

# Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 12  
JULY 2022

## Points of Interest:

Museum, located at 20 Riddell Street,

(Cnr Gidley St) Molong

PO BOX 119 Molong

CLOSED during building works

Appointment only

Contact 0400425015

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



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021/22

President—	Bob Sullivan	(0427696256)
Vice President—	Elizabeth Griffin	(0437868595)
Secretary—	Sue Milne	(0400425015)
	<a href="mailto:susanmilne55@gmail.com">susanmilne55@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer—	Susan Grinpukel	
Committee	Lynne Robertson	
	Julie Lawrie	
	Michael Cass	
Historian—	Catherine Mackenzie	

PATRONS Des Sullivan, Jean Bennett, Marie and John Hammond.

## FEES DUE JULY 1<sup>st</sup> 2022

Molong Historical Society annual fees

They are \$20 each (\$40 family).

To be able to vote at the AGM

(you must be a financial member to vote)

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

Bank Details BSB 062573 28007189

## FOR YOUR DIARY



Saturday  
13th August 2022

(see page 3)

# FOR YOUR DIARY. MAG

Molong Advancement Group (MAG) are requesting the help & expertise of Molong Museum & Historical Society in updating the notice boards around Molong. The boards are located at sites of interest and at areas that tourists frequently stop. They provide information on Molong. MAG is updating them to include snippets of history and interest for visitors.

They will compliment the "Walks of Molong" Brochure recently launched by the Rotary Club

The boards are located at

- Railway Station
- Caravan Park
- Highway entrance Recreation Ground
- Edward Street entrance to the Recreation Ground.
- Village Green

Each article will be about 350 words and include photographs.

(Image courtesy of MAG Facebook page)



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## MOLONG SHOW

The Society will be attending the Molong Show on Sunday 18th September.

The Show will be bigger and will include fireworks and more new events.

The Show is an opportunity to meet up with friends that you have not seen for many years.

In 2019 Marie and Rozzi met up with Mrs Burgess, visiting Molong for the weekend.



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## BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL



BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL will be held from the 17th February to 23rd February 2023 Events are starting to be planned by ORANGE 360.

At our last Committee Meeting it was decided that in 2023 we would do something different than previous years.

We are planning to have an "Evening at the Museum" on Sunday 19th February. This will include poetry and stories of Banjo, perhaps a short movie or play, and include drinks and nibbles. Elizabeth is welcome to any suggestions or anyone who would like to assist with entertainment.

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## FAIRBRIDGE Reunion 3/4 March 2023 More later

# Annual General Meeting

Our 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

SATURDAY 13th AUGUST 2022

At the Museum

Commencing at 2pm

All positions will be declared vacant and Committee selected.

John Black( Black's Mill fame) will be guest speaker

Afternoon Tea will follow.

## REMINDER

To be able to vote, you will need to be financial for 2022/2023

RSVP recommended

## NEW SECRETARY NEEDED

I will not be standing for Secretary this year. It has been hard to make this decision as I have enjoyed my time in this position, but after ten years it is time to pass the position on. I have health issues that I need to look after and am reducing my time spent volunteering.

I am happy to remain as Editor and Fairbridge contact as well as researcher.

Sue

CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS AND CORRUPTION  
By Kate Gadsby

Copies available for sale at the museum



# REDBANK REPORT FROM MARGARET 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Good morning dear family and friends. Sorry about these huge lists. No time to do otherwise before leaving today.



What a day we had on Wednesday 13 April for Redbank Corriedale stud 102 - and 14th! A load of help for last-minute preparation and thanks to all who helped so much on exhibits, garden, lending 'stuff', and a surprise celebration of our Beck and Scotty's 20th anniversary the day afterwards.

We couldn't have wished for a more magic day - in a fine blooming autumn. We held our breath for no rain, hail, frosts... Redbank garden *did* look its best - and many

hands pulled weeds, planted, trimmed, mowed. And then the great unknown - how many to park, seat, feed and water? I guessed around 200+, even with Covid and only local promotion (although no word to my other half or he would have fled). That number seemed about it from when the yummy lamb rolls and sandwiches ran out. A great crowd.

We really missed those of you who couldn't come or laid low by Covid - especially Dunc and Gemma. But are heading their way tomorrow as we unexpectedly take matriarch Meg Braddock back to Narooma today, then go onto Merimbula and our youngest darlings. So sorry for the two big families hit at the last moment - our faithful bookkeeper till she was 101. Woody's Bribie Island Q family who made it to Dubbo before discovering Judith had the virus. So tough. And our old mates the Potters, recently moved from Katherine to NSW south coast, who found out Sunday that Sara was sick. We do hope you are all recovering.

\* Two Wednesday guests have since said they tested positive from earlier contacts (not our day). We hope no others, but that may be optimistic.



There is a long thank you list which I'm gradually getting through by phone. But we'd like to acknowledge the great band, Geoff Tonkin and **November Shorn** who always make our big events so special; the 4 excellent speakers who added knowledge and interest (elder son Robbie Carroll, Angus Ireland from AWI, our long-term agent Geoff Chandler, and Chris Kemp filling in for NSW Corriedale president Tony Manchester who suddenly took ill; Wiradjuri Elder Rita Fisher who did a fine Welcome to Country; the amazing artisans from Bathurst, Dubbo, Wollongong, Orange and Molong. They knitted, spun, wove and felted their way through the day - and inspired heaps of visitors. **Special mention of Kathy Salter and her beautiful Redbank banner hanging from the Cape Chestnut. She felted it from our wool and imprint-ed gum leaf colours picked along the avenue. A work of art!**



MC Rob Sullivan was the best - keeping the day moving, filling gaps when the caterers' generator conked out, and Alan Hubbards' hand-shears didn't quite work on Ewe no.1. Top marks to Al who soldiered on with good humour and skill, sidekick roustabout Tony Lloyd who picked up the wool, and shearer Ivan who tackled one wooly escapee. It all enlivens the day!

Oh - and ace caterers were our neighbours' the Middleton girls and their Crich grandparents, parking people Angus Byrne and Wil Carroll, Gerry Aquila and Robbie Scott; Aunty Barbs, Eliza, Mia and Zali on entrance tables, Chancellors of the Exchequer Pete Salter and Scotty Byrne on money matters, daughters Beck and ThiThi and my old friend Ada Clark on sales tables. **Molong Preschool** drew a youthful crowd painting faces and making things. And **Mo-long Historical Society** ladies knocked themselves out selling slices and scones, donating all proceeds to CWA Ballina for flood relief.



**\*Thanks to everyone for generosity to raffle, gold coin donations and buying stuff, we raised around \$2,500 to send to Ballina. So good!**

Last but not least - NO is the answer to those bright sparks suggesting I now organise 2023 for 140 years of Carroll settlement at Redbank, or 105 years of the stud in 2025...!! I'm off having fun with family and getting back to National Library oral histories for light relief!

Heartfelt thanks for coming over and celebrating with us. Everyone mentioned the great friendly atmosphere and being able to talk to anyone. That's what we aimed for - an extended family affair to pat stud master and reluctant attendee Bill Carroll in particular on the back.

Best wishes  
Marg and Bill Carroll  
02 6366 8580/0421 665201

## GROWING UP IN MOLONG (A series of memories)



Ivy Barrett has offered to contribute a few memories of her childhood growing up in the Molong District in the 30's and 40's.

Ivy is the daughter of Bertie and Clara Bennett of Rose Glen, Garra. Ivy will soon celebrate her 95th birthday and is looking forward to this. This photo has been taken recently at Prunus Lodge where she now resides.

### Blackberrying at Mount Canobolas

Some years we would take a day off from fruit work - load the Chev Truck up with buckets and billies, people and food, sling a water bag underneath, and off we would go! We had comfy seats utilising "gin cases" - strong bushel cases, sometimes used for packing pears or apples - with cushions in them. Father had attached shoulder high rails so we wouldn't fall out. And off we would go - family, relatives and friends.



- This is possibly the chevy truck Ivy describes in her article. It is of a original 1928 Chevrolet Truck used on Rose Glen.

Photo and information provided by Ron Barrett of Tamworth.

- The picture is taken at the 1935 "Back to Molong" Celebrations.

It was approximately an hour's travelling to our destination: the fresh water spring on the western slope of Mount Canobolas. On arrival we would head off with billies and buckets to locate the best patch to pick the luscious black berries. Water from the spring ran through a culvert under the road and continued down the paddock into the creek. The blackberry vines crowded the creek banks, having ready supply of water. The berries were big, shiny and plentiful - but difficult to reach! However, with the aid of a pair of secateurs, and sometimes a ladder, a fair share of berries could be reached.

Then back to the truck for lunch - and to compare who had the most, and biggest berries - and maybe the most prickles! Lunch over and back to the task. On one of these excursions my fiancé and brother were standing by the spring overlooking the culvert when a red belly black snake appeared. We threw some stones at it, and then it disappeared down the culvert, luckily, never to be seen again.

Come 3pm and we assembled at the truck for afternoon tea. Folk were satisfied they had sufficient berries, plus scratches, so loaded up and headed for home.

**Tomorrow there would be jam to make!**

Ivy

## RECENT DONATIONS

We have been lucky to receive several donations to add to our collection.

### PACKHAM PHOTOGRAPHS

Barbara Higginson, the Packham Family Historian, left two framed portraits to be donated to the Molong Museum. These were delivered by Therese Baker and her family.

The portraits were of Charles Henry Packham and his wife Mary Robards, who lived at "Little Quickbourne" until Charles bought the land known as "Cherry Hill" near Molong. They then bought "Clifton" where Charles developed a variety of pears that are known as a "Packham Triumph".



### BOARDMAN GRAPE BOX

In early May, we were contacted about a small grape box that may be of interest to us. Ray New of Forbes donated this grape box owned by AA Boardman of Molong.

Arthur Arnold Boardman born in 1876 and married Hannah Bennett. They lived at Pinecliffe and raised seven children. His vineyard at Pinecliff was founded when Arthur returned with a dray full of cutting after pruning a neighbors grapes. Their vines were irrigated by gravity from the dam on the property.

According to his daughter Lillian New, he had to dive into the dam to turn the water on. The vineyard eventually ceased production because the water became too salty. The grapes were sent to Sydney to be sold. If the agents had any left, they would dump them into the sea.

Arthur died February 1948. The local paper reported he shot himself at Melrose Farm where he had been living with his son Arthur.



# FAIRBRIDGE REUNION

The Old Fairbridgeans Bi-annual Reunion has been rescheduled to 2023. It was delayed this year due to COVID restrictions. The Reunion is scheduled for the weekend of 4/5 March with the Annual General Meeting taking place on Sunday morning.

Saturday will be free day with the opportunity to visit Molong to catch up at the museum and have a break at the Children's Park, possibly with a picnic style lunch. Light refreshments will be available at the museum throughout the day.

Cabonne Council has commenced repairing the damage from the floods of November 2021. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

## FAIRBRIDGE MEMORIAL PARK

We are gathered here from many places  
To where we used to play by Molong Creek  
Looking around at friendly faces  
Some are crying as they speak.

Years ago, we last met the others  
As we are scattered far and wide,  
Now catching up with sisters and brothers  
Our joy and tears so hard to hide.

Once again, we could all ring the bell,  
That told us what to do and when,  
A different tone it had as we could tell,  
But it would never rule as it did then.

To view the new park is an easy walk  
Where old memories start coming back.  
As following the years, you start to talk,  
Of those early years that left their mark.

To dedicate this park, we came this day,  
To honour those who were sent out here  
With no love or affection in any way  
Hundreds of lonely children filled with fear.

To all of those who worked together  
To make this dream come true.  
Out in the open, in all sorts of weather  
Our thanks go out to you.

**Jim Napper**



Poem written by Jim Napper, partner of Maggie MacLauchlan, a Fairbridgian who arrived in Australia in 1938 to Northcote Victoria. Margaret was transferred to Molong Fairbridge in 1944

Margaret is one of the pre-war Fairbridgians left

Poem Printed with permission of OFA's

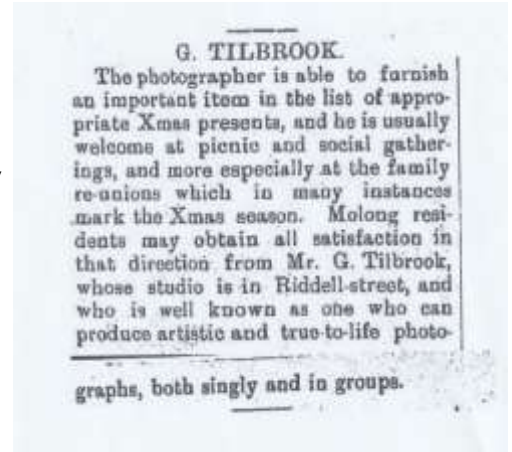


## GODFREY TILBROOK A Molong Photographer

Following a recent Significant donation of Godfrey Tilbrook 's camera and collection of his photographs, th museum is developing an exhibition on local photographers from Molong and District. This will include Tolbrook, James Brothers, Benjamin Pocknall and others.

Tilbrook was renown for his early landscape's, studio portraits and buildings around Molong dating from 1905. The James Brothers were known for their early portaints and landscapes around Wollongong and Molong , while Ben Pocknall operated around Molong and Pinecliffe area,.

If you have photographs of any of these or others, we would like to share them with the community

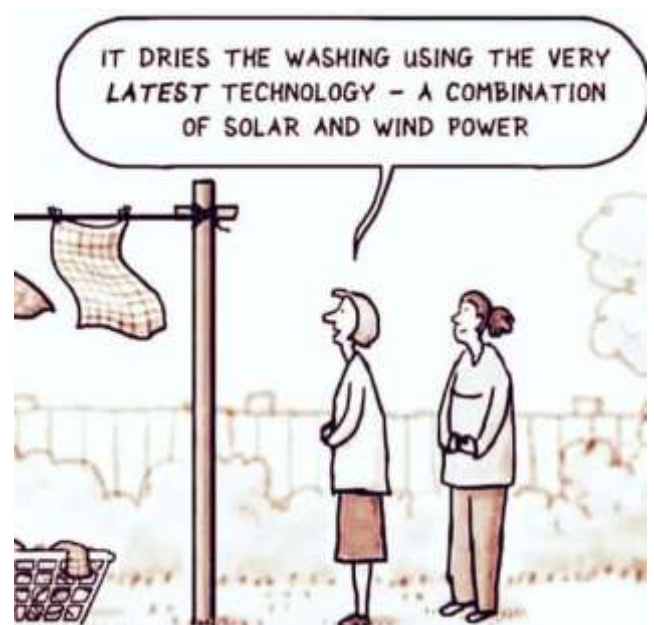


Molong Express Saturday 17th  
December 1910

Please contact Julie or John Pocknall or the museum (0400425015)  
email molonghs@gmail.com

### FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS

It may not be generally known, although it should be, that New South Wales has the honor of being the first country in the whole world to use postage stamps. In 1837 on Rowland Hill's recommendation, a parliamentary committee in Great Britain had reported in favour of stamped covers or envelopes. A copy of this recommendation reached Sydney in due course, and the then postmaster, Mr Raymond recommended its adoption in New South Wales. The Governor approved this on November 14, 1838, and in the "Gazette" informed the citizen "that stamped envelopes could be obtained at 1s 3d per dozen." It was not until February 1840, that Great Britain brought into use the postage stamp system. If anyone to-day could unearth one of these original stamped envelopes, he would find it more profitable than backing the winner of the Melbourne Cup - Observer.



*ANYBODY CAN MAKE HISTORY.  
ONLY A GREAT MAN CAN WRITE IT.*

OSCAR WILDE

# MOLONG IN THE 70's

## A GLANCE THROUGH OLD FILES

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

From Molong Express Saturday 14th March 1903

May 25, 1877, Mr. Joe Black of Bathurst has entered into negotiations for the purchase of a site for a flour mill in Molong. The present mill is full to overflowing with wheat and most of the buildings of local buyers are in a similar predicament, although Mr. Black has signified his intention of setting up as a miller here would nevertheless be will for the question of a Co-operative Flour Mill to be discussed.

.....  
PUBLIC NOTICE -John McGroder notified that he has purchased the plant and goodwill of W. Tanner's chaff cutting business and although hay is being sent from Molong to the Bogan, customers need not be alarmed as the advertiser has secured one hundred tons of the best hay in the district.

.....  
The first annual picnic in connection with the establishment of the "Pride of the West" Lodge of the M.U. Oddfellows was interfered by rain yesterday.

.....  
DEMISE-Mr. F Milgate, of Bell River, aged 56 years.

.....  
June 1st 1877 Snow fell in Molong on Monday last.

.....  
Mr. Black has finally decided upon erecting a mill with three pairs of stones in Molong and a corner allotment facing the rivulet operations will be commenced immediately.

.....  
This year the quality of blankets handed out to the Aborigines was very poor. There was also a decrease in the number of applicants and from signs it is evident that blankets will shortly cease to be given away altogether.

June 8th, 1877, at a meeting of some eighty townspeople, held on Monday last, to consider the question of rail extension to Molong, Mr. Haslam said, "INTER ALIA: The revenue paid into the local Court House in two years would be sufficient to build the branch line Orange to Molong. Moreover, let us tell the Government plainly that if they don't make the line, we want permission to do it ourselves-and make a good thing out of it too. (loud cheers) Mr. John Smith, of Gamboola, also held the opinion and spoke as it was willing not only to take a share, but a very large share, too. (Hear, hear, and cheers).

## RESEARCH REQUESTS

The Research team has had several inquiries that readers may be able to assist with.

A daughter is looking for information on a motorcycle accident near Copper Hill in 1960, when a ex-Fairbridge boy (passenger) was killed. Her father was the rider and he passed away recently. She knows little and would like to learn more. Can anyone help, contact the editor.

A gentleman is looking for information on his Great Grandparents John William Smith and Emmaline Bowler who lived in Orange and Molong. They owned the Orange Royal Hotel and moved over to the Club House Hotel . They also built Emmaville cottage named after Emmaline, now restored .In Molong they are listed as Licensees of the Free Mason Hotel between 1871 & 75.

There have been several members of the Bowler family visiting Molong, Orange and Millthorpe recently. They have spent time at the Yarn Market which is celebrating their 50th birthday. The Yarn Market was originally owned by the Bowler's.

A repeat request for any information on the Museum Building and history of the Society wanted. Do you know of any special occasions or visitors to the museum? Please let us know.

### DIFFERENT HISTORY from Elizabeth

A little bit of different history to enjoy. .

Those with money had plates made of pewter.

Food with high acid content caused some of the lead in the pewter to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes. So for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status.

Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf. The family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky.

The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

# BOOKS FOR SALE

(Reviewed February 2022)

## AILEEN ROBERSON

FAMILY'S OF MOLONG	\$30.00
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
ASHE VILLA	\$5.00

## ROBERT ELLIS

SESQUICENTIENNAL HISTORY OF MOLONG SHOW	\$35.00
History of WIRADJURI Aborigines	\$10.00
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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## RON SABIN & JO BAILEY

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

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

BANJO PATERSON & NARRAMBLA	\$3.00
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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** (new email)

Please include :-

Your Name, contact number

Reason for enquiry

(family research, writing book etc)

Relevant information

Phone 0400425015

Fees on Request