

Old Mandurah Footbridge

The footbridge in Mandurah had its origins with the Peninsula Hotel. The Peninsula was built at the turn of the nineteenth century; it was the holiday residence for W.S Brookman, Lord Mayor of Perth. In 1904 the Peninsula was converted into a hotel.

At that time there was only a sandy pathway, which could be swampy, linking Mandurah to Stingray Point. If you had no form of horse travel, the walk was long and on occasions, hot or extremely wet.

The Mandurah Footbridge was built in 1904. It became a favourite walk from town to Stingray Point and something of a tourist attraction with many holiday makers using it to fish from.

Shortly after its construction, debate ensued as to who was responsible for the ownership and upkeep of the structure.

The Public Works Department was asked to manage the footbridge because it was over water. They were not interested and they approached the Murray Roads Board, another body, which did not want to take responsibility for the footbridge. It was believed to be a private enterprise without the concurrence of the Board. This was a difficult position as the bridge was a public one and the locals wanted it to remain.

The dispute resulted in the local government authority, the Murray Roads Board taking control of the footbridge in September 1909 and eventually declaring the footbridge to be a public roadway.

The footbridge remained in place for many years; in the thirties it was having its second overhaul in a decade, and in 1939 the Board declared that boats should not be allowed to tie up to it as the Board had just spent a considerable amount of money on repairs. Sometime around this date a water pipe was laid under the footbridge extending to the western end for campers to use.

The cost of maintenance over the years was extensive, and severe damage to the bridge during the floods of 1945 marked the start of a downward spiral for the footbridge. It spent much of the time from this point on in a state of disrepair and wasn't removed until 1958.

There are many fond memories of the Mandurah Footbridge.



Old Mandurah Footbridge cont'd

- 1904** Footbridge built
- 1909** Murray Roads Board manages the footbridge.
- 1939** Roads Board declares that boats cannot tie up to the footbridge
- 1945** Severe flooding damages the footbridge.
- 1958** Footbridge removed.

References: (R Richards. *Murray and Mandurah.*)

