

"Ballarat Hotels past & present", compiled by John Hargreaves. Ballarat(?),
Ballarat Historical Society (?), 1943.

After the gold discovery in 1851 Gov. Latrobe issued proclamation that no licence to sell alcoholic liquors would be granted on the mining fields in Victoria. This led to "sly grog", which could be procured in over 700 establishments in Ballarat (P.2).

In 1853 the govt. decided to grant licence to approved premises, as long as they were no less than one mile from mining territory. On 1 July 1853 Thomas Bath gained the licence for the Ballarat Hotel (now Craigs).

Sly-grog trading continued to flourish. Magistrate D'Ewes recommended that, as every storekeeper was a grog seller, that publicans & storekeepers should be able to sell liquor, & this was allowed from 1/6/1854.

The Western council held meetings at Bath's until municipal chambers were completed. The Eastern council met for some years in the "Duchess of Kent", even Lutheran & Jewish congregations worshipped for a few years at hotels. Many friendly societies, etc, had meetings in hotels until early closing in 1916.

In the 1860s there were 15 hotels in Pleasant St near the Nunington mines. In Rubicon St - there were 7 hotels, & there were 50 in Sebastopol. At close of 1869, 287 licensed premises in the west, 140 in the east, & 50 in Sebas, total 477.

In 1870 a depression hit Ballarat, & there was a collapse in mining speculation, & many hotels closed. By the end of the 1870s only 250 pubs remained.

The temperance movement developed in the 1880s. A "local option" poll was held on 23/3/1888 but this was later declared invalid. Another held in Ballarat East in 1891, & voters ~~was~~ asked which pubs should remain open. There were then 68 pubs in the east. The result - 28 to stay open, 40 to close & receive compensation. A poll held in Ballarat West (116 hotels). The result - 90 to stay open, 26 to close.

The Licensing Reduction Board, est. 1906, closed 19 hotels in the east & 47 in the west, so only 57 pubs now opened in Ballarat East & West, 2 in Sebastopol, & 6 in outer shire territory, total 66 in 4 mile radius.

prior to 6/7/1915 trading hours were 6:30 am - 11:30 pm, but from then
contracted to 9 am - 9:30 pm. From 25/10/1916, all pubs closed at 6 pm.

Hotel numbers in Bellarat East, West & Sebastopol:

1869 - 477.

1872 - 329.

1882 - 237.

1887 - 209.

1890 - 204.

1893 - 138.

1943 - 65.

Royal Mail Hotel - opened 1865.

Bucks Head - opened 1862, named Hotel Central from 1922-1927.

Lake View - opened 1875.

Lesters - ~~opened~~ opened 1866, delicensed 1916, became Lesters Guest House.

Advertisement - Royal Mail, "This is right at the terminus of Sebastopol
tram".

"Redan Club", Skipton & Darling Sts, opened 1868, closed 1908 (south-west
corner, Skipton & Darling Sts).

Foundry Hotel. There were 3 of them:

- one on north-west corner, Drummond & Eyre Sts.

- one on west side Armstrong St, between Stuart & Dana Sts. (became West's).

Princess Royal Hotel. There were 4 of them:

- one on north-west corner, Macarthur & Burnbank Sts, closed 1921.

Meaghers Hotel (Victoria St) - known as Meaghers at least since 1888.

Formerly known as Bricklayers Arms, then Jackson's, then Northage's.