

Extract from the Kalgoorlie Miner, 11 January 2002

Menzies Clock ticks over into new millennium

Apart from the dedicated seeing in the start of the New Year, the Menzies Shire clock quietly ticked over into the new millennium without much fanfare.

In fact according to the Shire CEO Greg Carter, the \$16,000 four faced timepiece now gracing the tower edifice began its tick-tocking on the stroke of midnight at the end of 1999 and the start of 2000. "While everyone was out bringing in the New Year with fireworks we launched our clock".

For 99 years the tower above the Shire Offices in the main street, which also serves as the Goldfields Highway, remained blank with legend having it that the original clock had been lost at sea on its way to the WA mining and railway outpost.

Mr Carter said Shire Council members had decided against getting the clock sponsored either by Centenary of Federation funding or by a mining company.

"Councillors felt it wouldn't have been appropriate to have the clock named the Federation Clock or such like" Mr Carter said.

The clock is controlled by a master clock in the council offices. It sends a message every 30 seconds to the clocks that show the time on the big exterior clock faces.

Mr Carter said that since its installation, the clocks had not had any major hiccups.

Extract from The West Australian, 19 July 2000

Menzies no longer behind the times

One hundred years ago last month, a Goldfields deputation asked the State Government to reconsider a decision to cut funds for a town hall clock at Menzies.

It failed and the town hall tower remained bare for most of the 20th Century.

With the four faces on the 12m Menzies town hall tower remaining bare, the small centre became known far and wide as the town without a clock. Various councils raised the issue over the years but it was not until early 1999 and a \$16,000 Menzies Shire Council commitment that the four empty tower recesses were filled.

Council chief executive Greg Carter said a long held story recorded in a shire history was that a clock had been bought and was on its way from Britain but had gone down with the royal Mail Steamer Orizaba off Rottneest in 1905.

"But a purchase price was never included in any other Government estimates nor is there any record of any clock being ordered and purchased from England by the shire or that it was on the Orizaba", Mr Carter said.

"The story would certainly have suited politicians rather than their unwillingness to provide for a clock".

Mr Carter said the clock was unveiled on New Year's Eve 1999, but not everyone was happy.

"One woman told us in no uncertain terms that she preferred the empty tower faces and for the mystery to be continued" he said. "Instead of being the town with a clock we now say it's time for a look at Menzies".