

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Ten of

Orange's best

1 EMMAVILLE COTTAGE is reported to be the birthplace of Australia's most famous bush poet Banjo Paterson on February 17, 1864. Since May last year, the cottage has been relocated from Waratahs to its current location near the Adventure Playground. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Orange and Orange City Council, the cottage has been restored in time for February 17's official opening, which is being held as part of the Banjo Paterson Festival, celebrating his 150th birthday.

Orange City Council is developing an exhibition to be part of the cottage, which will include information about Banjo's life at Narrambla Estate, as well as more history about the building and its restoration. To learn about the mystery surrounding Banjo's birthplace, visit the beautiful Emmaville Cottage, just off the Northern Distributor Road, or contact Orange City Council's museum and heritage co-ordinator Allison Russell on 6393 8170 or e-mail museum@orange.nsw.gov.au.

2 COOK PARK is 4.5 hectares of stunning parkland in Summer Street, just two blocks from the city centre and embodies the colours of Orange. In 1873 the site of Cook Park was proclaimed as a park and in 1882 it was officially named in honour of Captain James Cook. The garden is home to a host of trees and flowers, many of which are extremely rare and more than 100 years old. Summer is a good time to visit the garden, with hundreds of roses in full bloom.

Other attractions in Cook Park are the duck ponds, aviaries, arts and craft shop, the fernery and glasshouse, as well as many interesting plants. Children can play on the swings and feed the ducks, while families can sit down for a picnic and pick up some local food and crafts from the guildry.

3 LAKE CANOBOLAS. At the base of Mount Canobolas lies the Lake Canobolas Reserve, which is a major attraction for visitors and residents. This picturesque lake is great for family outings, romantic picnics and much more. The lake provides the perfect place for swimming, canoeing, dragon boating and a range of other water and beach sports and activities. It has barbecue facilities, a cafe, picnic areas, walking tracks and an historic pump house, while for the children there's a large recreation

area with swings and play equipment. The lake is regularly stocked with a range of fish species, making it a fisherman's delight, with redfin, trout and golden perch among the favourites.

4 ORANGE BOTANIC GARDENS is a natural undulating 17-hectare site that features an impressive native and exotic plant collection. Country walks offer visitors all the pleasures of a stroll through varying landscapes that include the homestead garden, the billabong, exotic and indigenous woodlands, apple orchards including historic varieties, heritage rose gardens and the analemmatic sundial. Relax and enjoy the wonderful scenery, the district views, bird watching, engage in a family picnic or take a relaxing stroll through the beautiful gardens, you won't be disappointed.

5 ORANGE AQUATIC CENTRE. Orange boasts some of the best swimming facilities in the central west, including include a state-of-the-art 50-metre, nine-lane pool outside, as well as an indoor leisure pool.

For the more adventurous there's a heated diving pool with diving boards and a 10-metre diving tower. If being on land is more your thing, there are beach volleyball and basketball facilities as well as shade areas to kick back and relax. The Orange Aquatic Centre also has a cafe with a wide range of food and drinks available for purchase.

6 ORANGE REGIONAL GALLERY AND LIBRARY: Orange's gallery and library are located on the corner of Byng and Peisley streets. The library features thousands of books, many of which come in digital format. Whatever your interest you'll find something to borrow from the extensive collection, whether it be magazines, DVDs, CDs or just a good-old fashioned paperback. The library is an information paradise, with skilled staff available to help you find the answers to your questions. Orange's gallery was opened in 1986 and has built a reputation as one of the best regional art galleries in Australia. There are more than 30 exhibitions held annually ranging from photography and sculptures to prints and paintings.

7 WINERIES AND RESTAURANTS: Orange has a growing reputation as one of the premier food and wine regions in Australia. The region is ideal for grape growing and wine-making due to a combination of geology, soils, climate and temperature. Apart from the various food and wine festivals the city hosts, there are about 50 wineries, many welcoming visitors to their cellar doors. The area also has a range of top cafes and restaurants including Lolli Redini, the Union Bank, Racine Restaurant, Bistro Ceello and Sweet Sour Salt.

8 EAST ORANGE HERITAGE TRAIL: This walk starts from the Orange Visitor Information Centre and proceeds along Byng Street, across the railway line and through historic East Orange. Highlights include St Kilda, the childhood home of writer Kenneth Slessor; Bowen Terrace, 12 Victorian-era double-storey terraces; and the historic Strand Theatre, built in 1919 on the site of Henry Curran's 1855 flour mill.

9 JOHN LOMAS SKATE PARK: Located within Moulder Park, on the corner of Anson and Warrendine Street, the skate park is a continuous concrete structure that includes bowls, a pyramid jump, a spine and grind block, box and rails. This facility is great for families with teenagers and accommodates anyone wanting to burn some energy using their BMX bike, scooter, skates or skateboard.

10 ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND: Located adjacent to the Orange Botanic Gardens, the Adventure Playground is an oasis for children of all ages. It includes a range of modern play equipment suitable for toddlers up to teens. Divided into two settings for the active and the young, these include swings, slides, platforms, tunnels and sway bridges. Other attractions include a tractor, climbing wall, tree house, rocket, and a life-sized chess game. The playground is wheelchair-friendly, has toilet, picnic and barbecue facilities, and plenty of parking. The playground is open daily from dawn to dusk, and is free.



TAKE A TOUR (from top): Cook Park, Amelia Thomas enjoys the water at Lake Canobolas, Emmaville Cottage and Orange's Adventure Playground, featuring its newest attraction, the painted rhino.



OLD FAVOURITES (from top): The air up there at the John Lomas Skate Park and the serenity of the Orange Botanic Gardens.

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