

ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008-2009

Annual report

I am pleased to report that the Society has had another interesting, productive and enjoyable year. We have increased our involvement with the Albury and district community through guided walks and supplying speakers.

Our members have continued to support and participate in our monthly meetings and community events, and to research and publish local history. Our Website has proved popular and has resulted in increased requests for information and in added membership.

We are thankful to the eight guest speakers who have given of their time to address Society meetings on aspects of Albury's past. They have been ably supported by members of the Society who have shared the results of research into personalities and events.

Acknowledgment of support

Again I acknowledge the generous support of the Albury Commercial Club who provided the comfortable venue for our monthly meeting and to Albury City Council for general support including the venue at the Library-Museum for our committee meetings. The Society received financial support from the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to purchase two items of equipment, and from City of Wodonga to prepare a secondary teacher's guide to the Bonegilla Migrant Experience Heritage Park.

Speakers

Guest speakers have included Horrie Polkinghorne, Colin Laughton, Darrin Wright, Gerard Hunter, David Hicks, Rosalie Martin, Louise Arnold and Betty Dunn.

Society members who spoke at our meetings and made presentations at our Heritage walks were Pauline Harbick, Jan Hunter, Ann Brennan, Ray Gear, Howard Jones, Kevin Monte, Chris McQuellin, June Shanahan, John Craig, Joe Wooding, Bruce Pennay, Helen Livsey, Carole Whitbourn and Patricia Strachan. Bring & Tell and Ephemera segments of our meetings have also been well supported.

Projects

Margaret Royle has entered the cataloguing data for the Albury Base Hospital Heritage Collection onto the data base. Work still to be completed is the photographing of the major items to be added to the data base. The ABH Past Graduates Association has expressed their appreciation of the work that has been done, as has the ABH Auxiliary.

Chris McQuellin was instrumental in obtaining a complete set of Mate's Communiqués, a series of newsletters produced by Mate's Limited during the five years of WWII, from former Albury resident, Doug Atchison. The Communiqués have been copied to A4 size prior to them being scanned to digital format and a CD placed in Albury Library-Museum.

Publications

Our members continue to contribute to the record of Albury's local history. Chris McQuellin completed 12 Squadron Air Training Corps RAAF 1940-1946, and Jan Hunter completed Just a Local Builder: Maurice Chick looks back.

A further four papers in the Albury & District Historical Society Papers 2008 Series were lodged with the National Library of Australia and registered on its catalogue. They were: Hotels of Albury & District 1840-1899, The Passant Family in Albury, The Beginnings of North Albury Infants' School Mate Street Albury and Reading Block 19 Bonegilla. That made a total of 11 papers in the series.

Our Bulletin Nos 481-491 recorded the efforts of our guest speakers and our members in researching and sharing aspects of Albury's history from Roller skating to the 128 year history of Kell Moore Solicitors; from pioneers in our cemetery to a child's memories of a day in Albury for the Wool Sales.

Website

The Society's website: www.alburyhistory.org.au provides information about the Society; Albury timeline; Publications relating to the history of Albury that are available in the Albury Library-Museum; Historical attractions in the district and links to their websites; Society news and future meetings and events; Downloads include Block 19 teachers guide, back Bulletins and membership application. Chris McQuellin does an excellent job ensuring the site is kept up-to-date.

Community involvement

Members of the Society attended the re-opening of the Yackandandah Museum and the centenary celebrations of the Walla Walla Sub-division. Bulletins were distributed regularly to Secondary Schools in Albury and district.

A Society meeting was held at Murray Gardens Retirement Village. Jan Hunter spoke on behalf of the Society at James Fallon High School Anzac service; and Doug Hunter gave a power-point presentation at Westmont Retirement Village in Wodonga. Joe and Jill Wooding have represented the Society on the Albury City Council sub-committee planning the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Municipality of Albury.

June Shanahan headed up a team that conducted a highly popular Antique & Collectables Valuation Day at Albury Library-Museum. On 12 & 13 September 2008, members manned Information Stands at Centro Lavington and Albury to publicise the activities of the Society.

Committee

The very full program of activities this year, as well as the normal meetings and day to day running of the Society, has been entirely owing to the commitment and hard work of the Committee. In November 2008, Jan Marsden withdrew as Minute Secretary owing to a family crisis and was replaced by Catherine Browne. Jan later resigned from the Committee and Michael Browne was elected to fill the vacancy. Helen Livsey gave valuable service as Research Officer

Statistics

Membership details are: Corporate 1 [1]; Hon & Life 6 [7]; Family & Individual 79 [71]. Average attendance at regular meetings: 21 [24] with 3[5] apologies. Guest attendance at Murray Gardens meeting: 40; CBD Walk 50, and Cemetery Walk 100.

The Society financial situation remains healthy. We have finished with a slightly higher balance than last year in our working account owing to a small increase in membership and the sale of de-accessioned books and objects. The Investment Fund remains intact.

July 2008 - June 2009 by Doug Hunter (President)