

Armidale and District Historical Society Inc.

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Newsletter for May 2021

The **Imperial Hotel** (est. 1890 on the site of the 1869 Court House Hotel which burnt down) **will be the venue for the May meeting on Tuesday, 18th May. The meeting will commence at 5.30pm and Graham Wilson will present**

'Sharing memories of Bruyn's Caledonian Hotel'

Following the recent death of Lee Bruyn, the Society was given some memorabilia from the Caledonian ('Bruyn's') Hotel. The Hotel was a popular meeting place for staff and students of the Teachers' College and ACAE and it is hoped that those who shared social occasions at the ill-fated hotel will bring some of their memories to the meeting. 'Bruyn's' was unceremoniously demolished to make way for the K-Mart complex in 1980, when not even the façade could be saved. The Bruyn family's 'Caledonian dynasty' was gone after 57 years with the destruction of a pub which had served Armidale since 1881. All are Welcome.

Centenary of Dangarsleigh War Memorial: All are invited to a celebration of the centenary of this unique monument at the site, **10am on Monday 24th May 2021.**

The monument was completed in time for Empire Day, May 24th 1921 when 1000 people attended the unveiling, performed by Colonel J.L.G. Johnstone. The Dumaresq Shire president, Councillor Vere Belfield presided with speeches by Alfred Haroldston Perrott, Bishop Wentworth Shields and Joseph Scholes, grandfather of Lt. James Scholes Hogg and Driver William M. Scholes, remembered on the monument.

Displays: At Dumaresq Chambers a Dangarsleigh Monument display is featured on the fireplace mantel, an exhibit of Armidale hotel memorabilia is in one of the front rooms and a photographic exhibit of hotels is set up in the meeting room. Please come along and appreciate Collane Simmons, Debbie Stevenson, Nancy Bruyn and Sue Tanner's excellent history displays. The Society's 'pop-up' exhibit in the old Readers' Companion shop continues to create interest.

A Trip Down Memory Lane: Topics for meetings each decade.

1961: Symposium by Dr R.B. Walker, Mrs E Warburton, Mr E. Dunlop - Aspects of the Memoirs of Edward and Leonard Irby (New England pioneer settlers)

1971: No Meeting

1981: Dr L. A. Gilbert - An Evening Exploring New England History Sources

1991: Belinda Cotton - How to read Australian History through Painting

2001: Mrs J. Grieve - A History of Kelly's Plains

2011: Mr D. Thomas - A History of Radio Station 2AD Armidale

Snippets of History: The Lost Pubs of Armidale. The thirty pubs of the 1840s are nine in the 2020s and the 'stayers' face stiff competition from bottle shops, licensed restaurants, liquor laws and 'boutique' outlets for alcohol. The earliest hotel was probably the 1843 Faulkner St **Traveller's Rest** on the northern 'wrong' side of the creek. After 1849 its story continues as '**Sion House**', although in 1874 a short-lived namesake hotel was in Marsh St, as was the **Armidale Inn** which had a similarly short life. The **Rose Inn** (1846) on the SE corner of Allingham and Beardy became the **Daniel O'Connell Inn** in 1855 until 1858 when George Allingham moved it to the more populous Jessie St end of Beardy St next to the Mun Hing of today. The **Daniel O'Connell** traded there in its stone building until 1896.

The Horse and Jockey Hotel, licenced in 1848 had a special large meeting room and was probably doing well until the **New England Hotel** was built beside it in 1858. Its last gasp was as the **Post Office Hotel** in 1860, then it became shops and a residence. The IXL café took its place in the early 1900s. Further east in Beardy St, beyond the **Royal**, the 1855 **Assize-Victoria-Langhams** became a CWA Boarding House in 1928. Action in Rusden Street included the **Commercial Hotel** (1875), where St Vincent de Paul's shop now stands. After the owner set the hotel on fire, in 1896 the licence was transferred to a hotel in Beardy St which eventually was known as the **Empire**. It was knocked down in 1966 to make way for the first Woolworths complex and Dan Murphy's liquor outlet is now on the site. Previous names for the **Empire** were **Prince of Wales** 1874-1896, **Oxford** 1896, **Commercial** 1896-1902 and **Federal** 1902-1914. The doomed 1875 Rusden St **Commercial** had competition from two new hotels within a 'stonethrow' - the **Great Northern**, 1881-1888 on the SE corner of Rusden and Jessie known as the **Crown Hotel** from 1888 to 1892 and the **Central** on the NE corner from 1894-1932. The **Central** became known as the **Minto** and was used for accommodation, then was stripped of its verandahs and iron lace and is now a totally unobtrusive corner building used for businesses. The Beardy St **Criterion-Caledonian** (1881-1980) was sacrificed for Armidale's K-Mart complex.

The **Plough Inn** owned by the Gordon family for many years, traded on the SE corner of Rusden and Markham (1860-1893) serving West Armidale and travellers on the Great Northern Road, as did the **Star-West End Hotel** (1880-1889) on the corner of Brewery Lane and Butler Street (opposite the brewery). The **Steam Engine-Grand Hotel** (1854) and **Railway Hotel** (1880) are survivors of the West Armidale pubs.

Other 'lost' hotels were mainly further from central business district and, while in Marsh St the **Crown Inn-Freemason's-St Kilda** and the **Robert Burns-Armidale Hotel(2)-Club-White Bull** survived, the **Sportsman's Arms** (1848-1854) on the SW corner of Beardy and Allingham did not. The **Gold Diggers Arms-Tattersall's(1)-White Horse-Australian Hotel** (1856-1912) on the corner of Marsh and Barney is now the site of the brutally plain and practical brick Cahill Court flats.

The **International** serviced the old saleyards area in Niagara St from 1883 to 1928 and in Dumareq St east of the McCarthy Building, the **Farrier's Arms-Lord Nelson Hotel**, once the first Armidale Hospital, was sold for building materials in 1890.

Surviving hotels 2021: **Wicklow** (Albion), **Royal** (Advance Australia), **St Kilda** (Freemason's), **White Bull** (Club), **Imperial**, **Tattersalls**, **New England**, **Railway**, and **Grand** (Steam Engine).

(Information largely from Bruce Cady's excellent article ADHS Journal 34)