

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Spring 2023



Dark secrets of Emmco foundry



The life and times of Orange
photographer George Melick

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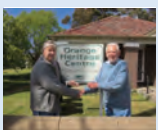
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Generous donations from history groups

Cover images

Foundry workers pour molten iron into moulds at the Emmco factory.

View of Orange from the Pinnacle by Orange photographer George Melick.

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 2023

Family \$45; individual \$30; single concession \$20; couple concession \$30.

Contact secretary or treasurer. Please pay promptly.

Research inquiries:

For research inquiry and membership forms, see our website, above

Cost: \$25 for the initial inquiry (plus additional charges for more extensive research).

Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address, details of your inquiry, any information you may already have, and the reason for your inquiry.

Bank:

Orange & District Historical Society, Orange Credit Union, BSB 802-129, A/c No 34252 (please include name and reason for payment). If you are transferring money from your account at Orange Credit Union, please add \$1 to our account number.

A message from the president

This is the second spring president's report I've had to do. Welcome to the fast approaching end of 2023; it seems only a few months since the last one.

Wow, what a year it has been. Firstly, thanks to those who attended the Annual General Meeting and to those who wanted to but had other commitments. I thank last year's excellent committee and welcome the incoming team. The work keeps coming. A slight drop in the number of members this year was sad to see but our coffers are in good shape still.

The three big things that continue to occupy our time are the CWD Negative Collection, the Email/Electrolux Collection, and accessioning. They are all time consuming but such an asset to the city so we must continue the great work begun so many years ago.

The AGM accepted a recommendation from last year's committee, to bestow Life Memberships on Annette Neville and Liz Edwards. This great honour was well deserved by both ladies. While Liz is not allowed ever to retire, Annette was forced to take a break after years of service to look after her ailing husband Kevin, who was much improved last time I saw him. While on the subject, we all wish long-term member Trevor Gazzard well as he battles illness.

I thank the members for their support in re-electing me to the office of president for the current year.

Our trip to Molong Museum was an eye opener and the Molong volunteers are to be congratulated on the massive restoration work done; it looks absolutely fantastic and well worth a visit if you haven't been yet. We hope to squeeze in another excursion before the end of the year.

I apologise that we have had only three but so much work restricted our organising time. We will try harder next year.

We were delighted to be presented at a function at



Volunteers who have been involved with the CWD Negative Collection Robert Bruce, Bob Curran, Liz Edwards, Jim Coffey, Judy Agland and Phil Stevenson with their Orange Cultural Heritage Award, which was presented at a function at Duntryleague in August.

Duntryleague in August with a Cultural Heritage Award for our work on the CWD Negative Collection.

Details of Christmas dinner and Christmas drinks will be advised soon.

Special thanks to Jim Coffey and John Smith for taking on the accessioning role under the guidance of our workhorse Phil Stevenson.

Last January we were asked if we could organise a day-long bus tour for TheExiles, a group of people who come from all over Australia. We took up the challenge and on a cool but sunny October 13th they all jumped on a well driven bus with past president Dave Sykes at the wheel and all thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Jim Coffey has shown the benefits of NBN being installed at the cottage with some unbelievable research work on two families this quarter.

Here I wish to say a big thank you to Judy Agland who keeps us all clean and tidy and organised while she manages to do her assigned work every Wednesday and does it with a humorous quip every so often. When she is not there she is missed. Thanks Judy, and while I'm at it thanks too, to new committee member Julie Sykes – her expertise is truly an asset to the society.

If any member knows of someone looking for something to do; I suggest you mention volunteering at the Orange and District Historical Society. We will welcome them with open arms.

- Bob Curran



Visitors to Orange were delighted with a bus tour of the city recently with driver Dave Sykes and guide Bob Curran. They are pictured at the Canobolas Dance Hall on Canobolas Road.

They visited Byng Street, Robertson Park, Mount Lindsay, East Orange, Bowen Terrace, Mount Canobolas and Duntryleague.

Delving into the story of historic house

Our volunteers were delighted to use their combined brain-power recently when they were contacted by David Grusovin of Fremantle Media about the history of a house in Moulder Street, Orange.

The house, at 176 Moulder Street, on the corner of Edward Street, is to be the subject of a program on ABC Television's Restoration Australia.

Owners Chris Bayad and Melissa Parker were keen to find out more about the house they were restoring.

They had been told that it dated back to the 1880s but our researchers found a rather different story.

Through their combined efforts, Bob Curran, Jim Coffey, Phil Stevenson and Ross Maroney pieced together the history of the site.

Much of the land in East Orange had originally been owned by Joseph Moulder. Moulder had been convicted at the Old Bailey in London of pickpocketing. He was sentenced to transportation for life and sailed to Sydney on the ship *Morley* in 1816.

Moulder was sent to the Bathurst district to work and was granted a ticket of leave in 1827. He married Caroline Cato Clements in 1833. They had numerous children. Moulder died in 1866 at his home, Endsleigh House, Orange.

Following his death the land was bought and sold a number of times in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

One of the first sources our researchers looked at was the famous 1907 panoramic photo of Orange. It clearly showed that the block was empty at that time, so the house must have been built later.

Next, Ross Maroney referred the researchers to the 1915 sewerage maps of Orange. The relevant map showed that sewerage was about to be connected to the block at that time.

Then Orange Municipal Council records were consulted (these, by the way, had been photographed by society members in 2009-10 at the time of the centenary of the founding of the council; they remain a valuable source of information). Here there was a reference in the minutes to approval being given to a Mrs Baker to build a house on the land.

Jim Coffey found much information about the draftsman-builder George Herbert Weily, who built the house.

The researchers were pleased to find that by exploring different sources of Orange's history and pooling their knowledge, they were able to build up a picture of the history of the house.



The house in Moulder Street which will appear on the ABC TV series Restoration Australia.



David Grusovin of Fremantle Media films as Bob Curran and Melissa Parker discuss the history of the house.



Bob Curran shows Melissa Parker what the researchers have found from local records about the house.

Two life memberships awarded at AGM



Bob Curran



Dave Sykes



Phil Stevenson



Liz Edwards



Jim Coffey



Julie Sykes



Judy Agland



Steve Brakenridge



Karen Kloosterman



President Bob Curran with Life members Annette Neville and Liz Edwards.

Our annual general meeting was held on Saturday 19 August in the West Room at Orange Regional Gallery.

In his report to the members, president Bob Curran announced that our society had been presented with a Cultural Heritage Award for its work on the CWD Negative Collection.

Bob told the group that it was hoped to have more group excursions, following very successful ones to Ed Suttor's property at The Rocks and Molong.

He talked about the work of the volunteers who have carried out detailed research into local properties and people, worked on the CWD Negative Collection, and numerous other tasks. Research included discovering the history of a house in Moulder Street for ABC Television's Renovations Australia program.

At the meeting long-term members, Annette Neville and Liz Edwards, were awarded Life Memberships.

Annette joined the society in 2009, was a committee member from 2013-2015 and 2019-2020. She was treasurer from 2011-2012 and 2016-2018.

She has worked tirelessly organising the front office, using her secretarial skills in setting up the society's records. She has kept membership details up-to-date and managed admissions to events such as the History Alive talks.

She has assisted Phil in keeping a close eye on incoming moneys and writing receipts.

In recent years she has organised and set up a recording system for donations.

She has been a regular on Wednesday working days over many years and has enjoyed the friendship of those who volunteer their time as she has done.

Annette's attention to detail in the office has been of great benefit to the society's day-to-day operations.

Liz Edwards joined the society in 2007, serving as a committee member, president, secretary, newsletter editor and publicity officer.

Liz was instrumental through her contacts at the Central Western Daily in the society receiving the CWD Negative Collection in 2010.

Recently, through Liz, we have been working with Orange City Council and Orange City Library to upload the scanned photos onto the storage cloud Recollect.

Since joining the society, Liz has found time to write several books, including *Half a World Away*, *In Sickness and in Health*, *A Gentleman of the Inky Way*, and *Wearing the Green: the Daltons and the Irish Cause*.

Liz raised the bar of our newsletter using her editorial skills to produce a quality quarterly newsletter full of stories and research written by her and other contributors.

She has also curated two exhibitions at Orange Regional Museum - *All in a Day's Work* and *Child's Play*, both featuring images from the CWD Negative Collection.

Patron Russell Tym officiated at the election of office bearers and the committee:

President Bob Curran, vice-president Dave Sykes, treasurer Phil Stevenson, secretary Liz Edwards, Committee members Steve Brakenridge, Judy Agland, Jim Coffey, Karen Kloosterman and Julie Sykes. Patrons: Russell Tym and Marie Hammond.

Public officer Ray Norman, publicity officer Liz Edwards. Honorary historians: Elizabeth Griffin, Julie Sykes, Liz Edwards and Ross Maroney.

A hot, filthy black place: working



Oscar Kalms uses a long rod to steady a ladle while Bobby O'Neill pours molten iron into it from a bull ladle. The man standing in the background is supervisor Jim Brady.

By Elisabeth Edwards

Ever since I wrote 'Weapons to Whitegoods' in 1996 I was fascinated by an image of the Emmco foundry, taken sometime in the 1950s. It shows a man, since identified as Oscar Kalms, using a long metal rod to steady a small ladle into which another man is directing molten cast-iron from a larger vessel. The other worker, Bobby O'Neill, is crouched down to ensure the larger vessel is kept at the correct angle. The foreman, Jim Brady, stands in the background supervising the procedure. Apart from wearing protective goggles, Kalms, appears to have no special safety-wear. A shirt sleeve is rolled back to the elbow, exposing his sinewy forearm.

Recently, looking through damaged images from the CWD Negative Collection, I came across a group of photos showing various activities at the foundry in connection with an accident which had occurred there. The inference was that rather than engaging in normal work, the men were demonstrating various activities connected with the foundry to show investigators how they went about their tasks.

The photos were taken on 23 April 1959, and referred to the accident which occurred on 7 August 1958. They were taken by the CWD photographer who often did jobs for the factory which were never used in the newspaper.

The images I had were so badly damaged through

heat and poor storage that you could barely make out what was happening. However, when I asked the society's Emmo/Email/Electrolux group if they had come across any foundry images, they identified the same images, this time printed from the original negatives, but these were not damaged. At last I was able to see clearly images of the men going about their work.

Geoff Bargwanna, who spent many years at the factory, remembers the foundry as a 'hot, filthy, black place'. As an apprentice, Don Wilson says he used to nip over to the foundry out of curiosity to see what was happening, watching the sparks coming from the furnace and the men pouring molten iron into moulds. "It was an exciting place for a boy from an orchard at Forest Reefs," he recalls.

There is little information about the foundry in newspapers of the time. A report by the company in May 1947 stated that the foundry was being constructed, but I can find no information about when it started operations, how many people were employed there, and when it eventually closed sometime in the 1960s.

When Emmco started making fridges, they built their own N compressors, which were also used in the manufacture of gear boxes for wringer washing machines. The foundry workers made cast iron housings for the compressors and gear boxes for wringer washing machine. The cast iron was put into the coking furnace,

in the Emmco factory foundry

melted, then poured into a large ‘bull’ ladle, which was taken on a trolley to the moulds. The ladle was tipped up to pour the molten metal into smaller ladles. The molten iron was then poured into the moulds. The moulds were made of casting sand bound with oil.

Geoff Bargwanna says that at the time it made economic sense to make the cast iron housings: “The factory in its early days was very self-contained. It had its own boiler house, foundry, presses and extruders etc.”

In September 1949, a few years after the factory commenced operations, a group of displaced men, mainly from the Baltic countries, arrived at the factory to begin work as process workers. Their accommodation was basic two-man tents near the railway line. They were allowed to use bathroom facilities in the foundry and could eat their meals in the canteen. What the migrants thought of the conditions in the foundry, and what the foundry workers made of them, can only be imagined.

Estonian Leon Kiho recalled having to get up at 4am for a hot shower at the foundry; any later and all the hot water was gone.

Latvian Joe Cudars hated the food in the factory canteen so made a stove in his tent from old fridge castings he gathered in the foundry, and he and his father started cooking at ‘home’ in their tent. The results, cooked the Latvian way, were very satisfactory.

Former plant manager Jock Ferguson remembered the foundry workers were a belligerent lot: “They would go on strike at the drop of a hat. They had this foreman . . . and he would come into the office and say, ‘They’re out, they’re gone. The buggers are gone again’ But when they worked, they worked hard. It was a terrible place to work [with] molten iron. And, of course, the foundry was never updated. It never got into a Dieselmatic or something like that. It was all hand-poured, it was bloody terrible, actually.”

There are few photos of the foundry but in late 1954 design draftsman John McKay O’Toole painted a scene there and entered it in the Sulman Prize the following year. The painting was later sold to a Sydney gallery.

In the early 1960s the old N compressors were replaced with aluminium T compressors. These had only one cast iron part, a sleeve which was cast in Sydney.

That sounded the death-knell for the foundry, although one can’t help wondering if safety concerns were an issue too. I have only found evidence of one serious accident, when molten metal was accidentally poured into the boot of William James Brown of Warrendine Street, resulting in him losing his foot.

Looking at the photos, one can imagine there must have been many mishaps over the dozen years or so that the foundry was in operation. I found only one image showing a man wearing heavy protective gloves although several show workers wearing goggles and special coverings on their boots; most men had bare hands and open-necked shirts, and one man can be seen smoking a cigarette while pouring the molten metal.

Names of some of the workers at the foundry are: Jim Brady (foreman), Bill Brown, Darcy Eden, Bill Harris,

Oscar Kalms, Antonio Lassano, Ron Lawrence, Ernst Muellenstadt, Jack Rheinhardt (manager), Jack/Jim Shrimpton, Harry Van der Meer and Percy Wilson.

Many thanks to John Kich, Phil Stevenson, Geoff Bargwanna, Jim Coffey and Don Wilson for their contributions to this article.



The location of the foundry towards the southern end of the factory site.



A worker at the furnace.



John O’Toole with his painting of the foundry, which was entered in the Sulman Prize in 1955.

Exploring Molong's rich history



Bob Curran and Karen Kloosterman at the Fairbridge Farm services memorial near Molong.



Viewing the destruction wreaked by floods at the Fairbridge Farm Memorial Park.



Situated on higher ground, this evocative display at the park was undamaged.



Members of Orange and Molong historical societies in the Molong Museum with photos from the Tilbrook Collection.

A group from our society spent an interesting day at Molong in mid-August.

Our first stop was at the Fairbridge Farm Memorial Park to the east of the town. We knew it had been badly affected by the floods late last year and it was upsetting to see just how much destruction had occurred. The park is a memorial to nearly 1000 children who were sent from poor families in the UK to the farm between 1938 and 1974. The flooding of Molong Creek has wreaked havoc on the park, uprooting and destroying much of the signage.

The park was one of three major areas in our region affected by the flood, the others being the Ophir Reserve and the town of Eugowra.

We continued our journey into Molong, stopping at Molong Historical Museum, where a warm welcome and morning tea awaited us.

We were keen to see the display of photos from the Godfrey Tilbrook Collection, many of which are now on display in a special room.

A couple of years ago the great-niece of Godfrey Tilbrook, Nicki Sloane, donated Tilbrook's camera and equipment and some of his images, most in remarkably good condition. Some of the images were on glass plate negatives and some on ordinary negatives. As word got around, others donated images and information. The society now has 350 images by Tilbrook and more than 70 by earlier Molong photographers James Brothers.

The society's research officer, Catherine McKenzie, wrote biographical notes about all the subjects in the images. Member Jan McIntyre printed out many of the images and mounts were cut for the display. Robert Bruce worked on two marvellous larger images which are now framed.

As it is impossible to display all the images on the walls, Julie Lawrie suggested that others be put in a rolling display on a TV screen in the room.

We also enjoyed exploring the rest of the museum with its displays of household items and other objects of local interest.

At lunch at the Molong RSL Club, Helen Haynes talked to us about the display of portraits of local service men and women in the foyer painted by the late Anne-Marie Ingham.

In the afternoon we were treated to a talk at the Yarn Market by Barbara Strong, who showed us the four large embroidered panels depicting the history of the Molong district. The panels were unveiled during the Bicentenary in 1988. The building is a former Cobb & Co coachhouse.



Left: Getting down to work cleaning and conserving museum items.

Inset: The museum, which was badly damaged by water and mud in the flood, has been cleaned.



Max Swift, Monica Engel from Orange City Council and conservators Tegan Anthes and Kay Soderlund.



Working on cleaning one of the larger pieces of machinery at the museum.

Workshops aid Eugowra Museum recovery

Two workshops were held at Eugowra Museum in July and August to show volunteers how to recover and conserve flood-damaged items from the museum.

Eugowra was hit by a large wave of water in the early hours of November 14 last year as Mandagery Creek, which runs through the town, became inundated following intense rainfall.

The museum, along with most of the town's other buildings, was badly damaged by flood water and mud, ruining many of its precious historical items.

But with assistance from Orange City Council and Orange Regional Museum staff as well as project officer Hayley Lavers and conservators Kay Soderlund and Tegan Anthes, the first workshop showed participants how to clean delicate items without damaging them.

The second workshop concentrated largely on larger items such as farm machinery. Volunteers were shown

conservation techniques by Dave Matthews and Dave McBeath, who carry out work for the Sydney Harbour Trust and the NSW Rail Museum.

Support for the museum's recovery comes under the auspices of the Orange-Blayney-Cabonne Sustainable Collections Project, which was initiated by museums adviser Kylie Winkworth in 2005.

Orange Historical Society member Phil Stevenson, who attended both workshops, said they were very successful, not only providing practical information but also offering valuable moral support for the people of Eugowra.

The next two workshops - on conserving paper archives and textiles - will be held on 21 and 22 November. Currently these items are frozen and being stores at Orange Cool Stores.

For inquiries about the workshops contact Hayley Lavers on 0417 684 990.

Piecing together the story of Orange

This is part 1 of a two-part article. The second part will appear in the next newsletter.

By **Jim Coffey**

George Melick was an Orange businessman and photographer who spent his life taking pictures and recording history but whose own life had almost been lost to the past. This is his story.

Photograph albums and framed pictures bearing the signature 'Geo. Melick or 'Melick & Dean' would be found in many Orange homes, often in a cupboard or drawer, capturing our ancestors and buildings in the first half of the 20th century. One such photograph, depicting a group of Army signallers, showed up recently on Facebook and led to questions about who the photographer was.

George Charles Melick was the son of Charles and Cissie Melick of Orange and was born in 1897 in Wickham, an inner suburb of Newcastle, NSW. He was registered as George Malick (sic) and his parents were recorded as Cillil and Sissie. There is no NSW marriage certificate for his parents. It is not clear where they came from prior to being in Wickham, and it appears that George had no brothers or sisters. His father was listed in 1912 and as 'Melick, C', a merchant of Moulder Street, Orange. In the same year George was in the class of the first pupils to attend the just founded Orange High School. The 1915 Sands directory has an entry for Mallick, C, draper, Orange. It is reasonable to assume that this would be George's father, albeit with a third spelling of his surname.

What of the father?

George's father was somewhat elusive in initial research, not least because of the variations in the spelling of his names – both forename and surname. His religion – Catholic – added to the confusion. 'Melick' is a surname of Danish/German origin, derived from the Hebrew 'Melech' (king) and often borne by Ashkenazi Jews. 'Malick', on the other hand, is an anglicised version of an Irish Gaelic name meaning 'big and soft'. This latter spelling seemed more promising as it would explain George being a Catholic. George's father's forename was variously recorded as Cillil, Callil and Charles (the latter likely adopted to ease doing business in Australia at the time).

After considerable searching the real name emerged – and explained the confusions. George's father was Callil Melick, and he was an Assyrian. He was from what we nowadays call Lebanon and he would have been a Maronite Christian who, in Australia at that time, would have identified as a Catholic. On March 8, 1900, at Newcastle Quarter Sessions, he was found not guilty on charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and assault. The case had been adjourned from early December 1899 and in the interim he was out on bail. The surety for bail, in the sum of £40, was given by Joseph



Tanous Malouf, of 231 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, merchant. Between his arrest in mid-November 1899 and his release on bail in December, Callil was held in Maitland Gaol. The gaol entrance book records considerable detail. Callil Melick (aka Joseph Melick) was an Assyrian migrant who arrived in the Colony in 1888, ship unknown. He was a Catholic, aged 24, and was a hawker by occupation. He was 5 feet 9 inches tall, slender build, sallow complexion, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes. It is interesting that he did not know, or couldn't recall, the name of the ship on which he arrived in Australia and that in 2023 there is no arrival record for him into Australia. Perhaps he had another name, or maybe another variation on its spelling. There is no NSW death record for Callil (or Charles) either, though when George's mother Cissie died in 1929 she was a widow, meaning Callil/Charles had predeceased her.

And the mother?

Cissie Melick's origins remain elusive. As she was always known by her married name on any records available pertaining to Orange, we must look to her death certificate to ascertain her maiden name and thereby her origin. Unfortunately, the NSW BDM Index lists no mother's name, and only gives her father's surname – Malouf. The only Cissie Malouf born in NSW between 1850 and 1900 was born in 1892. This Cissie Malouf would have been only five years old in 1897 when George was born, so cannot be his mother. It is interesting though that this younger Cissie had her birth registered in Redfern, and that her father was Joseph Malouf. Recall that it was a Joseph Malouf of Redfern who posted bail for Callil in 1900. There is very likely a connection, but what is it?

Further, there is no marriage certificate for Cissie to Melick (or usual variations) in the NSW BDM Index. In fact, only three women with the forename Cissie were married in NSW between 1840 and 1900 – in 1887, 1892 and 1894 – and none are a close enough match for George's mother Cissie. There is no online immigration record for Cissie Malouf. Given the absence of these records, and the fact that her son was unaware of many

photographer George Melick

of her vital details when she died in 1929, her origins remain a mystery for now. However, we can be confident that by the early 1900s young George lived in Orange, and it is reasonable to assume that his parents were – or at least his mother was – here with him.

George Charles (Geo) Melick

After his birth certificate, the next publicly available record of George is as a witness in a stealing case at Orange Court. On February 8, 1906, Harold Mitchell (described as ‘a lad’) was charged with stealing a cashbox from the store of the Assyrian Assad Rohannah, in East Orange. “George Melick, a lad of about eight years, deposed: Found the moneybox ... near Douglas’s old mill; there was no money in it” and “while playing with a lad named Bone”. A subsequent witness deposed that the cashbox was returned to Assad by Annie Cowel and that George Melick was with her when it was returned. As an aside, after several more witnesses were heard, Police Magistrate E. Marriott dismissed the case against Mitchell.

This article’s introduction records that in 1912 George was a pupil at the new Orange High School, and was the son of C. Melick, merchant, of Moulder Street (East Orange). It has been assumed that this C. Melick was his father. But it is equally possible that it was his mother! She was “C. Melick” too; and no records for, nor references to, Callil Melick – after his Court case in Newcastle in 1900 – have been found. From the information available, it is arguable that only George and his mother Cissie came to Orange, and that she was a shopkeeper.

The next mentions of George are in *The Sun* (Sydney) newspapers of 1916, under the ‘Thumbs Up’ column, where ‘G C Melick, Moulder-street, Orange East’ wins cash prizes for jokes submitted for publication.

In November 1918, when George was about 21 years old, the Personal column in *Leader* noted the following: “Owing to the absence of Mr F Hayward, School of Arts librarian, in Sydney, his place will be filled by Mr Geo. Melick”. Then, in December, the paper carried a report on the meeting of the School of Arts Committee which included the following: “The Secretary, Mr F B Hayward, resigned from the charge of the billiard room as he found that his other duties occupied his full time, and Mr Geo. Melick was chosen to exercise supervision over the room.”

George next appears in the *Leader* in 1922 in a news article about an accident that occurred between Bathurst and Lithgow. A motorcycle with sidecar was heading east from Bathurst when, in poor conditions, it collided with a horse and sulky heading in the opposite direction. A car, returning from ‘the Mountains’ to Orange, happened upon the accident. This car contained Keith Flynn, Geo Melick, W

Bouffler, Fred Leahey and Frank Mannix, of Orange. The 1922 (and 1923) Sands Directory lists George Melick (sic) as the Secretary of the School of Arts in Orange. Notices in the local paper later that year concerning the School of Arts are signed ‘G C Melick, Secretary’.

In 1925 the Mercantile Dance Club has a display advert in the local paper advising that the Annual Meeting would be held at 8pm in the Standard Hotel. All members were urged to attend, and it is signed by G.C. Melick, Honorary Secretary.

To be continued



Diary October - December 2023

Orange Regional Museum: Open daily 9am-4pm, free.

Millthorpe Golden Memories Museum: Open weekends and school and public holidays 11am-3pm, entry adults \$10, children \$5 and families \$20.

Molong & District Servicemen & Servicewomen's Portrait Gallery: Molong RSL Club, Riddell Street, Molong. 6366 8105 Open daily.

Molong Museum: 20 Riddell Street opposite RSL Club. Open Thursdays and Sundays 10am-2pm or by appointment. Entry adults \$10, concession \$5, members \$5, families \$20. Phone 0400 425 015.

Wentworth Mine: Open Saturday and Sunday on the first full weekend of the month 10am-2.30pm. See www.orangemuseum.com.au/wentworthmainmine

Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays: ODHS volunteer working days at Heritage Cottage. Visitors with inquiries are welcome. Phone Liz Edwards on 0408 390 918 before your visit so we can start working on your inquiry.

Wednesday 1 Nov: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 November: Conservation workshops on paper archives and textiles at Eugowra Museum. Inquiries Hayley Lavers on 0417 684 990.

Friday 1 December: ODHS Christmas dinner at Kate Jones, Moulder Street - details to follow.

Wednesday 6 Dec: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wednesday 20 December: ODHS Christmas drinks at the cottage 4-6pm.

Generous donations from history groups

We were pleased and grateful recently when two local history groups donated funds to our society when they ceased operations.

Orange Heritage Group donated \$1210.37 after winding up its operations. The group was established in 1997.

With the aim of preserving the heritage of Orange, its first challenge was to oppose the proposed demolition of the Baptist Church in Sale Street.

Another high-profile case the group was involved in was when Woolworths wanted to demolish the Masonic Hall in Sale Street so that it could build a service station on the site. That plan was overturned but another one four years later, to build a service station at Five Ways, was eventually allowed by the Land and Environment Court.

The group continued to vet development applications over the years. It also organised visits to local historic sites, including Cadia Mine, Mena and Boree Cabonne.

Members also carried out a survey of old workers' cottages in East Orange and were also involved in the Orange Heritage Review.

While having up to 90 members at one stage, the group gradually dwindled as members grew older or turned to other interests.

"We were pleased with what we did and we made a lot of people aware of the heritage of Orange through articles in the paper and word of mouth," former president Charlie Everett said.

We also benefited from a donation of \$693 from the Marsden Memorial Rural Research Centre, which folded recently. Russell Moor's inspiration for forming the centre was a visit he made to Gamboola Woolshed in the late 1990s. Along with Russell, early members included John Coxhill, Byron Stevens and Kevin Isbester

and they worked from rooms at Orange Railway Station.

At first the centre's focus was on woolsheds and Russell wrote his book 'Wool Sheds: the Anvils that Forged a Nation' at this time.

The centre also hosted events, including visits to Errowanbang and Gamboola and ran two Marsden Country Fairs at Orange Showground.



ODHS president Bob Curran with former Orange Heritage Group president Charlie Everett.



Marsden Centre members John Bowler and Russell Moor.