

# Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 4  
ISSUE 6  
SPRING 2024



Can you identify these children and where was the photo taken (see page 5)

## Points of Interest:

Museum, located at 22 Riddell Street,  
(Cnr Gidley St) Molong  
PO BOX 119 Molong  
OPEN Thursdays and Sundays  
10 am to 2pm

Or by appointment

Phone Contact 0400425015

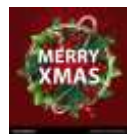
contact email—[molonghs@gmail.com](mailto:molonghs@gmail.com) or [susanmilne55@gmail.com](mailto:susanmilne55@gmail.com)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024/25

President—	Bob Sullivan	(0427696256)
Vice President	Elizabeth Griffin	(0437868595)
Secretary—	Lyndall Scott	(0419993660)
Treasurer—	Susan Grinpukel	
Committee	Sue Milne	(Membership)
	Lynne Robertson	(Social)
	Julie Lawrie	(Exhibitions)
	Jan McIntyre	(Promotion)
	John Lawrie	(Odd Jobs)
	Cameron Wild	(Equipment Officer)
	Doug Watson	(Equipment Officer)
Historian—	Catherine Mackenzie	

PATRONS

Jean Bennett, Marie and John Hammond.



Come and join us  
for drinks & nibbles on  
SUNDAY 8th December  
from 5.30pm  
On the verandah  
Everyone welcome



## RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the Society should be written,

then posted or emailed to :-  
PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866

**[molonghs@gmail.com](mailto:molonghs@gmail.com)**

Please include

Your Name, contact number

Reason for enquiry

(family research, writing book etc)

Relevant information

Fees on Request

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024/2025

EVENT	DATE & TIME	INFORMATION
MUSEUM OPEN DAYS	Every Sunday from 10 am until 2pm	All welcome to visit and view the museum. Limited research available.
MUSEUM OPEN with WORKING DAY	Every Thursday 10am until 2pm.	Members will be working on various projects. Open to visitors to view museum displays.
MOLONG CENTRAL SCHOOL VISIT	THURSDAY 28th November 9 till 11.15	A group will be visiting the museum.
COMMITTEE MEETING	THURSDAY 28th November Following visit	
CHRISTMAS DRINKS & NIBBLES	Sunday 8th December from 5.30pm at the Museum	Every one welcome. bring a plate & drinks Please
LAST OPEN DAY FOR 2024	Thursday 19TH December 10 till 2	Museum closed until 23rd January For visits please see front page.
FIRST OPEN DAY FOR 2025	Thursday 23rd January 10 till 2	
AUSTRALIA DAY	SUNDAY 26th January	The main event will be held at the RSL Club, we will open for visitors.
FAIRBRIDGE Bi-Annual REUNION	Waiting on confirmation	Possibly first week in March 2025
STEAM TRAIN TRIP TO MOLONG	Saturday 10th May 2025	More information later. Volunteers needed
HISTORICAL SOCIETY 60th BIRTHDAY	Events throughout the year.	



### INVITATION

To members, friends and supporters.

Please join us on  
 Sunday 8th December  
 From 5.30pm on the verandah  
 for drinks and nibbles  
 Please bring something to share.  
 BYO drinks



# MUSEUM REPORT

Another year has flown past, "Where are the years going and why are they getting shorter". The newsletter and Facebook as well as personal contact have allowed the committee to keep in touch with members and our supporters.

The Thursday workdays at the museum continue to be busy with many activities occurring. The team has welcomed Di, Doug and Cameron who regularly assist as well as Glenys and Kim on Sunday open days. Tasks include sorting the archives and digitizing them, answering research enquiries, preparing for exhibitions and welcoming visitors to the museum. If you have an hour or two to spare, please drop in to assist.

A Membership Drive has seen fourteen new members join and two rejoined after a short break. Many of these are from the local area. We also have members from Queensland, Victoria and all parts of NSW.

There has been an increase in Research Enquiries, with Catherine working behind the scenes to keep on track with these. She is assisted by the committee and several members who contribute as required.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2024 Annual General Meeting was held at the RSL Club on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. President Bob gave a report on the Society activities for the year and future plans. These include continuing the maintenance work of the building, organizing and cataloging the collection and several events for the next year.

Linda Emery then conducted the Election of Officers for 2024/25. The Committee was returned with Cameron Wild and Doug Watson being added.



The large group of members and visitors were entertained by Linda Emery who spoke about "The Toohey Family of Amaroo".

Copies of her talk are available by contacting the museum.





## PROBUS VISIT

The Molong Probus Club visited the Museum on Tuesday 9th July for lunch and a tour of the museum. Following their meeting at the RSL Club, 28 Members ventured to the museum to enjoy the warm winter's day on our verandah. Lunch of soup, quiches and sandwiches was prepared by Lynne and her team.



Bob and Jim entertained the visitors with stories of their childhood growing up in Molong. The visitors took the opportunity to wander around the museum and review the displays. The new bottle display which includes a 1877 Irish good luck Charm Bottle and several related to early Molong.



## A MORNING DRIVE

Molong was the place to be on Thursday 21st September when 15 vintage cars were parked at the museum, while their passengers were visiting. The Society hosted 30 visitors from Orange and Cowra Car Clubs for morning tea and a talk on the history of the building, before checking out the exhibits, inside and outside. The club members have regular outings and choose different venues to visit.



After leaving us they were heading to the Packham property for a country sausage sizzle.



## EARLY RESIDENTS OF 20 RIDDELL STREET THE CAMPBELL FAMILY

The museum had a visit from a local family who had lived in the building between 1938 and 1950's. They were Robert, David and Eleanor Campbell, who all still live in Molong.

The siblings were born to James and Rosetta (Staines) Campbell who married in 1938 and settled in Molong. Rosetta was a daughter of the Staines who lived at Brookleigh Molong and was known for her sporting skills in tennis and golf. James was an architect who met Rosetta when he worked on her fathers property. They had 3 children who were all born while they were at the building, Robert (1938) David (1943) and Eleanor (1946).



The family moved to 45 Hill Street after leaving the museum building. The home remains in the family, with David the current occupant. James ran a Taxi in Molong for many years and was an artist.



The siblings remembered their time living in the museum. It was subdivided into 3 flats, with their family occupying the middle and largest one. The Morris's lived in the front flat, while they were unable to remember who was in the back flat. Troths lived next door and Tilbrooks lived across the road. The siblings were unaware of who owned the building at the time. The building was owned by Mr.M. J. Ryan until 1950.

The Campbell's flat consisted of the parent's bedroom (Fairbridge Room) which had a wardrobe across the first door, the hallway, kitchen, dining room (meeting room) and half the small room (Office) which was divided by a wall. The communal bathroom was on the back verandah, with a toilet out the back (near where the shed is now). The communal laundry is where it is now.





# MOLONG SHOW



The 160th Molong Show was held on a beautiful Spring day in September. It was very successful with a large crowd attending and many old and new exhibitors.

The main pavilion was full of crafts, plants, cakes and agricultural exhibits as well as art and school displays. One of the most popular displays was the "160th Show Quilt" which was prepared by the ladies of the "Loose Threads" Group. It incorporated old photographs held by the museum.



Outdoor featured sideshows, animal exhibits and many trade stores. The 6th Lighthorse Regiment from Trundle were on display..

The Historical Society was popular as we were in the Luncheon Pavilion with the photographic section and the CWD ladies who provided meals during the day.



## DR LORRAINE LIVINGSTON

The Historical society was very sad to hear of the recent death of one of our members Lorraine Oates ( Dr Lorraine Livingston)

Lorraine was well known in Molong as the local Doctor, having her surgery in Gidley St for many years, before moving to Orange. She retired to Molong six years ago. Lorraine married Vic Oates in 1959 and raised his daughters Roslea and Julie (member of the Historical Society) and 2 sons Bill & David.

She was a very respected Medical Practitioner of Orange & Molong communities for many decades

## GLOUCESTER HOUSE FIRE Another cottage at Fairbridge Farm.

At 9pm on Wednesday 7th August 2024 one of the buildings on the derelict Fairbridge site was destroyed by fire. This building was Gloucester House built in 1951. The building was officially opened by Sir William Slim in 1953.

Gloucester House was built in 1951 to accommodate Old Fairbridgians returning to Fairbridge for holidays or between jobs. The building consisted of a male and female dormitory each accommodating 11 people, plus separate quarters of 2 bedrooms for married couples and families. There was a dormitory room that accommodated another 20 people located at the end of the verandah. There was a common room, complete with table tennis, a full size billiard table and tea making facilities. There was also an apartment and office for the Aftercare Officer and his family.



GLOUCESTER HOUSE after the fire. Photographs taken by Langdon Emery.



If you are visiting Molong, stop at the Fairbridge Children's Memorial Park for a picnic, Cabonne Council and the Fairbridge Committee have been busy to repair the damage from the 2022 flood. Gardens have been replanted, structures repaired and paths relaid.

## CAN YOU HELP US

Recently the museum have been given two photographs that require more information. Can you help us to add more details to the photos please.

### THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE

This photograph was donated by Sharon who is asking for more details of its history including who owned it, when it was built and last used.



Old Slaughter House was located at the corner of Buckland St and Back Saleyards Road.

If you can assist please contact the Museum  
These are some of the facebook replies we have received.

“My Parslow ancestors were in the Butchering business for years, embarrassed to say I have no idea where the animals were processed...The Express recorded a serious scalding at Saints Rest, child & vat of boiling water??? I recall a small enterprise on Back Showground Road, half-way between Marsden Street and the Showground boundary, on the East side, Think it was shut-down when health regulations were reviewed in the late 1960s”. (Ron Barratt)

“From memory, I think it was for Bert Cole, and Les Austin was the slaughter man. I think? The meat went to Bill Neville's butcher shop, which is now the building on the top side of yarn market. Interesting days, as Nesbitt's butcher shop was where the supermarket deli is, and a lot of stories came out from family creating a few laughs. The one mentioned was owned by Cecil Nesbitt, and meat was for his butcher shop. Malcolm Orringe was the slaughterman” (Helen Nesbitt)

“I think I know about where it was located on the western side of the back showground road and near the corner of the road that runs to the west, can't remember the street name which runs west to the weir, Billy Neville the butcher I think had animals slaughter there (back in the 1940s)”. (Bruce Morrow)

### THE MOLONG AMBULANCE

This vehicle is for sale please contact Ernie Savill, Bob Sullivan, or the museum for more details.



Description of the Ambulance- 1960 Ford Zephyr Mk11 Ambulance. Modified from a utility by W.G .Smith body builders of Lidcombe NSW. Originally operated by Orange District of NSW Ambulance Transport Service Board at their Molong Branch. Mildly customized with a Zodiac grille, chrome wire wheels, bucket seats and a floor shift The car was fully restored about 2000 . (information from Flickr)

Has anyone have any memories of this vehicle and who the drivers were?



# MUSEUM ACTION

Molong has been a popular place to stop and spend time visiting the shops and having a break. One of the most popular has been the Museum with families, couples and tourists spending time, Here are a few who visited recently.



Mr & Mrs Griffin were visiting Molong with their Caravan Club. They dropped in to check out their CLAYTON family of Cumnock. They were very happy to find that their ancestor had signed the Testimonial Letter given to Dr Ross in 1882. They will be returning to visit the area. They discovered that one of their relatives were among the first to settle in Cumnock.



It was a pleasure to have young Arlo and his mom checking out the museum. His enthusiasm and interest while finding all the things on his Scavenger hunt sheet - his comment that "it was his favourite museum he had been to" was lovely to hear. They were very interested to have found info on family members and thought this doll from the 1870's was very large!

His mother commented on Facebook about the visit *"I had taken Arlo to the National Museum in Canberra only the weekend before to see the ancient Egypt exhibition. It had real mummies and coffins on display so I reckon the compliment that the Molong museum is the best should be taken pretty highly!"* ( Pene Maree)



This lovely couple were passing through Molong and stopped to visit the museum and discovered they were related to many of the pioneer families including the Packham's of Pinecliff.

Everyone at the Museum was able to listen to organ recital on the Pinecliffe organ.



What a lovely visit this couple from Albany had reminiscing about Molong. Denise was excited when we found a photo of her great grandmother in our files. Steve and Denise were very impressed with the displays at our museum.

In July we had a visit from Susan Ness of Tamworth.

Susan and her 3 siblings spent 18 months at Fairbridge Farm from 1972. They were part of the scheme to take Australian born children to maintain the farm, following the ending of the British Immigration Scheme. Her father was employed as a painter and lived in one of the workers cottages.



During the last 4 months 130 people visited the museum. Here are a few locals who called in to show their children



# THE MOLONG HISTORIAN

During sorting out our archives we have discovered several original copies of the "HISTORIAN" newsletter that cover a wide range of topics on Molong and District. We would like to pass individual copies to members and researchers who have connections with the articles. There were 150 issues produced over 25 years.

The first issue was published in March 1972 with David Rutherford researching the stories and Ruth Bigrigg typing each issue.

## EDITORIAL FROM THE FIRST ISSUE

*The Molong Historical Society presents its first issue of "The Molong Historian", in which are brief histories of the Society, and it's Museum.*

*The object of this paper is to build a permanent record of the history of Molong and the surrounding district. In future issues we hope to include biographical notes of our early pioneers, histories of local properties, descriptions of some of the exhibits in our Museum, as well as other articles of an historical nature.*

*It is hoped that contributions will be forthcoming from the general public and residents of the district, as well as from members of the Society. We will welcome any contribution, no matter how short or long it is, provided it refers to our district; and while we cannot guarantee the veracity of items printed, we will make every effort to give the correct facts. We trust our paper will be of interest to a wide section of the community, and will fulfil its purpose of recording the history of the district.*

In April 1997, the 150th(the last issue) HISTORIAN was published, with both David & Ruth still listed as researcher & typist.

## EDITORIAL FROM THE LAST ISSUE

*In December, 1988 we published the 100<sup>th</sup> issue of The Molong Historian, and expressed the hope that we would reach the next hundred. However, owing to the ravages of time on the Editor and the Office Staff, we reluctantly announce that this 150<sup>th</sup> issue will be the last issue in the present format.*

*There are ideas of continuing The Molong Historian in some form, perhaps two issues a year; but this is in the future. It would also involve replacing both the Editorial and the Typing Staff members; though numerically few, i.e. 2, and qualitatively mediocre, there may be some difficulty in finding replacements.*

*Our Research Officer, Catherine Mackenzie, will, we hope, continue in her highly unpaid job, just as the retiring staff have over the last 25 years. To Ruth Bigrigg, my most grateful thanks for her help and for 25 years of typing.*

*Also to those who submitted articles and stories, my thanks for their help in filling our pages. We hope that The Molong Historian has fulfilled the aim expressed in our first issue. The Molong Historian has gone to the Mitchell Library of N.S.W., The Australian National Library and the Library of The Royal Australian Historical Society.*

## TOPICS INCLUDE

Pioneer Families,  
Local businesses,  
Organisations ,  
Entrainment,  
Education

Early properties,  
Government Departments  
Sporting and craft groups,  
Buildings,  
Local village life.

AN EXAMPLE OF A STORY FROM  
THE MOLONG HISTORIAN  
VOLUME 5 NO 25 ISSUED FEBRUARY 1996  
MEMORIES OF JOHN STUART TAYLOR

(1844 – 1926)

Yuranigh's grave is about one and a half miles south of Molong, near the railway line, just beyond the railway gates where the road crosses the line from Gamboola to Boree. About the same distance west from the Molong Creek.

Being there on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1907, I made a note in my pocket book of the surrounding four marked trees. The one on the north-east corner is now dead but the markings are all right, while the one on the north-west corner is still green but the markings nearly overgrown. The same may be said for the south-west corner but the south – east one is completely overgrown with new wood. Speaking from memory there would be about half an acre of land within the boundary of the four trees with their quaint markings. When I first saw it they were all enclosed with a three rail fence, but that has long since rotted away and never been renewed.

The grave was near the centre of the enclosure of the marked trees so indicated that it was a man that was buried there. As far as I knew it was never done for a woman. In digging the grave with their tomahawks the hole is only made large enough to hold the body in a squat position as it was sitting up and kept in that position by being tied. When deep enough it was placed in position, the earth placed around it and the surface soil for 3 or 4 feet around banked up not unlike a large anthill. The bushes are then carefully packed around the mound.

The stone originally erected at the grave, through the settling down of the soil, had fallen on the grave on the face side and lain that way for several years.

During a visit of the Hon J. H. Curruthers (Premier NSW 1904) to Molong his attention was called to the condition of the grave. As a result, the stone was re-erected on a base of Molong marble and the grave enclosed with a wooden picket fence. However, nothing was done to protect the marked trees from destruction.

The inscription on the stone reads:

Native courage, honesty and fidelity.  
Yuranigh  
Who accompanied the expedition of discovery into tropical Australia in 1846.  
Lies buried here according to the rites of his countrymen  
And this spot was dedicated and enclosed by the  
Governor General's authority in 1852.

This memorial originally erected in 1852 was re-erected on this base of Molong marble by the Government in 1900.

The marking of the trees must have been a very tiresome job with their tomahawks. I have often wondered, when viewing their spears, boomerangs, nulla nullas, waddies etc.,

Yuranigh's headstone shows three grand characteristics, namely, courage, honesty and fidelity, and he would certainly not be the only one of his race to possess them.





# ICE

From the HISTORIAN volume 2 no 10 issued December 1978

In the years of the gold rushes, people moderated the heat of mid summer a little by the use of ice. Cut from ponds in Massachusetts, stored in ice-houses and packed in straw or sawdust aboard ship in Boston, American ice dispatched by American ingenuity cooled Christmas drinks in Melbourne and Sydney and even as far as Beechworth before it melted. After 1860 ice was made in the colonies by machines used ammonia, and sold in blocks at 3d a pound. At that price it could be used by many colonial households not only in drinks but in ice-boxes to keep food and drink cool.

From "The Australina Colonists"  
By K.S. Inglis, Melb. Uni. Press.

## LATE NEWS

Our trustee handyman was at work again this morning. Thankyou Cameron for securing this Thomas plaque to the wall. A great job!!



The Thomas/Whitehead Plaque was presented to the Museum. It is a Memorial to Frederick and Netta Thomas (Nee Whitehead) who raised 16 children over 25 years in primitive conditions.

Last Thursday the museum was visited by Rozzi Smith, back after visiting her new granddaughter.

Sam Barrett and his assistant Hugh Hogan were visiting Molong at the same time.

Scott Barrett is the new MLC for the National Party in the Legislative Council.

Scott Barrett was elected to the Legislative Council in 2022. Prior to this he was providing drought, flood and bushfire relief to people in New South Wales with National Charity GIVIT. Having been born, grown up and now living in the Central West of New South Wales, Scott has a genuine passion for regional communities and the people who live in them. (from NSW Government Website)



## STREET STALL RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of the raffle contacted at the Street Stall on Thursday were Judy, Doug and Denise. Congratulations to you and thank you to everyone who contributed.



The grounds of the museum are looking great. We would like to thank Michael for the work he does to maintain the lawns. This is with the assistance of Lynne, Jan, Doug and others.

# MOLONG IN THE 70's A GLANCE THROUGH OLD FILES

*A selection of articles found in a 1903 Express that relates to  
Molong in 1877.*

From Molong Express Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 1903 issue

APRIL 13th, 1877

EXTRAORDINARY ACCIDENT-A most extraordinary and serious accident occurred last week to a young married woman named Kelly, who resides on Mr McCulloch's station at Buckinbah. It appears that Mr McCulloch and a "colonial experience" man were kangarooing, when the latter's horse staked itself so badly that the entrails protruded. The men proceed Kelly's hut-a mile away-to procure an axe to terminate the horse's misery, but on arrival at the place, they were amazed to see the animal tearing after them at full gallop and at every stride jumping on its entrails which swung onto the ground beneath its feet. Mrs Kelly, seeing a child of hers right on the track, sprang forward to save the little one, and just caught it up when the horse in its wild agony galloped over both mother and child. Mrs Kelly was struck heavily and kicked on both sides by the maddened brute, which rushed through the open door of the house, smashing everything in its place, bespattering the walls and floor with blood, kicked down the slabs at the back of the hut, and suddenly dropped dead in a frenzy of madness. Mrs Kelly, who is in a very delicate condition, was at once attended to, but very serious consequences were anticipated.

.....  
A man named Chesher, residing in Eugowra, was bitten on the toe by a brown and red spider a couple of weeks ago. Although he bled and poulticed the toe, the poison entered his system and next morning his body and head were swollen almost beyond recognition. With the aid of Dr Seth Sam and large doses of brandy and ammonia the patient gradually recovered.

.....  
The Legislative Assembly having passed the Orange Ironbarks route without division, a meeting of 100 residents of Molong was held at the new Royal Hotel, to urge Council to consider the claims of the Molong route before adopting the Government proposal. Messers G. H. Tempest, J. Haslam, W. Tanner, W.J Rollo were the principal speakers, the latter declaring that Molong would never be known as "Sleepy Hollow" again.

.....  
On Monday last Bank Street was the scene of an event deeply interesting to the members of one of Molong's oldest and most respected families when Mr John Sweeny of Orange was married to Miss Honor Wynne, sister of Mr J.F Wynne of the Freemason's Hotel. The ceremony was preformed by the Rev, Father Walsh (Orange) Miss Bowler attending as bridesmaid and Mr Tanner was best man.

.....  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1877

NOTICE-Fresh oysters from Sydney three times a week! "Jack' is always at his post near Hughes Hotel with a choice of succulent bivalves. Hair cutting performed. (*Ed Royal Hotel, interesting combination*)

## BOOKS FOR SALE

(Reviewed May 2024)



<b>AILEEN ROBERSON</b>	
A HISTORY OF THE MOLONG CATHOLIC CHURCH	\$20.00
ALLAN TOM Picture Show Man	\$20.00
PADDY McARDLE	\$20.00
THE SHEEN TEAM (Max &Nita)	\$15.00
VILLA ASH	\$5.00
<b>ROBERT ELLIS</b>	
SESQUICENTIENNAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
PIPER & YURANIGH	\$25.00
HOW THE WEST WAS WON	\$25.00
HISTORY OF THE SHEEPDOG	\$25.00
<b>DAVID RUTHERFORD</b>	
LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN SMITH	\$30.00
<b>KATE GADSBY</b>	
CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS & CORRUPTION	\$40.00
<b>HELEN HAYNES</b>	
MOLONG RSL PORTRAIT GUIDE	\$25.00
ORANGE 1901	\$10.00
<b>VAL McKENZIE</b>	
MOLONG SHEEP DOG WORKERS	\$25.00
<b>DIANNE WOOLBANK</b>	
WOOLBANK MEMOIRS	\$10.00
<b>RON SABIN &amp; JO BAILEY</b>	
THE LONG WAY HOME (Fairbridge story)	\$20.00
<b>NOEL CANTRILL</b>	
BORENORE CENTENARY 1877 TO 1977	\$15.00
<b>ORANGE ROTARY CLUB</b>	
BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
<b>CLEMENT SEMMLER</b>	
A.B. PATERSON	\$15.00
<b>GREG RAFFIN</b>	
EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING	\$20.00
<b>BERTHA MacSMITH</b>	
LETTERS OF JOHN MAXWELL	\$20.00
<b>TINA McGEOGH</b>	
BOREE CABONNE	\$10.00

PLEASE ADD POSTAGE \$ 10 TO \$15 depending on book size.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Fees are \$25.00 (per year)

Fees can be paid by direct debit, mail or in person



Bank Details  
BSB 062573 28007189

FOR MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

Contact Sue (0400425015), [susanmilne55@gmail.com](mailto:susanmilne55@gmail.com)