



Agricultural Hall

Pinjarra Rd

The Agricultural Hall was built with the financial assistance of the State Government, which offered grants to country towns needing financial help to build a social centre. At a cost of £100 the hall was built in 1897 and opened on January 5, 1898 by Premier Sir John Forrest. The Mandurah Progress Society hosted parliamentarians to a meal at the hall to celebrate its opening and the occasion was reported in *The Western Mail* on January 14, 1898;

"The hall is not an extravagant structure, but it is a monument to the go-ahead spirit of the people of the place, and, though, perhaps, the total population of the township and vicinity does not number more than a couple of hundred, the Parliamentary visit was regarded as such an important event that people flocked from quarters which could not be regarded as parts of Mandurah, and when the doors of the dining hall were opened quite an animated scene was presented."

Over the years it has been used for a variety of significant community activities:

- In the early years it was the major social focus for the town as a meeting place, dance hall, picture theatre showing silent movies, and roller skating rink. In 1905 it became a temporary hospital when diphtheria broke out at the nearby school.



museum WITHOUT WALLS

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Agricultural Hall cont'd

- During the 1930s it became a classroom to accommodate the overflow from Dalrymple's School, housing the youngest schoolchildren. At times they would have to clear away their desks to the side of the hall to allow for social functions at night.
- During World War II, card evenings took place at the hall to raise money for the Australian Comfort Fund.
- The citizens prevented destruction of the Agricultural Hall in the 1940s and the hall was renovated.
- In 1949 the hall became the offices of the first Mandurah Roads Board.
- The Agricultural Hall was to be used later as Mandurah's first Public Library, the Mandurah Tourist Bureau, a Child Health Centre and is now The City of Mandurah's Rangers' Office.

In 2007 its maintenance is being considered as part of the greater Museum Precinct.

