

Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



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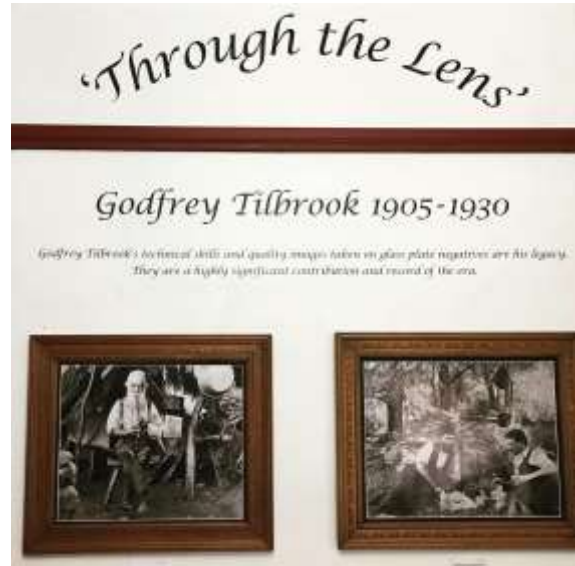
Points of Interest:

Museum, located at 20 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 or 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	(0400425015)
	susanmilne55@gmail.com	
	Lynne Robertson	
	Julie Lawrie	
	Jan McIntyre	
	John Lawrie	
Historian—	Catherine Mackenzie	

PATRONS Jean Bennett,
 Marie and John Hammond.



ANNUAL FEES
due June 30th each year.
They are \$20 each
(\$35 family).

Fees can be paid by direct debit,
mail or in person

Bank Details
BSB 062573 28007189

Fees have remained the same for 5
years.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023/24

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.
STREET STALL (Black Friday)	Friday October 13th at the Kiosk in Bank Street.	Plants, books, homemade goods for sale, raffle. Proceeds to museum funds
MOLONG CENTRAL SCHOOL VISIT (?75 Children)	Thursday 19th October	If you are able to assist please contact the committee.
NSW NATIONAL TRUST "Orange in Bloom Garden Weekend"	Saturday 4th November "Boree Cabonne" Tickets to this event available through NATIONAL TRUST only.	The Historical Society is serving morning & Afternoon Tea on Saturday Contact Jan or Lynne if you can assist.
MOLONG CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NIGHT	Friday 1st December from 5pm to 9 pm	Held in Historic Bank Street. Activities for young and old.
CHRISTMAS PARTY	Sunday 10th December from 6pm at the Museum	. Join us in celebrating a great year. Bring something to share BYO drinks
CHRISTMAS BREAK	Thursday 14th December to Thursday 18th January	The museum may open by appointment only.
BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL BOREE CABONNE	Sunday 25th February 2024	Commencing 2.30 pm Afternoon Tea & Talks on the historic woolshed. Cost is \$30.00

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 would be very grateful if you would consider assisting our Museum. Please ring 0402030270 if you would like more information or email kylingra@gmail.com

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?

Do you like re-arranging? We have some displays needing some adjustment!

Are you interested in farming implements? Would you be able to assist with tagging these?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12th August at the Molong RSL Club. There were 20 members present, including 3 new members .

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Secretary—	Lyndall Scott
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Committee	Sue Milne
	Lynne Robertson
	Julie Lawrie
	Jan McIntyre
	John Lawrie
Honorary Historian—	Catherine Mackenzie
PATRONS	Jean Bennett,
	Marie Hammond.

Thank you to Michael (who stood down) was his contribution to the Society over the last 5 years. Welcome Jan to the committee.



During the meeting the prize was drawn by Jean Bennett (Patron and Life Member) for The Tilbrook Photographic Exhibition Competition. The winner was Richard Messner. The most popular photos were "The Rabbitter" and "The Keen Family, harvesting"

Following the formalities, Guest Speaker Kate Gadsby gave a very interesting and informative talk on "the use of maps in researching family history" Kate answered many of our questions during afternoon tea.

CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS AND CORRUPTION
By Kate Gadsby

Copies available for sale at the museum.



“THROUGH THE LENS” Photographic Exhibition

Through the Lens’ – the Photographic Exhibition has been an outstanding success during the five months it has been open. We believe over 500 people have visited, many more than once, returning and bringing their friends and relatives. People have visited from all over Australia, Canada and England.

Since the opening of the exhibition, contributions of photographs continues. These have added much to our photographic collection and accompanying family history which has been thoroughly documented. Thank you to Marie Hammond, Sam Hillier, Margaret Dean, Judy Brodie, Bruce Morrow, Julie Allen, Willow Waters, Gerald Wilson and Sue Stedman.

This exhibition will remain open until early 2024.

We have had several donations to add to our general collection. Thank you to Ron Barratt(Book on Kingsley Fairbridge), Ian Culverson (old garden and farm tools)and Ernie Saville (electric copper and shoe lasts)

FAIRBRIDGE VISITORS

There has been several visitors interested in the Story of Fairbridge. These have included David Hill and Fay Anderson (a researcher from Melbourne university).



The family of John Harris spent a weekend looking around Molong and Fairbridge Farm, tracing John’s haunts. John arrived at Fairbridge in 1948 as a nine year old with his brother Colin. After leaving Fairbridge he had a interesting life. He joined the Old Fairbridgians Association (OFA) and served as President for several years. John was very good at woodwork and made many shields, which the museum has three.

ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

Over the last few months visitors to the museum have increased. This includes visits by many local groups.

ORANGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A small group from Orange travelled to Molong on Sunday 13th August for a day of fun and discovery. They met up at the Fairbridge Children's Park before being welcomed with morning tea and tour of the museum. Much time was spent looking over the "Through the Lens" display including several photo shoots to add to the atmosphere. They were able to tour the outside exhibits including the newly opened laundry room and middle shed. Reports from visitors that it was enjoyed. The RSL Club hosted them for lunch which included a talk by Helen Haynes about the Portrait Gallery. The day ended with a viewing of the Mural in the Coach House at the Yarn Market.



MOLONG GARDEN CLUB

The Molong Garden Club hosted Memory Sanders and Nyasa Holmes (daughters of F.K.S Woods Principal of Fairbridge From 1946 to 1966). Following their meeting the group visited the museum to learn more of the Fairbridge Farm Story. Ron, from Tasmania, was visiting the museum at the time. Ron was a pupil at Fairbridge and was happy to meet up again with Nyasa and Memory as well as tell his story. There was present a member who had been a housemother for a short time as a young mother.

MOLONG PROBUS CLUB

Molong Probus Club visited for lunch and a museum tour, following their September Meeting. Thirty two members welcomed and headed for the veranda for a lunch of homemade soups, sandwiches and scones, washed down with a cup of tea or coffee.



They were given an introduction to the museum by our members, Julie, Sue and Elizabeth before touring the exhibitions. They were encouraged to dress up in period costume and have photos in the "Through The Lens" room. A lot of interest was shown in the other areas, Strangers Room, old laundry and kitchen, middle shed and inside exhibits. The pianola was a drawcard with several testing their musical skills.



"CHOICES AT HOME" VISIT

On Monday 25th of September 5 ladies from Orange and 2 assistants visited the museum for morning tea and an escorted tour. The ladies enjoyed reminiscing about their youth in the kitchen and laundry. They had many stories to tell. One lady was able to find out about her family who lived at Kerrs Creek. It is hoped that we will have many more visits from this group who are part of the "Orange Aged Care" program.



RECENT DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION

As well as having many visitors to the museum , we have received several donations to add to our collection. Here is a few of the various items.



How resourceful and ingenious were they in the past when they couldn't go to the shop and buy whatever it was they needed?! These brilliant hand made garden tools were recently donated by Ian Culverson of Borenore - he is pictured holding a unique carrot planting seeder. Thankyou Ian for your contribution to the museum, and preserving the past.



John Hammond was present when Ernie Savill visited the museum one Sunday. Collectively they hold more than 180 years of Molong history -now that's what I call a brains trust!! Ernie donated this interesting old electric copper to add to our new laundry display and a pair of shoe lasts - thank you so much Ernie. It was a trip down memory lane for all that day.



Received by post from member Ron Barrett those family are long time residents of Molong and District.

The book titled "The Autobiography of Kingsley Fairbridge" was written in 1927.



Dimity Pollard donated book won by her father when he was Dux at Molong Central School in 1938. Her father Eric John Shields after leaving school completed a Law Degree and was a Queen's Council. His father was Principal of Molong Central School 1935 to 1938.

AND NEW RESIDENTS



Young Archer had a wonderful time at the museum during the school holidays playing the recently donated pianola. It is so wonderful to hear music in the parlour.

Archer and his father, from Peabody Road and are getting involved in life in a small town.

Archer's grandmother visited the museum a few weeks later. They are resident in Sydney but frequently visit Molong.

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM



We were delighted to have a visit from one of our photo-donors Helen Shapland who travelled from Dorrigo with her son Bryan and daughter Robyn. Helen's husband was a descendant of William Shapland who owned the property "Flitton" on the Amaroo Rd adjacent to Fairbridge School and he had some beautiful Tilbrook photos that Helen and her family generously donated to the museum. It was lovely to meet them and we are very grateful to them for their donation.



Neville Donavan and his family were delighted to be reunited with his Great great uncle's violin. This beautiful old violin was handmade by Mr George Neville of Copper Hill. We also have a clock belonging to George. He was given much assistance by our family records and was able to locate headstones in the cemetery.



This gentleman from Sydney was delighted to find his ancestor's Hasemer's Store located on the corner of Riddell St. and Shields Lane in a photograph in the Godfrey Tilbrook Exhibition taken in 1919 the day of the Peace Parade in Molong. He was able to exchange much information with us about the family who had once owned "Redbank".



Scott and his family from Noosa, dropped into the museum to research some of his descendants, the Dunns, Taylors and Smiths. Scott and his mum were very interested in the Wiradjuri Room, and his children Kelly and Keira were very impressed with his pianola skills.



REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

THE EDITOR would like to thank Catherine Mackenzie, Julie and John Lawry, Jan McIntyre, Rozzi Smith, Molong Probus Club and anyone who has contributed photos and articles to produce 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).

Biography of James & Agnes SIMPSON

By C.A. Mackenzie

James and Agnes Simpson arrived from Leith, Scotland on 18 September 1839 on the ship "Caledonia". James' father, Robert Simpson worked for 60 years for Mr Hood of "Stoneridge" Eccles Berwickshire. Therefore it was not unusual for the James and Agnes to arrive in Australia with the eldest son of Mr Hood, Thomas Hood. Mr Hood came to Australia with his youngest son, Alexander aboard the "Lady Kennaway" to visit Thomas Hood in 1842 who was then living on the slopes of Mount Canobolas near Orange and with him still was James Simpson. James was often referred to as a close and trusted servant to the family.

James Simpson had married Agnes Scott on 8 April 1839 at Eccles, a daughter of Walter Scott of "Bartlehill". Their first child was Isabella Simpson who was baptised in 1840 in the Canobolas District, James was working as a shepherd.

The children to follow were Robert James baptised in Jun 1842, Margaret baptised in April 1844 and Walter Scott James Simpson baptised in August 1849. Their first grandchild was Christian Agnes born about March 1858 to Isabella Simpson who was living at Copper Hill at the time.

James and Agnes remained in the district eventually living at Market Street, West End, Molong. James died on 28 Sep 1882 at West End age 83 years old. Agnes lived another ten years and died on 1 April 1892 at her residence, West End after a long illness, she was 78 years old, from Drumfries, Scotland.

Both have one headstone in the Molong Presbyterian Cemetery which states it was "Erected by their loving daughter M. Simpson" The headstone is currently in a damaged state within the cemetery. Margaret Simpson did not marry and died on 11 January 1928 in Sydney and she is buried at Rookwood.

Their son Robert James Simpson (1842-1930) married a widow, Mrs Betsy Ashpole nee Sharp (1847-1939) in about 1878. Robert owned land at Molong and Dulladerry Creek near Manildra which later changed its name to Coates Creek. After this they moved to the Parkes district where Robert pursued work as a miner. Robert and Betsy were to have 10 children mostly all born in the Parkes district. Betsy had previously had six children with her first husband mostly born around Dubbo and the last at Parkes in 1877.



[ref: "Australia and the East" a journal narrative of a voyage to NSW in an Emigrant Ship... "by John Hood and TROVE newspapers]

Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

THE HISTORIAN

An article originally published in Volume 2 Issue 8 published August 1998
Written by David Rutherford.

RED CEDAR

Red cedar was the first timber used for cabinet making in Australia, because of its close grain, softness of texture and ability to take a beautiful polish.

In the very early days this timber was in keen demand not only for furniture, but for doors, window frames and internal panelling of domestic and commercial buildings.

The early cedar cutters were a most unruly race and they were almost locust-like in their attacks on the timber. The Governor therefore in 1827 fixed a royalty of ½d. per foot for all cedar cut on Crown Lands. The reason for this royalty primarily was to assist in the cost of keeping order amongst these wild and woolly people. The royalty was also designed to afford some control over the number of trees being destroyed. Unfortunately, the royalty was not very successful from either angle.

In 1871 the Government established a number of forest reserves with the object of preserving cedar and other valuable timbers but by this time there was a very little accessible cedar left in the N.S.W. coastal forests, and unfortunately red cedar is such a slow growing timber that reforestation of it is not an economic proposition.

Frank O'Grady.

(R.A.H.S.N.L. Feb. 1977)

CHECK OUT THE LATEST DISPLAYS AT THE MUSEUM.



You may even see the friendly ghost in the cellar.

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 4th April 1903
(Continued from previous newsletter)

OCTOBER 26, 1877, A tea meeting was held in the Wesleyan Church grounds on Friday last to raise funds to defray costs of the fencing and palisading around the Church. The attendance numbered about 200.

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The Express has opened an Indian Famine Relief Appeal, the principal contributions so far being Public School pupils £3.6.0; Miss McNavin £1.0.0; Mr Nesbitt C.P.S.£ 1.0.0; Express staff 15s.

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NOVEMBER 23 1877 Senior Constable Langworthy has been instructed to proceed to Bathurst to relieve Sergt Carroll.

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WANTED -a few new J.P.s to attend to their duties and responsibilities by remaining at home-salary, nothing the first year; to be doubled each succeeding year.
(Editors comment, same salary as volunteers now)

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Mr H.S. M. Betts of Vale Head has constructed a first-class wool press from designs supplied by Mr Margarie of this town.

.....

A good record in the way of extravagance was reported in town this week. An employee on Cliff's Breeza Station left on Saturday with a £70.0.0 cheque and died on the following Thursday with £40.0.0 grog score against him. That publican should be wiped out.

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DECEMBER 14, 1877, A biped named Bonnock left his wife ill in bed on Monday and did not return home for 8 days. The wife was found, five days after he left, in a delirious condition and her infant was all flyblown and emaciated. Fifty lashes would do that libel on humanity a deal of good.

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

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

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