

MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
1965-2017

Volume 2 Issue 4
SPRING
2017

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 2016-17

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
RESEARCH OFFICER
ASSIST SECRETARY

Marie Hammond 53 111 884. rylerns@gmail.com
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John Austin 0428719645
Catherine Mackenzie
Maureen Kirkwood

MUSEUM NEWS

COMING EVENTS

MOLONG VILLAGE MARKETS

Held at The Recreation Ground on Sunday 29th October. The Society will be having a stall for the first time. Please come and support us to make this success. Museum may be open on this day.

MUSEUM BOOK & PLANT SALE

Due to the success of our first sale held in April, a second sale has been arranged for Saturday 11th November & Sunday 12th November. The Central West Antique Machinery & Collectors Club will have a display on Saturday. We are looking for books suitable for sale as well as assistance during the week to set up and on the weekend. Please leave books at the museum (preferably on a Thursday). Contact Sue or Marie for more details.

STREET STALL

On Friday 17th November, the Society has been allocated another street stall. If you can help with cakes and saleable goods please contact the museum. Help will be needed to man the stall.

ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUMS NETWORK MEETING

On Tuesday 5th December, the Molong historical Society will be host to other museums in the Regional Museum Network (Cabonne, Orange and Blayney). Please contact Marie or Sue if you are available to assist with catering or would like to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVENT

On Saturday the 9th December the Society will be holding their Christmas event. More details soon, but a special venue is being arranged.

FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2018

FAIRBRIDGE REUNION 10/11 March
ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM Opening of new exhibit in April
ORANGE SHOW 28/29 April

STAYED TUNED FOR MORE NEWS IN 2018

2017/18 FEES

NOTE Fee increase to \$20.00 includes quarterly newsletter

NEW CONTACT

molonghistoricalsociety@gmail.com

This address for all emails except research enquiries

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring/Summer 2017

Well greetings all, well once again it is newsletter time. Sue perpetually keeps her ear and nose out for a continuation of interesting articles and news snippets of history. There is always space for members to add a story of interest. Contact Sue or myself as stories of Molong etc. are always welcome.

Some members of the society have been rather occupied lately as we have been working on a new Strategic Plan for the Society. The plan will cover the planning for the next five years. This will be reviewed every year, as we have already been doing. It contains issues that cover our needs, i.e. rebuilding front entrance room, an invalid toilet, further plans and developments.

Currently the Society is hopeful that the grant we are applying for may be successful and this would certainly assist with covering some of these issues. We are very grateful to the support by manner of letters we received to assist our application.

The Society has achieved much in the last seven or eight years but still so much more to do. We welcome members and new members to come and spend a day or two with us and just see what projects different members are undertaking.

2017 was slow to start in all the heat, members on holidays etc. but we went onto one successful event after another.

Perhaps having the old original kitchen finally finished was the key to **the celebration we had with Jacqui Newlings from "Sydney Living Museum"** coming as our guest for our Colonial Lunch. With a packed house for lunch, it was a most memorial occasion.

The year, which began slowly, soon gained momentum with the very successful book and jumble sale. A repeat of which we are planning again on the 11th November. Being the 11th of the 11th, we will sound the bell, with ringer Bob Sullivan. When we will observe a minutes silence. We will have a couple of other interesting visitors there with the Central West Antique Machinery and Collectors Club, and Robin Wills retired lecturer from CSU who has reinvented himself as an expert whip maker. It is hoped that when people come to buy books they will also be entertained by these two very interesting attractions.

Molong has a long history of food production from the aboriginal folk living for thousands of years in and around here. It also has a long history, since European settlement, of being a major producer of meat and wool, wheat, fruit; especially grapes. These items are already being researched as

possibly featuring in the 2018 Regional Museum Exhibition, "From Paddock to Plate".

With the loss of almost thirty orchards and vineyards, which have now disappeared, to be replaced by new vineyards growing different varieties of wine grapes and introducing a new industry to the area. It is possible that some of these foods etc will be featured in this exhibition. There is much planning underway and well-known museum consultant Sandra McEwen, late of Power House, has plans well under way and is working with the Regional Museum.

The AGM for the Society was held recently with little change from the previous committee. We had a good attendance and I am pleased to say that Catherine MacKenzie is now the new Vice President. This was a position member Des Sullivan held for many years but it is unfortunate that Des is not enjoying the best of health after surgery to his knee and then lately his hip. Des spoke with me about the position and said to replace him as he currently is out of action. He has a history of being a great supporter of the Society since its inception. I am sure I would be correct to say there are not many years when he was not on the committee in capacity or another. Greetings to Des and look forward to seeing him back here in the future. We welcome Michael Cass and Lynne Robertson to the Committee.

Any members who are able to assist with the forthcoming events we would be pleased to hear from you so until next time best wishes to all.

Marie Hammond
President.

MUSEUM REPORT

Interesting facts for 2016/17.

It was recorded that there were over 200 visitors to the Museum for the year. They came from though out Australia and visited for many reasons. These included. Research, family history, Grey Nomads, Fairbridge interests. Added to these figures are the Book Sale where it is estimated that about 200 people attended.

The Museum was open regularly and volunteers were on present for over 1000 hours. This doesn't include attending meetings and workshops, research and duties away from the museum.

There were three newsletters produced, all with 12/14 pages. About 100 were emailed to members, other Societies, Councils, Fairbridge and supporters

The Society would like thank everyone for their support during the past year and to future support for many years to come



COBB & CO TALK



On Saturday 24th June the Society welcomed Heather Nicholls who gave a very entertaining talk on the History of "Cobb & Co"



Heather Nicholls has over ten years' experience researching, interpreting and promoting the significant history of Cobb & Co in central NSW.



First established in 1854 by four industrious Americans led by Mr Freeman Cobb, the firm that would become Cobb & Co and ultimately revolutionize travel throughout the colonies, When Mr Cobb sold the business in 1856 the firm retained the name and under the guidance of James Rutherford, from 1861, expanded into NSW. A base was established in Bathurst, Cobb & Co changed the way people moved, communicated and did business throughout Central NSW. There were offices throughout NSW including Orange & Molong and there are many links remaining within the district.

TOUR GROUPS

Over the last weeks we have had the pleasure of welcoming two groups to the museum



On Sunday 13th August, 13 members of the Midwest Historic Motor Club, visited as part of their tour of the district.



The following Thursday, The Happy Wanderers from Forbes enjoyed a Devonshire Tea and tour of the museum. Michael Frew displayed his old cars which encouraged many stories to be told. A surprise visit by ??? And his horse ended a great morning



THE ALLEN MAWER SHIELD

Recently the Museum was given several framed photographs and a shield found at the closed Fairbridge Foundation headquarters in Sydney. Ross Tierney completed research on the shield and contacted Allen Mawer the grandson of the original shield donor. Ross Tierney and Allen Mawer visited Molong and presented the shield and photographs to the museum in June this year. Allen gave us a brief history and the connection with Fairbridge Farm School, Molong.

Granville Allen Mawer was born in 1919 and enlisted in the RAAF in Sydney in December 1940. He completed his training in Canada to become a pilot. His next posting was to England. During his time with 501 Squadron RAF he shot down a German Dornier Do 217 bomber over the English Channel. In November 1942, he was recalled to Australia and in 1943 was posted to 54 Squadron RAF in Darwin, then to 452 Squadron RAAF, both equipped with Spitfires. Allen, as he was known, shot down and destroyed three Japanese fighters. Tragically, he was killed in a flying accident in September 1943. Allen is buried in the Adelaide River War Cemetery.



Granville Allen Mawer was unmarried when he was killed in 1943. He **was unaware that he had a son also named Allen living in England.** The boy's mother wrote to tell Allen but his own mother, Ella Allen, intercepted the letters. Ella always felt guilty that she had not told Allen about his son. She commissioned two scholarships/awards in his name to

- La Perouse School for Aboriginals in Sydney
- **Fairbridge Farm School, Molong for the "Best pupil of the Year" with a monetary prize.**

Ella was a seamstress for Lady Isaacs, the wife of the Governor General during the 1930s. She also knew Sir William Slim, Governor General during the 1950s. This may have been the reason for the award to the school.

The shield was awarded between 1953 and 1966. Significant events in 1966 were Mr F.K.S. Woods resignation and the last children arrived from England. There was also a shield for the girls, but I have been unable to find any details yet.

THE WINNERS OF THE PRIZE WERE

YEAR	NAME	ARRIVAL	NOTES
1953	JAMES SMITH	1948	
1954	JOHN ORRINGE	1948	Deceased 1995
1955	DAVID SINCLAIR	1953	Deceased 2006
1956	MALCOLM ORRINGE	1948	Living in Molong
1957	THOMAS BARKER	1949	Deceased 1987
1958	RONALD SINCLAIR	1953	
1959	MALCOLM FIELD	1953	Deceased 2012
1960	DOUGLAS MILLER	1952	
1961	PATRICK O'BRIEN	1959	
1962	GRAHAM LEE	1955	Living in Bathurst
1963	REGINALD MILLER	1952	
1964	G LEE	1955	Different to above
1965	DENNIS PIERCY	1955	OFA Committee
1966	L LIPSCOMBE	1955	

Ross Tierney's Story

The Fairbridge Society had an office (shared with other entities, businesses?) in the Trust Building (155 King St.). As I was walking past I noticed the photographs and other items being loaded to a rubbish truck, enquiring with the fellows loading they said I could take anything, as it was to be dumped. Being a hopeless Bower bird I grabbed what I could and stored it until I could collect it later. Researching the origin of the names, I discovered some of the history. Through the Alan Mawer Memorial Board, my wife managed to trace Alan (son of Alan Sr) via a recent ABC interview and left a message (bless the ABC!-they were intrigued too). Alan called me and after sending of photos of the board, was able to tie the board to Fairbridge.

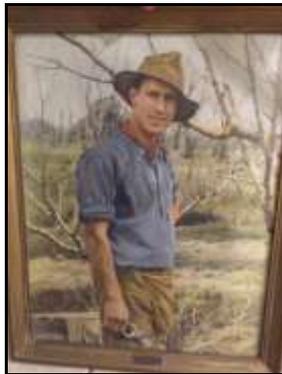
That is the brief reality of the find-minutes later it would have been landfill. Subsequently, checking the office noted on the tenant list, it appeared to be vacant.

I hope this helps, such as it is. Thank you once again for your interest and your kind assistance on our visit to Molong. I am so pleased that this material could be saved-serendipity! It was indeed a great pleasure to meet Alan Mawer and hear the history of Alan Sr. The experience was quite extraordinary and such a pleasure to resolve, a great memory from a great mystery.



This is only a brief history . If anyone can add to the story please contact Sue at suemilne@colourcity.com or Molong Historical Society.

The donation included these framed prints



REFERENCES

SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION Website www.spitfireassociation.com.au

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection>

DIARY OF A SPITFIRE PILOT Granville Allen Mawer (Granville Allen story)

“FOLLOW THE FOUNDER” May 2017 edition (Old Fairbridgian Association)

GRAHAM LEE Letter received June 2017

GRANVILLE ALLEN MAWER junior. Email received September 2017)

ROSS TIERNEY Finder of the shield (email received September 2017)

ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM NEWS

ROSES FROM THE HEART

Did your female convict ancestor live in Orange?

Roses from the Heart is a unique memorial to the 25,566 convict women transported to Australia from Britain and Ireland from 1788 to 1853. The installation will include hundreds of bonnets each with the name of a female convict and the ship which brought them to Australia.

The installation is the creation of artist Christina Henri who has worked with groups from all over the world to produce the bonnets in memory of convict women.

As a part of the display in Orange two bonnets have been created to represent two female convicts who ended up in Orange. They are Cato Caroline Clemens or Clements who married Joseph Moulder, and Constance Couronne or Constance de la Sabloniere.

SHACKLETON: ESCAPE FROM ANTARCTICA

It's one of the greatest survival stories and more than 100 years later, a touring display from the Australian National Maritime Museum will open at Orange Regional Museum on Monday October 16.

Shackleton: Escape from Antarctica invites visitors to walk in the footsteps of explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, bringing together first-hand accounts and dramatic images by expedition photographer Frank Hurley to tell the story of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-17.

The display will continue until November 8

BOOK LAUNCH

WELLINGTON VALLEY “The Early Years” Written by Margaret Gribbin

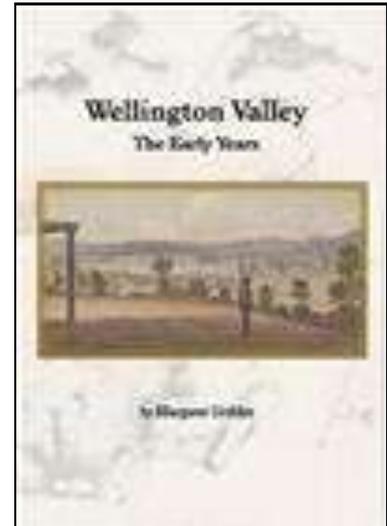


The museum was visited by Margaret Gribbin, who was on her way to Wellington to launch her book
WELLINGTON VALLEY “The Early Years”.

Margaret, a great grandmother with a love of history,, wrote this book after many years of research.

The book tells the story of the Government outpost in the Wellington Valley, near the junction of the Bell and Macquarie Rivers in 1823. It covers the life of Lieutenant Percy Simpson as he journeyed to Wellington Valley to establish the outpost and the employment of convicts.. The story is based on letters in the Colonial Secretary’s inward file 1823 until 1826.

The book is well researched and includes maps and references
The Society has several copies for sale at \$30.00 each.



LOCAL CEMETERY BOOKS REPRINTED

Central Coast Family History group, who publishes cemetery books has reprinted the following local volumes. They are available in book and disk format

- Molong General Cemetery,
- Cemeteries at Manildra , Cumnock, Garra, Baldry, Yeoval, Canowindra
- Cemeteries at Cargo, Cudal, Toogong, Nyrang Creek, Boree-Cabonne



To purchase and review their extensive book list please visit their website
<https://www.centralcoastfhs.org.au/publications>

Dilledewong, 1934 - The Shearing Troupe. (contributed)

At Dilledewong the shearers
Are "daddies" - all true blue-
There's Audley Press and Gordon
And Athol Bennett, too.

They shear both well and truly,
And never rough their sheep.
The rouseabouts are busy,
And never fall asleep.

Our engineer is "Bill the Boss,"
His humour keeps us gay,
He's just the same when he wakes up
As at the end of day.

There's "Jim the Classer," he's a wag,
He's hardly ever still,
But for all his youth and innocence
He knows which bin to fill.

The Rodwell boys are men no less
They work from dawn till dark.
And they are always ready
To join in any lark.

Our rouseabouts are merry chaps,
They're playing jokes all day,
And won't we miss their jolly pranks
When they all go away.

A handy man with sheep is Dick-
Hunt is his second name-
With rope and stick Dick does the trick
Sure, 'tis a funny game.

Our hostesses are ladies true
For thought and kindness fine,
We'll treasure thoughts of Dilledewong
In days of auld lang syne.

(Molong Express Saturday 10 November 1934 page 14)

Contributed by Catherine Mackenzie who added this note

"Thought you might like this poem about shearers. How Audley Press gets a mention I am not sure because he lived and worked most of his life at Mount David south of Bathurst. And Dilledewong appears to be around Cudal.

ON THIS DAY

MOLONG ON-LINE blog has snippets of local information that can be found by doing a search of TROVE.

To keep up with Molong events check their website. <http://molong.com.au>

On 27 August 1878, the *Australian Town and Country Journal* reported: "A public meeting of free selectors and others favourable to the cause of the conditional purchasers, was held at the new Royal Hotel on last Monday evening, for the purpose of sending a delegate to Sydney to represent Molong at the congress of free selectors' delegates ..." Mr John Roche Ardill was proposed as the delegate and unanimously elected

On 25 August 1890, the *Molong Argus* reported: "Crops are coming on fairly well; but it is feared the yield will not be good this year, and in many cases intending cultivators failed, by

On 23 August 1912, the *Molong Argus* wrote: "A.H. Crook reports having sold, during this week, Mr Leary's choice farm property situated on the Boomey subdivision, at a highly satisfactory figure."

On 29 August 1913, the *Molong Argus* reported: "While using a digging fork at his orchard recently, Mr John Burgess had the misfortune to get one of the prongs into his leg, inflicting a nasdy wound. We are pleased to say, however, that it is now healing up nicely."

On 30 August 1918, *The Molong Argus* reported: "The local cricketers are waking up. They are holding a meeting in Nicholson's billard room next Tuesday, to form a club."

From Molong on 20 September 1879, *Australian Town & Country Journal* reported: "Never since Molong has been known to the white man has there been such a continuance of rain. The bush and bush roads are almost impenetrable to all except pedestrians. The roads, particularly that leading from Molong to Obley, are one quagmire. Certainly it is time the attention of the authorities was drawn to the matter."

From Molong on 18 September 1888, *The Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser* reported: "In order to keep abreast of the times. Mr J Black, proprietor of the Britannia Flour Mills, has introduced the Ganz system of roller machinery, which, through the extra demand for the flour it produces, is generally superseding the stone-milling method."

From Molong on 21 September 1917, *The Molong Argus* reported: "This is the month for registering dogs, and it behoves owners of canines to get a form and pay the fee before the end of the month, otherwise their animals may cost them more than they are worth."

BOOKS FOR SALE (updated 25/9/2017)

AUTHOR	TITLE	PRICE
Aileen Roberson	FAMILIES OF MOLONG & DISTRICT	\$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	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
Margaret Gribbin	WELLINGTON VALLEY The Early Years	\$30.00

MOLONG 100 YEARS AGO

We understand that Mr F.E Churchill of Brymedura has purchased a Mitchell motor car, through the local agents Messrs Quinn Bros
(Molong Argus Friday October 5, 1917)

Arthur Hodges, son of Mr & Mrs A. Hodges, of Bank Street, met with a painful accident on Wednesday. He was engaged in play when he trod on a sharp stick which went right through one of his great toes and broke of in the wound. Medical aid had to be obtained to attend to the injury.
(Molong Argus Friday October 5, 1917)

Mr W. J. Windred conducts a big auction sale of furniture at his Mart, Watson Street, tomorrow afternoon.
(Molong Argus Friday October 19, 1917)

Mr E. Blackadder, our local jeweller, went to Sydney on Tuesday night , on business & pleasure combined.
(Molong Argus Friday October 19, 1917)

The Prime Minister Mr W, M,. Hughes passed through Molong by car on Tuesday afternoon. Mr Hughes is completely run down through overwork and is taking a motoring trip for health purposes. We understand he is at present **on a visit to his wife's relatives at Burrendong, near Wellington.**
(Molong Argus Friday October 26, 1917)