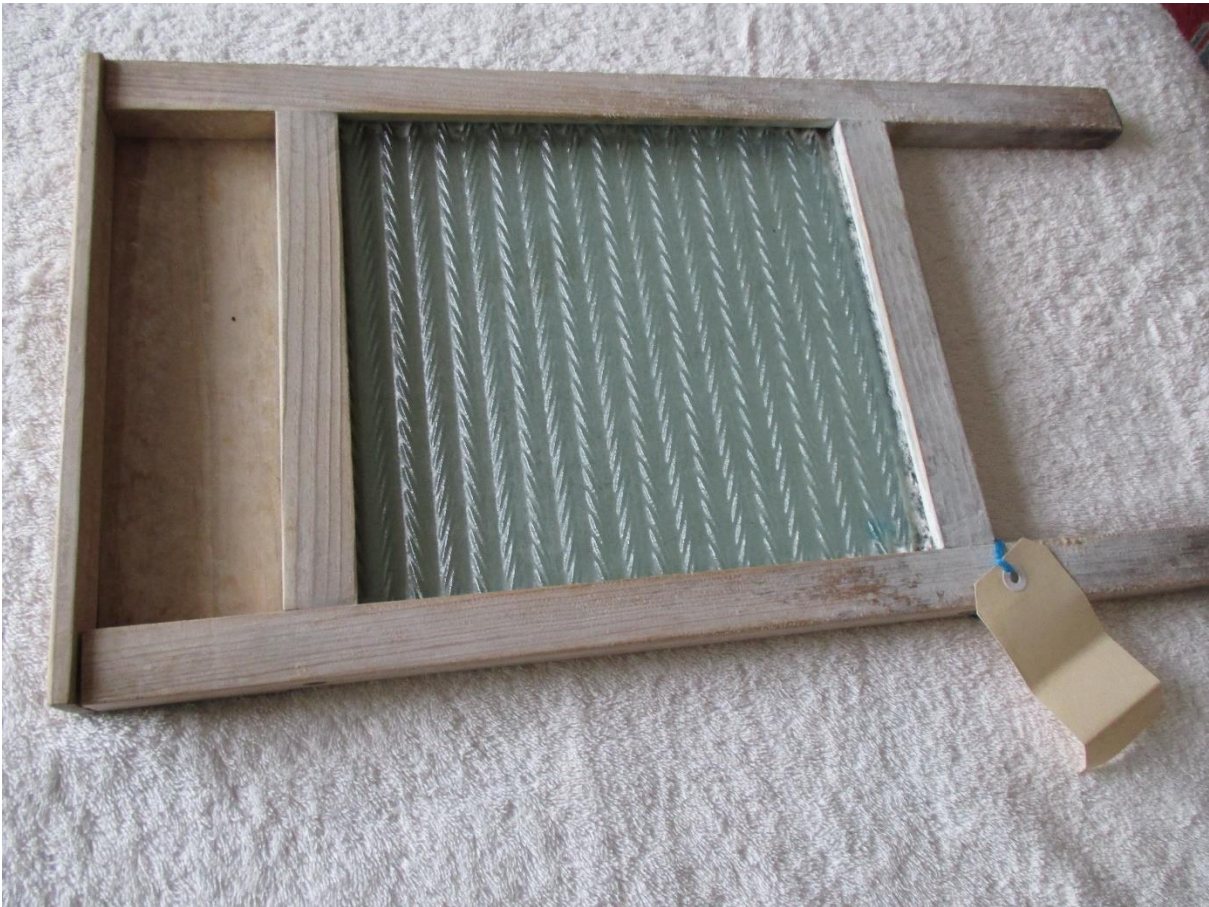


THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC.)

HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

GLASS WASHBOARD



A modern washing machine has an agitator action which helps release dirt from clothes. In earlier days this agitation had to be done by hand. A washboard was used to rub the clothes with water and soap over an uneven surface, usually glass. Each piece of clothing had to be individually scrubbed on the board, involving a lot of hard work. Washing clothes in times gone by was much more hands on compared to today.

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HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

MEAT POUNDER



In times gone by, the quality of the meat was not as good as today: tougher to eat and lots more chewing required! Often the animals were older before they were used; for example, sheep were mutton rather than lambs. So it was necessary to tenderise the meat before cooking and eating. One easy way was to use this meat tenderiser: beat the meat and thin it out to break down the muscle content.

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HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

FLAT IRON AND STAND



Why is an iron called an iron? Because it was made of solid iron! It's heavy, so don't drop it!

After washing and drying, clothes usually need to be ironed. Modern clothes are drip-dry: no need to iron because there are no creases. But in times past, ironing was necessary. A heavy metal iron was used. Modern irons use electricity to heat them (and can supply steam); this wasn't available in those days. So this iron was placed on a hot stove (usually wood- or coal-fired) and heated up before ironing. And beware: the handle often got hot too! Some irons had a top enclosure, to hold and burn coal or kerosene! Sounds dangerous!!

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC.)

HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

APPLE CORER



Apples are good for you when eaten raw! But sometimes they are delicious if baked and served with custard or ice cream! One way to make them even better is to remove the apple core and fill the hole with fruit mince or other fillings before baking. An apple corer is the ideal tool to remove the core. Let me show you with this plastic apple...

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC.)

HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

TEA STRAINER



Tea has been a popular drink for centuries. Take tea leaves, mix with hot water and make a beautiful cuppa! Nowadays we use teabags – easily done. But what did we do before teabags?? We used to buy loose tea in boxes. Put the tea leaves in a pot with hot water. Then strain the tea leaves out when serving into a cup. A better way was to put the leaves in this type of strainer, straight into the cup of hot water. Compare the teabag with the jar of tea in the plastic container.

THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC.)

HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

DOUGH MIXER



To make bread or pizza base we need to mix flour with water and add yeast. This produces a dough which must be well mixed (kneading the dough) to ensure the ingredients are evenly spread throughout before baking. Modern electric mixers do this efficiently and quickly! In earlier times we had to do this manually: much more effort and time! Don't catch your fingers in the gears!

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HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

WHEAT GRINDER



We've just looked at a dough mixer and talked about using flour. But where does the flour come from?? Wheat! In order to make the flour we must grind the wheat to a fine powder. Look at the samples in the jars. This was quite a hard job to do, especially to make enough flour for bread, cakes, pancakes, thickening gravy, etc. Let's try to make some flour from this wheat! But don't put your fingers into the grinder!

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HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

BAR OF SOAP



When we buy soap at the supermarket it's usually in a small bar – see the sample. In former times bars of soap were much larger. One reason was that a bar would last a much longer time – we couldn't just call round to the local shop because it might be a long distance away. So buy in larger amount! And cut off what you need for washing.

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HISTORY IN A SUITCASE

DETACHABLE SHIRT COLLARS



We tend to do our clothes washing regularly because our machines are so easy and efficient to use. In earlier times, doing the laundry was hard work. Think of the washboard we talked about earlier. With shirts, we would wear them for several days, even a week, before washing!! But collars often needed to be washed more frequently. So detachable collars were used!! These could be washed easily. They were held in place with metal studs – look at the collarless shirt. Notice that the shirt and collars were white; men didn't wear many coloured clothes: white shirt, black trousers and jacket were normal.

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HISTORY IN A SUITCASE
KEROSENE LAMP



How did we see in the dark before electricity and batteries were invented? We burned candles; see the one provided. Then lamps became available; they burned whale oil but then changed to kerosene (from coal or oil shale) which was cheaper, brighter and cleaner. Obviously we had to carry these lamps around with us. Don't break the glass!