

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Autumn 2020

Hey day of Wangarrie sawmill



New panoramic photo comes to light





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Cover image (main)

A worker at Wangarrie sawmill, which provided employment for many local people for several decades. See the full story on pages 8 & 9.

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

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

I hope all members and volunteers had an enjoyable Christmas break and are well.

I would like to welcome the volunteers upon their return in assisting with the continuing work on the collection database and accessioning new items, once accepted by the committee at our monthly meetings.

Additional help is always welcome so please call in on Wednesdays at 148 March Street if you are interested.

We have a terrific dedicated group who give their time to ensure the society fulfills our goal of recording and preserving Orange and district's rich history

During January the committee had a working bee at the cottage. We cleaned and dusted windows and shelves and decluttered the work rooms. Cleaning and reorganising was also done in the green shed and brick garage in readiness for the New Year ahead.

Some minor repairs were also done to the buildings: weather sealing the roller door of the brick garage, covering the bathroom window to keep light out, trimming the hedge and ivy, removing excess garden waste from behind the green shed and mowing lawns.

A second working bee is being organised during April to sort and organise all large maps, plans and items in the plan cabinets in readiness for a team to scan and catalogue and add the records to the database.

Recently a group consisting of Karen Kloosterman, Julie Sykes and Liz Edwards have been researching and selecting items and photos on the Frost family from the Campdale property. This mini-exhibition is set up in display cabinets in the Orange Civic Centre foyer.

I would like to thank Allison Campbell and Mike Allen from the Orange Regional Museum for assisting Karen with the layout of the display. If you are over at the Civic Centre please drop in and have a look.

The next display at the Orange Regional Museum will be ready for the end of May, to be called 'Inherit: Old and New Histories'. The museum has borrowed several objects, photos and documents from our collection to support the display.

We are delighted to continue our support following the success of the previous displays – 'Journeys', 'Paddock to Plate' and 'All in a Day's Work'.

We are also busy collaborating with Orange City Library, planning for a pub walk around Orange highlighting old and current hotel sites. It will be held in October during Wine Week. Ross Maroney and Euan Greer will be our guides, imparting their knowledge of the old buildings.

Unfortunately, the planned cemetery walk in May has been cancelled because of concerns about the coronavirus. Hopefully we can organise another one in the future. We will keep you informed of any other cancellations as we hear about them.

Julie Sykes, Liz Edwards and Phil Stevenson are being kept busy on weekends answering research enquiries received from emails and Facebook.

We are always in need of volunteers. You can either work from home or at the cottage. If you have an interest in or are keen to find out more on the local history of Orange, this is a great way to do it. Please help us at any time.

- Dave Sykes



Assisting at the January working bee were, above left: Karen Kloosterman, Liz Edwards and Julie Sykes.

Above: Jeff Kloosterman and Dave Sykes.

Left: Fred Brooking and Steve Brakenridge.



Membership fees

Many thanks to those who have renewed their annual membership fees. This is a reminder to those who haven't that fees are now overdue. If fees are not paid, this will be the last newsletter you will receive, so please renew and enjoy reading about everything that is happening at the society and with history around the district. See instructions on page 2 for renewing.

Members and friends enjoy festive drinks



Jenny Holdaway and Steve Dore.



Julie Lawrie, Kate Gadsby and Mike Allen.



Dinah Hayter, Karen Kloosterman and Anne Bruce.



Jeff Kloosterman, Phil Stevenson and Steve Brakenridge.



John Lawrie and Doug Brooks.



Alli Campbell, Annette Neville and Sally MacLennan.



Josefine Agland and Sally Watson.



Far left: Robert Bruce and Euan Greer.



Left: Rhonda and Rob Showell.



Right: Rosemary Curry and Elizabeth Griffin.

Pandemic: how Orange coped with the Spanish flu

By Elisabeth Edwards

As the nation grapples with its response to the coronavirus outbreak, it is interesting to note how Orange responded to that other pandemic, the Spanish flu, in the year following the end of World War I.

It arrived in Sydney in January 1919, just two months after the cessation of hostilities, no doubt spread by the massive movement of troops during and after the war.

The NSW Department of Public Health issued instructions for the public to keep away from crowds; avoid coughers, spitters and sneezers; go out in the fresh air, be temperate in eating and avoid alcohol; wash hands and face on returning home; change clothes before mingling with family members; take regular exercise; and keep the mouth and teeth clean.

Those suffering from the illness were to stay in bed until recovery was complete and visitors, other than one person looking after the patient, were to be kept from the sick room.

Theatres and cinemas were closed in Sydney but strangely, they remained open in country towns.

Orange Voluntary Aid Detachment volunteers made masks from wire and mosquito netting and saturated them with disinfectant to sell to the public as well as issuing instructions to people wishing to make their own masks.

The Town Hall in Anson Street was used as a public vaccination centre with acting government medical officers doctors Cyril Howse and Henry Sadler working non-stop.

Dr Howse felt that some patients would be better off staying at home, remarking, "If I got pneumonic influenza, you would not make me go into a hospital, where men might be dying from it on either side of you."

Orange Municipal Council Aldermen McNeilly and Crampton started a special fund for the overworked and poorly paid nurses, on whom so much depended. McNeilly said that as far as the council's obligations to keep roads and footpaths in good order, '... they can go to the devil: I am out for the health of the public'.

The outstanding District Hospital matron, Kate Dooley, worked as hard as ever to care for the patients.

A new isolation block was opened at the District Hospital, not a moment too soon.

Race meetings were banned throughout the State and restrictions were imposed on rail travellers. A church minister, the Rev Mr Hammond, said he was delighted that prohibition had been introduced in Sydney to stop the spread of the disease, resulting in an 80 per cent reduction in the consumption of alcohol. However, he was roundly abused by a letter writer to the *Orange Leader* for his lack of compassion towards those families who relied on the liquor industry for an income. The writer also pointed out that you could in fact buy alcohol very easily in Sydney despite the restrictions.

The pandemic reached Orange, a town of about 7000 inhabitants, on 23 March 1919 when four men, all associated with one hotel, became ill. Within a week there were 10 influenza patients at the hospital and by 6 April 52 cases had been admitted. The first death from influenza occurred in 30 March. During 1919 a total of 206 cases of influenza were reported.

As the pandemic raged, people started talking about remedies. Some suggested a lime and milk cure which had never been known to fail, even when patients were seemingly at the point of death. Someone else swore by using Wolfe's Schnapps as a gargle, then to make sure any microbes had not reached his stomach, he drank a full glass of schnapps as well. To finish, believing that microbes objected to tobacco, he smoked a cigar, exhaling through the nose.

Other cures included mustard and flour poultices, eucalyptus and camphorated oils, essence of cinnamon, and wrapping patients in Wawn's Wonder-Wool, 'The magic that comes like an angel of mercy'.

The disease spread throughout the Orange district, including outbreaks at Spring Hill, Lucknow and Cadia.

People did everything they could to assist the hospital, including donating money, linen and food.

The epidemic gradually ran its course in Orange by the end of 1919. The hospital, always desperately in need of funds, benefited from a ball which raised £168.

Dalton book selling well

'Wearing the Green', the definitive history of the Dalton family and their support of the Irish cause, has sold well since its launch in mid-November.

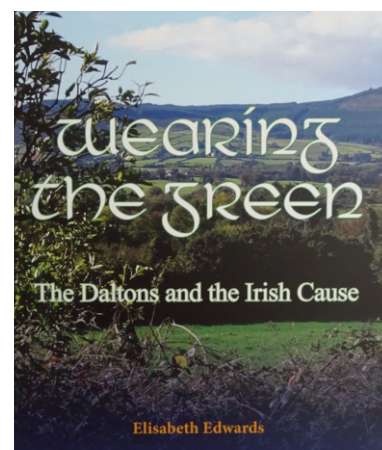
Author Elisabeth Edwards said she was delighted with the public response to the book.

"Not only have members of the Dalton family reacted enthusiastically to the book but also many others, who had not been aware of the amazing his-

tory of the family and their wide-reaching influence both in Australia and overseas," she said.

Richly illustrated, the book traces the rags to riches lives of James Dalton Senior and his children Thomas, Margaret (Casey) and James Junior.

The book is available from Collins Books, Orange Visitor Centre and the Historical Society for \$60. Any profits will be donated to the society.





Left: Volunteer Tony Bouffler works on cataloguing all the photos which appeared in the *Central Western Daily* during the 1970s so that they can be matched up with the undated negatives. This will make it possible to find particular negatives when images are requested by members of the public.

More progress on negative collection

By Elisabeth Edwards

Work is continuing on the CWD Negative Collection, a long-term project which has yielded many wonderful images.

All the old-style, large-format negatives have been re-housed in acid-free envelopes and are stored in acid-free boxes.

With the help of a generous grant from Orange City Council, local firm Kea Video is continuing to scan a significant number of these negatives to make high-resolution TIFF files. As each box is completed, great images emerge of life in Orange in the 1950s and 60s.

The main focus of work this year is scanning and cataloguing all those negatives which were damaged through heat and poor storage before the society took over the care of them. This is a painstaking job but even though many are badly damaged, there are some in the early stages of deterioration which can still be used digitally. Member John Kich is assisting me with this task.

The 35mm negatives are generally in good condition but two jobs need seeing to: some of the 35mm sleeves are in poor condition and need to be replaced; and negatives from the 1970s were not dated by the photographer

at the time so there is currently no way of locating particular ones for scanning which members of the public have requested. Volunteers Tony Bouffler, Sally Watson and Rosemary Curry have been cataloguing all the photos which appeared in the *Central Western Daily* in the 1970s so that eventually we will be able to identify and date them.

Following the success of the exhibition 'All in a Day's Work' at Orange Regional Museum last year, the museum has expressed interest in mounting another photographic exhibition in a couple of years' time, using more of the images in the collection. We already have some great ideas about subject matter but these are under wraps until nearer the time.

This collection is, in my opinion, world-class and Orange is extremely fortunate to have it when so many similar collections have been lost.

And, in case we run out of work (which is not likely in the near future!) we recently took possession of the studio collection of negatives from former CWD photographer Lindsay Marks. Many of the early images in the CWD Negative Collection were taken by Lindsay, and the studio collection will add another dimension to his work.

Celebrating the life of Banjo Paterson

Our first History Alive meeting for the year was a celebration of the life of Orange's most famous son, Andrew 'Banjo' Paterson.

The meeting took place during the Banjo Paterson Poetry Festival, which included a number of events to mark the birth of Paterson 156 years ago.

Member Elizabeth Griffin set the scene by talking about Paterson and his forebears and explaining the relationships between the Paterson and other notable local families.

Next, champion bush poet Carol Heuchan gave a very entertaining rendition of two of her bush poems. Carol, who says she shares a love of horses and bush poetry with Paterson, had made several appearances at events in Orange and Yeoval.

Finally, criminal barrister and author Benjamin Lindner spoke about his book 'Waltzing Matilda: Australia's Accidental Anthem'. The book, which he describes as 'a forensic history', states how the words and music were combined, resulting in what is now a quintessential



Left: Bush poet Carol Heuchan, author Benjamin Lindner and Banjo Paterson enthusiast and historian Elizabeth Griffin.

song about outback Australia.

The next History Alive meeting will focus on Orange Rural School. It takes place on Wednesday 13 May at 6.30 for 7pm at the Senior Citizens Centre. Photos and memorabilia and audience participation are welcome. This event will depend, of course, on how the coronavirus proceeds. We will keep members informed nearer the date.

Heritage Council refuses Duntryleague alteration plans

It was disappointing to hear that the Heritage Council of NSW has refused approval for the Duntryleague Mansion Foundation to make alterations to the building.

The main alterations were to be the installation of a lift, an extension to the back of the building and restoring the demolished back verandah. These alterations would make the building better serviced and more self-sufficient.

Foundation chairperson John Cook said in a statement that the foundation was very disappointed, partly because they felt it was a good application and also because much time, effort and money had been put into the application by the club, the foundation, architects



and Orange City Council.

The foundation had worked closely on the plans with council, which will now submit some preliminary drawings to the Heritage Council in the hope of moving the project forward.

Meanwhile, the foundation is continuing its fund-raising and would welcome donations, which are tax-deductable and can be made through the Australian Sports Foundation.

The foundation is also pursuing grant applications through the State and Federal governments, with the support of member for Orange Phil Donato and Member for Calare Andrew Gee.

Donation link: <https://asf.org.au/projects/duntryleague/duntryleague-mansion-foundation/>

Wangarrie sawmill was once a

By Elisabeth Edwards

Wangarrie sawmill thrived for many years on the eastern edge of Orange, providing employment for men and women and supporting the local orcharding and building industries.

The mill, located in Steele Lane, was the brainchild of Henry (Harry) Holm, an enterprising man who established the business in 1938 and ran it until the year he died, 1954. When he started the business its capital was £5000 and other subscribers were C Hawke and J H Spurway.

Wartime restrictions did not deter Holm, who turned to supplying wooden cases to the Army.

When the war ended in 1945, Holm focused on making fruit cases as well as timber for the burgeoning building industry in the Orange district.

Orange was a renowned cherry growing district, with hundreds of small, family-run orchards growing cherries as well as other fruit, such as apples, pears, peaches and plums.

Holm employed women as well as men, finding the women were particularly adept at making fruit cases.

In a 1946 article in the *Central Western Daily*, mention was made of Betty Lane, who could turn out 250 cherry cases a day, while Lola Swain produced bushel fruit cases. Lola's mother, Mrs Ted Swain, operated a stitching machine, stitching thousands of small buttons produced by

Jimmy Lindsay to the case hooks.

Fruit growers initially rejected Holm's pinus radiata fruit cases, but Holm, described as 'a man of vision', kept producing them until they were accepted. Business was so brisk that by 1948 Holm had 90 employees. Most of the timber fruit cases were supplied to Orange Producers Rural Co-operative (OPR) for sale to orchardists.

While much of Holm's efforts went into fruit boxes, he also supplied masses of timber for the building industry. About 45,000 feet a week was supplied to timber merchants and builders' supplier B G Dein.

By 1948 Holm had a pine plantation and sawmill near Hampton and employed tree fellers there. Tough blitz trucks were used to haul the logs for nine miles along the main road to the sawmill. Workers lived in barracks at the site.

Things didn't always go well for Holm: in December 1951 he was fined £10 for operating a 36-inch diameter circular saw with no guard above or below. Holm told the Industrial Magistrate's Court that in all his sixty-five years of milling, he had never seen a spotting saw carrying a guard.

Holm died in November 1954 aged 82. The mill continued operations although it was badly damaged by fires in 1954, 1964 and 1969. During the 1954 fire, a heroic New Australian, Ralph Struik, was badly burnt while trying to extinguish the fire.



Left: Sawing was a dangerous job at the mill.



Right: Women were particularly adept at making fruit boxes at the mill, which supplied local orchards.



Left: A worker nearly overwhelmed with off-cuts.

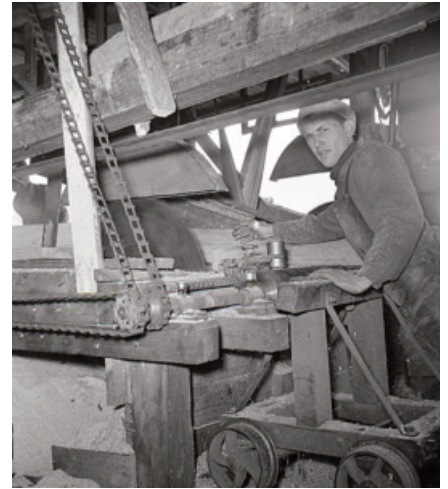


Right: A worker constructs bushel apple wooden cases for the fruit industry.

major industry in Orange



Above: Sawing a giant stringy-bark log for the building industry.



Above and below: Workers at the saw mill in 1955 when it employed a significant number of people.



Below left: Max Laughton working with new machinery at the mill in February 1964.

Below right: This fire on Christmas Day 1963 was one of several which occurred at the mill over the years.





Rediscovered panoramic photo provides



Top: Looking north with the original Catholic Denominational School in the background. The building is now incorporated into the Infants School.

Above: View to the north-east with Mount Bulga in the background.

Right: Summer Street.



Member Robert Bruce recently came across an exciting panoramic photograph of Orange, which sheds new light on the town's landscape during the early decades of the 20th century.

Photographed from the Fire Station tower by John H Enemark of E B Studios between – according to the National Library of Australia – 1917 and 1946, it was most likely taken around the earlier date.

Enemark took a number of panoramas of Sydney and NSW country towns, developing them at his studios in George Street, Sydney.

He used a Cirkut camera which was patented in 1904 especially for taking panoramic photos. The camera pivoted horizontally along a vertical axis while a roll of film moved across the film plane.

The panoramic sweep of the Orange photo, from left to right, starts looking north from the Fire Station, where the original Catholic Denominational School can be clearly seen. A little further around is the back of the Hibernian Hall in Hill Street with Holy Trinity Anglican Church in the background.

Moving around to Summer Street, you can see Leahey's store, at that time on the southern side of the street. Because of its location nearest the camera, the Catholic School in Summer Street is clearly visible (the Summer Centre now occupies that



fresh insight into early 20th century Orange

site). Behind and just to the left is the Lands Office in Kite Street, while in the far background is Dalton's flour mill in Peisley Street facing Wade Park.

Moving around, one can see the roof and spire of St John's Presbyterian Church. To its right is Elwin's brewery in Moulder Street, and further around the roofs of Mena and Newstead in Kite Street.

Further research should enable many more buildings to be identified.

The Enemark Collection comprises 500 nitrate negatives ranging in length from 1 metre to 2.7 metres. The National Library has used special equipment to digitise them and make them available to the public.

This panoramic photo is one of a number taken of Orange in the early 20th century, joining the better-known one taken from Dalton's mill chimney by local firm Bradley and Barnes in 1907.

Above right: Catholic School in Summer St.

Right: View to the south.

Below: Looking towards Hill Street and Mount Canobolas.



Diary April - June 2020

Millthorpe Golden Memories Museum: **CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Molong Museum: Open on the last Sunday of the month 12.30-3.30pm, 20 Riddell Street.

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 Society volunteer working days at Heritage Cottage.

Wednesday 1 April: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wednesday 6 May: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wednesday 13 May: History Alive meeting on the Rural School with guest speakers to be announced, 6.30 for 7pm

at Senior Citizens centre (entry off Woolworth's car park). All welcome, entry \$4 members, \$6 non-members. Light supper provided. Photos, memorabilia and audience participation welcome. Inquiries Liz Edwards on 6362 8647, Julie Sykes: djsykes@bigpond.com

Please note that we will advise you nearer the time if this event is cancelled because of the coronavirus

CANCELLED Saturday 16 May: The cemetery walk has been cancelled because of the corona virus. If you have booked, please phone Orange City Library on 6393 8132 to arrange a refund.

Many events will depend on how the coronavirus proceeds. The society will keep members informed, or you can phone Liz Edwards on 6362 8647 for updates.

Wednesday 2 June: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Display focuses on the Frost family

Member Karen Kloosterman enthusiastically took up Orange City Council's offer of exhibition space in display cabinets at the Civic Centre recently to show off items in the society's collection.

The mini-display focuses on the Frost family of Orange.

Robert Frost was well-known in Orange as a butcher, cattle dealer and horse fancier. He built the mansion Campdale for his large family.

Assisted by Mike Allen and Alli Campbell of Orange Regional Museum, Karen put together a display of photos, the family bible and tea set and other items.

The society will continue to stage themed displays of items in its collection.



Above: The Frost family display at the Civic Centre.

Right: Alli Campbell working on the signage.



Left: Robert Frost and his wife Bridget, their portraits displayed in a fine red leather wallet.

Above: Frost display curator Karen Kloosterman.