

MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

1965-2015

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WINTER
2016

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Saturday 13th August
At the Historical Museum
Commencing at 2PM

Followed by Afternoon Tea

This is time to catch up on the activities throughout the year.

ANNUAL FEES DUE

DATES for the next meetings are Saturday 18th June & 9th July, starting at 1.30pm. NOTE change of date for June meeting (due to long weekend) and the earlier time

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.

Tasks include these but this list is not inclusive

- Completing the new kitchen
- Working in the sheds, rearranging the storage areas, many interesting objects have been rediscovered.
- Researching the story of objects in the collection
- Working on the extensive paper records & Photographs
- **Revising "the Historian" digitalisation project.**
- Answering Research enquiries
- Preparing for future exhibitions
- General cleaning & maintenance of the building
- Maintaining the lawns & gardens
- Transcribing records (can be done at home in own time)

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

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

PRESIDENT'S QUARTERLY REPORT. May 2016.

Once again welcome to our latest news letter. Firstly I am pleased to report that at last the repairs are completed in the "old" kitchen. It was such a relief for the society to have the Cabonne Council and the Sustainable Collections Program (Orange City Council) together with \$1,000, from our own funds covers the costs. Some of the furniture is now in and the kitchen artefacts we have in store are starting to come out.

All items have to be catalogued, if they have not previously, and photographed. It is a slow job but we are achieving a lot with so few volunteers. It will open to the public, shortly. There are also interpretative signs to be done to go on the back wall. Plans are in hand for Jacqui Newling from Sydney Living Museum to visit Molong to hold a public talk, on the old gastronomically cookery of years gone by. Jacqui is the Gastronomer and Curator at the Sydney Living Museum and has a Le Cordon Bleu masters degree in gastronomy and specialises in early Australian foodways.

Thanks to Rozzi of the Molong Express for her interesting articles in a recent paper about some of the old methods of cooking and especially the sheep's head and the chook. I wonder what happened to tripe, perhaps some still do tripe and parsley sauce.

April was Museum Open Weekend but I am sad to say it didn't really work for us as did last years. It is hoped that perhaps next year we can have a different time of the year. Autumn is such a popular time when events start to happen in full swing with flower shows, fund raising etc. not only in Molong but in neighbouring towns and villages.

I am happy to report that work on the grounds and footpaths are being mowed regularly and looking as though some care is being taken. At times, it is hard as the grass can grow so quickly. Anyone who may like gardening and would like to come and help out there we are always pleased to see you. In the meantime, John Hammond has been mowing the lawns and maintaining the grounds.

John Pocknall, member from Canberra, and John Hammond have made a wonderful inroads into cleaning and sorting out all the goods in the top shed. It has been ongoing job but now getting close to being finished, within the next two or three weeks. The **Molong Men's Shed** will be assisting with this task. It will make access so much easier and items will be "found" again.



John Pocknall's family were farmers at Pinecliffe, Gregra and Garra area for many years and gave items of significance to the Museum, which John has been finding, to his delight, as he is working. We do appreciate the effort he makes leaving Canberra about 6am and returning later in the day. John Hammond is now working every week in the top shed after spending many hours sanding the floor of the old kitchen and putting Tongue Oil on it.

Recently we were lucky to be able to receive two plinths (glass cases) for the parlour. They aren't as large as the ones we have, and have a smaller base, but are taller. They had out lived their usefulness at Sydney Art Gallery and were available to other museums to apply for. Also from Old Parliament House Canberra we have from there some chrome and black stands with red rope to use as dividers. We may have been given too much but we have already made use of some. We'll keep looking and see what else may be on offer in the future.

We held our regular street stall on Friday 27th May and raised over \$1000. We would like to thank everyone who donated cooking, produce and article for sale, as well as volunteered on the day. The wood raffle, donated by Bob Sullivan, drawn on the day was won by Mark Oates.

Funding raising is important for us, like other organisations, as we need funds to pay our ongoing costs i.e. insurances, utilities, water rates, rates and so on.

Shortly we will be in touch with all members as we are planning to **update our constitution, to compile with the "Model Rules" which has been** requested some years ago by the Department of Fair-trading. We probably don't need to change our constitution but it will allow us to have Bi-laws included which can be changed at times if needed. At our next meeting on the 18th June we hope to have as our guest speakers someone who will be able to explain the full meaning of having this updated and the significance of doing so.

Special thanks again to Secretary Sue Milne for all the work she puts into the newsletter every time.

John Philipson.

It is will sadness that we announce long time member of the Historical Society passed away last week after a long illness.

John was a fine person who was never lacking in helping at the Museum, giving time and donations. Even when ill last year rang and insisted that we have a load of wood from their Yeoval farm.

We extend our most sincere condolences to Margaret and her family on the loss of a fine and devoted family man.

Marie Hammond
President.



EARLY SURVEYORS PLAN DISPLAY

On Saturday 9th April, about 40 members and guests of the Historical Society enjoyed an afternoon with Kate Gadsby to explore the history of the region through maps and diaries of the early explorers.



Kate (nee Brazier) became a keen researcher, when she **moved to "Mulgawarrina" a historical property located on the Bogan River.** The landscape and story of the early settlers and pastoral buildings in the Nyngan district encouraged Kate to find out more and bring the story together with members of the Nyngan Historical Society. Kate spoke of her journey of finding, researching and discovering.

Moving to Euchareena in 1994, Kate became interested in the Nubrygyn, where the Brazier's had settled in 1828. Her research led to the pastoral settlements of Nubrygyn and Warne and the history of the Brazier /Lyons and Mostyn families. Kate is writing a book on this fantastic story.



This research took her to NSW Achieves and there collection of hand-designed maps and plans of the area, dating back to the early 1800. Kate has attended many workshops

ran by the RAHS that have helped "fossick and find history".



The members of the Historical Society thank Kate very much for her time and the passing on to us what can be learned through maps.

Another afternoon talk is planned for late August/ September. The guest speaker will be James Nicholson, an architect with a interest in conservation and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings and sites. His work includes St Johns Church and other buildings in Molong,

SYDNEY MAIL. January, 7, 1899. P15.

George Black, while walking along the footpath in Watson Street, Molong at night, almost trod on a large snake. Black is an old bushman, and considers it a most unusual thing for snakes to come out at night in December. Another snake was killed in a home in Hill Street one night last week.



REMEMBERING ROBERT & HELEN

Recently the Society lost two of their most active members, in Robert and Helen Ellis. Helen passed away on the 17th February and Robert six days later.

Robert was a story-teller and was happy telling young and old, stories of his youth as well as his great love of Australian history. His interests covered aboriginal, Rural, Cobb & Co, local Molong & Eugowra people. He researched and wrote about twenty books and had another ten still in his drawer. He was a member of the Historical Society, always willing to help out when needed. He held the position of President from 2006 to 2007. He particularly loved talking to the school children when they came and telling the bush stories and about the Aboriginal history and artefacts.



Helen Ellis, was a country woman, who would always have the kettle on and time for a chat. Until ill-health slowed her down, Helen belonged to CWA, Probus, enjoyed golf, art and cooking. Helen was a good friend, with a great sense of fun.



Several members and friends from Molong attended their funerals in Molong and Eugowra. **Robert's funeral was held in Eugowra, where his casket was carried on the back of a large wagon to their resting place.** Helen funeral was held in Molong two weeks earlier and her ashes were buried with Robert. It was very fitting for someone

who loved Australian history as he did and always a bushman at heart to be taken to his resting place with his family walking behind the wagon.

I'm sure we won't forget him for a long time to come.

2016 FAIRBRIDGE REUNION

The Museum opened as part of the bi-annual reunion of the Old Fairbridgians held over the weekend of 13/14th March. Over 30 visitors arrived and spent the morning looking at old photos and renewing contacts over a cuppa. Special visitors were Peter Bennett (constructed the photo stands), and his nephews Terry & Jeff Field.



THE EDWIN LAMBERT PHOTOSTAND

Fairbridge Farm School has been part of the Molong District since it was **established in 1937. Even though the property closed and sold in the 1970's** it remains part of the children and staff that lived and worked there. The Molong Historical Society is the custodian of official photograph collection as well as books and artefacts from the organisation.

This is the story of the Photographic stands.

Over the years Fairbridge Farm has collected a large amount of photographic material. This was in many formats and had been keep in several places.

In 1980 it was felt by many that a permanent location should be determined, so that the records could be available at any time for all to view. After much discussion The Old Fairbridgian Association (OFA) determined they **would have "the Edwin Lambert Photo Stand" built and donate it to the** Molong Historical Society. To finance the project \$860 was pledged by the Association at the 1982 Annual General Meeting.

John Richards (OFA 1939) designed the stands Peter Bennett (OFA 1940), handled tenders, supervised construction and delivery. It was delivered to John Orringe (OFA 1948) who erected the stand and arranged the photo display, with help from Molong O.F.A. This stand was the first part of an on-going project to collect and store Fairbridge memorabilia for public access.



Peter Bennett visiting the museum 2016

"The Edwin Lambert Photo stand was dedicated in April 1983 and it is described as a Grand Affair. With over 70 people present , Dennis Silver (President of OFA, Northcote) preceded over the event, played a recording from Edwin Lambert (who was unable to attend). Edwin spoke on dedicating this photo stand with all the history in photographs of our lives at Fairbridge. It is truly a magnificent display and he thanked everyone who took part in putting together this stand. Margaret Jeff spoke in remembrance of Fairbridge, and Mrs Drummond responded on behalf of the Historical Society. A delicious afternoon tea was served by the ladies of the Historical Society.

The Photo stand was on display in the then "Fairbridge Room" a small alcove in the museum. along with other memorabilia of the farm.

In 2000, the photo stand received a facelift, mainly due to the work of Jim (OFA 1950) and Beryl Reid who were managing the collection. Many of the small photographs had been replaced and each photo individually mounted to give a more effective record.

In 2004 with the help of Ian Bayliff (OFA 1955) , a computer disk of all the photographs in the museum was made. The disk included some documents and photos of the remaining buildings. There was approximately 900 photographs and this was available for sale.

Jim and Beryl continued to look after the Fairbridge collection for over twenty years until resigning in 2012. The Historical Society now maintains the collection.

The Museum underwent major renovations and repairs in 2009 and was closed for several months. During this time, the Fairbridge Room was **rearranged and relocated to a larger stand alone room.. Assistance from "The Sustainable Collection Project" & "Migration Heritage Centre "funded the refurbishment and enabled several large posters to be produced, that told the Fairbridge Story in pictures, clippings and included several movies . During these renovations, we were advised that the "EDWIN LAMBERT" Photograph Display boards, should not be rehung ,as their weight could cause damage to the walls of the building (built in 1856).**

The Museum reopened in March 2012 in time for the Bi-annual Fairbridge Reunion.

The photo stands are stored at the museum and may be viewed, as well as the CD disk.

Arrangements can be made to obtain copies of photo graphs either in print or digitally for a small cost. (Appointment preferred)



EDWIN LAMBERT

Edwin Lambert (born in 1926) was one of the boys in the first party to arrive at Fairbridge in February 1938. He passed away in 1995. Edwin Lambert has donated several items to the museum including schoolbooks, and articles about his time at Fairbridge.



REFERENCES

- FOLLOW THE FOUNDER MAGAZINE Editions from 1981 to 1983/ 1999/2000/2009/2012
- MINUTES of the MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 - MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY records
 - FAIRBRIDGE FARM Photograph Collection
- INTERVIEW WITH PETER BENNETT March 2016

MUSEUM OPEN WEEKEND

The Molong Museum opened as part of the "Villages of the Heart Open Weekend" held on 2nd & 3rd April. Most of the Museums in the Regional Museums Network (Cabonne, Orange & Blayney) were open with many having a special activity or display. The aim to give visitors the opportunity to discover the rich history of the region.

As we had arranged to have an event the following weekend (our regular meeting day) we opened for visitors and were able to show the work being done on the outside kitchen, as well as the many displays inside the museum.

There were a few locals took the chance to come and visit, some researching their roots in the town.

ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM

A Regional Museum Network meeting was held on Thursday 19th May, to update all members on the progress of the museum. This was followed by a farewell to Rebecca Pinchin who has accepted a position with the National Trust NSW as Collections Manager. The new role will see Rebecca overseeing the collections and volunteers of some 35 properties in NSW.

The Regional Museum is completed and has been handed over to the Council. It is due to be open in October. The Visitors Information Centre and Cafe will open shortly.



A small committee is working on the first exhibit which is entitled "JOURNEYS" and will include a selection from each museum in the area as well as from "The Villages of the Heart" program. Current programs which we are involved in are:

- Chinese Heritage Thematic Study
- Aboriginal History - Cabonne and Blayney
- Villages of the Heart
- Sustainable Collection Project

A POEM TO WHICH I CAN RELATE

I remember the corned beef of my childhood,
And the bread that we cut with a knife,
When the children helped with the housework,
And the men went to work not the wife.

The cheese never needed a fridge,
And the bread was so crusty and hot,
The children were seldom unhappy,
And the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the bottle,
With the yummy cream on the top,
Our dinner came hot from the oven,
And not from a freezer or shop.
The kids were a lot more contented,
They didn't need money for kicks,
Just a game with their friends in the road,
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner,
Where biscuits for pennies were sold
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic?
Or is it... I'm just getting Old?
Bathing was done in a wash tub,
With plenty of rich foamy suds
But the ironing seemed never ending
As Mum pressed everyone's 'duds'.

I remember the slap on my backside,
And the taste of soap if I swore
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.
Do you think that bruised our ego?
Or our initiative was destroyed?
We ate what was put on the table
And I think life was better enjoyed.

Author, Unknown...

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”

Unknown

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are able to help please contact the Museum.



MOLONG CWA BRANCH

CWA has been part of the local community for 90 years. To celebrate this occasion, the ladies are collecting photographs, stories, personalities, histories and any objects.

The CWA was founded in a Bushman's Conference held in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney. It is one of the largest Women's organization in Australia.

The Molong branch was formed in 1926, with Mrs Holt as President. The group has continued, through up and downs. In 2013, it was in danger of folding as numbers were reduced. A article in the Molong Express encouraging younger members to join reinvigorated the group. From only 6 members in 2016, in 2016 it now has membership of 25, making it one of the strongest in the Central West. The older members are still involved in the club and the fervour with which the newer members are engaging with the life of a CWA member is making quite a lot of money, as well as changing their ideas of happened within the group.



In July the group will celebrate 90 years of service and are arranging a display. They are putting together a history in photographs, stories and memorabilia. If you are able to assist please contact Natalie De Gabriel 0425403201, EMAIL molongcwa@outlook.com. They also have a FACEBOOK page.



Catherine continues to answer enquiries that arrive via mail and email, assistance finding family members, buildings and events. Small enquiries and personal research is available at the museum (appointment preferred), as we rely on members with local knowledge to assist.

Recently the Society has been given several boxes of magazines, that are looking for a new home. Titles *The Australian Family Connection*, *Family Tree & Family History (both English)* all focusing on family history. These contain a wealth of information for searching relations or for general reading. *For a small donation, these can be yours. Contact Sue or Catherine.*

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
	Pioneering with Christ, Baptist Church	
D. Spears & R. Blowes	History	\$5.00
Jo Bailey, Ronnie Sabin	The Long Way Home (Fairbridge Boy)	\$25.00
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

NEWS 100 YEARS AGO

MOLONG ARGUS Friday June 30th 1916

- The rainfall for June totals 811 points and there were many more wet **days than dry days during the period. Even the "old hands" admit they** have never seen better or more continuous rain than have been experienced in this district during this month.
- During the week Mrs. Tanner received a letter from her son, Artillery Man Don Tanner. Don is still in Egypt and at the time of writing was in top health. He says the heat there is terrific at the moment.
- Mr Robert Gibson, a chemist of Bank St Molong, a fully qualified optician and carries a big range of lenses. Consult him if you have any defective eyesight.
- The New Zealand sportsman, Mr E.J. Watts, has sent two of his racers Football and Monbasso- to his property at Nandillyan at Molong for a lengthy spell.