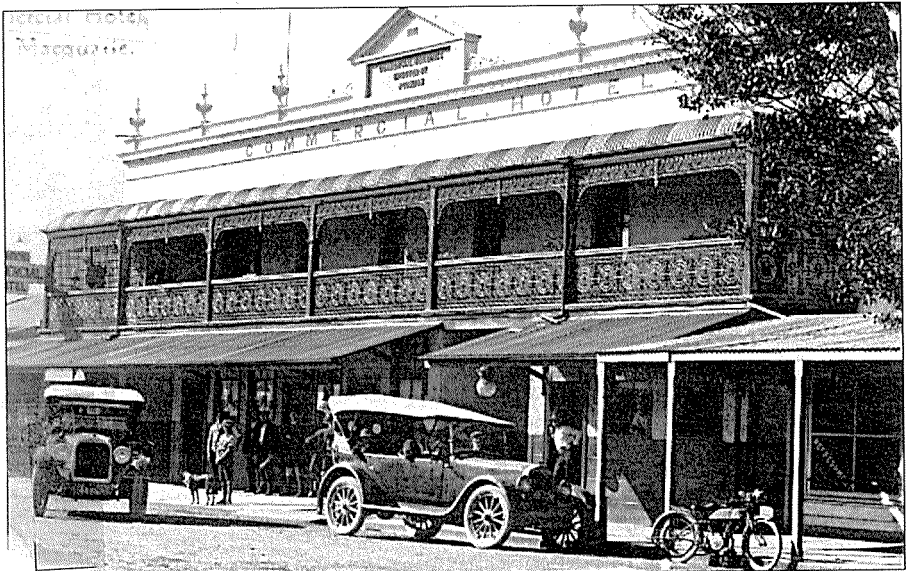


Raise Your Glass

A brief history of pubs of the Hastings



Raise Your Glass

**Compiled by the Research Team
of the Port Macquarie Historical Society**

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Hotels have been linked with the history and growth of all towns in Australia, and Port Macquarie is no different. Changes in population and attitudes are reflected in the number and type of hotels as towns progress through various phases.

In the first decade of Port Macquarie's settlement (1821-1830) there were no hotels, and alcohol was strictly forbidden for convicts. Then free settlers arrived in Port Macquarie with the need for hotel accommodation and bars for men to mix over a drink. The town later became a working man's town with oyster growers, timber workers and fishermen. The 1950s saw a growth on tourism, resulting in the need for tavern style pubs which served meals and also provided a relaxed atmosphere in which patrons, both male and female, could enjoy a drink with the locals. In recent years the town has expanded enormously resulting in the establishment of pubs in areas outside the C.B.D.

With the arrival of free settlers in 1830 the then Governor, Governor Darling, approved the issue of the first innkeeper's licence to Stephen Partridge. Partridge had previously served as Superintendent of Convicts for the penal settlement but resigned the position taking up a License to Retail Wines and Malt and Spiritous Liquors on 27th August 1830. Partridge set up the **New Inn** on the waterfront at the end of Hay Street, where Rydge's stands today, 2011. Records show Stephen Partridge had given excellent service to successive commandants in his capacity as Superintendent of Convicts, but also had the respect of the convicts, and so was considered an excellent character to become the first licensee in Port Macquarie. His old regimental residence was converted into *the New Inn* and he reserved a room for his own accommodation. The terms of the licence were: free until the next licensing day and free use of the house for the first year. The contract then charged the usual licence fee of £25, plus £25 rent for his Government-owned accommodation.

The **New Inn** was demolished in 1833 when Port Macquarie streets were realigned to fit the current layout. Until that time the streets had followed the line of the Hastings River. To facilitate the realignment

part of the **New Inn** would have been demolished. Stephen Partridge applied for compensation for the destruction of his premises but his request was denied.

At almost the same time, in August 1830, that Stephen Partridge's licence was being granted, a second licence was awarded to Charles Farrell to run the **Settler's Arms**.

Charles Farrell came to the colony in 1824 and married Charlotte who was born in Sydney in 1794, her father being a first-fleeter. She was the first of eight generations of her family to reside in Port Macquarie.

The conditions of Farrell's licence was similar to Partridge's – free until the first licensing date, then £25 plus £20 rent. In June 1831 Charles Farrell petitioned the Governor saying that his rent of £20 was exorbitant when compared to Partridge's rent of £25 for a larger property and local advantage. (Partridge's house consisted of 7 rooms and offices on nearly 2 acres, while Farrell's had only 2 rooms and 2 skillions. Partridge's **New Inn** was located right on the waterfront, handy to docking ships while Farrell's establishment was in present day Short Street.). Farrell's petition was unsuccessful but he was permitted to take the cost of improvements and repairs out of the rent.

When Stephen Partridge's **New Inn** was demolished the **Settler's Arms** became the only licensed premises in town until 1834.

The **Settler's Arms** was sold in 1834, the "NSW Gazette" carrying the following advertisement:

*For sale in Elizabeth Street Port Macquarie the house and premises of Charlie Farrell, known as **Settler's Arms**.*

(N.B. Elizabeth Street is now Short Street.)

It was described as a one-storey building, featuring shuttered windows and wide verandahs. At the time it serviced the population of Port Macquarie, about 1000 persons, most of them convicts,

officials, soldiers and officers.

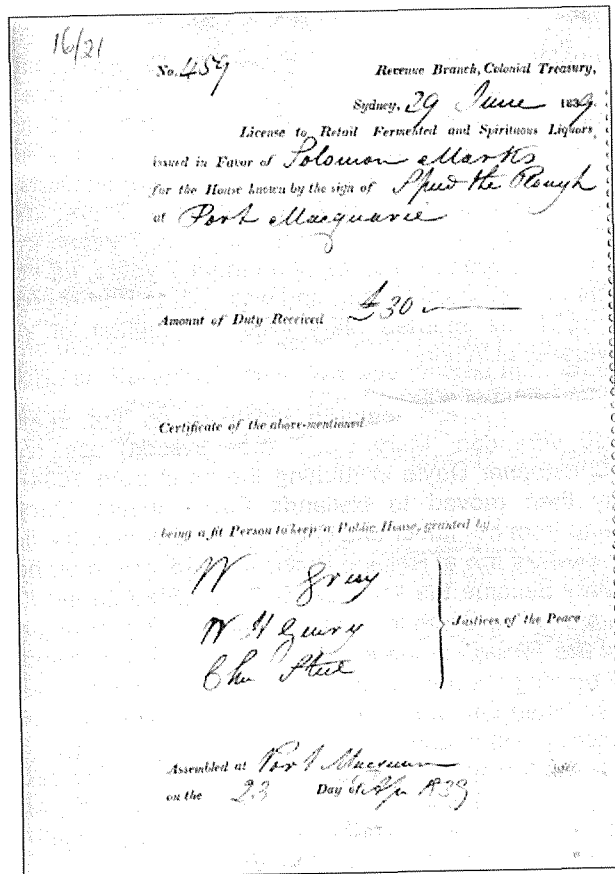
The **Settler's Arms** was bought by William Collie who became the licensee. He changed the name to the **Royal Oak**. The Warlter's family have copies of leases dated from 1839, at £45 per annum, when Jeremiah Walters used the **Royal Oak** as a dwelling. His daughter was in residence in 1851.

In 1834 Christopher Doyle opened **Speed the Plough**, located on the corner of William and Horton St, where Reid's store once stood. Christopher Doyle was an Irish convict, convicted in 1818 and transported for 7 years. In 1824 Doyle received a second sentence of a further 7 years, for stealing two blankets from Richard Kipper, and was sent to Port Macquarie. There, in 1831, he married convicted in 1818 and transported for 7 years. In 1824 Doyle received a second sentence of a further 7 years, for stealing two blankets from Richard Kipper, and was sent to Port Macquarie. There, in 1831, he married Mary Wilson, daughter of William Wilson, Overseer of Works.

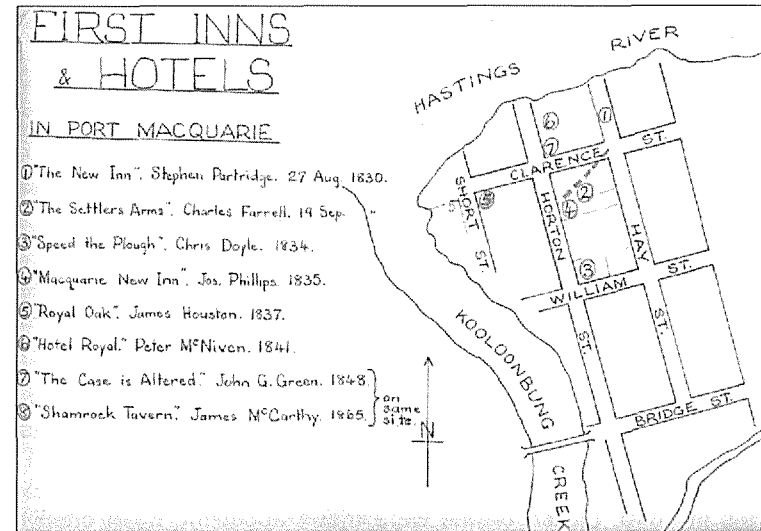
The **Speed the Plough** featured lacework on the seemingly unsupported verandah. Mary Doyle (nee Wilson) assisted her husband Christopher Doyle in running the hotel from 1834-1838. The family then moved to Rollands Plains where Mary had inherited land from her father and Christopher took over the licence for **The Travellers Inn** at Rolland Plains in 1845, but when he died in 1847, Mary became the licensee. She remained an inn keeper for 27 years until her death in 1864, returning to Port Macquarie to run **Speed the Plough** in the early 1850s. She was involved in all aspects of running the hotel and it is said that she once received a broken nose when she intervened in a fight between patrons. On another occasion she apprehended a man in her room. Other members of the family also helped in the hotel, with one daughter playing the piano, and another daughter, Elizabeth Dodds, with her husband, taking over the running of the hotel on Mary's death.

On 14th July 1856 a General Publican's Licence was issued to Mary Doyle valid until 1st July 1857 to manage **Speed the Plough**.

This was renewed on 21st April 1857 and valid until July 1858. Mary Doyle was again granted the licence from 20th April 1858 until 1st July 1859 with Jeremiah Warlters and Henry Lewis Wilson, as always, her sureties. On expiry, a further licence was issued until 1st July 1859 with the same sureties. On 17th April 1860 the licence was extended until 1st July 1861.



Section of the licence issued for the Speed the Plough which was opened in 1834



The **Macquarie New Inn** was opened in 1835 in Horton St with Joseph Phillips as licensee. He retained the licence of the **Macquarie New Inn** until 1853. Port Macquarie Historical Society's records show Joseph Phillips was granted a licence for **Port Macquarie New Inn** from 15th April 1856 until July 1857. He was at the time listed as being previously licensed, although we do not have copies of these licences. Records further show the licence was later renewed until 1st July 1858 and a further licence was granted from 20th April 1858 until 1st July 1859. John Bartholomew Hoare, Michael Spence and James Florence McCartley acted as sureties. On 17th April 1860 the licence was again renewed until 1st July 1861.

The **Macquarie New Inn** belonged to Mr J Phillips and he occupied the hotel until his death in 1865. The following year his wife Ester died. The hotel continued to be under the description of Phillip's until the late 1880s when it was sold at auction to Mr J Condon.

The first branch of the Bank of NSW was opened in one room of the **Macquarie New Inn** and operated from there until after 1884.

In 1837 *The Royal Oak*, previously known as *the Settler's Arms*, opened in Short St. The building was leased by Jeremiah Warlters to Mr William Collie. By 1838 Mr James Houston was the landlord. Records of *"The Sydney Monitor"* and *"Commercial Advertiser"* for 18th January 1839, show that on 28th December, 1838, Mr James Houston, landlord of the *Royal Oak* died after receiving a severe kick from his mare.

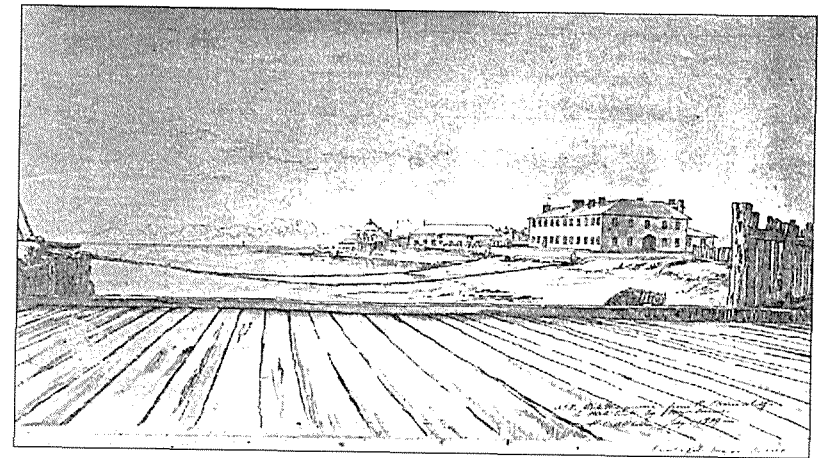
1841 Hotel Royal. Quickly following the first sales of Crown land in Port Macquarie, the Royal Hotel was built on the waterfront by Major Archibald Innes.

The area on the waterfront between Horton and Hay Streets was divided into 4 allotments and Major Innes was promised Lot 1 as a free grant. He purchased Lots 2 and 3 in 1840 and received Lot 1 in 1841. *The Royal* was built on Lots 1,2 and 3 in the name of A C Innes in 1840. Lavish claims were made about the hotel often referred to simply as *"The Major's Hotel"*. It was described as a first class establishment, intended not only to accommodate those who came to seek their fortune in the north of the state, but also those who came hoping to restore their health. The Australian Newspaper stated: "Port Macquarie as to climate, has been pioneered by very eminent medical men as the Montpellier of New South Wales. The comfort and luxuries, if you visit the Hotel Royal, will render it Montpellier itself."

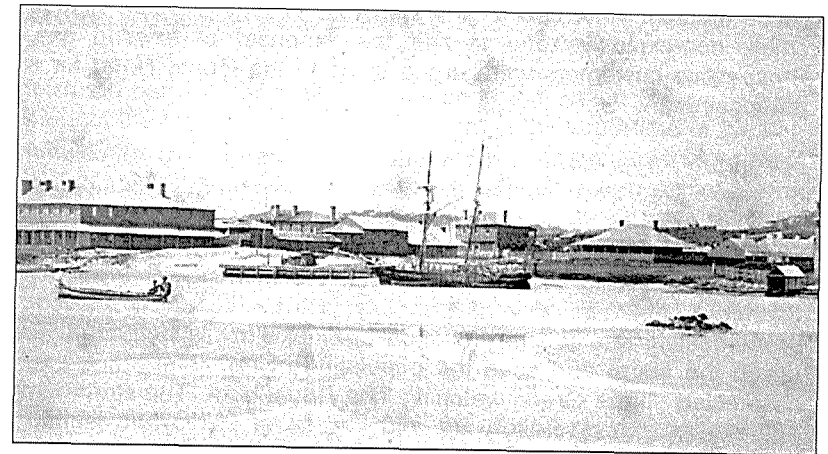
The Royal Hotel was the sixth hotel built during the convict era of the settlement and is the only one still trading under the original name. The first licensee was Peter McNiven, beginning 12 July 1841.

The Royal at one time was managed by Mrs Georgina Kinnear, wife of the convict John Kinnear, the first female entrepreneur in Port Macquarie. John Kinnear was assigned to work under the supervision of his wife.

In the 1850s a private school was operated from the hotel by Alexander Waugh. A two-storey section on the east side of the hotel



Sketch by Henry Curzon Allport of the Hotel Royal from the Steam Wharf. Copy of ink and grey wash sketch original 24.1 cm x38.9 cm



The Royal Hotel taken from the water. The hotel was in an ideal position to attract the patronage of seamen

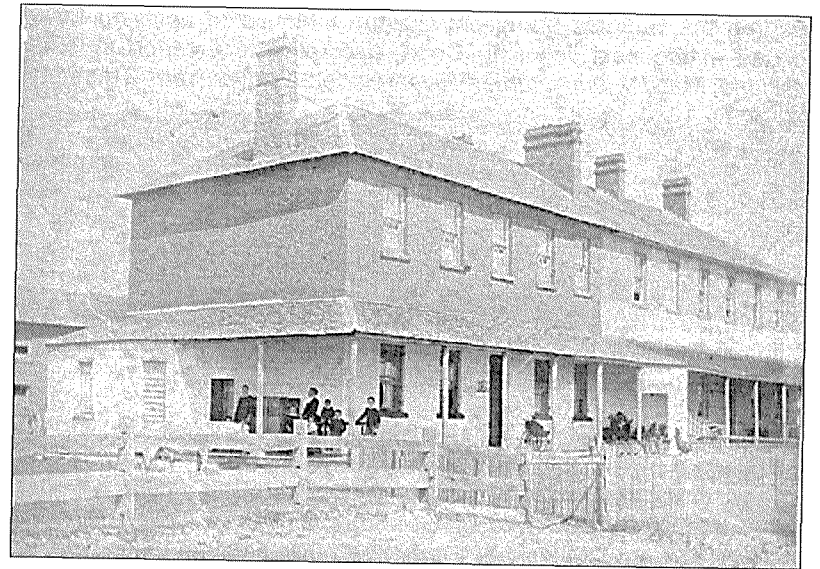
was sectioned off and used as the private boarding school, called the Beach House. (For more information on *The Beach House* see the Spring 2009 edition of *Snippets*, a publication available from Port Macquarie Historical Society.)

The **Royal Hotel** was also used for occasional public and social events such as meetings and political gatherings, sales events and private parties.

One important visitor who stayed at the **Royal Hotel** towards the end of the 19th century was Edmund Barton, who spent time travelling down the coast promoting Federation. While at the hotel, early in July 1898, he was approached by a delegation from Kempsey who wanted to persuade him to run as a candidate in the coming General Election. Barton declined this offer but later in the same year contested a bi-election in the Hasting-Macleay and won. So the **Royal Hotel**, unwittingly hosted the person who, two years later became Australia's first Prime Minister.

In 1882 an itinerant salesman advertised gas for lamps that gave "twice the light of kerosene" and that was "extremely clean, without smell, non-explosive and at half the expense" of existing gas. Prospective customers were urged to go to the **Royal Hotel** for a demonstration.

Fire in the Royal Hotel: On Thursday 17th June 1886, a tall column of smoke was seen coming from the **Royal Hotel**. A number of teachers were undergoing their examinations for promotion at the Beach House (the waterfront end of the **Royal Hotel**), the residence of Inspector Wallis. At three o'clock in the morning Mr Frederick Stainer, a pupil teacher from Kempsey, was awakened by a feeling of suffocation due to the presence of smoke in his bedroom. He raised the alarm and soon the population of Port Macquarie was assembled on the Green watching **The Royal** burn. The storeroom and billiard room were on fire and a case of spirits had ignited, fuelling a fierce fire. With flames shooting 50 feet into the air residents attempted to quench the flames by bucketing water from the nearby Hastings River, but it was soon obvious nothing could be done for the building so onlookers concentrated on saving furniture



The Beach House, a school at the end of the Royal Hotel in the 1850s. Note the students in uniform on the verandahs.

from the bar and Mr Wallis' residence in the Beach House. It was thought the fire started in the spirit room in the south end of the bar and it spread rapidly through the building. Fortunately there was little breeze, the ground was wet from a heavy storm earlier in the night and a light drizzle fell during the fire. At one stage it was thought the whole block, including the **Shamrock Hotel** may go up in flames. As it turned out damage was contained to **The Royal**. There was no loss of life. Those who most distinguished themselves fighting the fire included Messrs W Spence, Mulligan and Denham and the teachers.

The premises had been recently purchased by Dr Botterell of Sydney for £1200. Mr E. M. Davis had just completed negotiations to open the house and had 20 cases of furniture lying unpacked under the verandah. The fire left only one hotel in Port Macquarie so Mr Gersbach, later to become licensee of **Tattersall Hotel**,

secured the Hinton's premises with the intention of applying for a license at the next licensing Court, according to a report in "*The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*," Thursday 24th June, 1886.

Mr W Neal of Kempsey was contracted to rebuild the **Royal** on the same site. He designed a building fronting the town green with wide verandahs, balconies and 28 rooms.

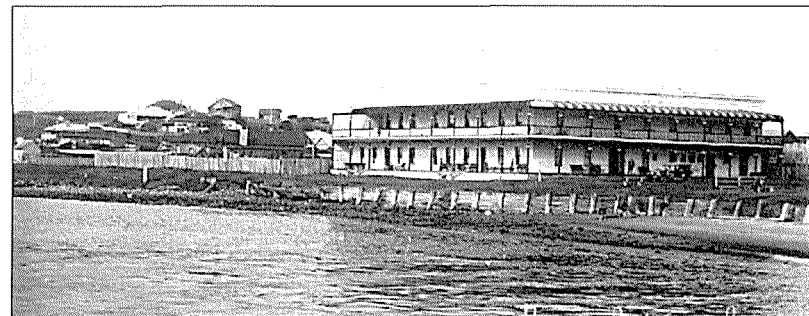
On 7th August 1886 Patrick O'Neill, late proprietor of the **Royal Hotel**, after a long inquiry, was committed to trial for arson in the Criminal Sessions to be held in Sydney August 30th 1886. Mr McKell was presiding magistrate, Inspector Harrison prosecutor.

An article in "*The Sydney Morning Herald*" on Wednesday 22nd September, 1886 reports on the progress of the case. "Patrick O'Neill and Annie O'Neill were charged with setting fire to a dwelling-house, the property of the former, at Port Macquarie, on 17th of June, Richard Christopher Ferris and other persons being then in the house. There was a second charge against the accused persons of setting fire to the building with intent to defraud.

Mr G H Reid, instructed by Mr Hill, appeared for the defence.

According to the evidence for the prosecution, the prisoners were the landlord and landlady of the **Royal Hotel**, Port Macquarie, and it was burnt down on the date mentioned, insurances being in existence with the Standard Fire and Marine Insurance Company and United Insurance Company on the building, stock and furniture, to the amount of £2063. The prisoners removed a quantity of furniture and household effects some time before the fire. Subsequent to the occurrences, two kerosene tins, which had been cut open with an axe or hatchet, were found in an outhouse a few yards from the storeroom in which the fire broke out."

The "new" **Royal Hotel** was rebuilt by James Butler on the same site. The hotel that still stands today was opened in 1887.



The Hotel Royal from the water

In 1888 a part of the **Royal Hotel** was adapted for the new skating craze referred to as "rinkomania". The proprietor had earlier operated a rink in the School of Arts but was compelled to move to a more suitable location because newspaper readers objected to the noise.

As photography was beyond the means of most people until the invention of the Eastman camera, in the early 1900s, itinerant professionals travelled from town to town, booking in at hotels such as **the Royal Hotel** and advertising their presence in the local paper.

In 1901 the **Royal Hotel** was offered for sale by Richardson and Wrench Ltd and described in "*Port Macquarie News*" as being "A commodious building in good order, containing about 40 rooms, furnished. It holds the best position near Wharf, Post Office and Co. This is a chance to secure what would prove, in competent hands, a good purchase. Land two acres as a going concern."

Further tragedy befell the **Royal Hotel** when, in November 1908, Mr Thomas Porteous of the **Royal Hotel** was drowned in a boating accident which also took the lives of Mrs H Rosebaum (daughter of Mr Porteous) and Charley Brodie, the eight year old son of the school teacher from Rawdon Island. The three, along with friend, went sailing in a gentle breeze but unfortunately a sudden wind caused the boat to capsize. Although a pilot boat from the shore and

also a punt were sent to the rescue, the bodies of Charley Brodie and Mrs Rosebaum were never recovered and although Mr Porteous was dragged to shore, attempts to resuscitate him were unsuccessful. Brodie was on holiday and was staying at the **Royal Hotel** at the time of his death.

The **Royal Hotel** estate passed to Mrs Halpin's children and her son, Jack McGann took out the licence and bought his sisters out in 1935. The settlement price for the sale of the hotel was £10,500. The hotel fared quite well during the Great Depression even though beer sales reduced by 50% from 1928 and 1931. The value of the hotel increased though, because Port Macquarie was becoming a popular tourist destination thanks to the new road from Walcha to Port Macquarie, allowing New Englanders to holiday in the area. At that time there were three hotels in town – **Royal**, **Club** and **Commercial**.

It was difficult to get new hotel licences in NSW in mid 1930s so the few hotels in town were doing very well. Accommodation was hard to find during the summer.

In 1936 Jack McGann sold the licence for the **Royal Hotel** to Bob Stanfield from **Petersham Inn** in Sydney. He approached Tooth and Co regarding a renovation for the old hotel and by 1937 he had modernised the bar with tiled walls, tiles behind the bar and linoleum on the floor. Extra windows allowed more light into the bar and he installed a good refrigeration system. Bob Stanfield stayed at the **Royal Hotel** for eleven years, surviving the uncertainties of the Second World War.

During the war, Bob Stanfield, a member of the Surf Life Saving Club, encouraged patrons to contribute their twopence change from the purchase of cigarettes (then costing 10 pence), to the financing of Tuppenny Road, the access to Flynn's Beach. At the end of World War 2, Sid Hinton, local resident recalled how Bob Stanfield fulfilled his promise to roll a keg of beer around the memorial and put on free beer to celebrate the cessation of hostilities. Sid recalls that as he did so, one drinker kicked him in the rump, something he had been waiting for the opportunity to do.

Miss Bessie Nicholls of Gordon St Port Macquarie told E Casey from the Historical Society of Port Macquarie in 1976 that her father had come from Sydney to Port Macquarie as a plasterer in 1887 to complete work on the new wing of the **Royal Hotel**. He stayed until the job was completed and placed the date 1887 above the doorway. He decided to settle in the town and brought his wife from Sydney. All the family was born at Port Macquarie.

In 1972 there were plans to develop the **Royal Hotel** into a ten-storey resort hotel above coffee lounges and bars in Horton Street. The Mainland Corporation Ltd and Noah's Motel Limited planned to build 15 rooms or units on each floor. All rooms would have a view of either the sea and harbour or the river and mountains. The Mainland Company went into receivership in 1974 and so the project never went ahead.

During renovations to the **Royal Hotel** in 1975, workers pulling up the floor in the lounge of the hotel accidentally discovered two old rooms beneath, believed to be part of the original hotel built in 1841. The previous December a local identity, Mr Frank Yeo had fallen through a floorboard in the hotel and discovered a space below but thought it was only an old cellar.

One of the rooms was filled in but the other was in good condition. One had a well-preserved fire place and both were constructed using old marked convict-made bricks. The rooms were both built using three courses of marked similar bricks, thousands of bricks being used in the construction.

Originally the rooms would have been above the ground but when the fire ruined most of the building the new hotel would have been raised up. One room showed evidence of fire damage with a solid timber beam across an old doorway showing charring.

Another of the rooms had a passageway that appeared to lead towards the waterfront and one room has a trapdoor in a cupboard that led to another room. It is not clear exactly how many rooms remain below the present building.

In May 1999 redevelopment of the **Royal Hotel** revealed cellars under the floor at the northern end of the hotel and excavation of the carpark revealed a passageway leading under the hotel. It was thought the cellars may have been used as temporary accommodation for convicts awaiting appointment as servants to the landed gentry or to house convicts employed by Major Innes in the hotel.

Some owners and licensees of the Royal: Peter McNiven 1841, John Williams 1842, Beilby Hawthorne 1843, John Gibbon 1844, John Williams 1845-8, William Collie 1848, John George Green 1854, J Butler 1870, Thomas Neads 1871, Christopher Doyle Jnr 1872, Michael Williams 1878-1880, John McDonough 1881, E H T Botterell 1889 and Dr Botterell, 1891 Mr Williams, William McGrath 1895, William Joseph Trim 1896, W Nelson, F R Graham 1902, Mrs Halpin 1903, Mr Porteous)

In 1847 there were four hotels in the town: **Royal Hotel** (Williams), **Speed the Plough** (A Cohen), **Commercial** (Phillips) and **Royal Oak** (W. Collie).

Built in 1848 **The Case is Altered** occupied the corner of Clarence and Horton Street before the **Shamrock** and today the **Macquarie Hotel**. The first licensee was John George Green who obtained a license on 21st March 1854.

John George Green was born in Dublin in 1798 and at age 34, was described as being 5 ft. 3 ½ ins. Tall with dark complexion, brown hair turning to grey, dark hazel eyes and having a scar on his inside left forearm and another on his right shin. He was serving as a cavalry officer in Bombay when he was sentenced to 7 years transportation to NSW on 8th December 1832. The charge was false pretences. Green arrived in Sydney Harbour on 27th April, 1833 and was placed on the Hulk *Phoenix*. Later that year he was sent to Port Macquarie on board the ship *Isabella*. As a result of good behaviour he obtained a ticket of leave in June 1837 and was granted permission to marry Eliza Ruffle, a fellow convict, later in 1837. The marriage took place at St Thomas' in Port Macquarie on 11th July in 1837. Their eldest daughter Eliza

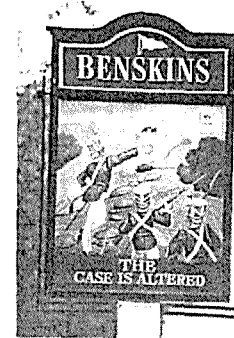
Frances Green was born in Port Macquarie on 15th May 1839. Green later transferred and became licensee of the **Royal Hotel**.

The convict diarist, Robert Heath Hall, mentions visiting Green's pub often and working for Green as a scribe/accountant.

It is thought that Mr Green also held the position of Bailiff for a time. Whatever his connection with the law he was the subject of the following jingle:

*Have you ever to Port Macquarie been
To see that fat old man called J G Green?
If you have one too many by night or day,
He will haul you up before Mr Grey,
When he will order 5/- to pay,
Or go in the stocks for another day.*

We do not know what became of **The Case is Altered** and have no photos.

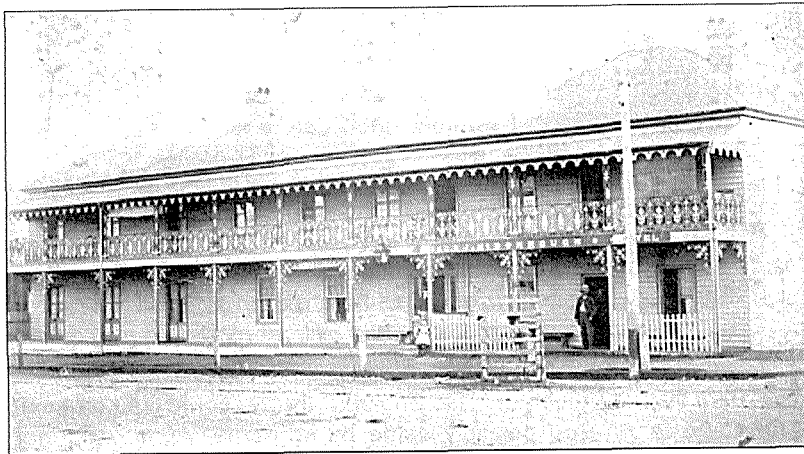


This sign comes from one of the English Inns by the same name as the Port Macquarie Inn.

The 1998 Winter Edition of "This England" throws some light on how **The Case is Altered** possibly came by its name. Apparently the name **The Case is Altered** appeared several times in Middlesex. "The story behind the name is that soldiers returning from the Peninsula War, habitually patronised certain inns. To show their gratitude the landlords changed the names of their establishments

to *The Case is Altered* which was a corruption of *casa de saltar* (meaning dancing horse), the soldiers having learnt this name while in Spain. However, this name also appears in other regions with different explanations – one being that a former landlord had been too ready to grant credit to his customers and had gone bankrupt, and so the new landlord intended to be far stricter. He made matters perfectly plain to his customers by changing the name of the inn to “*The Case is Altered!*”

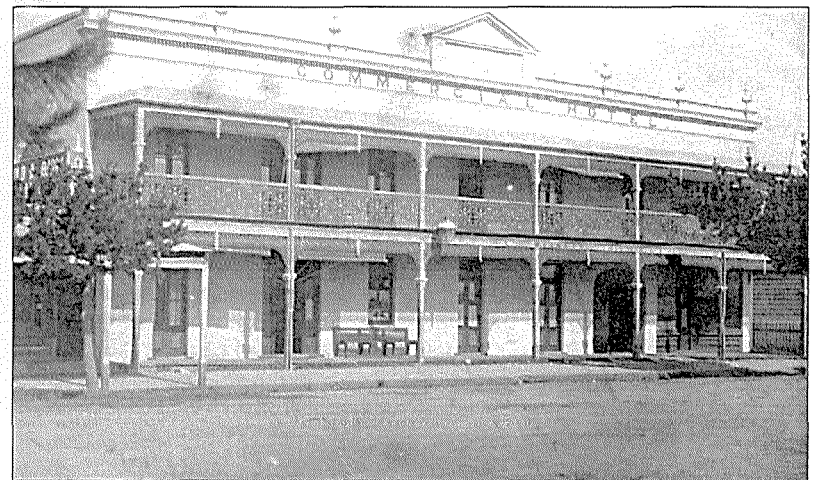
J McDonough’s *Star Hotel* on the south-west corner of Horton and William Sts was built in 1880 and the family occupied it until it burnt down during World War I in October 1916. There was little that could be done to save *The Star* as the fire quickly took hold of the wooden building and Port Macquarie had no fire service in those days to assist with extinguishing it. *The Star*, commonly known as *McDonough Family Hotel*, was never rebuilt.



The Star Hotel before the fire that destroyed it in 1916.

As previously mentioned the *Port Macquarie New Inn* owned by Mr Phillips was sold at the end of the 1880s to Mr John Condon by auction.

John Condon was born in County Cork, Ireland but after his parents died, aged only 20, he came to Sydney in 1857. Arriving in Port Macquarie, he married Miss Charlotte Wooderson and they settled in The Glebe and established a vineyard. They later moved to town, residing in Tozer's Terraces (the present Commonwealth Bank). In 1891 the *Macquarie New Inn* was demolished and work begun on its replacement, the *Commercial*. John Condon's two eldest sons, James and William were learning the building trade and with a little outside help undertook to build the hotel. It was a two-storey brick building with a barber shop attached to the northern end. It took up the whole Horton St frontage and had an arched carriageway through the centre. On the whole, the brothers made their own bricks but a few old convict-made bricks from the 1830s were incorporated and these went on to be included in the building of the new tavern after the *Commercial* was demolished. The *Commercial* was completed in 1892 but because licences were very hard to obtain at the time, it was not licensed for a few years. It was rebuilt in 1901 but retained the name *Commercial*.



In 1903 the **Commercial** boasted a vice-regal visit when Sir Harry and Lady Rawson visited Port Macquarie. The Condon family ran the hotel until it was sold in 1927, although John Condon died in 1908 and his wife Catherine in 1910. They had 11 children. The building was renovated following a fire during the First World War. Only the southern wing was damaged, but the front was also renovated.

The **Commercial Hotel** occupied the Horton Street site. In 1936 Tooth & Co Ltd bought the **Commercial** and after extensive renovations they renamed it the **Tourist Hotel**. The **Tourist Hotel** was subsequently demolished in 1973 and replaced by the **Innes Tavern** which is now the entrance to Port Central shopping centre.



Commercial Hotel after the fire in 1914 or 1915. Many of the furnishings have been removed to the footpath



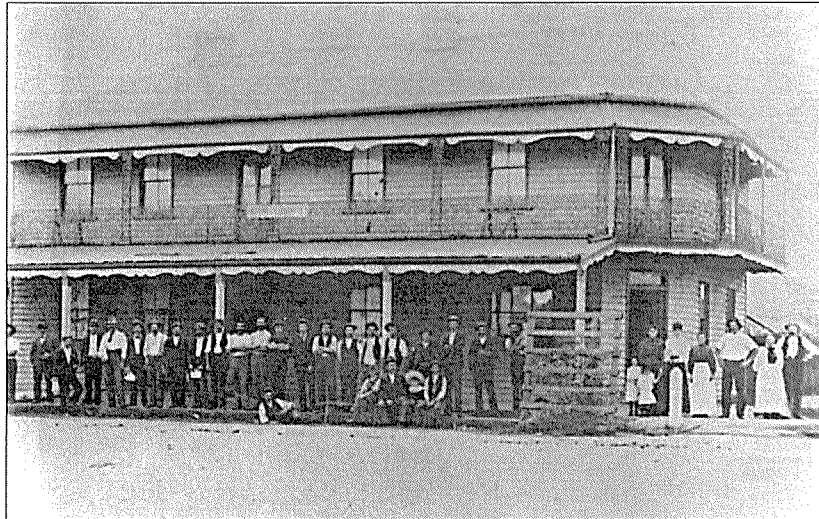
Commercial Hotel Port Macquarie

Bridge Inn: On 29th February 1842 a wine and beer licence was issued to George Pidding for **Bridge Inn** in Horton St. Nothing further is known about the **Bridge Inn**.

The **Tattersall Hotel** was built on the site of the old **Speed the Plough**, on north-eastern corner of Horton and William Streets. **The Tattersall** was mentioned in Moore's Almanac of 1887, the licensee being Mr Gersbach. By 1888 it was owned by Patrick McGann and all five of his children were born there during the period 1891 – 1897.

Patrick McGann was born in Strokesdown, Roscommon, Ireland and arrived in the N.S.W. colony about 1874. Sometime afterwards he came to Port Macquarie. On 4th November 1890 he married Elizabeth Nelson, a housekeeper, in St Agnes Church, Port Macquarie. In July 1888 he had an accident with a horse and buggy in Clarence Street when both he and his passenger, Robert Garbutt, were thrown to the ground and suffered cuts and abrasions. In the same month he purchased land at the brickworks (near where the swimming pool is today) from John Dick and in 1889 had leased part of it to B. Craven who began to make bricks on the site.

The **Tattersall Hotel** was later de-licensed and ran as a boarding house by Mrs Emily Wall. It was burnt down one night in 1905 under mysterious circumstances, with suspicion falling on the owner, who had insured the furniture for £150 and the piano for £50. Unknown to people at the time, a coachman named J. Frederick Hall was asleep during the fire and his body was not found until the next morning.



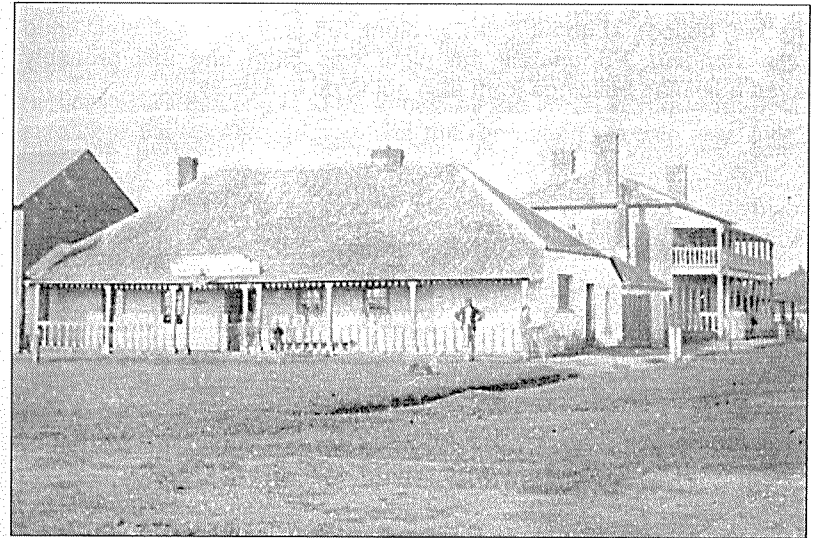
Tattersall Hotel

The **Shamrock Hotel** was built on the site now occupied by **Macquarie Hotel**, corner of Horton and Clarence Street. It was opened by 1865 (maybe as early as 1850) and run by Mr W. Green in an old store originally owned by Mr H. Cohen. It faced west across the Town Green towards where the Post Office used to be.

The **Shamrock** became the **Club Hotel**, which lasted until sometime between the two World Wars.

The **Club Hotel** was originally built as a boarding house in Clarence Street; the first known licensee was Nathan Davis in July 1888, followed by William McGrath in August 1891. Bernard Cavanagh

appears to have run it as a boarding house again, but after extensive renovations, he opened it as a hotel on 30th September, 1895, transferring it to Elizabeth McGann the following year.



The Shamrock Hotel which was demolished to make way for the **Club Hotel**

The Club burnt down in May 1916. It was rebuilt in 1917 and finally demolished in 1937 to make way for the **Macquarie Hotel**. **The Club** was described as a two storey building with a partly-shingled roof. The 1916 fire appeared to have started with a spark in the shingled roof and travelled quickly to engulf the building. The spark may have smouldered for hours before igniting the roof.

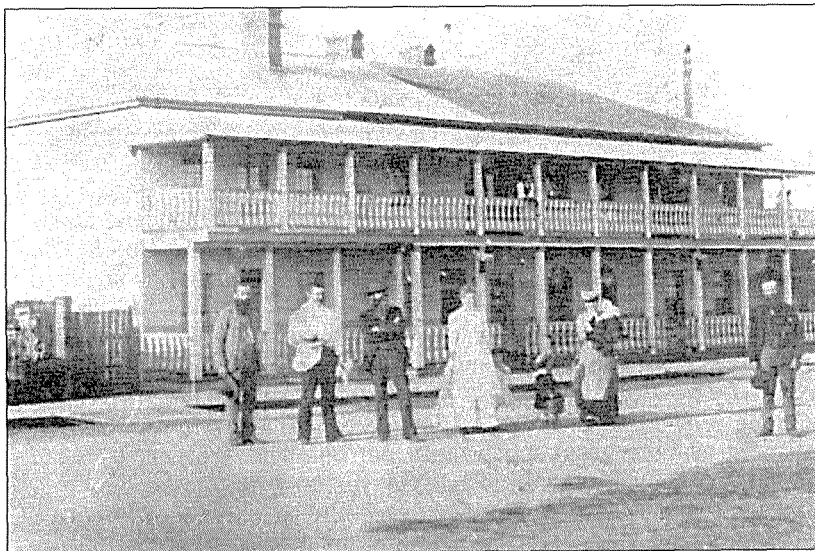
On the previous evening a fire had started in the chimney and was thought to have been successfully put out. This fire was checked before the licensee retired to bed. Maybe a spark had continued to smoulder in the shingles some of which had been covered with iron. With no water supply and no fire brigade in Port Macquarie at the time, only primitive fire-fighting equipment was available and the

the fire, better to save whatever furnishings and stock they could. Furnishings, including the billiard table and much wine and spirits were removed to safety.

The fire, noticed at about 1 a.m. at night, left only bare and blackened walls standing. Fortunately the night was calm and this probably saved adjoining buildings from also going up in flames.

Police Sergeant Harris was commended for rendering aid and supervising helpers, many of whom suffered cuts and contusions. Residents sleeping in the upstairs bedrooms only just had time to escape with their lives, most of them losing all personal possessions.

The owner, now Mrs W. Halpin reported that the property was insured for £1700 and the furniture for £350 in the Mercantile Mutual Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. There was no insurance on the stock. The kitchen furniture was saved and about £35 worth of the furniture in the main building.



The Club Hotel

After investigation the District Coroner, F. Hayward Esq., J.P. found that the hotel was accidentally destroyed.

A report in "*The Sydney Morning Herald*" Tuesday 9th June, 1936 mentions renovations to **The Club**. "To enhance the popularity of Port Macquarie as a tourist centre, the existing **Club Hotel** is to be completely remodelled and large additions made to its facilities. The reconstructed building is to be known as the **Hotel Macquarie**. It will extend to the corner site opposite the recreation reserve, one block from the water. The new hotel will have special accommodation for motors and motorists. Forty modern well-ventilated and commodious bedrooms will be provided as well as spacious lounges, balconies and verandahs. The building will be of two storeys, built of selected faced brick with terra cotta roof. The new building will cost more than £20 000. Working drawings have been completed by Sidney Warden, Architect, Sydney who will shortly invite tenders for the job." The bar of the new **Hotel Macquarie** was opened in 1938.

Macquarie Hotel: Alf and Clara Byrnes regularly visited Port Macquarie in the 1930s. They bought vacant land on the corner of Horton and Clarence St (once the site of **Shamrock Hotel** and also the adjoining Clarence St, **Club Hotel**). Here they built the renamed **Hotel Macquarie** in 1936. Alf recognised the tourist potential of Port Macquarie and decided to rebuild the hotel as a large, modern building with better accommodation for guests. Construction of the **Hotel Macquarie** by C. Davis & Sons Pty Ltd cost £21,033 and after the cost of furnishings was added, the cost totalled £25,000. A certificate of payment was found during renovations in 2000 and this is held in the files of the Port Macquarie Historical Society. The old wing of the **Club Hotel** became part of the new hotel, providing live-in accommodation for staff and a storeroom.

Many locals thought Alf and Clara were wasting their money but they had previously run hotels (the **Tattersalls Hotel** in Gilgandra and the **Star Hotel** in Wauchope since July 1914) so they had some knowledge of the business.

Alf and Clara Byrnes expanded their holdings by purchasing the **Royal Hotel** after the war and in the 1950s built **The Beer Garden**

between the **Royal** and the **Macquarie Hotels**. This was demolished in 1999 to build shops. Alf's son-in-law, Harry Parker, managed the **Macquarie** and his son, Bob Byrnes managed **The Royal** for many years.



Clara and Alf Byrnes, 1939



The Macquarie Hotel

Innes Tavern. The **Innes Tavern** was named in favour of Major Archibald Clunes Innes, one of the first free settlers to come to Port Macquarie in 1830, when land was opened for free settlement. Major Innes had previously been Commandant of Convicts in 1826, during the penal era. Among his other assets, at one time he owned three hotels including the **Royal Hotel** which is still standing. The Lounge Bar was named the Oxley Room after John Oxley, the explorer who first discovered Port Macquarie in 1818.

Innes Tavern was opened in Horton St, 12th April, 1973, on the site of the old **Commercial Hotel** which had been replaced by the **Tourist Hotel**. It was the first of the Tooth and Co. Ltd's multi-million dollar hotel development projects. Costing \$350,000. It was designed to fit in to Port Macquarie's holiday and relaxed atmosphere. The design, by Mr Eric Waterman, was inspired by a Pacific island village meeting house, featuring the extensive use of timber both inside and out, to recall Port's rich history in the timber industry and also to tie into the construction of island buildings. All local timbers were used, supplied by Heron's Creek Timber Mills. The tavern included a mosaic tiled floor and extensive use of glass and air-conditioning.



Innes Tavern

The **Innes Tavern** was the first tavern to be built by Tooth Co. at a time when taverns, serving both food and drink, but not providing accommodation, were becoming popular in NSW. The tavern was expected to cater for both men and women and even children (who were permitted in all but one room), as increasingly drinking was becoming a social pastime for both sexes. It was a single-storey building, with a small rear two-storey section used to accommodate the licensee. The tavern had no public accommodation, but a number of drinking and eating areas. The building also incorporated a bottle shop, specially designed to permit customers to browse while making a selection, and a drive through bottle shop. The main bar was built to simulate a boat, 20 feet long. Patrons could drink on the Port or Starboard side of the room and the bar itself resembled the ship's decking. Underground water and a long forgotten septic tank caused the builders some problems during construction. Excavations for the cellars had to go to a depth of 10 feet but water was found at four and a half feet. Pumps were needed to keep the water level low. The septic tank remained in place, covered by some strip footing and spanned by piers with supporting footing beams. By the time the tavern was opened the Tooth Co was using stainless steel casks instead of the old wooden kegs. These had been progressively phased in between 1955 and 1971.



The first licensee was John Hall who had formerly been the licensee of the **Tourist Hotel** on the same site, for 11 years. John had a long history in the hotel industry having previously been a licensee in other hotels at Holbrook, Cootamundra and Yenda. Other occupations John had been involved in, included mining at Breadalbane, a ship's steward and taxi driver and at one stage he operated his own earth-moving business.

Ken and Sue McCullough took over the licence in 1986 and when the Tooth and Company put the tavern up for sale they purchased the freehold licence. They owned the building up until 1995 when the **Innes Tavern** was demolished to make way for a controversial \$40 million retail development. Its location was to become the entry point from Horton Street to a new shopping centre, Port Central.

Hastings Hotel, Wauchope: The **Hastings**, Wauchope's first hotel, was originally built as the Carrington. It was built in 1880 by the pioneer Thomas Wallace, on the corner of Cameron and Carrington Street. It was described as a "long, low structure."

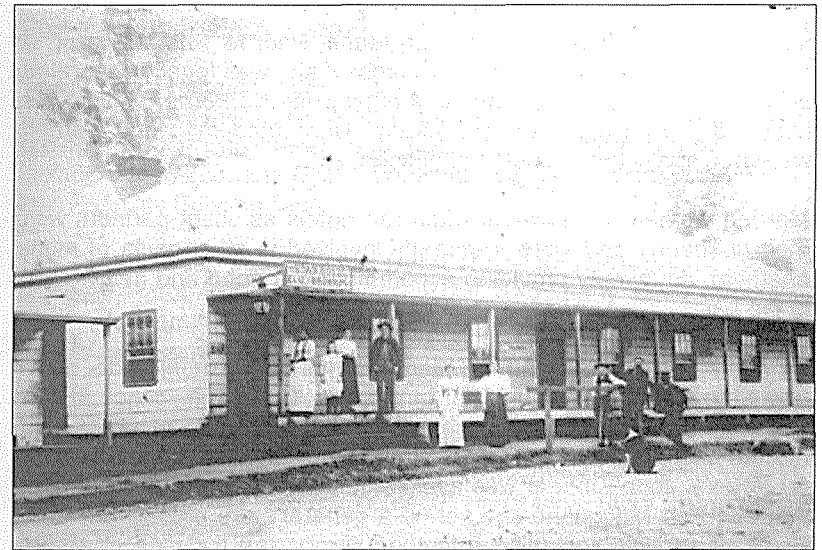


The Hastings Hotel Wauchope

The **Carrington** suffered a fate so common among bush pubs and was burnt down in 1896. It rose again on the opposite corner as the **Hastings**, and was renamed around the turn of the century as **Tattersall**, but reverted to the name **Hastings** following a change of ownership.

The Hastings was always a cattleman's pub and a timber worker's pub. It features in one of the state's last hold-ups, about 1907. Apparently Jim Robertson, was on his regular run between Wauchope and Port Macquarie, when his four-in-hand coach was bailed up at Spencer's Cutting. Robinson was reportedly called on to "Stand and deliver!" and the robbers then released the horses and ordered Robinson to mount one and ride to Port Macquarie. The robbers however made the mistake of taking the money they plundered to **The Hastings** for a drink. The licensee, Tom Grant (licensee between 1905 and 1912) recognised the numbers of the banknotes and called the police. The ring-leader, Jordon, was subsequently sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, even though it was later discovered that the guns used in the robbery were only wooden cut-outs.

The Star Hotel Wauchope The **Star Hotel** was built in 1890 by Mrs Elizabeth Browning, and her brother Mr William Warwick, became the first licensee. **The Star** was completely destroyed by fire in the early hours of Sunday 17th January 1896, with no loss of life. At the time the hotel was managed by Ivy Curran and Mill Bates, two sisters. Repairs were not carried out until after the war, due to the shortage of labour and building materials. After rebuilding the hotel became popular with townspeople, farmers and settlers as well as the thirsty timber cutters and bullockies. In 1905 Mrs Browning sold the hotel to her son-in-law, James Gleeson, who held the licence for the next 10 years. Following him were Messrs Robinson, and H. G. Cross, then A G Byrnes. **The Star** was gutted by fire again in January 1940, and the licensee at the time, Frank Munro, was forced to build a temporary bar, as building materials were again unavailable during World War II. Finally **The Star** was rebuilt in 1947.



Mrs Browning's Star Hotel, Wauchope about 1900. Photo courtesy Mrs C. Cross

Women in the Hotel Trade.

Women have been involved in the hotel trade since the very early days of settlement in Australia. Initially several ran sly grog shops under the protection of officers. Sarah Bird was the first woman to officially hold a licence to run a public house. She opened **The Three Jolly Settlers** in 1798, after raising capital by trading on the voyage to Australia. By 1821, a quarter of hotel licenses in NSW were held by women but this number declined in the 1830s. The hotel trade was considered to be acceptable employment for women in the early days of the colony. They were able to work as freehold owners, lessees, licensees or employees. Prior to the Married Women's Property (Amendment) Act 1893 only widows and single women could hold freehold property or enter into leases. Before that time women were required by law to surrender all assets to their husband on marriage. Even after the act any property jointly purchased and operated was considered to be the property of the husband unless a contrary agreement was specified. Licences however could be taken over by a widow on the death of her husband and she was also permitted to

take out further licences in her own name. Prior to 1897 however, a married woman could only hold a licence if she was legally separated or divorced from her husband, took out a protection order against her husband or had him declared insane. Unmarried men and women were not legally able to hold liquor licences.

Married women did however often ran hotels as silent partners with their husbands and were frequently involved in all aspects of management, not simply providing accommodation, food and helping out in the bar.

As an example, Mrs Georgina Kinnear entered the hotel trade, managing the **Royal Hotel** for Major Innes from 1841. The licence at that time was held by Peter McNiven. Georgina arrived in Australia with her ten children, following her husband who was transported in 1838 for forgery. John Kinnear was assigned to his wife and when she first came to Port Macquarie she set up a general store providing a wide range of services including a lending library and the sale of wines, spirits and beer. Unfortunately her venture into the hotel trade proved unsuccessful and in 1842 she had to file for insolvency when she was unable to meet the claims of creditors.

A further local example is that of Julia and Anne Condon. They were members of a family which owned a vineyard in Port Macquarie. Two of the brothers built the **Commercial Hotel** for their father in 1891 and the girls sold their wines to the hotel. During World War 1 the sisters took over the running of the hotel, while their brother Fred ran a jewellery business.

Mary Doyle, of course, spent many years running the **Speed the Plough** Hotel, both in partnership with her husband Christopher, and on his death, alone.

Although many women were not successful, the hotel trade provided opportunities and employment for women on the North Coast, as owners, partners and employees. Their role has been largely ignored by history but many were crucial to the success of joint hotel ventures.

Port Macquarie Pubs Today

Today many restaurants in town are licensed to sell alcoholic drinks with meals and there are several sporting clubs in town which also provide drinks with meals and dedicated drinking areas. These include Port Macquarie Golf Club, Panthers, Westport Bowling Club and Port City Bowling Club.

The C.B.D. today has only the **Hotel Royal** and **Macquarie Hotel**. Rydge's Hotel, Country Comfort Hotel and many other facilities provide accommodation and also have a bar where patron's and guests can enjoy a drink.

Probably the current drink driving laws contributed to the location of pubs in areas other than the C.B.D. Patrons often prefer to be able to walk home after enjoying a drink with friends rather than limiting their intake to the legal limit. In recent years pubs have grown up in more residential areas.

Finnians Irish Pub is on the outskirts of the C.D.B., Tacking Point Tavern serves the southern areas of town, Fernhill Tavern serves the Industrial area of town and Settler's Inn the western areas.



Finnian's Irish Tavern, Gordon Street, Port Mac-



Fernhill Tavern, Jindalee Road, Port Macquarie



Tacking Point Tavern, Ocean Drive, Port Macquarie



Settlers' Inn Hotel, Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie