

Other places in the Orange district associated with migration include: **Lake Canobolas**, a favourite place for recreation 10km south-west of the city off Cargo Road; **Bloomfield Hospital**, Forest Road (now Orange Health Service campus), where many migrants worked; the **Slavic Pentecostal Church**, which was used as a place of worship for some years by members of Orange's Russian community; **Chinaman's Bend**, Mitchell Highway just east of Orange, an area once used by Chinese market gardeners; **Byng** (formerly known as the 'Cornish Settlement'), the home of many copper miners of Cornish descent in the mid to late 19th century; and the **Lutheran Church**, Heatherbrae Parade, where many people of northern European descent still worship.

6. STRAND THEATRE

The Strand Theatre was one of a number of venues in Orange where migrants attended naturalisation ceremonies. Perfunctory ceremonies had originally been held in court houses, but when Orange City Council took over it was felt that such an important event should be held in places where people felt comfortable and which could provide a sense of occasion.



Orange Mayor Gordon Machin presides over a naturalisation ceremony at the Strand Theatre, early 1960s. Image courtesy Orange City Library.

Members of local community groups such as the CWA and the Quota Club of Orange assisted with refreshments. Other venues where naturalisation ceremonies took place included the Town Hall in Anson Street, and the CWA Hall and the rotunda in Robertson Park.

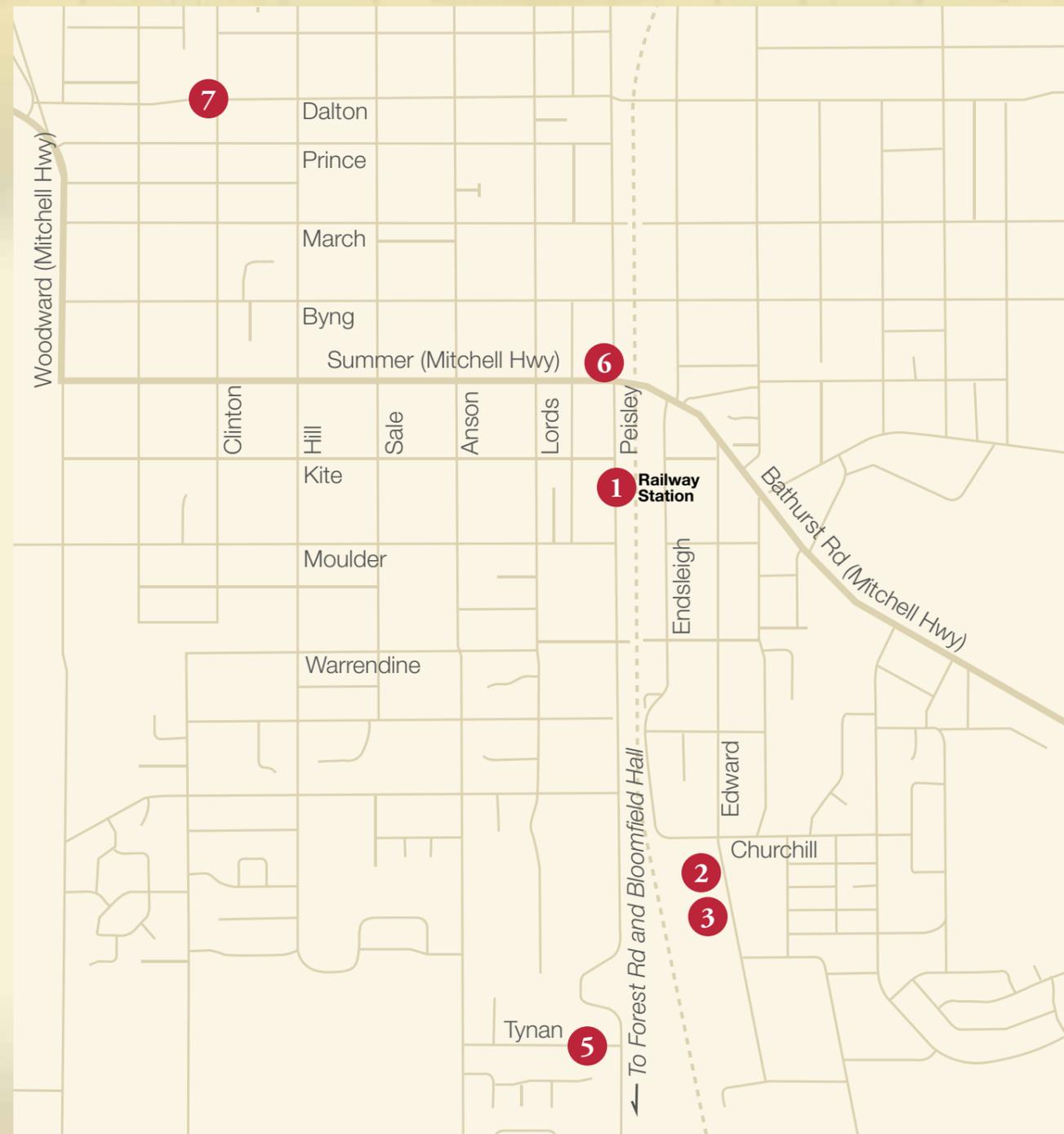
7. UKRAINIAN HALL

Orange's Ukrainian community constructed this hall so that they could hold dances and other social functions. Recorded or live music added to the occasion and the events were so popular that they attracted people from throughout Orange and beyond. Australians were welcome also and some helped provide live music. The building later became the headquarters of the Orange Aboriginal Lands Council.

Other venues which attracted particular migrant groups included the Orange Lutheran Church in Heatherbrae Parade, a house in Woodward Street which held regular services according to the rites of the Dutch Reformed Church, a hall at Clergate largely used by the Italian community, and later, a hall in McNamara Street which is still used as a religious and social venue for Orange's Greek community.



People from the Ukrainian community prepare to march at the Orange Cherry Blossum Festival. Image courtesy Wasyl and Rosalia Borschtsch



Orange Migration Heritage Trail



To learn more about post World War II Migration to the Orange District, visit Orange City Council's website: www.halfaworldaway.com.au

The book *Half a World Away* is available for sale from Orange Visitor Information Centre Byng Street, Orange.

This brochure was prepared by Orange City Council with the assistance of the NSW Migration Heritage Centre and researcher/writer Elisabeth Edwards.

Front Cover: Dutch Migrants Ted and Dorry Portegies arrive in Sydney, November 1954 Image courtesy Dorry Portegies



Migrants have played a significant role over many years in the history and development of Orange, especially in the two decades immediately following the end of World War II.

Visit the sites and discover more about the migrants and how they settled into Australian life.

The drive is estimated to take approximately one hour.

The earliest post-war migrants were from the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and other European nations deeply affected by the war, including Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Ukraine and Holland. Later migrants mainly came from the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and Greece.

They brought skills, languages and culture to their new home and contributed to the advancement of the city in many ways.

Certain areas of Orange evoke memories of the migrants' early years in the city as they found work, built homes and participated in social events.

1. ORANGE RAILWAY STATION



Orange Railway Station, which was often the migrants' first glimpse of the city.
Image courtesy Alf Mancigliani.

An important passenger hub in the post-war years, Orange railway station was often the first place migrants saw when they arrived in the city. Initially men were brought by train to Orange from the Kelso and Bonegilla migrant camps and allocated work. Later, they boarded trains at the station to visit their wives and children living in migrant camps at Cowra and Parkes.



Orange Railway Station, c1900.
Image courtesy Orange City Council.

2. EMMCO FACTORY (LATER EMAIL LTD)

Hundreds of migrants were allocated employment at the Emmco (later Email) whitegoods factory because in the 1950s and 60s it was the city's major employer. It produced fridges, freezers, washing machines and other household electrical goods at a time when business was booming. Language difficulties precluded many migrant workers from taking on more demanding roles in the early years, although some later excelled in engineering.

In 1953 a number of skilled German toolmakers were employed to take on specialist roles. Initially German was widely spoken among the multicultural workforce, although most migrants soon learnt English. Other major employers of migrant workers were the State Railways, Bloomfield and Orange Base hospitals and Wangarrie Sawmill.



Brothers Ferd and Keith Boers, who both performed excellently as apprentices at the Emmco factory. Ferd was the first migrant to be awarded an apprenticeship at the factory.
Image courtesy Ferd Boers.

3. 'TENT CITY' COMMONWEALTH MIGRANT HOSTEL

Accommodation in Orange was scarce when post-war migrants started arriving in the late 1940s. The first group of male migrants to be allocated work at the Emmco factory were given two-man tents to live in situated on land between the factory and the railway line. 'Tent City', as it became known, was home to them for several years until a Commonwealth migrant hostel was built just south of the factory in 1952.

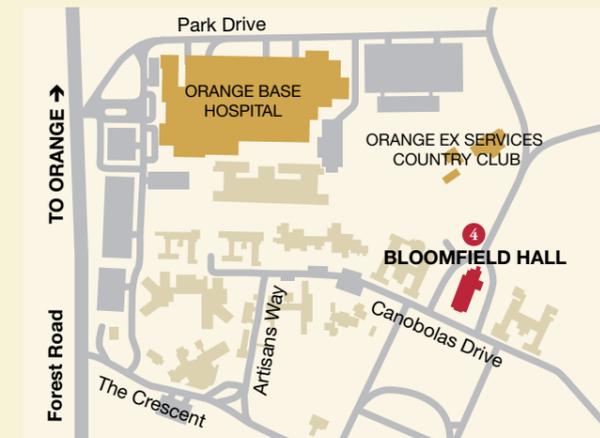


Henryk (Harry) Baranski was one of many migrant men who lived in tents because of a shortage of accommodation.
Image courtesy Elizabeth Baronson.

Some migrants found accommodation in the 'Duration Cottages' located on the hill east of the factory, which had originally been built during the war for munitions workers.

4. BLOOMFIELD HALL

Bloomfield Hall became renowned in the 1950s and 60s as a place of first-rate entertainment, largely through the exceptional talents and hard work of a number of migrants who worked at Bloomfield Hospital. Bloomfield Theatrical Society, which was founded in 1954, staged many popular musical shows, including *The Merry Widow* and *The Student Prince*. Profits from the first night were always set aside to purchase comforts for the hospital's patients.



Bloomfield Theatrical Society's production of The Student Prince. A number of migrants were involved on and off stage with the society's productions.
Image courtesy Les and Dot Warburton

5. TYNAN STREET



During the 1950s Tynan Street became almost exclusively home to migrants of various ethnic backgrounds. Attracted by cheap land, they usually built a 'temporary dwelling' first, then as funds

became available, helped one another to build simple but adequate houses for their families. The parents often worked and socialised together while the children played along a nearby creek and in paddocks in what was then a semi-rural area.

Other areas where large numbers of migrants built homes include Frederica, Sampson, Margaret and Bletchington Streets.



Joe Runeman building his house in Tynan Street.
Image courtesy Henk Runeman.