

Newsletter of the Molong Historical Society Inc.



VOLUME 3
ISSUE 12
MARCH 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



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020/21

President—	Bob Sullivan	(0427696256)
Vice President—	Elizabeth Griffin	(0437868595)
Secretary—	Sue Milne	(0400425015)
	susanmilne55@gmail.com	
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 1st 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

WORKING BEE

On

Saturday

26th March

from 9.30am

All encouraged to attend.



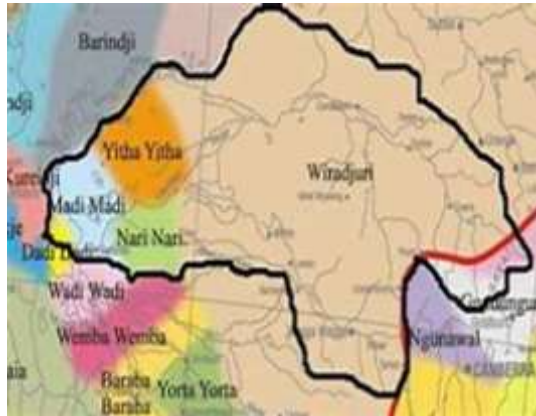
Please contact Julie OR
Sue for more details

HISTORY TALKS

Join us on 31 March when the Molong Historical Society, Elizabeth Griffin will be presenting a collection of information about the Wiradjuri Nation and culture in the Central West at the Molong Museum, at 10.30am.

We will be looking at First contact, Language, the Bathurst Wars, Foods, Cooking, Communication methods, weapons, and ceremony, as well as art.

A special tribute to Yuranigh and King Billy is also included.



REDBANK 102 year Celebrations

Come and join us for REDBANK Corriedale 102 year Celebrations



Bill Carroll(3) inspecting a REDBANK lamb held by

Wednesday 13th April 2022 10am –3pm

It's a saga, but we'll at last show fine rams and ewes, and have artisans such as spinners, felters and a peg-loom weaver to showcase wonderful wool. We'll sell our raw wool, knitted products and other goods. Molong Museum is kindly helping with the display of historic shearing gear. November Shorn band will play over lunch, available from Colette's Coffee Cart.

Contact Bill and Margaret Carroll, 401 Garra Road Molong

Phone 63668580/0421665201

Email maggiemillcarroll8@gmail.com

If you would like to assist please contact Margaret, or Julie, Bob, and Sue at the museum.

CONVICTS, CAPITALISTS AND CORRUPTION By Kate Gadsby

Copies available for sale at the museum



MOLONG WALKS

The Rotary Club of Molong held a special dinner on 17 February 2022 at the Molong RSL Club to officially launch 'Molong Walks' – a new flyer containing 3 self-guided walks around Molong, a community service project of the club.

Acknowledgement was made of financial assistance given by Cabonne Council (CAP grant), MAG and the Yarn Market.

Appreciation was expressed for the excellent support provided from the Molong Historical Society through Catherine McKenzie (information) and John and Julie Lawrie ('road testers'/liaison between the society and club). The efforts of the other 'road testers' was also mentioned.

The flyer was professionally designed by Georgia Kraljevic (Bowler) of 'The Curly Creator'. Georgia is Molong born and bred. Her local knowledge helped in the process of designing the flyer.

Entertainment was provided by the presentation of 2 vocal items by Grace Parry, a Year 10 student at Molong Central School.

Copies of the flyers have been placed in a number of businesses around Molong and in Visitor Information Centres around the Central West. They have had a positive reception.

Margaret Dean
President
Rotary Club of Molong



YEOVAL BOOK LAUNCH By Alf Cantrell



The launching of the reprint of the 1963 Clement Semmler publication *A B "Banjo" Paterson* was held at "Buckinbah" on Saturday 12th February. This was an opportunity to experience firsthand the location in Yeoval where young "Barty" Paterson spent his childhood years.

Mr Peter Semmler OAM QC is the son of the late Clement Semmler OBE AM, author of the original publication. Clement Semmler wrote several books on the life and works of A B Paterson as well as several other poets of the day. Peter told of his father (who was the Deputy Manager of the ABC) spending long evenings over the typewriter as he wrote the history of many of our Australian poets and writers. Peter Semmler went on to tell that his father was very proud of his historic publications and that he did this to leave behind a legacy for future generations. We can be for ever grateful for his devotion to the job as he left a wonderful collection of publications for future generations.

All those present were able to walk amongst the ruins and share time in this special place in Australia's history before joining together in a morning tea at the Banjo Paterson...more than a Poet Museum. The book reprint was very well received. It was printed with the assistance of Cabonne Council and is a fundraiser for the Major A B Paterson Sculpture appeal.

Copies are available from the Banjo Paterson Museum and will be mailed to anywhere in Australia free of postage cost. The book cost is \$15 and can be ordered on Ebay or by contacting the Museum on 0427 208913

Eulogy for Mum; Maureen Kirkwood.

Maureen was born on 29th September 1933 at Penrith and passed away aged 88 at Gosling Creek Nursing Home in Orange on 28th December 2021. Maureen attended Penrith High where she was both a good athlete and academic student. Maureen loved to sing and would often sing hymns and duets with her sister Christine. Maureen loved classical music and was brought up in a musical household and taught the piano by her mother Bridie who was a professional pianist. One of Maureen's favourite composers was Beethoven and she spent many hours practising the piano with her brother Ted.

Maureen in 1961 married David Kirkwood and although they initially lived and raised their family in Blue Mountains, Maureen and David moved to Molong in 1992 to live at 'Hacienda' following the death of her father Warren Tanner. Maureen loved the farm and soon got involved in managing the cattle. It wasn't long before she and David got involved in the Molong Historical Society as her great grandfather William Tanner Junior had been the first Mayor of Molong and a local businessman. Maureen was honored in 2016 with Life Membership of the Molong Historical Society.



Maureen for forty years was an infant's teacher who was known as Mrs Kirkwood to the hundreds of kindy kids she taught over her career, many of whom attended Faulconbridge Public School. She used to each afternoon after school love to paint the classroom windows, draw amazing chalk pictures on the blackboard and decorate the classroom so that her class would have a full day of enjoyable lesson the next day. In her early years, it was obvious that Maureen was going to end up being a teacher as she used to have an array of dolls who she would speak to and place in classes.

Maureen also got involved in the local Anglican Church where she was an organist for many years. Maureen and David were both devoted to their church and brought their children up in the Christian faith. Maureen sang in various choirs in the district which she enjoyed immensely. Maureen was also an excellent landscape artist, having completed a commercial art course whilst studying teaching. Maureen enjoyed a number of fantastic holidays over the years, often travelling on bus trips with many of her local friends to places like Lake Eyre, Broken Hill and Victoria. She also enjoyed travelling to Las Vegas, South Island of New Zealand in 2007 and Cambodia in 2012. Maureen on many of these occasions held up the tour by taking endless photos which she would later transform into beautiful paintings



. She had a wonderful bond with her grandsons Joshua, Timothy, Fraser and Jeremy. She was always interested in what they were doing, was extremely proud of them and loved them very much, having a real knack of buying the perfect gift for them each.

Maureen was a remarkable lady. She loved living life and was always busy, extremely generous and a great friend to all. She will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and kind heart.

Compiled by: **Warren Edward Tanner (Ted)** brother, **Christine Gallagher** sister, **Peter Kirkwood** son, **Andrew Kirkwood** son, **Kathy Brown** daughter, **Philip Kirkwood** son

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Maureen was awarded Life Membership of the Molong Historical Society in 2016 for her commitment to the Society over the past twenty years which continued to her passing in 2021.



Maureen playing the Pinecliffe Organ during her last visit to the museum

Maureen and her husband David joined the Society when they relocated to Molong in 1992, following her father, Warren's death, to manage the family property. From the time they joined, they were very active in the running of the Society, David was Treasurer from 1995 until his death, Maureen took over the role and resigned in 2015, due to ill health. She continued on as Assistant Secretary as well as passing her knowledge to others of early Molong, her grandfather being an Mayor of both Molong and Orange and on many committees in both towns.

Maureen will be missed by all and always remembered as a lady loved by all who met her.



Maureen, Des Sullivan, Marie Hammond and Jean Bennett at the 50th Celebrations of the Society.



Ruth Bloomfield, Maureen and Jean Bennett (3 Life members) catch up in 2020 during a visit

AILEEN MARIE ROBERSON

We were saddened to learn that Aileen Roberson had passed away on the 22nd of January 2022 aged 81. Aileen will be missed by all as she was involved with several local organizations in Molong including the Historical Society.

Aileen was born in 1940 to James and Liela Lewis, being one of fourteen children, learnt the value of family and sticking together in good and bad times. She was raised in the Christian Faith and took God's teachings on board. She was mother to seven children, and always found ways to Make memories and encouraged them to study. She was always assisting family and friends when they were sick or in need. Aileen was involved with her community from her earliest days. She attended Mothers Club, and school tuck shops (at one time on three rosters) and the church community, Treasure of the local Pensioners Association and St Vincent De Paul (local op Shop) as well as street stalls and garage sales for Acacia Lodge and Chris Riley's YOTS.

Aileen loved history and published eight books over the years, about Molong. These includes books n Church history, interesting locals, and buildings. In 1993 she compiled a book "Families of Molong' with assistance from the Society and members. This book is used as to reference pioneer families of the area.

Information from her Eulogy published in the Molong Express 24th February 2022 written by her daughter Vicki Walker.

GODFREY TILBROOK A Molong Photographer



The museum has recently been given a camera owned by Godfrey Tilbrook as well as a collection of his photographs. Members are researching this family as well as o the James Brothers for an exhibition later in the year.

Tilbrook was renowned for his early landscapes, studio portraits and buildings around Molong dating from early 1905.

If you have any photographs and information on these men, please contact Julie or the museum. We would like to scan them.



UNITED ANCIENT ORDER OF DRUIDS – Lily of the West Lodge No. 427, Molong (Margaret Dean)

The United Ancient Order of Druids was established in England in 1781 and established in Australia in 1851 in Melbourne. The United Ancient Order of Druids Friendly Society of NSW was set up in 1868 and became an established mutual society in 1877.

Their head office in NSW was at Druid's House, 302 Pitt St, Sydney (between Liverpool and Bathurst Streets). The building was originally constructed in 1909 as a five-storey factory for the Weisbach Light Company. It was purchased by the United Ancient Order of Druids (UAOD) in 1927 and altered prior to its opening in 1928. The building was sold to developers in 2013 to become a hotel (with a 10-storey addition).



The Druids in ancient Celtic times were a diverse group that served as priests, instructors, and judges, including religious and political figures as well as legal and adjudicative experts. The modern United Ancient Order of Druids had a fraternal, rather than a religious basis.

When the society was established in Australia, there was very limited social welfare or health insurance. Societies such as the UAOD provided help to their members in the form of sick pay, funeral benefits and supply of medical attention and benefits. It was a way of looking after each other.

It was not until 1 July 1945 that Commonwealth Government unemployment and sickness benefits were introduced.

A branch of the United Ancient Order of Druids was formed in Molong in June 1905 with 32 members. Other lodges already existing in the town included the Masonic Lodge (1886), Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (c. 1875) and the Ancient Order of Foresters (1888). The Hibernian Society was established a short time after the Druids' lodge, in August 1905. (These groups were collectively known as 'friendly societies'.)

Members of the lodges met on a regular basis. The Molong Express 11 January 1908 (p.11) reported that the new office bearers for the Druids had been installed at their lodge rooms, but no indication as to where the rooms were. An advertisement in the Molong Express 04 May 1918 advised that the next meeting (Monday 13th May) would be held at the School of Arts, followed by a dance. However, the following edition of the Molong Express (p.10) indicated that the meeting would be in the parish hall. Given that the Hibernian Society was associated with the Catholic Church, this was most likely the Church of England hall (first church).

Over the years, the various lodges in Molong were involved in fundraising for the local hospital. In the Molong Express, 11/05/1918 p.10, there was a request for the members of the Druids Lodge to meet at

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www.nobleoak.com.au/insights/united-to-assist-nobleoak-and-the-druids/
<https://sydneyhidden.tumblr.com/post/121642472946/druids-house-at-302-pitt-st>
<https://celticsoulcraft.com/celtic-druid>

the foot of the hospital hill the next Sunday before proceeding to Norah Creek to cut wood for the hospital. It was reported in the Molong Express, 08/06/1918 p.10 that as a result of the recent working bee, 26 cords of wood had been obtained for the Molong Cottage hospital. In the Molong Argus, 24 January 1919 p.2 it was announced that the Druids' Lodge would supply 20 cords of wood if other lodges did the same.

For a number of years, the lodges in town were also involved in Sports Days, which were a fundraising event for the local hospital. The Molong Express 28/09/1907 p.9 contains a report of the Hospital Sports Day which was organized and run by the United Friendly Societies.

The day started with a procession to the Recreation Ground from the Town Hall. Participants included the Oddfellows, Hibernians and Druids, preceded by the Town band. The Express also reported that the Druids had organized a float.

This Lodge had a lorry on which reposed a sick patient who was attended by two nurses, and also on the lorry stood two brothers, who were dressed in long white costumes and flowing white beards. Besides, suspended across the lorry was the motto —'A.O.D.' Two other brothers— appropriately attired — were mounted on horseback, and paraded through the line of their members throughout the march.

In those early days, a number of balls were conducted under the auspices of the lodge which added to the coffers of the lodge for benevolent purposes and also to the social life of the town. Social events, such as picnics, were also organized for members and their families to join with members from Orange.



The earliest reference available on Trove directly related to Victor Dean's membership of the Druids Lodge is in the Molong Argus 22/01/1919 p.16.

It reported that at the recent semi-annual general meeting, Bros. C. Woolbank and V. Dean were elected as 'V.A.D. Bs' for the following 6 months. Victor continued to be heavily involved in the lodge for a number of years.

In February 1924, Cecil Smith was before the courts on a charge of embezzlement of lodge funds. As secretary, Victor was asked to testify. (Express 16/02/24, p.10)

In the Molong Express 20 June 1936 p.20 it was reported that Victor Dean, secretary, along with others, had attended a meeting in Orange.



In the Dean family archives, there is a book belonging to Victor Dean, which has various notes about the lodge 1937-1946. These include: Number of Benevolent Fund members, 1937 – 20. 1937 Subvention members. Sick pay rate 1 pound per week or 2/10 per day. 1940 Trustees –G.A. Packham, J.J Parslow, C. R. Rayner

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Cord – 4' high x4' long x8' long stack -128 cubic feet
The motto for the order was actually 'United to Assist'. 'A.O.D.' were the initials for the group.
See reports in Molong Express 27/06/1914 p.8, 19/07/1924 p.15i
See report in Molong Express 28/02/1925 p. 5

The names of doctors and chemist that were used by the members. Doctors – Drs-Maynard, Wilson, Staples and Morris. Chemists – J.J. O'Connor, Greg Blackall.

At the close of the June quarter 1939, the lodge meeting was held at J. J. Parslow's business premises in Gidley St. The next meeting was at Bro. Rayner's hairdresser's business. On Monday 3 July 1939, lodge property, lodge press and contents were moved by Bro. B.J. Bennett to Victor Dean's residence at West End, Molong.



Signboard for the Lily of the West lodge, Molong Looking across the railway line to 'Briarjean'/'Briar Jean' c.1949

The lodge signboard was then erected on a fence post at Victor's home, 'Briarjean', West End, Molong. (Located just over the railway, on the right, on the road to Cumnock. Now derelict.)

As per the signboard, meetings were held on alternate Monday evenings. The younger Dean children who were still living at home, were usually sent to bed early on Lodge meeting nights.

Victor was killed in a shunting accident in the railway yards in Molong on 06 November 1942. The obituary for Victor in the Molong Express, 13/11/42 (p.6) mentions that he was a member of the Druids and had been the secretary for many years.



Bessie Dean, his wife, continued on as secretary following Victor's death as evidenced in a letter sent to her from the main office in 1946. It is unknown for how long Bessie carried on those duties.

With the introduction of government benefits, the need for the benefits provided through the lodges was reduced and numbers all over Australia decreased. The 1990s saw the winding up of the Druids Credit Union. The UAOD Friendly Society was demutualised in 2011. NobleOak Life Limited (life insurance) has replaced it.

The digitized copies of the Molong Express from the 1950s do not appear to have any reference to the Druids Lodge, so it is difficult at this stage to know how long it continued to operate in Molong. Regardless of its duration, the lodge played an important role in the health and well-being and social life of Molong.

www.nobleoak.com.au/insights/united-to-assist-nobleoak-and-the-druids/

Doctors mentioned in Victor Dean's workbook.

Dr Maynard

Took over from Dr Connolly (Molong Express 27/03/1937 p.10).
Farewelled on active service (Cowra camp) – February 1942 (ME 21/02/1942 p.2)
Returned October 1944 (ME 20/10/1944)
Left 1947 (ME 14/03/1947 p.1)

Dr G. B. Wilson

Appointed Honorary Medical Officer (ME 26/01/1935 p.3)
In practice till his death in 1965 (The Molong Historian Vol.1 No.18 p.65)

Dr Staples

Dr Staples replaced Dr Keirle at Cumnock (ME 29/02/1936 p.12)
Left around August 1938 (ME 20/08/1938 p.9)

Dr Morris

Dr Morris bought practice from Dr Maynard. (ME 14/03/1947 p.1)
In Molong till 1954.(ME 28/05/1954 p.11)

Chemists mentioned in Victor Dean's workbook

J.J. O'Connor

J.J. O'Connor commenced in January 1917, having purchased the business from Mr R.C. Gibson. (Molong Argus 15/12/1916, MA 12/01/1917 p.4) Died in 1950 at the age of 61. Had been in business 33 years. (ME 14/04/1950 p.1)

Greg Blackall

G.M. (Greg.) Blackall was located next to Freemason's Hotel. (30/09/1933 p.11)
Out of business end March 1940. (Note in Victor's workbook.)

**History is not there for
you to like or dislike.
It is there for you to
learn from it. And if it
offends you, even
better. Because then
you are less likely to
repeat it. It's not yours
to erase. It belongs to
all of us!**

MOLONG COTTAGE, FAIRBRIDGE



On Saturday morning the 19th of February, Molong Cottage was destroyed by fire, cause unknown as yet. At the time the village was unoccupied and the power had been disconnected. About 40 firemen from several local brigades fought the fire for several hours, but were unable to save the timber building.

Molong Cottage (also known as Andrew Reid Cottage) was one of the first three cottages built before 1938, when the children arrived at the farm. The three cottages (Gowrie and Brown) were designed by Orange Architect, S C Van Breda. Molong Cottage was the second cottage to be completed.



Brown and Gowrie Cottages were used to accommodate the 28 new arrivals (all boys) while Molong Cottage was used as the school room as well as the kitchen and laundry, until Nuffield Hall was completed. Eventually Molong Cottage became a girls cottage.

The cottage was designed in the standard layout for most of the cottages. The dormitory was at the end of the cottage, with a locker room, bathroom, kitchen and dining room. The cottage mother had her apartment through a separate door and included a bedroom, bathroom and living room. The building was heated by open fires, with wood supplied by the boys.

A distinguishing feature of Molong Cottage is a central gable, with an air vent that reached beyond the roofline to cover the front section of the veranda. It had two watertanks at the rear, when other cottages only had one tank.

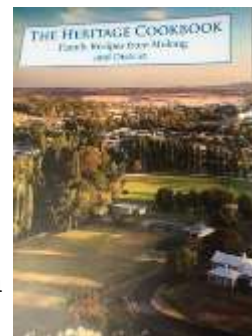


Information from CWD 21/2/2022
ABC News feed 20/2/2022
Ian Bayliff Disk and web page on the History of Fairbridge.

The Heritage Cookbook: Family Recipes From Molong and District.

GrowMolong recently launched a cookbook, which is a collection of the town's favorite recipes contributed by their great cooks. The book is a celebration of the history of and families of the Molong community

"We have chased up the really good cooks in town to get them to donate their recipes, and also included a photo or a piece of history that goes with that particular recipe," GrowMolong's secretary, Julie Dean said.



The Magor sponsor is Newcrest Mining Cadia Valley Operations. Cadia's general manager, Aaron Brannigan said the book was a great way to unite the community.

"It has been a challenging few years for the community, which has been impacted by drought, COVID-19, the mouse plague, and flooding." A portion of the book focuses on Mental Health as well as good food.

"The cookbook started off with the idea of supporting our local community with mental health issues," Mrs Dean said. A portion of all sale proceeds will be donated to Beyond Blue to support mental health in the Molong community; something that Mr Brannigan wants to 'shine a light on'.

With the remaining sale proceeds set to go toward GrowMolong's next project - painting murals on the towns' large silos. .

Copies of the cookbook can be purchased from various outlets across the region, which include Molong's SPAR supermarket, the Molong Express newspaper, and the Shell Petrol Station on Peisley St in Orange.

RECKONING

A new book by DAVID HILL

Reckoning is David Hill's follow-up to *The Forgotten Children* — the heartbreaking, bestselling memoir and history which exposed the abuse against the children at Fairbridge Farm School in New South Wales and became the catalyst for a subsequent quest for justice in Australia and the UK.

In *Reckoning* David recounts stories of the systemic abuse at Fairbridge, and how he led the fight against the powerful people and organisations who denied and covered up terrible crimes perpetrated on innocent children. David's fight for acknowledgment and restitution was for himself but especially for those kids, who as adults showed remarkable, enduring resilience and determination in holding to account the establishments responsible for their suffering.

Reckoning is a compelling account of an extraordinary quest for justice. It is the story of how David Hill and the other Forgotten Children took on the institutions that tried to break them — and won.

(from an interview with Emily Booker on ABC Radio)



This book has been launched and is available online and in bookshops.

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