Birth of a Suburb
KOORINGAL

The suburb was initially referred to as Henwood Park and by 1953 the suburb consisted of 27 houses and one small shop on Lake Albert Road, which included the post office (outside today’s Prime Butchery station).

In March 1959, a self-service grocery store and butcher was established on Lake Albert Road (Starrs), to provide for the rapidly growing population of almost 300 houses. The proprietors of this and the original store were I N and M L Cooney.

The official naming of the suburb was met with some objection and confusion, when in 1959 council notified the concerning departments of the decision to give the Kooringal suburb its official name.

Local government, Department of Education and the Department of Lands were in favour of the name. However, the postmaster general had objections, given that the post office operating at the store on Lake Albert Road used the name “Darrang.” Additionally, the postmaster general had concerns that mail which had already been marked as “Kooringal” was being directed to South Australia. After careful consideration, it was decided to go ahead with Kooringal, ahead of Henwood Park and Darrang, due to the fact churches, schools and businesses were already applying this name.

Perhaps one of the most significant developments for the new suburb was the construction of the Kooringal Mall, which was opened in October 1968 through the vision of Mr. Frank Wolstencroft.

Costing $100,000, the mall was “a step towards making Kooringal a self-contained section of the city of Wagga.” Among the many businesses that began operating were:

- Ruthwistles Food Fair
- Kooringal Fruit Bowl
- Kooringal Pharmacy
- Liliane’s Hair Salon
- Kooringal Newsagency

Compiled by Lauren Carroll

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at the archives

The kooringal Mall, complete with its signature big "K" back in the 1960s.