

Building 11: The 100 year old Heritage listed Up-To-Date Store Corner of Loughnan & Cowabbie Streets

Visit anytime between 10am & 4pm



The site where the Up-to-Date Store now stands was purchased at Coolamon's second public auction sale in May, 1883. The land passed through several hands over the years and was eventually taken over by Frederick 'Daddy' Hall and commenced trading as the Up-to-Date Store.

Nicholas Mutton purchased the Store in 1908. Mr Mutton's desire was to erect a building which would be leased out as a general store to meet the needs of the thriving town of Coolamon.

Built in 1909 to replace the original weather board building, the present store was commissioned and owned by Nicholas Mutton with the business being leased to Nadin, Iverach & Denoon. Mutton entered into a succession of leases, the final being with W. A. Iverach. The building operated as a general store until 1932, when Mr Iverach relocated his business to a more central main street site.

The Mutton Family then continued to use the precinct as a storage area and workshop. After 80 years of ownership, Mutton & Co sold the Store in 1987. For the next 10 years, a second-hand and antiques business operated in the Store.

With the urging of the community, the Coolamon Shire Council purchased the property in 1996. The Store is now celebrated as a Cultural Facility & Museum as part of the Up-to-Date Learning & Cultural Centre.

The Store boasts its original fittings including the Lamson Cash Railway, which is the only known Ball- Style Cash Railway System in the world that is still in its original location. The Ball Style Cash Railway is the predecessor to the later models of cash carriers including the spring loaded 'flying fox' and the pneumatic systems that can still be found in department stores, today.

Sturdy wooden counters, shelves, benches and floors bear the physical imprint of the many thousands of customers and staff that moved through the interior over the years. The elegantly vaulted, wood-lined ceilings seem to echo with the countless voices of half a century.

The cellar was used for cool storage for cheese, eggs, hams and fish. It is amazing to read that as early as February, 1907, fresh seafood could be purchased at the Store.

Designed and built to serve the people of the Coolamon district, the Up-to-Date Store resonates with the memories of the community. The Store was divided into several different departments which included grocery, ironmongery, crockery, drapery, mercery, millinery, haberdashery, clothing and footwear. In fact, it is true that anything and everything, from a plough to a piano could be purchased from the Up-To-Date Store.

The Store remains as a visual reminder of the ingenuity and skill of local architects, builders and the retail traders and their staff. It also remains as a focus for the collective memories of the people who, over the years, have called Coolamon 'home'. The Up-to-Date Store's social and historical significance was acknowledged with its listing on the State Heritage Register in 2006.

