

Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 4
ISSUE 8
SUMMER 2025



Points of Interest:

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

Phone Contact 0400425015

contact email—molonghs@gmail.com or sanmilne55@gmail.com

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

Website www.molonghistoricalsociety.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025/26

President—	Bob Sullivan	(0427696256)
Vice President	Cameron Wild	
Secretary/Membership	Jan McIntyre	(0402030270)
Treasurer—	Susan Grinpukel	
Committee	Julie Lawrie	(Exhibitions)
	John Lawrie	(Odd Jobs)
	Doug Watson	(Equipment Officer)
	Sue Milne	(Editor/Fairbridge)
	Kim Frazer	(Cataloging/Accessions)
	Di Whiting	(Cataloging/Displays)

Historian— Catherine Mackenzie

PATRONS Jean Bennett, Marie and John Hammond.

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 062-573 28007189
FOR MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES
Contact
Jan 0402030270
EMAIL molonghs@gmail.com

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Enquiries 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 2025/26

	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	Held each month as required	Please let Jan know if you have anything for the agenda.
END OF YEAR CELEBRATION	SUNDAY 7th December from 5pm At the Museum	A Celebration of 60 years of THE MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Museum's last day	SUNDAY 14TH December	Reopening Thursday 22nd January. 2026
AUSTRALIA DAY	MONDAY 26th January 2026	
GARDEN EXPO At BOREE NYRANG	SATURDAY 29th March 2026 ALL DAY	Anyone who can assist please contact Jan or Lynne



MUSEUM HOURS OVER THE HOLIDAY BREAK

The Historical Society and Museum will be closed over the Christmas break to allow the Committee and volunteers to recharge their batteries for another busy year.

The Museum will close from
Sunday 14th December until Thursday 22nd January 2026.

If you wish to visit the museum please contact
Jan 0402030270
Sue 0400425015
Julie 0438467292

As we are all spending time with family, at least 24 hours notice is preferred.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The 60th Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 27th September with 30 members attending.

The new Society Banner was on display for the first time. We will be able to display this at all future functions.

Bob gave a comprehensive report on the activities for the year, which included events and increased numbers of visitors as well as research enquiries. He also thanked everyone who has worked hard, on reorganizing the storage areas to ensure easier access as well as ensuring the museum was available for visitors. There were several groups through, both local and travellers, who were impressed with our hospitality and catering services.

Bob passed the chair to Helen Crisp (President of Molong Show Society) to conduct the Election of Officers for 2025/26. The following were elected

PRESIDENT Bob Sullivan, VICE PRESIDENT Cameron Wild, SECRETARY Jan McIntyre, TREASURER Susan Grinpukel, COMMITTEE Julie Lawrie, Sue Milne, Doug Watson, John Lawrie, Kim Frazer and Di Whiting. We would like to welcome Kim and Di to the Committee. Thank you to retiring members Elizabeth and Lynne who will both continue to be involved with the Museum.

The day ended with Afternoon Tea and the opportunity to catch up with friends both new and old.

MUSEUM REPORT FOR 2024/25

The museum is part of the Molong community and provides a valuable service to locals and visitors. During this past year activities include welcoming tourists, researchers, historians and groups to our building. The museum is now open three days a week and may open more days as we can get more volunteers.

In 2025 we have recorded over 400 Visitors who have travelled from all parts of Australia and New Zealand.

Events at the museum have included guest speakers, new exhibit opening {LOOMBAH}, Fairbridge Reunion, several group and school visits, as well as family reunions. Work continues cataloging the large collection, reorganizing current displays and preparing new ones. Answering research enquiries and showing visitors around the museum.

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

The Society has been busy away from the museum with exhibits at The Australian Field Days, Molong & Orange Shows, as well as being invited to be guest speakers at local clubs,

Molong Garden Expo at Boree Nyrang Homestead

Sunday 29th March 2026



Boree Nyrang
Homestead,
154 Peabody
Road, Molong, 2866,



Molong Garden Expo will be a celebration of gardening, history and rural living, set in the picturesque grounds of Boree Nyrang Homestead.

This event offers an inspiring day filled with expert knowledge, hands-on demonstrations, and vibrant market stalls. Gardening enthusiasts can learn from guest speakers covering topics such as dahlia care, wicking beds, plant propagation, rose pruning, companion planting, crop rotation, and home orchard care.

The expo features a wide range of plant and garden stalls, perfect for discovering new varieties and tools to enhance any garden. Optional homestead tours provide a unique opportunity to explore the historic property and its stunning surroundings. Guests can relax and enjoy morning and afternoon teas, a barbecue, coffee van, food vendors, and ice cream while soaking up the atmosphere.

Adding to the excitement are major raffle prizes, including a silver service dinner for eight in the elegant dining room at Nyrang Homestead and professional gardening services. This is a must-attend event for anyone passionate about gardening and country life.

If you would like to assist please contact Lynne, Jan or Susan. Help will be needed in many areas including preparation, catering, parking, selling raffle tickets and general jobs.

THE LOCK-UP

The first of many working bees took place on Thursday. Several workers were present to place the corner posts on the slab and start to build the walls.



MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

60 years of serving Molong and District

- The Molong Historical Society was formed after a suggestion by Norm Bloomfield of Molong Apex Club, in 1964, following the Molong Centenary Show.
- In March 1965, a steering committee was formed with Des Sullivan as President.
- The first Annual General Meeting was held in May 1965, with Mrs Murray-Wilcox as President, was held in the Community Hall.
- A small museum, in rooms rented from the Rural Bank was opened 17th June 1967. A carnival was organized by the Apex Club.
- This room quickly filled and a search commenced for larger premises.
- The current building, with negotiations with the shire council and the Morris estate the building ownership was vested with Trustees of the Historical Society in February 1970.
- The Museum was officially opened in November 1970.
- The Society has been active and here are a few photos from past events.



FUTURE PLANS

- Complete the rebuilding of the LOCK-UP and restore the back gardens
- Continue working on THE COLLECTION including research and restoration
- Invite guest speakers and temporary exhibitions to the museum
- Be seen at events like local shows, Field Days, markets and street stalls etc.
- Public Exhibitions such as the GARDEN EXPO in March 2026
- Open the museum for visitors and researchers
- Encourage groups to visit, including school, tourists and family reunions
- Membership Drive.

If you would like to be involved email or contact the Committee, or visit the museum

‘Loombah’ and the George Bruce Family



A new exhibition in our Museum Foyer

George Bruce & Janet Murray

History behind the Exhibition. The descendants of George Bruce’s family (Stuart Hibberd and Andrew Hibberd) from Sydney came to our museum earlier in the year and presented us with a very large package which contained both printed and digital photos, family history, and land details of “Loombah.” They had completed a large amount of research on the Bruce family.

On the 30th August, Anne Spencer (sister of Stuart) came from Sydney (with her family) and presented at the Molong RSL auditorium a wonderful insight into the George Bruce Family. George Bruce 1830-1908 was known as the “Squire of “Loombah” and his wool became known on the London market as “Loombah Gold”. Such was the huge regard for its quality from his breeding of Merino sheep. This skill and expertise in wool production was continued by his sons Sage and Robert Bruce who continued to win many top show awards in Australia including many Championships at Sydney Royal Show.

More than 40 people attended the presentation with many local descendants of the Bruce family attending to hear the presentation. It was enlightening with detailed information of the Bruce family, detailed maps of ‘Loombah’ and surrounding ‘Bruce’ properties, digital photos, and a family tree. One of the stand-out features was the wedding photo of William Glasson and Annie Bruce from 1905 in which most of the family are identified.,

This family encompassed Bruces, Glassons, Abernathys, Andersons and the Murrays.

The committee would like to thank Scott Sullivan who brought to the museum an old ledger from the Black’s General Store in Cumnock. This was from the time of George and Sage Bruce and provided some extremely interesting insights into household and farm supplies.

The presentation was followed by afternoon tea at the museum organised by Lynne Robertson and her team of helpers. Those in attendance were able to view the wonderful collection of old Bruce photos now displayed in the foyer and in verandah cabinets.

Julie Lawrie, Jan McIntyre, Kim Frazer



ORANGE NATIONAL FIELD DAYS

What an eventful few days the team had with the Orange National Field Days with our display "RURAL RECOLLECTIONS".

After a few planning visits out to "The Shed", to take measurements and reviewing the materials that the walls were made of in order to work out the best way to attach our information. The team from Molong Historical Society and Museum decided on the various themes to display:

Leather works with an old saddles, leather sewing machine and bootmakers tools.

Pests that created problems for the farmers, mainly rabbits, and kangaroos. The loans of a rabbit coat and kangaroo rug crated great interest.

The old wine making barrel and bottle corker and a lovely collection of framed photos about bees and their habits.

A lot of photos showing what life on the land was like and the delight some folks showed when they recognised old family members within those photos or the memories of having to do those tasks.

Methods of clearing early land and the stock that was on them-sheep and cattle, then some of the crops planted.

Early tools used in homestead gardens, the heavy homemade wheelbarrow and the lawn mowers, the reel and early petrol mower created a lot of interest.

The display on Fairbridge Farm ignited some memories and stories. Many commented on how informative the farm's display was and it's contribution to Molong's history and the development of the children who were there.

Some interest was shown in the early methods of acquiring land and the maps created quite a few comments. (We had to stop people from putting their fingers on the maps)

It was interesting listening to the folks that claimed to have used some of the kitchen implements in younger years and "remember when nanna or mum used that!" was a frequent comment made. Even some folks wanted copies of the old recipes because they had grown up enjoying some of the meals.

Some locals from Borenore even enjoyed the old map of the village and some of the photos that went with it.

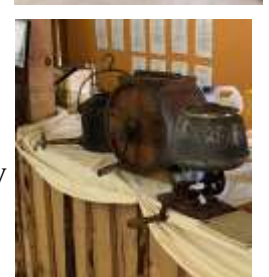
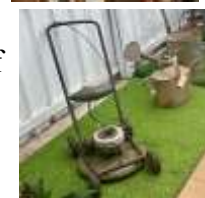
In all it was a very successful public relations exercise, that money couldn't buy, promoting the museum. Many folks said that they had no idea that Molong had such an interesting collection, and one lady from another museum was so impressed with the standard of such a temporary exhibition that she would make it a point on her next visit to the area to visit the museum.

We estimated that there must have been over 1,000 people visit "The Shed".

All this was due to the dedicated team from the Society who contributed to the planning, setting up of the displays and the volunteers who manned it over the 3 days.

A job well done.

Elizabeth Griffin



MUSEUM VISITORS

Tourists from far and wide continue to call into Molong, with many stopping at the museum. Some are looking for family, others to remember their childhood days spent with relatives, while others stop as they enjoy going through museums. Here just a few of the people who stopped and spent time looking around.



AUSTRALIAN CAMPERS TRAILER GROUP

Ten members attended the Australian Camper Trailers Groups weekend get together from Saturday 1st to Sunday 2nd November 2025 at the Molong Showground near Orange hosted by Dave & Heather.



Everyone enjoyed sitting around the campfire chatting on Friday evening. Dave & Heather had arranged a visit to the Molong Museum in Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon was happy hour followed by a Christmas dinner theme meal. A great time was had by all.



CABONNE SUPPORT & TRANSPORT VISIT

What a lovely group of ladies, from Cowra and Cabonne who took time to visit our museum. Thank you for coming we thoroughly enjoyed your visit. Great memories were the talk of the day of our displayed items.



VISITORS AT PLAY

Members of the ROSS family interested in the family's connections with Molong. They were unaware that Andrew Ross run the local paper.



Members of the Historical Society at the AGM. Margaret Moss travelled from Queensland to attend, met up with Jean (Life member) and daughter Annette.



GOVERNMENT STOCK STATION AT MOLONG

In May 1825, a Stock Station was established at Molong Plains to act as a staging place for the movement of stock from Bathurst to the convict settlement at Wellington. John Williams was appointed over-seer of five other stockmen. Their ration of wheat was to be supplied from the Wellington station.

Before the end of the month, there was some trouble with the local aborigines and Williams advised the Superintendent of Stock, Mr John Maxwell, of the occurrence. On the 6th June, Maxwell wrote the following letter:

*Stock Dept, Bathurst
6th June 1825*

Dear John Williams,

Your letter of the 31st ult. Has been received and to prevent a recurrence of the trouble from the black natives 2 soldiers are to be stationed at Molong Plains to whom yourself will pay every attention in consideration of their having been sent for your personal attention.

You will receive from John Thompson 30 head of cattle, viz. 8 heifers and 22 female calves, which have been branded with numbers. You will send a receipt for them and also acknowledge them as an increase in your returns. A copy of which is herewith sent, so that your clerk may be enabled to make them out correctly.

*You will receive from Dorman:
120lbs of pork, 80 lbs salt beef, also 4.5 lbs of soap being 6 weeks rations of meat and soap for yourself and 5men, which victuals you all from 11June to 22nd July.*

John Dorman has 1 weeks ration for Edward Bend who you are to immediately send to Bathurst and receive in his place Henry Fontenby., 3 suits of slop clothing

- 1. No 79 for yourself*
- 2. No 28 for Northey*
- 3. No 140 for Mail*

*3 lbs tobacco being 8 weeks allowance for yourself and 5 men @ 1 oz. per week.
12 sheets writing paper, 3 quills, 24 wafers, and 4 B. returns.*

I have to direct that yourself and men render every assistance to Gaffey, Smith and Dorman in building a good substantial hut containing 2 apartments for the military and yourselves. The said men have three weeks rations.

I have also to direct that when your herd is bedded out, that you be careful in selecting heifers that are near calving and have them constantly followed and yarded every night until they have calves, when you will turn them with the herd and select others of the same description from time to time.

There is no record of when the Stock Station at Molong ceased to operate, but it was, probably, about 1830 as the Wellington establishment was broken up towards the end of that year.

(Letters of John Maxwell, MacSmith and Lloyd, Shoestring Press, 1982)

OBSERVATIONS OF AN EARLY TRAVELER (Part 1)

MOLONG EXPRESS SATURDAY JANUARY 1935

(Contributed by William Folster)

On Sunday, November 7, 1841, John Hood, a distinguished Englishman of Stoneridge, Berkshire, arrived in the locality of Molong, on a visit to a son who emigrated from England, some three years previously. A stay was made at the old inn kept by John Peisley (later first member of the Legislative Assembly for Orange) this according to his description

"The last hostelry within the boundaries of the colony in this direction, and one of the best men in the colony"

Peisley's inn was located near where the Railway Crossing Gates are in Summer Street Orange, or about the site of the existing Victoria Hotel.

"Discussing the economic conditions of the country, Hood said "A little rivulet (now known as Molong Rivulet) divides the colony of New South Wales from the wilderness which (however is settled by stockholders nearly two hundred miles further west (1941). All the country within the boundaries has either been bought from the Government by individuals or is least from it. All beyond the boundaries Is occupied by settlers holding a license from the Government for which they pay an annual tax of ten pounds-upon which Is also levied the only direct tax in the country, namely sixpence for every ox and three-half pence for every sheep."

CANOBOLAS MOUNTAINS

Hood's visit to the Orange District at such an early period revealed a most primitive colony. Settled in one of the earlier forms of dwellings, then called a gunyah, Hood, junior, welcomed his father under real colonial conditions. The property was situated 14 miles from Peisley's Inn and 14 miles from Boree, and the sheep runs extended to the towering top of the lofty Connobolas (as Hood spelt the name) No stream mill or house mill had yet made its appearance in the district, the wheat being ground by handmill. The nearest mills were located at Bathurst and Sydney. The baking bread, which was unleavened, was affected in the ashes of the fire. Later this bread came to be called "damper" generally. In 1841 Bathurst was the nearest town and there was located the nearest evidence of market civilization, the church and physician together there.

Postal facilities existed at Boree and Peisley's Inn, the post being once a week. The Canobolas Range was the haunt of bushrangers and evil-doers and instances occurred when station-owners were disposed of their holdings, and the requisite license to keep flocks, because of harbouring such characters.

Boree represented a little wooden town in 1841, being constituted of a great many huts, Boree Nyrang (Little Boree) was then held by R. Barton ESQ, Boree Cabonne occupied by Captain Raine. The Boree blacks were led by a King called Sandy and were for the most part living in reasonable proximity to the stations, doing in some instances, odd jobs for the owners in consideration of gifts given in return.

OBSERVATIONS OF AN EARLY TRAVELLER (Continued)

Sheep shearing was an interesting process at Boree in the early times. The first step was to place the sheep in the man's hand, who, holding it by the fore-feet, rolled it backwards and forward in the washing pool, whence it passed from one man to the next, until all the impurities were taken from the wool. Next followed the clipping and packing into bales which were branded N.S.W.W. (New South Wales Wool), the initials of the grower, together with an indication as to the degree of fineness and the number of the bale.

THE BOREE BLACKS

The blacks met within Molong district when the first settlers arrived were not hostile, as might have been anticipated. Generally speaking, they were a fine-built tribe, their physique being well above the average of the tribes in the colony.

Known as the Boree blacks, the tribe frequenting their area, were led by a chief who could be called handsome. Acute, intelligent, and clever, no youth would dare go out from the tribe on any pretext without his consent.

An accurate knowledge of localities was the equipment of every black, because and encroachment on the reserves of other tribes led to war, poaching and trespassing upon domains where game abound in the territory of another tribe provoking trouble very quickly. Caution was always exercised by an aboriginal in approaching a waterhole and his movements were furtive to a degree.

The language or dialect of the Boree tribe was known as "Wirradurrie" was poetic in its description of everyday events. As an example, the following shows the manner of conveying an idea or fact:

<i>Oquarapata euroka hoi</i>	Bring water, the sun is sick and dying.
<i>Orquoyapita euroka naroi</i>	Make haste, the sun jumps up.



To find more about John Hood's visit to the area, read the publication from the Orange Historical Society, "**MAPPING ORANGE**"

'Mapping Orange: How explorers, surveyors and cartographers made their mark'. The book is the result of two years' research by members of the historical society and explores some of the earliest maps and sketches of Orange, bringing to life the stories of the surveyors and cartographers who created them.

Available at Collins Bookshop, Orange Information Centre and the Orange Historical Society for \$40.00

Time is free, but it is priceless.
You can't own it, but you can use it.
You can't keep it, but you can spend it.
Once you've lost it you can never get it back.

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.

WHAT AM I (from last issue)

Thank you Cameron for asking the question? Many people have viewed this item and have given us several suggestions. The results have given us 2 trains of thought.



- A handle attached to a belt or rope to tie round your swag when camping (on horse back)
- A CHIFNEY BIT (anti—rearing bit) for difficult horses during training.

Thank you to Kerry W, Ron B, John H and Orange Show Society for your replies.