

Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 3
ISSUE 13
SPRING 2022

Points of Interest:

Museum, located at 20 Riddell Street,

(Cnr Gidley St) Molong

PO BOX 119 Molong

CLOSED during building works

Appointment only

Contact 0400425015

contact email—molonghs@gmail.com



THE ROUND HOUSE Built on Vale Head in 1835
Painting by E Copson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022/23

President—	Bob Sullivan	(0427696256)
Vice President—	Elizabeth Griffin	(0437868595)
Secretary—	Lyndall Scott	
Treasurer—	Susan Grinpukel	
Committee	Sue Milne	(0400425015)
	susanmilne55@gmail.com	
	Lynne Robertson	
	Julie Lawrie	
	Michael Cass	
	John Lawrie	
Historian—	Catherine Mackenzie	

PATRONS Jean Bennett,
 Marie and John Hammond.

FEEES FOR 2022

Molong Historical Society annual fees

They are \$20 each (\$40 family).

Fees can be paid by direct debit, mail or in person
Bank Details BSB 062573 28007189

FOR YOUR DIARY



WORKING
BEE
Saturday
5th November

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sunday
18th December





COMING EVENTS WORKING BEE

The veranda is nearly finished and the museum will soon be able to reopen.

A Working Bee has been arranged for Saturday 5th November to complete many of the small jobs that need to be finished. All assistance welcome whether it be for an hour or all day. Morning Tea and lunch will be provided. Please contact the museum if you would like more details.

A Walk around will be held on Thursday 2nd November to establish a job-list.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are invited to the Society Christmas Party to be held on Sunday 18th December at the Museum.

More details closer to the event.

IT'S SHOWTIME

Next April, Orange Regional Museum are arranging to have an exhibition of



"SHOWTIME" which includes stories and photographs from all the shows in the local area (Cabonne, Orange and Blayney).

Mary Liz Andrews will be visiting each museum looking for objects and stories to include.

If you can help and have any information please contact Orange Regional Museum or contact Sue Milne.

The postponed Molong Show will be held on Sunday 20th November.



BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL

BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL will be held from the 17th

February to 23rd February 2023 Events are starting to be planned by ORANGE 360.

On Sunday 19th February 2023 it is planned to have an afternoon at Boree Nyrang. Banjo was not just a poet, he was a horseman, Boer War and World War One Correspondent, sportsman and property owner. Greg North, a top poet and comedian will be attending.

There will be more details later.

Please contact Elizabeth Griffin for more information.

Annual General Meeting

The Molong Historical Society Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 13th August 2022. Thank you to the RSL Club who allowed us to use their building, as the renovations on the Museum were not completed. The meeting was attended by thirty members and guests.



Bob Sullivan gave a report of the activities of the year, followed by Susan Grinpukel who update us on the Society Finances.

A Presentation of Life Member was made to Sue Milne for "Distinguished Service to the Society over many years".

John Black chaired the Election of the 2022/23 Committee :-

President—	Bob Sullivan
Vice President—	Elizabeth Griffin
Secretary—	Lyndall Scott
Treasurer—	Susan Grinpukel
Committee	Sue Milne
	Lynne Robertson
	Julie Lawrie
	Michael Cass
	John Lawrie
	Catherine Mackenzie

Honorary Historian—

Public Officer

Patrons

Elizabeth Griffin

Jean Bennett,
Marie and John Hammond.

The formal part of the meeting concluded. The guests were entertained by Guest Speaker John Black, spoke of his family and connections to the flour mill industry.

Afternoon tea prepared by Lynne and her great team followed. This was a time for all to catch up with old and new friends.



CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS AND CORRUPTION
By Kate Gadsby
Copies available for sale at the museum



MR DES SULLIVAN (16/4/1931-29/7/2022) FOUNDATION MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY



Recently Des Sullivan, a foundation member, passed away in Bathurst after a lengthy illness.

Des was informally known as the "Mayor of Molong" for his knowledge and involvement in the village and surrounds. He spent many years in the area and enjoyed a chat and joke, passing his extensive knowledge on. He and Nea, "the love of his life" moved to Bathurst when their health deteriorated to be closer to their family.

Des spent most of his life in the Molong District, he was the local volunteer ambulance and taxi driver. He was an extremely popular shearing contractor, employing many local blokes as well as a Beekeeper. He was on many local Committees and assisted to establish many of the local services.

In 1964 following a display at the Molong Centenary show, The Apex Club with President Des Sullivan and Norm Bloomfield (Owner of Molong Express), were responsible for forming the Molong Historical Society. Des was President of the steering committee that drew up the constitution etc. Des remained a member of the Society until his death. He held many positions and was made a Life Member in 2012 as well as Patron of the Society. He was involved with maintaining the building and grounds. I am sure he is watching the current rebuilding of the veranda. He had many stories, including the one where he had "a ghost" visit him.

Des' favorite saying was

"Molong is the closest place to heaven - on earth"

He loved this town, district, and the people.

A true Molong legend - we will miss him. Loved the bloke!

(Information gathered from Museum records, Facebook and many locals)



When the elderly die,
A library is lost and volumes
of wisdom and knowledge are lost.

(Unknown)

Documents, Artefacts, and People: Encounters at the Molong Historical Museum Researching Fairbridge

By Susanne Quitmann



When young Germans travel to Australia, they usually stick to the big cities or work on farms as backpackers. Rarely, I would assume, do they come to Molong to visit the local Historical Museum. Aside from the fact that I think more tourists should visit the museum (once it is reopened), I, a German PhD student, had a particular interest in coming here.

Since 2018, I have been researching the British child migration schemes to both Australia and Canada as part of my doctoral studies in history at the LMU University of Munich, Germany. The Fairbridge Society operated an important one of these schemes, with Farm Schools and similar institutions not only in Molong, but also in Pinjarra in Western Australia, in Tasmania, Canada, and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). A lot of research has been published about the Fairbridge Farm Schools and other child migration schemes. What I hope to contribute with my research is a new focus on child migrants' voices.



My project has two main objectives:

(1) Making child migrants' voices heard while reflecting on the practical and methodological limits of this endeavour.

(2) Analysing the role of children's voices within the history of the child migration schemes.

The project wants to contribute to the history of child migration, empire, and childhood as well as to the ongoing academic and social discourse about the representation of children's and other marginalized actors' voices in history.

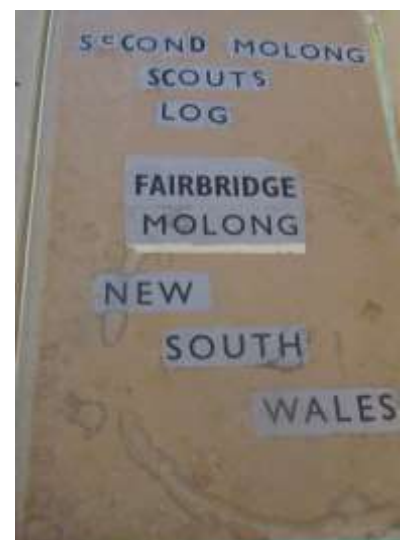
*Susanne and Nyasa
Holmes. Nyasa donated a
school desk from Fairbridge .*

The historian Rodolph L. Schnell once wrote: “[Historians of childhood] study one of the conspicuous mutes of history”. Children, of course, seem mute only to historians. For their contemporaries, children are rarely mute – they talk, they laugh, they sing, and they cry. Such voices, however, are rarely recorded and transformed into archival records. As a result, the history of childhood as an academic field deals primarily with adult actors, with how adults saw and treated children. Using the history of British child migrants as a blueprint, I want to show that it is still possible to listen to children in history. To do so, I analyse “voice” both literally and metaphorically.

My research questions include: What legal weight did child migrants’ voices have? Were child migrants’ complaints listened to, believed, and acted upon? What rules governed everyday communication? How did child migrants’ accent affect their experience? What songs did child migrants sing? When did child migrants write letters, to whom, and under what circumstances? How did child migrants express themselves in non-verbal ways?

Another important part of this research are the archives and memories themselves. I investigate whether and how child migrants’ voices were recorded and archived, and how they can be accessed and recovered. I also analyse what role child migrants’ and former child migrants’ voices play in the public memory of the child migration schemes. I am curious to find out who is writing the history of child migration and shaping the public memory about this part of Australian/British, imperial/local but also, for so many people, deeply personal history.

After spending just a few days in Molong and at the Molong Historical Museum, I was overwhelmed with new insights and realisations. I had access to some very interesting documents and artefacts, which deepened my understanding of everyday life at the Farm School: A Scouts’ log and the Junior Farmers’ scrapbook revealing details at the intersection of education and leisure, of daily life and one-time events; an official diary chronicling children’s appendix surgeries along side farm work and sports matches; an autographs book telling a story about friendships and poetry.



However, talking to people, who -- in different ways – had a connection to the Farm School, taught me more than any document could. I feel deeply honoured and thankful that these individuals were willing to share their personal memories with me. From these conversations, I learned how growing up as a child migrant at Fairbridge shaped individuals for the rest of their life. I got a better understanding of why positive or negative memories were shared at certain times and not others. I got an insight into how locals perceived the Farm School and its inhabitants (or “inmates” as some call themselves) and what their perspective is on the current media discourse about child migration and the legacy of the local Farm School.



Last but not least, I learned what a treasure trove Molong has thanks to its Historical Museum and the Molong Historical Society with all its volunteers. Sue in particular was a blessing for me; she was a magnificent host and a huge help. I will forever be grateful.

If you have any memories to share about Fairbridge or would like to know more about my research, please feel free to contact me! The best way to reach me is via email. You can also call or text me until the end of November, which is when I will leave Australia.

Susanne Quitmann

Historisches Seminar der LMU

Neuere & Neueste Geschichte

Postfach 105

Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1

80539 Munich

GERMANY

phone: 0493 479 862 (only until November 30, 2022!)

email: susanne.quitmann@lmu.de



FAIRBRIDGE REUNION

The Old Fairbridgians Association will be holding their Bi-annual Reunion (Delayed from 2022) in March 2023.

The museum will be hosting a morning tea and will have a exhibition of items from Fairbridge. We have had several donations recently.

Please contact Sue on 0400425015 if you are visiting the area and would like to view the collection.

VERANDA REPAIRS UPDATE

The veranda repairs are moving along and it won't be long before we can enjoy a cuppa and chat there again. The replacement of the floorboards is complete. This was achieved with the assistance of several volunteers who gave their time for several days. The painting is in process and the ironwork is nearly ready to be replaced. This has been cleaned and repainted.



When the floor boards were removed and the area below cleared many treasures were discovered (see photographs of a small selection) These tell a story of life before the Historical Society occupied the building.





GROWING UP IN MOLONG (A series of memories)

Ivy Barrett has offered to contribute a few memories of her childhood growing up in the Molong District in the 30's and 40's. Ivy is 95th birthday and resides at Prunus Lodge.

Molong in the mid thirties had "Late Night Shopping" on Saturday night. Gas lights, Salvation Army and the town band played, stirring up Bank Street. There were movies and a dance in the School of Arts, with local people providing the music. A bun from the Bakers Shop and a saveloy from Greek Café and sit on the Post Office steps and have a feast and the "Band played on".

At school in year 5, one of my favorite teachers disappeared and showed up dressed in khaki-yes we were at war. This teacher was a straight shot with a piece of chalk if you weren't paying attention.

I continued at school until I was 15 in year 7, then I left. I helped my parents with work on the vineyard. In the offseason I did parttime work at a couple of shops in town -namely W.J Amos Menswear.

Most of the young local men had either joined the forces or had been conscripted. My older brother took on the mail run, our uncle had serviced previously, he was now in khaki. This was the Molong via Peabody Road and back to town via Sandy Creek Road mail run.

Eventually the war ended and some of our boys returned. Sadly most of them did not reach their allotted "three score years and ten" (70) but died early. The survivors picked up their threads of life and carried on.

Meantime our shopping hours changed to Saturday afternoon closing (no more feasts on the Post Office steps). There was no more dances (Community Hall etc.) still growing 'No movies'. Times have changed.

During Covid, Prunus was in lockdown, but we could talk to visitors through the fence. We certainly had a trying time ("We " as the population in general)

We all look forward to Ivy's next contribution.

GODFREY TILBROOK A Molong Photographer

Julie and her team continue to develop an exhibition on Godfrey Tilbrook and other Molong Photographers. The museum has a collection of cameras and other equipment that was used to achieve a collection of photographs. The Exhibition is planned to be held in early 2023.

The collection of photographs below are examples, which need identifying. If you can assist please contact Julie, Jan or the museum.



.....

DONATION

Recently the museum was given a school desk to include in the Fairbridge room. The desk was used at the Fairbridge School between 1938 and 1973, when the school closed.



WANTED I am looking for any item that would have been used on the desk such as an inkwell and pen to add to the display

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 14th March 1903
(Continued from previous newsletter)

June 8th, 1877, Obituary; - John Ebbs Leathem, aged 69, father of the proprietors of the Molong Express and for nearly 30 years a member of the staff of the Sydney "Morning Herald"

.....
The tender of Mr. Denning has been accepted for the erection of the School of Arts.

.....
A melancholy event took place out at Meranburn a fortnight ago when Christian Miller lost his oldest son through eating mushrooms, which were said to be poisonous at this time of year, being out of season.

.....
June 15th, 1877 Drought stricken - A gentleman who has just returned from a journey into the interior, informs us that in Bogan country the effects of the drought are very apparent. He asserts that sheep are lying dead in great numbers close to the road and that any person possessing horses, wagon and feed could drive a good trade by taking a circuit of the country. He could also top his load by a few hundred horns of the dead cattle lying in company of the sheep in every direction.

.....
Notice: - Cobb & Co's day coach leaves Molong for Orange every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 9am. Arrives in Orange at 1.30pm". Booking Office at Mr. F. J Wynne.

.....
June 29th, 1877, Mr. Hull has almost completed his contract for the new R.C Church in Molong. It is intended to hold the consecration service at an early date.

.....
It is proposed to erect a brick C.E building at Beri Creek. The ground has been given by Mr. R.T. Cousins, while subscriptions will be received by Miss E Cousins Bathurst), Mrs A.T Cousins and Mr. W.H Cousins. junr.

.....
W. Tanner notified that owing to the advance in the price of flour the 2lb loaf will in future be 5d.

.....
A store employee carried a bag of flour from Langdon's Mill to Riddell St, a distance of over 100 yards, the other day, without stopping. The feat was an outcome of a bet.

.....
July 6, 1877- Mr. Robert Barlow, one of the contractors for the new police barracks at Molong, committed suicide on Sunday last by cutting his throat with a razor. The unfortunate man, who was married, was much worried over his contract and also over the Government. A verdict of suicide whilst Insane was returned at the inquest.

BOOKS FOR SALE

(Reviewed February 2022)

AILEEN ROBERSON

FAMILY'S OF MOLONG	\$30.00
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
ASHE VILLA	\$5.00

ROBERT ELLIS

SESQUICENTIENNAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
History of WIRADJURI Aborigines	\$10.00
PIPER & YURANIGH	\$25.00
HOW THE WEST WAS WON	\$25.00
HISTORY OF THE SHEEPDOG	\$25.00

DAVID RUTHERFORD

LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN SMITH	\$30.00
----------------------------	---------

KATE GADSBY

CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS & CORRUPTION	\$40.00
------------------------------------	---------

HELEN HAYNES

MOLONG RSL PORTRAIT GUIDE	\$25.00
ORANGE 1901	\$10.00

VAL MCKENZIE

MOLONG SHEEP DOG WORKERS	\$25.00
--------------------------	---------

RON SABIN & JO BAILEY

THE LONG WAY HOME (Fairbridge story)	\$20.00
--------------------------------------	---------

NOEL CANTRILL

BORENORE CENTENARY 1877 TO 1877	\$15.00
---------------------------------	---------

ORANGE ROTARY CLUB

BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
----------------------------	--------

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

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the Society should be written,
then posted or emailed to :-

PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866

molonghs@gmail.com

Please include :-

Your Name, contact number

Reason for enquiry

(family research, writing book etc)

Relevant information

Phone 0400425015

Fees on Request