

THE HOME HOTEL



Above: The Home hotel on the 15th December 2018.

The Home hotel [13th October 1874 – 16th December 2018]

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Introduction.

This article was prompted by the impending closure of the Home hotel, on the 16th December 2018, just over 144 years after it was first licensed.

The primary objectives were to list all licensees of the hotel, and all owners of the freehold, and to feature photos of the hotel at various stages of its existence.

I accept responsibility for any errors or omissions and am always happy to receive amendments, comments or additional information.

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The HOME HOTEL

Location. Located on allotment one of section four, parish and town of South Wagga Wagga, at the south west corner of the intersection of Kincaid and Fitzmaurice Streets. Address in 2018 was 142 Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga.



Above: Allotment one of section four, parish and town of South Wagga Wagga. Location of the Home hotel. Courtesy NSW Land and Property Information.

Licensed.¹

The first license for the Home hotel was issued on the 13th October 1874, to Daniel Boon. The premises were the old Bank of NSW offices, which had lately been occupied as police barracks.² The Bank of New South Wales had opened for business on the 6th March 1865, in a small cottage that stood at the corner of Fitzmaurice & Kincaid Streets. The first manager was Mr W Drummond.³ Daniel held the license until April 1876, when it was transferred to his wife, Rebecca.⁴ The change had been brought about by the actions of Daniel, who had been arrested for the murder of Alexander McMullen.

¹ NSW Government Gazettes. Publicans' Licenses. 1865-1921.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th October 1874, p2.

³ Daily Advertiser. 10th October 1938, p23.

⁴ NSW Government Gazettes. Publicans' Licenses. 1876, p1327.

Boon appeared in court on the 21st January 1876, charged with the wilful murder of Alexander McMullen, a blacksmith of North Wagga Wagga.¹

The evidence revealed that on the 10th January around 4pm Daniel left the Home hotel, in a drunken state and carrying a double barrelled shotgun. Around 5pm he approached Alexander McMullen's blacksmith's shop in North Wagga Wagga, and sought out McMullen. Daniel demanded that McMullen pay him the rent he owed him, which had been outstanding for some time. McMullen explained to Daniel that he had no money at present and that there was no need to bring a gun to settle such a small affair. The two men continued to argue and then as McMullen knelt to screw a bolt on a dray Boon, who was about eight paces from him, raised the gun and fired. Too late, McMullen exclaimed, "*Oh, don't do that Dan,*" before falling to the ground shot on his left side, in the neck and shoulder.

Boon proclaimed, "*I have put trade in your hands, and now I have taken it out of them. I know I'll be hanged, but I'm willing to suffer it for a dog like you.*"

Daniel returned to the southern side of the river, passing several witnesses as he walked back through North Wagga Wagga. One of these was local farmer, Arthur Graham, who pleaded with Daniel to hand over the gun. The latter told Graham to keep clear of him, or he would get the same treatment as McMullen. Boon also talked to George Cummins, a local surveyor, at North Wagga Wagga, and told him, "*I wish you to take this gun. I have just shot McMullen with it. He wouldn't pay me my rent, and I shot him. I let him that place for five years for £5, and the last year he was to pay me £20 for it. He wouldn't pay me and I shot him. I always pay my debts and I expect other people to pay me, and I shot him. I have ruined myself, my wife and family. I am going over to give myself up.*"

Daniel was still deeply disturbed when he crossed over to the south side of the river. Two men standing in front of Rand's shop stared at Daniel, who fronted them both, exclaiming, "*You need not be standing there grinning at me, you should pay me what you owe me.*" He then stepped forward and punched both men, knocking them to the ground. A constable had already heard of the shooting and was on his way to investigate when he saw Boon assault the two men in Fitzmaurice Street, and arrested Boon for the assaults he had just witnessed. The assault on the two men was serious and one of the men was expected to lose his sight in one eye. The constable later charged Boon with the attempted murder of McMullen.

McMullen died on Sunday the 16th January and the charge was upgraded to murder. On the 19th July 1876 Daniel Boon was executed for the murder of blacksmith, Alexander McMullen.²

By July 1877 Rebecca had determined to move away from Wagga Wagga and had transferred the license to Isabella Annie Clark, the wife of John Clark the licensee of the Criterion hotel.³

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd July 1876, p3.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd July 1876, p2. / Australian Town & Country Journal. 15th January 1876, p6.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4th July 1877, p2./ 29th August 1877, p3.

Isabella was still licensee in March 1878,¹ but by November 1878 it appears Mrs Lancaster (nee Boon) was back in possession and looking for another tenant.² Shortly afterwards the hotel was licensed to Louis Lancaster. Louis Lancaster was the brother of William Lancaster.³ The latter had married the widow, Rebecca Boon, in Queensland, in August 1877. Rebecca lived at, and presumably had a hand in running the hotel, while Louis Lancaster was the licensee.⁴ The relationship between Rebecca and her new husband appears to have been strained in January 1879, when William appeared in court, charged with issuing a dud cheque. His brother, Louis, the licensee of the Home hotel, explained that William did not have a bank account of his own, rather whenever he issued a cheque, he did so against his wife's account. He would then telegraph his wife who would always honour it. It seems she did not do so on this occasion.⁵ Many years later, in 1901, Rebecca sought, and was granted a divorce on grounds of cruelty and adultery by William.⁶

When the license was renewed for the year commencing the 1st July 1879 Stephen Hopkins was now the licensee.⁷ He was only there for less than one year and by May 1880, Mrs Lancaster (formerly Mrs Daniel Boon) advertised that she had resumed business at the Home hotel.⁸ She renewed the license for another year in June 1880,⁹ and continued to do so up until 1883. In March of that year it was announced that Thomas Jones, a well-known local publican and known favourably throughout the district for the past decade, had taken over the lease of the Home Hotel.¹⁰

In January 1884, a young man was given the task of delivering a coffin to a destination out of town. The time was late and the lad had reservations about travelling at night. For some reason Thomas Jones offered to accompany him, much to the relief of the young man. At a point some thirteen miles from Wagga Wagga the young man missed the road and drove the trap into a creek throwing Jones to the ground and dislocating his shoulder. The pair continued on to deliver the coffin before returning to Wagga Wagga where Dr Piercy reset the shoulder.¹¹

On the 8th November 1885, Thomas Jones passed away at his residence, the Home hotel.¹² He had been the licensee of the Mangoplah hotel (1865-1868) and the Belmore Inn on the Ganmain Run, near the river (1869-1871), before coming to Wagga Wagga. His wife, Susannah Jones, renewed the license in 1886.¹³ Susannah was the sister of Mark Mongan, another well-known Wagga Wagga identity.¹⁴

¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 2nd March 1878, p2.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th November 1878, p3.

³ Wagga Wagga Express. 8th January 1879, p2.

⁴ Australian Marriage Index, 1788-1950. Reg. no. B005716. Page 8308.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th January 1879, p3.

⁶ Sydney Morning Herald. 9th June 1891, p4.

⁷ NSW Government Gazette. Publican's Licenses. 1879, p4073.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th April 1880, p3.

⁹ NSW Government Gazette. Publican's Licenses. 1880, p4852.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th March 1883, p2.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th January 1884, p2.

¹² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th November 1885, p2.

¹³ NSW Government Gazette. Publican's Licenses. 1886, p5381.

¹⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 28th November 1893, p2.



Above: A serious flood in 1932.



Above: The Home hotel on the left with the Grand hotel further along the street, to the right. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives.

In 1887 Robert Fleming became the licensee,¹ but held it for less than a year. On the 21st February 1888 the license was transferred from Fleming to Patrick O'Keefe.² Fleming had been prosecuted on several occasions for violations of the licensing act and had been fined £5 plus costs several times, which may have influenced his decision to move on. O'Keefe renewed the license in June 1889,³ but in the following year, 1890, it was transferred to James Hehir. The exact date of the transfer is not known but by the 12th July 1890 James Hehir was advertising that he had taken over the license of the hotel.⁴ He renewed it in 1891, and held it for some twelve years.

There was a large sale of properties in Wagga Wagga on the 26th May 1900, on behalf of the Wagga Wagga Benefit Building & Investment Society. Included in the properties were the Advance Australia hotel in Baylis Street, the old Star hotel (now a boarding house) at the corner of Beckwith and Gurwood Streets, and the Home hotel in Fitzmaurice Street.⁵ The only property sold was the Advance Australia hotel, to Mary McDonough, for £1,450.⁶

James renewed the license on the 10th June 1901,⁷ but four months later, on the 26th October 1901 he transferred the license to George H Martin.⁸

In May 1902 George's eighteen year old son, Isadore Martin, was engaged in delivering the mail from Wagga Wagga to Grong Grong, when, at the Buchanan farm, some twelve miles from Grong Grong, his horse bolted throwing Isadore onto the ground and dragging the wheel of the sulky over the young man's head. He lay there for some time before he was found and his father was advised. His father fetched him back to Wagga Wagga where he was treated by Dr Watkins Burgess, and was found to have concussion and extensive cut and bruising to the face and head.⁹

George was rather nonchalant in June 1902 when a fight broke out in the bar of the hotel, between ten or twelve men. Senior Constable Gilroy was on the scene and spoke to Martin about the ruckus. According to Gilroy, Martin took no notice of his comments, so he, Gilroy, left and returned fifteen minutes later to find that the fight was still going on. George was charged and fined £3, with costs.¹⁰

George held the license for one year only. By the 7th October 1902 Joseph Blight, late of Hay, advertised that he had taken over the license of the Home hotel.¹¹

Joseph was in trouble with the police in August 1906. On the 5th of that month two police officers saw a light in the hotel parlour at twenty minutes past midnight, and stood outside for thirty minutes listening to the conversations inside. They heard men in the bar, ordering

¹ NSW Government Gazette. Publican's Licenses. 1887, p5081.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st February 1888, p2.

³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th June 1889, p3.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th July 1890, p3.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 26th May 1900, p2.

⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 29th May 1900, p2.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th June 1901, p2.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 29th October 1901, p2.

⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 22nd May 1902, p2. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd May 1902, p2.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 17th June 1902, p2.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 7th October 1902, p2.

drinks and moving about. The police knocked on the back hall door of the hotel and demanded admittance. When Joseph appeared in court he denied that there was any person in the bar or the parlour, which was in direct contradiction to the evidence by the two police officers. The judge found Joseph guilty and fined him a total £6 plus costs.¹ There is no doubt that the judge believed Blight had perjured himself. Blight appealed the rulings and the matter was heard on the 22nd February 1907. The appeals were based on the fact that the original court had accepted the evidence of two police officers, rather than that of Blight and three of the men who were found in the hotel. The judge dismissed the two appeals and allowed five guineas costs against Blight, reinforcing the innuendo that the latter and the three other so called independent witnesses had committed perjury.²

In January 1907, William Francis Butson was found guilty of being found on the premises of the Home hotel, on Xmas Day. He was fined 15s plus 6s costs.³ A week earlier two other men were convicted of the same offence – committed on the same day, same hotel.⁴ Blight was not charged and his role in the offences is unknown. By March 1908 Blight had left the Home hotel and had taken over the licensee of the Railway hotel at Lockhart.⁵ The new licensee, at the Home, was Henry M Johnstone.⁶

On the 29th March 1909 Johnstone applied to transfer the license to Henry Oswald Martin. The court heard that,

“Sub-Inspector Musgrave objected on the grounds that the applicant, Henry Oswald Martin, was only a dummy for his daughter, Mrs Mary Spencer, who was up till recently licensee of an hotel near Bright, Victoria, and that whilst conducting such hotel the applicant assisted in the management and it was not well conducted, and the licensee was fined on three occasions for breaches of the Liquor Act. In reply to Mr Walsh, the sub inspector said there was nothing against the applicant himself. In addressing the bench, Mr Walsh, said the applicant was not in a position to refute any of the evidence. His daughter had previously been convicted under the Liquor Act. She had now entered into a contract to purchase the Home Hotel, and if the bench refused the application she could not proceed the contract. They were in a peculiar position, he said. Mrs Spencer had been deserted by her husband, she had successfully applied for a divorce, but the rule nisi was not returnable for another two months yet, during which time she wished her father to hold the licence. As for the place being properly conducted, Mr Walsh said that as they were purchasing the freehold of the property it was only fair to presume that if the application was granted every care would be taken by the owner to see the provisions of the Act were properly carried out.”

The bench adjourned to consider the matter, and on their return Mr Stevenson said they had decided to refuse the application on the grounds that the applicant was not himself directly interested in the business. Their decision, however, was without prejudice to any

¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 14th August 1906, p4.

² Wagga Wagga Express. 23rd February 1907, p2.

³ Wagga Wagga Express. 22nd January 1907, p2

⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 15th January 1907, p4.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st March 1908, p2.

⁶ NSW Government Gazette. Publican's Licenses. 1908, p4582.

subsequent application that might be made by Mrs Spencer.”¹ It seems that Mrs Spencer never re-applied.

By the 28th September 1909 Mrs Elizabeth Leek, late of the Commercial hotel, Narandera, had taken over the license of the hotel from Johnstone.² Elizabeth held the license for some five or six years before it was transferred to Angus McPherson.³ The latter had taken over the hotel by the 8th December 1914. He had resided for some years in Grong Grong and was well known on the south-western line. He had more recently been conducting the Railway hotel at Koorawatha.⁴

Angus held the license for the next five years which encompassed the whole era of WW1. He lost a son, Pte William Ferguson MacPherson, to the war, on the 29th September 1917.⁵ The twenty three year old had been fighting in France since January 1917, having enlisted in May 1916. William was killed in action, in the field, Belgium.⁶

Angus renewed the licenses in June 1919,⁷ but by the end of December 1919 he had been succeeded by Richard Anderson, formerly of Mangoplah. ⁸ Anderson’s stay was short lived as by the 29th March 1920 he had been replaced by Percy Luck.⁹

Percy Luck held the license for three years, until the 16th April 1923, when Alexander Gordon McDowell became the latest boniface.

On the 16th April 1923 the Wagga Wagga bench approved the transfer of the license for Home hotel, from Percy Luck to Alexander Gordon McDowell. Objections were raised against the transfer based on misbehaviour by Luck, who was subsequently banned from holding another license for three years.¹⁰

Percy Luck died in May 1931 and an obituary read as follows,¹¹

“The death occurred suddenly last night at his residence, The Kiosk, Austinmere, of Mr. Percy Luck, at the age of 57 years. Born at Camden, near Sydney, he was the second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Luck, natives of Camden. He came to Wagga at the age of eight years. Mr. Luck became a trainer for Mr. J. J. McGrath, and was keenly interested in the turf. He was also employed at the Wagga Experiment Farm for a number of years, and later was proprietor of the Bridge Hotel (now known as the Riverina Golden Age Hotel), and the Home Hotel. After retiring from business in Wagga he took up residence at The Kiosk, Austinmere. He married Miss Lavina Clout, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. Clout, of Wagga. Besides his widow he leaves two daughters, 'Girlye' and 'Peck' (Mrs. Noel Woods), one son, George,

¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 30th March 1909, p3. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th March 1909, p2.

² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th September 1909, p3.

³ NSW Government Gazette. Publican’s Licences. 1915, p5013.

⁴ Daily Advertiser. 8th December 1914, p2.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 17th October 1917, p2.

⁶ WW1 Records. National Archives of Australia. SERN # 2644.

⁷ Daily Advertiser. 21st June 1919, p3.

⁸ NSW State Records. Index to Publicans’ Licences: 1920-1937.

⁹ NSW State Records. Index to Publicans’ Licences: 1920-1937.

¹⁰ Daily Advertiser. 24th April 1923, p3. / 17th April, 1923, p4. / NSW State Records. Index to Publicans’ Licences: 1920-1937.

¹¹ Daily Advertiser. 16th May 1931, p4.

and two sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Gillespie, of Camden, and Mrs. Atkinson, of Wagga, Mr. Arthur Luck, of Wagga, and Mr. Alfred Luck, of Camden Park.”

The reference to him being licensee of the Bridge hotel, which was later known as the Golden Age hotel, is erroneous. He was in fact licensee of the Bridge hotel from 1906 to 1908, and licensee of the Golden Age hotel from 1909 to 1913. They were two different hotels.

In January 1924 the quarterly sittings of the Wagga Wagga Licensing Court considered a report on the Home hotel. The chairman commented as follows,¹

“The court is of the opinion that the license was received under very doubtful circumstances — through representations to the 1921 Licenses Reduction Board that it was intended to carry out extensive improvements, which work was allowed to be deferred on a plea of uncertainty of the result, of the liquor referendum. The new Act shows that the referendum is not to be held until 1928, but the owner does not appear to have any intentions of carrying out the conditions on which the license was received.”

The inspector was instructed to take the necessary action under the new law for instructing the licensee to comply with the requirements of the court.

In 1924 the building was a single storey brick building but by October 1927 a second storey additions had been made, and by October 1928 a second storey verandah had been added.²

No doubt under pressure from the inspector, in May 1924, Henry M Johnstone, the owner of the freehold, sought permission from council for brick additions to the Home hotel.³

In that same month on the 19th May 1924 the license was transferred from Alexander Gordon McDowell to Alfred Marcus Godfrey Hayden.⁴ McDowell moved to Mittagong and by the 2nd April 1925 was licensee of the Exchange hotel at that place.⁵

Five months later Hayden transferred the license to Stanley Bede Clatworthy, late of Bombala, on the 6th October 1924.⁶

In 1924 there was a boarding house adjoining the hotel, which housed some forty two men, and was conducted by Mrs Williams. Charles Kendall was staying at the Home hotel and had eight pairs of new boots stolen from a trunk on a motor lorry that he, Kendall, had left there. Police found two pairs of new boots in the room of twenty eight year old Albert William Sinclair, and charged him with the theft of the eight pairs of boots. Kendall stated that he had a total of forty one pairs of boots and that thirteen pairs had gone missing. He valued the boots at £1 a pair. Sinclair was convicted of stealing eight pairs of boots and was ordered to pay £8 within a month.

¹ Daily Advertiser. 15th January 1924, p4.

² Tooth Records. Yellow Cards. Home hotel. Noel Butlin Archives. ANU, Canberra.

³ Daily Advertiser. 30th May 1924, p2.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Court House records. Premises Cards. / NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 2nd April 1925, p2.

⁶ Daily Advertiser. 7th October 1924, p2. / NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

Of the forty one men staying at the boarding house, the police officer concerned declared that, "*most of them, more or less, were under the influence of liquor.*" No doubt they would be good business for the hotel. The evidence revealed that there were seven men living in the room occupied by Sinclair.¹

Clatworthy's occupation was also short lived and some seven months after taking over the license he moved on. The new licensee, from the 5th June 1925, was Joseph William Lewis.²

Lewis seem to have struggled with his role as a publican. In February 1926 he took James Ryan to court charged that he had not paid for his accommodation. The evidence showed that Ryan had run up a total tab of some £20, and that most of this was for *refreshments*, according to Lewis. When asked by police what he was going to do about the outstanding account, Ryan told them he had spent £100 since he came to Wagga, and that Lewis, "*could go his hardest.*" The judge stated that the act stipulated that a person had to refuse to pay a reasonable sum, on demand, in order to be convicted. He found that Ryan had in fact been asked to pay what he termed, "*an unreasonable sum,*" on at least two occasions. He therefore dismissed the charge.³

In March 1926 Lewis was a witness in a case against one Patrick O'Dwyer. The latter was a horse trainer who had a prohibition order out on him. The police found O'Dwyer in the hallway of the Home hotel, on a Sunday, and believed he had been drinking at the hotel. The officer testified he saw O'Dwyer come out of the parlour into the hallway, but O'Dwyer claimed he went through the hallway to get to the toilet in the back yard. Lewis supported this claim. The case was dismissed.⁴

In July 1926 he was one of five publican's convicted of selling whiskey that was below the standard required by the Act.⁵

Lewis appears to have been a tough boss. In December 1926 he was fined £1, plus costs, for failing to allow an employee to have one full day off each week.⁶

Despite these early difficulties Lewis continued to hold the license up until 1929.

On the 5th January 1927 a sitting of the Licensing Reduction Board at Wagga Wagga received a report on the Home hotel, which stated that the owner of the property was Henry Johnstone, while Joseph William Lewis was the licensee. The board ruled that an additional floor containing six bedrooms, sitting room, lounge hall, two bathrooms, and the necessary conveniences, should be constructed. It also ruled that the existing dining room and kitchen should be remodelled to allow direct communications between the two. The owner was given twelve months to complete the works.⁷

¹ Daily Advertiser. 30th December 1924, p2.

² NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

³ Daily Advertiser. 9th February 1926, p6.

⁴ Daily Express. 30th March 1926, p1.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 20th July 1926, p3.

⁶ Daily Advertiser. 14th December 1926, p4.

⁷ Daily Advertiser. 6th January 1927, p3.

Some six months later, on the 22nd July 1927 reported that council has approved additions and alterations to the Home hotel.¹ The work was well under way by October 1927,² but the final touches, including the verandah, were not completed until 1928.

On the 7th January 1929, Lewis finished up and the license was transferred to the owner of the property, Henry Johnstone.³ It had been twenty years since Johnstone held a license and he had in fact engaged a manager to act on his behalf.

1929, 29th August – Reported impending sale of the Home hotel, as follows:⁴

“WAGGA'S EXCELLENT HOTELS. It is only a matter of a few years since the activities of the Licensing Seduction Board were directed to Wagga, when through this medium, a number of hotels were delicensed, and it is indeed interesting to observe the transformation which has taken place since then in the hotel life of this town. Hotel after hotel has been remodelled, and owners, realising that Wagga, surrounded by such a wonderfully rich district must make quick headway, displayed great foresight in bringing their hotels up to their present high pitch,, with the result that to-day Wagga has led the way in New South Wales country centres in modernising their hotels. It is generally understood that to purchase an hotel in this town is a very difficult matter as from all quarters hotel seekers have their eyes on Wagga, but owners generally are not tempted to sell, even at fancy prices. An auction sale of a Wagga hotel is a rarity, but such is not the case with the Home Hotel as in consequence of the illness of the owner, Mr. H. M. Johnstone, he has decided to submit the freehold of this hotel, situated in the main thoroughfare of Wagga, at the corner of Fitzmaurice and Kincaid streets, for genuine sale on Saturday next August 31. He is an anxious seller of the freehold but on the other hand if this is not sold a suitable lease will be auctioned. A considerable sum of money has been spent on this hotel recently and everything is in first class order. At the same time Mr. Johnstone is offering three brick shops adjoining and full details and inspections of the hotel or shops can be obtained on application to the auctioneers.”

The hotel was described as double storey brick with 17 bedrooms, 3 parlors, 2 lounges, a kitchen, 4 bathrooms, a dining room, etc., along with stables and outbuildings. The hotel, like the three shops, had a frontage of 66 feet to Fitzmaurice Street. The shops were then occupied by a butcher, a watchmaker, and a bootmaker.⁵

Johnstone failed to sell the freehold but shortly afterwards found a new tenant in Mrs Nellie Clayton, hotel keeper, of Darlinghurst.⁶ A lease between Henry Martin Johnstone and Nellie Clayton was drawn up and dated the 13th November 1929. It was for a period of ten years and expired on the 3rd January 1940.⁷ The license was officially transferred from Johnstone

¹ Daily Advertiser. 22nd July 1927, p2.

² Daily Advertiser. 18th October 1927, p4.

³ Daily Advertiser. 8th January 1929, p2. / NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

⁴ Daily Advertiser. 29th August 1929, p4.

⁵ Daily Advertiser. 24th August 1929, p3.

⁶ NSW Land & property Information. Certificate of title. Book 1593, no. 526. / Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University: Tooth and Company yellow cards, N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979. / NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

⁷ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Vol.4863, Fol.63. Transaction C860982.

to Nellie on the 18th November. A couple of months later Nellie transferred the license to Albert Henry Carter, on the 6th January 1930.¹



Above: The Home hotel in October 1927 with verandah not yet completed. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records. Yellow Cards.



Above: The Home hotel in October 1928 with verandah completed. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records. Yellow Cards.

¹ NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

Carter, was formerly of Henty and Junee, and was very well known in coursing circles as part owner off Terminus, and other champion dogs. He advertised Richmond bitter ale, along with Tooth's and Resch's ales.¹ A subsequent advertisement in 1931 described Carter as being late of Narrandera and Hay.² Albert held the license for some three years, before it was transferred to his brother in law, Frank Boulter Raye, on the 6th March 1933.³ Frank was acting as manager for Albert.⁴ Frank advertised the changes, declaring that he had taken over the Home hotel, and was selling, "*Richmond ales, electrically cooled.*"⁵

During Albert's occupancy the police found five men in the parlour attached to the bar, and saw an employee of Carter draw five pots of beer – one for each man. When he appeared in court Carter claimed that he had entrusted an employee with the keys to the bar and that person had, "*exceeded his instructions in serving the men.*" Carter's solicitor requested that the matter be dealt with under section 556 of the Crimes Act, a precedent which had been set by several city magistrates, and one that would have allowed a conviction not to be recorded. The presiding magistrate commented that he would not do so as he believed section 556 did not apply to liquor cases, and that his fellow judges had erred in their interpretation. He further stated that, "*People who would otherwise scorn to tell a lie seem to commit perjury without compunction in Liquor Act cases, and frequently tell their story so badly that they cannot stand cross examination.*" He fined Carter £3 plus 8s costs.

Licensees to follow Frank Raye were,

1936, July – CA Simms.⁶

1936, 27th July – John Whitlock.⁷

1937, 15th November - Vincent J Owens, late of the Royal hotel at Cowra.⁸

1938, 25th July – Mr J Comb. Mr & Mrs Comb had moved from Rabaul, New Guinea.⁹

In April 1938 the Wagga Wagga Licensing Court heard that an order has been served on the owner of the Home hotel requiring additions to the hotel.¹⁰ The kitchen block was to be demolished and ten new bedrooms erected in its place.¹¹ This was subsequently amended to a new kitchen and four new bedrooms.¹² Council approval for the works was granted on the 5th January 1939.¹³

¹ Daily Advertiser. 1st February 1930, p4.

² Wagga Wagga Express. 21st November 1931, p8.

³ NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

⁴ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 18th March 1933, p11.

⁶ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

⁷ NSW State Records. Index to Publicans' Licences: 1920-1937.

⁸ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

⁹ Wagga Wagga Express. 30th July 1938, p2. / NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 16th April 1938, p5.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 23rd April 1938, p8.

¹² Daily Advertiser. 6th July 1938, p3.

¹³ Daily Advertiser. 6th January 1939, p2.

On the 27th November 1939 Eric James Sullivan took over the license and held it continuously for the next thirty six years.¹ The hotel freehold was held by Tooth & Co. for all of this period. Prior to coming to Wagga Wagga Sullivan had been the licensee of the Morpeth hotel at Hardwood Island, on the Clarence River.²

Eric James Sullivan was born in Tasmania and came to Wagga Wagga in 1939. He was the president of the Wagga Wagga branch of Australian Hotels Association and a central council delegate of that association.

He was seriously ill in April 1942 when he was admitted to hospital for surgery, and remained there for over two months to recover.³

He died at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in 1982 at the age of seventy-six.⁴ He was survived by his wife, Mabel Isabelle Sullivan, and three sons - Brian, Peter, and Bruce.⁵

Some hotels were still pretty rough places in the 1940's. In May 1945 thirteen year old Phyllis Baxter was walking along Fitzmaurice Street around 6pm on a Thursday evening, when she was struck in the back of the head by a drinking glass thrown by a woman. She suffered a deep cut to her scalp that required three stiches.⁶

In March 1948 there was a brawl in the street at the front of the Home hotel. Four men were seen to be exchanging punches. Three of the men, thirty year old Mervyn McGregor, twenty year old Peter Munro, and Alan Munro, were each fined £3. A fourth man, thirty four year old Ernest Edward McGregor claimed he tried to stop the fight and the charge against him was dismissed.⁷

In addition to the ten bedrooms that were available to the public in the 1940's, five other bedrooms were occupied by staff. In the 1960's there were still five bedrooms for staff and these were all on the ground floor. The public bedrooms, ten of, were all on the first floor.

Sullivan had a break from the hotel in 1949 when he was granted four months leave from the 1st September 1949. During his absence he placed William George Wild in charge as manager of the hotel.⁸ Sullivan was back in time to experience the big flood in March 1950, which saw the hotel submerged in three to four feet of water.⁹

Hotels attracted people of character, and seventy year old Robert Painter was one such person. Painter was staying at the Home hotel when, on a Sunday in April 1952, Allen Pike went to the hotel looking for accommodation and met Painter at the door of the hotel. He was invited into a room by Painter, where there were two new Australians. Pike went and procured a bottle of whiskey and returned to the room to drink it. He then fell asleep on a bed. It wasn't till the next day that he missed his wallet, and the £17 that it contained. He

¹ Daily Advertiser. 28th November 1939, p7. / NSW Land & Property Information. Land titles. Vol.5150, Fol.183 and volume 4863, folio 63. / Wagga Wagga Court House Records. Licensing Cards.

² NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

³ Daily Advertiser. 18th June 1942, p2.

⁴ Daily Advertiser. 4th February 1982, p2.

⁵ Morris, Sherry. Biographical Listings.

⁶ Daily Advertiser. 19th May 1945, p4.

⁷ Daily Advertiser. 16th March 1948, p2.

⁸ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

⁹ Daily Advertiser. 25th March 1950, p1.

reported the matter to police, who subsequently charged Painter. It was revealed that Painters real name was Robert Burns and that he had a long list of convictions for stealing, false pretences and embezzlement. Police described Painter as being, “*pretty full.*” The old man was convicted and sentenced to three months hard labour.¹

In March 1954 a newspaper headline read, “*Maddened Cow Amok in Wagga Hotel.*” It was explained that police were patrolling Fitzmaurice Street, in a police vehicle, just after midnight on the 10th March, when they spotted a cow galloping down the street. They pursued the animal in the vehicle. The cow smashed a fence next to the Advertiser office then galloped to the Home hotel, where it smashed its way through two swinging glass doors to gain access to the hotel hall. The residents fled upstairs to escape, as the cow continued its rampage throughout the hotel. It took half an hour before the police were able to steer the cow out of the hotel. The enraged animal finally smashed through more glass doors to escape from the hotel, with the police in hot pursuit. One officer, Constable Holland, acted as if a matador and led the infuriated animal towards the saleyards, while another followed in the police vehicle. The cow charged at constable Holland, but he sought refuge behind trees and fences, and was eventually able to secure the cow at the saleyards.

The council’s impounding officer, Mr L Dallas, explained that the poor animal, a Hereford, came from a district property with a calf that had been taken from her two or three days earlier, which he believed had made her savage.²

Sullivan signed his final lease on the 15th May 1974, which expired on the 5th July 1977,³ and then, on the 13th January 1975, he sold the business and the license to Elsie Anne Henneberry, this being her first publican’s license.⁴

A year later on the 19th January 1976 Desmond Osland Pearce took over the licensee.⁵ Desmond’s partner in the business was his wife, Betty Pearce.⁶

Others to follow were,

1979, 2nd July – Douglas George Cameron.⁷ His wife, Marylin Helen Cameron, was his business partner.⁸

1980, 25th November - Edward Joseph Kernahan. His wife, Shirley, was his business partner (CAGA Ltd).⁹

1981, 16th March – Edward Joseph Kernahan, of Gloucester, and Shirley Joan Kernahan, his wife, as joint tenants, with lease to expire on 24th November 1990.¹⁰

¹ Daily Advertiser. 16th April 1952, p2.

² Daily Advertiser. 11th March 1954, p2.

³ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Vol.11602, Fol.90. Instrument # N818589.

⁴ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Court House Records. Licensing Cards.

⁶ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979..

⁷ Wagga Wagga Court House Records. Licensing Cards.

⁸ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

⁹ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979../Wagga Wagga Court House Records. Licensing Cards.

¹⁰ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Vol.11602, Fol.90. Instrument # S290713.

1982, 17th August - Douglas George Cameron takes over the license.¹

1988, 29th September – Denis Allan Wickham was the licensee and Clusser Nominees Pty Ltd was the legal owner of the business.

2004, 22nd September – Trevor James Jones became the licensee of the hotel and owner of the business,² and continued to hold the license until the day it closed, on the 19th December 2018, the date that his lease expired.

The license was sold along with freehold in 2017, to the group that owned the Victoria hotel, in Baylis Street. They subsequently separated the license from the property.

The hotel ceased to trade around midnight on the 16th December 2018. On the 2nd last day (15th December) six bands performed from 6pm, while on the final day (the 16th) eight bands performed from 2pm.

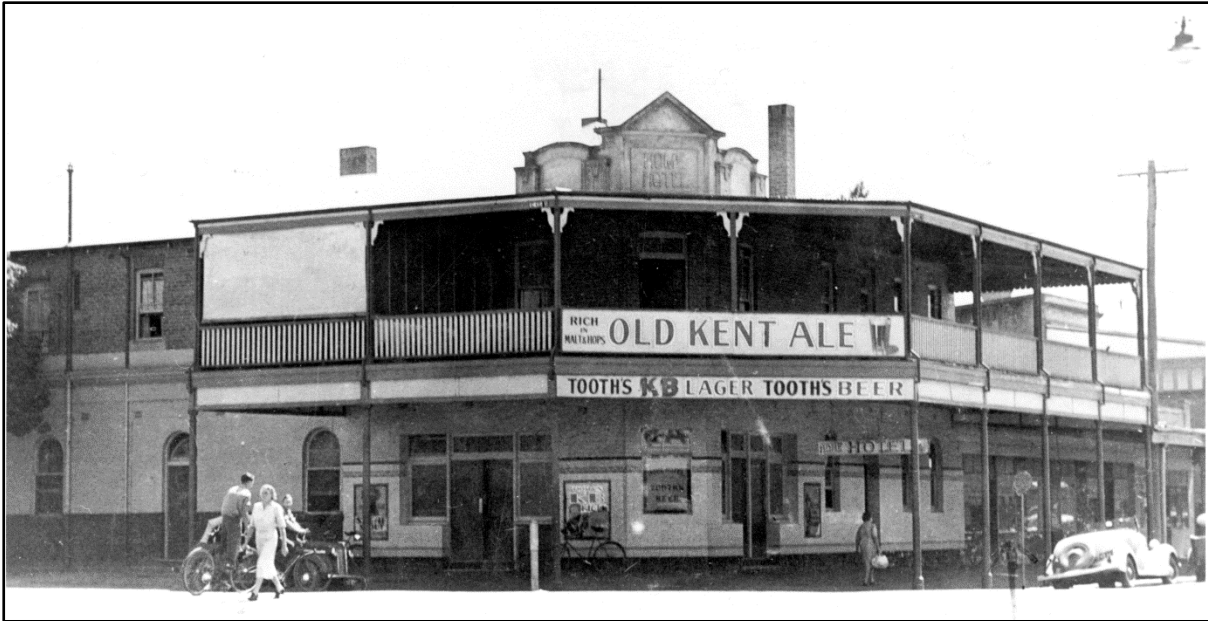
There was talk that the license was being held for a new hotel at Estella, but there has been no confirmation of that as yet.



Above: The Home hotel in April 2006

¹ Office of Liquor & Gaming. Licensing Records.

² Office of Liquor & Gaming. Licensing Records.



Above: The Home hotel in 1949 with verandah intact. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records. Yellow Cards.



Above: The Home hotel in 1958 with verandah replaced by awning. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records. Yellow Cards.



Above: Removing the verandah of the Home hotel, with the Prince of Wales hotel in the background. Photo courtesy Daily Advertiser. Tom Lennon Collection. RW1574/596.



Above: Crown Corner – Corner Café to the left and Home hotel in centre, in period of flood.



Above: The Home hotel in 1989.



Above: The Home Tavern in 2017.



Above: The main (front) bar in 2017.

Freehold.

The original grant, from the Crown, for allotment 1 section 4, parish and town of South Wagga Wagga, was to Samuel Dean Gordon on the 20th August 1850.¹

The subsequent history of the ownership is as follows,

1851, 4th September - Transfer from Samuel Dean Gordon to Thomas Hill Bardwell.²

1858, 16th August - Transfer from Thomas Hill Bardwell, grazier of Oberne near Tarcutta, to Frederick Anslow Tompson, merchant of Wogga Wogga, for the sum of thirty pounds.³

1859, 15th September - Transfer from Frederick Anslow Tompson, merchant of Wogga Wogga and his wife, Esther Tompson, to Joshua Levy, surgeon of South Wogga Wogga for the sum of ninety pounds.⁴

1860, 13th March – Transfer from Joshua Levy to James Blythe Caldwell, licensed victualler of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of one hundred and thirty pounds.⁵

1861, 10th October – Transfer from Frederick William Perry (official assignee of the Supreme Court) and James Blyth Caldwell (insolvent), store keeper and publican of Wagga Wagga, to George Forsyth, as trustee. Forsyth had purchased the property for £420 at public auction, which was held on the order of the official assignee in the insolvent estate of Caldwell.⁶ Forsyth was acting on behalf of Mary Ann Markey.⁷

1865, 27th April – Transfer from George Forsyth and Mary Anne Markey (previously Mary Ann Smyth) to the Bank of New South Wales, for the sum of one thousand pounds.⁸

1865, 6th March – Bank of NSW offices opened on this site.⁹

1866, 25th August – The police barracks occupy this site.¹⁰

1870-1871 - Unoccupied bank building, owned by the Bank of NSW.¹¹ In June 1872 the Bank of NSW offices were located within the Australian hotel complex.¹²

1874, 19th September – Daniel Boon gave notice that he intends opening a new hotel, the Home hotel, in the building at the corner of Kincaid and Fitzmaurice Streets, which were then currently occupied as police barracks.¹³

¹ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Vol.11602, Fol.90.

² NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 21 number 680.

³ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 56, number 766.

⁴ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 64, number 271.

⁵ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 66, number 27.

⁶ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 79, number 955.

⁷ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 92, number 994.

⁸ NSW Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 92, number 994.

⁹ Daily Advertiser. 10th October 1938, p23.

¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 25th August 1866, p2.

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Rate Books 1870-1871.

¹² Wagga Wagga Express. 26th June 1872, p2c4.

¹³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 19th September 1874, p2c6.

1875, 23rd February – Transfer of title from Bank of NSW to Daniel Boon, for the sum of nine hundred pounds.¹

1875-1877 - Brick hotel, owned and occupied by Daniel Boon.²

1877-1880 - Home hotel, owned by Mrs Daniel Boon.³

1880, 16th April – Conveyance of title from Bank of NSW to Harry Berkeley Fitzhardinge.⁴

1880-1881 - Home hotel owned by Mrs Rebecca Lancaster.⁵

1887, 11th October - Harry Berkeley Fitzhardinge transfers the title to two trustees of the Wagga Wagga Building & Investment Society, for the sum of five hundred and fifty pounds.⁶

1902, 1st August – Conveyance from John Robert Garland, of Sydney, in the first part, Charles Hardy and Richard Sutton Heydon, as trustees for the Wagga Wagga Building & Investment Society, in the second part, to Henry Martin Johnstone, baker of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of eight hundred and fifty pounds. [Heydon had succeeded Garland as a trustee].⁷

1905-1908: Brick hotel, owned by Henry Martin Johnstone. Johnstone also owned two or three brick shops with residences, on the same allotment.⁸

1921, 12th March - Sale by public auction of the Home hotel on behalf of Johnstone. The hotel was said to contain a bar room, two parlours, ten bedrooms, a large dining room, kitchen, laundry stables, outbuildings, and one shop at the rear of the hotel.⁹ The hotel did not sell.

1921, 16th November – Henry Martin Johnstone is still the owner of the freehold and Percy Luck is the licensee. The hotel was described as follows:¹⁰

“The Home Hotel was a one-storey brick building, with, iron roof, containing six bedrooms for public use, and in the yard were five open stalls. The inside of the place had recently been renovated and the furniture was clean and good. The trade was principally bar trade. The conduct had been bad since the present licensee had been there. There had been two convictions during the last 18 months. The police had to continually watch the place and had received several complaints about it. It was as good as the others in that vicinity on sale days. Ernest Edward Giles, architect, said the Home Hotel was a very good class of building, and he had drawn up plans for a second storey. Percy Luck said he had been licensee of the hotel for two years. His five bedrooms contained 10 beds. He had five permanent boarders.

¹ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Book 149, number 412.

² Wagga Wagga Rate Books 1875-1877.

³ Wagga Wagga Rate Books 1877-1880.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th March 1880, p2. / NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Book 201, number 603.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Rate Books 1880-1881.

⁶ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Book 719, number 562.

⁷ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Book 719, number 562.

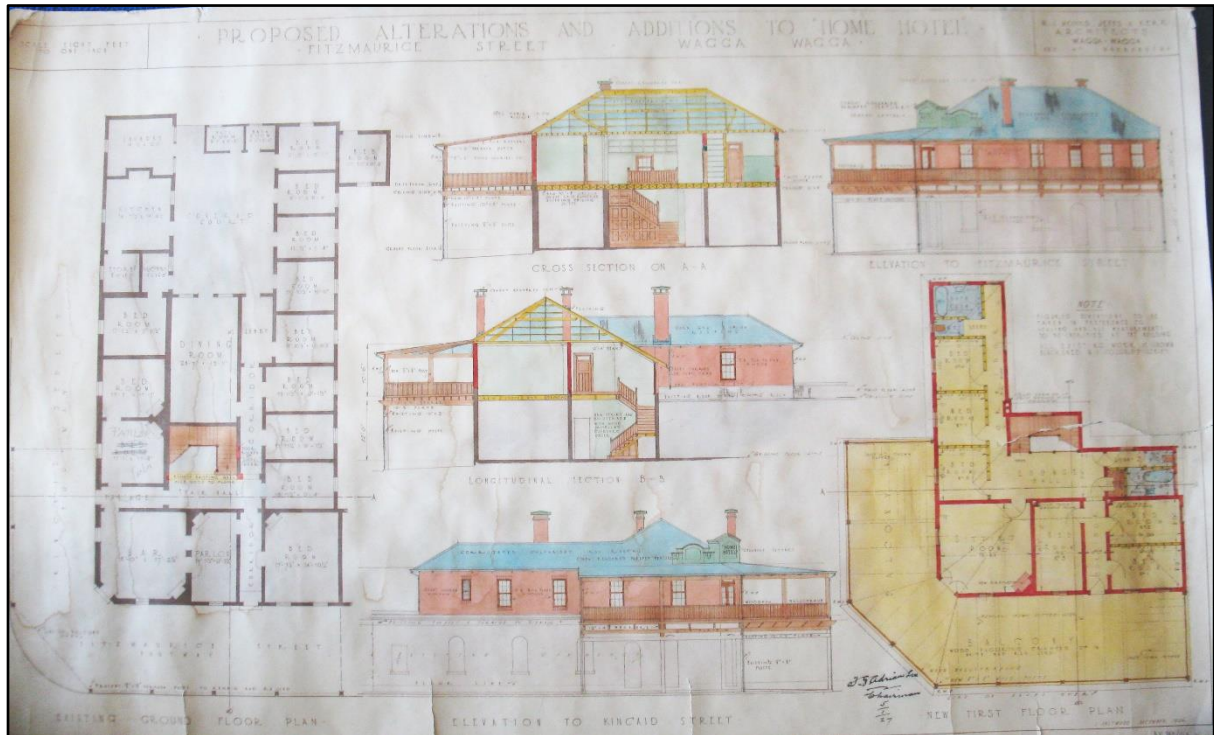
⁸ Wagga Wagga Rate Books 1905-1908.

⁹ Daily Express. 3rd March 1921, p2.

¹⁰ Daily Advertiser. 16th November 1921, p3.

Sale days and Saturdays were his busiest times. He had to refuse accommodation every night. He was sure it was a necessity: A member of Parliament had stopped there once."

In May 1924, Henry Martin Johnstone, the owner of the freehold, sought permission from council for brick additions to the Home hotel.¹



Above: 1926 plans for Home hotel prepared by WJ Monks, Jeffs & Kerr, architects of Wagga Wagga. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives. RW.860/MD/154.

1935, 13th June – Conveyance of title from Henry Martin Johnstone to Andrew Hoban, hotel keeper of Sydney.² The land is part of allotment one of section four, parish and town of South Wagga Wagga, being thirty seven and a quarter perches in area.

1935, June – Now owned by Tooth & Co. Tooth & Co. who purchased the hotel from Henry Johnstone.³ In 1936 the company made a number of improvements – they extended the bar, provided new tiled counters and canopy, and installed new tiles on the internal and exterior walls. They also installed new doors and erected a new men’s lavatory block.

1937, 13th August - Tooth and Co. are the registered owners of the freehold. The block of land has an area of thirty seven ad a quarter perches, with a frontage of fifty two feet and

¹ Daily Advertiser. 30th May 1924, p2.

² NSW Land & property Information. Certificate of title. Book 1723, no. 369.

³ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

two and a quarter inches to Fitzmaurice Street and a depth of one hundred and sixty five feet and nine inches, along Kincaid Street.

At the end of November 1938 the company accepted a tender to rebuild the kitchen and to install hot & cold taps in all bedrooms, along with four new bedrooms and a new hot water service to supply the bar, at a cost of £1,600.

1940, 2nd July – Tooth and Co. are the registered owners of the freehold. The block of land has an area of one rood and one perch, with a frontage of sixty seven feet and nine inches to Fitzmaurice Street and a depth of one hundred and sixty five feet and nine inches, along Kincaid Street.¹

In 1957 the balcony was removed and replaced with an awning. At the same time toilet facilities were added to the first floor.²

Extensive renovations were carried out at the end of 1961. These included a remodelling of the bar, the provision of internal public toilets (men & women), a larger lounge, improvements to the dining room, and a variety of other works, for a total cost of £9,823.³

1971, 3rd June – Certificate of title, Vol.5150, fol.183 is cancelled and superseded by vol.11602, fol. 90.⁴

1977, 5th July - Sold by Tooth & Co. to Desmond Osland Pearce and his wife, Mrs Betty Pearce.⁵

1981, 16th March – Transfer of title to Douglas George Cameron and his wife, Marylin Helen Cameron.⁶

1981, September – Material alterations to the value of \$150,000 carried out. Name of hotel changed to the Home Tavern.⁷

1988, 29th September to 29th June 1994 – Douglas George Cameron, and his wife, Marylin Helen Cameron, were the legal owners of the freehold.⁸

1994, 29th June – Denis Allan Wickham and his wife Coralie were the legal owners of the freehold from this date.⁹

2017, 1st August – Freehold sold to the group who owned the Victoria hotel, in Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga.

¹ NSW Land & property Information. Certificate of title. Vol.5150, fol.183.

² NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

³ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2283, Home Hotel, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1979.

⁴ NSW Land & property Information. Certificate of title. Vol.5150, fol.183.

⁵ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Vol.11602, Fol.90. Instrument # S290712. /Wagga Wagga Court House. Premises Cards. Home hotel.

⁶ NSW Land & Property Information. Land title. Vol.11602, Fol.90. Instrument # S290712.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Court House Records. Licensing Cards.

⁸ Office of Liquor & Gaming. Licensing Records.

⁹ Office of Liquor & Gaming. Licensing Records.

2018, 4th May – The Home hotel is placed on the market, for sale at \$1.75million.¹

In 2018 Middle Head Ventures Holdings Pty Ltd, of L 1 207 Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay, NSW were the owners of the freehold.² An agent described the premises as follows:

“Erected on the corner allotment is a two storey commercial premises currently used as Hotel and Function premises.

The internal design includes a typical hotel premises with main bar and toilet facilities, function room with stage and customer toilets and a dining area. The whole of the ground floor area is used for the main hotel operations.

There is a restaurant fronting Kincaid Street currently under a monthly tenancy agreement. To the first floor is a manager’s residence comprising 2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom. The first floor of the northern modern section was used as a function room and entertainment area.

To the rear of the main buildings is a sealed parking area. All areas are serviced by customer toilets.”

2018, August – Building up for sale. Current owner retains license for hotel and poker machines. The latter believed to be destined for a new hotel at Estella. Asking price was \$795,000.³

In December 2018 the hotel property, which included some adjoining holdings, remained on the market.

Notes

Current title = DP.1.82415 > 11602-90 > > vol.5150, fol.183. > 4863-63 > PA. 32415

Small title (the north east corner of the land on which the hotel stands) = DP.1. 84310 > 11602-90 > vol.5150, fol.183. > PA. 34310

See State Records – Primary Application (PA.32415)

See State Records – Wagga Wagga Licensing court plans of hotels 1913-1956. Home hotel, ref #'s 64053 to 64054.

See State records – Series 9596, Item 6 – Correspondence & Plans, Wagga Wagga Licensing Court, 1923-1950. [1936 plans of Home hotel for Tooth & Co.]

See Land & Property Information. Title Deed. Book 21, number 680.

¹ Daily Advertiser. 4th May 2018. [www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/5380677/waggas-ionic-home-of-live-music-put-on-the-market]

² Office of Liquor & Gaming. Licensing Records.

³ Fitzpatrick’s Commercial web site. August 2018.



Above: The Home hotel in 1951. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives.



Above: The Home hotel in December 2018