

Comparing Past and Present

Teachers' information sheet

Provide your students with one of the two photo page options below. They make work individually or in groups. Ask them to closely examine the two photos and fill in the worksheet. Both photos are of John Tebbutt's Windsor observatories. One photo is from the past and one is from the present. Use the information below and from our online exhibition *Starry Night* to discuss the importance of this place, what has changed and stayed the same, why it has survived and why it is important to preserve it.

- John Tebbutt was the most famous Australian astronomer in the 19th century. He was born, lived, and worked in Windsor
- Tebbutt studied stars, minor planets, the moons of Jupiter and more, but he was most famous for his work on comets. He discovered two Great Comets – one in 1861 and one in 1881. These were some of the brightest comets seen in the 19th century and could even be seen without a telescope. They were very memorable events for the public.
- Tebbutt's data and calculations from his observations were used by astronomers across the world.
- Tebbutt also studied the weather and kept records of floods and freshes (minor floods) for about 50 years. These records provided insights into the climate of Windsor.
- Tebbutt regularly published reports in local (Windsor and Sydney) newspapers, helping to educate and update the public about astronomy, astronomical or weather events, and weather and flood patterns in Windsor
- All of Tebbutt's valuable work was carried out from his observatories in Windsor. If you look closely, you may be able to see where the roofs of the buildings open to view the night sky with a telescope
- The building on the right in all the photos is Tebbutt's 1879 observatory. The small round building in the historic photo in option 2 is his 1874 observatory, it was replaced by a brick building in 1894 (seen in the present-day photos) due to damage to the building from white ants and Tebbutt's purchase of a much larger telescope. The white building in the historic photos is Tebbutt's first observatory, built in 1863. It no longer exists today. It was demolished in the early 20th century due to white ant damage
- Today the buildings stand as a monument to Tebbutt's dedicated work in astronomy and meteorology.
- Tebbutt published nearly 400 papers, contributed greatly to scientific knowledge, and won awards for his work, including the Jackson-Gwilt Medal from the Royal Astronomical Society in recognition of his lifetime contribution to astronomy. There is a crater on the moon named Tebbutt after him and he was on the original Australian \$100 note from 1984-1996
- The Tebbutt family still owns the property today

Option 1

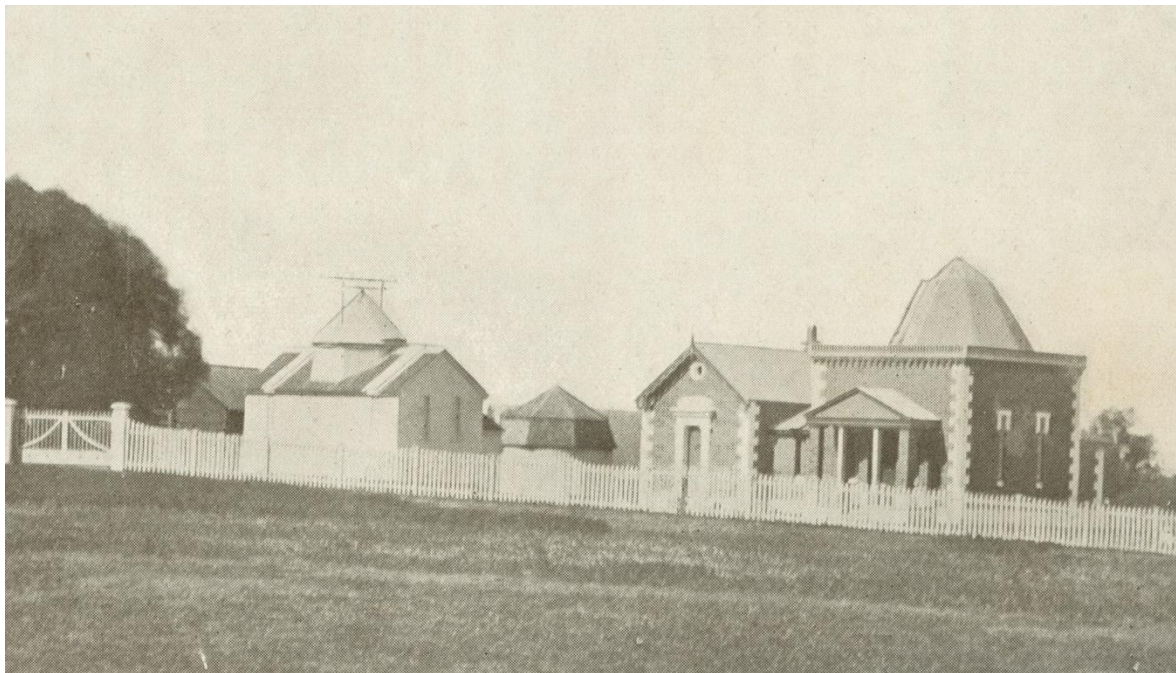


This photo is from the **past**. It was taken around 1900.



This photo is from the **present**.

Option 2



This photo is from the **past**.
It was taken in 1880.



This photo is from the **present**.

Comparing the past and the present – Student Worksheet

Over time, some things change but some things stay the same. Photos can help us to see what aspects of the past remain today. Let's compare two photos – one from the past and one from the present.

What is the **same** in your **past** photo and your **present** photo?

What is **different** in your **past** photo and **present** photo?

Wait until your teacher reveals more information about the place in the photos, then answer the questions below.

What are three facts about the place in the photos?

Why do you think the place in the photos is important to preserve?

How do you think we can look after the place in the photos?
