



NEWS FROM Farrer Place

June 2026

Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum

Committee 2026

President: Ian Grimmer

Vice President:
Catherine Caskie

Secretary: Sandra
Hawke

Treasurer: Fred Monk

Committee Members:

Lee Davy
Andrew Geering
Merren Salvestrin

Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society Inc has been preserving and promoting Queanbeyan's History and Heritage since 1969. The Museum aims to express the sense of history, place and identity in the Queanbeyan area.

Situated in the original Police Sergeant's residence built in 1876 by *John Kealman*, it has served as the Queanbeyan Historical Museum since 1981 after being designated as a museum in 1978, with a collection of over four thousand items entered on eHive.

Opening hours are between 1 and 4pm Saturday and Sundays except Easter and Christmas. You can also organise group visits during the week by contacting the Museum by email, qbymuseum@gmail.com

Web: queanbeyanmuseum.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/queanbeyanmuseum

The Museum is located at 10 Farrer Place Queanbeyan, next to the Police Complex and opposite the NSW State Office Building.



Step through our doorway to your past.

Ted Coleman owner of Jannali Scenic Tours operating out of Toronto Parade Sutherland, 1960's. The bus is an AEC Reliance chassis with coach master body, MO4600.



HERITAGE FESTIVAL NEWS 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

QDHMS had a marvellous Heritage Festival this year, 2026. We hosted two open days at the museum, trialling a weekday opening on a Friday plus the normal Saturday which proved quite successful for visitors to view the fascinating revamped exhibitions featuring policing history and ANZAC memories. Thank you Sandra, Paul and the Museum team for these and other new vignettes and signage that have been installed throughout the Museum. Many thanks to all volunteers who staffed the Museum over the two open days.

We also conducted four behind the scenes tours over those two days where visitors were able to look behind the scenes at some treasures not on display, see how objects were catalogued and stored in our custom-made archive and interact most cordially with our volunteer guides, Catherine, Kerrie and

John. Comments were invariably favourable. Many thanks to Lee and Sandra for their interesting Social Media posts about the Heritage Festival that garnered a lot of interest and followers for the Museum.

We ran three well attended heritage walks. Thanks to good publicity in the Queanbeyan community noticeboard online, we had over 70 applicants for the cemetery walk and had to schedule an extra one. We will do another for History Week later in the year and will contact those who missed out. The town history walk was also well attended and in all cases the participants were pleased and of course were able to supply more family and history details to the guides.

John McGlynn & Kerrie Ruth



**HERITAGE
FESTIVAL NEWS** **2026**



PERSEVERANCE BANNER

The Queanbeyan Perseverance Lodge Banner was part of Change & PERSEVERANCE: The Fabric of Community Exhibition held at the Q Exhibition Space. The banner was on loan to QPRC for the Heritage Festival 2026.

The opening of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows Perseverance Lodge was held at the Tattersall's Hotel, Queanbeyan, on 23 May 1876. In November 1880 it was reported that the Lodge had 'resolved in purchasing a new and costly banner' for their next anniversary. The banner arrived in 1882 when celebrations were held in the town for both the 63rd anniversary of the Queen's birth and the 6th anniversary of the lodge. Members of the lodge, wearing regalia, marched behind their 'large and handsome banner'. Membership numbers remained strong, amounting to 98 in 1919. By the second half of the twentieth century there were only six members in the Lodge, and it closed in 1975. In 1973 it was resolved that the secretary of the Queanbeyan Historical Society be contacted with a view to donating the banner for display in their rooms.

Unfortunately, due to poor storage and the age of the banner, this has contributed to serious deterioration making it unlikely for any preservation work to take place. It has been refurled and placed suspended in a purpose-built box and returned to the museum archive for future assessment. Note: Close-up of a photograph revealed that the banner was made by A & T Torning, Banner Painters of Hunter St. Sydney.

We will be able to see the banner through a digital display.



UPGRADES TO THE MUSEUM

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council have worked closely with the Committee to improve the appearance and overall condition of the Museum for both volunteers and visitors. New kitchen cabinetry and modern appliances have been installed, creating a more functional and welcoming space. The kitchen and two display areas have also been repainted, while new blinds have been fitted throughout the Museum. Museum volunteers will now be able to access the

network using Wi-Fi and upgrades to the computer systems will further improve performance and efficiency. A special thank you to Hi-Micro Computers Fyshwick. Beautification of the gardens surrounding the Museum are starting to take shape. This will enhance the street appearance and link the Museum to the Town Park and the Senior Citizens Centre. Further improvements are being scheduled for next year.



EHIVE



The Queanbeyan Museum eHive project began in May 2023. The museum's previous database was incomplete and had many errors. It was not managed by the museum; therefore, we could not enter data or correct it. The eHive cataloguing system was chosen because it provided the museum members with the ability to create and manage a complete online database of our collection. It allows us to make amendments, additions and most importantly track our items as they are moved around the museum. It is a relatively easy to use program, used world-wide by smaller museums. It allows our wonderful collection to be viewed by anyone online. Each item is described, measured, researched and photographed. The program also allows photographs, documents and audio recordings to be added to entries. The location of the item is recorded and can be easily updated as items are displayed, loaned out or rested in the archive building. The donor and the history of the item can also be recorded. When entering details on an item, where possible, information is taken from the old database and from old paper records. The most useful method of obtaining details is having a complete donation form with a story about the item. Most items require some general research, which is also a great learning tool for the team. It helps us to really get to know our collection.

Catherine Caskie

GROUP VISITS

In the past two months the Museum has been busy welcoming visitors. Thirty Rotarians, in a combined visit from the Canberra Murrumbidgee Club and the Queanbeyan Club enjoyed a walk around the Museum. It was especially great to have Ernie Lewis, the great grandson of John Gale and a long-term resident of Queanbeyan, come as part of this group. He had fascinating stories to share regarding growing up and life in Queanbeyan as well as working for the CSIR and CSIRO. Many visitors commented on how much they enjoyed

the Museum, mentioning that although small in appearance it has many detailed exhibitions on early settlement and local community life. Ten members of the View Club and eleven from Lions Club have also visited. Walking through the rooms, in many cases, triggered fond memories and reminded people of the familiar objects they used in their everyday lives. Others found family connections. Such was the case for the Scattergold sisters, who have a strong link to beekeeping in the Queanbeyan area.

Merren Salvestrin

“ Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with these visits. ”



Queanbeyan View Club

Murrumbidgee and Queanbeyan Rotary group, including a great grandson of John Gale, Ernie Lewis, born and bred in Queanbeyan.



THE HOLLITT FAMILY –

The story behind the mural artwork



Artist: Margaret Hadfield



Photographer: H. Beaufoy-Merlin

Following notice recorded in the Sydney Morning Herald of 7 February 1860:

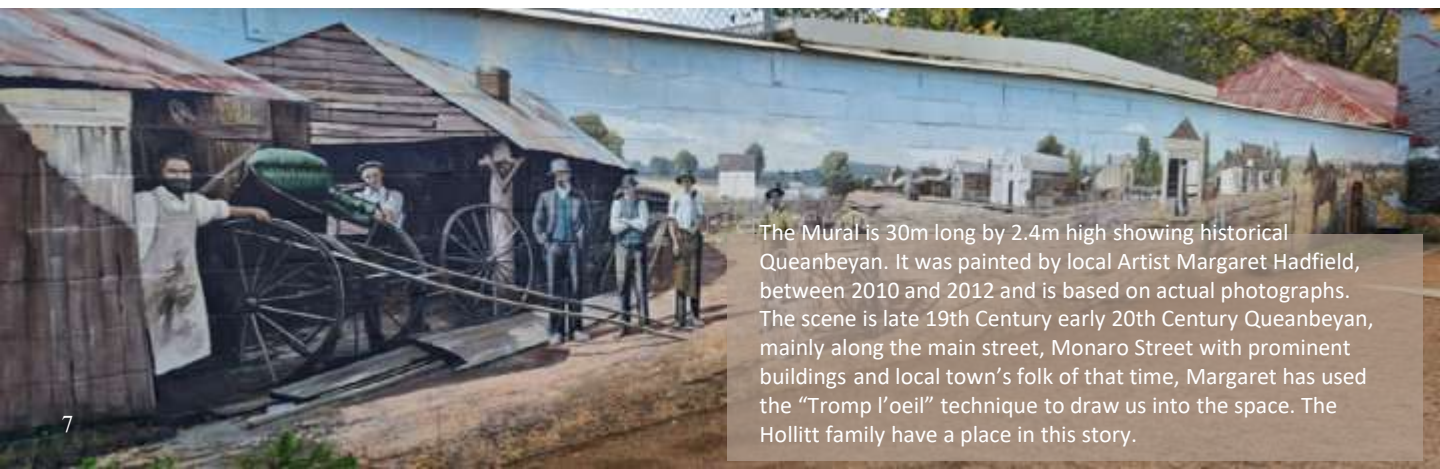
Died. – On Saturday, 28 January of inflammatory sore throat, at Duntroon, near Queanbeyan, William Henry, aged 3 years; and on Tuesday, 31 January, Sarah Anne, aged 5 years – the beloved children of Sarah Anne and William Hollett.

The tragedy, brought about by what today would probably be diagnosed as diphtheria, is common in the pattern of nineteenth-century life, but there is special interest in this case because the family in which it occurred has been almost completely lost to local memory.

William Hollitt – as the name was more commonly spelt – was a man of varied talents who came into the district in the early 1850's he was probably a brickmaker in the vicinity of Canberra from his arrival as the first directory covering the area – that of 1867 – lists him as "brickmaker, Majura" and two years later, in January 1869, he contracted to supply 120,000 bricks for additions to the Queanbeyan Gaol.

Meanwhile, in February 1868, he had opened a boot shop in Crawford Street Queanbeyan, close to Monaro Street and opposite the present Royal Hotel. This shop operated for about twenty years, with some diversification of trade such as the bottles of prime Albury wines offered during the first year of business, and during the 1870's his wife and daughter bean a dressmaking business in the same premises. By 1882 the concern became (Mrs Mehegan's was on the Monaro street side of the present Queanbeyan Age office). It was there that Mrs Hollitt had a narrow escape from death in July 1882 when a flash of lightning entered the residence, struck her and knocked her insensible.

In the late 1880's the family left Queanbeyan for Sydney where Mrs Hollitt died on 22 October 1891, her 57th birthday. She was buried in the Queanbeyan Methodist Cemetery after a funeral which left Samuel Percival's residence in Garryowen. Mrs A J Polson, William and Sarah Hollitt's daughter, continued to provide a home in Sydney for her father until his death at the age of eighty on 10 September 1912.



The Mural is 30m long by 2.4m high showing historical Queanbeyan. It was painted by local Artist Margaret Hadfield, between 2010 and 2012 and is based on actual photographs. The scene is late 19th Century early 20th Century Queanbeyan, mainly along the main street, Monaro Street with prominent buildings and local town's folk of that time, Margaret has used the "Tromp l'oeil" technique to draw us into the space. The Hollitt family have a place in this story.

The commitment and dedication by past and present Committees, volunteers, members, support from the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and the Queanbeyan community have made this amazing museum a place to visit.

Sandra Hawke

Secretary

RECENT DONATION

Championship Cup won outright by H Beatty 1910 to 1912, Queanbeyan Rifle Club. Henry, known as Harry, was among the best rifleman in the district. He was a champion rifle shot, competed at State Rifle Association and other prize meetings over a long period of years. For a number of years, he won the noted Triggs Bowl, which was an inter-club competition, besides many other valuable trophies. Donated by Doug Kentwell.

**Henry
Beatty
1872-1939**

