

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Spring 2017



Fire Brigade airs its history



**Meet your
new
committee**

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Cover images:

Main - Enjoying a ride on an historic fire engine are Allen, Isobel and Abigail Omoh, who were among those who attended Orange Fire Station's open day.

Below: Committee members Jenny Maher, Euan Greer, Liz Edwards, Annette Neville, Phil Stevenson, John Glastonbury, Julie Sykes, Ross Maroney and Judy Agland.

This newsletter is designed to keep members and other interested people informed about the society's activities as well as matters of interest in the wider field.

If anyone would like to contribute to it they should contact editor Liz Edwards.

Our newsletter requires a considerable amount of money to produce each quarter with paper, printing and postage all adding to the cost.

Therefore, wherever possible, we email it to those members and others on our mailing list who have an email address.

However, if anyone with an email address would prefer also to receive a paper copy, they may do so simply by contacting the secretary.

Those who do not have access to email will continue to receive their copies by ordinary mail.

Orange & District Historical Society

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Membership fees from January 2018

Family \$45; individual \$30; single concession \$20; couple concession \$30.
Contact secretary or treasurer. Please pay promptly.

Research inquiries:

The Research Officer, Orange & District Historical Society, P O Box 1626, Orange, NSW 2800

Please supply an A4, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Cost: \$20 for the initial inquiry (plus additional charges for more extensive research).

Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address, details of your inquiry, any information you may already have, and the reason for your inquiry.

Bank:

Orange & District Historical Society, Orange Credit Union, BSB 802-129, A/c No 34252 (please include name and reason for payment). If you are transferring money from your account at Orange Credit Union, please add \$1 to our account number.

A message from the president

Welcome to our spring newsletter. As you will see on page 5, we have a new committee, although the faces will be familiar to you. Our committee members put in untold hours of work behind the scenes to ensure the society functions well. They all bring different skills and ideas to our meetings and we are fortunate to have such commitment to the society and its aims.

Everyone loves a mystery, and the large photograph on pages 6 and 7 will no doubt invoke some comments. We only know that it was supposed to have been taken in Lucknow in the 1920s or 30s. If any members can identify faces in the crowd or suggest what the occasion was, we would love to know.

History, of course, should be fun as well as serious, and our History Alive meeting about the history of Orange Fire Brigade, along with the visit to the Fire Station, was certainly fun. Station officer Matt Jeffery is passionate about the brigade's history and his talk covered many aspects of the brigade's long history.

You will know that some of our members are very interested in and knowledgeable about railway history. A recent acquisition of railway time books is proving a rich source of information about how the Orange locomotive section operated between 1916 and 1936 (see John Glastonbury's article on pages 6 and 7).

You will see that among the myriad jobs undertaken, there were two young lads employed specifically to call at crew members' homes to wake them up and ensure they arrived at work on time. It may sound quaint these days, but many homes did not have the luxury of telephones.

We were pleased to hear that Orange Regional Mu-

seum was recently awarded the Sulman Medal for Public Architecture. The museum is making its presence felt in many ways.

Our society takes a keen interest in heritage matters and the fate of two of the city's key buildings is very much on our minds.

The former Dalton Brothers' store and Duntryleague, both directly associated with the Dalton family, are facing conservation challenges.

The recently formed Duntryleague Mansion Foundation is doing its best to ensure that Orange's most prestigious building is preserved, but the foundation needs more funds and support.

The future of the former store (latterly Western Stores and Myer) is less certain as plans for a new shopping centre are formulated.

You only have to glance up at the top of the façade to be reminded that this building is associated with the earliest days of Orange, and has been central to the commercial history of Orange. We hope the redevelopment will result in the preservation of the key elements of this historic building.



- Liz Edwards

Winter cheer for our volunteers



Sally Watson, Phil Stevenson, John and Bev Glastonbury at our volunteers' winter dinner.



Dorothy Noble and Euan Greer.



Julie and Dave Sykes and Jenny Holdaway.



Judy Agland and Gloria and Ross Maroney.



Greg and Jenny Maher.



Rhonda and Rob Showell, Margaret and Rob Honeysett.

Dalton buildings' fluctuating fortunes

By Elisabeth Edwards

What would James Dalton Junior have thought if he could witness today the fluctuating fortunes of his two great edifices – Duntryleague and Dalton Brothers' store?

Dalton, who died in 1919, epitomised the rags to riches story: the son of a convict, he escaped the grinding poverty of his childhood in Ireland, built up a hugely successful trading company with his brother Thomas, and had Duntryleague constructed as his family home.

Duntryleague, the Italianate mansion which was constructed in 1876, was left on James Dalton's death to his youngest son Father Patrick Dalton, a Jesuit priest. There was a hope that the building would be turned into a seminary but the Bishop of Bathurst rejected the idea. The building and surrounding land was purchased by Orange Golf Club in 1935. It also served as a military convalescent home during WWII.

The club has been extended to the west while the mansion has been used for many years as accommodation. The upkeep on the mansion over the years has been considerable and it is now in urgent need of restoration work. In addition to the mansion, the former coach house needs extensive renovations so that it can be put to use in some way.

The Duntryleague Mansion Foundation was formed in 2016 to secure funding for the maintenance of the house and coach house. The foundation is a separate entity to the golf club. The most recent fundraiser was a dinner, held on 22 July.

Urgent work which will be carried out in the near future will be the repair of the porte cochere (the porch at

the entrance originally used by carriages to pick up and set down family members and visitors, giving protection from bad weather), and repairs to the tower.

While the mansion will require constant repairs and maintenance, the fund will hopefully allow Orange's premier building to continue to give pleasure to visitors for many decades.

The former Dalton Brothers store (latterly Western Stores, then Myer) was once not only the shopping hub for locals but attracted customers from throughout the Central West. It was the hub of a vast commercial empire encompassing pastoral interests throughout western NSW as well as a huge import-export business with offices, wharves and warehouses in Sydney. Situated in a prime spot in Summer Street, the store supplied everything from clothes to groceries, liquor, farming machinery and furniture.

The original slab and bark building constructed by James Dalton Junior in 1853 was gradually extended and renovated over many years. A description recorded in the Orange Leader in June 1912 conveys the magnificence of the building following a refurbishment:

'The alternations effected so far are contained in the re-ceiling of the various suites of offices, carried out in steel, the patterns of which displays exceedingly good taste on the part of the selector; the cleaning and revarnishing of the cedar work and the relaying of the whole of the floor space with inlaid parquet linoleum of an exclusive pattern. The cedar work in the offices afford a striking example of the longevity and the durability of this timber, which would give one the idea that it had only just been put in, but which in reality has been there for 50 years.'

At that time there was an engine shed at the rear of the premises with



The former Myer store in Summer Street.

an engine for working the suction plant that operated the cash tubes, sucking the cartridges with purchase money and delivering them to the cash desk, and then sending them back with the bill receipted, along with the change. There was also a lift working on water pressure.

With Myer now closed along with the loss of 50 or so jobs, plans are afoot to revamp the building. An initial development application by Alceon Group was sympathetic to the immense heritage value of the premises, which has stood in various forms since 1853. However, a new DA points out that the vertical alignment is out by between 5mm and 40mm on the Summer Street frontage and between 4mm and 32mm on the Post Office Lane frontage. The developers also point out issues with faulty brickwork and disintegrating lime mortar.

Rather than go to the considerable expense of rectifying these problems, the developers submitted a new DA with plans to demolish the interior of the first and second floors, retaining only the façades in Summer Street and Post Office Lane. They also intend lowering the ground floor level, thus reducing the height of the historic cellars, which date back to the earliest days of James Dalton Junior's enterprise. They have not said if and how they intend salvaging and displaying historic pieces such as a wooden hoist and a spiral staircase.

Our society is concerned that the new DA seriously compromises the historical integrity of the building, and we will be watching developments.



Duntryleague Mansion.

Meet your new committee

Our society's Annual General Meeting took place in the West Room of the Orange Regional Gallery on Saturday 19 August.

There have been some changes to the committee: Liz Edwards continues as president and Euan Greer as vice-president. Secretary is Phil Stevenson and treasurer is Annette Neville. The committee members are: Judy Agland, John Glastonbury, Jenny Maher, Ross Maroney and Julie Sykes.

We thank Dave Sykes for his input as secretary during the past year and welcome Julie Sykes back to the committee.

Russell Tym and Marie Hammond continue as patrons; Ray Norman continues as public officer, honorary historians are now Liz Edwards, Elizabeth Griffin, Ross Maroney and Julie Sykes. Liz Edwards continues as publicity officer and newsletter editor.

Officiating at the election of office-bearers was Russell Tym.

Following the formal part of the meeting, there was an opportunity for members to discuss matters of interest. Charlie Everett told the meeting that after several years of sustained hard work, cataloguing of the historical items relating to Bloomfield Hospital had now been completed and the items stored in several locations at Bloomfield. He said it was not yet known what would happen to the collection or if there would be an opportunity for an exhibition or permanent display. Charlie and colleagues are now working on cataloguing the RSL Memorial Museum's collection.

Phil Stevenson told the group about the variety of work being undertaken by volunteers at the cottage. There are now groups working on accessioning on Mondays, and identifying the Emmco/Email/Electrolux photographic collection – comprising about 16,000 images – on Fridays.

On Wednesdays volunteers work on researching and writing statements of significance, cataloguing, the CWD Negative Collection, answering inquiries from the public, and administration.

Liz Edwards spoke about the CWD Negative Collection: work is now in progress to transfer all the old-style negatives to acid-free envelopes and storage boxes, and



Liz Edwards, president



Euan Greer, vic-president



Phil Stevenson, secretary



Annette Neville, treasurer

to scan any damaged negatives and store them in a freezer to prevent further deterioration. About 12,000 negatives, dating from 1955 to 1959, have been transferred so far, with the years 1960 to 1970 inclusive still to be done.

Afternoon tea was served following the meeting.



Judy Agland, committee



John Glastonbury, committee



Julie Sykes, committee



Jenny Maher, committee



Ross Maroney, committee



A special occasion in Lucknow,

This charming photograph, recently acquired by the society, is said to have been taken in Lucknow in 1924. The women's dresses and hats suggest it may actually be ten years or so later.

A window on the past: Orange

By John Glastonbury

With the recent closure of the Cowra War Museum, the society was offered a substantial collection of books and documents relevant to the railways in the Orange Region.

Of special interest is a collection of 132 time books for the Orange locomotive section ranging from the fortnight ending 21 October 1916 to the fortnight ending 9 February 1935. From the opening of the railway to Orange in 1877 until late 1936, the Orange locomotive depot was located in the Orange yard opposite the present station before being moved to Orange East Fork.

Each time book is a record of the hours worked and pay for the fortnight of each staff member of the Orange Locomotive Section.

The time books for October 1916, March 1920 and February 1935 have been analysed in detail listing the names of all locomotive staff and their employment category.

In the March 1920 time book, there are 23 employment categories listed:

- Locomotive Drivers – 19
- Firemen – 18
- Cleaners (locomotive cleaning) - 7
- Purely extra cleaners (cleaners not permanent staff) – 6
- Casual hand (general duties) - 1
- Storemen – 3
- Washout man (locomotive boiler washouts to remove sludge) – 1
- Roster clerk – 1
- Carriage and wagon examiners (checking carriage and

wagon fitness to operate) – 3

- Fuelmen (transferring coal from rail wagons to locomotive tenders) – 4
- Rolling stock labourer (cleaning carriages and vans) – 1
- Firelighter (lighting up cold locomotives after maintenance) – 1
- Call boys (young lads on bicycles going to crew homes to call them for duty before phones were common place) – 2
- On probation – 1
- Casual hands (general duties) – 7
- Leading fitter (maintenance) – 1
- Fitters (maintenance) – 3
- Fitter's labourers (maintenance) – 5
- Boilermaker (maintenance of locomotive boilers) – 1
- Boilermaker helper – 1
- Apprentice fitter – 2
- Purely extra fitter (fitter not on permanent staff) – 1
- Pumper Molong. (pumping locomotive water from local dam at Molong to elevated locomotive tanks) – 1

The names of all employees are listed, their hours worked and resultant pay.

Total hours worked in the fortnight for all 90 employees was 7,938.

The October 1916 time book records a locomotive staff total of 98; for the March 1920 book 90 staff; and for the February 1935 book 97 staff.

In addition to the above figures, NSW Government Railways had many other staff in Orange; the District Superintendent's office, traffic, way and works and station staff, for example.



but who, when, where and why?

There are many more women than men and a fair number of children. Perhaps it was a Sunday School picnic. If anyone knows anything about it or recognises people in the photograph, please contact any committee member. Photo enhanced by Robert Bruce.

locomotive staff last century

These figures are a reminder that the NSW Government Railways was this State's largest employer until the immediate post-war years saw the widespread introduction of the private car and motor trucks, resulting in the stark contrast of today.

Of nine classes of locomotives listed in the March 1920 book, four locomotive classes were worked on in the fortnight period by maintenance staff. These were classes:

1889 Class*	Class Leader	Introduced Year	1924 Class*	Wheel arrangement#	Type
D passenger	255	1889	(Z) 15	4-4-0	Express
P passenger	6	1892	(C) 32	4-6-0	Express
T	524	1896	(D) 50	2-8-0	Goods
TF	939	1912	(D) 53	2-8-0	Goods

Notes

*Between 1889 and 1924, the NSW Government Railways classified all locomotives with an arbitrarily selected alphabetical initial preceding the road number of the locomotive that was the class leader.

This classification system became unwieldy with the rapid expansion of the NSW Railways and was replaced in 1924 with the present classification wherein each locomotive has a road number of which the first two numerals indicate the class except where a class exceeds 100 members when the locomotive road numbers are carried in to the next 100. Hence the 151st locomotive in the 32 Class was numbered 3351.

In addition, in official lists the road numbers were preceded by letters: C denoting six coupled wheel locomotives, D denoting eight coupled wheel locomotives and Z denoting locomotives of obsolete classes.

These letter prefixes were never applied to diesel locomotives.

A system for describing steam locomotives according to wheel arrangement.

The first digit is the number of unpowered leading wheels, the second digit is the number of coupled driving wheels, while the third digit is the number of unpowered trailing wheels.

Long history of Orange Fire Brigade

Fires are unfortunately all too frequent but thanks to the presence of an organised Fire Brigade in Orange since about 1870, local residents have been offered the best protection from conflagration.

Fires and firefighters was the subject of July's History Alive meeting and we were pleased to welcome former firefighter Ray Astill, and June Osborne and her daughter Rosanne. June's husband Bruce Osborne was station officer in Orange for some years.

Guest speakers were Matt Jeffery, station officer at Orange Fire Station), long-term fireman and fire engine restorer Peter Fuge, Ross Maroney and Liz Edwards.

Matt spoke about the long history of the Fire Brigade (now Fire and Rescue NSW), with some fascinating insights into the history of firefighting in Australia.

He said firemen in the early days wore long beards so that when they entered a burning building they could soak their beards in water and clench the wet beard in their mouths to act as a breathing filter.

Fire stations in Sydney were traditionally built on hills so that the horse-drawn fire engines could start quickly downhill.

Dalmatian dogs used to stand

outside fire stations to bark and alert people that the fire engine was about to leave. They would then run alongside the horse to the blaze, and their presence seemed to calm the horses by distracting other dogs who wanted to chase the truck.

Ross Maroney talked about the history of the local fire station, with the first building located in Anson Street opposite what is now the Woolworths supermarket. The current building in Summer Street was constructed in 1904.

Liz Edwards showed some historic photographs of fires and firefighters, many of them from the CWD Negative Collection. They included images of a huge fire at the Woollen Mills in 1984. The local brigade was famous in the 1950s for its prowess in fire-fighting competitions, winning scores of trophies. It even had a mascot, Donald Beer, who was aged five in 1956 and proudly wore a miniature firefighter's uniform at a trophy presentation.

Peter Fuge was for many years a firefighter as well as working for the



Guest speakers Matt Jeffery and Peter Fuge.

PMG Department (later Telstra). He spoke about the challenges of firefighting in country areas such as Grenfell, Brewarrina and Mudgee, and how improvements in communications aided firefighters. He brought along examples of firemen's helmets, including a replica of an impressive brass helmet which firemen wore until 1964.

To add to the occasion, Matt Jeffery organised images of the Fire Brigade to be projected onto the large roller doors of the Fire Station.



Left: June and Rosanne Osborne.



Right: Stephanie and Ross Burton.

All action at Fire Station open day

On Saturday 22 July Orange Fire Station opened its doors to the public with illustrated talks, a fascinating display of Fire Brigade memorabilia and very welcome mugs of hot soup made by Sarah Jeffery on what was a very cold day.

On display outside the Fire Station were two vintage fire engines which were the subject of great interest among the visitors.

Visitors were reminded of the need for a 24-hour

seven day a week service when, just before the program was due to start, firemen were called to a chimney fire in Ophir Road.

Money raised from entry donations was handed over to the Fire Brigade to donate to the Burns Unit at Sydney Children's Hospital.

The society is very grateful to Matt Jeffery and his team for their efforts in making it a memorable visit.



Former permanent Orange fire officer Alan Burns with a 1984 International 1800C fire engine which he has been restoring. The truck started its life at Hornsby, then Wyong and finished up at Tumut before coming to Orange.



Alison and Graham Strudwick with restorer Peter Fuge and the vintage Dennis fire engine outside the Fire Station.



Lyndall and William Sykes in the 1984 International fire engine on display at the open day.



A selection of firemen's helmets.

Prestigious award for Orange Regional Museum



Cr Davis talks about the impact of the museum in Orange, with Niall Durney, before an invited audience of museum stakeholders.

There was jubilation in Orange in July when the Sulman Medal for Public Architecture was awarded to Crone Architects for their design of the Orange Regional Museum.

The medal had also been awarded to the Orange Regional Gallery and Orange City Library complex in 1986.

The medal is presented in memory of Sir John Sulman and presented annually by the NSW chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects.

Crone Architects principal and design director Niall Durney and associate Ashley Dennis travelled to Orange on Tuesday 11 July for a brief presentation ceremony at the Museum.

Among those who attended were the Mayor, Councillor John Davis, Councillor Neil Jones, Orange City Council and museum staff, and members of the Friends of the Orange Regional Museum and Orange & District Historical Society.

Mr Durney said they were amazed and excited by the award.

Cr Davis said the museum had been a sensational success despite many people wishing it could have been larger.

The award citation stated that the museum design aimed to respectfully integrate a new building into the existing cultural precinct and to create a new identity while strengthening current civic conditions within the site:

“The building envelope is shaped to keep line-of-sight to the gallery and create a new civic square while protecting it from winter southerlies. Stairs create a public amphitheatre allowing access to the rooftop landscaping that slopes to create a public hill. With this innovative approach to the brief and site, Crone was commissioned to carry out the full design and documentation highly supported by the local user groups and Orange Council.”

The Australian Institute of Architects jury commented: “This bold, large-scale intervention re-organises a whole city block through the application of a combined landscape, architectural and urban solution. Simple, bold and confident moves have created a destination for locals



A significant award: Crone Architects principal and design director Niall Durney and associate Ashley Dennis and Orange Mayor Councillor John Davis with the Sulman Medal.

and visitors, which provide a clear and active address to the larger civic precinct.

“A variety of robust public spaces lend themselves to engagement and activation and every surface of the architecture becomes a programmable element. The building’s roof forms a stepped amphitheatre for events at the heart of a civic precinct and a folded lawn provides views back across the town. The museum interior is open and flexible allowing it to fluidly evolve as the curatorship requires. Its plan is tightly packed to ensure adequate public address, with circulation around its perimeter. The museum’s strong architectural form acts to pivot street life into a new public square, fronted by the museum and the existing Orange Library and Gallery, itself a Sulman award winning project.”

Floor Talk: Orange Regional Museum Collection Saturday 4 November, 2-4pm

Museum manager and heritage co-ordinator, Alison Russell, and collections officer, Allison Campbell, will explore the how, what and why behind Orange Regional Museum’s collections. What are we collecting and why? How do we collect and what are the plans for the future of the museum and collections? Free event, bookings essential.

Florrie Fowler and the Chinese ‘den’

By Elisabeth Edwards

A remarkable insight into attitudes towards the Chinese in Orange in the late 19th century has come to light in the scrapbooks of Henry Newman.

The case of Florrie Fowler, her mother who was living with a Chinaman, the police, and a host of do-gooders appeared in the *Orange Leader* and the *Western Advocate* in March and April 1896.

Newman, a prominent mine owner and store keeper at Lucknow, was Member for Orange from 1891 to 1904. As a politician and businessman he kept scrapbooks, mainly of newspaper cuttings relevant to mining and local affairs. They are of great interest to local historians because no full copies of Orange newspapers exist before 1899 (it is believed that many were lost in the floods which regularly swept through Lords Place where the two local newspapers had their offices).

At the time of the Fowler case, East Orange, in particular the area around Five-Ways, was considered a disreputable place of slum dwellings and Chinese opium dens.

Local authorities didn't really know how to deal with the presence of Chinese in the town, as an East Orange Municipal Council meeting of 1893, just three years before the Florrie Fowler case came to light, shows.

Alderman McInnes asked if the Council would take steps to stamp out Chinese houses of ill repute, pointing out a man had been poisoned in one of these places (the newspaper referred to them as 'Chinese dens'). The Mayor, Alderman Stabback, suggested it was the job of the Nuisances Inspector.

Alderman McInnes persisted: "There is one place that is a disgrace to the whole Borough. You can generally see three men hanging on the fence outside the place until someone else comes out," adding, "One can hardly believe the trade that is done there by the Chinese women."

The Mayor clearly didn't want to be involved with such an unsavoury topic: "It is the duty of the police authorities to do with [brothels]. That is a criminal offence. We have nothing to do with them."

Three years later, when things clearly had not changed much in East Orange, someone reported to Orange Police that a woman named Harriet Fowler (otherwise known as Harriet George) was living with her daughter Florrie, who was aged about six years, and a Chinese man named Charlie Chin, who was employed as a cook by Andrew Edye, licensee of the Royal Hotel.

The police were aware of Harriet Fowler but they came to the conclusion that Florrie was well brought up and in no danger.

"[Florrie] goes to Miss Nevin's school daily, who gives her a very good character," Inspector Ford of Orange Police stated. "Mrs Powter, a most respectable



A building on the corner of Summer and William streets in the early 1900s. Few images were taken of this area near Five Ways because of its unsavoury reputation.

woman with a family, who lives on the next allotment, speaks well of the woman Fowler and the child Florrie. She says that, during the past 18 months she has had no cause of complaint against Harriet Fowler and that the mother is much attached to her daughter. 'But,' she said, 'Mr Ford, it is a sad thing to see a little child living in the house with her mother and a Chinaman'."

While Inspector Ford had previously given two women 'of bad character' living in the same house 24 hours to leave Orange and arrested a woman living in another Chinese house for prostitution (she was jailed for two months), he could find no reason to disrupt the living arrangements of Harriet and Florrie Fowler.

He said they lived with Charlie Chin adjoining a Chinese boarding house where the Chinese 'played dominoes etc'.

"I certainly cannot see my way to take the child from her mother, she being well clad, fed and sent to school," Inspector Ford said.

"I have also consulted the police magistrate and he agrees with me in the matter." He noted, however, that Harriet Fowler had been arrested several times in the 1880s for vagrancy and being 'a common prostitute', for which she received jail sentences.

Senior Sergeant McManamey reported that he had frequently seen the child at the house but 'never saw it [sic] smoking opium or cigarettes' Andrew Edye gave Charlie Ching a good character reference, adding he was known for his sobriety and punctuality.

As far as he was aware, no offence had been committed. No doubt the police had seen plenty of cases of child neglect, probably as much among white people as the Chinese. In fact Sergeant McManamey said Harriet's own husband was 'a worthless scamp and living with a prostitute'.

* Continued Page 12

Diary September - December 2017

Mondays and Wednesdays: Work days at Heritage Cottage 10am-4pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact co-ordinator Phil Stevenson.

Millthorpe Golden Memories Museum: open on weekends, public holidays and school holidays 10am-4pm.

Molong Museum: Open on the last Sunday of the month 12.30-3.30pm, 20 Riddell Street.

Molong and District Servicemen and Service women's Portrait Gallery: This can be viewed whenever the Molong RSL Club is open (phone 6366-8105 for details).

Wentworth Mine: open Saturday and Sunday on the first full weekend of the month 10am-2.30pm.

Wednesday 13 September: History Alive, 'Show and Tell'. Bring along your favourite local historical items. All welcome.

Friday 22 - Sunday 24 September: Family History Societies Conference in Orange. For details go to: www.ofhg.com.au/conference or contact Orange City Library.

Wednesday 4 October: ODHS committee meeting, 4.30pm.

Wednesday 1 November: ODHS committee meeting 5.30pm.

Saturday 4 November, 2pm-4pm: Orange Regional Museum floor talk. Museum manager and heritage co-ordinator, Alison Russell, and collections officer, Allison Campbell, explore the how, what and why behind Orange Regional Museum's collections. What are we collecting and why? How do we collect and what are the plans for the future of the museum and collections? Free event; Bookings essential on 6393 8444.

Wednesday 8 November: History Alive meeting 6.30 for 7pm at Orange Senior Citizens Centre. Member for Calare Andrew Gee will talk about the campaign to make Orange the federal capital of Australia. All welcome. Entry \$4 members, \$6 non-members. Supper provided following talk.

Friday 1 December: ODHS Christmas dinner at Dundry-league. Drinks on the terrace from 6pm, dinner at 7pm. Please let a committee member know if you would like to attend.

Wednesday 6 December: ODHS committee meeting 5.30pm.

Christmas break: The cottage will be closed between Christmas and the end of January.

Florrie Fowler and the Chinese 'den'

* From Page 11

The matter didn't end there: Mrs Bullen, of Lucknow, decided to take charge.

Henry Newman was persuaded to write to the Bishop of Bathurst, Dr Byrne, to see if Florrie could be taken into a convent there.

The *Orange Leader* took the moral high ground, asserting that its rival, the *Western Advocate*, had understated the danger to Florrie.

The Bishop agreed to allow Florrie, although underage, into the convent immediately and Mrs Bullen persuaded Harriet Fowler to relinquish her child.

"... this paper will feel satisfied in having done its best to perform a public duty," the *Leader* crowed, with scant regard, it would seem, for the feelings of either Harriet or Florrie.

Henry Newman appears to have contacted the Bishop largely to stop the war of words between the two newspapers:

"I was thinking whether Your Lordship could not make an exception in this very painful case and allow the mother to place the child at the Convent at once and thus save these two newspaper men from abusing each other, and, perhaps, the girl from a fearful end," he wrote to Dr Byrne.

Dr Byrne wrote to Mr Newman:

"Rev Mother Superior of the Mercy Convent here tells me she is willing to receive the girl Florrie Fowler into their orphanage here at once.

"She would prefer to take the child now, when she is only six years old, than later, when perhaps she would become vicious and be fit, not for an orphanage but a reformatory."

The *Leader* had the last word, declaring that it had been 'determined to have the child removed from its pestilential surroundings'.

What became of Florrie is unknown. Did she thrive at the orphanage? Did she ever see her mother again? Did she recall in later life her time living with her mother and the Chinese man in East Orange?

Harriet Fowler died in 1906 aged just 32, of an abscess on the lung, when Florrie was aged 13.

Charlie Chin died in 1910 of heart failure resulting from kidney disease. It was said he had a Chinese wife somewhere but her whereabouts were unknown. He was buried in the Chinese section of Orange Cemetery.