

## The Lamson Cash Railway System Up-to-Date Store, Coolamon

***The World's only known Ball-Style Cash Railway System that is still in its original location***

The Lamson Cash Railway System is a significant feature of retail history. Installed in the Coolamon Up-to-Date Store during the early years of Lamson's entry onto the Australian retail stage, the Cash Railway is an integral feature of the Store.

The Lamson Cash Railway focuses on the store owners' desire to have 'every modern convenience' in the newly constructed Up-To-Date Store. An agent for Lamson was first appointed in Australia in 1889. The installation of the system in the Store in the early 1900s, demonstrated the proprietor's wish to be 'most up-to-date' in retail technology.



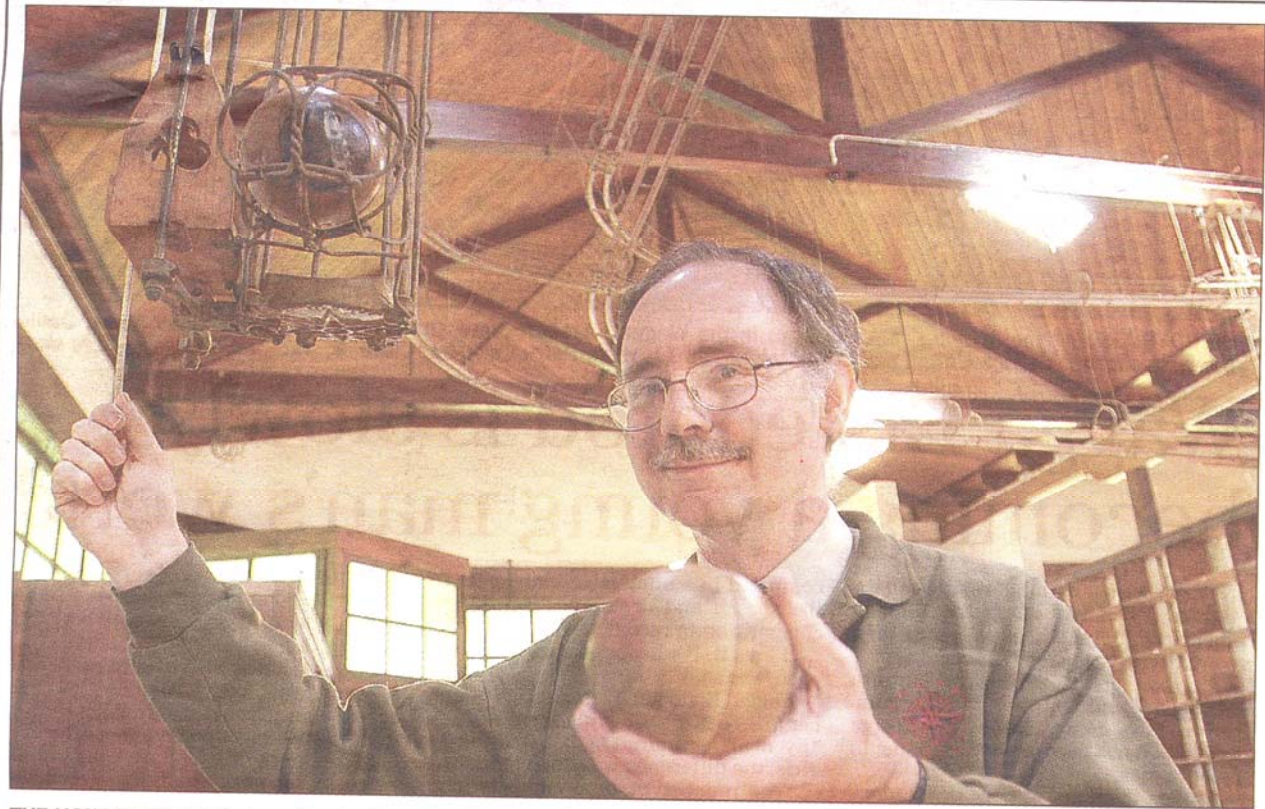
Not only did the Lamson Cash Railway provide the store personnel with the very latest advances in retail technology, but also provided the assurance of 'customer care' to the Coolamon community, with this quick and efficient method of cash handling. Undoubtedly, the Store's piece de resistance, this earlier form of cash carrier is gravity operated. Timber balls with money and docket safely tucked inside roll from counters to cashier's office along little 'railway' tracks.

Many of us have seen the spring-loaded "flying fox" cash conveyance systems and modern pneumatic tubes are commonplace in large shopping stores around Australia, but Coolamon can proudly claim ownership to



***"the World's only known Ball-Style Cash Railway System still in its original location."***

Michael Pearson Heritage Management Consultant, Duncan Marshall and Linda Young, University of Canberra performed a series of queries through State heritage agencies, National Trusts and other specialists. The interrogation of the RNE Database and queries to the Smithsonian Institute indicate that the model is not known to the specialists there, even though they have undertaken research in connection with the Lamson Company. Dr Pearson reports that *"All investigations indicate that the Lamson Cash Conveyance System is very rare, and is unique in remaining largely intact and in its original position at the Up-to-Date Store."*



THE HOLY GRAIL: Dr Andrew Buxton from Sussex, England, examines the old cash-carrying system in Coolamon's Up-To-Date Store. Picture: BRETT KOSCHEL

## Coolamon conveyor last in world

By **KIMBERLEY NICHOLS**

AN ancient cash-carrying system has lured an English professor in information systems halfway around the world to the small town of Coolamon.

Dr Andrew Buxton was in the town yesterday to examine the holy grail of cash carriers – the ancient Lamson Cash Conveyance System – in the Up-To-Date Store.

The cash carrier was believed to have

been installed around 1909 when the building was used as a general store boasting “every modern convenience”.

Hollow timber balls carrying the customer's money would roll along a roof strung rail track to the cashier's office, where change and docket would roll back out – a novel way of averting sticky fingers.

“We believe it's the only one in the world still in its original position and still operating,” said local

historian Jeanette Campbell.

Dr Buxton is writing a book on cash carriers around the world. He hopes to finish it next year.

“It's a hobby. my interest started when I was a child in Leicester and I used to visit a store which had this cash ball system,” Dr Buxton said.

A modern version of Lamson's cash system can be seen in today's supermarkets, transporting cash up through a suction pipe up to the roof.

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