

THE PALM & PAWN HOTEL - NORTH WAGGA WAGGA.



Acknowledgements:

My thanks to Amy Fealy for permission to use several contemporary photos, including the front cover photo.

My thanks to Paul O'Donnell, Wayne Doubleday and Jillian Kohlhagen at CSU Regional Archives.

My thanks also to Michelle Maddison and others at the Museum of the Riverina. Their support is always appreciated.

My thanks to the National Library and the NSW State Library for their support and development of the Australian Newspaper Digitisation Project. Trove continues to be the most fantastic resource.

I gratefully acknowledge the collection of Tooth & Co. records as held by the Noel Butlin Archives, ANU Canberra, it being an invaluable source.

My thanks also to NSW Land Registry Services, or the old Lands Department. Their digitisation of parish maps and other land records constitutes another invaluable resource.

The PALM & PAWN HOTEL

AKA: Originally licensed as the North Wagga hotel.

Location: The North Wagga hotel was located on part of the original portion 200,¹ parish of North Wagga Wagga. The southern part of portion 200 is bounded by Marah Street, on the east, by Hampden Avenue (formerly Junee Road) on the south, and by Elizabeth Street to the north. The western boundary adjoins the current Public School complex (in 2019). The hotel site is to the left, or western edge of portion 200, facing into Hampden Avenue.

This was the second hotel with this name at North Wagga Wagga. The first so named was in Gardiner Street, south of the Black Swan. In 2019 the hotel is known as the Palm & Pawn hotel/motel and the address is 68 Hampden Avenue, North Wagga Wagga.



Above: The location of the Palm & Pawn hotel/motel complex in 2019. Courtesy SIX.

James Clarke

The first licensee and owner of the North Wagga Wagga hotel was James Clarke. He was born in Sydney but while still an infant the family moved to Gundagai, where he was subsequently apprenticed to a blacksmith. He later moved to Wagga Wagga, and was employed as a blacksmith by William Blake, in Johnston Street.²

¹ Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

² Daily Advertiser. 30th June 1915, p3.

By August 1866 he entered in to a partnership with James Robbins, a wheelwright and coach builder, providing the services of a blacksmith from their new premises near the Australian hotel. Prior to this he had worked as a blacksmith with Mr Stidworthy.³

In January 1870 Clarke advertised his blacksmith and farrier's business, opposite the Australian hotel, with no mention of Robbins,⁴ but it appears he was still working in partnership with Robbins.⁵

He continued to operate a blacksmith's business, at North Wagga Wagga, after he took up the license of the hotel, in 1885.

He was a long time, prominent member of Manchester Unity Order of Oddfellows (Wagga Wagga branch) and an active participant in the activities of the North Wagga Wagga Church of England. He enjoyed fishing and shooting, which activities he regularly pursued.⁶

Licensees

On the 9th July 1885, James Clarke applied for a publican's license for a house at North Wagga Wagga. His application was adjourned until the 4th August. The licensee of the Victoria hotel, at North Wagga Wagga, had intended to make an application for his license to be transferred to a house in South Wagga Wagga, at this same hearing, but his application was withdrawn by his legal representative.⁷

There was a further delay, and then, on the 14th October 1885, James' application was approved, for a house to be known as the North Wagga Wagga hotel.⁸ The first hotel by this name, in Gardiner Street, had closed some years earlier.

James Clarke's eldest son was named James William Clarke, and it is not clear which of the two held the license for the period from 1885 until 1908. The licensing records list James Clarke, but the Wagga Wagga rate books list James William Clarke. It is possible that both men held the license at different times, during this period?

The hotel, like most, was a popular meeting place, for sporting bodies, the progress association, political rallies, auctions, and other business and community events. The hotel appears to have been well conducted with a noticeable absence of convictions for violations of the licensing acts. It is suspected that Mrs Clarke was responsible for much of this.

In May 1894 James advertised the hotel, for sale, or to let, along with the adjoining blacksmith's shop, both doing a good trade,⁹ but it seems there were no takers, as James continued on as both owner and licensee.

James William had married Mary Lysaught on the 14th January 1889.¹⁰ Mary seems to have been a feisty character, and in November 1892 she was convicted of using insulting language in a public place, to wit, Elizabeth Street, and was fined £1, 4s 10d costs, plus £1 1s

³ Wagga Wagga Express. 18th August 1866, p1.

⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26th January 1870, p1.

⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 26th March 1870, p2.

⁶ Daily Advertiser. 30th June 1915, p3.

⁷ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th July 1885, p2.

⁸ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 15th October 1885, p2.

⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 12th May 1894, p3.

¹⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 5856.

professional costs. The recipient of Mary's abuse was Catherine Coombes. The defendant and the complainant both lived in Elizabeth Street, and apparently the pair had a history of conflict. The evidence suggests Mary made certain accusations in reference to a Tom McGregor, with Catherine testifying Tom was a friend to her and her husband, Joseph Coombes, and that Tom had visited her house. There were witnesses to support the contradictory versions of events put by both parties, but the judge found in favour of Catherine.¹¹

In April 1896 Mary was back in court again. This time she was charged with assaulting Cordelia Roach at the North Wagga hotel, on the 16th April, of that year. Cordelia had been employed at the hotel, as a cook, for some three months. The evidence was that Cordelia had said some things about Mary and had threatened to cause conflict between Mary, her mother in law - Sarah Clarke, and her sister in law, Mrs Clout. According to Cordelia, on the 16th April, around 2pm, she was in her room, when Mary entered carrying her young child. Mary placed the bay on the bed, rolled up her sleeves and then assaulted Cordelia, slapping her about the head a number of times and causing extensive bruising to her arms and shoulders. Mary and Sarah gave a conflicting version of events, claiming Sarah had dragged Cordelia from the room, thereby causing bruising, and that Mary had never struck Cordelia. Mary's husband, James William Clarke, was a blacksmith and Edward Collins was employed by James Jnr, in the blacksmith's shop adjoining the hotel. Collins also supported the evidence of Mary & Sarah. Cordelia had no one to support her version of events. The magistrate commented that, "gross perjury had been committed.... on one side or the other," and then went on to say that he had no doubt that Sarah and Mary had contrived to concoct a story designed to thwart justice. He found in favour of Cordelia and Mary was fined £3, with 6s 8d court costs, plus £1 1s professional costs.¹²

James was still trying to sell the hotel in August 1896,¹³ but again no sale eventuated.

On the 5th April 1897 a fire destroyed a four roomed detached cottage at the rear of the North Wagga hotel. The building was part of the hotel complex. It was a timber building, of colonial pine, and had been erected some twelve years earlier. The building was unoccupied at the time of the fire, but was furnished and had been occupied the week before. The building was insured and the loss was valued at £100. A report revealed that James was a bird fancier and that several rare birds, housed in an aviary, had been lost in the fire. In addition a number of bee hives on the northern side of the building had been scorched.¹⁴

An enquiry was held and James Clarke testified that he was away fishing, at the time of the fire, accompanied by John Lysaught. The building was used as bedrooms and had been built by him twelve years ago. It was a timber structure, of colonial pine, lined with hessian and papered over. Access to each room was through a door facing onto a verandah. There were no connections between the individual rooms. The windows consisted of single frame sashes. The rooms were furnished – two beds (kapok), chairs, etc. The doors to each room

¹¹ Wagga Wagga Express. 19th November 1892, p6.

¹² Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 30th April 1896, p2.

¹³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 11th August 1896, p3.

¹⁴ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 6th April 1897, p2.

could be locked. There were no fireplaces in the rooms, but there were candles and matches. Sarah Clarke testified that the rooms were, "*infested with mice.*"¹⁵

Sarah and James had been key witnesses in a case against William Harrison, who had been convicted of knocking a man down at their hotel and robbing him, for which he was sentenced to six months imprisonment. Harrison had a step brother, named Hargraves, who frequented the hotel, and there was some suggestion that he might have held a grudge and consequently may have had cause to start the fire. Both Sarah and James testified that they did not believe Hargraves was responsible, and in fact he had helped to put out the fire. The jury returned an open verdict.¹⁶ Hargraves was staying at Mrs Roach's and it seems this lady regularly took boarders.

James Clarke, senior, was the licensee in April 1900, when he suffered injuries while attempting to light the kerosene lamp at the front of the hotel. In order to light the lamp he had leant a ladder against the lamp post but when he attempted to climb the ladder his weight caused the pole to snap and James fell to the roadway injuring himself. He was described as a "*rather heavy man*" and the injuries included a severe incision under the chin, a cut on the head and bruised ribs. The incision under the chin required several stitches and James was compelled to lay up for several days.¹⁷

The Clarke's took a hard line on theft and when Francis James Coady stole a bottle of brandy worth 7s, on the 30th December 1900, Sarah handed him over to the police and he was subsequently sentenced to one month's hard labour. Coady had entered the hotel and seated himself on the sofa. Sarah left the bar for a couple of minutes and then returned to find Coady missing, along with a bottle of brandy. She sent her daughter, Florrie McDonald, after Coady and then followed herself. Coady handed the bottle of brandy over before he was taken into custody.¹⁸ Florrie was the adopted daughter of James and Sarah.

In February 1900 venues for the upcoming Local Option Vote were being determined. It was ironical that the polling place selected for North Wagga Wagga was the North Wagga hotel, much to the disgust of those associated with the temperance movement.¹⁹

In February 1902 a deputation visited Wagga Wagga to gauge its potential as a site for the proposed new federal capital. It was over 100 degrees on the day and the visitors no doubt would have noted the fact. On the same day James Clarke suffered a severe case of sunburnt while out in a paddock near the river. His situation was described as serious, but he did recover.²⁰

In 1902, James William Clarke, and his wife Mary, were residing in a house adjoining the hotel. James snr, was the licensee of the hotel.²¹

¹⁵ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th April 1897, p2.

¹⁶ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th April 1897, p2.

¹⁷ Wagga Wagga Express. 5th April 1900, p2.

¹⁸ Wagga Wagga Express. 4th January 1900, p3. / Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 4th January 1900, p2.

¹⁹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 8th February 1900, p2.

²⁰ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 13th February 1902, p2.

²¹ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 20th March 1902, p3.

Sarah Clarke passed away on the 8th July 1908, at the age of sixty three. Cause of death was from an attack of pleurisy.²² She was described as a strong supporter of the Church of England at North Wagga Wagga. After twenty three years as licensee James finally chose to transfer the license to his son in law, John Clout, on the 10th August 1908.²³ His decision was no doubt influenced by the demise of his wife.

John Clout disappeared at the end of June 1915. His body was not found until the 29th August, in the Murrumbidgee River at Wagingoberembe. An inquest heard evidence as to his movements in the five weeks prior to his disappearance, but no explanation was provided as to the circumstances surrounding the event.²⁴ His body was returned to Wagga wagga for burial.

It was around the same time that James Clarke, senior, passed away, on the 29th June 1915, at the age of seventy six.²⁵ John Clout's wife, Annie, held the license to the hotel for a short period,²⁶ until it was transferred to James Parry, in 1916,²⁷ thus ending thirty one years of occupation by the family.

Unlike the Clarkes, Parry was soon in trouble with the police, for violations of the licensing laws,²⁸ but appears to have learnt a lesson and avoided further charges. Parry remained as licensee up until the 29th May 1922 when it was transferred to James Hand. At the same meeting the colonial wine license of Mary Love Andison, for premises in Fitzmaurice Street, was transferred to Parry.²⁹ In September 1922 the new licensee, James Hand, called for tenders to erect a verandah onto the hotel.³⁰

James made application for further improvements in April 1925, and although the modifications were not detailed, the police described the proposed changes as, "*a decided improvement.*"³¹ The local council gave consent for "*brick alterations,*" in November 1926, and these presumably were the changes that can be seen in the 1928 photo.

The new 1928 structure had eleven bedrooms and three parlours and the bar was 14 feet long. The old building had been incorporated into the ground floor of the new building.³²

James Hand wrote to the municipal council in July 1926 complaining about the condition of the road in front of the hotel, and offering to loan them the funds to carry out the works.³³

²² Wagga Wagga Express. 9th July 1908, p2.

²³ Wagga Wagga Express. 11th August 1908, p4.

²⁴ Daily Advertiser. 1st September 1915, p2. / 2nd September 1915, p2.

²⁵ Daily Advertiser. 30th June 1915, p3.

²⁶ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1915, p7021.

²⁷ NSW Government Gazette. Publicans' Licenses. 1916, p6955.

²⁸ Daily Advertiser. 27th February 1917, p3. / 23rd April 1918, p4.

²⁹ Daily Express. 30th May 1922, p2.

³⁰ Daily Advertiser. 8th September 1922, p3.

³¹ Daily Advertiser. 21st April 1925, p3.

³² Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University, Tooth and Company Yellow cards, N60-YC-2287, Palm & Pawn hotel (ex North Wagga hotel), Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970's.

³³ Daily Advertiser. 9th July 1926, p3.

The council referred the offer to the Works Committee, and then some two weeks later accepted the offer from Hand.³⁴

James Hand passed away on the 9th July 1933, at the Wagga Wagga district hospital, aged fifty four. He was the son of Henry Hand and had married Barbara Leaver, the daughter of the late Henry Edwin Leaver.³⁵ Henry Hand, James' father was a well known blacksmith, whose business was located at 61 Baylis Street.³⁶



Above: Hand's North Wagga hotel in 1924, with residence to the left. Courtesy Tooths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.

Barbara took over the license, following her husband's death, and held it for some three years until her brother Herbert Austin Leaver took over.³⁷

On the 16th November 1936 Herbert Austin Leaver took over the license of the North Wagga hotel.³⁸ Prior to this he had been the licensee of the Farmer's Home hotel in Hammond Avenue for some fourteen years, and before that his mum held the license for sixteen years. In March 1936 Herbert sold the Farmer's Home to Mr SV Tyndall,³⁹ and then went on to hold the license for the North Wagga hotel for the next thirteen years.

The 1930's were an eventful decade – Don Bradman scored 452 not out in a Sheffield Shield match and followed this up with an innings of 334 at Leeds, in the 3rd test; Phar Lap won the Melbourne Cup; and the Sydney Harbour Bridge was completed and officially opened.⁴⁰

³⁴ Daily Advertiser. 23rd July 1926, p3.

³⁵ Daily Advertiser. 10th July 1933, p2.

³⁶ Daily Advertiser. 9th October 1928, p2.

³⁷ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970's.

³⁸ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970's.

³⁹ Daily Advertiser. 3rd March 1936, p2.

⁴⁰ Wikipedia. Timeline of Australian history. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Australian_history



Above: Another 1924 photo showing the old blacksmith's shop to the right, followed by a brick residence. Courtesy Tooths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.



Above: The North Wagga hotel building in 1928. Courtesy Tooths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.

Cyclonic Storm

Tuesday the 27th December 1938 was a day to remember for the citizens of North Wagga Wagga. It was an extremely hot day, with the temperature reaching 110.4 degrees Fahrenheit, in the shade, at 3pm. A storm approached from the south and for fifteen minutes cyclonic winds tore through the village, followed by a downpour of some twenty points of rain.

A large brick hoarding to the side of the Palm & Pawn was demolished by the winds. It was a solid double brick structure and only narrowly missed hitting a vehicle as it fell. Another hoarding, across the road, was also blown over, partly demolishing an outhouse belonging to Mr M O'Shannessy. Another outhouse, belonging to Mr Rynehart on the Junee road, was also destroyed.

St Mary's Church Hall suffered extensive damage – a section of the roof was torn off and carried fifty yards across the road, coming to rest against a large tree in the garden of Mr P Mantell, in George Street. About a quarter of the roof had been dislodged allowing rain to penetrate the building causing further damage.

Several large trees in the yard of the Junction store were snapped off at the base, with their limbs strewn across the roadway. Two large trees in the yard of the police station were also snapped off at the base. Fruit trees and other ornamental trees throughout the village suffered similar fates.

The wind was said to be so strong that it lifted the linoleum off the floor as it swept through one house.⁴¹



Above: The North Wagga hotel building in May 1930. Courtesy Tooths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.

⁴¹ Daily Advertiser. 28th December 1938, p2.



Above: The North Wagga hotel building in December 1931. Courtesy Tooths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.



Above: The Herb Leaver's North Wagga hotel in 1943. Courtesy Tooths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.

Herbert Austin Leaver passed away on the 7th August 1949, in the Lewisham private hospital, aged sixty. He was survived by two sisters, Mrs David Wise of 5 Docker Street and Mrs HD Morrow of 63 Trail Street.⁴² His nephew, Herbert Joseph Wise, subsequently took over the license, as an agent for the estate.⁴³ On the same day, on the 14th March 1950, the local licensing court approved a change of name for the hotel. It was now to be known, simply, as "Leaver's."⁴⁴

Herbert Wise held the license until 3rd July 1951 when it was transferred to William Francis Dunne.⁴⁵ Dunne, and his wife, had recently occupied the Grand hotel in Fitzmaurice Street.⁴⁶

Flood water penetrated the village in June 1952, with several inches of water covering the pavement at the front of the hotel. Many of the locals stayed in their homes, and the hotel advertised "*business as usual*," although opening hours were effected. A novel system was developed whereby a cow bell was rung when the bar was open, to let the residents know they could now get a beer.⁴⁷ It is not known if it was one of Menneke's.

On the 25th March 1952, the license was transferred to John Payten, it being his first publican's license.⁴⁸

John was an innovative publican and immediately set about establishing a beer garden at the hotel. It was officially opened on the 31st August 1952, by the mayor, Alderman WF Dunne. The beer garden featured tables and chairs with a colour scheme of daffodil yellow and green, with some covered by large multi-coloured umbrellas. These were set in amongst several tall palm trees, poplars and other selected tree varieties. John explained that all of the work in constructing the garden, which could accommodate eighty people, had been carried out by the residents of North Wagga Wagga. He specifically thanked Herb Best, Bill Gerrard, Stan Power, M. Rapley, R. Farrell, K. Mulquiney, J. Murdoch, R. Dunne and W. Grainger for their contributions. The beer garden had taken seven weeks to construct and featured its own cooling system. Entry to the garden was through a pair of swinging doors. All the ladies who attended the opening were presented with camellias.⁴⁹

According to John the garden featured a three or four piece orchestra, live, three afternoons per week, with the entertainment going through to 10pm, once 6 o'clock closing was abolished.⁵⁰

John chose to give the hotel a new name, which he now called the Palm & Pawn. The licensing bench gave official approval on the 16th June 1953. John stated that the new name followed the tradition of old English inn signs, and that a shield type sign was almost ready to hang under the archway leading into the hotel.

⁴² Daily Advertiser. 9th August 1949, p2.

⁴³ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970's.

⁴⁴ Daily Advertiser. 15th August 1950, p2.

⁴⁵ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970's.

⁴⁶ Daily Advertiser. 10th July 1951, p3.

⁴⁷ Daily Advertiser. 23rd June 1952, p2.

⁴⁸ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970's.

⁴⁹ Daily Advertiser. 1st October 1952, p2.

⁵⁰ John Payten. 22nd November 1988.

John explained the design of the shield – it was to feature a palm tree with the sun’s rays zig-zagging behind it, at the top of the shield, signifying heat. Beneath the palm were four straight pines, the heraldic symbol for seats. The aforementioned features clearly referenced the beer garden. The bottom half of the shield featured a chess pawn, based on the design of a two hundred year old chess set, possessed by John, which represented the ordinary working man.

John further explained that 90% of the hotels in NSW shared about fifty common names – the Commercial, the Railway, the Royal, etc. John wanted something different, hence the Palm & Pawn.⁵¹

John was an avid chess player and always had a set on display in the bar.⁵² His unique chess set had come from Germany (Saxony) but was believed to have been crafted in the east. The rooks featured a Maltese Cross, while the knights and bishops featured umbrellas. The kings and queens featured minarets and could be unscrewed down to six pieces for the kings and five pieces for the queens. The black pieces were carved from ebony and the white pieces from ivory. John valued the set at £200 (in 1954).⁵³

Within a year of the name change John had carried out more alterations to the hotel, which included a new lounge and servery bar, new toilets for the bar, two new toilets upstairs, with the whole of ground floor now concreted (flooded area) at cost of £7,000.⁵⁴

Chris Campbell was a resident of North Wagga Wagga in 1954, residing at 21 William Street. As a former contractor, but now retired, he was well known around town. In his spare time he helped out as a gate keeper at the racecourse.

Chris had lost three sons during the Great War, two of them being killed at Tobruk in 1940. In October 1954 he joined an official party travelling to the Australian War Graves Cemetery at El Alamein in North Africa. Chris was sixty nine years old and this was to be his first ever ride in an aeroplane. John Payten organised a subscription at the hotel and within two hours had raised £50, and expected to raise some £200 within a short time.⁵⁵

John let the hotel out for a period of some four years, during which time Albert Frederick Catts was the licensee. It was Albert’s first license,⁵⁶ but he was a local and well known as a former grocery shop owner.⁵⁷ John Payten lived in Sydney for most of this period.⁵⁸

John took up the license again on the 29th September 1959. The hotel had a cellar, and the beer kegs were stored there in the 1940’s, and the beer was drawn up from the cellar, but by the 1950’s the beer was drawn up from under the counter.⁵⁹

⁵¹ Daily Advertiser. 17th June 1953, p2.

⁵² John Payten. 8th April 1991.

⁵³ Daily Advertiser. 25th November 1954, p1.

⁵⁴ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970’s.

⁵⁵ Daily Advertiser. 2nd October 1954, p2.

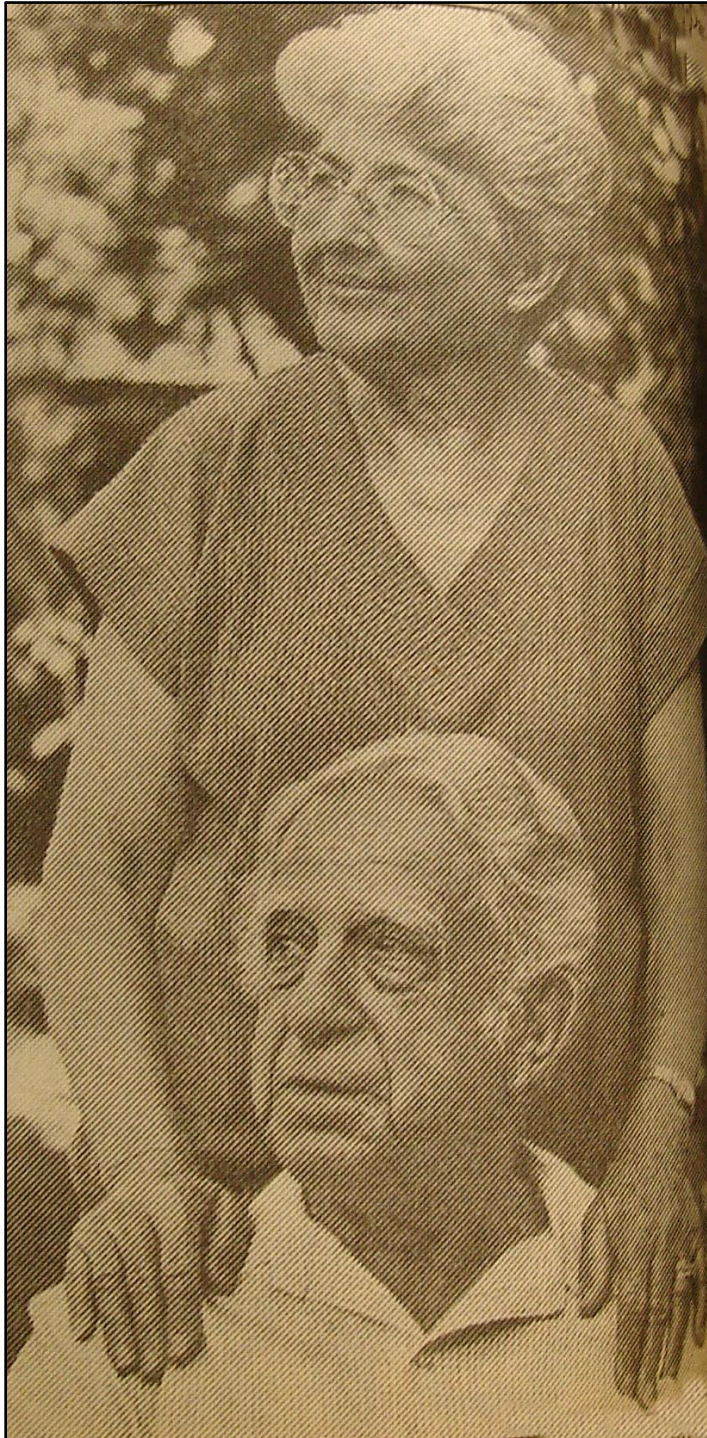
⁵⁶ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970’s.

⁵⁷ Jack Breasley. 26th April 2019.

⁵⁸ John Payten. 22nd November 1988.

⁵⁹ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970’s.

John recounted an amusing story – a taxi pulled up out front of the hotel, conveying a well-known drunk from Oura. John was in no mood for his antics, so he rushed out to tell the cabbie to hold on. He asked the drunk, “What are you doing here?”, to which he replied, “I want a drink.” The man was already under the influence, and John exclaimed, “It’s Sunday, the pub is closed!” The drunk climbed back into the taxi and drove off, while John went back to the hotel, which was full of customers.⁶⁰ It was not Sunday.



In 1966 John had seventeen new motel units erected on the site, with more planned. The establishment was now a hotel/motel.⁶¹

John had faced great difficulties in securing permission to construct the units which cost in the vicinity of £50,000 to construct.

It took twelve months to get the approval he needed but it was finally granted in late October 1961, by the Minister for Local Government, Mr PD Hills. The local council had rejected the original application in December 1960, but John appealed to the minister, and was subsequently allowed to proceed.⁶²

John held the license up until 18th February 1974, when Charles Albert Kelly became the licensee.⁶³

Left: John and Margaret Payten in 1991. Courtesy Daily Advertiser.

⁶⁰ John Payten. 28th November 1988.

⁶¹ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970’s.

⁶² Daily Advertiser. 1st November 1961, p3.

⁶³ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970’s.



Above: The Palm & Pawn hotel in the 1960's. Courtesy Toths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.



Above: The Palm & Pawn in time of flood. Courtesy Sherry Morris.



Above: Another flood photo, in the 1970's. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives [RW.2929/1/19]



Above: The Palm & Pawn hotel in 1988. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives [RW.2605/10/14211]

Some six years later, in April 1980, the license was transferred to Hayden Horace Baxter.⁶⁴ “Speed”, as he was commonly known, had previously been the manager of the Australian hotel, on the other side of the river.⁶⁵

Others to follow were,⁶⁶

1983, 22nd November – Bernard James Sullivan.

1985, 9th December – Gregory Rawson Hawick. Greg Hawick was one of the best rugby league players ever to come to Wagga Wagga and play in the local competition. Wikipedia provides the following details of his career,⁶⁷

“A South Sydney junior Hawick had played with the Alexandria Rovers junior club. Hawick made his first-grade debut with Souths in 1950 as a lock forward but subsequently switched to the backline playing halfback and centre. He won a premiership with Souths in his debut year, but then missed out on a second in season 1951 when his jaw was broken in the semi-final against St George. He eventually gained his second premiership victory in the 1954 NSWRL season. Hawick's career with South Sydney stretched from 1950 to 1956, during which he played in five premiership winning teams. In all he played 84 first grade games scoring 19 tries and kicking 62 goals for a total of 181 career points.

Hawick played his club football with Wagga in country New South Wales for the 1957 & 58 season. He fought a landmark battle against the NSWRL in 1958 when after having signed a contract with North Sydney he reneged, chose to stay in Wagga and was disqualified by the League. An equity court ruled that the disqualification was a denial of natural justice and he was able to play the season in Wagga and was still selected in the state and the national team that year.

Hawick was lured to North Sydney for the 1959 & 1960 seasons. He returned to country rugby league with Wagga from 1961 and his playing career ended there in 1963 a result of another broken jaw.

Hawick made six Test appearances for the Australian national side. He also played eight games for New South Wales including appearances in 1957 & 58 when his club football was played in the country.

Hawick toured with the Kangaroos to Great Britain in 1952–53, playing two tests, another 16 tour matches and scoring eight tries. He also toured to New Zealand with the Kangaroos in 1953 playing two tests, six other tour matches and scoring two tries and kicking three goals. Hawick played in the first World Cup in 1954 and was part of the 1957 World Cup-winning team.

In 2004 he was named by Souths in their South Sydney Dream Team, which consisted of seventeen players and a coach representing the club from 1908 through to 2004.

⁶⁴ NBAC: Tooth & Co., N60-YC-2238, Palm & Pawn hotel, Hampden Avenue, Wagga Wagga, circa 1920-1970's. / Wagga Wagga Court House. Premises cards. Palm & Pawn hotel.

⁶⁵ Jack Breasley. 26th April 2019.

⁶⁶ Wagga Wagga Court House. Premises cards. Palm & Pawn hotel. / NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. Palm & Pawn Motor Inn & Tavern report. 9th April 2019.

⁶⁷ Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg_Hawick. Accessed 28th April 2019.

In 2007 Hawick was selected by a panel of experts at five-eighth in an Australian 'Team of the 50s.

Hawick coached Norths from 1983 until his sacking midway through the 1985 NSWRL season."

Greg played with the Wagga Kangaroos when he first came to Wagga Wagga, and with at least one other local team after that. He married local girl, Maureen Joan Hand in 1959, and remained in Wagga Wagga after his retirement from football.⁶⁸ In 2019 he was a resident in the dementia unit at Calvary hospital.

1987, 30th November – Anne Patricia Bolton, wife of Peter Bolton. Peter Bolton was born at Chatswood and went to school in that suburb. He left school in 1956 and took a job with Philips Industries. He studied economics, in the evenings, at Sydney University for some five or six years. In 1963 he went bush, jackarooing, and then in 1964 went to Western Australia. He married in 1965, and settled down, working with the Bank of NSW for seven years. In 1972 he ventured into his first hotel business, along with his in-laws. This was a lease on the Wynyard hotel at Tumut. Twelve months later he bought the in-laws out and kept the hotel, in his own right, for the next five years. He tried to buy the freehold but was mucked around by the then owner, so he sold the lease and moved on.

The family moved to Sydney and he leased a liquor store at French's Forest, from 1978 till 1981. He had hoped it would allow him to spend more time with his family but that didn't eventuate. He disliked the penny pinching customers and missed the atmosphere of a pub, so he sold out. During that period he had purchased a lease on Romano's (in 1980) in an arrangement with Mr & Mrs Kevin Webb, who ran the hotel. Peter returned to Wagga Wagga in 1981, and purchased the freehold of Romano's in 1987, from Bill Morgan.

In November 1987, he, along with another couple purchased the Palm & Pawn hotel from a Mr Porter.⁶⁹ Anne held the license of the hotel until 5th April 1989 when Robert David McKirdy [or McKurdy] took over.

In April 1989 there was a farewell to Adrian & Mary Herrick, licensees of the Palm & Pawn hotel. Adrian had taken over Romano's hotel, while the new licensee at the Palm & Pawn was Bob McKurdy.⁷⁰ It is not clear if Adrian Herrick actually held the license of the Palm & Pawn, or whether he was managing on behalf of Peter and Anne Bolton. Peter Bolton's mum was a Herrick, and her parents had a number of hotels in their time. Their first hotel was at West Wyalong. Adrian Herrick was Peter's brother in law, and he also managed Romano's, for the Boltons.⁷¹

In August 1989 drinkers on a Thursday evening were surprised when a three month old poddy calf nosed up to the bar door, waiting like an oversized pup for its owner. The owner was a local lass who had hand raised the young bull, and according to her, he followed her everywhere.⁷²

⁶⁸ Jack Breasley. 26th April 2019.

⁶⁹ Peter Bolton. 7th June 1989.

⁷⁰ Daily Advertiser. 6th April 1989.

⁷¹ Peter Bolton. 7th June 1989.

⁷² Daily Advertiser. 12th August 1989.

McKurdy only stayed for one year before transferring the license to Stephen Edward Batkin on the 23rd April 1990. Batkin stayed for some eleven years, up until the 9th August 2001. For the period from the 5th April 1989 till the 9th August 2001 the license was owned by a group of four persons – Rodney Bruce Woodhouse, Ian Maxwell Walsh, Marie Helene Tinning and Christopher Paul Tinning. The same group also owned the business. 2001, 9th August – Jeremy James Duncan now the licensee. From 9th August 2001 till the 4th May 2006, the business was owned by four family members – Neil Robert Duncan, Christine Gail Duncan, Tanya Judith Duncan and Jeremy James Duncan. From the 4th May 2006 until the 9th August 2011 the business and was owned by the Duncan Family (Wagga) Pty Ltd, as was the license.

In December 2010 the hotel was evacuated pending possible flooding and was closed for a short period until the evacuation order lifted. There was no flooding into the hotel on that occasion.⁷³

2011, 9th August – Andrew Broughton was the licensee,⁷⁴ and Ball Park Caravan Park Pty Ltd were the owners of the business.⁷⁵

The licensees for the period following on from Andrew Broughton, until February 2019 are yet to be determined.

In 2017 it was reported that a Queenslander owned two local pubs – the Palm & Pawn and the Red Steer - and that by early 2017 both hotels were experiencing financial difficulties. Police had discovered that the manager of the two hotels, David Anthony Brace, had been issuing himself with TAB vouchers from the hotels, then cashing them in at the local Wagga wagga TAB agency. It was alleged he had issued twenty two such vouchers and had, by this means, defrauded the TAB of \$22,380. It seems that Brace had repaid all of the money owing to the TAB before his case went to court. Brace testified that he found it difficult to pay the day to day running expenses of the hotel, and that he had resorted to his deception in order to pay wages and accounts of the hotel. Brace resigned and moved to Sydney, and was subsequently found guilty of the charges.⁷⁶

2019, 20th February – The licensee from this date was Mrs Amy Veronica Fealy.⁷⁷

⁷³ Daily Advertiser. 11th December 2011.

⁷⁴ Daily Advertiser. 19th November 2011.

⁷⁵ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. Palm & Pawn Motor Inn & Tavern report. 9th April 2019.

⁷⁶ Daily Advertiser. 7th June 2017.

⁷⁷ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. Palm & Pawn Motor Inn & Tavern report. 9th April 2019.



Above: The Palm & Pawn hotel in 1973. Courtesy Tooths Collection, Noel Butlin Archives. ANU Canberra.



Above: The Palm & Pawn hotel in 2006.



Above: Palm & Pawn in 2012 flood. Incredible how deep the water is. Courtesy Bob Douglas.



Above: The Palm & Pawn hotel/motel in May 2015. Courtesy Google Maps.

Freehold

Portion 200 was originally granted to Henry Wallace on the 9th October 1860. It contained eight acres two roods and 4 perches.

1876, 17th August – Conveyance from Henry Wallace, esquire of Cooma, to George William Commins, licensed surveyor of North Wagga Wagga. Commins had paid £100 for portions 200, 202, and 203.⁷⁸

1883, 14th February – Conveyance from George William Commins, licensed surveyor of North Wagga Wagga, to John Glasgow, labourer of North Wagga Wagga, for £40.⁷⁹ The land conveyed was lots 2 & 3 of the subdivision of portion 200. These are the lots on which the North Wagga hotel stood.

1883, 5th March – Conveyance from John Glasgow, labourer of North Wagga Wagga, to James Clark (sic), blacksmith of North Wagga Wagga, for the sum of fifty pounds.⁸⁰ The transfer was for lots 2 & 3 of the subdivision of portion 200, and at that time both lots were vacant blocks. By the following year, 1885, Clarke had established a blacksmith's business (timber premises) and a hotel (brick).⁸¹

1910, 5th December – Conveyance from James Clarke, hotel keeper of North Wagga Wagga, to Anne Jane Clout, wife of John Clout, hotel keeper of North Wagga Wagga, for the sum of 10s.⁸² Anne was, of course, his daughter.

1915, 8th May – Mortgage: Anne is now indebted to Henry Samuel Headley, brewer of Wagga Wagga, to the value of £396.⁸³

In June 1920 the freehold was auctioned for sale, but was passed in at £800, for private negotiations.⁸⁴ The property consisted of lots 2 and 3 of portion 200, and featured the hotel building, which included six bedrooms, two parlours, a dining room, a bar and a kitchen.

1920, 5th August – Conveyance from Henry Samuel Headley (vendor), brewer of Wagga Wagga, in the first part, and Harry Hart, livery stable proprietor, the second part, to Rose Ann Parry (purchaser), wife of James parry, hotelkeeper of North Wagga Wagga. The property consisted of lots 2 & 3 of the subdivision of portion 200, and contained three roods and twenty two perches of land, in area. Property sold for £800.⁸⁵

1920, 5th August – Rose Ann takes out a mortgage with Henry Samuel Headley, to the value of £400, at 8% interest, with the capital to be repaid in three years.⁸⁶

⁷⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 162, number 240.

⁷⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 263, number 440.

⁸⁰ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 264, number 941.

⁸¹ Wagga Wagga Rate Books. 1870-1907.

⁸² NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 923, number 331. / NSW Land Registry Services. Mortgage deed. Book 1051, number 984.

⁸³ NSW Land Registry Services. Mortgage deed. Book 1056, number 412.

⁸⁴ Daily Advertiser. 21st June 1921, p2. / 15th June 1920, p3.

⁸⁵ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 1195, number 574.

⁸⁶ NSW Land Registry Services. Mortgage deed. Book 1195, number 575.

1922, 29th May – Conveyance from Rose Ann Parry, wife of James Parry, hotel keeper of North Wagga Wagga, to James Hand, hotel keeper of Wagga Wagga, for the sum of £1,480.

James Hand died on the 9th July 1933, and left the hotel to his wife.

1936, 16th November 1936 – Conveyance from Frances Barbara Hand, widow of North Wagga Wagga to her brother, Herbert Austin Leaver. Mrs Hand had subdivided the property and sold the part containing the hotel to Leaver for the sum of £3,500. The latter included all of lot 2 and part of lot 3, for a total area of three roods, three and three quarter perches.⁸⁷ [This deed contains extensive details of prior transactions]

Frances Barbara Hand passed away in February 1946, and left the property to her brother Herbert Austin Leaver. Herbert passed away on the 7th August 1949 and left the property to his nephew, Herbert Joseph Wise.⁸⁸

1953, 8th May - Conveyance from Herbert Joseph Wise, formerly hotel keeper, but now farmer of North Wagga Wagga, to John Payten, hotelkeeper of North Wagga Wagga, and Margaret Lilian Payten, his wife, as joint tenants, for the sum of £27,000⁸⁹ plus £4,829 for plant and furniture.

John Payten was born in Sydney, and came to Wagga Wagga, after the 2nd World War, with an army mate, Bill Dunn, with the specific intent of getting into the hotel business. They took a lease on the Grand hotel, from Clarrie Grey, as their first venture, it being a first class hotel in those days. By 1950 Bill was the mayor of Wagga Wagga. In that same year, 1950, they leased Leaver's hotel, in North Wagga Wagga, from Tim Wise, and subsequently changed the name to the Palm & Pawn.

John then bought Bill Dunn out [Bill was suffering from poor health) and then shortly afterwards purchased the freehold from Wise, in 1951.

According to John the sign out front featured scrawled iron work that came from the lamp holder of the old Club House hotel in Kincaid Street.⁹⁰

John had led an interesting life. His parents worked for a British tobacco company and had represented them in a variety of countries. Although born in Sydney, John lived and was educated in all of those countries – Greece, India, Germany and England. He attended boarding school in England. In 1932 he became a law clerk in Sydney, before joining the army and serving in the Middle East and Syria. He later joined Commonwealth security and tried a bit of, "*spy catching*." John's wife Margaret Lilian (nee Rutter) was from Wagga Wagga.⁹¹ The couple married at Wagga Wagga in 1951.⁹²

In 1991 John made the decision to move to Queanbeyan and live there.⁹³

On the 18th February 1974 the property was purchased by Charles Albert Kelly for the sum of \$325,000.

⁸⁷ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 1766, number 603.

⁸⁸ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 2132, number 320.

⁸⁹ NSW Land Registry Services. Title Deeds. Book 2250, number 517.

⁹⁰ John Payten. 28th November 1988.

⁹¹ John Payten. 8th April 1991.

⁹² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 29463.

⁹³ Daily Advertiser. 8th April 1991, p8.

On the 30th November 1987 the property was purchased by Peter and Anne Bolton, and another couple (unknown), from a Mr Porter. It is not known when Porter purchased the freehold, nor whether he purchased it from Chick Kelly or another party.

On the 5th April 1989 Peter Bolton sold his majority shareholding to Rodney Woodhouse of Wagga wagga Plumbing. The minority shareholding was held by the same partner that owned the Duke of Kent with Peter. They had purchased the freehold of the Duke of Kent in 1983 or 1984 and Peter sold out to Frank Snow in 1987. The latter had previously licensed the Star hotel at Gundagai. Rodney Woodhouse had three partners - Ian Maxwell Walsh, Marie Helene Tinning and Christopher Paul Tinning. On the 18th December 1990 the Tinnings sold their shares to Karen Marie Batkin and Stephen Edward Batkin who held the shares until the 9th August 2001.⁹⁴

In December 1990, the hotel had twenty five air conditioned motel units and a new bistro had been opened, designed to attract mums, dads and families. It had taken all year for the then owners, Rodney Woodhouse, Ian Walsh and Steve Batkin, to totally refurbish the interior of the hotel. Tumut decorator, Louise Hasley, was responsible for the modern bar and lounge design, while the bar was crafted by Wagga Joinery, and Peter Pascoe was in charge of the rebuilding. The hotel featured for poker machines, a half size pool table, a juke box, an EFTPOS machine, and Sky TV for racing enthusiasts. The licensee, Steve Batkin, had applied for a Pub TAB facility.⁹⁵

From the 9th August 2001 until the 4th May 2006 the freehold was owned by Rodney Bruce Woodhouse, Vicki Woodhouse, Ian Maxwell Walsh and Jennifer Anne Walsh.⁹⁶

In April 2006 it was reported that the Duncan family, formerly licensees of the Ashmont hotel, were purchasing the Palm and Pawn hotel. Jeremy Duncan conformed the family had paid a deposit and the statutory charges, and for him it was a done deal. The price was said to be in the order of \$3 million.⁹⁷ It is believed the Duncan family took possession on the 4th May 2006.

In 2013 the family leased the hotel out and moved to the Sunshine Coast.⁹⁸

In March 2015 the hotel was up for lease at a price of \$350,000 for a fifteen year lease, plus weekly rental. The hotel was said to have a weekly turnover of \$28,000.⁹⁹

The Duncan family still owned the hotel in April 2018, when further renovations were being carried out. Tanya Duncan, Jeremy's wife, revealed that a hand crafted vinyl display had been uncovered during the renovations. A wall had been knocked down to reveal a hidden wall displaying a large chess board made from hand crafted tiles.

The family eventually sold the property, business and license in February 2019 to a Sydney based syndicate. The property consisted of 7,795 square metres of land, and aside from the hotel, featured six gaming machines plus a twenty five room motel. The Duncan families

⁹⁴ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. Palm & Pawn Motor Inn & Tavern report. 9th April 2019.

⁹⁵ Daily Advertiser. 13th December 1990, p22.

⁹⁶ NSW Office of Liquor & Gaming. Palm & Pawn Motor Inn & Tavern report. 9th April 2019.

⁹⁷ Weekend Advertiser. 29th /30th April 2006, p3.

⁹⁸ Pubtic. Clyde Mooney. 10th April 2019. <https://pubtic.com.au/new-hands-for-palm-pawn/>. Accessed 28th April 2019.

⁹⁹ Daily Advertiser. 13th March 2015.

involvement with the hotel was described as “reluctant” suggesting the venture had not been as rewarding as they would have liked. After their tenant walked away in 2017 the family were forced back into the business and chose to carry out renovations and adopt strategies designed to enhance its potential for sale. The property was placed with a local agent, but to no avail and the family subsequently chose to list with HTL Property for an expression of interest (EOI) campaign, which achieved an immediate result said to be valued at \$4 million. The Palm & Pawn was located in an area rated as under serviced, in terms of gaming machines, and had a band 1 classification, meaning that additional poker machine entitlements (PME’s) could be purchased.¹⁰⁰

The new purchaser of the freehold, in April 2019, was Soul Train Investments, while the business was owned by P & P WW Trading Co. Pty Ltd. Both companies sharing the same postal address, in The Rocks, Sydney.



The partners in the company had well established experiences within the hotel industry. By June 2019 the new owners were carrying out extensive improvements to the entertainment areas including a new playground area. Like many contemporary hotels there was a strong emphasis on creating a safe, relaxing and enjoyable venue for families.

Above: Amy with a freshly poured beer in Jun 2019.

¹⁰⁰ Pubtic. Clyde Mooney. 10th April 2019. <https://pubtic.com.au/new-hands-for-palm-pawn/>. Accessed 28th April 2019.



Above: The hidden chess wall revealed during renovations in April 2018. Courtesy Lost Wagga Wagga.



Above: A closer view in colour. Courtesy Lost Wagga Wagga.



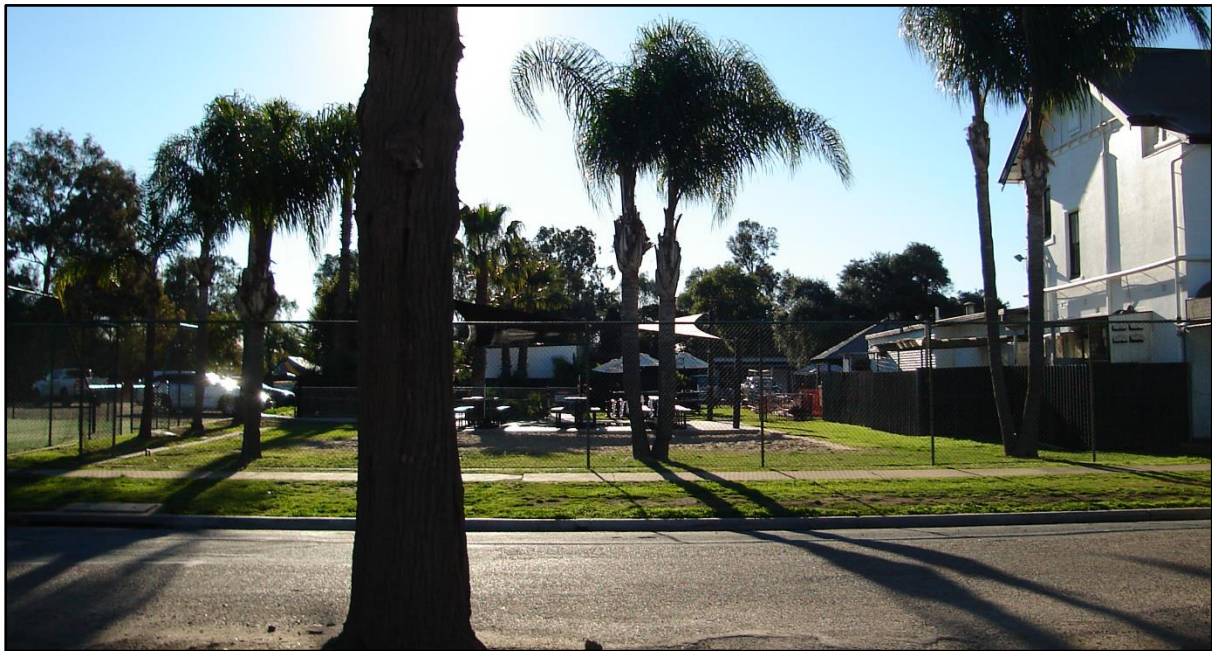
Some of the old tiles reset on display in the hotel in June 2018.
Courtesy Lost Wagga Wagga.



Above: The main bar in June 2019.



Above: The Palm & Pawn hotel in June 2019.



Above: Part of the entertainment area in June 2019.