During the 1850s only the fledgling business empire created by Henry Hopwood, Echuca's founder, existed around Little Hopwood Street, the hub of early Echuca. At that time Hopwood's punts and pontoon bridge were the only means of crossing the Murray and Campaspe Rivers.

The l870s were the peak years of the steamer trade at Echuca. Wool was the lifeblood of the port, and the wharf became a place of bustle and activity, with the constant arrival and departure of steamers during the 'season', when the river was high enough to allow them to travel. Forwarding agents were at their wits' end trying to find a place to store wool while waiting for rail trucks to take it to Melbourne and this led to several wharf extensions. By l900 competition from railways had killed the river trade.

From the l860s the town centre was concentrated in the vicinity of the wharf in High Street and the northern end of Hare Street. By the mid-l870s increasing wharf activity created a spirit of optimism and at that time many single-storey shops erected ten years earlier were replaced by the impressive two-storey brick buildings seen in High Street today.

The opening of the Iron Bridge in l878 and the decline of the river trade led to consolidation of Echuca's commercial centre in Hare Street. Shops gradually moved south towards the railway station, which by then was a busy transport terminal. This trend continued until the l960s when the transfer of more shops to Hare Street led to the near-demise of old High Street.

The area became run-down and neglected and it was not until the re-creation of the old Port of Echuca, opened in l974, that rejuvenation began. Echuca was 'put on the map' by the filming of "All the Rivers Run" early in the l980s. Shopowners restored their buildings and increased visitor numbers led to revitalisation. The movement of commerce away to Hare Street and southwards has left old High Street undisturbed, evoking memories of the 19th Century, when Echuca was Australia's leading inland port.

1 Site of Baptist Church, Chinese Society, Horne's Garage 479 High Street
The Chinese Masonic Society building on this site was one of three brick buildings erected in l878 by Chas. Horsnell and known for years as 'Horsnell's buildings'. They were occupied separately by different businesses until l9l9, when all three were purchased by the Chinese Masonic Society and became headquarters for the Chinese population, mainly market gardeners. Now the site of McDonald's Restaurant.

2 Site of Moore's Timber Yard 465 High Street

3 Moore's Office and Dwelling 463 High Street

4 General Store, Butter Factory 433 High Street

5 Echuca Water Tower Cnr High & Pakenham Streets

6 First No. 208 State School, Echuca

7 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Cnr Pakenham & Hare Streets

7A Suttons Bakery 216 Hare Street

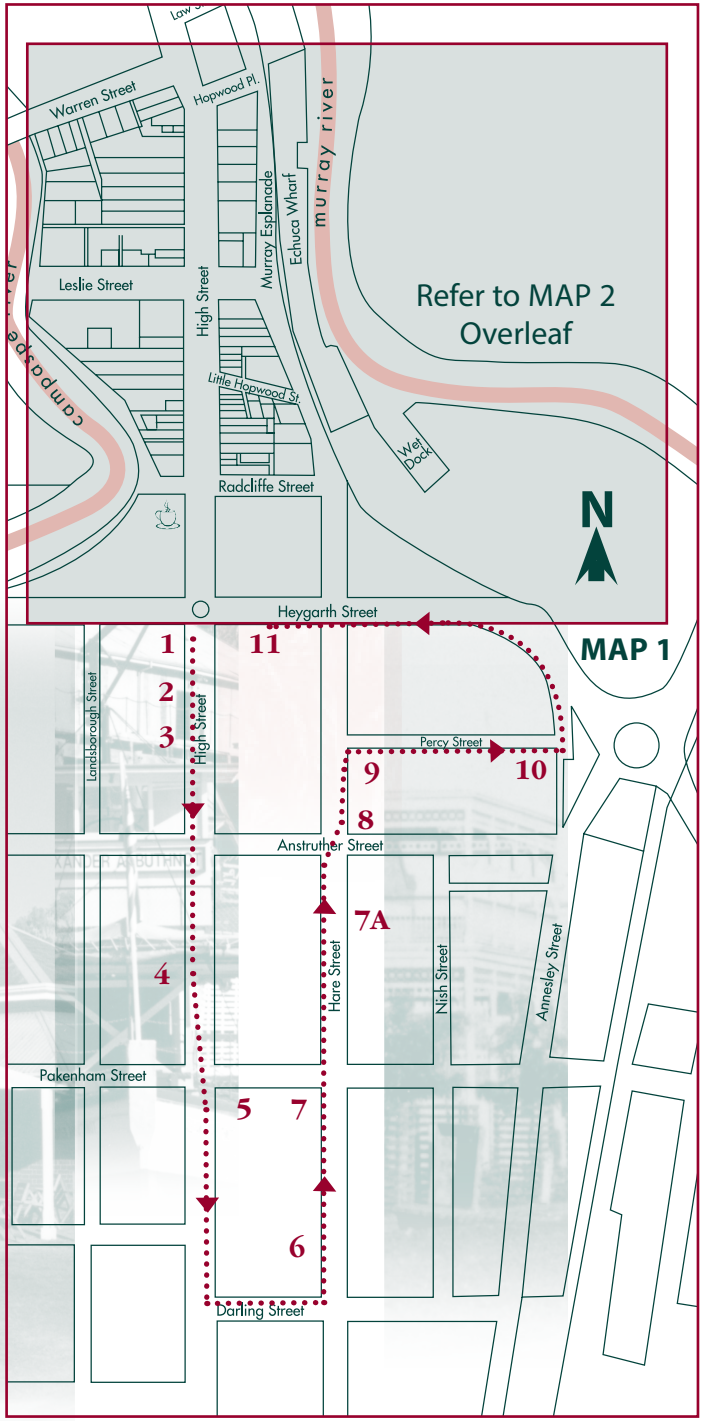
8 Former Echuca Post Office 252 Hare Street

9 Former Echuca Telephone Exchange
254 Hare Street

10 Former Wesley Church

11 Dr Crossen's Surgery
47-49 Heygarth Street
The single storey addition on the east side was a conservatory when Dr. D. Brown lived here prior to World War II. In later years it became an X-ray room.

■ *Eastern side of modern day High Street*



■ *Permewan Wright (Site 64) and Shackell's Bond Store Buildings (Site 26)*

SHIRE OF CAMPASPE
Lifestyle & Opportunity

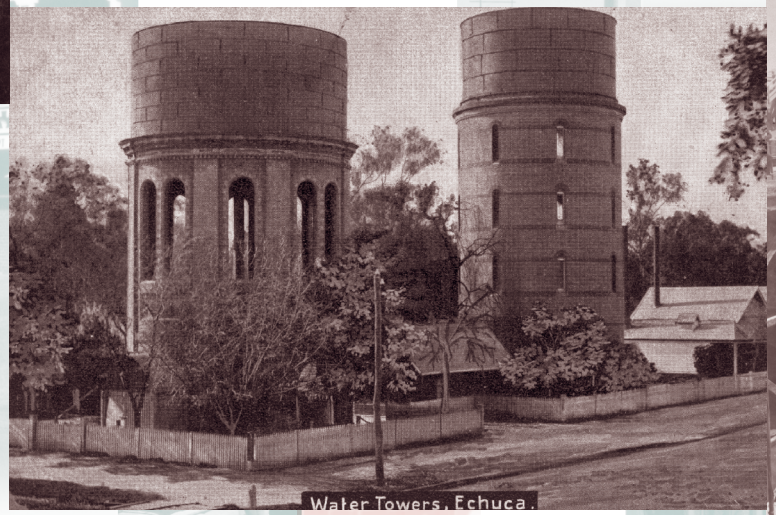
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ECHUCA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Shire of Campaspe gratefully acknowledges the Echuca Historical Society, whose members countless hours of research has been integral to the overall success of the project. In particular, the commitment by Helen Coulson. in researching the historic sites and ensuring the accuracy of the text has enabled the project to become one of the most successfully detailed historic reflections in Victoria.

■ *The Bridge Hotel (Site 33)*

Heritage walk
ECHUCA



■ *Water Towers located in front of the current municipal offices (Site16 - Circa 1860)*

SHIRE OF CAMPASPE
Lifestyle & Opportunity

Feel free to send your feedback to the Shire of Campaspe.

Ph: 1300 666 535

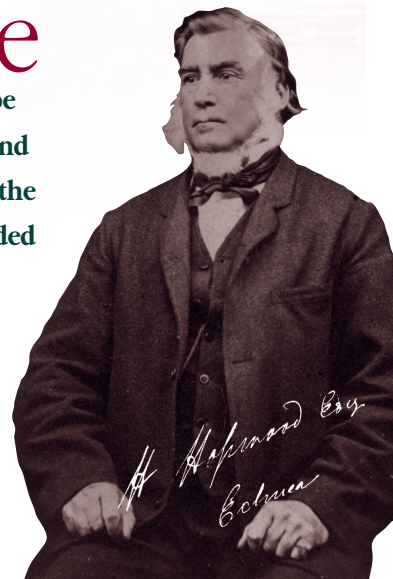
P.O.Box 35 Echuca Victoria 3564
or Email: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

Complete citations can be purchased from the Echuca Historical Society located at site 35.

Heritage walk
ECHUCA

Welcome

to historic Echuca. We hope you enjoy your stroll around the buildings and reading the plaques using this self guided tour. As you wander let your mind drift back to experience the thriving era of Echuca when steam ruled the river and rail.



12 493 High Street

13 495 - 497 High Street

14 Commercial Hotel 499 High Street

15 Former Echuca Town Hall Library, High Street

16 Site of Echuca Water Towers
Cnr Hare & Heygarth Streets

17 Former Victorian Railways Engine House
Tourist Information Centre, Off Heygarth Street

18 Murray Hotel 9-11 Murray Esplanade

19 Site of Hopwood's Store later Freeman's Foundry 13-17 Murray Esplanade

20 Brothel Little Hopwood Street

21 Site of Hopwood's New Road Inn
19 Murray Esplanade

22 Dock & Site of Wharf Extensions
Port Carpark

23 Steam Packet Hotel

24 Echuca Wharf Murray Esplanade

25 Customs House 2 Leslie Street

26 Shackell's Bond Store 41 Murray Esplanade

27 Star Hotel 45 Murray Esplanade

28 51 Murray Esplanade
Victorian Residence now Wistaria Tea Rooms

29 Salt Works Murray Esplanade

30 Site of St. George's Hall Murray Esplanade

31 Site of Evans Bros. Sawmill Murray Esplanade

32 Site of Echuca Morgue
River Bank, Murray Esplanade

33 Hopwood Gardens Cnr High Street & Hopwood Place

34 Bridge Hotel 1 Hopwood Place

35 Former Police Station now Historical Society Museum
Cnr Warren & Dickson Streets

36 7-11 Warren Street

37 Saleyards Hotel 17 Warren Street

38 Hopwood's Campaspe Crossing

39 Thomas Lawrence

40 Thomas Mitchell

41 First Crossing over Campaspe River
Look for plaque on tree stump in Leslie Street

42 Flood Erosion

43 Hopwood's "Gardens"

44 525/525A High Street

45 527-529 High Street

46 531 High Street Dalton's Printery

47 533 High Street Dalton's Printery

48 535 High Street Dalton's Printery

49 537 High Street

50 Colonial Bank 539 High Street

51 Hopwood's Store 541 High Street

52 District Survey Office 543 High Street

53 Bank of New South Wales
545-547 High Street

54 549 High Street

55 Early Bank Of New South Wales
551 High Street

56 559 High Street

57 Echuca Hotel 571 High Street

58 Shamrock Hotel 583 High Street

59 589 High Street

60 Bank of Victoria 591 High Street

61 632 High Street

■ *Looking South along High Street (Circa 1930)*

62 630 High Street
Wm. Ferguson, who came to Echuca in l866, was a saddler who first ran a business in Darling Street at Echuca. In l877 he launched the paddlesteamer 'Saddler' and travelled many river miles servicing his customers.

63 628 High Street

64 Permewan Wright Building 626 High Street

65 Site of Wharfmaster's House 1 Leslie Street

66 614 High Street
Thomas Mitchell bought this allotment Echuca's first land sale in at the l855, beating his great rival Henry Hopwood, who was forced to settle for the adjoining block to the south.

67 Murray River Hotel 612 High Street

68 608 High Street

69 Duke of Edinburgh Hotel 598 High Street

70 592 High Street

71 590 High Street

72 586 High Street

73 584 High Street

■ *Hopwood's Punt and Bridge Hotel (Circa 1865)*

74 582 High Street
This is one of the Echuca's earliest shops, having been built by Hopwood, Echuca's founder. In the l860s it became a drapery known as 'Melbourne House'. An unusual 'lantern' still survives and accounts for the unusual roofline.

75 578-580 High Street

76 574-576 High Street

77 570-572 High Street

78 568 High Street

79 564 - 566 High Street

80 554 High Street Cnr Radcliffe Street

81 552 High Street Cnr Radcliffe Street

82 Endota Spa - former YMCA 544 High Street

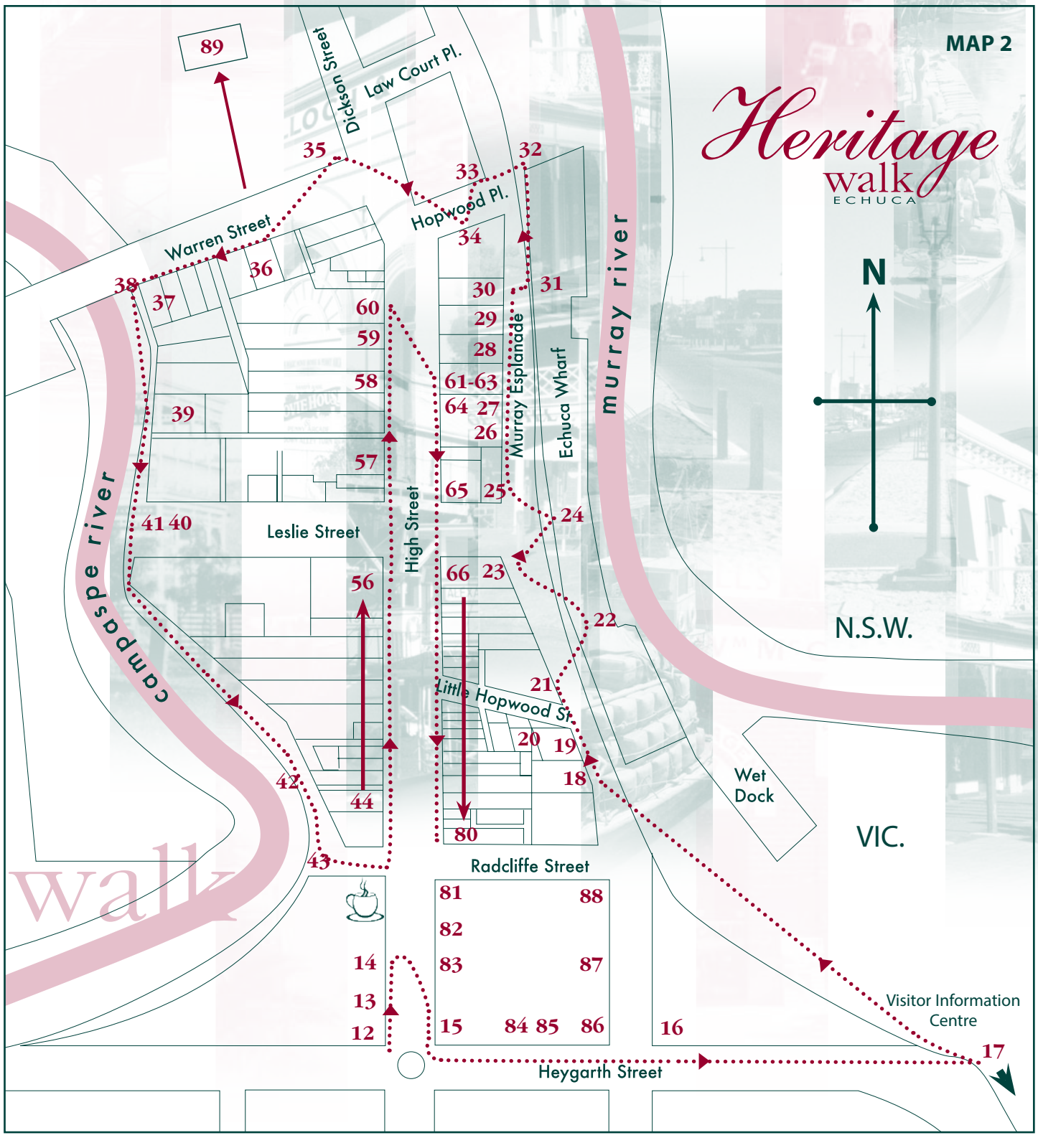
83 Nook on High - former YMCA 542 High Street

84 32 Heygarth Street

85 30 Heygarth Street

86 American Hotel 239-249 Hare Street

87 Nirebo 251-257 Hare Street

88 Site of Formber Bellvidere Hotel & Brewery
Cnr Hare & Radcliffe Street

89 19 Bolton St
Former Residence Captain James Hill of Snagging Boat "Grappler"