

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Winter 2017



The railway issue



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Cover images (clockwise from main): Fireman Peter Ward, of Billimari, stands beneath the banner with the image (inset) of himself and driver John Folster, taken in 1955, which was used in the publicity for the Rail 140 events; Senior Customer Attendant Margaret Kennedy and Area Customer Service Manager Michael Herft from Orange Railway Station at the opening of the photographic exhibition at Orange City Library; Alex Rezko, who travelled on the XPT from Blayney to Orange on the anniversary; Former District Superintendent Tom Hetherington greets old colleagues at the symposium.

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

Orange Heritage Centre
148 March Street
PO Box 1626 Orange NSW 2800.
Phone: 0458 649 669
Email: orange.history@yahoo.com.au
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Orangehistory>

Patrons: Russell Tym and Marie Hammond

President: Liz Edwards

Vice-president: Euan Greer

Secretary: Dave Sykes

Treasurer: Annette Neville

Committee: Phil Stevenson, John Glastonbury, Judy Agland, Jenny Maher, Ross Maroney

Publicity officer/newsletter editor: Liz Edwards

Honorary historians: Ross Maroney, Phil Stevenson, Julie Sykes & Elizabeth Griffin

Membership fees from January 2017

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

We are breathing a sigh of relief that our Rail 140 celebration events were such an outstanding success.

Organised to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the arrival of the Western railway line in Orange in 1877, it involved many months of planning and the services of a number of the society's volunteers.

The four major events – the photographic exhibition, the celebrations at the railway station (organised by railway staff), the screening of the movie *The Titfield Thunderbolt*, and the day-long symposium – all attracted many people keen to learn more about the history of the railways in our region.

Good attendance numbers ensured we not only covered our considerable costs but made a tidy profit, which will be put towards purchasing much needed computer equipment and developing our website.

My sincere thanks go to organisers John Glastonbury, Euan Greer and Phil Stevenson, and catering volunteers Judy Agland, Jenny Holdaway, Jenny Maher, Dorothy Noble and Sally Watson.

While that sigh of relief is heartfelt, we are not resting on our laurels and are continuing to plan future activities and events which will appeal to members as well as the public.

An event not organised by our society but which is sure to be of interest to members is the Family History Societies Conference, to be held in Orange in September. See page 10 for details.

We are delighted that at last we not only have a museum in Orange but that the Friends of the Orange Regional Museum is now up and running with an impressive group of people on the committee. The formation of the group means there is now a link between the museum and its staff, our society and members of

the public.

The society is assisting curator Jennifer Forrest in her research for the next main exhibition at the museum, *From Paddock to Plate*. We have provided photographs, information and objects related to the production of food and beverages in the Orange district. The exhibition is due to open during FOOD Week next April.

As usual, our volunteers are doing a fantastic job at the cottage. We held a special working bee a short while ago to tidy up the back verandah and green shed and prepare better storage facilities in the brick garage.

The hard work paid off and we now have room to move in all three areas and new shelving has been erected in the brick garage.

While our collection has been much reduced in recent years to make it more relevant, we still have a core collection of items which require good storage.

Meanwhile work is continuing on the CWD Negative Collection with the first of 27 boxes of negatives transferred to acid-free envelopes, the negatives separated from one-another with acid-free paper. The envelopes are then put in acid-free archival boxes for storage in our facility at the Cool Stores.

We are looking for more volunteers to assist in this job on Wednesdays. Please contact me if you can help.



- Liz Edwards



Member Robert Bruce (right) presents a framed photograph of the Byng Street walk to Ross Maroney, who led the very successful walk earlier in the year. The photo now sits proudly on the wall of the research room where Ross works.



Our Wednesday working days are always busy as we go about our various tasks. From left, on a recent working day, are Sally Watson, Jenny Maher, Tony Bouffler, Euan Greer, Liz Edwards, Marian Spanjer, Phil Stevenson and Judy Agland.

Orange Rail 140

Railway line put Orange on the map

The society's major event for 2017 was the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the arrival of the railway line in Orange in 1878.

The railways brought unprecedented change to the Central and Far West regions of NSW. Passengers no longer had to endure long and uncomfortable journeys on horseback or by wagon or coach, while freight could now be transported to markets overnight. Orange's fruit growing industry benefited immensely, while wheat and wool from the western areas was much more easily transported.

Opening up the railway to the west as far as Bourke and south towards the Victorian border ensured that goods could be sent to Sydney markets rather than interstate.

Orange became a major railway depot employing hundreds of people over the years, many of whom spent the whole of their working lives in the service of the railways.

Plans for the celebrations started in November last year with Euan Greer, John Glastonbury, Phil Stevenson and Liz Edwards on the sub-committee.

The celebrations encompassed four events designed to capture the spirit of the railways.

Photographic exhibition

An exhibition of photographs from the Central Western Daily Negative Collection and railway enthusiast John Ward opened at Orange City Library on Tuesday 11 April.

The images dated from 1955 when steam trains were still a common sight, and progressed through to the diesel era.

They included photos of train drivers and firemen, line work, the last days of small sidings such as those at Bloomfield, Cullya and the Showground, industrial disputes and railway personalities. John Ward's images, some of which were in colour, really captured the era of



Above: Euan Greer and John Glastonbury at the opening of the photographic exhibition in the Orange City Library.

Right: Senior Customer Attendant at Orange Railway Station Margaret Kennedy and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads, Maritime and Transport Kevin Anderson cut a celebratory cake at the railway station. Photos courtesy John Kich.



steam trains, especially those showing the Orange rail depot under snow.

Copies of the photos on display are available from the society.

Railway station celebrations

On Wednesday 19 April, the actual anniversary of the opening of the railway line in Orange, crowds of people converged on Orange railway station to greet the XPT from Sydney at midday.

Station staff put on an event to remember, with gifts for children, a jumping castle, a barbecue and a brass band.

Orange City Band played some stirring music which greatly added to the festive atmosphere.

The station had not been so busy for many years and the celebrations were testimony to the appeal of the railways.

Movie

About 125 people filled one of the Odeon 5 cinemas on the evening of Wednesday 19 April for the screening of a railway-themed movie, *The Titfield Thunderbolt*.

The 1953 comedy from Britain's Ealing Studios included a host of stars including Stanley Holloway and Sid James.

The storyline, about a village in Britain facing the closure of a branch railway line, struck a chord with the audience.

Wealth of railway history at symposium

The final event to mark the anniversary was a one-day symposium, held at Kenna Hall on Sunday 23 April.

About 85 people attended from near and far, including many former railway employees.

Five guest speakers – Euan Greer, Denny Ellis, Bob McKillop, John Bastick and David Hill talked about different aspects of railway history and heritage.

Euan Greer described the opening of the railway line in Orange in 1877. Denny Ellis, a railway man since 1945 and the author of *A Railwayman's Journey*, gave a talk on railway operations at their height in Orange during the 1940s and 50s. Historian and author Bob McKillop described the influence of the railways on the economy and industrial development in the Western Districts of NSW. John Bastick, another long-term railway man, talked about the railways in Orange during the period leading to their decline.

Former CEO of NSW State Rail David Hill was unable to appear in person because of health issues, but Euan Greer and John Glastonbury travelled to Sydney to video a 'conversation' with David about his time at the helm and the restructuring of the railways. The video was a hit and a fitting finale to the day.

The photographic exhibition was transferred from the Library to Kenna Hall for the day and several other railway enthusiasts brought along additional photos and memorabilia. Also present was John Gayden, who is in the final stages of producing a book, *Shooting the West*, about the steam era on the Western Line.

There was a spirit of camaraderie during the symposium as old railway hands got together to remember the heady days when rail was king. One former assistant station master proudly wore his uniform while others enjoyed looking at the photos and memorabilia.

Guest of honour was 93-year-old former District Superintendent Tom Hetherington, who was delighted to meet some of his former colleagues at the symposium.

Guests were treated to morning and afternoon tea and a sandwich and fruit lunch organised by volunteers from the society.

Proceeds from the symposium and movie will be put towards the purchase of electronic equipment and developing a website for the society.



Guest speakers Bob McKillop, Denny Ellis, John Bastick and Euan Greer. Photo courtesy John Kich.



Participants browse through photos, memorabilia and John Gayden's publicity for his book about the steam era on the Western Line.



Part of the audience at Kenna Hall.

Railway mystery at Yeoval as passenger

By John Glastonbury, Euan Greer and Elisabeth Edwards

A photographic exhibition was held in Orange City Library as one of the events celebrating the 140th anniversary of the opening, on 19 April, 1877, of the Great Western Railway to Orange. The exhibition, curated by Liz, was largely made up of railway images from the CWD Negative Collection in the custody of our society.

One of the photos showed a derailed steam locomotive leading a passenger train at Yeoval. This immediately roused the curiosity of John: a steam-hauled passenger train should not have been at Yeoval, on the now long-closed line between Dubbo and Molong via Cumnock.

Why was the passenger train on the line and how was it derailed? Finding the answer to these questions was an irresistible challenge to Liz (custodian of the CWD Collection), John and Euan (rail enthusiasts and historians).

Starting the search

In the collection, Liz found other photos and valuable information about the incident, revealing that there had been a violent collision. Initially, no story could be found in the CWD but a search in Trove found brief reports in papers as far apart as Gilgandra, Bourke and Canberra.

These provided the basic facts including the date of the incident. This latter led to detailed accounts in the CWD. In his collection, John found plans for the layout of railway tracks at Yeoval and a set of instructions – the safe-working rules – as to how the layout was to be operated to prevent accidents.

Euan downloaded a current image of the railway remnants at Yeoval from Google Maps. Using this, John's information and the reports from the various papers, we developed an account of what, where and how the event happened.

Why was a steam passenger train on the line?

Monday 26 September 1955 was the day of the railway employees' an-



The photo which started it all - 3254 lying on its side beside the track with a mainline passenger carriage behind. Note the smashed buffer beam at the front of the engine and the broken rail beneath the back wheels.

nual picnic, held that year in Dubbo. The railways provided a special train to pick up off-duty railway workers and their families from Molong and other stations on the cross-country line to Dubbo, take them to the picnic and then home again at the end of the day. The special was just one of six run from various centres to Dubbo that day.

What happened?

At about 6am on that Monday morning the special train left Molong with picnickers for Dubbo. The train was made up of a 32 class steam locomotive, number 3254, a main-line passenger guard's van behind the engine and then two main-line passenger carriages. Engine 3254 was from Dubbo, as was its crew, driver Kevin Hopkins and fireman Neville Gregg. The guard, William Gee, was from Orange and travelled in the van. Less than 75 minutes after leaving Molong the engine was off the track, lying partly on its side, and a man was dead.

While the picnic train was on its way from Molong, a goods train from Dubbo to Orange was shunting in the yard at Yeoval after running into the loop. The reports and photos

do not identify the goods engine, but it was most probably a 50 class 2-8-0 standard goods locomotive. In charge of the engine was acting driver Graydon Thomas Blatch of Yeoval and his unidentified fireman. Guard Roy Dingwall of Dubbo was busy coupling and uncoupling wagons.

At the Molong end of the yard assistant station master Raymond Russell was operating the points for the shunting to happen. Operating these points automatically set the home signal for trains coming from Molong at 'stop', thus protecting the yard and shunting engine. While shunting, the goods engine, running light (i.e. without any wagons), had moved forward through the points at the end of the yard and gone on to the main line towards Molong.

Driver Blatch, alone on the engine as his fireman had gone to the toilet, believed he was safe from any oncoming train. He looked up to see the passenger train approaching at speed, yelled at Russell to change the points, "he's not going to stop in time", and rammed his engine in reverse. He opened the regulator so hard that the wheels of the engine spun.

and goods trains collide



The Yeoval home signal at 'danger', the signal at which the picnic train was supposed to stop. Note the bent rail in the foreground which derailed the goods engine and the broken rail under 3254. Both indicate the force of the collision.

Blatch cleared the points but was still foul of the main line when he realised the engines were going to collide. He jumped from the driver's (left hand) side of the cab onto the main line, the line on which the passenger train was approaching. He tripped, recovered but then fell again.

At about 7.10am, and 100 yards from the station, the engines collided with such force that both were derailed and rails and sleepers were broken.

The goods engine stayed upright but the 32 class on the picnic train rolled over about 60 degrees on its right-hand side.

Blatch had not been able to scramble clear and was crushed beneath the 65 ton passenger engine and died instantly.

The crew on the passenger engine were not injured (even though driver Hopkins jumped off before the collision) but thirteen passengers were hurt, including the guard who broke his arm.

What went wrong?

The coroner's findings.

A coronial inquest, lasting four days, was held in Wellington a month after the crash. The most important

fact from the inquiry was that 800 yards from the home signal (where the crash occurred) was a distant landmark post telling the crew of the picnic train that they should slow down to be ready to stop at the home signal if it was at danger.

Basically, the driver of the picnic train failed to respond to the landmark warning signal by bringing his train under control and ran past the home signal at 'stop' because he was going too fast to pull up in time, even when fireman Gregg called out a last-minute warning.

There were other contributing factors, including that driver Blatch should not have been alone on the goods engine.

All these factors were breaches of the safe working rules, some of which were serious, but the simultaneous combination of breaches proved fatal.

Put together, they resulted in the death of driver Blatch (leaving behind his wife and five young children) and injury to a number of passengers together with serious damage to track and locomotives at Yeoval.

Successful show

By Sue Milne

This year's Orange Show, held on the weekend of 13 and 14 May, has been described as the most successful in the past 10 years. Was this due to increased attractions, the publicity generated by a visit by a television show or just the great weather?

The visit to the show by Better Homes & Gardens to Orange was a great attraction. The episode will be screened on Prime in late June.

The Naylor Pavilion was officially opened during the show. On display was a mixture of local businesses and organisations, art and school sections, but the main attraction was the wrestling team from International Wrestling Australia. This building will be multi-purpose and events booked include farmers' markets and school holiday entertainments.

The outside events were well supported with record entries in many sections. This was the same for the revamped Agricultural Pavilion, with more space for displays, following the relocation of traders to the Naylor Pavilion. Sideshow Alley was busy with new rides from the Easter Show.

The Williams and Dalton pavilions were dedicated to history and community organisations promoting Orange. Included were a military display, U3A, Orange Family History Group, ECCO and Orange Toastmasters, all well promoted. FORM (Friends of the Museum), were present, this being one of their first official events.

A big crowd pleaser was the Orange & District Historical Society's display on the 140 years of railways in Orange. There was many a discussion and story-telling throughout the show.

Orange Show Society had a display of photographs from the 1957 and 1967 shows from the CWD Negative Collection which is managed by the Historical Society.

Thank you to everyone who assisted during the weekend to make the show a success. We hope to see you again next year (28/29 April).

I would like to thank Phil Stevenson on behalf of the Show Society for donating a scanner/printer for use with the show collection.



Going . . . going . . . gone: Templers Mill, which had stood at Narrambla since the 1840s, was destroyed in November 1971. Photograph CWD Negative Collection.

Destruction of mill severed historic link

By Elisabeth Edwards

The destruction of Templers Mill in November 1971 was a sad end for one of Orange's most important buildings, boasting links to the Ophir gold rush as well as with poet Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Paterson.

The red brick mill, situated at Narrambla just north of Orange, is believed to have been built by a member of Simeon Lord's family and bought by John Templer in the mid-1840s. Originally driven by bullocks, Templer later replaced them with a steam-driven engine.

When Australia's first payable gold was discovered at Ophir in 1851, the mill was well placed to supply flour for the miners who flocked to the district, which they used to make their staple food, damper.

In 1864 Templer advertised:

Flour and bran for sale in any quantities at reasonable prices. Grist done at the usual rate. For the convenience of the inhabitants of Orange, I have appointed Mr John Peisley my agent for the purchase of wheat and the sale of flour, at whose stores a constant supply of the latter may always be obtained.

'Banjo' Paterson, a great-nephew of Templer, was born at Narrambla in 1864. Although Paterson's family moved to Buckinbah near Yeoval soon after Paterson's birth, Orange – and in particular Narrambla – has rightly laid claim to be his birthplace.

The mill remained in use until about 1870 when Templer sold up and moved to New Zealand. The steam boiler was removed to Heap's brewery in Moulder Street, Orange.

The mill gradually deteriorated until by the 1960s it was in a perilous condition.

Concerned citizens, led by Orange & District Historical Society patron Dick Sheridan, campaigned in July 1966 for its restoration. Sheridan invited the director of the NSW National Trust, R N Walker, and architect with the Trust, L J Buckland, to inspect the ruin to see if it could be preserved.

A site inspection was made with representatives from Orange City and Canobolas Shire councils, at which Mr Walker said the destruction of the mill would be 'a calamity': "If it came down, at least half the historical significance of the area would be lost."

Walker and Buckland rejected a suggestion that the mill could be torn down and its bricks used to make a stage for performances of Paterson's poems as well as fireplaces for visiting tourists.

Walker and Buckland were keen to see the mill saved, and in 1967 the National Trust classified the mill as an historical building which should be preserved.

The Trust's support unfortunately did not lead to government funding for restoration work, and although the Department of Lands offered \$5000 if the same amount was raised in the community, and Canobolas Shire offered a donation of \$1000, it seems that no concerted effort was made to raise the remaining \$4000.



Representatives of Orange & District Historical Society, the National Trust and local councils examine Templers Mill in 1966.

On Tuesday 30 November 1971 Canobolas Shire workers arrived at the site with scores of sticks of gelignite and started a series of explosions which sounded the death-knell for the mill. It didn't go without a struggle, the chimney remaining defiant for some time until a final blast sent it crashing to the ground.

An anonymous National Trust official labelled the destruction of the mill as 'idiotic vandalism', while Mr Walker criticised Canobolas Shire Council for not opening a public appeal to save the building.

There is nothing left of the mill now, although a stone memorial to Paterson, erected by the Historical Society in 1947, remains as a reminder of Narrambla's importance to Orange's early history.

Exploring district's lost heritage

A large crowd of about fifty people attended our last History Alive meeting on 10 May. The subject, Our Vanished Heritage, clearly struck a chord with many people.

There was an even mix of Historical Society members and members of the public.

Guest speakers were Ross Maroney and John Kich, who showed images of buildings and landscapes lost over the years.

The buildings ranged from the historic Templers Mill and Showground grandstand to terraces such as

Little Bowen Terrace, and ordinary houses.

One of the earliest buildings was the old Toll House, where travellers were charged a toll to proceed.

Of particular interest was a series of photos from the CWD Negative Collection showing the moment when Templers Mill, deemed too far gone to restore and too dangerous to keep, was dynamited in November 1971.

We are greatly indebted to Ross and John for taking the trouble over many years to photograph and document the city's streetscapes and buildings.



Left: Guest speakers Ross Maroney and John Kich.



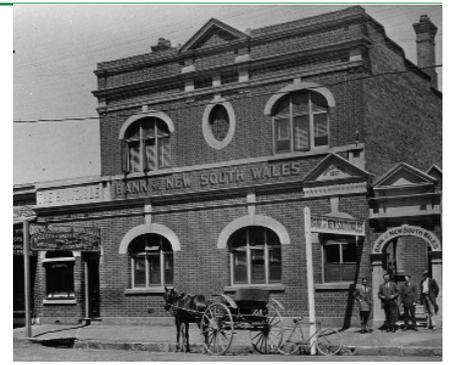
Right: John and Marian Spanjer and Cathy and Rob Hines.



Left: Nancy Meredith, Sandra Brooks and John Bastick.



Right: Sally Watson and Judy Kich.



Buildings lost to Orange: The School of Arts in Byng Street, just west of Anson Street; Orange District Hospital in Anson Street between Prince and Dalton streets; the bank of NSW in Lords Place near the Summer Street intersection.

Orange to host Family History Societies conference

Family historians from the Central West and beyond will gather in Orange from 22 to 24 September for the 2017 NSW and ACT Family History Societies Conference.

The theme of the conference, which is being hosted by Orange City Council through Orange City Library, will be 'Your family story: telling, recording and preserving'.

Organiser Jan Richards, manager of Central West Libraries, said she was very excited that this year's conference would be held in Orange.

"I am excited because I am a very keen family historian," she said. "We are not only getting some great professionals to speak but also there will be a lot of personal enjoyment to be had from the stories that will be told and the workshops that will be run."

One of the first sponsors to come on board is the Orange Regional Arts Foundation.

The program is as follows.

Thursday 21 September:

Welcome reception 6-7.30pm at Orange Regional Museum.

Friday 22 September:

A family history fair will be held in Orange City Library from 9am to 4pm, to which everyone is invited. Representatives from Ancestry, Find My Past, State Records and other organisations will be on hand to talk to visitors about approaches to family history.

Also that day there will be a number of workshops:

10 am – 3pm: Connecting Culture: tracing ancestors – Indigenous Services Team, State Library of NSW

10am – 1pm: Chatting to your ancestors – Kim Kelly

10am – noon: DNA 101 – Veronica Williams

10am – 1pm : Copyright for Genealogists – Jessica Coates

10am – noon: Photography+Time=History – Glenn Mickle

10am – noon: Eat your history – Jacqui Newling

1pm – 3pm: DNA Next Steps – Veronica Williams

1pm – 2pm: Estate planning for your research – Heather Garnsey

2pm – 3pm: Preserving your family history – Allison Campbell

3.30pm – 4.30pm: NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Forum

7.30pm – 9.30pm The Story Only I can Tell (Orange Civic Theatre)

Saturday 23 September:

8am: Registration

9 – 9.15am: Welcome

9.15 – 10am: Roses from the Heart – Christina Henri

10am – 10.30pm: William Yang in conversation

10.30 – 11.15am: Morning tea in the exhibition area

11.15 – noon: Opening the cage on your gaolbird ancestor – Gail Davis

12 – 12.45pm: A tongue on the table: telling the family story through food – Jacqui Newling

12.45 – 1.45pm: Lunch

1.45pm – 2.30pm: Cracking the code: dating Australian portraits through dress – Margot Riley

2.30 – 3.15pm: Whatever happened to Ann Kenny? – Perry McIntyre

3.15pm: Afternoon tea in the exhibition area

4pm: NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies AGM

6.30pm: Conference dinner (Orange Ex-Services Club)

Sunday 24 September:

9 – 10am: Why look back? – William McInnes

10 – 10.30am: Case studies from the various speakers

10.30 – 11 am: Morning tea

11 – 11.45am: Weaving your family history on the web – Shauna Hicks

11.45am – 12.15pm: Visualising History: the ANU Archives Centre and the Tooth & Co. Ltd. Hotels Project – Catherine Ziegler

12.15 – 12.30pm: Conference close

2 – 4 pm: Duntryleague – Join us at historic Duntryleague, originally home of the Dalton Family. Orange and District Historical Society will give you a background talk on the Daltons before tours of the mansion followed by afternoon tea. Cost will apply, yet to be decided.

Other events will be a special opening of Wentworth Mine from 10am to 2pm on the Friday, a cemetery walk with Orange historian Elizabeth Griffin on the Friday afternoon, and a walk along Byng Street with Orange historian Ross Maroney on the Saturday afternoon.

Cost of full conference registration:

Earlybird (by early July) \$140

Registration \$160

Saturday only:

Earlybird \$90

Registration \$100

Sunday only:

Earlybird \$60

Registration \$70

The cost includes:

Welcome reception on Thursday 21 September.

Choice of workshops on Friday 22 September (subject to availability).

Access to all conference sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

Morning/afternoon tea/lunch on Saturday 23 September.

Morning tea on Sunday 24 September.

Day registration includes:

Access to all conference sessions on the selected day.

Morning/afternoon tea/lunch for registrations Saturday 23 September.

Morning tea for registrations Sunday 24 September.

There is an extra cost of \$40 for the Friday evening performance at Orange Civic Theatre and \$60 for the conference dinner.

For more information go to: www.ofhg.com.au/conference

Full steam ahead for Friends of Museum

Friends of Orange Regional Museum met at the museum on 2 May to elect their executive and committee. This followed the inaugural meeting a few weeks previously.

The meeting was chaired by Cr Neil Jones.

The executive is as follows:

President Garry West; vice-president Neil Jones; secretary Ian McIvor, treasurer Phil Stevenson and committee members Elizabeth Griffin, Philip Schwebel and Duncan Stuart.

Garry West said the formalities marked an important step in making the museum move forward. He commended our society for its lobbying over many years for a museum.

“We now have a civic precinct with the council chambers, theatre, library, gallery and museum,” he said. “I’m honoured to be part of this team.”

Director of the Regional Gallery and Regional Museum Brad Hammond then spoke about the museum, its staff and coming events.

He said 22,000 people had visited the museum since it opened last November, including many school children who really appreciated seeing original objects.

As public item donations have increased, storage was an issue which needed to be addressed, he said.

An exhibition on Chinese Migration to the Orange Region was opened on 19 May. Genevieve Mott and Barry McGowan were commissioned by Orange, Blayney and Cabonne councils to investigate the role of Chinese migrants in the economic and cultural life of the region. This display can be seen in the Community Showcase.

The next major exhibition at the museum will be *From Paddock to Plate*, a history of regional food production. Brad Hammond said the exhibition, due to open during FOOD Week 2018, would be a source of local pride as well as attracting visitors from further afield.



The Friends of Orange Regional Museum committee: treasurer Phil Stevenson, vice-president Neil Jones, secretary Ian McIvor, committee members Duncan Stuart and Elizabeth Griffin, president Garry West and committee member Philip Schwebel.



Director of the Regional Gallery and Regional Museum Brad Hammond.



Cr Neil Jones, who led the steering committee to form the Friends.



A large crowd attended the launch of the Friends of the Orange Regional Museum.



Listening to Brad Hammond's talk at the Friends meeting on 2 May.

Diary July - September 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.

Saturday 24 June: Public lecture by Heather Nicholls on Cobb & Co in the Central West, with specific focus on Molong, at Molong RSL Club. Entry \$10 including afternoon tea. RSVP Sue Milne on 0400 425 015 or Marie Hammond on 6360 4799 or 0447 624 568.

Wednesday 5 July: ODHS committee meeting 4.30pm.

Wednesday 12 July: History Alive meeting 6.30 for 7pm at Orange Senior Citizens Centre on fires and Orange Fire Brigade with guest speaker Matt Jeffery. Entry \$4 members, \$6 non-members. Supper follows.

Saturday 22 July: Visit to Orange Fire Station 2pm. Gold coin donation.

Friday 21 July: Workshop 'Voices from the Past: uncovering local and personal stories', 10am-3.30pm at Hotel Canobolas. Cost \$35. Tickets through Eventbrite: <https://hcnswstorytelling.eventbrite.com.au>

Saturday 22 July: Floor talk by Orange Regional Museum collections manager Allison Campbell on object care 2-4pm at the museum. Bookings essential on 6393 8444 or email: museum@orange.nsw.gov.au

Saturday 12 August: Floor talk by Dave Perry on the 1926 Chevrolet, *Emma*, 2-4pm at Orange Regional Museum. Bookings essential on 6393 8444 or email: museum@orange.nsw.gov.au

Wednesday 2 August: ODHS committee meeting 5.30pm.

Saturday 19 August: ODHS Annual general meeting 2pm in East-West rooms of Orange Regional Gallery.

Saturday 2 September: Floor talk by Elisabeth Edwards on the Emmco/Email/Electrolux factory 2-4pm at Orange Regional Museum. Bookings essential on 6393 8444 or email: museum@orange.nsw.gov.au

Wednesday 6 Sept: ODHS committee meeting 5.30pm.

Wednesday 13 September: History Alive meeting 6.30 for 7pm at Orange Senior Citizens Centre, subject to be announced.

22-24 September: NSW and ACT Family History Societies Conference. See page 10 for details.

Trove Roadshow comes to Orange

Many local historians, teachers and students were outraged when the Federal Government announced in the 2016-17 budget that \$20 million would be slashed from funding for the National Library. This meant that Trove, the library's on-line repository of books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music and archives, would not be able to add any more content.

There was such a public outcry that in December last year the Federal Government announced a one-off funding package of \$16.4 million over four years to upgrade infrastructure linked to Trove.

While the majority of people researching either family or local history rely chiefly on Trove's newspaper archives, which are searchable using optical character recognition, Trove is much more than this, as participants in the Trove Roadshow found when it visited Orange in early May.

The Roadshow was designed to inform people in regional areas about Trove and how it works, and also explain how individuals and groups could upload their own collections onto Trove so that it could be shared by others.

The Trove team gave an example of how the various Trove resources could help build up a picture of someone's life.

They also explained how putting items on Trove meant that small local collections could be discovered alongside libraries, university repositories, museums and government departments.

Orange's Leader newspaper was digitised a few years ago for the years 1912 to 1922 to cover the Great War years, but although Orange newspapers are available on microfilm from 1899 onwards, nothing more has been digitised because of the huge cost (about \$2 per newspaper page)

This means that while the years 1912-1922 are fully searchable, anyone wanting to find information from before or after those dates has to look through each newspaper on a microfilm viewer, page by page.

It is hoped that more funding will become available so that this valuable resource will be of greater use to local researchers.