

# Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 4  
ISSUE 1  
SUMMER 2024



## Points of Interest:

Museum, located at 22 Riddell Street,  
(Cnr Gidley St) Molong  
PO BOX 119 Molong  
OPEN Thursdays and Sundays  
10 am to 2pm

Or by appointment

Phone Contact 0400425015

contact email—[molonghs@gmail.com](mailto:molonghs@gmail.com) or [susanmilne55@gmail.com](mailto:susanmilne55@gmail.com)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023/24

President—	Bob Sullivan	(0427696256)
Vice President	Elizabeth Griffin	(0437868595)
Secretary—	Lyndall Scott	(0419993660)
Treasurer—	Susan Grinpukel	
Committee	Sue Milne	Membership)
	Lynne Robertson	(Social)
	Julie Lawrie	(Exhibitions)
	Jan McIntyre	(Promotion)
	John Lawrie	(Maintenance)
Historian—	Catherine Mackenzie	
PATRONS	Jean Bennett, Marie and John Hammond.	



**ANNUAL FEES**  
due June 30th each year.  
They are \$25 each

Fees can be paid by direct debit, mail or in person  
Bank Details BSB 062573 28007189

FOR MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES  
Contact Sue (0400425015), [susanmilne55@gmail.com](mailto:susanmilne55@gmail.com)

The things that have happened in the past have determined the present, and the present is the past of the future.  
To know what happened is knowledge, but to know why it happened is understanding.

Professor Freeland

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

EVENT	DATE & TIME	INFORMATION
MUSEUM OPEN DAYS	Every Sunday from 10 am until 2pm	All welcome to visit and view the museum. Limited research available.
MUSEUM OPEN with WORKING DAY	Every Thursday 10am until 2pm.	Members will be working on various projects. Open to visitors to view museum displays.
BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL	17th to 25th February 2024	See brochure for all events
BOREE CABONNE AFTERNOON	Sunday 25th February 2.30 pm	Part of the Banjo Paterson Festival. Entertainment, Guest Poets, Afternoon Tea
AUSTINS OVER AUSTRALIA Car Rally	Saturday 9th March 10.30 –2pm Molong Rec Ground	Museum will be open during this time.
EASTER MONDAY OPEN DAY	Monday 1st April 11 till 2	Come and visit when at the Molong Market
HERITAGE FESTIVAL	18th April to 19th May 2024	NATIONAL TRUST Theme "CONNECTIONS"
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Saturday 10th August	Subject to change.
HISTORY WEEK	1st to 15th September 2024	Run by the HISTORY COUNCIL
MOLONG ANNUAL SHOW	Sunday 7th September 2024	160th Annual show.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you have any items for the agenda please let Lyndall or a committee member know.

## Can you help?

Would you be able to spare two hours once a month, once every two months or once a week? We can work a time and day that suits you.

*We have lots of things we need assistance with.*

Do you like meeting people?

Could you put flat packs together?

Can you pack boxes?

Would you like to sort some of our objects?

Would you like to assist in cataloguing some of our items?

Do you have computer skills, could you type up a sign or label for some of our displays?

*We would be very grateful if you would consider assisting our Museum. Please ring Jan, 0402030270 if you would like more information or email [kylingra@gmail.com](mailto:kylingra@gmail.com)*

# MUSEUM NEWS

## WOOLSHED HISTORY MUSTER BOREE

*An afternoon of poetry, music and fun  
In the historic Boree Cabonne Woolshed,  
brought to you by the Molong Historical Society,  
includes afternoon tea.*

*Sunday 25th February*

*2.30pm-4.30pm*

*\$30.00*

(from Banjo Paterson Poetry Festival official program)

This is one of our major fund raising events for 2024.

Banjo has many connections with the Molong District His Grandparents owned Boree Nyrang during the 1860', (see story later in this newsletter).

Planning for the event is underway, Several of Australia's prize winners as well as local entertainers have been arranged.

We are looking for more assistance for our fundraiser in setting up, on the day and afterwards. This includes,, cooking, serving, selling tickets, security and general help.. If you can assist in any way please contact Elizabeth, Jan, Julie, Lynne or Sue.

### OTHER EVENTS IN MOLONG

As part of the Festival are

#### CONVERSATION WITH BANJO

Thursday 22 February 2024 at the Cobb & Co  
Coachhouse (Yarn Market)  
6.30pm \$30.00

Geri Brown & Mark Oates performing their play  
"Conversations with Banjo"



For more details see pamphlet available at various locations.

### "THROUGH THE LENS" Photographic Exhibition

This exhibition will continue for a few more weeks.

It is very popular with locals as well visitors from afar.

Many families have donated more research and photographs related to the photos.

# WHY BANJO WAS BORN AT NARRAMBLA



Andrew Barton Paterson was born on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1864 at Narrambla near Orange, a fact that can be found in most books and internet sites.

This raises the question of why he was born at Narrambla and not at his parents' home at Buckinbah, now Yeoval.

The story begins with the marriage of his parents, Andrew Bogle Paterson and Rose Isabella Barton, in April 1863 at Rose's home, Boree Nyrang near Molong. It was here that the newlyweds lived and worked on their property despite the isolation from other people



*Buckinbah*

Rose's mother Emily Barton went to live with Andrew and Rose after her husband Robert Barton died suddenly on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1863 at the Australian Club in Sydney from a chest infection.

At that time there was a great deal of unrest in the area due to the activity of bushrangers. Rose's brother had been involved at the Campbell's farm around the time of the gold escort robbery at Eugowra in 1862 by Frank Gardiner, Ben Hall, Johnny Gilbert and John O'Meally.

Emily was concerned about the remoteness of Buckinbah and the lack of medical assistance, particularly for an 18-year-old having her first baby. So she wrote to her sister Rose Templer, asking if her daughter could have the delivery of her first child at their home.

Narrambla was a property of 1,920 acres with a busy flour mill, dairy and cheese factory, wheat growing, a blacksmith and wheelwright. In all there were about 33 families living and working on Narrambla.

The week before the baby's due date, Andrew travelled with a very heavily pregnant Rose in a buggy over rough dirt and gravel roads in the heat of February. They stayed overnight with their friends, John Smith at Gamboola just out of Molong.

From all accounts, the birth was uncomplicated. A few days later Andrew's father rode into Orange and registered the birth of "Baby Paterson." On 11<sup>th</sup> March the local Anglican priest, Reverend Robert Mayne baptised Andrew at Narrambla.

It was some 80 years later that Richard Sheraton, the clerk at the Orange Court House, noticed the entry of "Baby Paterson" in the records of the birth registry. He thought that the date was "about right," so he sought out the records at the local church, Holy Trinity in Byng Street, to find that the baptism record was indeed that of Andrew Barton Paterson. These records are available on display in the church. Mr Sheraton then contacted the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages about his find and the records were corrected.



*Banjo with his nurse, Fanny Burns*

Contributed by Elizabeth Griffin

## JOHN POCKNALL

The Society was sad to hear of the sudden death of John Pocknall in June 2023 -one of the museum's most active volunteers.

John was known for his devotion to Molong where he attended high school at the central school. He then completed an apprenticeship at Email, before moving to Canberra in 1972. He travelled to Molong each month to visit old friends and work at the museum, as well as spending time at the Canberra Archives doing research for us.



John assisted with our recent exhibition "Through the Lens," providing the history of his family's involvement and the loan of the camera used by his grandfather Ben Pocknall. John worked on this project for many years, providing photographs and glass plates. He was immensely proud of his family. There are several items donated by his family on display throughout the museum.



John Edmund Pocknall was born at "Woodvale" Pinecliffe in 1950, the son of Ivan and Ruth Pocknall (Ruth passing away in 2022 aged 99). John leaves his former wife Sandra Hestedt, his children Amanda and Matthew. He was a devoted Grandfather and great grandfather to their children, frequently bringing them to the museum. John was the older brother to Peter and Mark (both deceased), Julie and Patricia.

John was laid to rest at Norwood Cemetery, Mitchell on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

When the elderly die

A library is lost

And volumes of wisdom and knowledge are lost





# SCHOOL VISIT

A group of students from Molong Central School, visited the museum in November as part of their Australian Studies Unit. They spent time learning about the history of Molong and were able to have a hands on experience with objects such as telephones, apple corers and industrial potato peelers. A talk about Yuranigh and the Aboriginal story which included a visit to his gravesite. There was plenty of hands on opportunities for the students.

The Historical Society would like to thank the teachers and children for visiting and more are planned.



## REQUEST FOR ARTICLES.

I would like to thank Elizabeth, Jan, Julie and OFA'S for their contributions to this newsletter

Articles for the newsletter are very welcome. If you have a research inquiry, family story or an interesting article that you would like to share, please contact Sue (susanmilne55@gmail.com).

# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



The end of 2023 was celebrated in style one December evening. About 40 members, friends and supporters joined the committee in a social evening to meet and enjoy the music and refreshments.



Thank you to Ron Mills of Orange who provided back ground music which was enjoyed by all. Thank you everyone who provided the refreshments.



The Committee gives a big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us over many years .



We look forward to 2024 , with several different activities. Come to the museum on Thursdays for our working bees.



The Museum is preparing for a busy 2 years.

- 1825 Molong will be Celebrating 200 years since occupation.
- 1864 First Molong Show (160 years)
- 1925 Railway line was extended from Molong to Dubbo. (100 years)

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE OBJECTS? WHAT WERE THEY USED FOR?



If you would like to view these objects and assist in identifying them , they are on display in the reception area of the museum.



They are part of our collection.



# ERIC JOHN SHIELDS (Queen's Council)

Recently we had a visit from Dimity Pollard, who donated a book, given as a prize to her father when he was Dux of Molong Central in 1938.



Eric John Shields spent his childhood in Molong where his father, Eric William Shields, was Headmaster of Molong Central School. Eric preferred to be known as John, to avoid confusion with his father.



John excelled at school and was Dux of Molong in 1938, where he was awarded a book prize. He also excelled at the piano. He attended Canterbury Boys High, then Sydney University where he graduated in 1948, with a Bachelor of Law.



John worked for the Public Trustee Office, before moving to Condobolin where he practiced for 11 years. John married Margaret Ludowici and the family moved to Sydney. In 1971, he was appointed a Public Defender for NSW. John married Beryl Gapes. In 1976, John was commissioned as a queen's counsel and senior public defender for NSW. He retired in 1985. John passed away in 2016 and is buried at Wentworth Falls.

## SHIELD'S LANE

We have been asked many times "How did Shield's Lane get its name'. It is not after Eric Shields who was Headmaster of Molong Central School in the 30's. It was named for a early pioneer family of Molong.

Robert Shield was born in England, his father was Thomas Shield of Lincolnshire. Robert married Rebecca Cook in England in 1838. Rebecca was the great grandniece of Captain James Cook who explored Australia in 1770. Robert and Rebecca married in England in 1838, before migrating to Sydney in 1845, spending time in Glebe. They relocated to Molong about 1853. They had eleven children, six born in Molong.

Robert was a carpenter and when he died in 1889, he owned land in Bank St and Shields Lane. He was a member of the first Molong Municipal Council in 1879 and was Mayor in 1882. He was on the Council for five years. Robert was a member of the first Molong P & A Association (Show Society) in 1864. He along with Joseph Morris and Charles Packham, were responsible for establishing the Methodist Church in Molong.

Robert died in 1889 and is buried at Waverley. After Robert's death, Rebecca moved to Forbes with her daughter and died in 1902.



## BLACK'S MILL WHISTLE



Who can remember checking their watches by the Black's Mill whistle that rang out daily in Molong?

Black's Mill was situated on the block that the Motel is on. The Motel reception is part of the original buildings. The Mill itself was where the caravan park is now. In the early 1940's, the lunchtime whistle was operated by Rainee Gilleland, whose father, David Gilleland was a manager at that time.



Recently Judy Thorn (granddaughter of David) and niece of Rainee was in Molong researching her family's connection with the Mill. Judy and her partner Jim met up with John Black (Grandson of John Black, owner of the mill) at the museum.



David Gilleland worked as head miller at Black's Mill, his family resided in a cottage on the Mill grounds, until the mill burnt down in 1945. They then moved to Sydney.



Marie Hammond remembers the last day of the mill in March 1945:

One Saturday we had just sat down to lunch suddenly there was a loud hooter and siren sounding. Running to the verandah we could see smoke bellowing. Dad jumped in car, followed by me. At the scene the mill was well alight and men running around some putting hoses into the creek. A sad day for Molong as several lost jobs, lost of main industry and economy income for the town.



## FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



We had some special museum visitors Peter and Faye Tracey from Port Macquarie. Peter had helped in sourcing photos for the photographic exhibition and was delighted to find this special Tilbrook photo of four of his aunts. His mother Thora was one of the ten daughters of Felix and Catherine Benson. Felix was the son of John Benson an early pioneer of Molong who arrived here in 1858 as a police officer. John Benson would serve as rate collector, lock up keeper and bailiff. Felix ran a carting business and at one stage lived in the "Yarn Market" in Bank Street. So lovely to have some connection with descendants of early Molong.



## AUSTRALIA DAY

Molong celebrated Australia Day in the RSL Club Garden on a warm summers morning. Many locals as well as visitors from Orange and other areas joined in the activities.

The day started with Geoff Tonkin providing music to get into the atmosphere along with morning tea of damper.



Paul Mullins lead the day's formalities with the

"Acknowledgement of Country" by Elizabeth Griffin and singing of the National Anthem. Elizabeth gave a short talk on the history of the day.



The Community Awards were then announced.

- CITIZEN OF YEAR Dustin Vandervelde
- JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR Lachlan Hobbs
- COMMUNITY GROUP OF YEAR Molong Show Society



The morning finished with a chicken and champagne Brunch.

The Museum was open during the day, with people taking the opportunity to visit, to end a pleasant day.

## FAIRBRIDGE UPDATE

(From "Follow The Founder" Newsletter November 2023)

OFA'S AGM will be held in Penrith on Saturday 10th March. For discussion is the future of the bi-annual reunion at Molong. As members are getting older there are issues with age and ability to travel as well as increased costs.

Work has been commenced at the Children's Park in conjunction with Cabonne Council. Despite the Council having other town priorities, they continue to maintain the lawns. Restoration work by "Transport of NSW" will start early this year. This includes excavation of the ingress and internal road packing down and resurfacing with asphalt. They will repack the Memorial with road base and replace garbage bins.



## AUSTRALIA DAY

Records of celebrations on 26 January date back to 1808, with the first official celebration of the formation of New South Wales held in 1818. It was not until 1935 that all Australian states and territories adopted use of the term "Australia Day" to mark the date of the 1788 landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and it was not until 1994 that 26 January was consistently marked by a public holiday on that day by all states and territories.

There was no official recognition of the colony's anniversary, with the *New South Wales Almanacs* of 1806 and 1808 placing no special significance on 26 January. By 1808 the date was being used by the colony's immigrants, especially the emancipated convicts, to **"celebrate their love of the land they lived in."** (*Kwan, Elizabeth. "Celebrating Australia: A History of Australia Day essay" National Australia Day Council.*)

The chief toast of that occasion was Major George Johnston, who led the officers of the New South Wales Corps in arresting Governor William Bligh on 26 January 1808, in what became known as the "Rum Rebellion."

1818 was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the colony, and Governor Lachlan Macquarie chose to acknowledge the day with the first official celebration. The governor declared that the day would be a holiday for all government workers, and ordered a 30-gun salute at Dawes Point – one for each year that the colony had existed.



In 1837 the first running of what would become the Australia Day regatta was held on Sydney Harbour.

1838 was the 50th anniversary of the founding of the colony and, as part of the celebrations, Australia's first public holiday was declared. The anniversary as a whole was described as a **"day for everyone"**. However not all the colonies agreed and said that it was a Sydney celebration and 26 January was very much a New South Wales celebration.

Prior to 1888 each of the colonies had its own commemoration for its founding. In Tasmania, Regatta Day occurred initially in December to mark the anniversary of the landing of Abel Tasman. South Australia celebrated Proclamation Day on 28 December. Western Australia had its own Foundation Day on 1 June.

The first Australia Day was established in response to Australia's involvement in World War I. In 1915, Ellen "Ellie" Wharton Kirke MBE, née Clements, mother of four servicemen, thought up the idea of a national day.

The 150th anniversary of British settlement in Australia in 1938 was celebrated. However it was also declared as a Day of Mourning by the Aborigines Progressive Association and the Australian Aborigines League as a protest against the "white man's seizure of our country."

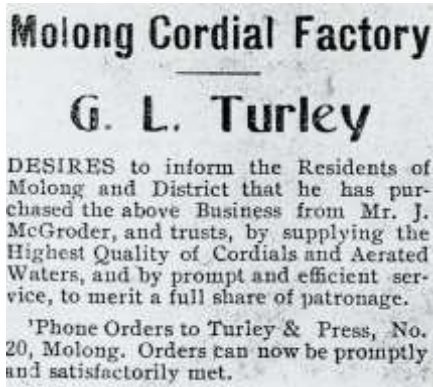
It was not until 1946 that the Commonwealth and State governments agreed to unify the celebrations on 26 January as "Australia Day." Since 1988, the year of the Australian Bicentenary, participation in Australia Day has increased, and in 1994 all states and territories began to celebrate a unified public holiday on 26th January – regardless of the day of the week.

The message of the first celebrations somehow has been lost over the years -

**"To celebrate their love of the land they lived in."**

## RESEARCH ENQUIRY

Recently we had an enquiry from Mayfield Soft Drinks, who are looking for photographs and information on local cordial factories. They are interested in



anything on the Molong Cordial Factory which was located at 1 Shields Lane. There were several other small businesses including one at Wellington run by the Matthews family.



PHOTOGRAPHS  
Recent photo of 1 Shields Lane  
Turley Ad August 1924 Molong Express  
Cartoon Ad 1950 Molong Express.



Mayfield's started manufacturing drinks in 1948 and in 1976, they merged with Orbell's (of Dubbo) and became Mid-West Bottling with the Coco-Cola franchise in the area. In 2019 Mayfield's made a comeback with organic and natural flavorings.



Remember to check the  
MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY Facebook page  
to keep Up-to-date with

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



## THE HISTORIAN

This article originally appeared in Volume 3 No 1 June 1982

### THE JUMBUCK OF WALTZING MATILDA

According to Sir Norman Kater, a leading sheep industry personality, the word is a corruption of Aboriginal pronunciation. Sheep counted by running through a



chute, usually jump into the air on clearing the gate.

According to Sir Norman, the Aboriginals, amused at the way the sheep jumped while being counted, attempted to say "that fellow jump up" but the nearest they could get was "that fellow jumbuck".

The name stuck – and now is part of what almost amounts to Australia's national anthem.

CWD. 25/4/1979.

## THE HISTORIAN

This article originally appeared in Volume 4 No 2 August 1985

### AUSTRALIA'S FLAG

In the 1890's Australia had a flag similar to the White Ensign but with a large blue cross and white stars representing the Southern Cross. A competition to design a flag was conducted by the Federal Government and the winning design was submitted by five people Mrs A. Dorrington (Perth), E.J. Nuttall (Melbourne), I. Evans (Melbourne), Leslie Hawkins (Sydney) and William Stevens (New Zealand). The new flag was flown at Melbourne for the first time on November 3, 1901. It was the same flag that we have today except for some minor changes made to the design in 1909.

Before an Australian flag existed it was usual to fly the British flag at patriotic and formal functions, partly because many Australians were first or second generation British, and partly because it symbolised membership of the Empire. After the Australian flag was designed the practice of flying both flags continued well into this century.

Pictorial History of Bathurst

By T. Barker, 1985

# MOLONG IN THE 70's

## A GLANCE THROUGH OLD FILES

*A selection of articles found in a 1903 Express that relates to Molong in 1877.*

From Molong Express Saturday 28th February 1903

(Continued from previous newsletter)

Jan 19, 1877

The town Band is to be established in Molong.

Feb 2, 1877

At a meeting at the School of Arts Committee, it was decided to purchase half an acre of land in Bank Street, as a building site at a cost of £65, half to be paid down and the balance in 12 months. Messrs.' W Tanner, J Haslam and J.M Hughes were appointed Trustees.

On Anniversary Day, a team of Molong cricketers journeyed to Cudal and contrary to expectations won by six wickets. Cudal 27 and 59, O Tapp18. The top scorer. E and M Phillips secured the whole of Cudal's wickets, Molong 47 and 4 wickets for 40, Tempest 17 and 19 was the top scorer.

NOTICE Gentlemen desirous of supporting and inviting a medical gentleman to reside in Molong are requested to submit their names to the undersigned -  
W Tanner jun.

A man suffering Dt's broke away from a residence at Burrawang on Saturday and turned up at Eurimba the following night. Next day he made it to Brymedura and has made a complete recovery.

Feb 25, 1877

There are 86 pupils on the roll at Molong Public School, with an average daily attendance of 70. Fully 75 percent of children in this district are and have suffering from Ophthalmia (Inflammation of the eye).

A public meeting was held on Monday evening to bring under the notion of the Council of Education "The unsatisfactory and unsecure nature of the wretched old barn used as a public school in Molong.

March 9, 1877

On Monday last the police bought into Molong one John Duncan, whom they arrested in the Bumbury Mountains on suspicion of being concerned in the recent 'Robbery under Arms' at the Coolah Bank. Three men stuck up the manager at the point of their revolvers and after securing £1000 decamped. Constable Healey, late of Molong, found some of the stolen notes on the prisoner, besides a mask, revolver, ammunition, etc.

The rights for the Molong Annual Races raised £50.5s. The Express published the official race card for which a limited number of advertisements were taken.

March 16, 1877

Mr W Tanner yesterday purchased a 700-bushel parcel of wheat at 5s 8d per bushel.

Mr Touzean, chemist has commenced business in Bank St.

The first day's meeting of the Molong Jockey Club was attended by about 400 spectators yesterday.

## BOOKS FOR SALE

(Reviewed September 2023)

### AILEEN ROBERSON

A HISTORY OF THE MOLONG CATHOLIC CHURCH	\$20.00
ALLAN TOM Picture Show Man	\$20.00
PADDY McARDLE	\$20.00
THE SHEEN TEAM (Max &Nita)	\$15.00
VILLA ASH	\$5.00

### ROBERT ELLIS

SESQUICENTIENNAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
PIPER & YURANIGH	\$25.00
HOW THE WEST WAS WON	\$25.00
HISTORY OF THE SHEEPDOG	\$25.00

### DAVID RUTHERFORD

LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN SMITH	\$30.00
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### KATE GADSBY

CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS & CORRUPTION	\$40.00
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### HELEN HAYNES

MOLONG RSL PORTRAIT GUIDE	\$25.00
ORANGE 1901	\$10.00

### VAL McKENZIE

MOLONG SHEEP DOG WORKERS	\$25.00
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### DIANNE WOOLBANK

WOOLBANK MEMOIRS	\$10.00
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### RON SABIN & JO BAILEY

THE LONG WAY HOME (Fairbridge story)	\$20.00
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### NOEL CANTRILL

BORENORE CENTENARY 1877 TO 1977	\$15.00
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### ORANGE ROTARY CLUB

BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
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### CLEMENT SEMMLER

A.B. PATERSON	\$15.00
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PLEASE ADD POSTAGE \$ 10 TO \$15 depending on book size.

### RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the Society should be written,  
then posted or emailed to :-

PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866

**molonghs@gmail.com**

Please include :-

Your Name, contact number

Reason for enquiry

(family research, writing book etc)

Relevant information

Fees on Request

**MOLONG**  
**MUSEUM**  
*History matters.*



THE MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITE YOU,  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
TO AFTERNOON TEA AT THE HISTORIC WOOLSHED  
AT BOREE CABONNE

ON SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

FROM 2:30 PM.

To celebrate Andrew 'banjo' Paterson's  
160<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations

Poetry by past Australian champions  
Mel and Susie.

Local performers Mark Oates and  
Jeff Tonkin with music to tap your toes and  
sing along

Afternoon tea      \$30.00 per person

For more information or to book.

Contact: Elizabeth Griffin 0437 868 595

Sue Milne      0400 425 015