ReCollecting Albury Writers • John Farrell • Rolf Boldrewood • Margaret Browne • William Lang • Mary Gaunt • Reginald Spencer-Browne • Sydney Jephcott • Billy Wye • Walter G. Henderson • Kerani • John O’Brien • Ernest ‘Jerry’ Moll • Tom Doran • Merrick Webb • Graham Jackson • Jane Downing • Elizabeth Fairfax • Rose Browne • William McGuffin, • M. Sanger • Alfred William Eustace • Ethel Florence Lindesay Robertson • Henry Handel Richardson • Percy Reginald ‘Inky’ Stephensen • George Etienne Loyau • Lillian of Narrandera • Will Carter • John Farrell • Rolf Boldrewood • Margaret Browne • William Lang • Mary Gaunt • Reginald Spencer-Browne • Sydney Jephcott • Billy Wye • Walter G. Henderson • Kerani • John O’Brien • Ernest ‘Jerry’ Moll • Tom Doran • Merrick Webb • Graham Jackson • Jane Downing • Elizabeth Fairfax • Rose Browne • William McGuffin, • M. Sanger • Alfred William Eustace • Ethel Florence Lindesay Robertson • Henry Handel Richardson • Percy Reginald ‘Inky’ Stephensen • George Etienne Loyau • Lillian of Narrandera • William Lang • Mary Gaunt • Reginald Spencer-Browne • Sydney Jephcott • Billy Wye • Walter G. Henderson • Kerani • John
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Further Reading

The most recent anthology of Albury writing is:


For biographies and literary sketches see:


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Jane Downing (1962–)

Jane Downing was born in Australia in 1962 but was taken to live on Manus, an outer island of Papua New Guinea, three weeks later. She has since lived in Tanzania, Ireland, Indonesia, the (then) USSR, China, the Marshall Islands and Australia. Her education was at the closest school, whichever country she was in at the time, and she went on to gain a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from the Australian National University. Her first job was at the American Embassy in Moscow. She has since worked for the British Embassy in Beijing, the United Nations in the Marshall Islands (as an Australian Volunteer Abroad), the Australian Public Service, the National Gallery, two Youth Refuges and a Domestic Violence Crisis Service.

While in the Marshall Islands Jane Downing compiled and edited a collection of myths and legends of the country, 'Bawebwenatoon Eito', for use in the island’s High Schools. She was then commissioned by the Ministry of Education to write a history of the Marshall Islands for third graders, ‘Mour Ippen Don Im Ippami’, and to adapt and illustrate two of the legends for fourth graders. These are ‘The Hermit Crab and the Needlefish’ and ‘The Whale and the Sandpiper’, the latter also re-published by the University of the South Pacific.

At this time Jane Downing began to write fiction. Since then she has had more than 60 short stories published in Australian, European and US literary magazines. Her poetry has also appeared in a number of Australian and international journals.

Her first collection of short stories, ‘Searching for the Volcano’ (four Wpress), was published in 1999. Since then she has been awarded an Australia Council Grant to complete a novel.
Graham Jackson
(1947–)
Born in Melbourne, Graham Jackson was educated at Albury Grammar School. Study at the Australian National University was followed by travelling in Australia and the South Pacific. He began writing and publishing poetry, while living mostly in Albury and Canberra. Jackson was involved with Canberra Poetry and The Albury Wodonga Champion, a short-lived independent newspaper.

Following the publication of poetry and short stories in literary magazines, he published his first novel ‘The Coals of Juniper’ (1977). His second novel ‘The Haphazard Amorist’ was published by University of Queensland Press in 1980, followed by the related short story collections ‘Square Crib’ (UQP, 1981) and ‘The Decline of Western Hill’ (UQP, 1983).

In the mid-1980s Graham Jackson co-edited and published Codswallop, a short story journal produced in Albury.

Dorothy Simmons
(1950–)
Born in Northern Ireland, Dorothy Simmons came to Albury in 1977. She has had short stories and poetry published in Australia. A play ‘Night Exercises’ was performed by the Murray River Performing Arts Group in 1979. She has published two novels for teenagers, ‘Video Zone’ (Lothian 1998) and ‘Ridge’ (Lothian 2001).

Introduction
Poetry and verse were a common staple of 19th century life, ranging from doggerel and bush verse to literature and ‘high’ poetry. The advent of the local newspaper press permitted the distribution of verse to a greater audience. The page limitations of the early papers, usually four pages, meant that poetry was very much suited for this medium. As the papers became larger, up to 40 pages as in the case of the weekly papers, more space could be devoted to prose fiction. This was largely taken up by serialised novels, but also by short fiction, some of which was of local origin.

Country writers found outlets not only in the local press but also in the metropolitan weeklies, such as The Town and Country Journal, The Australasian, and particularly The Bulletin, which made a point of fostering Australian fiction.

During the compilation of the Anthology ‘ReCollecting Albury Writing,’ covering local literature from 1856 to 2000 the author searched the pages of local papers for fiction published by Albury writers. This led to research into the lives of some of Albury’s writers found there.

This booklet presents biographical sketches of nineteen writers. Any such selection is by necessity eclectic, governed by the interests, the likes and the dislikes of the compiler, but also, and quite dramatically so, by the accessibility of sources. I have tried to find a balance of writers that spans the times and that covers different backgrounds. The sketches are heavily biased towards men, both because more men found publication and, particularly, because many women published under a pseudonym that can no longer be unravelled.

The reach of ‘Albury and District’ has been taken from Walter G.Henderson’s account item written for the Border Morning Mail on the occasion of Australian Authors’ Week, 1927. The district covers the area from Corryong in the east to Chiltern and Corowa in the west.

Writers form a small community, who usually know each other and sometimes correspond. This was even more true during the 19th century when towns and communities were much smaller. In the 1890s, for example, (→) Sydney Jephcott, Albert Bartlett (→ Kerani) and (→)
Rolf Boldrewood, and later (→) Walter Henderson, corresponded with each other. Jephcott wrote valedictory notes for Bartlett and also for (→) John Farrell.

The turn of the century, from the 1890s to the 1920s, was a very productive period for Albury authors, with a wide range of novels and short story collections being published. By comparison, the 1930s to 1950s were a period when only few Albury authors found publication in book form. By the 1980s this had changed again, partially led by the reduction in publishing costs and the preparedness of publishers to once more take on new talent.

In addition to the writers whose biographical sketches are reproduced here, there are writers of whom we only know little, or who are famous, but who have a lesser association with Albury and district. Writers of some note, who are not chronicled here in greater detail are:

Elizabeth Fairfax who was mentioned by Henderson as one of the Albury writers writing under a pseudonym. While her short story collection ‘Garden o’ memories and other stories’ (1921) survives, the identity behind the pseudonym has been forgotten.

Rose Browne (1862–1927) tried following her father as a novelist. She published the novel ‘Complications at Collaroi’ in 1908. Like her mother she drew on the high recognition value of her father’s pen name, and published under the pseudonym ‘Rose Boldrewood.’ While she had worked on a novel set in Rhodesia, this never eventuated.

William McGuffin (1829) was an Albury boot maker and shoe importer, with a business in Dean Street at least from 1901. A collection of his short stories, ‘Australian Tales of the Border,’ was published in 1920 by Lothian. There seems to be no record of whether they were previously published in newspapers or magazines.

Under the pseudonym ‘Darma’ the Albury writer Darcy L. Mau (1898–1979) wrote poetry and short stories and produced cartoons. Little is known about his life.

A short-term resident was Percy Reginald (“Inky”) Stephensen (1901–1969). Stephensen (1901–1969) was a politically controversial writer, editor and publisher. In 1941 he co-founded the Australia First movement which was characterised by extreme isolationist, nationalistic, anti-English, anti-Communist and anti-Semitic views. In 1942 Stephensen, along with other members of the movement, was arrested.

Tom Doran
(1904–1975)
‘Red’ Tom Doran was born in 1904 at ‘Nonentity’ Gold Mine at the Little Snowy Creek, near Eskdale, Victoria. Later in life he used this by claiming he had been born at Nonentity and remained a nonentity all his life. In his early days he worked on a railway gang and the navy. In the early and mid 1920s he worked on the construction of (Old) Parliament House in Canberra and as a steam engine driver and operator of earth-moving machines during the construction of the Hume Weir. Tom Doran served as a Union Representative in most positions of employment. During the depression he became a ‘bagman.’ In the later part of his life he and his wife operated the Wirlinga Store on the Old Sydney Road east of Albury.

‘Red’ Tom Doran, as he was locally called because of his leftist views, began writing in the 1940s. Most of his writing was political commenting on events in Albury and beyond. Tom Doran ensured that (→) Billy Wye was given a headstone.

Merrick Webb
(1912–)
Merrick Webb served as Alderman on the Albury Council and then became a Methodist Minister serving both in rural and urban NSW. Webb self-published his first collection of poetry, ‘Smoke stacks: a book of Australian verse,’ in 1971. Since then another three poetry collections have been published by small church presses. Other work has appeared in a number of local and regional publications.
Ernest ‘Jerry’ Moll
(1900–1997)

Ernest George ‘Jerry’ Moll was born in Murtoa, Victoria, on 25 August 1900 and moved to ‘Strathdown,’ Gerogery, northeast of Albury in 1909. From 1913-18 he attended Concordia College, Adelaide and at the age of 20 moved to the United States for study, graduating Master of Arts, Harvard University in 1923. In 1927 he published his first book of verse, ‘Sedge Fire.’ A year later Moll was appointed Assistant Professor of English at the University of Oregon, where he remained until his retirement in 1966. From 1931 onwards Moll published fourteen poetry collections, one book of history and two books on poetry appreciation. His 1940 collection of poetry, ‘Cut from Mulga,’ was chosen by the Commonwealth Literary Committee as best book of the year. In 1966 Moll retired from the University of Oregon, and was awarded the University Medal for Distinguished Academic Service. Having moved to Oroville, California in 1972, Moll continued writing until his death there on 15 May 1997.

Moll maintained his connections with Australia, lecturing on exchange at Sydney Teachers’ College 1939 to 1940, and returning frequently to the Border region, particularly Gerogery and Yackandandah. Among other issues, Moll pushed for the establishment of a Riverina University at Albury. Moll corresponded widely with contemporary poets and literary figures, among them (→) Sydney Jepchott.

Moll’s poetry deals with both Australian and American topics.

and subsequently interned until 1945. After the war Stephensen lived at Bethanga from 1949–1952. Stephensen ‘ghosted’ many books for the novelist and travel writer Frank Clune and formally co-wrote two of them.

In the district we also need to mention M. Sanger who operated a well known orchard and vineyard near Corowa. In the 1860s Sanger was a frequent contributor of poetry to the local newspapers, especially the Albury Banner and the Pastoral Times in Deniliquin.

A more recent writer is the Chiltern-born novelist Wilfred Clarence Busse (1900–) who had two novels published in the 1930s: ‘The golden plague: a romance of the roaring ‘fifties’ and ‘The blue beyond: a romance of the early days in South-Eastern Australia.’

In addition many writers passed through the area such as Will Ogilvie, Randolph Bedford, Anthony Trollope, Dorothy Tennant and Mark Twain. Some stayed for a short while and examples of their material found first publication in the local press. An example is poetry by George Etienne Loyau (1835–1898) a bush balladist with a large number of poems in newspapers and at least one volume of poetry to his name.

Other authors, while not strictly local, used the Albury press as the main outlet for their work. There is, for example, Lillian of Narrandera. While her real name remains elusive, her two dozen poems in 1899 and 1900 in the Albury Banner survive. Another example is Will Carter (1868–1956), first of Lower Tarcutta and later of Adelong, who also first published original poetry in the Albury Banner. As his fame spread, his work found acceptance with metropolitan papers, such as The Bulletin and the Australian Town and Country Journal.

It is hoped that these biographical sketches stimulate interest in Albury’s literary history, both in the writers and in their works. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by my wife and collaborator on many editorial projects, Jane Downing.

Dirk H.R. Spennemann
Albury, October 2001
John Farrell
(1851–1904)

Born at Buenos Aires, Argentina, John Farrell grew up on the Victorian gold fields, where his parents established a carrying business and later ran a farm near Maldon (Vic.). His parents were educated and fostered in John and his siblings a love of books and reading. Between 1870 and 1878, he found employment at a brewery, tried his luck on the Charters Towers and Palmer River Goldfields, worked as a timber getter, in a cordial factory and again as a brewer. John Farrell came to Albury in 1878 to manage the brewery of Messrs O’Keefe and Manning. In 1879 he suffered from meningitis and was taken to Melbourne Hospital. The illness left him with a permanent impairment of recurrent neuritis. From March 1883 Farrell ran a brewery in Goulburn, and later another one in Queanbeyan. In 1887 he entered the arena of newspaper editing and publishing in Lithgow, and later Sydney, arguing for free trade and against protectionism. Farrell died 8 January 1904.

Although Farrell contributed to a Camperdown newspaper from 1876, his literary career commenced in Albury. His verse was published by both the Border Post and the Albury Banner. His ‘Ephemera, an Iliad of Albury’ was published in May 1878 as a slim volume by the Border Post. In 1879 he entered the competition for the Melbourne Exhibition of 1880. Even though his poem did not win a prize, the entry carried his name well beyond Albury. In 1882 Farrell published ‘Two Stories: A fragmentary poem’, in Melbourne. The 50-page booklet was well received by The Bulletin for which Farrell had been writing verse, but only faintly praised by the other Australian press. Farrell’s other early work for The Bulletin, written in Albury was the narrative poem ‘Jenny-an Australian story.’

Farrell was a prolific writer, widely published in newspapers and literary magazines. Only one collection, ‘How he died and other verses’ (Sydney 1887) appeared during his lifetime.

John O’Brien
(1878–1952)

Patrick Joseph Hartigan was born in 1878 in Yass. After attending the convent school at Yass, he studied for the priesthood at St Patrick’s College, Manly, and St Patrick’s College, Goulburn from 1892 to his ordination on 18 January 1903. From February 1903 to 1910 he served as curate at St. Patrick’s in Albury. Hartigan formed the Catholic Young Men’s Society, which met weekly. One night each month was dedicated to a manuscript journal, where Hartigan encouraged the reading and writing of Australian literature. In 1910 Hartigan was appointed inspector of schools for the diocese of Goulburn, a position which was based at the Newtown Orphanage run by the Sisters of Mercy at Thurgoona, 5km northeast of Albury. As one of the first curates in the state with a motor car, and because of his penchant for writing, Hartigan was well known throughout New South Wales.

In 1906 Hartigan began publishing verse under the pseudonym ‘Mary Ann’ in local newspapers, such as the Albury Daily News, and in regional weeklies, such as the Catholic Press and the Bulletin. Throughout his period in Albury Hartigan wrote poetry. Several of the poems dealt with the impact of ‘the Great War’ (World War I) on the community. A novel, ‘Australian Born’, was written while in Albury, but never published. In February 1916 Hartigan was appointed priest-in-charge of Berrigan and the following year parish priest of Narrandera. He retired in 1944. Encouraged by the publisher George Robertson he published his first collection of verse ‘Around the Boree Log and Other Verses’ in November 1921 under the pseudonym ‘John O’Brien.’ Other collections followed.
Kerani
(1876–1919)
Albert Thorburn Bartlett was born in 1876 at Williamstown, Vic, as the second son of Sidney Bartlett. Educated at Albury Grammar School, Bartlett matriculated at the age of 13 and joined a solicitors office for a couple of years. In 1891 he moved with his parents to Corryong, where he was engaged in primary production and mining until 1897. In that year he joined the staff of the Corryong Courier, of which he soon afterwards became editor and in 1900 proprietor. While in the Upper Murray region, Bartlett became good friends with (→) Sydney Jephcott. Bartlett enlisted in March 1916 as a private, rising to the rank of lieutenant soon after. He saw active service in 1917 in France as a member of the 57th Batallion. Wounded in action he was shipped England and as a ‘stretcher case’ later back to Australia. Bartlett died at Caulfield Hospital on 17 September 1919.

‘Kerani’, Bartlett’s nom de plume, comes from Hindustani and signifies ‘news runner.’ Kerani published in The Bulletin as well as a number of local journals, such as The Australasian, Punch, The Argus and The Herald (both Melbourne), as well his own, the Corryong Courier.

Henry Handel Richardson
(1870–1946)
Ethel Florence Lindsay Robertson published under the pseudonym Henry Handel Richardson. She is most well known for her novel Maurice Guest (1908) and her historical trilogy The Fortunes of Richard Mahoney, particularly the last volume in the series (Australia Felix’ 1917; The Way Home’ 1925; Ultima Thule’ 1929). She lived in Chiltern from 1876–78.

Rolf Boldrewood
(1826–1913)
Thomas Alexander Browne came to Australia at the age of four. Educated in Sydney, Browne took up squatter leases for cattle stations in the Western District of Victoria from 1844 to 1858 and owned a sheep station near Lake Boga (Swan Hill) from 1858 to 1863. From 1864 to 1869 he squatted at Bundidgaree Station near Narrandera, where he wrote his first short story ‘Kangaroo Drive.’ In April 1871 his public service career began. Appointed Police Magistrate and Clerk of Petty Sessions at Gulgong he soon after became Registrar of the Small Debts Court and the Gold Commissioner for the Goldfields at Gulgong. Two-mile Flat and Merrendie, and later the Mining Warden of the Mudgee District. He served as Police Magistrate in Dubbo from 1881 to 1884 and in Armidale in 1884. Aged 59, Browne became Chairman of the Land Licensing Board at Albury on 19 August 1885. In 1887 he was also appointed to the position of Police Magistrate and Mining Warden in which he remained until his retirement in 1895. While living in Gulgong, Browne began ‘scribbling for pay,’ to help support his family of eight children. From 1873 to 1877 Browne turned out one serial story a year. The first book version, The Squatter’s Dream, published as ‘Ups and Downs,’ appeared in 1878 in London. Though dealing with the general area, Boldrewood’s most famous work, ‘Robbery under Arms,’ was not written at Albury despite this being asserted even during Boldrewood’s life-time. It had first appeared in serial form in 1882. The work was published in book form while Browne lived in Albury. Also while at Albury, the story was dramatised by Alfred Dampier and Garnet Walch and staged to wide acclaim in Melbourne in March 1890. ‘Robbery under Arms’ has been in print until the present day.
Margaret Browne
(1837–1917)
Margaret Maria Browne (née Riley) was born in April 1837. By the age of two she and her two siblings had lost both parents and were taken to live with their aunt at Denham Court, Ingleburn near Sydney. During her childhood Margaret developed a deep interest in gardening, visiting neighbour’s gardens as well as local nurseries. While at Denham Court, Margaret had a small garden plot where she grew capsicums and jonquils. Later, she managed to maintain small plots while at school in Sydney as well as at a cousin’s residence, who himself was “passionately fond of flowers” and had his own collection.

In August 1861 Margaret married Thomas Alexander Browne, then a young squatter. The Browne’s lived first at Murrabit (Swan Hill) and from 1864 at Bundgeree Station. In 1869 the family was back in Sydney; from 1871 to 1881 the Browne’s lived in Gulgong, from 1881 to 1884 in Dubbo, in 1884 in Armidale and from 1885 to 1895 in Albury (two residences); finally, in 1895, they moved to Melbourne. In all places Margaret seems to have established a small cottage garden. As she commented in the preface to her book, “to live without a garden would be for me an impossibility”.

What amounted to fifty years of planting experience gained in a variety of climates of New South Wales stood Margaret Browne in good stead when she decided to publish her knowledge in the form of a practical guide to gardening with an emphasis on flowers. The 144-page “The flower garden in Australia. A Book for Ladies and Amateurs” was published in 1893 in Melbourne by Melville, Mullen and Slade, a company which acted as the main local agents for Macmillans, her husband’s British publisher. Given that her husband’s name had a high public recognition value, Margaret Browne decided to publish her book under the name ‘Mrs. Rolf Boldrewood’.

Walter Henderson
(1870–1957)
Walter Gordon (‘George’) Henderson was born in 1870 at Roslyn, near Golburn (NSW), son of John and Margaret Henderson. He became a lawyer in 1893, practicing in Albury from 1899 in a law partnership with George T. Fleming, which continued in various configurations until Henderson’s retirement in 1948 at the age of 78.

Walter Henderson married Fleming’s daughter Charlotte in 1899 in St. Matthew’s Church Albury. After retirement, Henderson devoted his time to the development of his property ‘Upper Wantagong’ near Holbrook, NSW, where he had moved in 1929 while continuing to practice in Albury. In 1950 the Hendersons subdivided their property and moved to ‘Glencraig’ near Robertson, where his daughter lived. Henderson died on 23 July 1957 at Robertson and was cremated at Rookwood, Sydney.

Throughout his life Henderson maintained a keen interest in the bush and bush life. His first short story collection ‘Midnight’s Daughter and Other Stories’ comprises mainly bush tales, including a number of bush ranging stories from the 1840s to 1860s. He later turned to novels, publishing in 1908 ‘Norab Conough’ a story which deals with the conflict between large and small land-owners in the 1890s. ‘Norab Conough’ was also published in the USA, where reviewers found it to be “good as a picture of social and domestic life in a crude new country.” ‘The Bathers’ of 1911 focusses on the impact of perceived wholesome attitudes of country life on urban and religious conservatism, ‘Bush Bred’ published in 1922 presents a romantic tale complicated by the impact of Chinese immigrants on the community; and in 1945 ‘Nelligang’ is a tale of family problems and life in the bush.
Billy Wye
(1866–1952)

William James (‘Billy’) Wye was born in a slab hut on the banks of Morse's Creek, Wandiligong, Victoria. His father worked in the mines and the Wye's lived at Myrtleford and Stanley. Wye left school at the age of nine, soon began earing a living, roaming all over North-Eastern Victoria, in tents and farm sheds. He was engaged for most of his life in brumby running, mustering, droving stock, prospecting and race horse training.

‘Billy’ Wye is renowned as the best bush balladist of the area. The Bulletin regarded him as one of the best of Australia’s horse poets. Having served in World War I, Wye was no stranger to the vicissitudes of life and poverty. In 1942 Wye wrote the poem ‘Charles Lennard’ in response to the pauper burial of a digger friend of his. It was published in the Border Morning Mail. The RSL took up the case following this ‘exposé’ and agreed to fund a proper burial monument, a tradition which endures for diggers until today. Wye’s last years were spent in the ‘Wanderers’ Club’ in Albury, then a seedy abode for itinerant workers, where all his writing, published and unpublished, shared a single suitcase with all his other belongings. Wye died at the age of 86 and was buried in Albury Cemetery.


William Lang
(1859–1923)

William Henry Lang, brother of the British poet Andrew Lang (1844-1912), was born in April 1859 in Selkirk (Scotland). He went to school and university in Edinburgh. He arrived in Australia in 1885 and commenced a medical practice in Corowa, NSW. Strongly interested in sport, particularly horse racing, Lang became a sports journalist in his spare time, writing a monthly column for the Pastoralists Review (Melbourne) under the pseudonym ‘Fife and Drums’ and contributing to the Australasian under the pseudonym ‘Teviotdale.’ He was also an approved handicapper of the Victorian Racing Club (1915–1923). Lang died on 10 December 1923 in Wangaratta.

His first major piece of writing was the volume ‘Australia’ (1908) in the Romance of Empire series, which contained factual information, partly written in fictional style. A second book followed, a novel drawing on his racing interests. It appeared under the tile ‘The Thunder of the Hoofs’ (1909).

Mary Gaunt
(1861–1942)

Mary Eliza Bakewell Gaunt was born 20 February 1861 in Chiltern, Victoria, where her father worked as a magistrate in the gold fields. Educated in Ballarat she went to Melbourne University as one of the first women allowed to study there. Her first novel ‘Dave’s Sweetheart’ was published in 1894, and a short story collection, ‘The Moving Finger,’ followed the year after. After her husband’s death in 1900 she moved to London where she quickly acquired fame. She was commissioned to write two travel books on Africa as well as one each on China and Jamaica.

At the time of her death in Cannes (France) on 19 January 1942, Mary Gaunt had published 26 books, three of which had been co-written with John Ridgwell Essex. Her oeuvre covers short stories, novels, crime stories, travelogues and a biography of George Washington.
Reginald Spencer-Browne
(1856–1943)
Born at ‘Oaklands,’ near Appin, New South Wales, Spencer-Browne was educated at Appin, at Corowa and in England. He worked as a journalist, presumably for the *Pastoral Times* in Deniliquin (1874?), and later as sub-editor of the *Townsville Herald* (1877) and editor of the *Cooktown Herald* (1878), before he joined the Brisbane *Courier* as Associate Editor in 1882. He served in the Boer War until 1902, and during World War I in the AIF as colonel of the 4th Light Horse Brigade, with action at Gallipoli and later staff work in Egypt and England. In 1921 he was formally retired with the honorary rank of Major-General.

In 1874 and 1875 Spencer-Browne published two poetry collections, ‘Shadow and Shine’ issued by the Deniliquin the *Pastoral Times* and the ‘The Last Ride’ printed by the *Albury Banner*. The latter was the first poetry collection published in Albury. As far as is known, no copies of these collections have survived, which illustrates the vagaries of local publishing. A series of bush and mining yarns appeared in 1890 under the title ‘Romances of the Goldfield and Bush’ (London: Gordon & Gotch).

Alfred William Eustace
(1820-1907)
After working as a gamekeeper in England, Alfred William Eustace arrived in Australia in 1851, taking up a position as shepherd on the Eldorado Run at Black Dog Creek near Chiltern. In his spare time Eustace painted delicate landscape scenes on Eucalyptus leaves. Exhibitions in Albury (1864) and Melbourne (1884) brought regional and national recognition. By the turn of the 20th century his fame was international. Eustace also wrote poetry, some of which was published in the *Chiltern Federal Standard*.

Sydney Jephcott
(1865-1951)
Born 1865 in Plen near Colac, poet and farmer, Sydney Wheeler Jephcott was self-educated and, from the age of 12, lived alone in the mountains in a tent. Jephcott remained a cattle farmer and served as a shire councillor on the Towong and Tumbarumba Shire Councils. Jephcott, like his father, was a keen gardener. The elder Jephcott had obtained a variety of seeds, cuttings and small trees from the Victorian government botanist, Baron von Müller and planted them on his property ‘Kahbionba’ between Ournie and Welaregang. Jephcott died in 1951 at the Albury Base Hospital.

After meeting the poet Henry Kendall in the late 1870s, Jephcott began writing poetry. He maintained contact with many Australian poets, particularly of the region. He wrote tributes to both (→) John Farrell and (→) Albert T. Bartlett (‘Kerani’). Jephcott was a friend of Francis Adams, who saw Jephcott’s ‘The Secrets of the South: Australian Poems’ (London: William Reeves, 1892) through the press in London in 1892. It was argued later that the book “did not have a fair chance, [as] it was printed in London without any proof reading, and was not put on the market in a presentable form.” Jephcott completed an unpublished, critical selection of Adam’s poems and a number of Adam’s volumes survive with Jephcott’s editorial annotations. Jephcott published under his own name, and simultaneously, under the pseudonym John A. Dreams. Jephcott’s second collection of poetry, ‘Penetralia’, was published in 1912 by Lothian.

Thomas Browne (→ Rolf Boldrewood) knew Jephcott and lauded his work. In 1894 in an interview with the journalist Tighe Ryan, Browne described Jephcott as “the mysterious bushman whose poems are even more puzzling than his handwriting.” The *Bulletin* commented that “no mortal man can read it”, written with “a list suggestive of big timber caught in a cyclone.”