

Shopping spree hotel spreads

DANDENONG'S historic Albion Hotel is expanding.

City of Greater Dandenong councillors have approved plans for the Lonsdale Street venue to incorporate a vacant retail premises next door.

The Albion was constructed in 1891, has operated as a hotel ever since, and is identified in a council heritage study as a landmark building.

Councillor Peter Brown told his fellow councillors at their meeting on Monday night last week that it was a wonderful venue.

"If they don't keep the

beautiful open fire and pressed metal ceiling in the dining room can we cancel the permit?" he joked.

"It really is one of Dandenong's hidden gems. In ~~winter~~ it's just absolutely delightful."

Acting city planning, design and amenity director Rachel Lunn said the project would see some internal features retained, and that heritage protections covered the facade.

She said the application included a request to expand the hotel's liquor licence but that any plans to introduce more poker

machines would have to be the subject of a separate application.

The existing liquor licence lists the hotel's maximum internal capacity as 360 patrons but does not specify an outdoor patron capacity, despite the outdoor beer garden being located within the existing 'red line' liquor licence boundary.

The approved application will see the patron cap increase to 450 in a red line area that includes the beer garden and extension into 337 Lonsdale Street.

- Casey Neill

P 7
26 Oct 2014

DANDENONG JOURNAL

YOUR VOICE FOR 150 YEARS

Hotel full of history

By CASEY NEILL

DEIRDRE Hancock's grandmother opened the Albion Hotel in Dandenong almost 125 years ago.

Today it stands as one of few 19th century commercial premises in Lonsdale Street.

Ms Hancock told the Journal that a Mr Bergin brought drays out to Springvale thinking it would be a good coach stop.

"He named Springvale after where they came from in Ireland," she said.

Mr Bergin's daughter Agnes married Peter James McQuade - Ms Hancock's grandparents.

She said Peter was a councillor in the early days and Agnes was very generous.

"She was very big on the charity," she said.

Agnes built the Albion in 1987.★

"It cost 6000 pounds - now that's a lot of money in those days," Ms Hancock said.

"It was accommodation only. It wasn't a beer house as such.

"The stables were at the back where the tin shed was, opposite the Journal office."

Ms Hancock inherited the property from her father, Martin.

"We sold the tin shed showrooms, as I like to joke about, because the fellow who was in there wasn't paying rent," she said.

"That's why that was pulled out. There was a blacksmith's shop there, in the tin shed showroom.

"The coaches would come through for the horses."

She said the internal layout had



An early incarnation of the McQuade family's Albion Hotel.

changed - "the stairway and everything" - but the facade was still the same and is subject to heritage protections.

In October last year, the Journal reported that the historic hotel was expanding.

City of Greater Dandenong councillors approved plans for the venue to incorporate a vacant retail premises next door.

Councillor Peter Brown told his fellow councillors that it was a wonderful venue.

"If they don't keep the beautiful open fire and pressed metal ceiling in the dining room can we cancel the

permit?" he joked.

"It really is one of Dandenong's hidden gems. In winter it's just absolutely delightful."

Ms Hancock hasn't spent much time there over the years.

"I don't like hotels," she said.

"We don't have any children so when I go it will go to charity."

Ms Hancock still calls Macpherson Street, Dandenong, home but doesn't spend much time in the suburb.

"Any decent buildings in Dandenong have been pulled out in the main street," she said.

"There's no history or any thought about it.

"I think the council should be ashamed of themselves, building the council offices with all the colours and rubbish that they've put up in the new building.

"No taste whatsoever!"

She's pleased to see the old town hall still standing as the Drum Theatre.

"But why put a red roof on a beautiful building?" she said.

"If they wanted to do the hall, keep it in the same colour as the facade."

Albion is a proud hotspot

THE Albion, built in 1891, is the longest-standing hotel in Dandenong, having served the community for more than 100 years.

The hotel has maintained its proud standing as a local hotspot, with new renovations and refurbishments.

With a new beer garden known as 'the retreat', visitors have the choice to enjoy a meal or drink in a covered, heated area.

The Albion is proud to be the only hotel in the area offering this kind of feature.

The Albion Hotel's bistro has an extensive menu at affordable prices.

The head chef prides herself on delivering quality meals with prompt service — at affordable prices.

All tastes are catered for, with pastas, risottos and traditional favourites such as chicken parmigiana, chicken kiev, fish of the day, a range of salads and the well-known seafood basket.

Pizza is available, baked in the century-old brick oven. A pizza and pot for just \$15 really hits the hunger spot.

Punters can enjoy a beer and a bet with friends in the fully-fitted TAB and guests can try their

luck in the gaming room. With its fireplace and comfortable surroundings, The Albion is a great place to take the family for an enjoyable night out. The function room is a great venue for birthday parties and other special occasions.

The Albion Hotel prides itself on the motto 'everybody is a friend, not a stranger', so if the staff don't know your name, they will want to.

Don't miss the karaoke nights on the first Friday of every month. There are lots of prizes and giveaways for budding singers.

To continue the entertainment theme, acoustic trio 'The Cecilians' will be playing Friday, July 11 from 6pm in the sports bar. The local boys have a huge following.

The Albion Hotel, at 327 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, is open Monday-Friday from 8am, Saturdays from 9am and Sundays from 10am. Breakfast is available weekdays from 8.30-10.30 and 9.30-11.30 Saturday and Sunday. Lunch is from noon-2.30pm seven days and dinner from 6-8.30pm Sunday-Thursday and 6-9pm Friday-Saturday. Details and bookings: 9792 2501.



Comfortable dining: The warm atmosphere and friendly service at The Albion will ensure that every visit is a memorable one.

Enjoy warm hospitality at Albion

BUILT in 1891, the Albion is the longest-standing hotel in Dandenong.

There is something for everyone in the venue with its popular bistro, sports bar, Tatts gaming room, TAB, Trakside and Sportsbet facilities.

An outdoor smoking option is also available.

At the rear of the premises is the Retreat, Dandenong's only indoor-outdoor beer garden.

It has a retractable roof, heating, large-screen TV and music.

It seats more than 80 patrons and is ideal for sunny afternoons and evenings relaxing with your drink and a tasty meal.

During winter an open fireplace provides a relaxing atmosphere to dine and unwind.

The chefs are constantly changing the specials board and have prepared a delicious menu.

Visit the Albion Hotel and take advantage of its Lonsdale Street Construction Specials meal deals.

Tuesday is pasta night and diners can choose from a variety of pasta dishes from \$11 each.

Wednesday is burger night with four different burgers on offer from \$12 each and Thursday is parma night with a variety of toppings for \$13 each.

The hotel has converted a 100-year-old baker's oven and is offering mouth-watering pizzas from \$12.50.

All your favourites are on the menu and all food is prepared on the premises.

The Albion Hotel, at 327 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, is open Monday to Friday from 8am, Saturdays from 9am and Sundays from 9.30am. Breakfast is available weekdays 9-11am and weekends 9.30-11.30am. Lunch is served seven days from noon-2.30pm. Dinner is from 6-8.30pm Sunday-Thursday and 6-9pm Friday-Saturday.

Warm and inviting: Sheree and Shelley of the Albion Hotel show off the comfortable fireplace area.





Alexander Watt Bowman arrived in the Colony in 1840 at the age of 10 years. When he was 22 years old, in 1852, he founded the first store in Dandenong, it was called Bowmans Store.

James Clarke, previously owner of a farm in the Bangholme Road, bought the store and converted it to a hotel, which he called the Mornington Arms. James Clarke had taken advantage of the rumours of a market being formed on the opposite side of the road — it turned out to be a very profitable move. At first the house was merely a beer house. James Clarke, however, did not live long enough to enjoy his prosperity — coming home from Melbourne one night he was thrown from his horse and cart and killed.

Alfred Pope, son of David Pope, conducted the house for a while, then was succeeded by Charles Dobson in 1882 (original licensee of the Shamrock). The hotel was renamed the "Albion" after the hostelry in Bourke Street, Melbourne, from whence the stage coaches left for Dandenong and Gippsland.

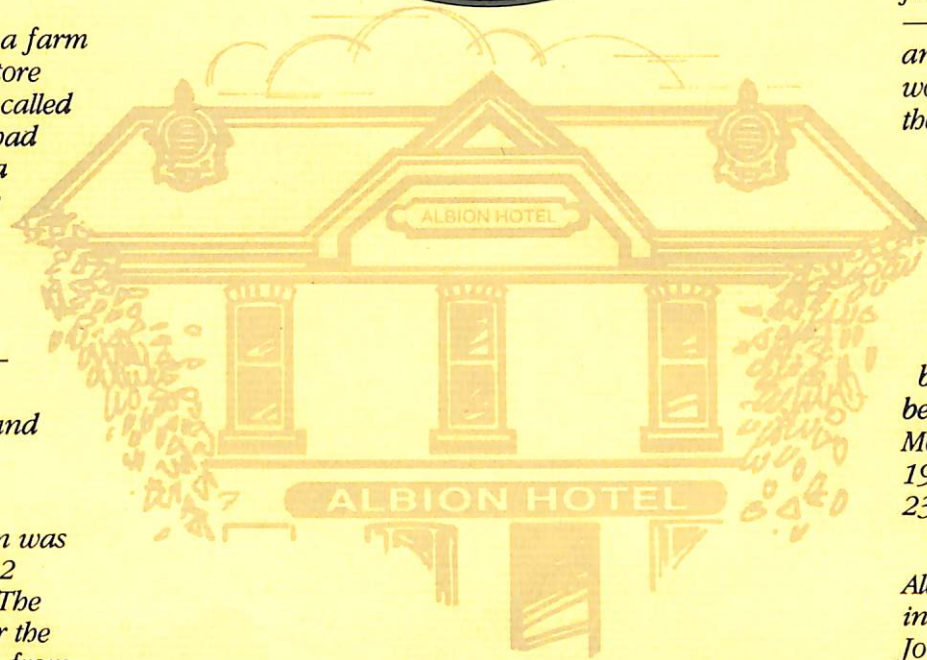
In 1891, soon after purchasing the building, Peter J. McQuade (who also owned the Bridge Hotel) replaced it with a two-storey brick building. With the upper walls in Hawthorn Blacks, attractive cusped attic ventilators, and unusual square corniced chimneys.

Actually there were two buildings identical to each other, one behind the other, with the space between bridged by a gabled iron roof with skylights. It also had a fine double verandah with bowed iron lace — regrettably, the verandah no longer exists and some of its original features are the worse for wear (see the blown-up picture at the back of the dining room).

Dandenong has very few historical monuments left, these are the Town Hall, Benga, St. James Church, Laurel Lodge, the old cemetery in Kirkham Road, and the Albion Hotel.

In the history of the hotel there have been approximately 20 licensees, with the best known personality being Mrs. Agnes McQuade who took over the hotel in 1902 and retained the licence for 23 years.

Trivia: Some unusual 'Firsts' for the Albion, a robbery that took place at the hotel in 1910 was featured in the Dandenong Journal with the first banner headlines ever used by that newspaper, another 'First' the Albion's telephone number was originally Dandenong 1, when the new number system was introduced, the 1 was included in the new (today's) number 792-2501. And, one more, when the new Town Hall was opened the celebrations were highlighted by a banquet, with the catering being supplied by the Albion of course!



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The Old Lady of Dandenong (The Town Hall);
Reminiscences of the early days of Dandenong by G.F.R.;
Mr. Warren Titcher & Michael Tonta;
James R. Bates, Genealogist & Historian.

Management and Staff offer the same friendliness and service you have received for over 100 years.

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March 10th, 1991

Dear Mrs. Cook,

Re your request for information about the Albion Hotel:

Regret to say that a quick run-through the 1891 file

of the "Dandenong Journal" gave me no information about any opening of the new 2-storey Albion although I have a feeling that the McQuades would hardly let a special occasion like that pass without some kind of function.

However you might be interested to know a little of the background of the old Albion. You mentioned to me that the Licensing branch records could only take you back to 1886. We can go back a bit beyond that, although our newspaper files do not go beyond 1877.

The first advertisement I could find about the Albion appeared in the "Journal" of 24th. October, 1877. David Pope was the licensee. (David Pope died in 1884 and was reported to have lived in Dandenong for about 30 years) In January 1st, 1882 it was reported that David Pope had sold the Albion to C.K. Dobson, former licensee of the Shamrock Hotel at the corner of Scott & Lonsdale Sts. Then on 24/11/1886 it was reported that C. K. Dobson had transferred the licence to Thomas Casey.

It was from Casey that Peter J. McQuade, who was at the time the licensee of the Bridge Hotel, Dandenong, purchased the old single-storey Albion - probably early in 1889. We gather this from the fact that on 10/7/89 he was reported to have written to Dandenong Council objecting to being charged for the asphaltting of the footpath in front of the Albion, claiming that this was included in the purchase price of the hotel.

Peter McQuade, in 1883 was the licensee of the Huntingtower Hotel at Fern Tree Gully. We know he was still there in 1885 because his name appeared as an official of the Fern Tree Gully Rifle Club. Later he took on the Bridge Hotel, but in 1889 when he applied for the position of Shire Secretary of the new Shire of Fern Tree Gully, he gave his address as the Albion Hotel, Dandenong, which confirms that he was there in 1889. He was appointed Shire Secretary there but resigned in June 1891. That was the year in which he built the present 2-storey Albion. An uncle, Captain Orkney advanced the McQuades 6000 pounds to finance the purchase and the re-building. Orig-

ALBION HOTEL (Continued)

inally the present building, as you will know from the early photos, had a balcony and verandah right across the front.

Mrs. McQuade, Peter's wife, who played a major role in

running the hotel, was formerly Agnes Bergin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs Mat Bergin, of Spring Vale. They were married at St. James Church, Elsternwick, on April 3rd. 1883, which would be the year that Peter had the Huntingtower Hotel licence

The McQuade family had a long association with the Albion Hotel up till 1939. Mrs. McQuade died in 1929 and Peter passed away in 1944. For a time he was a Dandenong Shire councillor

If you feel like seeking further information, using this as a starting point, I suggest you contact Mr. Michael Tonta, City historian, at the City of Dandenong office, as he has access to this information and also to shire records, which might reveal the dates you are seeking.

Failing that, October might appeal as a suitable date, because of the first advertisement in that month in 1877.

Greg Reesman
For the Society

PS. 10 Rooms were added in 1914

ALBION SOCIAL CLUB

W. HAWKES, President.

L. PHILLIPS, Secretary, 9 Belfort St., Dandenong.

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