And the bubbles show where our hero sank
At the roots of the reeds and the grasses rank;
With his wife and his son and daughter
He shares his burrow beneath the bank
From a family most exclusive.
For Old Man Platypus descends
With few relations and fewer friends,
In a style that is most elusive;
And he plays and dives in the river bends
Drifting along the river.
Old Man Platypus drifting down,
Look at a fragment of velvet brown–
Where the reed beds sweep and shiver,
Far from the trouble and toil of town,
Old Man Platypus...
The verse on the monument reads —

The Australian poet Andrew Barton Paterson (Banjo) was born on 17th February 1864 at the farmstead homestead which stood 2½ miles north east of this memorial. Enrolled 1874. And he saw the stars glittering of the canopy Brahma's. And at night the wonderous play of the evermoving stars! (Glynn of the Overland)

Among the invited guests were Banjo’s young granddaughters who later unveiled the memorial to Banjo Paterson in the Corso Square, Ryde Street, on 17 February 2001.

AB Paterson Memorial was endorsed as a Centenary of Federation Project for the city of Orange. The Design was by Robin Russell who was born in Orange and is now living in England. Robotek worked on the project alongside local artist Les Oodd, who designed the St Nicholas House Memorial in Robertson Park. The Memorial was unveiled by Banjo’s grandchildren, Richard Campbell and Philip Horne on 17 February 2002. The Memorial was located in The Orange Corso Centre precinct for 13 years until its relocation in 2015 to Banjo-Paterson Park.

A bust and plinth to commemorate the site was commissioned from Anthony Chardiner, and can be seen in Banjo-Paterson Park (see below).

***EMMAVILLE COTTAGE***

Originally occupied a small portion of the Wattlebark Sports Club land located off Telipica Way, just north of Emmaville. Emmavelle Cottage was once part of aarger rural holding known as ‘Narrambla’, a noteworthy landholding of the Orange district c1830s and a link to the birthplace of poet Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson who was born on 17th February 1864. The cottage, missing its front verandah and outbuildings was relocated to the Orange Botanic Gardens precinct in 2015 and was restored by the Orange Rotary Club, the community and Orange City Council. The style of construction of the cottage suggests it may be a 1860s prefabricated cottage.

From Orange follow the Northern Distributor west and take the Molong exit. Travel to Molong turn left onto Banjo Paterson Way to Yeoval approx 60 minutes drive / 80kms. Along the way stop the ‘Animals on Bikes’ sculptures. (a great community initiative)

***THE VILLAGE OF YEoval… HOME OF THE “BANJO PATERSON….MORE THAN A POET” EXHIBITION***

Banjo Paterson was born in Yeoval in 1864. The Banjo Paterson Park was opened in 2015. The Park is an approximately duplicate of a priceless collection of Paterson’s writings, books and memorabilia, capturing his life and many adventures. The Park is a unique site travelling to Western Queensland, pearl diving out of Broome, to years spent as a Major in the Australian Light Horse Remount Club, the community and Orange City Council. The style of construction of the cottage suggests it may be a 1860s prefabricated cottage.

It was here in Yeoval on the family property “Buckinbah” that Banjo Paterson spent his years until its relocation in 2015 to Banjo-Paterson Park.

Banjo Paterson Park — Banjo’s Birthplace

On 17th February 1864, Andrew Barton Paterson was born at the home of his aunt and uncle, Rose and John Templer at Narrambla, near Orange. It is assumed that the homestead of Rose and John Templer was built between 1847 and 1848. Surprisingly little is known about the homestead other than it is said to have been made of cobble stone with walls about two feet thick, although it is now likely to have been a weatherboard cottage as described by Jessie Dikes who apparently visited Narrambla in the early 1870s. “The house, built of weatherboard, was a miniature station house, low and squat-looking — not many rooms, but very wide verandahs, back and front, with, I think, small rooms at each end of the back verandah. Several English trees were flourishing at the rear of the house, but its most notable feature was the front flower gardens. This had evidently been planned by an Englishman, for the beds contained all the old English high-scented flowers that our ancestors loved. Moss roses predominated, with English high-scented flowers that our ancestors loved. Moss roses predominated, with wall-flowers, stocks, lilacs, lavender and other highly perfumed flowers, bordered by waves. The front verandah was literally strewn with jasmine, honeysuckle and climbing roses.”

Not far from the homestead John Temple had operated a flour mill known as the Narrambla Steam Mill from 1848 to 1869 - the building was not referred to as Temple’s Mill until much later. The homestead and flour mill were tried in the vicinity of the sheep station located at Banjo-Paterson Park, five kilometers northeast of Orange on the Ophir Road. The mill was somewhat grander than the homestead as it was a three storey brick building surmounted with ornamental dormers and a verandah on both sides of the sandstone walls were re-used at 1947 as the base of the Paterson Monument on the Ophir Road. The brick chimney was built out from the southwest corner of the mill, adjacent to the boiler and beam-engine.

Narrambla Steam Mill was closed in 1869 when the Templems moved to New Zealand. In 1870 the mill building was converted into a shearing shed, and a wool press was still in the building in 1935. The homestead was occupied by several owners and tenants until 1980 when it may have burnt down, its ruins now weatherboard houses. Unfortunately the remains of the mill has to be demolished in 1977 for safety reasons. Much of the original building, including the roof and second floor, were missing, and it was considered beyond restoration.

On 20 December 1964 Banjo’s wife Alice Paterson unveiled a monument to the great poet before a crowd of 480 people.

Banjo Paterson was the home of Banjo’s widow Mrs Alice Emily Paterson, who came to live in Orange 3 March 1941. Was the home of Banjo’s young granddaughters who later unveiled the memorial. Was the home of Banjo’s brother Robert Paterson who was born in Orange and is now living in England. Banjo Paterson Memorial was endorsed as a Centenary of Federation Project for the city of Orange. The Design was by Robin Russell who was born in Orange and is now living in England. Robotek worked on the project alongside local artist Les Oodd, who designed the St Nicholas House Memorial in Robertson Park. The Memorial was unveiled by Banjo’s grandchildren, Richard Campbell and Philip Horne on 17 February 2002. The Memorial was located in The Orange Corso Centre precinct for 13 years until its relocation in 2015 to Banjo-Paterson Park.

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