



Scott's Garage and Mandurah Little Theatre

5 Mandurah Terrace

Scott's Garage was built in 1937 by Bill Morgan for Hobart Tuckey. It was designed by WA architects Ochiltree and Hargreaves, and was an art deco building. The Scott family moved to Mandurah in 1934 and '35, and the Scott brothers Len and Neil started a transport business on the site of the future garage in 1935, in a 4-roomed cottage owned by Clarrie Tuckey. They had the garage built in 1937, running the Mandurah Transport Service, along with some of their other brothers.

During the Depression, the Scott Brothers helped many people who were hit hard. They also supported the local community in sports – they were very fond of football, and helped the local groups. All the time that the business ran, the Scott Brothers were the only ones in Mandurah to have a transport licence. At one point, they had 3 semitrailers, 5 trucks and a van, and would travel up to Perth daily. In the 1940s, a bus service ran between Fremantle and Mandurah several times a week, stopping outside the garage. A cold storage shed was built at the rear of the garage in 1945, and bought by Hobart Tuckey. In WWII, Len was in the 2/16th battalion. The garage struggled through the wartime limits on fuel and manpower.

After the war, the brothers moved the business to the corner of Gibson Street and Mandurah Terrace, as the old site was creating congestion. They remained at the new place until selling to Phil Hooper in 1978, who established the Flying Spanner there. After Scott's Garage moved in the post war period, the building was used for several groups, including the Fire Brigade, the Yacht Club and the Mandurah Fishing Club.



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Scott's Garage and Mandurah Little Theatre Cont'd

It became a theatre in 1983, being taken over by the Mandurah Little Theatre. Premier Burke opened it in the December of 1983, praising it as a "striking self-help facility". The Mandurah Little Theatre had begun in the 1970s as the Mandurah Anglican Little Theatre, which was based at Christs Church in a small building which was demolished to extend the church to its current size. They were keen to have their own space, and transformed their new premises into a 130 seat theatre. It was funded by lottery grants, local and state government grants, and fundraising. In 1986, a criticism of the wrong and unprofessional system of book-keeping by the theatre led to a vote of confidence, and about eight members resigned.

In 1998, the 15 year lease expired, and the Little Theatre was expected to move to new premises, and eventually to the new cultural precinct being constructed. The Little Theatre site was valuable to the City of Mandurah, who owned it and expected to use it profitably. Possible places for the theatre to go were the Fishtrap theatre at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, the new Halls Head High School and the Milgar Street Reserve, but none of these worked out. Twice, the Little Theatre had a 1-year extension to the lease on Scott's Garage. In 2000, there were plans to redevelop the Brighton Hotel precinct (which also included the Tuckey home and tackle shop), but these came to nothing. However, the Art Deco Society of Western Australia called for the preservation of Scott's Garage, as an important part of heritage and example of art deco style. In 2003, the Little Theatre found new premises, after not having any for four years, at the Mandurah Senior College. The building was modified extensively, with the main building being demolished and only the facade left. It is now a three storey building with both businesses and residential.

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Scott's Garage and Mandurah Little Theatre Cont'd

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