

February 2025

No 663

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



The 'Aeronautical Heritage Award' plaque from the Royal Aeronautical Society was handed over at Albury Airport.

Left to right: Phil Robertson (grandson of Sir Macpherson Robertson), Ken Broomhead (Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society) and Geoff Romero (A&DHS President). Read more on page 2.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

7.30 pm, Commercial Club, Albury

Topic: Wirlinga

Speaker: Tom Doolan

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM
Recovering the Past–
the impact of WWI on
Australian society.
Until February 23

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Monument Hill.

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published.

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Albury on Trove.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

Our Christmas dinner meeting on 11 December was a fitting way to bring a very busy year to a close. The evening was a sellout, with the Commercial Club directing us on the Monday prior not to accept any more reservations. Deborah Lawrie entertained and impressed the audience with the story of her 'David & Goliath' battle with Ansett Airlines, which was litigated all the way to the High Court of Australia, where she ultimately won the right to fly at the highest level.

We are very grateful to Deborah and thank her for her generosity in coming to speak to us without any financial assistance from our Society.

At A&DHS we are fortunate to have an able and active team of committee members who make the Society run at a high standard month after month. One such member, Peter Harper, has recently been crowned Albury's "Active Citizen of the Year" in a glittering ceremony at the Albury Entertainment Centre. Peter was recognised for his vision in creating the HH Explorer's Bike Ride and developing it into a major part of the Hume and Hovell bicentenary commemorations. I warmly congratulate Peter who is a very worthy recipient.

We are looking forward to important anniversaries this year. We have been asked by the Albury RSL to participate in commemorating the centenary of the Albury War Memorial on Monument Hill.

Also this year the Albury Public School will celebrate its 175th Anniversary. We already have two committee members helping the commemoration committee to prepare for this important milestone.

Our membership continues to grow – in December/January we were pleased to welcome Nicole Thomas and Michael Mullins.

I wish all members a healthy and prosperous 2025.

SOCIETY CHRISTMAS DINNER 2024

Seventy two members and guests attended our Christmas Dinner at the Commercial Club on December 11. Among our guests were about twelve members of the team working on restoration of the commemorative DC2 at the Albury Airport hangar.

Special guests included our after dinner speaker Deborah Lawrie AM, Phillip Robertson, grandson of Sir Macpherson Robertson with his wife Genevieve, Ken Broomhead, Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS), Mayor of Albury Kevin Mack and our Society Patron Greg Aplin with his wife Jill.

After a preliminary handover at Albury Airport the previous week, first order of business was the formal handover of the 'Aeronautical Heritage Award' plaque from the RAeS to our president Geoff Romero. Handing over the plaque, Ken Broomhead, a retired Singapore Airlines Flight Captain, thanked our Society for submitting the nomination. Ken pointed out that the RAeS have presented less than thirty of these awards and this is the first outside of the UK.

In accepting the plaque, Geoff Romero pointed out that it acknowledges not only his sponsorship of the 1934 London to Melbourne air race but the huge contribution Sir Macpherson Robertson made in the early days of aviation in Australia. The plan for the plaque is to see it mounted in the Cafe Uiver area of Albury airport in 2025 alongside a tablet that reflects the gratitude of the people of the Netherlands for the Uiver emergency.

In gratitude for the successful nomination of their grandfather, the surviving grandchildren of Sir Macpherson Robertson have made a substantial donation to Albury & District Historical Society.

Ms Deborah Lawrie AM

After the first-course of our dinner, we were treated to a very interesting and entertaining address from Deborah Lawrie. Deborah began with a brief outline of her early interest in flying, her first flying lesson on her sixteenth birthday and her first solo flight before turning 17. She then described spending some time competing in air races, flying her father's business friends from Melbourne to Coober Pedy and taking her university friends on safari flights around Australia.

After a brief stint teaching, she retired at age 23 to pursue a career in aviation. After applying in early 1976 as a trainee pilot for Ansett Airlines, it was almost four more years before Deborah flew as a commercial pilot. Two years after first applying she was accepted into Ansett's selection process – after completing all testing she ranked third of all applicants. But airline owner Reg Ansett refused to allow her to fly his aircraft. After going first to the Equal Opportunity Board and finally the High Court in October 1979, Deborah was included in Ansett's pilot intake in November 1979.

After flying for Ansett, Deborah spent 16 years with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. In 2008, she spent four years flying for Jetstar, based in Christchurch NZ, then with Tigerair based in Sydney and currently she flies for Virgin Australia.

Deborah spent a few minutes talking about the 1934 Uiver emergency landing at Albury Racecourse. She marvelled that Captain Parmentier was able to land safely, pointing out the hazards they faced: "Monumental electrical storm cuts radio comms and the compass; no stars because of cloud; searchlight on the cone shining into fog; pilot descends to 1500 feet to find he is in a valley between Mt Bogong and Mt Feathertop, immediately climbs; at higher altitude ice crystals on the windshield and slick of ice on the



Deborah Lawrie makes a point regarding the emergency landing of the Uiver in 1934.



Deborah Lawrie in the cockpit

wings; Captain descends again; all options unpalatable.”

Deborah told us that “this was nothing short of a miracle. In the conditions that this aircraft was flying in I have no idea how they did this ... an amazing story.” It was enlightening for the audience to hear the thoughts of such an experienced pilot.

After taking some audience questions, Deborah was thanked by Society member Kristie Ivone.

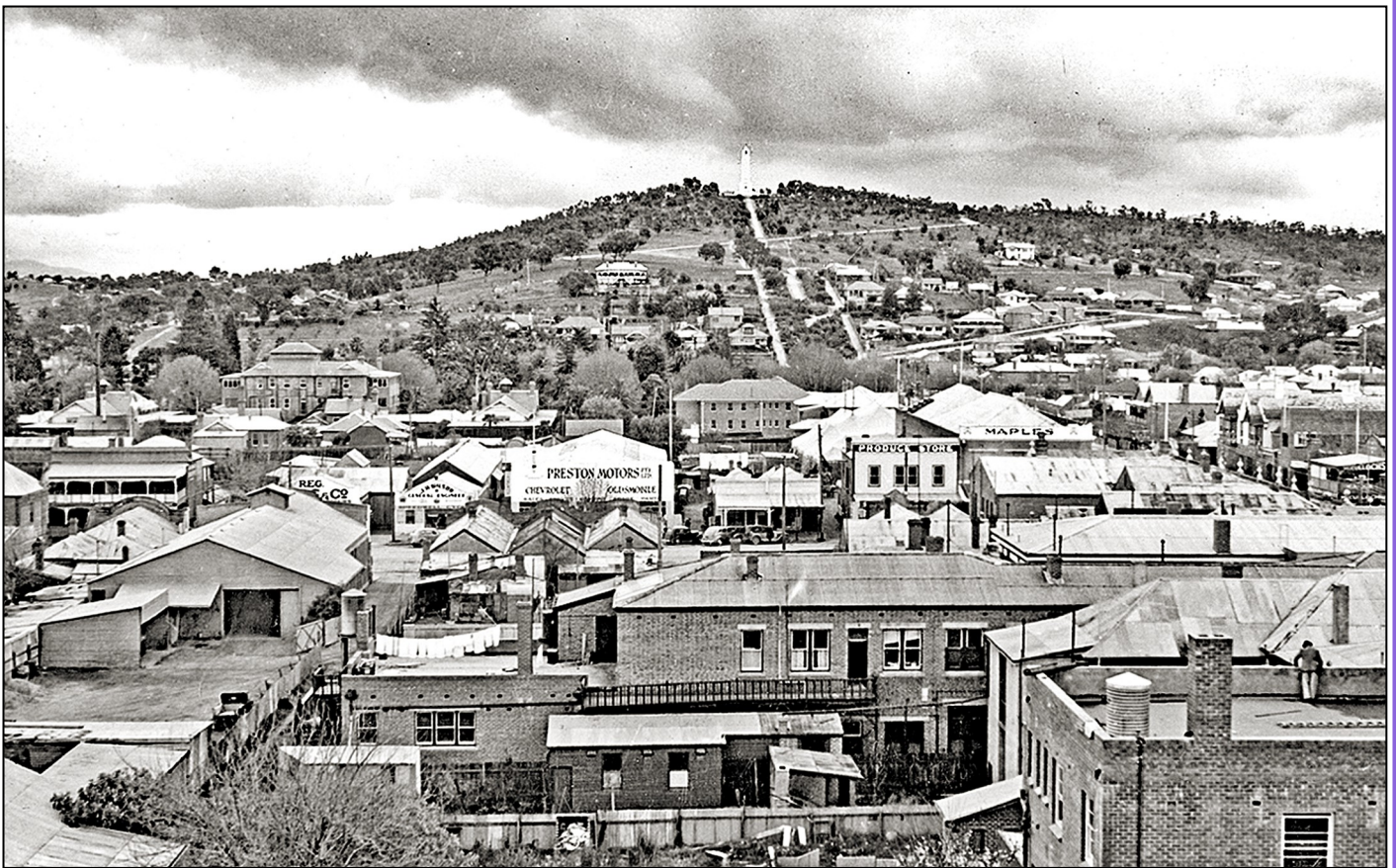
To wind up an evening enjoyed by all, our dynamic MC, Victor Selway conducted an auction of items from the Joe Wooding collection, kindly donated to the Society by Jill Wooding.

LOOKING WEST FROM THE NEW ALBURY HOTEL ROOF c1940

Greg Ryan

This is a view looking west towards Monument Hill from the top of the New Albury Hotel in about 1940. The prominent house in the centre on Monument Hill is *Murray Bluffs*. Built in 1910, it was the home of Hamilton Mott, proprietor of the *Border Morning Mail*. The house is still there in 2025.

Prominent below the hill is the Albury District Hospital which becomes Albury Base Hospital in 1953.



Several businesses can be identified on the western side of Townsend street. From left, the Australian Hotel at 481 Townsend street, was opened in 1878 by J P Barrington. At the time Albury had “eighteen licensed houses” catering for a population of less than 4000.

In 1922 Norman Wightwick owned and held the license for *The Australian*. The ‘Licenses Reduction Board’ decided that Albury had too many hotel licenses – the *Albury Banner* announced on June 30, 1922 that “Today, four delicensed hotels in Albury will close their doors as hotels. They are : — Australian Hotel, Townsend street (N W Wightwick); Golden Fleece Hotel, David



street (J W Flynn); Salutation Hotel, Dean street (Maurice Flynn); Union Bridge Hotel, Wodonga Place (John Blair). On December 8, the Race Club Hotel, Lavington road, conducted by W Hore, will also close."

REG ROSS & CO.
485 TOWNSEND STREET, ALBURY
Phone 990.
Distributors of the Famous
TRIUMPH AND INDIAN MOTOR CYCLES
FOR MOTOR AND MOTOR CYCLE REPAIRS. CONSULT THE SPECIALISTS

Mostly obscured is the signage for Reg Ross & Co at 485 Townsend street. The *Border Morning Mail* report on the Albury Show told readers that "At Reg Ross and Co's stand are Triumph, Cottman Colt and Indian Twin motor bicycles. The Triumph range features the Speed Twin and the super machine, the Tiger 90. Others are the 500 ohv, 750 side valve and 500 side valve. Other exhibits on the stand are a Singer car and a range of Preston Star bicycles." In August 1943 the property and stock were advertised for sale by auction.

J A Wilson General Engineers was advertised operating from 451 Dean street, opposite the Regent Theatre from 1938 to April 1940. In May 1940 the business moved to 487 Townsend street and offered "general engineering" and was an agent for Speedwell bicycles.

Frank Charles operated Townsend Motors at 491 Townsend street from October 1925, being local agents for Chevrolet and Buick cars. The business was acquired by John Swanston in 1932. General Motors-Holden appointed Townsend Motors as district dealers for Oldsmobile and Chevrolet cars in November 1935.

General Motors-Holden was formed in 1931 and purchased the Holden company. Holden had been founded in South Australia in 1856 to make saddles, later moving into the automotive field. GMH launched their first Holden car in November 1948.

J. A. WILSON
(Late Speedwell Cycle Works at 451 Dean Street)
Is now carrying on business at 487 TOWNSEND ST.
as
GENERAL ENGINEER
MOTOR CYCLE AGENTS
SPEEDWELL CYCLE AGENTS
Have your repairs done—
"With an Engineer's insistence for accuracy"

Important news for Albury and District motorists
PRESTON MOTORS PTY. LTD.
become the Authorised Dealers for
CHEVROLET and OLDSMOBILE
IN ALBURY

PRESTON MOTORS PTY. LTD. have pleasure in announcing their appointment as authorized dealers for Chevrolet Cars and Trucks and Oldsmobile Cars for Albury and District.

This new dealership, which is situated at and from Monday, October 9, has been arranged through a mutual agreement between Preston Motors Pty. Ltd. and Mr. J. Swanston, who has for many years successfully conducted the dealership under the name of Townsend Motors.

Mr. J. R. Wright, who is already well known to the motoring and business community of Albury and District, has been appointed Manager, and the services of the present staff have been retained.

Public goodwill and appreciation have built the well-known Melbourne business of Preston Motors Pty. Ltd. This goodwill will be long gained over 20 years by always providing outstanding terms in Sales and Service facilities. Preston Motors Pty. Ltd. will provide the same advantages and assist efforts for the motoring and business community of Albury and District. In line with this policy, immediate arrangements are being made to equip the Albury service department at Preston Motors with the latest and most efficient plant available.

Preston Motors invite all Albury motorists to require the full range of Chevrolet and Oldsmobile in the showroom at Townsend St. Albury.




Cars that give you at least \$50 Extra Value!
Trucks that are the Thrift Carriers of the Nation!




The Car with the RHYTHMIC RIDE given by Quadri-coil Springs, plus Four-way Stabilisation — plus Independent Front Wheel Suspension.

PRESTON MOTORS PTY. LTD. Incorporated in Victoria, TOWNSEND ST., ALBURY, PHONE 541

Preston Motors purchased Townsend Motors from John Swanston in September 1939. The *Border Morning Mail*, reported: "Preston Motors, of Melbourne, have purchased the Townsend Garage, of Townsend street, Albury, and will take over the business on October 9. Mr J Swanston, who has conducted the business since 1932, commenced operations during the financial depression and, contrary to the opinion of many, weathered bad times in a meritorious way. By strict and straight business methods, he made great headway, and progressed to such an extent that a few years ago, he was in a position to purchase the premises from Mr G A Gray, a former editor of the *Albury Banner*. Mr Swanston said yesterday that Preston Motors proposed to extend the garage considerably. They would retain the Chevrolet and Oldsmobile agencies."

Next to the corner allotment is the produce store of Henry Jacobs. Jacobs arrived from Germany in about 1859. He purchased the site of his store in

HENRY JACOBS,
TOWNSEND STREET, ALBURY.
CHEAPEST house in town for GROCERIES, HORSE FEED, and COLONIAL PRODUCE of all kinds, FOR CASH ONLY!
Highest Price given for Hides, Skins and Tallow, Grain, and Produce generally.

November 1871 for £106. In October 1881, Jacobs was advertising "cheapest house in town for groceries, horse feed, and colonial produce of all kinds."

Henry Jacobs died in 1917 and the business passed to his sons William and Norman. William's son, also William, took over the business in 1947.

The corner site was for many years a furniture store. It was established by William John ('Coffin') Jones in 1873. Abe Nathan purchased the business from Jones in 1909. The store burnt down in 1910 and was replaced the following year by the building that still survives on the site. The store was purchased by Maples in 1923. Maples continued to trade at the site until the company was purchased by Clark Rubber in 1986.

On the opposite side of Dean street, on the corner of Elizabeth street, is the Carlton Hotel and opposite that is Delamotte Chambers occupied over time by a number of different tenants including the 'Albury Business College' on the top floor and car sales on the ground floor. At the time the photo was taken, Mrs McGuigan was advertising "Corns and all foot ailments receive expert and painless treatment, Delamotte Chambers."

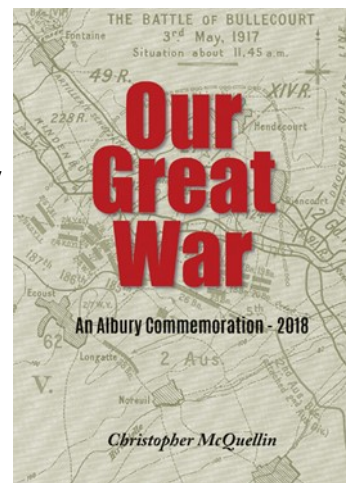
OUR GREAT WAR – AN ALBURY COMMEMORATION, 2018

Number 38 in our series of ‘Society Papers’ was compiled by Christopher McQuellin. Chris has completed a project to record the names and graves of servicemen returned from service in World War I.

Research centred on those who were either buried or memorialised in the Albury Pioneer Cemetery and the Waugh Road Cemetery. Chris identified 244 graves and 27 memorials across both cemeteries. He points out that no women with WWI service were identified in the project.

Records of the Australian War Memorial, National Archives of Australia, National Archives of New Zealand, and the National Archives of the United Kingdom have been accessed by Chris. Rank, service number, unit, ages of individual service members and their dates of death have been included in the records.

The book is available to read at Albury LibraryMuseum.



LOU LIEBERMAN – A LIFE OF SERVICE

Number 39 in our series of ‘Society Papers’ has just been published. Written by Howard Jones, the book chronicles the many contributions of Lou Lieberman to our local community, the State of Victoria and to Federal Parliament.

In his introduction, Howard notes that “Lou was a true community-based politician ... Electors of all persuasions respected his integrity, his availability and willingness to fight for them.”

Lou Lieberman was the grandson of a Polish Jew who fled Poland because of religious persecution. He graduated from Albury Public School and Albury High School, was a member of Albury City Band and became an articled clerk with Albury solicitors before qualifying in law.

After his election to Victorian Parliament, Lou and his family moved to Wodonga. It's a good read and available for sale for \$20.



THE ALBURY POST OFFICE AND THE UIVER CONNECTIONS

Noel Jackling explains the aim of his new 111–page book:

“The primary aim is to make selected Uiver stories available ... to support a renomination of the Albury Post Office for the State Heritage Register, the Local Environmental Plan, and the Commonwealth Heritage List.”

Noel points out that “The current entries ... are limited to architectural significance ... it should cover ... the communications revolution of the 19th and 20th centuries in Australia and their introduction in Albury, with special reference to the Albury Post Office, as well as the historical and social significance of the Albury Post Office to the Albury community, including its connections with the Uiver in Albury and the Uiver Collection at the Albury LibraryMuseum.”

Fifty-eight stories in the book link the Albury Post Office and the Uiver. The book is available for loan at Albury LibraryMuseum.



Click on the link or use the QR code:

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'THEN AND NOW' IN THE BORDER MAIL

Members will be disappointed to hear that we have been notified by Xavier Mardling, Editor of *The Border Mail*, that they no longer "have the same capacity in the newsroom as we once did to handle contributed copy." What this means for both us and Wodonga Historical Society is that there will be no more 'Then and Now' articles published in the *Border Mail*.

Wodonga's last article was published on December 21, Albury's on December 28, 2024.

Over the last nine years the *Border Mail* has provided a great opportunity for us to highlight our history and heritage for readers. It is sad to see it coming to an end. We started on a six month trial in January 2016 and have since contributed 230 articles. Wodonga has submitted a similar number. We have received many messages thanking us for the articles and many will have less to look forward to in their Saturday *Border Mail*. My thanks to all who contributed articles. In all 15 of our members contributed articles, including 30 from our late member Joe Wooding.

Most of our articles can be read on our website at [Border Mail History Articles](#)

BMM FOR 1954 NOW ON TROVE

Good news for all users of Trove. We now have the *Border Morning Mail* of 1954 on the Trove website. This is a milestone that we have been working towards – currently we pay \$1.54 per page but with changes to copyright law after 1954, the cost goes up so we have decided to stop digitising the BMM at December 1954.

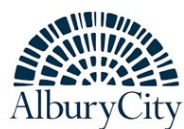
However, the project is not complete. We now have Albury papers digitised from 1860 to 1954 with some gaps left to fill. The next target is to fill those gaps and to scan the *Border Post*, Albury's first newspaper for years 1856-1860.

Newspapers
of Albury on
TROVE
1860-1954

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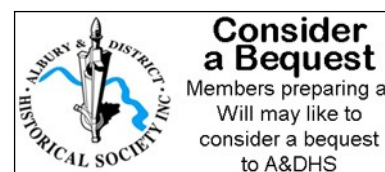
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Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month (except January) at 7.30 pm usually at the Commercial Club Albury.

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

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Single: \$30 Family: \$35

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