

OUR FOUNDER DEAN BROWN was born into a farming family and was raised growing grains and raising livestock in the West Australian Wheatbelt. At the end of World War II he purchased a lugger and set sail for the Kimberley to pursue his dream of becoming a pearler. He established himself at the tip of the Dampier Peninsula around a natural port called Shenton Bluff, which was established as a pearlers' camp in c.1880's and has continued as a pearling base since then. More than 35 graves testify to the history. Shenton Bluff is part of Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm and Dean's final resting place, where he watches over today's modern cultured-pearling practices, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren, as they continue his pearling legacy.

THE BROWN FAMILY



Dean Brown (centre) with sons Bruce & Lyndon



Bruce Brown (left) with son James (right) aboard DMB exploring the graveyards



James Brown (middle) with sons Shae & Dean

1910

1910

THE PEARLSHELL FISHING, INDUSTRY PEAKS supplying some 80% of the world's mother of pearl, employing over 3,500 people and running 400 plus luggers. Whilst the shell material was used to make many things, most of the world's buttons came from Broome pearlshell. Broome was built on buttons!

1900

1899

MIKIMOTO OPENS HIS FIRST STORE IN JAPAN, selling his Akoya cultured pearls. Mikimoto was the first person to successfully culture pearls commercially, and he guarded his secrets closely.

1890

