

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Summer 2019-20

Celebratory end to our 70th year



Dalton book launched



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Cover images

At the launch of 'Wearing the Green' were Cousins John Dalton (left) and Robert Bruce (right), author Liz Edwards, Orange Mayor Reg Kidd and Member for Orange Phil Donato.
Photo: Scott Gilbank

Celebrating the IMAGineE award are co-curator Phil Stevenson, museum public engagement and education officer Sally MacLennan, acting museum manager Alli Campbell, photographer Robert Bruce, co-curator Liz Edwards, Orange Regional Museum and Gallery director Brad Hammond and Museum collections officer Mike Allen.
Photo Allan Reeder.

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

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

Our newsletter requires a considerable amount of money to produce each quarter with paper, printing and postage all adding to the cost. Therefore, wherever possible, we email it to those members and others on our mailing list who have an email address.

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

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

Orange & District Historical Society

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Membership fees from January 2020

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

Christmas is nearly upon us and I am sure our volunteers are looking forward to a well-earned break.

I would like to thank the many members who support our society and work so hard throughout the year.

This year members have been meeting at the cottage carrying out various tasks including photo identification of the Email collection, recording data, updating our catalogue records, and accessioning new items into the collection, as well as dealing with research enquiries on the local area and residents past and present.

Events we have held during the year have included:

- * 70th anniversary celebration of the founding of Orange and District Historical Society, which included a well-supported dinner with past and present members attending.

- * Various History Alive meetings, which continue to attract keen interest.

- * Opening of All in a Day's Work exhibition in collaboration with the Orange Regional Museum. This was a photo display using images from our CWD Negative Collection featuring working life in Orange and district from 1955 to 1975.

- * Dalton book launch: Member and local author Liz Edwards has once again produced a well researched and quality book on one of Orange's long-standing families, the Daltons. The book is titled *Wearing the Green: The Daltons and the Irish Cause*.

It was released at Duntryleague, the former home of James Dalton Junior. Cousins and descendants of James Dalton, Robert Bruce and John Dalton, launched the book.

If anyone would like a copy it can be purchased from Collins Books in Orange or from the Historical Society.

We were delighted recently to receive a grant of \$2000 towards the considerable costs of printing the book. We would like to thank Council sincerely for its

generosity.

A number of our members enjoy researching family history and visiting historic sites overseas. On pages 10 and 11 you can read about the hunt for one of my ancestors in Ireland which I and my wife Julie embarked on earlier this year, and also Jenny Maher's visit to an historical slate mine in north Wales. The scale of the Welsh National Slate Museum is staggering and it is wonderful to know that such an important part of Welsh history is being preserved and enjoyed by visitors.

We are pleased to announce that our society now has its own website. Go to odhs.org to find out all about the society and our activities. We would like to thank Hayley Lavers for her assistance in setting up the site.

We will be in recess from 19 December until the beginning of February but your committee will be having a working bee in mid-January as well as a planning meeting for the year ahead in early February. We hope to bring you plenty of interesting events in the coming year.

Meanwhile, our valued member Phil Stevenson is taking four months off his volunteer work for the society to concentrate on catching up on projects at home. We will miss him but we look forward to seeing him back at the cottage in May.

After a busy year the committee and I would like to wish all members and their families a merry and safe Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Let's keep local history alive!

- Dave Sykes



Two new books for history enthusiasts

Two recently published books are sure to interest history buffs. Orange journalist and author Mark Filmer's 'Three Steel Teeth' explains the industrial turmoil resulting from the move to introduce wide combs for shearing in the 1980s when a small group of rebel shearers started advocating for a seemingly minor change.

The rebels, led by gun shearer Robert White, wanted 13-tooth shearing combs legalised. Wide combs had been banned from use in Australia for more than 50 years. But White and his supporters argued they were more efficient and productive than the standard gauge 10-tooth shearing combs and wanted the ban overturned. Standing in the way was the powerful Australian Workers' Union.

The ensuing David and Goliath like clash produced four years of industrial turmoil, bitterness, intimidation and some outlandish violence, as the AWU went all out

to try to stop the introduction of wide combs. This is the first detailed account of an industrial dispute that revolutionised Australia's iconic shearing industry.

Journalist Paul Byrnes spoke about his book 'The Lost Boys' at an event at Orange Regional Library recently. The book details the powerful and moving accounts of the underage soldiers who fought in the First World War.

During the war, thousands of boys across Australia and New Zealand lied about their age, forged a parent's signature and left to fight on the other side of the world.

These previously untold stories of 40 Anzac boys who fought in the campaigns, from Gallipoli to the Armistice, give a unique perspective of WWI. The Lost Boys is military history made deeply personal, a powerful homage to youthful bravery and a poignant reminder of the sacrifice of war.

Both books are available at Collins Books in Orange.



Left: Celebrating the IMAGinE award are co-curator Phil Stevenson, museum public engagement and education officer Sally MacLennan, acting museum manager Alli Campbell, photographer Robert Bruce, co-curator Liz Edwards, Orange Regional Museum and Gallery director Brad Hammond and Museum collections officer Mike Allen. Photo Allan Reeder.

Major award for ‘All in a Day’s Work’

Members of our society were thrilled to hear that the exhibition *All in a Day’s Work*, a collaboration with Orange Regional Museum, took out a major award at the IMAGinE Awards presentation night in Sydney in late November.

The exhibition, which comprised photographs of working people in the Orange district in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, was pitted against five other museums in NSW in the category for museums with from three to ten staff.

The exhibition was hugely popular with locals and visitors, many of whom recognised relations and friends in the photos.

Orange Regional Museum and Gallery director Brad Hammond said the IMAGinE award was a wonderful acknowledgement of the partnership between the Historical Society and the museum.

“I was immediately intrigued when Liz Edwards brought the concept to us for *All in a Day’s Work* and agreed that it would make a striking exhibition with strong local content,” he said.

“As a relatively new museum, we are grateful for generous support from the Historical Society in sourcing content for our exhibitions, but *All in a Day’s Work* provided an opportunity for deeper collaboration, with Liz and Phil providing the curatorial work, Robert overseeing digital reproductions, and our team focusing on the installation, presentation, graphics, catalogue and associated programs. The news of the award is a great way to end an exciting year for the museum. Thanks to everyone involved.”

Acting museum manager Allison Campbell said *All in a Day’s Work* was an absolutely stunning exhibition.

“I believe it is testament to what can be achieved when we all work together. I’m so proud of us all and eagerly look forward to our next collaboration,” she said.

Co-curator Liz Edwards came up with the idea as she was sorting through negatives in the Central West-

ern Daily’s Negative Collection which is administered by the society.

“I kept finding wonderfully evocative images of working people in Orange and district and I felt they should be shared with as many people as possible,” she said.

“I took the idea to Brad Hammond and he instantly understood the importance and relevance of the images. It was sheer joy to work with Phil, Robert and museum and council staff to bring this exhibition to the public, and winning the award is the icing on the cake.”

The exhibition was one of a number of special events in 2019 celebrating the society’s 70th anniversary.

Award judges particularly liked the exhibition’s focus on inclusion, namely the partnership between the Historical Society and the museum, coupled with the oral history interviews and collaboration with Biddy Maroney and Sonny Day of WeBuyYourKids, resulting in a true community-focused exhibition. Additionally, the high aesthetic value of the design added to a beautiful and meaningful experience for the audience.

Some of the exhibition images now adorn the public areas of Orange Civic Centre.



Orange City Council staff member Sally Bilby with one of the *All in a Day’s Work* images behind her at the Civic Centre.

Wearing the Green launched at Duntryleague

About a hundred people gathered at Duntryleague for the launch of 'Wearing the Green: The Daltons and the Irish Cause' on 15 November.

The book is the result of two years' intense research and writing for author Liz Edwards.

Liz said it was fitting that the book was published in 2019, the 100th anniversary of the death of James Dalton Junior of Duntryleague.

Among those who spoke at the launch were Member for Orange Phil Donato, Orange Mayor Reg Kidd, John Cook, who represented the Duntryleague Mansion Foundation, and cousins John Dalton and Robert Bruce, who are both great-grandsons of James Dalton Junior. In jointly launching the book, they recalled family reminiscences of James Dalton, a man who rose from poverty in Ireland to become, with his brother Thomas, one of the leading merchants in NSW. They spoke about his aversion to ostentation despite his great wealth.

Liz talked about the family's support of the Catholic Church in Orange and Sydney as well as their championing of the Irish campaign for Home Rule.

The book launch was the last special event for the society's 70th anniversary year.

Irish music and song were provided on the night by Orange musicians Chris Mickle, Annie Hulak and Rocky Rochelli, and guests were given green ribbons so they could 'wear the green'.

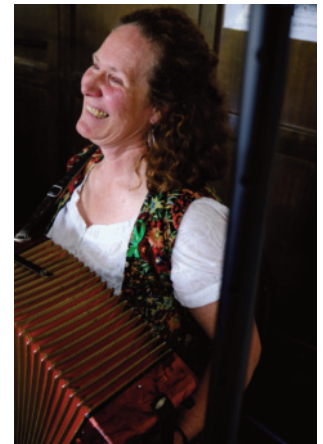
The book is available from the society or Collins Books in Summer Street at \$60. Any profits will be donated to the society.



Cousins John Dalton (left) and Robert Bruce (right), author Liz Edwards, Orange Mayor Reg Kidd and Member for Orange Phil Donato.



Making Irish music were Chris Mickle and Rocky Rochelli (above) and Annie Hulak (right).



Above: John Cook talks about the Duntryleague Mansion Foundation.

Above right: Josefine Agland, Jenny Maher, Judy Agland, Steve Brakenridge and Annette Neville.

Left: Author Liz Edwards and book designer Di Smith.

Right: Barry and Robyn Moore. Far right: Dorothy Noble and MC Euan Greer.





Left: The imposing Orange Courthouse in Lords Place, which was designed by colonial architect James Barnet and opened in 1883.

Changing face of Orange Courthouse

Friends of the Orange Regional Museum organised a rare opportunity for visitors to tour the city's Courthouse complex in mid-November. The tour complemented the recent opening of the exhibition 'Underworld' at the museum.

The original Courthouse was built in Lords Place in 1849. A replacement, designed by colonial architect James Barnet, was opened in 1883. The building was considerably enlarged in the 1990s.

Former court registrar Peter Byrne gave the group a short history of the building before they entered.

In the original court room current registrar Olivia Lee explained the difference between the various jurisdictions and the architectural features of the room.

Upstairs, the group was shown the modern local court room, which featured light coloured wooden panelling and good acoustics.

A further room, the District Court, was also light and airy. Here, former Local Court Magistrate, Harry Ayling, spoke about the differences between the old and new court rooms, and also about his experiences at Lightning Ridge where court matters were heard in the police station. He recalled when kangaroos had to be cleared off the airstrip and prisoners escorted over the road from the pub to the police station/courthouse. There was no air-conditioning so the doors were left open in summer.



Above left: The original Courthouse and lockup. Above right: Court registrar Olivia Lee shows visitors around the original local court room. Left: The modern local court room. Right: Former local magistrate Harry Ayling talks about the changing face of the Courthouse.



Shopping centre pays tribute to historic origins



Left: Remedial work on the historic façade of the building has ensured it will remain an important part of the Summer Street landscape for many years to come. Photo Rosemary Curry.
Right: The recently completed centre. Photo Liz Edwards.

The long-awaited opening of the revamped Orange City Centre drew excited crowds to the precinct on Saturday 16 November.

The building, formerly Dalton Brothers store, Western Stores, Grace Bros and Myer, had been closed for some time while building work was carried out.

Our society took a particular interest in the work and had sent submissions to Orange City Council calling for as much as possible of the original store to be preserved. At one stage there was concern that little would remain. The society supported the original development application but when a further application seeking modifications was submitted, including the demolition of the historic Summer Street façade because it was deemed unstable, we voiced our strong objections.

During the consultation process, Orange City Council insisted that the Summer Street façade of the building should be retained, along with a number of other significant historical items. These included the wooden pulley wheel used to haul goods to upper floors and a cast iron spiral staircase which led down into the cellars.

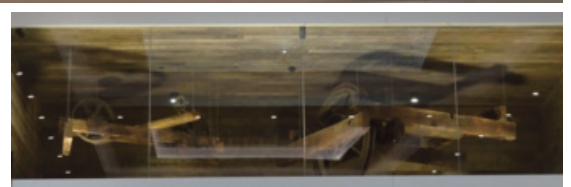
The developers, Alceon Group Pty Ltd, have incorporated the historic aspects into the new centre and installed interpretive panels acknowledging the significance of the building.

One of the most talked about embellishments was the repainting of the Dalton Brothers sign on the eastern side of the building, where it had been since at least the early 1870s.



Above left: The Dalton Brothers sign being repainted. Photo Robert Bruce.

Above right: Part of the original ceiling design has been preserved. Photo Liz Edwards.



Far left: The wrought-iron staircase which will be incorporated into a restaurant at the centre.
Left: The wooden pulley wheel before restoration.

Above: The restored pulley wheel can now be seen in the new centre.

Photos Liz Edwards.

Members gather to celebrate



Left: Shirley Sugden, Judy and Josefine Agland, Phil Stevenson and Julie and Dave Sykes at the society's annual Christmas dinner at Duntryleague on Friday 29 November. Drinks on the terrace were followed by dinner in the Campdale Room.



Tony and Karen Bouffler and Marlene Farrell.



Russell and Ann Tym.



Steve and Ann Brakenridge.



Judy and Josefine Agland.



Frank and Sue Johnson and Phil Stevenson.



Left: Jeff and Karen Kloosterman.



Right: Liz Edwards and Jenny Holdaway.

Christmas at Duntryleague dinner



Annette Neville, Euan Greer and Dorothy Noble.



Frank and Sue Johnson.



Frank and Sue Johnson, Phil Stevenson and Fred Brooking.



Pam and Doug Brooks.



Dave and Julie Sykes.



Bill and Nancy Walsh.



Steve and Anne Brakenridge and Bill Walsh.



Jeff and Karen Kloosterman and Ross Maroney.

Seeking Elizabeth Kennefick

By Dave Sykes

Recently Julie and I went on holiday to Ireland in search of information on my Irish famine ancestor Elizabeth Kennefick. Elizabeth sailed on the *John Knox* which left Plymouth on 6 December 1849 bound for Sydney via the Cape of Good Hope, arriving on 29 April 1850. The ship sailed under Captain Davidson and surgeon superintendent Richard Greenup. Other passengers included Mrs Greenup and five children and Miss Brodie, Miss Dewint, Miss Flower, Mr Bell and 344 government passengers. They were all Irish and included 38 married couples, 279 single women, and 21 children.

This was part of the short-lived Earl Grey scheme from 1848 to 1850 which gave free passages to 4114 girls from the Irish Poor Law Union workhouses to New South Wales and South Australia.

From Australian shipping records we learnt that Elizabeth was born in about 1834 in County Cork of parents William and Mary Kennefick. By 1849 both parents were dead and Elizabeth was in the Midleton Workhouse. She was listed on the ship's manifest as being a Roman Catholic, a house servant, aged 16, and could neither read nor write.

From this information we planned to visit County Cork earlier this year and find out about Elizabeth's early life and hopefully find family in the area.

In Dublin we visited the Irish Emigration Museum built in the vaults of an 1820s bonded warehouse for tobacco and wine at Custom House Quay, Docklands. Many tales of successful Irish migrants through the ages were explored here. Outside, there are poignant bronze sculptures dedicated to the memory of those forced to emigrate during the famine.

On our journey to Cork from Dublin, we stopped at New Ross and

visited the famine replica ship *Dunbrody* which showed life on a famine ship in 1849 and met steerage and first-class passenger (local actors) who told tales of their experiences on the ship bound for America. They emphasised the cramped conditions, little food and water and small amount of luggage space available for steerage passengers, as well as the many deaths that occurred.

At the County Cork Archives Julie and I viewed documents from the Midleton Workhouse. We looked at the workhouse registers from 1848 to 1849. Unfortunately, the register for the second half of 1849 was missing and we could find no mention of Elizabeth Kennefick. However, we noted details of other Kenneficks listed. The entries listed the pauper's name, age, marital status, religion, if disabled, number of children, electoral division and townland where they lived, date when admitted or born in the workhouse and date when they died or left the workhouse.

We found Kenneficks from Cloyne, Churchtown, Ballyoughterra, Aghada, Kilmacdonough, Midleton, General Union, and Imofeely and took photos of these entries. We also looked at the minute book for 1849 which had an application from Midleton inmates to the board with prospects for or interest in migrating to Australia. There were no names unfortunately.

On our visit to Midleton we found the old workhouse which has been converted into the Midleton Commu-



The Midleton Workhouse today.



Dave and Julie Sykes examining Workhouse records at the County Cork Archives.

nity Hospital. A kind duty nurse showed us around the grounds, pointing out the convent, chapel, laundry, outhouses and other old buildings. The workhouse was built in 1841 to house 800 inmates. People commented that it was too big when it was built but it was well utilised at the height of the famine in 1848-1850.

So, the trip to Ireland was excellent for background information about Ireland and the famine, but we are still seeking Elizabeth Kennefick and her family.

No.	NAME.	AGE.										CALLING.	NATIVE PLACE AND COUNTY.	RELIGION.	READ OR WRITE.
		MARRIED.		SINGLE.											
				14 years and upwards.		7 and under 14 years.		4 and under 7 years.		1 and under 4 years.					
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
116	Kennedy	Mary				20								do	do
117	Kennefick	Elizabeth				16								do	read
118	Kerba	Isabella				15								do	neither

Passenger list for the John Knox, 1850, showing Elizabeth Kennefick among the passengers. NSW State Archives.

The heyday of Welsh slate mining

By Jenny Maher

I recently went on a car trip through the United Kingdom with family members. As we drove through the Snowdonia National Park in north Wales heading towards Caernarfon, we were impressed by the mountains that had been the site of the slate industry for over two hundred years.

Welsh slate had been in use since Roman times, when it was used as fortification at Caernarfon and was also used for King Edward the First's castle at Conwy.

The Industrial Revolution created a great demand for slate, as the rows and rows of newly constructed terrace houses needed slate tiles for their roofs. Factories and foundries also needed slate roofing. Thousands of workers were employed producing slate tiles to meet this need.

We're so pleased we took the opportunity to visit the Welsh National Slate Museum at Llanberis in north Wales. The museum is situated in the former Dinorwig quarry. There were many fascinating sights and experiences at this museum. The workshops had been built in a traditional British Empire Fort design in 1870. There is a central courtyard, a clock tower and detailed windows. We watched a video explaining the history of the Welsh slate industry and were then treated to a practical demonstration of slate splitting and a talk about early days in the industry.

Life wasn't easy for the workers in the early slate mines. A boy could start his five-year apprenticeship as

early as twelve years of age. The workers had to provide their own tools and ropes, which was a considerable cost. The men who had the job of splitting the slate and making the tiles had to make approximately 128 tiles, but only got paid for 100. So it was the workers who took the risk of the tiles cracking in transportation. The men also had the continual danger of breathing in the fine dust created by the sawing and splitting of slate. Over time the workforce became unionised and workers fought for better pay and conditions. This was at the cost of many strikes and industrial conflicts.

The museum also has a large workshop consisting of forges and an iron and brass foundry. The largest working waterwheel in the UK, built in 1870, is to be found at the museum. It was used to power the machinery making the tools for quarrying slate. We were also treated to the sight of Una, the foundry steam engine.

Four quarrymen's houses, each one furnished to reflect a different point in time, have been relocated to the museum site and it's fascinating to see how accommodation changed over the time of the slate industry's heyday.

When Prince Charles's investiture as the Prince of Wales was held at Caernarfon Castle in July 1969, the slate for the dais came from the Dinorwig quarry. A few weeks later the quarry, which had been operating since the 1780s, was closed and over 300 jobs were lost. Today there is some Welsh slate produced, but nowhere near the amount produced during the peak periods of production.



Above left: A general view of the Welsh National Slate Museum.

Above right: The surrounding hills where the slate was mined.

Left: Quarrymen's houses.

Right: The massive waterwheel was used to power machinery for making tools at the site.



Diary January - March 2020

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 Servicewomen'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.orange-museum.com.au/wentworthmainmine

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: Historical Society volunteer working days at Heritage Cottage, but there will

be no work during January. Volunteer days will resume during the week beginning 3 February.

Wednesday 5 February: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

15-23 February: Banjo Paterson Poetry Festival. See www.orange360.com.au for full program.

Wednesday 19 February: History Alive on Banjo Paterson. The meeting will welcome Banjo Paterson guest poet Carol Heuchen, who will give a poetry recital. Author of the book 'Waltzing Matilda' Benjamin Lindner and society member Elizabeth Griffin will also speak. To be held at 6.30 for 7pm at Orange Senior Citizens Centre (off Woolworth's car park). Admission \$4 members, \$6 non-members, includes supper.

Wednesday 4 March: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Exhibition explores Sydney's underworld



Left and right: Two of the evocative images from the 'Underworld' exhibition at Orange Regional Museum.



Orange Regional Museum's current exhibition, *Underworld: Mugshots from the Roaring Twenties*, explores the seedy world of Sydney criminals in the 1920s.

The exhibition features more than 120 images reproduced from the original scanned glass-plate negatives. Accompanying the images are the stories of the suspects, revealing criminal activity, networks and some international links.

"This decade saw massive social upheaval and fast times bred new crimes," says Nerida Campbell, curator, Sydney Living Museums.

"Criminals moved into new markets including the illicit sale of alcohol and cocaine, and the police had to employ every tool and technology available to keep up."

Taken by NSW Police between 1920 and 1930, these compelling images of criminal bosses, plotters, bruisers,

petty criminals, wayward youth and fallen soldiers – and a number of women offenders – were never intended to be seen by the public. Suspects smile, scowl and simmer for the camera in poses of their own choosing unlike the deadpan stares found in conventional mugshots from around the world.

These images have attitude, be it good, bad or indifferent. As well as capturing the subjects' physical appearance, they show a hint of their personality as they smoke, read, chat, slouch on chairs, hold handbags and often wear stylish outfits.

After nearly 100 years, more than 2500 'Specials' images have now been scanned and researched as part of the NSW Police Forensic Photography Archive held at the Justice & Police Museum.

The exhibition continues until Sunday 1 March.