

2013 Queanbeyan Heritage Festival



The Royal Hotel was opened in 1850, rebuilt in 1926 and underwent extensive renovations in 2012 to win the AHA's 'Best Renovated Hotel' in NSW in the same year.

Cheers to Queanbeyan

By Kim Pham

■ HERITAGE FESTIVAL

IT'S the pub crawl with a twist. A heritage twist that is.

This weekend the Queanbeyan City Council toasts the town's 175th birthday with a Heritage Pub Crawl and Poetry Shot.

Patrons will enjoy a tour of four local watering holes - Walsh's Hotel, The Tourist Hotel, the Royal Hotel and Hotel Queanbeyan, more commonly known as "Top Pub".

Publicans from each of the establishments have volunteered to provide patrons with a little bit of background and history on the origins of their trade.

Gillian Kelly from the Queanbeyan and District Historical Society Museum will kick-off the event with an overview on the importance of public houses in Queanbeyan's development.

"Public houses were really important back then because of the distances people had to travel," she said.

"In those days it was by horse and cart so you didn't travel all that far in one day. Pubs provided accommodation which was important when travelling with women and children and also provided food for ongoing travel."

Queanbeyan pubs were also a popular spot for workmen involved in the development of Canberra as the city site was declared an alcohol-free zone.

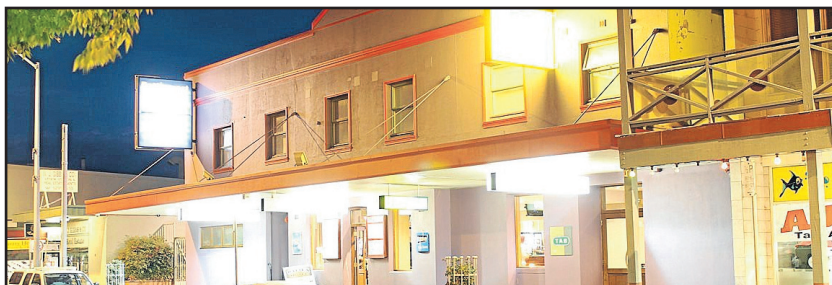
Mrs Kelly said while a lot had been made of this point, pubs weren't the only drawcard for visitors.

"It was the closest country town [when Canberra was being built], there were picture theatres, dances and people to interact with," she said. "Pubs were one of the only social meeting places, a place for social interaction, much like it is today, people didn't go there just to drink."

The tour will also include a special performance by local poet John Warner in the aptly named Poets Lane. Mr Warner has written some original works about town characters and events to celebrate Queanbeyan's anniversary.

The Heritage Pub Crawl will be held this Sunday, April 21, participants are asked to meet at Queanbeyan Museum, 10 Farrer Place at 1pm

There are also still spaces on the Heritage Tour of Queanbeyan this Saturday, April 20 at 9am, please contact Kerrie Ruth on 62972730 or e-mail qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au. The Printing and Historical Museums Open Day will also be held next Saturday, April 27.



The Tourist Hotel was opened in 1863 and moonlighted as a general store for a seven years before transforming back into a licensed premises once again.

Controversy surrounded Hotel Queanbeyan (more commonly known as "Top Pub") with locals protesting against having another liquor licensed venue in town in the late 1920s. The wowsers were defeated and the establishment opened in 1927.

Walsh's Hotel was originally a millinery and drapery store and had many aliases including Pooley's Hotel, Harrison's Hotel and Ryan's Hotel before settling on it's current name in the 1920s.

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