

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Autumn 2019



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Cover image

The Campbell epergne, which recently went on display at Orange Regional Museum, was presented to David and Amelia Campbell for repelling a bushranger attack at Goimbla in November 1863. Full story page 5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Orange & District Historical Society

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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 \$1 to our account number.

A message from the president

As we approach the 70th anniversary of the founding of our society, I feel we have much to be proud of.

The society was founded in 1949 and its members have worked tirelessly since then to preserve the history of the Orange district.

Thanks to the dedication of the committees over the years, and the enthusiasm of the members, we have kept Orange's history alive so that future generations may also enjoy it.

It hasn't all been hard work, of course: we have enjoyed outings to places of historic interest, held scores of History Alive meetings with guest speakers on a variety of subjects, commemorated historic events, and generally revelled in the rich history of our district.

We are also pleased to enjoy a good working relationship with Orange Regional Museum and have had some interesting collaborations, with more to come. The return of the Orange panoramic photo, now beautifully preserved thanks to expert intervention, was the culmination of work by our members and museum staff.

The 70th celebrations will take place on the weekend of 25 and 26 May and we hope to see many members joining in the events that weekend.

Other events taking place in our 70th year are the 'All in a Day's Work' photographic exhibition, which is opening at Orange Regional Museum on Thursday 6 June, which will be an outstanding opportunity to showcase the magnificent CWD Negative Collection, and the launch of the Dalton biography later in the year.

As well, our History Alive meeting for May will be taking a look at what Orange was like in 1949, the year our society was formed. We will have a number of guest speakers who were living in the district at the time, and

we welcome contributions from anyone in the audience. It should be an interesting and enjoyable evening.

As you will see from the story on page 6 about Millthorpe railway station, sometimes history is not about events which happened decades ago, rather it is about history in the making. The reopening of the station after a number of years is a tribute to those who fought so long for it, and it is now once again the hub of the village.

We continue to keep an eye on heritage matters and are currently waiting in anticipation of the facade of the former Dalton Brothers store in Summer Street being restored to its original glory.

My research for the Dalton biography is continually throwing up interesting information. Research is far easier these days than it was thirty years ago when the first Dalton book was written. We now have Australian, Irish and English newspapers available online via Trove and the British Newspaper Archive, and there is a huge amount of other material now online.

Just a reminder that membership fees were due at the beginning of the year. If you have not renewed your membership, you will not receive any more copies of the newsletter. We do rely on your membership to enable us to continue our work, and we appreciate your continued support.

- Liz Edwards



Passing of Toney Fitzgerald

We were saddened to hear of the death in January of a good friend of the society, Toney Fitzgerald.

Toney, who succumbed to cancer aged 57, was a larger than life character whose boundless enthusiasm for life was infectious.

He gave a fascinating History Alive talk in 2015 about breweries, especially Orange's Walker's Brewery, which used to stand on the corner of Hill and Moulder streets.

Besides unearthing a trove of interesting

information about the brewery, it was Toney's dream to replicate some of the company's successful beers.

As Toney became sick, he was supported by Historical Society member John Kich and his wife Judy. John and Toney shared a passionate interest in history and were instrumental in obtaining a substantial grant from Orange City Council to assist with the digitisation of the CWD Negative Collection.



Magnificent book reveals life of explorer



Guest speaker Greg Eccleston and his wife Joanna.

We were delighted to welcome author Greg Eccleston and his wife Joanna to our first History Alive meeting for the year.

Greg brought with him his magnificent book about Granville Stapylton, Major Thomas Mitchell's second-in-command, on his third journey of exploration through NSW and Victoria in 1836, known as the Australia Felix expedition, which began just west of Orange at Buree.

Greg, who was himself a surveyor for many years, first became interested in Stapylton when he assisted in developing the Major Mitchell trail in Victoria.



Phillip Schwebel and Julie Sykes.

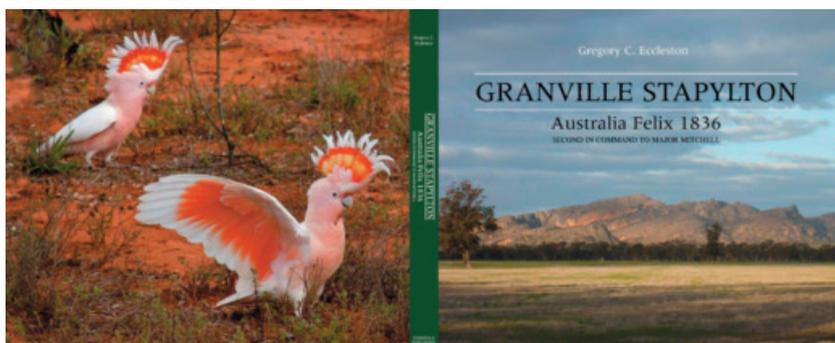


Marie Hammond and Shirley Sugden.

He researched and wrote his book over many years, the end result being a comprehensive life of Stapylton as well as a detailed account of the expedition, the topography of the land they travelled through, the flora, fauna and the Aboriginal people they encountered.

Greg also talked about the process of tracking down Stapylton's original diaries, which were in the possession of a direct descendant of Stapylton's older brother, in England, and deciphering them.

The society has purchased a copy of the book, which will be a valuable addition to our library.



Right: Barry Moore and John Bowler.



Membership fees overdue

Membership fees for 2019, due on 1 January, are now overdue.

You received 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, send a cheque to the society at P O 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.

Magnificent tablepiece recalls dark story

A gathering at Orange Regional Museum on Friday 1 February was the culmination of a project to purchase a rare and valuable object connected to the Central West Region's history and prepare it for exhibition.

The Campbell epergne is a silver centrepiece with elaborate decorative features, including candleholders and baskets, and acanthus leaf and grapes in the rich decorative scrollwork.

It was presented to David and Amelia Campbell in October 1864 for their role in repelling bushrangers who attacked their property, *Goimbla*, near Eugowra.

The attack took place on the night of 19 November 1863, when bushrangers John Gilbert, John O'Meally and Ben Hall set fire to a barn and ordered Mr and Mrs Campbell to surrender.

Mrs Campbell, who was later described as a 'daughter of Australia', worked with her husband to repel the bushrangers, securing guns and ammunition and even leaving the house, unarmed, to plead with four male servants in a hut near the homestead to assist her husband. They refused to help.

The raid on *Goimbla* was the culmination of a period of intense bushranger activity in the early 1860s, but it ended badly for the bushrangers when David Campbell shot O'Meally dead.

In another well-known attack in June 1862, the Eugowra Gold Escort coach was held up near Eugowra and a huge amount of gold and banknotes was taken. In July 1863 Gilbert, O'Meally and Hall held up the Commonwealth Bank at Carcoar in broad daylight. The gang also raided a jewellery shop and a hotel in Bathurst, and in October 1863 they invaded Robinson's Inn at Canowindra, holding local residents captive for three days before setting them free. In late October that year they attacked the home of gold commissioner Henry Keightley near Rockley.

Ben Hall and John Gilbert continued their bushranging activities until they were shot dead by police in 1865.

Besides the epergne, Mr Campbell was presented with a gold watch, and Mrs Campbell with an elegant silver-plated coffee pot. The ladies of Middle and Upper Adelong were so inspired by Mrs Campbell's heroism, that they sent her a testimonial printed on silk to express their admiration.

The 72cm high epergne was made in London in 1862 by Thomas Smily, and bought in Sydney from Hardy Brothers for £150 with funds raised from community subscriptions.

It was recently cleaned, repaired and polished by International Conservation Services of Sydney.



The silver epergne presented to David and Amelia Campbell for their gallantry in repelling bushrangers.

Photo courtesy Orange City Council

The mini-exhibition about the epergne and the event which led to its presentation to Mr and Mrs Campbell was opened by Member for Calare Andrew Gee.

Mr Gee, who has a particular interest in Australian history, recounted the story of the *Goimbla* raid, and its importance in the history of our region.

The Mayor, Cr Reg Kidd, also spoke, noting that while bushrangers were seen by many people as heroes, in fact they were for the most part violent criminals.

The epergne was initially purchased at auction by Andrew Baulch, representing the Orange Regional Museum Fund, after he was alerted to the importance of the item by museums consultant Kylie Winkworth.

Additional donations were received from the Leahy Family, Kylie Winkworth, Elisabeth Edwards, and Russell and Anne Tym. The purchase was further supported by the Australian Government through the National Cultural Heritage Account.



History in the making at Millthorpe station

History was made in Millthorpe on Friday 15 March when the refurbished railway station was re-opened. At a time when country rail services are limited, the re-opening represents a victory for local campaigners.

The platform has been extended and lighting and other improvements made. The daily XPT service will now stop at Millthorpe on demand.

The Millthorpe On Track Committee had been campaigning since 1995 for the preservation of the station and for the train service to be reintroduced.

The celebrations involved the whole village, with Member for Bathurst Paul Toole and other officials travelling from Sydney.

In a red-letter day for the village, a huge crowd assembled at the station, including children from Millthorpe Public School.

To celebrate the event, the Lachlan Valley Railway ran train trips between Orange and Blayney.

Photos courtesy Phil Stevenson.

Cargo re-lives its gold-mining days

Cargo celebrated the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the Cargo goldfields on Saturday 16 March, with a re-enactment of the AJS Bank robbery, the Cobb and Co Coach and the launch of a history of Cargo.

There was also a display by Aboriginal dancers, an exhibition of historical photos, markets and a bush dance.

Alluvial gold was first discovered at Long Gully near Cargo in 1868 with the goldfield proclaimed the following year. The town thrived for some years with hotels, a bank, churches, schools and a flour mill.

The main gold-mining activities occurred between 1865-79 and 1885-99. Cargo was also a stopping point for Cobb and Co coaches from Orange to Canowindra.



The re-enactment of the robbery at the AJS Bank. Photos courtesy Phil Stevenson.



Members of the Cargo 150th Book Committee Paula Dell McCumstie, Karen McMullen, Sue Williams, John Palmer and Laurie Williams. Phil Stevenson was also on the committee.

Family marks centenary of James Dalton's death



The oldest living descendant of the Dalton family, Barbara Currie (centre front), with members of her family at the reunion.



Gillian and David Serisier, Alison Monaghan and David Hunt.



John and Lyn Kelman of Queensland, Sue Burrows of Sydney and Patricia Burrows of Orange.

Photos courtesy Robert Bruce.

More than eighty members of the Dalton family gathered in Orange on the weekend of 16 and 17 March to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of James Dalton on 17 March 1919. The Dalton family were hugely influential in commerce, the pastoral industry, as supporters of the Catholic Church, and were involved in the campaign for Home Rule for Ireland.

A dinner was held at Dunryleague, James's former home, on the Saturday evening. Local author Liz Edwards spoke about the biography she is writing about James, his brother Thomas and their father James Dalton Senior.

David Hunt, author of humorous histories of Australia 'Girt' and 'True Girt', regaled the audience with his take on the Irish in Australia.

John Cook, of the Dunryleague Mansion Foundation, talked about the work of the foundation to preserve this priceless piece of Orange's history.

On the Sunday – St Patrick's Day – family members attended Mass at St Joseph's Church, the building of which James and Thomas Dalton supported through generous donations.

A barbecue lunch was held at Summerhill, now owned by Dalton descendant David Serisier, and close to the spot where James Dalton Senior established his store in the 1840s.



Michael Dalton with Eleanor and Paul Dalton.



Karen and Tony Dalton with John Dalton. Tony is a descendant of James Dalton Senior by his second marriage.

Christmas cheer at cottage

A welcome but untimely storm blew up on our last working day before the Christmas-New Year break, but we quickly moved into the green shed for Christmas drinks and nibbles for the volunteers.

It was a pleasant end to a year's busy activities.



Rob Showell, Maria Bargwanna and Rosemary Curry.



left: Narelle Campbell and Mick Philpott.



Right: Geoff Bargwanna and Phil Stevenson.



Above left: Dinah Hayter and Robert Bruce.



Above right: Judy Agland and Liz Edwards.



Left: John Glastonbury and Steve Brakenridge.

Society to celebrate 70th anniversary

Our society will celebrate its 70th anniversary in May with a special program of events.

The unveiling of an obelisk on Ophir Road in December 1947 to commemorate the birth of Australia's most beloved poet, A B 'Banjo' Paterson, provided the impetus for the formation of the society.

Orange's famous son was born at 'Narrambla' on 17 February 1864. Although he was there only a short time, his name is indelibly linked with the Orange district. A little over a year later, in April 1949, as residents gathered once again to pay tribute to Paterson at the memorial, Canobolas Shire Council president, J M Caldwell, suggested there should be an annual event to honour the great writer. This would require the formation of a committee, and the best way to do that would be to establish an historical society in Orange.

His vision was shared by a number of local people, led by Clerk of Petty Sessions Dick Sheridan.

Orange and District Historical Society's inaugural meeting was held in the upstairs meeting room at the Town Hall in Anson Street, on 27 May 1949. Forty-four people became inaugural members of the society. Mr Sheridan was the society's first president, later became patron, and spent countless hours researching many aspects of local history. A prolific writer, many of his historical articles appeared in the Central Western Daily.

Members lost no time in organising activities to celebrate the rich history of the region. In September 1949, a dozen members drove over to 'Eurunderee', Mudgee, to witness the commemoration of a memorial to writer Henry Lawson.

The major event for the year was the unveiling of a memorial tablet to Major Thomas Mitchell on the summit of Mount Canobolas, which the famous explorer had climbed in 1835 on his journey to the Darling River. In November members visited Bathurst for the dedication of a memorial to Charles Darwin.

Members of Bathurst Historical Society joined local members in December for a visit to historic Byng, visiting a number of places of interest and hearing expert speakers.

Members continued their activities in 1950, with an excursion to 'Cliefden', the historic home of the Rothery family near Mandurama, and a visit to Yuranigh's grave near Molong. In subsequent years the society continued its excursions and also invited guest speakers to talk about various aspects of local history.

One of the highlights of the early years was the celebration of the centenary of the discovery of the first payable gold at Ophir. More than 1000 people attended the event on 3 March 1951, including descendants of the Hargraves, Tom and Lister families. Those who participated in the celebrations acknowledged the significance of the discovery of gold at Ophir, which changed the face of nearby Orange, and of Australia. Among the events was a re-enactment of the first gold discovery, complete with panning and a replica of a miner's cradle.

This year's celebrations will include:

A dinner at Duntryleague on Saturday 25 May, to which all members, their partners and friends are invited. Special guest will be museums consultant Kylie Winkworth. Cost will be \$50 per head (drinks extra). Bookings and inquiries to Karen Kloosterman, phone: 0434 386 324, email:

k.kloosterman212@gmail.com Bookings and payments must be made by Monday 13 May. People with special dietary requests should let Karen know. Payments may be made in cash at the cottage, 148 March Street on Wednesdays between 10.30am and 4pm, or by direct deposit to the society's bank account: Orange Credit Union, BSB 802-129, A/c No 34252 (please include name and reason for payment). If you are transferring money from your Orange Credit Union account, please add S1 to our account number.

Anyone who would like to dress in costumes of the 1949 era is welcome to do so.

During the weekend Kylie Winkworth will hold a workshop on a subject to be announced. It will take place in the West Room at Orange Regional Gallery. More details will be sent soon. There will also be a talk by Lisa Murray of Sydney Living Museums on a subject to be announced.

The History Alive meeting for May, to take place on Wednesday 8 May at the Senior Citizens Centre at 6 for 6.30pm, will be a look at Orange in 1949. This was a time of great change in Orange, which had been declared a city in July 1946 with a population of just over 15,000.

The Emmco/Elcon factory had been in operation for three years, providing employment for hundreds of workers. Other large employers were the Woollen Mills, Orange Base Hospital and Bloomfield Hospital. Agriculture and orcharding were still major industries.

The first post-war European migrants had arrived in Orange in 1948 and as more followed, they were about to make their mark on Orange. Guest speakers – to be announced – will talk about their memories of Orange in 1949, and audience participation is welcomed.

An exciting event for our society in its 70th anniversary year will be the opening of an exhibition at the Orange Regional Museum. Titled 'All in a Day's Work', it will feature photographs from the CWD Negative Collection showing how people worked in the 1950s, 60s and early 70s. These magnificent photos will take visitors back to an era of Orange's history where the workplace was very different to what it is today. The exhibition is a collaboration between our society and Orange Regional Museum and we feel privileged to show off these photographic gems for the benefit of the whole community. The exhibition will open on Thursday 6 June at a time to be announced, and will continue for three months.

The final event for this celebratory year will be the launch of the Dalton biography in mid-November. Liz Edwards is currently writing the book, which is a detailed study of James Dalton Senior and his sons Thomas and James Junior. The book draws upon the fine research done by members of the Dalton family in 1988 as well as newspaper articles from Australia, England and Ireland, land records, NSW State Archives records and other sources.

Revisiting the Escort Rock robbery

The heady days of bushranging were brought back to life on a tour organised by the Friends of Orange Regional Museum on Sunday 3 March.

Led by Dr Geoff Watson, the tour started in Orange, stopping firstly at Escort Rock. This was the place where the Eugowra gold escort was robbed of 2719 ounces (about 90kg) of gold, and cash amounting to £3700 on 15 June 1862, as it travelled to Orange.

Frank Gardiner's gang blocked the road with drays and held up the coach, wounding two of the police.

Much of the gold was later recovered but some has never been accounted for. In time, all the bushrangers

were either arrested or killed.

A re-enactment of the robbery was held at the rock, with a number of passengers taking on key roles, directed by Dr Watson.

At lunch in Eugowra, the group later enjoyed Dr Watson's talk on the bushranger attack at nearby Goimbla property, which David and Amelia Campbell repelled. They were later presented with a silver epergne by a grateful community. The epergne is now on display at Orange Regional Museum.

The tour ended with a visit to Eugowra Historical Museum and Bushranger Centre.



Above and left: the Escort Rock hold-up and robbery is re-enacted by members of the group, under the direction of Dr Geoff Watson. The rock itself is a well-known landmark in the Eugowra district.

Photos courtesy Karen Kloosterman.



Left: Historical Society members Annette Neville, Tony Bouffler, Robert Bruce and Euan Greer and Orange Regional Museum collections manager Allison Campbell with the newly restored panoramic photo of Orange.

New lease of life for panoramic photo

It was a joy to see the panoramic photo of Orange fully restored recently. The photo is believed to have been taken by William Bursle from the top of Dalton's mill in Peisley Street in about 1907-8.

The mill had recently been constructed and provided an ideal vantage point from which to photograph the town.

The photo comprises a sweeping view of Orange from Warrendine House in the west all the way across to beyond Wolaroi in the east, with the railway line dissecting the image.

Its owner donated it to Orange Regional Museum and it was taken to Sydney conservators Preservation Australia for urgent treatment.

The original twelve images had been stuck onto linen and later a backing of calico was added.

Conservator Tegan Anthes removed the backing, adhesive tape and PVA glue, and lined the photo with Japanese tissue and wheat starch paste to strengthen and repair it. The restored photo was then attached to a support board and stored in a corflute archival folder.

It had previously been rolled up for ease of storage, but will now remain flat.

Recently, the museum's collections manager, Allison Campbell, brought the conserved photo back to Orange.

"Tegan's work was painstaking and thorough," Allison said.

"Conservation allows us to have greater access to the object. It will last for another 110 years."



The left edge of the photograph showing Warrendine House, which was badly damaged, is now attached to Japanese tissue to prevent further deterioration.

Before the restoration, Historical Society member Robert Bruce, a professional photographer, photographed the original image so that a digitised version is now available.

"We can't put the original photo on display but the digitisation allows the image to be seen and studied," Allison said.

She said the conservation was not only of the physical photograph but of the information the image conveyed to people about how Orange looked in the early years of the 20th century.

Diary April - June 2019

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

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: Historical Soci-

ety volunteer working days at Heritage Cottage.

Wednesday 3 April: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wednesday 1 May: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wed 8 May: History Alive - A glimpse of Orange in 1949, the year the Historical Society was formed.

Saturday and Sunday 25 and 26 May: Orange & District Historical Society 70th anniversary events.

Wednesday 5 June: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Thursday 6 June: Opening of 'All in a Day's Work' exhibition at Orange Regional Museum.

Vale Rose Bagot

We learnt recently of the passing of Rose Bagot, a long-term member of Orange and District Historical Society.

A delightful woman, Rose and her husband Ted, who also became a member of the society, visited Orange frequently many years ago when their daughter was a student at the Agricultural College. They thought that as they frequented Orange so often they would look at purchasing a house in the city.

Ted was a heritage architect and they were both involved in the National Trust. It didn't take them long to make Orange their base while they searched for somewhere to stay while they were in the city.

They discovered that Endsleigh House was on the market, a home that had played an important part in Orange's history.

It had been the home of one of Orange's earliest inhabitants, Joseph Moulder, and his wife Caroline, who had been granted some of the first land in Orange in 1836.

It was soon after this that Rose and Ted made themselves known to the Historical Society, becoming members and, as new home owners, they eagerly carried out research into the Moulder family and the charming old house.

There was excitement when Ted discovered that he had a family connection to the Moulders.

The house was in need of renovations and a new roof and guttering was installed, chimneys repaired and internal work done. It became a much loved holiday

home for Rose and Ted, their three daughters and grandchildren.

Ted died some years ago but Rose continued to drive to Orange until last year. Rose had several friends and acquaintances in Orange and would always try to time her visits when the society or other organisations had functions, so she usually came several times a year. Being a country girl, she always loved visiting and learning about what was happening in the city.

Rose was a woman of great warmth who always made friends welcome and liked to hear news of the society. She also followed the progress of Orange Regional Museum as it developed and came to fruition.

In 2008 Orange Mayor Reg Kidd organised the presentation of a wall plaque for Endsleigh House to mark its 150th anniversary.

Rose is remembered with affection as someone who cared about our history and heritage. She leaves her family of two daughters (one daughter having predeceased her), sons-in-law and grandchildren.

- Marie Hammond

