

A Short Timeline of Orange

Over 40,000 years ago
First Indigenous inhabitants of region. Mt Canobolas and Borenore Caves are sacred sites.

14 Dec 1827
First land grant application in Orange region.

1829
Surveyor JB Richards sketched a village reserve named Orange. First time Orange appears on a map.

1838-1841
Apples, cherries and plums planted at Byng by George Hawke. His first crop yielded only two apples.

May 1839
First legal inn opened by Andrew Livingston named the 'Plough Inn'.

1815
Crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson.

1831
WC Wentworth purchased land in Frederick's Valley, near Orange.

1845
Wiradjuri man named Yuarnigh accompanied Sir Thomas Mitchell on an expedition to central QLD.

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1847
James Dalton Snr. opened a store in Summer Hill, near Lucknow.

1 Jan 1849
Orange Post Office opened with J Arkins as first Post Master.

1848
Templer's steam flour mill opened at Narrambla.

1849
Dalton's first Orange store opened.

1851
The population of Orange was 28. Payable gold discovered at Ophir and Lucknow.

Aug 1851
First coach services to Ophir operated by John Peisley.

1859
The population of Orange was 400. Nelson's Store opened by Benjamin Nelson on Byng St.

9 Jan 1860
Orange proclaimed a Municipality.

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2 Feb 1860
First council elections held. John Peisley becomes first Chairman of Municipal Council of Orange

1862
Dalton Bros. (James and Thomas) build a mill on the corner of Summer St & Sale St.

1861
Western Examiner newspaper established. The Telegraph reached Orange and the population was 581.

1862
Cobb & Co began operations from Bathurst to Orange then to Forbes. The booking office was at the Wellington Inn (Royal Hotel).

1862
Frank Gardiner and gang held up coach carrying gold at Escort Rock (Eugowra). Decamped with gold valued at £14,000.

1864
Nelson Bros. built a mill on Byng St. Banjo Paterson was born at Narrambla on 17 Feb.

1865
James Dalton Jnr. begins operating a retail store on Summer St.

1872
Nelson Bros. later Brown & Brown built a double story building on Summer St. The building was demolished in 1965 for Coles Supermarket.

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1872

The Mayor employed a man to sweep gutters and other jobs of an urgent nature for six pounds per month.

1876

Duntryleague built by James Dalton Jnr.

1873

Site for Cook Park purchased and reserved for public recreation.

19 Apr 1877

The railway line to Sydney was opened by the Premier, Sir Henry Parkes.

1883

Orange Court House was designed by James Barnet.

1882

Blackman's Swamp Creek was reformed into Robertson Park.

1885

Orange proclaimed a town.

1885

Gravel added to roads and parts of the main streets were kerbed and guttered with basalt. Dalton Bros. erected the Australian Hall in Lords Pl.

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1886

Wade Park established.

1888

Orange Town Hall in Anson St completed.

29 Mar 1888

East Orange proclaimed a Municipality.

1899

Telephone service was established with 30 subscribers.

1901

The population of Orange was 3990. The population of East Orange was 2341.

1901

The first cinematic film was shown and the first car was driven in Orange.

1908

The bandstand in Cook Park was opened. Orange Showground was opened.

1911

The population of Orange was 5263.

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1912
Cobb & Co coaches ended their service and the first plane was seen in Orange.

1914-18
WWI, more than 125 local men lost their lives.

24 Dec 1912
Amalgamation of Orange and East Orange municipalities.

1915
The bandstand opened in Robertson Park.

1917
Concrete was used for gutters for the first time.

1918
Meadow Creek (Lake Canobolas) water supply opened. The towns sewerage system was completed.

1922
Electric lights first installed in the town.

8 Sept 1923
Electric street lights turned on by Mayoress Colvin.

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1923
Bloomfield Hospital opened.

1938
Orange aerodrome opened at present day Sir Jack Brabham Park.

1928
First radio broadcast in Orange. Dalton Bros. taken over by Western Stores.

1939-1945
WWII. Italian POWs worked on orchards.

1942
Small Arms Factory established in Orange.

1945-46
Small Arms Factory closed and Email/Emmco whitegoods factory opened.

1946
Orange proclaimed a City.

1952
Orange was the largest apple producing area of NSW with 429 orchards.

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1954
Orange Public Library opened.

1966
Decimal currency introduced. The population of Orange was 22,000.

1962
TV station CBN 8 established. Suma Park Dam starts operations.

1972-86
Aboriginal family resettlement scheme.

1976
Civic Centre complex opens.

1988
Orange Botanic Gardens opened.

1991
F.O.O.D Week launched.

2000
Gold from Ophir used in medals for Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

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2001
Email sold factory to Electrolux.

2015
The population of Orange was 40,000.

2013
Electrolux announces that they will be closing the Orange factory.

2016
Electrolux factory closes.

Nov 2016
Orange Regional Museum opens.

Jan 2017
Myer store in Summer St closes.

2017
Orange is featured on Australian version of Monopoly.

What's next?