



Old Brighton Hotel

Mandurah Terrace

"The Brighton Hotel is very comfortable, and you get a vast amount of pleasure at this charming resort. Boating, fishing and shooting can be indulged in to your heart's content." (From *Travels in Western Australia*, 1901)

The Brighton Hotel (1894) was originally intended to be a home for Charles Tuckey, of Peel Inlet Preserving Works fame, and his family. However, fishing was on the decline and the potential for tourism was realised and the house became Mandurah's first hotel in October 1895.

The Brighton had magnificent views over the estuary and the ocean entrance. Among the first guests to stay at the Brighton were the WA governor and his wife who were invited as special guests. Prior to car ownership, many people holidaying in Mandurah travelled to Pinjarra on the train for the weekend. Guests were picked up by a horse drawn four-wheeled char-a-banc supplied by the Brighton Hotel to travel to Mandurah. The tariff was around two guineas a week and guns, boats, fishing gear etc could be hired.



museum without walls

MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Old Brighton Hotel cont'd

The Brighton underwent a number of changes over its life, but started as a typical colonial limestone building with a central staircase entrance from the street and two storey wooden verandahs. There was a garage to the south which closed when Scott's Garage opened up across the road and an outdoor picture theatre to the north of the building. The picture theatre relocated in 1938 when the Brighton got an injunction from the proprietor of Mandurah House, because the noise was interfering with his holiday residents. A new wing was added to the south side of the hotel in 1938. The building took on a whole new look in 1961 and was barely distinguishable behind the renovations/extensions. In the late 1980s, 1994, and 2000, plans for the greater Brighton Hotel site included its demolition. Those plans were put to rest in 2001 when the council planning department gave its support to a redevelopment of the building to its 1894 style. In 2002 the Brighton Hotel Memorabilia Auction was held and the contents including original dressing tables, side cabinets, stoves, and signs were sold.

Throughout its 108 years of trading as a hotel many different people were guests from the well-heeled gentry of the early 1900s to the bikers on the pub run stopping at The Brighton for the skimpy show before heading to the Silver Sands and the Peninsula Hotel.

