

# Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 6  
AUTUMN 2020

## Points of Interest:

- Museum, 20 Riddell Street,  
Molong
- Closed

• **contact email—**  
**molonghs@gmail.com**

President— Bob Sullivan  
(0427696256)

Vice President— Elizabeth Griffin

Secretary— Sue Milne  
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Treasurer— Susan Grinpukel

Committee Lynne Robertson

Julie Lawrie

Kate Gadsby

Researcher— Catherine Mackenzie



## 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

No phone enquires accepted.  
Fees on request



## 2020/21 Fees

A friendly reminder that fees are due in July. They remain the same as last year, that is \$20.00 each.

Membership form attached

Fees can be paid by direct debit, mail or in person (when museum open ).

## FACEBOOK PAGE

Have a look at our FACEBOOK page. This will keep you up to date with activities. It is an opportunity for you to ask questions and add information.

Take the opportunity to post an enquiry or event that members may be interested in.

<https://www.facebook.com/MolongMuseum/>

PHOTO John Lawrie, Margaret Moss, Julie Lawrie and Lorraine Oates. Catching up during the last book sale, held on the veranda.

## MUSEUM NOTICES

I hope everyone is keeping well and have not been bored during this crazy period. The Committee have had to change many of their plans for 2020. At this time we hope the following may be able to go ahead later in the year.

- MOLONG SHOW Sunday 20th September
- ANNUAL BOOK & PLANT SALE September/October
- Museum 50 years since Official Opening Late November.
- Tuesday & Thursday Open/WORKING DAYS .

We were very lucky to be able to have GAMBOOLA and FAIRBRIDGE events, before the new regulations. Both were very successful. Cancelled include the Autumn local shows, Market days and Museum Open days (We are working behind the scenes and at home) The COPPER HILL exhibit have been put on hold for later in the year or 2021 (still collecting information).

I received this email from Margaret Carroll from REDBANK

*We have postponed the "Redbank Stud Centenary" this October until mid-Oct 21. Everything needs time to recover - the land, sheep, Bill's knees, even before we were engulfed by Covid-19. By then we will be happy to plan a wonderful weekend with the museum and others celebrating not only our family history and Bill and his Dad's achievements, but wool and meat. We can have spinners, weavers, knitters and cooks, and showcase many exciting aspects of paddock to plate in this district. Wishing the best of health and happiness to members*

*Margie and Bill Carroll 6366 8580/0421 665201*

## BUILDING REPAIR UPDATE

As you are all aware we have been successful with several grant applications, for the "Repair of the Veranda and Front Office. The Committee under the guidance of member Bill Marriott has been working on the best way to achieve this, being aware of heritage issues and longevity of work. David Scobie (Cabonne Council Heritage adviser) and James Nicholson (Heritage Architect) has been part of the consultation team. The Committee meets regularly in person (2-3 at the site) or using technology (emails, phone and ZOOM)

Bill Marriott has provided the following update.

*Molong Museum Veranda Restoration Project Update. The current condition of the museum veranda isn't good but it is even worse than it appears. An investigation by Phil McKenzie, an experienced local builder identified the movement over time of the veranda away from the main building. The only way in Phil's opinion to stop any further movement is to anchor the veranda back to the main building using steel. However the restoration of a heritage building requires the use of only traditional materials ie not steel. The Museum committee will now need to consider the current state of the veranda, the traditional material requirements for heritage restoration work and decide on a suitable way forward. Bill Marriott*

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Abraham Lincoln

# MUSEUM NEWS

## ESSIE SULLIVAN



Members of the Society were saddened to hear of the passing of Elspeth Lennox (Essie) Sullivan on the 11th April. Wife of our President Bob and mother to Tim and Cass, Lucinda and Lockie and Nell and her six grandchildren.

Essie will be remembered as a inspiring woman, a leader of achieving women who was able to balance the role of wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She courageous maintained a positive battle with her health,

Essie will be missed and respectfully remembered by all who knew her. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## PRESENTATION OF GRANT

On Wednesday the 11th March Mr Andrew Gee ( Federal Member for Calare) visited the Museum to meet the committee. He was able to view the planned repair works as well as the preparations for the weekend Fairbridge Reunion. Andrew has a close family interest in this Scheme.



He presented the Grant money for \$20,000 towards repairing the front office, which was damaged by earth movement over the years. (Believed to have been built about 1900)

The Grant was part of the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program under round 5.

## JOHN AUSTIN PRESENTATION

Margaret Bassingwaithe (Austin) John Austin's sister presented the society with a cheque, during the last book sale. John donated \$25.000 from his estate to help with the repair of the veranda.



John was member of the Society for many years, having the positions of secretary and treasurer and Public Officer for the last ten years. His interests were varied and he was able to assist with research on the history of early families and their properties and all inquiries. John and his family were involved when the museum opened in 1970.

He was very passionate about the building and saving it to its original state.

We all miss John, but will remember him with his contribution to the museum, society and to Molong.



## MUSEUM REPORT

As everyone is aware we have had to close the museum to comply with Social Isolation regulation and to prevent the spread of the **COVID-19 virus**. None of us can tell when we will be able to open the museum and resume a normal routine.

A MUSEUM is a building where a large number of interesting and valuable objects, such as works of art or historical items, and can be displayed to the public (from Collins English Dictionary).

A HISTORICAL SOCIETY is an organization dedicated to preserving, collecting, researching, and interpreting historical information or items. These societies were created as a way to help future generations understand their heritage. (Wikipedia).

So the Museum may be closed but the members of the Historical Society continue to collect, compile and interpret articles and stories for the future. The museum workers have all been working at home on their various projects with occasional visits to the museum (maintaining the 2 person handwashing rules, etc). The Committee are using emails, phone and zoom to meet and keep in contact.

This may be a good time to think about assisting us to collate the information we all have and start getting stories out to the public. We have thought of a few ideas to get started but you may have an ongoing project that we may be able to assist you.

### SUGGESTIONS include but not limited

- Keep a diary of your days of isolation, How you felt? What you did? Etc
- Write a journal, talk to friends about their thoughts, add newspaper clippings
- Go through your photo collection (label and write the story)
- Write or record your LIFE STORY for your grandkids) donate copy to Museum
- Tell the story of your family business, involvement in Molong Life,
- Update the Historian Stories. These were written between 1972 and 1997
- Assist with establishing a series of fact sheets about Molong
- Create quizzes, crosswords, wordsearches (many websites available).
- Get your paints or pencils out and do some paintings.
- Use Trove and other sites to do research (these can be very time consuming)
- Go to our Facebook page and add your research questions and photos.



### PLANTS FOR SALE

We are unable to have street stalls and book sales, due to the current restrictions. Lynne has been busy sorting books and preparing her plants. Many of her plants are ready for sale. Lynne is willing to give advice

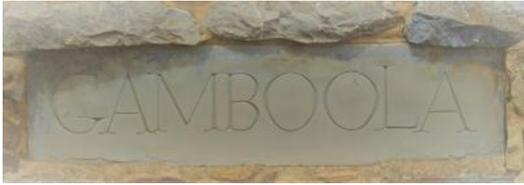
They are available for sale by contacting Lynne 63641038

### MUSEUM CELEBRATIONS

I would like to remind everyone the Historical Society has owned the current building for 50 years.

Did you attend the Opening in 1970?  
Did you attend the reopening after renovation in 1985)  
Did you attend the opening in 2012?

Do you have any photos and memories of these and other events held in the building.



## GAMBOOLA OPEN DAY

Saturday 15th of February 2020 Andrew McLaughan, owner of Gamboola opened the Shearing Shed and surrounds for a afternoon of education and entertainment. This was held as part of the Annual Banjo Paterson Festival.

Gamboola homestead was built in 1847 by John Smith. It could be the eldest brick house in what was known as the Unsettled Districts. The Shearing Shed was built in 1848. In 1857 a timber veranda w to the shed was added. The shed has had very little changes since it was erected. Originally built for hand shearing, but is now ready for machine shearing. One hand-shearing bay remains.

On the day over a hundred people took opportunity to visit this historic shed and to enjoy the activities available. Alan Hubbard demonstrated hand shearing and explained the method. Russell Moor (Marsden Rural History Research Centre) told the history of the building and many old shearing tales. Entertainment was provide by Carol Heuchan (Bush Poet and entertainer) Greg North finished the afternoon with his version of "The Man from Snowy River". Afternoon tea provided by our fantastic catering team, led by Lynne, Well done girls.

Guests were encouraged to wander around the building and grounds, checking out the history of the shed and families compiled by Elizabeth. Machinery and equipment was also on display. Several "older "shearers attended and enjoyed recalling many shearing stories. This included Des Sullivan Life Member and original President of the Society.

The day was organised by Elizabeth with assistance from the Committee and other members. Thank you to Master of Ceremonies Bob Sullivan .



## Where is Molong's George Reid's Grave

Published with permission from Keith Devenish (Research inquiry)

We are seeking assistance in locating the grave of my wife's great grandfather, George Reid, farmer who died suddenly at Garra of heart disease on 26 September 1892. His death certificate states he was buried at the Church of England Cemetery in Molong and the undertaker was James Barrett.

We are also looking for the gravesite of his mother, Christina Reid, who died in Molong 29 September 1906 at age 86. Her death certificate states she was buried in the Anglican Cemetery, Molong. In addition, her obituary in the Molong Express (Sat 6 Oct) mentions she was convalescing in Molong with her daughter Mrs Nelson. It also suggests her husband Frederick Reid died about 20 years before that (possibly 1884?) and that they moved to Garra about 30 years before Christina died (maybe about 1875/76?).

My wife was born Judith Reid at Pingrup in WA and George Reid from Garra is her great grandfather. We are concerned that their graves may not be marked as we have searched the Molong Cemetery to no avail.

There is quite a story attached to George Reid who was born at James' Field near Picton NSW in 1864. His parents, Jacob Frederick Roth and wife Christiana, came out from Weinsberg, Germany in 1853 as assisted immigrants as a vinedresser aboard the ship *Helene*. When they arrived in NSW they changed their surname from Roth to Reid and worked in vineyards, most likely near Picton because several children were born there. Jacob went the name of Frederick from then on and Christiana changed hers to Christina.

George Reid was the youngest of their 11 children. George was a farmer and horse breeder at Garra and was only 28 when he died leaving his wife Jessie to look after several young children - Frederick (3), Harold Lance (2) and Ernest Roy (8 weeks). George was buried at Molong with James Barrett being the undertaker. George had a brother Henry who was also living at Garra at that time. After George died, Jessie couldn't keep the farm going and eventually it was sold. She left Molong and married again. We noticed there are three unmarked graves at Garra cemetery and wondered if George's father might be buried there.

Even more interesting is that George's wife, born Jessie Flood Colless, was the great granddaughter of two convicts named Rope and Pulley who came out from England with the first fleet in 1788. Anthony Rope arrived in Botany Bay in 1788 on the *Alexander* and not long after he married female convict Elizabeth Pulley who came out to Botany Bay on the *Prince of Wales*.

According to the book *'In for the Long Haul'*, about the early convicts, theirs was the first European baby who was conceived and born in NSW. Anthony Rope was granted 70 acres of settlers land in NSW at The Ponds in 1792 - now a suburb of Sydney. They made a good life as farmers and are remembered by a suburb named after them in Blacktown called 'Ropes Crossing' in addition to a Rope's Creek Road in Mount Druitt west of Sydney.

Getting back to Molong's George Reid, who died in 1892, according to their wedding registry he and Jessie were married at the Reid's farm residence in Garra on 15 August 1888. His brother Henry Reid was a witness, along with his sister Katie Nichols and the minister John Alldis. They had three sons, Frederick born 1888, Harold Lance born 1890 and Earnest Roy born 1892 - all born at Garra.



Harold Lance REID,  
born 29 November 1890, Molong  
NSW

Died 12 August 1977, Albany WA;  
Photo from [Australian Stockman's  
Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage  
Centre](#)

1906 initially making a living as a handy-man at shows and circuses', but also as a penciler for local auctioneers and as an advance booking agent for variety shows coming to Katanning, including Harry Houdini.

He worked as a stable hand at Katanning Livery Stables which was owned by his cousin from Molong, Harry Barrett. Lance managed Harry's business for several years while he was overseas fighting during WW1. Unfortunately Lance broke his leg falling off a horse at a picnic sports event in 1914 and was not able to go off to war. Later he obtained the royal mail contract to deliver mail from Katanning to surrounding areas of small towns including Nyabing and Pingrup up until 1925. This run took Lance six days each week to deliver mail and all sorts of items to farmers covering almost 300 miles (450 kilometres) each run. He eventually took up farm land at Pingrup in 1923 where my wife's father was born. Lance built the first wheat stack in Pingrup and often acted as a guide to prospective land seekers wishing to buy land in the area. Lance Reid retired to Albany and died there in 1977.

In summing up, we would be very appreciative if anyone can provide us with any information about where George Reid is buried. Also his mother Christina Reid who is also supposed to be buried at Molong and whether they are in marked or unmarked graves. We have also begun to consider George's father, Jacob Frederick Reid, who may have died at Garra about 1884 and could also be buried somewhere in the district as well.

Keith and Judith (nee Reid) Devenish  
MANDURAH WA [kdevenish@westnet.com.au](mailto:kdevenish@westnet.com.au)

If you can assist Keith, please contact Catherine or Sue who will pass on the information.

The MOLONG EXPRESS article mentioned in the article (31st October 2019) is available as a back issue for anyone subscribed to EXPRESS.



# OPENING OF THE FAIRBRIDGE CHILDRENS PARK

On Sunday 14th March the Children's Park was officially opened. With a crowd of over 400, the ribbon was cut by all the Fairbridge kids who attended the reunion. Many having children and grandchildren in attendance. Also present were visitors from Orange, Molong and district.



The park which is more than five times bigger than the previous rest area is situated at the bottom of Amaroo Hill. It runs along Molong Creek in what was called the "Lucerne Paddock", opposite the row of poplar trees on the Mitchell Highway. The Park was expected to take 16 weeks to complete, but was held up by the drought and unusual weather conditions. Work is still in process to complete some areas.

Present at the ceremony were David Hill, Derek Moriarty (president of OFA's) The Children's Park Committee( Dudley Hill Chairman), Andrew Gee (Federal Minister) Phil Donato (State Member), Kevin Beattie (Mayor of Cabonne) Reg Kidd (Mayor of Orange).

The Park is documenting the hundreds of children who passed through the classrooms and paddocks. The four sections chart the origins, voyage, farm life and the military service of the children. This is all based on the BELL, an piece of railway line that was rang throughout the day, to alert the children to their next task. The first bell was to get out of bed, followed by meal, muster and school bells, to name a few.



Fairbridge Farm Village was open over the weekend, with several former Fairbridgians showing groups around the buildings. The grounds were utilised for parking on Sunday with shuttle buses (provided by Cabonne Buses) to the Park. Collette of Molong provided coffee and food which was welcomed by all in attendance.



NOTE It was a pleasure to see the rail on display and been rung again. It has been stored at the Museum for several years.



## FAIRBRIDGE REUNION MUSEUM OPEN DAY

In conjunction with the opening of the "Fairbridge Children's Park", the Molong Museum opened during the weekend. Several of the Fairbridgians took the opportunity to visit and view the displays and the photographs available. Some were visiting for the first time, but others return each year to catch up with mates and pass stories of their childhood. There are many lifelong friendships formed. I believe this year there were more younger people (children, grandchildren) attended and were interested in their parents history.

Going through the visitors book I noticed there were visitors from most states, covering all eras from pre war to the 1960's. The Taylor family, with three children travelled from Alice Springs, Alan arrived on the Otranto in 1962 aged eight. The Cranidge family from Queensland with six member visiting were one of the larger family groups. The family arrived at Molong in 1960 onboard the Strathaird as a group of six siblings.



Peter Bennett, who has attended most reunions and spent times on the OFA Committee attended with daughter and niece (Daughter of Marie another Fairbridgian). Peter arrived in 1940 after travelling through Canada, due to the Suez Canal being closed, due to the war. Peter was only six at the time. Margaret Clark (Watt) travelled out on the same boat. Margaret came to the reunion with the McMullan Brothers Paul and Vince who came to Molong in 1961 on the Orion.

Lillian Leal (Ord) who arrived in Molong in 1947 with the first group following the Second World War, aged 10, returned for the second time since leaving in 1952. Lillian visited with her daughter Michelle. I was able to spend time with Lillian on Sunday talking about her time at Fairbridge as well as her memories of my mother (June Burt) as they were great friends.



We were very lucky the Reunion was on that weekend, as it was one of the last events before the country went into lockdown. Thank you to everyone who assisted on the weekend to make it the success it was. I include, Lynne, Margaret and Kath in the kitchen, Lorraine at the door, Julie and John, Colleen Bennett and many of the Fairbridgians who helped with putting boards away, made the day possible.



The Molong Museum Team  
look forward to meeting again in 2022.

## BY ROYAL MAIL COACH 1859

An extract from the journey from Bathurst to Bumbury.

*The following article was in W. Folster's articles (p57). All spelling and punctuation is as written by the author who is unknown. I have however changed it from one long paragraph to several.*

Being the solitary passenger for Molong on the following morning, Patrick Power, the driver of the Molong mail cart, invited me to his residence, the Orange pound, as he had two fresh horses to put in the cart, and w'shed me to make an early start next morning.

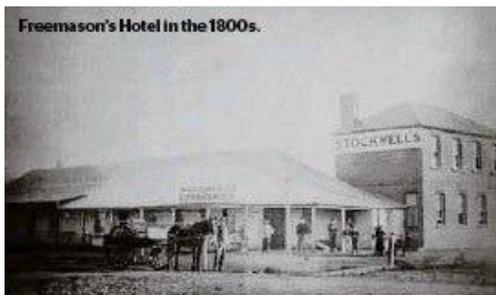
Leaving Wright's, Pat called at Dale's, got his mail bags, and we made ourselves comfortable for the night when came an unwelcome visitor. The law had a parcel to take to Molong police station, so Pat had to call at 4a.m. to receive the weighty parcel.

The moon was just setting as we started from the Police Station: shadows thrown from slabs of lock-up covered a leaning stump. Horses bounded off, missed a large stump, but unfortunately collided with a shallow stump. Horse, driver, passenger and mail cart turned turtle: no bones fractured, and with the assistance of two policemen and daylight we proceeded on the journey.

Passing green gate pub, West Orange onward to Kite's Swamp, halfway house pub struck the stone wall at Gamboola.



Here Paddy Power showed me the spot where he was struck up some time ago on foot by a bushranger, armed with a double horse pistol, who ordered the driver of the mail to dismount and deliver the bags. Paddy said "The word has hardly reached my ear when I jumped fair and square on my brave footpad. Fourteen stone of solid Australian flattened him. I tied him up, put him in the cart, and gave him a free ride to Molong."



We reached the scatter of buildings and limestone called the town of Molong, which consisted of two pubs, Mrs. Millgate's or The Rocks, Moon's Hotel on the flat, Barigan's brick store, Rubie's ditto, Court House, Police Station, lockup, Mr. Liscombe, CPS, Dr. Ross, resident medico, a few scatted shingle cottages, the Molong pound yards, Casper Hill in the east and that about fills the bill for the Bell River city.

Researched by Elizabeth Griffin 2019

NOTE Moons Hotel on the Flat is now the Freemason Hotel. Mr Moon was Licensee 1859/60

NEW BOOK By a member.

## MOLONG SHEEP DOG WORKERS ASSOCIATION

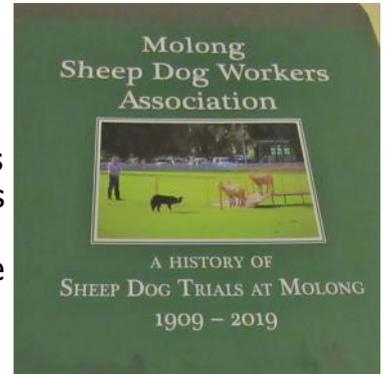
A History of the Sheep Dog Trails at Molong 1909-2019.

By Val McKenzie



Molong has been known for the annual Sheep Dog Trials for many years. First commencing in 1909.

Val McKenzie has been working on gathering information and photographs for a number of years. Val's book was launched at this years trails in March (They were able to be completed before the lockdown)



Many local families are named including Bunting, Toynton, Caldwell, Evers, Bollinger, Woodhouse, Giles etc. Also included is the Cumnock events.

Copies of the book are available at the Molong Express Office and the Museum for the cost of \$25.00

Photo courtesy of Molong Express

## MOLONG SHOW NEWS

There has been no news about the shows that are held later in the year, which includes Molong. We are continuing to plan our display for this year.

The 2020 ASC (Australian Show Council) Annual Awards were held recently. Heather & Colin Woodhouse received an award for "Dedication"



The ASC is pleased to offer these awards which recognise the contributions being made to regional communities and the Agricultural Show Movement .

Well Done Heather & Colin



The Society would like to thank the following organisations for their support



## BOOKS FOR SALE

(Reviewed April 2020)

AUTHOR	TITLE	PRICE
Aileen Roberson	FAMILIES OF MOLONG & DISTRICT	\$35.00
Aileen Roberson	ALLAN TOM The Picture Show Man	\$20.00
Aileen Roberson	PADDY McARDLE and Molong	\$20.00
Aileen Roberson	VILLA ASH History	\$5.00
Aileen Roberson	Max & Nita THE SHEAN TEAM	\$5.00
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	History of the Sheepdog	\$25.00
Robert Ellis	SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
Margaret Gribbin	WELLINGTON VALLEY The Early Years	\$25.00
Robyn Mackenzie	From Life to Life in Australia	\$10.00
Noel Cantrill	BORENORE Centenary 1878-1978	\$15.00
Orange Historical Society	Story Of Byng	\$5.00
Orange Rotary Club	BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
<b>Val McKenzie</b>	<b>MOLONG SHEEP DOG WORKERS</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>

We have a limited supply of several of these books  
When ordering please request postage rates

### MOLONG 100 HUNDRED YEAR AGO

Molong Argus (NSW: 1896 - 1921), Friday 14 May 1920, page 5

#### OBITUARY.

#### MRS. GEO. A. HOUSLER.

A particularly sad death occurred in Molong on Sunday morning last, a death by which a young woman was cut off in the prime of life, a husband was bereft of his helpmate, and a family of seven little children the eldest of whom is only eleven years of age and the youngest nineteen months were deprived of a mother's loving care. We refer to the death of Mrs George Albert Housler after a long and painful illness.

The deceased, who was only 31 years of age, was a daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Williamson (Molong), and was married at the Anglican Church, Orange, twelve years ago. Up to some eighteen months ago she was a robust woman. Then the trouble which ultimately caused her death, made its appearance. At first it was thought to be a minor ailment, but on her entering the Wellington hospital last September for treatment, it was found she was suffering from a malignant internal growth, and that nothing could be done for her. Other medical advice was sought, in the hope that a mistake had been made, and then Dr McCormack, of Sydney, was consulted, only to learn that nothing could be done for the sufferer. Mr Housler then, in order to be near medical aid and his wife's relatives, sold out his share-farming plant at Walmor, and came to live at Molong. For the past four months the afflicted woman has been under the care of Dr Douglas, and all that could be done for her, was done, but it was of no avail, as she grew steadily worse, breathing her last at eight o'clock on Sunday morning last, death being a happy release to her from the terrible sufferings which she had endured with such Christian fortitude.

The deceased leaves a sorrowing husband, and, as we said, seven little children. She is also survived by her parents, and six brothers and six sisters.

The funeral, which was a large and representative one, took place at 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the remains being laid to rest in the Church of England portion of the local cemetery. The Rev. J. A. Poole officiated, at the graveside, and Mrs Kingsland conducted the mortuary arrangements.