Bringing history to the classroom

If you are teaching young children about their past, you will know how useful it is to have objects on hand that bring the past to life for them.

Stored in the Sutherland Shire Museum at 88 Venetia Street, Sylvania are a myriad of objects and photos which show just how people lived in the 'olden' days. To name a few, there is a Shoe Last – does anyone know how that was used? We have Chamber pots – no need to explain those. Irons which needed to be heated on the wood fire stove top before pressing clothes, and darning mushrooms for mending socks.

We know kids would find these objects interesting, and more importantly act as a powerful illustration of how changing technology has changed lifestyles.

The Sutherland Shire Historical Society, which runs the Museum, would love to share this wealth of material with teachers. While we welcome school visits to the Museum, we have also put together 'Museum boxes' which teachers can borrow and take to the classroom. What's more! We can make up the boxes to order, depending on your topic.

Below is an example of one Museum Box we have prepared for primary school classes. If you are interested to learn more contact us at shirehistory@gmail.com .

Contents of Museum Box

Chamber pot stored under the bed

Darning mushroom for mending socks

Iron – heated on wood fire stovetop

Shoe Last for mending shoes. It supports shoe soles and heels as you hammer in nails

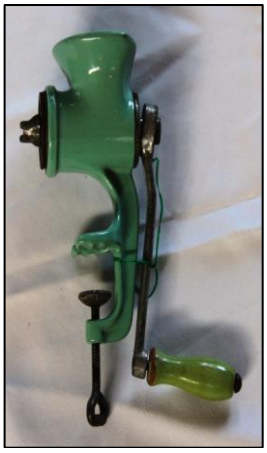
Dial telephone

Fly sprayer

Imperial kitchen scales

Egg beater

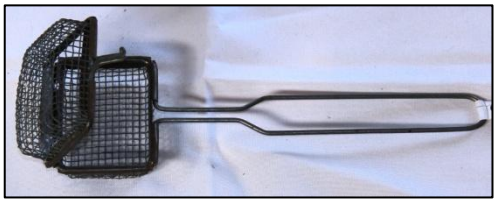
Potato masher



Manual meat mincer

Candle in saucer

Wooden dolly pegs



Soap holder for dish washing