



Mandurah Ice Works

According to Patricia Harrison's (FitzGerald's) memory, Patrick (Bill) FitzGerald and herself commenced making ice when the electricity supply in Mandurah began in 1933. Prior to this people were dependent on the Scott Brothers to bring ice back from Perth on their trucks. This has been mentioned many times by other people of Mandurah especially the fishing community.

A ton of ice would take one day to produce; it was then cut up for sale. In the early days this was done using a cross-cut saw, one above and one below. This was a good place to work in summer but a little chilly in winter.

Over the years the Mandurah Electric Light and Power Company continued to supply most people with ice. They could not achieve more than a ton of ice a day. The demand for ice doubled during the summer months when campers and visitors came to Mandurah.

In 1951 as the negotiations for the sale of the Mandurah Electric Light and Power Company to the State Electricity Commission (SEC) were being undertaken, the FitzGeralds commenced building an independent Ice Works at 8 Davey St.

By the time the provision of power lease ended and the FitzGeralds no longer worked at Mandurah Electric Light and Power, they had moved the entire ice production to new premises.

The Ice Works could not achieve any more than a ton of ice a day, however, the new premises had significantly more cold storage space so ice was able to stockpiled for local people and the campers and visitors that came to Mandurah.

The Ice Works were run and owned by the FitzGeralds until November 1954. It was sold and purchased by Viv & Alice Cay. Over the next few years more and more people were purchasing refrigerators and as a result the Ice Works didn't continue to operate for very long.

References: *Pat Harrison.*