

## Bridge Inn/Hotel

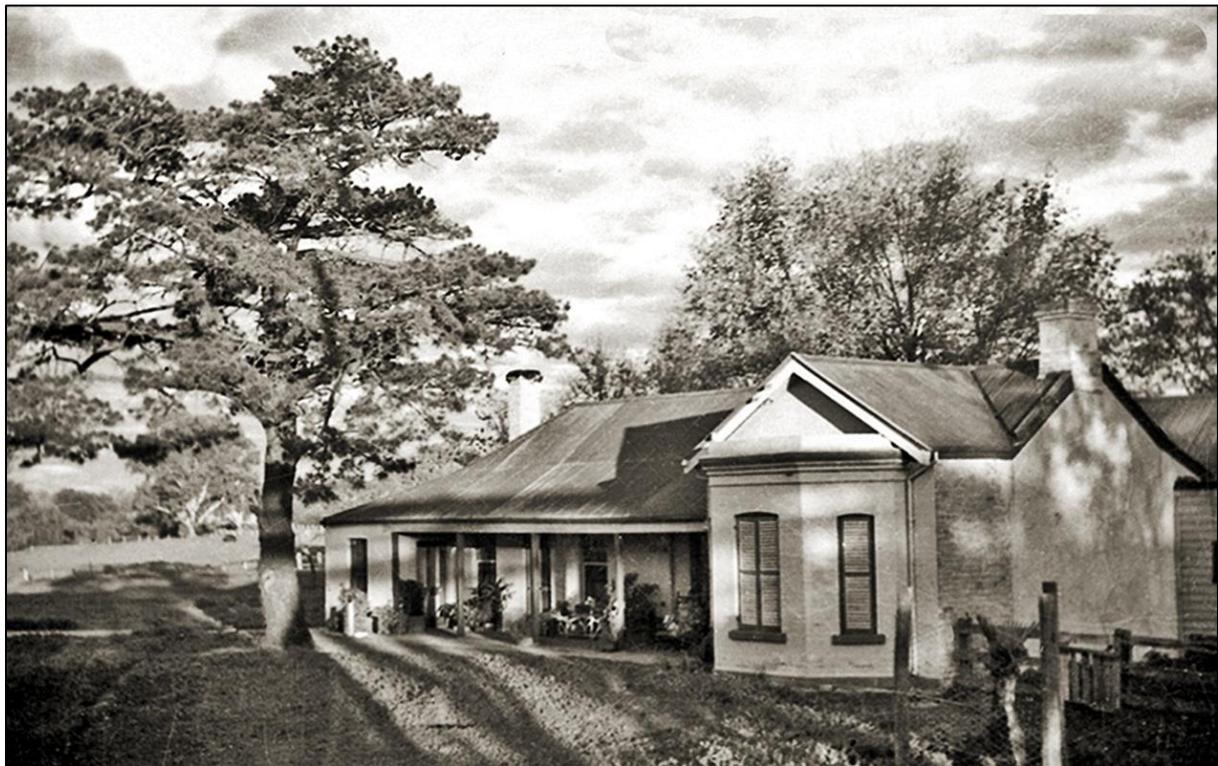
*Greg Ryan*

Albury's first public house, the Hume Inn was established by Robert Brown in February 1838, close to the river and the original 'crossing place.' After the government reserved the site for recreation, a new Hume Inn was built south of Hume Street on the eastern side of Wodonga Place. The position of the Hume Inn was seen as "commanding the traffic to and from the ferry."

In 1856, after the decision was made to move the punt close to the future site of the Union Bridge, John Green built what would become the Bridge Inn. The punt moved to the site in 1859 and the bridge was completed in 1861. Daniel Driscoll obtained the license for the punt and later for the bridge toll and in 1860 he became the first licensee of the Bridge Inn, sited to catch travellers crossing the river from Victoria.

Driscoll extensively upgraded his premises in late 1871 prompting the *Border Post* to write "the hotel ... has a fine elevation, and appearance, is both tastefully and well executed."

After making £1310 collecting bridge tolls in 1872, Driscoll moved on, allowing Charles Schmeidt to become licensee in 1873. Schmeidt changed the name to the Bridge Hotel and advertised that he would be hosting pigeon shoots. After eight months, Schmeidt left to become licensee of the Albion and later the Albury Hotel.



The Bridge Inn/Hotel after it had become a private residence.

In January 1876, James Ringwood became licensee but six months later he failed to regain the license. After a period of disuse, the Bridge Hotel became part the brewery just to the north of it.

The building became the residence of the head brewer and manager of the Albury Brewing and Malting Company and was at one point known as 'Brasseurville.' Described as "a perfect idyl of cosy homeliness and refined comfort, surrounded by beautifully laid-out grounds and gardens sloping right to the river bank."

After failing to sell at auction in 1920, the residence and brewery buildings with 32 acres of land, was acquired by Edwin Waite in July 1922. The brewery buildings were demolished, and the land converted into a dairy farm. The old residence was retained and named 'Courabyra.'

The land was acquired in 1960 by the Bob Jane Corporation. In 1967 the building was renovated and converted into the clubhouse of the Albury Car Club. Repairs became too costly and the club abandoned the building in 1985.

The building remains vacant, has fallen into disrepair and has become subject to vandalism.