

The Village Shopping Centre

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The land now occupied by the Taroona Village Shopping Centre was owned by a Mr Adrian James who occupied the residence on the property and kept a small orchard.

In the 1950s and 1960s the Taroona area was serviced by a small shopping centre on the Channel Highway, just south of Taroona Crescent. Constrictions on that site meant that expansion to meet the growing needs of the Taroona area was not possible. In 1966 the Kingborough Commission decided to purchase the present site which provided a flatter area with more room for expansion.

Mr James' residence was burnt out in the 1967 bushfires and the orchard was severely damaged.

It was not until 1972 that the Kingborough Commission, in the aftermath of the bushfire reconstruction, was able to consider the development of the site for a shopping complex. At this stage Mr Charles Martin was invited by the Commission to submit a proposal for the development of the site on a design and construct basis, under a lease arrangement. Mr Martin's proposal was subsequently accepted by the Commission.

In order to provide larger car parking facilities the Commission acquired the rear of the two adjacent properties at 162 and 164 Channel Highway in 1973. The properties were owned by Messrs. W. Moore and M. Verrier respectively.

Construction of the complex started early in 1973, under the arrangement with Mr Charles Martin, trading as Charles Martin Pty. Ltd. The construction was completed in October 1973. The building basically consists of brick and timber construction and has a central mall area, with shops on either side. At the time of opening, the shopping complex provided the following facilities and retail outlets:

1. Library
2. Bookshop and stationary
3. Butcher
4. Hairdressing salon
5. Sportswear
6. Children's clothing
7. Hardware
8. Pharmacy
9. Self-service grocery
10. Greengrocer
11. Gifts and houseware
12. Coffee and snacks
13. Menswear and jeans.

Later a Persian carpet shop was opened, followed by a sub-Post Office which was attached to, and run by, the hairdressing salon.

All shops were leased by Charles Martin Pty. Ltd., and over the next few years some shops were vacated or changed to other types of retailing. Currently only the hairdressing salon is still occupied by the original lessee. However, with varying fortunes, the shopping complex has continued to service the Taroona area to this day.

In 1986 the complex was sold by Charles Martin Pty. Ltd. to Dr. and Mrs Ladd, trading as Bamff Pty. Ltd.



The site of the Village Shopping Centre c1960.

PHOTO PAMELA MOORE.



The Village Shopping Centre, 1986.

PHOTO CARL WOOD