

Top value in town

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IT takes a lot to impress Dandenong's Senior Citizen of the Year John Crichton. But when 'The Admiral' told me about the counter lunches at the Albion Hotel in Lonsdale St, he was full of high praise.

"Five dollars. The best value in town. I'll shout," he said.

He was perfectly right. And this is not an advertorial write-up. Friends, I entreat you to go hither.

They have done the place up a treat. The ghosts of bullock teams who used to tether their teams at the pub on their way to market last century would know the place from the outside, but would be shocked when they stepped inside.

The Admiral and I sat near the fireplace in the bistro restaurant and were handed a menu which offered a splendid fare.

Because John was shouting we did not bother with the entrees which featured soup of the day and your typical nibblies such as nachos and stuffed potatoes which were all priced at three dollars.

The 'mains' were all \$5. The menu had roast of the day, tandoori chicken (cooked in a fair dinkum, 19th century, wood-fired oven), pie of the day (steak and kidney that day), pasta stuffed with bacon and cheese, salad nicois with tuna, anchovies, egg and crostons, pizzas, calamari, vegetable fettucini, fish fillets, chicken parmigiana, chicken Kiev and porterhouse steak with a choice of mushroom or pepper sauce.

I told the waitress, Lois, I would try the steak and I wanted it medium rare, and forget the sauce. The Admiral had the chicken Kiev.

My steak arrived in short time, done exactly as medium rare should be - charred on the outside and a pate pink in the middle. It was thick and juicy and the knife cut through it like it was butter. It was served with vegetables.

John's chicken Kiev, oozed butter and exuded wafts of garlic as he tucked in with great relish.

A \$5 ordinary meal these days is dreamland stuff. But this was a very

ALBION Hotel chef Tony Mag: his cooking would make a drover drool.



good feed, very well prepared, served in very pleasant surroundings. You'd pay \$12 elsewhere. And the drinks were at bar prices.

Basically the same fare is available in the sportsmens bar at \$4!

In there they told me the pie was

excellent.

Dandenong has much to be proud of. We should love it. And I do, especially after that lunch, which is on every day of the week.

- Mike Morris