



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 1925 her husband died, but Violet stayed at the farm with the help of farm workers. As a single mother with seven children and no government assistance she could not continue farming and was forced to leave.

Violet inherited a cottage on the corner of Pinjarra Rd and Mandurah Terrace from her mother Ellen Cooper. 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.

The shop opened 1st 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, in the 1950s, it became a café run by a Greek family named Manea. It was finally sold by the Sutton family in the 1970s.

It is currently The Bridge Garden Bar & Restaurant.

