

## 'Border City Hotel' is Just a Memory

*Ray Gear*

Townsend Street was Albury's main street until the mid-1870s. The *Border City Hotel* began life as a store on what is today the south end of the Kmart goods and receiving bay. In 1876, William Mangan was granted a license to convert the store into a hotel which he called the *Border City Hotel*. It was the seventh of nine hotels in Townsend Street. Mangan's stay was short, James Mitchell taking over as licensee in early 1877. He held the licence until 1881.

Liverpool born Mitchell, who came to the colonies around 1844, originally established himself in Townsend Street in the mid-1860s as a baker. He later extended his business to include being a grocer and a cordial manufacturer. Mitchell conducted the four businesses from the same site. Mitchell died in 1889 aged 51.



The Border City Hotel, on the eastern side of Townsend Street, this photo taken in about 1901 (John Craig collection)

In late 1879, the *Border City* advertised that it provided, 'every accommodation for the traveller, good stabling and efficient grooms.' On Mondays and Fridays an express wagon ran between Albury and Wagga Wagga from the hotel – the fare was £1.

John McCormack was licensee from 1881 to 1887, then Charles Breadmore from 1887 to 1888. In late 1888 Timothy Ryan became licensee. A native of Ireland, Ryan came to the Hotel after keeping the *Border Hotel* (Wodonga) and the *Royal Hotel*. He died aged 67 in 1905.

When Ryan retired in 1901, the license was taken over by Arthur H Ashcroft. His stay was short. Four months later, William Ebbesen a native of Denmark, was licensee.

The hotel then had six changes of licensee till 1917, when Neil Waugh took over. Waugh paid a lease of three pounds ten shillings per week for the hotel.

In April 1921 the *Albury Banner* reported a “sensational explosion” when a beer cask exploded in the hotel’s cellar. “The explosion tore away portions of the flooring above the cellar and wrecked the bar fittings and stock ... Waugh was struck on the forehead by a piece of flying debris, but fortunately did not sustain serious injury.”

A native of London, Waugh died in 1926, aged 48.

By 1934 James Martin Cox was licensee. In 1938 Cox and his partner Charles C Waterstreet announced that they would delicense the *Border City* and erect a new hotel next door. The old building became A & G Smith engineering, and the new one, the *Pastoral Hotel*.