

# *Mingenew* *Historical Walk*



Midland Hotel (Commercial Hotel)



Follow the ant trail



# *Early History of Mingenew*

Prior to European settlement, the Wilugardi and Amangu aboriginals moved through the area that is now the Shire of Mingenew. They pronounced Mingenew as 'Mininoo' which meant 'place of many waters' or 'Minyanoo' meaning 'many ants'. Water from the Mingenew Spring helped to sustain these people as well as the flora and fauna on which they depended for their survival. The availability of water from the spring stands out as the major reason for the establishment of European settlement and the ongoing development of the Mingenew district since 1850.

The Gregory brothers passed through this area in the 1840s looking for grazing lands north of the Swan River. In 1851 Samuel Pole Phillips, Edward Hamersley, Lockier Clare Burges and Bartholomew Vigors were officially granted two 20,000 acre pastoral leases in the vicinity of the Mingenew Spring extending eastwards to include the fertile areas of the Lockier River and the Green Brook. These leases were managed by Lockier Burges. Over the years Aboriginal people were very instrumental in mustering, droving and tracking stock on these leases.

In 1867 Samuel Phillips acquired the Mingenew Spring area as a tillage lease of 100 acres (40.5ha). His son Samuel James Phillips became the freehold owner of this lease in 1873. In 1891 he employed Henry King, the surveyor for the Midland Railway Co., to survey the land between Spring and Bride Street into 156 lots which became known as the private town of Mingenew Spring.

The Midland Railway Company, attracted by the availability of water for their steam engines, made Mingenew a major depot. Its influence on the development of the town was enormous. The completion of the line between Walkaway and Midland in 1894 saw Mingenew become a vibrant trading and shipment hub for both the resource and agricultural industries. Stock droved from the northwest to Mingenew could now be transported to markets in Perth by rail. Sandalwood and other produce from surrounding areas were also sent to Perth on rail. The discovery of gold in the Murchison area resulted in many prospectors travelling via Mingenew to and from the goldfields and the transportation of gold bullion from the goldfields to Perth. Agricultural land alongside the rail line was now taken up for farming purposes for the first time which encouraged denser settlement.

With the increasing population in the area, town businesses flourished, and infrastructure was built to meet the demand. The Heritage Walk Trail panels depict buildings from the early 1890s. These include the iconic Road Board Office, the "Midland" and "Mingenew" Hotels, and the S.F. Moore and the F. Pearse general stores. Government buildings from that time include the Post Office, the original Mingenew School, and the Police Station with living quarters.

In 1905 the Government surveyed 50 town lots on Crown land adjacent to the private town of Mingenew Spring. In 1912 the Government proclaimed MINGENEW as an official town reflecting its growing importance to the State.

# Historical Walk Locations



- 1 CWA
- 2 Elders (Hotel Site)
- 3 The Flats/Blues Café
- 4 Cecil Newton Park - Gazebo
- 5 Old Post Office
- 6 First Official Store
- 7 NAB
- 8 Railway Station
- 9 Drovers Rest
- 10 Mingenew Spring
- 11 Hope Bros Blacksmith
- 12 Police Station
- 13 St Joseph's School
- 14 Linthorne Manor
- 15 St Joseph's Church
- 16 First State school (Museum)
- 17 Mingenew Road Board
- 18 Methodist Church
- 19 Anglican Church
- 20 Sister Cameron Centre
- 21 Old Hospital
- 22a Memorial Gates
- 22b RSL Hall
- 23 Golf Club House
- 24 Bakery
- 25 Ironside's
- 26 Butcher
- 27 Masonic Lodge

## TOWN MURAL LOCATIONS

Drovers scene - Site 6  
 Enjoy Mingenew Mosaic - Site 7  
 Spring wildflowers - Bus shelter  
 Hope Brothers Blacksmiths - Site 16  
 Hockey 'Rockets' - Site 23  
 Everlastings wall - Site 23  
 Tennis 'Emu playtime' - Tennis Club

*Please respect the privacy of residents.*



1

## CWA-Country Women's Association

The Mingenew Yandanooka Branch was formed on 6th February 1929 with Mrs Bridge as President and Mrs Howard as Hon. Secretary. These ladies held the branch together with an iron hand for many years and achieved a great deal in a time of low wages and hard work caused by the depression.

Their first aim was to obtain the services of a district nurse. Sister Larson was appointed in 1930 with her annual wage being funded by the C.W.A. Their fund raising efforts included organising weekly dances, card evenings, catering for sales, polo matches and races.

In 1930 the C.W.A commenced organising plans for the building of a hospital. However in 1934 they reluctantly handed over this project to the District Hospital Association which completed the building in 1936. In 1936 the C.W.A Restrooms were built on this site. They served a very useful purpose for meetings, members' convenience and accommodation, especially for mothers and their children from outlying areas.

The C.W.A contributed greatly to the war effort from 1941 - 1943 not only on the local front but also by making up food parcels to be sent to the troops overseas. They advocated strongly for native rights and improvements at the 'Little Well' Reserve. They established a special distress fund to aid people with food, clothing and housing during the depression.

The Yandanooka members formed their own branch in 1946. In 1979 the restroom was demolished after being severely damaged by cyclone Hazel.







H.E. Kenny operated the Mingenew Hotel from 1892-1909 on the corner of Railway Parade and Bride Street, (this site) under the patronage of Sir John and Lady Forrest. His single storey wood and iron hotel included eight bedrooms, verandahs, and an office.

R.J. Raynor purchased the property in 1909 and added the attractive two storey stone front to the existing premises. This comprised of three parlours, a storeroom, bathroom, and office on the ground floor, and five bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor. The outbuildings consisted of stables, feed and harness rooms.

By 1920 the license had been withdrawn. The building was then used for residential boarding and as an office by a variety of businesses including the Bush Nursing Association, the Irwin Index, a branch of the Bank of N.S.W. and Elder Smith and Co. Ltd. stock agents, until it was demolished in 1970.

Elders Rural Services have occupied this modern office and storage facility since 1995.



Tearooms were immensely popular in town, selling homemade ginger beer and ice-cream, which was churned by volunteers and sold for a penny a lick (cone).

Blue's Café took its name from Colin Campbell, nick-named Blue. He and his wife Esme managed this establishment from 1959-1965.

Mrs Alice Pascoe, Nanna Dunn, Mr Sweetapple and Lawley McCagh, at different stages also serviced the town with their specialty tearoom provisions.

The Irwin Index, a local newspaper of the day, carries advertisements for Oliver's Tea Rooms and Cosy Corner Tea Rooms (run by Mrs Kilmurray) in 1926.

A decade later, the same paper advertises Mrs E.G. Gilders ran a tearoom opposite the railway station, and Mrs S. Fickling had the Royal Tea Rooms.



The Flats were built in 1928 and have had many and varied uses throughout the decades, including a saddlery, dressmaker, bicycle shop and the Rural and Industry Bank agency.

Hannah Clapp ran a hair salon from here in the 1950s and locals also worked here when it was a bakehouse, managed by Laurie Broad. At times, the building was rented out as residences.

Recently, The Flats have been part private residence and part business, including a sewing service, Bowen therapist and a second-hand shop.





4

## *Cecil Newton Park Gazebo Display*



In 1928 owner/manager E.A. Field opened his new store on the site of the former Pearse and Herbert store. Constructed of cement bricks, at a cost of 2000 pounds, it covered 420sqm and featured four large street front display windows, glass skylights for light and ventilation, and was illuminated at night by means of an electric plant on the premises.

An amazing variety of goods, from clothing, groceries, homewares, and hardware, to gramophones and cameras were on sale. Agricultural products including fuel, oil, chaff, and other fodders were stored in a warehouse attached to the rear of the building. Since 1930, when Mr. Field sold his business, there have been various operators including Caldow's (1930 - 1947), Craig and Paddon and Webster and Gledhill.

The building was demolished in 1969 to make way for Cecil Newton Park.



E.A. Field and family



## *Cecil Newton Park Gazebo Display*



### **Commercial Hotel**

The original hotel, named The Midland Hotel, was built c1890. It was a stylish white single storey mud brick building on the present site. The proprietor was William Henry Linthorne who, with his family, lived in the hotel while their home 'Kia Ora' (Linthorne Manor) was built.

One of the most notable guests was Sir Gerald Smith, Governor of W.A., who in 1897, with his Vice Regal party, had breakfast at Linthorne's Midland Hotel.

In 1908 a new two storey hotel, named the Commercial Hotel, was built on the site. The proprietor and licensee was Alfred James Harris, who owned the business until 1938, when it was sold to Harold Cornish. This magnificent building offered a welcome stopover for many a weary traveller and meeting place for all.

In the 1970s it's architectural beauty was greatly affected by the removal of the balconies and verandahs, as required by law, deemed to be too close to the road and therefore posed a traffic hazard.



## *Cecil Newton Park Gazebo Display*



This building was purchased by Mr E.A. Field in 1927, He used it as a temporary store until the completion of his new store in 1928, Since that time the premises has been used as a residence, tearooms, grocery store, hot bread shop and currently as a bakery and specialty cake shop.



## *Old Post Office*

Until 1893 one of the first general stores - S.F. Moore's 'The Little Wonder' was a non-official post office linked by telegraph to Perth and Geraldton.

An official post office was built of local stone sourced from Mingenew Hill, at a cost of 566 pounds. It was opened on 9th September 1894.

Mr P. J. Canty was appointed first Postmaster, drawing a salary of 110 pounds per annum.

A pony express ran monthly from Mingenew to Mount Magnet followed by a coach service from 1895.

In 1903 tenders were called for a substantial bridle rail, with up to 6 hooks, to be erected in front of the post office.

By 1910 the overland telegraph line linked Mingenew to the world. At the same time several outlying properties erected private telephone lines into Mingenew.

In 1915 Mingenew was connected to the Perth - Geraldton telephone line and in 1930 the first mail delivery service to properties commenced.

After 1939, night officers manned the telephone exchange after hours, until automation was affected on 17th May 1978.

The post office was relocated into the Community Resource Centre in 2005.







Around 1870 the first official store, referred to as 'The Little Wonder' was built by Dongara merchant and commercial agent Samuel Fortescue Moore, on the site of the present IGA, Lot 72, 52 Midlands Rd.

It was the second building erected in the Mingenew town site.

The store sold a wide variety of goods including groceries, drapery, clothing, hardware, and alcohol. He was an agent for insurance, rent collection, income tax returns, and machinery.

He stocked gold diggers requisites to cater for men on their way to the Murchison goldfields and also owned a store at Yandanooka.

S.F. Moore was a highly esteemed colonist, prominent pastoralist, and businessman.

He represented the Irwin district as a parliamentarian for many years and was well respected throughout the state.

From 1910 - 1925 Mr P.T. Bridge managed the store for Mr Moore. He then purchased the business and ran it from 1925 - 1942 on his own behalf.

Since that time subsequent owners/leasees have included W.H.G. Howard, Webster and Gledhill and Mingenew Trading Company.







In 1906 the Upper Irwin Road Board account was transferred from the West Australian Bank at Dongara to a newly formed branch of the National Bank in Mingenew.

By 1908 a weatherboard and iron building with residence attached, was erected in Railway Parade (Midlands Road).

A bank teller at one time was known to stand in a tub of water behind the counter to keep cool.

In the early days the ledger desk was set 10 inches above the floor level to observe the customers and assist in case of any holdups. Pistols were issued to most senior staff.

A brick frontage to the bank, extending back to the strong room, was added in 1935 and the tin roof replaced with tiles 1985.

1965 a new bank manager's residence was erected in Phillip street and the original residence demolished.

The bank formally closed September 2018 after service had reduced to 2 days per week in recent years.





On the 24th November 1894 the railway line from Mingenew to Midland was completed. This important milestone in the development of this part of the State was marked with its opening by the Commissioner of Railways Mr H.W. Venn and Engineer in Chief Mr C.Y. O'Connor.

In 1894 Mr F.W.G Liebe completed the construction of the Railway Station buildings. They consisted of a stone station master's residence and office, linked to the two passenger waiting rooms, by a breezeway. Brick refreshment rooms and facilities were added in 1949. These rooms along with the original waiting rooms make up the building today after the station master's residence and office were demolished in 1973.

The opening of the railway transformed the transportation of all goods and people to and from the district. Mingenew developed into a major locomotive depot and crew changeover stop for the Midland line. Facilities including a goods shed, loading ramp, stockyards, a 3-tonne crane, coal storage area, water tank and a twelve-hut barracks were built over the years. Collie coal was used for the steam trains while water was supplied from the Erregulla Spring Reserve.

Manual communication methods from this era can be seen at the Mingenew Museum. They include the 'distance signal', complete with green and orange glass, and the kerosene lamp used for illumination at night. Diesel engines replaced steam in 1958 and passenger train services ceased in 1975.

Bulk grain is now the only freight carried on this line.



From the 1850s to the beginning of the 1900s, large drafts of Kimberley and Gascoyne pastoral cattle were droved south annually from such places as Anna Plains station north of Port Hedland to Mingenew. Drafts of up to 3000 head travelled in mobs of approximately 800 head which enabled the draw-down of water to be managed.

They travelled on well-trodden stock routes established around the available water in springs, soaks, wells and permanent pools. These were established every 10-15 miles, a recognised day's journey for travelling stock.

Cattle from the northern area of the State passed through the government Dip at Wallal station to ensure freedom from tick, before being walked to Mingenew. This journey took up to 9 months and sheep and cattle were often droved down a day apart. Land was reserved around each watering point for public use. Extensive land was also set aside around Mingenew town site to hold sheep and cattle while waiting for train transport to market. Large wooden stock yards (near the railway station) were established as holding pens. The reserve at Depot Hill, with its fresh springs in the Irwin River, was used for the purpose of holding stock before they continued their journey south or while waiting for sale in Mingenew.

The stock routes were also used by wagons and coaches. Improvements to the routes were made over time to accommodate motorised traffic and they now form part of our road systems.



From the earliest settlement in the 1850's the Mingenew Spring was the main watering point for people and cattle in the area. In 1867 100 acres of land around the spring was leased by Samuel Pole Phillips. A shepherd's hut built of stone and pug with a thatched roof was built south of the spring.

In 1891 his son Samuel James Phillips surveyed this land into 156 town blocks which became the private town of Mingenew Spring. Market gardens were established on land around the spring to supply produce for the local market and the gold diggers on the Murchison gold fields. A Chinaman named John had one of the first fruit and vegetable shops on the corner of William Street and Railway Parade. This natural freshwater spring was also a popular swimming spot for locals.



In 1887 the town's people were drawing from the spring "an ample and pure supply of water all the year round." By 1929 water for the town site was being supplied mostly from Erregulla Spring, collected rainwater and some spring water.

In 1979 an earthquake shook the town and it is speculated that this event affected the water flow of the spring. In 1982 a bore was drilled west of the reserve, which also lowered the water table to its current level.

In 1961 a caravan park, under the management of the Shire, was established on a portion of this land while the remainder was retained as a reserve. The caravan park is now privately owned.





The business of blacksmithing was extremely important both for shoeing horses and building and repairing coaches, sulkies, drays, and wagons. The trade was carried on from the earliest times and by circa 1894-1895 John O'Connor, A.E. Kenworthy and Samuel Henry Hope were operating in Mingenew.

Wagons built at the Hope family business were well known and distributed throughout the pastoral areas-even to the Kimberley. Their expertise as wheelwrights were such that teamsters brought plant back to Mingenew for repairs annually. The Hope's anvil, tyre-tying machine and shrinking plate are displayed at the museum. Their business also included coffin making and they conducted undertaking duties for three generations, with Charles and Gordon operating as Hope Bros. from 1909 until shortly after the second world war.



The blacksmith shop [near the Mingenew Spring] included a foundry where some of the early 'strippers' were made preceding the modern harvesters. One of the first motor cars to herald the age of motorised transport, was owned in 1913 by the Darlot Bros. of Urella; gradually the trade of blacksmiths was displaced by modernised Garages.

The Mingenew Shire Works Depot is now located on this site.



Charles Hope





The first evidence of law in the district was at Strawberry where P.C. Joseph Watson was stationed from 1863. His territory covered a vast area extending into the Murchison. In 1893 a resident Police Constable was appointed to the private town of Mingenew. This was the gold boom era when police were on duty 24 hours a day and were responsible for a multitude of tasks over and above their policing duties including first aid, local debtors, collecting the annual agricultural statistics and collecting license fees for cats and dogs.

In 1897 a new police station and quarters were built of local stone at a cost of 500 pounds. Its solid construction, high ceilings and thick walls made it the coolest residence in town. This building has survived thanks to the efforts of Mingenew Historical Society members who campaigned strongly for its retention when it was threatened with demolition in the 1970's. It is now used as a residence.

The station's two-celled stone lockup was built in 1898, which meant prisoners no longer needed to be chained to a tree while waiting for the arrival of the visiting magistrate. Despite being in poor condition, open to public view and a security risk, this lockup continued to be used to house prisoners until 1980 when it was demolished.

In 1964 a new building, housing the courthouse and police station facility, was opened. The court house facility remained in operation until 2015.

***Please respect the privacy of residents.***

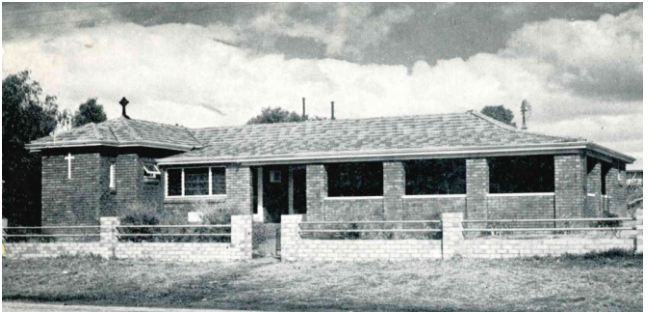




The first school building was a galvanised iron structure attached to the eastern side of the tin church in Irwin St. It had previously been used as a school room at the Strawberry siding and shifted to Mingenew in 1931. It opened in 1932 as St Joseph's Convent School, staffed by three Sisters from the Dominican teaching order. They endured hard living conditions, working inside this school wearing their long flowing heavy twill habits and tight-fitting headwear during the long summers without any form of cooling. Outside of school hours the Sisters taught music to many local children.

The sisters lived in a mud brick house on the corner of Victoria and Irwin St. until a substantial brick house was built for them in 1954 on the east side of the church.

By 1948 a new one room school was built in William St. and with increasing numbers two additional classrooms were added in 1954 and 1963. By this time there were 86 pupils at the school. From 1979 until the school closed in 1991 it was staffed by lay teachers. The building is now occupied as a private residence.



William Henry Linthorne (1846 - 1920) was an early pioneer of the Greenough/Dongara and Mingenew districts. He was a builder, hotelier and businessman who built many of the landmark buildings in Mingenew including the Anglican Church, the first State School (now the Museum) and the Mingenew Post and Telegraph Office.

In 1892 he applied for a Wayside Inn licence for the Midland Hotel (now the Commercial Hotel) and shifted to Mingenew from Dongara to live in the premises. In 1902 he was elected as the first Secretary of the Upper Irwin Road Board and served in this role until 1919.

W.H. Linthorne built this stately colonial residence Linthorne Manor (Kia Ora) in 1893 for his wife Mary Ann (King) and their 14 children. The home's outstanding features included bull-nosed verandahs, bricks made in Guildford, stamped metal ceilings made by a German craftsman, painted glass panels above the doors and ornate timber surrounds to the fireplaces. The outside buildings comprised of the laundry, yardman's quarters and stables.

In 1926 the property was sold to W.S. Oliver and his wife Bessie. In 1961 it became the property of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Geraldton and was then used as the St Joseph's Presbytery and Catholic Centre for many years.

In 2007 Linthorne Manor returned to private hands and the current owners have embarked on extensive restoration work which will ensure that it remains an iconic historical building for years to come.

***Please respect the privacy of residents.***



Prior to 1910 Mass was conducted once a month in the first Agricultural Hall. Circa 1910-1912 a timber and iron church was brought from Strawberry siding and erected on this site.

The first Priest, Father Scanlon travelled from Moora to Mingenew by train once per month. Next was Father Hawes, (later to become Monsignor Hawes) who rode his black horse from Mullewa once per month to officiate Mass. Father Hawes hobby was horse racing and one of his horses won the Yalgoo Cup. Circa 1929 Father Lynch serviced Mingenew, driving a new single seater Chrysler car from Three Springs.

The current brick church building was opened in 1959 by the Most Reverend R.E.B Gummer, Bishop of Geraldton. A small cottage at the rear of the church was built for priests requiring accommodation in town.

Father Spain a popular Parish Priest conducted Mass here from the early 1950s to 1986, retiring at age 80.



The first school in Mingenew was built on 1 acre donated by S.J. Phillips on this existing site.

W. H. Linthorne tendered for the construction of the building at a cost of 153 pounds.

The schoolroom was to accommodate at least 24 pupils. Later, another classroom and cloakroom were added, then a stone residence was built for the headmaster next to the school.

Mingenew's first school master, Mr A.E. MacGregor, sailed on the steam ship *Flinders* from Fremantle to Port Denison, then completed the journey on the contractor's construction train to Mingenew.

In 1959 the building ceased functioning as a school when the 105 students transferred to the new state school on Phillip St.

In 1965 it became a youth centre, then in 1978 the repertory club used one room and the Mingenew Historical society established a museum in the other room.





The original Road Board office (on site) was built by volunteers using local stone in 1904. It served in this role until 1935 when new offices were added to the front of the Agricultural hall situated on its north side. This iconic original Road Board building has since been used by a variety of organisations including the school, museum, and Expo. The current Shire Offices have evolved through extensive additions in 1935 and then in 1983 the Shire voted to retain and modify this Agricultural hall, in favour of totally rebuilding.

Since 1905 'Halls' have played a significant role in many activities in the town. Voluntary labour built both the 1st Agricultural Hall, which was destroyed by fire, and the 2nd Agricultural Hall built in 1917. The latter was used extensively until 1959 when the Mingenew Town Hall was completed. These venues catered for social gatherings, entertainment and indoor sports including weddings, balls, cabarets, dinners, reunions, quiz nights, film nights, Repertory Club presentations, school concerts, art shows, badminton and gymnastics. Sixty two years on the Town Hall urgently needs renovations so it can once again fulfil these functions.

The final entertainment venue was the outdoor pictures area set alongside the hall. Pre television days public picture shows were immensely popular. As early as “1920 Mr Walter Taylor screened silent films while Mrs Walter Taylor played an accompaniment on the hall piano in the dark.” In 1935 West Talkies showed pictures in the Hall. By 1948 improved projection and sound equipment allowed pictures to be screened outdoors in summer. Deck chairs set the tone for a relaxing evening and refreshments were sold during the interval.





The first Minister, Revd. Horace Faull, prior to 1882, included Mingenew in his district circuit, driving on his two- horse team buggy. Next came Revd. Arthur Barclay. Sunday school was offered in 1895 through the efforts of Revd. W. G. Mitchell. It is unclear where these services were held, until the time a weatherboard church was built circa 1908-1912 on this site. In 1955 a back addition to the wooden church housed a bedroom and wood stove kitchen. During 1960 the existing stone wall was erected.

One local family, Mr and Mrs Jack Pascoe and their 11 children were regular attendees at this church. Mr Pascoe would open the church up and light the swinging oil lamps. The carved Cornish Company organ, played by organist Muriel Jones from 1925, now resides in the museum.

Mr David Brand [later to become Sir David Brand, Premier of WA 1959-1971] married Miss Doris McNeil [Arrino] in 1944 in this Wesleyan church. The church was demolished in 1968.

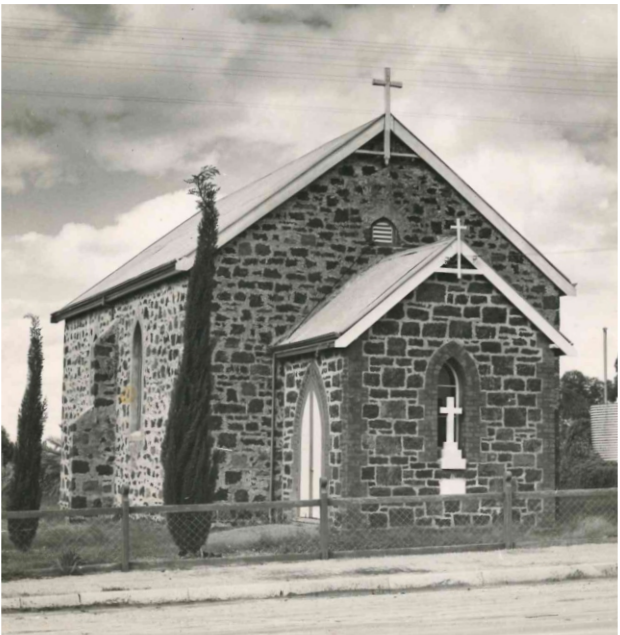




W.H. Linthorne set about building this church using local stone with the foundation stone being laid by Miss Clementine Nairn on 8th May 1903; Reverend John Alban Brown officiated (his name is inscribed on the church font). The first wedding was solemnised between William Shepherd Oliver of Mingenew, and Bessie Alice Johnson of Dongara. Two Poplar trees were planted at the church entrance in their memory. In 1908 a front porch was added to the building. The corrugated iron roof was replaced with tiles in 1962.

In the early days, the Revd. Ernest Gill travelled from Dongara to conduct services at the church and on various properties. He rode a bicycle from Dongara and no doubt, organised rides in the guard's van on the train. By 1912 Revd. Ernest Groser resided in the townsite, and he rode his horse out to visit new settlements. Mr Hope, a local blacksmith & wheelwright, made and erected the bell tower in 1915.

The Anglican Ladies Guild was formed in 1948. Their main purpose was to raise church funds, which they energetically did over many decades. Some of the fundraising activities in the 70's included fancy dress parties, the annual Anglican ball, fashion parades, garden parties, quiz nights, progressive dinners and jumble sales. This organisation was also the recognised 'official Shire caterers' for many years.





20

## Sister Cameron Infant Health Centre

Sister Doris Cameron commenced duties as Infant Health Sister in 1948 using the C.W.A. rooms once a week and travelling an area bound by Mullewa, Latham, Coorow, and Dongara. Mothers requiring assistance at home signalled by draping a baby's nappy on their farm gate along the sister's route. The Sister Cameron Infant Health Centre was built in Phillip street and opened in 1957 in recognition of her dedicated service. A public farewell was held in August 1962 on the retirement of "Cam" as she was affectionately called. This building presently serves the community as a Day Care facility.



21

## Old Hospital

Early medical services were virtually non-existent except for the activities of midwives who attended women in childbirth. The earliest records recall a Doctor Bartlett visiting Mingenew and the surrounding district around 1900, travelling from Dongara once a fortnight. The C.W.A. organised the first health service in Mingenew from 1930. A sister was appointed and lived in the de-licensed hotel building. A hospital was built in 1936 on 2 acres of land in Phillip Street gifted by J. W. Butcher. The hospital was run by a Matron and one assistant until its closure in 1942 when the army took it over as a casualty station for 12 months. During 1944-53 it was a leased residence and then divided into two separate living quarters for the Silver Chain and Infant Health sisters. A surgery was attached which was used by Sister Riseberry (Silver Chain nurse). A Doctor attended the surgery on a weekly basis. It returned to a private residence in 1977. A new Silver Chain precinct in Phillip street was opened in 1977 by Premier Sir Charles Court. Sister Jenny Maley (and her husband Fred) resided and worked from here until her retirement in 1997.

***Please respect the privacy of residents.***





The Yandanooka and District branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial league of Australia was formed in 1918-1919. The earliest recorded President was W. Meldrum and J. A. Brown was a very prominent supporter of the league over many years. Returned Service men and women commemorated ANZAC Day with a service of remembrance, held for many years in the Yandanooka hall and Lesser hall in Mingenew. In July 1951, a memorial arch and abutments of local stone were added to the existing gateway to the sportsground complex. Two bronze plaques were set in the gateway pillars, honouring the fallen men of the district from both world wars. The arch and gateway were demolished in 1968 after being damaged by a truck attempting to pass through.

In 1961 the Yandanooka and Mingenew branch members purchased a prefabricated building in Perth and a local, Dick Neale transported it back to Mingenew. The hall was erected on Lot 20 Shenton street. This hall was hired by many groups including the kindergarten 1973-1978, and C.W.A. in 1979. In February 1985, the Mingenew Lions club purchased the hall for a clubroom and Expo office.



Golf was first played on a 9-hole course situated on Midland Railway Co. land north of the railway line. The Anonymous Cup for mixed foursomes was competed for on the opening day on 24th May 1928. This became a perpetual trophy which is still awarded to this day.

In 1933 a new 18 hole course was developed on land situated immediately south west of the town being part of the new recreation ground.

The Golf Club committee members pegged out and constructed the course and together with the support of the town businesses they built a significant asset for the town during the economic depression.

The President Mr J.S. O'Halloran in his opening address stated that "he hoped that other sporting bodies would follow the lead of the golf club and use the new recreation ground so that it might be developed and form a fitting introduction to a wonderful district".

Also in 1933 the original Golf club house, constructed of cement bricks, was built on land to the east of the current hockey field.

Mr J.M. Drew M.L.C when officially opening the club house stated that "from the club house a magnificent view of approximately one hundred thousand acres of surrounding country meets the eye."

On 18th June 1965 a combined Golf and Bowling club house, on the corner of Bride and Philip St, and was officially opened by the Hon. David Brand M.L.A.

The course was subsequently modified to accommodate the change of the first tee to near the new club house.



The first record of a baker in Mingenew was Mr Jock White in 1919. In 1926 Mr A.J. Harris rebuilt the bakery and leased it to William Muncie whose advertisement stated that "it was the most hygienic and up to date bakery in the state." The shop was situated on the street front with the living quarters and the bakery at the rear.

In 1935 Ray and Kathleen Thorne purchased the bakery and it became known for its good quality bread and buns. Products were sold to other towns including Strawberry, Irwin, Dongara and Walkaway and delivered by train on Tuesdays and Fridays. The bread was wrapped in thick brown paper and tied with string then placed in a tea box. On occasion, customers would ring asking where their bread was, and it had invariably been carried to the wrong station, or the guard had forgotten to put it out at the station. Selwood's mail truck also delivered orders to customers on their Morawa and Mullewa mail run.

During the Second World War, many thousands of soldiers camped around Mingenew and the army cooks came to Thorne's bakehouse to cook poultry and cake for the Generals in Charge. After many years of making bread by hand, Ray bought an electric dough mixer, making life as a baker a good deal easier. The business was sold to Mr Harold Chapman circa 1955 and then to Mr Vince Farley.





Mr R.R. (Ron) Ironside came to Mingenew as an employee of the Midland Railway Co.

In 1928 he resigned from this position to become the agent for the Mingenew branch of Dalgety & Co Ltd, the largest wool selling House in Australia. He set up shop on this site.

By 1935 he was also the local agent for "Sunshine" Machinery, Commercial & Union Assurance Companies, Dodge cars and trucks, Shell, Vacuum and Neptune Oil Depot and Malvern Star Cycles.

George (R.R. Ironside's son) took over this business and through the 1950's traded as Ironside & Taylor and in the 1960's as Ironside and Rule.

Both Ron and George were prominent sportsmen and were actively involved in community events including the Mingenew Agricultural Society Show, the local race, tennis and golf clubs. Mrs Ron Ironside was a founding member (1929) of the local C.W.A.

In more recent times, until it was demolished in 1994, the building was used as a garage by different proprietors including the Croft family and the Bick family.





In 1911 the earliest known butcher shop in Mingenew was operated by the Herberts on the corner of William St and Railway Parade. The Eakins family also operated a butcher and bakery business in Shenton St.

In 1925 Norm Saggars set up as a butcher opposite the Railway Station while a new premises was built on this site by C. Hope. The Saggars name was then associated with the butchering business in Mingenew through until 1954.

Livestock were in plentiful supply with cattle and sheep being yarded here prior to being transported by rail to Midland. Local meat supplies came from the stock and slaughter yards situated near Mingenew Hill. When the slaughter house closed the meat was railed from Perth to Mingenew. Locals recall with humour, the meat being unsecured at the railway siding (no sophisticated packaging in those times) which allowed local dogs to make opportunistic visits to satisfy their hunger.

The McAuliffe family were the last operators of this business from circa 1960 to 1970.

The building was demolished in 1970 and the land became part of Cecil Newton Park.



The Mingenew Lodge held its first meeting in the Mingenew second Agricultural Hall in 1920. It continued meeting there until 1926 when the Masonic Lodge Hall was built on land donated by Brother E.A. Fields.

The Hall was financed by contributions from Lodge members and they contributed their time and skills in its construction. A supper room, Secretary's office and Robing room were added over the years.

The Lodge provided fellowship and friendship for men from surrounding areas including Geraldton, Dongara and Morawa. The main modes of transport to the meetings in the early days were by horse, horse and sulky, the odd car and the Midland Railway. The journey from Geraldton by car took about four hours with many gates to open. (There were 32 gates between Dongara and Mingenew.) Members who travelled by train would stay the night in Mingenew.

In the 1940's many servicemen who were stationed in the Mingenew area wished to be involved in the Lodge. The strict dress code was relaxed to allow "regalia adequate for the occasion" with some imaginative ways used to meet this requirement.

Mingenew Lodge members have contributed widely to the general fabric of the community both financially and in-kind through their support of organisations such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Mingenew Expo. Mingenew Primary School students have benefited by way of scholarships and awards and the school grounds have been enhanced by the recent donation of the beautiful entrance gates.

The Lodge closed in 2015.



E.A. Field with son in laws



Mingenew Historical Walk was developed  
by the Mingeneu Historical Society.  
Copyright 2020



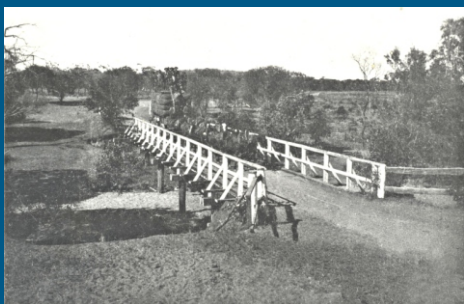
Nangetty Sale day 1925

*Sources:*

Museum Resources  
Mingenew 1846-1986 Publication  
Mingenew Residents  
Trove Website  
Carnamah Historical Society

*Acknowledgements:*

Shire of Mingeneu  
National Australia Bank  
Elders Rural Services  
Seaside Signs  
Metal Art Creations



Old Enanty Bridge



Harvesting on  
Narlee Farm  
Yandanooka

Mingenew Races.  
Mrs N. Noble & Mrs L. Brain.



Picnic in river bed. E.A. Field with bottle and cup and saucer. His daughter, Vera, little girl in front of him.