

# MOLONG HISTORY NEWS

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

1965-2018

Volume 2 Issue 6  
WINTER 2018

MUSEUM ADDRESS  
20 Riddell Street  
MOLONG NSW 2866

## OPENING HOURS

Thursdays 11am until 3pm

Last Sunday of the month from 11.30 until 4



## RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

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

PO BOX 119 MOLONG NSW 2866  
[molongmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:molongmuseum@hotmail.com)

Please include :-

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

## COMMITTEE for 2017-18

PRESIDENT

Marie Hammond 53 111 884. [rylerns@gmail.com](mailto:rylerns@gmail.com)

VICE PRESIDENT

Catherine Mackenzie [molongmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:molongmuseum@hotmail.com)

SECRETARY

Sue Milne 0400425015 [suemilne@colourcity.com](mailto:suemilne@colourcity.com)

TREASURER

John Austin 0428719645

RESEARCH OFFICER

Catherine Mackenzie

## MUSEUM NEWS

### COMING EVENTS FOR 2018

Dates for your diary below

#### AUGUST

AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM Saturday 11th August  
2pm until 4pm

A opportunity to be part of our latest project. "BANK STREET".  
Come and share your memories of Bank Street. This will develop a history  
of the shops owners, personalities and stories of the town.  
Afternoon Tea  
Contact any of the Committee.

#### SEPTEMBER

MOLONG SHOW Sunday, 16th September  
Molong Historical Society AGM Saturday 27th September.

#### OCTOBER

- MAG MARKET DAY Monday 1st October (long weekend)
- STREET STALL Friday 19th October
- SHEARERS LUNCH Sunday 21st October

#### REMINDER



It is time to renew your membership .  
Fees for 2018/19 are now due. They have been set at  
\$20.00 annually.  
Can be paid personally at the museum, by mail or direct  
debit.

A Membership form can be found on the last page

#### FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH

New exhibit in Fairbridge Room. 2 children dressed as they would have been when leaving England for Australia 1938. Taken on Artisan Day when surrounded by quilts that were on display.

#### MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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.

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A warm hello to members and friends who have not heard from us for some time, who would be thinking we should have twice the news. Sorry no, but we do have a newsletter with lots of interesting information.

Much has happened at the museum, involving several events that were all successful both socially and financially. Thank you to several members for all the effort that they put in. Thanks also to others who gave donations of books, goods and cooking. A special thank you to Rozzi Smith again for giving us many books which was the basics of our book sale. All much appreciated.

During the year, members are involved in the Sustainable Collection Program, which involves gathering the district museums together. This usually occurs four times a year. The last meeting held in Eugowra, with five of our members attending. The meeting and sharing of information, followed by lunch and tour of their museum. Their collection was admired and worth a visit. Highlights include the large range of transport located in the new shed. The large wagon ‘Braveheart’ as well as several sulkies and a horse drawn hearse were on show.

Many may not that we have a FACEBOOK page. Thank you to Catherine Mackenzie and Rachael MacSmith who kindly offered her services on the finer points of setting up. Thank you Rachael most appreciated.

Earlier this year we had a visit from the state member Mr. Phillip Donota MP and Cabonne Mayor Mr Kevin Beattie. Both were very impressed with our museum collection and displays.

Many small museums are dependent on support from their local councils. We appreciate that we as the outright owner i.e. Molong historical society inc, gets a reduction on rates each year as ratepayers we always need to raise a certain amount each year to meet our budget than then some for incidentals that may arise. The Society over many years has had contributions in many ways by raising funds from events, donations research payments. Added to this we have Grants from our local council, Museum and Galleries and other associated organisations. It is the constant work and we mix it with history, which contribute to keep going. As we can only raise a certain amount, it is necessary for museums to apply for Government Grants.

As a small museum we work closely with other organisations such as the RAHS (Royal Australian Historical Society) of which we are an affiliated member. We also benefit by being able to have our public liability insurance with them.

Again, we have had many visitors through the museum to view displays and seek family history information including cemetery records. Recently we had visitors from New Zealand. They were searching several families, one of which was the Templar family. Anna was a relative of John Templar of Templar's Mill fame. She was very surprised with the amount of information that she was given.

John Templar married one of the Barton daughters from Nyrang on Peabody Road. After a discussion, she learnt about Rosamund Campbell and Phillipa Harvey, Banjo's granddaughters (both deceased). Anna was surprised to learn that shared her second name with Rosamund and her deceased brothers name was Hugh. As they were staying in Orange for a few days, they returned via Peabody road, called into Nyrang and were made very welcome. They were unable to view the remains of Granny Barton's home, but could see the land.

With a suggested to catch up with Elizabeth Griffin (Orange member) the following day. This they did and were totally in awe of the further information, Elizabeth told them about their family. They were given a tour of Narrambla and surrounds. I believe they intend to return.

You will read about the afternoon planned for a thought fest on the "bottom block" of Bank Street. This research is turning up some interesting information. I do hope you can join us on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

By the way, if anyone has tried to ring the Museum, the phone is off air, waiting for TELESTRA and NBN to fix it up. Our Secretary has spent hours on the phone and emails, trying to get it corrected. The phone has been out of order for six weeks. If you wish to contact the Museum, please contact the Secretary (0400425015)

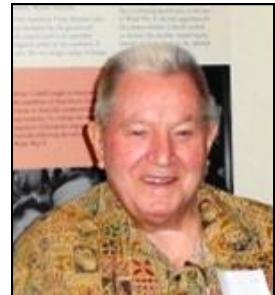
Until next time, best wishes to all.

*Marie Hammond  
President.*

#### VALE

Recently we received news that Old Fairbridgian, Dennis Silver passed away in Sydney.

Dennis was President of the Old Fairbridgians Association (OFA) for many years and was a supporter of the Molong Museum. He attended most reunions, missing the most recent due to ill health.



Dennis left England in 1937 (aged 7) and arrived at Northcote Children's Farm School, Victoria. He was transferred to Fairbridge, Molong in 1944.  
Our Condolences to his family and friends

## ARTISAN DAY March 26th

Well what a day! It's all over but the whole event was very successful. It was a perfect day with visitors admiring the work and skills of the craft people and artisans.



The lovely old vintage cars and bikes were much admired as was Bob Sullivan's newly acquired Buggy that was also on display. There was much conversation generated about it and one can only wonder at the stories that must have been associated with it. It was previously locally owned so perhaps someone will recognise it one day.

The lace making ,done by Margaret was so fine and incredibly beautiful, many men and women were seen watching her skilful hands as she sat working in the sun.

The clever people from Orange Lapidary Club were also had many admirers talking and showing some of the results of their efforts and hobby. Amazing even pieces of different glass can look like diamonds. Have to watch what we buy!



I can go on but really do have to write about the Lucknow Whisperers. These women have got amazing talents. Visitors were so pleasantly surprised to find not only a sea of beauty and colour on show with their quilts but the women were sewing away on their sewing machine. Lots of conversations and admiration as visitors

went from one room to the next Looking at the different styles and also other articles like the beautiful bags.

There was so much more but a big, thank you to all involved and all the supporters .

Thank you sincerely.  
*Marie Hammond*  
*President*  
*Molong Historical Society.*



## AUTUMN BOOK & PLANT SALE



On the last weekend of Autumn, there was a hive of activity at the museum. The verandah was crowded with people checking for books, plants and bric-a-brac and catching up with friends. Many took the opportunity to check out the museum and ask about their families in Molong.

The raffle of a quilt donated by the Lucknow Whispers, was won by Julie Donner of Molong. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets throughout the last two months.

The committee would like to thank everyone who donated books and assisted over the week. Special mention to the following who assisted with sorting, pricing, and preparing before the event, Lorraine Oates, John Pocknall (from Canberra) John & Marie Hammond, Michael Cass (who stayed overnight), Lynne Robertson, Sue Milne, Jeannie Bennett and Annette . A extra big Thank you to Rozzi Smith who donated many boxes of books to the Society for sale.

## BANK STREET

Can you help identify the location of the owners/ shops

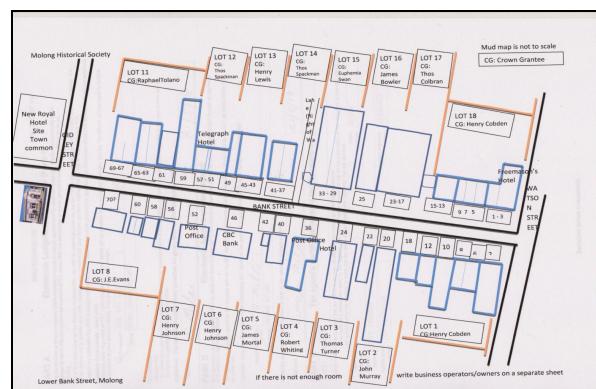
Our major project for 2018/19 is to compile a database of the first block of Bank Street, Molong. This will include information from newspapers, our files, photographs and memories from locals. We are after information from 1850's until the present day.

One of the major parts is collecting information from residents (past & present) of their recollections of shops, owners and experiences of shopping and working in this area.

Catherine has put together a plan of the area of work and would like to add to this story.

A copy is attached to this newsletter. Extra copies can be collected at the museum each Thursday.

Join us on Saturday 11th August or call in on a Thursday.



## MULTUM IN PARVO

(much in little)

These words are the slogan chosen by Robert W. Thomson to adorn his shop entrance. In April 1889 a devastating fire took hold at Mr Sampson Moss' Telegraph Hotel and destroyed both Thomson's shop and the hotel. The owner of the property rebuilt the shops destroyed and Mr Thomson then chose his motto.

Before this destructive fire the building and land was originally owned by Henry Lewis, also known as "Jessy" Lewis. Mr Lewis wanted to sell up and go back to visit England in 1866 and he put his place on the market advertising it in the newspaper named "Empire" on 24 April 1866. Mr Lewis was selling a HOUSE, situated in Bank-street, West Molong on the main trunk road from Orange to Wellington, containing three rooms, and a large shop, with baking oven, store, sheds, a pailed garden, fowl yards, piggeries &c. The GARDEN was well stocked with choice fruit trees, vines in trellises. The produce of the fruit was adequate to sell independent of what was used for the house. This property was on one acre of rich alluvial land and was fenced, behind the garden the land ran back to Hill-street which frontage to the creek was to never be built on or disposed. Mr Lewis advised he had a "most payable business" which had been carried on for ten years since as a general store, drapery and with a grocery line.

Between 1866 and 1880 not much is known about the business or who ran the shop, as it was in 1880 that J.T. Parslow included this land in his holdings and purchased the shop. It is likely this is when Mr Thomson started his Bakery and Confectionery business.

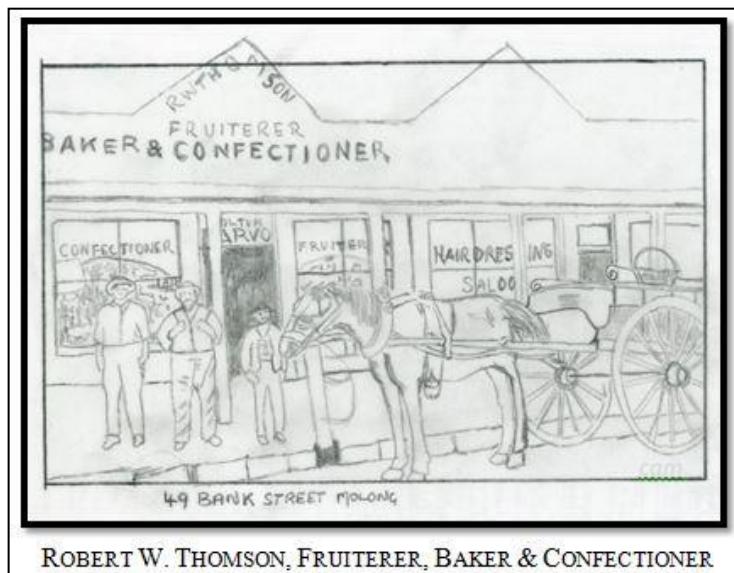
Mr Robert Thomson was born about 1855 in the Windsor district east of the Blue Mountains and he came to Molong when he was about 23 years in 1878 and worked as a blacksmith, possibly for Mr Moss. He then went into the grocery and baking business which he carried on till his death in 1902.

The fire in March 1889 meant that the shop and the hotel had to both be rebuilt. Mr Parslow rebuilt the three shops destroyed, the one closest to the hotel was Mr Thomson's. At the inquest for the fire, Sampson Moss believed the fire broke out in Thomson's shop but it was proved that it began in the bar, the front of the hotel was constructed in wood and there was a partition of wattle and daub between the bar and the dining room. When all were aroused to the scream of "Fire" the flames had reached the parlour. Mr Moss conceded he really didn't know where the fire started. Robert Thomson gave evidence and described himself as a blacksmith and fruiterer. He stated his stock was insured with Phoenix Insurance for £90 and the furniture for £130, the house being the property of Mr Parslow fell under his insurance. Thomson lost about £90 in stock and about £30 in furniture.

The rebuilding work commenced very quickly, Moss new premises were still being erected when his publican licence came up for renewal in July 1889, he was operating out of temporary premises. The Parslow new shops were built next door but not joining the hotel there being about a three foot (nearly a metre) gap between the buildings. The hotel was a single storey brick building with three chimneys, three front windows and two doorways and a verandah, under the windows were bench seats on the footway for patrons to partake or passer-by's to rest.

Mr Thomson advertised in the Molong Argus in 1898 that his shop was opposite the Post Office in Bank Street and he would continue his tradition of decorating his expansive shop windows with Christmas "fruits, cakes and other toothsome edibles". It "displayed everything conceivable in the line of cakes, pastry, fancy lollies, toys, groceries, hams, and if one fancies a nice fruit pudding". This was the place to visit. He also had "the celebrated Burrawong Jams, Canned Fruits and Preserves" and his famous establishment "the best of bread", which can be purchased at the small cost of 2 shillings for the 2 pound loaf.

After Mr Thomson's death, his sons, Ern and Percy, attempted to continue the business during a depression which was being keenly felt in the Molong District and it was not long before they sold the business to Mr Edwards in May 1903.



The above building that Thomson occupied was one of a group of three shops destroyed by fire in 1915 that were occupied by George Billingham a tailor, A. Staines a hairdresser and T. Mallick a draper. By October 1915 the shops were rebuilt, and being occupied by Billingham and Staines and the third shop by G. Kallinicos a fruit and restaurant business.

Researched by Catherine Mackenzie for Molong Historical Society Journal, Source material can be found on TROVE in The Molong *Express* and Molong *Argus* old newspapers and as mentioned also the *Empire*.

## FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL NEWS

### OLD FAIRBRIDGIAN'S REUNION

The bi-annual Reunion of the Old Fairbridgians Association (OFA) was held in March. It marked the fact that it is 80 years since the first children arrived from England as part of the British Child Immigration Scheme. Molong. On Saturday 10th March, the Museum welcomed about 70 Fairbridgians and families to view the museum and afternoon tea.



During the afternoon, the "FAIRBRIDGE CHILDREN'S PARK" was launched by David Hill, Leonard Lynch (Landscape Architect) and Peter Morton. This project is to develop the present Fairbridge Memorial Park, along the creek bed. The Fairbridge story in the children's eyes, will be displayed in a series of objects and panels. The aim is to have it as an active area for travellers to stop for a break and learn about the village..

The Eddie Lambert Collection of photographs were on display along the verandah. There were several groups identifying house mates and catching up with them. The extended displays within the museum were of interest especially the copy of a book that contained children's works from 1952.



Many of the Fairbridgians return to Orange to attend the formal dinner and prepare for the AGM the following day.

### ORANGE SHOW

Molong Historical Society featured at the recent Orange Show with a display of Fairbridge Farm, that included Junior Farmers Organisation and sulkies loaned by Bob Sullivan.

As a follow on from this FAIRBRIDGE will be the feature event at the Molong Show which is on Sunday 16th September. It is 80 years since the first child arrived from England and over 1000 children came from England over the next 30 years.

*Sulky built by Colliers Coachbuilders of Orange and owned by the Bennett family of Molong.*



## DONATIONS TO THE FAIRBRIDGE COLLECTION

The museum has received the following donations to their collection

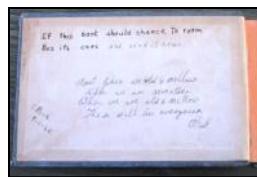
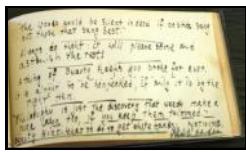
**1947 Autograph Book Belonging to Clara Elizabeth Mann Park (1938 Oransay).**

The book was used between 1943 & 1947 and contains quotes from several people. Names include Bigrigg, Jacobs, Watt, Bennett, Sampson, Silver, Mitchell, Richards, Gillies, Hill, MacDonald, Ball and Oates

**Navy Records Stewart James Park (1938 Oronsay)**

Original Service Record of Stewart Park who served from 1943 to discharge in 1946.

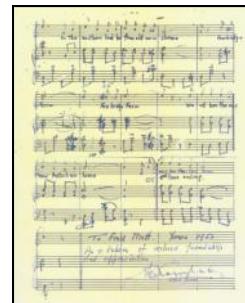
*These 2 items donated by Lynnette Clark daughter of Clara*



## 1952 Poetry & Art Book

In 1952, Mr Frederick Mott, Headmaster of Fairbridge Public School encouraged the children to write poems about everyday life. He compiled these into a small book which has recently been donated. Many of the entries were by OFA's who attended the Reunion.

Mr Mott wrote one of the School Anthems and the original manuscript was also donated.



## FOR SALE

Recently the museum has had donated two new newly compiled lists of all the children who are known to have spent time at Fairbridge, Molong. One is a alphabetical order while the other is in chronological order.

A book including the lists, along with other information is available for sale at the museum for \$25.00 (\$20.00 for Fairbridge kids)

Also available DVD's .

- History of Fairbridge Farm by Ian Bailiff
- Eddy Lambert Board Photographs

These are available for \$20.00 each

**FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL**

FAIRBRIDGE FARM 1937-1973

CONTENTS

Fairbridge School Prayer, Hymn & Song  
History of Fairbridge Farm by David Rutherford  
History of the Old Fairbridgian Association  
Explanation of Lists  
Alphabetical List of Fairbridge Children 1938-1972  
Chronological listing of all parties between 1938-1966  
Fairbridge Honour Board at RSL Club  
Produced by Molong Historical Society  
20 Riddell Street Molong

## ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM “PADDOCK TO PLATE”



Orange Regional Museum latest exhibit “PADDOCK TO PLATE” was officially opened on Saturday 7th April. A market Day was held on the Courtyard, with local businesses participating. Included were stalls from Molong, Orange, Banjo Paterson (Yeoval) and Millthorpe Museums.



One of the exhibits is on the Wheat Flail from Molong. The story has been included with permission from Orange Regional Museum.

Millthorpe, and Orange Historical Societies in first stand Banjo Paterson Museum and Molong Historical Society in second one.

### Object in focus: Wheat flail from Molong

By Sandra McEwen, Consultant Curator, *Paddock to Plate: a history of food and wine in Orange and district*



It's not often that I'm lost for words...but it happened recently. I was rummaging in a cupboard at Molong Historical Museum, looking for treasures. Suddenly, out of the darkness emerged a wheat flail that was made and used in 1873. The label attached indicated that Sam Clarke used it on his first wheat crop grown at Home Plain, Gregra. It wasn't just a wheat flail. It was one in excellent condition, with a complete story!



wheat stalks and

Wheat flails were used for the horrible job of beating (winnowing) the outer casings off ears of wheat to produce clean grain. The user hung on to the longer stick and thrashed the wheat with the short one. Leather tied the two sticks together. In 1884 the task was taken over by stripper-harvesters that could both reap the heads off wheat stalks and winnow them to harvest grain in one operation.

Wheat flails weren't precious, so not many have survived to tell their tales. This discovery at Molong reinforced for me what an important role small regional museums play in preserving the treasures of our rural past. That little wheat flail sat undisturbed in the dark for many, many years, just waiting for its time to shine. The exhibition will be full of gems similar to this one. Whatever you do, don't miss it!

(Images: Sam Clarke's Flail, c.1873. Molong Historical Museum)

(reprinted with permission of the Orange Regional Museum

Recently Catherine received this request, if you can assist please reply to-  
[molongmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:molongmuseum@hotmail.com)

### THOMAS RAIN (convict)

Is there anyone living in the area who is perhaps a descendant of a family who may have information from 1848. Any small piece of info would be greatly appreciated Sue Dahlke

I have a convict ancestor, Thomas Raine (not the convict ship captain of the same name), who was originally assigned to the Wellington Valley Mission with Rev William Watson. He married Teresa Kelly in Wellington in 1845 and in 1848 their daughter Alice Raine was baptised by Rev William Watson on what I believe was the Yullundry Run which Andrew Kerr had at the time. I know that Thomas was in the employ of Andrew Kerr as a shepherd or stock keeper. Their son Arthur was later baptised in the area in 1851. I have no record of Thomas Raine after that date. I am looking for absolutely any information about Yullundry which may lead me to finding out more about Thomas. I have never been able to find him deceased. I believe he would have stayed in the area and possibly died there.

To assist you I have given your a brief timeline of what I know of Thomas Raine. As he was a convict he would not have been able to purchase land prior to getting his conditional pardon in 1848. Therefore, any mention of a Thomas Raine acquiring any property prior to that date would not be my Thomas Raine.

Arrived Sydney January 1833 on Mary III

1837 Muster – with William Watson at Wellington Valley – Police District of Bathurst

11 February 1841 – Received Ticket of Leave

28 May 1845 Marriage to Teresa Kelly at Wellington

30 April 1847 TOL passport – allowed to stay with A Kerr on the border district of WLG and Bligh

29 April 1848 Alice baptised - father Shepherd. (I believe still with A Kerr)

1 October 1848 - Received Conditional pardon

26 January 1851 baptised Parish of Bathurst – County of Bathurst. (Records at Kelso) Rev. Coffey

When Alice Rain got married in Sydney in 1867 to Patrick Smith, the notice in the paper stated that she was the daughter of the late Thomas Raine. From that I have assume one of three things.

1. That Thomas Raine was dead by 1867
2. That Alice assume he was dead because the family had had no contact with him.
3. That the person writing the notice assume she was the daughter of Captain Thomas Raine who had died in 1860.

# BOOKS FOR SALE

(updated 27/3/2018)

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	\$15.00
Noel Cantrill	BOREMORE 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

## Ten ways to support your Society

- Come to meetings as a member, join the Society.
- Participate in the meeting and offer constructive alternatives
- Attend even if it is inconvenient
- Respect the efforts of everyone in the group and praise these efforts
- Volunteer for jobs even if they don't fall in your interest area
- Put your name forward for committee positions and accept the voting results.
- Offer an opinion when asked while never talking about how it failed.
- Praise the work of everyone.
- Do what you can do and have fun doing it.
- Include everyone in all events, the Society working together.

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." *John F. Kennedy*

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." *Henry Ford*



*MOLONG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st JULY 2019**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

..... POSTCODE .....

PHONE.....

MOBILE/WORK.....

EMAIL..... (If applicable)

SIGNATURE..... DATE .....

**AREAS OF INTEREST (please tick)**

Cataloging/accessions	Displays/social history	Computers/website
Photographs	oral History	Machinery &equipment
Members Shed	catering	Duty roster
Education	Friend of the museum	

My special interest is .....

Yearly Fees are \$20.00

BANKING DETAILS BSB 062573 28007189

I wish to make a donation to The Molong Historical Society Inc

\$.....

Please return this membership form and your payment to the Secretary

**Office Use only**

Receipt Number ..... Date.....  
Approved yes/no On mailing List yes/no

Box 119, Molong NSW 2866  
20 Riddell Street MOLONG NSW 2866