

## KEW HOTEL

1927

ELIZA GREIG

^

MR MENDOLSOHN 10 MTHS

1928 HENRY NEWBOLD

^

ALF NOONE/ LEO & KEN

^

RAYMOND LENNOX, CARTER BROS, JAMES CLARKE

1957

GEORGE ROWE ROY ARTHUR

1965

GEOFF MCMAHON

## LAURIETON HOTEL

1900

GEORGE DE FRAINE OWNER

JOHN CONVERY PUBLICAN

1910

CHARLES & MABEL WHATSON

1916

ARCH & LIZZIE WHATSON

1937

WILLIAM SLOCOMBE

^

JOHN LAURIE

1956

JOHN CANNING

1964

NORM JACOBSON

^

BILL & RUBY HYDE

1967

BILL WOODS

1991

GRAEME & LESLIE WILLMONT

TONY SARKS LICENSEE

COL BLOOMFIELD HOTEL MANAGER

1997

BERNIE & KYLE FARDY



Royal Hotel, Kew

No 6 of a series

# Dr Balsam's Pub Crawl

A breezy account of some historic country pubs on the North Coast

A puncture in a tyre of his fairly dilapidated motorcar caused Dr F. ("Call me Friar") Balsam to make an enforced stay at the Royal Hotel, Kew, during his famous pub crawl on the North Coast.

A poor mechanic, Dr Balsam was nevertheless able to diagnose the trouble by examining the tyre with his stethoscope.

Being unable to detect any sign of breathing in the tyre, the doctor shrewdly came to the conclusion that there was no air in it.

Dr Balsam was lucky that the incident occurred near the intersection of the Pacific Highway with the western road to Kendall and the eastern road to Port Macquarie via the coast.

Kew is a hamlet whose only industry is a cluster of smash repair specialists strategically located on both sides of the busy highway.

Business was so brisk that the doctor had to wait his turn for puncture repairs.

He picked his way through the broken glass and adjourned to the bar of the Royal Hotel on an eastern corner of the intersection.

Such visits are common to Bob McKimmin and Ken Black, who took over the Royal (their first hotel) a little over two years ago.

With Bob's wife, Sharyn, they have transformed the old pub, opening a spacious charcoal grill room last Christmas.

Outside tables with blue umbrellas give the Royal an almost continental look.

The McKimmins have four children, Brett, 10, Cherie, 9, Glenn, 4, and Leesa, 2.

Passing trade is increasing rapidly as more motorists turn off the highway at Kew to take the scenic bypass to Laurieton, North Haven, Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie, rejoining the highway on the other side of Port Macquarie.

Dr Balsam was able to piece together the history of the Royal with the help of Ken Noone, Fred Norrie and Vernon McLeod.

The Royal was first licensed about 1894 and was originally situated at Ross Glen, a few kilometres south of Kew, to serve thirsty local timber mill workers and those at nearby Kendall.

The pub was moved to its present position at Kew because of flood danger from the Camden Haven River.

The timber mills have gone but the Royal still serves the people of Kendall (named after the poet, Henry Kendall, who lived in the Camden Haven district).

There were once big stables at the back of the original wooden Royal Hotel for the convenience of horse and bullock teams.

Kew was a regular stopping place for the old horse-drawn mail and passenger coaches.

The coming of the railway pushed the horses off the road and meant even bigger boom days for the Royal.

There was a big camp of more than 300 railway workers of many nationalities near Kew as the North Coast railway snaked up towards Grafton.

The first train reached Kendall from Taree in 1914.

There were some wild nights in the old pub in those days and four policemen were stationed at Kew to control the revellers. (Today only one policeman services the district).

The Royal was burnt down in 1927 and rebuilt in 1929.

Old timers of the district hint darkly about the circumstances of the fire.

It was time for Dr Balsam to inquire about his punctured tyre.

He had by then been fortified with a barbecued steak from the char grill room, washed down by several slugs of pure (for medicinal purposes only) alcohol.

His stethoscope dangling around his neck, the doctor tottered off to examine his tyre and, so far as is known, continued on his celebrated pub crawl.



Bob and Sharyn McKimmin, host and hostess of Royal Hotel, Kew

## ...A Haven in Progress

### Hotel history goes back to 1911

Tracing back the history of the Laurieton Hotel was not one of the easiest tasks, but thanks to Mr George Bonzer of Laurieton we were able to make a start - by the way, Mr Bonzer turns 101 years of age in March.

We went back to 1911 when the publican was Mr Watson and the Laurieton Hotel was a single storey building made out of timber. It consisted of a bar, dining room and accommodation for eight people.

The rooms were basic

with mosquito netting around the beds for added comfort. The guests mainly consisted of travellers to the area, one being the Tooths traveller who would bring his horses and sulky to the hotel with the liquor supplies, which were brought up from Sydney on either the "Jap" or the "Comboyne".

One of the highlights of the trading at the hotel was the Diamond Head races, when riders from around the area would join in the festivities.

The staff of girls consisting of Laurie and

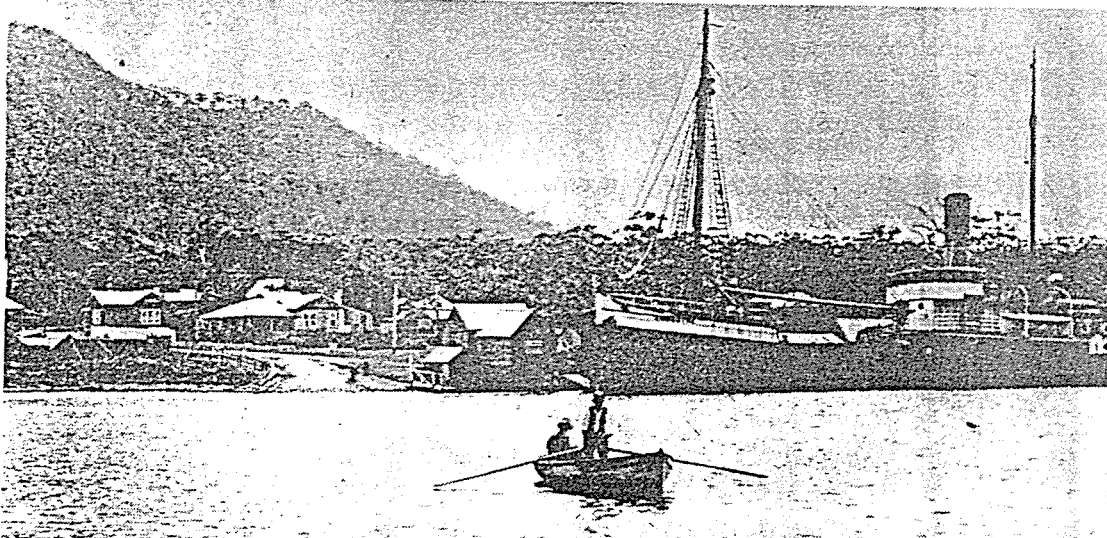
Albury Buckman and Lizzie Porter would provide a luncheon from the kitchen of the hotel and we are told that Laurie Buckman at that time made the best scones in the Camden Haven area.

Through the years the hotel has had many changes. After the fire that completely destroyed it the present hotel was built out of brick. With further extension it has become in 1991 one of the venues of the Laurieton area with live entertainment weekly and drive-through bottle sales. The accommodation has also been upgraded

and comfortable rooms to cater for many more guests than in 1911.

The hotel caters for families now with an improved restaurant, beer garden and snack bar facilities. Top class entertainment for the young (and young at heart) appear regularly at the hotel, and the venue continues to be the central meeting point in town as it has been known through the years.

Laurieton Hotel/Motel has entertained untold thousands of patrons over the years and continues to achieve its high standard of hospitality.



The "Comboyne" berthed at the wharf at the end of Laurie Street which brought, amongst other things, liquor supplies from Sydney for the Laurieton Hotel.

Courier 17.2.56

## Laurieton Hotel Changes Hands

Mr. John Canning, formerly of the Gunyah Hotel at Belmont, Newcastle, announced in Laurieton officially last week that he has purchased the freehold and licence of the Laurieton Hotel.

Mr. Canning expects to be taking over at the end of February. There will be little change in staff at present, said Mr. Canning, and Mr. Bunny Wallace, the hotel's popular "Mine Host," has agreed to carry on as assistant manager to Mr. Canning.

Of modern vintage and design, the attractive Laurieton Hotel is situated in a picturesque setting at the base of the mountain—and in Laurieton's main street—and overlooks the blue water of the Camden Haven river and through the Heads to the Pacific ocean.

Many of the country's "social set" stay at the hotel each year and just recently it was praised highly by Sir Harry and Lady Moxham who declared that they had never stayed in a better country hotel!

Mr. Canning who, with his family, will be taking up residence here in a week or so, will be assisted in the house by his

capable daughter, Miss June Canning, as well as two other members of his former staff from Belmont.

"We are delighted at the prospects of living in Laurieton," said Miss Canning. "Dad is thrilled with the place!"

"You can say that again!" remarked Mr. Canning.

C. H. Courier  
15.5.64

## NEW OWNER AND PROPRIETORS FOR HOTEL LAURIETON

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hyde of Wagga have purchased the freehold of the Hotel Laurieton, Bold St., Laurieton and will trade under the name of Bill and Ruby Hyde, Proprietors. The transfer of License took place at the Licensing Court in Taree on Monday, 4th May before Mr. O. J. Lake S.M., the License was transferred from Mr. Norm Jacobson to Mr. William Hyde.

Mr. Bill Hyde has had his eye on the Hotel Laurieton for many years and promised himself that some day he would purchase the freehold.

He inspected the Hotel when the late Mr. Les Simpson and Mrs. Simpson purchased the freehold, and stayed with the Simpsons on many visits to the area—in fact they were very personal friends.

Mr. Hyde considers the Camden Haven and Laurieton area one of the loveliest spots in New South Wales and considers that he is a very fortunate man to have his dearest wish granted.

He has had eleven years hotel experience in Leichhardt and when he arrived to take over the Laurieton Hotel he met a man who delivered his Toohey's beer in the horse and waggon days in Leichhardt.

For the past seven years he has been a successful farmer in Wagga and when the hotel came on the market he negotiated and is now the proud owner as from 4th May.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyde will spend the first six months re-decorating and re-modelling the Hotel, and they intend to cater, a first class house and table for tourists and local residents.

The first purchase, a £600 oil burner combustion stove is being installed this week. They will specialise in meals and hope to build up a first rate catering trade.

The lawns and beer garden will be remodelled, and given a big face lift; they will concentrate on the Saturday night supper dance as their weekly attraction, with a sports night on Thursday of each week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyde hope to take an active interest in social and sporting affairs. Mrs. Hyde, a keen golfer, will join the Camden Haven Golf Club, and Mr. Hyde, who was a member of the Junee R.S.L. and Bowling Club will transfer to the Laurieton United Servicemen's Club and the North Haven Bowling Club as an active member.

He has been keen on foot-

ball in his day and played competitive Rugby Union with Western Suburbs and St. George from 1926 to 1933.

His main hobby at the moment is fishing, and when he mentions fish, he has a certain gleam in his eye.

The Hotel Laurieton is standing on a wide area of lovely land, and Mr. Hyde will weigh up the possibilities of further extensions to the Hotel after his re-decoration and renovation plan.

It is very nice to have Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hyde in Laurieton and the community extend a warm and hearty welcome and hope that the Hotel Laurieton will prove a wonderful success, and be all they wish for their future.

"Valley Advertiser"

## LAURIETON HOTELIER HATED HIS 'POVERTY'

A clerk who claimed he had always hated being poor and had owned an hotel in Laurieton pleaded guilty last week to defrauding an employer of \$556,759.

Sydney's central court of petty sessions was told he used the money to buy the hotel, a town

house, real estate, two expensive cars and to take a world trip.

Before the court was John Marchant (27) of Drummoyne.

He pleaded guilty to charges of forging and uttering cheques for \$58,226.50, \$48,532.88 and \$200,000 and to falsifying records indicating a payment of \$250,000 knowing that the amount had not been paid.

### Offences

The offences were alleged to have occurred between July 10, 1970, and May 27, 1971, while he was employed as a clerk by Martin Discounts Ltd.

Mr. R. Evans, SM, committed him to Darlinghurst Quarter Sessions for sentence on December 6 and allowed bail of \$9,800.

In the alleged record of interview Marchant said he paid \$210,000 plus \$14,000 expenses to buy a hotel at Laurieton.

He also bought a town house at Vacluse for \$90,000 and land at Dunbogan and Blakehurst.

According to the record of interview Marchant said he was building a

home on the Dunbogan land.

Marchant allegedly said he bought a Maserati car, paid off a \$7,000 mortgage on a shop owned by his parents and gave his brother a \$5,000 car.

In another statement Detective-Sergeant D. B. Toohey (CIB) said Marchant told him he received a salary of \$9,000.

He said Marchant handed over a notebook containing a full record of his manipulations.

The detective said the notebook recorded assets totalling about \$400,000.

Asked what had happened to the rest of the money, Marchant said he still had about \$36,000 in the bank under the name A. C. Lewis.

According to Detective Toohey's statement Marchant said he had about \$18,000 due from the sale of land at Blakehurst and other moneys due to him from loans accounted for the major part of the outstanding amount.

### Home unit

Marchant allegedly said he had not used any of his employer's money to

Continued on p. 12

## \$556,759 FRAUD

Continued from p. 1

buy a home unit he owned at Drummoyne.

"This is the only thing that has nothing to do with the money. I paid for that out of my salary," he allegedly said.

Marchant allegedly said: "All my life I've hated being poor.

"I put my age up to apply for the position with Martin Discounts and also told them I was a bachelor of arts," Marchant allegedly said.

"It's been the same ever since I was at school. I've always wanted to be something I am not."

Marchant allegedly said he had a trip around the world and had employed his brother as the

licensee of the hotel at Laurieton.

According to Detective Toohey's statement Marchant had said: "I had a good job. It's this stupid thing I have that caused it."

"But I want you to know my parents and family know nothing about this."

"I told them and my friends I had made a lot of money by selling short on the stock exchange."

According to Detective Toohey, Marchant had said: "I just want to have all the property disposed of and the money returned to the company."

Camden Haven Courier

## *From the past*

*Courier files from 1957*

December 6 1957

Mr George Rowe and Mr Roy Arthur have taken over the licence of the popular Royal Hotel at Kew, and the following history has been unearthed.

The original Royal, built before the coming of the railway to Kendall in 1913, was a wooden building which was destroyed by fire in 1927. It was built beside the highway at the crossroads to Kendall, then known as Camden Haven, and the sandy track to Laurieton.

After the fire, a temporary bar was erected by Mr Schmitzer, a building contractor of Taree, and trading went merrily on during completion of the new structure.

Mrs Eliza Greig owned both the freehold and the licence in those days and after the rebuilding was completed, she sold the licence to Mr Mendolsohn, a smallish man who was noted for his agile acrobatics and was popular during the brief ten months of his ownership.

In the latter part of 1928, the late Mr Henry (Dad) Newbold purchased both freehold and licence and managed for some time, later selling both interests to Mr Alf Noone and sons Leo and Ken, the latter holding the licence.

Following this the transfer of the licence went to Raymond Lennox, Carter Bros and James Clarke.

Camden Haven Courier 2.5.01

## Laurieton Hotel history

Laurieton Hotel was constructed in 1900 by Kendall builder, AG Smith, for local businessman George de Fraine and immediately became the social gathering point for the townsfolk under its first publican John Convery.

The original hotel consisted of a bar, dining room and accommodation for eight guests. The rooms were very basic but seemed to suit the clientele most of whom were commercial travellers. As an extra added luxury each bed was equipped with a much needed mosquito net!

The hotel saw various publicans come and go with the most notable event being in 1937 when the original hotel burned down.

The hotel at that time was owned by John Laurie who had bought it from a William Slocombe.

No time was wasted in reconstructing the hotel and

even as the workmen toiled a temporary bar was established under a lemon tree on the site. The completed building resembles very closely the Laurieton Hotel of today.

Major changes since that time were the construction of motel units at the rear of the hotel and the disappearance of the popular beer garden to make way for Laurieton Mall.

The last major change

was a complete refurbishment of the bar areas which was completed in October 1991.

The hotel is presently operated by Nicole and Kyle Fardy.

The Fardy family are active supporters of several sporting groups and have been keenly involved in promoting Laurieton through the Chamber of Commerce and its Main Street Program.



Modern facilities now greet customers at the Laurieton Hotel





# THE NEW LOOK LAURIETON HOTEL

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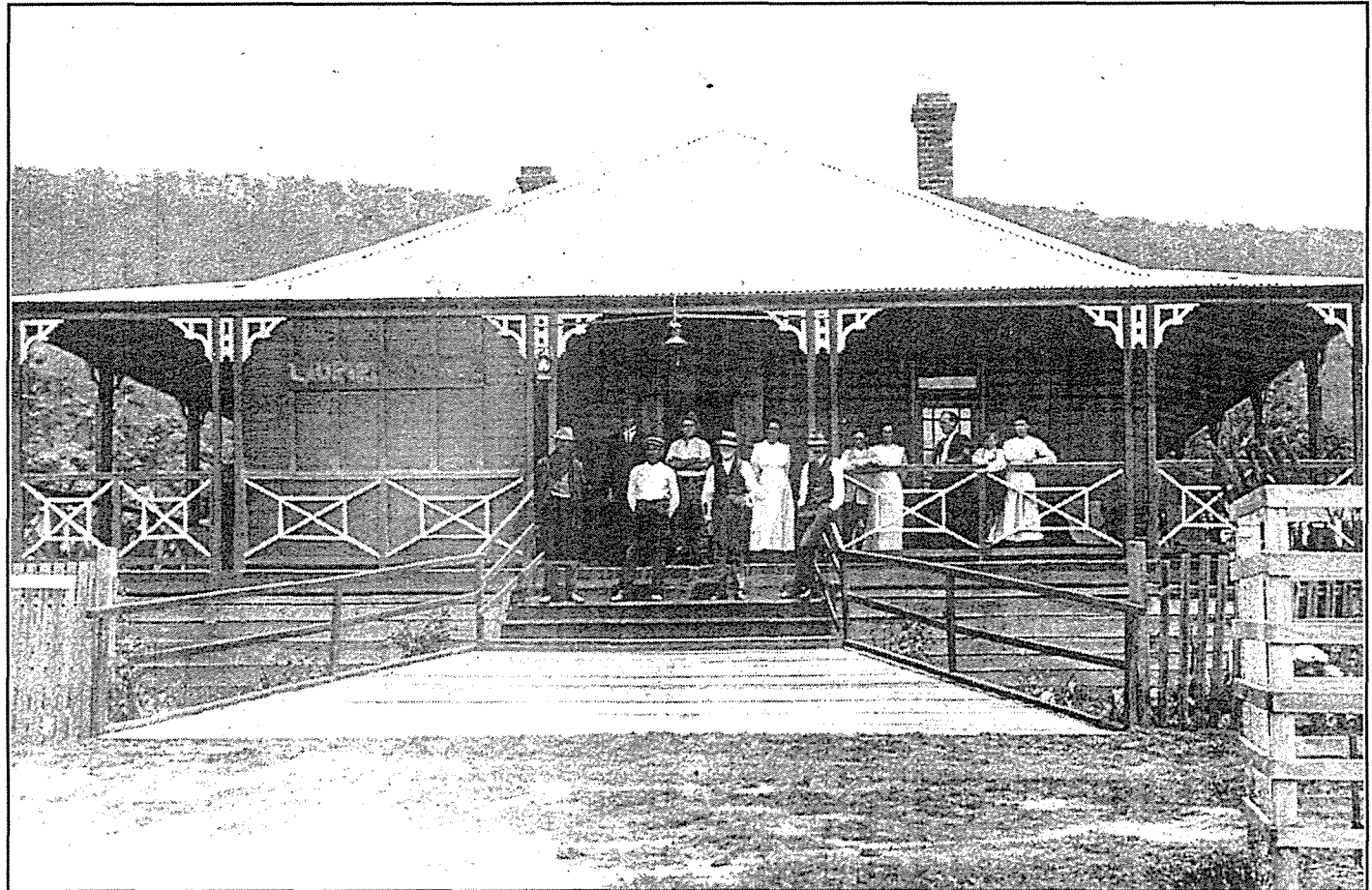
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The hotel is presently managed by Troy Bird for licensees, Kyle and Bernie Fardy. Since taking over since August 1995 many changes have been introduced, including last year's major upgrade of the beer garden area.

The Fardy family are active supporters of several sporting groups and have been keenly involved in promoting Laurieton.

Laurieton Hotel is a more comfortable venue where patrons can relax and enjoy a quiet drink in a pleasant atmosphere.

All members of the management have the same goal for the hotel and its future success through hard work and determination are seeing the local pub return to its former days of glory.



The original Laurieton Hotel pictured probably around the early 1920's. The early hotel, burnt to the ground in 1937 and was rebuilt. Its outside appearance now is similar to the style created when it was rebuilt.

# The New Look Laurieton Hotel

## Historic part of Laurieton moves ahead

The Laurieton Hotel has been an institution in the Camden Haven since the first pub was built in 1900 by Kendall builder A.G. Smith for local businessman George De Fraine. The first licensee was a John Convery.

In December 1910

Charles Watson became publican with his new bride Mabel and remained until 1916 when his brother Arch and wife Lizzie took over. Photographs taken by the Watson family of the first hotel and early Laurieton were eventually donated to the Cam-

den Haven Historical Society through the Camden Haven Courier, and we would like to express our thanks to the historical society for entrusting us with those historic photographs for use in this feature.

The original hotel  
Continued Page 15



□ Laurieton is steeped in history and this photograph of the first hotel is one indication. This was taken in 1918.

Camden Haven  
Courier 2.10.91

Holts, Havens, etc. - 11

# The New Look Laurieton Hotel

## Hotel is moving with the times

From Page 13

burnt down in 1937, it was then owned by John Laurie who had purchased the hotel from William Slocombe.

No time was wasted in reconstructing a hotel, and even as the workmen toiled a temporary bar was established under a lemon tree on the site, and the Laurieton Hotel, almost as we know it today, was constructed.

Until the completion of the recent refurbishing of the hotel the only major change was when the popular beer garden adjacent to Seymour Street disappeared to make way for the Laurieton Mall.

The latest work undertaken by well known Bonny Hills designer/builder, Max



□ A few of the early drinkers in the hotel. On the left is Bunny Wallace. Can you remember any of the others?

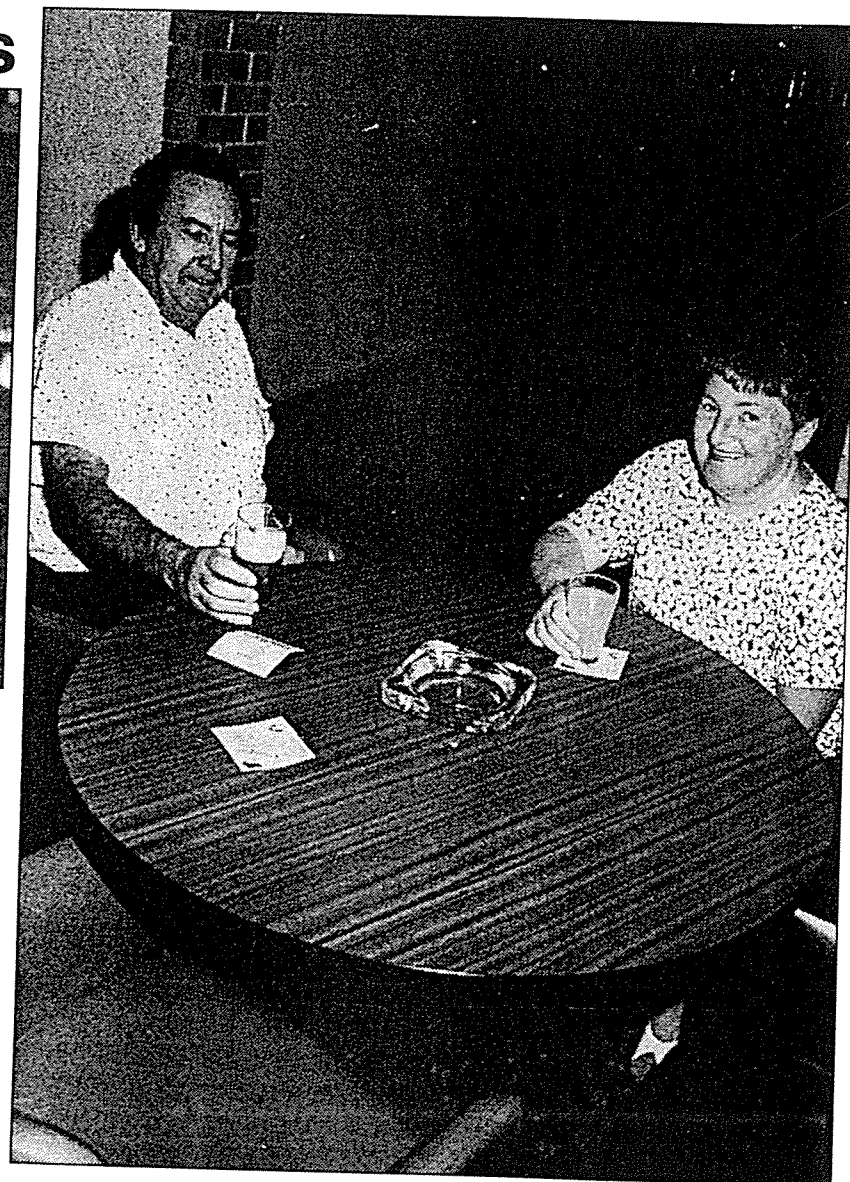
Thompson, included exterior paving, interior tiling, the creation of a new lounge and access to the main bar, and repainting and the complete replacement of the carpet throughout the main hotel area.

Changes to the hotel's drive-in bottle department have also taken place under the watchful eye of Bernie Fardy whose experience was called on for design.

The hotel has been owned by Graeme and Leslie Willmont for some years, and the present licensee is the very experienced publican Tony Sarks who recently appointed Col Bloomfield to the position as hotel manager.

The Laurieton Hotel has traditionally shown its generosity to the community through its support of sporting groups, particularly rugby league, and again are the major sponsors of the recently formed Laurieton United Rugby League Club.

The hotel industry has had to change with the times. With the introduction of video card machines, and the traditional snack bar, pool tables, table tennis and darts facilities, and the soon to open 'Chula's Thai Terrace Restaurant', plus the updated bottle department with presently the largest range of beers, wine and spirits in the Camden Haven, Laurieton Hotel/Motel can match its opposition.



□ Manager, Col Bloomfield relaxes for a quiet drink with wife, Jan at the Laurieton Hotel last week.





□ Who's who in the bar: Top: Cathy Hawkin, Joan Clark, K. Ibbotson, Rhonda Clark. Below: Nita Dunn. Below right: Michael Co.

