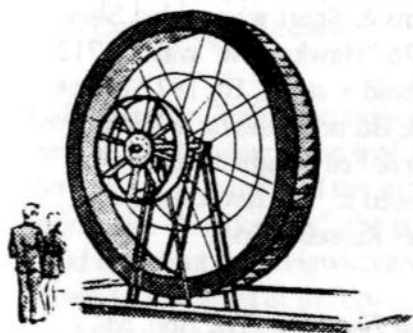


BULLETIN



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

President: Mr. John Craig (02) 6025 6041

Secretary: Mr. Ron Braddy (02) 6021 2038
P.O. Box 822, Albury, N.S.W. 2640

Meetings: Commercial Club, Dean Street, Albury.
8.00 p.m., 2nd Wednesday of the month

Albury Regional Museum (02) 6051 3450
Turks Head, Wodonga Place, Albury
Open every day, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Subscriptions: Individual Member \$20
Corporate Member \$50

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NEXT MEETING

8pm Wednesday March 10
Commercial Club, Dean Street, Albury

GUEST SPEAKER Greg Howard
on "*Sheriffs & Judges in Albury*".

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

When was the first Court House built in Albury?

FUTURE EVENTS

Albury Regional Museum -closed March to April 2004.

Wed. March 17, St Patrick's Day Bus Tour (Wodonga Historical Society), Walbundrie; Rand (Murrnong Homestead 1896); Lockhart (verandahs, Brooklock Studio for displays of spinning, weaving, hand-made paper & leather plaiting, Museum, Craft Shop); **Lunch at Pleasant Hills Hotel (1917-18);** then Culcairn Railway House 1883. **Depart** Havelock St Wodonga 9am, return about 5pm. Cost is \$40 & includes coach, morning tea, mid-day meal & entrance fees. Book with Martin's Tours & Travel ph.02 6040 4400.

April 24 to May 2, Heritage Festival Week; Talk by *Gerry Curtis* on Wed. 28th April, 7pm at Albury Library. Display of maps & plans of buildings around the QEII Square Cultural Precinct.

REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING

HAWKSVIEW

The Society was addressed by *Roslyn Webb* from historic 'Hawksview' sheep & cattle station, Riverina Highway Hume Weir. (For farm tourism ph. 02 6026 4317).

Early History: The Hume & Hovell expedition passed through this terrain in Nov. 1824 as they sought a crossing of Hume's River (renamed Murray by Charles Sturt in 1830). Eventually they & their six assigned convicts floated their two bullock wagons across with the help of tarpaulins. This was at a place where the hills ran steeply down to the river, not heavily timbered, near the present Lake Hume Resort.

Photo: MJ Katalinic



Shearing Demonstration on the board at Hawksview -Michael Webb

>>>

HAWKSVIEW

<<< Eleven years later

(1835) William Wyse brought cattle south from Yass for his boss, Charles Hotson Ebdon, & formed "Mungabareena Run". It extended from Albury to Table Top to the Murray River beyond Bethanga Bridge & followed the Murray back to Albury. Wyse also crossed the river & formed the "Bonegilla Run".

In 1836, brothers Charles & Paul Huon de Kerilleau (known as Huon) arrived & squatted south of the river on what became the "Wodonga Run". Soon after, another brother, Aime, & brother in law Robert Brown, arrived. They were persuaded to set up a store for travellers near Hume & Hovell's first sighting of the river (near the present Union Bridge). This store, at what was known as "The Crossing Place", was the start of Albury.

The Mitchells: By 1837 "Mungabareena Run" was gazetted in the name of the Mitchells. Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell (sister of the Huon brothers) was widowed soon after & sent her eldest son Thomas, aged 19, down from their home "Brisbane Meadows" at Bungonia, near Goulburn, to take charge. Following the death of her mother in 1842, Elizabeth brought the rest of her children down to the Hume. "Mungabareena Run" was enlarged & then gradually eroded by the encroaching city of Albury & the effects of the Robertson Land Act. Under her pre-emptive right Elizabeth bought as much of the riverside land as was permissible & around 1859 gifted the upstream portion to her son John Francis Huon Mitchell. He named it "Hawksview" after the view from Mt Hawk & soon made it freehold. Mt Hawk may have been named after the Peregrine Falcons flying about. The third riverside home of the Mitchells was built in 1852 on the western slopes of Mt Hawk & is still standing today. The previous homesteads were near the present day Albury Pumping Station & at the end of Hawkscote Rd. JFH Mitchell's infant daughter Mabel is said to be buried on present day "Hawkscote" after dying as a result of scalding (1869). Mrs Mitchell became known as "The Mother of Albury" & her children played a key role in settlement of the Upper Murray.

Map: RA Broadbent



Following the Mitchells: In 1875 "Hawksview" was purchased by Elms & Scott who added Shelleys land to it. In 1876 "Hawksview" was 10,712 acres (4,335 ha) freehold + stock. By 1877 it was owned by Mackellar & Burnett, passing to King in 1888. In 1902, Hogan & Fell bought it, added Smith's land & also fenced it. The next owner was the Hon. William Lionel Russell Clarke.

The Heywood & Webb Families: The Hon. Mr Clarke sold "Hawksview", now 4,300 acres (1,740 ha), to his friend Mr P.T. Heywood in Sept. 1919. The purchase fulfilled a promise to Mr Heywood's son, Mr P.H. Heywood who was recently discharged from the British Army after being gassed & held prisoner in Germany during WWI. Later, P.T. Heywood's grandson, Mr S.P.P. Webb (Phil) joined the property (1941). It is interesting to note that Phil & his uncle Captain P.H. Heywood married sisters (Dainty & Beatrice Gillett). The property is now owned by P.T. Heywood's great grandsons John & Michael Webb. Michael & his family live in the old homestead, making a fifth generation of Heywood/Webbs at "Hawksview". Hence the present property "Hawksview" is the remainder of the first run on the Murray.

Mining: The Hawksview range was tunnelled for gold in the 1880's without exciting results. There are many vertical shafts on the western slopes. The "Pride of the Hume" crushing battery was visible on the banks of the Murray off Smith's paddock when the weir was low but it's state is now unknown.

Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Interest: It was thought that the hills were denuded of trees during the mining time by gangs of Chinese workers. However in 1925 "Hawksview's" lagoon area was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary & the remainder was declared a wildlife refuge in the 1940's. Approx. 200 species of birds have been recorded on the property. Mr & Mrs Phil Webb were very interested in wildlife & conservation & many of the projects started by them are being continued by their children & grandchildren today. Eg. Fencing & revegetation of the banks of Hawdon's Lagoon. Hawdon was the first mail contractor between Melbourne & Sydney

(1838). He used to camp at "Hawksview" on his run from Corryong to Adelaide.

Lake Hume: During the early 1930's rich "Hawksview" flats were inundated by Lake Hume. Although the acreage was reduced the submerged land still remains with "Hawksview", the authorities owning flood easement only. Hawksview bridge, which gave access to Bethanga & the upper Murray, went under the water & was replaced by the Bethanga Bridge. The road from Albury to Lake Hume sliced through the property.

Buildings: One of the original buildings still standing (built 1852) has pit sawn slabs, wooden shingles, home made bricks, hessian ceiling, a large cellar & gun slits in the walls for defence against aboriginal attacks. The Mitchell family enjoyed an easy relationship with the local Woradgeri tribe, but following a night raid from another tribe some years before at the Thurgoona homestead, they were taking no chances. By 1860 most of the aborigines had gone, succumbing to European diseases & competition for resources.

The Heywoods roofed over three of the original five buildings in 1926 to form the present homestead. Many of the old features were retained. The inner brick walls rest on log foundations & the shingles are covered by tin. A beam with the date 1838 was found during renovations but sadly one of the workmen burnt it!

The original wool shed (built in the 1870's) is still in use & was converted from an eight stand blade shed to a six stand machine shed in 1909. A 1905 Hornsby Oil engine was used to drive the overhead gear & this has been restored by Mr Bernard Smith of Tallangatta. Later a Lister Petrol engine & subsequently an Electric engine were installed. The main supports for the shed are whole tree trunks & the catching pens are all wood.

There is a machinery shed with a central drive way for easy access for loaded wagons (probably 1890's). Unfortunately the stables with stalls, hay loft, chaff house & harness room was ravaged by white ants & replaced. A blacksmith's shop with forge, bellows & anvil still stands. Shearer's Quarters by the lagoon, originally one hut in the 1870's, with tiered bunks, was altered in keeping with the

Rural Accommodation Act.

These buildings were used by the local Naval Cadet Unit for fifteen years. Just west of the Shearer's Quarters is a grove of Elms that were planted to shade the sheds for the station dog pack of 40 to 50.

Diaries of 1927 show "rabbiting" entries every second day. Whippets &

greyhounds were used to chase rabbits. In Jan. 1928 a cyanide machine was bought to gas the burrows. Rabbit stew was common food. They had a full time "rabbiter" who had his own hut. During the 1950's, 200,000 rabbits were killed on "Hawksview" over three years at a cost of £6,000. Wages were around £15 per week at the time so it was an expensive exercise. The introduction of myxomycosis had a profound effect!

Photo: MJ Katalinic



Blacksmiths shop at Hawksview

Photo: MJ Katalinic



Wool room at Hawksview

Present Enterprise:

"Hawksview", now just 3,000 acres (1,214 ha), has seen it's share of flood, pestilence & drought but still grazes Hereford & cross bred cattle for the export market, fine wool Merino sheep & cross bred fat lambs. Sires are purchased each year from well respected studs. Gone are the days when six or seven year

old steers were walked to the rail head at Ebdon for transport to the Newmarket Sale Yards in Melbourne. Similarly the family no longer watch the wool being sold at the auction rooms in Dean St Albury (now the Commercial Club). Cattle are trucked to Wodonga or sold direct from the property. Wool is sold by description in Sunshine Vic, although samples are still made available for overseas buyers to handle. Farm forestry, Landcare &

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small scale Farm Tourism have been introduced.

We members of the Webb family are thankful to those who have come before us & are proud to be associated with "Hawksview". Hopefully, as our understanding of sustainable agriculture grows, we will be able to hand this land on in even better condition than it is now. *-Roslyn Webb- 11/2/04*

NOTES: 1924 Diary entries show:

1. Kerosine (petrol) tins & wooden case.
2. Parties were motored around the "weir" (weir opened in 1936)!
3. 16th Feb. rained 77points (20mm) overnight.

GENERAL NOTICES

1 Members aspiring to be future Bulletin Editors should obtain a 'free' copy of 'Star Office 5.2' &/or 'OpenOffice.org 1.1' for their PC-Windows/Linux from *Helen Livsey (Ph.02 6021 3671)* & learn how to use it. It should simplify the problem of members who would otherwise have different software.

2 A vote decided to retain the A&DHS monthly meeting time of **8pm start**.

3 The bungalow (original kitchen) at the rear of the old house, "**The Frauenfelder/Gabel**" at 791 David St Albury, has been demolished. Council agreed to photograph the building before demolition.

4 *June Shanahan* (Ph 02 6025 1324) is proceeding with the purchase of a high quality tape recorder & a video recorder on behalf of the A&DHS, so that members can engage in the recording of **oral history**. Melbourne Archives have requested a copy of all historical recordings.

5 **GIFTS gratefully received by the Society:** From *Roslyn & Michael Webb* of Hawksview; the late Mr SPP (Phil) Webb's Albury Sheep Show & Show Society records including *Prize List, Rules & Regulations, & Catalogue of Exhibits* at the first Albury Sheep Show & Fair in 1946, *Annual Reports*, details of the transfer of the Albury Show Grounds from Young St to Mate St (1936), & some *Historical Facts* about the Albury Sheep Show.

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(Bulletin Editor: Michael J. Katalinic, Phone 02 6025 9347)

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ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE NIGHT (February 11)

When did the Heywoods first take over Hawksview?

The land was purchased in September 1919, & the family moved in a month later.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS

compiled by John Craig

This list has been compiled to help members find items of interest.

These journals can be viewed at the Albury City Library – History Resources Room.

ANCESTOR: Journal of Wagga Wagga FHS.
January 2004

1. Early Days (Part I) Reminiscences by Mr Geo. Seymour.
2. Wagga Wagga FHS Annual Seminar, Sat 1st May 2004.

DESCENT: Journal of Society of Australian Genealogists
Dec 2003

1. Free Railway Passes – A New Source For Research.
2. Archival Anecdote, Notes and News.

HAWKESBURY CRIER: F.H.G. Newsletter
December 2003

1. The Persells & The Coromandel. The Voyage.
- Final instalment cont. From Sept. 2003 issue-

MEMENTO: News from National Archives
Jan 2004

1. Serendipitous Discoveries on Norfolk Island.
2. Communists, Spies & Red Tape.

MRS "ROLF BOLDREWOOD'S" THE FLOWER GARDEN IN AUSTRALIA: Part I
by Dirk H R Spennemann

SAMOAN MAIL FRAUD & JAMES FALLON, by
Dirk H R Spennemann.

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS (SAG) Pamphlet,
January 2004

1. What's on at SAG, Jan 10/ Jun 25, 2004.

VITAL SIGNS: State Record Office NSW
December 2003

1. Russian Ark – Shooting of an Entire One & One Half Hour Film in a Single Shot, by Alexandr Sokurov.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

5.15pm Tuesday March 23, 2004, at
Albury City Library.



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