

History alive

Orange & District Historical Society newsletter

Spring 2020

Orange and Lucknow panoramic photographs go on sale



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Cover images

Top: John Kich and Robert Bruce with the two Lucknow panoramic photo panels.

Below: Nancy Walsh, Annette Neville and Euan Greer with the three Orange panoramic photo panels.

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.

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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

Hello members of the Orange and District Historical society. Once again it is spring, some warmer weather is on the way and it's time for some outdoor activities.

The AGM was to be held in August, but due to the unavailability of a suitable venue under the Coronavirus restraints with self-distancing and keeping members safe, the committee decided to postpone the meeting and the current committee and executive will continue to manage the society in their current positions.

We continue, like all of us, to work the best we can within the Coronavirus restraints and manage cleanliness and social distancing at the cottage.

It is enlightening to see our volunteers meeting and working again. Wednesday's group has settled in to updating the database, scanning photos and newspaper articles.

I would like to welcome Nancy Walsh to the group. She is currently transcribing the hand-written James Hicks diary of his voyage to Australia in 1862 so it can be readable. Well done! There will be lots to keep you busy.

On Friday Phil, John, Steve, and John are currently revisiting the many photos in the Electrolux collection and adding names or a description of the images to the database. There are many thousands of photos for them to review.

Saturday's group of Phil, Julie, Liz, Fred, and Steve spend three hours each week cataloguing the items in the plan cabinets. Initially they sorted all the items and relocated them into drawers designated for specific topics. This then progressed to scanning and entering the item in the data catalogue so a locatable record can be kept. As well, each item can be viewed digitally, avoid-

ing the need for direct handling of the items, many of which are fragile.

Orange Regional Museum has recently opened a new long-term exhibition called 'Inherit: old and new histories'. It explores our region's history and highlights major events that have helped shape our past and present.

Some of the items on display are from our society. This gives us a good opportunity to support the local museum and display items from our collection.

Member Robert Bruce has a great interest in local historical photos. He restored parts of the 1907 Orange panoramic photo as well as the Lucknow one taken in about 1900. Using his computer, he enhanced the clarity of the originals and organised for them to be printed by local firm McSigns onto aluminium panels. They are outstanding in quality and presentation.

The society is taking orders for these two photo sets which you could have as a wall hanging in your home or business – see page 7 for details.

I hope all our members and others interested in local history are keeping well and staying safe through these difficult times.

Thanking you for your support.

- Dave Sykes



New venue for exhibition photographs

We were delighted recently when Orange Regional Museum and Orange Health Service entered a partnership to display images from the 'All in a Day's Work' exhibition at the hospital.

The exhibition at the museum, which featured photographs from the CWD Negative Collection featuring workers from the 1950s, 60s and 70s in the Orange district, was a great success in 2019.

Some images had already been relocated to the Civic Centre reception area, where they are much admired.

Now others adorn one of the public areas at the hospital so that more people can view them.



General manager of Orange Hospital Catherine Nowlan, Orange Regional Museum's public engagement and education officer Sally MacLennan, Orange & District Historical Society secretary Liz Edwards and manager of Orange Regional Museum Mary-Liz Andrews at the opening of the display of photographs from the 'All in a Day's Work' exhibition at Orange Health Service.

Spirit of optimism as crowds flock home



Above: Gordon Brothers' bullock team led by Bill Quinlan, moving into position before the procession started.
Left: Back to Orange commemorative calendar for 1929.



Above: Reception and presentation of souvenirs to the oldest visiting Orange native and the oldest resident native.
Below: Mrs Wally Clark's winning flower garden.



By Elisabeth Edwards

As a group of Historical Society members were sorting through the plan cabinets recently, we came across a large calendar for 1929 featuring photographs from Back to Orange Week. It was printed by the Orange Leader newspaper to mark the event which had run from Christmas to New Year in 1928-29.

Back to Orange Week, initially named Home to Orange Week, was inaugurated in 1918. Other towns followed suit, including Young, Parkes, Grenfell and Bathurst and Molong.

Throughout the war years Orange newspapers printed many reports of local soldiers, either at the front or returning home.

As the war took its toll, with numerous local soldiers killed or injured, the town's leaders started talking about how they might ensure its viability in the future. An article in the *Orange Leader* in July 1918 alerted citizens to the need to 'boost' Orange: "The citizens of Orange are

awakening to the realisation of their town and district's importance and, as its geographical position lends itself to becoming the hub of the business world of the west, it is incumbent on every resident, male or female, to devote themselves to the work of pushing its interests . . . The Greater Orange Scheme and the Home to Orange Week are solid business propositions that need the concrete effort of every citizen who wishes the district to have the publicity it deserves."

Civic leaders felt there was no need to wait until the war ended. At a meeting of Orange Chamber of Commerce in August a motion to initiate a scheme for the advancement of Orange was passed, as was a plan to hold a Home to Orange carnival 'as soon as considered practicable', the writer stating that such events had taken place elsewhere in Australia with great success.

When the war ended on 11 November, plans for the celebrations were firmed up and the week between Christmas and New Year was set aside for the event.

Continued next page

for Back to Orange Week



Left: Members of the organising committee. The Mayor, Arthur Colvin, is seated second left, with newspaper proprietor Harry Leggo to his left. The vastly outnumbered women are Mrs C B Howse, Mrs E B Dalton, Mrs T M Lane and Mrs J T Paton.

From previous page

The primary object was 'to bring every pioneer, former resident or native back to his or her former place of abode for a brief visit'.

With everyone in a lighter frame of mind and looking forward to a peaceful future, the week was an outstanding success. Huge crowds of locals and visitors filled the town centre and people were delighted to meet relations and renew acquaintances. Orange Jockey Club's New Year races was the most successful ever held and included many visitors travelling from throughout the region.

The Spanish flu pandemic put paid to a repeat the following year and it wasn't until 1923-24 that the next Back to Orange Week was held.

Among the activities planned was a garden competition and organisers were certain it would attract many entries: "It is not the largest garden that will necessarily receive the first prize, and the man with perhaps only a small patch in front of his house will have equally as good a chance as his neighbour with the quarter acre plot. The grouping of too many flowers in one bed is not desirable, geometrical design will be taken into consideration, neatness is essential, while the absence of weeds will weigh well with the judge."

Writing in 1953, Orange journalist Joe Glasson, who helped organise that second Back to Orange Week in 1923, remembered the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with scores of former residents, some of whom he had gone to school with.

A highlight of the 1923-4 event was the unveiling of an obelisk at Ophir to mark the discovery of Australia's first payable gold in 1851 (as it was then believed).

Glasson remembered the 'search party' he accompanied to select a suitable site for the obelisk, with J C L Fitzpatrick from the Mines Department, Mayor of Orange Arthur Colvin, Town Clerk Frank Mulholland, and fellow reporter Jim Torpy. They were provided with a hamper of food from one of Orange's hotels but the hotelier forgot to provide anything for them to drink: "It was a scorching day, the Summerhill Creek was dry, and even the house tanks at the nearby home of Jimmy

Uren had been empty for weeks. Jimmy, however, saved our lives as he came to light with a couple of luxuriant watermelons." They chose the site for the obelisk and during Back to Orange Week Glasson returned to witness the unveiling by Mr Fitzpatrick. A huge crowd attended, including many dignitaries, as well as a number of people who remembered the glory days at Ophir.

The third Back to Orange Week was held in 1928-9 with the *Orange Leader* editor and proprietor Harry Leggo acting as president of the Back to Orange Committee.

It began on Christmas Eve with the official opening in Robertson Park. Thousands of people lined the streets to view the procession to the park. A soldier, Lieutenant Apps, a veteran of the South African War, led the procession, followed by cavalymen of the Sixth Light Horse, Orange District Band, and various historical floats, including one of a gold mine, and a bullock team led by Bill Quinlan, escorted by six mounted policemen. There were many other floats representing the wool industry, the railways, bushrangers and settlers.

At the official opening of the week there were calls for Orange to have a museum and an art gallery – calls which went unheeded for decades. Speechmakers talked of Orange's considerable progress, with 'fine sewerage, water and electric light systems'. Where there had once been a swamp, now stood the Woollen Mills.

That evening there was a sacred concert at the Theatre Orange organised by the Orange Male Voice Choir.

On Boxing Day there was a pageant of the 'wild, primitive days of the early fifties – days that saw the shaping of the crude elements from which were to grow the foremost town in NSW – Orange, Queen City of the West'. A de Havilland Moth aeroplane 'looped, dived, banked, tail-spun and soared above their heads'. Later in the week there were sports at the Showground as well as Highland dancing and a semaphore signalling display by the Navy League.

The last event was a 'smoke concert' at the Memorial Hall - a live performance of music and song, before an audience of men only.

Historical treasure trove at museum



Left: Orange Regional Museum manager Mary-Liz Andrews guides a group around the new exhibition.



Right: An eclectic array of items illustrates the diverse history of the region.

Orange Regional Museum's new long-term exhibition 'Inherit: old and new histories' opened earlier this month.

Inherit brings together both familiar and less well-known stories from across the Central West. Exploring the region's history, the exhibition highlights big events and significant personalities, as well as the lives and experiences of everyday people.

It features more than 100 museum objects to tell these stories. Many are drawn from the museum's own collection, while others have been generously loaned by 42 community-run museums, public museums and individual collectors as well as our society.

Highlights of the exhibition include well-known pieces such as the silver Campbell Epergne, gifted to Amelia and David Campbell in 1864 for their heroic resistance of an attack by Ben Hall's bushranger gang near Eugowra, to more personal items such as hand-illustrated notebooks, beautifully embroidered child's slippers and well-worn farming tools that re-

late to the experiences of past residents of the region.

The child's slippers were among a number of items lent by our society. They were made by Charles Allcorn, whose story illustrates the hardships he endured as an orphan in England where he was sent to live in a workhouse. While there he learnt his trade as a bootmaker and emigrated to New South Wales in 1854.

Excerpts from the rare 1927 silent movie about Orange can be viewed on a TV screen at the exhibition.

Inherit shares stories and objects from a broad area of the Central West, from Wellington to Cowra, Eugowra to Kings Plains, and visitors can expect to be surprised by the diverse histories, people and events that have shaped our past and present.

The museum is open every day from 9am to 4pm under Covid-19 measures including a heightened cleaning regime and asking visitors to sign in.



Above: The trunk which took Dutch migrant Bill Erwich's belongings with him when he emigrated to Australia in the 1950s.



Right: This striking portrait of a girl is among many others in the exhibition showing the people who lived in the Orange district in days gone by.



Above: Handmade children's slippers made by Charles Allcorn.

Allcorn had a difficult start to his life in England but he learnt bootmaking while living in a workhouse, which stood him in good stead when he emigrated to Australia in 1854.

He settled in the parish of Byng in 1964 and later lived in Millthorpe where he established a successful business.

The slippers have been loaned to the museum by our society.



The third of three Orange panels.



The first of two Lucknow panels.

Your chance to own panoramic photos

Most of our readers will be familiar with the historic panoramic photos of Orange and Lucknow.

The Orange one, taken from the top of the Dalton mill chimney in Peisley Street, dates from 1907. The Lucknow one is from a similar date.

They depict Orange and Lucknow at the beginning of the 20th century, providing images of what these places looked like, the buildings and streetscapes.

Member Robert Bruce, who is a professional photographer, has spent countless hours working on the images and then liaising with Orange firm McSigns to create copies for the public to purchase.

They would add a marvellous historical feature to businesses and homes and would also make an ideal Christmas gift.

McSigns has developed a process to mount them on an aluminium backing. Because of their considerable length, the Orange one comes in three panels, while the Lucknow one is in two panels.

The three Orange panels are: 125cm x 20cm, 125cm x 20cm and 113.5cm x 20cm.

The two Lucknow panels are: 116cm x 20cm and 107.5cm x 20cm.

The panels can be mounted side-by-side or one above another.

They can be ordered through the Historical Society

at a price of \$190 for the set of three Orange panels and \$140 for the set of two Lucknow panels. We cannot take orders for individual panels.

The price does not include hanging materials. McSigns can offer double-sided tape (which may need silicon for extra strength) for an extra \$50 per set of panels, or holes drilled at the top of either end of each set for an extra \$50.

Purchasers may prefer to organise hanging or framing at their own cost.

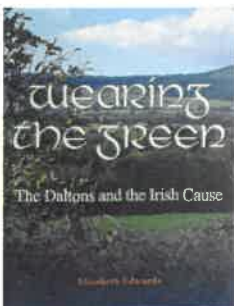
The price includes a small profit for the society for organising the work and taking the orders.

To order sets of panels, please fill in the order form and return it to the society. Payment may be made by cash at the cottage at 148 March Street on Wednesdays between 10.30am and 4pm; cheque at the cottage or by mailing to the society at P O Box 1626, Orange, NSW 2800; or direct deposit to the society at Orange Credit Union, BSB 802 129, account no 34252 (please include name and reason for payment). If you are transferring money from your account at Orange Credit Union, add \$1 to our account number.

Members may view the panels at the cottage before ordering.

If you have any questions please contact committee member Karen Kloosterman on 0434 386 324.

More Christmas gift ideas from the Historical Society



Copies of Elisabeth Edwards' book 'Wearing the Green: The Daltons and the Irish Cause' available either from the society or Collins bookshop, at \$60. The book tells the rags to riches story of the Daltons and their Orange emporium, their homes and their support for the Irish causes of land rights and Home Rule. Lavishly illustrated, it represents an important episode in the history of Orange.

Copies of the 1927 silent movie DVD about Orange are available from the society for \$25. This rare depiction of Orange shows streetscapes, cinemas, the Fire Station, schools, numerous businesses and many of the people who lived in Orange at that time.



Orange heritage matters

Decision awaited on former nurses' quarters

Our volunteer Euan Greer has been scrutinising a number of heritage matters around the city in recent months and writing submissions when necessary.

Earlier this year Orange City Council staff recommended that a development application be adopted to retain the former nurses' quarters in Sale Street.

The building, constructed in 1937, provided fifty rooms for nurses and 'modern comforts'.

It was used for many years, providing a home for nurses opposite the hospital.

The building, known to many as Caldwell House, later became a community health centre.

It had been proposed that it be demolished because of asbestos contamination, but it was successfully argued that the asbestos could be removed without the need to demolish the historic building, which is one of the few remaining reminders of the Base Hospital.

On the recommendation of Council staff, Council unanimously voted to retain the building but a final decision now rests with NSW Health Infrastructure. Other buildings in the complex will be demolished.



Historical Society members Euan Greer and Liz Edwards with James Nicholson of Adaptive Architects Pty Ltd outside the former nurses' quarters in Sale Street.



Renovation plan for mill building

The northern end of the remaining section of the former Dalton's flour mill in Peisley Street (at far left of photo) is to undergo renovations, and a development application has been submitted to Orange City Council.

While the renovations are not major, the society will keep an eye on the planned changes as the building is an important relic of what was for many years a thriving establishment.



New signage on the former Terminus Hotel building in Peisley Street acknowledges its former role as one of several hotels associated with the railway in Orange.

Photo Euan Greer.



Heritage panels on the side of the former Dalton's store in Post Office Lane show the history of the building which was for many years a vast emporium in the centre of Orange. The panels tell the story of the Daltons and the store which was known throughout western NSW.

Recollections of itinerants' camp

Orange City Council is considering constructing a walking trail and interpretive signage at The Springs, a former Depression era camp for Aboriginal and impoverished white people south of Orange. The news inspired former stockman Reg Golding to reminisce about his contact with people who lived in makeshift houses in the nearby Hawke Lane area.

In my early droving days, droving stock into and around Orange on the surrounding stock routes, I often met interesting people and saw places of interest. Most of the people became friends, but a lot of the places have changed or disappeared. One such is the itinerant and long-term camp on the travelling stock route along Hawke Lane, south of Orange. In Australia's early pioneering days many people camped there, some travelling through the district looking for work or land and some place to call home for a short or long-term. Their shelters from Orange's weather were mainly tents or tilted carts or light wagonettes. Both had tarpaulin covers to provide shelter for families. More permanent shelter as people found work on surrounding properties were huts, shacks or houses, just basic structures at first but improved as the weather and families demanded.

In the 1950s I passed by with sheep and a packhorse plant. A mare that was grazing with other horses on the travelling stock route decided to join my pack-horses that were travelling loose. These packhorses followed the mobs of cattle or sheep on a drove, carrying our food, water, clothes, tarpaulins, swags and sheep breaks (rope fences) and equipment. The mare kept following and even being chased back didn't stop her. In desperation I caught her and fitted a halter that I had plaited from bale twine hanging on fences where stock had been hand-fed.

I led the mare back to the camp where an elderly Aboriginal lady met me. It was her cart mare. The lady told me her name was Ida and would I put the mare in a small two-railed horse yard that was behind a fairly substantial hut.

Ida offered me a drink of tea which I thoroughly enjoyed with her and other people who had drifted across from their various camps for a bit of a yarn. These people did not have much wealth or belongings but were rich in the sharing spirit. That spirit has resurfaced to some degree during the Coronavirus.

From a large population of earlier years, the camp had declined nearly to extinction. Most of the huts were falling down while an odd few were more substantial with solid foundations. A close-by spring had given the people fresh water, a must in any environment.

The huts had been built out of whatever scrap material that could be salvaged from rubbish tips.

Time and progress slowly but surely emptied these camps of their inhabitants. Orange's was only one of many western towns in NSW and other states, mainly along stock routes and on water. Like these camps, the



Above: A mob of horses coming to the Saleyards in Orange, about 1990.

Right: Renowned local drover and horseman Reg Golding.



packhorse drover is part of history.

In Queensland there are statues of packhorse drovers at different townships honouring the overlanders before there were roads. It would be very fitting for Orange City Council to place a memorial on the camp site in Hawke Lane.

- Reg Golding

The Hawke Lane camp was near The Springs, which was a well-known camp with a mixed population of Aboriginal and white people living in roughly built houses beside a natural spring.

Makeshift housing was common from Orange's earliest days right up to the 1960s. When the first displaced people arrived in Orange in 1949 following World War II, groups of men sent to work at the Emmco factory were given tents to live in between the factory and the railway line near East Fork. There was an acute housing shortage throughout Australia and there was simply nothing available. The men endured this substandard accommodation summer and winter for several years, gradually improving their tents by adding lockable wooden doors and installing stoves and heaters made from items scrounged from the factory. Railway workers – migrants and Australians – also lived in tents along the railway line.

Land was incredibly cheap in Orange in the early post-war years and migrants were quick to save up for a deposit on a block of land. Then they erected a garage which they lived in until they could find the funds and materials to build houses. They often helped one another and some streets, notably Tynan, Frederica and Margaret streets, were home to numerous migrants.

- Elisabeth Edwards.



Woodward's store photographed by Beaufoy Merlin circa early 1870s.



Hirst's painting is in perilous condition but clearly shows the building as it was in 1872.



Orange Regional Museum collections manager Allison Campbell examines the painting prior to writing a report on its condition for potential conservators.

Rare Orange painting discovered

By Tony Bouffler & Elisabeth Edwards

A chance correspondence with a Sydney woman via The Old Orange Crew Facebook page has led to our member John Kich making an important historical discovery. The woman, Maureen Armstrong, offered John a painting of what is now the Metropolitan Hotel on the corner of Byng and Anson streets, but what was then a Manchester store owned by John Woodward. She said her father, Arthur Pluis, had rescued it many years ago from a house in Orange which was being demolished.

Woodward arrived in Australia as a convict in 1836 on the *Moffatt* at the age of 22. He was described as a tailor. He married Eliza West in Bathurst in 1850, by which time he had become a store-keeper with extensive land holdings in Orange. In 1859 he was a signatory to the petition calling for the establishment of a municipality, and in 1860 was elected as one of the first six Councillors. He was elected Mayor in 1870.

He built the two-storeyed brick shop with a residence next door in 1864. It became the Metropolitan Hotel in 1886 and remains so today.

Artist Charles Gordon Sebastian Hirst completed the watercolour in 1872 and the same year a photograph was taken by Beaufoy Merlin, the renowned photographer who took so many images of the goldfields towns as well as Orange. The photo was taken at a slightly different angle to the painting but it confirms the general landscape at the time.

The painting is discoloured and badly damaged, but with proper restoration (at a cost) will become one of the treasures of our collection. It may not be possible to restore it to its original condition but it is hoped it can be stabilised, cleaned and made fit for display. There are few 19th century paintings of Orange and district, which is why this image is so important.

Hirst was an interesting character. He was born into a wealthy family in Yorkshire in 1826, but his father ended up in debtors' prison due to poor investments. We know little of Hirst's life from 1841 to 1870 except that he apparently spent some time in India.

He arrived in Brisbane on the *Maryborough* in 1870 as an assistant baker. He claimed to be an artist, architect and surveyor, and to have travelled in the Far East.

He spent much of the 1870s and 1880s travelling in south-east Queensland painting pictures of buildings and scenes. However, his earliest recorded painting is in Emu Plains in 1871, and as our Orange picture is dated 1872 it may have been done as Hirst made his way north to Queensland. Hirst led a chequered career, never married, and died of an overdose of laudanum (an opioid) in 1890.

Since John Kich generously donated the painting to the society, Orange Regional Museum collections manager Allison Campbell has examined it in detail and made a written report about its condition. The report, together with photographs, has been sent to conservators in Sydney and Canberra so that quotations can be made for conservation work.

Recognition at last for gold discoverer

By Elisabeth Edwards

A ceremony at Sydney's Rookwood cemetery in early September has corrected the history books about who made the first discovery of payable gold in NSW.

The face of Australia changed forever when gold was discovered in significant amounts at Ophir, north of Orange, in 1851.

Diggers flocked to the area and soon gold was discovered elsewhere – at what became Lucknow, just east of Orange, and numerous other places around NSW and Victoria.

It had been known for some time that gold could be found west of the Blue Mountains and discoveries of small amounts had already been made near Wellington, at the Fish River between Rydal and Bathurst, and in the Vale of Clwyd near Hartley.

When the Reverend William Branwhite Clarke found gold at the Cox's River near Hartley in 1844 while searching for fossils, he took a sample to NSW Governor Gipps. "Put it away, Mr Clarke, or we shall all have our throats cut," the Governor is alleged to have said.

While the Colonial Government was fearful of the mayhem that would be caused if significant amounts of gold were found, it did offer a reward of £12,000 to the person who discovered the first payable gold in NSW.

William Hargraves stepped up to claim the reward and was also made commissioner of Crown Lands in the gold district.

Hargraves neglected to mention that while he taught local men John Lister and brothers William and James Tom how to make and use a wooden gold washing cradle as well as gold panning methods, it was Lister and William Tom who actually found the first significant gold.

Lister and Tom pursued their case for many years and it was not until December 1890 that they were recognised as the discoverers of payable gold. Sadly, Lister died before hearing the outcome.

Earlier this month the story took an interesting turn when another man, William Tipple-Smith, was recognised as the true discoverer of payable gold in 1848.

Tipple-Smith found gold on the western slopes of the Blue Mountains in 1847 and sent samples to geologist Roderick Murchison in London but nothing came of it. Then in 1848 he found 3.5 ounces at Yorkey's Corner near Ophir and took the sample to the Colonial Secretary in Sydney, offering to reveal the location for £500, but he heard nothing.

Later, the Colonial Secretary claimed that Tipple-Smith's gold actually came from California, but this was untrue. Tipple-Smith suffered a stroke in May 1851 which affected his speech and left him partially paralysed.



Bill Hamburger, left, stands at the grave of his great-great-grandfather, William Tipple-Smith, now recognised as the discoverer of the first payable gold in Australia.

He was incensed when he heard that Hargraves had been given the award and appealed to the Crown.

Nothing eventuated and Tipple-Smith died in December 1852, leaving a widow and seven children and a tarnished reputation for allegedly trying to defraud the government.

His story was forgotten until 1985 when a relation, historian Lynette Silver, found correspondence proving his innocence. She wrote a book, 'A Fool's Gold: William Tipple-Smith's Challenge to the Hargraves myth'.

The final act in this colonial saga was the dedication of a headstone over Tipple-Smith's previously unmarked grave acknowledging his discovery. Present at the ceremony was his great-great-grandson, 91-year-old Bill Hamburger, whose lifelong ambition was to see public recognition of his ancestor's contribution to the colony.

Besides discovering the first payable gold in Australia, Tipple-Smith is also remembered as the co-founder of Australia's iron and steel industry at the Fitzroy Iron Works at Mittagong.

Diary October - December 2020

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

Millthorpe Golden Memories Museum: Open weekends and public holidays 11am-2pm.

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

Wednesdays and Fridays: Historical Society volunteer working days at Heritage Cottage. Visitors with inquiries are welcome. Please phone Liz Edwards on 0408 390 918 before you visit so we can start working on your inquiry.

Wednesday 7 October: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wednesday 4 November: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Wednesday 2 December: ODHS committee meeting, 5pm.

Christmas drinks and dinner: We are unsure at this stage whether we will be able to hold a Christmas dinner at the end of November because of Covid-19 restrictions on the number of people at events. We hope to hold Christmas drinks at the cottage on our last working day for the year (with restrictions on numbers) and will let members know nearer the time.

Stained glass images in new booklet

A piece of history was preserved when the Orange Health Service opened at the Bloomfield campus in 2011. A series of stained glass windows, which had adorned the walls of the chapel at the Base Hospital since 1994, was transferred to the new hospital.

The windows were made by Adrian Immens, a former general manager of the Email factory in Orange.

Immens, who was born in the Netherlands, emigrated to Australia in 1950 with his wife Hetty. A religious man, he exercised his faith in his daily life.

He took up painting for relaxation, using images from postcards of scenes he particularly liked when travelling overseas for the company. Later he turned to creating stained glass and leadlight works.

During this time he produced twenty-six stained glass windows for the chapel at the Base Hospital. He would not accept payment for the considerable amount of work involved.

The images depict religious themes designed to stimulate reflection and meditation. Immens hoped that in times of sorrow they would encourage people to see the world in a positive light.

The images are now in the main hospital corridor starting from the eastern end near the rear entrance and continuing to the Prayer Room door.

Historical Society member Robert Bruce recently photographed the windows for a booklet titled 'The Religious Artworks of Adrian Immens'. Copies may be obtained for \$15 from Peter Brown by phoning 6362 4774. All proceeds from the sale of the booklet will be donated to improve palliative care services in Orange.

