

*Oatley Heritage Group Projects.*

<i>Month &amp; Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written &amp; Spoken</i>
		<i>Presenters</i>
November 2009	<b>Oatley Hotel</b>	Rafe Kowron Jim Nicholson Cliff Crane

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## OATLEY HOTEL

The meeting place of active and great minds?  
The release of tension after a hard days work?  
The expression of ideas and points of view?

THE GOOD OLD OATLEY HOTEL

### Early Days.

Before our lovely Old Hotel was established, the grounds were previously occupied by Harrison and O'briens produce store and was a wood and coal yard. The Hotel was built and opened in 1929 by a private company. It was a partnership consisting of S.R.Downey, C.T.Lucas, R.D.Murray, N.J.Price, O.Dalton, W.A.Steel and B.J.E.Bradley. (Similiar to the Como Hotel)

It was designed by Rudder and Grout, Architects and built by Paynter & Dixon.

Tooth and Company bought the Hotel in May 1930.

One of the stories during the building using horse and cart moving dirt and bricks-- The horse's hoof was injured and bleeding--someone said "Run up to the grocers and grab a pound of flour. It was plastered all over the hoof and work continued on.

Additions were made in 1956 for a new beer garden.

In 1961 alterations were made and the games room was converted to a bottle shop.

In 1968 the dining room was moved to the first floor.

The brick cottage at the northern end was purchased in 1971 and demolished to provide parking for 30 more cars.

Extensive renovations 2005, and 2008

### Early years Licensees

Downey. S.R.	1930	Tooths purchased the hotel
Percell.Andrew P	1933-1935	
Dick W.	1935-1936	
Howlett.Errol K	1936	
Herbert.F.E.	1936	
Hunter Mrs C.M.	1936	
Ryan D.E. (Lic)	1936	( Mrs Hunter Guarantee)
Marshall.W.	1936-1939	(Mrs Hunter guarantee)
Wall Harold	1939-1940	Nominee for Mrs hunter
McGregor Roy D	1940	do.
Craig, William H	1940-1941	do
Hunter Mrs C.M. (lessee)	1941-1948	
Hannan. John G (lic)	1948	Manager for Mrs Hunter
Rohmann L	1951	nominee for Mrs Hunter (son of)
Hunter Maurice	1953-1961	in patnership with his mother
Jarman Lonsdale	1961-1965	
Walter John	1965-1969	1972 lease granted to him
Jim Notaris	1969-1990	
Humphries John	1990-	Daughter Lyn takes active part

information supplied by B Goodger 12/10/09

The shopfront of the Hotel where the Clock & Oyster Bistro is now was rented out in the early days of the hotel. In the 50's a radio repair shop was operating demonstrating Televisions when black & white television came to Australia in 1956 People would stand outside looking at the new found entertainment. After the Radioman moved into Frederick street. a Pie shop started-- he sold the best OYSTER pies in Sydney.(so I'm told)

Some Collected contributions are as follows, starting with the following from The Leader of the 1970's

**Quote**

Ring up the Oatley Hotel, ask for Noel the Mole, Millionaire Frank, The Boot, or Hector the Inspector, and the people there can check for you what time they arrived and what time they left. For a week or so, an old fashioned bundy machine had been installed in the public bar and the regulars have their cards, with nicknames to clock on and clock off. It started says Muriel the barmaid, with "Mother " Johnson who regularly nagged "Son" Isley so much to leave by 6.30 that one of the customers brought in the clock to keep track of their movements...

**Another Quote**

A girl was called "SUNNY" (Mrs U.F.I.) because she never smiled-- the story went her husband shot her-- he disappeared and was never seen again.

Famous Author John O'Grady resided at the Hotel for approximately 12 months before moving to Algernon street and it was through him the pub became even more prominent.

Local resident Ron Bell recalls as one of the most memorable sights he saw was when he went into the saloon bar one afternoon to find John O'Grady in pajamas and wearing a beanie, sitting with his wife Mollie--Mollie explained he'd just been discharged from hospital, he felt he couldn't go home without having a beer at the pub-- he just sat there in his pajamas and drank, didn't blink an eyelid, Ron says. A tree with inscribed plaque was placed in the park opposite the hotel after John's death, but unfortunately was stolen after a few years.

In 1985 a local boy Colin Jagers known as "skinny" sadly lost his life with cancer and a plaque was erected to his memory over the fireplace. Unfortunately with renovations, the plaque and the fireplace have long gone.

One of the big celebrations at the Oatley Hotel was that of the brilliant and popular local pianist, John Saunders 's 70th birthday bash in 1998. John is also organist of St.Joseph's catholic church.

Many of John's friends , from Illawarra Serra Club, workmates PMG engineers, St.Patricks Concert group, tennis group and, of course his Terry Hills family group Joined in the activities. More than 140 were present. Speeches and many songs were sung . A great time was had by all.

**Acknowledgements**

Alec Leach  
Cliff Crane  
Oatley Hotel  
B.Goodger  
John Secombe  
John Saunders  
The Leader The Propeller  
Betty Belcher  
Ron Bell  
Charles Small

Rafe Kowron

## OATLEY HOTEL

Information supplied by Mrs Jean Hatchman 15 Ada Street, Oatley whose husband was manager of the hotel when the licensees were named Hunter & Walters.

As a young girl, Mrs Hatchman arrived in Australia with her mother and four sisters in 1928, joining her father and brother (both John Emery) who had migrated a couple of years earlier.

The family lived in the former Petersham Presbyterian manse and her father and brother worked for a nearby builder Mr Topp.

Many years later, when visiting Oatley Mr Emery casually mentioned to his daughter Jean that he and her brother had worked as hod carriers during the construction of the Oatley hotel.

George Hatchman served in the army in World War II and on demob joined the RAAF as a driver.

Jean Hatchman remembers the following names of the licensees Craig, Hunter, Walters, Jarman & Humphries, Her husband George managed the hotel for licensees Hunter and Walters

Mrs Hatchman recalls three long time barmaids of the period Sunny Harding, Molly & Maps.

George Hatchman died in 1985.

Prepared by Jim Nicholson, neighbour to the Hatchmans for over 60 years.

From Cliff Crane

Three very well-remembered barmaids in the 1950s/60s/70s were - *Sunny*, *Mabs*, and *Rene* – all worked there for many years. Nobody seems to recall ever knowing just what *Sunny's* real name was – she was called that by all staff and patrons, and the name came because she was never seen to smile. *Rene* was also known as "*Short Change Rene*", and of course we can't guess why! *Mabs* was short blonde and used to love dressing up with fake boobs, or all sorts of mens gear on. Anybody who had the occasional drink at 'the local' during their 'bar-maiding' days would certainly remember them.

Through the 1970s and 80s the local Lions used to sell chook raffles Friday nights, going round the patrons trying to sell tickets – it was well known some of the Lions members were a bit apprehensive about being rostered for chook raffle selling. One Lion. In his mid-60s who was specially apprehensive, was specially baited and jibed by patrons who knew of his sensitivity – often he was provoked to the stage where he would offer to fight his tormentors, but that never developed. For a while the Lions had a system of selling cards – developed by Lion Wayne Axford who ran a guttering business – that was quickly discontinued when some patrons came up with a method of forging the cards and causing great shenangigans! their own cards – Ted Drake might know something about that

Local resident Ron Bell recalls as one of the most memorable sights he saw was when he went into the saloon bar one afternoon to find John O'Grady in pyjamas and wearing a beanie, sitting there drinking with his wife Mollie – Mollie explained he'd just been discharged from hospital he felt couldn't go home without having a beer at the pub – he just sat there in his pyjamas and drank, didn't blink an eyelid, Ron says.

John and Molly lived in the hotel for quite some time and it is said that's where all the planning was done with his builder/bricklayer friends for building of the O'Grady house while he went off overseas and finished off his book '*They're a Weird Mob*' O'Grady had a long association with the hotel as resident and patron – a tree with inscribed plaque was placed in the park opposite the hotel after John's death, but unfortunately was stolen after a few years.

I'm told, too, about a regular patron named Muriel, who used to come there with her boyfriend Murray – when she'd had a few she liked to do handstands up against the wall – she was very good at it according to my informant

It's said that one time publican Johnny Walters thought it was funny to come up behind patrons when they were drinking and slap them quite violently on the back, and then say "Goodday ... whoever ...", causing them to splutter and spill lots of beer – Walters thought it was a great joke – I didn't hear whether he offered to refill the glass! It is said Walters had been a bread-carter before going into the pub business at Oatley – and that his father, who had bought the pub for his son, kept a pretty close eye on how he was running things. Also, it's reckoned it was the father who told Johnny to mark spirit and wine bottles with the date they were opened as an aide to keeping on eye on whether any was being 'siphoned off' by staff. Merv Hicks

was a Canterbury first grade footballer, well known as a bit of a "knuckle man", and was a mate of Johnny Walters. Walters either employed him or got him into the pub to "sort out" a couple of trouble makers who were regulars but often provoking fights – how Hicks "did them" was quite the talk of the suburb for some time, and they ceased their patronage!

Jim Notaris, of Greek background, possibly with his brother, had been in another hotel before buying into the Oatley hotel between Walters and the present Humphreys family. Jim was there a few years and well liked as a licensee. He brought with him his own bar maid – a little Scottish girl called June – June is remembered for ~~his~~ her impeccable memory of customers' drinks, and the speed with which she pulled beers. One man reckons she start pulling your beer as you walked through the door, and by the time you got to the bar she ~~is~~ ribbing you about not having your money ready. "Lightning fast" at pulling beer is how my informant described June. Jim took June with him to each new pub he went into. Jimmy had a son who also went into hotels in his own right.

We can only wonder at the sequel to the following little story which appeared in 'The Melbourne Argus' of 20<sup>th</sup> April 1938 -

#### **DUPLICATE KEYS IN N.S.W. THEFTS**

SYDNEY, Tuesday. -Police believe that duplicate keys were used by thieves last night in two safe robberies, one at Katoomba and the other at Oatley. The Katoomba robbery occurred at the Embassy Theatre, where £350 was stolen, and £190 was stolen from the safe in the office of the Oatley Hotel, Oatley.

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2007 02 13 \$2500 political donation by Oatley Hotel

[http://www.efa.nsw.gov.au/state\\_government\\_elections/election\\_funding\\_reports/state\\_general\\_election\\_2007/pdfs/Cabramatta.pdf](http://www.efa.nsw.gov.au/state_government_elections/election_funding_reports/state_general_election_2007/pdfs/Cabramatta.pdf)

**Summary of Political Contributions Received and Electoral Expenditure Incurred by Legislative Assembly Candidates**

Published: Monday, 04 February 2008 This report is of summary of information contained in declarations lodged with and accepted by the EFA.

**Election: 2007 NSW State General Election**

**Election Day: Saturday 24 March 2007**

**District: Cabramatta**

**Political Contributions Received \$ Electoral Expenditure Incurred \$**

We note that of the \$209,248 total declared contributions to the Labor Candidate Reba Meagher, there was one contribution of \$2,500 on 13 Feb 2007, four weeks before the election day, by Vantar Pty Ltd (Oatley Hotel), PO Box 145, Oatley NSW 2223.

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1938 04 18 Oatley Hotel – theft from safe

**The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848-1954), Wednesday 20 April 1938, page 2**

**DUPLICATE KEYS IN  
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**National Library of Australia**

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11183423>

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Tel: (02) 9580 1117 Fax: (02) 9585 1112  
Bistro: (02) 9586 1045



Home

- What's On
- Restaurant
- Functions
- VIP club
- Contact Us

Welcome to the Oatley Hotel - Where there is something for everyone.

Our outdoor areas are the best in the South. Dine & drink alfresco or anywhere you like - you cannot beat the Pizza at the Clock and Oyster Bistro! The gardens are the perfect venue to bring the family and listen to the jazz on Sunday afternoons.



The Level 1 lounge bar is a funky but stylish cocktail bar where DJ Tone pumps out out Sunday Sessions very week. You can choose between the balcony overlooking the park or the large outdoor terrace area with fabulous sun shades to keep you cool in the summer, but heated for the winter months. Why not check us out for your next function?

The infamous "Band Room" now has full Tab, Sportsbet and Keno facilities and loads of big screens indoors and out for the sporting fanatics.

There is a great line up of live bands on Saturday nights and our legendary DJ Party night on Fridays

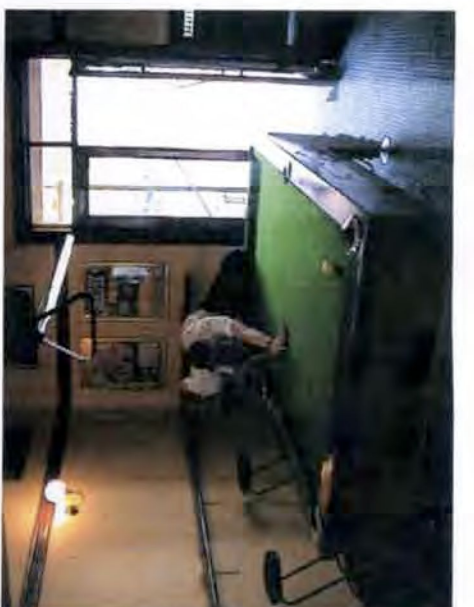
Trivia rules on Thursdays and Sydney's Best comedy acts are still coming to Oatley every Wednesday night as well as fun interactive entertainment Mondays and Tuesdays-

The Oatley Hotel has something for everyone! So for "Good Times" come and check us out..









RING up  
for Noe Millionaire  
Frank, The Boot, or Hector the  
Inspector, and the people there can  
check for you what time they  
arrived and what time they left. For  
a week or so, an old-fashioned  
bundy machine has been installed  
in the public bar and the regulars  
have their cards, with nicknames, to  
clock on and clock off. It started,  
says Muriel the barmaid, with  
"Mother" Johnson who regularly  
nagged "Son" Hsley so much to  
leave by 6.30 that one of the  
customers brought in the clock to  
keep track of their movements.

... KING up the ... Hotel, as  
or Noel ... Millionaire  
Frank, The Boot, or Hector the  
inspector, and the people there can  
check for you what time they  
arrived and what time they left. For  
week or so, an old-fashioned  
sundry machine has been installed  
in the public bar and the regulars  
have their cards, with nicknames, to  
lock on and clock off. It started  
says Muriel the barmaid, with  
"Mother" Johnson who regularly  
tagged "Son" Ilsley so much to  
leave by 6.30 that one of the  
customers brought in the clock to  
keep track of their movements.

□ RING up the Liberty Hotel, ask for Noel the Millionaire, Frank, The Boot, or Hector the Inspector, and the people there can check for you what time they arrived and what time they left. For a week or so, an old-fashioned bundy machine has been installed in the public bar and the regulars have their cards, with nicknames, to clock on and clock off. It started, says Muriel the barmaid, with "Mother" Johnson who regularly nagged "Son" Ilsley so much to leave by 6.30 that one of the customers brought in the clock to keep track of their movements.

1970's



Vertical sign on the left side of the building, partially obscured.

The Cheeky Kiwi  
FULLY LICENCED

Pizza

BISTRO

BOTT





Two-story balcony with yellow columns and a metal railing.



Dark grey horizontal band above the ground floor.

Ground floor entrance area with yellow walls and stone accents. Includes a large window, a poster for 'Plus Summerline', and signs for 'HOTEL' and 'COURTYARD LOUNGE'.



Plus Summerline

HOTEL  
TRADING DESK

HOTEL  
TRADING DESK

COURTYARD LOUNGE

HOTEL  
TRADING DESK



A-List  
COMEDY CLUB  
myspace.com

 1P 8:30-6:00  
7:30-12:30  
BUS ZONE 7:00-2:00

BISTRO

HOLDEN  
ABV  
759





LIVE COMEDY

Richard D. ...  
Richard D. ...  
Richard D. ...  
Richard D. ...  
Richard D. ...  
Richard D. ...

No  
18  
A sign with a 'No 18' symbol and text, likely indicating a restriction on alcohol consumption for minors.

VB















ONTLEY HOTEL

COURTYARD LOUNGE

SPORTS BAR







NER

Panel with various electrical switches and indicators.

CO2  
Warning: This is a CO2 fire extinguisher. Do not use on electrical fires.

ADULTS ONLY  
No alcohol served to minors.

Small white sign on the bar counter.

BISTRO

MAIN SWITCHBOARD

FIRE EXTINGUISHER



101







EXIT



