

Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 4
ISSUE 8
WINTER 2025



Points of Interest:

Museum, located at 22 Riddell Street,
(Cnr Gidley St) Molong

Phone Contact 0400425015

contact email—molonghs@gmail.com or susan-milne55@gmail.com

Postal Address P.O Box 179 MOLONG NSW 2866
(NOTE New Number)

Website www.molonghistoricalsociety.com

See story page 7



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.	

REMINDERS

Membership fees are due
1st July 2025(NOW)

Please pay before our AGM
which will be held on
Saturday 27th September
2025

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the Society should be emailed
to :-

molonghs@gmail.com
www.molonghistoricalsociety.com

Please include
Your Name, contact number
Reason for enquiry
(family research, writing book etc)
Relevant information
Fees on Request

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2025

	DATE & TIME	INFORMATION
MUSEUM OPEN DAYS	Every Weekend from 10 am until 2pm and most Public Holidays	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.
ANNUAL FEES DUE	1st July each year	Payment accepted in cash or square at museum and direct debit.
COMMITTEE MEETING	Thursday 10th July 2pm	Please let Lyndall know if you have anything for the agenda.
LOOMBAH & BRUCE FAMILY Exhibition Official Opening	Sunday 30th August 1.30pm at the Museum	Guest Speaker, Ann Spencer. Afternoon Tea included. Gold coin Donation
ANNUAL MOLONG SHOW	Saturday 6th September	
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTE Change of Date	Saturday 27th September	All members and supporters invited Guest Speaker
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FIELD DAYS	23rd to 25th of October	The Society will be having a display in the TIN SHED.
MEMBERS MEETING	November (date to be announced).	60th Birthday Celebrations
GARDEN EXPO	FOR YOUR DIARY Autumn 2026	Contact Lynne if you would like to assist. More information soon.

UPDATE ON CONTACT DETAILS

The Society has recently changed their Postal Address. This reduces costs as we now have a smaller box which is cheaper. We receive most of our mail electronically.

The new details are
P.O Box 179, MOLONG NSW 2866.

We can be contacted by phone (see front page for details), email, webpage, facebook and visiting the museum.

WEBPAGE www.molonghistoricalsociety.com



60th



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

SATURDAY 27th September 2025

At the Museum

Commencing at 2pm

All positions will be declared vacant and Committee selected.

Guest Speaker. Jack Fry (Cabonne Ranger) talking on Yuringah and the work on his grave.

REMINDER

To be able to vote, you will need to be financial for 2025/2026

A Special Exhibition

will be opening on Saturday 30th August

Guest Speaker will be Anne Spencer who will be giving a presentation on

"LOOMBAH and the BRUCE FAMILY"

Saturday 30th August at the Museum from 1.30

Afternoon Tea included

Gold coin Donation

For further information and RSVP please contact Jan or Julie.

ORANGE FIELD DAYS

Thursday to Saturday 23-25 October 2025

Since 1952, the Australian National Field Days (ANFD) has championed agricultural progress by uniting traditional practice and advances in innovation.

This year, 2025, the Molong Historical Society have been invited to put on an exhibition

"RURAL RECOLLECTIONS"

We are asking members if they would like to be involved in the planning or contribute towards this exhibition.

Contact Elizabeth egriffin31@outlook.com or phone 0437868595

SCHOOL VISIT

On Friday 30th of May, a group of K-2 students and staff from YEOVAL CENTRAL SCHOOL visited the museum. They had a tour and some hands-on activities - they all enjoyed the activities and learning about some 'history'. All enjoyed the visit including the museum volunteers.



MOLONG CENTRAL SCHOOL REVIVES 1954 WITH HISTORIC PHOTO INSTALLATION

Molong Central School is giving students a unique glimpse into the past with a stunning new addition to its humanities classroom! A large-scale photographic print, dating back to 1954, has been installed, showcasing life in Molong over 70 years ago.



This incredible project was made possible through the support of the **Molong Historical Society**, thanks to history teacher Ms Chisholm's initiative last year. "I was looking for a photo of the town that would highlight the change and continuity within the community. Something that would grab students' attention," said Ms Chisholm.

Mrs Lawrie from the Molong Historical Society recommended a digitised image from their collection, originally sourced from the school. The photograph features a sweeping aerial view from the school down to the silos, complete with the old stockyards still visible across the road—an amazing comparison for today's students!

Mrs Lawrie had the opportunity to visit and see the finished installation, which stands over three metres tall. "I'm absolutely thrilled to see the potential of some of these photographs," she said. "It's wonderful to see history being brought to life for students in such a meaningful way."



Can you see your house?

BEHIND THE SCENES

The volunteers at the Museum have been working hard to improve and maintain the buildings and increase our storage areas.

Over the last few months we have had volunteers working on the building. Mark Scott spent 2 days cleaning the gutters and installing gutter guard. This is to prevent the gutters from filling with leaves which were blocking the drains. He was assisted by a very dedicated museum "observer" who kept watch for safety reasons.



Mark Goodchild has repaired the wall between the Geology Room and Parlor. He will be repairing other areas as more problems develop. Julie and John continue to paint sections as needed.



The Shed Group have been busy returning boxes and items to the big shed following insulation of the walls and roof.



The Molong Men's Shed has been assisting us with several small jobs including making sign blocks for our displays.

Here is Chris and Roger at work.

Work inside the museum continues including cataloging items and recent donations, preparing exhibitions and answering enquiries.



"THE LOCK-UP"

It was a eventful Saturday recently when a small group of volunteers relocated the LOCK-UP to the Museum grounds.



This move has been planned and the group has been preparing the building for the move for several weeks. This included bracing, screwing and chaining the structure together.



Everything was going so well and just 5 metres from the museum gateway a couple of bolts broke and even though it was braced, screwed, bolted and chained together it all collapsed. The team were able to complete the move into the yard. It will need several working bees to finish the job.



A huge Thankyou to Ralph, Archie, Cameron, Mark, Shannon, Ivan, Kim Bob and Jan for there day long assistance, also the council for their assistance. Watch this space for the next instalment!,

FAIRBRIDGE REUNION

The Bi-Annual Reunion of the "Old Fairbridgians Association" held in Orange and Molong during the week of 11/12 of March. This was a change to their regular weekend event. As most of the attendees are ageing it was thought that a weekday event would suit better. This proved to be true as there was a larger group than at the previous Reunion in 2023. The main events were: -

- The Annual General Meeting on Tuesday
- The Reopening of the Fairbridge Children's Park on Saturday
- The Visit to Molong Museum following the park opening.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon, following an informal lunch at the Robin Hood Hotel in Orange. This was a time to renew friendships and catch up with several who were attending for the first time.



On Wednesday everyone met at the Fairbridge Children's Park for the Reopening. The park originally opened in 2020 and dedicated to the children of Fairbridge Farm School. The park was badly damaged during the 2021 and 2022 floods. The ribbon was cut by Margaret MacLauchlan and Jim Napper who were both at Fairbridge during the 1940's.

The OFA's and Cabonne Council as well as volunteers have worked hard to get the park ready for the opening.

After the formalities most people headed to Molong to visit the museum and more catching up over a cuppa and food (provided by Lynne and her team).

A display of hockey memorabilia was on view. This included the trophy won by the men's team in 1939 and 1940. A photograph of the team was displayed as well as one of the members who attended the reunion. Jim Napper, aged 97, travelled from Victoria to attend.



Everyone left tired but happy.
They are talking about having an annual visit.



VALE EVA WARHURST 27/11/1939 - 08/01/2025

The Historical Society was very upset to hear of the passing of Eva Warhurst, an Fairbridgian who supported our museum for many years. Eva arrived in Australia as a 10year old in 1950 and spent her teenage years at Fairbridge Farm. She was a Girl Guide, and played hockey. She was selected to play against a visiting team from overseas in 1956. Eva and her late husband Ralph contributed to the Fairbridge Collection by donating memorabilia including scrapbooks and objects as well as producing "The Roll Call" book that lists every child who passed through the school from 1938 to 1973.



Our sincere condolences have been extended to Eva's family.

VISITING FAMILIES WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE MUSEUM

Recently we have had visits from families who had relatives who previously lived in the museum building. These are the PRESS family and HUTCHINSON family.

The PRESS FAMILY

Percival and Catherine (Turley) Press ran a Boarding House known as "The Astor" in the 1930's. It was auctioned in 1937. THE PRESS/TURLEY families had many businesses in Molong including the "Cordial Factory"



FURNITURE SALE.
Molong Express 9-10-1937
S & SHANNON — in conjunc-
tion with — BURGESS BROS.
I received instructions from
P. PRESS, of "The Astor"
House, Riddell Street, to sell
Public Auction on
Saturday, the 16th inst.,
commencing 2 o'clock sharp.
Whole of Their Superior House-
hold Furniture, consisting of:
Double, 2 and Single Bedsteads,
Mattresses, Kapok Mattresses,
Cots, Eiderdowns, Floor Cover-
ings, Carpet Square, Mats, Hall Ran-
gey Chairs, All Kitchen Fien-
ware, a number of Bedrooms
Corner Wardrobes, separate
Tables, Chests of Drawers,
Blinds, Curtains, Verandah
Wireless Set, 1 Young Cow
(milk), Wire Netting, and Sun-
ton numerous to mention.
**NOTE—As Mrs. Press is giving up
res in the Guest House everything
is absolute sale, and buyers can
deal with every confidence.**

THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY

Another family who rented rooms in the building were the HUTCHINSON FAMILY . Pat, John & Ann HUTCHINSON lived with their mother for 10-15 years in the 1940/50's. They lived in rooms near the middle of the house. Another family with 5 children lived in the back section. The owners lived in the front section.

Ann Wright, nee Hutchinson lives in Molong.

On the 6th October 1958, Marion Hutchinson married Kenneth Farrell. Some of the wedding photos were taken on the verandah. The family were able to have a photo taken on the verandah, in the same spot as one of them.



Taken in 1958 near the tree in front..



Same spot
2025



MUSEUM VISITORS

There have been several interesting visitors over the last few months. We have had visitors from interstate and New Zealand as well as throughout NSW. Many travelling north to escape the cold weather, spending a few nights in our beautiful area.

A group of friends from Cowra decided to visit Molong for the day. They spent time at the Yarn Market and Museum and having lunch at the Pub.



Kim met these visitors who were looking for information on their relatives. They discovered they were second cousins who had never met before. They were thrilled to find so much information on their family!



Visiting from New Zealand for a family event, they were able to look around and even mow a small portion of our lawn. Kate & Nick were very interested in the history of their family.



Will, from Trangie, was very happy to explain how this object worked, used for bagging wheat



Children of an OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN enjoyed looking through one of our many photo albums finding images of their parents. Both their parents worked on the farm for a short time.



Julie showed this group around the museum. The friends attended school together, and arrange to met up annually for a weekend of catching up at various towns

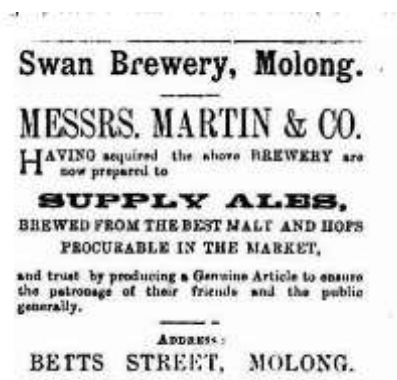


Visiting Molong to learn more about their Packham connections, they were surprised to discover the history and the various exhibits we had.

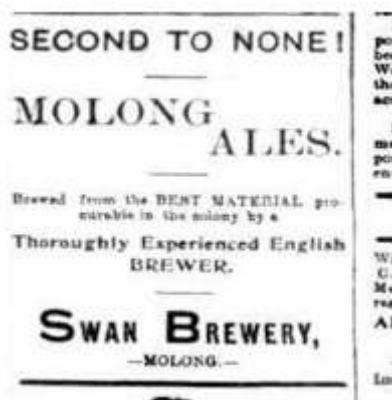


THE SWAN BREWERY

The Swan Brewery, owned by Hirons, Clifton and Hughes, was in Betts Street, Molong down the southern end of the street opposite McGroder Park. Robert Clifton was the manager and brewer.



The date when this brewery commenced operations is unknown; the earliest record is from one of the ledgers of the business covering the years 1893 to 1896. Beer was sold to numerous individuals and to many hotels during that period. Hotels purchasing Molong beer were as far afield as Peak Hill, Orange, Maryvale, Cumnock, Obley, Murga, Cheeseman's Creek, Cudal, Bathurst, Parkes, Forbes, Wellington, Manildra, Cargo and Gregra. In later years, Mr Paddy McArdle says, the only publican in Molong selling Molong beer was Mrs Flynn of the Post Office Hotel.

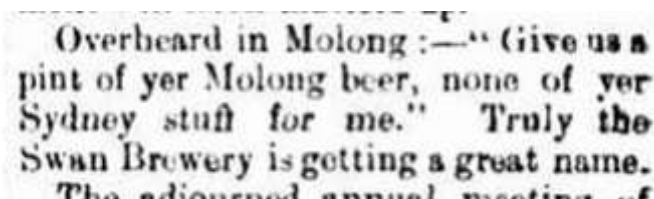


Yeast could be bought at the brewery, and the late Dick Starr remembered that it cost three pence or sixpence for a billy-can of yeast.

Billy Crook was the traveller for the Brewery. He later travelled for Dawson's Whisky.

In 1897, Messrs Martin & Co., acquired the brewery. It ceased operation and the building was later owned by Mr Russell. It was demolished about 1970.

(D.A.R.)



Found in Molong Argus newspaper 31/12/1896. There was no further details, but it must have been a good brew.

MOLONG & ORANGE IN THE SIXTIES

From Orange Leader

Saturday 30 July 1912 issue

Written by Old Ned in the "Clarion"

We came to Molong-I should think this was in 1861. Captain Barton owned Boree about the time I am writing. Jack Williams was there as a boy. Barton sold about the time the Forbes diggings broke out. Bobby Towns owned Brymedura and sold it to Edward Finch. What times they were when we used to put the cattle together on Bosson's cattle camp. Flash Jack Flat, Bobble and Garra.

I remember an amusing little incident that occurred a good many years ago. There were two dealers- Dalton and Mortel. They were travelling from Boree to an old couple who were shepherding at Mousehole (Paddy and Biddy) It appears when nearing Paddy's place, they had a falling out. Now, Dalton who owned the horse, took it and his share of the property: while Mortel, who owned the cart, took it and five gallons of rum, which was on board. Mortel planted the grog after drawing off a quart, which he took down to Paddy and Biddy. The station hands discovered the plant, and all were as happy as had rum could make them.

Mortel got lost when going to try and get the loan of a horse, when some wag put the following couplet on his cart;-

*Mortel the dealer, was lost in the fog,
while Paddy and Biddy were drinking his grog.*

At this time Betts owned Gamboola. A number of the old hands will remember Stibthorpe, who was afterwards commissioner at the Barks.

On one occasion, an acquaintance who had risen from the rank of employee to be a large employer of labor and a wealthy man, meeting Stibthorpe on one of his official visits to Molong, he ventured the remark

'Well, Stibthorpe, I never can understand after years you were in the employ of Mr F. that you have now to fall back on a Government billet: look at me! How do you account for this?'

"Well, it is this way" said Stibthorpe, who was as straight as a gun barrel, and always hit straight out from the shoulder. "I was a darn fool, and had a darned rogue for a master, while you were a darned rogue, and had a darned fool for a master". Perhaps there was a good deal of truth in it.

Urani(sic)is buried at Gamboola paddock. How many are there who can remember the man from Boree who fell down the well at Martel's Copper Hill? The man was down the well for three to four days before his body was discovered. Larry Shaw was the stock super at Boree" Old Stodgers was the overseer. Warrunguayah Jack was stockman for Kite at Kangaroobie. Bob Trudget and Moreton Bay Tom were overseer on the other side.

The old slab lock-up stood just outside where the new palatial buildings now stand. Sargeant Evans was the officer-in-charge, I think he went to Dubbo. John Davis came after him. I saw him in Wollongong, the other day. How many of the boys of the old brigade are still in the fore-Bob McGroder, Keenan, Hector, Angus, Jimmy Fitzgibbon, John Rubie and others.

THE CLARION WAS A British weekly newspaper which was published
from 1891 to 1932

MOLONG & ORANGE IN THE SIXTIES (Continued)

From Orange Leader

Saturday 30 July 1912 issue

Written by Old Ned in the "Clarion"

Now, this reminds me of the first time I saw John Rubie. It was at the burying ground public house, three miles from Orange, kept by the late Duncan McKillop. It was just after a funeral. And a number of those who had attended the funeral were in the old house drowning their sorrow. "Old Ned" among the number, when a young stranger walked in, who had among his possessions, a violin, upon which instrument he was no mean performer. After joining in a social drink the young stranger, who at the time was as fine a stamp of man as every left the "Old Gland" with the ruddy glow of health depicted on his countenance, played some tunes on the instrument. Well I remember, as if it was yesterday, the first tune he played was the "Exile of Erin". That was sufficient, he was at once a "Prince". And nothing in the house was too good for the young stranger who was no other than the grey-haired veteran whom I hailed the other day, but who failed to recognize me. Rubie could not get away for three or four days. He was then on his way to Nanima, near Wellington, for one of the Templers.

I am sure Mrs Rubie, even at this date will remember the dressing he gave two constables at Monteflores, when our beards were black. Ah. John, my boy, it took a very smart man to make you cry "Enough" in those days.

As I have just said McKillop kept the house at the burial ground then, and if I mistake not, Billy Fitzpatrick went in after, and then Charlie Crooks. In 1848 all around Orange, was thickly timbered, except one spot where the gasworks now stand and here was a number of wattle trees all out in full bloom, effecting a marked contrast with the surroundings. On the occasion of Governor Fitzroy's visit, he was struck by the gay appearance of the wattle blossoms, which was the cause naming the place Orange. I am aware many reasons the assigned for the nomenclature of this town, but my readers can take it from one who was an eyewitness on this occasion that this is how Orange derived its name in the first instance.

This was the first time I ever saw a carriage. There was a great corroboree on this occasion of the Governor's visit.

GARAGE SALE

BANJO- More than a Poet Museum YEOVAL

The "BANJO-More than a Poet" Museum, Yeoval has closed. There will be a clearing sale of exhibits and display cases, all at reasonable prices.

The Public are invited to view the sale during the following weekends

Weekend of 2/3 August & 9/10 August

Contact Alf Cantrell at Yeoval for further details.



WHAT AM I

Cameron is asking if anyone has any suggestions on what this object is and how it was used.



BOOKS FOR SALE

(Reviewed February 2025)

AILEEN ROBERSON

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

ROBERT ELLIS

SESQUICENTIENNAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
PIPER & YURANGH	\$25.00
HOW THE WEST WAS WON	\$25.00
HISTORY OF THE SHEEPDOG	\$25.00

DAVID RUTHERFORD

LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN SMITH	\$30.00
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KATE GADSBY

CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS & CORRUPTION	\$40.00
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HELEN HAYNES

MOLONG RSL PORTRAIT GUIDE	\$15.00
ORANGE 1901	\$8.00

VAL McKENZIE

MOLONG SHEEP DOG WORKERS	\$25.00
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DIANNE WOOLBANK

WOOLBANK MEMOIRS	\$10.00
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NOEL CANTRILL

BORENORE CENTENARY 1877 TO 1977	\$15.00
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ORANGE ROTARY CLUB

BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
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CLEMENT SEMMLER

A.B. PATERSON	\$15.00
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GREG RAFFIN

EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING	\$20.00
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BERTHA MacSMITH

LETTERS OF JOHN MAXWELL	\$20.00
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TINA McGEOGH

BOREE CABONNE	\$10.00
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ANNE MARIE INGHAM

THE BOSS DROVER	\$35.00
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PLEASE ADD POSTAGE \$10 TO \$15 depending on book size.

MEMBERSHIP

Fees are \$25.00 (per year)

MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS from July to June.

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

(Please complete a Membership Form each year for our records)

