

## ALBURY'S HOTELS

See also the photo gallery of local hotels with notes describing each image "Then & Now - Albury Hotels" at <https://alburyhistory.org.au/resources/photos/>

Below are two edited talks by Ray Gear (presented at A&DHS General Meeting, March 2005, reprinted from A&DHS Bulletin No 445 and August 2007, reprinted from Bulletin No 472)

[ALBURY'S HOTELS 1938-1964 - Follow This Link](#)

### ALBURY'S HOTELS 1860-79

Albury in 1860 had a population of about 1400 and its main thoroughfare was Townsend Street. Hotels licensed in that year were: *Advance Australia*, *Criterion*, *Exchange*, *Horse and Jockey*, *Hume*, *Imperial*, *Rose*, *Royal* and *Victoria*. The *Mount Pleasant* was four miles out on the Sydney Road while the *Plough* was two miles out on the Gerogery Road. In Swift Street the *Commercial*, established in 1858, re-opened in September under the management of Mr E P Foster. Hotel names that had come and gone between 1836, when Robert Brown settled in Albury, and 1859 included: *Albury Inn*, *Carriers Arms* in Townsend Street *Commercial* in Townsend Street, *Empire* in Townsend Street, *Gold Diggers* (1 and 2) both in Townsend Street, *Punt Inn* in Wodonga Place, *Race Course* in what is now Mate Street, *Squatters* in Townsend Street, *Travellers Rest* in Sydney Road and the *Victoria* in Townsend Street

Hotels were important establishments in the early growth of towns fulfilling a number of functions. In addition to offering drink, company, accommodation and food, they were booking offices for coaches, they provided facilities for holding auctions, celebrations, social functions, meetings, inquests, they were used for making public addresses and provided rooms for use as offices, services and displays. Another vital function particularly for travellers was the provision of stabling for horses.

Towards the end of 1860 two new hotels, added to the twelve establishments then existing, were opened in Albury. In October the *Globe Hotel* on the corner of Dean and Kiewa Street was opened with Jonathan Boon the proprietor, late of the *Commercial Hotel*, Wagga. The *Globe*, designed and built by Daniel Driscoll for John Roper, was a two storied building containing 18 rooms, kitchen, out-house and stabling for fifteen horses. Seven weeks later in December a publican's license was granted to Daniel Driscoll for premises to be known as the *Bridge Inn*. The name, *Bridge Inn*, was probably taken from the *Bridge* being erected nearby over the Murray, work on which began on August 16, 1860. After six years, Daniel Driscoll left the *Bridge Inn*, putting on a Sports Carnival to thank the community for their patronage.

Across the river in Wodonga, hotel licenses were granted in 1861 to the *Border Hotel*, *Shamrock* (previously *Prince of Wales*), and *Wodonga* - first established in 1858.

With Arthur Walker's removal from the *Advance Australia*, where he was first licensee in 1859, to the *Globe* in 1863, the *Advance Australia* building was converted to the Albury Police Barracks. Its use as a Police Barracks was to last until about 1877, when Henry Giles reopened it as a hotel.

By early 1865 Black Range, north of Albury, where gold was discovered in 1851, had a population of about 300 persons and two buildings were being erected for use as public houses. Within the next twelve months the names of four hotels, the *Empire*, *Lavington*, *Riverina* and *Black Range*, were appearing in local newspapers. Little is known where these hotels were sited. By 1868 it appears that all these hotels were closed, the last being the *Empire*.

Hector McDonald erected the *Empire* at Black Range in 1865. Alfred G Sinclair took over in 1865 and was followed by J C Middleton in 1866, then George Williott in 1867. According to the *Border Post*, host Williott in late 1868 removed his public house to Jindera because of the abandonment of the Black Range diggings.

In 1865 John Kilfoil became licensee of the *Imperial Hotel* at 473 Townsend Street that had been erected in 1857 by Morris Asher. On John's passing in 1867 his wife Elizabeth became owner and licensee.

South of the *Imperial* on the corner of Townsend and Hume Streets the *Horse and Jockey Hotel* closed in 1867. Established in 1858 by Albury's first female publican Mrs Flora McEachern, the *Horse and Jockey* was originally known as the *Gold Diggers* and was the second establishment to carry this name.

In April 1868 John Green was granted a certificate authorising the issue of a publican's license for a house to be called the *Travellers Rest* situated at 313 Wodonga Place. In October of the same year the old *Hume Inn* premises at 406 Wodonga Place (once also known as the *Punt Inn*), which ceased being licensed in 1866, was destroyed by fire.

The news that Mr Owen's new premises in Dean Street, now the site of the Commercial Club, were intended to be converted into a hotel, raised the question of the need for another hotel in the town. However in June 1870 James A Jones of Goulburn was granted a license for premises to be known as the *Salutation Inn*.

The *Court House Hotel* that was sited at 490 Kiewa Street is first mentioned in 1872 with the names of early licensees being Mr Selle, F W Tietyens and James McLaughlin. It was the second hotel in Kiewa Street, the first being the *Rose* opened in 1852.

Charles Schmiedt in January 1873 took over the *Bridge Inn* that had just undergone extensive alterations and additions by Daniel Driscoll. In October of that year however, Schmiedt was granted a licence for premises at 595 Dean Street previously occupied by Jones' New Furniture Warehouse. This license for a hotel which he called *Albury*, was granted by a majority of one despite objection on the ground that another public house was not required in the locality.

Across the river at Wodonga, four hotels, the *Wodonga*, *Railway*, *Border City* and the *Halfway*, received renewal of their licenses in 1874 while two, the *Royal* and the *Terminus* had their licenses adjourned. Within the next twelve months two further hotels, the *Post Office* and *Carriers Arms*, were opened in Wodonga.

James Walsh who was the builder for St Patrick's Church, was issued with a license to open in 1874 the *Builders Arms Hotel* at 502 Guinea Street. When Mrs Jane Poole took over as licensee in 1879 she changed the name to the *Star*, which is still on the same site today, on the corner of Olive Street and Guinea.

Mrs Mary Mackay in 1874 took over the licence of the *Empire Hotel* at 441 Townsend Street and renamed the premises the *Carriers Arms*. The hotel was a brick building containing 13 bedrooms, parlour, dining room, tap room, bar and cellar - also detached kitchen, servant's room, pantry, washhouse, and stables of twelve stalls, large yard and garden. Use of the premises at 441 as a hotel appears to have begun in 1851 when it was known as the *Victoria*. Later names include the *Gold Digger*, the name *Victoria* again, then when Clement Negro was licensee in 1862, the *Empire*.

In Swift Street, the *Commercial Hotel* also had a name change, W S Potts renaming the establishment the *Albion* when he became licensee in 1874. His stay however was short lived.

The *Albury Club Hotel* on the corner of Dean and Elizabeth Streets was probably the first in Albury to be designed by an architect. Within a month of obtaining a license for the hotel, James McDonald formerly of the *Albion* in Swift Street abandoned the premises in October 1875.

It was reopened in November when a license was granted to George Conroy. However as licensee his term was also short lived. The hotel was described in 1877 as containing sitting rooms, private dining rooms, bedrooms, billiard room, bar and public dining rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and also detached house for servants.

At the licensing bench meeting in 1875, Alfred John Carpenter's renewal of his 1874 publican's license for the *Travellers Rest* in Wodonga Place, was refused on the grounds that he conducted his house in a disorderly and ill-governed manner. Within three months a new licence was granted to Edward Cass who renamed the premises the *Turk's Head Hotel*. At the licensing hearing Cass was warned that it would be necessary to secure for the place a decent reputation.

The question of need for another hotel again arose when Arthur Cass, who previously ran a tobacco business in Dean Street, applied for and was granted a license for the *George Hotel* in 1876. The question of need was considered again two months later with William Mangan's application for the *Border City Hotel* at 470 Townsend Street.

Charles Schmiedt in February 1876 bought land at 579 Dean Street and engaged the architect John Gordon, (who designed the *Albury Club Hotel*), to design a two-storey hotel, which he opened in November 1876. With its opening Schmiedt removed the name *Albury Hotel* from 595 Dean Street to his new remises. The original *Albury Hotel* was taken over by Peter Griffiths who changed the name to *Tattersall's Hotel*. In 1879 Arthur Cass became licensee of *Tattersall's*. Today this site is still used for hotel purposes under the name *Albion*.

Throughout Australia the construction of railways with their navy camps provided opportunity for setting up of hotels. One such hotel set up in Albury in 1878, was Daniel J Tuomy's hotel at Fallon's Vineyard Hill, otherwise locally known as "Big Hill." These hotels were generally temporary and a year later Mr Tuomy was making an unsuccessful application for another house in a paddock adjoining the railway station reserve.

In 1878 Albury had one hotel to every 125 persons and with the intention of the licensing legislation to reduce the number of public houses, the Police Magistrate voted against Fanny Brady being granted a publican's license. Her application was again refused in June; however in July 1878 she obtained a license for the *Market Hotel* at 501 Dean Street on the corner of Olive Street, the name *Market* being taken from the Market Reserve opposite, which is today known as Queen Elizabeth II Square.

The *Australian Hotel* that was sited at 481 Townsend Street was opened by J P Barrington in June 1878. With splendid balcony and extensive cellarage, the hotel contained five bedrooms, dining and sitting rooms, upstairs. Downstairs was the bar, dining rooms, kitchen and three bedrooms.

Albury's population in 1881 was about 3900 people, and Dean Street had become Albury's principal thoroughfare. In February 1881 the Great Southern Railway to Albury was opened. With the coming of the railway, four hotels opened nearby, the *Golden Fleece*, *Terminus*, *Railway* and *Railway Commercial*, all designed by the architectural firm, Gordon and Gordon.

Principal bibliography sources: *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, *Albury Border Post*

[Back to the Top](#) ↑

## ALBURY'S HOTELS 1938-1964

*Edited talk by Ray Gear (presented at A&DHS General Meeting, August 2007 and reprinted from A&DHS Bulletin No 472)*

In the early decades of the twentieth century there was a growth in car ownership in Australia that led to changes in society including how people travelled. As a consequence hotels began to change the way they operated. In 1938, "Albury was fast establishing itself as a tourist centre and becoming a stop-over place for travellers that caused the executors of the Ryan Estate to rebuild."

The *Market Hotel* (established 1878) on the corner of Dean and Olive Streets was rebuilt at a cost of £20,000 and renamed *Ryan's*. The rebuilding was overseen by licensee Reginald G Ryan the son of Thomas L Ryan who took over the running the hotel in 1901 before purchasing it in 1924. Thomas Ryan died in 1928 and the license of the hotel was taken over by Reginald who was well known in the local racing world and, an active member of many Albury organisations. The rebuilt *Ryan's* had a 32ft by 22ft public bar, private bar, lounge, accommodation, dining room seating 60 people, staff rooms and garages for seven vehicles.

In early September 1938, the *Victoria Hotel* at Wymah, north east of Albury and known as Wagra up to 1912, ceased trading and its license was transferred to Gavin Sarsfield O'Shaughnessy who built a two-storey hotel building costing £15,000 on the corner of Union Road and Urana Road Lavington. It was called the *Continental*, but in an advertisement in the *Border Morning Mail* of October 3, 1938, the name used was *Sars*. By the end of 1938 O'Shaughnessy had transferred the hotel license to Cornelius O'Keefe who then transferred it to Elizabeth Williams. By April 1939, Charles Hunter of Melbourne was the fourth licensee of the hotel. Over the years the hotel had a number of name changes: including *MacWhites*, from about 1959 and the *Garrison* from about 1969. At the start of 1959 when known as *MacWhites*, it had a bar, three lounges, kitchen, dining room, two bedrooms and four shops plus an open beer garden at ground level. On the first floor were a private lounge and 13 bedrooms. Today, the hotel is known as the *Northside Hotel Motel*, the motel addition to the hotel being built in 1963.

Transferred also in 1938 was the licence of the *Border City Hotel* to a new hotel building at 476 Townsend Street. Originally proposed for rebuilding the *Border City Hotel* owners Messrs Charles C Waterstreet and James M Cox opted instead to build a new hotel next door at a cost of £10,000. Opened on November 1, 1938 it was named the *Pastoral* because of Albury's "association with the pastoral industry." Charles Waterstreet sadly passed away just before the opening of the *Pastoral*. He was survived by his widow, Mary Josephine (nee Carroll), well known as a singer and who later became the proprietor of the hotel in 1958 holding its licence until 1984. The *Pastoral*, a two storey building was designed by Robert H McIntyre an architect of Melbourne. It contained a bar, two parlours, lounge, thirteen bedrooms, private lounge, dining room and other ancillary rooms. The *Pastoral's* first licensee was James Cox who held it until 1941 when he suddenly passed away. A keen coursing enthusiast and sportsman he instituted the *Pastoral Hotel Cup* for team swimming in Albury. The *Pastoral* was demolished together with the nearby *Gloucester* in 1984 when K-Mart was built.

The month of November 1938 also saw the demolition of the old *Golden Fleece Hotel* of 12 rooms at 491 David Street that had closed in 1922, and the sampling rooms at 491 Kiewa Street that were part of the *Albury Hotel* at 579 Dean Street. In early 1935, Richmond Breweries Ltd had purchased the *Albury Hotel* and originally proposed to replace it with a new structure. Three years later they decided however to erect a new five storey hotel costing £35,000 on the

Kiewa Street part of the *Albury Hotel* site. Designed by architect W H Merrit the *New Albury Hotel* as it was named, opened for business on July 1, 1939 the day after the *Albury Hotel* ceased trading. Its first licensee was Sydney Charles Short who in August 1939 transferred it to Edwin Wallace Jewell who held the licence until 1941 when he moved to Melbourne.

At the western end of Dean Street the 64 year old *Club Hotel* at 648 Dean Street was being rebuilt on the lines of an Old English Inn. It was reopened in July 1938 under the name *Carlton Hotel*. The licensee was Lewis Ibbertson who remained at the *Carlton* for some 21 years. When rebuilt, the hotel had two lounges, dining room, bar, writing room, sitting room, 30 bedrooms and first floor balcony. The *Carlton* was to exist for the next 32 years before being demolished in 1970 to be replaced by the *Travelodge Motel* the following year.

East of the Carlton, at 595 Dean Street, the *Albion Hotel* together with adjoining shops that shared its Dean Street frontage was, in late 1940 being demolished to be replaced in the following year by a three storeyed hotel designed by the architect Frederick Morsby. When rebuilt the *Albion* covered the property's whole 50 feet street frontage and, contained on its ground floor a bar, public parlour, public lounge, dining room and kitchen. On the upper two floors were 21 bedrooms, four staff rooms and two private lounges.

In 1959 Albury's then oldest hotel *The Royal*, sited at 421 Townsend Street on the corner of Hume Street, closed its doors. The last licensee was Mrs Marjorie Estelfe Doy. Said to have been built in 1850 by William Wise, *The Royal* was in its early days a "favourite stopping place for early settlers travelling overland by bullock wagon." Today [2007], a Mobil Service Station covers the site.

By the early 1950s the dominance of hotels in serving the car traveller began to decline as the concept of the roadside motel ascended. In late 1957 just over two miles south of where Accommodation Australia a year earlier, had built Albury's first stand alone motel, Thomas E Pearsall and C G Frauenfelder proposed a hotel-motel for Lavington. While a combination of service station and motel had existed at 359 Wagga Road since about 1955, the *Boomerang* as the hotel-motel was eventually named was, according to the *Border Morning Mail* of 24 October 1959 was "the first of its kind combining hotel and motel features." While objection was made in the Corowa Licensing Court by all of the then hotels in Albury, against the licence of the *Albion Hotel* Corowa being transferred to Lavington, the transfer of licence was eventually granted in 1959. With this transfer the *Boomerang Hotel-Motel* was opened in October 1959 at 312 Wagga Road, its first licensee being George Cheadle.

In central Albury at 545 Dean Street, the *Town Hall Hotel*, established in 1881 and licensed to F Matthews, closed its doors in 1962, its licence being transferred to the *Astor Hotel-Motel*. The *Town Hall's* last licensee was Tommy Lamb and the building became, according to the local newspaper, "Albury's first arcade of shops."

The *Astor Hotel-Motel* was built at 629 Young Street on the corner of Guinea Street, a site previously occupied, by a large brick residence known in the early 1900s as *Mugwee*. The hotel-motel built for the *Astor Hotel-Motel* chain was opened in late March 1962 and, was the seventeenth building in that chain. Designed by architects Rudder, Litemore and Rudder of Sydney it contained a public and club bar, two lounges, cocktail bar, dance floor, dining room, managers unit and 44 motel rooms.

In 1964 Mates Ltd on the corner of Dean and Kiewa Streets purchased the neighbouring site in Kiewa Street, occupied by the *Court House Hotel*. Established in 1872 at 490 Kiewa Street, the *Court House Hotel* closed its doors in late June 1964 its last proprietor being, seventy five year old Joe McCarthy who had held the licence for 38 years. Mr McCarthy who passed away on

December 4, 1967 was an active charity worker and over the years earned a name for his debonair headgear.

To the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Albury was to see a further net loss of one hotel. Five established hotels, the *George*, *Carlton*, *Ryan's*, *Gloucester* and *Pastoral* closed, while opened were the *Ettamogah*, *Ritz*, *Kinross* and *Springdale Heights Tavern*. Relocated west in 1967 from the corner of Dean (No 572) and Kiewa Streets, to 586 Dean Street, was the *Globe Hotel*.

Principal bibliography sources: *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, *Border Morning Mail*.

[Back to the Top ↑](#)