

## City of Canning Snapshot

By John Parker and Canning Districts Historical Society

The first 'Canning' was much larger than today, bounded on the north and east by the York District, on the south where Kelmscott is now, then to Bull Creek and along the river to the Swan district.

Some of the changes include:

**Castledare** was an Edwardian mansion bought by the Catholic Church in 1929 as a residential college for special needs boys, it then changed focus to become a home for underprivileged boys, with the first child migrants coming in the 1930s. In the 1960s a miniature railway commenced, which still operates today. In 1998 the site became an aged care facility.

**Former Sikh Cemetery Site** was used till the 1930s and was recently redeveloped with a plaque marking the site.

Riley's Bridge was built in 1910 by Fred Riley, a market gardener who supplied the bulk of the money for its construction and renamed **Riverton Bridge** in 1916. By the 1930s it had fallen into disrepair and rebuilt in 1953. The original bridge was demolished in the 1980s. When the Shelly Bridge was built in 1978 it became predominately a local traffic bridge.

**Canning War Memorial** was built in 1921 outside of the Canning Town Hall. Extensions to the building made it too close to the memorial and left no room for a lawn. The hall was used as a picture theatre and this meant that the memorial risked being damaged, thus was moved to its present location, with the first service held in 1956.

### The Kent Street Weir

Built originally to stop salt water moving upstream as the many orchards and market gardens needed fresh water. It came into operation in 1926 costing 880 pounds. In 1932 people were still unhappy as the salt water was still encroaching and by 1940 a more effective weir was constructed. In 1962 the Weir was taken over by Public Works and rebuilt for 7000 pounds. In 2017 the Weir once again had refurbishments started with an estimated cost of 4.4 million dollars.

### Interesting facts

- During the 1920s there was a toy factory on Albany Highway. Thousands of teddy bears, koalas and kangas were made.
- The first electric street light was turned on in 1927 in Railway Prom.
- Mason St is named after Benjamin Mason (an important person to the Canning and Kalamunda District during the 1800s).
- The Civic Centre opened in 1971 on land that was originally an orange orchard called 'Kaliamba'. Kaliamba was owned by a Perth shop owner who staff used to go there for picnics and a swim.

- In 1961 the Canning District became the Shire of Canning, in 1971 the Shire became a Town and in 1979 the Town became the City of Canning.

### **Further Information**

The City of Canning has a collection of local history material.

<https://www.canning.wa.gov.au/Community/Library-Services/Canning-Local-History-Library/History>

Canning Districts Historical Society

<https://www.facebook.com/Woodloes-Homestead-Canning-Districts-Historical-Society-227005417454571/>

### **Excursions**

#### **Castledare railway**

<http://www.castledare.com.au/index.html>

#### **Former Sikh Cemetery Site**

Adenia Reserve Ferndale

#### **Kent Street Weir**

<https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/site/kent-street-weir>

The City of Canning has a historic driving tour map.

### **Woodloes Homestead**

<https://www.canning.wa.gov.au/My-City/History-and-Heritage/Woodloes-Homestead>