

11.0 1975- 2005 Rural Diversity and Challenges to the Timber Industry

11.1 Demographic Settlement

Settlement in the Shire of Manjimup was prompted by the growth of the tourism industry and by the attraction of the rural lifestyle as an alternative to city life. However, at the same time there were changes in settlement patterns resulting from the decline of some traditional industries. In the timber industry there were changes in the number and ownership of the operating mills. The mills opened in the post-war period as well as some from an earlier time, largely closed down. Quinninup, Pimelia, Palgarup, Nyamup, Jardee, Shannon and Tone River closed in this period. Not all the mill workers left the district as a number took up farming properties in the district. Some of the mill towns were purchased privately and used for recreational purposes such as Nyamup. In 1986 Quinninup was purchased by a single developer and Karri Lake was built. The houses were later sold to individual residents.



**This totemic carving is a landmark in the town of Quinninup.
*Heritage TODAY 2004***

11.2 Transport and Communications

Decline and closure of the once comprehensive railway service was another factor in the struggle for some of the smaller settlements in the Manjimup district. There was no longer a rail service to Manjimup, Pemberton or Northcliffe. The Northcliffe to Pemberton Tramline however, remained open as a tourist service. Throughout the Shire there are a large number of railway remnants – reminders of the old rail system used extensively for the forest and timber industry. Bridges, viaducts, culverts, railway tracks and rail formations are scattered throughout the forest areas, a number of these places are noted in the Municipal Heritage Inventory.

The increase in car ownership and the use of trucks for transporting goods also reduced the emphasis on public transport services. The South-West Highway which runs directly through Manjimup remains the most important transport route from north to south.

11.3 Occupations

This period has been marked by the decline in the timber industry and the closure of a number of mills. There has also been an increase in corporate control of the industry with Bunnings being the main player. Jardee closed in 1993 and Walpole Mill closed in 1994/5.

Dairying, once wide spread in the Manjimup district, is now concentrated in a few large herds mainly in the Northcliffe area. Fruit growing has remained an important industry throughout this period as have dairying and mixed farming. An ideal climate for the growing of certain vegetables has made the Manjimup well known for its produce of cauliflowers, potatoes and onions.¹ Manjimup has become 'Home of the Pink Lady Apple' while Pemberton has become well known for its avocado production, with one of the biggest crops in Western Australia². Further diversification in farming has come with the growth of the wine industry and an increase in the number of marron farms. Economic stability has largely resulted from the breadth of the economic base of the area. Generally, since 2000 with a further decline in the timber industry, many people have had to find alternative employment in the district. Though there has been an increase in the service and professional sectors these have been largely focused in Manjimup.

Tourism has created employment in the hospitality sector and is one of the industries leading the way to economic growth in the district. In 2004 there were approximately 2,000 visitor accommodation beds available in a shire with a population of only 10,000.³ Places such as Karri Valley Resort (based on an old hops farm), Watermark Kilns (based in old tobacco kilns and Dingup House (a bed and breakfast in one of the early settler homes) are just a few of the tourist businesses that have developed around heritage places in the Shire.

11.4 Social and Civic Life

The Manjimup Shire offers a wide range of civic and recreational services including child health, libraries and senior citizens facilities. The district also includes a wide range of sporting grounds and cultural facilities. The Macedonian Club rooms were built in the 1990s on land donated by Stan Stoiche.

11.5 Outside Influences

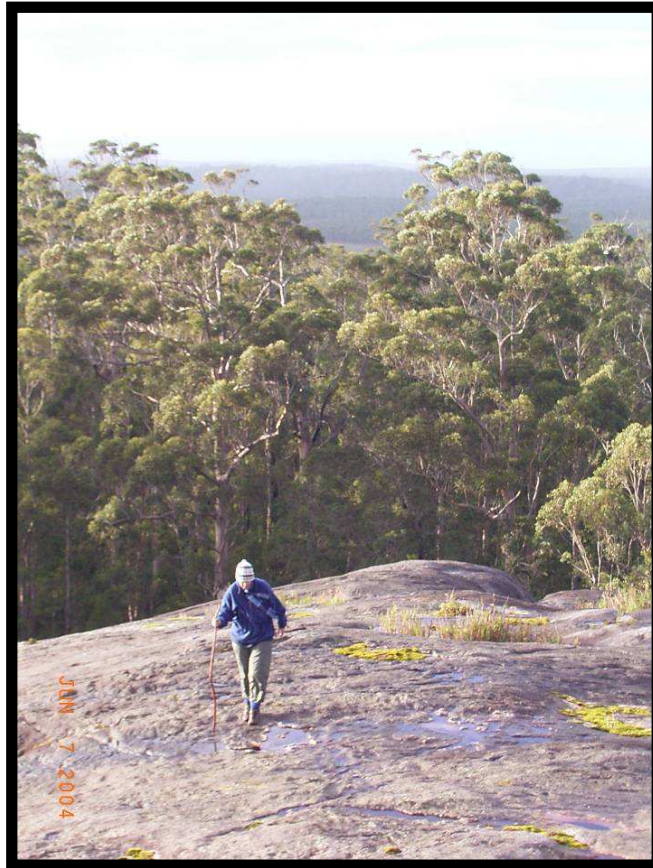
¹ Information from long term resident Paddy Williams, Northcliffe

² Pemberton Visitor Guide 2004-2005 DEC

³ Information from Jeremy Hubble, Director of Corporate Services, Shire of Manjimup,
September 2004

The development of electronic communications technology has facilitated the transfer of information and provided benefits of time and efficiency for both local business and local government activities.

In 2005 the growth of tourism and the wine industry state-wide had far reaching effects. Visitors are drawn to the area by a large number of accommodation beds and many cultural and natural attractions. The Bibbulmun Track (opened in 1979) winds its way through the Shire of Manjimup on its way to Albany. The track takes people through the D'Entrecasteaux and Nornalup -Walpole National Parks and through Pemberton, Northcliffe and Walpole townships. Walkers also pass many heritage places that are on the Shire of Manjimup Municipal Heritage Inventory including, the Wreck of the Mandalay site, One Tree Bridge, Beedleup Falls, the Gloucester Tree and River Road Bridge.



Hiking up granite rock on Bibbulmun Track south of Northcliffe.
Heritage TODAY 2004



The old R&I Bank in Northcliffe has been converted for accommodation hoping

to attract weary walkers from the Bibbulmun Track for a bit of comfort.
Heritage TODAY 2004