

east orange heritage trail



St Mary's Church



HISTORY

The **City of Orange** was administered as two separate council areas during the late 1800s. The Municipality of East Orange was proclaimed on 29 March 1888, nearly 30 years after Orange. It comprised 690 acres (279 ha), larger than its older neighbour. It was not until 1912 that the two council areas amalgamated to form the Orange Municipal Council. (East Orange developed its own character, which is still identifiable.) The East Orange Heritage Walk explores this part of the City's history and heritage.

Joseph Moulder was an early district landowner. He held land adjacent to the village of Blackman's Swamp (later named Orange). Some of the streets in East Orange are derived from the Moulder family names.

The walk starts from the Orange Visitor Information Centre & proceeds east along Byng Street, across the railway line, through East Orange, taking approximately 1.5 hours to complete.



Orange Municipal Gasworks Photo courtesy of Robert Bartlett

I CORNER PEISLEY AND BYNG STREETS

The site now occupied by Aquarius Carwash was the City's **Power Station**. Electricity came to Orange in 1923. Since 1877 gas had been used to light the town, but in July 1922, the municipality awarded the contract for the supply of machinery for the powerhouse to the Australian General Electric Co. The site was used as an electricity depot until 1976.

2 On the southeast corner of Peisley and Byng Streets, where IGA Supermarket is now located, was the **Orange Municipal Gasworks**. By 1876 a company had formed to establish a gasworks. A plant that had been in use at Grafton was purchased and relocated to the Orange site. By 1877 the principal stores and hotels were using gas lighting instead of kerosene. The railway line reached Orange also in 1877, providing the means to bring coal to the Gasworks. The Gasworks became redundant after the introduction of electricity to the city in 1923. The site was cleared in 1976 and redeveloped as a car park and supermarket.

Continue east along Byng Street, crossing the railway line...

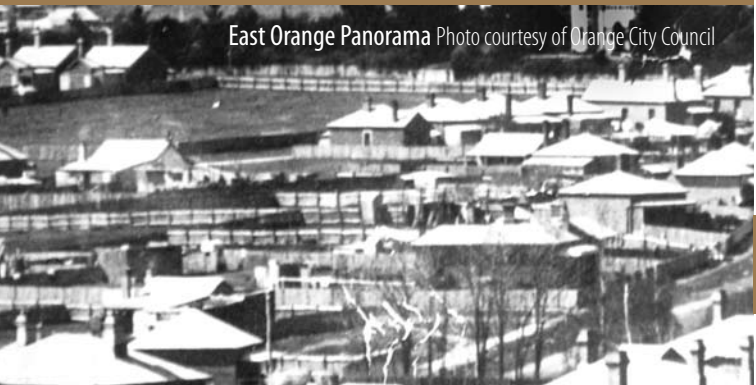
3 THE WOOLLEN MILLS

The Woollen Mills began in 1925 as Amalgamated Textiles Ltd., later becoming Macquarie Worsteds. A major employer in Orange, it provided fine cloth for men's suits and women's skirts, and for soldiers' uniforms during WWII. Its whistle was a part of Orange life for many years until the mill closed in 1989. Part of the original building had been destroyed in a fire, however the remainder of the building was revitalised and today houses a range of commercial businesses.

Turn right at William Street

(which was named after Joseph Moulder's son)...

East Orange Panorama Photo courtesy of Orange City Council



4 "CLAREVILLA"

"Clarevilla", 12 William Street, was built c.1870, and is thought to have been the home of Patrick Kenna, hotelkeeper, and Mayor of Orange, who died in 1895. The building became the Dudley Hospital in 1915, when Matron Punch and Sister Blanche Wharf bought it. In 1922 Matron Kinkaid relocated the hospital facility to a new site on the corner of Summer and Hill Streets, and 12 William street was re-named "Clarevilla" (perhaps its original name). It was a boarding house for many years, then an aboriginal Student Hostel, and is now the office for John Parsons Hotels Pty. Ltd.

5 "ST KILDA"

"St Kilda", Kenneth Slessor's childhood home, 11 William Street was built in 1878 by Charles McInnes, later an Alderman and Mayor of East Orange. It was in this house that his grandson, Kenneth Slessor, was born on 27 March 1901, and where he spent his early years. Slessor grew up to become a noted journalist and war correspondent, and Australia's best known modern poet. "St Kilda" was a semi-detached house, unusual in that it was all cedar in one side, and redwood in the other. The building was demolished and the site redeveloped for commercial purposes.

6 THE BAND HALL

The Band Hall was built in 1888 by W.S. Stabback and was the first home of the East Orange Council. During the tough depression years of the 1930s, East Orange residents brought their containers to the Band Hall to receive hot soup. The building is now owned by Orange City Council and is used for theatre rehearsals.

The area of William and Dora Streets was the location for Orange's first public pound for straying livestock. References to the pound go back to 1846. The first Orange Show took place in this vicinity in 1854. The exhibits were set up under the large gum trees which once stood there. The main attraction was the ploughing competitions, with many competitors vying for the prize of 6 pounds.

10 William Street (currently a vet surgery) is believed to have been the home of William Eyles and his family. The building became the first location for the "Wanganui" Private Hospital. Over the road at 7 Dora Street was the site of **Lane's Bakery** (1920 - 1940s).

Turn left into Dora Street

(which was named after one of Joseph Moulder's daughters).

7

EAST ORANGE POLICE STATION & RESIDENCE

The East Orange police station and residence were at 20 and 22 Dora Street, and it is debatable as to which was which. Number 20 (probably the station) dates from c1890, and number 22 (probably the residence) dates from c1900. The police used them until about 1915. Stables were located at the rear of the site, however they are long gone.

8

FORMER EAST ORANGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

During 1903 the East Orange Council built its own chambers at the corner of Dora and McLachlan Streets. On 24 December 1912, following a referendum, the municipalities of Orange and East Orange were amalgamated. The Dora Street Chambers were purchased by Holy Trinity parish for use as a Sunday School. In 1922 the hall became St Barnabas' Church until the new church was built on the other corner of Dora Street in 1940. Moves to demolish the hall in 1985 were debated, and although the interior of the building was altered to accommodate residential units, the Dora Street facade was retained.

Take a stroll along Summer Street East to the East Orange Post Office, which was built as the home of John Velvin, Mayor of East Orange 1892-96. He campaigned for the Post Office, which opened in 1901, with Mrs Velvin as the first postmistress.

Turn right at McLachlan Street (*which was named after Joseph Moulder's son-in-law, solicitor John McLachlan, builder of nearby "Wolaroi"*).

A row of some ten single story terraces called Little Bowen Terrace was located in McLachlan Street. Part of East Orange's history, unfortunately the terrace became derelict and was demolished. Today modern double-storey units occupy the site adjacent to the St Barnabas Church. Further along McLachlan Street, off New Street (now closed off beside Pizza Hut), was another row of single-story terraces. It was demolished to make way for Matilda's Restaurant (now the Fare Dinkum Family Restaurant). The intersection of McLachlan Street and **Icely Road**, now closed, was an early road to Bathurst, via White Rocks. It is named after Icely, a mining area near Lewis Ponds, which in turn was named after the Hon. Thomas Icely, M.P., of Coombing Park, near Carcoar. "**Fairview**" built c1905 by Edward John Seers, stood on McLachlan Street corner. It was demolished in 1994 to make way for the present ABC building. Mr Seers had previously lived in the Toll Bar residence that was located on the eastern entry to Orange, near the present Lone Pine Avenue intersection with Bathurst Road.

9 MEMORIAL AVENUE

Memorial Avenue stretched from McLachlan Street to Lone Pine Avenue. Rows of *Cedrus deodara* (Himalayan Cedars) were planted on Anzac Day 1923 to honour Orange residents who lost their lives in WWI.

Memory Park, on the north side of Bathurst Road, was dedicated as a memorial to Mayors E.T. McNeilly and W.B. Bouffler. In 1935, when a Royal Oak was planted by the Mayor, Dr Colvin, as a jubilee tribute to King George V, other trees were planted for each Orange Mayor up to that time.

A detour along Bathurst Road past Memory Park will take you to the Kinross Wolaroi School. **Wolaroi** was designed and built by John Hale. It took three years to build the home that was then occupied in 1884 by Orange solicitor John McLachlan (who had married the daughter of Joseph Moulder). The property was originally set in 1,700 acres of gum forest. Note the entry gates by "R. Venables, Orange". Venables was also responsible for the gates at Cook Park and the Bathurst Road property "Wellwood".

McLachlan operated a gold mine on the Wolaroi property in the late 1800s. The property became the Wolaroi College in 1893. It was later a boarding house for a time, before the Methodist Church purchased the house and 26 acres in 1925. In 1975 the site was amalgamated with the Presbyterian ladies college to become Kinross Wolaroi.

Colvin Park was developed in 1926 and named after the Mayor, Dr Colvin. It is said to have been the site of an early brewery. One of Orange's last troughs for watering horses stood here (now removed).

Turn right at the intersection of McLachlan St & Bathurst Rd & proceed to the traffic lights at the intersection with Edward St

10 BOWEN TERRACE

Bowen Terrace, 3-25 Bathurst Road, is a row of twelve Victorian era double-storey terraces. Designed and built by John Hale in 1876 for Maurice Bebb Bowen, who was the owner of Orange's first tannery and boot factory, which was located in the vicinity of Glenroi Avenue. The factory continued until the drought of 1902 (when good quality leather would have been difficult to obtain).

The Mazoudier family purchased the Bowen Terrace building in 1924 and it continued to be used for rental accommodation. In the late 1960s Mr Keith Mazoudier restored the building, painting the exterior Mission Brown. Recognising the historic significance of the building Mr Mazoudier registered the building as an item of state heritage



significance. When the property was subdivided, individual owners acquired each of the terraces. In 1999 a partnership program was developed between the property owners, Orange City Council and the NSW Heritage Office, to undertake further restoration work to the terraces. Paint scrapings identified the original colour scheme which was reinstated - revitalising this key site and part of the City's heritage.

On the Southwest corner of Bathurst Road and Edward Street is the modern architecture of the NSW Agriculture headquarters. The site had been the **St. Mary's Church and School**. The church was designed by Mr W.J Gilray of Sydney and built in 1926 by Mr Butcher. The school was located behind the church, and the two buildings served the needs of the Catholics of East Orange until 1989 when a new St Mary's Church was built in Park Street. The old church and school were demolished and the headquarters of NSW Agriculture relocated from Sydney to the new purpose-built office in Orange.

Edward Street reflects the variety of the City's architectural history. From workers' cottages and terraces (172-174 Edward Street c1885) to the exuberance of the post gold rush period such as the c1905 "**Warrenbah House**" at 171 Edward Street, through to the Edwardian cottages like "**Nelson**" at 170 Edward Street, to the interwar bungalows - Edward Street reflects the economic development of the city.

Turn right at Kite Street...

II LAMROCK TERRACE

Lamrock Terrace, 166-180 Kite Street consists of four pairs of semi detached terraces, built c1880 by McCausland Lamrock, each pair having a central shared chimney. Adjoining them are two fine small Edwardian cottages dating from c1908. On the Endsleigh Avenue corner is a grand Victorian Italianate house, built c1901 for McCausland Lamrock's daughter, Elizabeth Wills.

On the northern corner was "**Claudeville**", built c1912. It was Mrs James' boarding house during WWII and later the Catholic Presbytery for St Mary's Church before being demolished. Earlier occupants of the site (presumably in an earlier house) were William Kain and his wife Bridget who, with their daughter Margaret, were murdered at Forest Reefs in 1871.





Bowen Terrace photo courtesy of Wendy Bowen

I2 ORANGE RAILWAY STATION

Orange Railway Station was opened in April 1877 by the NSW Premier, Sir Henry Parkes. It was the scene of tumultuous welcomes for Dane Nellie Melba in 1907 and the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) in 1920. Only two of the original seven tracks remain, and some of the depot buildings on the eastern side of the tracks were moved to the East Fork railway siding in 1937. Imagine the tennis courts that were once in the railway paddocks, and the bustling shunting yard, little of which remains except for the weatherboard signal engineer's storeroom. The iron footbridge dates from c.1910, although there was already a footbridge over the tracks by 1890. Joseph Moulder's widow, Caroline, sold land along the Western boundary of the "Endsleigh" property for the establishment of the railway tracks and station.

Turn right at Endsleigh Avenue (*named after Joseph Moulder's home located at the end of the street*).

Endsleigh House at 38 Endsleigh Avenue is believed to be the oldest remaining residence in Orange, having been built in 1856.

The two-storey building at 111 Endsleigh Avenue was Browns' (later Roy Eslick's) grocery store and milk bar, with flats upstairs. Next door at 113 is "**Ivanhoe**". Most other 19th century buildings to the right of these have been demolished for businesses and a car yard.

The intersection of Endsleigh Avenue and Summer Street/Bathurst Road marks the area known as **The Five Ways**. The road network also intersects with William Street and Summer Street East. In 1851 there was only a collection of labourers' huts around Peisley's Inn (now the Victoria Hotel). They were ramshackle dwellings covered in stringy bark. The haphazard settlement pattern may explain the awkward Five Ways street corner.

The National Hotel opened on the William Street corner in 1877 and closed in 1909. This was later the site of the Five Ways Garage, with workshops at the back. (It was demolished in 1995).



I3 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Rev. T.B. Taylor, Church of England Minister for Carcoar conducted the first religious service in the district on this spot about 1846. It was held in a small cottage built by Mr Kingsmill who ran a small private school there. In July 1902, having sold their earlier building in Lords Place (it became the Forrester's Hall) the Congregational Church bought this site from M.B. Bowen. Designed by Kent and Budden of Sydney, the church was built in 1903 by H.Richardson. The Memorial Tower and Porch were added in 1949 (architect Eric Thomas and builder Tom Davies gave their services for free). The Sunday School building was constructed in 1955.

Turn left into Summer Street.

In 1844 John Peisley opened his "**Coach And Horses Inn**" on Moulder's land, near where the Victoria Hotel stands today. Sir Thomas Mitchell stayed there in 1851, and during the height of the gold rush as many as 16 beds were crowded into one room to accommodate the hopeful diggers, some of whom took Peisley's thrice-weekly coach to Ophir. George McKay (who had operated the "Bush Inn" at Summer Hill) purchased the hotel in 1853 and by 1867 it was known as **The Victoria Hotel**. The original weatherboard hotel stood some 18 metres back from the present hotel, which was built in 1922. John Ryan Snr. and Jnr. were the owners from 1925-1987.

I4 HANG SING & CO.

Hang Sing & Co., fruitletters, were in the "Dave's Shop and Hock" building at least by WWI. They had a big market garden behind the shop. To its right (now a car park) was John Marr's blacksmith, later Doug Brown's bootmaker's shop. **Plowman's Store** on the north-east corner of Peisley and Summer Streets. James Plowman started a general store in Orange in 1869 and expanded his business to this site in 1883. Three generations of the Plowman family operated the general store. The building is divided into several smaller shop fronts, and the verandah has been removed from the front of the building.



Congregational Church

I5 STRAND THEATRE

Built in 1919 on the site of Henry Curran's 1855 Flour Mill, the theatre was opened in 3 April 1920. Police had to be called to manage the crowd waiting for admission. Billed as the largest cinema outside Sydney, the theatre showed "silent" films with musical accompaniment. The Strand was sold to Western Cinemas Ltd. in 1930 and remodelled so that talking movies could be shown. Further changes were made to the building when it became the "Palais de Dance" in the late 1930s. The building was later reinstated as a movie venue until the effect of the introduction of television saw a decline to the industry. The building remained vacant for some years until used as a roller skating rink in the 1970s before being restored and used as a furniture showroom. In 2006 it was remodelled to accommodate a retail outlet.

PARKVIEW HOTEL. In 1857 Patrick Kenna opened the "Miners Arms" Inn which stood where the Parkview Hotel is today. The hotel name was changed to "Tattersall's" in 1885 and then the "Parkview Hotel". There were stables at the rear of the hotel.

Turn right at McNamara lane to return to the Orange Visitor Information Centre...

I6 ROBERTSON PARK

Robertson Park was originally a low lying, swampy area through which **BLACKMAN'S SWAMP CREEK** flowed. In 1882 it was reformed into a park and named after John Robertson, the former NSW premier. The Cobb & Co funded **WHITNEY FOUNTAIN** was added about 1895, and the Town Band Committee added the Bandstand in 1913. The Cenotaph dates from 1953. The Sir Neville Howse Memorial (erected in 2000 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the awarding of the first Victoria Cross to a member of the Australian Defence Forces) and the Boer War monument are located at the Byng Street end of the Park. The memorial was restored in 2004 with funding from the Department of Veteran Affairs and Orange City Council.

The development of the **East Orange Heritage Trail** has been a project of **Orange City Council**. Mr Ross Maroney has researched information for inclusion in this pamphlet.

Sketches courtesy of Ross Maroney.

Sources for further history & heritage information include:

- Orange & District Historical Society
- NSW National Trust - Orange & District Branch
- Orange Family history Group
- Orange Heritage Group
- Orange City Library

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



Orange Visitor Information Centre
FREE CALL 1800 069 466
www.orange.nsw.gov.au