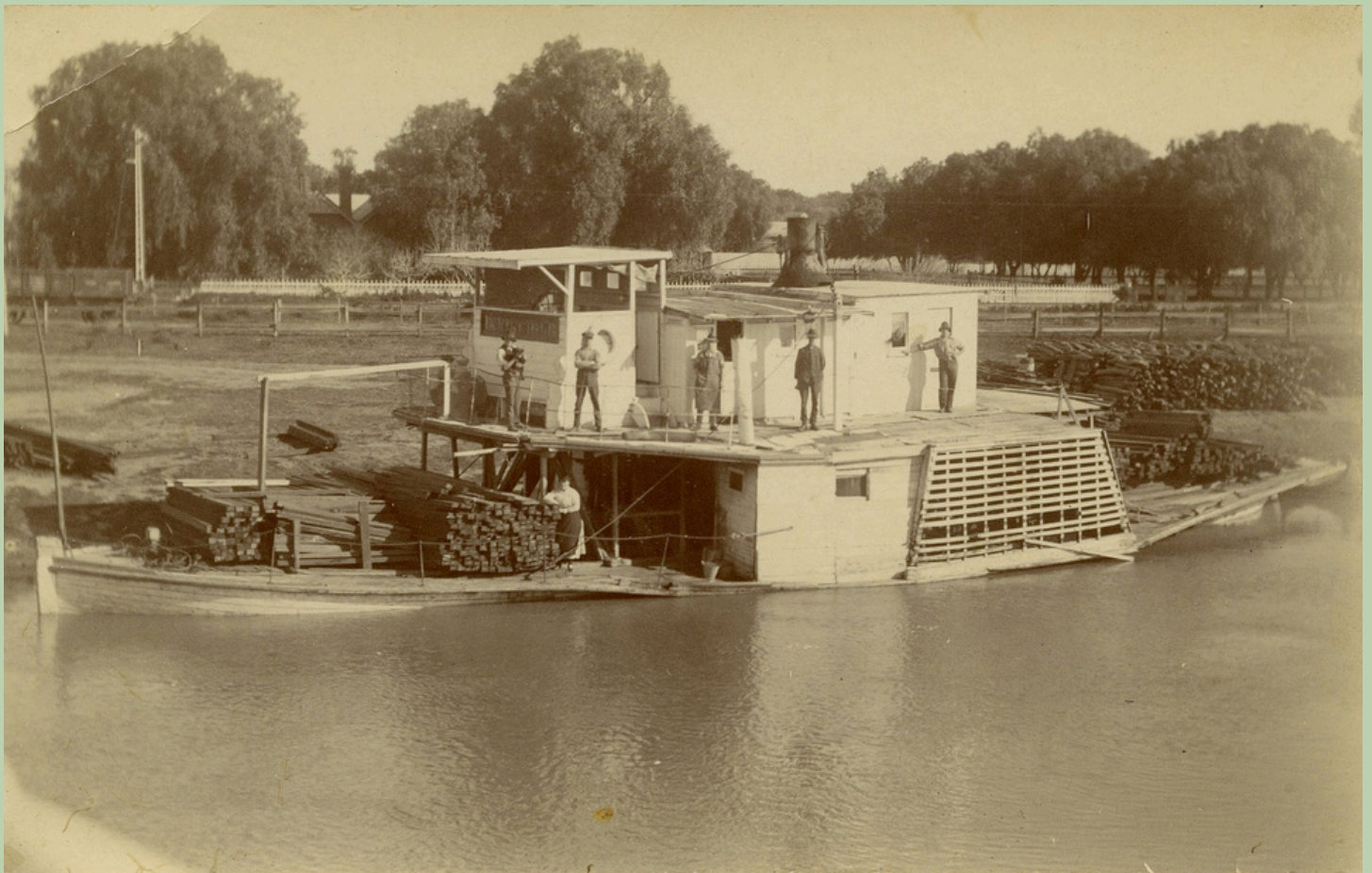




IN TOUCH

Newsletter of the Echuca Historical Society Inc.



Cover Photo

A photograph of P.S. Invincible.

A wooden hulled paddle steamer, she was built at Mr Robson's Gunbower Sawmill in 1877, by James Duncan for Echuca auctioneer Frederick Payne. She was a sister ship to Payne's P.S. Resolte, built in 1877. P.S. Invincible was of about 140 tons, 95 ft long, 16ft wide with a hold depth of 6ft. She was powered by two horizontal engines of 25 hp, made by the firm of Munro's of Melbourne.

P.S. Invincible was wrecked or broken up in about 1889.

Her last owner was Captain Charlie Hunt, who in 1889 built himself another boat named P.S. Invincible, which he used as a passenger and cargo vessel between Mildura and Swan Hill for many years.

Editors Notes...

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter.

Memberships are due, so please get them in as soon as possible.

We require researchers in the archive for online and in person requests. It's great fun, so if you are interested, please contact the president.

All members, volunteers and their partners are welcome to attend this year's Christmas Party. Please keep an eye out for an email invite.

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

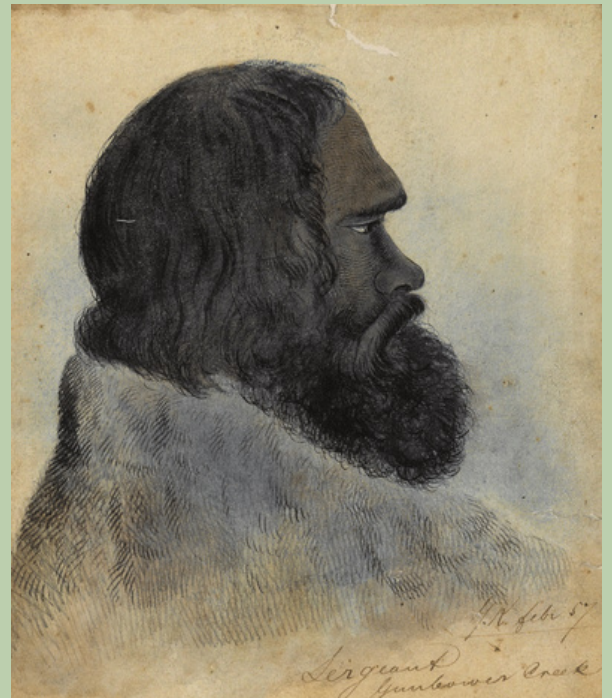
These are just some of them...

The Last of the Gunbower Tribe.

DEATH OF THE ABORIGINAL "BRADSHAW."

One by one the links that bind this young colony to the native race which, not so long ago, held sway, have been broken, and the chain has now become very short indeed. On Wednesday last there died at Gunbower the aboriginal known as "Bradshaw," the king and sole representative of a once numerous and powerful tribe of blacks known as the Gunbower tribe. "Bradshaw" was not an old man, but, like most of his class, he aged very quickly during the latter end of his existence. He may have been 55 years; perhaps 60, but he certainly looked much older. Years ago, when a young man, he was looked upon by the rest of the tribe as a kind of outlaw. Whilst others accommodated themselves as comfortably as possible to the civilised surroundings which had come into existence "Bradshaw" could not forget the savage instincts of the true-born blackfellow and refused to become friendly with the seductive white. Many tales have been told of "Bradshaw" in indication of his wild native nature. However, he gradually became civilised, and finally settled down at Gunbower where he has passed so many years. When young he was an athlete of considerable promise. He was a good cricketer, having performed well in many matches. At making and wielding native implements of warfare he could scarcely be excelled. During the years he lived at the Gunbower township Mr Mat Treacy supplied him with all his needs in the way of food and tobacco, and "Bradshaw" looked upon Mr Treacy, whom he called "boss" with much affection. About a week ago he became ill, and, though he had everything he wanted taken over to his "mia mia" the poor old man succumbed. He was buried yesterday afternoon in the Patho cemetery, and so ended the life of poor old "Bradshaw," the last of the Gunbower tribe. A magisterial enquiry was held into the cause of his death by Messrs Argyle and Treacy, J's.P., and a verdict of death from natural causes was recorded.

Article from the Riv
dated 1895

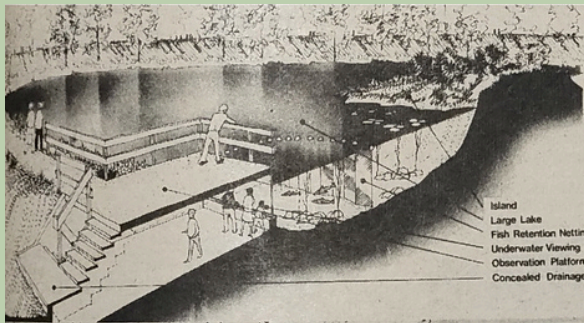
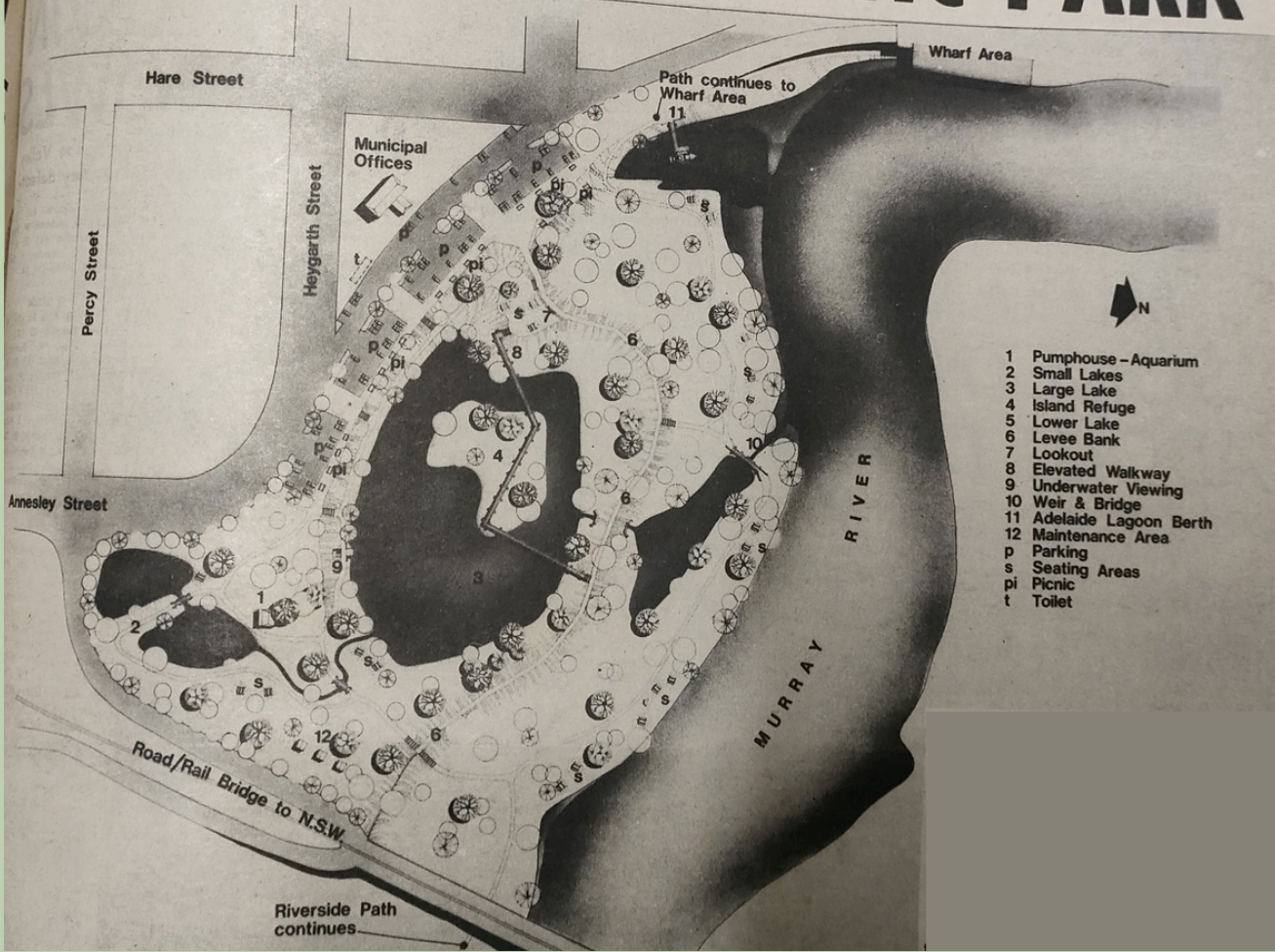


FIRST VIEWS OF AQUATIC PARK

Have you ever wondered what that concrete structure on the bank of the aquatic reserve lagoon was for?

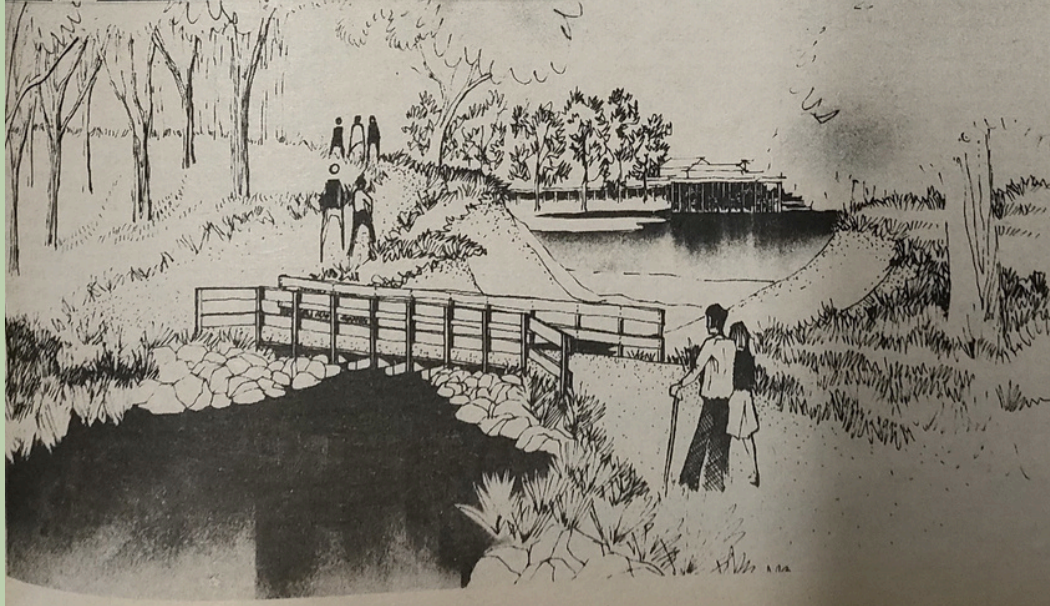
Wonder no longer.

It was an underwater view area for viewing native fish of the Murray River.



● LEFT—A cutaway view of how the underwater viewing area will look at the edge of the main lake. The viewing area is No. 9 on the plan.

● BELOW—The rustic bridge over the weir through which the water from the four lakes will return to the Murray after being pumped into the first small lake by pumps in the old pump house (No. 1 on plan). The weir is No. 10 on the plan.



With more than satisfactory progress on construction, EchUCA's aquatic wildlife park is beginning to take shape, the town clerk, Mr Kevin McCartney, said today, when releasing these architect's impressions of how the park will look.

The \$90,000 park is scheduled for completion in June next year, but many aspects will be available to the public before then.

Mr McCartney said the main protective levee bank had been completed and the excavation started on the underwater viewing cell in the main lake area.

The island in the lake was also being shaped, while drainage and associated works were being undertaken.

Provision for parking and picnic areas is being made on the Heygarth Street frontage of the park.

Renovation of the old pumphouse building has been completed and planning is advanced for the interior.

Mr McCartney said native grasses would be encouraged around the levee and it is proposed that artificial watering systems will be installed to ensure continued growth in the park.

Lighting at night

Feeding arrangements for fish and birdlife have been included and it is also proposed that "moonlight" lighting will enable the park to be opened at night.

It is stressed that the main lake will not cover the whole of the area enclosed by the main levee (see picture above).

When completed the park will feature a complete collection of Murray River water and bird life for viewing by the public, while providing a restful natural bushland setting close to the heart of the city.

EHS 2024 Calendar

All sold

Thank you to our very generous sponsors below.



Michael Dixon Engineering

7 Murrumbidgee Drive Echuca VIC 3564
Phone: 03 5480 1737 | Melb: 03 9014 0716
Email: mdixon@internode.on.net

Calendar

Coming General Meetings

14 November

12 December

Christmas Party

Saturday 7th December

12.30pm

Around the Traps

We are looking for volunteers to help out with our displays and exhibitions. If this sounds interesting to you, or you'd like more information, please reach out. Our textile displays are approaching change over time, so here is your opportunity to get up close and personal with some of our exceptional artefacts.

Contact the President or Treasurer

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



Murray River, Echuca.

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