

CENTREPOINT ARCADE

ADVERTISING FEATURE



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CENTREPOINT — STEEPED IN HISTORY

➤ In the 1870s, Orange builder John Hale was commissioned to design and build a three-storey bank building. Hale, who also designed and built the Bowen Terraces on the Bathurst Road, designed a finely-scaled and detailed building with characteristics such as a two-tympanum pediment embodying a coat of arms, parapets concealing the roof, Victorian chimneys, classical urns adorning the parapet walls and a classical facade of Corinthian columns, pilasters, arched double-hung sash windows and cast-iron inset balustrades.

➤ Centrepoint is on the Orange City Council's Heritage Trail and is recognised in a number of historical works. Adjoining the Post Office, the building is classified as "significant to the State" on the State Conservation Register and is the second oldest building in Summer Street.

➤ Original owners of the building, the Australian Joint Stock Bank, were absorbed into the Australian Bank of Commerce Ltd in 1910, later being acquired by the Bank of New South Wales in 1931.

➤ In 1927, the building became Lamrock and in the 1950s it became Palmers Men's and Boy's outfitters (with "Palmers Building" still on the facade).

➤ Tony Slattery and his business partner Colin Tseris were introduced to the neglected Centrepoint Arcade in 2001 and began the lengthy program of refurbishment and restoration to restore the building to its former grandeur. Anton Hartley's Colour City Painting was recently awarded the painting contract for the exterior and has carried out most of the painting of the building in the past.

➤ Heritage Architect from the NSW Heritage Advisory Service Christo Aitken, together with Orange City Council's Alison Russell and Kathryn Slattery Barlow worked on the colour scheme options for the building. This will be the first colour change to the building for at least 50 years.

➤ Kathryn is a sixth generation granddaughter of Patrick Slattery, an early Orange pioneer from Ireland who took up land at Spring Hill in 1857 and founded the well-known district property "Avondale".

➤ The extensive refurbishment by local contractors used fittings, lighting, carpets and paint finishes selected and styled by Kathryn who sourced much of the traditional materials locally. "Orange has an enviable range of restoration products and trades experienced

with historic buildings," she said. The project, managed locally by Michael Layton, who is totally familiar with the building and the meticulous requirements of the owners, had many difficulties to overcome in restoring ceilings, cornices, damaged and missing architraves and tiling, removal of coal gas pipes, recreating mislaid cedar staircase spindles and rebuilding three metre high ornate arched windows rotten through years of neglect. "This has not been an easy project, and every repair has presented its own difficulty", he said, "but I have really enjoyed my involvement and the thrill of seeing all the hard work finally come together".

➤ The fully air-conditioned building now has a distinctive and unique ambience making it a pleasant place to work, dine, shop or conduct business.

➤ Orange real estate agent Gary Blowes, whose company manages the building, has been particularly pleased by the commitment of the owners to inject style and elegance into the refurbishment. "The building has always been an important part of the history of Summer Street and it's wonderful to see it restored to its former place as an important part of the streetscape," he said.

