

LIFE WHEN MY GRANDPARENTS WERE KIDS HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

Guided Tour Yrs 1/2

Life in Echuca in the 1950s (give or take a decade!)

.....(*Main Room*)

Photos of Paddlesteamers, this was the main way of travel in early days. Because there were few roads people & goods were able to move easily between towns by river.

Photos Train, when the train came in 1864 people would catch the train from Melbourne to Echuca and then catch a paddlesteamer to take them further down the river.

Photos of Logs – timber getting from the forests was a very busy job. Men cut logs into "sleepers" so the railway could be built.

.....(*In centre display case*)

small blackboards were used by children to write on before **exercise books** were used for doing work

lead pencils were used when children were learning to write, they were allowed to use **pen and ink** when they could write properly - **ink wells**..were filled with ink, and the pen was dipped into this.

.....(*main corridor*)

Riverine Herald(*in display case on wall*)

The large newspaper in the display case is how the Riverine Herald looked in 1930's. It was printed every day.

.....(*Family room*)

sewing machines

The sewing machines on the floor are hand operated, the person turns the wheel by hand to make it work.

The one like a table is a treadle operated machine. The lady sits at the machine and works the treadle by her feet to make it work

Most sewing machines today are electric.

2 aerial photos of the town(in corridor between Costume & Sports/rec rm)

Can you see the difference – 1950's and 1970's
Are there more buildings ?

.....(sport/rec room)

wooden model toys

These were often carved by men when they had nothing much to do at night, from pieces of wood found around the house.

record player – played music from records

wireless – families often sat around listening to radio broadcasts, just like we do with TV today

cameras – many different types

Can you see a modern camera in this display ?

Sports

photos of marching girls, brass band, sporting clubs – football, cricket, fishing, gun club

.....(outside next to the back door at Warren St end – near the glass cabinets under the veranda)

red parking ticket machine This parking ticket machine is one of the first parking ticket machines in Echuca.

You first pulled out a tray then put your money in the tray and pushed it in, a ticket then came out.

Large Round Bowl ...is a machine for making bread dough – this bowl makes thirtysix dozen loaves

.....(*Warren St end verandah*)

Laundry Copper (in corner), used to heat water and do laundry. It was filled with clothes and water then a fire was lit underneath until it boiled, then the washing was lifted with a '**copper stick**' into a trough similar to the

Large Wooden Trough this item was used in a hotel laundry 1880. If things were really dirty they were rubbed on a '**Wash Board**'

Washing machines came then and the first were **hand operated**. You moved the handle up and down to wash the clothes and remove the water before hanging it.

The white "Stampco" is one of the **first electric washing** machines and has a "wringer" on the top. This machine squeezes the water from the clothes before you hang them.

Ice chest – these were used before refridgerators
The "iceman" delivered ice in a large block to homes. The block fitted in the top compartment and as it melted it cooled the food.

Stoves – wood fired, gas & electric
Wood was used to heat stoves in early days, then electric & Gas
Which is a wood stove and where does the wood fit in ?

.....(*glass case under verandah*)

Laundry irons – were heated on the top of stoves or in open fireplaces. Once heated the clothes could be ironed until the iron cooled and had to be replaced on the stove.
These were quite heavy and the handles got very hot.

Kettles – were filled with water and placed on the side of an open fireplace or top of a stove to heat water ready for a cup of tea.

The heavy Pots were also used in fireplaces and on top of stoves to cook food

butter making equipment(*glass case under verandah*)

Butter was made by most farmers from their own cows' milk. To make butter cream is placed into a butter churn and mixed until it becomes solid with a watery liquid at the top of the churn. This liquid is buttermilk or 'whey' and in those days was usually fed to pigs or thrown out.

The solid part is squeezed with "butter pats" to remove excess liquid and to form it into a solid mass which is **butter milk bottles**.

Milk was packaged in glass bottles and was delivered to the home by a 'milkman' who drove a horse and cart or later a motor vehicle. The home owner left empty milk bottles at their front door at night, with enough money in them to pay for the next days supply. The milkman took the empty bottles and left fresh milk

.....(*glass case under verandah*)

typewriters were used before computers became popular. To make 2 copies of a letter a special paper called carbon paper was used between 2 pieces of paper

photos of Echuca Technical School,

equipment used in woodwork & building classes

Planes for shaping wood to the shape needed

Wooden moulds for making bricks

.....(*outside under verandah*)

Children's toys

tricycles and a digger

These items are approximately 80 years old, can you see much difference from today's toys

Delivery bike

Most grocers, butchers and fruit & vegetable shops had a delivery bike.

Customers called into the shop and left a 'list' of things they needed with the shopkeeper. He then 'made up' the order, and it was put into the basket on the bike.

A young person usually about 14/15 years old was employed to ride the bike and deliver the good to the customer.

This bike came from the Yeomanry Grocery.

the mile post –..... (just off veranda)

These posts were placed along roads so people could see how far it was to the next town.

The "W" on this post means Wodonga

And tells how far it is from Echuca to Wodonga in 'miles'

.....(*behind hut*)

Home made boat or as it was called a 'tinny' this was used for fishing & duck hunting

the outside toilet

under the Peppercorn Tree is our

"Dunny" or "Lavatory"

.....all homes had one...some (mostly in towns) had a can beneath which was collected weekly by a 'nightman', and others just had a deep hole dug into the ground, and the structure was moved regularly.

This building was usually as far from the house as possible and was a long scary walk in the dark at night, it was also very cold on a winter's morning.

They often had a tree just like this one planted nearby

horse drawn ploughs ...*(in yard on Warren St side)*

Before tractors were invented all heavy farm equipment had to be pulled by horses.

These ploughs had a horse or horses harnessed up to them and pulled them along to plough the ground

timber wool press*(behind cells)*

This machine is home made by the farmer, who probably could not afford to buy from a shop.

The wool press packages wool into bales ready for market

Blacksmith's equipment (anvil etc).....*(workshop corner)*

A **blacksmith** is a person who makes objects from iron or steel by forging the metal; that is by using tools to hammer, bend, and cut. Blacksmiths produce things like gates, railings, furniture, sculpture, tools, agricultural implements, cooking utensils, horseshoes and weapons.

Anvil (the large metal object on the ground) is used to place a piece of hot metal on it while the 'smith' hammers the metal into the shape he wants. The metal is heated on a **forge** (the square brick fireplace) which has a fire in it and the fire is kept going with a **bellows**. The bellows blows air into the fire to keep it.....*show how it is done*

PRISON CELLS

these were built in 1867 and used until 1969 (about when you gr'parents were your age)

Imagine how cold they would be in winter....the prisoners were given only one blanket.

The **old grey bike** is around 80 years old and was used by a policeman to attend calls around town.