



## July 2024

## No 657

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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One of Albury LibraryMuseum's 'touch trolleys' with various items from another era.

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

7.30 pm, Commercial Club Albury

**Topic:** Bhutanese/Nepalese refugees

**Speaker:** Malcolm & Wendy Moore

**ALBURY BOTANIC GARDENS**  
**Aurora, Lost Astronaut**  
**Light & Sound Show**  
**Until July 21**

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR JULY

At our June meeting an informative session with the ALM 'touch trolley' was presented by Victor Selway and Kat Kitch. We were given the chance to handle the items, guess what they were used for and ask questions of Kat about Wiradjuri culture. It was a thoroughly entertaining evening and we learned how history is introduced to young students who visit the LibraryMuseum with their school groups – more information on pages 4 & 5.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on 10 July prior to our monthly meeting. Nominations have been received for the executive positions namely, President Geoff Romero, Vice-President Greg Ryan, Secretary Helen Livsey and Treasurer Simon Burgess. Other nominations for committee received to date are Jenny Romero, Yelly Evenhuis, Peter Harper and Victor Selway. Nominations can also be accepted from the floor at the AGM so please consider whether you would enjoy taking a committee role. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the LibraryMuseum between 3pm and 5pm.

After the AGM we will hear from Dr Malcolm Moore and Wendy Moore about their experiences working with the Nepalese community in Nepal and also in Albury. A light supper will follow.

Membership subscriptions are now due for 2024/25. The recommendation to the AGM is that subscription fees remain unchanged – single members \$30, family members \$35. Members who require a posted Bulletin please pay an extra \$12 towards postage.

**2024/25 Subs Due**

We welcome three new members this month namely Diane Hind, Jodie Spokes and Jason Gardner.

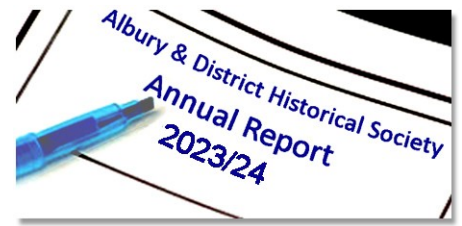
Our monthly meetings are the most visible part of our mission but there are other elements as well. First let's reminisce on our speaker program.

- In July Jill Aplin told the story of the "Life in a Box" left in Albury by John Winter-Cooke. Jill and Greg subsequently returned the box to John Winter-Cooke's family in the Western District of Victoria.
- In August Greg Ryan took us on a road trip from Sydney to Albury tracing the origins of Highway 31. Excellent photos from the Mitchell Library collection were featured showing the road under construction.
- Sheridan Jobbins enthralled us in September as she spoke of the involvement of her great uncle John Jobbins in a massacre of aboriginal inhabitants at Dora Dora. It was of interest that Sheridan's four times great grandfather had been assigned to Charles Throsby who explored the Southern Highlands and beyond with his young guide, Hamilton Hume.
- In October Bryan Smith told us the story of Sandy the Warhorse and the installation of a bronze statue in Tallangatta.
- Well known local builder Gary Zauner spoke to us in November about how his father, Rudy, escaped war ravaged Europe with no money but in possession of an incredible drive. He built one of Albury's most respected building companies.
- We celebrated Christmas in style at our December Christmas dinner meeting and were privileged that Justin Clancy, Member for Albury, addressed us about the history of parliamentary representation of our area.
- 2024 got underway with a change of venue. We met at the Police Training Centre (the old Methodist Church) in Olive Street. Superintendent Paul Smith drew back the curtain to share the inner machinations required to successfully implement the border closure mandates of government during the Covid epidemic.
- Pieter Mourik spoke in March about the developing discussion around aboriginal ring trees and their significance to indigenous culture.
- The April meeting, quite appropriately, focussed on military history. Simon Burgess told the story of his grandfather's active service at Kokoda. Simon then shared photos of his own experience of walking the 132 kilometres of the historic Kokoda Trail Walk.
- In May Wayne Doubleday of Charles Sturt University gave us pause for thought when he detailed the pros and cons of the move towards digitisation of historical records.
- Our June presentation was a very entertaining evening presented by Victor Selway and Kat Kitch explaining how they use a "touch trolley" to introduce history to the 1500 children who visit the museum each year in school groups.

The popularity of our speaker program is a testament to the work of our speaker co-ordinator, Jenny Romero with able assistance from others.

Other elements of our mission involve conducting research for members of the public and a group of activities which could broadly be described as community outreach in the areas of history and heritage.

- August – we participated in community consultation with the Hume and Hovell walking track management. Greg Ryan addressed a group of Scots School students at the Albury railway Station.
- September – we did a Central Albury historic buildings walk for the *Write Around the Murray* festival and Bruce Pennay delivered a lecture for history week on Border Railway Achievements.
- October – we held a central Albury Walk for A&DHS members. Also in October Bruce Pennay was the keynote speaker at the RAHS Conference in Wagga and Greg Ryan also spoke about the great achievements we have made in our Trove project. We took our stall to the UMCT Open Day which attracted a lot of interest, and we attended a Connected Communities function at Bendigo Bank.
- December – we were approached by the family of Sir Macpherson Robertson to consider making an application for a Heritage Award from the Royal Aeronautical Society to recognise Sir Macpherson's contribution to the early development of aviation both within Australia and in the wider world. We subsequently made the application and await the outcome.
- February – we were proud to launch the Hume & Hovell Explorer's Bike Ride connecting the Hume and Hovell monuments erected along the route the explorers took from the Hume (Murray) River to Port Phillip two centuries ago. The substantial amount of work done by Peter Harper in developing the project is well recognised. Also, in February Greg Ryan gave a talk to Albury Probus Club.
- March – we conducted a Central Albury Street Walk for Seniors Week and for the first time we took our stall to the Wodonga Show where we received a very good response from the public.



- April – we took a bus load of 23 A&DHS members on a field trip to Savernake Station for a very enjoyable and memorable day.
- June – Bruce Pennay and Greg Ryan conducted Trove workshops at Albury Library Museum and Lavington Library. Simon Burgess and I spoke to a group of 20 students from Indie School at the Albury Monument as part of their study of world wars and in early July Greg Ryan addressed the Albury Wodonga Orchid Club.

Our Trove project continued at a pace. To date we have digitised over 80,000 pages from 1860 to 1953 and plans are well advanced to scan the *Border Morning Mail* for 1954.

Our A&DHS website averages about 1000 views a month which has grown from 400 views just a couple of years ago. Our YouTube channel is now five years old and has had 17,062 views at last count. Our fortnightly column in the *Border Mail* has continued thanks to the efforts of Greg Ryan. We added two new publications to our Society Papers this year – “The History of the 8/13<sup>th</sup> Victorian Mounted Rifles” by Jan Hunter and “Malcolm McEachern - Master of Song” by Howard Jones. We also recently printed a series of postcards featuring the splendid drawings of Marie Lee which showcase our beautiful historic buildings. The postcards are of high quality and are available at the Visitor Information Centre and a number of commercial outlets.

To continue our community education programme we received assistance from the team at the ALM to produce two new banners “Albury Timeline” and “Becoming Albury” printed by our sponsor, FoxDigital.

Ongoing involvements of our Society have been regular meetings with the Library Museum to prepare for the bicentenary of the arrival of Hume and Hovell. Jenny Romero has also been attending regular meetings of the Community Consultation group with Albury City Town Planning leaders who are working towards a new heritage plan for the city. Jenny also answered a request from the Rotary Club of Lavington to write their history, which Jenny has just completed.

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); FoxDigital (for digital printing including new Society banners) and financial support from sponsors Lester & Son Funeral Directors, Baker Motors, Hume Bank, ThinkPilates, Armstrongs Financial Advisers, Elders Real Estate (through Manny Gonzales), Zauner Construction, Martin’s Travel Group and Rotary Clubs of Albury, Albury North and Albury Hume.

Many of our members contribute to the smooth working of the Society. They include: Richard Lee as Bulletin distributor and volunteer at 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. Simon Barlow generously prints the paper copy of the Bulletin for those members who need one. Col McAulay looked after our publications, brought them to meetings and kept records of sales. Howard Jones and Jenny Romero represent us on the Heritage Community Working Group also with our member Paul Grover.

Finally I want to pay tribute to your hard working committee who work together to make our Society so successful in what it does, and to the large number of our members who attend our monthly meetings thereby making our gatherings so enjoyable for all of us.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA—JULY 10, 2024**

Declaration of Annual General Meeting open.

Apologies:

Minutes of AGM July 12, 2023

President’s Report

Treasurer’s Report

Business:

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

Election of Office Bearers & Committee –Nominations received:

President: Geoff Romero

Vice-President: Greg Ryan

Treasurer: Simon Burgess

Secretary: Helen Livsey

Committee members: Jenny Romero, Yelly Evenhuis and Peter Harper.

Closure of Annual General Meeting.



Each year between 1000 and 1500 primary school students visit the Albury LibraryMuseum. When they arrive we use the following welcome:

*We touch the sky,                      We touch the land,                      We touch our hearts,                      We care for Wiradjuri Land.*

We are grateful to the Wiradjuri locals here in Albury and surrounds who work so freely with the staff at the Museum to allow us to give authentic information to people visiting the LibraryMuseum.

So how do we engage young minds in History? Of course, we use dinosaurs to start off with!

65 million years ago, Australia was about 2000 km south of its current position. So Wiradjuri land was just to the south of Tasmania! Winton, Queensland would be about where Albury is now. The climate was very different, several degrees hotter. Sea levels were significantly higher and Australia had a giant inland sea covering about one third of today’s land mass. Albury’s current location was very marshy, and full of dinosaurs!

Australia is finding some incredible fossil dinosaurs. The dinosaur museum in Winton is a stimulating visit. During Tyrannosaurus Rex’s 3 million year reign on Earth, there were an estimated 2.5 billion of them that lived. Yet we have only found just over 100 fossils of T-rex’s bones worldwide.

Information of Australia geographical location over time, dinosaur history and information has been sourced from: Australian Museum Website – <https://australian.museum>, well worth a visit, a great way to spend half an hour. You will not believe the variety of historical topics and information available.



We have a replica of an Australian velociraptor talon and toe nail at our Museum. Students are allowed to touch and feel and imagine that a velociraptor talon would slice a young human body very quickly. Maybe living on these lands 65 million years ago was not such a good idea!

[Australian Museum Website]

Once students are engaged, we start talking about the Crossing Place Museum and how humans have been living on these lands for up around 60,000 to 80,000 years!

We have two ‘touch trolleys’ – trolleys that have items that the students can touch. This allows students to feel, discover, wonder, and start asking questions. It encourages young minds to start asking questions when talking about history.

One trolley is our “Playing with the Past” touch trolley which features domestic items from the 19th and 20th centuries and serves as a basis for considering continuity and change in technology, lifestyle and culture over the last 150 years. It contains items from houses – most of them not seen in houses for 50 years or more.

The items often baffle young minds. They come up with great questions and some amazing ideas of what the items might have been used for. We give students the chance to touch, explore and then offer a suggestion as to what the item is. By asking students to explore the material, purpose, design, usage, pros and cons of the objects, we model and practice historical thinking and source analysis skills in a playful and developmentally appropriate manner.

Items such as the old cameras, wooden tennis racquets and typewriters don’t pose too much of a challenge. However here are some items that do!



**Chamber Pot**

‘It’s a large coffee mug’ – ‘no, no, it’s a giant soup pot.’

‘It’s a what? / Why did people pee in that? / Why wouldn’t you just go to the toilet?’ / ‘That is so disgusting’ / ‘People didn’t have toilets in their houses? – were they mad? / Why would you build a house without a toilet?’ / ‘Was that when they had toilets out in the back garden?’ / ‘I am glad I didn’t live then!’



**Fly Spray**

‘Did it pump up tyres / ‘Can you use it as a water gun, to play with?’ / ‘That’s a fly spray?’ / ‘So when did they invent spray cans like we use now?’



**Meat Mincer**

‘I have no idea what this is – I can see that you turn the handle – is it something that starts an engine?’ / ‘Do you use it to make something out in the shed?’ / ‘I think farmers must use it’

The second touch trolley contains items from the local Aboriginal community. The items on the Wiradjuri touch trolley were created by Wiradjuri man Phil Murray to share his culture with young people. The items are used within the Aboriginal community both in the past and currently. Here you will find miniature spears, coolamons, woomeras (spear throwers), digeridoo and emu callers.

With this touch trolley students learn about the culture and history of the local Aboriginal community. First we discuss the objects asking questions like what they were used for and who would have used which object? From there we branch out into more areas like scar trees, possum skin cloaks, the various resources used (in a sustainable manner) and the many stories that are shared within the community! Usually, we will also throw in some lessons on Aboriginal storytelling using symbols and include the various Wiradjuri names for certain areas like the Murray River (Milawa Bila) and animals like the Wiradjuri totem the goanna (Gugaa).



The second 'touch trolley.'



A coolamon had a large number of uses and they came in different sizes. They were great for carrying items from fruits, seeds and other food items such as insects. Larger coolamons were used to carry young babies and could be used to rock a baby to calm him or her. Further, coolamons were used with tools like the nulla nulla to grind foods such as seeds to make flour-like powders for cooking. Deeper coolamons could carry water.



Spears came in a variety of sizes designed for various tasks. Smaller arrows were used for killing smaller animals whilst larger spears were used for larger prey like kangaroos and wallabies. During the era of large megafauna, even stronger spears would have been used to bring down such large animals.

A woomera was used to help throw the spear. A good way to think of the process is a dog ball thrower used to throw a tennis ball – it extends your arm, generating considerably more power and distance to a throw.

Spears were used when tribes had disputes. Although no major tribal battles are recorded, there were times this occurred. Mostly tribes got along extremely well. Trade was common across the many Indigenous countries throughout Australia. Rocks used for axe-like tools or knife-like tools have been found all over Australia despite the type of rock only being found in a few locations. This has also been true for certain ochres that make certain colours for paints.

Wiradjuri always took care of the goanna. They would not kill them. However, other tribes could kill goannas on Wiradjuri land if they asked permission. It is an important point to note that whilst there were boundaries to lands they were not strict lines and other groups of people could use the land of another group if they asked permission.

Individuals also had an animal or creature that they took care of. As an indigenous person grew they would feel a connection to a certain animal or might be given a creature by an elder. The person would always look out and care for that creature, never harming one. The first environmentalists were right here on the lands that we call Australia.



Emu callers are a personal favourite. Nearly every student will think it's a mini didgeridoo, and the moment they are shown how to use it to replicate the sound of an emu we end up with many emus (or Dinawan as Wiradjuri people know them) wandering through the museum!

## ALBURY'S FIRST MUSEUM

Greg Ryan

In January 1893, a committee of six local men led by Dr Arthur Andrews as secretary and honorary curator, determined that they would form an 'Albury Free Industrial Museum.' In February that year they advertised in local newspapers for "suitable gifts."

The aim of the Museum was to provide a valuable educational influence and help to develop the resources of the country. It was to be free to all, with exhibits, especially from the Albury district, "in order that the residents may have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with its natural and artificial products and of utilizing them to their fullest extent."

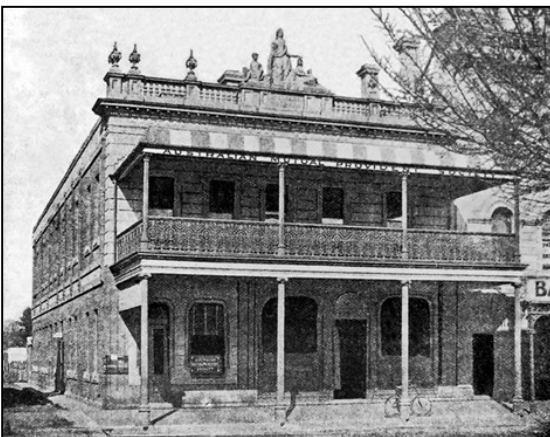
The *Albury Banner* was quick to produce a list of suitable gifts: "There must be hundreds of people in this district who would cheerfully contribute some object of interest — a boomerang, a native oven, a stuffed bird, a sample of local minerals, a collection of birds eggs, specimens of native timbers, or any one of a thousand different items ... these would be the nucleus of the future museum ... and in a few years time Albury would probably be able to hold its own with any provincial town in the colony."

In June the *Banner* was able to publish a sizeable list of donated items including: "A Soudan spear and shield ... a bit of the first submarine telegraph cable ... some interesting reptiles, including a whip snake, a marsupial mouse, the nest of a Mason fly and snake skins ... and a large stuffed turtle taken in the Murray ... the Geological Department sends an excellent collection of Australian mineral specimens, all classified and labelled ... Dr Andrews supplied a collection of English minerals, many fossils, including some very fine ammonites ... 80 stuffed Australian birds forwarded from the Australian Museum in Sydney." Many more items were listed and the article concluded with a request for more donations.

**Public Notices.**  
**ALBURY FREE**  
**INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM.**

It having been decided to form a  
**Free Industrial Museum at the**  
**Mechanics' Institute,**  
The undermentioned solicit  
**SUITABLE GIFTS**  
Of any kind, and will acknowledge receipt  
and answer any inquiries :—  
Messrs. W. S. CHAUNCEY, E. C. BOWYER,  
SMIJTH, M. BARLOW, R. C. BILEY,  
G. E. MACKAY, and  
Dr. ANDREWS, Hon. Sec.

*Albury Banner & Wodonga Express*  
February 3, 1893



The Australian Mutual Provident Society building, Dean street.

The founders of the Museum hoped for space in the Mechanics' Institute that was undergoing expansion but had to settle for a large room on the ground floor of the AMP building in Dean street. The Museum was formally opened by Mayor George Billson on October 27, 1893.

By December 1894 the collection included 1200 exhibits. Expenses for the first two years, including the rent of premises and the cost of display cases, was funded by subscriptions and fund raising concerts, with the Museum founders seeking to obtain government support.

The Museum was open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 3 to 6pm in summer, 2 to 5pm in winter, but soon had outgrown the space in the AMP building. The decision was made to move the collection to a hall that was available at the Model School in Olive street.

On February 6, 1895 the Museum was officially re-opened at the new site at Albury Model School by the NSW Minister for Education, Jacob Garrard.

In early 1896 the committee reported that over 1,500 people had visited the Museum in the previous year.

The *Sydney Mail* described progress of the museum in September 1896: "... in it are now housed over 2000 various specimens in glass cases ... The museum has recently been affiliated to the Government Technological Museum, Sydney, and is to be reorganised and extended under the name of the Albury Technological Museum, and will receive a small annual grant of the public funds. It is at present under the control of a committee



An early photo of Albury Model School in Olive street. The museum may have been in the building to the left.

consisting of Messrs G E Mackay, M Barlow, E C Bowyer-Smythe, J Blackie, G A Thompson, Dr O'Shaughnessy, with Dr Andrews as chairman."

In late 1896, after persistent agitation from the committee, the Museum received a government annual grant of £25 to pay for a caretaker and other expenses. The grant was on condition that the Museum committee hand over control of the Museum to the Department of Public Instruction. In 1897 the Museum became a branch of the Sydney Technological Museum (now Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences).

The committee was informed in July 1898 that a Technical School would be established in Albury and thereafter the Museum would be under the control of William Powrie, resident master of the school.



Albury Telegraph Office in 1896

The *Border Morning Mail* reported "The Museum proper is situated on the first floor, and has two large rooms devoted to it. The first contains a splendid collection of ethnological exhibits, chiefly connected with the Australian aborigine ... weapons such as spears, shields, womerahs [sic], boomerangs; stone implements, such as axes, spear tops and grinding mills on which the native food was pounded ... coins gathered and lent to the museum by Dr Andrews, of this town ... a collection of Australian birds; and a few indigenous animals ... examples of the use of Australian flora in applied art ... china from the world's most renowned potteries ... mineral specimens ... specimens of Australian timbers and various vegetable products ... rowing sculls made from such Australian timbers as mountain ash ... Australian birds' eggs, sea shells, insects, echinoderms, corals, sponges ... a collection of Australian wool ..." The article concluded with an acknowledgment of the "resident master, Mr Powrie" for his skill and enterprise in curating the displays.

An Albury Library Museum information panel noted "Early museum practices in Australia did not always show a respect for the beliefs and practices of other cultures, especially those of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. Albury's first Museum was no exception, and it is likely that disparate items were displayed with little consideration or sensitivity as to their cultural significance. Artefacts and cultural material acquired by early museums may have included secret and sacred items, or worse, human remains."

In February 1952 it was announced that the Museum would close and the exhibits would go into storage. An editorial in the *Border Morning Mail* on March 24, 1952 lamented the loss of the Museum: "After nearly 50 years in the Technical College building in Dean street the Albury Museum has gone into store. Shortage of space caused by the increasing demand for technical training has forced the authorities to decide between live students and stuffed exhibits.

"The Museum was one of the focal points of the city's educational and cultural life, and while its closure is justifiable council should endeavour to ensure that its absence is only temporary. The Dean street location of

In spite of the crowded space at the Model School, it was some time before the Museum could find a suitable larger space to display the ever-growing list of exhibits. After a period of neglect, an opportunity came in 1916 to expand into new premises. The telegraph building on the corner of Dean and Olive streets had been acquired by the NSW Education Department and the Museum was provided with space on the first floor. The Museum was officially opened at the new location on June 7 by Superintendent of Technical Education in NSW, James Nangle, with Albury Mayor Percy Burrows.



*The Border Morning Mail*  
June 5, 1916



Visit our website for photos of old Albury, history articles, past Bulletins and much more. Go to:  
<https://alburyhistory.org.au/>



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Have you visited our YouTube Channel?

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



the Museum was never quite satisfactory. Visitors were frequently unaware of its existence. Those who located it had to traverse a maze of stairs and corridors to gain admission.

“At present there appears to be no suitable building available to house the exhibits even temporarily, but when the new civic centre is built in the heart of the city there should be ample room for a spacious modern museum.”

The 1952 editorial concluded that the exhibits could not “be allowed to moulder in some forgotten storeroom for long.”

December 1, 1967 – Sydney Technological Museum re-establishes in Albury in former Turks Head Hotel building.

December 15, 1967 – Albury Folk Museum opened, also at Turks Head.

1983 – Sydney Technological Museum (Albury branch) closed.

The Folk Museum was rebranded Albury Regional Museum, it re-opened in December.

1985 – A&DHS transferred ownership of its collection to Albury City Council.

November 2006 – Albury Regional Museum at Turks Head closed.

July 2007 – Albury LibraryMuseum opened.

[Sources: newspapers on Trove website, ALM information panels, *The Country Surgeon Stitz & Kent*]

## STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA BLOGS

The website of the State Library of Victoria has some resources worth exploring.

A recently published blog describes part of their collection of vintage recipes books under the heading ‘Discovering Dewey – 641.5 and beyond’ that will interest many members. Go to [Vintage Recipe Book Blog](#)

Another blog worth a look is [Refugees, Relief and Resettlement: Forced Migration and World War II](#)

There are also links to many other interesting resources.

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Please click on the logo to visit their respective websites.



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alburyhistory@bigpond.com  
02 6021 3671  
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**Committee:** Jenny Romero, Victor Selway,  
Peter Harper.  
**Bulletin Editor:** Greg Ryan  
gmjryan@bigpond.com  
**Publications & Stock Officer:** Colin McAulay  
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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.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$30 Family: \$35

Corporate: \$100

Note: There is a \$12 surcharge for mailed Bulletins.

**Research** undertaken, \$25 first hour. Enquiries in writing with \$25.