

# History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Spring 2018



## Miniature railway reaps rewards

## Exciting photo donation



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### Cover image

One of the many rides on Orange Miniature Railway at the running day organised by Orange Society of Model Engineers. Our society was the beneficiary of profits made on that day.

Photo: John Kich.

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.  
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:** Phil Stevenson

**Treasurer:** Annette Neville

**Committee:** John Glastonbury, Julie Sykes, Judy Agland, Ross Maroney, Karen Kloosterman,

**Publicity officer/newsletter editor:** Liz Edwards

**Honorary historians:** Ross Maroney, Liz Edwards, Julie Sykes & Elizabeth Griffin

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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

This newsletter is later than usual because I was away for five weeks recently and also because of technical difficulties with my publishing program.

We have been fortunate this year with financial support, the latest being a grant of \$4750 from Create NSW's Cultural Grants Program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government, towards the cost of publishing a biography of James Dalton Senior, James Dalton Junior and Thomas Dalton.

The working title is: *Father and Sons: The Daltons of Orange*.

I am currently undertaking research for the book and one of the reasons for my recent absence was to carry out research in Ireland and London.

We are grateful to the State Government for the financial assistance, which will be put to good use.

We were also recently the beneficiaries of a public running day organised by the Orange Society of Model Engineers – see story on page 10. We extend our sincere thanks to the Society of Model Engineers for their support.

You will see in this newsletter that we are already planning some special events for next year which marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our society. The founders fulfilled a need for an historical society back in 1949 and through the hard work and dedication of many members since that time, it has gone from strength to strength.

We do hope you will be able to attend some of the events to mark this important anniversary.

We maintain strong ties with Orange Regional Mu-

seum and its staff. We are sorry that the museum's public programs and education officer Jessica Dowdell has left to take up a position with the City of Lake Macquarie. She will be missed by her colleagues at the Historical Society.

Meanwhile work is continuing on our planned exhibition at Orange Regional Museum, due to open for three months in early June. The exhibition will feature photos from the CWD Negative Collection relating to work and workers from the 1960s to 70s. These outstanding photos will bring back memories of how and where people worked in that era, and there will be many familiar faces among the workforce.

As the year draws to a close and thoughts turn to Christmas, we hope to see members at our annual Christmas dinner on 30 November. Please see the notice below for details.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to wind down after a busy year on our last working day of the year, Wednesday 19 December. Drinks and nibbles will be served at the cottage from 4.30-6pm. Please bring a plate if you can. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Liz Edwards



## Join us for Christmas dinner at Duntryleague

Our annual Christmas dinner will take place at Duntryleague on Friday 30 November.

The evening will start at 6pm with drinks on the terrace (drinks at own expense; the society will provide nibbles). If the weather is wet or cold, tables in the bar area will be available.

Dinner will start at 7pm in the Campdale Room.

There will be a choice of three mains and three desserts (a vegetarian option will be available on request).

Main:

1. Traditional ham with gravy and roasted potatoes, pumpkin and seasonal vegetables.
2. Grilled chicken breast with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables.
3. Crumbed flathead fillet with tartare sauce, seasonal vegetables and roasted potatoes.

Dessert

1. Meringue stack with raspberry sauce.
2. Christmas pudding with custard.
3. Sticky date pudding with butterscotch sauce.

Tea and coffee

To help Duntryleague staff with the catering, we ask that you let Liz Edwards know if you are coming, and your preferred meal options, by Friday 23 November.

You may email Liz at: [liz.edwards@orangepeel.it](mailto:liz.edwards@orangepeel.it) or phone her on 6362 8647.

Christmas drinks for volunteers and supporters will be held on our last working day for the year, Wednesday 19 December, from 4.30-6pm at the cottage. The society will provide drinks but please bring a plate of something if you are able.



Liz Edwards



Euan Greer



Annette Neville



Phil Stevenson



Judy Agland



Ross Maroney



Karen Kloosterman



John Glastonbury



Julie Sykes

## Meet your committee for 2018-19

There was a good attendance at the Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday 18 August.

The committee for 2018-19 is: President Liz Edwards; Vice-president: Euan Greer; Secretary: Phil Stevenson; Treasurer: Annette Neville; Committee: Ross Maroney, Judy Agland; John Glastonbury; Julie Sykes; Karen Kloosterman. As there were no other nominations, the above were duly elected onto the committee.

Liz moved a vote of thanks to Jenny Maher for her presence on the committee in the past several years.

Marie Hammond and Russell Tym both agreed to continue as patrons of the society.

Ray Norman agreed to continue as public officer. Liz Edwards agreed to continue as publicity officer. Honorary historians are Liz Edwards, Julie Sykes, Elizabeth Griffin and Ross Maroney.

Marie Hammond spoke about the scar tree from the MacSmith family of Boree. She said it was a very important item and needed urgent conservation. Previously a quote was obtained to transport it to Sydney for conservation but the amount was prohibitive. She said she would like to see the society collaborate with the Orange Regional Museum on the matter. Charlie Everett asked if the society had permission from the Aboriginal population to keep the tree. Marie said previously there had been a demand from the Aboriginal population to return any Aboriginal artefacts but nothing came of it. Phil Stevenson said the committee needed to follow up on it.

Paul Meeth said the tree was large and heavy and in poor repair. He said Aboriginal groups may have access to Commonwealth funds.

Marie said there were grants available for conservation of Aboriginal artefacts.

Sharyn Aiken moved that the committee investigate the best approach for the protection of the tree. Bill Walsh seconded and the motion was carried.

Marie then presented to Liz for the society a book of poems by Orange-born journalist and poet Kenneth Slessor, 'Earth Visitors', 1928. She said the book had been bought at auction on behalf of the society some years previously for \$320 and she had stored it since then at her home for safe-keeping. Slessor was born in 1901 and died in 1971. Among his poems is the well-known 'Five Bells'.

Michael O'Mara invited people to St Joseph's church in Orange. Margaret Bastick would give a talk about the history of the church, and Robin Saville would talk about the restoration of the Hardman windows. Following the talks there would be discussions on the coming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church and the need to raise funds for restoration.



Marie Hammond presents Liz Edwards with the Kenneth Slessor book.

# A book, a satyr and a memorable poem

The book *Earth Visitors*, a collection of poems by Kenneth Slessor, was bought at auction some years ago on behalf of our society, at the instigation of our current patron Marie Hammond. She has had it in safe-keeping but decided recently that it should be kept in the possession of the society.

Poet and journalist Kenneth Slessor was born in William Street, Orange, in 1901, the son of Robert Schloesser, a German migrant, and his Australian-born wife Margaret (née McInnes).

Slessor Senior changed the family name to Slessor at the outbreak of World War I, because of anti-German sentiment in Australia.

Like Orange-born poet Andrew 'Banjo' Paterson, Slessor's family moved when Kenneth was a small child, and Kenneth grew up in Sydney.

Slessor was a voracious reader and began writing poetry as a child. When he left school he became a cadet journalist for the Sydney Sun newspaper. He remained a journalist all his working life, combining this with writing poetry.

Slessor's collected poems in *Earth Visitors*, published in 1926, was his second book. It was published by his friend Jack Lindsay's Fanfrolico Press in London and printed on hand-made paper. It contains illustrations by Norman Lindsay.

The book is number 314 of a limited edition of 425 copies and is signed by the author.

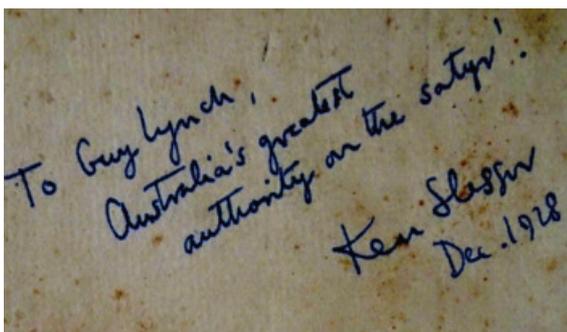
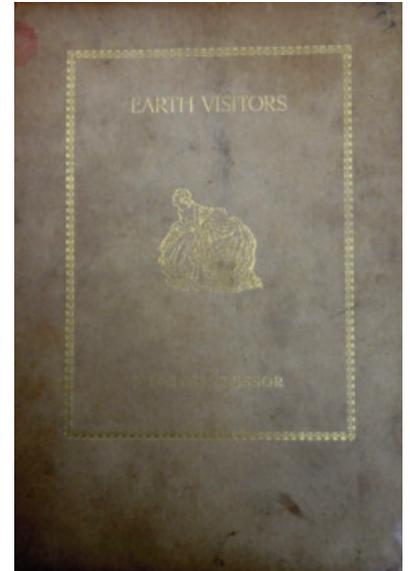
It also contains a dedication to his wife Noella.

There is also an inscription, signed by Slessor, to Guy Lynch, whom he names as 'Australia's greatest authority on the satyr'.

Guy Lynch was a Melbourne-born sculptor. His sculpture *The Satyr* received both praise as a masterpiece and condemnation as a pagan work. Satyrs were half human and half goat deities of woods and mountains. Lynch's sculpture was inspired by his brother Joe, and now stands in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney.

Joe's death by drowning inspired Slessor to write his most famous poem *Five Bells*.

Slessor died in 1971. His family home in William Street no longer survives, although Orange City Council has marked the spot with a commemorative sign, and Orange can still claim Slessor as one of its own.



Top: Orange-born poet Kenneth Slessor.  
 Above left: The house in William Street, Orange, where Slessor was born in 1901.  
 Above right: *Earth Visitors*, by Kenneth Slessor.  
 Left: Inscription to Slessor's friend, sculptor Guy Lynch.  
 Right: *The Satyr*.



# Magnificent architectural history of region

Nearly forty people turned out on a cold winter's evening to hear architectural historian Graham Lupp talk about his book about the architecture of the Central West.

The magnificent book took Graham several years to research and write but the result is a magnificent two-volume tome, meticulously researched and richly illustrated.

While the book is titled 'Building Bathurst', it covers the whole of the Central West, including many notable buildings in Orange, plus detailed information about their architects and builders.

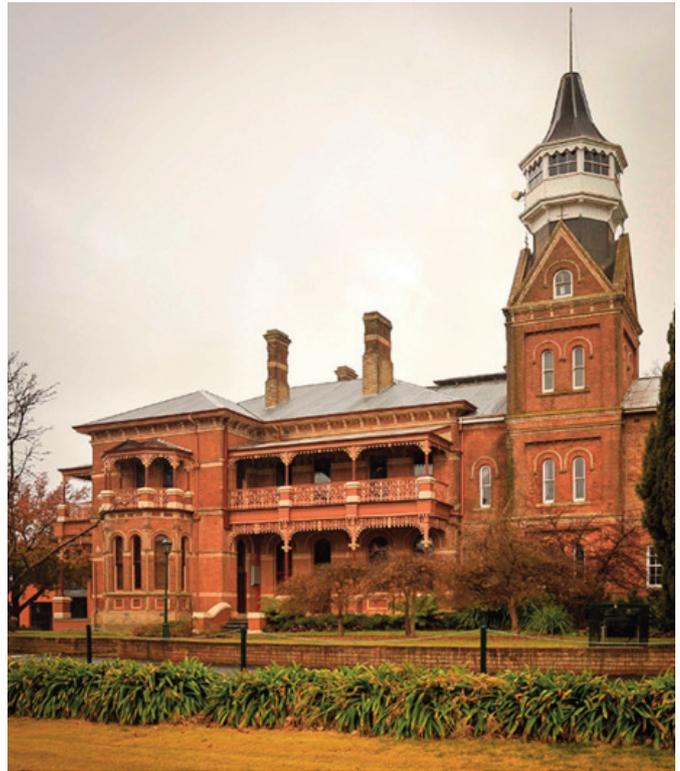
To convey an idea of the amount of work Graham has put into the book, the two volumes run to 840 pages with 450,000 words, and together weigh 7kg. There are more than 1000 illustrations, including historic drawings, paintings, photographs, maps and original architects' plans as well as Graham's own paintings, photographs and measured drawings.

Despite the book's size, it is easily navigated with the help of three indexes.

Among the notable architects included in the book are James Barnett, who was responsible for the design of the Orange Court House, Edward Gell, 'the Catholic architect', Thomas Rowe, responsible for the design of Holy Trinity Church, George Allen Mansfield, designer of Orange Public School, and Benjamin Backhouse, who designed the striking AJS Bank building in Summer Street, the large addition to Dalton Brothers' emporium, and Duntryleague.

Graham's breadth of knowledge is remarkable and the audience left with a richer understanding of the architecture of our region.

The book is available through Bathurst City Council.



Wolaroi, originally built for the McLachlan family, one of many local buildings featured in the book.



Graham Lupp talks with members of the audience about the history of architecture in the Central West.



Graham Lupp with copies of his book after the History Alive meeting in July.

# Charting the end of the First World War

The West Room was packed for a special History Alive meeting on 12 September when themes relating to the end of World War I were explored.

The event was a collaboration between our society and Central West Libraries and was attended by society members and many others from the community. We were especially pleased to see the Mayor, Cr Reg Kidd, who has a special interest in local history.

Guest speakers were Trudi Mayfield, Dr Selena Williams and Michael Caulfield.

Trudi spoke about a project she has been working on for the past four years to document the lives and service records of all those from the Orange district who enlisted during the war.

She started her talk with some excerpts from Orange journalist Joe Glasson's memories of the atmosphere in Orange when war was declared.

She then spoke about the experiences of some of the servicemen from Orange.

Dr Selena Williams gave a most interesting talk about soldier settlers in the Orange district, many of whom returned from the war with physical and mental afflictions, and the challenges they faced as they tried to make a living from the land.

Author and film-maker Michael Caulfield described vividly the last few months of the war from the Battle of Amiens to the Armistice. He also described the difficulties facing soldiers waiting for long periods in England, France and the Middle East for ships to take them home. He quoted extensively from the war diaries of soldiers.

Tower captain of the Orange Peelers, Joy Fabry,



Guest speakers Dr Selena Williams, Michael Caulfield and Trudi Mayfield with Historical Society president Liz Edwards.

gave a brief talk about Holy Trinity Anglican Church's role in remembering Orange's servicemen and women. This year the peelers will toll the bell 100 times to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the war.

The next History Alive meeting, which will take place on Saturday 10 November, will be a guided tour of some of Orange's historic pubs. This event will be a collaboration between the society and Orange Regional Museum.



Left: Eric Tanner and Bev Duncan.

Right: Paul Meeth and Suzan Dickson.





The old and the new: Orange Mayor Cr Reg Kidd, photographer Robert Bruce, director of Orange Regional Museum Brad Hammond, Orange Regional Museum collections manager Allison Campbell, and Phil Stevenson and Liz Edwards of Orange & District Historical Society with the original photograph and Robert Bruce's copy.

# Exciting photo development

Following our article in the winter newsletter about the panoramic photograph of Orange, there have been some exciting developments.

Readers will recall that our member Robert Bruce, assisted by Phil Stevenson, produced a high quality copy of the original photo.

The 1907-8 photograph was deteriorating and it was felt that a copy should be made for people to enjoy before the original became too delicate to handle.

Member Liz Edwards took the original to a Sydney conservator and a quote was obtained to have it conserved.

Since then the owner of the photo decided that it should be donated to Orange Regional Museum for safekeeping.

Our society organised the donation and it was officially handed over to the Mayor, Councillor Reg Kidd, and museum staff on 8 August. Also attending were Robert Bruce, Phil Stevenson and Liz Edwards from the society as well as local media representatives.

The Mayor said he was excited to see the original and also to know that it would be conserved for posterity.

Just as we were recovering from the excitement of this, Robert borrowed a panoramic photo of Lucknow, of about the same vintage as the Orange one, and proceeded to make a magnificent copy of that one too.

It was in much better condition than the Orange one, and therefore easier to copy. The result is a detailed image of what Lucknow looked like at the turn of the 20th century, complete with mining buildings and equipment and workers' cottages.

It is now firmly believed that both photos were taken by prolific photographer William Bursle. The Lucknow one has his name clearly embossed on it and both photos were taken in the same manner.



Robert Bruce explains to Orange Mayor Reg Kidd how he re-photographed the panoramic photo.

# Society to celebrate 70th anniversary

**N**ext year is a very exciting one for our society as we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of its formation.

The society was formed in 1949 by a group of people who not only wanted to commemorate the anniversary of Orange-born poet Andrew 'Banjo' Paterson but felt a local society could explore in detail the rich history of the Orange district.

One of those who shared this vision was the Clerk of Petty Sessions, Dick Sheridan, who was a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

The society's first meeting was held in the upstairs meeting room at the Town Hall in Anson Street on 27 May 1949.

Dick Sheridan was elected the society's first president and later became patron. He spent countless hours researching local history and writing articles about it for the Central Western Daily.

The society opened its first museum in the former Infants School in Sale Street (now the Cultural Centre), where it continued for a number of years, manned by volunteers.

Later it was moved to the former Orange City Library premises in McNamara Street, but it was forced to close when that site was sold. The collection was put into storage and was inaccessible for about ten years.

Society members campaigned for years for Orange to have a museum and now that the Orange Regional Museum is open, members work closely with museum staff, providing information, documents, photographs and objects for use in exhibitions.

## Special events throughout the year

There will be a number of events in 2019 to mark this important anniversary:

**Saturday 25 May:** A celebratory dinner in the Campdale Room at Duntryleague. This will be an opportunity to give ourselves a pat on the back as we reminisce about our achievements over the years, and the pleasures of historical research.

\* \* \*

**Friday 7 June:** Official opening of the exhibition 'All in a Day's Work' at Orange Regional Museum. This is a collaborative event between the society and the museum, showcasing some of the best images from the CWD Negative Collection relating to workers in Orange and District in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The exhibi-



One of the founders of Orange & District Historical Society, Dick Sheridan, shows some young people the entry for Banjo Paterson's birth in local court records in 1964

tion opens to the public on Saturday 8 June. It will continue for three months.

\* \* \*

One of our History Alive meetings – on a date to be decided – will be about Orange in 1949, the year the society was formed.

It was a very different place in those days, Orange having recently been declared a city, and manufacturing taking over from orcharding as its major industry. As well, the first of the migrants were arriving from Europe following the devastation of World War II. The Emmco/Elcon factory was just three years old in 1949 but already employing hundreds of people. Dominating Summer Street was the Western Stores (previously Dalton's), which took pride of place on the southern side. There will be much to discuss at this meeting and we look forward to hearing from members and others about their memories of that time.

There will also be a special article in one of the History Alive newsletters next year, about Orange in 1949, when it was a small city coming to grips with post-war expansion and a changing population.

Later in the year we will launch the book 'Father and Sons', about the Dalton family, in the year which marks the 100th anniversary of the death of James Dalton Junior. Author Liz Edwards has been researching in depth the story of this family and their impact on Orange and district, as well as their support of the Catholic Church and their involvement in the Irish Nationalist cause.

We look forward to sharing with members and others the special events to be held during 2019.



Left: Karen Kloosterman and Judy Agland were kept busy serving refreshments all afternoon.



Right: It was the ride of a lifetime for these little ones and their carers.



Left: Phil Stevenson and John Glastonbury manned the display of historic railway photos.



Right: Children couldn't wait to climb into the large red NSW Fire and Rescue truck.



Left: Judy Chapman and Julie and Dave Sykes manned the barbecue to ensure the sausage sandwiches kept coming.



Right: Children and adults enjoy a ride.

Photos courtesy John Kich, Phil Stevenson and Jenny Holdaway.

# Miniature railway running day success

Our society was fortunate to be chosen by the Orange Society of Model Engineers to be the beneficiary of profits from its miniature railway public running day on Saturday 13 October.

There was a great roll-up of children accompanied by parents, grandparents and carers, all keen for rides on the popular miniature trains, and the operators were kept busy all afternoon.

Besides the rides, our society mounted a display of historic local railway photos, which attracted a great deal of interest, and there was also plenty of railway memorabilia for people to see.

The refreshments were in great demand and our vol-

unteers were kept busy serving sausage sandwiches, sweet treats and soft drinks.

An added bonus was the arrival of a fire engine from Orange Fire and Rescue, complete with crew, and this just made the day for many of the children – and adults!

Our society is grateful to the Society of Model Engineers for its generosity. The money donated will be put to good use in our work dedicated to gathering and preserving the history of the Orange District.

Special thanks are also due to Euan Greer and John Glastonbury from our society, who are also keen railway enthusiasts, and all those other members who assisted with information stands and the catering.

# An eastern view of life and death

By Elisabeth Edwards

The theme of this year's History Week, organised by the History Council of NSW, was 'Life and Death'. Held in September, the week is an annual State-wide celebration of history.

History Week was an opportunity to explore life's defining moments and the impact of death on communities across time. The theme covered life's milestones and how different cultures came to terms with death; how people commemorate lives; and what rituals and burial practices revealed about people's relationship with and understanding of life and death.

Thinking about how this theme resonates with local history, I was drawn to the writings of Joe Glasson, an Orange journalist who wrote about our city and its inhabitants in the late 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries.

He mentioned more than once in his articles the Chinese who lived and worked in Orange. Many were market gardeners, having abandoned their quest for gold in the mid-19th century.

One of the most well-known gardeners was Willie Lee, who worked a large block of land on the northern side of March Street between Sampson and Woodward streets.

"The picturesque lay-out of the garden, surrounded by a wire fence, was a conspicuous attraction," Glasson write..

"As Chinamen worked on Sundays, it was a common sight to see quite a large number of people lining the fences admiring the rows of beautiful vegetables and watching the gardeners at work on their knees.

"Willie Lee, with his cane baskets swinging over his shoulders, was a popular caller at almost every home in the western part of the town.

"Christmas week was the busiest time of the whole year for Willie, when it took him several days to deliver Christmas presents to his friends.

"The gifts consisted of a blue stone jar lined with bamboo cane and filled with juicy ginger, and a packet of Chinese nuts – a special consignment from China.

When there were large families, Willie would treat them accordingly, and many homes received very generous parcels.

"Several countrymen assisted Willie in his garden.

"Willie Lee eventually passed on, and the garden site, or a portion of it, was purchased by Mr Roderick Plowman, where he built a comfortable residence, to be followed later by other home-builders. That block today is one of the [prized] spots of that busy thoroughfare.

"Fifty years ago the representatives of the Chinese race played a big part in the daily life of Orange, and there was no such thing as having to go to a shop to purchase vegetables for home use.

"The family Chinaman, with his baskets or cart and horse, was awaited each day, and it was often late in the evening when his big job was finished.

"Another Chinese garden was situated in Moulder Street, where it covered the whole block on the southern



A rare 19th century Chinese grave in Orange cemetery.

side from Anson Street to Sale Street, with the little iron residence adjacent to slip-rails on the corner of Sale Street.

Willie and his countrymen were very generous, and would never let children leave empty-handed – a bunch of radishes or an armful of watercress usually rewarding them."

Glasson also observed the Chinese in their rituals and one in particular enthralled him.

"On a Sunday in 1916, the whole Chinese population of Orange held a feast in the Chinese portion of the Orange cemetery to celebrate the anniversary of the burial of a fellow countryman," he wrote.

"A number of Chinamen from around the district attended at the cemetery, and quite a crowd of Europeans were attracted by the strange antics of the Celestials.

"A large supply of choice confectionery and cakes was on hand, also a roast pig.

"The lighter refreshments were handed around to the onlookers, those including Pat Flanagan [Advocate reporter] and myself.

"A bowl of rice and the roast pig were apparently for the spirit of the departed.

"These were supplied with six knives, the number of buried Chinese, who were supposed to rise up and partake of the good things provided in order to fortify them on their trip to the unknown world, as imagined by John the Chinaman.

"The Chinese enjoyed themselves immensely.

"Later they took the roast pig to a Chinese house in East Orange, and there it was devoured and enjoyed as only sons of Confucius can enjoy a roast pig."

# Diary November - December 2018

**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. See [www.orangemuseum.com.au/wentworthmainmine](http://www.orangemuseum.com.au/wentworthmainmine)

**Wednesday 7 November:** ODHS committee meeting 5pm

**Friday 9 November:** Author talk and launch of 'Banjo' by Grantlee Kieza, 5.30 for 6pm, Orange Regional Museum. Tickets \$20. Local wines and cheese platters will be served prior to talk. Bookings essential on 6393 8444 or <https://banjofriends.eventbrite.com.au>

**Saturday 10 November:** History Alive guided walking tour of Orange historic pubs, in conjunction with Orange Regional Museum. Start at Museum at 2pm, end at Hotel Canobolas 4pm. Light refreshments will be served at Hotel Canobolas. Tickets

\$15 adults, \$13 ODHS members, \$11 Friends of Orange Regional Museum, children under 16 free. Book through eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/orange-historic-pub-tour-tickets-43064123954>

Or phone 6393 8444. Tickets are limited and selling fast.

**Sunday 11 November:** Armistice day re-enactment 9.30-10.30 outside old Town Hall, Anson Street. Wear period costume of 1918 for photograph.

**Friday 30 November:** ODHS annual Christmas dinner at Duntryleague: 6-7pm drinks on terrace; 7pm two-course dinner in Campdale Room. Cost \$40. Bookings and meal choices essential. Contact Liz Edwards on 6362 8647 or email: [liz.edwards@orangepeel.it](mailto:liz.edwards@orangepeel.it)

**Wednesday 5 December:** ODHS committee meeting.

**Wednesday 19 December:** Last working day for the year. Drinks and nibbles at cottage for volunteers, 4.30-6pm. Please bring a plate; drinks provided.

## State-wide launch of Amplify

An oral history project completed 22 years ago in Orange has been given new life thanks to a sound archive collaboration between public libraries and the State Library of NSW.

Amplify, a platform designed to deliver audio collections from across NSW, was launched at Orange City Library on Friday 26 October.

Besides Orange City Library staff, there were also visitors from other libraries participating in the project from Wagga, Ryde and Wollongong.

The Orange contribution was the series of interviews carried out in 1995 and 1996 for the Email factory oral history project.

This project used the services of volunteers to interview a number of staff at the whitegoods factory, from those working on the shop-floor to the chairman of the board.

The original recordings were made on cassette tapes but these have since been digitised.

The oral history project was used as the basis of a book, 'Weapons to Whitegoods', written by Elisabeth Edwards, to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the factory in Orange.

Speaking at the launch were Orange City Librarian Sean Brady, executive director, public libraries and engagement at the State Library of NSW Dr Lisa O'Sullivan, manager of Central West Libraries Jan Richards, and interviewer and author Elisabeth Edwards. Orange Mayor Cr Reg Kidd, formally launched the project.

Some of the other oral history projects which can be

found on Amplify cover the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge; the repatriation of Mungo Man to Mungo National Park; Aboriginal rights campaigner Faith Bandler; Ryde in the early twentieth century; and the Wagga floods of 2012.

Anyone can become involved with correcting transcripts, in a similar manner as Trove is corrected.

For more information about Amplify, go to: <https://amplify.sl.nsw.gov.au>



At the Amplify launch at Orange City Library were manager of Central West Libraries Jan Richards, Orange Mayor Reg Kidd, and executive director, public libraries and engagement at the State Library of NSW Dr Lisa O'Sullivan.