



Registered by Australia Post,
PP.225170/00019

BULLETIN

APRIL 2005

445

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month,
February to December

Albury Regional Museum: (02) 6051 3450
Turks Head, Wodonga Place, Albury
Open every day, 10.30a.m. to 4.30p.m.
Website: www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum

Patrons:

Mr Harold Mair, O.A.M.
Mr Ian Glachan

President:

Mr Douglas Hunter
(02) 6021 2835

Secretary:

Mr Ron Braddy
(02) 6021 2038

Subscriptions:

Individual Member \$20
Family Members \$25
Corporate Members \$5

★ APRIL GENERAL MEETING

8pm Wed. April 13

Commercial Club,
Dean St, Albury.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mr Lindsay Poy will present the
"History of the Poy Family".

? QUESTION for APRIL :

What were the locations of Chinese
Market Gardens in Albury?

MAY MEETING: 11/05/05

Graham Stocks will talk on
"Church Music in Albury".

FUTURE EVENTS

- ① 27/05/05 to 17/07/05;
"Works Wonders" stories
about home remedies will
be on display at the Al-
bury Regional Museum.
(see BULLETIN 444).
-Helen Pithie

- ② 17/04/05 Sunday at 2pm
in Albury Library. "Four
Funerals & a Wedding:
-sharing stories about the
Chinese in early Albury".
Bruce Pennay from CSU,
will reflect on Albury's
experiences of the Chinese
as travellers, sojourners &
settlers & will recall
several Chinese voices to
begin to explore the

Chinese heritage of Albury.

To book please phone
(02) 6051 3470.



Q ; > The "Border
Morning Mail" pub-
lished sketches of
prominent "Border
Personalities" in Au-
gust 1949. Can you
guess who this was?
(Answer page 4).

CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AT BONEGILLA

Responses of Old Australians

REPORT ON THE MARCH MEETING: ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP (7/3/05):

INTRODUCTION

by Doug Hunter-

In answer to the "Question of
the Month", the first contin-
gent of displaced Europeans
(from the Baltic countries),
comprising 727 men & 112 women
aged between 17 & 30, arrived at the
Bonegilla Reception & Training

Centre on 8 Decem-
ber 1947. They had
travelled to Mel-
bourne on the ship
"General Heinzel-
man"¹, then by two
special trains to
Bonegilla Station &
finally in the back of
Army trucks to the
camp. The women
at least, had padded
seating in the trucks
2. Further contin-
gents followed
quickly. Between
1947 & 1950;
170,000 European
migrants arrived in
Australia; half of
them (ie. 85,000)
passing through
Bonegilla.³

At any one time Bonegilla housed
between 1,500 & 8,500 residents.
Throughout 1949 the number was
6,000. At this time the combined pop-

Ray Gear - Page 6;
**ALBURY'S
HOTELS
1880-1879**

ulation of Albury
& Wodonga was
18,700 of whom
only 4% were
European born.
So the *New Aus-
tralian* presence in
the area was signi-

ficant both in numbers & cultural dif-
ference.⁴

In return for assisted passage the
migrants were required to work for 2
years at jobs assigned by the govern-
ment. Many went to areas of con-
struction such as the Snowy Moun-
tains Hydro Scheme, & to heavy in-
dustry such as the steel mills at
Wollongong & Port Kembla. Some
migrants were assigned to jobs in Al-
bury & district, while others left fam-
ilies in Albury while men went else-
where to fulfil work obligations.
Either way, children began to attend
schools in the Albury Wodonga area.

The Albury Regional Museum has
on permanent exhibition its "Bone-
gilla Collection". The Museum also
collaborated with Charles Sturt Uni-
versity to publish Bruce Pennay's
book "Albury Wodonga's Bonegilla".

At the Museum is a folder of recol-
lections of *New Australians* about
their arrival & time spent at Bonegilla.
**But there is no companion folder of
the recollections of Old Australians
on the coming of New Australians to
the region. Here we will attempt to
fill a tiny part of that omission.**

Those I have asked to take part
will in turn present & share
some brief recollections.
Questions shall >>>

also be answered. This is all something of a worthwhile experiment.

References:

1. Bruce Pennay, *Albury Wodonga's Bonegilla*, CSU in assoc ARM, 2001, pp.2-4.
2. *Border Morning Mail*, Tuesday 9 December 1947.
3. Pennay *op.cit.*, p.4.
4. *Ibid.*, Brief Chronology. *

■ **June Shanahan** - My memories of the first overseas migrants that came to Albury were the Gypsies, who started to arrive in the area in about 1945. They were like itinerant seasonal workers; they came here the same time every year at the beginning of Autumn. I don't ever remember seeing them working, but the men could have done a little casual work here & there. Each time they came there would be about four or five families all travelling together.

They first lot of families came in horse drawn caravans which was quite unique; a couple of years later they arrived in old cars which was a surprise, as only people with money could afford to drive cars back then. They would set up their tents on the Wodonga flats off the Lincoln Causeway for the period they stayed. They wouldn't stop all that long, maybe about a month, & then they would move on. If anyone remembers seeing Gypsies in the early movies, then that is how they were dressed. The women used to intrigue me with all of their colourful blouses & flared skirts & heaps of jewellery, especially the big dangling ear-rings & plenty of bangles on both arms. They would read people's palms for a fee.

In the last couple of years that they appeared, they were driving rather large flashy-type American cars, towing caravans. I guess the next generation had to have an education, so the Gypsy era disappeared. I know of one family that settled in the area.

The next lot of migrants I recall were the Italian Prisoners-of-War. The internment camp where they stayed was situated on a property on the right-hand-side of the Riverina Highway, over the hill after the Thurgoona turnoff, on the way to the Hume Weir. They were transported each day to the Bandiana Army Camp where

they were put to work. I dare-say most of them would have had a trade of some description.

I can remember the first time they went past our home in Ebdon Street, which was then part of the Hume Highway. There would have been about 200 prisoners or more sitting on the tray floors of a convoy of Army semi-trailer-trucks - with sides on. They were all dressed in prison uniforms which were dark blue type overalls with sleeves in. They had their prison number stamped on the back of their uniform. There would have been about five semi-trailer loads of prisoners altogether.

The prisoners waved to us, so we waved back; I felt so sorry for them. One particular day one of them threw out a packet of QT's lollies which had been opened, to us kids. QT's were similar to "lifesavers" but had different fruity flavours. We decided to put them into the bin for we were a bit wary, as we couldn't understand why they would throw lollies out to us. The following day we happen to be out the front when they came past; this time they threw out full packets of QT's lollies - unopened - to us, so we thought that all of our Christmases had come at once. The kids next door were there as well. So from then on we used to wave to them each day.

When I think about it now, it would have been so lonely for them as they would have missed their families being so far away from home.

All Italians living in Australia at the time of the war - who were mainly farmers, were interred also.

The prisoners started making wooden toys & would throw them out to us as well. Word certainly got around, so by the time they left Bandiana Army Camp where they worked until they got all the way to the Prisoner-of-War Camp, they had children all along the route waving to them. I still have a wooden snake that was made by one of them.

■ My Memories of Some of the Migrants that came to Australia after the Second World War:

Bonegilla was one of the first migrant camps in Australia that was home to people from war-torn countries. In the earlier days Bonegilla



was an Army Camp; it was part of **Bandiana Army Camp**. When the Migrants moved in you would see them walking the roads near the camps, getting their daily exercise, & some of them would be wearing their **national costumes**. It was like a breath of fresh air to see the mixture of lovely bright colours & of course it seemed quite odd to see them as I had never seen anything like them before.

Charlie Reiff owned The Border Service Station on the corner of Ebdon Street & Wodonga Place, which had about an acre (0.4 ha) block of land at the back of it. Suddenly one day a caravan appeared, & then as the weeks went by there were tents, huts & caravans. It was so crowded that you couldn't see who owned what. There were only two showers & two toilets on the actual block, but there was another toilet & shower at the Service Station for travellers passing through.

There was quite a mixture of nationalities; Slavs, Balts, Hungarians, just to mention a few. The Balts came from the Baltic Countries of Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.

There was one family in particular that I remember quite well. The father was a hairdresser, the mother & two daughters all worked; they would pool all their money on pay-day. The father also worked at Bonegilla at night, cutting hair for extra money. It would have been 12 months after arriving in Australia when they built a home just around the corner from where I lived in Ebdon Street in South Albury. 18 months later they opened a hairdressing salon in Dean Street. One of the daughters was very keen on my brother at the time.

Another family I got to know very well was an **English** family. They had one son, Alan, who had been very protected when he was a child. The father was a carpenter. I used to do all the messages for the mother as she was a big lady & she couldn't walk a long way. Alan used to buy my sister & I Enid Blyton's books for our >>>

birthdays & Xmas. I still have those books. Alan finished up as chief designer at Adelyn Clothing factory which was situated on the corner of Wodonga Place & Hovell Street, South Albury.

There were a lot of different nationalities that I got to know over the years & they were all good people. Although Bonegilla was their first home, a lot of nationalities moved on to all parts of Australia (especially the cities) to live. Actually, they went wherever work was available as they were not afraid of work. A lot of men left their wives & children to work on the **Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme**.

A housing settlement sprung up at **Killara** near the Little River, between Bandiana & Bonegilla. I can remember when they built the first house there. Many families would share the one house until the next one was built, and this would be repeated. What I admired about them was that they all helped one another. There were quite a few houses built near the **North Albury football ground**. They started building them around the mid fifties around the Tarakan Avenue area & they used to have to go through a farm gate to get to their homes. Just a coincidence with street names, another housing lot was built in the Pearce Street & Tarakan Avenue area in **Wodonga**.

Holdenson & Neilson Butter & Cheese Factory on the Lincoln Causeway, where my Dad made Ice-cream, employed quite a variety of migrants over the years, especially in the milk & cheese section.

I got to know people of many nationalities over the years; I have always made reference to them as *New Australians* & they have helped make this country what it is today.

Douglas Hunter - My first experience of a *New Australian* was when I was about 11. I was in Dean Street waiting to catch a bus when a young man came to the bus, put one foot on the step, leaned in & said "**Bonny Gilla**". He was dressed in a *trench coat* & carried a *brief case*. I have been reminded of this several times when travelling in Europe when I have done that same thing, - leaned into a

bus & in my halting French enquired of the driver, "**Souillac?**". I have reflected upon this; I was there in unfamiliar surroundings for a few weeks, but he was here for the rest of his life.

My other encounters were at school, at work, & in National Service & CMF.

Roma Freeman -

First Contact: The first encounter I had with *New Australians* was on the Walla Walla railway station. They came on Thursday 9th June 1949. Dad referred to them as the Balts; they referred to themselves as D.P's (Displaced Persons). They were very young. I was about 9 years old then when Maria & Thomas arrived. I went with Dad... two people who could speak no English arrived with a very big box holding all of their belongings; they had come from Fairfield. We took them home to the farm & they moved into the cottage on the hill. Mum bought a German-English dictionary, & she & Maria would spend a lot of time consulting it.

School: There was a family of boys that came to the school but they didn't assimilate well. They were bullies. They were Eastern European & we believed they thought they were better than us.

Employer/ Supervisor: There is a lot in Dad's (Hube Odewahn) diaries about Thomas working for us. He did everything asked of him & the relationship appeared quite amicable. However when they left it wasn't nice.

Thomas worked with Dad & he was also set jobs where he worked away from Dad. Maria helped Mum in the house & was a good knitter; she knitted jumpers for Jenny & me. Thomas was very happy because he discovered a *Lanz Bulldog* tractor in the shed & because he had worked in the factory in Germany & the instruction book was in several languages he learnt a good deal of his English from that. It must have been very difficult for them; they were both multi lingual but had no English. They made friends with a neighbouring couple who were Italian. **Thomas was Polish/Italian; Maria, German.** We still have the very battered dictionary we used. In his 1950 diary, in March he writes that Maria & Thomas had

been to Albury & made several false statements to the Employment Officer.

The next day he gave them a weeks notice & he went into Albury & saw the Employment Officer who "reckoned I had been working the Balts overtime & was not paying them". Thomas & Maria had another meeting with the Employment Officer - however they left on the bus the following Friday.

I know in 1952, at the time of the bushfire that burnt out most of Dallaroo, we had an **English couple** stay with us (Joby & May). They came through Bonegilla from Surrey. May joined Walla CWA; I'm not sure how long they stayed, but it wasn't warm enough for them & they went to Queensland.

The third couple Dad had working for us were **Dutch** & again I went with Dad to Bonegilla. There was something that didn't suit him because we brought home a different couple to the one who had been allocated & they had 2 children (the other couple didn't have children). From what I can recall they all were accepted & fitted in very well & the children learnt English very quickly; they would interpret for their parents. They seemed to have more belongings than the previous people. They went lots of places with us as a family. Dad's 1953 diary mentions John; his wife would do housework & she was thrilled when Mum bought her first Electrolux Vacuum cleaner as we didn't have electricity in the early days on the farm. Mrs Schuur was a very hard worker & she was also a sewer. She had a Pfaff sewing machine which did things which Mum's Singer wouldn't do. The two children, Zeina & Fred, assimilated well. They did most things we children did & they went to Sunday School with us as well as to school. The family had relatives at Bombala working on a farm, & they went there from us. I was at boarding school when they left. Unfortunately John died from cancer soon after the move. Zeina had a good friend in Walla who used to keep in touch.

I also have a Dutch/English dictionary in much the same condition as the one previously mentioned.

I can also remember when the Krain's came to Walla from **Germany**.

A; > Border Personalities (Drawing p.1): "Mr A.C. SELLARS has been headmaster of Albury Grammar School for the past 11 years..." "...Director & past president of Rotary, past president of Eisteddfod & Arts Council, patron North Albury Football Club, member Albury Bowling Club (talent doubtful)"... (BMM p3, 16/8/1949)

<<< George worked at Harry Jacob's. Inga did housework for people & would wheel Harriet in her pusher to the jobs. I think the second place they lived in was across from the Methodist Church. On the days we had services Harriet would talk to us from their front gate. Their first dwelling in Walla was pretty awful as I can remember Mum saying "it wasn't fit for a dog".

Work. When I was nursing we had a number of *New Australian* nurses & doctors upgrading their qualifications & we got on well. They were our equals & the doctors were given the same respect *Old Australian* doctors were. Some of the Bush Nursing Hospitals in Victoria had only had migrant doctors & they fitted in quite well. Rainbow had a **Scot**; Yackandandah had an **Irish** man; Beulah an **Englishman**; Hopetoun a **Dutchman**; they made the towns home & took part in community affairs. Both Holbrook & Culcairn have **Indian** born doctors who have been there for a very long time, & in Albury I worked at the Base Hospital with some of the migrant doctors who are still in practice today. For some, assimilating was difficult & their home country qualifications were denigrated when they came to Australia.

Social: We lived in a country town & most of the *New Australians* came to the cities. Couples often came to the farms, so we only met the ones we & some others employed. Mum was much more accepting of all people. She talked to everyone & anyone. For Dad it was Australian & straight!! We were allowed to choose our own friends but if it meant marriage it might have been different.

Community Involvement: The Country Women's Association in Albury entertained migrant women at the hall for many years. We sometimes hear

from some about how much they enjoyed their days at the CWA. The branches throughout the state have welcomed members from overseas always. CWA has an international component at each meeting & studies a different country each year. Nationally, CWA through the Associated Country Women of the World, has a voice at the United Nations Organisation. *

Geoff Hamilton - When I worked at the NSW State Railways in 1947 I was employed in Albury in the Good Sheds when I saw the first of many 40-45 ton bogie vans arriving which contained migrant luggage coming from Sydney - originating from their owners' Baltic countries some weeks before hand. The luggage was pathetic; if I remember rightly it consisted of battered old trunks, suitcases done up with a worn out strap or a tie, a piece of rope, string or piece of hemp, or whatever could be found prior to departure from their home country. There were wooden cases, packages, slim leather brief cases & bundles.

Although I was young at the time it made me realize the fact that we in Australia are not so badly off after all. We might not have what the Jones' have, but we are affluent compared to what they had; they could carry *all* of their possessions around with them.

As the trucks arrived I had to get in contact with the **Bonegilla Immigration Center** & it wasn't long then before a fleet of Army trucks arrived at the goods sheds to take delivery of these consignments. **Joe Meixner** (born in Austria) was in charge of the operations (after 1956). After a period of time I got to know his staff & quite a number of personnel at Bonegilla & it wasn't long before I started to talk a bit of German & Russian; some of these fellows had a real dig at me. There was one well-built fellow slightly under 7 feet, shoulders broad & tapered down to a waist; he could have lifted one of the 40 - 45 ton trucks if it was derailed. He lifted me up by the scruff of the neck one day & he laughed saying "you are a funny fellow, so I'll put you down"! *

Geoff Hamilton - about Mr Joe

Meixner: I befriended Joe & quite a number of his staff & personnel from

Bonegilla & have remained strong friends ever since. As time went by I met up with Joe again - this time on the soccer field. Joe was a top grade of player & referee for the Albury Wodonga Soccer Association. I rang Joe just recently & told him of this evening & he granted me permission to use his name. He requested me to advise all that by working on the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric



Joe Meixner:
Photo: *Border Soccer*, 14/5/1975, p3.
(see article also).

Scheme & an employee of the PWD at the Hume Weir, together with the Albury Wodonga soccer fraternity, he & his wife (now deceased) were accepted & became true Aussies. *

Jan Hunter -

School: I remember when the first two migrants joined our class at Albury High. They looked different because one wore leather pants with braces & the other was very good looking with blond hair & olive skin. They turned out to be very clever & went on to do extremely well in their professions - medicine I think. I think they were quickly accepted & assimilated into the class.

Employment: My father was a builder & probably typical of working class Australians & their reaction to migrants. Everybody referred to the migrants as Balts for a long time & Dad was no exception. He also gave everyone a nickname & all migrants he had working for him became "Mick the Mige". It sounds dreadful now that no effort was made to call the men by their proper names. Dad had an apprentice, Dick, who was a keen Christian, so Dad would put the migrants to work with him. Dad knew Dick would take special care to help the migrants with their language & show them the ropes.

In the mid 1950's Dad was the first Building Inspector for Wodonga. The *New Australians* who stayed in the area had been buying land & building homes, mostly with their own hands. On an ordinary block they often had a cow, chooks, a haystack, & they grew fruit & vegetables. Having no money they used whatever they could find to

build their homes.

When inspections were first introduced to the area, many of these homes were of course substandard & it took many years to get plumbing, water & electricity connections up to safe standards. I think Dad recognised the effort these new-comers were making & went out of his way to advise & help. At the same time he had little patience with any who were trying to fool him by claiming, "No speaka da English"! *

Leslie Porter - In the late 1940's migrants from Bonegilla began to move out to Beechworth. Work was available at the Tannery, the Jail or at what was then called either the Mental Hospital or Lunatic Asylum. They were referred to in slang as 'Balts', but were mainly called 'migrants'. The children I remember from Primary School were handsome & intelligent, managing without any extra assistance. They learned the language & did very well at school within a couple of years. The girls had long plaited hair, one boy wore lederhosen. Their lunches were different at first. My sister was chosen to befriend one of the new children, & when the child was invited to our home for the day she gave as a gift a box of chocolates. The child's father had been a ship's captain in his native Latvia, but their home where we paid a return visit, (taking a bottle of cordial, after much thought!) was little better than a shed. At the time, any dwelling was acceptable as a means of getting out of the Bonegilla camps.

My mother belonged to a small group of people who attempted to welcome the newcomers. She learnt some German to assist in communication, & frequently asked the new friends to visit. One woman was a dressmaker, & my grandmother & mother both commissioned some clothes to help her business. We shifted from Beechworth in the early fifties, but my mother remained in contact with some of these friends, who were well established by then. *

Ron Braddy - When I came home from the Army I was discharged & went back to work on & off with my father. He said "listen son, you're ra-

cing up & down to Melbourne quite a bit; get a job & settle down for 12 months & you will be right". So I went out to **Bandiana** & I became a *dispatch clerk* there. At that time we had Italian prisoners of war, & that's where I started off with those migrant people. We really got on well with them & they taught us how to cook spaghetti.

Rex Chamberlain was a driver at Bandiana in those days & he went in to Wodonga & purchased sausages & rolls so we all could have a feed. We treated the POW's as our own & we really got to know them well & enjoyed their company. So, having entertained them gave us a start when the immigration center came to Bonegilla. In those days I was in Apex & **Bruno Muetzelfeldt**, who was later in charge of the Lutheran World Federation, was stationed at Bonegilla as the Padre. He was promoted & went to live in Geneva: after more study he became a Professor. He & his wife had two sons. He just recently passed away. There was a suggestion made one night (by Bruno, I think) at Apex that it would be nice if we all went out to see some of these people & make ourselves known. So we went out & got to know them well. We took them for drives & some came into Apex as guests in the evening.

Xmas time came around & the Apex club wanted to make it special for them seeing they were so far away from their homeland. Cliff Chamberlain played "Father Christmas" for the first year at Bonegilla & for the next few years I played "Father Christmas". It was a thrill & at one stage there were 400 children at the Xmas Party. On this particular day & I was the Father Xmas & the red suit was made to order



for me so it fitted well. I looked the part, - even my two daughters didn't know it was me. For 6 years as Father Christmas I arrived on the back of the utility, truck, semi-trailer, aeroplane &

Mate's horse; I had a lot of fun.

A funny thing is that my daughter & son in law in the Blue Mountains have special friends; **Frank & June**. In 1950 Frank's father came out here as a migrant from **Poland**. He was a thorough gentleman & a lovely bloke. Every time I go to Sydney they come to my daughter's place & then we go to their place: we are real coppers.

Frank's son had a garbage disposal contract in the Blue Mountains. After a few years Frank's son had an accident, so he is a quadriplegic now. Frank gave up work & had to sell his business to look after him. He sleeps in the room with him every night & attends to all his needs.

Frank's brother went up to Queensland & built a mansion, & he is building another mansion down the coast (he is in the building business). His sister married Lionel Murphy. Since Lionel passed on, she now lives on his parliamentary pension. She used to be a model & now she is sitting pretty. This is a story about a migrant family coming out in 1950 where all made good.

When I talked to Frank's father he told me that when he was first at Bonegilla he had to get some money & he went over to South Australia picking grapes. It was a hard job & his wife remained back home with two of the children. He made some money & continued from there on: the last time I saw him he had just taken possession of a Ford LTD - a beautiful car. He is building a new home up at Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains & that is the story of these people: they didn't come out here to loaf around. A lot of them came out here & really worked & they made citizens of themselves & did the world of good for the community. When we first saw them, we called them wogs. They were hard working people who made good. If you look back on those people & go up to Sydney & have lunch with them, you feel privileged to know them. *

John Craig - I became very impressed with a migrant family father & son at **Bandiana**.

I had just finished a course at RAEME training centre just >>>

PLANNING TO SPEAK AT A MEETING? Please remember to write it down & give it to a Committee Member for the Bulletin Editor. Photographs (originals or large copies) are welcome. Avoid Plagiarism - quote your sources!

after we moved down from Sydney & I was transferred from RAEME to finish my training as a Motor Mechanic at the base workshops. The Sergeant said to me he would put me with one of the top motor mechanics; I said "ok". **Peter Peric** is his name. He said "you will find him up along the line working on an old Ford blitz". He said to check in with him & I said "ok".

I caught up with Peter Peric when I first walked into the bay. He was the elderly gentleman sitting on a big tool box. I asked him "are you Peter Peric"? He said "yes" & I introduced myself. I said "where do I start" & he said "sit down, sit down", & I said "the sergeant won't let me sit down"! He said "I am the boss here, John. Sit down". The motor on the truck was running & I said to him, "what is wrong with the truck"? He said, "hush! sit down & listen & it will save a lot of trouble later on".

Peter Peric was a marvellous tradesman, just like all those men that worked there years ago. I stood there for 5 to 10 minutes until I heard a bellow from the back blocks telling me to get on with the job watching a welder, a Yugoslav chap doing a welding job. It was just like watching a hot iron running through butter, absolutely beautiful work.

Some little time later I made friends with **John**, son of Peter Peric. During the morning break we would sit around outside in the sunshine. Peter Peric cut a slice off some bread & sliced some cheese which was totally foreign to us, as you would remember. I was having a tomato sandwich while Johnny got out this green looking vegetable & it turned out to be a capsicum - & I had never tasted capsicum back then. He sliced the top off & I asked him "what in the heck have you got there"? He said "capsicum stuffed with meat", & I asked "what is it like", & he said "would you like a slice"? So I said I would sample a taste. He sliced a piece off & I took two bites, & I guarantee the flames shot out of my ears, smoke everywhere. He just collapsed with laughter! They both made a distinctive impression on me, both John & his father Peter. Even with the passing of the years John knows I really never forgave him for the capsicum.

Mary Thurling - The first *New Australian* that I met was a woman who had just given birth to a lovely little baby. I asked her how long had she been in Australia & she told me, "just long enough to make the baby". We were both patients in the Mercy Hospital in Olive Street (where the Hume Building Society is situated today). I had just given birth to Helen. The lady told me that she lived in a cottage at the Hume Weir. I never saw her again after that & I often wondered whether she still lived in the area. *

ALBURY'S HOTELS

1860-1879: by *Ray Gear*

Albury in 1860 had a population of about 1400 & its main thoroughfare was Townsend Street. Hotels licensed in that year were: '*Advance Australia*', '*Criterion*', '*Exchange*', '*Horse & Jockey*', '*Hume*', '*Imperial*', '*Rose*', '*Royal*', & '*Victoria*'. The '*Mount Pleasant*' was four miles out on the Sydney Road while the '*Plough*' was two miles out on the Gerogery Road. In



Cass's (Railway) Commercial Hotel.
Photo: "The History of Albury 1824-1895,
by Dr Arthur Andrews, p50.

Swift Street, the '*Commercial*', established in 1858, re-opened in September under the management of Mr E P Foster. Hotel names that had come & gone between 1836, when Robert Brown settled in Albury, & 1859 included: '*Albury Inn*', '*Carriers Arms*' in Townsend Street, '*Commercial*' in Townsend Street, '*Empire*' in Townsend Street, '*Gold Diggers*' (1 & 2) both in Townsend Street, '*Punt Inn*' in Wodonga Place, '*Race Course*' in what is now Mate Street, '*Squatters*' in Townsend Street, '*Travellers Rest*' in Sydney Road, & the '*Victoria*' in Townsend Street.

Hotels were important establishments in the early growth of towns fulfilling a number of functions. In addition to offering drink, company, accommodation & food, they were booking offices for coaches, they provided facilities for holding auctions, celebrations, social functions, meetings, inquests, they were used for making public addresses & provided rooms for use as offices, services & displays. Another vital function particularly for travellers was stabling, provided for horses.

Towards the end of 1860 two new hotels, added to the twelve establishments then existing, were opened in Albury. In October the '*Globe Hotel*' on the corner of Dean & Kiewa Street was opened with Jonathan Boon, late of the Commercial Hotel, Wagga, the proprietor. The *Globe*, designed & built by Daniel Driscoll for John Roper, was a two storied building containing 18 rooms, kitchen, out-house, & stabling for fifteen horses. Seven weeks later in December a publican's license was granted to Daniel Driscoll for premises to be known as the '*Bridge Inn*'. The name, Bridge Inn, was probably taken from the Bridge being erected nearby over the Murray, work on which began on the 16 August 1860. After six years, Daniel Driscoll left the Bridge Inn, putting on a Sports Carnival to thank the community for their patronage.

Across the river in Wodonga, hotel licenses were granted in 1861 to the '*Border Hotel*', '*Shamrock*' (previously '*Prince of Wales*'), & '*Wodonga*' - first established in 1858.

With Arthur Walker's removal from the '*Advance Australia*', where he was first licensee in 1859, to the '*Globe*' in 1863, the *Advance Australia* building was converted to the Albury Police Barracks. Its use as a Police Barracks was to last until about 1877, when Henry Giles reopened it as a hotel.

By early 1865 Black Range, north of Albury where gold was discovered in 1851, had a population of about three hundred persons & two buildings were being erected for use as public houses. Within the next twelve months the names of four hotels, the '*Empire*', '*Lavington*', '*Riverina*' & '*Black Range*', were appearing in local newspapers. Little is known where these hotels were sited. By 1868 it appears that all these hotels were closed, the last being the '*Empire*'.

Hector McDonald erected the '*Empire*' at Black Range in 1865. Alfred G

Sinclair took over in 1865 & was followed by J C Middleton in 1866, then George Williott in 1867. According to the Border Post, host Williott in late 1868 removed his public house to Jindera because of the abandonment of the Black Range diggings.

In 1865 John Kilfoil became licensee of the *'Imperial'* Hotel at 473 Townsend Street that had been erected in 1857 by Morris Asher. On John's passing in 1867 his wife Elizabeth became owner & licensee.

South of the *'Imperial'* on the corner of Townsend & Hume Streets the *'Horse & Jockey'* Hotel closed in 1867. Established in 1858 by Albury's first female publican Mrs Flora McEachern, the *'Horse & Jockey'* was originally known as the *'Gold Diggers'* & was the second establishment to carry this name.

In April 1868 John Green was granted a certificate authorising the issue of a publican's license for a house to be called the *'Travellers Rest'* situated at 313 Wodonga Place. In October of the same year the Old Hume Inn premises at 406 Wodonga Place (once also known as the *'Punt Inn'*), which ceased being licensed in 1866, was destroyed by fire.

The news that Mr Owen's new premises in Dean Street, now the site of the Commercial Club, were intended to be converted into a hotel, raised the question of the need for another hotel in the town. However in June 1870 James A Jones of Goulburn was granted a license for premises to be known as the *'Salutation Inn'*.

The *'Court House'* Hotel that was sited at 490 Kiewa Street is first mentioned in 1872 with the names of early licensees being Mr Selle, F W Tietyens & James McLaughlin. It was the second hotel in Kiewa Street, the first being the *'Rose'* opened in 1852.

Charles Schmiedt in January 1873 took over the *Bridge Inn* that had just undergone extensive alterations & additions by Daniel Driscoll. In October of that year however, Schmiedt was granted a licence for premises at 595 Dean Street previously occupied by Jones' New Furniture Warehouse. This license, for a hotel which he called *'Albury'*, was granted by a majority of one despite objection on the ground that another public house was not required in the locality.

Across the river at Wodonga, four hotels, the *'Wodonga'*, *'Railway'*, *'Border City'* & the *'Halfway'*, received renewal of their licenses in 1874 while two, the *'Royal'* & the *'Terminus'*, had their li-

censes adjourned. Within the next twelve months two further hotels, the *'Post Office'* & *'Carriers Arms'*, were opened in Wodonga.

James Walsh who was the builder for St Patrick's Church, was issued with a license to open in 1874 the *'Builders Arms'* Hotel at 502 Guinea Street. When Mrs Jane Poole took over as licensee in 1879 she changed the name to the *'Star'*, which is still on the same site today, on the corner of Olive Street.

Mrs Mary Mackay in 1874 took over the licence of the *'Empire'* Hotel at 441 Townsend Street & renamed the premises, the *'Carriers Arms'*. The hotel was a brick building containing 13 bedrooms, parlour, dining room, tap-room, bar & cellar. Also detached kitchen, servant's room, pantry, washhouse, & stables of twelve stalls, large yard & garden. Use of the premises at 441 as a hotel appears to have begun in 1851 when it was known as the *'Victoria'*. Later names include the *'Gold Diggers'*, the name *'Victoria'* again, then when Clement Negro was licensee in 1862, the *'Empire'*.

In Swift Street, the *'Commercial Hotel'* also had a name change, W S Potts renaming the establishment the *'Albion'* when he became licensee in 1874. His stay however was short lived.

The *'Albury Club Hotel'* on the corner of Dean & Elizabeth Streets was probably the first in Albury to be designed by an architect. Within a month of obtaining a license for the hotel, James McDonald formerly of the *'Albion'* in Swift Street, abandoned the premises in October 1875. It was reopened in November when a license was granted to George Conroy; however, as licensee his term was also short lived. The hotel was described in 1877 as containing sitting rooms, private dining rooms, bedrooms, billiard room, bar & public dining rooms, kitchens, bathrooms & also detached house for servants.

At the licensing bench meeting in 1875, Alfred John Carpenter's renewal of his 1874 publican's license, for the *'Travellers Rest'* in Wodonga Place, was refused on the grounds that he conducted his house in a disorderly & ill-governed manner. Within three months a new licence was granted to Edward Cass who renamed the premises the *'Turk's Head'* Hotel. At the licensing hearing Cass was warned that it would be necessary to secure for the place a decent reputation.

The question of need for another hotel

again arose when Arthur Cass, who previously ran a tobacco business in Dean Street, applied for & was granted a license for the *'George'* Hotel in 1876. The question of need was considered again two months later with William Mangan's application for the *'Border City'* Hotel at 470 Townsend Street.

Charles Schmiedt in February 1876 bought land at No 579 Dean Street & engaged the Architect John Gordon, (who designed the *'Albury Club'* Hotel), to design a two-storey hotel, which he opened in November 1876. With its opening Schmiedt removed the name *'Albury Hotel'* from 595 Dean Street to his new premises. The original Albury Hotel was taken over by Peter Griffiths who changed the name to *'Tattersall's'* Hotel. In 1879 Arthur Cass became licensee of *'Tattersall's'*. Today this site is still used for hotel purposes under the name *'Albion'*.

Throughout Australia the construction of railways with their navy camps provided opportunity for setting up of hotels. One such hotel set up in Albury in 1878, was Daniel J Tuomy's hotel at Fallon's Vineyard Hill, otherwise locally known as "Big Hill". These hotels were generally temporary & a year later Mr Tuomy was making an unsuccessful application for another house in a paddock adjoining the railway station reserve.

In 1878 Albury had one hotel to every 125 persons & with the intention of the licensing legislation to reduce the number of public houses, the Police Magistrate voted against Fanny Brady being granted a publican's license. Her application was again refused in June; however in July 1878 she obtained a license for the *'Market Hotel'*, at 501 Dean Street on the corner of Olive Street. The name Market being taken from the Market Reserve opposite, which is today known as Queen Elizabeth II Square.

The *'Australian'* Hotel that was sited at 481 Townsend Street was opened by J P Barrington in June 1878. With splendid balcony & extensive cellarage, the hotel contained five bedrooms, dining & sitting rooms, upstairs. Downstairs was the bar, dining rooms, kitchen & three bedrooms.

Albury's population in 1881 was about 3900 people, & Dean Street had become Albury's principal thoroughfare. In February 1881 the Great Southern Railway to Albury was opened. With the coming of the railway, four hotels opened nearby, the *'Golden Fleece'*, *'Terminus'*, *'Railway'* & *'Commercial'*, all designed by the architectural firm,

Gordon & Gordon. Their history, the history of other hotels established after 1880 & the history of Albury Hotels prior to 1860, is a talk for another day.

- **Principal Bibliography Sources:** *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express, Albury Border Post.* *

Answer To "QUESTION for MARCH"; "When & how did the first group on post-war migrants arrive at Bonegilla"?

A:- See Introduction on Page 1!

John Craig summarised some publications/journals received by the A&DHS: -from "Pro-Active Magazine, Summer 2004":

"The Women of Eureka – Assisting Their Men at the Uprising":

● Early morning on Sunday 3rd Dec 1854, saw soldiers & police troopers attack the barricades that the Ballarat miners had erected on the **Eureka Gold-fields**. Miners were protesting against high mining fees. In the fierce fighting a *Geelong Advertiser* correspondent saw women attending to diggers' wounds in the stockade. He reported that many of the miners were wounded, the blood dripping from them as they walked. Some of the women were assisting by providing handkerchiefs; others provided beds, furniture & matting. Women inside the stockade were crying over absent husbands; & children were frightened. Nancy Quinane, & school-teacher Anastasia Hayes, appeared to be present when the arm of Peter Lalor (?) was amputated. Elizabeth Lawson had loaded guns for her husband & had hidden a miner under her skirt so the troopers couldn't find him. Anne Diamond, who kept a tent stall which straddled the stockade boundary, watched as her husband was brutally shot by troopers, who then they set fire to the tent store. The troopers then delivered three cuts of the sword & a stab of a bayonet into her husband. At her hearing for compensation the gold-fields commissioner asked, "after he was shot?", & Mrs Diamond replied, "yes, they treated the bodies very badly". *

GENERAL NOTICES

1 The proposed extension of the Commercial Club will result in the demolition of two heritage buildings: (1) the former Albury branch of the Rural Bank & (2) the former



Davidson's Saddlery & Harness Factory. Davidson's has held a prominent position at the head of Townsend Street since 1874 when Albury grew rapidly as a result of the rail expansion to Wodonga. Albury City Council should call for public comment on the proposed demolitions in the next few weeks. *

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS - by John Craig

A compilation to help members find items of interest. These journals can be viewed at the Albury City Library – History Resources Room:

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS STUDIES:

1. Dawn & New Magazines on CD ROM (1952 – 1975).

BORDERLINE NEWS: Wodonga FHS Newsletter. February 2005.

1. Speaker for April 19 will be Rex Fuge from Chiltern.

"COWRA UPRISING" (Book) - One Survivor's Memoir, by Masaru Moriki (from Kokoda to Cowra).

HILLS HERITAGE NEWS: HILLS DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, February 2005.

1. John Ussher – First Post Master & School Teacher at Public School.

HISTORY: ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Magazine.

September 2004;

1. Surveying, Navigation & Cartography Methods in Historical Studies.

March 2005;

1. History Week 2005, Theme "Transform", Registration by May 27/2005.

2. The Nelson Connection in the Hawkesbury Area.

INSITES: Historic Houses Trust NSW, Autumn 2005.

1. Great War (1914-1918) Memorabilia Displayed Each Year on Anzac Day at Rouse Hill Estate.

2. Events Calendar for March-May 2005.

LINKS'N'CHAINS: Liverpool GS Journal, February 2005.

1. Annual Awards Bestowed Upon Edward Fraser, Jennifer Bulls, Dorothy McCartney & Mary Felgate.

MANSFIELD HISTORICAL

SOCIETY: Newsletter, March 2005.

1. Updating is Completed of Mansfield Cemetery Records & Headstone Inscriptions (Computer Disk Available Soon).

MURRUMBIDGEE ANCESTOR –

Journal Wagga Wagga F H S

February 2005

1. Annual Family History Seminar, 30 April 2005. -Well Known Speakers are Martyn Killion, Heather Garnsey of SAG.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF

AUSTRALIA: Magazines – June 2000/ July 2002.

1. Family Connections Between AB "Banjo" Paterson & Novelist Rosa Praed ("My Australian Girlhood").

2. "Lags & Lashes" Vocabulary of Convict Australia 1788 – 1850.

NOREUIL PARK FORSHORE UPGRADE REPORT; by Jane Longhurst.

ORAL HISTORY HANDBOOK; by Beth M Robertson.

PARRAMATTA PACKET: FH Group & HS Newsletter, June 2005.

1. Historical Snippets from John Cobley's Book on Parramatta District – 1793 to 1800.

RICHMOND RIVER (Lismore) Historical Society Bulletin: March 2005

1. Pests & Local History – Battle With Ticks & Mozzies & Role Played by Dr RM McCulloch & Capt. DF Waterhouse.

STOCKMAN'S HALL OF FAME:

March 2005

1. What Does It Mean To Be Australian? -by Lois Lane of W.A.

2. Boys 1942 – A Poem.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

(U3A) Albury/Wodonga Newsletter: March 2005

1. U3A Network Conference, 1-2 June 2005.

1. U3A Albury/Wodonga Events for April 2005.

VITAL SIGNS: State Record Office NSW. March 2005.

1. "Natura Morta" - Exhibition of Scientific Illustrations of EH Zeck & Margaret Senior – March to June 2005. *

Soden's Hotel, Wilson Street. Built 1857.

