

MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
1965-2017

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2017

MUSEUM ADDRESS
20 Riddell Street
MOLONG NSW 2866

OPENING HOURS

Thursdays 11am until 3pm

Last Sunday of the month from 12.30 until 4

Or by appointment



RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

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

PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866
molongmuseum@hotmail.com

Please include :-

- Your Name, contact number
- Reason for enquiry (family research, writing book etc)
- Relevant information

COMMITTEE for 2016-17

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
RESEARCH OFFICER
ASSIST SECRETARY

Marie Hammond 63604799 rylerns@gmail.com
Des Sullivan
Sue Milne 0400425015 suemilne@colourcity.com
John Austin 0428719645
Catherine Mackenzie
Maureen Kirkwood

MUSEUM NEWS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2017 AGM
Will be held on Saturday 12th August, commencing at 2PM
At the Museum
Followed by Afternoon Tea

2017/18 FEES NOW DUE

Fees remain at \$15.00
Membership Form enclosed

NEXT STREET STALL

Will be held on Saturday 7th October
On sale will be cakes, books and plants
PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES

PLANT & BOOK SALE

We are planning to have a Book Sale in November (date to be advised). A large amount of plants will also be available on the day

If you can help with books & plants please contact Marie or Sue or any of the Committee

FRONT PAGE

Molong Central School Stage 1 classes during a visit to the Museum in May

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

For the newsletter Please contact me on email suemilne@colourcity.com or phone 0400425015

PRESIDENTS REPORT- June 2017

We certainly have had a very productive few months since the beginning of the year. We have been well rewarded both financially and satisfaction with the way all events were attended and enjoyed. The year is not ended as yet and we still have a few events in stall so keep watching this space.

Firstly many thanks to Rozzie Smiths' great and valuable donation of many boxes of books for our book sale on the 1st April. Many other kind donations were also received from different people who came along with beautiful collections of magazines and books. Added to this we also included a Jumble Sale which also created much interest. I am happy to report that we still had so many boxes of books, that we have decided to hold another sale in November. Plans are also underway for added entertainment for the day. There was a wonderful spirit with much laughter coming from the veranda where the sale was. I wish to thank you all so much as it was such a big effort over two days. Perhaps next one will be one day, we will see.

From the takings from sale , we were able to afford the shelving for the shed that John Hammond had been longing for. John was very happy and started erecting it without much delay. It already has made a big difference and more room. Thanks John. Before this, John and Michael Cass had a big job putting in a doorway to the shed. The roller door caused a big problem and to solve it they cut a doorway and put in a new door.. with the jobs they do around the Museum and in the garden we are saved many hundreds of dollars. I have reason to believe they have a few more on their agenda.

1st May we held our first Colonial Luncheon. It was a great success with over 40 people present. There were many compliments as everyone enjoyed the event (see report in this newsletter).

Our June street stall must also have a mention and special thanks to those who donated saleable items and those who helped. Michael Cass and Lyn Robertson came at 8.30, opened up, and stayed all day. John Austin usually does this but we let him off this time but he did all the signs. Thanks John and our best wishes to you. The wood raffle won by Perry from the newsagency, was very popular. Thanks to Bob Sullivan for all the hard work and effort in getting the load into the stall. John Hammond and Michael LeCouteur made sure the wood was delivered. Thanks gentlemen.

It was with much appreciation that Lyn Robertson was able to give us so much of her time recently following the sad passing of your husband and your mother. When Gordon was well enough, some time back, he was able to map out locations on the collection of maps we have from the former PP Board. Gordon enjoyed doing it and now his work is being used by some members when looking for locations. Lyn has for some time been propa-

gating plants in her nursery for the benefit of the society and they sold **well at the last two street stalls. It's constant work and thanks so much** Lyn for making time.

Also our thoughts with our research officer Catherine MacKenzie who too lost her mother recently with the passing of Betty McArdle of Orange and formally of Molong. Catherine has given many years to the Molong Historical Society and concentrates mainly with family research but also does amazing statistics on Molong population and other factors. Her work too is highly valued and we send our thoughts and best wishes to you both.

Great news ! Des and Nea Sullivan are recovering well. Des is extremely happy with his eye operation and having good vision again. Nea is recovering well after falling breaking her hip, she is now home from hospital and staying with their daughter in Bathurst. Best wishes to you both.

In concluding I will include a mention of our appreciation to Alison Russell, Museum and Heritage co-ordinator, and the Stainable Collection Programs along with Villages of the Heart for all the help we have received with these programs, and I will mention the encouragement as we have undertaken many programs and events. Being part of our recent Living Museum with Jacqui Newling, at our recent Colonial luncheon, this being a good example. Through these programs we have also being able to work with Museum advisor Margot Jolly, which has been very satisfactory

Best wishes to all members and friends,

Marie Hammond

MOLONG CAVES

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who may remember the old caves in the old Butts area. I would like to think that some photographs may have survived but perhaps none were ever taken. We do have in our collection some fossils and a small part of a meteorite that landed near Molong many years ago. We are given to believe that the main and very large portion was sent to the Australian Museum.

If anyone does know I would appreciate hearing from you – 6360 4799 if not answering please leave a message.

Marie

Colonial Kitchen Day in Molong

Contributed by Michael LeCouteur

The front verandah of the Molong Museum in Riddell Street was transformed on May Day—it was Colonial Kitchen Day in Molong.

Over forty guests were greeted by the aroma of old fashioned roses from the local garden of Maureen Kirkwood — a fitting entrée to an outing which announced the newly renovated Colonial Kitchen at the Molong Museum. Guests were informed that it was probably the oldest such kitchen, used in commercial undertakings west of the Blue Mountains.

The Historical Museum building is over 150 years old and was one of the first buildings in West Molong. Built by James Mortal in 1856, the building was originally “The Golden Fleece Hotel”, the Licensees were John Burgess and John McGroder.

Since that time there have been many food related activities on the premises including the provision of food for public consumption on a commercial basis. The building having housed the “Royal Hotel” which was also known as the “Old Royal Hotel” and more recently a boutique restaurant.

On arrival for “Colonial Kitchen Day”, guests were offered a choice of ginger beer or lemon barley water – time did not allow a brew of an old fashioned recipe of ginger beer to be produced but for next year that is certainly on the menu.

Jacqui Newling greeted guests before delivering some fascinating background about early kitchens in Australia. Jacqui particularly introduced Cookery Books and recipes which were used in the latter part of the 19th century and up to the First World War

Jacqui has a Cordon Bleu masters’ degree in gastronomy and specialises in early Australian foodways. As Sydney Living Museums’ resident gastronomer and curator of our Eat Your History projects, Jacqui takes a hands-on role to investigate the type of food that was served in Australia’s historic houses.

Copies of early Australian recipes were distributed and Jacqui challenged guests to imagine cooking the food, using the Colonial Kitchen they were about to inspect. Margot Jolly, Molong Museum’s professional adviser welcomed groups of guests to the kitchen and explained the many items on display from Australia’s Colonial period.

The lunch, which had been superbly prepared by Local Molong Chef Extraordinaire, Annabel Bodain, comprised Mulligatawny soup with a genuine Colonial Lamb Stew as the main course. Dessert was cooked according to an old-time Evers Family recipe, prepared by the Museum President and husband John. The final touch was cup of Billy Tea at which time the proposal was mooted that “Colonial Kitchen Day” should be repeated annually on May Day.

Many are already anticipating 2018.



A Busy weekend at the Molong Museum —

Book and Jumble sale

The last weekend of March was the culmination of many weeks of work for members of the Molong Historical Society who held a Book and Jumble sale under the watchful eye and direction of Rozzi Smith from the Molong Express. One member commented *“We are very fortunate to have someone like Rozzi assisting – otherwise it wouldn’t have yielded such a positive result”*.

The doors opened on Saturday morning with a queue waiting to have the first chance at selecting the best of the offering. Amongst the hundreds of book and jumble sale items there were as always some gems to be found – surprisingly some gems have remained and will be included in the next sale.

The advertising campaign spearheaded by the Molong Express had been highly effective. But there was the unexpected on Sunday. The Organisers of the Food Week in Orange had selected the Book Sale as a different clue for their Sunday morning Treasure Hunt, unbeknown to the Book Sale organisers. It was only after a series of enquiries; *“Where are the Cook books?”* or *“Do you have any dollar cookbooks?”* and the speed of purchase, that Sue Milne, the Secretary for the Historical Society, suspected something was going on and asked about the unexpected focus on cooking.

The signs placed on the main road attracted many travellers. This added to the local interest ensured a positive result. There is much more to report. The interest shown by the next generation was pleasing with a number of the younger visitors telling organisers that they were going to visit the Museum for a school visit during the following week.

While all that activity was occurring on the front verandah of the Museum in Riddell Street, another group of supporters were hard at work preparing the Colonial Kitchen for the School visit and also the visit by Gastronomer, Jacqui Newling from the Sydney Living Museum on Monday 1st May.

School Visit

There are regular School visits to the Molong Museum and judging by the reaction of those who visited for the Book Sale it is a highlight for the students. The Museum group are working to build strong links with the next generation, to enthuse them about the importance of our past. Special posters have been prepared for some of the items in and around the Colonial Kitchen. Included is a specific poster about the *“Making of Butter”*. It is planned to include many more such posters in the future directed toward the younger generation – ***“Museums should be places of history which include items of fascination and information for all generations”***.

The Molong Men's Shed

The Molong Men's Shed contributed to the renovations of the Colonial Kitchen by restoring a very old Coolgardie Safe (there will be more about this in forthcoming Newsletters). In a display of early refrigeration alongside the Coolgardie safe, there is an iceless freezing unit known as *“The Penguin Refrigerator”* which has only recently been placed on display.

Jacqui Newlings Replies



Jacqui Newling at Molong Museum May 1st, 2017
"Photographer - Rozzi Smith, Molong Express, Molong"

Hi Alison,

I was only in the office one day last week and didn't get the chance to write to the Molong team. I'm not at work this week either, so don't have Marie's or Michael's emails with me. Can you please forward this message to Marie and the organizing committee:

Hello all, please forgive my delay in writing to commend you all on last Monday's Colonial Kitchen event.

By all accounts people seemed to enjoy their time at the museum in this way. It was particularly lovely that people brought along their own kitchen curios and cherished family recipe books.

The kitchen looked great - well done to the team who sourced additional items for it. The lunch was tasty and the bread & butter pudding and apples added a wonderful home made touch, and inspired many conversations and memories of traditional favourites.

I am so impressed by the hands on approach and attention to detail from your members and committee - from the fresh flowers to the efficient table service. Michael was an excellent MC and you all made me feel so very welcome - thank you for the wine, quite unnecessary but a very kind gesture.

The kitchen is certainly a wonderful addition to the museum, and the local school's interest in it to support the curriculum is very exciting. I can just see young ones making butter and old fashioned lemonade on school holiday visits and open days. If you can get the oven working, perhaps they can make damper or soda bread too!

Please keep me posted on any developments.

With warm regards, Jacqui

A group of volunteers preparing the Colonial Kitchen at the Molong Museum

"Photographer - Rozzi Smith, Molong Express, Molong"



During the day a raffle was conducted
The prize being "Eat Your History"
cookbook by Jacqui Newling.
Won by Maureen Kirkwood

Goal: How to find a missing birth record using on line resources.

Written by Catherine Mackenzie

Recently a request came to the Society asking if we could advise the birth details of an ancestor that they were unable to find in official records. This ancestor was Mrs Muriel Holt, the wife of Harvey Ryves Jago Holt. Information supplied by the researcher was that Harvey R.J. Holt married in Sydney in 1904 to Muriel Ivy Middleton.

The following is a step by step process to find the birth record of Muriel Ivy Middleton.

Known information: H.R.J. Holt was a solicitor in Molong from about 1900 to his death in 1959. He was married twice, first to Muriel Ivy Middleton and second to Enid Luxmore King.

Step 1.

Find the death record of Muriel Ivy Holt in NSW BDM on line. This is to establish her parents' names and also a clue on where to find an obituary or death notice.

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Pages/family-history/family-history.aspx>

Result: HOLT, Muriel I death 2893/1913 registered Molong, daughter of George (no mother stated)

Step 2.

Find a report of the death of Muriel Holt, daughter of George at TROVE newspapers on line and check the Ryerson Index (which has indexed all The Sydney Morning Herald life events from its first publication).

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

Result: Obituary was published in our local newspaper the Molong Argus.
Molong Argus Friday 7February 1913 page 4, Obituary – Mrs H.R.J. Holt.

Extract the relevant family notes from the Obituary:

Muriel died at Molong-street (her residence) on Monday.

Muriel was the wife of Mr H.R. J.Holt, solicitor

Muriel was the daughter of the Rev. George Middleton who was in Molong as curate about the year 1866 and is present located at St Peter's, Cooks River.

Muriel was born at Emu Plains, and was 34 years of age at her death.

Muriel married about 8 years ago and the issue of one son, aged 3 yrs. (*not named in obituary*)

Muriel's body was taken to Sydney on Tuesday, for burial on Wednesday morning in South Head Cemetery Church of England.

The Ryerson Index

<http://ryersonindex.net/search.php>

Result: Muriel Ivy Holt death notice 3 Feb 1913 late of Molong Sydney Morning Herald published 13 Feb 1913.

Step 3.

Find the report of Muriel Holt's death in The Sydney Morning Herald on Trove. Information calculated from the Molong Argus Obituary shows Muriel died on Monday 3rd February, her body was transported to Sydney on Tuesday 4th February and she was buried on Wednesday 5th February.

Result: Death notice The Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 13 February 1913 page 8 col 1 Family Notices "HOLT – February 3, at Molong, Muriel Ivy, dearly- loved wife of H.R.J. Holt, Molong" Muriel's death was also reported in The Daily Leader (Orange) Monday 20 February 1913 page 2 Local and General. (*Repeating the information from the article in The Molong Argus*).

Step 4.

We now have the exact day of death of Muriel and she was age 34 which calculates her birth to about 1879. Muriel was the daughter of George Middleton and was born at Emu Plains, New South Wales. A search of the NSW BDM website could not find a Muriel Middleton with a father named George. Therefore, the criteria was widened to search on the surname and the father, George at Penrith the local registration district for Emu Plains.

Two records were found as being registered at Penrith.

Unnamed born 1878 registered PENRITH child of George and Catherine

Duncan S. born 1881 registered Penrith child of George and Catherine

Of the two records found that could be Muriel is the unnamed Middleton born in 1878. This record does not state if the child was male or female. If a birth notice could be found on Trove this may indicate the sex of the child born in 1878.

Step 5.

Before searching for any birth notice, the marriage of George Middleton would be helpful to know as would the other children born to George Middleton, this would establish a pattern of where the family was living at the time of each child's birth.

NSW BDM check for Marriage Result:

Marriage 1468/1870 Registered at St Leonards – George MIDDLETON to Katherine Blake SMITH

Result of search for all possible children of George and Katherine/Catherine Blake Middleton

Unnamed born 6912/1870 Registered at Berrima

Ruby I E born 6970/1872 Registered at Berrima – (d. 2742/1873- See death notice next page)

Lilian Myra born 5783/1873 Registered at St Leonards

Frederick George E. L. born 18840/1875 Registered at Richmond

Unnamed born 20529/1878 Registered at Penrith

Duncan S born 22978/1881 Registered at Penrith

Step 6.

We know from the 1913 obituary that Muriel's father was Rev. George Middleton – therefore a search in trove using parenthesis around the words "Rev. George Middleton" would narrow the search results. Then a further narrow search on the Decade then the year.

Result: The Sydney Morning Herald Saturday 12 October 1878 page 1 Family Notices – BIRTH, MIDDLETON, September 21 at the Parsonage, Emu Plains, the wife of the Rev. George Middleton, of a daughter.

This confirms that the birth in 1878 of unnamed Middleton is a female, born on September 21 1878 at Emu Plains.

CONCLUSION:

Therefore, with the birth announcement telling us that the 1878 birth of unnamed Middleton is a female, is very likely that the birth registration 20529/1878 at Penrith is the correct birth record for Muriel Ivy Middleton. The next step for the researcher is to purchase the birth certificate or Transcription to confirm. There may or may not be a note on the birth record stating the name given after registration.

Further Research: If you continue to search TROVE the rest of the family can be found in the birth and death notices of the Sydney newspapers.

MUSEUM IS ON THE HUNT FOR ITEMS IN NEW EXHIBITION



The Orange Regional Museum is calling on the community to search through cupboards, sheds, family heirlooms and albums for items to contribute to its new exhibition.

The exhibition Paddock to Plate, expected to be open in FOOD Week 2018, will focus on the rich history of food growing in the region and how it shaped the area's culture, economy and has led to the region's strong reputation as a food and wine hub.

"The current exhibition Journeys: People, Place, Stories has been received well with hundreds of visitors every week but we're certainly excited to announce the name of the new exhibition expected in April 2018," Cr Gander said.

"People know Orange has a rich history of food and wine but do people know the individual stories of the characters that helped shape our region and its food history?"

"So if you have anything hidden in your home related to a great story about food in the local region then give the team at the museum a call and put it on display, let other people enjoy it as much as you do" Cr Gander said.

Further information on the exhibition can be obtained by contacting the Orange Regional Museum

The Molong Historical Society will be contributing to this exhibition with several stories and artefacts from their collection. If you are able to help please contact Marie, Sue or any of the Committee

METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC
29th October 1950

Recently we had a visit from Toohey Sisters (Lorraine & Valda) who donated this photograph to the Museum Collection.

We would like help identifying the children who attended this event. We would like your memories of attending this and other Sunday School events. Contact the Museum if you can assist.



Molong Express and Western District Advertiser, Friday 27 October 1950

RALLY ABANDONED

Methodist activities: were seriously interfered with by last week's heavy rain. The quarterly meeting was twice postponed and the M.G.C. and O.K. District rally and sports meeting which was to have been held in Orange last Saturday was abandoned.

Molong Methodist Sunday School Anniversary is to be held next Sunday. Services will be at 11 a.m, 3 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. and there will be special singing by the children at all three services. The Anniversary public meeting and concert will be next Wednesday night, commencing at 7.30. The children will provide the items and prizes for the year's work will be distributed. Celebrations will, be brought to a close with the Sunday School picnic on Saturday, November 4. Cumnock Sunday School will hold their Anniversary Service at 3 p.m. on Sunday November 5.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are able to help please contact the Museum
From Previous Newsletter

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE CANONBAR AND ROSE COTTAGES ARE NOW?

Some OF's have been asking what happened to the children's cottages that were removed from Fairbridge. There were originally fifteen cottages build in the village and eight are still there. They are Orange, Molong, New, Blue, Corinda, Goldsborough, Green and Mort. The other seven were sold after Fairbridge was closed and moved to various locations where they were converted into grand country homes.

REPLY

From

"FOLLOW THE FOUNDER" "OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS" Newsletter May 2017

Since this request was made, we have had a visit from Mike Walker, (ex Fairbridgian living in Western Australia), who has researched all the cottages that have been relocated .

There were originally fifteen cottages build in the village and eight are still there. They are Orange, Molong, New, Blue, Corinda, Goldsborough, Green and Mort. The other seven were sold after Fairbridge was closed and moved to various locations where they were converted into grand country homes. We have managed to track down six of the seven as well as the Chapel.

	Lilac I	In Molong
Canary	At Garra	(original purchaser) renovated
Brown	Also at Garra	(original purchaser) renovated
Gowrie	near Yeoval	
Red	Main Street	Cumnock
Cannonbar	in Springwood	
Chapel	In Yeoval	(very forlorn)

Rose Cottage has not been located as yet. It could be Goodooga (on the Queensland Border) or in Eugowra.

Molong Argus (NSW : 1896 - 1921), Friday 4 June 1915,

The historic " Gamboola Homestead," with 4150 acres of freehold land, has been sold by Mr Ken Smith, through Messrs Betts Bros, (auctioneers, Molong), to Mr W. R. Glasson, of Yallundry (Cumnock), at a satisfactory price. " Gamboola" is one of the oldest homesteads in the Molong district, and was the property of the Smith family for over a half of century. The late Hon. John Smith, Mr Ken Smith's grandfather, and also his father (Mr Wallace Smith), resided there for many years.

BOOKS FOR SALE (last updated 3/12/16)

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
Joan Marriott	THE CROSSROADS History of Cumnock	\$20.00
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
Robyn MacKenzie	From Life to Life in Australia	\$15.00
D. Spears & R. Blowes	Pioneering with Christ, Baptist Church History	\$5.00
Noel Cantrill	BORENORE Centenary 1878-1978	\$15.00
Orange Historical Society	Story Of Byng	\$5.00
Orange Rotary Club	BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00

PHOSPHATE DEPOSIT.

MOLONG- What is believed to be an extensive deposit of phosphates has been discovered about a mile from the town, in a locality known as Cave Flat. Samples taken from it have been declared by experts to carry a very high percentage of manure properties. A lease of 62 acres has been taken up by a local syndicate, and in order to get a proper analysis a good portion has been sent down to the Government Geologist. In the meantime a big body of it will be taken out, in order to prove the length and breadth of the deposit. This is entirely a different phosphate discovery to that reported last week, and its location has caused vigorous prospecting In every direction.

On Tuesday last a party consisting of Messrs. A. Fuller (president of the Macquarie Shire Council), Lorton (shire clerk), C. P. Kennedy, and G. A. Lawson, F.R.G S., arrived here per motor, en route for the Borenore Caves. This party is interested in phosphate deposits, and spent a good deal of time prospecting and securing samples from round about. The samples obtained from the Borenore Caves are a fine lot, and on the advice of the expert, Mr. Lawson, they decided to take up a lease, and it is intended to immediately start a number of men at work. The phosphates in question are said to be equal in manure value to those at Wellington.

(9th March 1914 Sydney Morning Herald)