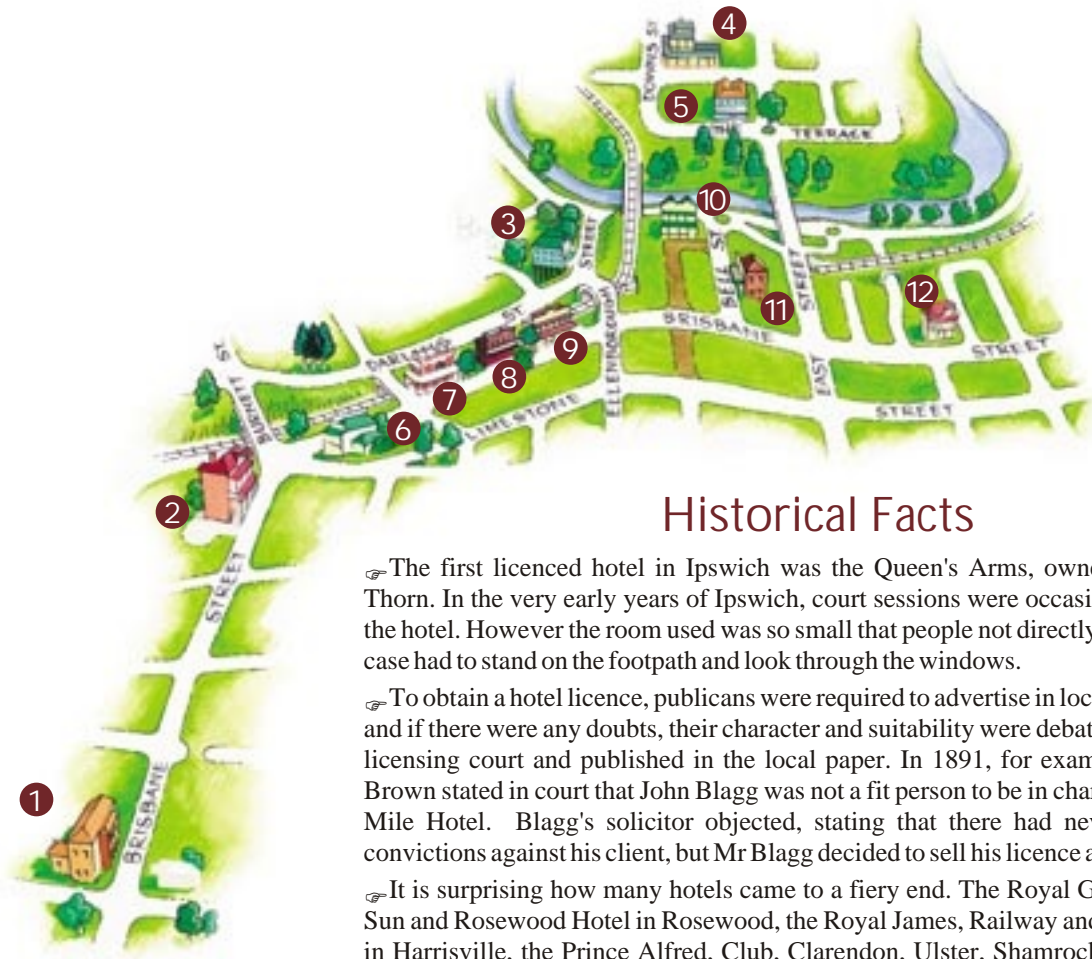


# Rubbidy-Dubs to Pubs Then & Now



## Historical Facts

☞ The first licenced hotel in Ipswich was the Queen's Arms, owned by George Thorn. In the very early years of Ipswich, court sessions were occasionally held in the hotel. However the room used was so small that people not directly involved in a case had to stand on the footpath and look through the windows.

☞ To obtain a hotel licence, publicans were required to advertise in local newspapers and if there were any doubts, their character and suitability were debated in the local licensing court and published in the local paper. In 1891, for example, Sergeant Brown stated in court that John Blagg was not a fit person to be in charge of the One Mile Hotel. Blagg's solicitor objected, stating that there had never been any convictions against his client, but Mr Blagg decided to sell his licence anyway.

☞ It is surprising how many hotels came to a fiery end. The Royal George, Rising Sun and Rosewood Hotel in Rosewood, the Royal James, Railway and Commercial in Harrisville, the Prince Alfred, Club, Clarendon, Ulster, Shamrock and Victoria Hotels in Ipswich were all destroyed or damaged by fire.

☞ Some hotels were quite small, perhaps four rooms and two sitting rooms. This is probably why so many hotels could survive in one area.

☞ Former hotels in the Ipswich region include: Sawyers Arms, Carriers Arms, Highland Home, Swan, Shamrock, Cottage of Content, Engineers Arms, Red Cow, Bulls Head, Queens Arms, North Australian, Tattersalls, North Star, Churchill, Belle Vue, Railway, Queensland Arms, Criterion, Grande, the Post Office and Royal George at Marburg, the Railway Hotel at Harrisville and the Commercial at Rosewood.

☞ As townships grew, hotels provided the best facilities they possibly could to attract customers. Stables were important and usually featured prominently in advertisements. Once their horses were looked after, travellers expected a comfortable room, a choice of sitting rooms and a hearty meal. A billiard table was often available and required a special licence. A few larger hotels offered a separate "family branch", presumably away from the rowdy behaviour in the bar.

☞ There were several breweries in the Ipswich area including Booval Brewery and Johnson's Brewery on King Edward Parade.

## Other (not so historic) hotels

Coronation Hotel - West Ipswich; Hotel Cecil - Goodna; Mihi Tavern - Brassall; Prince Alfred - Booval; Racecourse Hotel - Bundamba; Raceview Tavern - Raceview; Redbank Plains Tavern; Star Tavern - The Mall, Ipswich; and the Weeroona Hotel - Goodna.

- 1 **One Mile Hotel:** This area was very busy in the early years of Ipswich as it was the place where bullock wagons rested on the road between Ipswich and the Darling Downs. Several hotels were built in Brisbane St. The Bull's Head Inn (on the corner of Keogh St), the Carriers Arms and the One Mile Hotel. In 1885, Jack King took over the One Mile hotel and rebuilt it. In April 1911, architect 'Coutts' called tenders for a two-storey brick hotel at One Mile for N. Kerwick and this appears to be the present hotel, the third on the site. (Historic photo c1880's)



- 2 **City View:** This site was a difficult triangular one adjoining a deep railway cutting excavated in 1875. Architect George Brockwell Gill produced a skillful solution to the problem, locating an octagonal two-storey "tower" to disguise the sharp corner of the building, while the front appears as a traditional two-storey verandahed hotel. The building was completed in 1907 and contained a parlour, coffee room and dining room as well as 13 bedrooms. The name refers to the hotel's position on the edge of the Ipswich CBD.



- 3 **Commercial Hotel:** A brick hotel was built on this site in the 1860s to be conveniently located near the first Ipswich Railway Station.

The original building was demolished and the current attractive timber hotel was built in 1916-17 to a design by architect Will Haenke. Note the tall bridge-like timber posts supporting the building.



- 4 **Jets Club (formerly Hotel Cecil):** This hotel opened as "The Imperial Hotel" in April 1887. In the 1890s, the number of hotels in an area was limited by legislation and Ipswich had more than its share. The Imperial was one of three which lost its licence in April 1891 to comply with the new regulations. However, a few months later, the National Workmen's Club managed to obtain a club licence for the premises. The hotel regained a full licence in 1904, using the name Hotel Cecil. It was extended in 1915 with a single storey wing in Lowry Street. In 1992, it was extensively renovated and it has been extended several times since. In 1998, it became the Jets Club.

- 5 **Strand Hotel:** Three hotels were listed on The Terrace and several others nearby in the early years of Ipswich - probably a tribute to the hard-earned thirst of the railway workers, sawmillers and foundry workers of the immediate area. The Strand and the nearby Cecil are the only survivors.

- 6 **Federal Hotel:** Like the City View, this hotel was also built to fit a very sharp triangular site. Francis Sullivan applied for a licence for a hotel on this site in 1906 but was refused. However Mary O'Sullivan received a licence the following year and the hotel opened in August 1907.

- 7 **Harp of Erin (Metropole):** Two prominent attributes have been reinstated on this handsome hotel - the name and the street awning. The Harp of Erin was the original hotel on the site but it had become run down by the early 1890s. After years of complaints by the licencing court and years of delaying tactics by the owner, a new hotel was erected in 1906 and received a more modern-sounding name "The Hotel Metropole".

In the 1970s, the street awning was a victim of progress when the timber supports were thought to be difficult for parking. Fortunately, attitudes changed and the awning was reinstated in 1995. In 1997, the romantic old name "Harp of Erin" also reappeared.



- 8 **Prince of Wales Hotel:** There was an earlier Prince of Wales Hotel in Ipswich in 1855 - but it was not on this site. This hotel was originally called the Union but when the Prince of Wales visited Ipswich in 1920, the owners Dennis and Violet Callaghan changed the name.
- 9 **Settlers Inn (Club Hotel):** Originally called the Shamrock, this hotel burned to the ground in 1885. It was replaced by the Club Hotel, which was also damaged by fire in 1916 but was repaired. The current building has an unusual central carriageway to the rear yard, typical in English coaching houses but rare in Australia. It still has its open balustraded parapet with a spiked finial. The name was changed to Settlers Inn in the late 1990s.
- 10 **Murphys Town Pub, Union Street:** Originally known as the Commonwealth, this hotel was built in 1910; the date appears on the parapet, along with its more recent name Murphy's Town Pub. The interior was rebuilt in the 1980s during the construction of Ipswich City Square and the Mall.
- 11 **Caledonian Hotel:** The first hotel on this site was The Red Cow, built in the 1840s. The owners were always suspected of operating an illegal distillery to produce rum but they could never be caught. When the old hotel was finally demolished around 1896 to build the current one, the 'still' was found - cunningly built into the brickwork of the chimney. The current hotel was renovated in 1938 in art deco style.
- 12 **Ulster Hotel:** It should be no surprise that football photos have pride of place in the bar of the Ulster. One of its most colourful licensees was Dan Dempsey, a member of the Kangaroos rugby league team in 1929 and 1933. During the beer rationing of World War II, Dempsey put on kegs to suit the hours worked by miners.

The hotel is currently owned by his daughter Norma and her husband Denis Flannery who also represented Australia in rugby league in the 1950s. When the Ulster Hotel was first built, it was predicted that it would long be a landmark for visitors approaching the city over Limestone Hill. The decision to create a one-way street system has diminished its landmark qualities but not its charm. The hotel was designed by architect Henry Wyman and completed in 1911.

An earlier hotel of the same name had been damaged by fire and repaired, supervised by George Brockwell Gill in January 1905, builder S. Ash.

## Aussie Hotel Slang

Pub, rubbity or rubbity-dub, shanty, watering hole, drinking hole, early opener, billabong, snake pit, grog shop, boozier and the local.

Amber fluid, black & tan, bleary eyed, blotto, break open a coldie, bundy, coldie, counter lunch, cut, down a few, drier than a pommy bath towel, flat out like a lizard drinking, full as a boot, full as a goog, grog, handle, hit the frog and toad, middy (NSW), nudge the turps, off (one's) face, plonk, pony (Vic.), pot, schooner (NSW), red ned, rotten drunk, shout, slab, sloshed, stubby, tinny, to crack a tinnie, two-pot screamer, turps and wowser.