

## November 2025

## No 672

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

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### Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

6.30 pm, Commercial Club, Albury

**Topic:** A&DHS Annual Dinner



One of Natalie Ward's paintings of Noreuil, France. The church depicted was destroyed during World War I and faithfully rebuilt.  
More Nat Ward paintings on page 3.

**ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM**  
**Disrupt, Persist, Invent:**  
**achieving social change**  
**in Australia.**  
**Until December 7.**

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architect.

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soldier.

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### PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

We were treated to a wonderful presentation by Albury artist Natalie Ward at our October meeting. Natalie displayed three of her beautiful paintings and shared numerous photos. Read the detail of Natalie's presentation in this Bulletin.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous contribution Jenny Romero made to our successful cemetery walk on Sunday October 26. Jenny researched many of the stories of the people whose graves we visited and wrote the stories which made the day an enjoyable one. Thanks also go to Howard, Greg and Helen who all made significant contributions to the research and the management of the logistics of the outing which drew a large attendance.

We are all looking forward to our annual dinner to be held as our November meeting. Just a reminder that there will be no guest speaker to allow members an opportunity to share stories with fellow members and get to know each other a little better. Greg Ryan has prepared a quiz with prizes. Questions relate to Albury history and we think you will find it an entertaining challenge. Tickets are \$45 each. Bookings, with payment, close Friday November 7. See you there!

Thank you to all members who have renewed their Society membership for 2025/26 and to our generous corporate sponsors who, without exception, continue to support us.

## THE TWO NOREUILS

*Natalie Ward is a prominent Albury artist who presented to our October meeting. It is a story of two places called Noreuil, one in Albury and the other in France. They are connected by World War I. Her art is the medium she uses to tell the shared story of history, of resilience, of courage and of remembrance. What follows is an account of her interpretation of the connection.*

Natalie uses oil on either canvas or paper as the medium to express her creativity. She aims to share with the people viewing her art, her insights into the nuances of the bushland, its fragility, the ambiguous shapes and whimsical colours. Her main concern “is for my paintings to be intriguing, to evoke curiosity which I hope leads to knowledge and respect of the unique and complex landscapes that I paint.” She mainly paints the landscapes she spends time hiking through, namely the bushland around Nailcan Hill and the Murray River in Albury.

Natalie followed her passion after completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Canterbury University) with a major in Painting, and her artwork is held in public and private collections in Australia and worldwide. Her solo exhibitions in Sydney, Melbourne and Albury have been a great success. Nat has been a finalist in prestigious art prizes including The Hadley’s Art Prize, The Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, The John Leslie Landscape Prize and in 2025, she won the John Villiers Outback Prize.

The Noreuil project was conceived during her many hikes along the Murray River and through Noreuil Park. During her presentation she commented that when talking about Noreuil to local people, she would estimate that ninety percent of them have no idea of the Noreuil story, or why a beautiful peaceful riverside park in Albury is named after a tiny village in northern France. She set out to raise awareness of the connection between the two places through her artwork.

The village of Noreuil took on a special significance for Albury during World War I, when the events of April 15, 1917 were commemorated in the naming of the riverside park. The first battle of Bullecourt left the Australians seriously weakened by casualties. The Germans attacked with a force of 6000 men in the early hours of April 15, breaking through and capturing all of 1st Division artillery. Counter attacking at 5.30am, Major Ray ordered the Albury Battery guns to be dragged out of the pits so they could fire at very short range. It was very dangerous but very effective. The Australian counterattack forced the Germans to surrender in great numbers and retreat from the battle at Noreuil. The second battle of Bullecourt was yet to be fought and the war ground on until armistice in 1918.



After the war, the Albury Battery members were asked by Alderman Alf Waugh to suggest a name for the new park being developed to honour and remember the war. They chose Noreuil, saying that there they had been surrounded but had stood to their guns and played a major role in driving back the enemy. It was, they thought, their finest feat of the war.

Natalie after hearing the story, was inspired to create a series of paintings to bring this narrative to light. Her vision was to connect the “two Noreuils,” the park in Albury and the village in France. After presenting her vision and receiving an approval to hold an exhibition at the Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA) she started painting the scenes she knew best, Noreuil Park in Albury creating a portfolio of beautiful images of the river.

Following the presentation in Paris, Natalie returned to Noreuil to share an evening with the village residents.

She then visited Noreuil in France to meet the villagers, explore its history and gather material

for the next phase of the project. Natalie experienced for herself the contrasting landscapes which became the central theme of her paintings. She said “the Albury park paintings are fluid and luminous, filled with light, water, and the wild forms of gum trees. In contrast, the French paintings are more formal and structured, depicting the village’s cemetery, chapel and church – evoking a sense of reflection and honouring the soldiers who rest there. The flat terrain of Noreuil, France, is punctuated by towering trees that stand like sentinels,



Above: Natalie's visit to Noreuil has been transformative. She spent time with the mayor and met a local farmer who shared vivid insights into the battle and its enduring impact on the village. The physical remnants of war – grenades, shells, and even human remains – still emerge from the fields, serving as stark reminders of the past. The villagers' profound gratitude and understanding of these events are deeply ingrained in their collective identity.

guarding the memory of those who fell."

Natalie explained that when the paintings are displayed together "they create a subtle dialogue between the two places. I imagined the soldiers who built Noreuil Park in Albury experiencing this same contrast – the stark landscapes of war replaced by the tranquillity of the Murray River."

After the exhibition at MAMA in late 2024, she said people visiting the exhibition "have been deeply moved and intrigued by the story." The response has been overwhelming.

In June 2025, Natalie was invited to go to France to be presented with the Recognition Medal from the Mémoires du Mont-Valérien in Paris for fostering cultural connection and preserving memory through art.

Refer to [Albury Goes to War](#)

Below: Two of Nat's paintings were hung side-by-side at MAMA, left the Coral Tree in Albury's Noreuil Park and a similar shaped tree in the war cemetery in Noreuil, France



Noreuil Park Albury



Poppies in the Australian War Cemetery, Noreuil France

## JOHN KIRKPATRICK, ARCHITECT. AN ALUMNI OF THE ALBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Throughout 2025 Albury Public School has been celebrating 150 years providing education to Albury children (see Jenny Romero's article in Bulletin 669, August 2025). In the next two articles, Jenny recognises two APS alumni.

John Kirkpatrick belonged to an old and distinguished Scottish family, the grandson of Sir James Kirkpatrick, the eighth Baronet of Closeburn. He was born in Albury on September 12, 1856, the eldest of eight children. He died in Woollahra, Sydney on May 14, 1923, survived by his wife and nine children.

Kirkpatrick attended the Albury Model School. The *Albury Banner* noted in December 1871 that John Kirkpatrick won second prize at school for mathematics.

After passing his final exams he was articled to the important colonial architect, Edmund Blackett, who designed St Matthews Church, Kiewa Street Albury. In May 1875 the *Banner* reported an achievement of 18 year old Kirkpatrick:



A gratifying proof of the efficiency of the educational system in force at the Albury Model Public school was afforded a few days since in the success achieved by a former pupil of the establishment. The pupil in question, Mr John Kirkpatrick, a son of Mr J H Kirkpatrick, of Bowna [he was publican of Bowna's White Horse Inn], on leaving the school a short time since, entered the office of Mr Blackett, architect, Sydney, and was recently induced to enter the lists for a prize for the best design for a hospital to be erected at Clermont, Queensland. As may be imagined, the announcement of the premium attracted a number of competitors, amongst whom were several architects of standing in Sydney, Rockhampton, and Brisbane, but the design of Mr Kirkpatrick, with the motto "Economy," was considered the best, and he has accordingly been victorious in the contest.

His close lifelong friend, Cyril Blackett, when reminiscing about Kirkpatrick joining his father's firm said, "He was a great designer, especially regards exteriors and won competitions from the age of 19 years onwards."

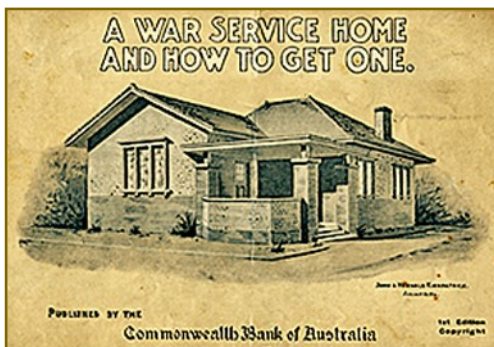


Members' Pavilion, Sydney Cricket Ground

John Kirkpatrick took part in competitions of various sizes, and he held a record of winning first place for nearly every design which he submitted in competition. He set up his own practice in Sydney in 1880, and he launched a career that has left a legacy of a significant number of heritage listed buildings. He did not just design public buildings – he also designed churches, hotels, private homes and factories. He designed the famous Heritage Listed Members' Pavilion and the other four original stands built at the Sydney Cricket Ground and supervised their construction.

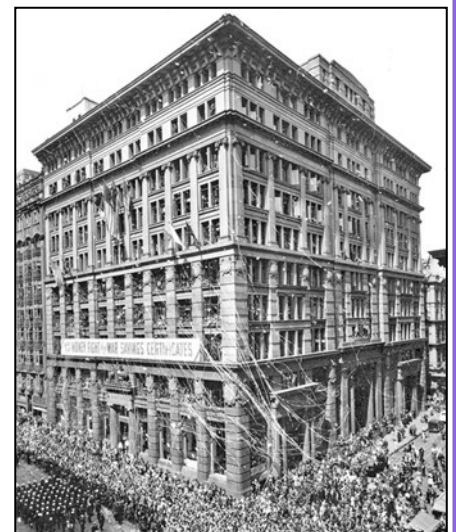
Accommodation in Katoomba was in demand during the 1880s. In August 1881 tenders were called for construction of a large hotel on top of a hill not far from the Katoomba Railway Station. John Kirkpatrick's design was successful and the famed Carrington Hotel was opened on August 15, 1883.

When it was decided by the Federal Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into and report on several proposed sites for a capital



John Kirkpatrick's firm was appointed to build war service homes throughout Australia after World War I.

city, Kirkpatrick was a NSW representative, and was elected president by the other commissioners. It is said that he favoured Albury, but politics intervened, and the Canberra site was chosen. He was also called upon by the Prime Minister to adjudicate the world-wide competition for plans for Australia's Capital City. John Kirkpatrick recommended the acceptance of Walter Burley Griffin's design for Canberra.



Among Kirkpatrick's famous buildings is the Commonwealth Bank at 120 Pitt Street, Sydney – the iconic CBA Money Box.

## BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN JACKSON PAINE CBE, VD. AN ALUMNI OF ALBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

John Jackson Paine was born in Albury in 1864. His parents were John and Catherine Paine. His father arrived in the Victorian colony in 1854, settling in Beechworth during the gold rush days. He did not find his fortune, but he did find employment in clerical work and then became a journalist. He settled in Albury in 1860 and worked as an accountant for the firm K McLennan and Co. He was described as a scholarly man. He served as Albury Town Clerk from 1880 to 1903. He married Catherine McBride in 1862.



John Jackson Paine was their eldest child. He started school at the Albury Model School and completed the education offered in the public system in those days. To enable him to study law, he completed his higher education at the Church of England Grammar School in Albury. He studied law at the firm Fleming, Bradley and Chauncy and was admitted as a solicitor in 1889 moving to Windsor in 1889 shortly after his admission where he became a partner in a law firm in Windsor. He was elected to the Windsor Council and after two years was elected Mayor, a position he held from 1894 to 1903.

From his youth, he was interested in the military. He started his military career as a private in Albury's First Reserves Corp in 1886. The Corp was raised by Mr Foster Cooper, editor of the *Albury Banner* and their first drill instructor was Mr Jones, the editor of the *Border Post*. He worked his way to colour sergeant. After moving to Windsor, he joined the citizen forces of the 3rd Infantry Regiment as a second lieutenant and was soon promoted to captain and was ultimately promoted to the command of the 3rd Infantry Regiment. He succeeded to the command of the 41st Infantry regiment.

The letters VD after John Jackson Paine's name are a special award for twenty years of efficient service as a Commissioned Officer in the Militia or Volunteer Force.

When the World War I broke out, he volunteered for active service, but he was then 50 years old, and he had difficulty in obtaining an appointment. He was eventually accepted and sent to Melbourne to command the 2700 troops leaving on the troop ship *Ceramic* and then later he was put in charge of the 2200 troops travelling to Egypt on the *Euripides*.

Whilst in Egypt, Jackson was appointed commandant of the Australian headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force in Egypt and the East by General Sir Harry Chauvel KCB. For this position he was awarded the rank of Colonel and finally the rank of Brigadier General.

He received his CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in 1932 in recognition of service to the Commonwealth. In 1935 he was a recipient of the Silver Jubilee Medal.

He died on August 25, 1936 and is buried in Windsor. His obituary listed his many community service commitments including secretary of the Hawksbury Hospital Board for 17 years, and trustee of the Board for 40 years. He was Vice-president of the Hawksbury District Agricultural Association, and President in his later years.

He was described as:

*A man of a kindly manner, the essence of a gentleman, true and staunch to his own ideals, he plunged into the hurly burly of public life with one thought paramount in his mind – to try and leave the world better than he found it.*

On April 25, 1925 he was invited back to Albury to open the War Memorial on Western Hill of Albury.



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## USING TROVE TO RESEARCH OUR LOCAL PAST

An abridged version of a recent newsletter article from the National Library of Australia to their 'Trove Partners':

Recently, Albury LibraryMuseum, in collaboration with the Albury & District Historical Society, hosted a free community workshop on using Trove to explore local history ... The historical society has been running two Trove workshops each year since 2018 ... Workshop facilitator Greg Ryan begins with an overview of Albury newspapers on Trove and the ongoing work to expand coverage. Participants then learn about the wide range of resources available through Trove, with a focus on newspaper searching techniques ...

The highlight is a live demonstration. Attendees suggest research topics, and Greg demonstrates searching in real time, showing how to refine searches, make corrections, and save findings. This hands-on approach sparks plenty of interest, questions, and shared insights ... Each 90-minute session ends with lively conversations, with many people staying back to ask more questions and share their discoveries.

Greg also shared with us how else he has used Trove to connect with the community. One such way was 'Then & Now' articles that the Albury & District Historical Society and the Wodonga Historical Society wrote to be included in the local *Border Mail*. Almost 500 articles were created starting in 2016 and finishing in early 2025 when the *Border Mail* discontinued the series ... all articles benefited from research using Trove ...

At their most recent workshop in September, an attendee approached Greg to ask about the 'Then & Now' articles, sharing that the only reason he bought the newspaper regularly was to read those articles. Greg commented:

*'It was a great way for us and Wodonga Historical Society to connect with our community while making locals more aware of our rich history and heritage.'*

By making their collection accessible online and offering workshops like these, Albury LibraryMuseum helps more people connect with local history, build research skills, and celebrate the value of community collections ...

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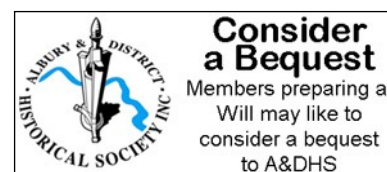
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**Meetings:** Second Wednesday of the month  
(except January) at 7.30 pm usually at the  
Commercial Club Albury.

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

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