

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Summer 2018-19



**Armistice
Day then
and now:
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The Armistice Day celebration in Anson Street outside the Town Hall in November 1918.

Photo courtesy Orange City Library.

The Armistice Day re-enactment in Anson Street on Sunday 11 November 2018.

Photo courtesy Central Western Daily.

Orange & District Historical Society

Orange Heritage Centre
148 March Street
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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 2019

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 S1 to our account number.

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.

A message from the president

As we wind down for the Christmas and New Year break, we can look back on another busy and successful year.

Our five History Alive events were well attended, with two walking tours – Anson Street and historic hotels – a ‘show and tell’ session, Graham Lupp’s talk about his magnificent two-volume book on the architecture of the Central West, and a collaboration with Orange City Library with expert speakers talking about the end of World War I.

We already have plans in place for next year’s History Alive sessions.

Besides Graham Lupp’s book, another launch held just recently was of Rob Bartlett’s keenly anticipated second volume of Orange’s history in photos. It is full of interesting images from Orange’s past and will no doubt be a great success.

We always enjoy working with other societies, individuals and organisations concerned with history and heritage, so it was fulfilling to be involved in the development of Orange Regional Museum’s exhibition ‘Paddock to Plate’, which opened earlier this year. We were delighted to be able to supply images and objects for display and share our knowledge of the history of food production in our district with curator Sandra McEwen.

Our major fund-raiser for the year, the running day organised by the Orange Society of Model Engineers in October, was very successful and we are grateful to the organisers for their generosity in donating the proceeds to our society.

Our volunteers have been kept busy throughout the year, with groups meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays working on various projects. Their dedication and hard work ensures we keep up to date with a number of important tasks.

A measure of their commitment can be seen in the completion of re-housing the large-format negatives from the CWD Negative Collection into acid-free envelopes and boxes. It was a two-year job for the four volunteers but now they can move on to the next stage of preserving these precious images.

One of the highlights of the year for our society was being involved in the preservation of the original panoramic photo of Orange. You will remember that the owner decided to donate it to the Orange Regional Museum, and the staff there were quick to organise its urgent restoration.

There is also a panoramic photo of Lucknow, and photographer Robert Bruce has been working on producing high-quality copies of it.

Research continues on the Dalton history and new and interesting information is still being unearthed. The grant awarded by the RAHS will be put towards producing the book towards the end of 2019.

As our thoughts turn to the New Year, we are looking forward to celebrating our society’s 70th anniversary. We are working on a program of events to mark this important milestone and hope to see members participating.

Finally, I wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to sharing more of Orange’s rich history with you in the New Year.

- Liz Edwards



Book examines John Oxley’s 1818 expedition

A recently published book examines the 1818 expedition into the interior of NSW by explorer John Oxley.

‘John Oxley: A New Perspective’, details this first major expedition into the interior of NSW, which provided a detailed description of the north-west of NSW, Liverpool Plains and the Hastings River Valley.

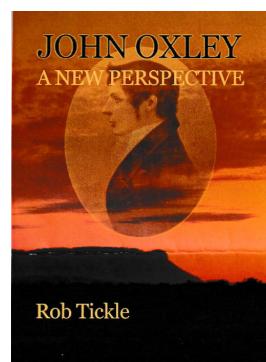
It explains the impulses which drove Oxley and his companions George Evans, Charles Fraser and John Harris to explore

and map the colony and collect, identify and categorise its flora. It also gives profiles of the convicts who accompanied the explorers.

It includes many photographs not used in previous publications as well as a full copy of Oxley’s report on the expedition.

The book is available from author Rob Tickle at a cost of \$25 plus \$12 postage and packing to anywhere in Australia.

Rob can be contacted at: rtickle@bigpond.net.au



Negatives re-housed for conservation



A job well done: Volunteers Sally Watson, Tony Bouffler, Liz Edwards and Judy Agland with the re-housed negatives in the society's storage facility.

A two-year project to re-house the CWD Negative Collection's old-style negatives has ended.

Volunteers Liz Edwards, Judy Agland, Tony Bouffler and Sally Watson have worked constantly on the enormous task to ensure the negatives are safely stored.

A total of 104 special acid-free boxes containing close to 77,000 negatives housed in acid-free envelopes are now stored in compactuses in our off-site storage facility.

While this is a huge milestone, and a nice way to end the year, work on the collection will continue well into the future.

The next tasks are to scan all the damaged negatives and preserve them in a freezer, and to re-house hun-

dreds of 'candid' negatives. The latter are mainly of social events, such as weddings and birthday parties, dating from the 1960s.

After that the team will turn its attention to the hundreds of thousands of 35mm negatives covering the years 1971-2000.

These are in much better condition and not in danger of rapid deterioration, but some need to be transferred into new sleeves for protection, while others need to be dated.

The collection continues to delight the team as interesting images come to light.

Some of the best images featuring working people will be on show in an exhibition at Orange Regional Museum in June 2019.

Grant for Fairbridge park

The State Government announced in early December that it had awarded a grant of \$500,000 for the development of the Fairbridge Farm Children's Park near Molong.

The park will be built on land that was formerly part of Fairbridge Farm and will tell the story of the nearly 10,000 child migrants sent there from Britain between 1938 and 1974.

It will provide visitors and locals with an appreciation of the Fairbridge children's journey to a new homeland, of their childhoods without parents, and starting a new

life in Australia.

It will be a reflective park which will encourage all who visit it to have a greater understanding of this important story, which is of local and national significance.

The official announcement was made at the site on Monday 10 December. Among those attending were Parliamentary Secretary for Western New South Wales Rick Colless, MLC, Cabonne mayor Kevin Beatty, Orange mayor Reg Kidd, and a number of former Fairbridge children.

Membership fees due

Membership fees for 2019 will become due on 1 January 2019.

You will receive an invoice early in the New Year. Fees are: Family \$45; individual \$30; single concession \$20; couple concession \$30.

You may pay with cash at the cottage on Wednesdays from the beginning of February, send a cheque to the society at Box 1626, Orange, NSW 2800, or make a direct payment to: 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 S1 to our account number.

Orange's pictorial history in new book

The launch of Rob Bartlett's new book of historic images of Orange at Orange City Library on 28 November was well attended.

'Orange and District, A History in Pictures, Volume 2', had been keenly awaited following the outstanding success of Rob's first book some years ago.

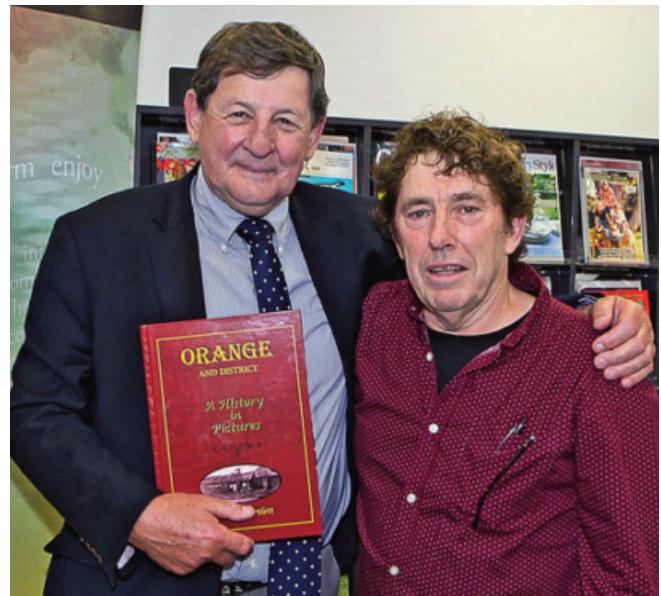
Volume 2, like the first volume, is packed full of images of Orange, its buildings, inhabitants and special events.

Many of the photographs are from Rob's extensive private collection while others have been sourced from the State Library of NSW, the National Library, Orange & District Historical Society and many individuals.

Sections include early pioneers, coaching days, schools, businesses, theatres and churches.

While the main focus of the book is on Orange, there are also images from nearby settlements such as Cadia, Shadforth and Lewis Ponds.

The book is available from Collins Booksellers in Summer Street at \$60.



Orange Mayor Reg Kidd, a history buff himself, spoke at the book launch. Photos by Robert Bruce.



Rob was kept busy signing books at the launch, with Phil and Margaret Schwobel of Collins Booksellers assisting with sales.



Part of the enthusiastic crowd at the launch at Orange City Library.



Rob with Jan Richards, manager of Central West Libraries, which hosted the event.



Rob signs a copy of his book for local historian Helen Haynes.

Armistice Day remembered in Orange

By Elisabeth Edwards

Armistice celebrations in Orange 1918, with huge crowds, umbrellas and hats to protect from the sun, and a packed balcony at the Town Hall. Note that Holy Trinity Church has not yet got its steeple.

Photo courtesy Orange City Library.



The 8000 or so residents of Orange wasted no time in celebrating the end of World War I, even before the news that the Kaiser had abdicated was made official.

Throughout the evening of Sunday 10 November railway engines whistled, the fire warning bell rang, the Model Band played and people rushed out of their houses. Fireworks were lit and 'each and every-one felt as if a mighty weight had been lifted', the *Orange Leader* stated.

The former Mayor, Ald McNeilly, who had steered the town through the war years, spoke from the balcony of the Club Hotel, reminding the crowd below that for some, there were heavy hearts as they mourned local war casualties.

People spent the next few days in a state of euphoria, decorating homes and businesses with flags and bunting.

On Wednesday 13th a morning service was held in Robertson Park, followed by a parade to the Town Hall in Anson Street, where a huge crowd gathered.

The Mayor, Ald Bouffler, spoke, as did representatives from the various churches.

When people heard that Orange's hero Dr Neville Howse would arrive home by car on Sunday 17 November, several car-loads of people motored out to Wellwood to welcome him. As his car approached, they sounded their horns and waved and cheered. Sir Neville stopped for a while, puffed on a cigarette and chatted briefly with his old friends.

An official welcome was held at the Town Hall the next day and about a thousand people gathered to catch a glimpse of Dr Howse. The Town Hall was again decorated with flags and greenery and a guard of honour formed by returned soldiers. In his uniform of the Surgeon-General and wearing his VC and KCB medals, Sir Neville looked remarkably well considering his arduous

four years of service overseas.

Early the following year the first meeting of returned Diggers was held in a room over a shop in Summer Street, when it was decided to form an Orange sub-branch of the Returned Soldiers' League. Dr Arthur Colvin, who had been invalided home from the war, was chosen as the branch's first president, and the branch was active from that moment on.

The Diggers organised the planting of the Memorial Avenue on Bathurst Road, where trees were planted in memory of fallen soldiers.

Barely had the Armistice celebrations died down when a new menace arrived in Australia. The Spanish flu, as it was dubbed, arrived in Victoria, probably assisted by the return of troops from the war, and by January 1919 it had spread to NSW.

The first case in Orange was recorded on 23 March and for the next few months Orange District Hospital was filled with sufferers. Matron Kate Dooly appealed for old linen and funds were raised for the hospital, which at that time relied almost solely on the community for money and food.

The Town Hall, so recently the scene of joyful celebrations, was used as a vaccination centre. An ambulance committee was established to make plans for transporting patients to hospital, as Orange did not have an ambulance service at that time.

Voluntary Aid Detachment ladies, so useful during the war, turned their attention to making masks from wire and mosquito netting, saturated with disinfectant.

By the end of the year the epidemic had all but run its course. Orange residents started facing the next challenge – coping with mass unemployment - as the Great Depression took hold in the late 1920s.

Armistice Day remembered in Orange



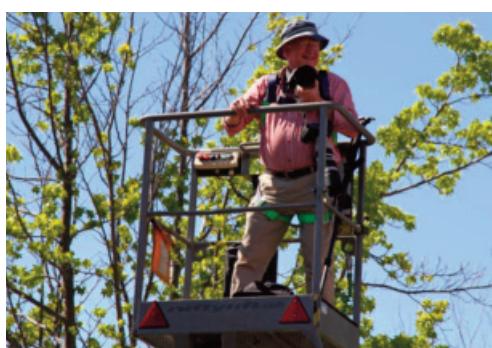
One-hundred years after the signing of the Armistice, Orange residents once again gathered outside what is now the former Town Hall.

Many people dressed for the occasion and some impressive motor vehicles of the era were on display. The City of Orange Brass Band played suitable music. The Town Hall balcony was once again decorated with flags.

The original speeches were uttered by people representing the Mayor, Ald Bouffler, the Town Clerk Mr Mulholland, former Mayor Ald McNeilly, and a number of church leaders.

The re-enactment was organised by Orange City Council's Centenary of WWI Committee.

Orange photographer Robert Bruce captured the day's activities from high up in a cherry picker.



Photographer Robert Bruce captures the scenes from a cherry picker.



Left: Part of the crowd, suitably attired, for the celebrations.



Left: Lyndal, William, Julie and Dave Sykes.



A solemn moment at the re-enactment of Armistice Day.



Right: Holy Trinity steeple with a spectacular cascade of red poppies.



Right: The balcony of the former Town Hall.



Part of the crowd outside the former Town Hall.

Christmas cheer at Duntryleague

A total of 37 people attended our annual Christmas dinner at Duntryleague on Friday 30 November. Drinks and nibbles were served on the east terrace, followed by dinner in the Campdale Room.

Long-term member Elizabeth Griffin pointed out to the group that all seven presidents since the society was incorporated in 1992 were present. They were Marie Hammond, Ross Maroney, Bev Holland, Elizabeth Griffin, Phil Stevenson, Dave Sykes, and Liz Edwards.

Current president Liz Edwards spoke about the successful year drawing to a close and plans to celebrate the society's 70th anniversary next year.

Photos by John Kich, Jenny Holdaway and Liz Edwards.



John and Bev Glastonbury.



Left: Jenny Holdaway and Liz Edwards.



Right: Anne and Robert Bruce.



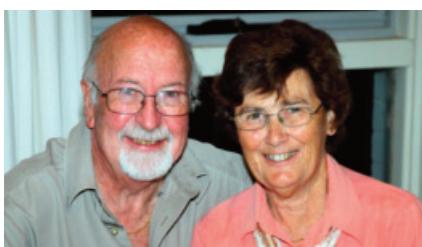
Nancy and Bill Walsh.



Annette Neville and Dinah Hayter.



Euan Greer and Dorothy Noble.



Left: Tony and Karen Bouffler.



Right: Elizabeth Griffin and Sue Milne.



Left: Judy and Josefine Agland.



Right: Gloria and Ross Maroney.



Presidents over the years: Liz Edwards, Dave Sykes, Elizabeth Griffin, Ross Maroney, Marie Hammond, Phil Stevenson, and Bev Holland.



Dave and Julie Sykes.



Karen and Jeff Kloosterman.



Shirley Sugden and Bev Holland.



Phil Stevenson and John and Judy Kich.



Above left: Frank and Sue Johnson.

Above right: Marie and John Hammond with grandson Demos.

Left: Doug and Pam Brooks.

Right: Bill Walsh and Marlene Farrell.



History Alive



Left: The group outside the Metropolitan Hotel on the corner of Byng and Anson streets. The building was constructed in 1864 by John Woodward as a store.

Photos by Karen Kloosterman and Phil Stevenson.

Touring Orange's historic hotels

The society's final History Alive event for the year, a walking tour of Orange's historic pubs on Saturday 10 November, was an outstanding success.

Organised in collaboration with the Orange Regional Museum, the tour took about 50 participants to a number of sites bounded by Byng, Anson, and Summer streets and Lords Place. Leading the tour were Ross Maroney and Euan Greer, whose combined knowledge about pub history ensured everyone was well informed.

Many hotels had changed their names over the years

and Ross and Euan were able to explain the history of these buildings.

Participants were given an illustrated pamphlet, which not only provided information about the hotels visited but also mentioned other hotels not included on the tour.

The tour ended at the Hotel Canobolas, where refreshments were served and there was an opportunity to talk about the history of the hotels. It was so successful that the society is hoping to do another one for those who missed the November one.



Left: The tour ended at the Hotel Canobolas on the corner of Summer Street and Lords Place. Originally named the Club House Hotel, the current building dates from 1939.

Right: Outside the Lord Anson (formerly the Standard) in Anson St.



Left: The recently renovated former Carrington Club Hotel in Lords Place.

Right: Tour organisers Ross Maroney, Alison Russell, Phil Stevenson, Emma Fleming and Euan Greer.

Update on Orange building projects

After a long delay, work has finally started on a major renovation of the former Myer building in Summer Street.

Previously Western Stores and Dalton Brothers' Store, the building has a long association with Orange dating back to the early 1850s.

When Myer announced it would close its store in January 2017, local people concerned with the history and heritage of the building lobbied Orange City Council to call for its preservation.

Our society put in a submission pointing out its importance as a retail centre for a period of over 160 years.

There was a concern that any redevelopment would involve demolishing the building. Some of our members were given a tour behind the scenes and found significant relics, such as old wooden pulleys, a cast-iron spiral staircase leading down into the cellars, and iron pillars, some of which had been highly decorated.

Thanks to the diligence of Council planning staff, a set of conditions was tabled which should ensure the most important historical elements of the building will be retained.

These include: retaining the Summer Street façade; reinstatement of eight Victorian period-style urns on top of the parapet; original signage on the Post Office Lane façade to be reinstated; the ground floor above the basement to include a clear transparent section of floor above the basement which must be suitably illuminated to allow it to be viewed from above; the spiral staircase salvaged from the basement to be relocated in a prominent position within the development site; the two original timber goods pulleys to be salvaged and relocated to a prominent location; and one interpretive display panel may be provided on the ground level interior of the building.

The era of large department stores may be drawing to a close, but the work to be carried out on the building will at least ensure that its history and importance to Orange will be long remembered.

Building work at the former Carrington Hotel on the corner of Byng Street and Lords Place is nearing completion.

Developer Saran Holdings has retained the façade of the hotel, believed to have been the oldest two-storey brick buildings in Orange. It was at one stage a store belonging to John Peisley.



Work has started on the former Myer Store in Summer Street.



The former Carrington Hotel gets a facelift.



Kelly's Hotel has been sold and has ceased trading.

A large office block has been constructed behind the building. The original balcony was destroyed in a storm in 1963 but a new one has been constructed.

We await news of the fate of the former Kelly's Hotel on the corner of Lords Place and Moulder Street, and the former nurses' home in Sale Street..

Many people were shocked when they learned that the Kelly's Hotel was to be sold after being run by the Kelly family for 96 years.

At first it was believed that the hotel would remain open under its new owners, but at the moment only the bottle shop is trading.

Diary January - March 2019

The society is in recess from Christmas to the end of January.

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

Week starting Monday 4 February: Volunteer work

resumes at the cottage.

Wednesday 6 February: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

February 2019: Banjo Paterson birthday commemoration and numerous associated events - dates and times to be announced.

Wednesday 6 March: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wednesday 13 March: History Alive meeting - Greg Eccleston will talk about his book on Granville Stapylton, second in command to Major Thomas Mitchell during his Australia Felix expedition of 1836. To be held at the Senior Citizens Centre 6 for 6.30pm. \$4 members, \$6 non-members. Supper provided. Inquiries to Phil Stevenson on 0402 412 188 or email Phil at: ibiswines@bigpond.com

Society awarded grant for book

We were delighted to hear in October that our society had been awarded a grant of \$4750 to go towards the publication of the biography of the Dalton family.

The grant, from Create NSW's Cultural Grants Program, is administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society,

Author Liz Edwards is currently researching for the book, and is working towards publishing it late next year.

Also delving into the Dalton history is Euan Greer, who has produced some detailed research into aspects of the family, including the two flour mills in Orange and the importance of the railways in handling freight to and from the Daltons' business in Orange.

Meanwhile, members of the Dalton family will gather in Orange in mid-March 2019 to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of James Dalton of Duntryleague.

Liz said her recent research had uncovered some interesting information about the family.

"When the original Dalton family history was published in 1988, the research was done in the pre-Internet era," Liz said.

"They did a terrific job, mainly through correspon-



Liz Edwards and Euan Greer with the grant award certificate.

dence by mail; these days we have the advantage of the Internet and much more information is now available."

Liz said there was a huge amount of information about the family on Trove, from a variety of newspapers, which has made it possible to add more details about their lives..