

MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
1965-2015

Volume 1 Issue 78
WINTER 2015



MUSEUM ADDRESS
20 Riddell Street
MOLONG NSW 2866

The Molong Museum opens on the last Sunday of each month

The Museum open on Thursday's 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

No phone enquires accepted.
Fees on request

Address all correspondence to:

The Secretary
PO Box 119, Molong NSW 2866
EMAIL
molongmuseum@hotmail.com



CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

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

COMMITTEE for 2014-15

PRESIDENT	Marie Hammond 63604799	rylerns@gmail.com
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ASSIST SECRETARY	Maureen Kirkwood	

PRESIDENTS REPORT- WINTER 2015

After an exciting few months we have stopped, to a degree and taken stock of what we achieved during our celebrations of the history and heritage of Molong's Packham Triumph Pear and all that that entailed. All the events we held during May were very successful. First cooking with a good neighbour from Cudal, Merle Parrish and the delicious pear cake she made for morning tea on the day of her cooking with pears demonstration at the Molong Community Hall. This was greatly successful and enjoyed by all who attended.

The Art show, all featured pears as was the requirement, was an outstanding success with 37 entries from several locations. The art was of such a high standard and much admired. There was only one place to hang it all and that was to convert the Fairbridge Room for three weeks. In here, we have a hanging system around the walls and this was what was needed to hang the entries correctly. It was a big job to do but everyone got involved and it was soon completed. It was once again a pleasure to have our local State member Andrew Gee come and open the show this being followed by a most delicious afternoon tea.

Having approximately one hundred visitors over the weekend of our celebrations, I felt disappointed until I learnt that the same weekend, in Bathurst and at the height of their 200-year celebrations, they had approximately two hundred so by comparison we didn't score too badly. Many people who thought the events a great achievement have congratulated us. It is only with the help we received from members and friends that we did. The Pear story belongs to Molong so it is to hoped that the community will continue to celebrate this in the future.

Labelling is a great marketing tool and there is every opportunity for Molong's business' to include the pear symbol in advertising, in the windows, stickers of a pear on their car. A young woman brought in a tea towel to show us recently at the museum and it was a pear and promoted Molong. I thought that could be done on aprons, like the ones people wear in the food outlets' I thought it could be another avenue for the Pre-school to make more income as well as the tea towel. Congratulations to the Molong Yarn Market, who I believe, had a mural of pear/s painted on a wall there; how great is that for marketing the town's icon and I am sure the pear will become a large part of future Food Weeks.

While this will continue we have other events planned and also more research to do' coming up we have the 50 years of the Society to celebrate with a weekend planned for September 12/13th including lunch at the RSL Club on the Sunday. We will have more about that shortly. I hope that in the coming year. We will be able to concentrate on another aspect of Molong history and that is the wool and Molong's early involvement and more great stories.

Again, we have had inquires regarding burial sites, "and do we know" Catherine McKenzie' our researcher, has been answering inquires like this many times over and I only wish there were answers to all but sadly there aren't. We are always willing to have information shared with us so that in years to come it is hoped that the society will have the answers to such questions. The other is often about where different businesses have been and the owners. If only they too had of left us photos and information it would be kind to their relatives if we were able to tell them when we are asked. I would like to see all shop keepers choose a day and take a photo of their business and employees, themselves too of course, and give them to us to file for the future.

Hoping to see you all at the AGM on the 11th July at the Museum at 2pm. We will have afternoon tea to follow. If all could bring a plate with something on it would be appreciated.

Marie Hammond

SOCIETY & MUSEUM REPORT

The year is getting away fast, with a lot happening since last report. The Museum has had several visitors both individual and groups, some doing research, while others to view the displays and talk about Molong's history. These include Orange Retired Railway Employees, Molong Central School and St Joseph's Primary School, as well as visitors from as far away as Western Australia and Queensland (both doing family Research).

The Museum has been open more frequently, including every weekend in May, in association with the Packham Art Show, an increase in locals visiting. Thursday's have become a working day with several visitors each week. Gordon & Lynne Robertson have completed cataloguing the maps from the Molong PP Board and are starting on a new project.

The Museum displays are changing regularly now. The first display was on the Packham Pear (May/June). This month we are showing The Red Cross Story (by Essie Sullivan) which includes the School Posters from 2014. The Molong Historical Society, in time for our 50th Celebrations.

Future Projects will be working on the files of Molong organisations, buildings, commercial businesses and the cemetery.

Merle Parrish



COOKING WITH MERLE

Molong Museum – Cooking with Merle- April 27

CWA Celebrity cook, Merle Parrish, shared cooking tips and recipes for over forty people at a morning tea to celebrate the Packham Pear and its connection with Molong. Marie Hammond and Sue Milne, ably assisted by a small army of volunteers, presented the event which made it onto the local TV news the following week. Part of an ongoing program to celebrate the Packham Pear and its place in the history of Molong. Funding from public programs is assisting with the conservation of the museum building.



Ruth Bloomfield showing the new banner that was launched during the morning.



Sue Milne, Jenny Maher, Marie & John Hammond (Photo Rebecca)



Part of the crowd enjoying Merle's stories

Contributed by Rebecca Pinchin

“PACKHAM PEARS IN THE MOLONG DISTRICT”.

The Historical Society hosted their first Art Show during the ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM NETWORK open weekend, held on the 9th & 10th May 2015. The weekend was opened by Andrew Gee (MP) who spoke of his interest in history of the area and research he has been doing. This was followed by afternoon tea, provided by Rozzie and her team of workers and Society members.



The Art Show had the theme of PACKHAM PEARS and received thirty seven (37) entries consisting of oil paintings, acrylic paintings, charcoal, watercolours, clay sculptures, crochet, and paper mache mediums. Brenda Grey from the Orange Regional Gallery had the task of judging and selected five(5) paintings and 3 sculptures for special awards.

The Art works remained on display during the month of May and people visited the Museum to see it, but also viewed the various displays throughout the building and grounds.



Several volunteers had worked for weeks before preparing for this weekend. The gardens were in top order with a team headed by John Hammond, Bob Sullivan, Michael Carroll, Robert Ellis and Des Sullivan who mowed, trimmed hedges and removed rubbish. The old Kitchen was open to the public for the first time in many years, showcasing a kitchen of the 1860's. Then a display of small farming and orcharding equipment, that encouraged conversation among older visitors.

The main building had several different displays. The Meeting room showcased the Packham family history and the progress of the pear in the orcharding industry. Several people made use of the research facilities and added to the story. The Fairbridge Room was converted for use to display the Art show. Molong History, World War1 was the focus of the Molong Room, then going into the Aboriginal and Geological Room. The Parlour was transformed to represent the room in the late 1800's, about the time the Packham Pear was registered.



On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank everybody who assisted to make the weekend the success it was. The following people need a special mention, Rozzie & Paul (Molong Express) Margaret Moss, Hugh Oldham, Jenny Maher(provided family photographs) Wanda Driscoll (Art Society), Ken Barrett (Vintage truck) but there were many more. Members Ricia Mari, Lynne & Gordon, Marie Rothery, Jo Keniry, Jean Bennett, Maureen, Kirkwood John Austin, Des Sullivan, Bob Sullivan, and John Hammond.

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1965-2015

The Molong Historical Society celebrates 50 years of service.

During 2015 The Historical Society will be 50 years old and we will celebrate this achievement during the weekend of 12th & 13th of September.

There will be several activities over the two days.

The Museum will be open with displays of photographs, stories and objects and with an opportunity for you to add to this during your visit.

There may be a walk around the Cemetery or the village, this is in the early stages of planning.

On Sunday the celebration lunch will be held at the Molong RSL Club (across the road from the Museum) commencing at 12 Noon. This will be a two course meal, (cost \$35.00 each).

There will be further information as the time moves on. If you are able to assist please contact any of the committee.

We are putting together a small publication to record our history. If you are able to help with photographs, articles and your own memories please contact the Secretary (suemilne@colourcity.com or phone 0400425015) or email molongmuseum@hotmail.com. or visit the Museum on a Thursday.

One of the many photographs in our Collection.

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION MEMBERS 1965

Where are they Now?



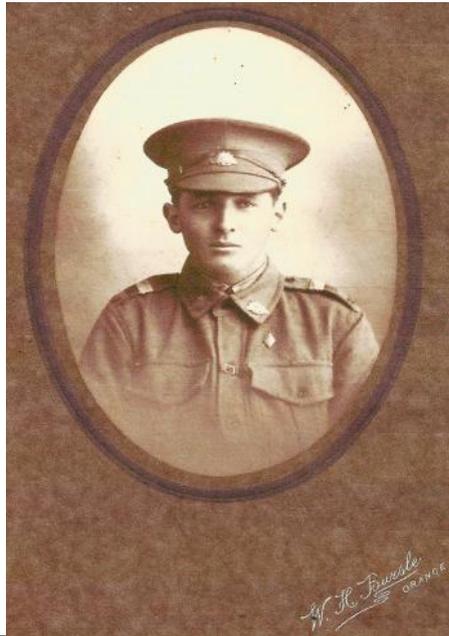
BACK ROW FKS Woods, Mick Boucher, Norm Bloomfield, Des Sullivan, David Rutherford, Jack Horsfield

MIDDLE ROW Harry Myors, Doris Woods,, Ruth Bloomfield, Gladys ???, Marj Bloomfield,

FRONT ROW Margaret Myors, Ruth Bigrigg, Edna Packham, Enid Iffland, Hazel Rogers.

CAN YOU HELP?

We have recently been asked to assist with identifying these photographs.
If you are able to help please contact the Museum.



Photograph lent to Museum by Jenny Maher (a PACKHAM descendant).
The gentleman is believed to belong to the PACKHAM Family

Photographer was W.H. BURSLE of Orange
(Had a studio in Orange 1899-1926)

This photograph is owned by Jim PARSLOW (a recent visitor to Molong) inherited this photo from his cousin Tom Parslow and curious about the people in the photo.



(From Jim)
I know that the man on the far right is my great grandfather Henry Ayres Parslow from Molong and I thought it would be interesting to know who the others were. I believe that the photo must have been taken in the 1890s and that there were a number of Parslows included.

My great grandfather Henry Ayres Parslow, who remarried after the death of his wife Elizabeth in 1897 in a sulky accident, remarried Emily Evers in 1898. Their 2 children Henry and Mary together with their father caught Typhoid Fever and all died in 1903. Emily remarried Thomas Woods in 1904 and had two children Lancelot and John. I was interested to learn that there was big problem with typhoid fever in Molong at the beginning of the 20th century.

Gordon Robertson, one of our members has written this article on Sir Thomas Mitchell and his trip from Molong To Ophir. The story will continue in the next two newsletters. Gordon and Lynne attend the Museum each Thursday and are working on the large collection of maps we have.

PART 1 SIR THOMAS MITCHELL FROM MOLONG TO THE OPHIR GOLDFIELD.



Mitchell was sent by Governor Fitzroy to survey the extent & productiveness of the goldfield reported to have been discovered at Ophir & surrounding area in the County of Bathurst.

He began his survey at a point almost due west of Ophir, and about 10 kms. directly south of Molong, where he had stayed at Mrs. Cobcroft's Inn. Here he commenced about 17th June 1851, since on Tuesday, 18th June his Diary records that he went forward to continue the section line he had already marked and levelled to a hill 5.5 miles from Molong while Mr Davidson & son Roderick conducted the party & equipment to Nandillion Ponds, there to encamp. This levelled hill would be Guanna Hill, on Nandillion Ponds property. He continued his examination of the section line to a high summit of a range of rugged hills 10 kms. east by compass from the marked tree. This would be Belgravia Geodetic Trig (at 911 or 931 metres) a rise on a southern extension of the Caleula Hills. He found most part of the country to be quartzose – and in parts the schist and clayslate cropping out – places here & there were white with fragments of Quartz rock. Returned to the camp on Nandillion Ponds travelling by the marked line (after measuring about 6 miles – 10 kms.).

Wed. 18th June, 1851, returned to the marked tree on the hill (Belgravia Trig) where he yesterday left off, accompanied by Mr. Davidson there to resume the marking and measuring of the section. To follow them, we need to take Tantallon Road (opposite Guanna Hill) to Belgravia Road, turn right and follow it to Mullion Creek, noting the rough terrain along the way.

Marking onward from that hill, they came upon the old road to Wellington after about 3 kms. This road (called Simpsons Track) is now known as Burrendong Way, and the country was still more quartzose than before – quartz and schist everywhere. The highest part is beyond Burrendong Way, rugged in the hollows, but rather broad higher up with long gently sloping valleys. Beyond this, the Mullion Range drops by as much as 200 metres into deep and steep ravines, with isolated summits of up to 944m. Much of this Range is now unfortunately covered in pine forest, however the ravines and some summits can be seen from below, especially from the road to Ophir, so if we head to Clergate and follow the Cullya road down to Summer Hill Creek, then left along Ophir Road, we can enjoy views of the steep ravines (on the left) cut by various creeks.

He temporarily closed the section line at a turn in a water-course (Kittys Creek) which was followed down and there led by it into a better sort of country – and soon came upon the road to “the Diggings”. At the point where Kittys Creek reaches it, Ophir road begins climbing a hill,

which agrees with the Diary entry “Two drays with heavy trains & many men appeared in a steep slope in the road before us”. Since their tents were back at Nandillion Ponds, Mr. Davidson organised shelter for the night at a hut 5kms from the diggings, but with scarcely any grass for the horses.

After we have passed the Rest Area at 4th Crossing, the road climbs, swings right then drops to cross Kittys Creek on a left bend and climbs the hill mentioned above. Follow the road to Ophir.

On the 19th June, he went with Mr. Stutchbury, the government geologist to the Diggings. As he expected, they saw veins, bosses and steep hills of trap rock in both banks of the river (Lewis Ponds Creek) in which there was a “fresh” which prevented him crossing to visit Mr. Hardy (the Gold Commissioner). On a stony bough or link of the river, edged with Casuarinas, about 200 men were counted at work, besides what were also in sight higher up and lower down the river – and on the opposite bank, high above the river were numerous tents, and more on the left bank of the river – & a bark home with placards advertising booking for mail, and all kinds of stores sold there on the river bank near the diggers. Here there was a perpetual thoroughfare resembling the people at a tryst or fair, including many natives. He was very glad to meet “Tommy Came Last” who accompanied the 1836 Expedition to the interior. No such crowd today, though often there are picnickers, etc.

On the 20th June, tried a set of cylinders for gold prospecting at a spot in the Nandillion Ponds area which indicated favourably, but not a speck of gold was found.

Sunday, 22nd June 1851, returned early and before dark they encamped near the auriferous river. Found a trap rock in a dyke, near where the tents were pitched, basaltic columns indicating that there, the trap rock so abundant in these parts, had been erupted.

Continued next newsletter.

NEWS FROM 1915

Molong Express and Western districts Advertiser Saturday June 26th 1915

MOTORISTS FINED

At the Police Court on Wednesday (Mr Marriott PM, presiding) , Jack Howland, motor mechanic, of Wellington was fined 10s and 6s costs for failing to carry a rearlight on a motor car. Mr H.R. Holt appeared for him and pleaded guilty.

Aubrey Garvin of Orange , was also fined 10s and 6s costs for failing to carry a rearlight on a motor car. He pleaded guilty and said the lamp must have fallen off while he was driving along a road out of town.

The Sergeant said the car had only one headlight, contrary to the regulations, which provide that two lights should be used by motor cars. The practice of driving motor cars without rearlights was becoming far too common in Molong and would have to be put down.

A similar case against John Thos. Jones was adjourned, the defendant failing to appear or plead and send his licence by a local resident.

THE MOLONG HISTORIAN

The Molong Historian was published between 1972 and 1997 and contains a collection of articles on the history of Molong and District. This article is reproduced from volume 3 No 5 issued February 1983

THE MOLONG EXPRESS

Established in 1878 by Henry Vale Leathem, The Molong Express began in premises in Riddell Street, Molong. The office was later moved to the corner of Bank Street and Shields Lane, and then to the northern side of Bank Street, two doors down from the Town Hall. When this move occurred is not certain, but it remained the office of the paper until 1929.

In 1879 Mr Leathem died at the age of thirty six. His wife Marion took over the proprietorship and ran the paper from then on until her death in 1919.

READ
"The Molong Express."

BRIGHT. NEWSY. RELIABLE.

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AND OUR PRICES ARE RIGHT.

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MARION LEATHEM,
PROPRIETRESS.

During her later years, Mrs Leathem gradually handed over more and more responsibility to her sons as they grew up. After her death the sons carried on with the eldest son, Charles James Vale Leathem, as head of the firm. In 1929 C.J.V. Leathem and his sister-in-law, Harriet Ann Dunn, were the proprietors.

It was during the year, 1929, that the office was moved to the building still referred to as 'the old Express Office', next to the C.B.C. It had been built for William Tanner in 1876-77.

The ownership of The Molong Express changed again in 1932 when C.J.V. Leathem became sole proprietor.

MOLONG EXPRESS October 9 1887

It was during the 1930's, perhaps 1934, that Mr W.P. Stanger, who owned the rival paper, The Molong Argus, took over the Express and discontinued the publication of the Argus.

In 1944, Raymond James Neve became the new proprietor of the "Express". He also acquired the Peak Hill Express, which was subsequently printed at Molong and the Blayney West Macquarie, with office and printing works at Blayney.

In 1947, Mr Neve formed the Company Rural Newspapers Ltd., and founded the "Western Stock and Station Journal", with headquarters at Orange.

Mr Doug Tomsett became manager of the Molong office at this stage, Mr Bill Bouffler acting as Editor. At this time a cadet journalist Norman Bloomfield, who is now one of the proprietors, joined the staff.

Some years later, the Molong office, with a staff of eight, became uneconomic, and all senior staff members resigned.

This left three juniors, Jim Buckley, Bob Alexander and Norm Bloomfield to run the paper – an unprecedented position in country newspapers – but one which the Unions would not allow to continue. Subsequently, the Molong Peak Hill Printing Company was formed, with Mr Clyde Watson as manager and editor and Mr G.L. Burgess as Chairman of Directors.

In 1956 an opposition newspapers. "The Peak Hill Times" was established in Peak Hill, and the Molong Peak Hill Printing Co., became uneconomic.

An offer by Norman Bloomfield to take over the paper on lease, with Bob Alexander running the Commercial printing Dept. in his own right, was accepted and the business continued on this basis for some years until Bob Alexander withdrew from the arrangement to accept a position in Queanbeyan.

In 1968 the "Express" became the first country newspaper in Australia to be printed under the offset printing system, subsequently eliminating the use of the linotype, hot metal type and flatbed press, which had done the job for several decades.

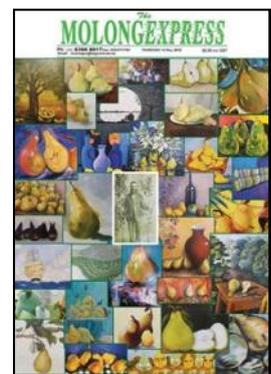
The paper was transferred to a building which had previously been a picture theatre, in 1976, and is still published from that building.

The Molong Express has always been a 'tabloid' size, but the number of pages and frequency of publication have changed from time to time. It has varied from an eight-page weekly, to a bi-weekly, to a four-page weekly. In recent years, the Express has included the Western Magazine, published in Dubbo

.....
The above article was written in 1983.

The MOLONG EXPRESS continues to be published weekly with Paul Mullins & Rozzi Smith as editors.

I would like to thank Rozzi & Paul for their support and assistance throughout the years. Their assistance this year with the Packham Pear Promotion & Art Show has been terrific and the event would not have had the success it had without their help with publicity and promotion with getting the Molong Community involved.



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
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>	Sequicentennial History of Molong Show	\$35.00
	TEA TOWELS	\$7.00
	TEA SPOONS	\$5.00
	POSTCARDS	3/ \$100

**MOLONG AND DISTRICT SERVICEMEN
AND SERVICEWOMEN'S PORTRAIT GALLERY**

Located in the Molong RSL Club,
22 Riddell Street, Molong.

Telephone 6366 8105
www.molongrsl.com



The fifty seven portraits in this unique collection were painted by artist Anne Marie Ingham. She gave her time to this project in gratitude for the sacrifices of these men and women who represent all from this area who served in our armed forces. She hoped it would enhance public awareness of their efforts.



The first portraits were unveiled in 2007, another six unveiled in 2008, twenty in January 2009 & five in 2012. All ceremonies were held in conjunction with Molong & Cabonne Council's Australia Day celebrations.

Contact Helen Haynes 6360 4144 for further information

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Saturday 11th July
 At the Historical Museum
 Commencing at 2PM

Followed by Afternoon Tea and time to check out the work
 being done in the Museum.



MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

MONTH	DATE
JULY	SATURDAY 11TH AGM
AUGUST	SATURDAY 8TH
SEPTEMBER	SATURDAY 12TH
OCTOBER	SATURDAY 10TH
NOVEMBER	SATURDAY 14TH
DECEMBER	SATURDAY 12TH



MOLONG MUSEUM

OPEN The Last Sunday of the month from 12.30PM until 3.30PM

MONTH	SUNDAY OPEN DAYS	FOR YOUR DIARY
JUNE	SUNDAY 28TH	
JULY	SUNDAY 26TH	
AUGUST	SUNDAY 30TH	
SEPTEMBER	SUNDAY 20th	MOLONG SHOW Sunday 20th MEET YOU IN MOLONG Saturday 19th
OCTOBER	SUNDAY 25TH	Coo-ee March late October
NOVEMBER	SUNDAY 29TH	