



Erosion by the Halliday's home, at the Sticks

The Sticks

'The Sticks', or, as it also known, 'The Chimneys', is the channel where the estuary meets the Peel Inlet, just a mile south of central Mandurah.

The waterways of Mandurah have always been important to the Indigenous community, and the area from Samphire Cove in Halls Head south to the Sticks was a camping site, and it was also regarded as a sacred men's area. Ochre, a traditional painting material, was and still can be sourced from around the Sticks area.

Captain Halliday came to Mandurah in the late 1890s, and built a house at the Sticks, on land rented from the Suttons. He would buy fresh fish and send it up by sea to Fremantle to be sold, and his house was easily located for fishermen to come in. The first telephone line in Mandurah ran from the Chimneys to the Tuckey's Peel Inlet Preserving Works. It was used for Halliday to call the factory to tell them when the fishermen were bringing up a load of fish to be canned. In 1911, Halliday was presumed drowned after his empty boat was found near Point Peron; despite being a sailor, he could not swim. His house burnt down in a bush fire, but the limestone chimneys of the smokehouse building remained as a landmark, giving their name to the place.



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The Sticks channel was dangerous to fisherman, and it was marked out with sticks as a warning. The last, and biggest, stick would be hung with a hurricane lamp each night by the last fisherman to come in, as a marker so that the fishermen could get back out to the inlet the next day. Later, the stick was replaced by the Fisheries Department with a proper beacon, lit by a fisherman every night.

The Sticks was also home to 'Smokey Joe', or Alf Miller, who had a campsite there for some thirty years.



The Halliday family outside their home at the Sticks. The smokehouse on the right and chimney on the left gave the name 'The Chimneys' to the place.



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