



ORANGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025



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CULTURAL SENSITIVITY WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this newsletter contains images and names of deceased persons

Welcome to the August issue of the Newsletter. Here in Orange we are deep in the midst of Winter, with the crisp, refreshing days we are used to at this time of year, the ideal time to settle in and catch up on your Family History research.

This newsletter is full of interesting information including highlighting the achievements of two of Orange's sporting identities. These are Cyclist Pat Kennedy, a talented track rider who helped establish the Orange Velodrome and Edna Ridley (nee Pritchard). Edna excelled at many sports, including golf, netball and cricket, which she captained the NSW state side in 1928-29.

The Bathurst-Orange Development Corporation was an ambitious plan developed in the 1970's that would have transformed the area between Bathurst and Orange into a new city. Despite a great deal of planning this project did not come to fruition. This project and more information on the process that was undertaken can be read in the following pages.

August is Family History month, the perfect time to discover what is available at your local library in their Local Studies Collection.

If you have learnt or uncovered something interesting in your Family History research, we would love to hear about it and share it in our next newsletter.

Ruth Bingham

Local Studies Librarian - Orange City Library

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HONOURING THE FORGOTTEN DIGGERS: SHARON JAMESON'S DECADE OF DEDICATION

In 2015, Sharon Jameson began volunteering with the Orange City Council's Centenary of World War I Project, researching local WWI service personnel. When the project concluded in 2019, Sharon continued her work, determined that no soldier or nurse from the Orange district would be forgotten.

Her focus turned to the Orange Cemetery, where she uncovered 107 veterans buried in unmarked graves—many of them patients from the former Bloomfield Mental Hospital. With the support of Forgotten Diggers and the Office of Australian War Graves, Sharon secured funding for headstones for 40 men. When the precise location of seventeen graves could not be discovered, Sharon worked with the Orange RSL Sub-Branch to install a memorial wall in their honour.

Sharon didn't stop there. By 2024, she had identified 50 more veterans who were ineligible to receive an official war grave. She undertook extensive research, fundraising, and grant applications to ensure that they, too, would be recognised. Thanks to her tireless efforts and support from Cadia Mine, Orange Ex-Services Club, Orange City Council, Department of Veterans Affairs, McMurtrie & Co Stonemasons and Orange Branch of the RSL, the graves of these men now have a permanent headstone.

On 22 March 2025, a public Remembrance Service marked the final chapter of a project ten years in the making. Sharon's work has reunited families with lost relatives, inspired other communities, and brought dignity to those once forgotten.

Sharon's dedication, passion and perseverance has resulted in her being nominated for the 2025 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. A ceremony will be held in Orange in September, which Sharon has been invited to attend.



Photograph above: Sharon Jameson speaking at the service to honour the Forgotten Diggers, 22 March 2025

REDISCOVERING A REGIONAL LEGACY: THE BATHURST ORANGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BODC) LIBRARY COLLECTION

Tucked away in the Orange City Library Archives is a rare piece of Central Tablelands history, the library collection of the former Bathurst-Orange Development Corporation (BODC).

Recently reviewed, the collection offers a fascinating glimpse into a bold experiment in regional planning and decentralisation that helped shape our cities in the 1970s and 1980s.

The BODC was established in 1972 as part of the Whitlam Government's decentralisation strategy, tasked with managing the Bathurst-Orange Growth Centre. The project was jointly financed by Commonwealth and State Government loans, as well as private funding, based on an ambitious population target of 300,000 by the year 2006. Under this vision, Bathurst and Orange, 56 kilometres apart, were to grow towards one another, with a planned rural city of 37,000 people at Vittoria, strategically located midway between the two centres.

To support this vision, the BODC purchased land across the region. This land banking strategy was intended to provide the Corporation with income from development and sales, secure sites for new industries, and create housing for relocated businesses and government employees. Industrial estates, subdivisions, and infrastructure corridors were carefully planned to attract employers and stimulate regional growth.

However, the project struggled to meet its targets. Growth remained modest, and many of the expected relocations did not occur. Although significant infrastructure was built and some industries were attracted, the initiative ultimately proved financially unsustainable. By the late 1980s, the BODC was unable to meet the interest payments on its loans, and the corporation was formally dissolved in 1991. Its influence is still visible today, in our industrial estates, housing subdivisions, and even public institutions.

The BODC library would have once supported a team of planners, engineers, economists, and consultants. Although the collection has been reduced over time, what remains has real local historical value. It includes:

- Original planning documents and infrastructure proposals
- Development strategies and population projections
- Technical manuals used by BODC staff
- Promotional brochures and industrial prospectuses
- Annual reports
- A small collection of photographs, slides, and images showing major developments in progress

Many of the surviving materials focus directly on Orange, Bathurst and surrounding districts, offering insight into local growth patterns, decision-making processes, and the vision that drove the region's transformation.

Looking back, the Bathurst–Orange Growth Centre was forward in its ambition but limited by the constraints of its era. Yet the underlying idea of planned regional growth to ease the pressures on Australia's cities remains as relevant as ever.

In that light, the surviving documents, plans and images in the BODC library collection offer insight into a vision ahead of its time and stands as a quiet legacy of the project - preserving its ambition, its ideas, and its place in our regional story.

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Advertisement from *Rydge's* magazine, December, 1977

The BODC collection is currently held in closed archives of Orange City Library and has not been catalogued.

Research inquiries should be directed to Local Studies Librarian Ruth Bingham 02 6393 8105 or via email library@cwll.nsw.gov.au

ANOTHER FACTORY FOR ORANGE.

Orange Star (NSW : 1926 - 1927) Fri 21 May 1926

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OWNERS CONVINCED OF WONDERFUL-FUTURE FOR ORANGE

In time to come—possibly in the near future—Orange will be dotted with factories. Leading the way in the West in the complete manufacture of woollen goods. Orange is destined to become an important manufacturing centre. In the way of manufacture first had to be shifted from the minds of Australians that all manufacturing had to be done overseas. That myth has now been effectually exploded, and the cities of Australia are alive with factories manufacturing all classes of goods. With that stage reached— manufacture in Australian cities —the next step has to be taken, and that is the building of factories in country centres. City people will say it cannot be done —but it can.

The contention that railway freights will be too high on the finished products need not be considered seriously. The railways belong to the people of the West just as much as they do to the people of Sydney, and the days of the railways being run to bolster the city have to end. Already one. private firm sees ahead, and sees Orange a city, a great manufacturing and distributing centre, which will capture the main western trade and prevail further afield with its finished articles. That firm is S. Low and Co. Ltd., manufacturers of household furniture and general equipment. This firm has now a factory at Bathurst. Eighteen months ago it established a depot at Orange for the sale of its goods. The business the firm gathered in that short space of time plainly indicated the immense possibilities of Orange, so plans were laid accordingly for headquarters in this town.

Next Monday a start will be made on the erection of a factory building at the rear of the firm's present stores in Summer Street, and its completion within a few months is expected. The building is to be erected on a block 60 ft. x 132 ft. When the factory is ready an experienced stair will at once commence operations. A start will be made with about twenty men—mostly married men with families—but in a short time it is expected the working staff will be doubled. The firm—which caters particularly for high-class goods and superior workmanship, yet also provides for every-day demand—has now in hand several big orders—one for Forbes, one other for Newcastle—each running well into four figures.

AUGUST IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Discover The Orange City Library Local Studies Collection



FREE information session at Orange City Library

Tuesday 19 August 2025

10.30am – 12.30pm

Bookings essential

[Eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au) or 6393 8132

Includes Morning Tea



PAT KENNEDY REFLECTS ON COMPETING IN TRACK RACES

Central Western Daily – Thursday 3 January 2002: Page 4

LIFETIME CHASING CYCLING'S BIG PRIZES - CWD Story by Anthony Scully

When great Australian cyclists such as Hubert Opperman and RW 'Fatty' Lamb were taking the world by storm in the Tour de France, Orange cyclist Pat Kennedy was giving them all a run for their money back on the home front.

This week Mr Kennedy, 91, of Ozenam Villa in Clinton Street, reminisced about life on the road chasing cycling prize money during the Depression years.

The same road led him to settle in Orange in 1934 where he helped establish the Velodrome in Moulder Park.

Mr Kennedy rode with many of the Australian champions during 17-year amateur career which he juggled while earning a living in the 1920's and '30s.

'I rode with Oppy and Lamb, and all the champions of the days, in the big old Canterbury Velodrome' he said.

A talented track rider, Mr Kennedy also competed in many of Australia's most gruelling road races, such as the Goulburn to Sydney Classic and Warnambool to Melbourne run.

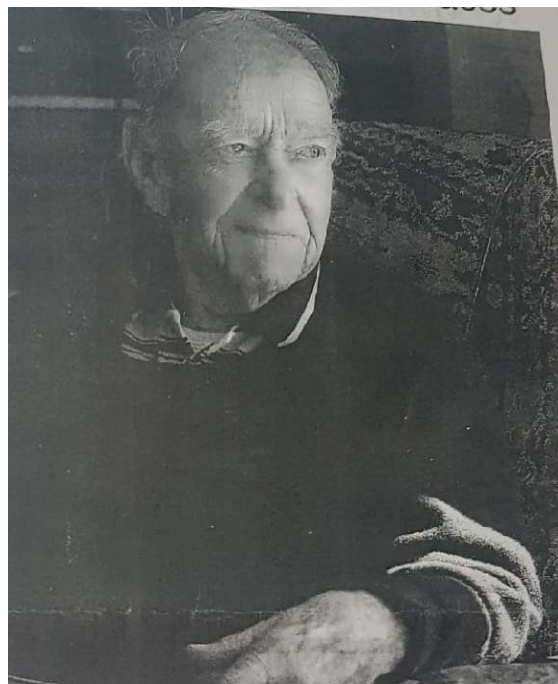


Photo - A passion for cycling
Pat Kennedy reflects on his heyday chasing cycling prizes around the country

'There's not many track races in NSW that I haven't rode in,' he said.

But it was consecutive years winning the track sprint at West Wyalong that Mr Kennedy says was his sweetest victory, netting him £100 a title on his then home territory.

'I won it twice in 1927 and 1928,' he said.

We had all the champions come from Sydney. They always used to come down to the Wyalong where Mr Kennedy learnt his trade as a painter and decorator, and where he based his assault on many of Australia's toughest road races and cycling carnivals.

He and his cycling mates would pick up farm work en route to a carnival, often as far as Tasmania, Mt Gambier, Sale and Wonthaggi, and there was always the incentive of some prize money to aim for.

'We didn't get much money in those days,' he said.

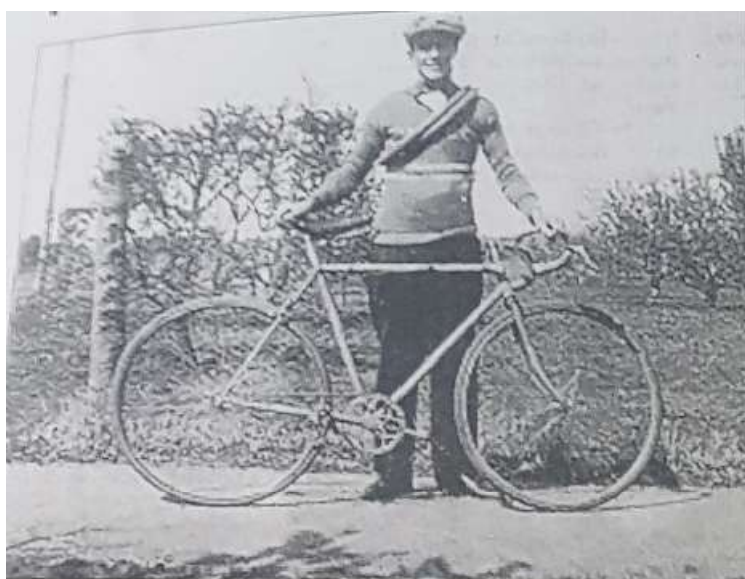
'We used to go working and get money for running second or third.'

Bicycle manufacturers such as Standard, Malvern Star and Speedwell would offer bikes or money to go to the carnivals.

It was at these carnivals and on the long road rides that Mr Kennedy rubbed shoulders with Australia's greatest cyclists.

Former Orange Councillor Trevor Jaeger remembers meeting Sir Hubert Opperman in Orange in the 1990's when the former parliamentarian visited a church organisation in the district.

'He said he remembered Pat Kennedy as a great competitor.' Mr Jaeger said.



Prepared for a puncture - Pat Kennedy at West Wyalong with his bicycle and inner tube spares over his shoulders

The late Sir Hubert Opperman, who went on to become an MP and a Federal Minister, has been described as Australia's most famous cyclist.

'Oppy was one of the greatest cyclists this country has ever produced.' Mr Kennedy said.

'I knew him well because he used to go to Warnambool and I used to ride against him.'

Mr Kennedy also raced against Olympic cyclist Duncan Gray.

'We used to go to Goulburn training on the track, and the old Goulburn to Sydney road race.:' Mr Kennedy recalls.

Pat Kennedy arrived in Orange on August 13 in 1935, travelling with two fellow cycling champions of the era, Ross Loosley and Lenny Walmsley.

'We came across from Young – we were all going to Sydney to Epping to work.' He said.

The trio got talking to a local bloke and fellow cyclist, Paddy Madden, who remembered Mr Kennedy from his cycling days at Canterbury Velodrome.

Madden found Mr Kennedy a job in Orange as a painter.

Loosely and Walmsley continued on to Sydney where they joined the army, but the pair never returned from World War 2.

In 1939 Mr Kennedy met his wife Annie, and the couple raised a family of four sons and a daughter.\\Mr Kennedy remembers how he and a mate Jack Blackett would 'go around the pubs' running raffles to fund the Velodrome in Moulder Park. 'We were the instigators of getting that track going' Mr Kennedy said.

'We'd run raffles and different things like that and the council put in money to build it. 'Every Sunday they'd have a race there in the summer.

'They said at the time there used to be hundreds of people who would go there.'

Mr Kennedy remembers the Velodrome foundations built on 'crushings from the gold mines at Lucknow'.



GET READY

Ross Loosley and Barry King at the start of a race outside True Blue mine, West Wyalong

Apart from watching videos of the Tour de France that his family tapes for him, Mr Kennedy has little to do with cycling, but his memories of cycling in Orange could fill a book.

Mr Kennedy turns 92 on May 14 and there's nothing he'd like better than to jump back onto a bicycle but a hip replacement operation in July has slowed him down a bit.

Mr Kennedy's memory is as sharp as a tack. 'I'm not up in that (cycling) game anymore.' He said. 'Of course I follow the Tour de France and all that. Oppy rode in it once.

"He finished 13th, I think.'

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Central Western Daily – 17/6/1955: Mrs Bono dies.

A former resident of Orange, Mr D.J. Bono of 32 Redan St., Mosman, died in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital on Wednesday, after she had collapsed while shopping in Mosman. She left two sons Graham and John and her husband the well known optician. Mrs Bono was well known in Orange for her charitable works. A keen worker for the Hospital Auxiliary, she at different times held office both as president and secretary and was a member for many years. A member of the Orange branch of the Red Cross Society, she was one of the first members to inaugurate the monthly card parties at the Hotel Canobolas. Mrs Bono was also very active in all branches of war work and was always well to the fore on button day appeals and all efforts during war time. The R.S.L. Ladies Auxiliary was another charity which knew her well. She was a keen member of this organisation for many years.

Central Western Daily - 28/10/1955: Obituary Mr A.E. Green.

Mr Arthur Ernest Green a well known locomotive driver of 17 Allenby Road, died yesterday morning aged 66 years. Although ailing with a heart complaint since his retirement his sudden death came as a shock to all with whom he was associated. He was born in McLachlan Street, Orange and later moved to Cobar, where he was employed as an engine driver in the mines. After joining the railways at Penrith he transferred to Orange, where he spent 35 years in that position where he was known as a great home lover and gardener. He is survived by his widow and three daughters Mrs H Duval; Mrs O. Jarvis and Mrs John Thurn all of Orange and two sisters Mrs Martin (Parramatta) Mrs Alexander (Marrickville).

***N.S.W. State Archives – Railway Personal History Cards – Arthur Ernest Green – Born 26/9/1889

Central Western Daily – 25/8/1959: Master butcher dies.

An Orange master butcher Mr Leo Ronald Attwood of March Street, died in St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, yesterday. Mr Attwood was well-known in the trade at which he had been occupied almost all his life. Some years ago he bought a butcher's shop owned by Mr Bert Bowers and he had carried this on successfully ever since. Although he was not actively associated with Orange organizations, Mr Attwood was a keen sportsman his interests being in racehorses. He recently went to Sydney for treatment for an illness. On Monday last doctors admitted him to hospital and he died there about 2p.m yesterday. Mr Attwood was in his fifties. He is survived by his widow, Kathleen Attwood and an aunt Mrs George McGrath of Orange.

Central Western Daily - 22/12/1959: Sudden death of Mr G. Fahy.

The staff at Orange Post Office was shocked yesterday morning to hear of the sudden death of Mr Gerald Herbert Fahy 52 of Byng Street, East Orange. Mr Fahy was getting ready to leave for work yesterday morning when he collapsed. He was rushed to Orange Base hospital but

died at 10.30 a.m. Mr Fahy was personal clerk to the Postmaster Mr G.L. Butt and had been at the Orange Post Office for 37 years. He had a bad heart for some time and had previous heart attacks. He was born in Orange and educated at Christian Brothers College. He joined the staff of the Orange Post Office when he left school and apart from three years active service in New Guinea in World War 11 had always lived in Orange. He leaves a wife two sons and two daughters. After a service at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church this morning, he will be buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Orange cemetery.

Central Western Daily - 13/10/1960: Obituary – Mr C. Hadley.

A former resident of Cudal Mr Charles Hadley, died in Perth, Western Australia recently at the age of 84. He was a former Director of Education and headmaster of Hale School W.A. Mr Hadley went to Western Australia from N.S.W. in 1900 and later became headmaster of Coolgardie; Boulder; Beaconsfield and Perth boys schools. He was made inspector of the goldfields district in 1912 and senior inspector in 1928. In 1938 Mr Hadley was appointed Education Director and two years later became headmaster of Hale School. During the investigation of early Cudal history for the Back to Cudal celebrations, it was revealed that Mr Hadley received his education at Cudal Public School under the headmastership of the late W.W.J. Walsh. Mr Walsh also moved to Western Australia and Mr Hadley was Inspector of Schools in the district where Mr Walsh was still teaching. Mr Walsh died two years ago at the age of 94.

Central Western Daily: 3/5/1962: Death of Mr Arthur Beasley.

Many Orange people will learn with great regret the sudden death of Mr Arthur Edwin Beasley of 32 Autumn Street. Mr Beasley who died peacefully in his sleep early last Monday morning was the father of well known Orange girl Miss Audrey Beasley, a former Cherry Blossom Queen. He was born at Rylstone 63 years ago and lived with his parents on their farm property at Shadforth. When he was still a boy the family sold the farm and made their home in Orange where he has lived ever since. On leaving school he joined the Railway Loco Department serving there for 42 years. He retired from his job in 1959. Keen Bandsman. He was a very enthusiastic bandsman of 43 years standing commencing with a Military band formed in Orange in 1919 and later with the Orange City Band of which he acted as secretary for many years. Arthur Beasley was always greatly attached to his home and family. His main outside interests were firstly St Barnabas Church which he and his wife regularly attended and secondly the Orange City Band. His death bereaves his devoted and loving wife (Gwen) and daughter Audrey – the only child. The popular Cherry Blossom Queen of 1955, Audrey soon after joined Qantas as an air hostess and has flown many thousands of miles over international air routes since then. When her father died she was on duty in San Francisco and it was due to this that the funeral has been delayed until today, awaiting her arrival back in Australia. Mr Beasley leaves two brothers Edgar and Neville (both of Sydney) and a sister Nina (Mrs Smith) of Orange. Two other brothers predeceased him. One was Clifford a well known engine driver in the Railway Department for 50 years and the other William was killed in action at Gallipoli in 1915. As a tribute of esteem all bandsmen in Orange have been invited to march at his funeral. Arthur Beasley last marched on Anzac Day last week. Funeral Canobolas Crematorium.

Central Western Daily – 28/8/1963: Obituary – Mrs H.A. Salter.

A well known former Pinnacle Rd resident died in Sydney on Saturday after a short illness. She was Mrs Harriet Amy Salter. Her son Mr Leo Salter now conducts an orchard in the Pinnacle Rd area. Mrs Salter is survived by one other son and three daughters. They are Kevin (Tumbarumba); Winifred (Mrs Cliff Southwell, Wollstonecraft); Isabel (Mrs Bruce Wallace, Forbes) and Muriel (Mrs Jim Squirrel, Tooraweenah). Her husband Mr Albert William Salter and sons Lloyd and Erith predeceased her. Mrs Salter and her family lived at Orange for many years. For the past few years they have lived in Sydney. A funeral service was held at Northern Suburbs Crematorium last Monday.

Central Western Daily - 10/12/1963: Obituary- Mr L.B. Kennard.

The death occurred in Adelaide on Saturday December 7, of Mr L.B. Kennard. He had been in indifferent health for some years and died suddenly. Mr Kennard (well known as "Tim") served with the Army during the last war, mostly in the Middle East and rose to the rank of Major. He later was in charge of the ammunition depots at Marrangaroo and Bogan Gate and after retiring went to live at Grange in Adelaide. He is survived by his widow (Robbie) at one time on the staff of 2GZ. Three sisters Ivy (Mrs Derbyshire, Punchbowl); Myrtle (Mrs H. Fowler, Orange) and Pansy (Mrs Hoquard, Stockton) and two brothers Reg (Adelaide) and Eric (Newport Beach).

(Edmond Leslie Basil Kennard (known as Leslie Basil Kennard – 1st marriage – Isabel Jean Gilson (divorced) 2nd marriage Ella Rose Collett 1946- he died 7/12/1963 55 years Centennial Park – RSL Wall 134 C.O. 14) (World war service no:NX20936)

Central Western Daily - 6/7/1972: Obituary – Mr G. Ongley.

The death occurred recently of a man who was well known in Orange and district. He was Mr G. Ongley 79, who died at Bankstown Hospital. Mr Ongley was born at Sofala in 1893. He worked on the Orange Railway for many years as well as Bathurst, Parkes and Junee stations. He retired from the railway 17 years ago and moved to Banksia Road, Greenacre, where he lived until his death. Mr Ongley's wife Grace predeceased him by 11 months. He is survived by his two sons, Roy of St Mary's and Keith of Harbord and their families.
(Hilton Guernsey Ongley)

Central Western Daily - 11/3/1978: Army Funeral for former Vietnam man.

Soldiers fly in from Holdsworthy. A contingent of soldiers from the First Field Engineers Regiment at Holdsworthy were flown by Hercules transport to Orange yesterday for the funeral of a former Vietnam War Diggers, Sgt Joseph John Fahy. Sgt Fahy 35 died suddenly in Townsville last Monday after suffering a stroke. He was stationed at Townsville with the Third Field Engineers but made his home in Brisbane with his wife and two young children. Yesterday a contingent of 29 soldiers of the First Field Engineers regiment flew to Orange to act as firing party, escort party and pallbearers. The funeral was held in the Roman Catholic portion of the Orange Lawn Cemetery after requiem mass at 12 noon at St Mary's East Orange. Mr W. Agland conducted an RSL service at the graveside and soldiers attached to the First Field

Engineers Regiment at Holdsworthy fired three volleys over the grave. Mr Fahy spent his childhood in Orange. He was the son of Mrs L. and the late Mr Gerard Fahy of Byng St. Soon after leaving school he joined the permanent army and went to Vietnam in 1971 where he saw active service for 12 months.

Central Western Daily - 16/8/1984: Open verdict on brothers.

A jury yesterday returned an open verdict on the deaths of two brothers in western N.S.W. in 1979. Rumor merchants had expounded theories ranging from suicide to murder by drug growers in the three years since the two wealthy graziers had disappeared, the Coroner, Mr Peter Miltenyi said yesterday. Mr Miltenyi returned an open verdict into the deaths of Harry Bruce Judd 47 and his brother Eric Joseph Judd 46, who were last seen alive in Cobar in December 1979. He said evidence presented indicated that death by ranging from suicide to murder by drug growers in the three years since the two wealthy graziers had disappeared, the Coroner, Mr Peter Miltenyi said yesterday. Mr Miltenyi returned an open verdict into the deaths of Harry Bruce Judd 47 and his brother Eric Joseph Judd 46, who were last seen alive in Cobar in December 1979. He said evidence presented indicated that death by probable. However, he said that due to lack of hard evidence he was unable to make that finding with certainty. The skeletons of the two brothers were found in November 1982 in their submerged car in dam known at O'Donnell's Tank on their property. Mr Miltenyi said the bodies had been positively identified by dental records but the manner and cause of death had been most difficult to find because the bodies had not been found for three years. "There were no broken bones, no bullet fragments in any of the bones or bullet or knife wounds in the clothing of the deceased" he said. "The evidence indicates that foul play by a person or persons unknown is possible, but not probable." He said suicide was also possible but not probable.

(Plaques – Canobolas Gardens Crematorium – Vestry ZC- 9) Date of death 7/12/1979 of Currawenna Station Bourke.) Note: death was registered in the 1983.)

Central Western Daily - 8/8/1989: Death of Mr Harry Rayner.

Former Orange journalist Mr Harry Rayner died recently at his Brisbane home, aged 73. Mr Rayner started a printing apprenticeship with The Leader newspaper in Orange in the late 1920's but transferred to the editorial staff soon afterwards. He worked for newspapers in the Central West before enlisting in the RAAF in World War 11. In 1946 Mr Rayner returned to journalism but in 1952 he rejoined the RAAF as a public relations officer. In 1959 he was appointed head of the public relations section of the Department of Defence, a position he held until he retired in 1979. He is credited with persuading the Department of Defence to open up more for discussion of its activities. Mr Rayner was active in several community organisations including the National Press club, in which he served a term as president. Since he retired Mr Rayner completed a biography of the former chairman of the chiefs of staff Air Chief Marshall Sir Frederick Scherger. He is survived by his widow and two daughters.

****Orange Cemetery – Headstone on father grave - Henry (Harry) Ross Rayner - 7/11/1914-3/8/1989 died at 74 years - cherished always. His loving wife Beatrice May Rayner (nee Needham) – 12/6/1917- 20/8/2012 died at 95 years – dearly remembered**

Central Western Daily: 19/11/1994-: Harry Welsford “Mayor” of Nashdale.

The man who never complained, Harry Welsford, had two draught horses on his Nashdale property “Old Rattler” and “Rose”. They would respond only to Harry’s whistle. This was true also of his milking cows. Anyone else may try as they might without response. “Old Rattler” would only heed one of the orders “gee Ban” and Gee Back”. It was thus necessary to organize movement through the orchard so that turns would only be one way. Harry Welsford a real Nashdale identity, died at Wontama on October, 4th. He was born in Surrey, England 88 years ago, to a large family and went to work at a very early age to bring money into the home. Despite these difficulties, he was self-taught and could read, write and express himself with fluency. At the age of 16 he came to Australia and about two years later he hitched from Hurstville to Orange where he decided that here was where he would spend the rest of his life. He wrote: In 1927 I came here and started work on the orchard I now own (1988) at a wage of one pound a week, I joined the P and C that year – the fee was 2/-. The orchard was owned by Mr Arthur Hawke. I slept in the shed on an old car seat. After four weeks I was paid three pounds a week. The orchard just started to bear in 1928 when we picked 26,000 bushels of apples – it was one of the largest apple orchards t the time. The prices in these days were Apple –2/6 to 3/6 per case; plus 3/6 per half case; cherries –2/6 per case. His first house was a slab hut on the Hawkes’ property. He married Hilda Markham in 1932 and bought the orchard “Wyeema” from Arthur Hawke in 1940. His hard work ensured that it was all paid off in four years. Again of his early experiences Harry wrote: We used to spray with horse drawn spray carts – it took three weeks to spray 56 acres of orchard in the early days. They used to have a keg on the back of the cart, one person would pump and the other would spray.” After 65 years of solid work, the orchard passed out of his hands. Years of drought and hail damage led to borrowing of money. With bank interest at 22 per cent the orchard was lost a scandalous story that many similar hardworking people of his type have had to tell in recent years. There were more than 50 happy years with Hilda, his first wife and later four more happy years with Beryl, his second wife. There are two children from the first marriage: Mr Fred Welsford of Orange and Miss Dulcie Welsford of Euchareena. Harry often described as the “mayor” of Nashdale, joined the Parent and Citizens Association in 1927. He held the position of president of this association for 19 years, far beyond the time in which his own children were in the care of the school. This was service indeed. As a churchman he set a fine example as a gentle teacher of his faith in what was the largest Sunday School, in the Central West at the time. A congregation gathered at Orange Cemetery on October 5 where a simple but dignified funeral service was conducted at the graveside. The Uniting Church service was conducted by Rev G Lancaster, who delivered the eulogy.

INTERESTING READING

Magazine : *Uncovering Australia’s Past races* – Edition 31, 2015 – page 28, 29, 30 & 31- Hazel & Edna Pritchard – sisters of Sport by Jane Hutcheon. (Edna Pritchard married Alan Ridley. They settled in Orange.)

(Note this magazine is available at Orange City Library)

MR. GEORGE DUNN

Leader (Orange, NSW : 1899 - 1945) Fri 3 Feb 1928 Page 6

Probably the oldest resident in Orange, Mr. George Dunn, passed away peacefully on Wednesday afternoon, at 12.30, while sitting in an arm-chair at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. E. Boulton, of Ophir Road, at the great age of 102 years. Mr. Dunn came to Australia at the age of four years, from his birthplace, Ireland, and for the century almost that followed, most was spent in Orange, and district. Plying his calling of shepherd, he was associated with many big stations, and for some time served on the Springfield station, Byng, then owned by the late Mr. T. Webb. During the Lucknow boom, he worked at the mines as carrier, and was also woodcarter. The late Mr. Dunn was one of the first to bring a bullock waggon across the Blue Mountains with supplies for the early settlers in the west. The trials of the carriers in those days were many, and on numerous occasions they were held up by the high waters that were frequent on the Parramatta River. He was an intimate friend of the three men whose names will always be remembered in the history of New South as the first discoverers of gold, and he was at Ophir when Lester, Toms and Hargraves first struck the valuable metal on that field. Bushranging was very prevalent, and on several occasions the late Mr. Dunn held up by Ben Hall's gang, but was never molested by the desperadoes. Dingoes caused the early settlers considerable trouble, and one of the stories that the deceased was fond of relating was how he was kept up a tree all night by a pack of wild dogs. When living near Emu Swamp, the late Mr. Dunn was carrying home a bag of meat, and was attacked by dingoes. Believing that discretion was the better part of valour, he threw the meat to the dogs, and climbed a tree for safety. The voracious animals were not satisfied with the meat, and stayed at the foot of the tree snarling and making attempts to leap high enough to reach the trapped man. With the approach of daylight the pack made off, and allowed Mr. Dunn to continue home. A man of high ideals, the deceased was respected by all with whom he came in contact, and his death will be regretted by many. Three years ago his wife died, after attaining the fine old age of 87 years. The members of the family to survive him are:—Messrs. John (Lucknow), Thomas, (Spring Street, East Orange), Perce (Bathurst), James (Rytstone), Edward (East Orange), Mrs. Bert Cornish East Orange) and Mrs. E. Boulton, of Ophir Road, Orange. He also leaves 33 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. The funeral took place yesterday, leaving the residence at which the death occurred at 2 p.m., and proceeding to St. Joseph's Church, and thence to the R.C. portion of the Orange cemetery. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. P. J. McGowan, funeral director.

MR. SIMON KEARNEY

Leader (Orange, NSW : 1899 - 1945) Mon 9 Sept 1929 Page 1 OBITUARY.

Up to about four years ago, one of the most widely known and respected citizens of Orange was Mr. Simon Kearney, and his many friends will regret to learn of his death, at his home in Hornsby, on Wednesday last, at 76 years of age. Deceased was born at Nutgrove, on the Hunter River, where his family resided for many years. Educated at St. Stanislaus', Bathurst, Mr. Kearney chose a legal career, and, with such a view, served his articles at Newcastle. He later commenced practice at Temora, but in 1882 came to Orange, where, for a time, he was associated in business with the late Mr. Joseph Dwyer. Mr. L. A. Lane, the well-known solicitor, of Lord's Place, served his articles with Mr. Kearney, and later became a partner in the business, which he acquired when deceased relinquished it and went to Sydney. After some

years in the metropolis, the health of both Mr. and Mrs. Kearney failed, and they returned to Orange, where Mr. Kearney re-commenced practice, in the Foresters' Hall, and remained here until about four years ago, when they removed, to live in retirement at Hornsby. In court, deceased was an excellent advocate, and was very successful in his pleadings, which won him the confidence of a large clientele, and was responsible for the establishment of a very wide practice. He possessed a genial disposition, and was a raconteur far above the ordinary. In company, he always had a score of interesting reminiscences to tell, and in such a way as to gain the rapt attention of his listeners. Moreover, he had the happy qualification of making himself popular amongst all classes, and was universally esteemed. He was a scholar far above the ordinary, and was a deep reader, very few having a more intimate knowledge of the classics; or, in fact, the general topics of the day. As a townsman, he was one who assisted in laying those foundations of citizenship that have resulted in Orange becoming the thriving centre it is to-day. He identified himself with all public movements that had as their objective the advancement of town and district, and always gave his whole-hearted support to such objects. In his earlier days he took a great interest in civic affairs, and from 1892 to 1897 was alderman in the Orange Municipal Council, and acted as Mayor in 1895. He was also a one-time member of the Hospital committee, to which he gave valuable assistance, and the School of Arts committee, which benefited greatly by his keen ability and advice. He was also a strong sporting enthusiast, and was for a number of years a member of the Orange Jockey Club committee. In cricketing circles his name will be remembered as one of those who put the game back on its feet during a very critical period of its existence, and when it seemed that the popular sport had lost its claim to popularity in Orange. Deceased was also recognised as a great gunman, and he delighted to spend a day in the bush, following this particular sport. While coursing was booming in Orange, he was one of the strongest supporters, and his name is linked with that of Father Ryan, as among the most interested followers of the sport. In the more serious side of life, he was one of the strongest adherents of the local Catholic Church, of which he was always considered the lay spokesman, and general representative of the church committee. Deceased could not be faulted in any walk of life, and all forms of charity found him an earnest helper. He was truly a philanthropist, a scholar and a gentleman, and will be remembered as such by all those who were honored by his acquaintance, and by the community in general, who recognised in him the attributes of a truly progressive citizen. Much sympathy will be extended to Mrs. Kearney, who is so well-known in literary circles, in the death of her life's companion.

Convict-built Home in Danger

BATHURST, Tuesday. — Australia could lose an important historic building unless Bathurst District Historical Society can raise £15,000.

The president of the society, Mr T. Barker, a lecturer in history at Bathurst Teachers' College, said this today.

The building is a cottage built by convicts in 1817 for Governor Macquarie, founder of the city.

With a two-storey brick building on the same property in George Street, it forms the historical museum conducted by the society.

"A builder and an architect have told us that unless

restoration is carried out within two years the cottage will be beyond repair," Mr Barker said.

Mr Barker said it would cost £15,000 to recondition the cottage and the larger building and to provide another building for transport exhibits like old carriages and waggon.

The Governor, Lieut.-General Sir Eric Woodward, will unveil a plaque on the cottage tomorrow and will officially open the museum.

SPORT & SERVICE FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER: EDNA (PRITCHARD) RIDLEY AND YVONNE (RIDLEY) KEEGAN

Edna Pritchard was born in Newtown, Sydney, in 1910, where her father Bill owned a little jewellery shop. Pritchard was an alderman on Newtown Council becoming mayor, briefly, in 1922. He was a keen sportsman who taught his children, Edna, Hazel and Norman to play cricket in their backyard.

At twelve, Edna took up netball—then called basket ball—at Enmore Public School. She continued at club level before selection to the first New South Wales state team in 1928. She captained that side and remained in the role for four years. It wasn't easy playing against the Victorian girls who were much bigger. Edna remembered the crowd calling Victoria's goalie "Mt. Lofty." Mind you, Edna - barely over five feet tall – could have done with some extra inches.

In 1927, the Pritchard family moved from inner Sydney to the seaside suburb of Brighton-Le-Sands. Edna and Hazel joined the local female life saving club and took part in the opening ceremony of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in March 1932. That same year, Edna retired from representative basketball and took up baseball. She also represented New South Wales in cricket from 1928 to 1935. Edna captained the state side in the 1928–29 season and was featured in the Australian Women's Weekly. Disappointingly, repeated ankle injuries brought her competitive career to an end.



Edna playing netball in around 1929

Edna's younger sister Hazel, joined her in the NSW basketball team from 1930 to 1932. Hazel also played state cricket from 1930 to 1936 and, in 1934, was selected for the first Australian women's cricket test against England. Hazel, a talented batter, was often described as 'the girl Bradman'. She and Edna remained close throughout their lives although Hazel succumbed to cancer aged 54 in 1967.

In 1936 Edna married Alan Ridley, a celebrated rugby league star with Sydney's Western Suburbs Club (1931-1936). He toured England twice with the Kangaroos. After their marriage in Sydney, Edna and Alan moved to Orange, where Alan became country representative for a new radio station, 2GZ.

In this thriving regional city, the Ridley's raised two children. The eldest, Robert (Bob) played rugby league with the Balmain Tigers in the early 1960s. Daughter Yvonne, known as Toot, also carried on the sporting tradition, representing New South Wales in netball.

With the advent of the Second World War, Alan enlisted in 1942 and served in New Guinea before discharged due to a recurring knee injury. He returned home to Orange in 1944 where he resumed broadcasting duties as 2GZ's manager. As a business leader, he became interested in local government and was elected to Orange City Council in 1953, serving as mayor in 1956-1957 and again in 1959-1960. Later, with his brother Jack, Alan was instrumental in founding CBN-8 Television. In 1970 he received an OBE for services to the community.



Edna and Alan (polling day) 1957 in Orange (approx 1957)
courtesy Orange and District Historical Society

In her later years, Edna took up golf, continuing to cover the course twice a week well into her eighties. She said, "I'm very happy and thankful that I can still walk the eighteen holes, even though my golf is not what it used to be. Looking back, sport has played a big part in

keeping me fit and helping me take the knocks with the good parts. It has especially helped me to make lots of friends.”

Edna’s grandson is Ben Keegan, Orange City Council’s sport and recreation supervisor. He remembers that even in her advanced years, Edna or Nen as she was known, had excellent hand-eye co-ordination. “My grandparents had an obvious love of sport, and that flowed through to their children - our mum, Toot, and our uncle Bob - through to us grandkids as well,” Ben said. “I’d like to think, we carry a few of their traits in us as I look at my sister Emily, who is coaching netball teams and working at Anson Street School, and I love my role within Orange City Council and coaching basketball because I can see some direct benefits back to the community.”

Edna faced health challenges in later life including a mastectomy, eye surgery, Parkinson-like tremors and arthritis yet she continued to be known for her determination and strength. A long-time patron of Orange Netball Association (1960’s-1985), she was widely respected in golf and netball circles. Edna was posthumously inducted into the NSW Netball Hall of Fame in 2014. She died in 1996, three years after Alan.

The powerful example Edna set for others, particularly her family, certainly paid off. Daughter Yvonne ‘Toot’ Keegan, was an Orange and State representative netball player from her teen years and associated with Orange Netball for more than 65 years. Apart from an illustrious history as a player, Toot was a much-loved personality; also a coach, administrator and instigator of many other sporting initiatives including Bush Nippers.



(Yvonne) Toot Keegan
OAM recipient and Orange personality who died in 2023

Toot – who, with husband Peter Keegan had five children - died in 2023 at the age of 81, but her story didn't end there. This year she was posthumously awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her dedication to Orange, an award accepted with much pride by daughter Emily Callaway in the lavish surroundings of Government House in Sydney.

Like her mother before her, Toot demonstrated that sporting success and leadership is a lifelong commitment with a healthy dose of verve, character, fun and humility.



Awards investiture at Government House, Sydney May 2025:
Yvonne Keegan's children Jason Keegan, Emily Callaway and Ben Keegan,
accept their mother's OAM award at Government House in Sydney May 2025

Information provided by Jane Hutcheon

WILLIAM JAMES (BILL) MARSHALL OAM

Orange town clerk Bill Marshall was a man of conviction, dedication and commitment. Following his death in January 2018 the *Central Western Daily* described him as “one of Orange's most famous civil servants and community leaders.”

Mr Marshall moved to Orange in 1968 to take up a position as deputy town clerk to Mr Alan McDowell. In 1971 Bill was appointed town clerk. His retirement in 1987 ended a career spanning 44 years of public service.

William James (Bill) Marshall was born in Dulwich Hill on 26 July 1927. His early years were spent in Canterbury and Bankstown, where he developed an interest in soccer, rugby league and the Boy Scout movement. He later attended Sydney Technical High School.

In 1943, at 15 years of age, Bill joined Bankstown Municipal Council and so commenced his career in local government. Whilst working, he completed his Town Clerk's certificate via correspondence through Sydney Technical College.

In 1952 Bill married his childhood sweetheart, Marjorie Ivy Drewell. The couple moved to Goolgowi, where Bill took a position with Carrathool Shire as clerk and accountant.

Five years later the family relocated to Lyndhurst Shire Council in Blayney, where Bill served a further five years as deputy clerk. In 1963 he accepted the position of Tallaganda Shire Clerk at Braidwood.

In 1968, with 25 years' experience in local government, Bill joined Orange City Council as deputy town clerk. Three years later, in 1971, he was appointed town clerk. At the time, the population of Orange was 22,000, just half what it is today (2025).

Mr Marshall presided over several key council projects. These include the Royal visit in 1970 and the development of Community Services in 1972. In 1987 he was successful in lobbying the government to obtain natural gas for Orange as well as realising the \$20 million augmentation of the Sewerage Treatment Works.

Bill Marshall was also a champion of the arts in Orange; he oversaw the development of the theatre, library, art gallery in the civic centre precinct and was instrumental in the recognition and celebration of Banjo Paterson.

In 1987, after 16 years' service with Orange City Council, and a career spanning 44 years, Mr Marshall retired. During his tenure as town clerk he represented the Town Clerks' Society on NSW Gas Advisory Committee, represented Orange (and was secretary) on the Central West Regional Library, was a member and treasurer of the NSW Arts Council, a member (later president) of the Orange Family History Group and president of the Orange Show Society.

In the 1989 Australia Day honours Mr Marshall was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to local government.

Bill remained actively involved in the local community following his retirement. He became a Lay Minister of Holy Trinity Church, offering Holy Communion to residents of Cherrywood Grove Nursing Home and Ozanam Villa Hostel. He also served on the board of Cherrywood Grove Nursing Home. In 2012 he published *A Cultural Portrait of Orange* and a two-volume autobiography.

On 11 February 2017 Mrs Marshall sadly passed away. Bill followed her the following year, on 11 January 2018. He was survived by his seven children, 19 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

A digital copy of *A Cultural Portrait of Orange* by Bill Marshall is available to view on Central West Recollect: <https://centralwest.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/8069>

Trudi Mayfield
Heritage Research Librarian
Central West Libraries



Bill Marshall, Orange town clerk 1971-1987
Image courtesy Orange City Library

BUTLER SOCIETY NATIONAL GATHERING IN OCTOBER 2025



The Butler Society
Southern Cross Region

A Butler Gathering is being held in Sydney, NSW!

from Friday 17th to Monday 20th October 2025

based at the

Holiday Inn Hotel 355 Hume Highway Warwick Farm NSW 2170.



As well as talks on a variety of genealogy subjects. We shall hear about Butlers who have contributed to the early history and development of colonial New South Wales. People such as **William Butler**, a convict on the First Fleet, who was therefore the first person to bring the Butler surname to Australia, and **James Butler** who was John and Elizabeth Macarthur's butler. Also **Laurence Butler**, a talented cabinet maker in the early colonial period, and **Fernande Butler**, Australian fashion model and film star in the 1920s.

Hear about Butlers from **New Zealand** and **Argentina**, and the story of the 1st **Chief Butler of Ireland** who lived in the 1100s and is one of the original sources for the Butler surname.

We shall be visiting several historic sites such as the **Old Government House** in Parramatta, **Elizabeth Farm** which is the original colonial homestead of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, and **Lancer's Memorial Museum**, mainland Australia's oldest military barracks, all of which have Butler connections.

Do join us! This provides the opportunity to meet other people with an interest in Butler family history and who are keen to share and exchange information. We would love to hear about your Butler history and perhaps you may discover a previously unknown family connection!

Details of the 4 days of events are available in the EVENTS Section of our
website www.butlersocietysoutherncrossregion.org
or telephone Abigail Butler 03 9758 6469
or email Alan Squires at squiresa@bigpond.net.au.

JOIN OUR GROUP

Do you live locally and have a keen interest in family history research?

We are always looking for new members to join the Orange Family History Group.

Our group meets upstairs in the Orange City Library on the third Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm, except December. Everyone is most welcome.

We publish a newsletter three times a year. April, August and December.

We encourage our members to help others in their family history discoveries – by assisting people undertake research; helping with indexing projects and many more initiatives that we have planned!

The Genealogy collection at the [Orange City Library](#). has some great resources! [Click here to search our catalogue.](#) or head to the Central West Libraries Website cwl.nsw.gov.au

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR ANCESTORS?

Are you looking for information on your ancestors who lived in or around the Orange area?

Why not contact our group to see what information we may be able to help you with.

The Research Officer
Orange Family History Group
PO Box 35
ORANGE NSW 2800
or
email: familyhistory@orange.nsw.gov.au