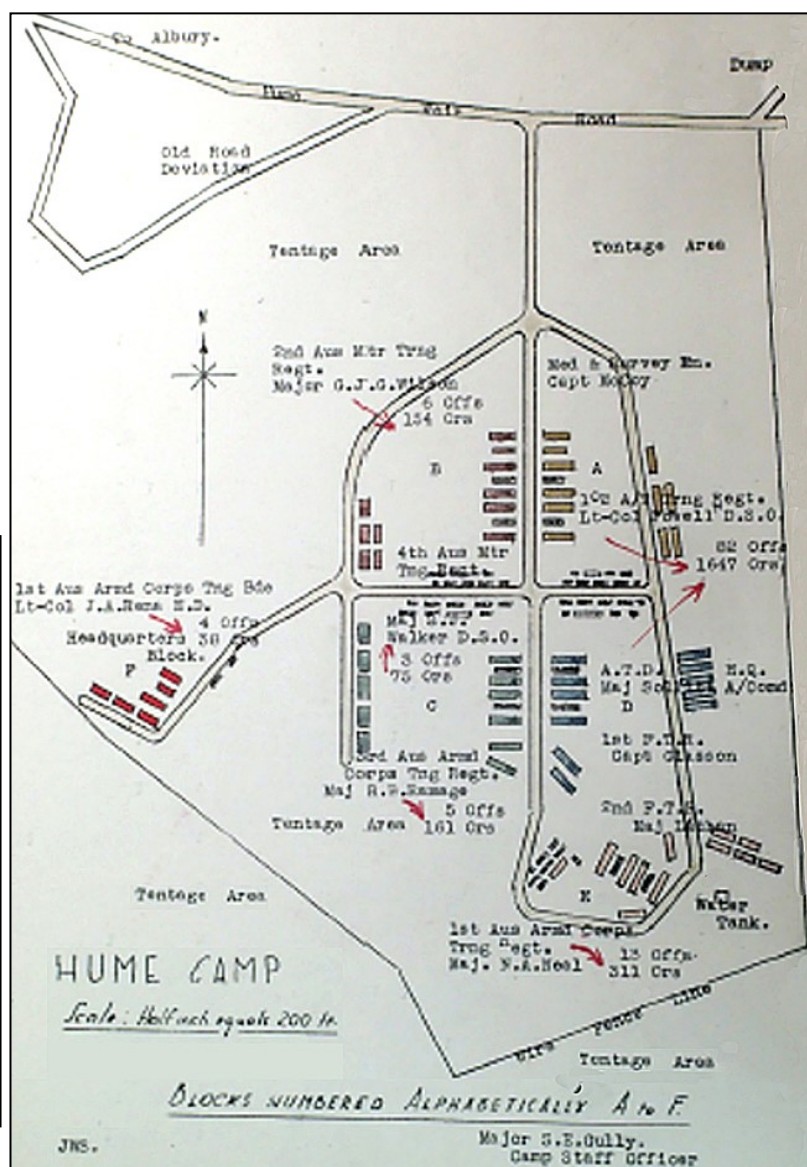
I contacted a colleague, David Finlayson, an armoured corps historian asking for any information he might have. He replied:

"The 1st Australian Armoured Corps Training Regiment was formed in Tamworth NSW in May 1942 and relocated to the Hume Camp in June 1942. It would later move to Puckapunyal in March 1943 and was disbanded there in March 1944. The 3rd Training Regiment had a similar history but was retitled to the Army Tank Training Battalion in July 1942. Both these units were at Hume Camp in June 1942 with those titles, the change in July means that the map had to be drafted in June 1942 before titles started to change."

At some later date the Army moved from the Hume Camp, and it was used to house Italian Prisoners-of-War. But that is another story.



The site of Hume Camp





On November 20, 2022, the 'Border Mail' featured an article and this James Wiltshire photo of the loss in a storm of Albury Botanic Garden's first tree in the avenue of elms, planted by Mayor W J Jones in 1877.

The following two articles can be found on NLA's Trove website. The first article was published in the 'Border Morning Mail' on December 17, 1951. Before anyone had heard of the term 'Climate Change,' the article highlights many environmental issues that have only become extensively researched in recent years.

WE MUST HAVE TREES

In recent years seasons have gone "all wrong" in various parts of the world, including Australia. Science has its reasons for this.

The scientists may be right; they may be wrong, but the farmer whose whole livelihood depends on good seasons has his own views and they are worthy of the closest attention. He blames the uneven distribution of rain in areas where 50 years ago seasons were perfectly set; to some of the great forests being denuded, and in this respect the case of Gippsland is worthy of consideration.

Although Gippsland is regarded as the home of outstanding dairy herds and magnificent grazing country, those who have followed the pioneers have been very careful to preserve the great belts of timber which stretch for miles along the high mountain ranges. There it is regarded as a crime to clear more land than can be used for grazing or cut any timber apart from that required for construction work. On land held by the Crown the strictest supervision is maintained over timber getters who are only permitted to remove trees that have been certified as suitable for milling.

Had the same forethought been given to the preservation of timber in the catchment areas of streams in the hinterland, Australia's seasons may not have undergone such extreme changes – changes that have been to the detriment of all agricultural pursuits. For one thing, there would not have been the colossal erosion from wind and rain which has made millions of acres of country worthless.

As is scientifically known, rain is induced by the belts of timber in the high country and nature has its way of spreading showers from the high lands to the fertile plains. Without a liberal natural growth on the former, the latter has no way of benefiting from nature's natural source of water.

The position has not deteriorated so far that something cannot be done towards righting a wrong that has been going on for years. Australia's parched areas have still a hope of being revived if men and women become tree minded and work for a comprehensive programme of re-forestation. In this lies one of our hopes of escaping devastating droughts in the future.

[Border Morning Mail, December 17, 1951]

The next article below appeared in the 'Border Morning Mail' on August 19, 1939.

AN HISTORIC CEREMONY Pioneers are Remembered—500 SCHOOL CHILDREN ATTEND

Five hundred Albury school children took part in Arbor Day celebrations at the Botanic Gardens yesterday afternoon when a tribute was paid to pioneers who planted the first trees in the town and thus laid the basis of one of the most beautiful tree-planting schemes to be found anywhere in the Commonwealth.

Reference was made to the late Alderman W J Jones, who planted the first tree in the avenue of elms at the gardens in 1877, and to the late Mr Samuel Mudge, who planted the first street tree in Albury at the northern end of Olive street in 1875.

The Mayor (Alderman D G Padman) unveiled the tablet at the base of the garden's tree which bears the inscription: "Planted by the late Alderman W J Jones, while Mayor of Albury, in 1887."

A son of the pioneer, Mr E. Jones, of Sydney, and daughters, Mrs W J Mangan and the Misses Jones, of Albury, were present at the ceremony.

The tree planted by the late Samuel Mudge will bear a similar tablet of identification.

Alderman Padman remarked that the occasion was a fitting one to not only pay a tribute to the men who planted Albury's first trees, but also to remember those who followed up the work of designing the Botanic Gardens and continuing the town's tree-planting scheme. He particularly referred to the late Mr J E R Fellowes, who, as curator of the municipality, had the conception of the joy trees would give to generations that would follow him.

"Mr Fellowes loved the gardens he planned, and the work he did to beautify the town will live as a lasting memorial to him," said the Mayor.

Alderman Padman added that, when all remembered the beauty that had been given them in gardens and trees they would feel it incumbent on themselves to carry on the work. Albury, he said, lent itself admirably to tree planting and the Municipal Council intended to continue with such work.

It had in mind a boulevard from Norieul Park through the Hovell Tree reserve around the sportsground as an additional beautification scheme.

Cr J E Jelbart, deputy President of Hume Shire Council, said it was with delight that he could associate the name of the late Mr Samuel Mudge with tree-planting in Albury, as it was his son who for 30 years was in the employ of the Hume Shire as chief clerk.

The speaker said that upwards of half a century ago landholders engaged in a wave of wanton destruction by denuding vast area of beautiful trees. Shire Councils in the Riverina were now endeavoring to protect trees which adorned the roadsides, as it was realised that they broke the hot winds of summer and gave shade to stock, and helped to protect them from the cold of winter.

He hoped every boy and girl would cultivate a tree mindedness and serve the community by protecting trees that grew in the streets and along the roads.

The significance of Arbor Day was commented on by Mr J P Willmott, the headmaster of the High School. It was a day on which people honored the trees— things of beauty and aesthetic value.

A NINETEENTH CENTURY APPRENTICESHIP

Recently added to our Trove coverage which now extends from 1860 to 1951 is this 'Border Morning Mail' article of June 21, 1951:

Mr A Chubb, Albury businessman, outlined the conditions under which apprentices worked in the 'golden' days when his father, the late Thomas Chubb, was learning the saddlery trade. He showed us his father's indentures, which are dated January, 1873.

Mr Thomas Chubb, referred to in the papers as 'Thomas Chubb the Younger,' was required to pay his employer, Mr Robert Charles Thomson, saddler, of Albury, £25 and work for the first year of his five-year apprenticeship without payment. In the second year Mr Thomson was required to pay Thomas Chubb 5/ per week, in the third and fourth year 10/ a week, and for the fifth year 15/ per week. It was further set out in the agreement that Mr Thomson was not bound to provide board and lodgings for the apprentice. "The executors or administrators of the said Thomas Chubb shall and will at his own expense find and provide or cause to be found or provided to and for the said Thomas Chubb the younger, good proper and sufficient board, lodging, clothes, washing medicines and medical attendance, and all other necessities during the said term," it states. The apprentice was required to serve his master for nine hours each day and every day, excepting Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday, "faithfully, diligently and honestly."

The indenture is written in the spidery, though neat, longhand in which it was customary to set out the legal agreements of the day and has been perfectly preserved throughout the 73 years which have passed since it was drawn up.

Newspapers
of Albury on
TROVE
1860-1951



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NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATION

Doug Hunter

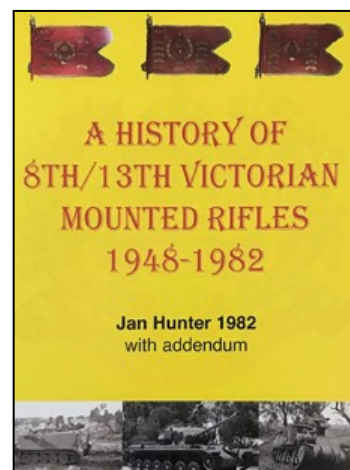
Hot off the Kwik Kopy press is the latest in the Society's Occasional Papers Series, No 36 "History of the 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles" by Jan Hunter.

The 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles was raised as a regiment of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps on May 1, 1948 with Headquarters in Melbourne and squadrons in Sale, Benalla/Wangaratta and Albury. In 1955 Regimental Headquarters moved to Wangaratta and a second squadron was located at Albury. The Sale squadron transferred to 4th/19th Prince of Wales' Light Horse and an additional troop of the Wangaratta squadron was raised at Cobram.

More than a thousand men and women from Albury and Northeast Victoria served in the regiment. They crewed tanks, armoured cars and armoured personnel carriers. They trained at Puckapunyal, western Victoria, southern Riverina and Northern Territory as well as closer home in Chiltern Forest and Warby Ranges.

When the Regimental Trustees came to have a history of the Regiment written in 2021, this tertiary assignment paper which Jan Hunter had completed in 1982 was the only document of the early years. Jan had interviewed sources who are no longer with us, so it was decided to use Jan's work enhanced with photos from the regimental collection, and to add an addendum to cover the period after 1982.

The Society's Occasional Papers Series was begun in 2008 to publish work by Society members which was too large to include in the Bulletin. The Series has an ISSN and is registered with the NLA which makes it searchable on Trove. Authors included Jan Hunter, Ray Gear, Chris McQuellin, Howard Jones, Joe Wooding, Greg Ryan, Bruce Pennay, Helen Livsey and Doug Hunter. Topics have ranged far and wide including local pioneers, Pre-Schools, Chinese, Lawmen, Pioneer Cemetery, Block 19, Show Society, Albury Gaol, Albury Builders, and Reticulation of Albury's Gas, Water, Electricity & Sewerage.



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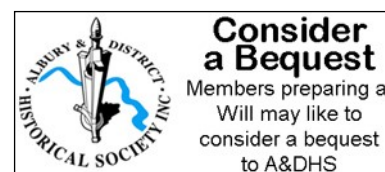
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Patron: Greg Aplin

Honorary Life Members:

Howard Jones, Helen Livsey,
June Shanahan, Jan Hunter.

President: Geoff Romero

Vice-President: Greg Ryan

Secretary: Helen Livsey

alburyhistory@bigpond.com
02 6021 3671

Treasurer: Simon Burgess

Minute Secretary: Yelly Evenhuis

Publicity Officer: Helen Livsey

Public Officer: Helen Livsey

Committee: Jenny Romero, Colin McAulay,
Peter Harper, Steve Judd

Bulletin Editor: Greg Ryan

gmjryan@bigpond.com

Publications & Stock Officer: Colin McAulay

Bulletin dispatch: Richard Lee

Meeting Greeter: Yelly Evenhuis

Web Editor: Greg Ryan

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.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

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