

# MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC  
1965-2015

Volume 2 Issue 2  
SUMMER  
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](mailto:molongmuseum@hotmail.com)

Please include :-

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

## COMMITTEE for 2016-17

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
RESEARCH OFFICER  
ASSIST SECRETARY

Marie Hammond 63604799 [rylerns@gmail.com](mailto:rylerns@gmail.com)  
Des Sullivan  
Sue Milne 0400425015 [suemilne@colourcity.com](mailto:suemilne@colourcity.com)  
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Catherine Mackenzie  
Maureen Kirkwood

## MUSEUM NEWS

It has been a busy time for the Historical Society, since the last newsletter.

During November we were visited by a group from Orange Legacy, who were on a daytrip. They visited the Yarn Market, then after lunch at the RSL Club, they wandered over to the museum

The Historical Society volunteers will be having a short break over Christmas & New Year to recharge. We will close Thursday 15th December and reopen Thursday 19th January.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in 2016 and wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. A special thank you to Cabonne Council, Orange Regional Museum Network, Molong Express, Molong on Line, RSL Club, Yarn Market, and all the businesses in Molong.

If you would like to visit the Museum during this time, please contact Sue (63628960) to arrange a visit during this time. If possible we prefer two days to arrange for a volunteer to be available.



### STREET STALL

Thank you to everyone that assisted with our last Street Stall.

It was very successful with over \$800.00 profit from the sale of plants, cakes and books. The Meat Raffle winner was Jac Staines.

### 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.

### FRONT PAGE

Morning tea and memories of old Molong. Les Hentschel and Ivy Barratt catching up with family and friends at the museum.

### CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

For the newsletter Please contact me on email [suemilne@colourcity.com](mailto:suemilne@colourcity.com) or phone 0400425015

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

The last report for the year-still cool weather following our very cold winter. I live in hope that one day we will have heating throughout the building, we will be able to work happily, and warmly during the winter, finding the funds is another.

We are currently awaiting the results of grant applications that we submitted to Museum and Galleries (NSW Gov.) for funds for shelving for back shed, wiring by electrician from building to sheds and money for strategic planning with consultant Margot Jolly. This is for planning for the next 3/5 years and with the indulgence of all members being able to contribute. I am also sure that out there somewhere there is a grant of money with our name on it for rebuilding of the front office. We will keep trying, as sometimes you get lucky.

Highlights of the year have been many, seeing our members is a good start and hearing from others far away is another. Most important that we have members.

Our support from Cabonne and Orange City Councils, also community members who are ever willing to help and that includes the Men's Shed, When we get our shelving the men will be here to give a hand with this.

We do not forget the help during each year from the "Villages of the Heart" program & the "Sustainable Collections" program with Alison Russell from Orange City Council. We received support and funding at times on various projects as in the kitchen project for example and the most recent, which had to be postponed, "the Colonial Cooking" with Sydney Living Museums Jacqui Newlings. We look forward to Jacqui coming in the New Year. I must include support also from Rozzi and Paul at the Express, John Rosentals with his news blog, not forgetting the ABC, including Reg Kidd who has given us a few plugs for our events, on his Saturday morning garden shows. If I missed anyone may I say that I am very thankful for his or her ongoing support.

We had two presentations that must be mentioned, one by Kate Gadsby and the other by James Nicholson. Kate gave us a wonderful illustrated talk with the old maps of the areas from Bathurst to Bourke and all in between. After she finished talking she was snowed with questions and some members are still talking about what they discovered and still discovering. It roused great interest in some members who are continuing their research. James the same as members are now doing more research into the streets and buildings of Molong. Some of us were also involved in assisting with research commissioned by Orange City Council of Chinese, mainly men, living and working in this region in years bygone. The presentation of the research recently was booked out, as there was such a fascination and interested in the findings.

This past year we estimate that we have over a 500 visitors to the museum. Several have been Old Fairbridgians, some coming from overseas and interstate to view our Fairbridge room and photos and some leave their written memories. Speaking recently with David Hill he said, "What you have is it, nothing else like it in Australia". We often receive requests for photos from overseas museums, planning exhibitions on child migration; this illustrates its place in Australia's history. I don't see it stopping.

Mr. Bill McLaughlin and his son, Andrew of Gamboola agreed to graciously lend the new Orange Regional Museum the old Watch Box that has stood at Gambola for many years, for part of the display in the museum's first exhibition. It also has a Shepherds Crook and some other rural items such as an axe, a early fence post, again from our collection along with gold scales photos etc. I trust all members will find time, to visit, and see the Fairbridge exhibition up on the far right hand side. Getting the hut from Gamboola to Orange took a lot of skill and muscle to get this to Orange and on display. Special to Michael LeCouteur who arranged it all, Bob Sullivan and the team Bob gathered to help. Many thanks.

Before concluding I must mention the work done by various members such as secretary Sue, Treasurer John who looks after our money, Des( who unfortunately has been laid up with serious injuries to his leg), Michael Cass a new member who is enjoying his membership and comes every Thursday, Maureen is assistant secretary and all who come and support us. Special thanks to my dear husband John Hammond who also does so much including bringing out his ride on mower and cutting the lawns. He also does many other jobs around the place as well as being so supportive to us all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and your families. See you back here in 2017. PS I trust I haven't left anyone out!

Marie Hammond

### Molong Express, September, 1926:

Matthew Williamson related how his parents and brothers came to Boomey (Murdering Flat) in 1864 when he was eight years old.

The first wheat they grew, about 10 acres was in ground they ploughed with an old wooden plough. It was a very dry year and the wheat only grew about six inches high. When it was ripe, they pulled it up by the roots and tied it in bundles with stringy bark. They then thrashed it with a stick. They only got about 2½ bags which they took to Kater's Mill at Caleula near Kerr's Creek. As a result of all their labours they got 1½ bags of flour.

(Matthew Williamson was a son of C.A. Williamson)

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# THE STORY OF THE SHEPHERDS WATCH BOX

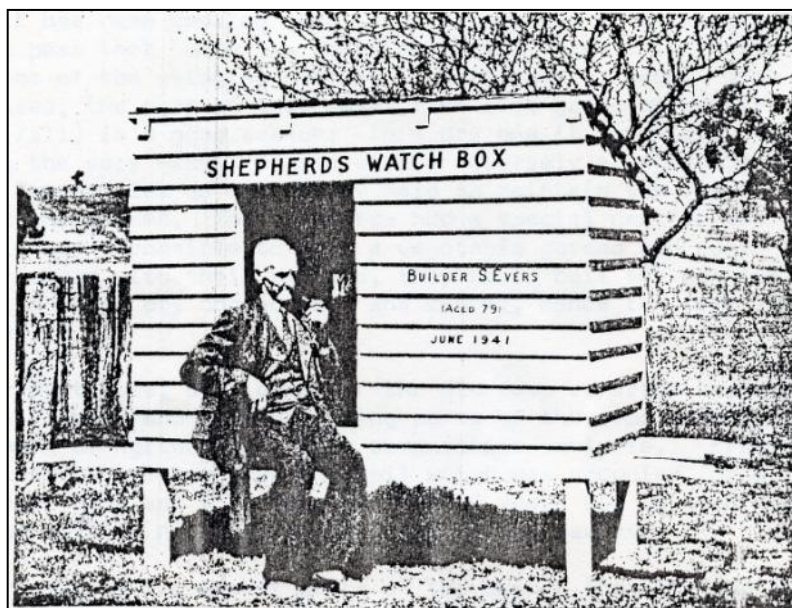
Written by Marie Hammond

The story started with the late Mr. William Glasson of Gamboola, Molong writing a history of the sheep coming to Molong and the Shepherds who cared for the flocks. He wrote a book called "Our Shepherds" (published Christmas 1941).

In his quest for information, he often visited my grandparent's home where I lived. (I came to live in town so I could go to school).

My grandfather was Samuel Evers and was regarded as "old" at that time and if he knew, the watch box was now on display I know he would have been delighted. When he was born at Gamboola in 1863 there were not many people living in the district or a chance for employment of so many young men with many becoming shepherds, this was before fencing became the normal practice and the stock had to be restrained from running away. His father Titus Evers who had been a ticket of leave convict and who was first assigned to Wentworth at Vacluse, which was then bush and many snakes (so I have read) and later on Wentworth's land at Summer Hill Orange. Titus, later married Jane Johnson youngest daughter of Sergeant Samuel Johnson, who was sent to Molong with the convicts to keep law and order.

Grandfather loved talking over his life with visitors and especially with Mr. Glasson, they would frequently sit in the sun on our veranda, Mr. Glasson would glean information for his book as they sat and talked. Mr. Glasson then asked Grandfather if he would build the shepherds box, called a "watch box", and Sam having being a bush carpenter, as he was called someone without credentials in building, he was in his element, I remember the time well although I was only a small child.



Tilbrook and Son Building Supplies then located where the R.S.L. now stands, was a rather large building and no doubt would have supplied many materials for homes built in and around Molong. The owners, Arthur and son Jack (father of Nicky Sloan of Orange) donated all the material for the box and followed much discussion and plans. I am sure it was an exciting project for all involved.

Grandfather did not get much joy from shepherding as the story is he ran away, although must have come back to it as he wrote a lot of poetry in those lonely hours. One poem he wrote he called "At my lonely camp fire at night". He was a good writer and wrote well; I have often wondered how they came to be educated as they were living in isolation as it was to a degree.

Eventually the box was completed and I had a deep disappointment when it went as I of course played cubby house in it while it was in back yard. A building such as this, maybe not so elaborate and sturdy as this one, would be placed in strategic places where the sheep had water and good feed with the food cart coming past every week or so with rations. I guess there was salted meat, tea, tobacco and whatever was available at the time.

Mr. Glasson, a very courteous old man, was most polite raising his hat to women when he passed them. He was a well-known figure around Molong and involved in many organisations in the community. He wrote several books leaving a lasting memory of someone who had the vision to capture the history as it was made and had been made.

On my grandfathers behalf I can say that I am delighted that the Shepherd's Watch Box is having a new lease of life, illustrating one facet of colonial life, on display in the wonderful new Regional Museum in Orange.

May I add that small children are fascinated with it as I have seen while in the museum and being asked many questions which I loved to listen to and answer of course.

### FURNITURE MOTOR CAR

(Molong Express & Western District Advertiser Saturday 21st October 1916)

An extraordinary looking motor car, painted yellow and covered from stem to stern with writing, arrived in Molong this week. It transpired that it was the advertised car from ELLIOTT'S big furniture warehouse in Sydney, doing its country trip, in order to give rural residents an opportunity to procure cheap furniture.

When you see the big fellow car looming up on the horizon, just hustle around and see if you are in need of anything for the house, as ELLIOTT'S have it right there for you.

## ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM OPENING

The long awaited ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM was officially opened on Saturday 19th of November, by Andrew Gee (Federal Member), then the doors were unlocked for public viewing. Over 600 people visited on the first day and this has continued over the last fortnight. The Central Western Daily (Monday 5th December) reports that over 2000 people have visited.



Ian Gosper, John Davis, Marie Hammond, Andrew Gee and Bill McLaughlin following the Opening.



Reg Kidd (Orange City Council), Sue Milne, John & Marie Hammond, with David Hill, in front of the Fairbridge Display

The Museum's first Exhibition is titled "JOURNEYS; people place stories" explores the region and people through time. This includes stories from all the regional museums in the Cabonne, Orange, Blayney Council areas Molong Historical Society has contributed to the Rural History display (Shepherds Box, barbed wire story, gold scales and various tools) Migration (Story of Fairbridge Farm) and other sections.

The Gamboola Shepherds Box has a prominent position within the exhibition. More on this later in the newsletter.



### EVENTS AT THE REGIONAL MUSEUM

- WIRADJURI LIVES THURSDAY 16 February 2017 Michael Bennett
- COBB & CO BATHURST TO BOURKE Heather Nicholls Saturday 1 March
- PICNIC AT WENTWORTH MINE Sunday 30 April
- A TRAVELLING ARTIST OF THE GOLD FIELDS ; EUGINE VON GUERAND Friday 12 May
- JOURNEYS UPLATE Friday 15 May A special evening opening of Museum
- BUDGET WEAVING, Weaving 101 Saturday 17 Jun

For School Holiday activities check the website.

For further details please check Orange Regional Museum website [orangemuseum@com.au](mailto:orangemuseum@com.au) or phone 63938444 or pick up a leaflet at Molong Museum.

# SHEPHERDS BOX

## Contributed by Michael LeCouteur

*Transporting the Shepherd's Watch Box from Gamboola to the Orange Regional Museum*

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②



③



④



① How do we get that onto the truck? ② Many hands make light work!! ③ Won't fit in covered truck – lucky we have an alternative!! ④ That's better!!

*Transporting the Shepherd's Watch Box from Gamboola to the Orange Regional Museum*

⑤



**Watch Box Successfully on truck for transport to Orange Regional Museum**

L to R Michael Cass (MHS); John Hammond (MHS); Bob Sullivan (Patron of MHS); Allison Campbell (Collections Officer at the Orange Regional Museum); Peter Moon (Manger, The Rural Centre, Molong); Michael Le Couteur (MHS).

[Also assisting was Robert Davis from Molong – he left before the photo was taken].

Photographer – Lucinda Bradford (nee Sullivan) from Orange.

MHS = Member of Molong Historical Society and Molong museum Committee



## NAMING OF STREETS IN EAST MOLONG

This information was sent to the Society, by Noelene Clarke, Les Dean's sister who visited the museum earlier this year.

In 2008, Cabonne Council had proposed to rename selected streets of East Molong as advised by Council in the *Molong Express* on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008. For many years the railway line split the town and named roadways, crossing from east to west with residences with same numbers on either side. Residents were frequently redirecting visitors to the other side of the line. The two roads that should be renamed are Molong Street and Wellington Street in East Molong

Council suggestions for renaming these streets included Marriott Street, Bertie's Lane and Marsden Street. Les Dean, the author of the submission to Council is unaware of anyone called Marriott, living in the East Molong Community and put forward Dean Street as the preferred name.



The Dean family, who previously lived in Molong Street, East Molong, were highly regarded and helped improve the living standards of families living there. By initiating and helping build and manage the East Molong Tennis Club, families on this side of town were able to engage in sport and social activities that were previously unavailable.

Ken Dean was a member of the Fire Brigade during the 1940's and assisted in evacuation and restoration of families during numerous flood events. The suggestion was to rename Molong Street, as Dean Street, terminating at Back Saleyards Road.

The proposed naming of the roadway, parallel to Betts Street to be called Bertie's Lane is not appropriate. To properly acknowledge Mr Bertie Cole MBE, whose property backed onto this roadway, it should be Cole Street.

A reply from Cabonne Council states that the submission has been considered and a amended report was to be presented to the June Council meeting. This letter included a map with amended names.



The East Molong tennis court and sports ground are still used and work is in progress to construct a multipurpose hockey field. This is hoped to be finished by Christmas, but has been delayed by the wet weather.

Full details of these letters are available at the museum.

## 1937 SCHOOL REUNION

On Sunday 13th November 2016, Kirsten Hentschel, and her grandfather Les from Dubbo, spent the morning at the museum as well as visiting other locations in Molong. Len was able to catch up with Ivy Barrett, an school mate, as well as



Tom Dean, Denise Whiley and Edna McFarlane.



Les shared memories of family items included in the Collection. The Wedding dress of his parents Theo and Ellen, impressed Kirsten, who is compiling the family history. John Hammond and Len spent time checking the spring cart, also donated by the family.



## CHRISTMAS 1916

### Christmas Postal Arrangements.

There will be no delivery of letters by the postman on Xmas Day (December 25th) but the office will be open for one hour, 9 to 10 a.m. On Boxing Day the postman will deliver mails as usual and the office will be open from 9 to 10 a.m. On January 1st the same conditions as on, Boxing Day will be observed. No money order business will be transacted on either Christmas or Boxing Day. The mails will run as usual throughout the holidays.

(Molong Express and Western District Advertiser Saturday 23 December 1916),

### Christmas Tree

The above will be held in St. John's Rectory Grounds on Saturday, at 3 p.m. Useful Christmas presents and children's clothing, besides produce, refreshments, ices and sweets will be sold at reasonable prices. The Christmas Tree will be covered with children's toys and novelties.

(Molong Express and Western District Advertiser Saturday 16 December 1916, )

### Gift Sale and Xmas Tree: A huge success.

The Gift Sale and Christmas Tree promoted by members of St. John's Church of England, eventuated on Saturday afternoon last. The pretty church grounds had been transformed into a veritable beauty spot, being nicely decorated with flags of the Allies (which were kindly lent by Mr. W. M. Hudson, of Cumnock), streamers, etc. The Rectory verandah was decorated with flags and coloured streamers, and nicely fitted up so that patrons were able to go in and enjoy ice creams, etc. There was a splendid attendance, considering the various calls made on local and district residents of late, the takings were exceptionally good considering that the ladies connected with the function were instrumental in taking about £30 -in three hours.

(Molong Express and Western District Advertiser Saturday 23 December 1916,)

## MOLONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL

### MR. JAMES RUTHERFORD.

The death occurred at 'Molong' private hospital, Darlinghurst, on Thursday, of Mr. James Rutherford, who had been in a critical state of health for some time following upon an operation for gallstones.

Mr. Rutherford was the eldest son of the James Rutherford, of Hereford, Bathurst, where he was born 68 years ago. The late Mr. Rutherford was well-known in the Wellington district, where he resided for a number of years at the well-known 'Wolombi' Station. He was greatly interested in the turf, and his 'Wolombi' stud was well known.

He had bred and raced many good gallopers. During his residence in this district he was a keen supporter of both the Wellington Jockey Club and the Picnic Race Club, where his colors were always at this station he went to reside at 'The Hermitage,' on the Molong Road, between Molong and Orange. Later he sold this property to Mr. McLeish, and took up his residence in Sydney. He was a constant visitor to Wellington, and was among the visitors at the last Picnic Race Club meeting.

The late Mr. Rutherford is survived by four daughters and one son, Mrs. Adrian Riordan (whose husband is connected with the Defence Department), Mrs. Thomas Machattie, of Moonambil, Coonamble, Mrs. Newecomin and Miss Thelma Rutherford, and Mr. Norman Rutherford, of Bathampton, Bathurst, the latter being at the bedside of his father at the end. The remains were cremated on Friday afternoon.

*(Wellington Times (NSW : 1899 - 1954), Monday 24 September 1934,)*

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The news was received in Molong on Wednesday morning of the death of Mrs. F. Merritt, a very close friend of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Brook, of the Telegraph Hotel, Molong, with whom she was staying a few weeks ago. On Friday, last Mrs. Merritt underwent an operation for an abscess in the ear in the Molong House private hospital, Rosebank Street, Darlinghurst, and after being unconscious for a great many hours succumbed on Wednesday.

Deceased was a native of Melbourne and is survived by one son, her husband having predeceased her by some years. She was 49 years of age and was of a most genial disposition, and her death will be deplored by a large number of friends in Molong. Mr. Brook left Molong on Wednesday night to attend the funeral.

*(Molong Express and Western District Advertiser (Saturday 20 April 1912,)*

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Dr. Oswald Howse, brother of Sir Neville and Dr. B. Howse, died at the "Molong" Private Hospital, Sydney, last Friday night. Deceased had been in bad health for some time, and had only arrived at the hospital when he burst a blood vessel and succumbed. Dr. Howse, who was 53 years of age, served in the war under his brother, Sir Neville. He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters.

*(Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate Tuesday 6 March 1923, )*

Request from "FOLLOW THE FOUNDER"  
"OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS" Newsletter

### **DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE CANONBAR AND ROSE COTTAGES ARE NOW?**

Some OF's have been asking what happened to the children's cottages that were removed from Fairbridge. There were originally fifteen cottages build in the village and eight are still there. They are Orange, Molong, New, Blue, Corinda, Goldsborough, Green and Mort. The other seven were sold after Fairbridge was closed and moved to various locations where they were converted into grand country homes. We have managed to track down five of the seven.

**Lilac** is in Molong near Molong School

**Canary** is on the road between Molong and Manildra

**Brown** is on a property close to and behind Canary

**Red is in Yeoval**

**Gowrie** is on a property on the Wellington Road behind Yeoval

This leaves two unaccounted for: the boys' cottage, Canonbar and the girls' cottage, Rose. We were told that Canonbar may be at Goodooga on the NSW/Queensland border. David Hill and I plan to go and have a look but we haven't had a chance yet. As for Rose, we haven't had any luck at all. So if you have any clues please let us know.

IAN "SMILEY" BAYLIFF

### **OLD MEMORIES**



Pam Hodges ( nee Edwards) attended Molong Central School from 1955 till 1958 and has sent us these photographs.



Pam was born in Molong 1950, went to school and lived on Phillip Street. Her family left in 1958 and headed for Tennant Creek NT - Her parents were John and Mary Edwards, and grandparents Minnie and Phillip Edwards who lived on the Wellington Road. My uncle and long time resident was Geoffrey and Dawn Edwards.



Pam now lives in South Australia and wonders if anyone remembers her or her family. If you would like to contact her please contact the editor for more information.

## CAN YOU HELP?

If you are able to help please contact the Museum.

### **BOER WAR**

Looking for information on anyone from Cumnock  
who fought in the BOER WAR.

[vmckenzie@bigpond.com](mailto:vmckenzie@bigpond.com) 63677366

WEBSITE [WWW.cumnocknswmemorial.com](http://WWW.cumnocknswmemorial.com)

### NAMES BEING SEARCHED

DENNY, James

FINCH, Alfred

FINCH, Walter Henry

GRIMSON, Charles

HOLMAN, Thomas Henry

HUGHES, Luke

HUGHES, William Martin

McRAE, James

MILLER, Christian

NOLAN, E

NOLAN, Patrick

OWENS, Frank Patrick

SHERRINGHAM, Joseph George

SHERRINGHAM, Henry

### **McGRATH /SULLIVAN RESEARCH**

Hello, I would be grateful if you could assist with a family history query.

My great grandmother was Jane McGrath, maiden name Sullivan, who married James McGrath and lived at Merrygoen, NSW. Both James and Jane are buried at Wellington. There are numerous Sullivan family graves in Wellington and I was wondering if they are related.

Mr and Mrs Sullivan lived at Molong but I am unable to source their first names, for further research. There were a number of Sullivans that lived at Copper Hill and I wasn't sure if they were related.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,  
Paula O'Leary

**If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance.**

*George Bernard Shaw*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUMBLE & BOOK SALE**

April Fools Day 2017 (Saturday 1st April)

Do you have any unwanted books and items suitable for sale, that you would like to donate. This will be one of our fundraising events for 2017.

More details in the next newsletter.

Please contact Marie or Sue if you can assist



**BOOKS FOR SALE** (last updated 3/12/16)

AUTHOR	TITLE	PRICE
Aileen Roberson	FAMILIES OF MOLONG & DISTRICT (reprint, limited stock)	\$35.00
Aileen Roberson	A HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF MOLONG	\$20.00
Aileen Roberson	ALLAN TOM The Picture Show Man	\$20.00
Aileen Roberson	PADDY McARDLE and Molong	\$20.00
Joan Marriott	THE CROSSROADS History of Cumnock	\$20.00
David Rutherford	The Life & times of JOHN SMITH	\$30.00
Robert Ellis	History of WIRADJURI Aborigines	\$10.00
Robert Ellis	PIPER & YURANIGH	\$25.00
Robert Ellis	HOW THE WEST WAS WON	\$25.00
Robert Ellis	SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
Robyn MacKenzie	From Life to Life in Australia	\$15.00
D. Spears & R. Blowes	Pioneering with Christ, Baptist Church History	\$5.00
Noel Cantrill	BORENORE Centenary 1878-1978	\$15.00
Orange Historical Society	Story Of Byng	\$5.00
Orange Rotary Club	BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00