

Banjo's first literary effort was a pamphlet entitled *Australia for Australians* which "fell as flat as the great inland desert". He then turned to poetry and wrote four flamboyant verses about the expedition against the Mahdi, which was going well and strong at the time. Banjo sent them to The Bulletin and decided to adopt the name "Banjo", after one of the family's horses.

after its foundation in 1880. In 1874, when he was ten, Banjo was sent to Sydney Grammar School where he stayed with his grandmother, Emily Barton at Rockend, Gladestville. On leaving school he embarked on a legal career and was admitted as a solicitor in 1886. While still a law student he was encouraged by his grandmother to write poetry. Emily Barton also wrote verse and her first book of poems, *A Few of Grandmamma's Prizes for the Little Ones* was published in 1885, in the same year Banjo published his first

Narrambla homestead by the Anglican minister on 17 March 1864. The baby and his mother left Narrambla after three months and returned to 'Buckinbah', where young Andrew spent the next seven years. His education began at a small school at Binalong where he began to find material for his later prose and poetry. Encouraged by his father who himself contributed verse to *The Bulletin* soon

daughters were well-educated and refined.

Rose's mother and aunt were the daughters of Major Edward Darvall who came to Australia in 1839 after amassing a fortune with the East India Company and settled at the homestead at Narrambla. The family was very influential in the area and his

At the time of Banjo's birth, his parents were living on the Central Western property known as Buckinbush near Obley, north west of Molong. As the homestead was rough and isolated, Paterason's mother travelled to the home of her aunt, Mrs Rose Templey, for her confinement.

ABOUT BANJO PATERSON

away on 23 June 1963 at Rose Bay, Sydney.

AB (Banjo) Paterson is an Australian icon who managed to capture the essence of Australian life in his poems and stories and has contributed to Australian literature by portraying life in a humorous and entertaining manner. His poems and stories have become an integral part of Australian lore. His characters such as *The Man from Snowy River* (1895) and *Clancy of the Overflow* (1889) are indeed "household words" today.

After the war he returned to take up a position of caretaker of the Sydney Sportsman. He was made a CBE in 1930 and in January 1936, a portrait of Banjo by Sir John Longstaff was awarded the Archibald Prize. Shortly before his 77th birthday he was admitted to hospital in Sydney, where he died on 5 February 1941. He was cremated and the ashes were interred at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney. His widow Alice returned to Orange after his death and lived for a short time at a property in the vicinity of 95 Byng Street. Alice passed

the met Alice Walker and they were married in April 1903. During World War I he served again as a war correspondent and rose to the rank of major.

After the war Banjo embarked on a number of tours lecturing on the use of horses in Australia, writing for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Sydney Mail*.

published and was an immediate success. In 1900 he gave up law and became a correspondent for the Sydney Morning Herald and the Melbourne Argus covering the Boer War. During this time he provided detailed accounts of the fighting, together with photographs taken by him. Due to his success as a war correspondent Rappin became a full-time journalist when he

poetry and Banjo's literary career had begun. He met Henry Lawson who also wrote poetry about the bush, but from a different perspective.

He was afraid to use his own name lest the editor, identifying him as the author of his previous pamphlet, would dump his contribution straight into the waste paper basket! The Editor, JF Archibald, printed the verses and commissioned him to write more

Old Man Platypus

by A B Paterson



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



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

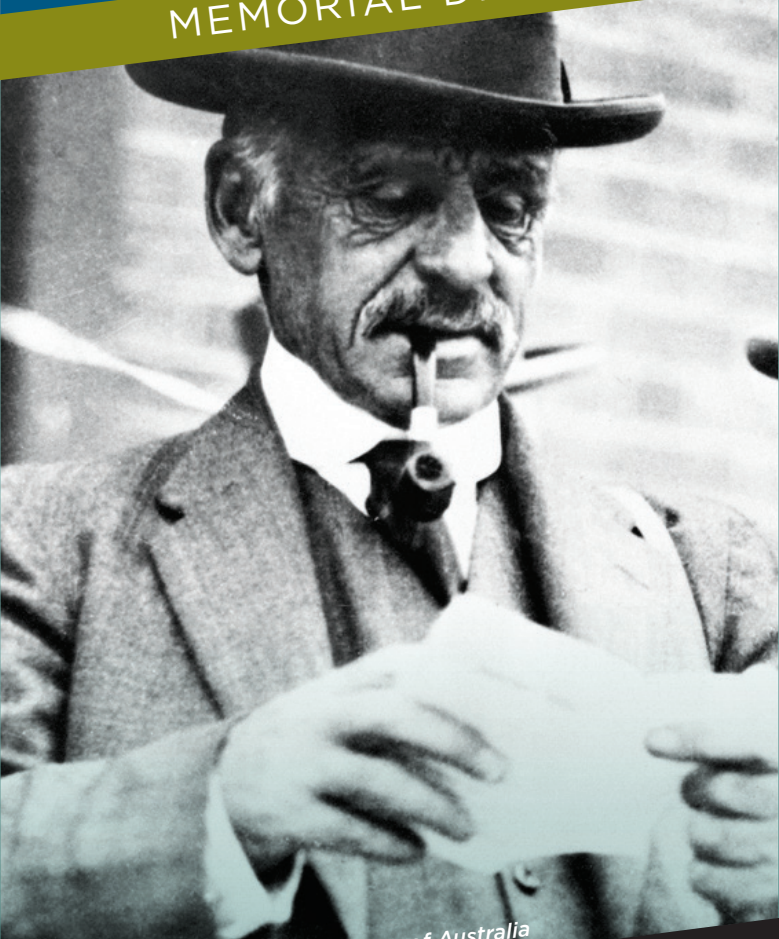
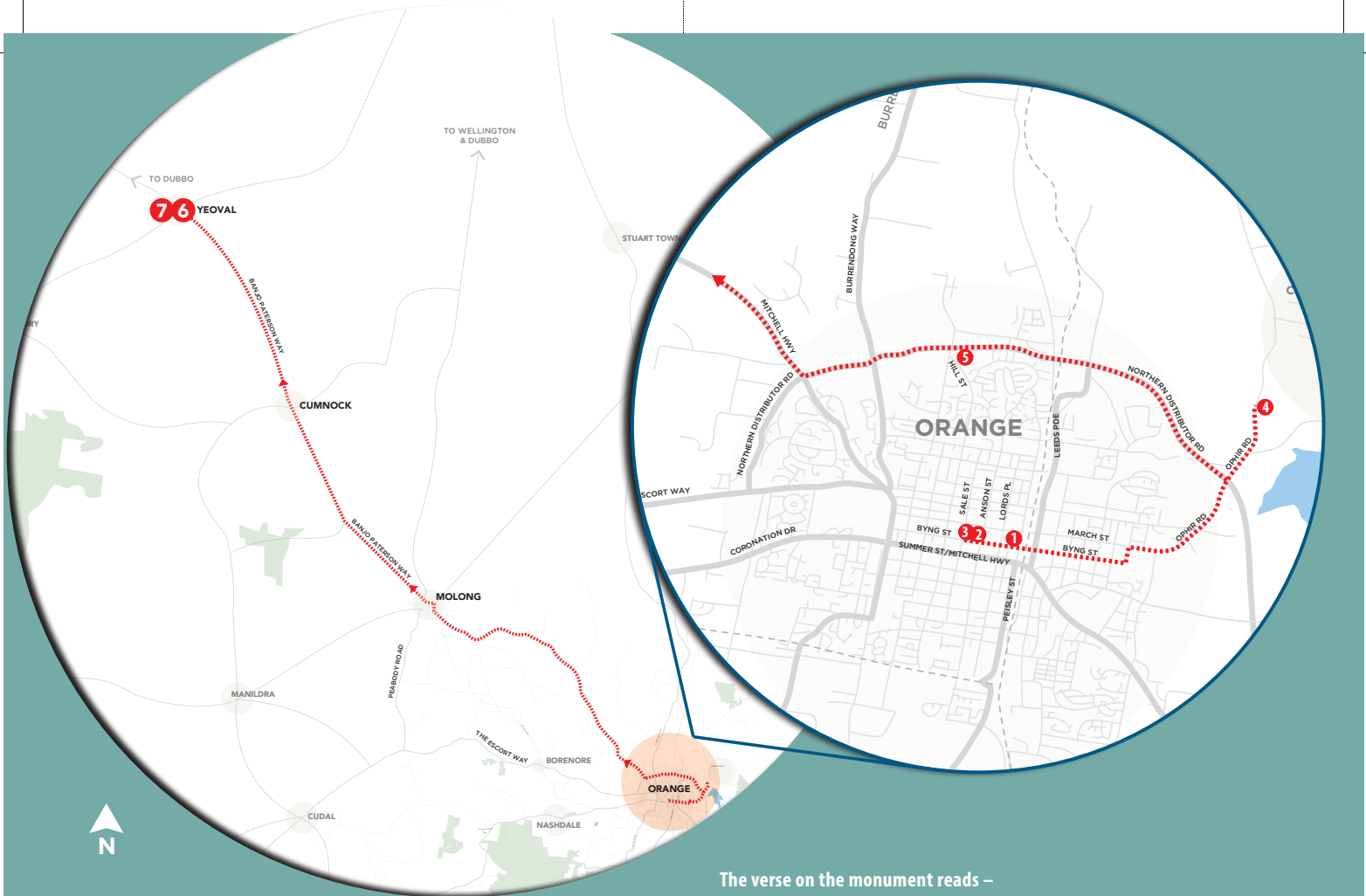


Image courtesy - National Archives of Australia





1 ORANGE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

2 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Corner of Anson and Byng Streets, Orange. In 1945, the Clerk of Petty Sessions, Richard Sheridan, was going through the Orange Court House records and noticed an entry in the birth register, "Baby Paterson, Narrambla, 17th February 1864, Father Andrew, Mother Rose." He then went to the nearby Church of England where he located the baptism entry of Andrew Barton Paterson listed for March 11, 1864 at Narrambla. A copy of the entry is on display in the Church.

3 95 BYNG STREET, (ORIGINALLY 40 BYNG STREET)

Was the home of Banjo's widow Mrs Alice Emily Paterson, who came to live in Orange with her daughter and son-in-law, Commander and Mrs Harvey shortly after the death of AB Paterson in 1941. Alice remained in Orange for the duration of World War II when they returned to their home at Edgecliffe". *Central Western Daily, 4 July 1963.*

4 BANJO PATERSON PARK – BANJO'S BIRTHPLACE

On 17 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 more likely to have been a weatherboard cottage as described by Leslie Oakes who apparently visited Narrambla in the early 1870s.

"The house, built of weatherboard, was a miniature station home, 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 garden. 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 wallflowers, stocks, lilacs, lavender and other highly perfumed flowers, bordered by violets. The wide front verandah was literally smothered with jasmine, honeysuckle and climbing roses."

Not far from the homestead John Templer operated a flour mill known as the Narrambla Steam Mill from 1848 to 1869 - the building was not referred to as Templer's Mill until much later. The homestead and flour mill once stood in the vicinity of the obelisk located at Banjo Paterson Park, five kilometres northeast of Orange on the Ophir Road. The mill was somewhat grander than the homestead as it was a three-storey brick building on bluestone foundations with ornamental lintels and sandstone sills - some of the sandstone sills were reused in 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 finally closed in 1869 when the Templers 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 1895 when it may have burnt down, as did so many weatherboard houses.

Unfortunately the remains of the mill had to be demolished in 1971 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 1947 Banjo's wife Mrs Alice Paterson unveiled a monument to the great poet before a crowd of 400 people.

The verse on the monument reads –

The Australian poet Andrew Barton Paterson (Banjo) was born 17th February 1864 at the Narrambla homestead which stood 8 chains north-east of this memorial. Erected 1947. "And he sees the vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended, And at night the wondrous glory of the everlasting stars." (Clancy of the Overflow)

Among the invited guests were Banjo's young granddaughters who later unveiled the memorial to Banjo Paterson in the Civic Square, Byng Street, on 17 February 2003.

AB Paterson Memorial was endorsed as a Centenary of Federation Project for the City of Orange. The Design is by Reuben Buesnel who was born in Orange and is now living in England. Rueben worked on the project alongside local artist Les Quick, who designed the Sir Neville Howse Memorial in Robertson Park. The Memorial was unveiled by Banjo's granddaughters Rosamond Campbell and Phillipa Harvie on 17 February 2002. The Memorial was located in the Orange Civic 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 Chandler. and can be seen in Banjo Paterson Park (see below).



5 EMMAVILLE COTTAGE

Originally occupied a small portion of the Waratah Sports Club land located off Telopea Way, just north east of here. Emmaville Cottage was once part of a larger 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 17 February 1864. The cottage, missing its lean-to and out buildings was relocated to the Orange Botanic Gardens precinct in 2013 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 c1850s 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 minute drive / 82kms. Along the way spot the 'Animals on Bikes' sculptures. (a great community initiative)

6 THE VILLAGE OF YEOVAL - HOME OF THE "BANJO PATERSON....MORE THAN A POET" EXHIBITION

It was here in Yeoval on the family property "Buckinbah" that Banjo Paterson spent his childhood years. The Banjo Paterson more than a POET Exhibition is an impressive display of a priceless collection of Paterson's writings, books and memorabilia, capturing his life and many adventures. From a Sydney Solicitor travelling to Western Queensland, pearl diving out of Broome, to years spent as a Major in the Australian Light Horse Remount Station in Egypt. Enjoy a Devonshire tea, stay for lunch in "Clancy's Café". Everyone is welcome. Call 0427208913 for any enquiries. Admission fees apply.

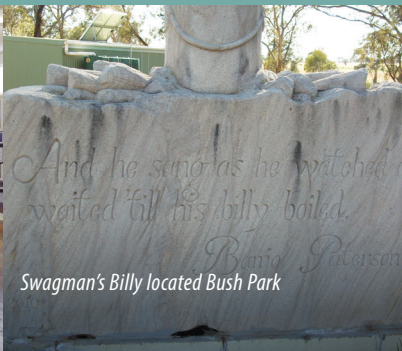
7 BANJO PATERSON BUSH PARK

Visit the Banjo Paterson Bush Park to view the nine sculptures dotted throughout the park. Walk along the banks of Buckinbah Creek, enjoy a picnic in the shade next door to the old Saddlery Shop, now the Yeoval Family Museum.

'ANIMALS ON BIKES' is 120kms of Paddock Art Sculptures along the scenic Banjo Paterson Way from Molong to Dubbo via Cumnock and Yeoval. With over 100 animal on bike sculptures they are sure to make the trip to Yeoval an adventure.



Banjo Paterson more than a Poet Exhibition/Museum



Swagman's Billy located Bush Park



Buckinbah Park, Yeoval



'Animals on Bikes' Trail