

# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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512

## REPORT ON APRIL ACTIVITIES (13 & 17/4/11)

Pleasing to report good attendances at both the Wednesday night meeting and the Heritage River Walk on the Sunday. Forty members and guests filled the Elizabeth Room at the Commercial Club to hear Ray Gear, Joe Wooding, Doug Hunter and Chris McQuellin speak.

The River Walk attracted nearly twice that number, but whether it was owing to the beautiful sunny day or the quality of the presentations is not clear. We are happy to think it was both.

A goodly number of people took advantage of the Community Oven which had been arranged especially for the walk. Pizzas were popular. One group enjoyed a roast dinner cooked to perfection in the oven.

At the Wednesday meeting, Ray Gear took us on a walk of a different kind: a pictorial journey along Dean Street as it was in 1913 and as it is today. This was the second part of a talk Ray gave last year, looking this time at businesses on the south side of the street.

Joe Wooding continued his investigation into letters and maps pertaining to the work of NSW Assistant Surveyor Thomas Scott Townsend during his endless travels in NSW in the 1830s and 40s.

Chris McQuellin and Doug Hunter gave a brief analysis of the River Study done for Albury City. Twenty-seven sites of interest were identified between the mouth of the Bungambrawatha Creek near the Swim Centre and the Union Bridge. They can be classified as Aboriginal presence, exploration & settlement, commercial activity, cultural and recreation & sport. The study concluded the area's strength

## NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY

11 MAY 2011

7.30pm

at Library Museum

Albury

Speaker: Dr Barry McGowan  
"Chinese in the Riverina"

Please bring supper.

## QUESTION OF MONTH

When and where did Girl  
Guides begin in Albury?

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.

Enquiries in writing with \$25

**History Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday  
of the month 7.30pm at Commercial  
Club Albury.

Committee meets 3rd Wednesday of  
the month 5.15pm at Albury  
Library Museum.

A&DHS website:

[www.alburyhistory.org.au](http://www.alburyhistory.org.au)

lies in recreation & sport and has considerable potential for heritage tourism and education.

## **A STROLL BACK ALONG DEAN STREET IN 1915.**

### **PART 2**

by Ray Gear

[Part 1 of the walk is in Bulletin 501, May 2010]

After a refreshing ale at the Terminus Hotel on the south-west corner of Dean and Young Streets, we turn to retrace our steps along Dean Street but this time on the southern side. In 1915, Rose White was licensee of the Terminus, a single storey brick building containing bar, two parlours, a dining room and nine bedrooms.

On both corners of Macauley Street are residences; on the eastern side, a semi-detached pair owned by German-born retired baker Fridolin Sigg; on the western side, a single residence owned by Joseph Adams. Next door to this residence at No 443, we pass premises occupied by Joseph Simon Adams, Undertaker. A native of Albury and son of Joseph Adams, he died in 1933 aged 62.

Continuing west, we approach the corner of David Street that contains Betro Abicare's, two-storey 'Big Store' also known as 'Australia Buildings.' It was completed in 1912, to a design by the firm Messrs W Marsh & Son. Betro Abicare, a Lebanese migrant, died in 1938 aged 64 at his home in David Street.

There is a vacant lot on the south-west corner of Dean and David owned by Mrs Drummond. Next door at No. 465 is a two-storey dental surgery and residence occupied by H E Noble, Dentist. This building was built for and occupied by another dentist, Charles Pettitt. Pettitt left Albury in late 1908, but in 1915 was advertising in the local newspapers that visitors to Sydney could consult him at his Bondi surgery. Pettitt died in November 1922.

Continuing west we pass houses including a six roomed brick residence where Canteen Cuisine is today, then a seven roomed brick residence. Both are owned by Matha Hookins.

The large single storey Daniel's Building is on the corner of Olive Street. It contains a number of shops not dissimilar to those in the CML Building that replaced it in 1923. Among the occupants are Bowkett's Refreshment Rooms, Mrs Hicken (Restaurateur), Alfred Metcalf (Hairdresser), David Nathan (Furniture seller), and Alfred Puttick (Tailor).

Across Olive Street is the Thomas L Ryan's Market Hotel. This hotel opened in 1878 and took its name from the Market Reserve opposite, which in 1915 is known as Dean Square. Ryan



**Joe Wooding addresses a group at the Hovell Tree during the Heritage River Walk.**

became licensee in 1901 and ran the hotel for some thirty seven years, until his death in 1938.

Preceding further west we pass, P J McGlenchy (Clothier), then William McGuffin, a boot maker who began in the early 1870s. Gray's and Higgin's Buildings are next each containing three shops. Occupants include Morton's (Men's Tailors and Mercers), W Buckley (Restaurateur), H Harber (Hairdresser & Tobacconist), H J Nicholson (Watchmaker & Jeweller) and Wilkinson's. We then come to shops once known as Selle's Buildings, whose occupants included J F Maloney (Clothier), Blake's Busy Book Bazaar and Heilmann Bros who advertise themselves as being "opposite the Mechanics." The George Hotel is at No 531. It is kept by P A McCormick who advertised Abbotsford and Carlton Ale on tap.

Continuing west we come to another row of shops, the occupants including, E Lee Tet (Café Proprietor), J E Percy (Tailor), Mrs H A Johnstone (Dressmaker & Tailoress), F L Vines and H P Robbins who was running the Melbourne Cash Grocery. Robbins later in the year removed to the corner of Olive & Wilson Streets. N H Skinner (Picture Framer) was another occupant. He opened his business in 1894 at the western end of Dean Street before moving to his current premises

Adjoining these shops, is the Town Hall Hotel at No 545 owned and occupied by William Nottage. Nottage died in 1929.

As we continue westwards we pass more shops that were built originally for P E Fallon in 1886, including those occupied by J H Babidge (Boot & shoe seller) and Robert Blackie (Chemist) Adjoining these shops and sited each side of the AMP Lane are, Bray & Hird (Tailors) W F Burton (Hatter & Mercer), W H Chong (Café Proprietor) and George Dunstone (Land & Estate Agent).

The AMP Building on the western side of the Lane was built in 1886 to a design by the archi-

fects Gordon & Gordon to replace an earlier building erected for Downie Brothers. On top of the building, overlooking Dean Street is the statue group that was transferred to the 1940 stripped classical style AMP Building that stands today.

In addition to the offices of the AMP, occupiers of the building include A A Hart (Blasbalk's) Jeweller and Messrs W D James & Co's Printing



**T H Mate & Co building before the fire in  
December 1915**

establishment. Next to it is the three-storey building owned by London born George Adams, the ground floor occupied as the offices of the *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express* paper. Fleming & Henderson, Solicitors, occupied the second and third floors.

We now come to the corner of Kiewa Street where, on Sunday 12 December 1915, the Romanesque style, sixteen year old business premises of T H Mate & Company was completely destroyed by fire. Following the fire, arrangements were quickly put in hand for the departments of Mate's to occupy various places around town. Mate's was rebuilt to a design by Ernest Giles in 1916, and opened in August.

From Mate's we cross Kiewa Street and come to the Commercial Bank which replaced the Australian Joint Stock Bank in 1911. Next to it is the two-storey Albury Hotel, built for German born Charles Schmiedt in 1876. Schmiedt, who arrived in Albury early in 1867, died in 1902 aged 71. James H McNarn was licensee early in 1915 before Lionel C Harper took over. During 1915 coaches going to Germanton (Holbrook), and the Upper Murray left Albury from the hotel. The fare to Germanton was five shillings.

As well as being a booking office for these coaches, the hotel made available rooms for con-

sultants including Mr Barraclough (Optician), Mrs Elgar (Women's Health) and P Y Lee (Chinese Doctor & Herbalist). The Albury Hotel ceased trading in 1939.

Continuing west we pass the two-storey premises occupied by K McLennan & Co (Drapers), then a single-storey building occupied by Hunter & Stelling (Hardware Merchants). Proprietors are the brothers-in-law John W Hunter and George B Stelling. They succeeded English born George Hunter in 1906. The firm Hunter & Stelling was dissolved in 1957.

Next door at No 591 is James Day (Tobacconist and Hairdresser). Day appeared in a newspaper report concerning a robbery of his premises on the 28 October 1915.

Occupying the eastern side of No 593-595, and opposite the offices of the *Border Morning Mail* on the northern side of the street, is the two-storey Albion Hotel, licensed to J A Stow, a native of Geelong. In 1940, the hotel and the two adjoining shops at No 595 were demolished and replaced by the current Albion Hotel designed by Frederick Morsby.

We continue westwards and pass the single-storey Bank of Australasia at No 601, and come to Day's Building, No 611. It was erected in 1869 for George Day to a design by John Gordon. Occupants on the ground floor are W Whitely (Watchmaker & Jeweller), W S Burt & Son (Stock & Station Agent) and, Claude Lillyman (Chemist & Optician). Lillyman, who passed away in 1963, is noted, "as making the first ice cream in Albury." Upstairs are the Commercial Club, J L Taverney (Dentist) and Dr Kenna (Dentist). Kenna later moved to No 486 Dean Street.

Next is the residence of the Bank of NSW with a garden fronting the street. The single-storey bank is next door and adjoins Temple Court.

Temple Court, erected in 1885, contained the businesses of Louis Harrison (Architect) and V Flood Nagle (Solicitor). At one stage D Bennet (Photographer) occupied one of the shops, but after moving to Olive Street was replaced by jewellers and opticians, Nicholson & Smith. H J Nicholson previously occupied premises opposite Dean Square but after going into partnership with Gordon Smith, moved to Dean Street west.

We now come to the Beehive Building owned by Charles L Griffith who arrived in Albury in 1878. He died in 1923. The building which had a length of 139 feet to Dean Street contained several businesses including Dalgety

& Co (Stock & Station Agent), J W Moore (Hairdresser & Tobacconist), Charles H Summers (Architect) and Allen Bros (Tailors).

If we look south when crossing Townsend Street, once Albury's main street, we see on its western side the Australian Hotel that opened on 17 June 1878, and had in 1915 Mrs Knight as proprietress.

Once across Townsend Street we are at Nathan's Corner where Abe Nathan has his two-storey Furniture Warehouse. London born Nathan arrived in Albury in 1908 and was the first life



**Abe Nathan's Furniture Warehouse on the corner of Dean & Townsend Streets**

member of the Albury Commercial Club. A community minded business person, he died in 1938. A dwelling, No 647, adjoins the western side of the warehouse.

Next to No 647, at No 649, is a shop owned by William Jones and adjoining this is land owned by John Burrows Ltd. Until 1910, the Albury Flour Mill operated here. It moved to the corner of Young and Wilson Streets.

Passing three residences at Nos 669, 671 and 675 and crossing Wodonga Place, we come to the Botanic Gardens. Dedicated in 1864, the northern end of the Garden facing Dean Street is lined with Elm trees planted in the second half of 1878. It is here, at the Gardens north-west corner that we conclude our stroll and cross Dean Street to our starting point, on the corner of Thurgoona Street.

**Principal Bibliography Sources:** *Albury Banner & Wodonga Express; Albury Daily News & Wodonga Chronicle; Border Morning Mail; Albury Sewerage Maps; Municipality of Albury Rate Book for 1915.*

## **THOMAS SCOTT TOWNSEND 1812-1869**

### **PART 3**

By Joe Wooding

[Parts 1 & 2 are in Bulletins 500 & 505]

The Society has recently obtained a copy of Townsend's plan for the township of Albury. On it is pencilled the date 12<sup>th</sup> January 1839. The

map poses several questions and answers others, but above all, it clearly outlines all of Deputy Surveyor General SA Perry's instructions to Townsend in his letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 1838\* and presented to the Society in Part 2.

The map is almost certainly a lithograph of Townsend's original as it contains a number of endorsements by others and a scale of chains by TW Ryan dated June 1839. It is also difficult to imagine that the fine detail using shaded letters for the title "Plan for the Township of Albury on the River Murray" could have been produced by Townsend, probably in his tent by the Murray using just a quill or pencil, under candlelight.

By far the most significant find is the lightly penciled note which reads "For Sur. Townsend's letter of vide misc. 06.14031" (vide - Oxford dictionary meaning is 'instruction'). If this letter can be located, the mystery of the naming of Albury and its first seven streets might be solved.

A letter from the Col. Sec. to SA Perry on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1839\* uses the name Albury. It reads:

*His Excellency the Governor in Council having approved of the plan of the under mentioned township submitted with your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> January, a notification of which will appear in the next Government Gazette, I do myself the honour to request that you will furnish two copies of the same as usual, one to be deposited with the nearest Bench of Magistrates and the other in this office, namely -*

*Albury - County unnamed, on the east bank of the Murray at a place called by the natives Bingham-brewatah.*

*The minimum price [of land] is 2 pounds Sterling per acre. (NSW Archives)*

Dr A Andrews in his *History of Albury 1824-1895*, refers to the Government Gazette for 1839, Vol. 1, Jan-July, page 480, showing that of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1839, both Albury and Gosford with land at 2 pounds sterling per acre was included. He also states that Townsend suggested the name Albury but makes no reference to the letter above or of Townsend's 'letter of vide'.

Our next contact with Townsend comes from a letter written by him from a camp at Albury to SA Perry dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 1848. A brief summary is - Mr John Roper had written to Sydney complaining that the existing 6 blocks already laid out had been under water during the last floods and [that he] wished to purchase land beyond the berg of the river.

It is unclear when the 6<sup>th</sup> block was added to Townsend's original 5, but his lengthy letter to Perry, 17<sup>th</sup> January 1848 revealed considerable information.

He referred to "obedience to your letter 47/68, and verbal instructions before my leaving Sydney. The design of the town and tracing thereof, from which I am to take a copy and deposit it

with the magistrates for the use of the public.”

He lists 20 blocks numbered from 7 through to 34 and includes, “Sections 8 and 9 of your design.”

Although Townsend has a great deal of authority to make onsite decisions, it becomes obvious that he is using a plan drawn in Sydney, probably during 1847, for Albury’s expansion and that his job is to peg it out. He also includes an observation that any future expansion should be to the east.

Again in a letter on the 17<sup>th</sup>, he advises Sydney re payment of his men. Wages in this district are from 30 to 40 pounds per annum and if hired on a weekly basis, one pound. He added a request for the money he had paid to them be deposited in his account at the Commercial Bank as soon as possible.

On leaving Albury, he proceeded to the highest point of the ‘Yambla’ or ‘Table Top’ Range as instructed, to obtain a round of angles but found the country so obscured by smoke and haze, he was unable to distinguish points further than 20 miles.

He then headed west, informing Sydney from Camp at Howlong-Murray River on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1848 that he was proceeding to the Edward River country [Deniliquin area] tracing out the general course of the Murray from the point where his survey had terminated in 1838.

As he would be out of contact for some 6 weeks, he requested any further letters be sent to the Post Office, Albury.

**Joe’ research is continuing.**

Sources -

\*Historical Records of Victoria, Vol. 5

Various Townsend letters to Surveyor General’s Office Sydney

### **NURIGONG STREET WATER TROUGH**

**By Bill Washington**

In the early 1970s stock (cattle and sheep) were still travelling to Wodonga from the Albury Saleyards in Newmarket to Wodonga via East Street and Bridge Street, and then into Nurigong Street. They would then cross either the old or new Union Bridge into Victoria.

A stockman on horseback would hold up traffic in front of the Turks Head Hotel while stock proceeded across the bridge. Another stockman on the Victorian side would turn them down Lemkes Lane and on to the Wodonga Stock Route.

Originally the horse trough was situated on the nature strip island opposite Gridlock, now Albury Hydraulics’ building, 611 Nurigong Street. One morning in the early 1970s when I was working at Gridlock, a car travelling from Wodonga attempted a right turn into Nurigong Street; there was no median strip in those days. It was a wet day and the driver lost control of the vehicle and skidded into the water trough. Luckily no damage was done.

I spoke to Alderman Gordon (Mick) Ried about the incident. He took action immediately and within two weeks the trough had been moved to the present position near the Waterwheel.

### **INFO ON PHOTOS**

Kevin Monte brought 3 large photographs to the February Meeting seeking information. The photos were from the 8<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Victorian Mounted Rifles Collection and showed soldiers and trucks in Dean Street. We have now found the answer to who, why and when.

On Tuesday 25 November 1941, an exhibition of photographs from the *Sun Pictorial* newspaper opened in Mate’s building. Mate’s arranged for a parade of troops from Bonegilla to mark the occasion. Six hundred men and 40 four-wheel drive transports drawn from the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division took part. The exhibition ran for a week and proceeds went to the Albury Comforts Fund. This information is contained in the December 1941 issue of Mate’s Staff Communique.

### **SILENT FILM ACCOMPANISTS**

In the days before ‘talkies’, that is movies with sound, an accompanist on piano or organ played the mood music. Did this happen in Albury and who were the musicians? A group who restore silent films with music have contacted us asking for names to add to a register. Helen Livsey or Doug Hunter will forward any names.

### **JOURNEYING THROUGH THE JOURNALS**

**By John Craig**

*Descent: Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) Journal*, December 2010.

- John Scanlon: builder with a colourful life. *Murrumbidgee Ancestor: Wagga Wagga FHS Journal*, February 2011.
- Young men at war; a munitions box and haversack;
- The first Victoria Cross: one of three awarded to naval personnel in the Crimean War 1853-1856. *Links’n’Chains: Liverpool GS Journal*, February 2011.
- A Mournful Document: a report of twelve hundred migrants who lost lives at sea between 1849 and 1865;
- The loss of the *Weatherby* Part 2, with list of passengers. *Wagga Wagga HS Newsletter*, February/March 2011.
- History of Wagga Wagga Hospitals 1856-1914 Part 2. *Insites: Historic Houses Trust NSW Magazine*, Autumn 2001.
- Enemy at home: German Internees in WWI Australia. (Exhibition to run May to September, Museum of Sydney);
- Calendar of Events March to May 2011.

### **MAY MEETING SPEAKER**

Barry McGowan (Ph.D, BA, ANU; B.Ec, Adelaide) is an historian and heritage consultant who specialises in mining history and heritage. He is a Visiting Fellow at the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, Australia.

His heritage work has involved field surveys, conservation management plans, reports and history writing for Commonwealth and State governments and local authorities. Barry's publications include four books on mining communities in southern NSW, *Lost Mines*, *Lost Mines Revisited*, *Bungonia to Braidwood* and the *Golden South*. Together with Dr Michael Pearson he was also responsible for writing the Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual published in 2000 by the Australian Heritage Commission, and *Mining Sites in NSW: History and Heritage*, published by Industry and Investment NSW in 2009. Other publications are *Fool's Gold. Myths and Legends of Gold Seeking in Australia* (Hachette Livre, 2006) and *Australian Ghost Towns* (Lothian Books, 2002, reprinted 2004 and 2006).

Barry has also written extensively on the history and heritage of the Chinese people in Australia. Along with Dr Lindsay Smith, in 2008 he completed a heritage study of the Chinese people in southern NSW and the Riverina for the NSW Heritage Office. At present he is curating an exhibition on the Chinese in the Riverina district of NSW, for the Museum of the Riverina.

### **WODONGA YESTERDAY**

Wodonga Historical Society has copies of *Wodonga Yesterday* by Howard Jones, for sale at \$20 a copy. It is a hard-cover book of 188 photos compiled by Howard in 1989. It includes people, buildings and street-scapes, education & religion, railway life, sport, Bonegilla & the Hume Dam.

### **LOVE FAMILY BOOK**

A reunion of descendants of John and Martha Love, who arrived with the Third Fleet in 1791, was held in Rockhampton in April. Descendants who were pioneers of the Albury district include Rixon families who married McPherson, Scammell, Plunkett, Livingstone, Broderick, Smith, Finlayson, Hammond and Hoare/Hore.

A book entitled *A Family Began with Love* is available for \$55, including postage, and covers 11,500 descendants.

Contact Lyle & Margaret Cooper, 11 Kernel St, The Gap. Q. 4061. Ph 07-3312 2365. email [landmdcooper@optusnet.com.au](mailto:landmdcooper@optusnet.com.au)

### **WHERE IS ALFRED WAUGH'S MEMORABILIA?**

Alfred Waugh was the Mayor of Albury at the time of the Uiver incident. The LibraryMuseum holds his Oranje Nassau medal and also the gavel, both of which were presented to him in December 1934. He must have had other items of memorabilia, particularly photographs and telegrams. Waugh died without leaving surviving children. I understand that his brother had a son John, who is known to have been around Albury

during the war years. Does anyone know what happened to him? Did he have any descendants? Noel Jackling is keen to know.

### **ONE HUNDRED EXHIBITION CENTENARY OF THE MITCHELL LIBRARY**

The State Library of NSW renowned Mitchell Library is extending its centenary celebrations by touring a panel display, based on its successful *ONE Hundred Exhibition*. The display will be on show at the Library-Museum from 27 April to 16 May 2011.

Join Mitchell Library Curator Paul Brunton in a talk about the exhibition on Wednesday 4 May at 11am, followed by morning tea. Bookings can be made by phoning the LibraryMuseum on 02 6023 8333.

### **NOTES FROM THE HERITAGE RIVER WALK**

**Conducted on Sunday 17 April 2011**

#### **Stock Yard**

A stock or forcing yard covering about half an acre was built upstream of the punt to facilitate the crossing of stock. *The Goulburn Herald* of November 1856, carried an account of cattle being taken across the river:

*The animals are generally too wild to be punted and the only way is to force them into the river and compel them to swim. For this purpose the mobs are driven into a strongly fenced paddock, covering about half-an-acre, which is called the 'forcing-yard' and all other means of exit are closed, except a narrow passage called the 'tan', which slopes towards the river, and terminates at a perpendicular bank. The stock-drivers mount their steeds inside the forcing yards and indulge in whip-cracking and shouting until the mob, or a portion of them are forced into the tan. The passage is then barred and the frightened animals are lashed and driven until they push one another over the bank, and they fall into the river.*

*Sometimes things went wrong and many animals were lost. Some got stuck in the mud, and were trampled to death. Some got entangled in the punt gear and drowned. Some swam downstream until the first bend where they reached land on the same side that they had started and a stockman had to pursue them into the forcing yards again. It took a whole day to get a herd across the river.*

Quoted in Bruce Pennay, "The Crossing Place: A heritage precinct in Albury-Wodonga", Albury Regional Museum, 1989.

#### **Chauncy Plaque**

This plaque is located at the Wodonga Place entrance to Noreuil Park. It was unveiled on 3rd August 1991 on the occasion of the National Surveying Conference held at Albury. The plaque reads:

*This plaque was unveiled on 3rd August 1991 to honour William Snell Chauncy the District Surveyor who designed and supervised the building of the first bridge across the Murray River at Albury in 1861.*

Chauncy was an English railway engineer who migrated to South Australia in 1849. In 1853 he moved to Melbourne and became Chief Engineer on the Hobson's Bay Railway, the first train to operate in Australia. In 1856, he was appointed District Surveyor

of Belvoir (Wodonga) and was responsible for planning the town.

In 1861, he supervised the building of the first Union Bridge at the end of Wodonga Place. At the opening, his daughter, Miss Sophia Chauncy, was invited to name the new bridge. This she did with a bottle of champagne, naming it "The Union Bridge". William Chauncy also designed and superintended the building of the first Public Hospital in Thurgoona Street Albury. He did this in an honorary capacity.

### **Mitta Mitta Canoe Club House**

The Mitta Mitta Canoe Club began in 1973 as a white-water club on the upper reaches of the Mitta Mitta River. The completion of Dartmouth Dam in 1979, eliminated the white-water course, so the club changed to a flat-water paddling, or marathon club.

In 1981 the Club moved to Noreuil Park where it occupied an unused pavilion on a two year lease basis with Albury Council. Longer leases followed and the facilities have been expanded on three occasions. Work has been done mostly with the club's own funds and always its own labour. Maintenance of the facilities has not been at a cost to the ratepayer.

In 2003, the club had a membership of 200 and valued its boats and paddles at \$250,000.

Thirty members of the club have represented Australia in international competition including a world champion, Chad Meek, and two Olympians, Walter Waldner and Martin Hunter.

The club provides training for school canoeing in Albury-Wodonga and has strong links to Albury High, James Fallon High, Murray High and The Scots School.

The new club house incorporating the three stage development was officially opened on 9 December 2003. The building was designed by Ross Beaver of Sunjoule Design. It is built above the 1 in 100 year flood level, but still has disabled access.

A café and toilets open to the public have been incorporated into the complex.

### **Albury Umpires' Rooms**

The Albury Umpires' League is a non-profit organisation which aims to promote the rules of Australian Football and generally take such actions which may be conducive to the game's best interests. It trains umpires and promotes a standard of excellence in the skills and rules of umpiring.

The rooms were built in Noreuil Park by the members of the Albury Umpires' League which was established in the 1920s. It was opened about 1978 by Alderman John Roach, Mayor of Albury. The building cost was in the vicinity of \$80,000 and the multipurpose rooms were built using volunteer labour. The building is named the Roger Lescun Pavilion.

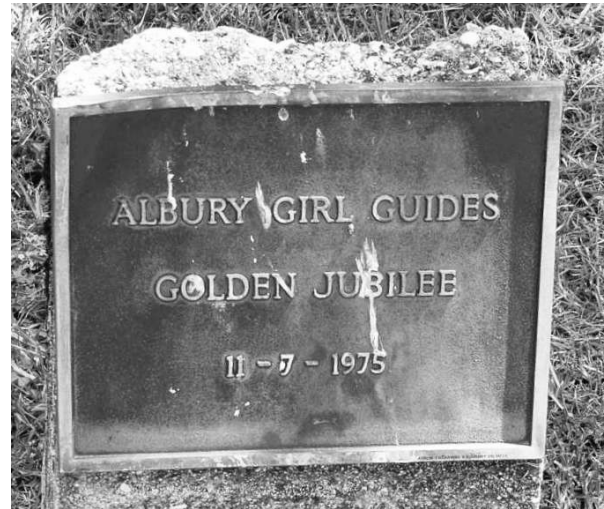
The modern building replaced much older corrugated iron changing rooms on the site. The rooms are currently on a long term lease arrangement with Albury-City.

The umpires originally used the Visitors' Rooms located under the Albury Grandstand and trained on the Sports Ground oval. In 1977, needing their own facilities, the League moved to the Noreuil Park oval

and used the vacant kiosk building till the Clubrooms were built.

### **Girl Guides Plaque**

This small plaque located across the road from the Water Wheel celebrates the Golden Jubilee of Albury Girl Guides. The concrete post supporting the plaque is weathered and damaged.



### **Noreuil Park**

The area of Noreuil Park closest to the river was fenced by Robert Brown and cultivated. The fenced paddock is marked on Townsend's 1839 map. Lady Jane Franklin, when she passed through in 1839, commented of the fine crop of maize ready for harvesting. Early residents and travellers also took advantage of the fine swimming opportunity the river offered.

The first comments on river bathing appeared in the *Border Post* of 1856. The comments were linked to travellers who had lost their lives in the river.

The first record of a 'Bathing and Swimming Establishment' was in a *Border Post* advertisement, January 1859:

*The public are respectfully informed that there is a bathing place open on the river, below the crossing. Swimming taught there according to the rules. A boat to bring persons to it. Baths 1 shilling. Open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.*

In the era before bridges were plentiful, travellers frequently had to ford rivers, so the ability to swim was a desirable, if not essential, skill.

In 1870, Thomas Scott constructed floating baths below the Crossing Place, possibly on the Victorian side of the river because he advertised 'no current.' Albury Council soon got involved and Scott had to move his baths upstream to behind the "Chinaman's gardens," probably to avoid the paddle-steamers.

In 1880, the council was asked to provide a bathers' shed and platform in the loop of the river known as Bean's Baths. In 1919, an enlarged area was redeveloped as a recreation reserve, employing returned servicemen and financed by a government grant.

Several names were suggested for the new park, among them AIF Park, Victory Park and Anzac Park.

The mayor, Alderman Alf Waugh, however said he wanted something distinctly 'Albury' about the name. He asked men who had served in the Albury Battery during the Great War to name their most significant engagement in the war. They chose Noreuil where the Battery had been surrounded, but fought on to repel the enemy. So the park was named after the village of Noreuil in France.

For many years there was no explanation of how the Park got its name. In the 1990s, a small bronze plaque sponsored by the Albury Sub-branch of the RSL was placed in the dividing garden in the roadway opposite the kiosk. This became completely overgrown and in 2004 the plaque was attached to a rock close to the river bank adjacent to the *Cumberoona* berth.

In 1928, the Noreuil Park Committee reported to Council on a successful Anniversary (Australia) Day sports day. In the report they advised that a Life Saving Club had been formed and training was progressing well. Mr S Cookesly was the instructor. The Club asked for a first aid kit to be procured to attend to minor injuries and a stretcher and blankets. There was a tentative proposal to build a casualty ward. Also the Misses Wilks had called a meeting to form a Ladies Lifesaving Club. In 1935 it was reported there had been a considerable number of rescues.

Following the sports day, the Committee had approached Council to construct a proper athletics track. Council replied Noreuil was not a sports ground, but a picnic area and sports should be of a picnic nature.

Basic dressing sheds for both men and women bathers were erected in 1919. They were made as an enclosed open space with a dirt floor, but without a roof. The women's dressing sheds lacked privacy cubicles and visitors' letters to Albury Council in 1929 complained that the facilities were very poor.

In 1932, powerful floodlights were installed as part of the improvements to the Park. The Noreuil Park Committee had overseen the various improvements since council had first decided to purchase the land for public recreation. The 1000 candlepower lights were installed adjacent to the swimming area and commissioned by the Mayor, Alderman Alf Waugh, on Monday evening 19 December 1932.

A fenced children's bathing area was developed and a concrete life guard station was constructed on the water's edge.

On 31 October 1929, Noreuil Park was declared a Camping Ground for touring motorists. The maximum length of stay was seven days. A permit had to be obtained from the grounds supervisor, Mr L C Phibbs. The camping fee was two shillings for the first night and one shilling for each additional night. As a camping ground Noreuil Park had some disadvantages: it was subject to flooding and as the trees grew they were inclined to drop branches without warning. However in the summer months it was a popular spot.

In the 1960s, problems arose with the number of permanent campers on the reserve. This increasingly restricted the use of the park for recreation, its primary intention, so in 1972 caravanning and camping was relocated to the Albury Show Grounds.

A fine access gateway with random rubble pillars

was built at the entrance to the Park in the 1950s. It has not been possible to ascertain why or when the gateway was demolished. It is thought it was done when major flood mitigation work was carried out in 1979/80. Unfortunately, with the gateway went any clear identification of the Park.

The area beside the oval area was used as a venue for visiting circuses. Howard Jones' book *Magic Memories of Albury* shows a photo of elephants belonging to Bullen's Circus at Noreuil Park in 1961. Subsequently, circuses were relocated to Oddies Reserve and later still to Gateway Island.

A small fun fair, Miller's Kiddies Corner, operated near the entrance to Noreuil Park for a few weeks at Christmas - New Year from 1989 till 2009.

The first recorded cricket match was played at the Noreuil Park oval with its newly laid concrete wicket on 25 November 1950 between local teams Kiwis and Wodonga.

Since 1977, the oval has also been the training ground of the Albury Umpires' League.

Kiosks to serve the needs of campers and picnicker operated at Noreuil Park from the 1920s. The buildings were replaced periodically as they reached the end of a useful life. In 1957, an unused kiosk at Noreuil was dismantled and re-erected at the Swimming Pool to replace one that had been burned down.

In 1950, a brick caretaker's residence, garage and a modern kiosk designed in the flat roofed 'contemporary' style, were erected on flood free ground mid-way between the swimming area and the entrance. Only the brick garage remains, the residence and kiosk having been demolished in 1994.

The kiosk faced south, looking across the road to the oval. The façade was mostly glass and sloped forward at the top.

The building had a shop section to serve the camping and caravanning fraternity and a café that provide ice creams and snacks to picnickers. In the 1960s, Caltex installed a petrol bowser. The closure of the caravan and camping ground removed the need for a caretaker.

The kiosk was vacant in 1977 when it was used by the Albury Umpires' League as clubrooms while their own building was built.

A *Border Morning Mail* article dated 13 April 1994 was headed, "Eyesore kiosk is doomed". The article referred to the building as the 'Cumberoona kiosk' and said it would be demolished within the month. Council said the cost of refurbishment was too much. The cost of demolition was estimated at \$15,000 and the cleared area would be used for car parking for *Cumberoona* passengers.

[River Walk Notes will be continued in future Bulletins.]

## REMINDER

**Next meeting Wednesday 11 May at  
the Albury Library Museum Kiewa  
Street commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

**Please bring a plate for supper.**