

Our Early Photographers - Henninghams



We all love to take photographs of our family, friends and memorable events in our lives. Photography was also important over 100 years ago. One of the first photography studios in Wagga was started by Ernest Henningham in 1884, and was taken over by his son Geoffrey in 1924. The shop located near where Scribbles Café is today - at the end of Fitzmaurice Street and close to Wollundry Lagoon bridge.

- Brothers Frank and Ernest Henningham came to Wagga as children, when their father William was appointed editor of The Daily Advertiser.
- Ernest, a well-known and one of Wagga's earliest commercial photographers, taught his younger brother Frank to take photos.
- Frank was almost 40 when he enlisted in the army in 1916 (quite old for a soldier), serving in a machine gun battalion in France.
- Frank carried a Vest Pocket Autographic Kodak special camera (known as "The Soldier's Camera" with him during his time at the Western Front during World War I, and he photographed scenes of life, death, the everyday trials and the end of war celebrations.
- The Museum of the Riverina is lucky enough to have some of Frank's original photos taken during the war, as well as the camera he used to take the pictures - very different from the digital cameras we use today. The camera is the Museum's only 3D object associated with the Henninghams of Wagga.

Did you know?

La Porchetta used to be the site of Wagga's Ice Skating Rink and later a cinema - known as the Wonderland Theatre