



IN TOUCH

Newsletter of the Echuca Historical Society Inc.



Cover Photo

Our cover photo for this edition is the first stage of the new Echuca water tower. Started in 1914, and taking just 4 months to complete, the tower stood 108 ft high with a tank capacity of 150,000 gallons. The contractor, Monier Concrete Company, founded by John Monash, used 646 tons of reinforced concrete in the tower's construction. Prolific Deakin Shire Engineer, A. E. Castles was the architect for the project. All up, the water tower cost £2973. Just behind the tower can be seen the old Fire station and to the left, on the corner of Hare and Pakenham streets, R.M. Scott's store can be just made out.

Editors Notes...

As we reach the halfway mark of the year it's great to see so much activity going on at the museum. The displays are crammed full of unique Echuca history and the yard and outdoor exhibits have never looked better.

Next time you're in, please check out the wonderful work, Tracey and Carol have done with our new hospital display.

Don't forget that society memberships are now due. Please check the email that went out recently.

AGM.

It is indeed that time of year again. All positions will be declared vacant. WE WANT YOU! If you fancy having a go at one of our executive positions, throw your hat into the ring. All members welcome to apply.



Occasionally while scouring the newspapers for research information I will come across strange or interesting articles published in the Riverine Herald.

These are just some of them...

The Riverine Herald

Mon 10 Dec 1951

WHAT IS IT?

FLEET FOOTED, FOUR LEGS AND HORNS

A fleet footed animal about the size of a two year old heifer, which soars over fences and drains with the grace of a colt, has been lurking in Echuca Village for about a week.

Farmers think the beast is an antelope.

Mr Jack Christy, a well known local farmer, said last night he saw the animal on Saturday morning lying in the grass not far from his farm "I drove back to have a look at it but my young son frightened it and it took off. It took the fences and the drains beautifully."

Mr Christy described the beast as having broad shoulders with a "tapered" body, a stumpy tail about a foot long, and "horns" that branched out like antlers.

Mr Christy was still amazed last night at the speed of the animal. "You should have seen him shift," he said.

"When the beast took off after he was frightened while I was driving to town, yesterday, I tried to head him off in my car and I travelled about half a mile before I got near him. Then he turned back but my son was

coming up behind on his motor bike and that caused the animal to run across the paddock."

Mr Christy said the last time he saw the "antelope" it was at the back of his house. He thinks it is still in the district.

His theory is that the beast has escaped from a sanctuary in the face of New South Wales fires which have been raging lately.

"Apparently there could be some truth in this idea of fires frightening animals because my brother said he saw a wild boar swimming the Murray at Christy's bend the other day. He tried to hit with a shovel but it threw him over a fence."

Attention Members

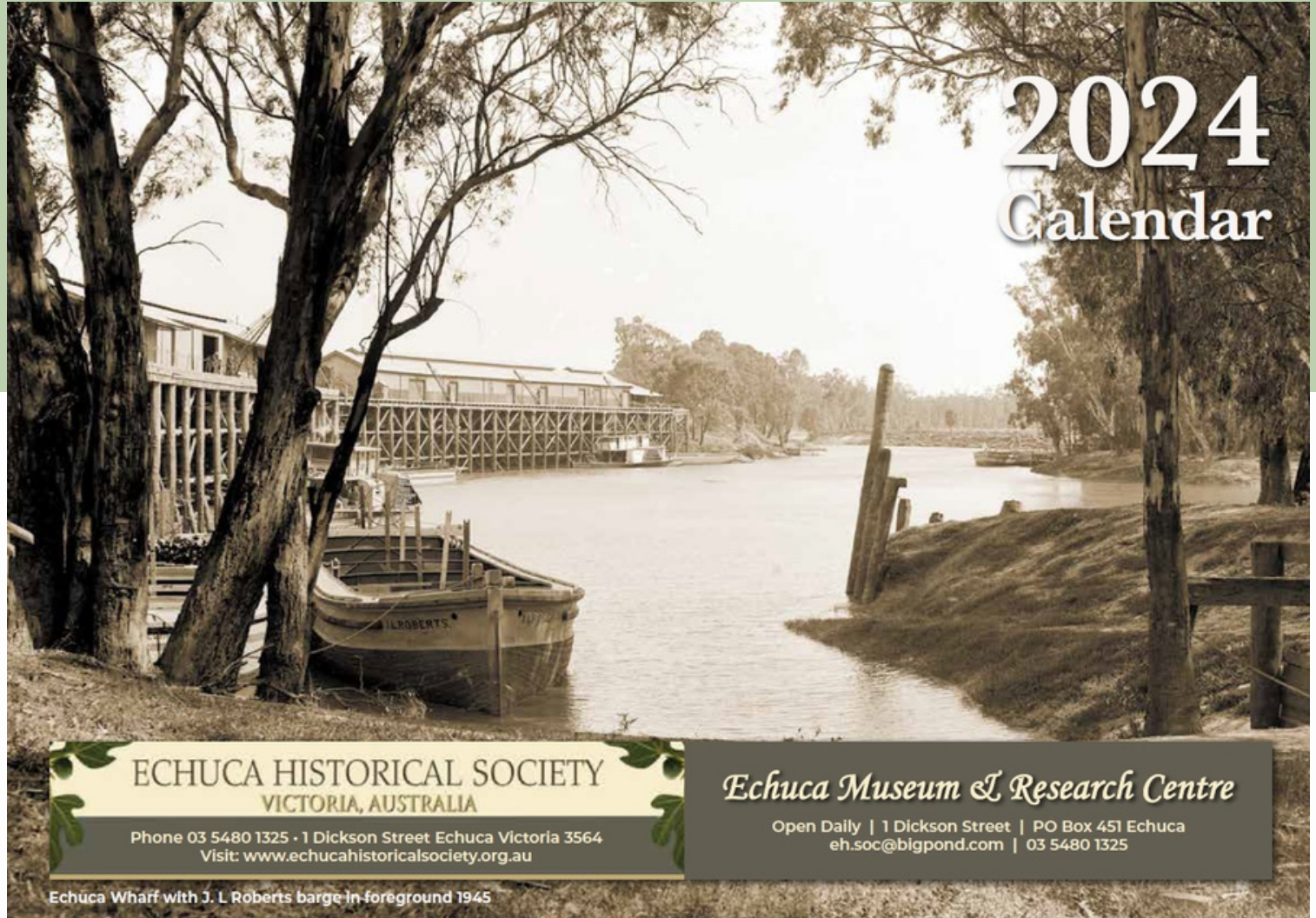
Bunnings... The time has come again...

We have a fundraising sausage sizzle scheduled for Sunday, 6th August. 8am till 4pm.

We need at least 3 to 4 people on at a time. So, if you have some time to spare, we would love for you to help us out. Please contact the President for more information.

EHS 2024 Calendar

Our 2024 calendars are almost here. A few sponsor advertisements are being finalized now and then it won't be long before the finished product will be in our hot little hands ready for sale. Thanks go to Deidre and Matt for their hard work on this project, as well as Tegan and Tanya at Revolution Print for their design experience and patience. Lastly, our sincerest gratitude to the sponsors. They made it happen. Year after year they continue to support the vital work of the Echuca Historical Society does in preserving and promoting Echuca's unique heritage.



2024 Calendar

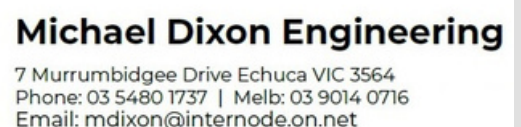
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Echuca Wharf with J. L. Roberts barge in foreground 1945



Around the Traps

There was a great turnout for the EHS volunteer appreciation afternoon tea, held at the end of May. We really are thankful for the wonderful work our volunteers do day in, day out. You folks, make the society and museum what it is.

A wonderful spread was put on by the organisers, including many delectable treats made by some of our volunteers. Thank you to all who attended. A huge thank you to the ladies facilitating and catering the event. We couldn't do it without you.



WANTED

Have an idea for an article or a photo you would like to see published in the newsletter?

Put pen to paper or have a hunt through those personal archives and see what you can find.

All related content welcome.

Please drop the President a line at eh.soc@bigpond.com or mawilson85@gmail.com

Calendar

Coming General Meetings -

13th July

10th August - **AGM**

14th September

Events

Moama Lights -

30 June to 23 July

Winter Blues Festival -

27 - 30 July



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