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## MEDIA RELEASE



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### The story of Australia's last lady bushranger

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The granddaughter of Australia's last lady bushranger will launch a book telling her incredible story in West Wyalong at the end of this month.

In "Out of the Mists: The Hidden History of Elizabeth Jessie Hickman", West Wyalong author Di Moore delivers a fascinating true story set against an exciting backdrop of bush circuses, cattle stealing, arrests, dramatic escapes, jail terms and the harsh Australian bush.

Ms Moore will officially launch the book at the Bland Shire Library at 10am on Saturday, August 30.

The launch will mark the final chapter of an amazing 11 year personal journey for Ms Moore researching and writing about the history of her infamous grandmother and uncovering fascinating aspects of Australia's colonial history.

Often referred to as Jessie or "Bess", Hickman (nee Hunt) she was given away to a travelling bush circus at about eight years of age and became a champion roughrider and ring mistress of the circus.

She had a stormy marriage with Benjamin Hickman, which produced a son, and eventually turned to a life of crime firstly in Sydney - which resulted in two stints at Long Bay jail – and later in the Kandos/Rylstone region of New South Wales where she quickly forged a reputation as an elusive cattle and horse thief.

Her excellent bush skills and superb horsemanship allowed her to make many dramatic escapes from police.

Meticulous research from Ms Moore has uncovered a number of mysteries surrounding Jessie Hickman which have stood for decades.

The book sheds a new light on Australia's last lady bushranger, exposing some long held myths and new information which is sure to create intrigue and discussion for many years to come.

The book launch is open to the public and people can book their attendance by phoning the Bland Shire library on 69790272.

For more information contact  
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