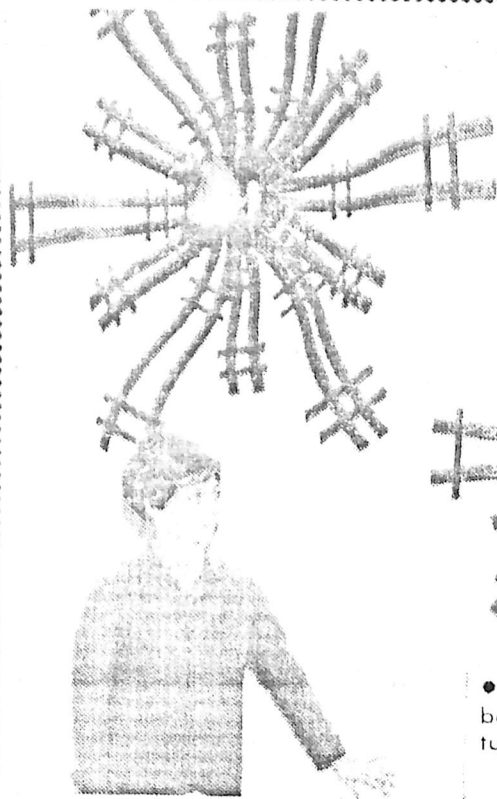
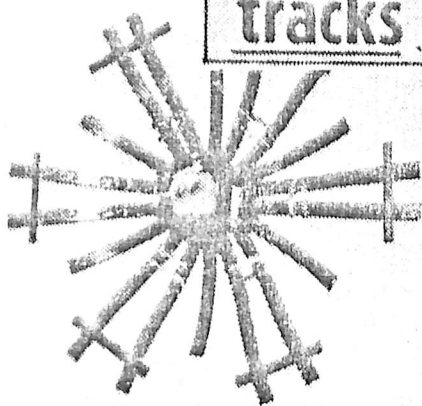




Hotel by the tracks



• Mrs Betti Kornhauser stands beside a "railway track" sculpture in the Observation room at the Southern Aurora.

A drink in the tunnel...

DANDENONG.— Novel decorations and luxurious furnishings are planned for the \$500,000 Southern Aurora Hotel at the Dandenong Railway Station.

The Southern Aurora will open its doors to the public early next month.

Workmen are putting finishing touches to the hotel which has access to the station and incorporates parking for 150 cars (see photo in last Thursday's Journal) with access to Foster St., and 185 cars off Cheltenham Rd. with a subway walk-through to the main downstairs lounge.

Construction began on the Southern Aurora last January and the company, K's Hotel-Motel Pty. Ltd., can proudly boast it is equal to Victoria's most modern and biggest hotels.

Everywhere in the Aurora the accent is on comfortable, leisurely dining and each lounge and function room bears an appropriate railway name — the Observation Lounge, Pullman Grill, Club Car Lounge, Aurora room (the glamor room of the hotel), Express Bar, Terminal Bar, and, perhaps the most novel and intriguing of all, the Tunnel Room.

The tunnel room is built like a railway tunnel with whitewashed rough hewn "underground" effect, heightened by "aging" barrels and a "wine cellar"-type of atmosphere.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stewart, of the Monash Hotel-Motel, who are fully conversant with the needs of the public of Dandenong and district, are managers, and will move into a special manager's flat.

Attractive, dark-haired Mrs. Betti Kornhauser, wife of one of the principals of the company, has introduced a "woman's touch" into the gigantic task of decorating and putting the vital finishing touches to the hotel.

New road built

Mrs. Kornhauser took The Journal on a preview tour of the building, stressing that some of the decorations and furnishings will be a secret until opening day.

It is understood three chefs will be working in the all-electric kitchen, and great thought and care is being given in the selection of the menu so the hotel can cater for the needs of all members of the public — from a quick "take-away" snack to the more discerning multi-course gourmet's choice.

The upstairs section comprises a reception area, the Observation Lounge, Club Car Lounge, Pullman Grill, the Aurora Room, toilet area, and downstairs is the Express Bar (public bar), the Terminal Bar (saloon bar), the Western-effect Bottle-Shoppe and the Tunnel Room.

At the rear is an all-concrete car park and 10 modern motel units with a special function room to be used for small business meetings and similar private functions.

The motel units all have television, and will include shower and toilet facilities. Parking is underneath each unit.

Balconies provide an uninterrupted view of the railway yards with lines stretching to Gippsland and South Gippsland. All rooms, however, are constructed to withstand all noise.

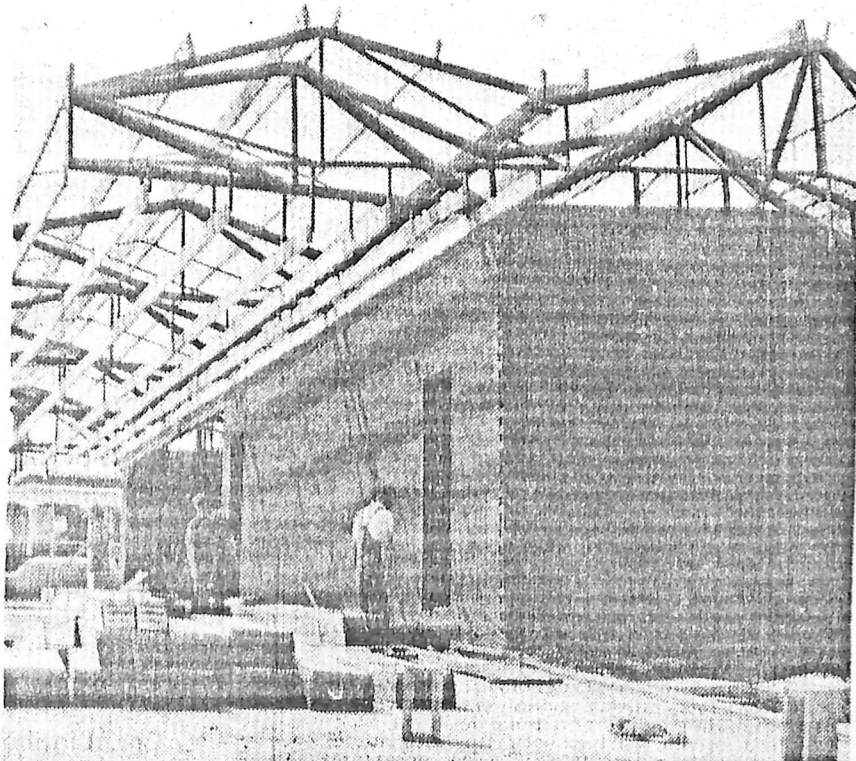
The concrete car park leads off to the drive-in bottle department which will accommodate 20 cars simultaneously. K's have built a special access road from Foster St. to the bottle department, and they will present the road to council. The road will thus provide complete round-off.

Hotel building the accent room (the main lounge) smaller areas — the can be used on Saturday and the Pullman Grill for leisurely dining, and special dais and eye-catching note against a stark white

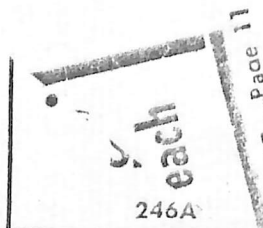
side, they are concrete tracks running to the back of the building in a matching blue in



• Workman Willi Kurts puts the finishing touches to the unique Tunnel Bar.



• The hotel's drive-in bottle department showing the road the company has built for easier access.—Pictures by Graham Southam.



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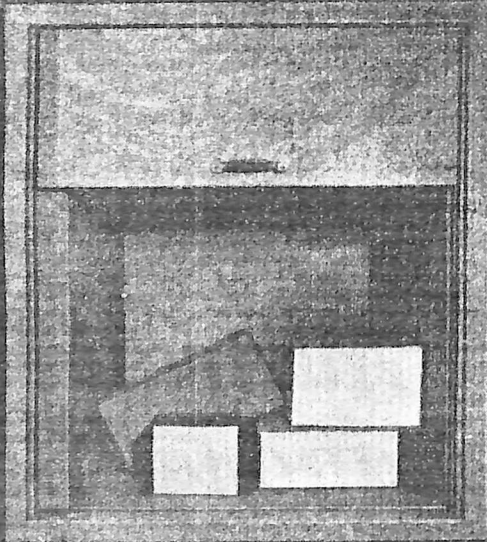
We extend our congratulations to the owners and builders for the fine job done in the erection of this hotel and on their selection of Glen Iris Brick for the project.

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The Southern Aurora TOP ARTISTS TO ENTERTAIN

When you go out for an evening, or even for lunch, it's nice to know that, apart from good food, you're also going to get first-class entertainment.

At the Southern Aurora, entertainment has been planned so that you can dance, or just listen—but never jarred by the discords of musical tyros. On opening night, well-known television personality Bill McCormack will act as compere. Bill has a fine singing voice as most people are aware.

And in case you think he can only handle Irish songs, be there tomorrow and you'll find out differently.

Bill will be in the Aurora Room and the Observation Room during the evening so you'll have a good starting point for the rest of the night. He will be joined in the Aurora Room by Fred Hubalek, a noted pianist who has played in some of the finest hotels in Australia.

Fred will become the resident pianist in the Aurora Room.

The Observation Room will have artists appearing for seasons of two weeks and for the first season the Mystics will provide harmony in the Buddy Holly tradition.

Four young men comprise the Mystics—Rod Watford, David Bell, Perry Wright and Peter Wright—and put out one of the smoothest sounds in the world of commercial music.

Special

Each member of the group is a vocalist in his own right, and their harmony is the equal of any overseas group.

Without assistance from outside artists or musical

backing, the Mystics can provide a floor-show which is certain to please all.

The Southern Aurora was lucky to achieve the booking because the lads are soon off to the Far East to fulfil engagements in a mighty tough competitive field.

Following the Mystics are The Skyliners, another top-flight group.

Downstairs in the bistro-type Tunnel Room there will be a real special. Hans Werner will appear nightly and if the name isn't familiar then you haven't been to Europe.

Hans is one of the Continent's top piano accordionists and he has only just arrived in Australia. His booking as permanent entertainer in the Tunnel Room is his first engagement in Australia, and the Southern Aurora management are hoping it will be his only engagement.

Hans, apart from being a virtuoso musician, is a specialist in the German beer-hall community singing which made so many of these places internationally famous.

For a really "swinging" night out, at a reasonable cost, try The Tunnel. You won't regret it!

Striking effect

The first time you go into the Southern Aurora, take note of the wall decorations.

There is hardly one which could be called ordinary or routine.

Each and every one was specially prepared for the hotel by top designers and photographers.

The overall effect is quite striking.

And no beer . . .

Long before the doors open to the public at 4 pm tomorrow, Wednesday food began pouring into the new Southern Aurora hotel-motel.

Surprisingly, the last items of food and drink to arrive were the spirits and beer, etc.

Despite their planned late arrival, they will all be nicely chilled for customers. Even chilled glasses will be available.

Theme is all over

Themes are not exactly a common trait with hotels so the "train" motif chosen by the Southern Aurora may seem novel.

It was originated by the close proximity of the hotel to the Dandenong Railway Station and has been carried out with a great deal of ingenuity.

Apart from the naming of the various rooms after well-known railway terms, many old relics of the rail system have been used.

There are, for example, reproductions (enlarged of course) of early tickets; there are photographs—normal, solarised and in reverse, decorating the walls at many points.

In the Terminal Room there are even model trains.

A featured wall decoration in the Observation Room is a group of three modern "sculptures" which represent train lines, and the Tunnel Room has tried, within the confines of the building to create a tunnel impression.

And last, but by no means least, is the name of the hotel itself—Southern Aurora—which comes from the latest in the line of fast interstate passenger trains.

But, if you don't like trains, you needn't be put off. The whole theme has been carried out with charming simplicity and it blends with the general background.

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The Southern Aurora might also be termed the heart of the house, as the kitchen has been well organised and fed one person or an army with gourmet dishes.

Although of only a small area, the kitchen has every modern device for cooking good food and keeping it hot.

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A room that almost wasn't

One of the most interesting parts of the Southern Aurora Hotel is the Tunnel Room — and the funny part is that it wasn't in the original plans!

When the building was first begun, there was one area which the architects left blank on the plans, the intention being to fill the space and make it part of the foundations.

But as the building progressed it became apparent that the area could be effectively utilised. And thus the Tunnel Room was born.

The decoration of the room caused something of a problem initially, since no pre-planning had been organised.

At night

Lighting is atmospheric and aimed at heightening the cellar-type effect.

One switch from normal routine is that dancers walk "up" to the floor.

The Tunnel Room will only be open at

night (7 o'clock to midnight) and it will specialise in providing a three-course meal, plus entertainment for one all-inclusive cost.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays the charge is \$2.25 per head, and on Fridays and Saturdays it is \$2.75.

With the fine food served and the entertainment provided, the Tunnel Room should be a very popular "night out" spot.

No secret really . . .

If you happen to be wandering around the Southern Aurora after it opens, and you happen to notice a room which is not open, don't worry, it's not a secret.

This room is one of the two small reception rooms and it won't be completed until after the official opening.

Since it won't be needed initially, the management felt it wiser to get the important parts of the building finished first.

Room for all

A hotel-motel has to have accommodation, and the Southern Aurora takes care of that side of things very nicely.

Each room is so designed that it can be let as a single or double, to accommodate three people.

This has been achieved by having one double bed and a single bed divan.

All bathing and toilet facilities are provided in a neat self-contained unit, and wardrobe space is more than adequate.

TV is provided, and so is a hot water jug for those who like to brew a bedtime cuppa.

Two of the rooms, because of their position in the building, also have a bath — most of the others have a shower only. So if you prefer a bath — there it is!

The units are also covered by the air-conditioning system — and that makes sure of all-year-round comfort, and more importantly a good night's sleep.

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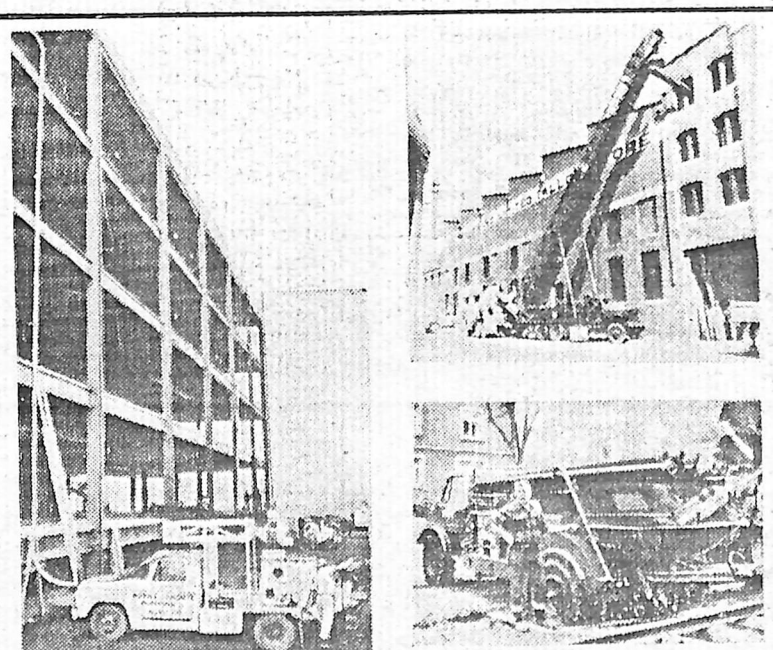
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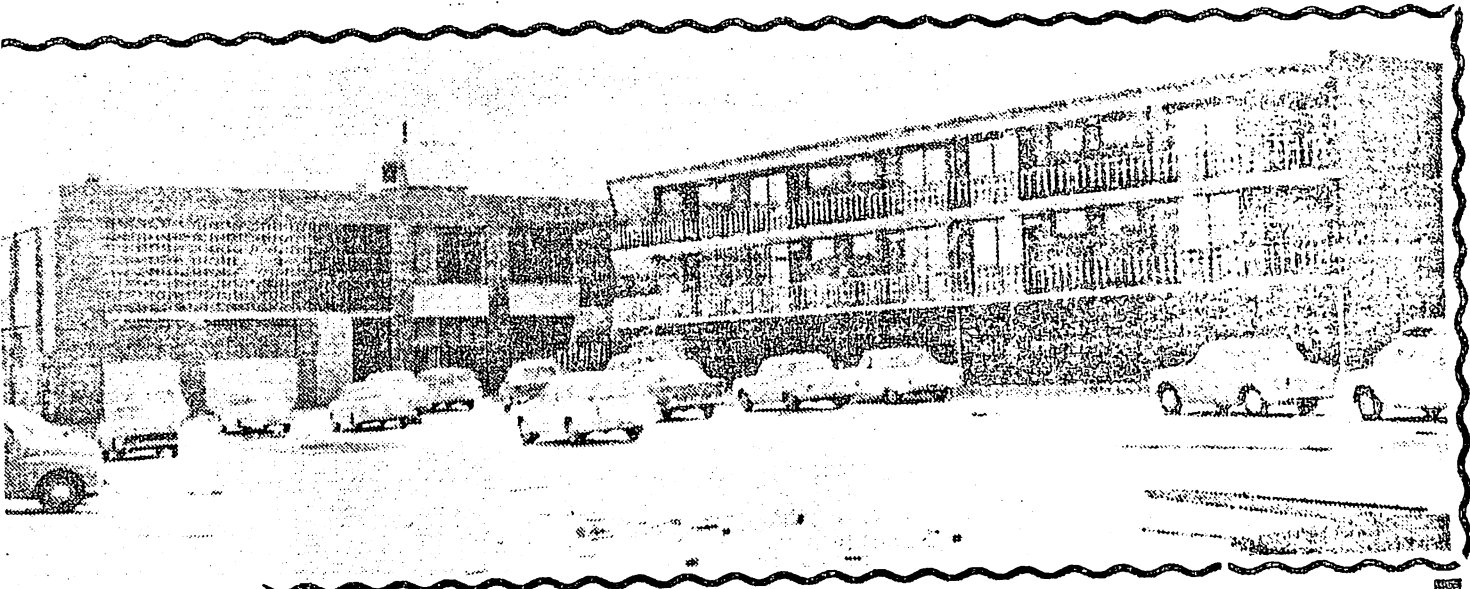
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HOTEL OPEN SOON

DANDENONG. — The \$500,000 Southern Aurora Hotel at Dandenong Railway Station, the city's newest hotel-motel, will open its doors to the public early next month.

Mrs. Betti Kornhauser, wife of one of the principles, told The Journal this yesterday.

The hotel, which has access to Dandenong Station, is in keeping with the name Southern Aurora as each lounge and function room bears a name symbolic with the Victorian Railways system — Observation Lounge, Pullman Grill, Club Car Lounge, Tunnel Room and Express Bar.

The spacious hotel, which will provide counter lunches to the gourmet's choice, will accommodate 300 drinkers in one bar alone, has a 20-car drive-in bottle department, 10 modern motel units and provision for wedding receptions, private dinner parties and businessmen's luncheons.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stewart, who are at present managing the Monash Hotel, will move into the Southern Aurora as soon as it opens.

● For a full picture-story of our newest and biggest hotel, see next Tuesday's Journal.

NEW HOTEL TO OPEN THIS YEAR

Dandenong's fourth hotel is expected to be open in September.

Contractors, laying the foundation of the Dandenong Station Hotel-Motel said yesterday they expected to be served their first beer on September 1.

Construction is progressing rapidly and in the first seven days of work, excavations have been almost completed. The first layers of brickwork will appear at the end of this week.

Picture at right shows men and equipment at work on the site yesterday.

They were working on the foundations of the new hotel.

Situated next to Dandenong station, the hotel-motel, which will cost \$1 million, is believed to be the first privately owned, licensed premises with residential accommodation to be built on railway property.

The proprietors of the new hotel, the Kornhauser brothers, operate the Hotel Cecil, in Melbourne, and the Monash Hotel, at Clayton.

The hotel will feature two levels. The residential entrance will be on the upper floor at the northern end of the site near Foster

The public lounges, dining room, kitchen, club bar, club grille, guests' lounge and reception area will be on the same floor and accessible to different parts of the building.

A ramp will connect the

club bar and the lounge with street level.

The lower floor will house the public bar, saloon bar, bottle shop, cool chambers,

stores, and service areas.

The lounge will have a stage and dance floor and special function rooms will be used for catering for

weddings and dinners.

The public bars will have special games areas.

(Picture by Graham Southam.)

