Pen Nib

1846

Era	1846
Where	Site 1A
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	3
Rarity	Rare

This is an example of one of the first manufactured pen nibs. Before this, people would sharpen the end of large feather, a quill, and dip this in ink to use as a pen. The hollow shaft of the feather held some of the ink, allowing for more writing between ink dippings. The first factory produced pen nibs that were made of steel. A metal nib retains a sharp point or edge much longer than a quill which wears out quickly and requires skill to sharpen. Gold-plated nibs like this one were a luxury item. Gold is a soft metal and wears away more quickly than steel but it produces a much smoother writing action, making it easier and more pleasurable to use.

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Ink Well

1840

MSS2 2467

Era	1840
Where	Site 1A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This handsome glass ink well would have sat on the desk in an office or study and been used with a nibbed pen. Perhaps it belonged to someone whose work included writing many letters and reports? See how its unusual shape creates the perfect angle for dipping a pen. This ink well is both decorative and practical. Its flat sides and bottom make it a jar that won't topple or roll because no-one wants to deal with the business of spilt ink!

Writing Slate

1840

Era	1840
Where	Site 1A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	9
Rarity	Common

Writing slates and slate pencils were a common part of everyday life in colonial Australia. Paper was scarce and expensive. The slate could be used for working out sums or learning to write and spell. Sometimes lines were etched on the slate as a guide for neater writing. The slate could be wiped clean with a damp piece of cloth or sponge. Once children had perfected their lettering on the slate, they were allowed to practise using pen nibs and ink.

Hair Comb

mid 1800s

Era	mid 1800s
Where	Site 1A
Material found in	Sand
Total to be found	3
Rarity	Rare

In the 1800s, women and girls wore their hair long and washed it less than once a week. Combs like these, along with pins and ribbons, were used to keep their hair tidy and off their faces. Before the introduction of plastic, hair combs were typically made of wood, bone or even tortoiseshell and ivory. Decorative combs were popular gifts. This hair comb is plain and simple. It's likely someone wore it every day.

Tooth

1900–1920

Era	1900-1920
Where	Site 1B
Material found in	1 gold and not gold in sand, 1 gold and not gold in gravel
Total to be found	10 (2 with gold filling)
Rarity	Common

Yes, these really are human teeth. Unlike the baby teeth you lost as a child, they have been pulled out by the roots! We can see that these teeth are badly decayed and would have given their owners a lot of pain. There do seem to be a lot of teeth in this location. Keep digging, you might find one with a gold filling!

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MINECRAFT
EDUCATION EDITION

Medicine Bottle

1900

Era	1900
Where	Site 1B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

Small bottles like this were used for pain medicines. At this time, prescriptions were not strictly regulated and many strong, even dangerous, medicines were readily available - although none of them were properly tested to see if they actually worked. Most remedies from this era were alcohol-based, which might explain their popularity! The square sides and shape of the bottle served as a reminder that what was inside was for medical use only - and to keep it away from children. It also made the bottle easier to locate if you awoke in the dark and needed to it find it quickly.

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Dentures

1900

Era	1900
Where	Site 1B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This is an early set of false teeth or dentures. Many people had a full set of dentures made to replace all the teeth they had lost through tooth decay. Early dentures were not very comfortable to wear but they were better than trying to speak or chew with no teeth at all! Before going to sleep, people would take their false teeth out and put them in a glass of water in the bathroom or next to their bed.

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Dice

1870

Era	1870
Where	Site 2A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	8
Rarity	Common

This is one of many dice made of cattle bone and ivory found on the archaeological dig site. The stamp on the dice was part of an early system of gambling tax. It showed that the appropriate duty had been paid when the dice was bought and the dice itself was "true" not loaded! If you were caught playing with an untaxed dice, you could receive a hefty fine.

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Swizzle Stick

late 1800s

Era	late 1800s
Where	Site 2A
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	7
Rarity	Rare

A glass swizzle stick was used to stir mixed drinks. Building a new city was thirsty work and fresh water was not always easy to find. Fizzy tonics were added to strong alcohol (spirits) to make a refreshing brew.

Some people found that the fizz gave them a burp or fart, but a brisk stir flattened the bubbles - problem solved!

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Corkscrew

late 1800s

Era	late 1800s
Where	Site 2A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

Old fashioned bottles of alcohol were sealed with a cork to keep the contents safe and air tight. The seal was removed by twisting a corkscrew into the cork and then levering the whole thing out.

Lollies Jar

1920s

Before plastic packaging, many products were stored and sold in reusable glass jars. This one from Bates Chocolate Depot would make it easy to see the colourful treats inside.

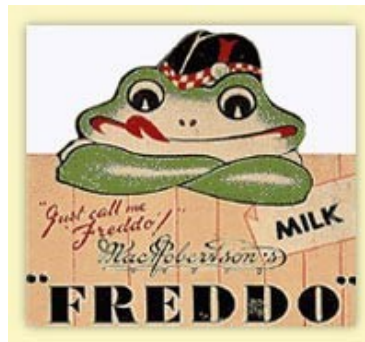|	
Era	1920s
Where	Site 2B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	10
Rarity	Common

Freddo Frog Advert

1930s

Image Courtesy
Public domain

Era	1930s
Where	Site 2B
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

You have found a scrap of a very early advertisement for Freddo Frogs. The Freddo Frog was invented in Melbourne in 1930 and is still sold today worldwide! At first there were just four varieties available: milk chocolate, white chocolate, half milk/half white, and milk chocolate with peanuts.
A Freddo Frog cost 1 pence (1d) in old money (around 30c in today's money, 2019).

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Shop Receipt
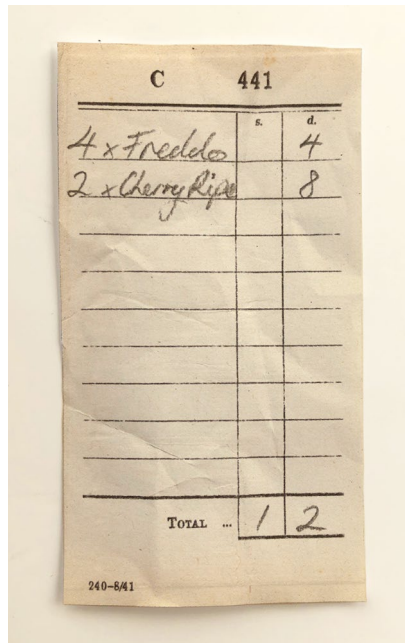
1920–1950

Era	1920-1950
Where	Site 2B
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This is a hand-written shop receipt for a small number of goods. It uses the pre-decimal system of currency: pounds, shillings and pence.
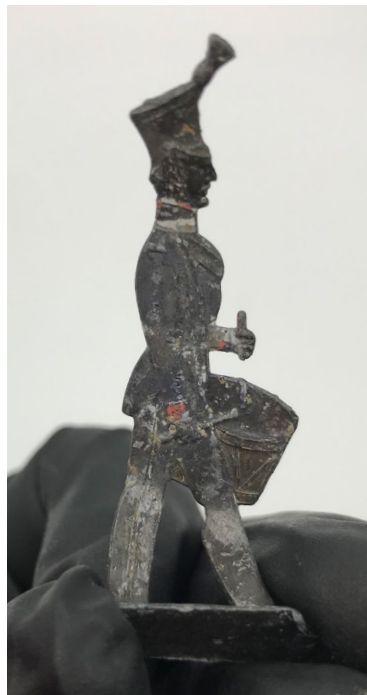
12 pence (d) = 1 shilling (s)

20 shillings = 1 pound (£)

In 1930 £1 (one pound) was worth around $75 in today's money (2019).

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SECONDARY STUDENTS

MINECRAFT
EDUCATION EDITION

Toy Soldier

1850–1890

Era	1850-1890
Where	Site 3A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This 5cm tall toy soldier made from an amalgam of lead and tin would have been part of a set. It is German-made and depicts a British army drummer from the time of the Battle of Waterloo (1815). Drummers sent signals and kept the beat as soldiers marched into battle. You can still see the remains of his brightly painted red coat.

Chinese Lion Teapot Lid

1860–1890

Era	1860-1890
Where	Site 3A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This rare decorative find sat on top of a teapot lid. The Chinese Lion is a symbol of wealth and good fortune. Steam from the hot tea would escape from its mouth. It probably arrived in Australia during the peak of the Gold Rush. Many Chinese people made their way to Melbourne to try their luck on the goldfields or set up shop selling supplies to other hopeful gold prospectors.
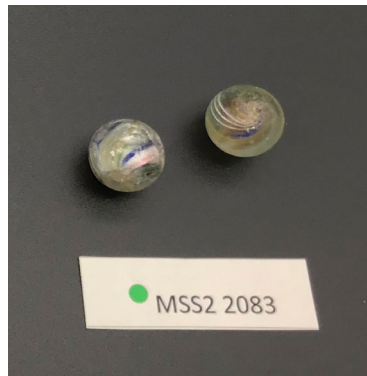
Miniature Doll's Head

1850s

Era	1850s
Where	Site 3A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	2
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This tiny painted china head comes from a doll known as a "Frozen Charlotte". The name comes from a 19th century ballad about a vain girl who refused to cover up on a winter night and froze to death. The dolls ranged in size from under an inch to 18 inches plus. They were often put in dolls houses and the smallest ones were sometimes used as charms in Christmas puddings. A rarer version, with a glazed china front and an unglazed stoneware back, could float and was a popular bath time toy.

Marbles

1850–1890

MSS2 2083

Era	1850-1890
Where	Site 3A
Material found in	4 in Gravel, 4 in Sand
Total to be found	2
Rarity	Ultra Rare

Children in colonial Melbourne would have played with marbles just like children today. Early marbles were hand-crafted from porcelain, earthenware, stoneware and glass. Some were highly individual and collected for their beauty. Marbles could be won from other children in games of skill and chance. The machine-made glass marbles we know today were not produced until the early 1900s and led to the golden age of marbles spanning the 1920s and 30s. Of course, marbles were always getting lost. Some things never change!

Printing Plate

1890–1905

Era	1890-1905
Where	Site 3B
Material found in	Sand
Total to be found	8
Rarity	Common

Before the invention of digital printing, everything that was printed had to be "type set" or reproduced from a plate like this. Can you see how the lettering is all back-to-front? Once fresh ink was applied and the plate made contact with paper, everything would appear the right way around. This plate was used to print the wrapping paper for bars of Empire Soap.

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Light Bulb

early 1900s

Era	early 1900s
Where	Site 3B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

This rare find is a very early electric light bulb. Amazingly it was found completely intact! The filament is made of tungsten and the globe would originally have been filled with an inert gas such as argon or nitrogen. Electric lighting was a relatively new innovation at this time and expensive to install - definitely a luxury item for the average home owner. Whoever used this space decided to invest in good lighting, perhaps because they were working both day and night.

Crucible

early 1900s

Era	early 1900s
Where	Site 3B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	7
Rarity	Rare

These ceramic crucibles are heat resistant. They would have been placed in a furnace and used to melt down small amounts of a metal, which was then poured into moulds to form objects like printing plates.

Weight

1800s

Era	1800s
Where	Site 4A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

These days most foods come ready made and packaged but in colonial Australia people bought raw ingredients and cooked nearly all of their meals at home. This weight and several others of different sizes would have been used with a set of scales to weigh items like butter or flour. They used the Imperial measurement system: a one pound (1lb) weight is equivalent to around 453 grams. Once the scales balanced, you'd know exactly how much the customer wanted to buy and could work out the correct price (in pre-decimal money of course).

Biscuits

1855

Era	1855
Where	Site 4A
Material found in	Ash (Black concrete powder)
Total to be found	10
Rarity	Common

Very few food items from this time have survived but we bet you'll dig up more than one biscuit here! The shape and design of this biscuit tells us that it was made in an English factory, Huntley and Palmer, which first opened in 1822. By 1900 Huntley and Palmer was the world's largest biscuit company. Once you have guessed the identity of this site, you'll learn how these biscuits came to be here and why their original designs, moulded into the dough, are as clear as the day they were made.

Marmalade Jar

1855–1890

Era	1855-1890
Where	Site 4A
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This jar of marmalade came all the way from Scotland. Janet Keiller and her son James started the first ever marmalade business in 1797. They modified a quince-based recipe, "marmalato", by using Seville oranges, including pieces of rind, to create marmalade. The peel was thought to aid digestion. By the late 19th Century, James Keiller and Son were shipping their products all over the world. Goods that came from Great Britain were often expensive and a bit of a treat. You wouldn't expect to find more than one jar of marmalade in a single home.

Spanish Tile

1930

Era	1930
Where	Site 4B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

This highly decorative Spanish tile was part of the wall frieze in a very smart establishment. In 1930, Melbourne's population was still quite small: 1 million people (4.5 million people live in Melbourne today, 2019). As a result there was not much choice or variety in the things that were being made locally. Many people were migrants from Europe. They liked to go out to places that reminded them of their "old world", so these imported Spanish tiles were just the thing.

Cutlery

1930–1940

Era	1930-40
Where	Site 4B
Material found in	Gravel
Total to be found	10
Rarity	Common

This cutlery would have been part of a proper dining set with different knives and forks for each course. Perhaps they were used with cloth napkins and individual bread plates on the side. How many sets of cutlery have you found? Are there too many of them to have come from one family home?

Gold Bird Brooch

early 1900s

Era	early 1900s
Where	Site 4B
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

The person who lost this gold brooch must have been sad to find it missing. It's a pretty piece of jewellery with a little blue enamelled bird - something that might have been given as a gift and worn out for a special occasion.

Marbles

1850–1890

Era	1850-1890
Where	Cesspit
Material found in	Sand
Total to be found	5
Rarity	Rare

Children in colonial Melbourne would have played with marbles just like children today. Early marbles were hand-crafted from porcelain, earthenware, stoneware and glass. Some were highly individual and collected for their beauty. Marbles could be won from other children in games of skill and chance. The machine-made glass marbles we know today were not produced until the early 1900s and led to the golden age of marbles spanning the 1920s and 30s. Of course, marbles were always getting lost. Some things never change!

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Gold Sovereign

1879

Image Courtesy

State Library Victoria

Era	1879
Where	Cesspit
Material found in	Dirt
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

Oops! Did this coin fall out of someone's pocket when they pulled down their trousers to go to the toilet? In any case, it was lost for good until you found it. In 1870 this gold sovereign was worth £1 (1 pound) - and had the buying power of about $116 in today's money (2019).

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Fruit Seeds

Various

Era	Various
Where	Cesspit
Material found in	6 in Gravel, 4 in Dirt
Total to be found	10
Rarity	Common

Undigested pips, seeds and shells from every kind of fruit, vegetable and nut found their way into cesspits which were both rubbish tips and part of the sewerage system. Archaeologists like to investigate cesspits because they are a great place to learn what people ate over time.

Tree Stump

Pre-Colonial

Image Courtesy
State Library of Victoria

Era	Pre-Colonial
Where	Excavation site
Material found in	Jutting out of 'clay'
Total to be found	1
Rarity	Ultra Rare

The remains of this huge tree stump, deep underground, remind us what was on this site long before Europeans came to Melbourne in the 1830s. Close to the river and the sea, this area was once densely forested and many Indigenous Australians lived well on this land. The colonial settlers cut down these forests to make way for their growing city. Few trees of this age and size remain in Melbourne today.

Site 1A – Girls' School

1838–1850

This was the site of Roxburgh Ladies' Seminary, Melbourne's first girls' school.

The owner, Nichola Anne Cooke, sailed to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in August 1838 on the *Amelia Thompson*. She moved to Melbourne, where she taught the daughters of John Batman, who founded the European settlement. After losing her mother and three sisters when the ship *Yarra Yarra* sank in Bass Strait, Cooke set up a school in Roxburgh Cottage, a building she rented from John Batman. By May 1839 the school had 15 pupils. Two of John Batman's daughters were boarders at her school.

After John Batman died in 1839, Nichola Cooke fought a legal battle to stay at Roxburgh Cottage and successfully argued that her school provided stability in the lives of Batman's daughters. Her victory was remarkable given that at this time women didn't even have the right to own property or vote.

Nichola Cooke overcame many difficulties to earn her living as a single woman in the new settlement. She went on to become one of the first women to own land in the Port Phillip District. She continued to run Roxburgh Ladies' Seminary until 1851 but eventually returned to Ireland, where she died in 1867.

Only the wealthiest families could afford to send their daughters to a private girls' school. Most girls were educated at home and were set to work as servants or in the family business in their early teens. The girls of Roxburgh Ladies' Seminary were not being educated for employment. Along with basic mathematics and home economics, lessons would have included needlework, music and dancing. These young women were expected to make good marriages and run a household with servants of their own.

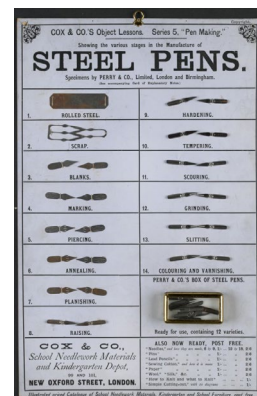| Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Ink Well	1840	1	Ultra Rare
	Pen Nib	1846	3	Rare
	Hair Comb	mid 1800s	3	Rare
	Writing Slate	1840	9	Common
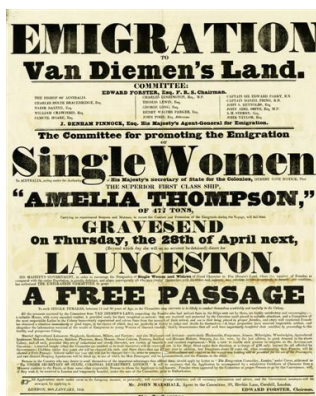
Poster advertising free passage on the Amelia Thompson for women.

Public Records Office Victoria

John Batman, 1800-1839.

State Library of Victoria

Various styles of steel pen nibs. C. 1880s.

State Library of Victoria

Site 1B – Dentist

1900–1930

Dentist JJ Forster had a surgery at 11 Swanston Street from 1898 to the 1930s.

More than 1,000 teeth were uncovered during the archaeological dig, many with massive holes that represented years of pain.

JJ Forster's advertisements said that he could remove teeth ''truthfully without pain'' but that almost certainly wasn't the case. In the early 1900s anaesthesia for tooth removal by lever or forceps might involve cocaine, novocaine or nitrous oxide. But these drugs were not as reliable or long-lasting as the lignocaine or articaine that are used today. There was also no paracetamol or ibuprofen for post-procedure pain and no antibiotics to fight infection.

In the days before fluoride was added to our water, people had far more tooth decay. The dentist would hollow out your cavity using a vibrating, pedal-driven drill. It would have been horrible.

Not surprisingly, most people only went to see a dentist as the very last resort. Some even chose to have all their teeth removed and replaced with a set of dentures rather than live with the misery of regular tooth pain.

JJ Forster was very wealthy and in 1909 he was the target of a high-profile blackmail case. He received letters demanding £50 under threat of death "by bullet or bomb". The police traced the threat to a 16-year-old boy, who planned to use the cash to buy a film projector and tour the country screening movies.

|	Item	Era	No.	Rarity
	Dentures	1900	1	Ultra Rare
	Tooth (with gold filling)	1900-1920	2	Ultra Rare
	Medicine Bottle	1900	5	Rare
	Tooth	1900-1920	8	Common
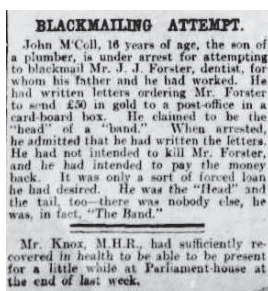
Newspaper clipping covering the attempted blackmail case.

National Library of Australia (Trove) - The Australasian (Sat 17 July 1909, p. 42)

Tooth powder, an early and not very effective form of toothpaste.

National Museum Australia
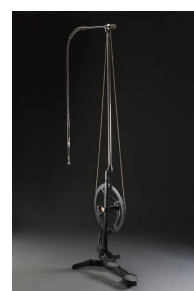
Pedal driven dentist's drill.

National Museum Australia

Advertisement JJ Forster dentist.

National Library of Australia (Trove) The Herald, 5th February 1924

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Site 2A – Hotel

1856–1910

There were pubs and hotels on this site from the very earliest days of the Melbourne settlement.

In 1859 the Freemasons' Hotel was one of these businesses. By the mid-1890s this site became the Gippsland Hotel.

In Australia, until recently (late 1980s), pubs were forced, by the liquor laws, to provide accommodation and so they are also known as hotels.

Colonial hotels served spirits like rum or brandy more than beer which requires preservatives to stay fresh. Small amounts of spirits were mixed with tonic or fizzy carbonated sodas to take away the strong taste and make a more palatable and refreshing drink.

Australian James Harrison was a pioneer of refrigeration but there was little chance of a cold drink until the introduction of electricity in the early part of the 20th Century. Before that ice was shipped to the colony from as far away as Boston in the United States.

An iceman would visit each premises and people would store their supply in thick ice chests.

Hotels in the 19th century were centres for entertainment, including: singalongs, gambling with dice and cards, climbing greasy poles, catching greased-up pigs, apple bobbing, boxing or bowling matches and in the rougher areas, a dogfight or cockfight.

Many women worked in pubs and hotels and some were even owners but they were not considered a "proper" place for a woman to be seen, especially if she wasn't with a man. Over time some hotels opened separate "ladies lounges" but in Australia, women were banned from entering a public bar until well into the 1970s.

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Corkscrew	late 1800s	1	Ultra Rare
	Swizzle Stick	late 1800s	7	Rare
	Dice	1870	8	Common

"Codd-neck" bottles contained a marble to trap in the soda bubbles.

Auckland War Memorial Museum

The transportation of ice.

Ray - Harper's Weekly, 30 August 1884

Site 2B – Chocolate Shop

1921–1935

Bates Chocolate Depot was once on this site.

Melbourne has a long tradition of independent confectionery makers including Bates, Allens and MacRobertson's. In 1930, the MacRobertson's chocolate company was looking to add a new product to its children's range. The original plan was to launch a mouse-shaped chocolate bar, but a young employee, Harry Melbourne, suggested that a frog would be better because women and children were afraid of mice. Freddo Frogs are still in production today. More than 90 million are sold in Australia each year alone!

The story of confectionery mirrors the history of manufacturing as a whole. At first sweet-making took place in the home, then it moved to bakeries and pastry shops. Next the manufacturing and retailing functions were separated as family-owned businesses grew and distributed their wares. In the 25 years to 1985, most of these family companies went into decline and were bought out by multinationals. Freddo Frogs became part of the Cadbury product range in 1967, when MacRobertson's were sold to Cadbury.

Sir Macpherson Robertson was perhaps Australia' greatest ever entrepreneur and philanthropist. He fought his way to the top of the confectionery industry, having started as a sugar-stirrer at age eleven. He founded MacRobertson's in his mother's bathroom in the 1880s. Products like Cherry Ripe (launched in 1924) and Freddo Frog made it a giant. Robertson was big self-promoter but he also gave a great deal of money and support to good causes. Among other things, he funded the explorer Mawson's Antarctic expeditions and a series of international air races. When he died, Robertson's estate was valued at almost £600,000 - that's equivalent to at least $185,000,000 today (2019)!

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Freddo Frog Advert	1930s	1	Ultra Rare
	Shop Receipt	1920-1950	5	Rare
	Lollies Jar	1920s	10	Common

1941 newspaper advertisement for Freddo Frogs.

National Library of Australia (Trove) The Sun, Sunday March 2 ,1941, p.8

Interior of a sweet shop.

State Library of Victoria

Macpherson Robertson, 1859-1945, founder of confectionery company MacRobertson's.

State Library of Victoria

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Site 3A – Home

1850–1890

With all the noise and traffic along Swanston St today we can forget that, at one time, many families lived on top of or behind the businesses on Melbourne's busiest street.

These homes were small and cramped, it was not unusual to find five children sharing a bedroom - often they shared a bed.

Most homes didn't have a separate bathroom. Families would place a tin or copper tub in front of the fire and everyone would take it in turns to use the same water. Grown-ups went first!

Finding the lid from a Chinese teapot reminds us that not all of early Melbourne's colonial settlers came from Europe. News of the gold rush spread fast and many Chinese people arrived to try their luck on the goldfields. Shipping distances from China were half as long as those from Europe and many Chinese immigrants soon discovered they could make a more reliable living using their business contacts to import supplies for the burgeoning colony. As a result Chinese pottery, silk and other decorative items became very fashionable in the latter part of the 19th century and were a major influence on art and design.

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Chinese Lion Teapot Lid	1860-1890	1	Ultra Rare
	Miniature Doll's Head	1850s	2	Ultra Rare
	Toy Soldier	1850-1890	5	Rare
	Marbles	1850-1890	8	Common

A mother bathing her children in a tub, late 1800s.
State Library of Victoria

Kitchen, late 1800s.
State Library of Victoria

Painting of Chinese settlers leaving Melbourne for the goldfields. Samuel Charles Brees, 'Flemington Melbourne' (1850s).
State Library of Victoria

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Site 3B – Printer

1890–1905

Hundreds of new and used lead type and printing plates, dating back to the late 19th century, were discovered at our city dig sites. These are the remains of the stationers and printers that previously called this area home.

Imagine if your next report had to be printed by placing individual metal letters one at a time into a frame - back to front! That's how early newspapers were produced. Printers would work long into the night "type setting" each page ready to be inked and then pressed onto single sheets of paper to form multiple copies of the next day's news.

At first the printing press was cranked by hand, then during the 19th century two ideas altered the design of the printing press entirely. First was the introduction of steam power to run the machinery. Second was the replacement of the printing flatbed with the faster rotary motion of cylinders.

Soon other inventions were added, such as cheaper paper made from wood pulp instead of rags. Later in the 19th century the Linotype machine was invented. It sped up the process by squirting molten lead into lines of type ready to be printed. That's where we get the phrase, "hot off the presses".

Early newspapers had few very pictures. These had to be hand drawn and printed from individually moulded plates. Businesses would have their own printing plates made up for their labels, wrapping paper and advertisements. Plates for "Empire Soap" were uncovered on the city dig sites – linking them to one of the earliest and most prominent Melbourne candle and soap manufacturers, George Mowling & Sons.

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Light Bulb	Early 1900s	1	Ultra Rare
	Crucible	Early 1900s	7	Rare
	Printing Plate	1890-1905	8	Common

Advertisement for Turner's General Printing Office.
State Library of Victoria

Printing *The Age* newspaper in 1883.
State Library of Victoria

Site 4A – Grocer

1850–1890

We know that grocers' stores operated on this site throughout the second half of the 19th century.

The colonial settlement was small, although it grew quickly once the Gold Rush started in 1852. Thousands of hopeful prospectors arrived in Melbourne, where they stopped to buy supplies before heading to the goldfields around Ballarat and Bendigo.

Most of the items to be found at the grocer would be familiar to us today. Food and consumables included coffee beans, spices, baking powder, oatmeal, flour, sugar, eggs, milk, butter, fruit and vegetables, honey and molasses, crackers, cheese, syrup, dried beans, cigars and tobacco.

Even so, many familiar items were scarce and new migrants missed the variety of foods they had enjoyed back home. There was money to be made from shipping these items to Australia to satisfy this demand. Many goods came from

Great Britain. They travelled by ship and could take more than three months to get to Australia. The biscuits and jars of marmalade are good examples of this.

The archaeologists found many biscuits on this site. They appear almost perfectly preserved. Historical records show there was a fire at John Connell's grocer shop in 1855. The biscuits were preserved by the heat of the blaze and stayed hidden underground in a layer of ash until they were discovered as part of the archaeological dig. The biscuits are now mostly charcoal and you would not want to eat one!

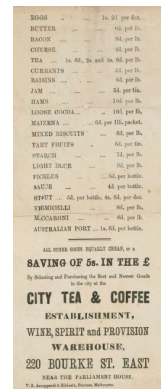| Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Weight	1800s	1	Ultra Rare
	Marmalade Jar	1855-1890	5	Rare
	Biscuits	1855	10	Common

The inside of a grocery store with balance scales.

State Library of Victoria
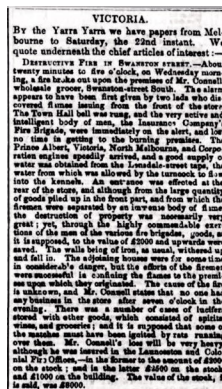
Newspaper clipping about the fire at Connell's.

National Library of Victoria (Trove), The Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 26 September, 1855, p.8.

Grocery price list, circa 1851-1885.

State Library of Victoria

Site 4B – Restaurant

1910–1950s

This was the site of the Criterion Café, a well known restaurant in Melbourne.

In first half of the 20th century going out for dinner was a special occasion. Most people cooked and ate their food at home.

A visit to the Criterion Café would be an opportunity to dress up and young children would not be welcome. The food would be quite plain - soup, pork chops, and simple fish dishes - but people enjoyed the novelty of having food brought to their table. Often there was live music in the form of a pianist or string quartet and larger restaurants, like the Criterion Café, may even have had a dance floor.

It appears that at one time the Criterion Café building also had a cinema ("picture palace") but at first the movies were silent and in black and white. A pianist sat at the front of the cinema and played music to accompany the film. For one penny (1d) you could see two feature films but "dinner and a movie" didn't become a popular date night until the 1950s. Most people took their food to the movies with them or grabbed a bite to eat from a street stall afterwards.

The Criterion Café was owned by a colourful character, John Wren (1871 – 1953). After he died his estate valued the restaurant at £120,000 (equivalent to at least $4,000,000 today, 2019).

John Wren was an Australian businessman and underworld figure. He was born in Collingwood, the third son of Irish immigrants and left school at the age of 12 to work in a wood-yard and as a "boot clicker", cutting the uppers for the shoes or boots from the sheet of leather. Soon Wren was making money from various gambling activities. He started a horse racing gambling business the "Collingwood Tote", which eventually earned him £20,000 per year, a fortune in those times. A self-made businessman, Wren had a hand in more than 30 businesses, some more successful than others. He was a practising Catholic and influential in politics. John Wren was not always a good man, but never forgot his poor origins and sought to improve conditions for working class people.

John Wren died of a heart attack shortly after his beloved Magpies (that's Collingwood Football Club) won the flag in 1953.

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Gold Bird Brooch	early 1900s	1	Ultra Rare
	Spanish Tile	1930	5	Rare
	Cutlery	1930-1940	10	Common

People dressed up and out for dinner (1944).
State Library of Victoria

1929 fashion drawing from Manton's Department Store.
State Library of Victoria

Film projector (circa 1940-49).
State Library of Victoria

Criterion Café owner, John Wren (1871-1953).
Australian War Memorial

METRO TUNNEL
ARCHAEOLOGY
Adventure

Site Card
SECONDARY STUDENTS

MINECRAFT
EDUCATION EDITION

Cesspit

1840 onwards

A cesspit was a place used to tip rubbish and waste water. They were also used as drop toilets.

It was a deep hole in the ground, sometimes lined with bricks and covered with a lid. Shared cesspits filled up quickly, got really smelly and needed to be cleaned out often. Archaeologists always make time to excavate cesspits because lots of interesting things end up there, including undigested bits of food.

Item		Era	No.	Rarity
	Gold Sovereign	1879	1	Ultra Rare
	Marbles	1850-1890	5	Rare
	Fruit Seeds	Various	10	Common

The cesspit excavated in the archaeological dig.