

YESTERDAY...

MANDURAH ROAD BOARD 1949



Members of the newly-formed Mandurah Road Board held their first meeting recently. Standing from left to right, are Messrs H. E. J. Tuckey, R. L. Tuckey (Vice-Chairman), F. A. C. Digney, B. N. Mainwaring, A. H. Phillips and A. J. Donald. Seated in front are Messrs J. Grey (Chairman), and G. S. Lindsay (Secretary for Local Government).

A gentle blend of the old and the new; the historic and a touch of the 20th Century — that is the promise that Mandurah holds for both residents and visitors alike.

The 1980s closed on a very positive note for Mandurah, during which the town became the fastest growing sub-regional centre in the State. Building figures (in dollar value) soared to an unprecedented record level of more than \$100 million, firmly establishing Mandurah not only as a popular tourist Mecca, but also as "a great place to live".

With the new decade comes a new beginning for Mandurah.

The "town" now establishes its majority within the realms of Local Government by becoming a City... a City poised to consolidate its past achievements and preparing to face the challenges of the 21st Century. But such was not always the case...

MANDJAR — "The Meeting Place"

Born out of the frustrations of Thomas Peel, whose ambitious settlement scheme was thwarted by circumstances, Mandurah's settlement appeared doomed to fail.

Very few, however, counted on the true pioneering spirit of the town's early settlers who clung tenaciously to their hard-earned land and despite its harshness began to carve a way of life. However, things were to get worse!

A census taken in 1837 showed that only seven adults and four children remained in Mandurah!

Yet in spite of its early isolation, Mandurah continued to attract our hardy ancestors and at the turn of the century, Mandurah was already emerging as a "tourist" town as history records that "goldfields" people patronise Mandurah largely because of its huge catches of fish". At this point, Mandurah was estimated to have not more than '150 permanent inhabitants'.

From Our Memoirs

Over the next 80 years, however, the town was to undergo a metamorphosis serving in turn as a "holiday" destination, a "nice place to retire to" and in the latter half of the 1900s as "a great place to live".

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HISTORY

During the latter half of the 19th Century, Mandurah formed part of the Murray Region, coming under the auspices of the Murray Roads Board which until the 1940s had covered a huge area. Over a number of years, sections of the Murray region had been incorporated into other shires and the last to be annexed was Mandurah.

In April of 1948, the then Minister for Local Government, gave the Mandurah Progress Association a number of points to consider prior to the establishment of its own local authority.

Among the needs to be met by the community, the Minister listed that rates would increase and the old Mandurah Hall would be needed for one day a week to serve as a branch office. A full time inspector was to be engaged for six months of the year and would work in conjunction with a health inspector who would visit Mandurah once a week in order to arrange camping permits and sanitation requirements.

Secession from the Murray Road Board was not without its opposition, however, and Mandurah faced what was possibly its very first referendum to decide the issue. By mid 1949, with all conditions stipulated by the Minister agreed to by the Progress Association, Mandurah's Road Board was established, controlling an area "between the sea and the estuary and Mandurah itself". These boundaries would later be realigned when the Road Board became a Shire Council.

MANDURAH SHIRE COUNCIL 1961



G. C. Gericke (Asst Secretary), (Asst Engineer), Councillor N. E. Scott, Councillor L. J. Loaring, Mrs M. Milward (Stenographer), Miss N. Young (Junior Office Asst), Councillor H. Q. Ellis, Councillor F. Bradshaw, M. F. Christiansen (Health-Traffic Inspector), Mrs J. R. Hanks (Accountant), R. R. Fletcher (Shire Clerk/Engineer), Councillor P. R. H. Day (President), Councillor H. J. Sutton (Vice-President), Councillor R. L. Tuckey, R. McAdam (Health-Building Inspector).