

HOTELS OF THE ROCK: 1879-2019



The King's Own hotel – old and new.



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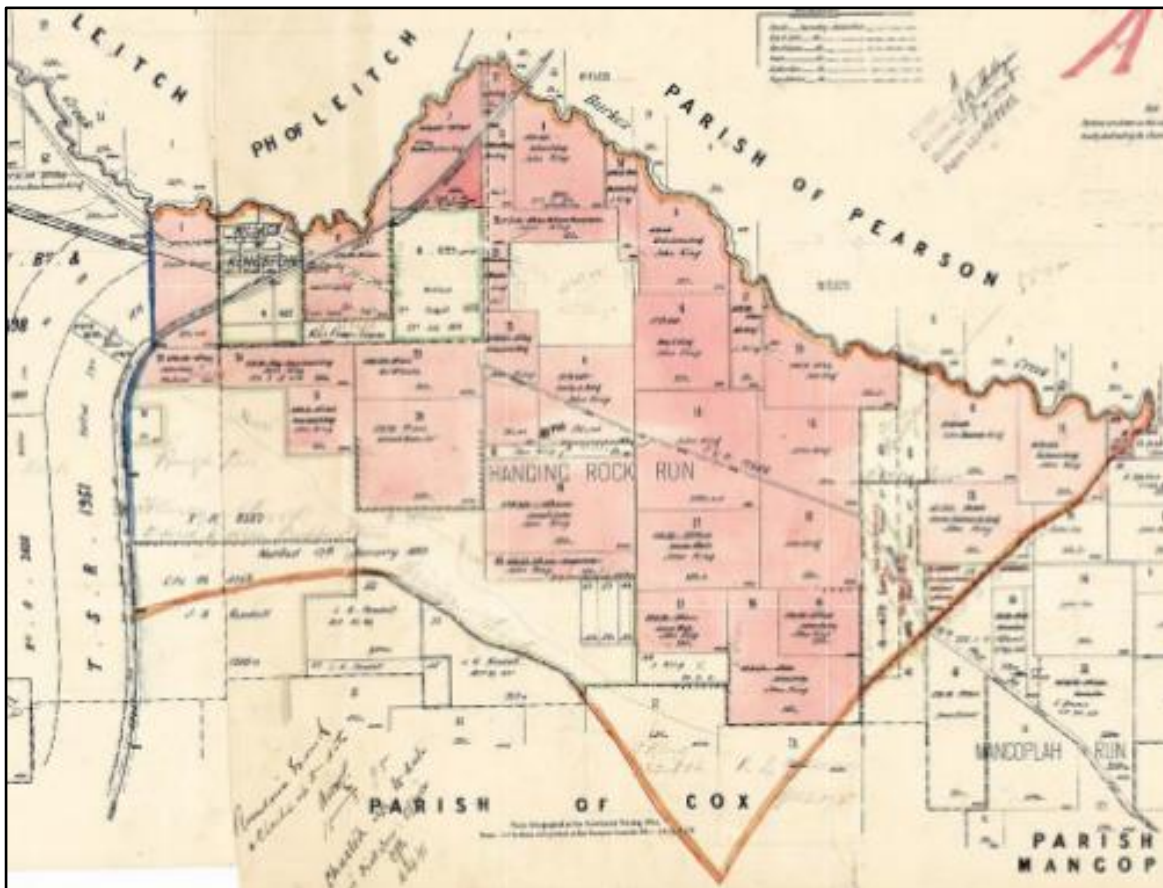
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Hotels of The Rock.

Early Settlement

The area occupied by the village of Kingston is within the boundaries of the original Hanging Rock run, and lies on the southern side of Burke's Creek. On the other side of the creek (north) was the Uranquinty run, later known as Pomingalarna, which ran all the way back to the Murrumbidgee river.¹ That Hanging Rock run started at a point on Burke's Creek not too far west from where the village was eventually laid out, and then extended east along Burke's Creek.



Above: Early pastoral map of the Hanging Rock run. Courtesy NSW Land & Property Information.

RM Davidson of Bullenbong claimed that James Egan Wall first stocked the Hanging Rock run in 1847,² although Gormly suggests he could have been there as early as 1840.³ Because there were listings in the gazette prior to 1847, and Wall's name does not appear in these listings, I suspect that Gormly is wrong and that Davidson is correct.

Davidson also claimed that by 1847 his grandfather had been at Bullenbong for some four years. The government gazettes list Davidson & Robertson as the owners of Bullenbong in 1847, but before that, in 1845, the occupiers were listed as Robertson & Davidson. In 1842 and 1843 a James Robertson was listed as the occupier of a run in the Murrumbidgee district, but it is not known if this

¹ See early pastoral runs' maps of Pomingalarna and Hanging Rock. NSW Land & Property Information.

² Gormly Indexes. Hanging Rock. Held at CSURA, Wagga Wagga.

³ Daily Advertiser. 4th June 1949, p2.

was Bullenbong. Davidson is not listed prior to 1845. James Egan Wall is listed as the occupier of the Hanging Rock run in 1847, but as already stated there were no earlier listings in the gazettes for Wall, or for Hanging Rock, and it can be assumed that Wall was the first person to take up the Hanging Rock run.⁴ Wall was still the licensee in 1848 and in 1849 when he lodged caveats against William Best of the Wagga Wagga run, William Beaver of the Collingully run, Henry Osborne of Tootool, and Robert & Davidson of Bullenbong. Each of these along with Owen & Pring of Mangoplah, lodged a caveat against Wall.⁵ A few months later in July 1849, after a period of consideration, the government confirmed a list of caveats that had not been withdrawn during this period (for all of NSW), and advised that the claims would now be considered by Commissioners appointed for the task of settling the matters. Wall still had a caveat against John George Church of Uranquinty, but all other caveats had been withdrawn. It is assumed that the others had settled their differences.⁶

Wall built a homestead on his run, which according to Gormly, was located on portion one, parish of The Rock. This block of land had an area of 320 acres.⁷

By 1852, Wall, and his family, were living in Trail Street, Wagga Wagga.⁸ James Egan Wall was born in Ireland, but by the mid 1840's was settled around Tumut, in NSW. It is believed he arrived in the colony in 1843.⁹ On the 6th January 1845 he married Emma Tooth, at Tumut. He was a mail contractor operating out of Wagga Wagga in the early 1850's. He also practiced as a doctor, although his qualifications were that of a chemist. It is believed that Wall moved to Bendigo to try his luck at gold mining, in the early 1850's (he was there by December 1853), and stayed in that district until his death in March 1883.¹⁰ Wall, much to the ire of local licensed medical personnel, practised as a doctor, and was at one stage jailed, for a considerable period (twelve months), for having done so. In the latter incident Wall carried out an abortion and was convicted of manslaughter, when the patient, twenty eight year old Margaret Smith, died as a result of the procedure.¹¹

In October 1858 notice was given that James E Wall had transferred his run, the Hanging Rock station, to Susannah E Brown.¹² Wall must have had a previous arrangement with Susannah's husband, Tinker Brown, because the latter gave notice in November 1854 that he had purchased all of Peter Best's cattle that were running near Wagga Wagga, and cautioned all persons against removing any of these cattle from his run, known as Hanging Rock.¹³ Tinker Brown passed away at the end of November 1855. Maish claimed that Brown was in partnership with Wall and this may well have been true. It is also true that Wall was declared insolvent in December 1858, with debts of some £997 and assets of some £751.¹⁴

In 1861, Susannah Brown was the occupier of the Hanging Rock run¹⁵ and was still there in 1872.¹⁶ When Susannah purchased the run it was all leasehold, and she was the first person to purchase

⁴ NSW Government Gazettes. Claims to Leases of Lands Beyond the Settled Districts.

⁵ NSW Government Gazette. 1849, pp375-376.

⁶ NSW Government Gazette. 1849, p1005.

⁷ Daily Advertiser. 4th June 1849, p2.

⁸ Daily Advertiser. 4th June 1849, p2.

⁹ Bendigo Advertiser. 10th March 1883, p3.

¹⁰ Bendigo Advertiser. 10th March 1883, p3.

¹¹ Mount Alexander Mail. 29th October 1881, p2.

¹² Goulburn Herald. 20th October 1858, p3.

¹³ Goulburn Herald. 11th November 1854, p3c4.

¹⁴ Bendigo Advertiser. 15th December 1858, p2.

¹⁵ NSW Government Gazette. 1861, p1473.

¹⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 29th June 1872, p4.

freehold within the run, when in 1860, she applied to purchase a block of 320 acres – presumably the homestead portion. The purchase was approved and gazetted in early 1861.¹⁷

In February 1873 it was reported that John King had purchased the Hanging Rock run along with eight hundred head of cattle,¹⁸ and before the end of March he was in the process of taking delivery of the property.¹⁹ One report stated that the seller was Charles William Thurlow Brown, Susannah's son.²⁰ King's purchase included some three thousand acres of freehold land.²¹ John King immediately changed the profile of stock on the run, purchasing a large number of sheep, and selling off some of the cattle.

According to Goode, the large boulder perched on the summit of the hill, which gave the area its name (Hanging Rock), dislodged around 1874, "*cutting a swathe through the timber on the eastern side of the hill.*" At that time, pieces of the rock, "*some quite large,*" could be found at the base of the hill.²²

The village of Kingston was gazetted on the 28th June 1880 and consisted of some two hundred acres. A suburban area, totalling some 1,036 acres, was declared at the same time.²³ An alteration to the design of the village was proclaimed in November 1882 and consisted of a change in position of Ford Street.²⁴ The village had been named in honour of John King of the Hanging Rock station.²⁵



John King was declared bankrupt in 1893, and in August of that year the official assignee offered up for sale, by public auction, the Hanging Rock Estate (freehold and leased lands), along with nine thousand five hundred mixed sheep, fifteen cattle and thirteen horses. At the same time King's other properties, the Woolengough and Crown Camp runs, along with twenty two thousand sheep were also offered up for sale.²⁶ The Hanging Rock estate was still being offered for sale in late October and November, and was said to contain some 11, 767 acres of freehold land.²⁷

Left: John King

King's demise was brought about by the collapse of the Australian banks in 1893, which had been caused by over investment in property during the 1880's, fuelled by imported capital. When the property values dropped to

¹⁷ NSW Government Gazette. 1861, p358.

¹⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th February 1873, p2.

¹⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd March 1873, p2.

²⁰ Riverine Herald. 29th January 1873, p2.

²¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 25th January 1873, p2.

²² Goode, Rex. The Rock. Looking Back. P13.

²³ NSW Government Gazette. 1880, p3185.

²⁴ NSW Government Gazette. 1882, p6226.

²⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3rd June 1882, p2.

²⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th August 1893, p3.

²⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 21st October 1893, p5.

half, or less, of their peak values the banks securities were worthless as borrowers defaulted in large numbers.

John King is inextricably linked to The Rock, because of his connections with the village and the surrounding country. He would have wielded substantial power as to what went on in the town, both in business and in community affairs.



Above: The King family. Front: Mary, John and Isabella King, with grandson William. Back: Henry, Emily, John and Isabella King.

John King was born at Cobbitty on the Nepean River on the 24th June 1825, and became a prominent pastoralist in NSW. He and his brother Charles had a butchery business at Spring Creek (later Beechworth) from 1853.²⁸

In 1856 he was the licensee of the Criterion hotel at Albury, and from 1858 to 1860, he was the licensee of the Criterion hotel at Ten Mile Creek (later known as Germanton and then Holbrook).²⁹ It is believed King was the first occupier of this hotel, which he opened at the end of June 1858.³⁰

In 1861 he purchased Egan Creek station (later known as the Yerong Creek run), and after that Buddigower, near Wyalong. A few years later he purchased Berthong station, in the Young district. He also owned the Woolnough and Crown Camp runs, near Condobolin. He purchased the Hanging Rock run in 1873, and sold it in 1893 to Edwin Millar, a Melbourne businessman. He retained the

²⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4th August 1906, p2c5.

²⁹ State Records. Treasury Butts & Certificates of Publicans' Licenses. 1831-1860.

³⁰ Border Post. 24th July 1858, p1c2.

western portion of his property, which he named Kingsleigh, and lived there until his death on the 2nd August 1906. King loved horseracing and was a staunch supporter of the Murrumbidgee Turf Club. He was also a member of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association and a strong supporter of the churches.

In 1855 King had married Isabella Cox at Albury. She was the sister of John Cox of Mangoplah and Yerong Creek runs, and of Mrs James Gormly of Wagga Wagga. The couple had eleven children.³¹

A description of The Rock village, in June 1898, was published in the Wagga Wagga press as follows:³²

“Notwithstanding the recent dry seasons which have effected The Hanging Rock district as much as almost any other part of Riverina, considerable progress has recently been made in the Rock village. Numerous new buildings have gradually gone up and the place is beginning to have the appearance of a township. One of the reasons which may be given for the advancement made, is the prospect of the railway from there to Lockhart being constructed in the near future. The principal business establishments are two general stores, one carried on by Mr. M. Donkin, and the other by Mr. H. Voss, the latter having at the present time an important clearing sale on. The two blacksmiths are Mr. J. Baker and Mr. Boyd, both of whom appear to be able to find employment enough to keep their fires constantly going. Mr. J. H. Holmes carries on business as baker and confectioner, and also caters for balls and parties throughout the district. He keeps a first class baker, and his bread and catering is of a high standard. Messrs. King and Doll have a large butchering business, and keep two carts regularly delivering supplies in all parts of the neighborhood. Mr. F. Williams, the local saddler, has added to his business boot repairing, the two trades keeping him regularly employed. Mr. W. J. Jones has recently had his hotel enlarged and it is now a comfortable and commodious house of call. The peace of the village is looked after by Constable McLachlan, who has little or no difficulty in maintaining order. The post-office and railway station is under the management of that popular officer, Mr. Egan, and the education of the youthful portion of the community is attended to by Mr. Peek, the head teacher of the public school. Amongst the recent buildings at The Rock is a new concert hall, which has been erected by Mr. M. Donkin. The site on which the hall is built is close to Mr. Donkin's store and private residence, the only two vacancies on the block now being two allotments, on one of which Mr. Donkin intends to shortly erect a black-smith's shop and later on he intends building an hotel on the other. The new hall, which is built of corrugated iron, is 50 feet long by 20 feet wide, well ventilated and lighted and it has also a suitable stage. The contractor for the erection of the building was Mr. F. Kiely, the local builder and contractor, and the structure is a creditable one. The hall was opened for the first time on Friday night, when a concert and ball were given therein.”

On the 8th March 1911 The Rock Estate, consisting of some fourteen thousand acres, (formerly part of the Hanging Rock run) went up for auction on this day, in blocks ranging from sixty five to five hundred acres.³³ The then owner was Mr EF Millar, and the property had been managed for some years by Mr J Williamson. In addition to the forty seven farms put up for auction, there was also an area of 359 acres set aside for town and suburban lots. Not all lots were sold on the day, including an area of 1,821 acres that featured the homestead and wool shed. Private sales continued after this day.³⁴

³¹ Wagga Wagga express. 4th August 1906, p2c7. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4th August 1906, p2c5.

³² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th June 1898, p2.

³³ Daily Advertiser. 7th March 1911, p2.

³⁴ Daily Advertiser. 9th March 1911, p2.

The Railway

The extension of the railway to South Wagga Wagga was officially opened on the 1st September 1879.³⁵ Works then continued on through Uranquinty, Hanging Rock and Yerong Creek. By March 1880 the contractors had laid the line four miles past their main camp at Hanging Rock,³⁶ but works were still continuing on the various railway stations and associated structures.

The contractors moved their main camp from Hanging Rock to Albury in October 1880.³⁷ The Hanging Rock railway station was opened in September 1880. The name was changed to Kingston in December 1882 and the finally to The Rock in February 1883.³⁸ By February 1881 the railway line through to Albury was opened.³⁹



Above: 1980 The Rock railway station 1980. Courtesy Graeme Skeet. NSWrail.net.

³⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3rd September 1879, p2.

³⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6th March 1880

³⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st July 1880, p2c6.

³⁸ State Rail records.

³⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th January 1881, p2c4.

The Hotels

Hanging Rock hotel

The first licensed hotel at The Rock was the Hanging Rock hotel. The license for the Hanging Rock hotel was first issued to Mary Ann Hines in December 1879, and was for a period from that date till the 30th June 1880.⁴⁰

In February 1880, Fred Hines, a store keeper and hotel keeper at Hanging Rock, testified that he managed the hotel for his mother. Hines had been to Wagga Wagga to pick up some goods, which he loaded into a spring cart. On the way home he stopped at Hawkins' hotel (on the 12th February) where an unknown woman was drinking. Hines described the woman as intoxicated. She asked for a lift to the next hotel and Hines told her to, "jump up." Some three miles before they reached the next hotel the woman wanted to drive the cart claiming she could do a better job than Fred. She tried to take the reins, causing the horse to go off track and pull the cart wheel over a small log, which overturned the cart throwing the occupants out. The cart passed over the woman's chest, causing her to suffocate and bring about her death. An inquest ruled the death was an accident and that Hines was free from any blame.⁴¹

In March 1880 Fred T Hines testified that he lived at Hanging Rock, at his mother's hotel. Hines had laid a complaint against one William Murphy, claiming Murphy regularly sold alcohol from his premises, which was a store that sold goods to the navvies, without having a license to do so. Furthermore that he had been told Murphy took beer to people up the line and that he had personally seen Murphy return with empties. Hines stated that his mother was a licensed publican. Murphy testified that he was a store keeper and carrier and that the liquor seized by police was either for his own personal use or was on hold pending delivery to the owners. The latter stock included five casks of beer. The court ordered the forfeiture of the seized liquor.⁴²

No further references to the hotel were found and it is assumed that the hotel ceased to trade after the 30th June 1880.

No further references to the hotel's existence were found.

Railway hotel

On the 21st April 1880 William Hanley was granted permission to transfer his license, "*from a house situated on the Albury railway extension,*" to a house located closer to where the navvies were now working.⁴³ The new location was Hanging Rock, and the new hotel was named the Railway hotel.

No record could be found of Hanley having previously been granted a license, but Scott Whitaker states that Hanley had taken over the Railway hotel at Uranquinty from Charles McGarrigle in December 1879.⁴⁴ In that same month, MCGarrigle (referred to as McGarry in the local press) offered his Railway hotel at Sandy Creek [Uranquinty] along with five acres of land, for sale by public auction on the 13th December. The hotel contained six rooms, a kitchen, a four stall stable and

⁴⁰ NSW Government Gazette. 1880, p166.

⁴¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th February 1880, p3.

⁴² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6th March 1880, p3.

⁴³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd April 1880, p2.

⁴⁴ Whitaker, Scott. Railway Hotels of Australia. Volume two – New South Wales.

furniture.⁴⁵ Hanley may have purchased the hotel and then subsequently transferred the license to premises at the Hanging Rock, but as stated no reference to such an event could be found.

On the 14th October a meeting was held at Hanley's hotel, Hanging Rock, to show support for George Auber Jones, who was running as a candidate for the Murrumbidgee electorate.⁴⁶ Jones himself appeared at the hotel on the 10th November when some one hundred electors gathered at the hotel to hear him speak.⁴⁷

By the end of October 1880 the secretary of the Hanging Rock Races was advertising a race meeting to come off at Hanley's Railway hotel, on the 9th November, the Prince of Wales birthday.⁴⁸ A lot of people from Wagga Wagga travelled out by train on the day to experience the day's events, which had been organised by Hanley.⁴⁹

On the 26th January 1881 Hanley hosted a lunch for the Hanging Rock and Sandy Creek cricket teams, who were playing a match that day. The match was played on a piece of ground lent by Mr J King. Some thirty people from Wagga Wagga had travelled out by train to experience the day's events. In addition to the cricket match there were horse races on the same day. The racecourse was situated some five hundred yards to the rear of the hotel. The course had been marked out and a few distance flags had been erected, but aside from this very little work had been invested in the track. The Wagga Wagga visitors departed on the 4:30pm train.⁵⁰

Hanley was fortunate that his hotel still stood. A week earlier a fire had destroyed Waxman's Railway Sores at Hanging Rock, and it was only due to the efforts of some willing hands that Hanley's hotel was saved from the same fate.⁵¹

Hanley continued to conduct the hotel throughout 1881,⁵² and on the 21st April 1882 his license for the Hanging Rock hotel at Hanging Rock was renewed for another year.⁵³

On the 9th June 1882, at around 4am, Hanley's hotel was completely destroyed by fire. The hotel was insured and the cause of the fire could not be identified.⁵⁴ The hotel was not rebuilt. This meant that the King's Own hotel was now the only hotel at Hanging Rock.

Rock of Cashel

In April 1878 Michael Green was granted a license for a hotel named the Rock of Cashel, near Wagga Wagga.⁵⁵ The government gazettes of 1878 and 1880 listed the location of the hotel as Uranquinty, on the Albury Railway line, but in 1880 listed the location as Hanging Rock, once in April and again in July 1880 (annual renewal). It is assumed that Green's establishment was of a very simple type that could be easily moved and that it was originally at or near Uranquinty, but moved either to or near

⁴⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6th December 1879, p4.

⁴⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 16th October 1880, p3.

⁴⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th November 1880, p3.

⁴⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th October 1880, p3.

⁴⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th November 1880, p3.

⁵⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th January 1881, p3.

⁵¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th January 1881, p2c4.

⁵² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 16th June 1881, p3. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 3rd September 1881, p3.

⁵³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd April 1882, p3c5,6.

⁵⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th June 1882, p2.

⁵⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 17th April 1878, p2.

The Rock in January 1880, or a bit earlier. Like many hotels of that period its business depended wholly and solely on the navvies that worked on the construction of the railway line.

On the 13th February 1880 Green was summons to appear in court to answer a charge that he had abandoned his public house, the Rock of Cashel. Green pleaded not guilty and the case was remanded to the 20th February.⁵⁶

The court sat again on the 20th February and it was reported that Green had applied to transfer his license for the Clare Castle hotel (sic) to another location on the railway line extensions. The police had no objections to the transfer but a number of residents had protested and the court denied the application.⁵⁷

In March 1880 police seized a quantity of liquor belonging to Michael Green, at his residence, and charged him with sly grog selling. According to the police Green was not a licensed publican at the time. The police raided Green following a complaint lodged by Fred Hines, the son of Mrs Hines, the licensee of the Hanging Rock hotel.⁵⁸ The case was remanded for one week, where the bench ruled that Green may have purchased the liquor prior to the recent refusal to grant him a license, and the goods were ordered to be returned to Green.⁵⁹

On the 21st April 1880 Green applied for a new license for his hotel, the Rock of Cashel, at Hanging Rock. The license was granted.⁶⁰

In July 1880 Green was convicted of allowing music and dancing in his hotel and fined £5 plus costs.⁶¹ In the same month he placed an advertisement in the Wagga Wagga press offering for sale, the Rock of Cashel hotel, near the Hanging Rock station yard.⁶²

On the 6th October 1880 Green appeared in court as the plaintiff. He charged SS Lincoln, P Moran, WJ Blake and George Bramston with assault and robbery. Green claimed the offence took place on the 5th June, when the defendants assaulted him and took £361 from him. According to Green the defendants had taken him to the scrub near the town and threatened him with a revolver, demanding that he hand over money he owed them, and others. A number of witnesses confirmed the main parts of Green's story. Some were eye witnesses to the event whilst others repeated conversations by the various defendants in which they bragged that Green had trembled like a leaf, petrified by the threat of being shot. SS Lincoln testified that Green owed him £50. He had heard that Green was about to clear out and on the 4th June learnt that Green had withdrawn money from the bank. Lincoln admitted they had gone to see Green at his hotel and that they had demanded, and were given, the monies owed. Green handed over money sufficient to cover debts to Lincoln, Patrick Moran, WS Eaton, Mr Spiers and Dr Morgan O'Connor. Patrick Moran testified that the manager of the Bank of NSW had told him that Green had withdrawn money from the bank. It was revealed that Green had a total of £791 on him that day. The jury returned a verdict in favour of the defendants.⁶³

Within a fortnight a correspondent from Hanging Rock declared that Green had disappeared along with several cases of spirits.⁶⁴

⁵⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 14th February 1880, p3.

⁵⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st February 1880, p2.

⁵⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6th March 1880, p3.

⁵⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th March 1880, p2.

⁶⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 22nd April 1880, p2.

⁶¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th July 1880, p3.

⁶² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st July 1880, p3c7.

⁶³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th October 1880, p3. & 9th October 1880, p4.

⁶⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st October 1880, p3.

There had been no police presence in the village when this event occurred but shortly afterwards, Constable Dove was transferred from Tumberumba. A local correspondent reported as follows:

“Visitors to Hanging Rock township are tempted to prolong their stay to pay a visit to the celebrated hostelry known as the Rock of Cashel, now justly celebrated over the assault and false imprisonment case recently tried at Wagga Wagga. The Rock of Cashel seems to attract as much attention as the famous hanging rock itself and the celebrated tree too, which so faithfully sheltered Messrs Blake & Lincoln....the tree has already been marked....the house at present is unoccupied, and already ghost tales are circulated....Constable Dove however is going to apply for the cancellation of the license in consequence of the holder having abandoned the house.”

King’s Own hotel

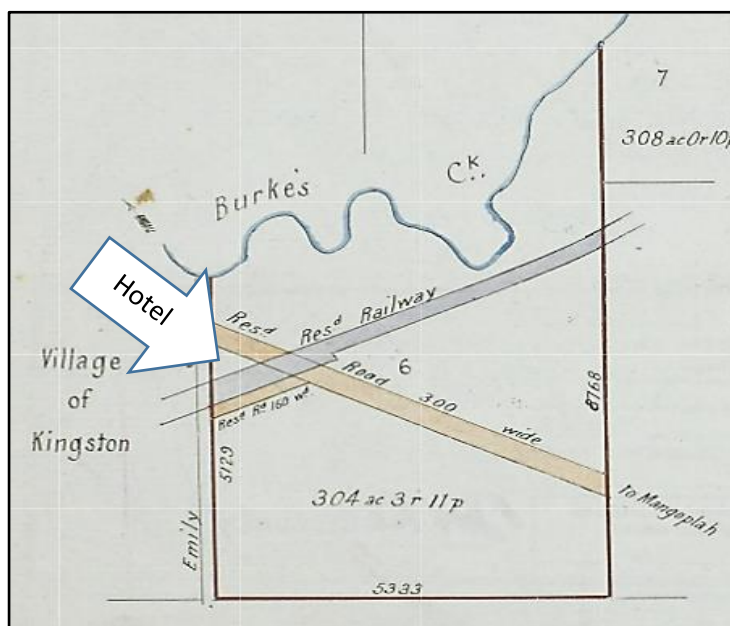
In September 1881 it was reported that some forty residents of the Hanging Rock district had signed a petition opposing the granting of a license to new hotel premises recently erected at Hanging Rock. The report noted that there was already one hotel in the town and that this met the needs of the town and district. The report commented that the town was:⁶⁵

“a mere hamlet, containing a population of about 12 adults, and excepting during the wool season when a little temporary bustle is created by the delivery of wool at the railway station, the business for the rest of the year is very trifling indeed.”

According to Rex Goode, the hotel was built for John King, from timber sawn by TW Milne and JD Norman.⁶⁶

The licensing bench sat on the 13th September 1881 and heard the application from John McDonough. The police had no objections declaring that McDonough was a respectable person suitable in every way to manage a hotel. In spite of the objections raised by the citizens’ petition the bench approved the granting of the license.⁶⁷ McDonough held the license for the next four years.

By December 1885 Robert Joshua King had succeeded McDonough as the licensee of the hotel.⁶⁸



Left: Portion 6, parish of Burke, showing the location of the old hotel site, in a small triangular section on the western border of the portion. Courtesy NSW Land & Property Information.

⁶⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th September 1881, p2.

⁶⁶ Goode, Rex. The Rock Looking Back. 1961.

⁶⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th September 1881, p2.

⁶⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th December 1885, p2.

In July 1886 Thomas Henry Manns applied for a conditional license for a house that was yet to be erected, at Hanging Rock. Manns was described as a respectable man who had lived in the Wagga Wagga district for some fifteen years. A number of favourable testimonials were submitted including one from his employer, Mr Westby. Manns testified that he was a married man and that he had worked for Westby for the past seven years. He stated that he had recently purchased a property at Hanging Rock with the intention of erecting a substantial hotel building. Manns claimed that people were often denied accommodation at the Rock because the King's Own was full. The police objected to the application stating they had concerns that the building may not comply with all legal requirements, and the court denied the application.⁶⁹

Manns applied again in July 1886 and the police again objected on the grounds that a second hotel was not required. Robert King, of the King's Own hotel testified that he was able to meet the demands for accommodation. The court refused the application and nothing more was heard of Manns proposed hotel.⁷⁰

In June 1887 Manns advertised for sale by public auction a half acre of land at The Rock, close to the King's Own hotel, containing a large weatherboard house, with ten large airy rooms, a kitchen, storeroom, washhouse, 5-stall stable, underground tank, garden and out houses.⁷¹

On the 6th February 1888 the license for the King's Own hotel was transferred from Robert Joshua King to John Thomas King. Robert took over the license of the Coolamon hotel on the same day.⁷² Joshua remained as licensee for the next four years, until the 7th April 1892, when it was transferred to Daniel McGuiness.⁷³ McGuiness's stay was short lived and on the 24th October 1892, the license was transferred to Michael Donkin.⁷⁴



Above: The original King's Own hotel.

⁶⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 10th April 1886, p2.

⁷⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 31st July 1886, p2.

⁷¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 21st June 1887, p3.

⁷² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th February 1888, p3.

⁷³ Wagga Wagga Express. 1st April 1892, p2.

⁷⁴ Wagga Wagga Express. 25th October 1892, p2.



Above: The new and old King's Own hotel buildings, side by side, in 1914.

Donkin renewed the license in June 1895,⁷⁵ then in July 1895 the license was transferred from Donkin to John William Jones.⁷⁶

In April 1897 Michael Donkin applied for a license for a house which he intended to erect at The Rock. His wife Johanna deposed that she and her husband had lived at The Rock for about five years, where for part of that time her husband was the licensee of the King's Own hotel. She noted that no record had been recorded against her husband during his three years in the hotel. She stated that her husband was prevented from being present at the court, apparently from a case of rheumatism. Her husband owned allotment five of section twelve and this was the site on which the proposed hotel would be built. [Section five sits at the south west corner of the intersection of Emily and Urana Streets, and was originally granted to John King. Donkin purchased the allotment from the AJS Bank in August 1896].⁷⁷ Plans drawn up by WJ Monks, architect of Wagga Wagga, were submitted. Monks was also to supervise the construction of the hotel which was estimated to cost from one thousand to twelve hundred pounds. Johanna stated that her husband's average profit during his time at the King's Own was some £600 per annum, and that a larger business would have been possible if the hotel had contained more rooms.

She stated that the King's Own hotel was built of brick and timber with an iron roof, and wooden partitions, which meant that noise carried from room to room easily. Her opinion was that additional accommodation was required at The Rock and she submitted several petitions supporting her claim.

There was a concern re the proximity of the hotel to the Presbyterian Church. Johanna stated that the distance from the bar door of the proposed hotel to the nearest corner of the church property would be some five chains and fifteen feet, on the opposite side of the road.

Her husband also kept a store at The Rock and he always kept separate books for this business. She attributed the growth in business to the breakup of the large runs surrounding the town. Johanna

⁷⁵ Wagga Wagga Express. 15th June 1895, p2.

⁷⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 4th July 1895, p2.

⁷⁷ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 701, folio 166.

owned the two allotments to the east of allotment five, these being allotments fourteen and thirteen, and the store and their residence were located on these allotments.

John William Jones testified that his annual profit was around £180 per annum and that he had never achieved anything like £600.

The district inspector objected to the application on the grounds that it would be too close to the Presbyterian Church and the Catholic Church. He declared that the proposed building had a frontage of 102ft to Urana Street, and that from the centre of this length to the nearest point of the Presbyterian Church allotment was 92ft. The bench refused the application by Donkin but noted that he was a respectable person and that the proposed building was a grand design. The bench warned the owners of the King's Own that if they did not keep their hotel up to scratch, as required by the inspector, their license could be refused and a then another house would be required.⁷⁸

Donkin erected a new hall in the town and it was officially opened on the 3rd June 1898, with a concert and ball.⁷⁹

A press report noted that,⁸⁰ *"The site on which the hall is built is close to Mr. Donkin's store and private residence, the only two vacancies on the block now being two allotments, on one of which Mr. Donkin intends to shortly erect a blacksmith's shop and later on he intends building an hotel on the other. The new hall, which is built of corrugated iron, is 50 feet long by 20 feet wide, well ventilated and lighted and it has also a suitable stage. The contractor for the erection of the building was Mr. F. Kiely, the local builder and contractor."*

Donkin's health continued to plague him and in August 1899 he sold the general store business to Mr Cohen of Cootamundra. It was said that Donkin intended to visit the hot springs in New Zealand to see if they would improve his health.⁸¹ Donkin sold off his household furniture in November and, in a change of mind, headed to Eden on the south coast to try, *"the whale cure,"* for his complaint.⁸²

Early in the morning of the 25th January 1900 a fire broke out in one of the largest bedrooms in the King's Own hotel, and the unoccupied room, along with all of its contents, were destroyed by the fire and by the large volume of water used. A report on the event declared that the building was built entirely of weatherboard and that except for the prompt response of a large number of local men the whole building would have been lost.⁸³ The volunteers had the sense to keep the windows and doors closed, choosing to lift the roof off instead and to attack the fire from above, thereby limiting the intensity of the fire.⁸⁴ This report conflicts with earlier statements that the hotel was a brick and timber structure, and the conclusion is drawn that the building contained very little brickwork – perhaps fireplaces and chimneys. The building and contents were insured.

On the 25th June 1906 the license of John William Jones for the King's Own hotel was renewed.⁸⁵ Jones told the court that he was about to take over the hotel from the executors of the late Isabella

⁷⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 6th April 1897, p2. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6th April 1897, p2.

⁷⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th June 1898, p3.

⁸⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 7th June 1898, p2.

⁸¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th August 1899, p5.

⁸² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 28th November 1899, p3.

⁸³ Wagga Wagga Express. 27th January 1900, p2.

⁸⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 27th January 1900, p2c3.

⁸⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26th June 1906, p2.

King. Within a month Herbert B Norman was the new licensee.⁸⁶ On the 17th June 1907 Norman renewed the license for another year.⁸⁷

In September 1907 Norman was busy sinking bores to find water for his hotel. Water was always scarce in the summer months and the government tank was a half a mile distant from the post office, making it inconvenient to secure the precious liquid. He sank a couple of bores near the police station but these hit rock and no water. He then sank a bore in the back yard of the hotel and found water at thirty one feet, which rose nine feet in the bore. He then proceeded to construct a well.⁸⁸

In January 1911 Norman was warned that, *"the progress he was making in having his premises altered was altogether too slow and might affect the renewal of his license at the June sitting of the Licensing Bench."*⁸⁹ The license was renewed in June, without further comment, and it can be assumed Norman had carried out the required works.⁹⁰

By June 1912 Norman was in the process of erecting a new hotel.⁹¹ In November Norman applied to council for permission to move the horse post at the old hotel, to a position opposite the new hotel. The application was refused on the grounds that it was a hazard to motor vehicle traffic and it set a precedent that did not apply at Lockhart. The town at this point in time, had not been declared an urban area, but it was expected that this status would change shortly and that such structures would no longer be welcome in the village. This did not cause the removal of the old horse stand, just that it could not be moved.⁹²

On Thursday the 5th December 1912 the new King's Own hotel was officially opened for business.⁹³

A description of the hotel read as follows:⁹⁴

"One of the most substantial and best designed hotels to be seen in any of the smaller centres of population of New South Wales. It fronts Urana Street, is of brick, plastered throughout, has a length of 81 feet and a depth of 105 feet. It also has a wide balcony, with ornamental iron railing, extending, along the entire length of the structure, with a balcony at the rear. The private and bar entrances are from Urana-street, the former having coloured glass doors, on which 'The King's Own Hotel' has been embossed. There is an office in the centre of the front portion of the building, which is occupied by Messrs. Dalgety and Company. The public bar is 36 feet x 23 feet 9in., with counters 21ft and 15ft in length respectively, slides opening on to the bar parlour, 15 x 13, and tap room 13ft. x 22ft., the latter containing round marble tables and chairs. There is also a private room off the bar. The cellar is 22ft. x 21ft., and is well stocked with the most popular of wines, spirits, and beer. The billiard room is large; and well lighted, and contains one of Alcock's full sized billiard table. It may be mentioned that all the rooms on the ground floor are 13ft. high. The width of the main passage is 8ft. The dining room is 29ft x 15ft 6in. The kitchen, 17ft x 18ft, with large scullery and hot water service, a rack, pantry, meat room and large meat safe. There are also located on the ground floor, 11 bedrooms, each 9ft. x 10ft., and two 11ft-. 10in. X 9ft., access to the former being gained by a passage 3ft, wide by 6ft, in length. There are also two linen presses and a bathroom, access to which is given by the passage mentioned. Access to the upper floor is gained by four flights of stairs, opening on to a wide, nicely carpeted passage, where a comfortable lounge is to be seen. The public

⁸⁶ Wagga Wagga Express. 21st July 1906, p5.

⁸⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 18th June 1907, p4.

⁸⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 24th September 1907, p2.

⁸⁹ Daily Advertiser. 17th January 1911, p2.

⁹⁰ Daily Advertiser. 20th June 1911, p3.

⁹¹ Lockhart Review. 12th June 1912, p4.

⁹² Lockhart Review. 13th November 1912, p4.

⁹³ Lockhart Review. 18th December 1912, p7.

⁹⁴ Daily Advertiser. 23rd December 1912, p4.

sitting room, which is furnished in the most modern style, and measures 16½ ft. x 14ft. is the next compartment that comes under observation. On this floor are two bedrooms, 12ft. 4in. x 10ft., three 15ft. 6in. x 7ft. 9in., one 11ft. 10in x 9ft., and one 16ft., 6in. x 8ft. 11in, a boys' bedroom 13ft; x 13ft. 10in., two girls' bedrooms each 16ft. 7in. x 10ft, 1in., two other bed-rooms 12ft. 10in. x 5ft. 9in., and 15ft. 8in. x 13ft. 5in., respectively, with linen presses and lavatory. The following rooms are also on the upper floor: - Private sitting room, 16ft. 9in., x 14ft. 5in., boys' sitting room , 12ft. 5in., x 12ft. 3in., bathroom, 10ft. 2in., x 9ft.; dining room, 28ft. 4in. x 18ft. 4in., with kitchen, pantry and servery, showing that every little detail has been studied to provide for the comfort and convenience of the guests and facilitate the work of the employees. There is a long passage giving access to the bedrooms and other rooms on the upper floor. Water for the use of the establishment is obtained from two tanks, of 40,000 and 20,000 gallons capacity respectively. Another striking feature of the hotel appointments is the installation of 'The Light of Australia,' the generator in connection with which is housed some distance from the rear of the hotel."

The hotel billiard room was licensed out to various people over the years.

Norman applied for a reduction of the licensing fee in July 1914, and testified that his average weekly turnover was £90, of which some £12 was profit. On average ten of his thirty bedrooms were occupied each night. The licensing fee for the old hotel had been £20, but the new hotel had been set at £50, in 1913. The court ruled that £50 was excessive, but that under the act they could only reduce it by half, and no other amount. The fee was set at £25.⁹⁵

On Sunday the 25th November a fire destroyed the stables at The King's Own hotel. The adjoining blacksmith's shop was saved. The structures were not insured. This was the fifth fire experienced by Norman in the past twelve months, three of which had destroyed property.⁹⁶

In February 1920 a plane piloted by Captain Sir Ross Smith was forced to land in a paddock belonging to HB Norman, at The Rock, on the southern side of the railway line. The engine was cut and the plane glided into the paddock. Onlookers claimed that it looked as though the plane was about to plough into the two storey King's Own hotel, but that the plane avoided such a collision, although almost grazing the chimneys of the hotel.⁹⁷ In 2019 Eric Feeney's house stood on this site.

There had been an earlier forced landing in a paddock near the Bon Accord railway platform at around 12:50pm. The plane departed about an hour later, but was soon forced to land again, at The Rock. Eventually the plane landed in Melbourne later that same afternoon.⁹⁸ The forced landings were the consequence of a pin in the gear driving the propeller dislodging and falling to the ground as they flew over Uranquinty.

On the 22nd December 1922 the license of the hotel was transferred from Norman to James Joseph Scott of Wagga Wagga.⁹⁹ Norman had been the licensee for over fifteen years. During his tenure the hotel was the regular meeting place for most community groups. The football club, the golf club, the cricket club, the race club, the progress association, Famers & Settlers, sporting clubs, the fire brigade, and a host of other associations all met at the hotel, which was central to community activities.

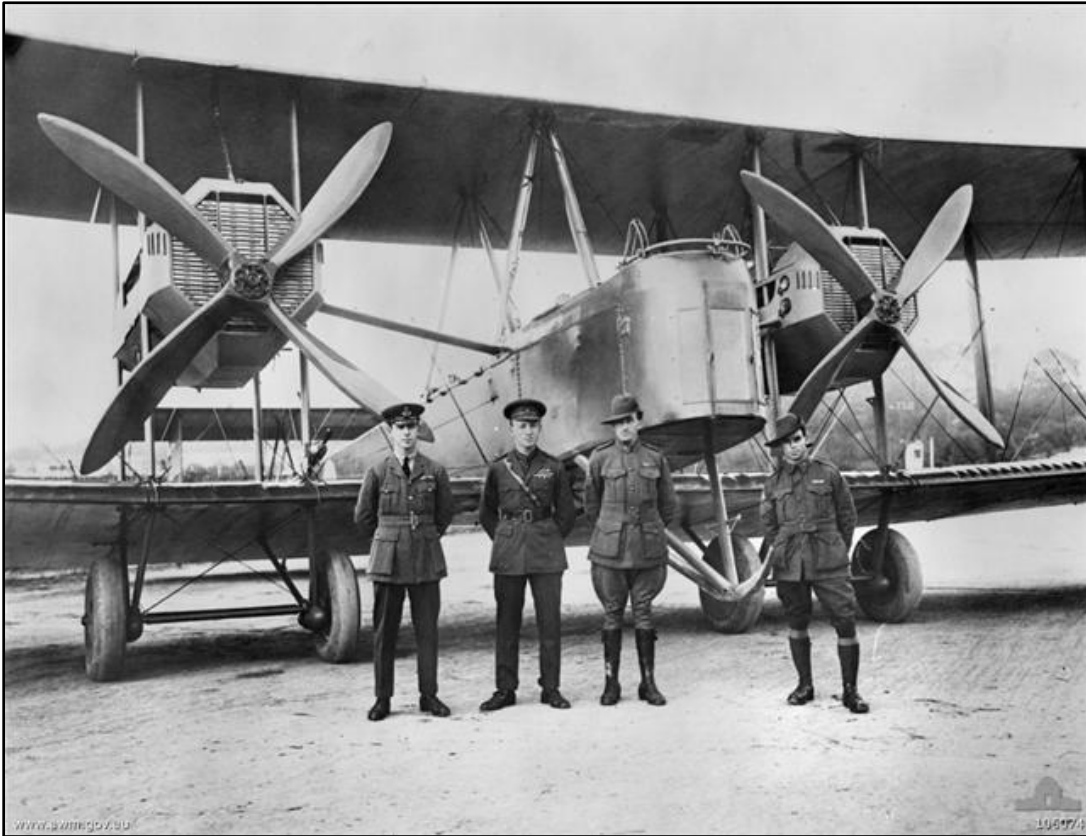
⁹⁵ Daily Advertiser. 18th July 1914, p4.

⁹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 1st December 1917, p1.

⁹⁷ Daily Advertiser. 25th February 1920, p2.

⁹⁸ Northern Star. 25th February 1920, p5. / Albury Banner. 27th February 1920, p22.

⁹⁹ Daily Advertiser. 23rd December 1922, p4.



Above: Keith Smith, Ross Smith, Sgt. Jim Bennett and Sgt. Wally Shiers in front of the Vickers Vimy in 1919. This was the same model plane that was forced to land at The Rock in 1920. (Courtesy Australian War Memorial)



Above: The King's Own hotel in 1925. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

James Joseph Scott had previously been the licensee of the Australian hotel at Wagga Wagga, for a number of years.¹⁰⁰ Scott along with his wife, and daughter, Eily, lived at the hotel, but he still retained his business interests at Wagga Wagga and was still an alderman of the Wagga Wagga Municipal Council.¹⁰¹ Scott had an agreement with Tooth & Co, which tied his purchases to that company for ten years from 1923 to 1933.¹⁰²

In February 1923 works were under way on The Rock to Mangoplah railway. The chief engineer, Mr Amos, leased an office next to the hotel from where he would be based.¹⁰³ Like previous projects this would have been good for the economy of the town, but a poor water supply continued to impact on the quality of life in the town.



Above: The King's Own hotel in 1949. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

In May 1923 Scott sought permission from the Licensing Court to erect nine new bedrooms at the hotel. Mr RA Shaw, of the firm, WJ Monks, Jeffs and Shaw, had drawn up the plans for the additions, and the work had commenced, and were almost completed. The members of the court were annoyed that Scott had commenced work on the bedrooms before he sought their approval. The plans had been approved by council, but the court was concerned that the rooms, which were 9ft by 10ft, were too small. The bench was reluctant to force Scott to pull the works down, and despite the fact that they would never have approved such small rooms, they gave approval for the works to be completed.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰ Daily Advertiser. 14th December 1922, p2.

¹⁰¹ Daily Advertiser. 5th January 1923, p2.

¹⁰² Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University: Tooth and Company yellow cards, N60-YC-2589, King's Own hotel, The Rock, circa 1920-1979.

¹⁰³ Daily Advertiser. 27th February 1923, p4.

¹⁰⁴ Daily Advertiser. 22nd May 1923, p4. & 24th May 1923, p2. / Daily Express. 22nd May 1923, p2.

Tragedy struck in August 1923 when a man named George Bruce entered the hotel to partake of a meal. During his meal he was seen to lean back in his chair and cry out. He was taken from the dining room to the back of the hotel, where it was discovered that he was dead. An examination by Dr PG Alpers found a large piece of meat lodged in his throat, which had caused him to choke to death. Bruce was forty five years old and had been working locally with Mr T Bowyer's chaff cutting plant. Bruce was originally from Peru and had no relatives in Australia.¹⁰⁵

On the 29th August 1927 the license was transferred from Scott to Mr Herbert Henry Hope, formerly of the Club House hotel at Hillston.¹⁰⁶ Hope's stay was short lived and on the 31st October, in that same year, the license was transferred to Ernest Nicholas Gainen of Lismore.¹⁰⁷

Another tragedy occurred on the 5th December 1927 when a guest at the hotel, Mr FK Cox of Mangoplah, fell from an upstairs window of the hotel onto the street below, a fall of twenty feet. He suffered serious internal injuries and concussion, and was taken to the Welwyn Private hospital at Wagga Wagga.¹⁰⁸

Nicholas Gainen held the license up until the 4th April 1932 when it was again in the hands of HB Norman.¹⁰⁹ In the previous month (March) Norman had been ordered by the licensing court to install bath heaters in the three existing bathrooms – one upstairs and one downstairs, for the public, and another private bathroom – as well as construct a fourth bathroom, by converting one of the bedrooms. Norman was given just under a year to complete these works.¹¹⁰ Norman had opposed the order stating that there was no need for the improvements, especially given the scarcity of water at The Rock. The licensee, Gainen, told the court that the average occupancy for the past year was three permanent boarders and that he had never had a complaint regarding the bathrooms.¹¹¹

In January 1934, it was announced that Mr E John Minchin, solicitor of Wagga Wagga, had established an office in the King's Own hotel complex.¹¹² Minchin visited The Rock every sale day, and practiced in Wagga Wagga on other days.

Norman remained as licensee for a period of five years, and then on the 24th May 1937, the license was transferred to William V. Shaw.

In 1937 a Mr Collins, of the Carlton Brewery, Melbourne, purchased both the freehold and the goodwill on behalf of Carlton & United, for the sum of £16,000.¹¹³ The hotel had been offered to Tooth & Co. in May 1936, for £18,000, with one agent indicating he thought an offer of £16,000 would secure the property and the goodwill, but Tooth & Co. declined the offer. The agents stated that the hotel turned over about £6,000 a year and in 1935 had purchased 8,275 gallons of beer, 498 gallons of wine and 186 gallons of spirits. Staff at the time consisted of one man useful, one cook, one assistant cook, and three girls, for a total weekly wage bill of £10/15/-. The proprietor's daughter and two sons also assisted in the operation of the hotel.

¹⁰⁵ Daily Advertiser. 23rd August 1923, p2.

¹⁰⁶ Daily Advertiser. 30th August 1927, p2.

¹⁰⁷ Daily Advertiser. 1st November 1927, p2.

¹⁰⁸ Daily Advertiser. 8th December 1927, p2.

¹⁰⁹ Daily Advertiser. 5th April 1932, p3.

¹¹⁰ Wagga Wagga Express. 5th March 1932, p7.

¹¹¹ Daily Advertiser. 2nd March 1932, p3.

¹¹² Daily Advertiser. 17th January 1934, p2.

¹¹³ Daily Advertiser. 15th March 1937, p2.

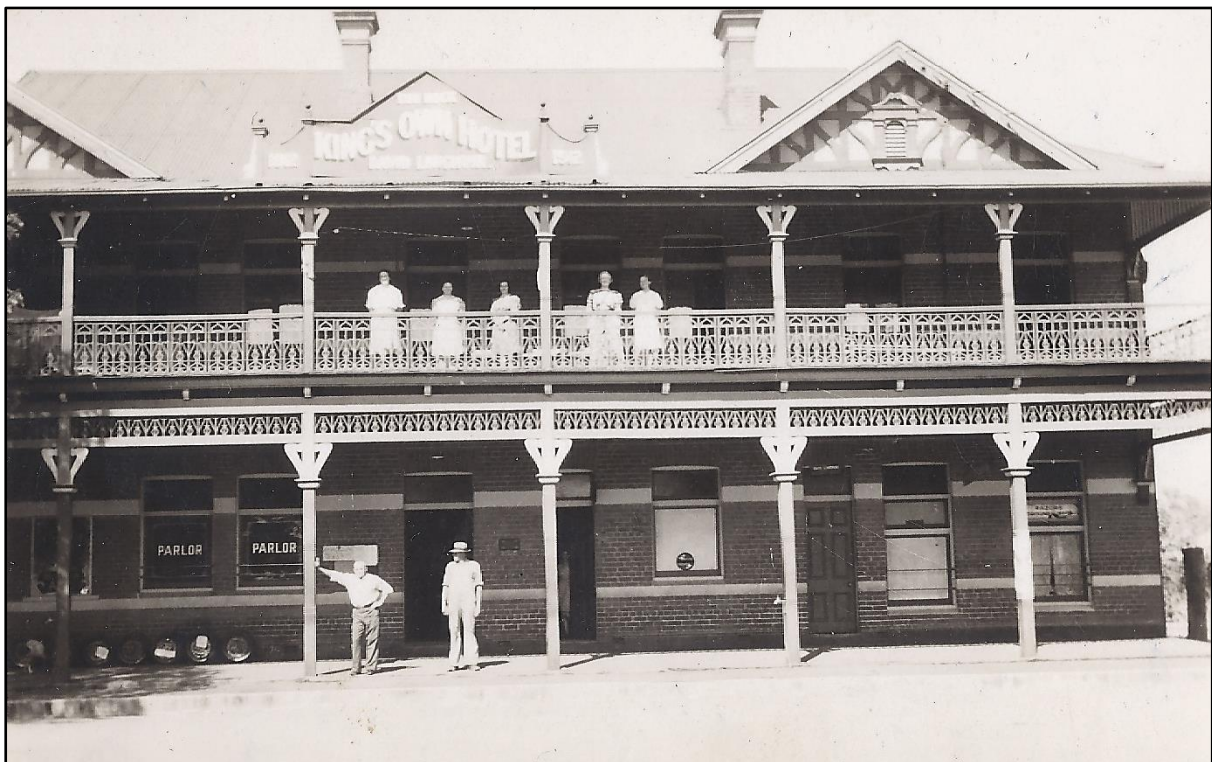
A description of the hotel, in the sale notice, read as follows:¹¹⁴

“The hotel is a faithfully built 2-storey brick building of nice appearance, and is in excellent order and contains; 36 bedrooms; 2 dining rooms; 2 large bars; one window bar; 4 sitting rooms; large cellar; 3 bathrooms; large kitchen; and all necessary appointments, including two offices, a billiard room, barbers shop, etc. Other buildings include a laundry, 9 lock-up garages, brick stables, etc.”

CUB put the goodwill out to tender in the same month and their advertisement claimed that the hotel had 42 bedrooms.

Tooth & Co. had an arrangement with Carlton United that they would not impinge on each other’s area, which was basically Tooth & Co. in NSW and CUB in Victoria. The agreement was commonly referred to as the “*beer line*.”¹¹⁵ There was a zone between the areas, termed the red area, which was open to both parties. The King’s Own hotel was in the red area.

On the 21st March 1938 the license was transferred to David Longmuir.



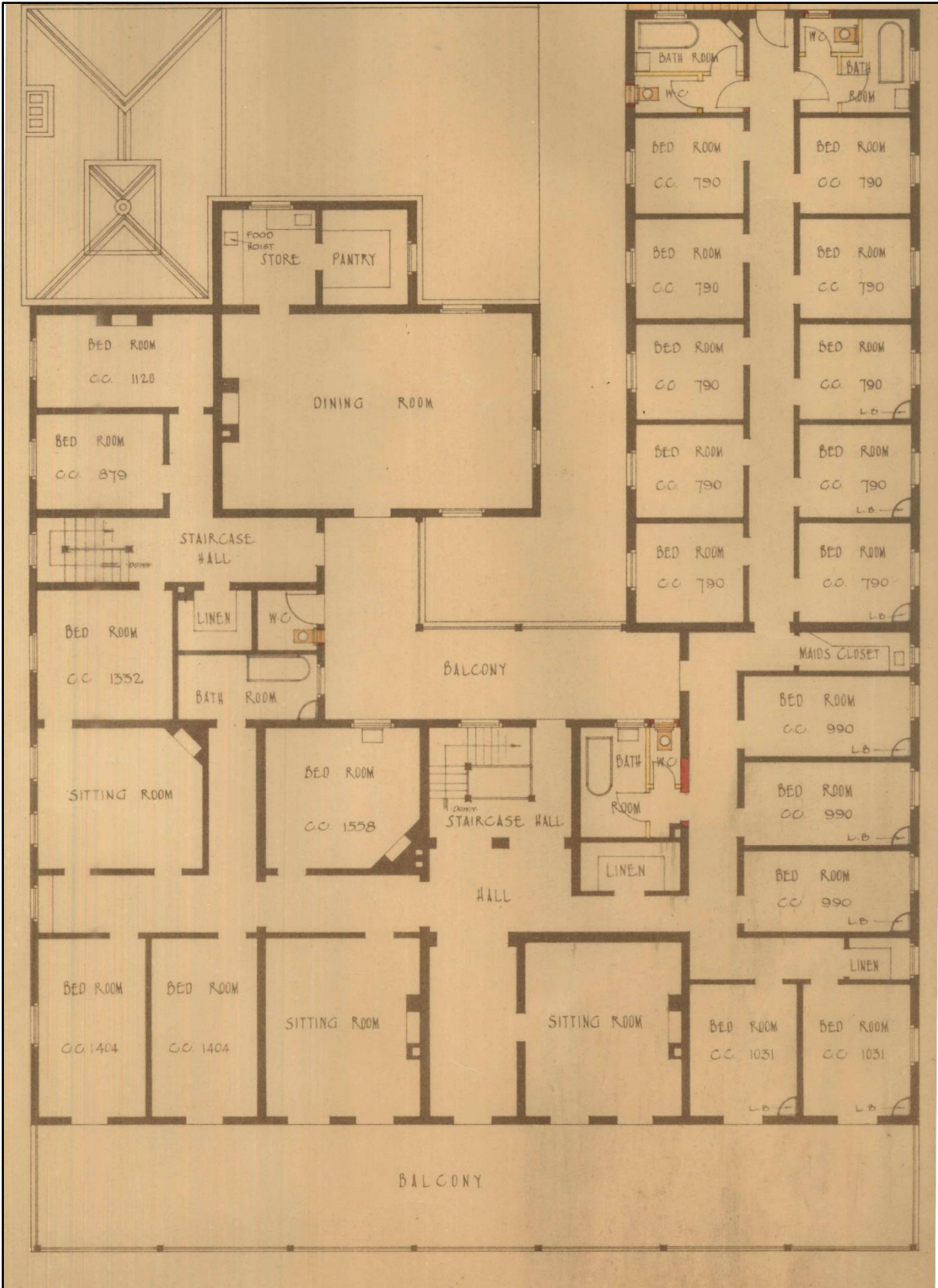
Above: The King’s Own hotel in March 1942, when David Longmuir was the licensee. Courtesy Tiffany Sharples.

¹¹⁴ Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University: Tooth and Company country manager’s office files, AU NBAC N60-4823, King’s Own hotel, The Rock, circa 1924-1954.

¹¹⁵ James Malcolm. 18th August 2018.



Above: 1939 plans of the ground floor of the King's Own hotel. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives.



Above: 1939 plans of the first floor of the King's Own hotel. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives.



Above: A group of locals, in a photo titled “Last drinks at the old King’s Own, Urana Street.” Front row – Ken Thurban and Bernie Hay. Back row – Sid Collins, Horace Rapley, and Darcy Fellows. The building to the left is Dalgetys’ old office, and the hotel would be to the right of the photo. Courtesy The Rock Museum.



Above: The new King’s Own hotel, now on the Olympic Highway, in the 1970’s. Courtesy Tooth & Co. records.

David Longmuir was born on the 19th November 1893 at Captains Flat in NSW,¹¹⁶ the son of William and Marjory Longmuir.

“The family lived in Tyabb on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria from around 1907. The Longmuir family were well known in the area. William was the President of Fruitgrowers Association and in the first committee of the Tyabb Co-operative Trading and Cool Stores. David along with his siblings and cousins played football, cricket and tennis for Tyabb. They raised livestock, produced fresh produce and grew the family business.”¹¹⁷

On the 14th February 1916, David enlisted to fight in the Great War (SERN # 92). He was twenty two years and three months old and described himself as single and an orchardist. His next of kin was his dad, William of Tyabb, Victoria. Before the end of the year (1916) he was on his way to France. He was wounded in action with the 37th Battalion, in France, in



October 1917, and again in February 1918. He returned to Australia in 1919, landing in Melbourne in April and was discharged from the AIF in June 1919.¹¹⁸

Following his discharge David promptly married Noel Katie Phillips on the 14th January 1920 at Healesville, Victoria.¹¹⁹

Their daughter, Joy, was born nine months later on the 18th October 1920, followed by their son, David Noel Longmuir, on the 21st February 1923.¹²⁰

Left: David and Noel, wedding photo. Courtesy Tiffany Sharples.

David’s father passed away in October 1933, in a private hospital at Mordialloc, at the age of seventy one. His obituary noted that he had been associated with the fruit growing industry at Tyabb, but that around 1927 he had disposed of his properties and retired to Bonbeach.¹²¹

¹¹⁶ NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 9629. / Tiffany Sharples – David Longmuir biographical details. April 2019.

¹¹⁷ Tiffany Sharples – David Longmuir biographical details. April 2019.

¹¹⁸ WW1 Records. National Archives of Australia.

¹¹⁹ VIC. BDM’s. Marriage registration # 1572. / Tiffany Sharples – David Longmuir biographical details. April 2019

¹²⁰ Tiffany Sharples – David Longmuir biographical details. April 2019

¹²¹ Frankston & Somerville Standard. 21st October 1933, p4. / 25th February 1927, p2.

In October 1938, Joy, David's daughter, was one of twenty two debutantes presented to his Excellency, Lord Wakehurst, at the Vice-Regal Ball at Wagga Wagga, in front of about one thousand attendees.¹²² Lord Wakehurst was the last British Governor of NSW (1937-1946) and after returning to England he was subsequently appointed Governor of Northern Ireland (1952-1964).¹²³ On the 18th October 1939, Joy, described as David's only daughter, celebrated her 19th birthday at the hotel, along with eighteen guests.¹²⁴



Left: David Longmuir in his regalia. Courtesy Tiffany Sharples.

In 1941, David junior enlisted with the RAAF to serve his country in the 2nd World War. David junior survived the war, but lost his life in a tragic motor vehicle accident near Bega in February 1958.¹²⁵

In April 1942 Longmuir's only daughter, Joy, married Colin John Baxter McGeorge, at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, at The Rock. The reception was not held in the hotel, rather it took place in the Masonic Hall.¹²⁶ The young couple's first child, and David's granddaughter, Karen Joy McGeorge, was born on the 10th August 1944.¹²⁷

It was during Longmuir's tenure that Tooth & Co. wrote to Mr C Donkin at The Rock to advise him that they could no longer supply him with bottled beer. Up until this time they had been sending him one dozen bottles per

month. Rationing of beer existed at that time and Tooth & Co. stated that as Donkin was not a licensed spirit merchant they could no longer continue the arrangement. Donkin was a merchant at The Rock and Tooth & Co. had been unaware, up until this time, that he was not licensed.¹²⁸

¹²² Frankston & Somerville Standard. 21st October 1938, p4.

¹²³ Wikipedia. John Loder, 2nd Baron Wakehurst.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Loder,_2nd_Baron_Wakehurst. Accessed 12th May 2019.

¹²⁴ Daily Advertiser. 23rd October 1939, p5.

¹²⁵ Tiffany Sharples – David Longmuir biographical details. April 2019.

¹²⁶ Daily Advertiser. 11th April 1942, p7.

¹²⁷ Tiffany Sharples – David Longmuir biographical details. April 2019.

¹²⁸ NBAC: Tooth and Co., AU NBAC N60-4823, King's Own hotel, The Rock, circa 1924-1954.



Above: Joy Longmuir with Soxy in front of the King's Own. Courtesy Tiffany Sharples.

In December 1944 David Longmuir appeared in court charged with refusing to provide accommodation for a bona-fide traveller. The evidence was that despite there being ten empty rooms, Longmuir told a traveller, William Perrett of Cootamundra, that the hotel was short of staff and that accommodation could not be provided. At the time the staff consisted of a cook, a housemaid, Longmuir, his wife, and his brother (a barman). It was also revealed that Longmuir had been warned about such violations on several other occasions. The solicitor for Longmuir pointed out that this was the first prosecution, of this type, in the state, for some forty years. The police magistrate could not remember a previous prosecution for this offence, and thought it could be the first time ever. Longmuir pleaded guilty and was convicted but the conviction was not recorded.¹²⁹

Longmuir held the license for some ten years, until the 27th April 1948 when it was transferred to Arthur E Upton. Longmuir then took over the license of the Criterion hotel at Wagga Wagga, from the 17th October 1949 until the 3rd December 1958. In his later years he returned to Victoria to reside with his wife, their daughter, Joy, their son in law, Colin, and their seven grandchildren. David Longmuir senior passed away on the 19th April 1979, in Rosebud hospital, Victoria.¹³⁰

Arthur Upton gave evidence in a court case in December 1952 when he opposed an application by John Bretton, who, along with his wife, kept a general store at The Rock. Upton stated that he received forty six dozen bottles of beer each week from Carlton United Brewery in Melbourne, and another five dozen bottles per month from Tooth & Co., in Sydney. He also conceded that beer had to be rationed in the summer months. Bretton's application was refused.¹³¹

On the evening of the 23rd January 1953, Upton's twenty two year old daughter in law, Mena Doreen Upton (nee Smith), was a passenger in a car, which, while traversing the railway bridge at Kapooka, veered off the bridge and onto the railway tracks. Mena survived the accident but died some six months later, at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. The coroner found that her death was a result of damage to her spine caused by the accident.

The driver of the vehicle was Mena's mother in law, Mrs Eileen Upton, who was driving from Wagga Wagga to The Rock, and she testified that the steering wheel failed to respond to her movements. There was no safety fence on the bridge and it was suggested that a crack in the steering column may have caused the accident.¹³² Mena's fifteen month old son was also injured in the accident.¹³³ Following the accident, Mena's parents, Mr & Mrs Smith, of the Canne River hotel, in Victoria, organised a charter plane to fly her to Sydney, for specialist treatment.¹³⁴ Upton stayed at the hotel for a total of some eight years before the license was transferred to Mrs Ivy Cecilia Ann Burgess, on the 2st August 1956.

On the 9th August 1960 the license was transferred to Harry John Pill. Harry had previously held the license of the Wynyard hotel at Tumut and was well respected in that town.¹³⁵ While at Tumut he owned and raced a racehorse called, Bogong, which won the Flying Handicap at the Tumut races in December 1952.¹³⁶

¹²⁹ Daily Advertiser. 19th December 1944, p6.

¹³⁰ Tiffany Sharples – David Longmuir biographical details. April 2019.

¹³¹ Daily Advertiser. 11th December 1952, p2.

¹³² Daily Advertiser. 21st September 1953, p2.

¹³³ Daily Advertiser. 24th January 1953, p1.

¹³⁴ Daily Advertiser. 27th January 1953, p2.

¹³⁵ Conversation with Eric "Darkie" Feeney. 17th April 2019.

¹³⁶ Daily Advertiser. 27th December 1952, p6.



Above: Laurie Thiele holding the Upton Cup in May 2019. The inscription reads, “THE UPTON CHALLENGE CUP. Donated by Mr & Mrs A. E. Upton, King’s Own Hotel, The Rock, 1954.” Courtesy The Rock Town Hall & Museum Committee.

In December 1954, Arthur Upton had donated a cup to The Rock Cricket Club, as a trophy for when the local team played other district teams.¹³⁷

¹³⁷ Daily Advertiser. 9th December 1954, p8.

11.15 a.m. 2nd Inn

MATCH BETWEEN Imperial Hotel AND The Rock.
 INNING. DATE 21-10-56.

Time In/Out	BATSMAN.	SCORE.	HOW OUT.	BOWLER.	TOTAL.
1	J. Donnan	11112221421112111121122	Retired	Retired	34
2	J. Shepherd	3.2	Bowled	Fisher	5
3	J. Nomax	0	L.B.W.	Fisher	0
4	O. Taylor	11111111221112	Retired	Retired	25
5	J. Kendall	0	Caught Fisher	Blackburn	0
6	W. Taylor	1112111111	Not Out		14
7	K. Blackburn	111	Caught Blackburn	Blackburn	3
8	N. Donnan	0	Caught Davies	Blackburn	0
9	A. Bell	0	Not Out		0
10	C. Knight	0	Not Out		0
11	J. Woodrow	2112	Not Out		7

PROGRESS SCORE	BYES	LEG-BYES	WIDES	NO BALLS
100 to 1500	12		11	93

Fall of Wickets	1 for 18	2 for 18	3 for 65	4 for 72	5 for 82	6 for 82	7 for 82	8 for 82 1/2	9 for 82	TOTAL
Outgoing Batmen	J. Shepherd	Nomax	Kendall	Blackburn	Donnan	Bell	Davies	Knight		93
Not-out Batmen	J. Donnan	J. Woodrow	W. Taylor							

BOWLER.	OVERS	MAIDEN	RUNS	WICKETS	WIDE BALLS	NO BALLS	BALLS BOWLED	AVERAGE RUNS PER WICKET
1 Blackburn	11	0	27	2	0	0	85	42.5
2 Fisher	10	0	32	2	1	0	80	40.0
3 Donnan	2	0	5	0	0	0	16	8.0
4 Taylor	3	1	8	4	0	0	24	6.0
5 Bell	1	0	4	0	0	0	8	8.0
6 Woodrow	1	0	8	0	0	0	8	8.0

Above & Below: Pages from a cricket score book for a match between the Imperial hotel (Wagga Wagga) and The Rock Cricket team in 1956. Courtesy The Rock Town Hall & Museum Committee.

PLAYED AT The Rock
Imperial Hotel 1st INNING. DATE 21-10-56.

Time In/Out	BATSMAN.	SCORE.	HOW OUT.	BOWLER.	TOTAL.
1	Fisher	1111121111	Caught J. Donnan	M. Donnan	13
2	Palmer	11211111	L.B.W.	W. Taylor	10
3	Blackburn	312111	Bowled	K. Chesnaire	7
4	Woodrow	121112	Bowled	M. Donnan	9
5	Donnan	11	Bowled	K. Chesnaire	3
6	Woodrow	111	Caught D. Taylor	K. Chesnaire	4
7	Blackburn	11112112	Hit	W. Taylor	23
8	Bell	0	Caught W. Taylor	K. Chesnaire	0
9	Palmer	1211112111	Not Out		17
10	Fisher	111	Caught W. Taylor	M. Donnan	2
11	J. Woodrow	121	Caught A. Chesnaire	J. Woodrow	2
11	J. Woodrow	121	Not Out		4

PROGRESS SCORE	BYES	LEG-BYES	WIDES	NO BALLS
100 to 1500	11		1	1

Fall of Wickets	1 for 19	2 for 24	3 for 36	4 for 42	5 for 50	6 for 73	7 for 73	8 for 73	9 for 73	10 for 73	TOTAL
Outgoing Batmen	M. Palmer	F. Fisher	A. Chesnaire	J. Woodrow	K. Blackburn	M. Donnan	W. Taylor				93
Not-out Batmen	F. Fisher	A. Chesnaire	J. Woodrow	W. Taylor							

BOWLER.	OVERS	MAIDEN	RUNS	WICKETS	WIDE BALLS	NO BALLS	BALLS BOWLED	AVERAGE RUNS PER WICKET
1 M. Donnan	7	2	16	2	0	0	22	11.0
2 J. Woodrow	2	1	13	1	0	0	13	13.0
3 K. Chesnaire	8	1	17	4	0	0	32	8.0
4 M. Donnan	3	0	8	2	0	0	23	11.5
5 J. Woodrow	2	0	10	1	0	0	10	10.0
6 W. Taylor	4	0	4	1	0	0	16	4.0

Harry Pill was born in Railton, Tasmania, in 1912, the same year that the old King's Own hotel was erected. As his football prowess progressed he moved to the mainland to play VFL with the Melbourne Football Club. At that time he was an engineer by trade. In 1939 Harry took over the license of the Wakool hotel, between Echuca and Balranald. He also served stints, as licensee, at the Commercial hotel in Balranald, the Wynyard hotel at Tumut, and the Queen's Arms at Bendigo. Harry owned a number of racehorses, the best known being Bogong, which won thirteen races.¹³⁸

Pill's wife, Kath, was known and respected by Reg Fogarty, the general manager of Carlton United Breweries (CUB), and on a trip back from Queensland Fogarty called in to see her and to encourage the couple to return to Victoria and manage a hotel for CUB. Mrs Pill had grown fond of The Rock and advised Fogarty she didn't want to move. Fogarty's response was, "Well we'll have to build you a new hotel in The Rock," which he did.¹³⁹ This account was verified by Eric Feeney, who walked into the pub on a Sunday to find Harry and his missus having a drink with Fogarty and his wife. They were all pretty merry, apparently, and Eric heard Reg make the statement attributed to him.¹⁴⁰

The motel addition was said to be Kath Pill's idea, and she had a strong influence on the decorations and furnishings for the new hotel.

Bob Wright claimed that the government owned land adjoining the new hotel site and Fogarty believed the new college would be built there, but Eric Feeney claims the rumour of the college being built there came later on and that it was not a factor at the time Fogarty made the commitment. The land at The Rock was subsequently sold and the college ended up at North Wagga Wagga [Estella].¹⁴¹

Harry Pill continued to hold the license for the old site up until February 1966. It was said of Harry Pill that he enjoyed a drink just as much as his regulars did. He was almost as keen on a good fight, and these were regular events on many weekends. There were a couple of occasions when Harry was lucky not to have his head split open with makeshift weapons deployed by his adversaries. Harry was a strong supporter of the local AFL team and was president of the club for a time.

On one occasion, a Sunday, Mrs Pill came into the bar, a bit after midday, to tell Harry, "*I've just had dinner. Yours is in the oven.*" Harry kept on with a couple of the regulars, and Neil "Skeeter" Martin took the opportunity to nick into the kitchen and consume the meal. When Harry went to get his dinner, all he found was an empty plate. He came back to the bar, fuming, demanding to know who ate his dinner. Neil spoke up, saying what a beaut meal it was. Harry banned him for twenty four hours.¹⁴²

The old hotel had a variety of cooks over the years but in the sixties they had two very good cooks, Mrs Moyler and Mrs Hovey.¹⁴³

It was a very unusual move to build a new hotel, when the old hotel was such a solid and extensive building. According to the locals the hotel was in good condition – the only issue being some dry rot in the floor of the staff quarters, on the ground floor.

One factor that may have influenced the decision was the modification of the main road route. It wasn't until the 1960's that the highway ran past the site of the new hotel, on the eastern side of the railway line. Before that, all traffic turned over the railway line and those travelling towards Wagga

¹³⁸ Daily Advertiser. 29th December 1965, pp12-15.

¹³⁹ Jim Malcolm. 13th September 2018.

¹⁴⁰ Conversation with Eric "Darkie" Feeney. 17th April 2019.

¹⁴¹ Bob Wright. 16th August 1988.

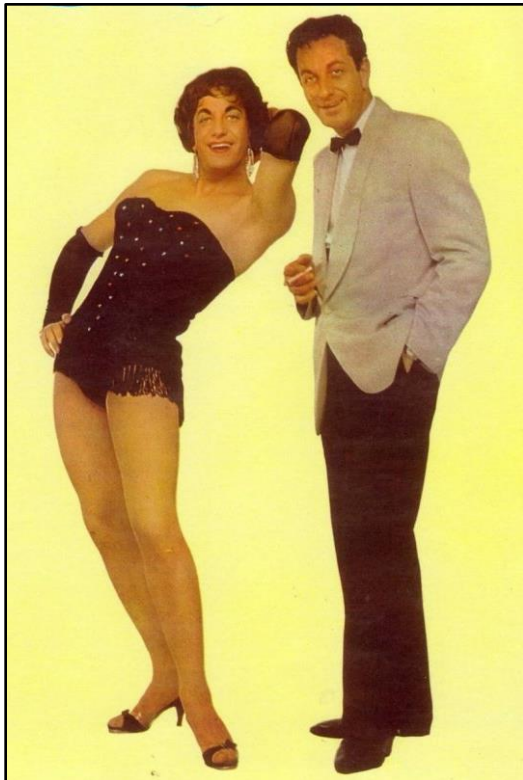
¹⁴² Conversation with Eric "Darkie" Feeney. 17th April 2019.

¹⁴³ Conversation with Eric "Darkie" Feeney. 17th April 2019.

Wagga traversed along the western side of the railway line. Another factor was that CUB already owned the site, the new site being part of the purchase of the old King's Own properties. On the 18th December 1965, around 10pm, Harry Pill closed the doors on the old King's Own hotel. The last three men at the hotel were Harry, Dick Thurban and Darky Feeney. Dick drowned his beer and walked out front as Harry locked up. Dick thought he had drank the last beer, but as he stepped out front Darky emerged from the old spirit room, still drinking his beer, and thereby claiming the honour of downing the last beer at the old hotel.¹⁴⁴ The beer of course, was Carlton.

The New King's Own

The next day, the 19th December 1965, Harry opened the doors of the new King's Own and commenced business. The new hotel had been built by Chitts of Albury, and was the same design as the Sundowner hotel up north, on the coast. A group of entertainers from the Tivoli in Melbourne came up for the official opening, and included the comedian Johnny Lockwood, and female impersonator, Noel McKay.



Left: Noel McKay back in the 1960's.



Above: Johnny Lockwood

On the 25th February 1966 the new King's Own hotel on the Olympic Highway was officially opened.¹⁴⁵ According to Bob Wright the hotel was later known as Fogarty's Folly, Fogarty being the big boss at Carlton United Breweries.¹⁴⁶ Reginald Francis Graham Fogarty took over as the general manager of CUB in 1949 and is credited with radically modernising and reorganising the entire operation. He was said to rule with an iron fist.¹⁴⁷ He was awarded a CBE in 1959 for his services to

¹⁴⁴ Conversation with Eric "Darky" Feeney. 17th April 2019.

¹⁴⁵ NBAC: Tooth and Co., N60-YC-2589, King's Own hotel, The Rock, circa 1920-1979.

¹⁴⁶ Interview with Bob Wright. 16th August 1988.

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.australianbeers.com/history/cub.htm>. Accessed 13th September 2018.

the industry, and received a knighthood in 1966. He passed away on the 27th February 1967, and was still the general manager of CUB, at this time.¹⁴⁸

The opening of the new hotel was a major event and had been a major investment, which benefitted many local businesses. The building firm, Chitts of Albury, has already been mentioned. M Rava & Co. had installed the beer cooling system, the refrigeration cool room equipment, the glass and bottle chillers, and the ice making equipment. Hardys Joinery had provided the timber, joinery and the aluminium windows. The furnishings, carpet, curtains, and bedding were all supplied by Marcus Clark's (formerly Oxford Furnishings), of Baylis Street.¹⁴⁹ The new complex had been constructed at a cost of some £182,000.

Opening celebrations spread into the New Year, and featured well known artists from Sydney. On the 7th January 1966, the entertainment featured the Fay Morgan Dancers; TV personality, Richard Gray, and Gus Mersey and his band. Fay Morgan was the daughter of Kath, and had been a professional entertainer in Sydney for some eight years, appearing in clubs like Chequers, the Tivoli, and the general club circuit.



The main building in the complex housed the hotel, which featured a public bar, a saloon bar, a public lounge, an open air patio, and a private lounge. Other important features were the drive in bottle shop, a beer garden, and an adjoining dining room capable of seating eighty people.

The motel component of the new complex featured twelve family units, each fully air conditioned, complete with radio, TV, and phone. There was of course a dining room and a swimming pool, for the convenience of guests.

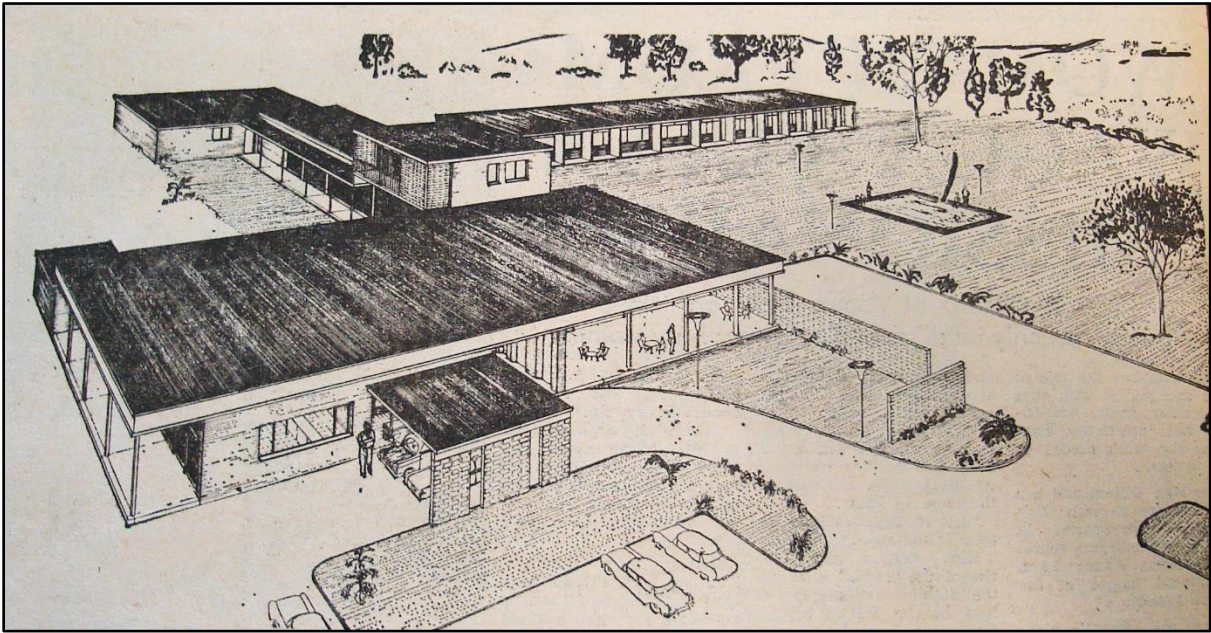
Harry was the licensee, but his wife Kath, played her role in the running of the motel and the pub. Their daughter, Lynne, was a receptionist, while her husband, and Harry's son in law, Ian Bayles, was the business manager. The young couple had just spent eight months touring the world studying motel trends and management techniques.¹⁵⁰

Left: Fay Morgan. Courtesy Daily Advertiser.

¹⁴⁸ WikiTree. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Fogarty-640>. Accessed 13th September 2018.

¹⁴⁹ Daily Advertiser. 29th December 1965, pp12-15.

¹⁵⁰ Daily Advertiser. 29th December 1965, pp12-15.



Above: An artist's sketch of the hotel/motel complex. Courtesy Daily Advertiser.



Left: The new public bar with the fancy half-back stools. Courtesy Daily Advertiser.

BIRTH NOTICE

To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pill,
The Rock, one Hotel-Motel,
by Carlton out of United.
Thriving exclusively on
Sheekey's Soft Drinks.
Congratulations to all con-
cerned from

SHEEKEYS PTY. LTD.

Soft Drink Manufacturers
WAGGA

Above: A notice in the local press from Sheekeys. Courtesy Daily Advertiser.



Above: The King's Own hotel/motel in 1990.



Above: The King's Own hotel/motel, on the Olympic Highway, in 2010. Courtesy Google Earth.

On the 4th May 1970 Keith Stafford succeeded Harry Pill as the licensee. Stafford was a former police officer from Melbourne. He had also been the heavyweight boxing champion of the police force, which no doubt kept him in good stead. Stafford fought Jack O'Toole, the world champion axeman, and then police heavyweight champion, for the title, in September 1953,¹⁵¹ but it is not known if he won this fight.

Some two years later on the 31st July 1972, Florence Adelaide Balmer took over from Stafford. Her husband, George Balmer, was a race handicapper. The Balmers were gone by the 30th January 1974, when the license was transferred to Robert Sylvester McFarlane. It was during Bob McFarlane's occupation that Eric "Darkie" Feeney worked at the pub. Darkie was an exceptional AFL footballer who won the Albury & District Football Leagues' (now the Farrar League) Best and Fairest medal in 1957. He also played for Wagga Tigers, winning premierships in 1958 and 1959. He had earlier played with Collingullie, winning a premiership with that club in 1954.

¹⁵¹ The Argus. 15th September 1953, p14.



Above: Darkie Feeney being presented with the 1957 “BAZ” Best & Fairest medal by the then president, Murray Vennell. Courtesy Darkie Feeney.

Before working with Bob, Darky had previously worked at The Rock Bowling Club, and had been senior vice-president of the club for some twenty years.

On the 30th June 1977, Kevin Raymond Heckenberg took over from McFarlane. Kevin was not a local, but he stayed at The Rock after getting out of the pub, and conducted a second hand shop for a number of years, before passing away.

In September 1981 Allan Humphrey Tuckey took over the license,¹⁵² and then took a new lease from the 18th March 1982 till 29th January 1988 along with Judyth Ann Tuckey, as joint tenants.¹⁵³ Allan had previously been the licensee of a pub at Hillston.

In November 1984, Tuckey let the pub to Robert John Wright Baldock, who held the license until October 1986.¹⁵⁴ Tuckey retired to Wagga Wagga, and is now deceased.

It was in December 1982 that Random Breath Testing (RBT) was introduced in NSW. The King’s Own hotel, like all other hotels, would have been severely impacted by the new law. The impacts continued to be felt, right up until the present day.

¹⁵² Wagga Wagga Court House. Premise Cards. King’s Own hotel.

¹⁵³ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed volume 11005, folio 248. Transaction reference S957990.

¹⁵⁴ Wagga Wagga Court House. Premise Cards. King’s Own hotel.

Robert Charles Howard took over the license in October 1986,¹⁵⁵ and then took a new lease from the 6th February 1987 till 29th June 1990, along with Joanne Gay Cooper, as joint tenants.¹⁵⁶ The lease was for the hotel component only. The motel was leased separately to Zedmin Pty Ltd. The next lease was to Russell James Meyers and Nathalie Ann Meyers from the 29th June 1990.¹⁵⁷

According to state government records licensees from 1986 were as follows,¹⁵⁸

17th October 1986 till 26th October 1987 – Robert Charles Howard

26th October 1987 till 13th December 1989 – Clarence James Grant. It is believed that Grant had some money problems and that he was compelled to move to Melbourne, in order to resolve a debt owed to the waterside workers.

13th December 1989 till 27th March 1990 – Robert Charles Howard. Bob was in partnership with his mother in law, Mary Millicent Marsh. Bob later divorced his wife.

27th March 1990 till 30th November 1992 – Russell James Meyers, in partnership with Nathalie Ann Meyers. In 2019 Russell was the licensee of the pub at Collingullie, and had been for some years.

30th November 1992 till 25th January 1994 – Christine Joy Douglas. Christine was from Leeton.

25th January 1994 till 9th January 1996 – William John Turner. Bill was one of many licensees who came up from Melbourne, due to the fact that Melbourne based CUB owned the freehold of the hotel.

9th January 1996 till 27th November 1998 – John Percival Banger, in partnership with Loris Mabel Banger and Wayne Leslie Downer. John was particular about how his surname was pronounced. It was Bane-gir, not Bang-er.

27th November 1998 till 2nd April 2001 – Shirlene Joy Dickins (nee Henderson) – a local. The business was owned by Jackalope Enterprises Pty Ltd.

2nd April 2001 till 16th July 2001 – Karen Bermingham. Karen's husband was Mick Bermingham. The license was in Karen's name because Mick was disqualified from holding a license.

16th July 2001 till 18th July 2002 – Kabel John Tye. In 2019 Kabel's dad, Ron Tye and a partner, Chris Mortimer owned the Uranquinty hotel, but leased it out.

18th July 2002 till 21st December 2004 – Caren Gail Caldwell and Reece Caldwell.

21st December 2004 till 4th September 2006 – Albert Ian Doust, formerly of Culcairn.

4th September 2006 - T & J Enterprises Pty Ltd was the business owner, and Jason Mathew Cook was the licensee.

¹⁵⁵ Wagga Wagga Court House. Premise Cards. King's Own hotel.

¹⁵⁶ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed volume 11005, folio 248. Transaction reference W707146.

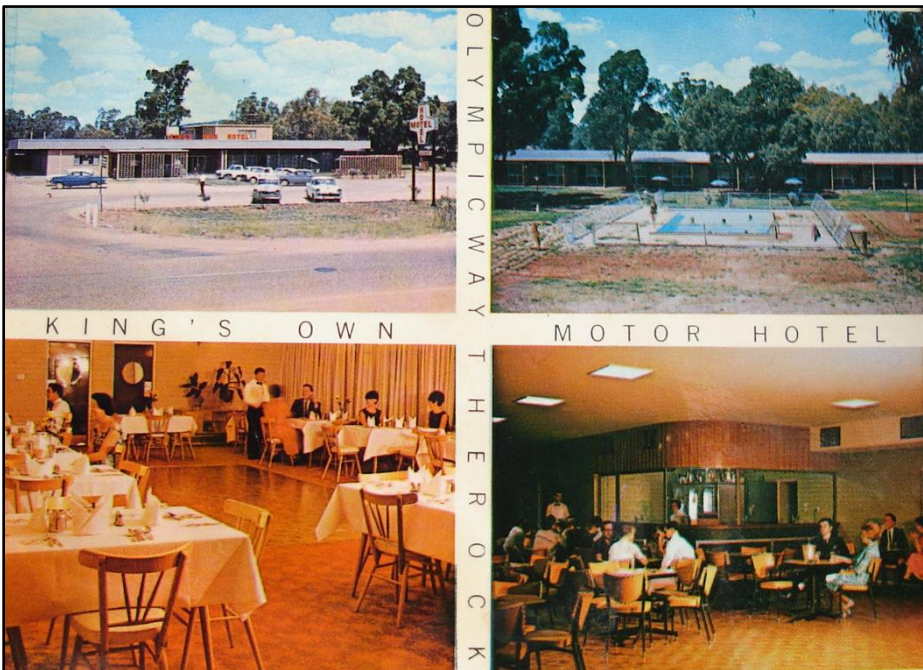
¹⁵⁷ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed volume 11005, folio 248. Transaction reference Z54613.

¹⁵⁸ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. King's Own hotel records.



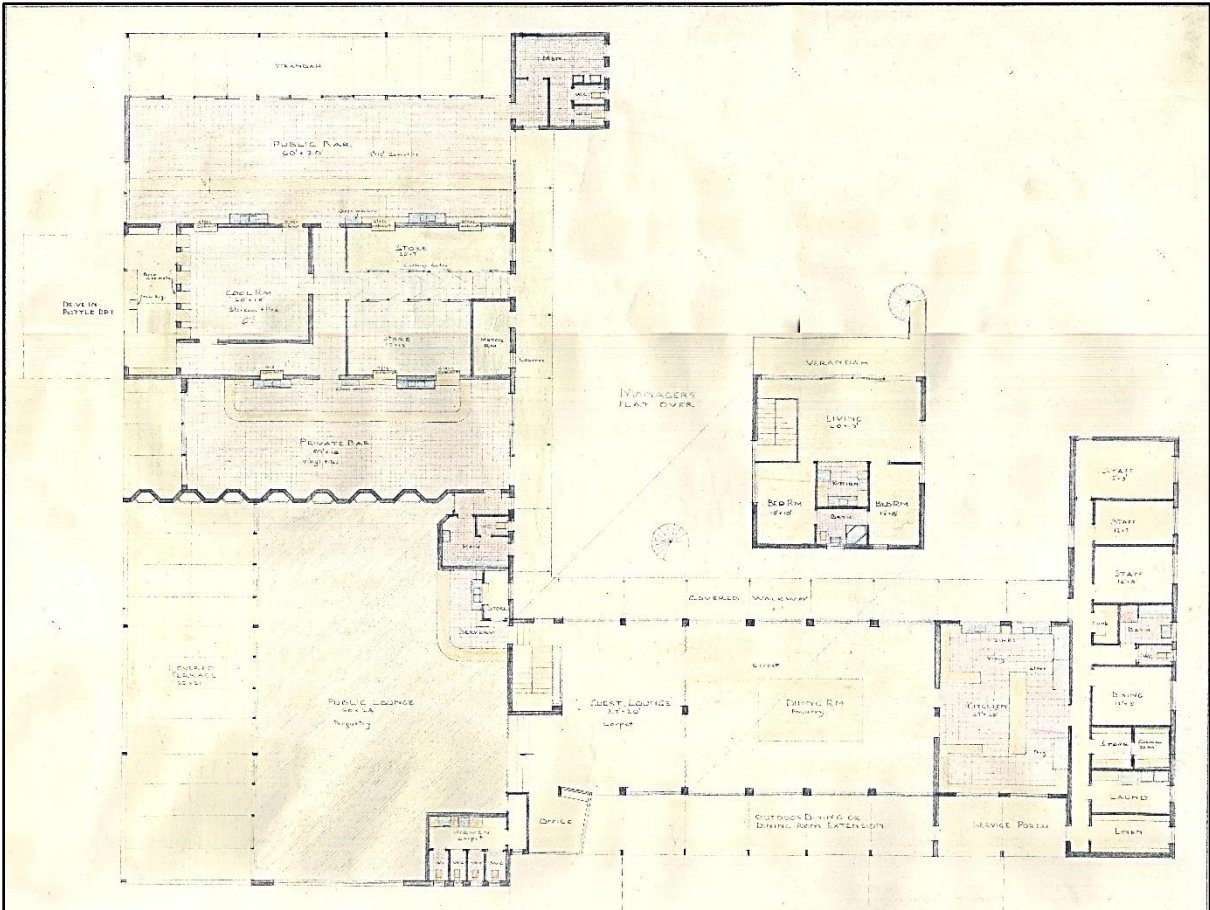
Above: An aerial photo showing the location of the old and new King's Own hotels, at The Rock. Courtesy SIX. NSW Land & Property Information.

There was an altercation at the hotel in July 2011, and a lone police officer had to empty an entire can of capsicum spray in an attempt to break up a 30-man brawl at the weekend. The officer was conducting a routine inspection of the King's Own hotel at The Rock on the Saturday night when a stool was thrown across the bar. The incident sparked an all-in fight with the sole officer caught in the middle. His attempts to break up the fight proved fruitless until the can of pepper spray cleared the pub, moving the brawl outside. The officer then managed to quell the fighting, in an effort, which Wagga police Detective Inspector Rod Smith said was an amazing job. Detective Inspector Smith said no charges had yet been laid and that police were investigating the incident. He did not rule out taking action against the licensee for possible breach of alcohol laws. A spokeswoman for the King's Own yesterday said the owners were following the normal processes after the incident, but declined to make further comment.¹⁵⁹

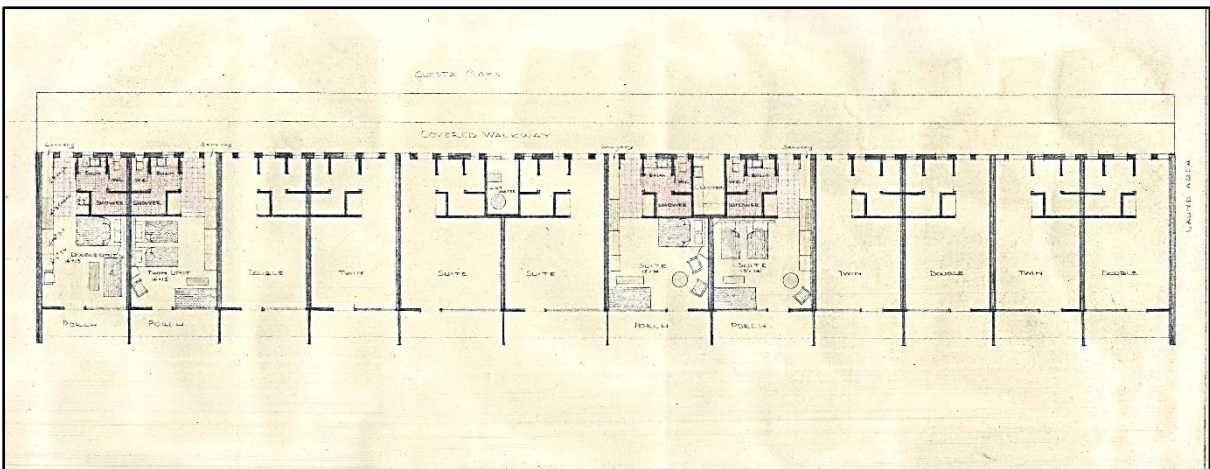


Left: A post card promoting the new hotel. Courtesy The Rock Town Hall & Museum Committee.

¹⁵⁹ Daily Advertiser. 5th July 2011. Patrick Wood.



Above: 1964 plan of the newest King's Own hotel on the Olympic Highway. The left hand side of this plan faces the highway and the block of units are located to the south of this plan. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives. RW860/109.



Above: Layout of the accommodation units. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives. RW860/109.

Jason Cook was followed by Katherine Aitken, as licensee, and it was Katherine who sold the license to the Rock Solid group. The latter took over the hotel in July 2016, but it took the responsible government department some five months before they issued the official license on the 2nd November 2018, to Gerard Peter Erbacher.¹⁶⁰ Gerard still held the license in April 2019.



Above: The old King's Own hotel building in 1990.

One story from the days of the old hotel concerns Herbert Norman, who was surprised to find a small amount of change on the counter of the bar, when he came down one morning. This became a regular occurrence and Norman was mystified, knowing as he did that the money wasn't there when he retired on the previous evening. It took a while but he finally figured out who was leaving the money on the bar. Norman had an arrangement with the baker to leave one of the doors unlocked so that he could gain access to the hotel and drop off the daily bread order, on his early morning run, and thereby save Norman or his wife from having to get out of bed. By the time the baker got to the hotel he had developed quite a thirst and so decided to pour himself a beer. Being an honest man he naturally left the money on the counter.¹⁶¹

¹⁶⁰ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. King's Own hotel records.

¹⁶¹ John Collins per Nancy Smith.

Freehold – Old site.

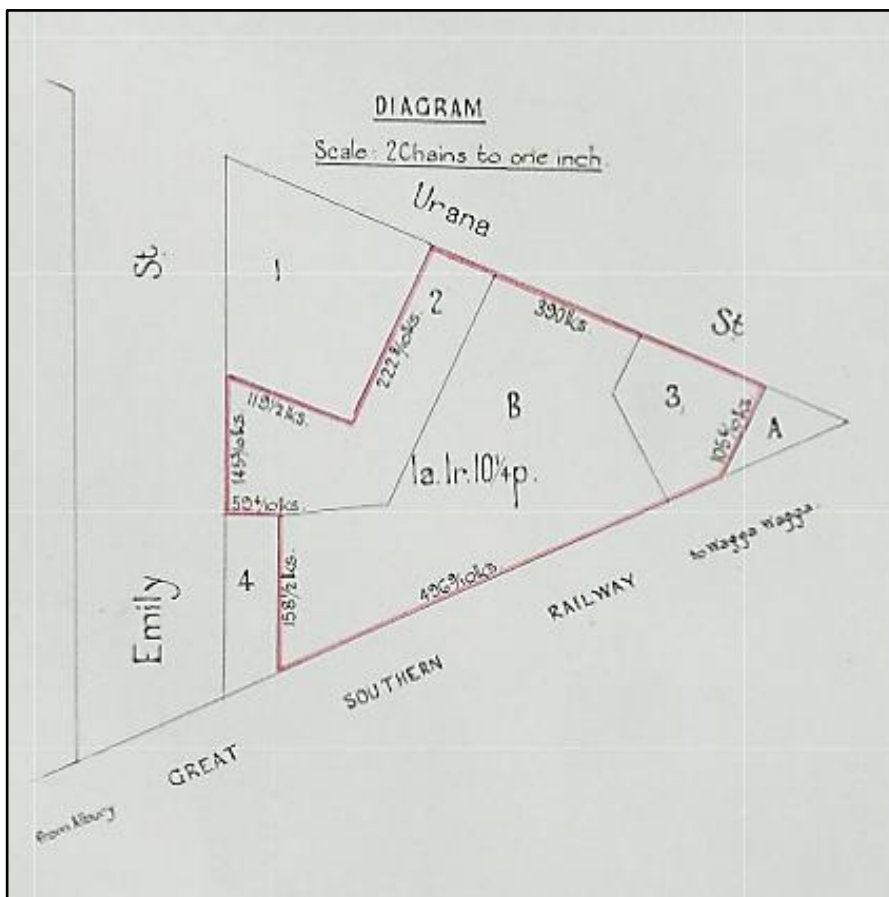
The old hotel sits on the western border of portion six, in the parish of Burke. The blocks northern border is Burke's Creek and it covered an area of just over three hundred acres. It was split by the railway line and the main road to Mangoplah, creating a small triangular block on the western border, which is now a part of the town. The original crown grant was to Isabella Eliza King, a spinster, and the daughter of John King senior, in January 1892.¹⁶²

In May 1893 the property was transferred from Isabella Eliza to her mother, Isabella Elizabeth King.

In September 1912, Emily Jane Comans of Rockdale (the wife of Thomas Comans), and George Robertson Davidson, commission agent of The Rock, became the new proprietors of portion six.¹⁶³ Davidson passed away in 1926, and Emily became the sole proprietor of the property.

On the 28th July 1937, Herbert Bentley Norman, licensed victualler of The Rock, and Roger Oliver Hore, commission agent of Wagga Wagga, became the new proprietors of lot B, DP.18222.¹⁶⁴

Some four months earlier, in March 1937, it was reported HB Norman owned the freehold and was about to offer it up for sale. The property was subsequently purchased by Mr Collins of the Carlton Brewery, Melbourne for sum of £16,000.¹⁶⁵ CUB maintained ownership in to the 1960's.



1939, 10th November – Carlton & United Breweries were the legal owners of lot D in DP.8187, and lots B, 2 and 3, of DP18222.

Left: Plan showing lots B, 2 and three, of DP18222 (within red boundaries). The hotel was located on lot B, facing Urana Street.

DP.18222 was created in 1937, and contained lots 1 to 4, along with lots A and B.

¹⁶² NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 1045, folio 166.

¹⁶³ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 1045, folio 166.

¹⁶⁴ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 1045, folio 166.

¹⁶⁵ Daily Advertiser. 15th March 1937, p2. / NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 5095, folio 44.

1969, 14th March – When the title was changed to an auto folio, by the Lands Department, in March 1969, the owner of lot B, DP.18222, was, at that time, Ellen Elizabeth O'Rourke, a spinster of The Rock.¹⁶⁶ The property had been transferred to Ellen on the 2nd December 1968, along with lots 2 and 3 of DP.18222.¹⁶⁷

1971, 9th June - Transfer of title to Leslie Frank Barrett, spray painter and contractor, of Wagga Wagga.¹⁶⁸

1972, 11th August - Transfer of title to Mabel Shear King, widow, of Wagga Wagga.¹⁶⁹

1974, 20th June – Transfer of title to Thomas John Morrissey, Fishery Inspector, of Cronulla.¹⁷⁰

In 1978 the old hotel building, which had been closed for twelve years, was advertised for sale. The property was offered on behalf of John Morrissey of Sydney. The manager of the property at that time, was Ron King, a descendant of an early owner, Isabel Norman, and a grandson of the original Joh King, who built the first King's Own hotel. Ron could remember when the workers from the gravel quarries at the foot of The Rock hill used to have to fight to get a foot in at bar of the hotel. According to Ron, the fifty bedrooms of the hotel had been split up to form nine self-contained flats, but these had been vacant for the past few years.¹⁷¹

1979, 4th October – Charles Edward Spalding and his wife, Nellie May Spalding registered as joint tenants.¹⁷²

1988, 26th August – Christopher John Davis and Margaret Davis registered as joint tenants.¹⁷³

1991, 7th July – Fire at the old King's Own hotel in Urana Street caused major damage to the top floor. The alarm was raised at 8 am and three units from The Rock bushfire brigade and one unit from Turvey Park attended. The two storey brick building had been converted to flats. No one was injured and damage was confined to the rooms on the top floor and the roof. It took about an hour to extinguish the fire and one room was completely gutted and there was smoke and water damage done to the building. It was believed that the fire started in the bedroom of a top floor flat.¹⁷⁴

Five months later, in December 1991, the old hotel building, at 131 Urana Street, was advertised for sale. The building had been utilised as a boarding house in recent years and was said to contain fifty rooms.¹⁷⁵ It is believed that the Davis's sold the property to Terry and Jane Bailey.

1993, 29th December – Terry and Jane Bailey were now the legal owners of the hotel.¹⁷⁶ Terry was an employee with NEC and Jane was a nurse. They couple resided in the house for the next twenty five years, maintaining their regular occupations and raising a family. In their spare time the couple renovated a number of the rooms, restoring them to their former glory. The old building had been

¹⁶⁶ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 11005, folio 245.

¹⁶⁷ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 5095, folio 44.

¹⁶⁸ NSW Land & Property Information. Transaction M817664. See Volume 11005, folio 245.

¹⁶⁹ NSW Land & Property Information. Transaction M857643. See Volume 11005, folio 245.

¹⁷⁰ NSW Land & Property Information. Transaction N940852. See Volume 11005, folio 245.

¹⁷¹ Daily Advertiser. 7th July 1978, p2.

¹⁷² NSW Land & Property Information. Transaction R459714. See Volume 11005, folio 245.

¹⁷³ NSW Land & Property Information. Transaction X789795. See Volume 11005, folio 245.

¹⁷⁴ Daily Advertiser. 8th July 1991.

¹⁷⁵ Daily Advertiser. 7th December 1991.

¹⁷⁶ NSW Land & Property Information. Historical Search for DP.B.18222. [see transaction # 1913059]

allowed to fall in to disrepair and every single room required substantial work. The roof, gutters, verandah, and other external features were some of the first parts to be repaired. The establishment of suitable living quarters for the family came next. Terry provided a tour of the building in April 2019 and it proved to be a memorable occasion. It is a magnificent old building that inspires memories of times past. The building appeared to be in very good condition, structurally. The double brick rendered walls are sturdy and there are far less cracks than would be expected. The fact that it was built by the well-known firm of Charles Hardy & Co. helps to explain its endurance and stability. There were, in April 2019, still many rooms to be restored, but Terry still maintains his enthusiasm for the task and it is fortunate that the old building has been in his and Jane's hands for the past 25 years.

The bar had gone when Terry & Jane arrived and some of the original doorways had been filled in and new doorways created in other spots. Other than that the building was very much as detailed in the 1939 plans. Harry Pill's name still sits above the main entry to the public bar. It is not visible from the outside, having been painted over, but is clearly visible from inside the old public bar.

The most striking feature of the hotel, aside from its façade, is the wide entry hall, with its high ceilings, large arches and lead inserts, and with the solid timber staircase as a backdrop.

All rooms feature pressed metal ceilings, with a particularly attractive ceiling in the old upstairs dining room. Picture rails are a prominent feature as is a half circle shaped strip in the render, halfway up the walls, in the most public areas.

The old kitchen still features the original oven range.

Darkie Feeney recalls that they had names for some of the rooms – the parlour bar area to the south of the main public bar was known as the “*pigpen*”, while the adjoining parlour, where the ladies drank, was known as the “*sowpen*.”¹⁷⁷

The old cellar is located under the bar areas, with access to the front footpath, from where the beer kegs would have been rolled down into the cellar.



The room on the extreme right hand side front of the ground floor was once a hairdresser's saloon with the billiard room behind it. Before the hotel closed these two rooms were used as a milk bar type business, where you could purchase a milkshake or a hamburger. Orders would be placed at the entry and customers would be seated in the larger billiard room area.¹⁷⁸

Current title = DP.B.18222 (1912 hotel) > 11005-245 > 5095-44 > then back to original grant vol.1045-fol.166.

Above: The Rock “Ugliest Man” Cup. Donated by The Rock R.S.S. & A.I.L.A.

¹⁷⁷ Conversation with Eric “Darkie” Feeney. 30th April 2019.

¹⁷⁸ Nancy Smith. 1st May 2019.



Above: The view from the front entry with the staircase in the background. The bar areas are off to the left. Courtesy Terry & Jane Bailey.



Above: A set of three metal mugs stamped "King's Own Hotel, The Rock." Courtesy Tiffany Sharples.



Above: The entry hall of the old King's Own hotel – looking back towards the front door. Courtesy Terry & Jane Bailey.

Freehold - New site

The hotel moved to its new site in 1966 and was now located on the same portion as the old hotel, specifically portion six in the parish of Burke. Portion six was a large block containing just over three hundred and four acres. The original crown grant was to Isabella Eliza King, a spinster, and the daughter of John King senior, in January 1892.¹⁷⁹

The block was crisscrossed by both the railway line and by the road to Mangoplah. This created a small triangular wedge on the western border of the lot, on which the 1912 hotel sat, and a larger triangular wedge on the eastern border, where the 1966 hotel sat. The railway line to Mangoplah, which was opened in August 1925, also dissected this larger triangular wedge. The line was closed in 1956, but it took until 1961 for the parliament to confirm the closure.¹⁸⁰ The tracks, for the entire length were removed, and the new hotel was constructed after this closure. The line was burnt out in the early part of 1952, which would have sealed its fate.

When Carlton United Breweries purchased the old King's Own hotel in 1939, they also purchased lot D of DP.8187, which is the block of land on which the new King's Own hotel/motel was constructed. The history of the land title, for the new site, up to 1939 was the same as for the old King's Own hotel site. In 1968 CUB sold the site of the old King's Own to Ellen Elizabeth O'Rourke, but retained the newer King's Own hotel site.¹⁸¹

1980's – Bob Wright leased the business from CUB in the 1980's.

1987, 6th July – Weston Grantley March and Millicent Mary March as tenants in common.¹⁸²

1989, 13th December – Mary Millicent Marsh is the owner of the freehold.¹⁸³ Mary continued to hold the freehold for the next twenty nine years until July 2018, when the Rock Solid group purchased the freehold, the business and the license.

In that twenty nine year period there were a succession of persons that owned the business, but never the freehold. They were,

1990, 27th March – Russell James Meyers and Nathalie Ann Meyers.

1992, 30th November – Robert Geoffrey Douglas and Christine Joy Douglas.

1994, 25th January – William John Turner, Barbara Margaret Turner, Stuart James Berrill and Helen Julie Downie.

1996, 9th January – John Percival Banger, Loris Mabel Banger and Wayne Leslie Downie.

1998, 27th November – Jackalope Enterprises Pty Ltd.

2001, 16th July – Kabel John Tye, Ron Tye and R Tye.

2002, 18th July – Reece Alexander Caldwell, Caren Gail Caldwell and Neville Brian Burley.

¹⁷⁹ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 1045, folio 166.

¹⁸⁰ Wikipedia. The Westby railway line. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westby_railway_line. Accessed 30th August 2018.

¹⁸¹ NSW Land & Property Information. Title deed. Volume 5095, folio 44.

¹⁸² NSW Land & Property Information. Transaction reference W707145.

¹⁸³ NSW Office of Liquor and Gaming. Premises report. King's Own hotel. / NSW Land & Property Information. Transaction reference Z54612.

2004, 21st December – Albert Ian Doust, Janelle Doust, Albert Benjamin Doust and Robert Samuel Doust.

2006, 4th September – T & J Enterprises Pty Ltd.

Katherine Aitken followed on from T & J Enterprises and she sold out to the Rock Solid group in July 2016. The group's patriarch was Brian Whitely – one of his daughters, and her husband, had earlier moved to The Rock and then the others followed later on. When the hotel came up for sale, the family decided to take a plunge into the hotel business and purchased the whole show.

2016, August - New owners – four families - now in control. Included [Captain] James Van Strijp, Brian Whitely, Gerard Peter Erbacher and Stephen Vieira.¹⁸⁴ This was the first foray into the hotel business for all partners. There was a variety of managers over the ensuing three years, including each of the four men at one time or another, along with some non-family managers as well. The four men also continued to work outside of the hotel operation. James was a Captain in the Australian Army, Gerry was a cabinet maker, Brian was a builder, and Stephen was a teacher.



Above: The new owners in August 2016 – Stephen, Gerry, James, and Brian. Courtesy Daily Advertiser.

Brian's three daughters were married to Stephen Vieira (Emma), Gerry Erbacher (Alice) and James Van Strijp (Eva). Brian's wife was Anna. All of the above shared in the venture.¹⁸⁵

¹⁸⁴ Daily Advertiser. 6th August 2016. Elizabeth Habermann.

<https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/4078966/keeping-it-local-at-the-kings-own-pub-in-the-rock-photos>.

¹⁸⁵ Daily Advertiser. 6th February. <https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/4449370/ambitious-plans-need-funding-at-the-rock>.

2018, January – The hotel is up for sale at a listed price of \$750,000.¹⁸⁶

2019, April – Still owned by Rock Solid Pty Ltd. During their time a popular annual event was the Queen’s birthday cracker night, featuring a professional fireworks display at 7pm, 8pm and 9pm, along with medieval sword fight demonstrations, bonfires and food. These events were strongly supported, and appreciated, by the local kids and families.

Current title (1966 hotel) > DP.1.650022 > 11005-248



Above: Mr & Mrs David Longmuir. Courtesy Tiffany Sharples.

¹⁸⁶ Daily Advertiser. 25th January 2018. Rochelle Brown.

<https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/5187716/two-much-loved-riverina-watering-holes-are-up-for-sale>.



Above: A view from the verandah of the old King's Own hotel, with The Rock hill in the background and the police station front left. Courtesy Tiffany Sharples.

The old King's Own hotel in March 1942. Courtesy Tiffany Sharples

