

Albury & District Historical Society Inc

April 2026

No 676

Wiradjuri Country, PO Box 822 ALBURY 2640

<https://alburyhistory.org.au/>

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Equipment used and construction techniques for highway construction in the 21st century is very different from that used in the 19th century. Compare with the photo at the bottom of page 2.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 08, 2026

7.30 pm, Commercial Club, Albury

Topic: Local Women at War
1914–1918

Speaker: Janette Griggs

ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM
How to draw a Dinosaur
Until July 26

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES FOR APRIL

Another full house of members and guests heard Mitchell Judd deliver another entertaining talk at our meeting in March.

Mitchell described his work as the engineer responsible for maintaining the State highway network west of the Great Dividing Range as “digging holes and filling them in again.” His slides of the Hume Highway from decades ago showed us how far we have come. It was a treat to have Mitchell with us a second time.

The Society has recently been actively involved with the Seniors Festival in NSW. Greg Ryan delivered a Trove workshop at the LibraryMuseum on Thursday March 12. The following morning, with the assistance of new member, Emily Cogdell, he then hosted a Central City Walk which was well attended. I have asked Emily to speak briefly to members at our April meeting.

If you know of any nurses or nursing groups be sure to tell them that our guest speaker in April will talk about local women who served overseas in World War 1. We would love to see people from the nursing community come to our meeting as welcome guests.

Please note the early date of our April meeting. It is the Wednesday immediately after the Easter break, April 8, 7.30 pm at the Commercial Club.

We welcome another new member this month, Helen Severin. We now have 10 corporate members, 33 family members and 84 single members.

Mitch Judd spoke from experience – he is a retired civil engineer having worked for the NSW Department of Main Roads, now known as Transport for NSW.

The Hume Highway has long been more than just a road — it's a living corridor of change, memory and movement. This presentation traced its evolution from Aboriginal pathways to a fully duplicated intercity motorway, with a spotlight on the southern stretch between Gundagai and Albury.

Before the Highway

Long before European expansion, the route followed Aboriginal trails connecting water, food sources, and significant cultural places. Investigations at Holbrook and Coolac revealed tools made from stone not found locally — evidence of long-distance resource movement. Though much cultural knowledge remains private, scarred trees still mark the landscape, quietly reminding us of Wiradjuri Country's enduring presence.

Early Engineering and Expansion

By the early 20th century, the road was taking shape but was largely unsealed and still winding through the landscape. Depression-era works in the 1930s and the completion of the Hume Dam (1919-1936) triggered major realignments. The route was fully sealed in 1940 and in the 1950s and 60s the beginnings of freeway construction and town bypasses. It included the 1961 Albury realignment removing the highway from Dean Street and the extension of Young Street to Hume Street after the third Union Bridge opened.



Corner of Young and Hume streets – 'Rollover Corner'



The Golden Guidepost

A personal recollection was the installation of a Golden Guidepost, a symbolic nod to the "Golden Spike" of the Transcontinental Railway. It marked the completion of the Hume's duplication at Holbrook in 2013, 25 years after Prime Minister Fraser's first promise to complete duplication of the Hume by the time of bicentennial celebrations in 1988, and 85 years after the highway's joint declaration of shared responsibility by NSW and Victoria. The Golden Guidepost was my own contribution to the celebration by painting it in my shed.

The presentation also celebrated quirky milestones: Alf Edwards' 1884 penny-farthing 8½ day ride from Melbourne to Sydney, the 1898 steam car journey in Thomson's Phaeton from Sydney to Melbourne via Bathurst in 56 hours 36 minutes, and the 1956 'Big Bog' near Tarcutta.



Today, the highway boasts 808km of dual carriageway with no traffic signals between Sydney and Melbourne — a feat of modern engineering.



The 'Big Bog' near Tarcutta. Far left: Thomson's Phaeton.

Looking Ahead

The presenter concluded with a forecast: while the highway's route may remain the same, its use will evolve — shaped by freight, safety and cultural recognition. The Hume is no longer just a road; it's a layered story of movement, memory and meaning. Refer also to the YouTube video [Sydney to Albury by Road](#)



Road makers

Left: A photo c1900. Work on the Sydney Road which became the Hume Highway in 1924, near Bowna, north of Albury. This area is now covered by Lake Hume. Compare some of the equipment available for road construction in that era with the equipment used in the 21st century to complete roadworks.

Pioneer Cemetery Walk, October 2025

We chose a mid-Spring day last October for our first cemetery walk since April 2021. But the weather gods were not pleased with us and at one point the rain belted down. We had 35 hardy locals braving the conditions. The theme for our walk was “People who have made significant contributions to our local community.” Many members were not able to attend so over the next few months we will publish in our Bulletin an edited version of the talk on each person highlighted on our walk.

CONRAD TEN BRINK

In his obituary in 1913 the *Border Morning Mail* described Conrad ten Brink^{*} as the “father of the Albury Municipal Council.”

Conrad Egidius Johanne ten Brink was born in 1834 in Mettingen, Esslingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. He was the eldest son of Fidelius ten Brink and Margaretha Schaffer. The family arrived in Australia in about 1854 from Aldenberg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. They first lived at Durham, near Ballarat, where Fidelius ten Brink had a mining claim. Subsequently a move was made to Ballarat, and later to Smyth's Diggings (Smythesdale) where young Conrad ten Brink kept a stationer's shop. In 1866 he married Mary Ann Broderick in Smythesdale. They had seven children, three sons and four daughters. Two of their girls died as infants.

Conrad was secretary of the local Mechanics' Institute, the volunteer fire brigade and each of the Smythesdale, Browns and Carngham turf club committees. It was in Smythesdale that he set out on his Local Government career. He was quite a young man when he first occupied a seat on the council in Smythesdale. Both Conrad's parents died there.

In 1875 Conrad left Smythesdale for Melbourne and joined the staff of the Australian Mutual Provident Society. In September 1879 the *Albury Banner* announced that ten Brink had arrived in Albury as the local agent for the AMP Society, with its office in the 'new' *Albury Banner* office in Dean Street.

His son, also Conrad, played Australian Rules football, playing for Essendon Football Club in the 1898 VFL season, before returning to play for the Albury Football Club.

Conrad ten Brink hit the ground running in Albury. In January 1881 his name appears as secretary of the Albury Racing Club. In February 1881 he was manager of the Albury Goldmining Company and in May 1881 he was named as a director and later manager of the Hawksview Goldmining Company. In January 1882 he is listed as an auctioneer selling a property known as *Cove Villa* on the Sydney Road.

In February 1885, ten Brink succeeded Solomon Moses as lessee of the Globe Hotel. He gave up the Globe in November 1887 when declared bankrupt owing £1530.

Ten Brink was first elected to Albury Municipal Council in February of 1882. At the time of his death in 1913 he was longest serving Alderman on council and had twice been mayor, in 1898 and 1906. Samuel Mudge is remembered as having planted the first trees in Albury, but it was Conrad ten Brink who supported Alderman Thorold's proposal to line the streets of Albury with trees. The street trees of Albury are an enduring legacy of Conrad ten Brink. It was reported the council had planted over 7000 street and park trees, and during his tenure as an alderman, regular updates from the Botanic Gardens curator on the planting program and the health of the trees featured at council meetings. Many attempts both during ten Brink's life and subsequent to it, to remove the trees has been fiercely contested and has caused significant eruptions in civic activity in defence of the street trees of Albury.

When interviewed in 1906 prior to the mayoral election he referred to his ambition to consider annexation of Black Range (Lavington), advocate for a new Town Hall and a new grandstand at the Albury Sportsground, improve water supply with a water storage tank on Western Hill and reduce pollution in the Murray River.

In 1907 ten Brink planned a trip to Germany, a trip that was abandoned in Melbourne due to ill health. Some comments by Albury locals farewelling him on the planned trip reflect on his character:



Conrad ten Brink

^{*} 'Ten' as a prefix to a German name usually means 'at the' or 'on the.' Ten Brink originally meant 'at the village green.'

Major Wilkinson: "He came to the town 30 years ago and has occupied the position of Mayor of Albury twice. He has been, eight times elected an alderman, giving him 24 years as a member of the council ... arrived in Australia in 1854, when he went to Ballarat and was a mining speculator and manager. He had worked for six years as a miner and his career in that town was as reputable and distinguished as it had been in Albury. Alderman ten Brink is to be admired for his unostentatious and charitable feelings. He was not one who proclaimed his good deeds from the housetop, but a deserving person would get from him whatever he asked for. He had experienced the ups and downs of life and that no doubt was responsible for his desire to help his weary and downfallen brothers."

J Campbell: "was a member of the committee of the Albury Hospital for over 20 years ... always assisted in any movement for the benefit of the town."

Dr O'Shaughnessy: "there was never a man who for honesty of purpose could outclass Alderman ten Brink ... did not act for his own gain but for the good of humanity."

T H Griffith: "had a bigger heart than his pocket would admit but there was no man who had walked so many paths of life."

Dr Woods: "He knew Alderman ten Brink to be even snake-headed in his opinions, but he was a man who could fight a debate and be perfect friends afterwards. Their guest was at times one of the roughest men one could meet in a debate."

Ten Brink was a prominent member of the Albury Hospital committee for over 20 years and was vice-president for many years. He was also a life governor of the institution. Amongst the German residents of Albury ten Brink was always a conspicuous figure, and he occupied the position of president of the Alburyer Deutscher Verein.

About six months before he died, Conrad was knocked down by a motorcycle as he was crossing Dean-street. He did not fully recover and Conrad ten Brink died as the result of a stroke in Albury Hospital on March 2, 1913. He was buried from St Patrick's Church where he was an active parishioner. His funeral procession was one of the largest that Albury had seen. Flags flew at half-mast from local business premises and an Australian and a German flag were at half-mast at the Albury Town Hall.

THE EARLY YEARS OF ALBURY BAKERY

Greg Ryan

At our 'Show & Tell' night in December, Emma Williams, our Museum curator, had a framed photograph of a large framed photo with an 1891 calendar advertising the business of "Geo F Bray, Baker and Confectioner, Townsend St Albury." See details in our February Bulletin.



The calendar was illustrated with a photo of 'Kathleen Mavourneen.' An online search reveals that the name refers to a famous 19th-century Irish-themed song. 'Mavourneen' is said to be an Irish term of endearment meaning 'my darling' or 'my beloved.' A play, several films, and various other works were based on the original song.

The earliest reference found to 'Albury Bakery' appears in the *Border Post* of August 14, 1858, Riles and Robinson stating that "they intend commencing business on August 16 in Townsend street."

There is no further reference found on 'Trove' until Thomas Brown & Co open Albury Bakery "next the Exchange [Hotel]" in June 1861. These adverts appear to cease in March 1862.

In an October 1867 advert, James Mitchell notifies that his Albury Bakery "has opened in new premises, one door below the former place of business." That places the business in Townsend street south of Smollett street on the eastern side – an 1870s photo exists with signage "J Mitchell, Baker and Confectioner." He appears to have operated from those premises for some time. However, in August 1882 we read that there is an auction sale "in the insolvent estate of James Mitchell of Albury, baker."

Mitchell re-emerges in March 1885, he has moved to north of Smollett street – an advert appears for the sale of the Border City Hotel and "adjoining bakery occupied by Mr Jas Mitchell." The site was opposite the former Bank of NSW, which is now *Kia Ora*. Then Mitchell moves his business south again, in February 1886 there is reference to James Mitchell moving his Albury Bakery "to his original premises lower down Townsend street."

It gets more confusing – one month later, J F Humphries is advertising his Albury Bakery in Townsend street

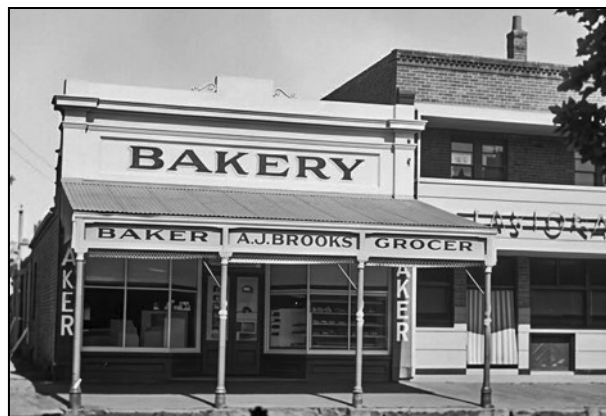
Albury “opposite old Bank of NSW” – this is the former site of Mitchell’s Albury Bakery. So do we now have two businesses known as ‘Albury Bakery’ within about 100 metres of each other on Townsend street?

Humphries continues to advertise his Albury Bakery until January 1889. Then in February a sale by auction is advertised “in the Assigned Estate of Mr J F Humphries, Grocery, Confectionery, Fancy Goods, Household Furniture, Complete Baker Plant ...” J P Eck who operated the Federal Bakery on the Dean/Townsend street corner announced that he had “further increased his business by having taken the shop in Townsend street lately occupied by Mr Humphries.”

An obituary appears in May 1889 in the *Albury Banner* for James Mitchell, baker. In December 1889 we finally have George Bray’s name on Albury Bakery when he notifies that he has “purchased the business hitherto carried on by Mrs Mitchell.”

Apart from his name on the 1891 calendar, in searching ‘Trove’ only a single further mention of G F Bray can be found. On May 29, 1891 at a meeting of the Albury Race Club: “The luncheon was provided by Mr G F Bray, and the repast was prepared in that caterer’s usual excellent style.”

John Peter Eck died in 1933 aged 71. His obituary in the *Albury Banner* records that he was Albury born, “When a lad he went to Wagga, where he learnt the bakery business. He returned to his native town and started a business in Townsend street, which he managed and conducted, successfully for more than 40 years, retiring only a few years ago.” On Eck’s retirement in 1928, Alexander John Brooks took over the business at 478 Townsend street, still opposite Kia Ora. The business became A J Brooks’ Bakery. They sold to Southern Border Bakeries in mid-1960. See [Brooks’ Bakery](#)



Brooks’ Bakery, next to the Pastoral Hotel, Townsend street Albury [enhanced with AI]

SOME SNIPPETS

Ron Haberfield’s support of our Trove project.

Ron was one of the strongest supporters of our Trove project. He made a significant financial contribution to the project when it first started and he became a conscientious Trove user, enlightening us at meetings with information that he had sourced on Trove.

Ron asked that in lieu of flowers at his funeral, he would like those attending to donate to our Trove appeal. Ron’s appeal raised \$1525, enough to digitise about 1000 newspaper pages. If you have not yet donated and would like to, details are on our [Donations Page](#).

Albury in Surrey, UK

Each month we send our Bulletin to Albury Historical Society in Surrey, UK. In early March I received a thank you message from Malcolm Clarke – his wife Margaret is their Society’s secretary. Malcolm pointed out that “not all our members want to receive a newsletter ... but those who do get it appreciate it .” You might like to visit their website at <https://alburyhistory.org.uk/>

SLV Blogs

It is a little while since I have provided links to blogs from the State Library of Victoria. Follow the link for another blog that will be of interest to many of our readers:

[Australian Rules Football During the Great War.](#)



Click on the link or use the QR code:

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JACK CRAWFORD'S TENNIS TROPHIES RETURNED

Sandra Endresz, Albury LibraryMuseum

Two items from Albury's Museum and Social History Collection were returned earlier in February after being on loan to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) in Launceston. The items were two tennis trophies won by Australian champion Jack Crawford:

- **Lawn Tennis Championship of Australasia Cup** ([ARM 13.131](#) below left), awarded to Crawford at the men's single's Australian Open competition in 1933 after his three successive wins (1931, 1932); and
- **The Renshaw Cup** ([ARM 13.130](#) below right), awarded for his men's singles Wimbledon victory in 1933.

Both trophies were displayed in *Alexander 100*, an exhibition celebrating the history of the Alexander Patent Racket Company — whose rackets were manufactured in Tasmania and famously used by Jack Crawford. The Museum and Social History Collection also supplied a digital copy of an Alexander Rackets advertising brochure featuring Crawford on the cover — follow the link [Alexander Racquets with Jack Crawford](#). The exhibition was on display from August 2025 to January 2026.

John Herbert "Jack" Crawford (1908–1991) was one of Australia's leading tennis players of the 1930s. Ranked in the world's top ten six times between 1932 and 1937, he achieved the World Number 1 position in 1933. Crawford was born in Urangeline, north of Albury. He is one of the sporting personalities highlighted in our *Bungambrawatha: Stories of Albury* exhibition, and you can explore more trophies and objects connected to his career through the [Museum and Social History Collection](#).

Click on the next article to hear QVMAG Assistant Curator of History Burcu Keane discuss the Lawn Tennis Championship of Australasia Cup and includes an image of our trophies on display in their exhibition: [Alexander 100: taking the tennis world by storm](#).



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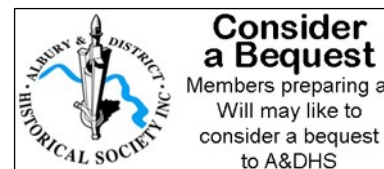
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(except January) at 7.30 pm usually at the

Commercial Club Albury.

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

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