

MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
1965-2015

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MUSEUM ADDRESS
20 Riddell Street
MOLONG NSW 2866

OPENING HOURS

Thursdays 11am until 3pm

Last Sunday of the month from 12.30 until 4

Or by appointment



RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

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

PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866
molongmuseum@hotmail.com

Please include :-

- Your Name, contact number
- Reason for enquiry (family research, writing book etc)
- Relevant information

COMMITTEE for 2015-16

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
RESEARCH OFFICER
ASSIST SECRETARY

Marie Hammond 63604799 rylerns@gmail.com
Des Sullivan
Sue Milne 0400425015 suemilne@colourcity.com
John Austin 0428719645
Catherine Mackenzie
Maureen Kirkwood

ANNUAL REPORT

On Saturday 13th August we held our 2016/17 Annual General Meeting. The following committee was elected: -

PATRONS

Des Sullivan, Jean Bennett, Maureen Kirkwood & Bob Sullivan

PRESIDENT Marie Hammond

V PRESIDENT Des Sullivan

SECRETARY Sue Milne

TREASURER John Austin (Public Officer)

RESEARCH OFFICER Catherine Mackenzie

COMMITTEE

Maureen Kirkwood, Michael Cass & Lindal Scott.

Welcome to Lindal and Michael to the Committee,

Museum Visitors to the museum continue to increase with over 1000 signing the Visitors Book. Some of the reasons given were Fairbridge Reunion, our 60th Celebrations, Banjo Paterson Festival, district organisations (**Orange Men's Group, Manildra Probus**) family history, Grey Nomads and passing through. Most visitors were from NSW, and others from Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Ireland, South Africa, England, Norfolk Island, & New Zealand.

The Thursday Working Day is a success with research, sorting display preparation just part of the activities.

Newsletter Three newsletters (12-14 pages) were distributed electronically, delivered or posted. These are received by members, friends, Orange Regional Museum Network, interested organisations and to researchers on request. We continue to keep costs to a minimum with preference given to Electronic mailing.

MUSEUM WORKING DAYS

Come and join our working days each Thursday from 11 until 3, it is a busy but also a time for catching up with others and learning new skills.

We are looking for anyone to assist on the Open Days, last Sunday of the month.

Contact Sue or Marie if you are interested in assisting.

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

For the newsletter Please contact me on email suemilne@colourcity.com or phone 0400425015

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT

September 2016

How quickly the year has progressed and now here is the spring. During our very wet and cold winter, we members have not been as diligent in attending to matters and events as much as we would have liked to have done. Although our secretary Sue (Milne) was here most Thursdays at the museum and sometimes again when visitors wanted to come during an odd time, Sue has driven out from Orange or John (Austin) has been able to open up. At times Des (Sullivan) has also been available and came and shared his vast knowledge of local history, with some of our visitors. Many thanks to you all.

It would be very satisfactory for members and the public if we were able to open more often but without the people power we are not able to do so as often as we would like to. Some smaller museums, we learn, close for the winter, this we can understand as we ourselves have found it very chilly moving from one workroom to another without adequate heating throughout the building. Apart from the work we do here some of us also spend much time on line researching and looking out for information that can benefit our society/museum. By doing this, we are also learning what other societies are doing.

The society recently held its annual meeting for 2016 and the positions of the committee remain much the same as previously. I am happy to be President again and hope to be able to once again achieve more funding from grants, which are few on the ground of late but we keep trying.

I am happy to announce that we have two new members on the committee, Lyndal Scott and Michael Cass. Lyndal has been a member of the society for some time but not on the committee before, she is a teacher at Kinross and lives at Borenore and is a member of the Hillan/Evers family. Michael has chosen Molong to live so we trust he will be happy being on the committee. He says he loves reading history and he has established himself as a gardener and doing much work around the grounds. Welcome to you both and hoping you enjoy being involved with our society.

Recently we had some special down lighting installed in the Fairbridge and Molong Rooms. Having this lighting gives greater clarity to the hanging displays. The electrician who did the work was local man Matt Lyons who did a very satisfactory job and one we are all very pleased with.

Cabonne Council recently reimbursed the society for work done by trades people on the toilet drainage pipes and where they came out to at the front fence line. Eventually it was found that the main offender were the roots of a tree growing on the footpath. It was an extensive task but I'm pleased to report that it's all functioning normal again after removal of the piping and roots etc. Many thanks to our members who helped considerably with this rather large job.

We continue to have many visitors to the museum and many with inquires regarding the town or relatives who may have lived here at some time. Some are a challenge while some can be answered without too much trouble. The queries come either through the mail or they come personally. Research is a big part of our income and many thanks to our researchers Catherine Mackenzie and secretary Sue Milne. At times, we are able to gain more information for our own files.

One inquiry recently was concerning an old building in Darlinghurst , now standing empty, neglected and a bit derelict. The sign, which is now removed from above the door, said, "Molong Hospital". Despite our extensive research and many theories about who may have conducted this private hospital, most likely in approximately late 1800's and early 1900's, we could not identify who may have owned or ran it. We did, however discover there were other private hospitals in this area but we didn't gain any information about them. As for us the jury is still out.

Jacqui Newlings from Sydney Living Museums, whom I have written about before will be visiting late November and will be talking about colonial cuisine and also we hope to be holding some event to coincide with Jacqui's visit. As yet this has not been decided. It will be held in conjunction with our refurbished old kitchen opening. We will be advising and advertising what function we hope to hold on that occasion as details become more clearer.

Molong will be making a contribution to the first exhibition in our new Regional Museum in Orange when it opens shortly. We are concentrating on our rural history, of which Molong is well positioned to do so with our wealth of history we have here from the wool and farming industries to orcharding, market gardens, growing tobacco and many other areas. The building of the roads, railway to building hotels, shops and houses, and then the public buildings including the Court House and Post Office.

The thing most interesting about our history is also the people who helped make it and hopefully some will be remembered and mentioned. It is a mighty task to curate an exhibition such as this will be and we have no opening date as yet but it is envisaged that it will be in the next two months. When planning was first discussed, it was thought that it would not be until March 2017 but for some of the public it is difficult to understand that despite having this great building finished that it is taking so long. Be patient it will happen.

Annual fees for membership are due and if you haven't paid as yet and are wondering the amount, we are happy to say, is that we have kept it the same as before at \$15.00. We hope by doing this and keeping it low it will encourage people to join or continue their membership which is important to us. It is important that we keep our history alive and also we care for this wonderful old building.

Best wishes to all committee members, other members and volunteers who come and support us so many times, come to events and also support our street stalls each year. It is always appreciated but we do continue to need your support in our journey. Also we also love to have stories of your lives or family, any information you may have for our archives is always appreciated.

Marie Hammond
President

The things that have happened in the past have determined the present, and the present is the past of the future.

To know what happened is knowledge, but to know why it happened is understanding.

Professor Freeland.

BANK STREET-The First Block



On a wet Saturday afternoon in September, James Nicholson spoke about the Architecture and history of Bank Street from Watson to Gidley Streets. James is a Heritage Architect who has worked at **St John's Church and The Hospital Molong** as well as assisting to save the School of Arts.

The afternoon was an introduction to preparing a database of all the historic buildings of Molong, which will include history, photographs and especially memories of residents. Catherine and Michael Frew, displayed the original plans of the Post Office Building, which they recently bought.



Buildings highlighted included hotels (**Freemason's, Telegraph. and The Post Office**) stores (**Western Stores, Burgess, Windsor, Butlers and Haslam's**), **Public Buildings** (**Post Office, Theatre, Banks and Newspaper Offices**)

We would like to thank everyone for their assistance and support that made the day such a success. Molong RSL Club for the use of the venue and equipment, Anna-belle and her team for providing a fabulous afternoon tea, Molong Express and ABC Radio for publicity and Phil Stevenson for recording the talk.



If you have worked in or have a story to tell, please contact the Historical Society.

Do you know why your street was named? Please let us know even if it is only a theory. It will a good discussion topic.

THOMAS MITCHELL STAYS IN MOLONG

The Museum was lucky to have a visit by John Dunkley. John spent several fruitful hours with members who assist with maps, oral history and who were able to show him the entrance to the caves (now sealed). Due to space limitations, this is an extract from his correspondence. A full version of **John's emails is available at the museum.**

This is extracts from his original email;

*My interest is in Thomas Mitchell's journey from Sydney to Wellington in 1830. This was before his 4 major expeditions that are very well known, the first of which began a year later in 1831. **The one I've been investigating was in mid-winter 1830.** He was away from Sydney for 65 days, supposedly working to check on progress of the new road between Mt Victoria & Bathurst. But from Bathurst he journeyed privately for 16 days (23 June to 10 July) to Wellington & back, spending no less than 12 of those days poking his head into caves looking for bones, mapping them & making sketches. the journey itself is little known. According to the State Library in Sydney, these diaries have never been published.*

*There are just 2 passing mentions of Molong, where he stopped overnight en route from Summer Hill station to Wellington, & on the way back 11 days later. **The 'Rankin' that he mentions was a magistrate & businessman from Bathurst who was the first to report the bone caves at Wellington in the Sydney Gazette.***

"Wednesday 24 June

*A rainy morning. We started however and after a few hours reached Summer Hill station. We rested our horses a little. A very tidy Soldiers wife seemed to keep her hut very neat. The husband and comrade came in soon from Kangaroo hunting. We continued and in the evening reached Molong, a **Gov't stock station 28 miles from Summer Hill, or 38 from Charley Booths. A Corp'l and private of the 39th** were also stationed here and we passed the night in their hut. The Soldier Oliver - or Quin (?) having been once in the Buffs, and being now desirous of settling when his 20 years are out, was very **obsequious to me.** At Summer Hill this morning, one of the "specials" as they are termed, was pointed out to me, he had been a L't in the navy. I saw him in the rain with a Parramatta Jacket on & his cuffs turned up, feeding some pigs, there was another good looking young man. In the evening we explored a cave - (recent being).*

Thursday 25th June

The morning rather rainy - it cleared up however very soon - we had a pleasant ride and were met, some miles from the Settlement by Mr Kinghorne who conducted us to Wellington Valley where a nice blazing fire in a rather handsome bow fronted (?) room was awaiting us, and we soon had a very comfortable dinner.

Monday 6 July

..... (This was a long piece about bones at Boree (Borenore Caves) but he then overnighed at Molong. The Dr Henderson he met at Molong was a strange character who also wrote about the bones. I wrote an article several years ago about the curious 3-way relationship between Mitchell, Henderson & the Governor Ralph Darling & about a book Henderson published in Calcutta in 1832 that had sketch maps of various caves at Boree(nore) & Wellington)

In the last cave, we also found recent marks of an inhabitant's embers, and a tied bunch of reeds as for a bed in the interior of the cave. We now mounted and returned home to Molong. I gave Oliver two dollars for his trouble. I was much incommoded by the boils in riding back. On our arrival at Molong we found a Dr Henderson waiting for us - by the bye we found it difficult to cross the river, which is I believe the Bell or a branch of it - the other at Buree with the bridge etc, empties into the Lachlan. Dr Henderson seemed a very odd personage - he walked with a black boy - he said there was no granite, nor any primitive rock in the country, that he was making a section of the strata etc. He said he was going to Wellington, and wished to have gone 70 miles further, he rode on drays to carry him over the rivers - he read a book of his to Rankin on financial arrangements and said he was come from Van Diemens Land where he had done much good, to set us right too, for we were all wrong &c &c.

Tuesday 7th July

Mr Rankin set off to get home that night to get home to Bathurst 56 miles, Mr Walker with Dr Kinghorne went towards Wellington Valley. I required a little rest & quiet but I should nevertheless have gone on but that they had arranged to let the bullocks go astray. I therefore continued in the tent **completing the plan of Wellington Valley.** By Rankin I wrote to Col'I Snodgrass and Mrs M. The day was rather hot.

I thought I'd collate the information provided by various members to circulate to everyone.

1. Mitchells Cave?

From several descriptions provided by Historical Society members it **seems clear that the most likely site of Mitchell's cave visit was the one near the corner of Watson & Molong Streets, opposite the silos.** This corresponds to an older description from the Wellington Times & the Bathurst Times in May 1920, of a cave being on **"the rocky slope off Watson Street opposite the railway goods yard"**. Mitchell arrived there after a long 38 mile journey on **24th June 1830 & only stayed overnight, so wouldn't have strayed far from whatever accommodation was nearby on the flat area.**

2. Where did he stay?

This is still unclear. The diary is hard to read & is out of sequence on that day (this happened several times as he wrote it up at night but would

then think of something to add from earlier in the day that got out of sequence). Some words are hard to decipher, but it seems that **"A Corp'l and private of the 39th were also stationed here and we passed the night in their hut. The Soldier Oliver – or Quin (? hard to read) having been once in the Buffs, and being now desirous of settling when his 20 years are out, was very obsequious to me"**. On the return trip via Boree on 4th July he wrote **"... we all slept at the soldiers hut at Molong – havg arrd at 9oc"** That wording suggests there was nowhere better for them to stay at Molong at the time as Corporals & Privates don't rank high in the estimation of Majors like Mitchell. Presumably the soldiers' huts were down on the floodplain. I understand that the railway came in 1885, so whatever was down there may well have been cleared long afterwards for the railway.

Conclusion

It was a great opportunity to meet so many of your members & share information. **It will take another 6 months until the article I'm writing is published** but I will ensure that Molong Historical Society receives a copy in due course.

THE STREETS OF MOLONG

Riddell Street: -Campbell Drummond Riddell, born 9.1.1796, died 27.12.1858. Colonial Treasurer 1830-1835, and again in 1856. Temporary Colonial Treasurer 1854. Member of the Legislative Council 1856-1858.

Gidley Street: - The third Governor of New South Wales was Philip Gidley King, who had been on the First Fleet and had also been the first Lieutenant-Governor of Norfolk Island. He was Governor of N.S.W. from 1800 to 1806.

Reynolds Street: -Sylvanus Roy Reynolds, son of S.P. Reynolds, became manager of Burrawong in 1909. In 1922 he was elected to the Amaroo Shire Council, on which he served for the next 34 years. For 20 of the 34 years, he was President.

Betts Street: -Mr and Mrs John Betts of Vale Head, East Molong was established on part of what was the Molong Run. Mrs Betts, a daughter of the Rev. Samuel Marsden had received a grant of 1280 acres in 1832.

Kite Street: -Thomas Kite. He was one of 10 men given 50 acres at Bathurst by Governor Macquarie in 1818. His property, Dockairne, grew very good cherries. He later occupied Kite's Swamp, which included the well known property "Erambie". In 1839 the first "Licence to Depasture" for the Parkes area was issued to him for "Burrawong". In 1840 he took out the licence for "Goobang". He held the first freehold on "Kangaroo Bay", now called "Kagarroobie".

JEWISH PORTION OF MOLONG CEMETERY

Recently we had a visit from Robyn Dryen, President of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and Editor of its newsletter, *Kosher Koala*. Robyn is interested in researching cemeteries with a Jewish Connection and has given many talks on this subject, throughout the world.

We were able to assist Robyn with a visit to the Molong Cemetery Jewish Section and provide her with names of those buried there. In return, Robyn has given us several interesting articles

Image1 narrows the timeline for the establishment of the Jewish section of the cemetery to somewhere between 1863 and 1896.

Image2 identifies Louis Rich as proprietor of the Windsor Stores Molong
Image4 shows Louis took over after Caleb Parker died in 1902

Mr. Louis Rich, a prominent member of the Jewish faith in Sydney, died at his residence, Point Piper, on Wednesday morning last. Mr. Rich, who at one time was proprietor of the Windsor Stores, Molong, had been a resident of the State for 64 years.

*Molong Express and Western District Advertiser
15 June 1918, p.8*

Baptist Burial Ground.

Dr. Ross, M.L.A., has handed us the following letter, received by him, for publication:—Department of Lands, Sydney, 5th November, 1896.—Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 7th March last, enclosing application from Mr. W. Hyland of Marraville, Molong, for the setting apart of an area for Baptist Burial Ground within the Molong General Cemetery, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has approved of an area of 1 rood, adjoining the Jewish Burial Ground, being allotted for the purpose specified.—I have the honor to be, &c.,
H. CURRY, Acting Under Secretary.

*Molong Argus
13 November 1896, p.6*

In the Molong Cemetery five graves have been identified in the Jewish section.

“The Orange Leader” newspaper in February 1902 recorded

“Rabbi WOLINSKI of Sydney spent several days in Orange in February 1902 naming infant children of the local Jewish families”

If you have any information on this portion of the cemetery, please contact the Historical Society.

MOLONG NEWS 100 YEARS AGO

Molong Argus (NSW : 1896 - 1921), Friday 15 September 1916, page 4

OBITUARY.

Mr. Robert Glasson.

On Sunday, last quite a shock was caused throughout the Cumnock district when it became known that one of the oldest and most highly respected residents of the district, in the person of Mr Robert Glasson, of Yullundry, had gone to his last long rest. The deceased gentleman had, for some years past been a sufferer from diabetes which, with complications, ultimately caused his death, he having, for a month prior to his demise, been gradually sinking. He was in his 72nd year.

The late Mr Glasson was a native of Cornwall, England, but arrived in New South Wales with his parents, when only seven years, his parents settling on the land in the Blayney-Carcoar district, where they amassed a competency. Some 38 years ago, he was married at Carcoar, to Miss Mary Petterson McKee, who is left to mourn her irreparable loss. The outcome of the union was a family of four (one son and three daughters), all of whom survive him, they are, Mr W. R. Glasson (Yullundry), Mrs Brereton (June), and Misses E. and F. Glasson (Yullundry.) All of whom, together with the deceased brothers, Rev. W. Glasson (Gordon), and Mr John Glasson, were present at the obsequies.

Deceased arrived in Cumnock district about 37 years ago, and in partnership with his brother, Mr R. Glasson, purchased the Yullundry property, which, at that time, was considered anything but a promising proposition, but later he acquired his brother's interest. A man who understood his business thoroughly, he immediately set about improving the property on the right lines, and so sound was his judgment that, where others had failed, he amassed wealth, and under his management Yullundry became one of the show places of the district. Recently Mr Glasson purchased Gamboola station from Mr Ken Smith, but continued to reside at Yullundry right up to the time of his death.

Of a reserved and retiring disposition, deceased did not take an active part in public matters, but his purse was always open in the cause of charity, while he was a generous subscriber towards all patriotic efforts. A deeply religious man, he lived an upright, honourable and conscientious life, and keen business man as he was, all who had dealings with him found that it could truly be said of him that his word was his bond. He took an active interest in all church matters, and was a liberal supporter of their work irrespective of denomination.

The funeral took place on Monday morning, leaving deceased's late residence at 10 o'clock. The cortege was a very large one (true indication of the respect in which deceased was held by the residents of the district), was constantly added to en route, until it was thoroughly representative of the whole town and district. Among those who assembled to pay the last tribute to their departed friend was Mr Pigott, M.H.R, who motored from Blayney in company with several of deceased's relatives; Rev. J. Thomas (Methodist), Molong; Rev. Geo. Furner, Croydon, and the President and members of the Amaroo Shire Council, who adjourned their meeting in order to be present.

The remains were interred in the Presbyterian portion of the Cumnock cemetery, the Rev. John McDonald, M.A. (Presbyterian), Orange, performing the last sad rites.

Mrs Kingsland, Molong, conducted the mortuary arrangements.

BOOKS FOR SALE
Postage not included in price.

<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Aileen Roberson	ALLAN TOM The Picture Show Man	\$20.00
Aileen Roberson	PADDY McARDLE and Molong	\$20.00
David Rutherford	The Life & times of JOHN SMITH	\$30.00
D. Spears & R. Blowes	Pioneering with Christ, Baptist Church History	\$5.00
Joan Marriott	THE CROSSROADS History of Cumnock	\$15.00
Heather Nichols	Echoes Of ANZAC (Manildra District)	\$25.00
Robyn MacKenzie	From Life to Life in Australia	\$15.00
Noel Cantrill	BORENORE Centenary 1878-1978	\$15.00
Orange Historical Society	Story Of Byng	\$5.00
Orange Rotary Club	BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
Tina McGeoch & Felicity Cuninghame	BOREE CABONNE	\$8.00
Robert Ellis	History of WIRADJURI Aborigines	\$10.00
Robert Ellis	PIPER & YURANIGH	\$25.00
Robert Ellis	How the West was Won	\$25.00
<u>Robert Ellis</u>	Sesquicentennial History of Molong Show	\$35.00

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are able to help please contact the Museum.

THE DAY DAME NELLIE MELBA VISITED MOLONG

In June 1909 Dame Nellie Melba passed through Molong on her "BACK BLOCKS CONCERT" Tour. Hundreds of local flocked to the Railway Station to get a glimpse, while the steam train refuelled with coal and water. Three young boys were lucky enough to get her autograph, which now is part of an exhibit at the 'Dame Nellie Melba Museum in Lilydale Victoria. Sue Thompson of the Museum is searching information about the tour and would like to find out who the boys were, any souvenirs and stories of this tour.

Thank you to Rozzi at Molong Express for showing Sue around Molong and providing information for this article.

ALEXANDER WILLIAMSON of "ROSE HILL" BOOMEY

Looking for any information on Alexander and Elizabeth (MOBBS) WILLIAMSON who was living near BOOMEY prior to 1873. Alexander and Elizabeth had 12 children. Alexander passed away in 1882 and Elizabeth in 1990.

JOHNSTON/MURRAY

My name is Neil Johnston and I am researching my family history , I would be grateful for any information in relation to my family history My great-great Grandmother was Elizabeth Murray and she was married to Francis Johnston in 1840 in Sydney . I believe that she was buried at Molong any information you could forward would be gratefully accepted .

ERNEST EDWARD CORBOULD

Alison Carter wrote from Urunga NSW requesting help me trace her great grandfather who is recorded in a family booklet to have had property near Wellington.

ERNEST EDWARD CORBOULD, of Epping, N.S.W., b. at Kensington, London, went to South Africa, and afterwards to Melbourne and Sydney, Australia. He subsequently purchased farms in the Welling- ton, Clarence River and Camden districts of New South Wales, and retired in 1924. Died Private Hospital, Epping, New South Wales, 2 June 1926. Married by special licence, 26 Jan. 1883, by Rev. Dr. Fullerton, to ALICE MAUD MARY EVERSLEIGH, who was born at Yass, N.S.W.

MOLONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL DARLINGHURST

We have had an enquiry, for information on Molong Private Hospital, **which existed in the early 1900's. What is the significance of the name to Molong ?** Known family names connected include Ross and Rutherford. If you can help with information or theories please contact us.