



## Dalrymple School

The site of the Dalrymple School was officially gazetted as a school reserve on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1898. Following the allocation of part of the school site for the erection of the Agricultural Hall, the school requested the resumption of approximately half an acre of land to the south of the reserve.

A contract was let to Stubbs and Ward, builders from Perth, for the sum of £351.17.0 on January 20<sup>th</sup> 1900 to build the new school. The contract was due for completion by April 20<sup>th</sup> that year, with an overtime penalty of £3 per week. The project was completed four days late, on April 24<sup>th</sup> and the exact cost of the contract amounted to £373.2.4.

Work included:

*'School room for 50 children with verandah and lavatory. Water supply: 1,000 gallons in tanks. Materials: concrete foundations, brick walls, iron roof.'*

The new building opened with an enrolment of 16 boys, 17 girls, one male teacher and a female monitor.

In October 1900, a portion of the adjacent Creery land was resumed and added to the school site. This was to replace land used for building the Agricultural Hall. The increase was not officially gazetted until 1906.

In celebration of Arbour Day 1901, Peppermint Trees were planted along the foreshore, adjacent to the school.



## Dalrymple School Cont'd

By 1932 the people of Mandurah were becoming concerned by the condition and inadequacy of the current school and its grounds and it was at this time that the first movement to purchase other grounds for provision of a new and larger school was made. Part of the south and west walls of the school building had begun to deteriorate, cracks were obvious and plaster had started to fall from the cracks.

By 1939, the building of a new school in Hackett Street had commenced. In the meantime, an application was made by the Police Department for use of the school building, and ambitious plans were submitted for extending and developing the school for police use.

The South West Infant Health Committee established an Infant Health Clinic at the School during this time. It was also used by the RSL and the Women's Auxiliary for meetings.

From July 1<sup>st</sup> 1940, the school was leased to the Red Cross as their Headquarters, for a weekly rent of one shilling. They were responsible for the maintenance of the building, though it seems that its use was sporadic.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1947, the Red Cross was given one weeks' notice to terminate their tenancy and vacate the Old School. After that, contracts were let and renovations and building changes commenced for police use. The keys were handed over to the officer in charge and the buildings were ready for occupation in October 1948. However, the quarters had already been occupied by a Constable in July. This police presence was only part-time during weekends, public holidays, and Christmas and Easter times.

John Graysmark, a married Constable, was stationed at Mandurah in the 1950s and was the first permanent officer in Mandurah (with the exceptions of the police presence during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century). Money was eventually made available in the 1959-60 funds for the remodel of the Station.

During the 1960s and 1970s a steady increase in police numbers and departments of the police force meant large amounts of renovations and extensions to the building which included a courtroom, offices, a men's lockup and later a women's lockup with provisions made for a boatshed due to the constant need for rescue services.

## Dalrymple School Cont'd

When the Mandurah Police Station and Court house was vacated by the Police and Crown Law Departments in 1989 the Education Department once again occupied the premises. The Mandurah Historical Society was given permission to use the original schoolroom as a museum.

The Education Department relocated in 1997. The majority of the former Station was given over as a Museum, with the exception of two rooms leased by the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Mandurah Family History Society.

In 2003, the Mandurah Community Museum was extensively renovated and displays altered to reflect the history of the region. The Citizens Advice Bureau was shifted and later Neighbourhood Watch established a presence in part of the building.

In 2012, the former Police Station continues to house the Mandurah Community Museum.



Agricultural Hall with Dalrymple School in the Background



# museum without walls

## MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

### Timeline

- **1830** In the beginning the area of land on which the Museum now stands was first occupied by Military Barracks built for soldiers.
- **1852** Following the closure of the Military Barracks, the Mandurah Police Barracks were built.
- **1887** The Police Barracks were no longer in use and Mrs C.H Cooper rented the property.
- **1889** Following the departure of Mrs C.H Cooper, the Tuckey family let the premises.
- **1894** The Police Barracks were converted to a school and teachers' quarters. Miss Mary Ann Mewburn, Robert Mewburn's daughter taught here.
- **1898** Miss Mary Ann Mewburn was replaced by Miss Ellen Mulrooney.
- **1899** Mr W.R Dalrymple was appointed Head Teacher at the school.
- **1900** The entire Police Barracks were converted to teachers' quarters while the new school was built.
- **1900** The first government school in Mandurah known as the Dalrymple School, named after the Head Teacher Mr William Robert Dalrymple, was opened.
- **1917** The Police Barracks that were being used as teachers' quarters were demolished and new quarters were erected behind Dalrymple school.
- **1927** Mr John Martyn took over from Mr Dalrymple as the Head Teacher of Dalrymple school.
- **1939** The Dalrymple school closed due to overcrowding and a new school was built in Hackett Street.
- **1939** The South West Infant Health Committee established an Infant Health Clinic at the old school during this time.
- **1940** The old school was leased to the Red Cross as their Headquarters.
- **1947** The Red Cross vacated the old School and work began to convert the School and quarters to a Police Station and Police quarters.
- **1948** The keys were handed to the Police officer in charge and the buildings were ready for occupation.



# MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS

## MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

- **1960** A remodel of the Station took place. An exercise yard, two cells, a lobby, change room, a room for the officer in charge, a public space and porch were constructed.
- **1965** A courthouse was added
- **1968** New Police quarters were constructed, and the old Teachers' quarters were demolished.
- **1976** The Police Station was extended to provide a female cell block, change room, radio room, amenities room, general office, store room and garage.
- **1989** The police department relocated to new premises. The Education Department used the premises. The Mandurah Historical Society was given permission to use the original schoolroom as a museum.
- **1997** The Education Office relocated to new premises. The City of Mandurah granted the Mandurah Historical Society yearly funding to progress the Museum. Space was allocated for the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Genealogical Society.
- **2001** The City of Mandurah took over management of the Museum and employed a part-time Museum Development Officer.
- **2002** The Genealogical Society relocated to larger premises.
- **2003** A full-time Museum Development Officer began in the position. Renovations and development of exhibitions throughout the museum took place.

**References:** Documents held at Alexander Library, Ron Richards '*Mandurah and the Murray*'. Oral History recordings held at the museum