

Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 3
ISSUE 4

WINTER 2019

Points of Interest:

- Museum, 20 Riddell Street, Molong
- Opening Hours Tuesday and Thursday 11 am until 3pm
- **Research Enquiries—**
- **In person, or in writing,**
- **contact email—**
molongmuseum@hotmail.com

President— Lynne Robertson
63641038

Vice President— Bob Sullivan

Secretary— Sue Milne

(0400 425 015)
suemilne@colourcity.com

Treasurer— Susan Grinpukel

Researcher— Catherine Mackenzie



During a visit to Molong in February Life Member , Maureen Kirkwood played the Pinecliffe Organ. Jean Bennett and Ruth Bloomfield enjoyed afternoon tea with Maureen.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 14th September 2019
2pm at the Museum
MORE DETAILS INSIDE

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 9th July
At the Museum
Start 12 Noon
All Welcome

FEES DUE
Membership Fees are due
by the 1st July 2019



These must be paid by the commencement of the AGM or you will be declared unfinancial and unable to vote.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Have a look at our new 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/>

FOR YOUR DIARY



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend this very important meeting of the Society. This is your opportunity to catch up on this year's activities and be involved in planning 2020. All positions will be declared vacant and a new Committee will be selected. Please record the date in your diaries.

Saturday 15th September from 2pm at the Museum.

MOLONG SHOW

The Annual Molong Show is being held on **Sunday 22nd September**. Following the success of our display last year, we will be again present. If you would like to assist or have any ideas please contact Sue.

EARLY NOTICE

The present Museum was officially opened 1st November 1970. Next year we will celebrate 50 years of operating. Several functions will be through out the year. We are looking for any photographs, documents and stories to mark this exciting date.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Jarrod Mackenzie to the museum team. Jarrod has been placed as part of the "Work for the Dole" scheme. This is a Government initiated scheme to provide work activities for long term unemployed persons. This benefits both the employee and Host Organisation.

Jarrold is a local boy and has been with us for three weeks. His role includes maintaining the gardens, assisting with maintenance and general odd jobs. Jarrod at present is working two days each week.

WATCH THIS SPACE

COPPER HILL FROM 1845

Planning and research is underway to bring
you a new display in 2020

Do you have any information, memories or
souvenirs from the site

contact Elizabeth Griffin 0437 868 595

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I wish to thank all those who has been so supportive this year

We are delighted to welcome Susan Grinpukel from Boree Nyrang as a new member. Susan volunteered to fill the vacant Treasurer's position until the next AGM.

Elizabeth Griffin has taken over as Public Officer. She is working hard sorting out our reporting responsibilities for ACNS (The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission), More about this in the next newsletter.

Sue has moved and rearranged the office onto the side veranda to free up potential display space in the front room.

Marie was successful with the Volunteers Grant, applied for in 2018. Elizabeth and I have been shopping for new kitchen appliances and a air-conditioning unit, during the recent sales. These will be delivered and installed shortly.

We have had two successful street stalls in May and June. Bob Sullivan and his family, supplied the trailer load of wood to raffle at each stall. This proved very popular especially in the cold weather. Many thanks to those supporting the stalls.

We are very appreciative of Marie and John Hammond's hard work and determination, which gives us such a secure basis, to move forward. We thank them sincerely for all their effects and ongoing support.

Best Wishes to all

Lynne Robertson

VOLUNTEER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Alison Russell (Community Museum and Heritage Manager) has been successful in her application for this grant "Regional Digitalisation Project" Hayley Lavers (from Millthorpe) has been employed to assist all museums to update skills. Kylie Winkworth (Powerhouse Museum and an Orange girl) is co-ordinating a series of workshops on "Assessing Significance". Susan, Michael and I, along with volunteers from other Network Museums have been partaking in these workshops.

We have completed two of the three Workshops

Workshop 1 the introduction to significance and object files. We all picked an object in the collection that was significant for various reasons. Susan selected The Dr Ross Illustrated Address; Michael choose the 1906 Football Club cap donated by James Hull, I selected The Fairbridge Bells and the Milne table. We each had homework to write details for steps one to seven.

Workshop 2 covers the criteria and statement of significance. All the Objects files were reviewed by all participants and suggestions offered to complete the files. Homework is to complete steps eight to nine.

Workshop 3 We review the statements of significance, will be held later this month.

As part of this project Hayley visits the museum and is assisting with digitalising, cataloguing, policies and projects. If any member would like to be involved, please contact Sue for dates.

Sue Milne

MEMORIES OF JOHN AUSTIN by Marie Hammond



Well known Molong identity John Austin had been a member of the Molong Historical Society since he returned to Molong some years ago to care for his mother Joyce in her declining years. After years of working in cities and overseas, mainly in administrative positions, John settled down to enjoying country life back in his hometown.

He had a great passion for a country lifestyle and built an environmentally friendly house on his block of land. Australian flora and fauna and his passion for Australian birds, in particular was well known and earlier this year he participated in a local weekend survey identifying as many birds as he could see in his area.

The collection of photographs of trains, we have in our meeting room, is thanks to John's efforts along with the many photographs and information of Blacks Flour Mill, burnt down in the early 1940's. (It was situated where the caravan park is now located.) These weren't his only interests, but he had a wide knowledge of local history including Garra where his Barrett descendants lived.

A long-time ambition was fulfilled in May 2018 when John went to New Zealand and attended the "Warplanes over Wanka", at Wanka in the South Island. This well-known event is held biannually where planes fly in from all over the world, and John was overjoyed to be able to attend and have this wonderful experience there. He laughed about being able to purchase a first-class ticket enabling him to walk in wherever he wanted to while there. He retold with much enthusiasm about some of planes this then enabled him to inspect close up. His wide knowledge of planes was always evident when they were a topic of conversation with him; there were many topics of which John had extensive knowledge enjoying many conversations with locals, members and visitors alike.

Having grown up in Molong and gone to school with many Fairbridge children he retained many friendships with some of his contemporaries and often communicated, on the society's behalf, with overseas contacts regarding Fairbridge photos and details that were sometimes published there in later years when Fairbridge was very much a topic of interest both here and overseas. There were times when this became quite involved as there were legal issues about the use of the photos and John making sure every detail was attended to.

John had been having some health problems for some time, of which members were aware and concerned about, but it came as somewhat of a surprised when his condition deteriorated, and he was hospitalised. At that time John tendered his resignation from the committee, which the committee was reluctant to accept, confirming to us that things weren't looking good.

On the 11th April, we had news that John had left us. His battle was over.

We all have many memories of him and we remember with gratitude the contribution he made to the Molong Historical Society.

We extend our sincere condolences to John's family and many friends



BOREE NYRANG OPEN AFTERNOON Saturday 16th February

As part of the Banjo Paterson Festival, Molong Historical Society held a successful Open House at Boree Nyrang Homestead with the assistance of owners Susan Grinkpukel and Brian Robertson. Included was a visit to the site of the home where Robert and Emily Barton (Banjo Paterson's Grandparents) located on "Oakridge" owned by the Taberner Family.



Around 130 people spent a sunny afternoon looking through the homestead, enjoying afternoon tea on the veranda or in the garden, and listening to Australian bush music performed by "November Shorn".



The Boree tribe of the Wiradjuri nation once lived around the area that included the original Boree Nyrang holding. Robert and Emily Barton (Banjo Paterson's grandparents) settled on an area of 66,000 acres in the district around 1841. After Robert Barton's death in 1863, Emily Barton sold the property in 1865. Since that time the property has been sold many times and decreased in size to its present 160 acres.

The Boree Nyrang Homestead was built for Dr Norman Kater in the 1900s. It is a 34 room, 120 square mansion built of bluestone that was hand cut on the property. It is said to have taken four men four years to complete the entire building. The domestic help were accommodated upstairs which the servants accessed by a back staircase. The homestead garden, including a tennis court, is about three acres.



The current owners bought Boree Nyrang in 2013 and have been thoughtfully restoring the homestead and property. They have furnished the inside of the ground floor with antique furniture and objects. It was marvellous to see how the mansion may have looked in its prime years.

We would like to thank everyone who assisted on the day and those who provided cooking, sandwiches etc which were very welcome.

Information supplied by Elizabeth Griffin, Dianne Strahan & Val McKenzie

50 years at the Museum .

The present Museum was officially opened November 1st 1970. The Society will be celebrating 50 years of occupation in November 2020. This may include lunch/dinner and other activities. Do you have ideas to make the time memorable.

If you or your family have been involved any time over these years and have memorabilia that you would to show us, please contact the Committee or visit the Museum .

Life Members, Des Sullivan, Ruth Bigrigg, Jean Bennett and Ruth Bloomfield were at the early meetings and remain a part of the Society.

I hope to publish more articles in future newsletters related to our early history.

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HISTORY OF 20 RIDDELL STREET

The Museum is located on land which was a grant (purchase) by James Mortal Junior in 1856. This was the first year in which the sale of land in the township of West Molong took place.

James Mortal was a rubble mason, and he built a hotel. Some of the original stonework can be seen as foundations for the veranda and the kitchen walls. The original the roof was shingled, but it has been replaced by iron. This building was the first erected in the township.



The premises continued to be a hotel until 1899, although James Mortal mortgaged it and subsequently in 1861, sold it to John Smith of Gamboola.

It was known under several names Golden Fleece Hotel, Tattersalls, and Royal Hotel. Landlords include J.F. Wynne, J. McGroder, J. Burgess, Jules Thomas, William Lawson and E Moon.

In 1899 the premises was sold by the Trustees of the estate of the Hon. John Smith to Dr. Michael Veech junior who continued to own it until 1924 when he sold it to Michael Joseph Ryan.

During this 25 years it was used continually as a doctor's surgery and residence. Some of the doctors were Drs. Veech, Vinnider, Lees, Colvin, Michell, Metcalfe, Chapman, Douglas, Kennedy, Mollison and Connolly.

In 1950 the executor of the late M.J. Ryan sold the property to Charles Henry Morris and from latter's estate it was acquired by the Trustees of the Molong Historical Society in 1969, with the assistance of the Molong Shire Council, and opened as the Museum in November 1970.

We have 50 years of stories to add to this. Looking for any photographs, especially early 20th century ones.

History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality; vitalizes guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.
(Cicero106BC 43 BC)

BLACKALL'S CHEMIST SHOP OF MOLONG

Gregory and John Blackall established chemist shops in Molong and Cumnock in 1933. The brothers were the sons of Alice and Dr Patrick Blackall. Dr Blackall was educated and obtained his medical degrees in Ireland before immigrating to Australia.

In 1889 he was registered to practice as a legally qualified Medical Practitioner in New South Wales and married Alice Cecilia Hayes at Glebe in 1899. The couple moved to Queanbeyan to live, where he practised as a GP until 1931 and was four times Mayor of Queanbeyan. He died in Canberra on 8 December 1932 and was survived by his wife Alice and seven children.

Gregory Michael and John Henry Blackall did their Pharmacy training at University in Sydney in the early 1930s. By October 1933 the brothers had graduated as Pharmacists and set up a second Molong Pharmacy (John J O'Connor owned the other chemist shop) in the shop next to the Freemason's Hotel in Molong (now the Molong Express office). Younger brother John opened a Chemist Shop in Cumnock next to Windred's refreshment Rooms in November 1933.

Gregory Michael Blackall was born in 1902 at Queanbeyan, and married Anita M T McDonagh in Sydney in 1929. Anita was one of seven children of Dr John and Anita McDonagh. Dr McDonagh was an honorary surgeon to the JC Williamson theatre circuit, owned Drummoyne House, and mixed with overseas actors and theatre people. Dr McDonagh died in January 1920 but left little money for his family to survive on and Drummoyne House had to be sold.

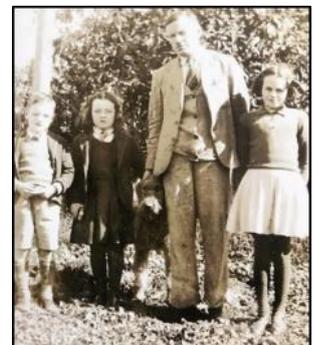


The three eldest daughters, Isabella, Phyllis and Paulette McDonagh were pioneer filmmakers during the era of Australian silent cinema (1896-1930). Their silent movies included "Those Who Love", produced in 1926, "The Far Paradise" in 1928, and "The Cheaters" in 1930, the latter converted to a sound version in 1931. The sisters next produced several short documentaries including one about the racehorse Phar Lap, "The Mighty Conqueror" (1931), another featuring Don Bradman, "How I Play Cricket" (1932) and a First World War feature, "Two Minutes Silence" (1932) which was the last film they produced. (https://aso.gov.au/people/McDonagh_Sisters/portrait/)
Photo: Sunday Times – 20 Jun 1926, P2.

Anita Blackall would have found her move from Sydney to Molong in 1933 a big change to adapt to, plus having four children to bring up as well – Elizabeth (Betty), Moya, Ann and Patrick.



Newspaper reports show that both Greg and Anita joined in many Molong activities in the eight years they spent living in a house on Edward Street. Anita was a member of the CWA, the Red Cross, the Molong Hospital Women's Auxiliary and performed in the 1936 Molong Amateur Dramatic production of "Aren't we all?"
**Anita and Patrick Blackall,
Molong. c1934/35
?Molong Recreation Ground**



**Patrick, Betty, Greg &
Ann Blackall Molong
c1937/38**



Above: The Freemason Hotel and adjacent building was Blackall's Chemist Shop. August 1935. Photo courtesy of the Australian National University Tooth & Company Ltd collection.

The 1930s were not great years to start businesses, being a time of economic depression and high unemployment in Australia. John Blackall's Chemist Shop in Cumnock closed down in 1937. John met Miss Eileen Crawford from Delegate, NSW, while she was working at Black Bros Store in Cumnock. When John moved to Brisbane, Eileen followed, and they married in 1937. They moved to Sydney to live in the 1940s and had four children – John, Marilyn, Peggy and Peter. John Henry Blackall died on 15 June 1960, Sydney, aged 52 years. Eileen Blackall died on 10 September 2007 at Mona Vale, aged 95 years.

Greg Blackwell was bankrupted in 1941 and closed down the Molong shop. The family moved to Rose Bay, Sydney in the 1940s and Greg continued working as a Chemist. They divorced in 1961 and Greg later lived with his daughter Elizabeth and her family.

Anita Blackall died at Sydney in 1987. Gregory Blackall died at Sydney on 20 June 1988 aged 85 years.

MOLONG	CUMNOCK
Blackall's Pharmacy	
<p>Have now on display a Large Range of High Quality Xmas Gifts. These include Gift Sets, Xylonite Sets, Manicure Sets, Perfumes, Flap Jacks, Novelties, etc.</p> <p>PRICES RANGE FROM 2/6 UPWARDS.</p> <p>SPECIAL—Folding Cameras at Greatly Reduced Prices.</p>	
<p>PRESCRIPTIONS ACCURATELY DISPENSED.</p>	
BLACKALL'S PHARMACY	
Phone: 119 Molong	NEXT FREEMASONS' HOTEL
Phone: 2 Cumnock	NEXT BUTCHER

To Remove Freckles	
<p>TRY A JAR OF BLACKALLS FRECKLE CREAM.</p> <p>PRICE 2/-.</p>	
<p>We have a Huge Assortment of BATHING CAPS, EYE SHADES, and SUN GOGGLES, Etc., all Reasonably Priced.</p> <p>DEVELOPING AND PRINTING DONE.</p>	
Blackall Bros.,	
DISPENSING CHEMISTS	
MOLONG	CUMNOCK
'Phone 119	'Phone 2.

Above: Molong Express & Western District Advertiser - 6 Dec 1933, p5 & 18 Jan 1936, p5.

My thanks to Patrick Gallagher, and his mother Elizabeth, for their assistance in providing information and photos for this article. Elizabeth remembers her time in Molong and returned to Molong with other family members some years ago to visit the house they lived in at Edward Street and the Pharmacy, now the Molong Express Office.

By Val McKenzie

FAIRBRIDGE CHILDRENS PARK

Excerpts from David Hill's letter published in the "Follow The Founder" magazine May 2018 edition.



The design and planning for the park are going well. We have confirmed we have the minimum amount of money we need to go ahead, former Fairbridgians kids have kicked off the fundraising by donating a total of more than \$20,000. the NSW government has granted us \$500,000 and landscape architect Leonard Lynch and other professionals like Michael Georgeson are donating their services for free. We are still talking to other organisations about donating extra money.

The park will be large, more than five times bigger than the current rest area at the bottom of Amaroo Hill. It will run along Molong Creek in what was called the "Lucerne Paddock", opposite the row of poplar trees on the Mitchell Highway. The park will have four parts.

1. (Molong End) Tells the story of the Fairbridge children from the beginning in England. This may include a statute representing the children with their suitcases before sailing to Australia.

2. Will describe the voyage of the Fairbridge kids to Australia. Looking at including an honour roll listing of all the child migrants, their ages and what ship they arrived on.

3. Will describe aspects of life at Fairbridge, It will include village bell and other features of the village and farm.

4. Will be where the current rest area is and will describe something of the outcomes of the children when they left Fairbridge. This part will include picnic tables for visitors to sit and contemplate their visit.

The whole project is managed by The Old Fairbridgians Association chaired by Derek Moriarty. The Management Committee is chaired by David Hill, The Project Director is Michael Georgeson and Dudley Hill will be Construction Manager. Everyone is unpaid and donating their time.



We hope to have tenders for construction of the park by June. Building should be finished by the end of the year.

Official Opening should take place at the time of the next reunion and AGM

INVITATION FROM YEOVAL

From Alf Cantrell (Banjo Paterson Museum Yeoval)

AS you are no doubt aware we at the Banjo Paterson Museum in Yeoval have commissioned a large Banjo Paterson Sculpture for the front of the Museum on the main Road. It's a huge financial undertaking and we are raising funds through Special Events, Grants and Corporate sponsorship.

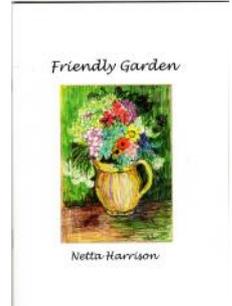
We are very fortunate this year to have been awarded a place in the Lexus Melbourne Cup World Tour and it will be on Monday the 14th of October. The Historic Cup will be on display and the V.R.C. will be giving an address on the History of the iconic Cup.

There will be Fashions on the Field, High Tea all day Barbeque Lunch, games and Banjo Paterson Historian, Mr Cliff Crane from Sydney will be giving an address on Banjo Paterson's association with the Cup, his Turf Writings and his Poetry.



BOOK REVIEW By Marie Hammond

Recently member Michael Carroll gave me three small booklets to read which were written by the late Netta Harrison. I haven't managed to read all three as yet but impressed that this woman, who had an interesting life, born in Molong in the early part of the 19th century in 1903 had left behind such wonderful information about her life.



I can't have a conversation with this woman but felt as though she was talking to me through her story. A visit to Molong cemetery, or others nearby, go from site to site, read the names and think "I wonder who they were." Sometimes we know, we knew them but did they leave a "footprint" behind and it's usually a no.

Netta has, and I found it fascinating that a young woman "from the bush" eventually was educated at Sydney University. What an accomplishment! Not only was she educated to become a teacher but was musically accomplished as well as an artist.

In the first book I read she was born at the Crition hotel, which was located on the Wellington Road, now still standing but with only the back portion left and reused as a lovely home. Reading through the pages I was rather surprised to see a drawing of the hotel as I remembered it from years ago. It was always of interest as it was my great grandmothers, hotel for many years, (Jane (Johnson) Evers), but she was not there when Netta was born. I had never seen a photograph of the building but well remembered it. Here was a drawing and also the layout of the building. I of course was delighted, such a surprise.



This is what I mean when I say how wonderful for people to leave their story as you never know what something may mean to someone else in years to come. (Reminds me I should get started). If anyone would like to read more of Netta's life etc.

Please contact Michael Carroll and he would be very pleased to speak with you.



CAN YOU HELP

Julie Lawrie is asking for help in identifying this photo.

If you can identify the location or any of the men marching, please contact Julie or the museum.

It was found in her Father's Vic Oates Collection.

EXCITEMENT AT MOLONG HOSPITAL

It was a pleasant surprise for the Molong Health Services (hospital) team during change of shift on Thursday 18 April when Ash and Cody Draper pulled up in their car at the front door in an emergency stopover when the young couple from Cundumble (farming area between Molong and Wellington) realised that their baby's birth was not going to wait any longer – certainly not for the trip to the birthing unit at the Orange Health Services.

Young Clyde Draper timed his entrance into the world to coincide with the 6.45 a.m. changeover of the night shift team to the day shift team at Molong. Whilst Molong has not had a birthing unit for some 33 years – on hand last Thursday morning was former midwife Rosie Blowes who had delivered many a baby at the Molong and District Hospital.

“Ash has her babies very fast” said proud grandmother, Jennie Brown of Molong. They phoned in the early hours of Thursday 18 to say that the baby was coming and they were heading to Orange. Not long after, Ash phoned again and said “we're not going to make it to Orange – we're heading to the Molong Hospital”. “We'd called the ambulance on the way to Molong” said Ash. “But by the time we arrived at the front door – Clyde was coming fast. We barely had enough time to get inside.”

“It was a pleasant surprise for the changeover teams at Molong” said MHS Manager, Deb. Kenna. “Arriving for the day shift at 6.45 a.m. with Shinton Jacob (Nurse Manager) and nursing staff there was just enough time to move Ash into the Emergency Department where Rosie Blowes and the night shift staff were joined by Shinton with baby Clyde well and truly on his way” said Deb. Kenna.

It was a very emotive time for the Drapers and the hospital team with Shinton holding baby Clyde as Ash delivered her new little boy to his Dad, and the overwhelmed MHS team at 6.54 a.m. Joining in the birth were local ambulance officers who were on route to the MHS after receiving a call from Ash. to say “please pick me up at the (MHS) front door and take me to Orange”. Whilst Ash, Cody and new arrival Clyde were then taken by Ambulance to the Orange Health Services – Ash. and her newborn son returned home to Cundumble and the couple's two boys, Jacob (4) and Fletcher (3) by 5 p.m. – the same day.

“We've all settled well” said Ash. “Jacob and Fletcher are 'smitten' with their little brother”. Meanwhile baby Clyde – born at 8lb 11oz – is adapting well into the Draper family.

Written by Paul Mullins editor of Molong Express 27/4/2019 (reprinted with permission)

BOOKS FOR SALE

(updated 1/10/2018)

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
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	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

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

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



MUSEUM OPENING DAYS

The Museum Opening days have been increased. The days are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30am until 3.30pm.

Members are available for research enquiries. Members and visitors are very welcome to drop in and assist with any activity happening. This could be cataloguing, preparing for events and displays, naming old photographs, just to list a few of the various tasks that occur. Feel free to drop in for a cuppa and chat.

For the winter months we will no longer be opening on Sundays. If you would like to visit during the weekend we will open by appointment only.

We would like to open the museum more often. To do this we will need a pool of people willing to be on roster. Please contact Sue or Lynne