



## Violet Sutton's Corner Store

Corner of Pinjarra road and Mandurah Terrace

The Corner Store has had a central role in the social and commercial life of Mandurah. It is its second oldest business house.

In the 1920s Violet and her husband lived and worked at Sutton's Farm. In 1928 her husband died, but Violet stayed at the farm with the help of her mother. Unfortunately, her mother died the following year and Violet was forced to quit. As a single mother with seven children and no government assistance she couldn't continue farming.

Violet inherited a cottage on the corner of Pinjarra Rd and Mandurah Terrace. Her cousin, Charlie Wearne, of Wearne House fame, lent her the money to build a store on the land next to the house. Charlie Wearne would never accept repayment of the debt.



# museum WITHOUT WALLS

## MANDURAH COMMUNITY MUSEUM

### Violet Sutton's Corner Store cont'd

The shop opened 1<sup>st</sup> December 1929, just as the Depression started to affect the state. The shop had cement verandas and floors, a septic tank, which was modern in those days and its own electric light plant. It was built by the same contractor who built the Tuckey residence opposite. It cost £1,750.

At the time of construction there was some conjecture that the tiles wouldn't last due to the wind and salt air, but the tiles were still there until early 2007 when they were removed with the most recent renovations.

In 1934 Violet leased the shop to Jack Wade, who continued to run it as a general store which also sold meals.

Violet returned to the shop in 1941 and stayed until late 1945.

Later it became a café run by a Greek family named Meneer. It was finally sold by the Sutton family in the 1970s.

It ran as Café Pronto until 2007 and has been re-invented as a restaurant by the same name.

