



# BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2005 **452**

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](http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/museum)

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Patrons:  
Mr Harold Mair, O.A.

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Subscriptions:  
Individual Member \$  
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2005-2006  
Subscriptions  
now due!

New Members Welcome

THE ALBURY &  
DISTRICT HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY MONTHLY  
MEETING MEETING WILL BE  
HELD IN THE ELIZABETH  
ROOM  
COMMERCIAL CLUB ON  
WEDNESDAY 9TH  
NOVEMBER 2005 AT 8PM  
ALL INTERESTED ARE MOST  
WELCOME TO ATTEND.

- Please note: When you enter  
the club please check the  
notice board in the foyer for  
venue of meeting.

Guest speaker for November  
is Mr. Frank Davidson  
Manager, Radio station 2AY

2AY is celebrating it's 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

Question of the  
Month  
Who were some of the  
early announcers on  
2AY?

## THE ROLE OF THE PASTURES AND PROTEC- TION BOARD.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE  
MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2005  
WAS MAX BARRY, RETIRED  
PASTURES AND PROTECTION  
BOARD VETERINARIAN

The board is a statutory body, it is  
unique to NSW and it operates un-  
der the direction of locally elected  
directors and raises its funds  
largely by way of rates paid by  
landholders to finance its whole  
operation. The Pastures and Pro-  
tection Act of 1880 established  
stock boards of eight directors who  
appointed a Chairman and Secret-  
ary. The boards still have eight ap-  
pointed directors to this day, a Sec-  
retary and various other staff

The rating is related to carrying  
capacity. That is of course how  
many stock the land will carry in  
general. A person who owns 50  
sheep or five cattle or occupies  
more than 8 hectares, is a ratepay-  
er. The rates are established by the  
local board. The board works in  
conjunction with the Dept of Agri-  
culture. You may ask how did this  
arise and what do the boards do?  
It originated 180 years ago as a  
result of the needs of the Pastoral  
Industry to

1. Control the movement of stock .
2. Have diseases of stock kept un-  
der control.
3. Protect pastures from ravages of  
rabbits.
4. Control noxious animals.

The first three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup>

century were the development of  
travelling stock routes and re-  
serves. In the NSW system there  
was need to move stock from North  
to South from one area to another  
to the top Victorian markets. The  
general movement was along the  
Darling River as water was import-  
ant along all stock routes heading  
south. Parish maps at this time  
started to show stock routes. The  
annual report of the chief inspection  
of stock in 1880 included a map of  
stock routes.

By 1886 there were well estab-  
lished stock routes in the western  
and central divisions both for south-  
erly and the east west movement of  
stock. They made sure that there  
was water available on these  
routes.

The western division is situated on  
the west side of an imaginary line  
between Corowa and Wagga. Al-  
bury and district is in the central di-  
vision and our eastern boundary  
would be east and north.

In 1850's there was also move-  
ment of stock to the high country  
this allowed people to have sum-  
mer fattening and to rest their home  
pastures.

During the early 1800's there was  
a major problem in sheep, a dis-  
ease known as Scab. In 1832 'the  
Scab in sheep act' was passed. It's  
object was to prevent the spread of  
this disease which is now known as  
Psoroptic mange. It became an of-  
fence to depasture, let stray or  
abandon infected animals with the  
mange. There were penalties  
provided for anyone not doing  
that.

**John Warnock from West Australia would appreciate any information concerning the Albury Airfield around 1938, also info about a pilot William Richards alias Satan Richards or Stan Sabben**  
**You can phone Doug on 60 212835**

Scab boards were established and local people from the community became board members.

In 1863 the scab in sheep prevention act was set up in scab districts and owners with more than five hundred sheep had to pay one pound for a thousand sheep to meet the cost of its operation.

In 1854-55 Sheep Inspectors were appointed and compensation of 4 shillings per head would be paid for animals that had to be destroyed. By the 1860's there was a greatly increased movement of stock along stock routes and legalisation was needed to protect the rights of landholders and drovers. It was required by the Occupation act of 1861 that stock should not stray more than a half a mile from the recognised route when crossing unfenced land and the stock should move a certain distance each day.

The rabbit act of 1901 together with the stock act of 1901 dealt with the control of rabbits and stock diseases and animal health. In 1902 both these acts were repealed and were combined in a Pastures and Protection Act in 1902, and the economic effect of rabbits in 1965 – 66.

The act provided for the destruction of noxious animals which included kangaroos, wallabies, dingos, native dogs. The act provided for six million rabbits from Inkaminca Station in north east of South Australia is equivalent to three hundred and seventy five thousand sheep. In Southern Tablelands of New South Wales experimental blocks were clear of rabbits and stocked with sheep, this returned an extra 68.7 dollars per

hectare from wool sales over similar blocks that had 72 rabbits per hectare. Many farmers have rabbit proof fences which was quite extensive particularly in Queensland.

Further amendments followed and a new Pasture and Protection Act was introduced in 1934. It provided for the establishment of the P. P. District Boards, travelling stock routes, public walking places, noxious animals and that included dingo patrols.

On the right hand side as you drive through the Jindera Village there is a public walking place with a dam and the same as you drive through Burrumbuttock going toward Brocklesby, just on the left hand side before you go up the hill, there is a public walking place. They are scattered around the state to enable people to water.

In 1989 there was a name change to Rural Lands Protection Board, I had some increased responsibility and some extra duties. The name change was thought to be more appropriate as there were many smaller holdings. The owners of those smaller holdings were concerned that the care of the land in the area near Camden and Moss vale where there were thousand of small holdings. Those people were concerned about the preservation of the land. This new name became the accepted name of the organisation. Stock movements on the hoof were much reduced at this time except at drought time when the owners would seek to use the "long paddock." Stock required to travel a minimum distance in the early Act was 6 miles, it is now 10 kilometres for sheep per day, and cattle 10 miles or 16 kilometres per day. If the reserve is a shorter distance it is accepted that they would camp on the reserve.

The crown have large areas of land they are quite a big landholder really, they vary in size from a few acres to quite large holdings and those are set aside for overnight camping if you go from here to Howlong for example, just before

you go up Dights hill on the left hand side, there is a small triangular shape reserve. There it is a dam and a little stock yard.

When you go down the Riverina Highway on the way to Howlong, there is a 12 mile reserve near the Murray river. Two miles further down there is a 14 mile reserve, again goes down to water. This side of Howlong at the "Wiseworth" property there is a scouts camp. that is on a reserve also.

These are the sorts of reserves that are scattered, so that stock can move up and camp overnight, these days in particular it is important to have stock off the road at night, so there will be no accidents on the road. The Rural Lands Protection Act requires landholders to eradicate pest animals and insects. The declared pest species are no longer called noxious animals they are now pests species, which currently include wild rabbits, wild dogs, feral pigs and certain locusts. There were a lot of interesting locusts here a few months ago they came down as far as Culcairn and Holbrook areas.

People have the responsibility to control them and the board is part of that controlling operation. Identification of stock has become important this is in order to follow the movement of stock and the background of stock particularly for disease control and chemical residues. The identification of stock includes brands for cattle and horses, ear marks for large and small animals (cattle and sheep for example) sheep brands, ear tattoos, swine brands, national livestock identification. Pigs are branded on the shoulder with tattoo ink. It is important that they can trace the origin of the carcass that is hanging on the hook, if there is something wrong they can identify where it came from.

The landholder must register a proper identification code for cattle and pigs kept on their land. Disease control and stock goes back to 1861 when Alexander Bruce was appointed as a cattle in-



spector. In 1864 he became the chief inspector of stock.

In the middle 1850's a cow in the Melbourne area became sick and the veterinarians of the day looked at it and diagnosed it as having pluronemonia, probably called a cattle plague in those days. They recommenced at that time, the infected animal be destroyed and all animals that were in contact within a five miles radius to be quarantined.

However the usual arguments and procrastination went on and nothing much was done about it, so keep in mind at that particular time in Australia the main transport system was bullock teams. The bullock teams went past the infected properties and they proceeded to take it all over the state and across the border into NSW. It crossed the river near Tintaldra and spread into the that area.

There was a property near Holbrook that had infected cattle and they had to destroy 5,000 thousand head. They had to eradicate that property of the disease. They use bullock teams to drag them up into the gully and the bullock teams were the last in. The disease spread north up into Queensland, across to the northern territory and over into the Kimberly's, they finally eradicated it a few years ago. The lack of action in the early days allowed it to spread all that way.

Inspectors of Stock provided the disease control and investigation under the direction of Department of Agriculture. Lay persons could be inspectors up to 1935 and after that they were required to be graduates of veterinary sciences from a recognised University. In 1957 there was an acute shortage of graduates so they appointed rangers. These were men that were able to help the veterinary inspector carry out their duties. For example sheep in saleyards were checked for lice, it was offence to sell them under the stock diseases act so the rangers were called on to carry out that work. There were a number of other duties they were called on to do as

well. Supervision of cattle and sheep on the road to make sure they were travelling a reasonable distance and that they were not infected in some way.

Some years ago we had a lot of stock on the road and on one particular occasion I had something like five thousand cattle in the two districts that I looked after on the road. There was ten mobs and there was about 500 hundred in each mob. They could follow each one around, but they had to be a day or so apart.

Stock routes in the Albury area came in west from Pemberton street down Padman drive into Wodonga place then on to the Union bridge and the stock route took a sharp turn to the right as soon as you were over on the Victorian side of the river and it went around past the Wilks-Peacock farm, the Lemke families dairy properties running pararell to the Lincoln Causeway and it came out near the Wodonga Creek Bridge. The property on the stock route that was situated close to the Wodonga Creek belong to the Ruess family.

We use to have quite regular movements of stock at that time. The late Robert Richardson for example use to go up to Queensland. He would buy about a 1000 steers from around the Roma district and they would be split up into two mobs of 500 and two drovers between drive them all the way down on the stock routes to Victoria and they would have two special sales of the cattle in wodonga. At the time pluro neammonia had been a problem. It had been cleaned up in Victoria, NSW and Queensland, but they were still had some problems in the NT and the Kimberleys.

There was a requirement at that time that any cattle going into Victoria from Queensland had to spend 180 days in NSW. The Victorians were making sure that if the disease broke out it would be in NSW and not in Victoria. It didn't always work, but they tried it. While walking these cattle down they could spend the 180 days grazing on the

way growing fattening and arrive here ready for the market, so it was a good move. It was done for quite a number of years.

In 1975 the Bull report reviewed the P.P Board system and made recommendations including that of boundaries in the Central and Western divisions e.g. Albury and Hume. Various Board Districts have since been combined. Corowa, Urana, Jerilderie are now Murray and Albury is combined with Hume.

It was called the Bull report because it was done under the chairmanship of Senator Tom Bull and the review made some recommendations to the government.

The Board staff have played an important role in disease control programs e.g. The pneumonia eradication in the early 1950's, swine fever eradication in the early 1960's and more recently TB and Brucellosis in cattle. The staff became important because of the exporting of meat overseas, they had to make sure that the meat was fit for human consumption. The Americans didnt want cattle going into their country from places that might have TB or Brucellosis.

Currently footrot is under control in sheep and there is a current program in progress for Ovine and Bovine Johne's disease.

The boards continue to provide protection for stock and land and pest control which would become very important as there is always a risk of foot and mouth disease entering Australia.

Max quoted a few lines from the poem Saltbush Bill.

Now this is the law of the overland  
that all in the west obey,  
A man must cover with travelling  
sheep a six mile stage a day;  
But this is the law which the drovers  
make, right easily understood,  
They travel their stage where the  
grass is bad, but they camp where  
the grass is good,  
For this is the law of the Great  
Stock Routes, 'tis written in

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***The Society still has a small number of Hume Dam Videos presented by Gerry Curtis. The cost is \$25.00 plus postage***

white and black-

The man that goes with a travelling mob must keep to a half mile track;  
And the drovers keep to a half mile track on the runs where the grass is dead,  
But they spread their sheep on a well-grassed run till they go with a two-mile spread.

*Banjo Patterson*

Max said that it had been a continuing change over the years and has all been progressive. The Pastures and Protection Board is now known as the Rural Lands Protection Board.

He said that he was indebted to Garry Green who prepared a paper this year for the RLPB and who provided him with dates. Max was a practising veterinarian inspector for the the PPB in the mentioned districts for about 25 years.

### **Early Years of VALENTINE WOODING 1873-1959**

#### **PART 2 - by Joe Wooding**

Many mysteries surround the life and times of Valentine Wooding.

At the August Society meeting, a brief outline of Woodings Jewellers and Opticians, Dean Street, was presented.

My father's year of birth was given as 1884. The reason for it being revised 1873 to 1959 is given as the story unfolds.

Both the Border Morning Mail and the Daily News published a considerable amount about his business and public life here.

Two advertisements in particular, provide an intriguing insight into

the past.

In February 1922, Wooding's Opticians, through the Border Morning Mail, advised the public of the appointment of Mr Ashton Smith as their second optician. The other, Valentine Wooding MV.O-A has had 15 years experience in leading shops in Melbourne and Bendigo. The 15 years creates a problem with arithmetic.

Again, this time in May, both Albury papers ran identical adverts to the electors of Albury Municipality.

"Having decided to stand for the vacancy on the Council caused by the retirement of Alderman Smithenbecker, Valerntine requested the support of his friends and the ratepayers generally, to secure his election. He had 5 years experience as a Councillor in Beechworth Victoria and was Chairman of Finance Committee prior to him coming to Albury. This clearly puts him living in Beechworth from 1912 to 1916 or perhaps earlier. The 15 years in Melbourne and Bendigo have to be pre Beechworth.

The years were not adding up. It was time to get my father's birth and death certificates to find some answers. Bingo! My birth certificate of February 6th, 1938 gives my father's age as 54, making 1884 his year of birth.

Not so! Joseph Henry Wooding was born in Maryborough, Vic on February 14th, 1873 making him 64 years and 357 days old when I arrived.

He had fudged his age by nearly 10 years. His father was Eli Wooding bootmaker born in Northampton, England and mother Elizabeth Ann, born Durham, England. Both were 27 years of age in 1873.

My fathers' death occurred in Daylesford Hospital on December 1, 1959, aged 86.

No funeral was ever held, his death certificate gives a number

of facts and includes the following details 'undertaker W.G Raven & Co, delivered the body to the anatomy department, Melbourne University on December 3rd, 1959 to Mr Preston, Laboratory Steward'. It was no family secret that he had willed his body to science.

He received considerable radium treatment prior to his death. J.H Wooding 1873-1959. The Valentine was very much of his own making.

His first marriage to Eva Alberta Hollister took place at Maryborough Vic, in 1909. It is not known if his wife and two sons moved with him to Albury in 1916 or when his first marriage failed,

About 12 months ago I received an unexpected phone call from Mr David Han of the Beechworth Hospital.

The Beechworth Hospital was moving into new premises and they had no room for a piano which had a plaque inscribed 'Donated by the sons of the late E.A Wooding of Stanley, July 1975.'

Eva Alberta is of course my fathers first wife, the sons are my two half brothers. We now have a piano, but no musical talent.

His second marriage to Alice Matilda Rose at Oakleigh Victoria in 1936 disintegrated in 1949 when my mother, with her four children, left the Hepburn Springs home and moved to Albury.

A.H Rose was her father. He had jewellery shops, first in Ryans Building, Olive Street from about 1948 and then moved to the CML Building, Dean Street where he traded until the 1960's. Another daughter, Esma, opened Nankervis Jewellery shop in Corowa about 1960.

No research has been done in relation to either my father's council or business interests in Beechworth.

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### **RESEARCH FEES.**

**The Albury & District Historical Society Research officer Helen Livsey will undertake history research on behalf of the Society at a fee of \$20 per hour, plus printing, postage costs & a business size stamped addressed envelope.**

**\$20 should be sent with initial inquiry to P.O. Box 822 Albury 2640.**

*Helen Livsey*

Several years ago however, the Talbot Museum enquired about a jewel box engraved "Wooding Jewellers, Beechworth" when Jill was visiting their establishment.

One of my few re-collections is hearing him tell stories of how he rowed a boat across the Murray with watches and various items to avoid paying duty. It is only recently I have realised border customs were not abolished until 1915 and he was in fact was taking goods to Beechworth, not the reverse.

Valentine Wooding began his four years on Albury Council when he was successful at the bi-election to fill Ald. Smithenbecker's vacancy on Saturday, May 20th, 1922.

The Albury Daily News, Friday May 26th, 1922 reported the Council meeting and listing Ald. V Wooding as one of those present. It was not long before the new man was at odds with his fellow aldermen. The first letter dealt with was from A A Hart complaining about the increase of rates in Albury. Inspector J Seymour made a report.

The second letter was from Mr Arthur Thompson asking Council to re-consider the decision to erect public conveniences in Dean Square. Ald. Wooding said that "as an outsider and not knowing why Council had chosen the Dean Square site, he was opposed to it". (There was no mention of the new conveniences being opposite his

shop). By opposing at his first meeting, a decision by his fellow aldermen had already made, it was a curious way to begin his public life here and would not have endeared him to his colleagues.

His second meeting reported on June 8th, 1922 saw him attack the Council's building code and as reported Ald V Wooding asked if regulations in regard to buildings could not be more liberally interpreted and requested that Council officers "go easy" when discharging their duties.

By 1922 the new State movement was in full swing. It was seen by some that the mainland states were too unwieldy and should be split into smaller ones. Albury Municipal Council was at pains to point out that they were not involved in this semi political movement, when the Albury Town Hall became the venue for an all Australian Conference on the matter on July 3rd and 4th 1922.

The new State League of Riverina had among its delegates at this meeting its President, Mr E.J. Gorman, Berrigan and Secretary, Ald. Valentine Wooding. Albury. Other delegates from NSW included representatives from Northern, Southern Tablelands and South Coast. Queensland had people from Southern and Central while W.A. were represented by delegates from the Eastern Goldfields and North West Australia.

Some 12 months after this conference, Mr E.J. Gorman and Ald. Valentine Wooding had a fallout let it go without saying that State boundaries were never changed. The press coverage given to the movement over several years was extensive the use of Riverina in a number of Woodings' Jewellers advertisements would have stemmed from this involvement.

At the Albury Council meeting August 16th, 1922, Ald. Wooding attacked the Wodonga Council for their in action relating to the state of the bridges between Albury and Wodonga. Something

of a claytons remedy was reached when a more softly worded resolution was passed than that proposed by Ald. Wooding. With Albury making rapid civic progress, a report in the BMM, Thursday, October 12th, 1922 appeared. 'Electric Trams - the Proposal for Albury' was the headline. The Electrical Engineer, Mr. R.C Creasey, was behind the idea. A lengthy article was published re costs etc. On Tuesday, November 21st. Another transport upgrade was mooted. This time electric buses - it was all happening, but no reference to Ald Valentine Woodings' 'views on this method of public transport were found. There is little doubt, he would have had some.

Council triennial elections were there was a referendum on the question "Are you in favour of Council spending 7,000 pounds on an Electric Bus Service in Albury"? Result-Yes 61, No 377, Informal 13. No reason was found for the low referendum vote.

The election of 9 Aldermen saw W.C Woods, 402 top the poll with J.H.V. Wooding clinging to ninth spot with 308, to edge out Ald. Brann, 300 and the Mayor Ald. Waugh, 270. One week later, Ald. C.H Burt was elected Mayor unopposed. Ald. Wooding/Ald. Wilson "proposed that the Mayoral allowance remain at 100 pounds p.a". Carried.

1923 was to see Ald. Wooding head west all the way to Perth in fact with leave of absence granted by the Council. On his return, the good people of Albury were treated to a day by day account of the whole experience when the Border Morning Mail published a three parts serial entitled "A Tour of the West - Five Thousand Miles by Rail" by Ald. V. Wooding. At his first Council meeting back, renewed vigour was evident.

A letter from Department of Education was read, in reply to Council's letter re relief to Albury

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Public School Girls Department during Miss Allen's absence when the Infants School was left un-staffed. Ald. Wooding considered the Department contemptible for their handling of the matter. No action was taken. He then moved to traffic problems and wanted, signs limiting traffic to 4 mph at intersections. Some vehicles were turning at 25 mph. No action taken.

**to be continued.**

## OUT OF DARKNESS

Zolton Torey arrived at Bongilla just after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war. During his one week stay at Bongilla he paid a couple of visits to Albury a nearby middle sized township. It was an excursion into the past, strolling around in a sleepy quite well cared for ghost town.

He found neatly trimmed lawns and flower beds, mostly red brick houses, cottages whose front doors were framed by stained glass or headlight. Houses named, rather than numbered streets, asphalted, trees and parks. In the Botanic gardens a variety of exotic plants. He climb the moderate sized central hill with it's cascading steps leading up to a War memorial.

There was a faint air of melancholy about the place. no sign of poverty or a recluse. A timeless boredom hung in the air that couldn't been seen to shift, it's entire existence of lifestyle reaching dynamics of that cutting edge of any time.

In the centre of the town there were a few two story buildings, banks, offices and department stores, warehouses and of course a few hotel drinking galleries.

by **ZOLTON TOREY.**

## Financial Members of the Society for the financial year 2005-2006

### LIFE MEMBERS

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Mr. & Mrs. J. Wooding\*

## XMAS PARTY

**The festive season is fast approaching, so bookings have opened for the A & D.H.S. Annual Xmas party that will be held in the Commercial Club Wattle Room on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.**

Cost of Carvery \$24.00

Payment for the Xmas Party to be made at the November meeting.

**There will also be a lucky door prize at the November meeting for one Xmas dinner.**