



November 2023

No 650

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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

For Your Reference A&DHS account details are:

BSB 640 000 Acc No 111097776

Registered by Australia Post PP 225170/0019 ISSN 2207-1237



A photo of the head of Sandy. At least 130,000 Australian horses were sent to World War I, Sandy was the only horse to return. The bridle Sandy wears once belonged to General Bridges, Sandy was his favourite horse. The head is preserved along with one of his hooves at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. [Photo: Australian War Memorial, Canberra].

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 08, 2023

7.30 pm, Commercial Club

Topic: The Zauner family

Speaker: Garry Zauner

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM
On Stage: 50 Years of
Rock in Pictures
Albury LibraryMuseum
Until March 2024

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CBD "Walk & Talk"

PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

As we approach the end of the calendar year we can be well satisfied with our contribution to our Albury community. We were recognised by Community Connect, a philanthropic unit of Bendigo Bank, with a \$1,000 grant which was presented to our treasurer, Simon Burgess. Simon gave a two minute speech about our Society to a gathering of twenty community organisations at Bendigo Bank on October 25. The money will be put towards advancing our Trove project.

Sandy the Warhorse was the subject of Bryan Smith's address at our October meeting. It was another very well attended meeting. One member brought along a guest who was so impressed with the meeting that he joined the Society on the spot!

Another feather in our cap was achieved when Honorary Life Member, Bruce Pennay and our Vice-President Greg Ryan each addressed the National Conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society in Wagga. It has been reported to me that both addresses were very well received. We also had a stall at the UIVER Open Day at the Hangar on October 28, selling publications and supporting the Uiver Memorial Community Trust.

In relation to our Christmas Dinner, we have begun to offer invitations to sponsors and stakeholders. If you want to attend I recommend buying a ticket without delay – details on page 8.

There will be a change of venue for our first meeting in February 2024. District Superintendent of Police, Paul Smith will be hosting us at the Police Training Facility in Olive Street.

A very warm welcome to new members who have joined since our AGM: Anthony Pearsall, Belinda Fulton, Vincent Aitkin, Jill Aplin, Marie Lee, David Murray, Jordi Queiruga, Alice Lindsay and Paul Hare.

THE ONLY HORSE TO RETURN FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Bryan Smith was our guest speaker in October. This is a version of what Bryan had to say prepared by Greg Ryan.

When Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) departed Australia's shores for service in World War I, they took with them about 136,000 "walers," the general name applied to Australian horses abroad, so called because, although they came from all parts of Australia, they were originally sold through New South Wales. Only 28,000 were destined for AIF units, the remainder purchased by British and Indian forces.

As soon as the war ended, many Australian light horsemen learnt with dismay that their mounts would not be returned home with them. Lack of shipping, the high cost of transportation and fears about introducing exotic diseases, meant that those walers serving with AIF units were either to be sold off, transferred to other armies, or, if age and condition did not warrant either of these courses, humanely destroyed.



General Bridges
[Australian War Memorial]

Just one horse was brought back, Sandy, the horse that had been "the charger of General Bridges, which followed the gun-carriage at his funeral." Perhaps the tale that he had taken part in Bridges' funeral related to the general's initial funeral service and burial in Egypt.

Major General Sir William Bridges, commander of the AIF and the first Australian Division, landed with the troops at Gallipoli. A short time later he was mortally wounded by a Turkish sniper and died at sea in May 1915. Two days later he was buried in the Chatby Military Cemetery at Alexandria, Egypt. His remains were exhumed in July, returned to Australia, and after another funeral service in Melbourne, reburied at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, an establishment which Bridges was instrumental in founding before the war.

Although not a particularly handsome horse, Sandy was said to be Bridges' favourite. Presumably he exhibited other qualities, temperament perhaps, which endeared him to the general.

Sandy had been donated to the AIF soon after the war began – a patriotic gesture by brothers Frank ("Bonner") and Jack O'Donnell of Tallangatta. Sandy hauled bricks in old Tallangatta for their family brickworks, now under the Hume Dam.

Sandy was one of 6,100 horses that had embarked for Gallipoli. However, very few of them were put ashore, as Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood decided there was not room or requirement on Anzac Cove. On May 5, Birdwood sought approval to send the horses back to Alexandria. It is considered most unlikely that Sandy was one of those that landed at Gallipoli.

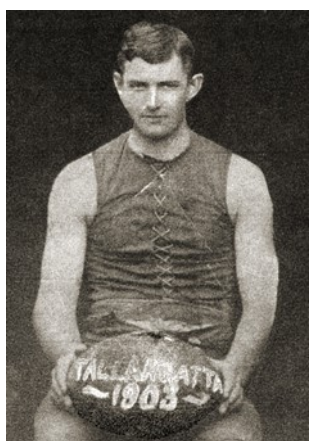
From August 1915 he was in the care of Captain Leslie Whitfeld, an Australian Army Veterinary Corps officer in Egypt. Sandy remained in Egypt until both he and Whitfeld were transferred to France during March 1916.

In October 1917 Senator George Pearce, Minister for Defence, called for Sandy to be

returned to Australia. In May 1918 the horse was sent from the Australian Veterinary Hospital at Calais to the Remount Depot at Swaythling in England. He was accompanied by Private Archibald Jordon, who had been at the hospital since April 1917 and classed as permanently unfit for further active service.

After three months of veterinary observation, Sandy was declared free of disease. In September 1918 he was boarded on the freighter Booral, arriving in Melbourne in November. Sandy was turned out to graze at the Central Remount Depot at Maribyrnong.

Sandy saw out the rest of his days at the Remount Depot. By August 1922, increasing



Frank O'Donnell
in 1903



General Bridges holding Sandy's bridle,
the only known photo of Sandy.
[Australian War Memorial]

blindness and his age prompted a decision to have him put down, “as a humane action.” Before this was done the War Museum, later to become the Australian War Memorial, was asked if it would like to preserve his skeleton. The War Museum Committee explored having Sandy stuffed whole, but balked at this idea because of the expected cost, he had never been ridden in action, and he was now in poor condition due to old age.

It was decided that only Sandy’s head and neck were to be mounted. The hoofs would be preserved too, polished and mounted as presentation trophies. The unwanted remains were presumably buried at Maribyrnong.

The work of mounting the head was carried out at the Museum in Sydney. The head was fitted with a bridle that Lady Bridges provided as one that her late husband had used before leaving Australia.

For many years Sandy’s head remained on display at the War Memorial in Canberra, a tribute to the thousands of horses which formed such a proud part of the AIF story.

It is still in the collection, though not on exhibition owing to deterioration through age. In 1959 the War Memorial also became the recipient of one of Sandy’s hooves. The Royal Military College, Duntroon, retains another hoof. These relics remain as tangible links with the one waler that made it home from the World War I.

Sandy’s Statue

Ross and Bryan Smith heard some time ago that Towong Shire had received a hefty federal government grant for infrastructure. They became part of a small group of local enthusiasts to push for a statue in Sandy’s honour.

The committee commissioned artist Brett “Mon” Garling to create Sandy’s bronze sculpture and the unveiling in May this year was the culmination of four years’ work and more than \$200,000 in fundraising.

The unveiling was timed to coincide with the death of Sandy exactly a century earlier.



Ross Smith with the statue of Sandy at the unveiling.

A PERSON OF IMPORTANCE

Maree Woods

Below is an article that first appeared in “Links ‘N’ Chains” journal of the Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc. It is reprinted here with permission of the author, Maree Woods. Maree’s connections with the Albury region are many. Her maternal great grandfather, John Flinn, resided in Holbrook in the late 1860s and had land leases at Ten Mile Creek in 1872. He split his time between Holbrook and Grenfell until finally settling in Grenfell in 1900.

John’s wife, Margaret Cleary, lived in Jindera with her family in the 1880s before they too settled in Grenfell. While in Jindera the Cleary’s lived across the road from my paternal two-times great grandparents, George and Sophia Dopper, whose daughter Amy married Charley Falk the son of a German immigrant who arrived in Australia in 1859 as a teenager and settled in Hovell.

Maree’s father, Harold Falk, was born in Gerogery and his parents ran the Yerong Creek Golden Fleece Motel and Café in the 1950s and 60s. Harold attended Albury’s Christian Brothers College in the 1940s before he moved to Sydney to work as an engineer on projects for NASA and top-secret projects for the RAAF.

This story is about John Hore (1813-1895) who bought the lease of Cumberoona for £12,000 in 1859. John Hore and his wife Elizabeth (née Waite) had no family and they both died in Melbourne in 1895.

John Hore junior was born in 1813 in Liverpool, Sydney, the oldest son of John Hore, a United Irishman sentenced to hang for his participation in the Spithead Mutiny, when sailors from sixteen ships of the Channel Fleet participated in a protest about the poor living conditions onboard Royal Navy vessels. A favourable character reference for the teenaged prisoner resulted in him being transported to the colony of New South Wales for life.

John Hore senior, a Catholic, arrived in Australia in 1801, and in 1809 he married Elizabeth Love, who had arrived in Sydney in 1791 on “The Matilda”, a ship of the Third Fleet. Elizabeth’s English Protestant father was a member of the NSW Soldier Corps. John and Elizabeth had twelve children and both lived long lives; John was

aged 84 when he died, and Elizabeth was identified as being 93 years old. Records for family arriving with NSW corps soldiers in the early days of the colony were not accurately recorded and there is no evidence that Elizabeth arrived in 1791 with her family, nor is there evidence that she was born in the colony as she herself claimed she was.

John Hore junior married Elizabeth Waite, a Protestant Englishwoman, who like her husband, was born in the colony to a convict father, and a mother whose father was an English soldier, and her mother a convict. The Waite and Hore families were early settlers in the Albury district of New South Wales and their descendants are numerous in this region.

Two hundred years after their births, the lineage of John and Elizabeth makes interesting reading. But the life of their oldest son, my two-times great-uncle, is both a rags-to-riches story as well as an intriguing mystery with a hint of religious prejudice. John Hore junior and Elizabeth Waite had no children, and so have no direct descendants. John had significant land holdings in the Albury district and his property, Cumberoona, lent its name to a paddle steamer that operated on the Murray River, funded in part by John to enable him to transport goods more easily to and from the district.

My father was an avid genealogist in the days before it was fashionable. Without internet, researchers relied on documents stored on microfiche and accessed at the genealogical society library, with many hours spent pouring over the microfiche reader screens. One of the earliest pieces of information my father found about his maternal family line was the will of John Hore junior. This twelve-page document opened with the names of the executors of his estate.

This is the last will and testament of me John Hore of “Ellerslie” Orrong Road Caulfield in the Colony of Victoria Esquire I appoint George Day of Sydney in the Colony of New South Wales Member of The Legislative Council of New South Wales James Richard Edwards of Forbes in the said Colony of New South Wales Agent and Richard George Goodison of Elizabeth Street Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria Stock and Station Agent to be Executors and Trustees of this will I DIRECT that my body shall be buried in the Church of England Section of the Cemetery in Albury in the grave purchased by me adjoining that of my late wife I BEQUEATH the sum of twenty five pounds to the officiating clergyman in the Roman Catholic Church at Albury aforesaid upon the condition that he reads or causes to be read the Roman Catholic Funeral Service over my body at the said Cemetery but if such service shall not within one hour after the reception of my body at the said Cemetery be so read then I DECLARE that the said bequest to the said Roman Catholic clergyman shall be void AND I direct that my remains shall be buried as aforesaid and the burial service of the Church of England be read and that my body be buried according to the rites of the said Church of England and the said sum of twenty five pounds be paid to the officiating clergyman of the Church of England aforesaid for his own use

These executors included land agents in two colonies, as well as a member of the NSW Legislative Council, George Day, the elected member for Hume and then Albury for 32 years. Executors of this stature led us to believe that John must have been important. However, the following few sentences distracted us from this thought.

These detailed instructions, involving Ministers of different faiths and strict time frames, were evidence of a bigger story that, without internet, reliant only on time-consuming microfiche searches, we had not managed to uncover. The will, however, continued to detail bequeaths to relatives, covering rent costs on current properties, ensuring financial security for life. John and his solicitor meticulously detailed every living sibling, nephew, and niece, and individualised bequeaths to each of them. Was he just very particular, today we might call him peculiar or neurotic, but whatever he was, he knew what he wanted?

Family historians researching the extensive Hore-Love clan, and linked on Ancestry, cite a connection between John Hore and Hamilton Hume. In 1812, a 15-year-old Hamilton moved, with his parents to Appin on Sydney's outskirts. John and his siblings also were

Testator died 15 October 1895.
SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
PROBATE DIVISION
Office Copy

Senior Clerk in Probate
28 April, 1978.

18 February, 1896
Sealed with the seal of the Supreme Court of
New South Wales.
Estate in New South Wales sworn under £110,875.

raised in the Appin area, John Hore senior having taken up a land grant on the banks of the Nepean River on the opposite side of the river to the estate of John Macarthur. Legend has it that John junior was advised by Hamilton Hume of the best farming lands he had seen along his route to Port Phillip Bay. Thus in 1836, John, together with his wife and father-in-law, headed south on a 6-month journey by bullock wagon, to acquire land in the Albury district. Finally, the pieces were starting to fall into place.

The final page of the will reveals how successful John Hore was. He had amassed a substantial parcel of land in the Albury district and his estate, at the time of his death in October 1895, was valued at almost £111,000. In today's terms his nett wealth equates to almost \$18 million dollars.

But the story does not end there. The spark to reconnect with the research on this branch of my tree was rekindled at a family reunion for another of my father's maternal ancestors which was heavily intertwined in the Hore family and at which I met a relation who was related to me by two separate individuals. He pointed me in the direction of some new resources and I took up the search on Google, not looking for anything in particular, but just hoping something would jump out. Searching for John Hore usually resulted in the information I already knew. However, a new article appeared. A 28-page survey, commissioned by Albury council and undertaken by Dirk Spennemann of the Institute of Land, Water and Society at Charles Sturt University, provided details of a subterranean structure in the Albury Pioneer Cemetery uncovered in 2012 following a significant rain event.

The report opened with a description of an unmarked structure composed of above and below-ground level components. The quadrangular structure had a 30-centimetre concrete platform, encased by four rows of bricks, both below and above ground. Below this platform was the opening of a vault, pictured above, surrounded by an arch constructed from six layers of bricks. The report continued to detail the construction of this vault that measured 2 and a half metres in both length and width. In an attempt to date the structure, the author suggested that the bricks dated to the latter quarter of the 19th century, however, as concrete was not used in the district until the late 1890s, this further suggests that the structure dates from this time. A conclusion was made that the structure was either an air-raid shelter, a cold storage vault or more likely, a burial plot.

The author then conducted a search of the Albury Cemetery burial records which revealed no burials in the Catholic section. The area covered by this cemetery vault was equivalent to eight burial plots which suggested someone of importance as a possible owner. Suddenly my interest was sparked. Could a puzzle included in a will, written in the 1890s, be solved by a report commissioned in 2012?

Further investigation by the report's author found that the only person of prominence in the district at that time was John Hore, yet despite reports of the extent of his burial plot in the local media there was no record of it in the cemetery records.

And finally, the answer was there! Elizabeth had predeceased her husband, and when her body was brought for burial in the family crypt at Albury the occasion was anything but sombre. Since Elizabeth was a member of the Church of England, the Catholic priest refused to inter her body in the plot located in the Catholic section. An Anglican minister stepped in and performed a ceremony, and her body was interred in the Catholic portion of the cemetery, however, he did have to stand some distance away in the Anglican section. The Catholic Church, in response to her interment, erected four black posts around the site to indicate that it was no longer consecrated ground. The story was reported in newspapers across Australia.

However, John did not let the matter rest. He died eight months after his wife and his body was taken from his Melbourne home to Albury, for burial in the family vault alongside his wife. Yet his will said that he would be



Rapid Survey of a
Subterranean Structure
at the Albury Pioneer Cemetery

Dirk HR Spennemann

Background:

Heavy rains in mid March 2012 caused a localised ground subsidence which exposed the opening to a subterranean structure in Section 2 of the Albury Pioneer Cemetery. Following speculation as the nature of the structure, the author was approached to examine the structure and provide a report.

buried in the Church of England section of the cemetery beside his wife. The dilemma deepened. Elizabeth had been buried in the Catholic section, so how could John be buried next to her in the Church of England section? Records show that Elizabeth and John are both buried, side by side, in the Church of England section of the cemetery. Thus, while John's solicitor was re-drawing his will after his wife's death, John appears to have had Elizabeth's body exhumed and transferred to a new, burial plot in which he would later be interred.

And so, a mystery that had existed for more than thirty years had been solved.

And what of his fortune? Since the will names over 50 relatives, each with an allotted share, while still substantial, this did not ensure the financial security of all the generations to come. However, the names and lineages detailed in the will were a good source of information to expand our family tree. My father's research ceased when he had a massive stroke, but he was always interested to hear updates or discoveries and the story of the crypt and its link to the will provided him with amusement.



HEATHWOOD PARK, POPLAR DRIVE LAVINGTON

Roma Freeman

Continuing our members' segment describing some of Albury's named parks.

Heathwood Park is part of what was a Lavington orchard that, from the early years of the early 1900s, members of the Heathwood family ran between what is now Poplar Drive and Bungambrawatha Creek. It was one of many orchards early in the settlement of Black Range, later Lavington.

Two Heathwood brothers were prominent in the growth of Lavington in the early decades of the twentieth century. Samuel Heathwood is mentioned as a witness in Albury court cases in both 1910 and 1911 and described as a "cab driver." In the obituary of his brother Thomas in 1941, we are told that "Sam had for 30 years been an employee of Dalgety and Company." He had his auctioneer's license from at least 1925.

In February 1919, under Sam Heathwood as chair, the Progress Association petitioned Hume Shire Council "That council take steps to stop the practice of dumping dead beasts in the well near the road at Douglas', which constituted a nuisance to the travelling public as well as the residents in the neighbourhood. It was pointed out that the offenders in all cases came from Albury."

Border Morning Mail, Feb 18, 1919

Sam was very active in the Lavington community, for several years being chairman of both the Lavington Progress Association and the Lavington Public School's Parents and Citizens' Association.

In April 1921, the *Albury Banner* noted that "Messrs H Hague and S Heathwood have been gazetted as trustees of the recreation reserve." In the 1920s, Sam was president of both Lavington Cricket Club and the Lavington Football Club and on the committees of the School of Arts, and the Literary Institute.

Thomas Heathwood, twelve years younger than his brother Samuel, arrived in Lavington after being invalided from World

War I. Thomas became a well-known orchardist in the district. He was active in the Lavington Agricultural Bureau and president for some time

After Thomas Heathwood had died in December 1941, Ned Griffiths acquired the orchard. Ned and Mabel Griffiths, both horticultural graduates, grew mainly peaches. We read in the *Border Morning Mail* in 1948 that "Mr Ned Griffiths planted 300 peach trees last year, and 500 peaches and other fruits this year." Griffiths was president of the Agricultural Bureau for a few years. From about 1950 their orchard was known as *Briardale*.

Towards the end of the 1960s, ex-serviceman, Ned Griffiths won a ballot for a rice block at Coleambally which was being developed for irrigation. On moving to Coleambally in 1970, Ned and Mabel Griffiths subdivided their Lavington orchard.

Heathwood Park is part of the original orchard, extended from Bungambrawatha Creek west to the top of the hill, now Reservoir Road. Because the lower part of this property is flood prone a park was designated as

part of the subdivision.

Halehaven Crescent was named for a sought-after variety of peach for home preserving. Briardale Road commemorates the orchard.

When I was very young, I remember a Mr and Mrs Gordon Smith lived in a house on the south side of Heathwood Avenue just before the crossing over the creek.

In those early days there was vehicular access from Heathwood Avenue through the creek over a rather primitive bridge. Now only a footbridge crosses from Heathwood Avenue to the park. When the lower section of the orchard flooded a rather obscure entrance on the top of the hill was used for access. The Briardale B&B is on rising ground at the south end of the park, the present owners retained what is believed to be the one remaining rise (rammed earth) dwelling within the city confines, and extended some of the garden which still contains some of Mabel Griffiths' plantings.

The Griffiths named the streets on the subdivision and the park. Ned Griffiths was an alderman on Albury City Council for some time.

It is an extensive park with shelter and barbecue facilities and an off leash area for dog walkers.



LITTLE HEROES

Albury Banner, December 13, 1929

THE story of Ronnie Taskis, aged 10, of Mullengandra, and his two brothers, Douglas, aged 13, and Laurie, aged 11, sons of Mr Gordon Taskis, should be told in every school in Australia, as an illustration of what the Australian boy is capable of in moments of danger.

Ronnie, inquisitive like other Australian lads, put his hand into a rabbit burrow in the hope of catching bunny by the leg. A snake was waiting for him and promptly bit him.

Did his brothers develop funk and run away home for help? Not a bit of it. They promptly took the laces off their boots and made ligatures between the wrist and elbow for their little brother. There was no knife on hand to scarify the wound. There again their brains worked, and sword grass was made to answer the purpose. But there was still an apparently insuperable difficulty. The boys had sore lips and were unable to suck out the poison. What were they to do now? In an instant they were at the creek, and, securing some fat specimens of the tribe of leach, applied them to the poisoned part.

It was not until they had done everything possible for their brother's relief that they carried the news of the adventure to their father. Ronnie is now alive and well because his brothers had a fair possession of that natural intelligence which was so often displayed by Australians in the war.

As an epic of cool courage, resource and intelligence this episode deserves to stand high amongst the deeds which distinguish Australians. There must at the same time be some credit for the school system which thus develops the brains of the boys and teaches them what to do in such times of emergency. Self-reliance of this nature will always save the national character. It is to be hoped that there are thousands of such boys in this country of ours.



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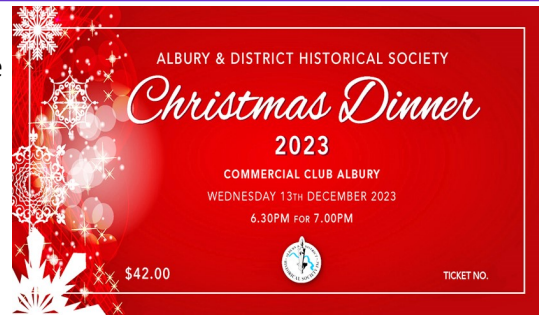
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDzIPypinJegksrO-l2ssVg>



YouTube

A&DHS Christmas Dinner is back

Come along to the Commercial Club and enjoy a three course meal on Wednesday 13th December, 6.30pm for 7pm. Local MP Justin Clancy will be our after dinner speaker, his topic being Albury Parliamentary representatives. Following dinner we will also have our usual December 'Show & Tell.'
Tickets \$42



CBD Street Walk, Sunday October 15

When we planned it we were anticipating a lovely Spring evening, but not so.

It was only a small group who braved an evening as cold as any winter evening for our "walk and talk" on Dean Street. Simon Burgess took the pic and other attendees were Narda Reid (off camera), Mary Dixon, Michael Dunn, Geoff Romero, Peter Whitbourn (with his penny farthing) and Greg & Cheryl Ryan.

Next one we organise we will arrange better weather.

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Honorary Life Members: Howard Jones, June Shanahan, Helen Livsey, Jan Hunter, Bruce Pennay
President: Geoff Romero
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Secretary: Helen Livsey
alburyhistory@bigpond.com
02 6021 3671
Treasurer: Simon Burgess
Minute Secretary: Yelly Evenhuis
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Public Officer: Helen Livsey
Committee: Jenny Romero, Victor Selway, 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.

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