Daily Life At Control Data

The 1960s and 70s

Compiled by Brian Membrey

Updated: 6 January 2019
Frontispiece

Clockwise from top left:
- John Batman Motor Inn
- Light Car Club of Australia
- Lounge Bar, Chevron Hotel
- Palmerston Hotel
- T.A.B. Headquarters
- Mount Erica Hotel
- Noah’s Palm Lake Motel
- Taco Bill’s (Mexican Cantina)
- Middle Park Hotel
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Daily Life : Why

Our July, 2013 Melbourne lunch saw the establishment of an informal working group to help assist Tom Misa record the contribution that Control Data Australia made as part of the world-wide activities of Control Data Corporation.

That, of course, is 'official' history - great in itself, but by no means the full story as to how life REALLY was.

And just perhaps an insight into the fact that people are still catching up for lunch thirty, forty, or in some cases fifty years after they joined Control Data Australia.

Most of the material noted for the pubs in South Melbourne comes from some previous research into pubs in the district, those in Prahran, Windsor, South Yarra and St. Kilda are lesser in content.

Just how complete the archive may be is open to question - my forgettory these days is rather more reliable than my memory, and, of course, 1971-75 is a relatively small slice of the total Control Data history, so let's hear your own recollections. (especially on 493 St. Kilda Road in which I spent just a few days and have almost complete forgettory of!)

The other shortcoming of course is all of this material concentrates on the operations around St. Kilda Road - while this was a hot-bed for the computer industry in the 1960s and 1970s, it does not include anything interstate or in the suburban areas of Melbourne where C.D.A. established a presence - Thornbury, Collingwood, Knox, 11, 71 and 73 Queen's Road and the plants in Moorabbin and Cheltenham.

To date, we haven't included some of the internal events, occasional or regular, such as the barbecues in the park on the Yarra, across Queens Road and in the Catani Gardens in St. Kilda organised by accounts, the wine and cheese nights (was there cheese? Jeez!) presented by the Social Club, and nights at Nine Darling Street, Smacka's, The Baron of Beef, The Cuckoo and Fergusson's Winery. (sadly, only Fergusson's remains).

Time permitting, these will come, but most of them have disappeared and details may be a bit sketchy.

This is a hard copy version of material that had been on my web site at www.ozsportshistory.com/cda.htm since Spring, 2013 and extensively updated in April 2014.

The first pass is based very much on my recollections from 1971 through 1975, plus others where I either remained in contact or was press-ganged back into CDA on a contract basis.

This is stroll down memory lane which anyone and everyone is invited to join, either by direct email to ozsportshistory@mail.com or via the FEEDBACK form on the site itself.

Some of the subdivisions I've used may be arbitrary as to, say, whether somewhere under "Drinks" was more appropriately "Eats" - the only real rules adopted are that "Work" means 'workplace' and not the Curse of the Drinking Classes, and "Play" is restricted to the waist up!

If anyone has any memories, hit the FEEDBACK button!

What is perhaps remarkable for anyone not familiar with the text of the interviews conducted by Tom is the number of references made by the interviewees to the social interaction between the various sections of Control Data Australia in regular gatherings like the Social Club Wine and Cheese Nights and the Accounts Department barbecues, perhaps the twin pillars of today's Third-Friay lunches.

Unfortunately the Misa interview transcripts do not record the sequence in which they recorded, but it is obvious from several that Tom steered those 'under the pump' towards these events in an attempt to come to grips with the unique environment that we all worked in for varying periods of our lives.

Brian Membrey

1http://www.ozsportshistory.com/cda/Control%20Data%20Australia%20-%20The%20Misa%20Interviews.pdf
Update History

The first hardcopy release was in April in time for the biennial reunion of 2014 with a copy added to the Bryant family archive of Control Data material

There has been two subsequent "releases" since that date - a "release" hardly requiring anyone to yell "Stop The Presses", rather more that I've back-loaded additional material from the website into the hardcopy version so it remains relatively up to date should anyone wish to download it.

Both have numerous bits and pieces added to the entries in the original volume; some of the most affected articles are listed below

In September, 2014, three new site were added following thoughts expressed at "third Friday" lunches - the Albert Park Hotel (p28, courtesy of John Baxter), the Royal Hotel in Bendigo Street in East Prahran (p43, John O'Neil, although neither John nor anyone else could remember the name, just the beer garden), and finally, the Rameta Apartments (p17) at 67 Queen's Road where Julie James briefly headed up an External Consulting group before heading a few doors south and joining CDA at number 71 (the apartments, immediately behind 598, probably deserved a gig purely because of their dominance in the local landscape).

That’s all there is, I thought, until December/Christmas lunch where I showed Ron Bird the hardcopy (Ron had contributed significantly the online material, but wasn’t at the reunion and thus had not seen anything of the printed version).

That and some discussions upon discovering the sale in January, 1961 of the Eton Square apartments at 474 and 476 St. Kilda Road for re-development as commercial office space and where Control Data Australia had its first office put Ron’s thinking cap on and he came up with three new suggestions - the Ging Wah (p52, apparently much favoured by the ladies from the fifth floor, mail room and site planning), the Fairy Stork (p50) in Acland Street, and finally The Iliad (p52) in Fitzroy Street.

Given all three were just medium-sized concerns in busy shopping strips, I wasn’t all that confident of finding much background, but a dig through Sands and McDougall street directories revealed a fascinating background in all three cases - not the least of which is that all three operated as restaurants, cafes, dining-rooms or tea-rooms for around forty years before acquiring the names under which Ron knew them in the 1960s and 70s.

After an afternoon at the State Library researching these, I was walking home along City Road and suddenly recalled a place called the Bourke Country Beef House (just west of the corner of Moray Street and a function for around 40-50 people there, probably exclusive to P.S.D. It was operated at the time by the sporting commentator and late-night chat show host Tony Charlton (who passed away 17 December, 2012) and his family.

Barbarino's (The Place For Ribs, p49) was mentioned in the original volume, but it was some years after my time at C.D.A. and nobody confirmed its use, but given its final location at 474 St. Kilda Road and proximity to 493, I’m guessing with a fair degree of certainty that it was regularly frequented. Its inclusion has been prompted by a chance discovery of a restaurant review in The Age in 1986 which brought back a few memories.

The final additions are the twin Third Friday locations - La Trattoria (p54) at 406 Rathdowne Street and Porchettateria Restaurant at 392 Rathdowne Street (p55).

The latter will instantly recognisable as La Porchetta, which hosted out third Friday lunches for around 13 years and which was covered as such in the original, but it came as something of a surprise to find it had been in operation since at least 1974, well before Rocky started the franchise in 1990.

In July, 2015, I added a slideshow of current street view via Google Maps of many of the locations featured - one by-product of this exercise was the discovery that early in 1983, around 18 months after CDA moved to 493 St. Kilda Road, 598 was sold by a superannuation fund connected to I.C.I. to a property developer for a price only reported as "over $2 million". In a booming property market at the time, it was suggested by September of the same year and after a total refurbishment. The property could be lease or sold with a value of about $4.75. Unfortunately I haven’t been able to trace a sale; the likelihood is that it may have been leased and perhaps, Harry Lew, the developer was responsible for the 1990 conversion to today's apartment block.

That exercise being completed, the likelihood of additional updates of significant scope without substantial Feedback remains unlikely.


Includes three new sections under Work – the various manufacturing plants (five), the suburban Engineering sites (Regional Warehouse in Thornbury and the Repair Centre in Collingwood), and the final manufacturing plant and home of the Business Products Division at 2 Sullivan Street, Moorabbin. These were on my CDA website, but not in the hardcopy version.
Our Daily Bread

Included are nine locations around the St. Kilda Road area that were significant Control Data's history.

With the November, 2016 release, the Engineering facilities at Thornbury and Thornbury are included (although Feedback from anyone who worked there would be invaluable), a brief rundown of the manufacturing plan and the Business Products Division based in Sullivan Street, Moorabbin. Perhaps the one workplace not covered is Control Data Institute, simply because I have no personal knowledge of a site other than 71 Queen's Road.

Ditto the Knox Data Centre - but "One Who Was There" in Dick Bament has covered this facility with his excellent background on the ex-CDA web site. I did try some basic research on this location by checking the computer pages of The Australian and The Age around the time Knox opened, but security was a high priority and for once Control Data was very circumspect and there was no official announcement of the site.

It may surprise that six of the seven locations in St. Kilda and Queen's Road were apartments before being redeveloped (598 St. Kilda Road the exception) - this more or less reflects the history of the two major thoroughfares; initially large, stately homes, converted in the 1920s and 30s to apartments, and demolished in the 1960s and 70s for office blocks.

Trawling through the memories of where we ate both at lunch and after indulging in a drink or three after work leaves me wondering just how both the constitution and wallet managed to survive! But hotels then served relatively simple fare and with prices to match - several of those remaining are now up-market "gastro-pubs" which would stretch the budget of anyone dining out two or three times a week.

**Work**

- Astor House (424 St. Kilda Road)
- Bank House (11-19 Bank Place)
- Charlton (598 St Kilda Road)
- Warwick Hall (11 Queen's Road)
- Rameta (67 Queen's Road)
- Engineering (Thornbury/Collingwood)
- Glenhope (474 St Kilda Road)
- Picton Court (2 Queen's Road)
- Stanleigh (493 St. Kilda Road)
- Wyalla (71 Queen's Road)
- Manufacturing (Cheltenham/Moorabbin)
- Business Products (Moorabbin)

**Eat**

- Albert Park (Albert Park)
- Armadale (Armadale)
- Bleak House (Albert Park)
- Bush Inn (Prahran)
- Court Jester (Prahran)
- Flower (Port Melbourne)
- Fountain Inn (Port Melbourne)
- Mario's Brighton Beach Hotel
- Middle Park (Middle Park)
- Mount Erica (Prahran)
- O'Connell Centenary (S. Melbourne)
- Post Office Club (St. Kilda)
- Queen's Arms (St. Kilda)
- Rising Sun (South Melbourne)
- Royal (East Prahran)
- Southside Six (Moorabbin)
- Station (Prahran)
- Windsor Castle (Windsor)
- The Pubs
- The Third Friday
- Fairy Stork (Acland Street)
- Ging Wah (198 Chapel Street)
- The Iliad (23 Fitzroy Street)
- Hot Pot Shop (Sth Melbourne)
- La Trattoria (406 Rathdowne Street)
- La Porchetta (392 Rathdowne Street)
- Le Chateau (Queen's Road)
- Leo's Spag Bar (Fitzroy Street)
- McClure's (St. Kilda Road)
- Red Pepper Pizza (South Yarra)
- Pepe's Pizza Kitchen (South Yarra)
- Taco Bill's (South Melbourne)
- The Restaurants
There is of course a thin line between pubs where we dined and those where we drank; this section covers those where we mostly concentrated on the latter.

I've included The Light Car Club as a separate entity from The Computer Club as there were separate lunch-time and post-work sessions, although the lines got blurred over time (as did many of the visitors).

IF my reckoning is correct, then our first biennial reunion was in 1996, and again IF my memory is correct, the concept originated at a third-Friday lunch when somebody realised that it had been ten years since Control Data Australia ceased to exist as an operating entity.

No great recollections here as I did little travelling of an overnight stay variety during my time with Control Data, The details here have been taken from a 1974 edition of FLASH posted on-line by David Lee - most of the recommended Melbourne motels are covered in the Eat section,

Everyone will have their own memories of where we played on weekends; certainly during my time (mostly in a flat in Armadale), there literally dozens of 20-somethings living in the South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor area and it was quite common to go wandering along Chapel Street on a Saturday morning and bumping into two or three others with the inevitable lunch and a few drinky-poos.
Right, you lot, that's my lot.

This last section is just a few recollections of places we (or at least I) remember social functions on a one-off basis (although Nine Darling Street may have been a regular venue for the Annual Dinner Dance). Or maybe just need more information on).

Think

493 St Kilda Road
Baron of Beef
Fergusson's
Smacka's Place
The Duke of Windsor ((Chapel and High)
Max Hotel (Commercial Road)
Peanuts Gallery (but not Peanuts)

Railway Hotel (Commercial Road)
Octagon Motel (Commercial and Punt)
Accounts Department Barbecues
Friday Night Wine and Cheese Nights
9 Darling Street
The Cuckoo
South Side Six (Manufacturing)

And although it may be touching a sensitive spot with some (sorry, madam), there may well have been favourite spots around North Melbourne frequented by ex-CDA people who transferred across to Miden in 1988. If the Railway Hotel was one, I’d love to know as a recently departed friend managed it for a number of years throughout the 1990s.

Thanks for the memories!
Daily Life : Work

Astor House (aka Illoura), 424 St. Kilda Road

Location
South-western corner of St. Kilda Road and King’s Way (originally Roy Street).

Memories
The new Illoura House was home to the CRISP/VICTAB team in a basement office that accommodated around 12 people. The direct entrance was from mid-way along King’s Way, roughly where the For Sale sign is in the image below.

The corner was obviously dramatically changed, even in the mid-1970s and one memory is consistently suggesting analysts en route to TAB headquarters should use the lights on the corner of Queen’s Road rather than risking life and limb taking a short cut across Kings Way!

David Lee later suggested that by 1977, the TAB/GWS team had increased to about 60 with space taken on the first or second floor supposedly overlooking The Gentle Touch massage parlour, but short of finding old receipts, I can’t confirm the address of the latter!

History
Just when the original mansion was built is a little hazy - many of the old mansions were constructed long before street numbers were introduced and directories used names of the occupiers rather than the property name.

There is some evidence that the site was originally called Fitzroy House (confirmed by a M.M.B.W. map of 1896) and later Astor House.

In 1936, the building was listed as vacant, and 1937 it reappeared as "Illoura Flats" although advertisements for larger-style apartments appear through the 1920s .

Illoura was taken over by the Defence Department during the Second World War and was Sir Thomas Blamey’s Melbourne headquarters for Land Signals. Post-war, it was bought by the Greek Orthodox church in 1946 for £16,000 with plans to develop the site into a church, These never eventuated and the building was still in use as a private hotel under the care of Mr. A. K. Craige when again offered for sale in 1964, the purchaser London County Properties Australia Ltd .

Today
The image below shows Illoura as it appeared in the 1970s.

A building of similar design was later built to the south and subsequently the two were joined by a glass atrium featuring shops and food outlets. The original white facade is now a very dark grey with some white under the windows.
Bank House, 11-19 Bank Place, Melbourne

Location:
Mid-section of the western side of Bank Place, Melbourne

Memories:
None for me of Bank House. Ron Bird remembers the highlight of his then eight-year-old life as being allowed to drive the manually operated hydraulic lift in Bank House one Saturday morning while his father was delivering office furniture there in his 1929 Rolls Royce.

History:
Technically not a Control Data Australia work place, but the premises of E. L. Heymanson and Co., manufacturer’s agents, who were the early agents for Control Data Corporation in Melbourne before the Australian subsidiary was incorporated on Friday, 17 May, 1963.

By the end of the Second World War, the company was intimately involved in the aviation industry - at least with the Wright Aircraft Corporation in 1945 and in later years, the company is known to have had extensive facilities at Moorabbin Airport, several commercial photographs circa 1960s of well-known aircraft noted as being taken at their hangar when they were agents for Lockheed.


The first Control Data equipment to be installed in Australia was a 160-A in Heymanson’s offices in Bank House, Bank Place, the installation performed by John Barth of CDC.

Computers and aviation (and other Heymanson agencies) made for strange bedfellows in Bank House, as the name suggests most of the tenants of 1963 very much more involved with the professions, the directory showing: Ground floor: a finance company, two stock brokers, two solicitors and an accountant, the first floor entirely occupied by the Worker’s Compensation Fund, the third by Heymanson, a debt collector and three solicitors, and the fourth by the Hemingway Robertson Institute (listed as tutors), the Dale Carnegie Centre and a publisher’s representation, these three probably all part of the Robertson’s corporate structure.

The fifth floor was the residential quarters of the caretaker, then one William Turner. Whether there was an anonymous tenant or the area was left vacant is unknown, but there was no entry listed for the second level between 1961 and 1963 with 1964 showing the occupancy as Kent, Brierley and Barraclough, accountants.

This was the last year Heymanson & Co. occupied Bank House, the company shown in 1964 at 94 William Street. Whether these were smaller or larger premises is unknown - certainly by then the 160-A would have found one of its many homes at the P.M.G’s Research Laboratories at 19 Lonsdale Street and the three Heymanson employees who crossed to Control Data (Trevor Robinson, Jim McGeorge and Claire Manuel) had moved to Eton Square.

Bank House is a five-story structure standing alongside the Mitre Tavern, the latter documented by Melbourne City Council as the oldest building in Melbourne.

The Bank House site was originally known as Eldon Chambers which appears to have existed prior to 1860 (it in fact preceded the Mitre Tavern).

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2 I recently came across some notes from several years ago when I compiled a list of computer suppliers in Melbourne at the time of Ron Bird’s Computer Census in 1962. These reveal that Bank House constituted the Sales and Accounts areas of Heymanson and Co, What was termed the “office and Australian Division” was at 408 Collins Street, Melbourne, 67 8571
In 1903 the two floors were occupied, the ground section by two solicitors and an architect, the first by another architect, a typist, and W. T. Wright, 'Australian Live Stock Manual'.

The original section of today’s Bank House was built in 1903 when tenders were issued on behalf of the printers mentioned in the insert above, Messrs Mason, Firth, and McCutcheon Pty. Ltd for the erection of new premises on the Eldon Chambers site (unfortunately all references are to plans in the office with no detailed specification as to what the building may have been like).

Directories always ran about six months behind, and the 1904 version still showed a mix of profession under Eldon Chambers, but in 1905, Bank House was fully occupied by the printers. With their full occupancy, no floor-by-floor layout was given, but it known that there were originally three floors in Bank House.

The site, however, was bought and extensively renovated and expanded in 1923 by businessman Charles Victor Robertson to house his Hemingway Robertson Institute formerly at 528 Collins Street. Two additional floors were added, a tell-tale sign being a ledge around the top of the third floor designating the previous height of the building.

There may well have been a further redevelopment around 1955 - some research into a different topic shows most of the floors in 1954 with 11 or 12 occupants, but in 1956 typically five or six, suggesting some re-modelling was done to create larger floor spaces. Regardless of renovation, a restaurant operated on the fifth floor - 'The Gallery' in later years - hardly a location to attract passing trade, but perhaps ideally suited to the bohemian lifestyle of Bank Place.

Strangely enough, despite Bank Place nestling in the centre of the financial section of Melbourne, it was once the centre of Melbourne’s bohemian life, the building directly opposite Bank House at number 12, once known as White Hall purchased in 1923 by The Savage Club, founded in 1894 by Australia’s first baronet, Sir William Clarke with the aim of bringing together those connected with literature, arts or science. Directories around the turn of the century regularly show five or six artists tucked away in Bank Place amongst a host of solicitors, stock brokers and accountants that occupied the apartments.

The club still functions, and although its membership is highly secretive with a strong code of silence, it is known that Sir Robert Menzies served as president from 1947 to 1962 and other presidents have included leading judges and Queen’s Counsel. Many of Australia’s most famous artists and art patrons have also been members, while recent members are believed to include Barry Humphries, Ted Baillieu and John Elliott.

The local club was based on The Savage Club of London, formed in 1857 and there are Savage Clubs in Adelaide, Perth and Sydney (The Bank referred to in both the thoroughfare and building names appears to have been the Bank of Australasia).

Today

Bank House appears destined either for demolition or re-development, although all of Bank Place is protected under the Historic Building Preservation Act and the only permissible alteration may be to add additional stories with the façade remaining. The other possibility is a conversion into apartments, and if this is the plan, then I want one!

At the time of writing (October, 2014), the building appears empty; certainly the ground level viewable from Bank Place, and with the doors were securely locked, it seems highly unlikely any of the upper floors were in use.

The narrowness of that section of Bank Place makes a meaningful image of Bank House almost impossible, but it is a an eye-pleasing baroque-style building and hopefully may survive as a residential complex.

3 The Hemingway Robertson Institute was a correspondence school specialising in accountancy and business courses.
The Mitre Tavern site is believed to have operated as a hotel since 1868, the first publican Henry Thompson, but it is known to have been used as a residence for some years before that and parts of the building may date back to Melbourne’s foundation in the mid-1830s.

Six additional bedrooms were ordered to be added by a Licences Reduction Board hearing in 1923, but the licensee contested the order, maintaining that the number and quality of the meals served there compensated the lack of accommodation and that altering the building would be an act of vandalism. Fortunately the licensee’s appeal succeeded and the building retained its original character.

The building was offered at an auction on 14 August, 1930 which attracted a standing-room only 250-strong crowd of bidders and on-lookers; it was passed in at £22,250, but was subsequently bought immediately after the auction at the reserve price of £24,000 by the Royal Insurance Company who planned to demolish it for extensions to their Collins Street building (Royal Insurance were the unsuccessful bidders at the auction).

Prior to the sale, the Mitre was owned by The Trustees, Executors and Agency Co. Ltd., who were planning a new ten-storey building on the site of the London Bank building at 401-403 Collins Street (they are noted as acquiring the building in 1918 at a cost of £6,500). The Mitre was part of their existing property at 412 Collins Street. The building was noted as having a frontage of 45 feet and seven inches and a depth of 68 feet. Fortunately, Royal Insurance had a later change of heart and the Mitre won another reprieve.

Coincidentally, my first experience of the Mitre was in 1976 when contracted to Royal Insurance, also my first contract after leaving Control Data. The Mitre Tavern also provided the name for the hardware chain. Mitre-10—the founders apparently lunching there to discuss plans for the original store and deciding to name it after the Tavern. (Legend has it that only six stores were planned, but the promoters thought “Mitre-6” sounded a bit "naffy" and they went for ten instead!)

Ron Bird also remembers the highlight of his then eight-year old life as being allowed to drive the manually-operated hydraulic lift in Bank House one Saturday morning while his father was making deliveries there in his 1929 Rover. His father manufactured “binding staples” that were used to file away paper invoices, receipts etc. Ron reckons there were around four million of these manufactured between 1946 and 1963 and his father was the only producer of such a product in Australia or NZ.

Charlton, 598 St. Kilda Road

"Expansion for Control Data Corporation"

"A new £500,000 home for Control Data Corporation in Melbourne by 1966".

“A six-story building with more than 40,000 sq. feet of floor space is being built in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, for Control Data Australia Pty Ltd. at a cost of £500,000.

“The corner site, which has been a vacant block, has a frontage of 80 feet to St. Kilda Road and 250 feet to Lorne Street.

“The fully air-conditioned building is being built for Control Data by Regent’s Park Land (Australia) and is due for completion by mid-1966.

“It will comprise a basement car park for 42 vehicles and six floors above ground to conform with height limitations.

“Additional open-air car parking facilities will be available of the north side of the building.

“Initially, Control Data will occupy the first three floors for administrative offices, a computer services bureau, and lecture theatres for training computer engineers, programmers and operators. “The top three floors surplus to Control Data’s immediate needs will be available for leasing through the managing agents, Jones, Lang and Wootton.

“Control Data Australia Pty. Ltd. is the Australian subsidiary of Control Data Corporation of Minneapolis, U.S.A.

“In the past year, Control Data has delivered 11 high-speed computers in Australia and another nine are on order. The value of the computers and their peripheral equipment exceeds £6 million. "Installations include national networks for the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics – each headed by a 3600, the most powerful computer brought here yet.

“The company will also deliver a specialized computer system to Victoria’s TAB near the end of the year to speed up off-course betting operations”.

The Australian, 5 April, 1965
History

Some brief research reveals that the site was one of the last blocks in St. Kilda Road to be developed around 1920 and was originally known as "Charlton" and that Lorne Street up until around 1904 was known as Fraser Street.

Despite the relatively narrow frontage, (79 feet), the 'Charlton' must have been a substantial building - the few references to it always have it as 598 St. Kilda Road, but it almost certainly must have utilised the Lorne Street side (250 feet).

Most blocks in St. Kilda Road were 100-foot frontages, suggesting Lorne Street may have been either built or substantially widened after the area was originally surveyed.

(This theory is further supported with the inclusion of "Rameta", the block of flats immediately at the back of 598, briefly used by an External Consulting group under Julie James - this site was just 73 feet onto Queen's Road; all others are again 100 feet).

There a few references to the building. It was offered for sale in 1926 as four bedrooms, three reception rooms and a billiard room, but in 1930 when sold off as part of a liquidation sale (H. Walters Pty. Ltd.), the advertisement added a swimming pool, ballroom, conservatory and separate garage and cottage, almost certainly fronting Queen's Lane.

There was no reference to a billiard room at that point, perhaps this had been converted to the ballroom.

There are no references in Trove beyond the 1930 sale, but Sands and MacDougall directories do confirm that the 598 site had been vacant for a couple of years before construction started, the last occupier listed Mr. Clarence Clairin in 1961.

Control Data first appeared at 598 in the 1967 directory (compiled Autumn 1966), the only other tenant then listed as Austin Public Relations, although I think Census and Statistics leased half a floor.

In 1971, tenants were listed as Commercial Public Relations; Reliance Securities Pty Ltd, financiers, Austin Public Relations, R. E. Ross, civil engineers, and Hill View Quarries Pty Ltd. (R. E. Ross and Hill View are believed to be part of the same corporate structure).

Rather surprisingly, (other than Bill Austin, I don’t recall the others), the latter three were still listed in 1974, although Ross Engineers had become Ross Nominees Pty Ltd.

598 was extensively renovated in 1990 and converted into an apartment block. Two additional floors were added, one residential and the upper floor comprising a gymnasium, sauna and swimming pool as well as an open barbeque area.

While it was still under construction, the old P.S.D. operations area which Tom Kopp, myself and a clerical assistant occupied around 1974 on the fifth floor on the south-western corner was converted to a two bedroom display unit, price from memory around $395,000, but something of a downer was around $400 per month in Body Corporate fees to support the seventh floor recreational area.

Anyone viewing the building today will have few problems recognising the old girl - while the two new floors offer a new hairdo and hat and semi-circular balconies add a few frills, the basic design remains clearly obvious.

There are a couple of offices on the ground floor, and a quick count of letter boxes in the foyer suggests 49 apartments. The basement is virtually unchanged, but you can still see into the lower level via the little half-moon windows along Lorne Street.

The open car park on the north side remains but is now only accessible by a security gate which a sign suggests is Alarmed. I only did a brief check around the immediate vicinity, but certainly did not uncover anything of the slightest threat, so I think the gate can sleep easy and put its alarm to rest!

One thing I couldn’t check is what happened to the toilets, rather oddly located during Control Data’s time alternatively between floors - meaning a lapse in concentration or perhaps minor disorientation while on another floor could lead to some embarrassing moments (always accidental, of course)!
I think Control Data established a presence at 493 St. Kilda Road in 1982, but it was way past my time - I believe initially this was an adjunct to 598, but I’m uncertain as to what happened to past this point. Perhaps someone can provide feedback as to what areas remained, if any, at 598.

A report in *The Age*, 20 September, 1983 when C.D.A. would have been out of the building for probably eighteen months or two years revealed that the building in its original conion and then owned by a subsidiary of I.C.I. had been recently sold to businessman Harry Lew for over $2 million, and after completerefurbishment, for sale or lease, had an asking price of $4.75 million, and likely to be leased for about $100 per sqm., plus outgoings.

Certainly one forgettory that threw me and a few others was exactly where the recreation area where we regularly had Friday wine and cheese nights.

Fortunately the September, 1974 edition of Between Ourselves has the Melbourne recreation room being used for the first time - the event a Social Club arts and crafts show - and places it on the first floor. It was suggested that the Social Club had plans to furnish the area with tables and chairs and eventually with facilities for pool, chess, drafts and cards for use during lunch breaks. The possibility of providing some sort of food facility 'was being examined'.

My vague recollection is that it was the Queen's Lane end, but too much wine, too little cheese! If this is the case, then Data Service were probably bumped upstairs somewhere.

And the location of the tenants! I have the vaguest recollection of a door marked Hillview Quarries on the left-hand side as you stepped out of the lifts, but which floor?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basement</th>
<th>Western end (to Queen's Lane)</th>
<th>Eastern end (to St. Kilda Road)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground</td>
<td>Car park and storage</td>
<td>Car park and storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Data Services customer area, reception</td>
<td>Computer room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Data Services sales and administration</td>
<td>Analyst rabbit Warren (where we were thrown a stale loaf of bread every Friday morning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Recreation area</td>
<td>Customer Engineering? or was this third floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Mail room, print room, I.D.P., ?????</td>
<td>Library, Facilities, Bill Austin ?????</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Systems sales and pre-sales</td>
<td>H.R., Traffic, sundry offices on northern side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional offices, including P.S.D.</td>
<td>Executive offices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**History (Lorne Street)**

Before St. Kilda and Queen’s roads became part of the City of Melbourne in the early 1990s, Lorne Street was the border between South Melbourne and St. Kilda. Before then, the two thoroughfares were regarded as part of Melbourne for postal purposes, although with different postcodes split at Park Street.

Up until around 1904, Lorne Street was known as Fraser Street.

Rather remarkably, the street planners of the day appear to have forgotten about the Albert Park Reserve (this section at the time little more than a rubbish tip), and a line along the short section of Fraser Street at St. Kilda Road appears to been extended directly across the reserve to become Fraser Street in the rapidly developing Middle Park, also part of the City of South Melbourne.

Probably the confusion between the two caused the name change - "Lorne Street" the most convenient to alter as it had no properties facing the roadway and thus no postal addresses. There were still extensive blocks of vacant land around our ancestral home being advertised - one tract of 200 feet (a double block) on St. Kilda Road between Lorne and Union streets and extending 250 feet to Queen’s Lane still available in 1910.

Below : The photograph below shows the railway bridge over St. Kilda Road which was part of the loop from St. Kilda to Brighton. This crossed St. Kilda Road around Union Street, about a block south of Lorne Street. The line opened in late 1859, but the loop lasted less than a year before a more direct connection via South Yarra and Prahran was opened.

The embankments through the Albert Park Reserve remained until around 1880 when most of the material, including a substantial amount of clay was removed to provide the filling for foundations of what was then known as the Sandridge Military Road between Sandridge (Port Melbourne) and the Esplanade in St. Kilda, the road on completion named Beaconsfield Parade at the behest of the Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) Council in whose municipality most of the thoroughfare laid.

On that basis, 598 St. Kilda Road is probably around the cluster of buildings just to the right of the left-hand stanchion. Sadly, none of the directories around this time show St. Kilda Road, the buildings remain unknown.

The original is held by the State Library of Victoria and is hand-marked 1868, but it is probably from 1862 or 1863. The second image is credited to Arthur Wilsmore and with the additional of some livestock appeared in ‘Victoria Illustrated’ (Second Series), a collection of etchings published by Sands and MacDougall in 1863.

Plenty of on-street parking, but don’t expect a train real soon!
(left) 1896 M.M.B.W. map showing the corner. The house "Taarbool", now the red-brick flats adjacent to 598 was the only structure in the block extending north to Beatrice Street.

(right) the St. Kilda - Brighton loop from Punt Road to Windsor, early 1860s after the link via South Yarra had been opened.
Glenhope (aka Eton Square) 474-76 St. Kilda Road

Location:
South-western corner of St. Kilda Road and Leopold Street

History
From the few short histories that have been compiled on Control Data Australia, we know the local subsidiary was formed on 17 May, 1963 and commenced operations from Suite 16, 474 St. Kilda Road later also occupying 17 and 18.

More specifically, 474 was the northern section of Eton Square, a block of two-story red brick flats that also incorporated 476 St. Kilda Road (the site is now occupied by two separate buildings).

Eton Square was constructed in 1937 and advertised from November of that year as "ultra-modern new flats and maisonettes, own entrance and yards".

Eton Square (along with many similar buildings of modest architectural merit in St. Kilda and Queens Road) came after the demolition of "Glenhope", one of the many grand mansions that lined the roads, at one stage drawing comparisons with some of the finest boulevards in Europe and England.

"A block of flats" may not do justice to the building of the time (most of the advertising directed potential buyers to an address at 9 Leopold Street, South Yarra - Leopold Street appears to have extended across St. Kilda Road, now Armadale Street).

A 'maisonette' is defined as an apartment extending over two or more floors of a building - many of the early advertisements refer to maisonettes in Eton Square being of six rooms (typically, lounge, dining and four bedrooms) with a private entrance and own yard; the flats of four rooms with similar amenities.

Advertisements suggest that tenants were very much families, one in 1940 seeking a girl "to cook and clean, good home" at 16 Eton Square (the original unit occupied by Control Data), while there are several others looking for domestic help, often on a "live-in" basis.

The cook and cleaner had probably departed the scene, but Eton Square continued to be used for residential accommodation until early in 1961 when The Sun revealed:

"£90,000 FOR ST. KILDA ROAD BUILDING"

"The Victorian Property and Building Trust has bought the building at 474 St. Kilda Road for about £90,000.

The building consists of 10 flats or maisonettes and adjoins 476 St. Kilda Road which was bought recently for around the same price. The two buildings are the southern and northern wings of Eton Square. The site is 200 by 250 feet. The whole of the building will be let as offices and professional suites. The sale was arranged by K. L. Dowling & Co. Pty Ltd in conjunction with Mr. Laurence J Day of Ascot Vale".

Eton Square was still being used residentially before the sale.

The Sands and McDougall directory of 1964 (probably compiled around October of the previous year) lists the tenants as:-

Aluminium (Australia); E.S and A. Bank; AquaPools Ltd; Rickards and Rickards, solicitors; Colliers Inc., publishers; Titan Manufacturing Co., engineers; Toplis & Harding Pty Ltd, insurance adjusters; Wilemco Trading Co.; Walker, Robertson, Macquarie Pty Ltd, advertising agents; Eclipse Motors, car agents; Control Data Australia, computer suppliers; Australian University Commission; Donald Tracy Pty Ltd, real estate; J. W. Clymer, osteopath;
Just what criteria the directory used to determine the sequence is unknown - presumably the bank, restaurant, and probably real estate agency would have been on the ground floor and with a St. Kilda Road frontage; the layout of the remainder a mystery.

It is also worth noting is that Control Data Australia was originally in number 16 expanding later to include 17 and 18, the latter shared with Rickards and Rickards, solicitors in the 1964 directory above.

There are only 15 offices listed by the directory - given the 1961 report suggested '10 flats or maisonettes' and we can assume that the southern wing at 476 followed the same layout, the best guess is that there were originally 20 units in Eton Square, and in all probability, three or four were probably combined to provide larger office accommodation after the building was sold in 1961.

The Control Data office is known to have been in one of the two-story maisonettes - John O'Neil at a recent lunch recalled two rooms downstairs (reception and a copy/utility room, plus kitchen), and three offices and a toilet/bathroom upstairs. He also suggested the Control Data team frequented the Eton Square restaurant on a regular basis. Ron Bird adds the Chevron lounge was also a favourite spot for CDA lunches and that Bob Hawke, Albert Monk and other 'comrades' from the ACTU were also regulars and had their own little corner in the Chevron lounge.

Somewhere with 474 there was a 160-A installed (maybe the shared suite 18). Ron recalls that at one stage there was a major problem with - he new tower in 1984 embraced - the mainframe was swapped with the one at Eton Square. 'I remember the frames being transported in George Crawford's veteran Jaguar open boot. Pity we did not take a photo of this in the car parking space outside Suite 18 as we have no photos of Eton Square'.

Many of these non-descript blocks of flats in later years were notorious for have a red light over one or more of the doors, but there was no hank-panky of that nature at Eton Square!

Or was there? What the histories don't tell us is that adjacent at 478 St. Kilda Road was the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (W.R.A.A.C) barracks, and we wonder whether any of the dirty little Control Data buggers jumped the fence occasionally and tried their luck at serving under the Sergeant-Major!

(Ron Bird also suggests there WAS a door with a red light - perhaps the directories of the day not lowering the tone of their erstwhile publication by including one of the 'missing' apartments).\footnote{Perhaps not so squeamish for long - the 1974 directory, the last year of publication, shows the Playboy Relaxation Centre and Scandinavian Health Centre. There was also a prominent court case in January, 1985 when four men, including a policeman were charged with abducting and assaulting a man from a brothel in Eton Square.}

To a traditionalist's delight, 478, one of the original grand mansions, remains externally virtually unchanged from the original "Nangunia", and is now used as a boutique hotel, The Hotel Chesterfield. The W.R.A.A.C. was disbanded in 1963 as part of the move to align male and female training and duties, but I'm pretty sure that the site remained with a military usage well into the 1990's.

"Not happy, Jan" was a successful advertising campaign of three or four years ago, "Jan" coping the blame for missing out on advertising in the Yellow Pages.

Not sure whether Trevor Robinson had his own earlier version, "not, happy, Claire" (Manuel, his personal assistant), but the 1964 directory had "Control Data Corporation (USA), 474 St. Kilda Road, *26 3621" - the asterisk indicating multiple lines, but with no reference to Control Data Australia!

Coincidentally for one just finishing 12 months research into the history of the totalizator, the next entry was Control Systems Totalizators Limited, 380 Bourke Street - Control Systems were the second largest supplier of totalizator equipment and operations in Australia behind Automatic Totalisators Ltd based in Sydney.

Eton Square appears to have survived until around 1982 - the Grollo Group were noted as constructing a five-storey office block and six-level car park pre-let to King's Parking in 1983 at a total estimated cost of $12 million. The new tower in 1984 embraced Barbarino's Rib Restaurant where staff insisted on patrons wearing a wrap-round paper napkin before they tucked into the ribs finger-first. It was well after I left the company, but I'm pretty confident it would have attracted CDA patronage (if not, why not)!.\footnote{"Nangunia" is registered with the National Trust as the oldest surviving house remaining in St. Kilda Road. Originally known as "Charsfield", it was constructed in 1880 and designed by Charles Webb, whose other works included the Princess Theatre. TheM.M.B.W. map of 1896 shows it as the only house between Leopold and Louise Street, directories have it owned by an Arthur G. Hogson. A guest house wing in the same style was added in the 1920s. It nows functions as the boutique Hotel Chesterfield (which may be an accidental corruption of the original name), coincidentally where Tom Misa stayed and conducted interviews with ex-CDA staff in November, 2013.}

**Historical References**

Often it's the little things that pull a story together - below are some snippets extracted from Trove for 474 St. Kilda Road.

From these, we now know that "Glenhope" during the 1920s at least was owned by a well-to-do family named Brash, who also had a holiday house at Sorrento. It also reveals the house was offered at public auction in...
March, 1927 (above), but seemingly did not sell with Mrs. Brash a couple of years later selling off the furniture at an executor’s auction from 474 St. Kilda Road.

Harold Brash was a descendant of the founder of Brash’s Music, first established around 1862, and both he and his wife feature prominently in the social columns of the Twenties. Directories then show several different occupiers, the last in 1936, Alexander Younger - one was obviously left-handed and a keen golfer ... (elementary, my dear Watson).

I haven’t researched 476 St. Kilda Road fully, but coincidentally, it was offered for auction in June, 1927, just three months after 474 - “Magnificent Brick Residence, also Modern, Antique and Eastern furniture, 14 Beautiful rooms, Ballroom, staff quarters, double garage, outbuildings, land 100 x 300 feet.

Given Eton Square was built across both titles, it’s probably reasonable to assume that they fell into the hands of the same owner - the ad for 476 suggests the property was being sold UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, but a different auctioneer was involved.

The first definite reference to 476 by number is in the 1904 directory as being occupied by a Mr Pulteney Mein - prior to this, only one house (unnumbered) appeared in the block between Leopold and Beatrice streets. A property at what would have been 474 was shown as occupied by a George Stirling who appears to have run a large drapery store in Richmond.

Snippets : "Glenhope", 474 St. Kilda Road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December, 1907</td>
<td>Man wanted, general, useful, for the country; references require, 474 St. Kilda Road, corner Leopold-st.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November, 1921</td>
<td>Cook, plain or general, for Sorrento, small family from Dec. 14, 8 weeks, other maid in house; refs. Apply Glenhope, 474 St. Kilda rd (two doors Leopold-st). Fares paid. (A near identical ad appeared in November, 1924)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April, 1923</td>
<td>(Deaths) McEvoy - On 2nd April, at 474 St. Kilda Road, James McEvoy, late “Tassacandra”, Gundagai, N.S.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October, 1926</td>
<td>House parlour maid wanted, exper., personal and small family, £2, 474 St. Kilda Road. Wednesday morning, or between 5.30 and 6.00 Telephone Win. 580. (Personal) Mr. Harold Brash, of Brash and Company, returned on the Sydney express yesterday after a trip to Java. He was accompanied by Mrs. Brash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September, 1929</td>
<td>On the premises, GLENHOPE, 474 ST. KILDA ROAD. As instructed by The Trustees, Executors an Agency Company Ltd., as Agents for MRS HAROLD BRASH The Complete Furnishings ... (VERY LARGE CARPETS, DOWN-FILLED UPHOLSTERED LOUNGE and Drawing-room SETTEES and CHAIRS, MAHOGANY and OTHER BEDROOM SUITES, HEPPLEWHITE Full Dining-room suite, NEW AUGUST FORSTER BABY GRAND in Mahogany finish, etc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April, 1935</td>
<td>Jas. Linquist irons, and Spalding putter in leather bag. Return to 474 St. Kilda Road or ring Win. 580. Good Reward. (Elementary, my dear Watson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November, 1937</td>
<td>ST KILDA ROAD (474) - ETON SQUARE New Ultra mod S.C Flats 4 and 6 rooms OWN YARDS Just completed CALL No 9 Leopold st Phone Win 8486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 1938</td>
<td>MICHAEL - The Friends of Mr EMANUEL MICHAEL are informed that the remains of his dearly beloved wife, Eva, will be interred in the Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton. The funeral is appointed to move from his residence, No. 15 Eton Square, 474 St Kilda road, Melbourne, To-morrow (Sunday, 20th February), 10 a.m. punctually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December, 1942</td>
<td>WEDDINGS CRAWFORD-STOCKALL Saints' Church, St Kilda, wasthe setting on Saturday for thewedding of Edna Marie Stock,younger daughter of Mr and Mrs H.Stock, Eton Square, St Kilda Rd,Melbourne, to Mr Hector Crawford,conductor of Melbourne Conservatorium Orchestra, only son of Mr and Mrs W. Crawford, Lansdowne Rd,East St Kilda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Picton Court (aka Victorian T.A.B), 1-2-3 Queen's Road, Melbourne

Location
Eastern corner of King’s Way and Queen’s Road.

History
To be truthful, we only used Picton Court to keep the menu neat.

This was the name of 2 Queen’s Road prior to construction of the T.A.B. building, but for many years prior from around 1940, number 2 was the Yalcowinna Guest House, number 3, the Ballara Hall Guest House.

Both were rebuilt or remodelled over the years.

The earliest mention of the site in Queen’s Road dates back to 1875 when the land, then part of the Albert Park Reserve was divided into allotments and sold by the Victorian Colonial Government at public auction. The sites which eventually became 2 and 3 Queen’s Road were bought by Mr. David Boyd and Mr. J. P. Scott respectively.

The following year, number 3 was sold to Georgew Watmough who erected a brick villa, subsequently enlarged and improved by the next owner, David Syme, one of the earliest founders of The Age newspaper.

Until 1881, when both sites came into the possession of Stephen George Staughton, 2 Queen’s Road remained vacant. Staughton, a Western Districts grazier, lived in the residence at 3 Queen’s Road, but later moved to a 17-room house he constructed at number 2 in 1906.

Number 3 was shown in an 1896 M.M.B.W. map under the name of “Woodside” and occupied by a Mrs Isabel Hood, but with apartments as early as 1916. The same map show the Ilioura House site on the corner of St. Kilda Road as “Fitzroy House”.

Number 2 was either rebuilt or remodelled into apartments in the late 1930s and later as Picton Court, it like C.D.A.’s original home, Eton Square, was occupied by around 12 to 15 small offices.

Prior to the T.A.B., it was still shown in the early 1960s as “flats”, but again the tenants were primarily of a commercial nature.

In 1966, while the original building was under construction, Picton Court was divided between temporary offices for the T.A.B. and the Manhattan Acceptance Corporation, financiers, and number 3 (unnamed) as “development site, T.A.B.”

Number 1 Queen’s Road on the corner of Queen’s Lane was shown in the same directory under Mrs. C. M. Carolan, and it came as a real surprise given the age of its neighbours that this was built as a private residence as late as 1951, shown the following years as occupied by Francis Carolan. 6

Just what the usage of the site was before this is a mystery - there is simply no mention in directories of 1 Queen’s Road before this; there are occasional references to Yalcowinna as number 1 and it may have been the one property later subdivided, but it seems strange nothing was constructed on such a prominent corner block.

The TAB’s Head Office building was officially opened by the Premier, Sir Henry Bolte on the evening of Thursday, 9 March, 1967. Prior to the building becoming functional, the two 3100s that comprised CARBINE were housed temporarily at 598 St. Kilda Road.

6 The 1953 directory shows the site as under construction and under the Carolan name the following year, but there are advertisements seeking tradesmen to work on the site in 1951. Francis Carolan may well have been the principal of Carolan and Co., Managing Agents for Warwick Hall at 11 Queen’s Road, later the office of Control Data Business Advisers.
The July, 1975 edition of TABLOID, the T.A.B. staff newsletter in describing plans for the extension of the original building noted:

"... the 19,000 sq. feet triangular piece of land adjacent to our original building has been cleared of the car park and the seven-room house that covered it". (see map above).

Clare Mary Carolan died in 1975 at 89 years of age and she was still shown as residing in the house immediately prior to her passing.

It came as another surprise to me to discover that numbers 1 to 3 Queen’s Road were in the narrow section which merges north into Bowen Crescent NOT King’s Way. (see map above).

Number 1, “the triangular piece of land” and seven-roomed house were on the intersection of Queen’s Road, Queen’s Lane and Bowen Crescent.

I'll cheat a bit here and give the approximate layout as detailed in a copy of TABLOID, the T.A.B. staff newsletter in April, 1975 advising of the placement of first aid kits. Any updates most welcome!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basement</th>
<th>Plant Room, Garage, Transport Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground Floor :</td>
<td>T.A.B. Agency, Foyer, ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mezzanine:</td>
<td>Planning division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Floor :</td>
<td>Telephone Betting, Computer Room, Sick Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Floor :</td>
<td>Control Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Floor :</td>
<td>Tenanted - 1974 directories show Masius Wynne William Pty Ltd and Eagle Public Relations Pty Ltd, both advertising agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Floor :</td>
<td>Sick Room, Audit and Security Division, Finance Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Floor :</td>
<td>Property Division, Central Operations Division, Field Operations Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Floor :</td>
<td>Ladies Locker Room (rest of floor not stated, but another image shows an aisle of offices with secretaries outside, probably the executive area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Floor :</td>
<td>Cafeteria, Kitchen, Recreation Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Floor :</td>
<td>Plant Room, Turbine Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today**

Four additional floors and extensive remodelling make the building itself almost unrecognisable from the original, although the corner site retains a familiar look.

The current name and address are somewhat contradictory.

An external sign proclaims it to be Number One Queen’s Road, but the building itself is named St. Kilda Road Towers, despite it being entirely east of Queen’s Lane.

Much of today’s TABCORP operations are based almost opposite to Picton Court in Bowen Crescent, the building for decades colloquially known as "Half Moon House" or "Doughnut House".

See also "The Golden Mile : Land Sales", page 28.
Rameta, 67 Queen’s Road

Location
North-eastern corner of Queen’s Road and Lorne Street (immediately behind 598 St. Kilda Road).

Nothing for me other than a recollection of a block of flats there, somewhat more modern than some of the others constructed on the graves of the original mansions in Queen’s Road. Julie James headed up the Southern District External Consulting Services of Professional Services Division there prior to moving to larger premises shared with Control Data Institute in a much newer office building at 71 Queen’s Road, just south of the John Batman Motel.

I can’t confirm it one way or the other (that’s my story and I’m sticking to it), but there is a belief given the number of strange men that apparently rang the bell that the apartment (on Queen’s Lane) may previously have had a red light over the door and used to distribute hormones (i.e., a "whore-moan" being a noise you hear outside a brothel).

History
Bad puns aside, the site had a couple of interesting features, not least of which is that like 598 St. Kilda Road, it was only a 73-foot frontage, in its case to Queen’s Road. All other blocks in both streets from King’s Way south to the Junction were a standard 100 by 250 feet, perhaps reinforcing the theory put forward in the page on Charlton that Lorne Street (originally Fraser Street) may have been reconstructed wider than originally planned and a slice taken from the blocks on the northern side.

I have a hunch that Lorne Street is somewhat wider than all the other streets between St. Kilda and Queen’s Road and certainly the only one with traffic lights. I must remember to pace it out next time I’m in the area. There also seems to be the likelihood that the original intentions were to continue Fraser/Lorne Street across the lake reserve, then a rubbish dump, as it aligns perfectly with Fraser Street in Middle Park.

There was no mention of 67 Queen’s Road in directories until 1914, when it was listed simply as “vacant” - I’m not sure whether this means the block was cleared land or a house had been constructed, but unoccupied. The first name shown against the site in the following year was Lionel Benjamin, who was there until 1940 with the exception of two years in the early 1920s when it was listed under Henry Harker.

There’s still some checking to be done to see whether there was a family connection, but coincidentally, Wyalla at 71 Queen’s Road later used by the analyst group and CDI was listed under Louis Benjamin from 1908 to 1926, but possibly with the family there several years earlier.

67 Queen’s Road re-appeared in 1941 as the Rameta Flats, confirming it was of later design than others along that stretch and was promoted with all the hyperbole of the real estate agencies of the time (and evermore).

Directories do not show the occupants of apartment buildings (probably because of the somewhat transitory nature of the occupancies), but Rameta must have had some attraction as a 1945 Certificate of Incorporation for Victory Motors Pty Ltd. has one Reginald Myles Ansett as a co-director (along with Norman Myer of Heyington Place, Toorak).

By the mid-fifties, the block appears to have been "commercialised", some of the tenants including the Australian Air Pilot’s association (Reg’s influence?). Volkswagen (Australia), Pty. Ltd, and British Nylon Spinners Pty Ltd (later Nylex).

The site, along with 63 and 65 Queen’s Road was bought by the Chevron group in 1955, the frontage to Queen’s Road of 473 feet selling for £456,000 with long-unfulfilled plans to build a massive private hotel and office complex.

The final Sands and Macdougall directory of 1974 shows 11 tenants, the most notable Computer Power Pty Ltd, “management consultants, along with a group called Cobol Digital Pty Ltd of which I for one have no knowledge. Julie confirmed recently that there were still quite a number of private residences in the building at the time her group was based there.
The massive proposed private hotel was never built: the President Motel at 63 survived until around 1990, the Waitemata Flats at 65 and Rameta at 67 probably around the same, but it seems probable that the three properties bought by the Chevron group in 1955 remained under the same ownership, the stretch now three interconnecting buildings offering strata title apartments and five-star hotel accommodation, labelled as The Sebel, the Pullman and the Mercure hotels, the Pullman group seemingly the controlling body.

(This was in September, 2013 - a quick web search suggests that there may have been changes, there is no Sebel or Mercure listings for the site, some more shoe leather required)

I believe that 65 and 67 were originally part of the Raddison hotel chain, but again need to check a little further.

See also "The Golden Mile: Land Sales", page 28.

**Stanleigh, 493 St. Kilda Road**

**Location**

Eastern side, midway between Armadale Street (north) and Commercial Road

**Memories**

Personally, just a vague one of a reception area on the left-hand side as you entered and a Control Data area to the rear of the ground floor.

Telephone directories tell me that in 1982, Control Data Australia was at 598 St. Kilda Road (51-0351) and in 1983 at 493 (268-9500), but other than that, I have little knowledge of the move, although someone at a lunch suggesting most of the logistics of the move were planned by Doug Watkins.

**History**

Research into the history of this site is yet to be fully completed, but certainly Trove tells us little, other than indicating that the address was known as "Stanleigh" or "Stanley".

The early history is unclear as the numbers of the eastern side of St. Kilda Road have changed extensively over the years as it was originally for some reason numbered from south to north. The western side, however, was numbered in the more conventional fashion of incrementing from the city end, i.e. in this case, north to south.

The numbers between Commercial Road and Armadale Street in 1904 ran from 238 and 248, the four buildings including the Russian embassy and a home for nurses at the Alfred Hospital, but there is nothing to suggest that 493 occupied one of those four sites.

The first reference is in 1934 with advertising for three-room apartments with separate entrances and own yard. There were probably larger apartments - one family named Grigg (George T. and later Bert J) appears to have occupied one from the early 1930s through to at least 1954 with three or four births or deaths noted.

There was a wafer-thin connection to Control Data even then - "Bert" was Herbert John, later a member of the first Board of the Victorian T.A.B. and at least three other members of the Grigg family were prominent in T.A.B. circles.

From 1962 to around 1965, the building was listed as the Melbourne office of Tongala Milk Products with no suggestion of other tenants, but from that point on until 1973, the entry is simply "not available", aka vacant or demolished. It was put up for auction on 18 September of that year, the land 99 x 330 feet with a Planning Permit for a 14 storey building - I have no recollection of the height during CDA's tenancy.

**Today**

Just another office block - other than some faint memories of the Control Data occupancy, there's absolute nothing to divert one's attention to the building. There is now a covered walkway extending to St. Kilda Road which I don't recall in Control Times and I did notice around the end of 2014 that the name of Linfox House appears. The delightful block of older-style apartments on the northern side remain.

Above: 1896 M.M.B.W. map: Victoria House (upper) was a private residence, Shanghai Villa to the south was by 1904 the Russian Embassy. 493 St. Kilda Road was the block marked with the map reference 905, immediately north of the intersection of Louise Street on the western side of St. Kilda Road.
Warwick Hall, II Queen's Road

Location
Between King's Way and Arthur Street (around 60 metres from the latter

Memories
This bobbed up in early 1980s telephone directories as the offices of Control Data Business Advisors, the division set up by Trevor Robinson when he returned to the fold circa 1980.

The Control Data presence surprised me a little as I worked in the building - then Prime House - for a three or four year period around that time consulting to a software company and can’t recall ever seeing the Control Data name, which certainly would have set bells a’ringing.

CD Advisors when I did a brief job for them just after they were established occupied a ground level unit at 600 St. Kilda Road, almost directly opposite (perhaps a few yards to the south) of the entrance to 598. They were probably connected to the 51-0351 number at 598 at the time; they were not shown in the telephone directory until 1982 when at 11 Queen’s Road and 267-7999. The group moved into 493 St. Kilda Road in September, 1985.

History
Astonishingly for such a central and fairly exclusive location, 11 Queen’s Road was not built on until 1934 and first advertised in January, 1935:
"WARWICK HALL ... JUST COMPLETED ... SIXTEEN SUMPTUOUS FLATS AND MAISONETTES
All containing 2 Bedrooms, Reception-rooms, panel, central heating, refrigeration, automatic oil-burning Hot-water system DELIGHTFULLY SITUATED Opposite the Albert Park Golf Links. From £2/17/6 to Approved Tenants"

There was a rather spooky coincidence here - the managing agents were Carolan and Co. - the principal of whom was the Francis Carolan that later built at 1 Queen’s Road and featured in our coverage of the T.A.B. site (page 17).

Given its late arrival, it perhaps no surprise that Warwick Hall was specifically built as apartments, perhaps the only flats in Queen’s Road that were not originally private mansions, but the real mystery is why the block remained vacant for so long, possibly the last site to be developed in Queen’s Road - the only assumption being that the block was owned in the same interests as either 10 or 12 and used as a garden or for recreational purposes.

Directories of the early 1970s still show 11 Queen’s Road as Warwick Hall and flats, but with two commercial tenancies. The final directory of 1974 show "offices being built", its next-door neighbour to the north, Nylex House.

Today.
The building on 1974 is largely unchanged other than a ground-level facelift on the Queen’s Road frontage, although the name disappeared in the late 1980s along with Prime Computers.
Wyalla, 71 Queen's Road

Location

Between Lorne and Union Street, two doors south of the John Batman Motel.

Memories

None for me. This was the building occupied by Control Data’s Education Services division, aka Control Data Institute. Telephone directories suggest that they were there from 1981 until at least 1984. I haven’t checked further either side of those dates, although I have a recollection that they may have later moved to 493 St. Kilda Road. As to Control Data’s presence in the building, I assume it was used both for administration and teaching.

Tony Bell when he was with CDI remembers looking off his corner window one rather bleak day an watching an elderly man teetering on the edge of the lake and wondering whether he going to try and drown himself in two feet of water, but when the guy turned around, he had a fishing rod and four silver trout. Discovering there had been a recent release of fish into the lake, Tony tried his hand a day or so later and has a fond recollection of wandering back across Queen’s Road one lunchtime resplendent in his best business suit, with a fishing rod and proudly displaying two wriggling trout!

History

The number 71 first appeared in the 1908 directories under the name “Wyalla”, the occupant Louis S Benjamin who appears to have been there until around 1926.

Tracing back on the family name reveals a Laurence Benjamin, almost certainly Louis’ father, there in 1896 but given there were just three entries between Fraser and Union streets in both this and the 1892 directory, we can also determine the property in the latter year belonged to Mr. George Bruce and his family to at least 1888. The Bruce family were prominent socially, a Family Notice following the loss of a son, Geoere Owen Bruce in France in July, 1919 Death Notice places him as “the second son of the late George W. Bruce (Paterson, Laing, and Bruce Ltd., London and Melbourne”, the company prominent drapers and mercers in Melbourn.

Whether the property continued to be known as “Wyalla” is problematical – World War archives show Lieutenant Lawrence Benjamin junior serving with the Australian Flying Corps and born in 1896,his widowed mother Clara as next of kin, but the address as “Clarrnce”, Queen’s Road, but unfortunately with no number quoted.

The property was advertised for sale in April, 1924 as a “charming two-story brick residence” with five bedrooms and servant’s quarters upstairs, entrance hall, dining, drawing and morning rooms with a conservatory annex downstairs and an asphalt tennis court and various outbuildings, but perhaps most interesting was that Wyalla was offered with an adjoining vacant block, also of the standard 100 by 250 feet which the auctioneer’s notice (hardly the most reliable of sources) suggested was “practically the last available block in this charming road”.

It seems unlikely the auction was a success; in October, 1926, another auction notice appeared for the disposal of all of the Benjamin family’s furnishings owing to the sale of the property”.

“Sale” may have in fact been “anticipated sale” with Wyalla itself again offered at auction in December, still with the tennis court, but no mention of the vacant block.

The new owner was Harry McRae, who is noted as dying at 71 Queen’s Road in August, 1929 and by October, the property was again on the market, but now referred to as “Errinval” and again in October, 1932 as “Aylesbury”.

The first hint of a conversion from a private residence to shared accommodation came in mid-1938 when advertisements started to appear for “Sandilands Lodge” Guest House, the notices suggesting the property was redecorated and newly furnished throughout and with some emphasis on married couples.

This building of many names remained in the Sandilands family until the end, the final entry in Sands and McDougall directories in 1974 having the occupants shown as Mr. G. H. Sandilands along with five commercial tenancies.

In July, 1949, the “superior” furnishings of what was described as a 15-room house were auctioned and this may well have been the end of the guest house. References from 1953 onwards are always to commercial enterprises operating from the building; a real estate agency, seed distribution company and management consultants amongst those noted.

Today

I haven’t checked the current usage, but I’m guessing it hasn’t changed a great deal.

Business Products
Location:
2 Sullivan Street, Moorabbin (off South Road, north-eastern corner of Ebden Street)

Memories:
The final manufacturing plant and Business Products sales and administration offices.

Following the cancellation of the CRISP project in 1978, I’m not sure if RIOTs for the existing RIMFIRE system were still manufactured there, but the plant was converted to produce primarily 8 and 5.25-inch diskettes and magnetic tapes perhaps later OEM disk drives.

I was connected with the facility for a couple of years on a consulting assignment for Ken Evans, then in charge of Business Products – the administration area was on the ground floor to the right of the entrance; the production manager’s the upper floor to the left.

History:
The Australian production was viable because of 20 per cent (I think) tariff on imported goods of what might be termed of a “consumable” nature (I tried a diskette once, but it was a bit bland for my taste).

I seem to remember during the latter days of the time I was connected that there were storm clouds on the horizon with plans by the Hawke government to either eliminate or drastically reduce the tariff protection, but Dick Bament recalls the plant’s eventual closure resulted from the financially-troubled CDC selling off some profitable global assets not connected with the core computer business around Christmas in 1985.

He was production manager at Sullivan Street when the final crunch came and he had the sad task of informing about 70 of the production line staff that they were effectively out of work.

Business Products itself (excluding the manufacturing operation) was sold to Xidec Corporation based in Silicon Valley.

A note in the last Flash in David Lee’s files rather astonishingly reveals the local arm was sold late in 1985 despite sales of $1.08 million in November and annual revenue of $7.7 million, some $1.8 million higher than the previous year ... “and yet in December, they are working for someone else”.

In fact, I think all of the sales and administrative staff were absorbed into alternative roles which required relocation to 493 St. Kilda Road. I recall Vicki Graham, Ken’s former secretary joined Xidec, but I don’t think they took on any of the other Moorabbin staff.

They established their office in Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, a 1930s red-brick building almost immediately behind the Town Hall (right).

Perhaps one of the sad things in Control Data Australia’s history is that much of the Brave New World of local manufacturing is scarcely remembered, nor are hundreds of production line workers; never part of the social scene, rarely if ever acknowledge in Between Ourselves or later in Flash, but who nevertheless were an integral part of the local subsidiary’s history and proudly wore the Control Data badge.

Tom Misa’s interviews of November, 2013 managed to cover just about the entire spectrum of CDA’s activities, but Manufacturing, although mentioned in a few of the interviews from the “598 management” perspective was somewhat unfortunately not covered at the shop-floor level and we rarely if ever sight anyone actively involved at Cheltenham and Moorabbin at lunches or reunions.
Manufacturing

**Location:**
Various in Cheltenham and Moorabbin

**History:**
The older images come from an article prepared by Ron Bird for a Between Ourselves article in 1982 and part of the collection that David Lee has scanned and archived.

It did not reveal exact addresses but suggested manufacturing sites in Wangara Road, Elma Road, Bricker Street, Nellbern Road and Station Street, the first four in Cheltenham, the latter Moorabbin. Not much was revealed of their background given the restricted space available.

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**147-149 Herald Street, Cheltenham**

Before and now a spanking, brand-new building (no cigar for guessing which is which). Presumably the original photo was taken from the right-hand side of the newer image and along Herald Street.

The main manufacturing plant from late 1971, but still unable to cope with the expanded production. CDA was unable to locate a suitably-sized building to accommodate all the manufacturing facilities, hence several other site below came into play.

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**6 Bricker Street, Cheltenham**

(off Herald Street). Used for wiring and sheet metal work.

The number was never listed in the few references to the site, but today’s image shows it as number 6 with a mirror image at number 4. There were no odd numbers in the short street, the opposite all the sides of buildings facing at 90 degrees.

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**15 Nellbern Road, Moorabbin.**

Upstairs housed the management team including Bill Wright, Manufacturing General Manager, downstairs a production line. This was a new building, believed to have been wholly occupied by CDA, but rather surprisingly not adorned by the corporate logo. The images are deceptive – the 1975 image appears to be reversed with the double doors facing in the wrong direction. The building was not on a corner, the space to the left of today’s image (right in 1975) was a loading bay between 13 and 15.
Elma Road, Cheltenham, just off Herald Street. The upstairs section housed a small project planning group. In a side road off Herald it was almost opposite the main factory. The number wasn't referenced in the couple of images that appeared in house publications but the enhanced image clearly shows No. 1 of the door. Current references show it as part of 1-17 Elma Road.

Station Street, Moorabbin. Somewhat isolated from the other facilities, Station Street runs diagonally from South Road to the Nepean Highway behind Moorabbin Town Hall and the Station (surprise!) it was home to a development and design engineering team in the upstairs section. The ground floor was a car sales outlet.

Wangara Road", Cheltenham. The first manufacturing plant established in 1970, initially for manufacture of RIOT terminals for the VicTAB RIMFIRE project. It was usually called Wangara Road, but was a corner site, the official address was Lot 7 Brixton Road, probably the aspect shown with the entrance the covered area just off to the right of the image. Below left: obviously re-built (and with a mirror-image at 5 Brixton Road), the aspect today. The building still extends for probably twice as long Wangara Road, but with no entrance visible (but just on the corner there is a nice little rotunda where CDA people can sit and eat their play-lunch). The aerial shot above is circa 1967-68 and shows the corner of Wangara Road (diagonally from bottom left) and Brixton street. The later CDA plant of 1970 was on the vacant corner opposite the unknown building with the red-tiled roof. Top right is in the New Cheltenham Cemetery, established 1930 (20 acres acquired for £3,600, bottom right was a reclaimed quarry/rubbish tip, converted late 1970's into a golf driving lane and still functioning today.

No number was ever suggested – the south-eastern end of Station Street is now dominated by a block of high-rise apartments, the western side mostly car parking for the station and town hall; everything else retail and nothing of three stories. Best guess is the rather ordinary building was demolished some years ago from the apartment block.
Engineering

Regional Warehouse, 349A Darebin Road, Thornbury (AARRWH)

Memories:

Never saw the site, no memories.

Out Heidelberg Road, left into Grange Road and right into Darebin Road - possibly (at least from a Melbourne-centric view), CDA’s least known facility was 15,000 square feet building housing spare parts for the Australasian region, a literature distribution centre (which I seem to recall replaced the former library on the third floor of 598 administered by Professional Services), plus a repair and refurbishment workshop.

Whilst it might have appeared logical to combine these services with one of the manufacturing sites, Thornbury was chosen because of its proximity to the airport given the need for the speediest possible despatch of spare parts.

The facility opened early in 1975 with Alan Brown as Manager, Ian Chapman as supervisor of spare parts and literature distribution and Ron Harris (later founder of Harris Technology) as supervisor of repair and refurbishment. Just how long CDA remained there is uncertain - the Telecom phone directories of 1983-84 show the address as 349a Darebin Road, Thornbury; an internal directory of around a year later supplied by Dick Bament does not list a Thornbury site.

History:

I’m not sure of how the building looked at the time, but it would have been relatively new.

The site lay on the route of a proposed railway line from Alphington to East Preston (and ultimately Reservoir), an Act to build the line passed in 1946 and finally revoked in 1961 without a single shovel of earth ever moved.

The planned route ran about 50 metres west of Grange Road through Northcote and what is now Chifley Drive in Preston, the most notable landmark of today, Northland Shopping Centre, the northern car park of which covering the site of the original proposed terminus in Wood Street.

Repair Centre, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood (AARCWD)

Memories:

Sadly, I have no idea as to what the original building looked like, but Cambridge Street is one of those inner-suburban streets that thirty years ago you would not have been caught dead in - although perhaps “dead” may have been the operative word - but is now, especially on the opposite western side at the northern end, a conclave of “highly desirable” converted warehouse apartments.

History:

Most of the warehouses were clothing or boot “sweatshops”, although probably not as old as some may think - directories of the first decade of the twentieth century show most of Cambridge Street as residential, probably single-fronted cottages).

134 is three doors south of an extensive Police depot stretching to Stanley Street - a bit difficult to tell from the street scape, but I’m guessing the building is new rather than a refurb.

I know little of the facility - I think it was established in the mid-1980s as a third-party repair service centre during the early halcyon days of the Apple Mac and IBM and compatible PCs (I think CDA employees were entitled to hefty discounts on Apple equipment in a reciprocal marketing agreement).

I couldn’t find any trace of the Thornbury site (also mentioned as a “Repair and Idle Equipment plant” when it opened) in the later copies of Flash scanned by David Lee, the last of which is December, 1985 and it may have been absorbed into the new Cambridge Street facility.
Daily Life : Eat :

The Hotels

Eat, drink and be merry ...
Not many at Control Data Australia needed a second invitation!
In this section, we cover some of the eateries we used ... from memory, there weren’t a lot of take-away outlets around the area at the time - one a block to the south on the corner of Union Street and another in the block of flats in Queen’s Road behind Control Data, but I don’t remember many others close by.
But there were plenty of relatively inexpensive ’sit own’ spots, many within walking distance.
To keep the archives to a reasonable size, the lunch spots are divided into four categories (which probably indicates that we really weren’t that damned fussy).
Obviously there were other groups, other eateries and other years, but these are the ones that come to my mind as being used on multiple occasions in the early 1970s, plus one or two of later years where I know Control Data congregated.
Way back then, hotels were hotels providing relatively cheap meals at lunchtime rather than today’s enterprises where the pub revenues are more derived from the restaurant, coffee machines and possibly gaming.
I need to do a little more research (whee! an excuse for a pub crawl) to check out the current functionality of some the sites, especially in the Prahran and Armadale areas.
Two - the Fawkner Club and the Flower have been converted into apartments over the last six or seven years, and Station at the time of writing in August, 2013 was undergoing the same transformation, but the others are still operating in some form or other - maybe a couple more as gaming venues than what we may remember as one of our favourite lunch spots.
Probably the Court Jester and the old stomping ground, the College Lawn are the two that have changed the most externally (although the pink elephants of the roof of the Windsor Castle provide an interesting addition).
Most of the others probably remain pretty true to how they looked back around 1930 when a number of hotels were re-built to conform with new requirements for improved dining and accommodation facilities imposed by the Licensing Reductions Board.
Chinese?
Did we ever do Chinese? Now there is any number of Asian restaurants around the immediate area, but certainly early 1970s, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Japanese of Korean were virtually unheard of.
I have a vague recollection that may have been a Chinese restaurant on the eastern side of St. Kilda Road (or is it still Punt Road) between the Junction and Wellington Street, but never having been there.
Someone suggested it may have been called The Blue Orchid, but checking this in directories places it a block further south and the restaurant in question as the Taiping.
Ron Bird suggests Control Data never went there after an investigation by The Sun in the late 1960s found dead cats in the kitchen - perhaps more research is needed here as it is no clear whether the dead cats ate the specialty of the day or WERE the specialty of the day!
Albert Park Hotel, 83 Dundas Place, Albert Park

Location:
83 Dundas Place, Albert Park (alternatively 334 Montague Street) South-western corner of Montague Street and Dundas Place.

Memories:
Strangely as it has been the closest hotel to where I’ve lived for over thirty years, I cannot recall Control Data ever visiting the Albert Park, but John Baxter at the July, 2014 lunch remembered it being used fairly regularly in the mid to late seventies, presumably after I had left.

History:
The Albert Park Hotel opened under the control of Thomas and Mary Walsh in August, 1883, The couple were well-known in the district, having run a much smaller establishment, the Wexford Arms in Park Street for about 15 years prior. The immediate family at various times also owned and operated the O’Connell’s Centenary (included) and Meagher’s Hotel in City Road.

Like the other large hotels built under new licensing regulations - the Middle Park, Hotel Victoria and Windsor in Victoria Avenue - the Albert Park concentrated on providing accommodation in favour of a roaring bar trade, but being some distance from the breach front, it appears to have aimed at a city-based clientele rather than those seeking the pleasures of the ocean and the many baths then dotted along Beaconsfield Parade:

‘Private Families or Single Gentlemen who may desire a residence near the city will find accommodation in every way satisfactory’.

Under the experienced management of the Walsh family, the Albert Park Hotel maintained an almost clean slate insofar as convictions were concerned, the one exception being a charge against Margaret Walsh of selling inferior liquor in March, 1897. An excise officer entered the hotel and despite Miss Walsh’s co-operation, a barmaid attempted to hide a bottle of whisky bearing a Walker’s label, found to be of inferior quality (in fact, overproof).

Although never under threat during the Licenses Reduction Board hearings of 1926, the hotel was modernised during the 1930s and patronage must have received a huge boost around that time when the Hoyts Theatre chain acquired several properties immediately opposite and constructed the Park Theatre at a cost of £50,000 and seating over 1,500 patrons, believed to have been the largest cinema outside of the central Melbourne area.

Today:
The hotel was again modernised in the late 1990s with the earlier iconic display of the name and grille effect of the exterior removed.
Like most in the area, it now relies as much on restaurant takings as much as bar trade - the usage of the upper floors is unknown
After the advent of television, the Park Theatre was demolished for a service station and since the early 1980s has been the site of the Albert Park branch of Port Phillip Libraries.
**Armadale Hotel, 1068 High Street, Armadale**

**Location**
South-western corner of High and William Streets, Armadale

**Memories**
There were a few lunches there, although it wasn’t widely popular because of car parking difficulties with its location in the mile of the rather exclusive High Street shopping strip and its antique outlets.

My own personal recollection is one of some sadness.

For some reason, I nominated the Armadale for my departure lunch, but in the interim, Control Data called some sort of a communal lunch-time meeting to be addressed by a Corporation executive and only a handful attended the lunch (mostly engineers from interstate who I didn’t know, but who had finished a training course a day ahead of schedule).

**History**
The hotel was first licensed in 1873 and was originally known as the Half-Way House.

Curiously, there were four or five hotels of this name around Melbourne, but generally with no real indication of exactly what landmarks the site was half-way to or from!

The first licensee was an Alexander Smith, and the hotel seems to have also been known as the Highbury Hotel briefly before it assume its current name around 1884 under the stewardship of John Thomas.

**Today**
Still on the to-do list, but I’m guessing it hasn’t changed a great deal externally. I seem to remember that the dining room entrance was that on the right of the upper image.

The upper section off High Street is now use as a live entertainment venue anduring the 1980s was a well-known rock ‘n roll venue of the more genteel class with a more relaxed music venue downstairs, total capacity said to be 400.

The date of its emise is uncertain, but the hotel building has been demolished and in mid-2015 the site was occupied by an up-market license grocer operating under the name of Thomas Dux.
The Bleak House, 97 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park

Location
South-eastern corner of Beaconsfield Parade and Victoria Avenue, Albert Park

Memories
The hotel’s name described it all - totally exposed to the vagaries of the weather sweeping across the bay, it could be delightful on a balmy spring or autumn day.

But mid-winter, ‘Bleak’ was the operative word unless one was well rigged out in heavy clothing, although once inside, I seem to remember a roaring log fire soon thawed out the old bones.

The dining room stretched along Beaconsfield Parade, most tables overlooking the beach to the right of the image - again Delightful or Bleak depending on the weather!

History
The Bleak House took its name from Charles Dickens’ ninth novel, published in installments between March 1852 and September 1853.

The hotel opened early in 1883, one of the last handful to be constructed in the South Melbourne area and for just over twenty years was managed by Jeremiah W. O’Brien.

Like the Hotel Victoria and Beaconsfield to the south, the Bleak House was opened for accommodation purposes as much as for the usual bar hospitality with visitors attracted to the bayside and the indoor baths that dotted the beach front along Beaconsfield Parade.

The hotel was described in the 1926 Licensing Reduction Board hearings as a “good site enhanced by the cable car terminus and waiting room opposite in the Avenue “, 24 rooms on a site 132 by 170 feet, well furnished with large dining room. It was noted the hotel had nine permanent boarders, chiefly retired people. (The “cable car” terminus is now that of the No. 1 route, West Preston to South Melbourne Beach).

Perhaps the Bleak House had a few moments of fame (or perhaps infamy) in 1942 when an American G.I., Private Edward Leonski was found guilty of the murders of three women and subsequently hanged. His first victim’s body was found in the Albert Park Reserve, Leonski convicted of strangling her after drinking whisky all morning and afternoon at the Bleak House Hotel.

Today
Like most of the post-1885 pubs in South Melbourne, the facade today remains much the same today, although the rather overbearing verandah was removed some time before Control Data descended.

The premises since 1998 have been known as the Beach House Hotel; perhaps a positive name change given few today would remember the origins of the somewhat depressing “Bleak” House. There are ining room extensions along Beaconsfield Parade.
The Bush Inn, 505 Malvern Road, Toorak

Location
North-eastern corner of Malvern and William Roads, Toorak

Memories
I seem to remember several lunches there in the large dining room that stretched along the Williams Road side. Although I don’t recall anything special in terms of the menu, it was reasonably popular because it had the major advantage of a car park behind the hotel, again accessible from Williams Road.

History
The Bush Inn appears to have been first licensed in March, 1854, the first publican Thomas Portlock Stone, the district then described as Prahran. Unlike many new hotels which tended to change hands fairly quickly, Stone remained at the hotel until at least 1861.

Much of the early history is somewhat clouded by the existence of another Bush Inn in Elizabeth Street which was one of Melbourne’s most popular hotels, but it is known that the Prahran location receive a boost in 1865 when the local Council decided to install a water stand pipe outside the hotel.

In the days long before an articulated water supply, a stand pipe attracted residents and travellers to pump water from the mains system and the proximity to a hotel, or indeed, any other business was considered a boon.

Coincidentally for those who have been following our history of the totalizator in Victoria, the Bush Inn license in 1888 was transferred to Julius Franck, the son of one of the first and most prominent totalizator operators, Siegfried Franck.

The hotel a year or so later under the auspices became the headquarters for the Prahran Pony Racing Club which for several years ran meetings on a course known as Sherwood Park in what is now Warrigal Road in Burwood.

From what can be traced, the Bush Inn was never publicly advertised for sale and no description of the original building remains. Many of the old hotels of the 1850s were rebuilt after new licensing laws in 1872 introduced dramatically higher building standards an our best guess is that the Bush Inn may well have been one of those affected.

Today
The hotel appears to have been extended north along Williams Road over the old car park to allow for a gaming venue. Like most of the hotels, it has had an external facelift and has a speciality steak-house pictured below.

I couldn’t see any car parking during a quick-as visit, suggesting it now relies on local trade. Officially Toorak, but a banner stretching across Williams Road welcomes visitors to Hawksburn.
Court Jester, 270 Chapel Street, Prahran

Location
North-eastern corner of Chapel and Princes Close (formerly Princes Street), midway between Malvern Road and High Street

Memories
Ron Bird suggests it was a favourite after-work haunt of the mail and print room staff (hardly enough for a crowd) and it was also used for a few Saturday lunches when at a loose end, one would just wander up Chapel Street and there was a good chance of catching up with someone else at a similar loose end. One of the smaller of the hotels we used as a lunch venue.

History
The Post Office Hotel was first licensed on 1 July, 1864 to Henry Thresher - the Post Office itself was on the south-western corner of Chapel and Greville streets as part of the new Town Hall complex and there were in fact two hotels closed to the Post Office than the one carrying the name.

I seem to remember it still there in the early 1970s, the entrance from Greville Street.

Amongst the early references to the hotel is an advertisement for the sales of surplus beer kegs under Thresher’s name - he appears to have remained the publican until 1871.

The Court Jester name first appeared in 1973 after the original Post Office Hotel was either re-built or modernised, the owners obviously also deciding on a more distinctive name from the glut of traditional hotels drawing of local landmarks - Post Office, Station or Railway.

The most famous publican was certainly Richmond captain-coach Jack “Captain Blood” who took over the hotel in August, 1952 and was the publican for some years.

Today
The original building has been totally gutted and replaced with an ultra-modern coffee shop and sports bar and like a few situated in trendy shopping strips is hardly recognisable as a hotel.

The first level of the building (function unknown) remains similar to the original, the lower level facade totally gutted and modernised.
Flower Hotel, 190 Bay Street, Port Melbourne

Location

"Eastern" side, midway between Graham and Liardet Streets.

Bay Street is a little unusual in the Melbourne topology in that it is one of the few inner major streets that does not run directly north-south or east-west. "East" could equally be "south" - for our purposes, read "left hand side as you head for the beach".

Memories

I remember one lunch around a month after I left C.D.A; about 30 people in a courtyard at the rear (accessed from Kyme Place). From forgettory, you bought your steak, snags, or whatever over the bar and BBQ'd them yourself.

I think it was the first time we tried the venue, and if the cobwebs are aligned correctly, it may have been Dennis Dacey's farewell lunch when he and Peggy Stewart headed overseas. Or maybe "Dick" just organised it.

Again, any feedback as to whether it became a regular spot would be appreciated. If it didn't, it should have, although accessibility may have been a problem!

History

Unique in the list of hotels in our archives in that the Flower didn't occupy a corner location.

The site was first listed on 1874 as the George Hotel, in fact one of the later hotels to be established in what was then Sandridge.

It remained as the George until around 1898, when the name inexplicably became the Moonee Valley Hotel.

In 1930, the name changed again to the Flower, but the original building closed in 1965 and appears to have been unoccupied until 1969, when the later Flower appeared with windows opening onto Bay Street.

Today

Of all the major thoroughfares close to central Melbourne, Bay Street on the "east" side is perhaps the most changed, yet on the "west", it remains pretty much the same facade as for fifty or more years.

Sadly, the Flower closed around March, 2006 (top image) by which time it had been totally modernised inside and functioned primarily as a restaurant with a bar attached rather the other way round. The upper floor is still recognisable as the cream/beige facade and is now four apartments accessed by a narrow entrance on the city side.

The street level is now two large shops (one a Video Ezy store) with no trace of the original function.

Maybe it was because it didn't attract the attention of a corner hotel, but there are no surviving images of the early Flower Hotel.

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7 A change was probably overdue - there were also George Hotels in neighbouring South Melbourne and St. Kilda, but why Moonee Valley?
Fountain Inn Hotel. 1 Crockford Street, Port Melbourne

Location
Corner of Crockford Street and City Road, Port Melbourne. Alternatively, 456 Bay Street.

Memories
I originally had the Fountain Inn under “Play” as it became a more-or-less regular drinking spot for many Computer/Light Car Club members after Irene Morgan left the club circa 1988 and in partnership with Geoff Birthisel took over the Fountain Inn.

It became something of a meeting place for members of The Computer Club Syndicate, a high-powered horse racing syndicate that conquered the thoroughbred world before deciding to dissolve and give various Saudi-Arabian princes and sheiks a fighting chance!

Ron Bird suggests however that it was earlier used as a lunch spot, in particular a special favourite of Marcel Dayan, so we’ve “upgraded” accordingly.

History
The Fountain Inn traces all the way back to 1859 when the first license was granted to Nathaniel Mills, but like many of the older hotels, it was almost immediately taken over by the family of John Crockford, who also lent his name to the short stretch of road that linked Sandridge Road (now City Road) to Bay Street.

The hotel was rebuilt at some stage between 1859 and 1909, but the structure has remained virtually unaltered since with the possible exception of a small dining room in Crockford Street to meet the requirements of the Licensing Reductions Board in the 1920s.

Today
Like a few old buildings in Port and South Melbourne, the exterior has been stripped back to reveal some of the original paintwork, emphasising the age of the original.

Post-Irene and Geoff’s departure, it passe into the hans of a couple of prominent Melbourne footballers who I am pretty sure change the name to something reflecting there background.

The initial version of Daily Life had the old hotel named for some ungodly reason the Sloaney Pony.

Uring the compilation of the mid-2015 slideshow, I discovered the vet. has humanely put down the Sloaney Pony and the site now trades under tha name of Mardo’s.

All of which of course begs the question as to why ‘Fountain Inn’ was perfectly acceptable for well over a hundred years. Nostalgia ain’t what it used to be!
Mario’s Brighton Beach Hotel. 4 The Esplanade, Brighton

Location
Just north of the intersection of The Esplanade and Beach Road

Memories
None for me. Mario’s is included as one of Ron Bird’s suggestions - but a couple of others have recalled regular Friday ‘Chunky Lamb Lunches’. The hotel was almost certainly the most distant of those used - as someone recently suggested at a Third-Friday lunch, it was a 20-minute drive to get there and ten minutes to get back after the prescribed number of one-litre carafes of house wine had been demolished!

History
Not exactly my neighbourhood, but I thought that the Brighton Beach Hotel had been there forever and it came as a real surprise that in fact it has only been known under either that name or its alter ego Mario’s since 1974.

The exact date of the hotel opening is uncertain - the first mention in remaining licensing records has the Royal Terminus Hotel assigned to William Grimbly in 1862, but he was advertising for staff as early as June, 1861. The hotel took its name from Melbourne’s third suburban railway line, then terminating at Brighton Beach (‘terminus’ was outdated for nearly 90 years, the line was extended through Hampton and Sandringham in 1887).

Grimbly’s name appears at several hotels around the district for many years. He moved from the Royal Terminus in 1869, his replacement John A. Foxhall, noted as being well-known for many years at Melbourne’s Cafe dè Paris restaurant.

Like many close to the beach, it was built and promoted as a tourist hotel concentrating on accommodation and meals rather than bar trade and thus largely managed to avoid most of the usual charges of Sunday training and serving liquor after hours, but it did have a moment of fame in 1918 when a wild storm suddenly hit Port Phillip Bay and 40 bathers were forced to shelter in the hotel, unfortunately losing all their clothes as much of the beach and several bathing boxes were washed away!

Today
"Mario" will remember who he was, we can’t, but the hotel retained this name until the early 1990s when it became Milanos Tavern, the name it trades under today as part of the ALH Group which has 300 licensed venues and over 460 retail liquor outlets across Australia. (End of advertisement).

"Mario" appears to have shifted emphasis to a well-known bistro under that name in nearby Hampton.

Although thoroughly modernised, the basic exterior structure appears pretty much as per the images below. The etching below is from the Illustrated Melbourne Post, 1862.

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8 The cafe’s owners, Messrs Spiers and Pond are famed for bringing the first English cricket team to Australia in 1861, their expenses offset by exclusive catering rights at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The pair returned to London in 1863 and established an extensive network of hotels, railway refreshment rooms and theatres, even including at one point a golf course! ADB: Felix William Spiers
WANTED - W. H. Grimbly provides LUNCH for 2s 6d, ROYAL TERMINUS HOTEL, on Beach, Brighton.

WANTED, everyone to know, railway is opened to ROYAL TERMINUS HOTEL, on Beach, Grimbly, proprietor.

WANTED, 1,000 more than travelled on Christmas day to the Beach, Brighton, at the ROYAL TERMINUS HOTEL. W. H. Grimbly. Lunch provided, 2s 6d

WANTED, friends to meet at the ROYAL TERMINUS HOTEL, close to the Railway Station. W. H. Grimbly.

WANTED, everyone to enjoy the Beach and recruit health, by coming to the ROYAL TERMINUS HOTEL, Brighton.

William Grimbly could never be accused of not trying - these ads appeared one after the other in The Argus, 1 January, 1862

There is not, however, any mention of Chunky Lamb on the menu or whether it was included in the standard 2s 6d charge!

FOR THE RECORD

The Brighton line opened to the public on 13 December, 1859 and was constructed and operated by the St. Kilda an Brighton Railway Company.

The original plan was to extend the existing line to St. Kilda (now the 96 Light Rail) through cuttings along Grey Street and directly to Brighton, but a public outcry saw the route abandoned an a strange alternative.

Instead, passengers for Brighton travelled to St. Kilda station; from there, the line went via wooden trestles nearly a mile in length looping back across the lagoon in Albert Park to a raised embankment and bridge over St. Kilda Road (roughly around Union Street) and then to Windsor Station before transversing today’s route to Brighton.

Not long time after the loop line was constructed, a competing connection was built between Windsor and South Yarra stations, the first train arriving at Windsor directly from Melbourne on 24 November 1860. The loop line to St Kilda soon fell into disuse, and track duplication, a condition of the original crown lease, was never completed.
Middle Park Hotel, 102 Canterbury Road, Middle Park

Location
South-eastern corner of Canterbury Road and Armstrong Street, Middle Park

Memories
A bit awkward to get to as it meant a convoy of cars into a fairly restricted parking zone, but there were many lunches there in a huge dining room that covered much of the ground floor.

Entry to the eating area was from midway along Armstrong Street, the alcove clearly visible on the right-hand side of all three images.

It may well have been the largest of any hotel that Control Data visited and I seem to remember that most of the lunches there drew a large number of people.

History
A new Licensing Act in 1885 placed much more restrictions on the design of new hotels, with the result that most erected after that time in the South Melbourne area were of substantially greater size and quality than those that preceded them.

The Middle Park opened in 1890, constructed by John Mahon, whose family went on to control the hotel for another 40 years.

It was a bold venture - what we know as Middle Park was largely uninhabited at the time - the area between the Albert Park Reserve and the beach mostly poorly drained swampland. The station opposite the hotel opened in 1883, although the St. Kilda line itself had operated since 1857.

Mahon promoted the hotel extensively as a tourist destination rather than a local "watering hole", placing advertisements in many of the brochures promoting the attractions of Melbourne’s “healthy” bathing spots along the bay.

The Middle Park was examined as part of the 1926 License Reductions Board hearings, the sitting largely symbolic as the inspector-in-charge opening the inquiry suggested that none of the hotels opened in the South Melbourne areas since the 1885 Licensing Act should be closed.

The hotel was described as 80 by 141 feet, three-story brick, of 46 rooms with 15 available for casual boarders and with a large dining room.

Today
In 2001, the ALH group bought the hotel and changed its name to the Gunn Island Brew Bar and significantly upgraded with substantial renovations, including a brewery, brasserie, lounge area, bottle shop, saloon bar, main bar, and three function areas.

The name has since reverted back to the original and the brewery no longer operates, but the other facilities remain.

Externally, it remains almost identical to the original facade of 1890, but we couldn’t say the same for Armstrong Street!
Mount Erica Hotel, 422 High Street, Prahran

Location
South-eastern corner of High Street and Williams Road, Prahran

Memories
Ron Bird suggests the Mount Erica was a favourite place for accounts people lunches led by Graham Doig and Col Elliott, but I remember several lunches there with analysts and sales people involved.

History
The Mount Erica probably rivals the Fawkner Club as the oldest hotel we visited, although the White Horse Inn used for a couple of reunions is also in the mix. Like the College Lawn, the name was taken from a local place name that was still being used up until around 1900, the "mountain" the slight rise up High Street to the east (the Mount Erica Methodist Church survives in High Street even today).

Building allotments were being advertised as early as 1853, alternatively described as East or Upper Prahran

The first reference to the hotel comes in the same year, when a license was issued to Benjamin Chamberlain, notes suggesting "a rude racecourse" adjacent. The property was shown as 115 feet to High street and 170 along Williams Road. The building itself was noted of wood, suggesting it covered just a small portion of the total site. The hotel, like a few others, was sufficiently remote to have its own rough-and-ready racecourse with a number of New Year’s Day race meetings noted in the 1860s.

Like most of the early hotels, the Mount Erica regularly hosted election meetings and lodge gatherings. Chamberlain sold the Mount Erica for £400 in 1861, at the same a ten-acre nursery he owned adjacent to the hotel was sold for £300. The purchaser was not named, but he appears to have made a tidy profit with the hotel re-sold in 1871 for £1,150.

The original hotel is known to have been rebuilt in 1876 after a transfer of license was refused because of the condition of the building

"MOUNT ERICA Hotel, Dandenong-road, Upper Prahran - B. Chamberlain begs to announce to the inhabitants of Melbourne and vicinity that he has opened the above House, and as no expense has been spared, it is one of the most attractive houses out of Melbourne. As a resort for those wishing to escape from the confined air and dust of Melbourne, it is most particularly recommended in a lofty situation, standing unrivalled for its beautiful view and refreshing sea breeze. To men of business, it also has attractions as a Auctioneer's and General Agency Office is attached. In the vicinity too there are being built large Stockyards for the sale of horses and cattle". The Argus, 16 September, 1853.

... jeez, we just wanted a quick lunch ...

Today
Along with the College Lawn, probably the most radically expanded of the premises we frequented. There is new single-story bistro section extends perhaps twenty metres east along High Street with access to a central car park alongside.

Whether this involved the demolition of other buildings is uncertain - the land in the image above appears to be fenced off and may have been part of the hotel, the High Street side of the building in the image certainly appears less than the 117 feet originally quoted.

9 The horses are believed to have raced naked! I can however confirm the existence of the racecourse - *Bell’s Life*, what we might term a "lifestyle" magazine was published from 1859 to 1894 and I have seen advertisements for the "Mt. Erica Races" which I’ll dig out when time permits.
O'Connell Centenary Hotel, 93 Montague Street, South Melbourne

Location
South-eastern corner of Montague and Coventry Streets, South Melbourne

Memories
Ron Bird remembers the O'Connell Centenary offering was a great venue for the biggest steaks in a back-room dining room run by three ladies.

It was (and is) in somewhat out-of-the-way location, and while I remember an occasional CDA visit there, I think it started to take the restaurant side a little too seriously and the prices became a little too steep.

History
Although often referred to 'O'Connell's', the correct name has always been the O'Connell Centenary Hotel since its opening in 1877. The name reflects the centenary celebration of the birth of the prominent Irish nationalist, Daniel O'Connell.

The original hotel was built by Matthew Mackey (sometimes shown as Mackay) and he maintained the license until his death in August, 1882. He was one of literally dozens that went to meet their maker while still actively serving as a publican, but Mackey's demise was unusual in that died from injuries after he fell down the stairs of the hotel.

The O'Connell Centenary was perhaps the most fortunate of the hotels to survive the License Reduction hearings of 1926 – it was mentioned as likely to go in a “two-horse race” with the Shannon and Shamrock to the south, and was classed as the least desirable of the Nelson and Star and Garter to the north and east.

It was suggested by police that the hotel was not required, even if it was rebuilt.

The Board heard the board had 12 rooms, but only one available for casual accommodation, had no demand for meals and none were supplied (the kitchen being described as unsatisfactory), and that there were no permanent boarders. The building was described as a “fair type” on land 42 by 61 feet.

The hotel at the time was owned (along with the Silver Gate Hotel which he ran for over 40 years) by prominent local councilor and sometimes Mayor, Cr. John Drake Pearson. Although the Silver Gate was not under direct threat, Pearson announced plans to rebuild both hotels, suggesting work on the Centenary Hotel would cost between £3,500 and £4,000 and take around seven months to complete.

Counsel for Pearson suggested his client was the landlord of adjoining properties which could be used for enlargement, to which the Chairman simply replied “We do not want you to spend a penny on putting up rooms that will never be used … where was the need … there have been many hotels closed in the neighbourhood yet this house still does not do a house trade”.

Today
Other than the lower brick section now being rendered in white, the hotel is largely unchanged today, although there is al fresco light meal seating in Coventry Street. It’s not clear whether there was a building to the right or just a shadow, but this section is now a car park.

Although there is a small bar remaining, the ground floor has for many years functioned as a restaurant of somewhat higher quality than most hotels (with prices to match).

10The Silver Gate on the south-western corner of City Road and Clarendon Street was rebuilt at a cost estimated at £6,000. It was noted “…with the proposed early construction of the Spencer Street bridge the new building would be of importance and it would have extensive accommodation for guests”. The new hotel had on the upper façade a pair of silver gates welcoming visitors to South Melbourne - it was delicensed and demolished in 1978 during the construction of the Westgate Freeway. The site now carries a “welcome” of a different sort - the golden arches of McDonalds!
Post Office Club Hotel, 304 High Street, St. Kilda

Location
North-eastern corner of High and Inkerman Streets

Memories
None from my perspective, but Ron Bird suggested it was favourite lunch spot for the Accounts Department.

History
The hotel opened early in 1872 - some references have it as Buck's Hotel, others as the Buck's Head Hotel.

It was first licensed in January, 1872 to James Farmer, with a meeting of the St. Kilda Licensing Court in March refusing Farmer's application to transfer the license to Ann Fitzpatrick as it was not legal to transfer a license within three months of its first issue.

Although he spent just three months as licensee, Farmer actually owned the freehold until his death late in 1883. January, 1884 saw his executors advertise no less than three hotels for sale - the Britannia on the corner of Swanston and Lonsdale Streets, the Bayview Hotel, also in High Street St. Kilda (corner of Argyle Street), and the Buck's Head, the latter described as 35 feet frontage to High Street and 85 feet to Inkerman Street. Two other blocks of land, one 39 feet, the other 99 feet facing High Street were also offered.

When the St Kilda Council selected the site for the Post Office in the late 1870s, it was referred to as "opposite to the Buck's Head", and the hotel continued under this name of the original name until 1893 when it became the Post Office Club Hotel (generally just the "PO").

The change of name was somewhat belated - the post and telegraph office on the southern side of Inkerman Street in 1888 had operated for at least fifteen years.

The licensee at the time was a Patrick Guaran, who had a long association with Farmer's hotels, having had leases on the Bayview for at least ten years.

Guaran appears to have purchased the freehold. He died in July, 1900 and the license was transferred to his widow, Rita - the hotel was extended and modernised as part of the Licensing Reduction hearings of the early 1920s, tenders suggesting the work was to the account of "Mr Guaran" (Patrick junior, who served as a Lieutenant during the First World War; a sister Nancy also embarked with the Australian Army Nursing Service)

One account of the hotel from the St. Kilda Historical Society suggests that during the 1950s and 60s, it was (along with the Queen's Arms) a favourite spot of several local characters who can best be described as "colourful"; a long-time barman remembering putting guns belonging to the clientele in paper bags with their names clearly marked, and placing them behind the bar in the 1960s!

Memo:
TO: Accounts Department.
FROM: Post Office Club Hotel
SUBJECT: Please collect all paper bags by 10.00 p.m. closing time.

Today
The hotel continues to function today in pretty much the same fashion as in the 1970s with the addition of a T.A.B. outlet in Inkerman Street.

The Post Office Club Hotel is a late withdrawal at the barrier.

Colin Elliott revealed at the September, 2013 lunch that the pub in question was actually the Queen's Arms on the same side of the Nepean Highway and a block further south on the north-eastern corner of Pakington Street. He remembers a minor uproar when the price of steaks rose to a dollar!

We'll leave the PO as it was known just in case somebody else used it!

P.S. There is still a brown paper bag marked "Accounts" behind the bar if someone cares to collect it …
Queen's Arms Hotel. 340 High Street, St. Kilda

Location:
North-eastern corner of High and Pakington Streets (1866). High Street became the southern section of St. Kilda Road around 1975 after the street was widened on the western side from the Junction to Carlisle Street.

Memories:
The emergency runner comes into the field following the late scratching of the Post Office Club.

None from my perspective. Ron Bird originally suggested the Post Office Club a block to the north was favourite lunch spot for the Accounts Department, but Colin Elliott has confirmed their pub was the Queen’s Arms. He remembers some minor uproar when the crew arrived one Friday to find the price of steaks had risen to a dollar!

History:
"St Kilda Road" through St. Kilda is a relatively modern usage after the original High-street was widened following the demolition of most of the western side from the junction to Carlisle Street.

Despite being a fraction further from the city, the Queen’s Arms actually preceded the Buck’s Head (later Post Office Club) by several years.

The license was first issued to John O’Farrell in October, 1866, but not without some debate.

“Opposing the application, Mr. Bradshaw said he had been instructed by the council to represent that the house was quite unfit for an hotel. Mr. Stephen for the applicant said that Mr. Bradshaw had no locus standi, a three days’ notice of objection not having been served, and that his interference was irregular. The bench stated that if did not consider that a public house was required in the locality in question, nor did they think there was sufficient accommodation, but granted the license considering they were almost compelled to do so by the Act”.

The Telegraph, St Kilda, Prahran and South Yarra Guardian, 20 October, 1866

The condition of the original building (as with many hotels of that time) must have been of some concern; O’Farrell’s annual application for renewal held over in 1870 to allow repairs to the hotel to be completed.

"House" as referenced by The Telegraph was probably true, virtually any building that could offer a parlour (bar), sitting room and a bedroom independent of the Publicans personal requirements could nominally be license as a hotel. There is no confirming evidence, but a new building was probably erected in 1872 under the provisions of much tighter Licensing Act.

From that point on, the Queen’s Arms led a sedate life with little of its history recorded; the only incident of great note was a licensee, William Lindsay being sued in 1893 by the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Dr. Robert Brownless after a carriage being driven by Lindsay at excessive speed knocked Brownless down in Swanston Street, fracturing his shoulder and dislocating a knee. Described as ‘aged’, (he was noted as a vice-chancellor as early as 1864), Brownless claimed £2,000 but the case was settled out of court and the actual sum remains unknown.

The Queen’s Arms survived a Licenses Reduction Board hearing in 1926, but in a rather strange twist was refused a license to serve liquor with meals in 1934.. Accounts Department, exit right en masse!

Yet to check further, but 1904 directories show a J. O’Farrell operating a grocery next door to the hotel and the chances are that this was either the original licensee or a descendant.

Today:
The Queen’s Arms must have been about the furthermore eating spot that Control Data utilised, although perhaps the late addition of Mario’s in Brighton may now take the title.

The hotel was sold in 2003 and converted to residential use, now known as the Capitol Apartments with a retail section replacing the ground floor bar, mid-2014 serving as a hair dressing salon. The current Google street view suggests that buildings along Pakington Street were incorporated into the re-development.
Rising Sun Hotel, 2 Raglan Street, South Melbourne

Location:
North-western corner of Raglan Street and Eastern Road

Memories:
An occasional lunch spot, I think also frequented on occasions by T.A.B. staff. I seem to remember the dining room extending along the Eastern Road side.

History:
The hotel was first licensed in 1869 to Robert A. Bunning who remained for five years, replaced by another solid publican in Henry A. Mortimer.

The original address was listed as 44 Eastern Road - although numbers have changed over the years, the use of Eastern Road suggests the original building faced that street rather than Raglan Street.

The hotel was extended in 1886.

The Rising Sun was examined during the 1926 Licence Reductions Board hearings.

The owner at the time was Mary Ann Coffee, nee Walsh, this family having a close association with the hotel since around 1880 when Mary Ann's father John was shown as licensee. He died at the hotel in August, 1882, and she had various stints as publican, from 1881 to 1884 when she married Michael Coffee, the hotel then listed under his name until 1887.

There were various licensees until 1898 when Mary Ann reappeared for two years, a David Walsh (relationship uncertain) was listed from 1900 to 1909, and again Mary Ann from 1911 to 1913.

Given police had already suggested that neither the Rising Sun or Palmerston should be closed, the enquiry seems to have been something of a formality, although Licensing Constable Keevil described the building as of "poor type", on land 52 by 65 feet, but added two cottages next door owned by Mrs Coffee could add another 34 feet frontage (whether to Eastern Road or Raglan Street was not revealed, but the current layout confirms Eastern Road).

An architect revealed he had prepared plans to re-model and extend the hotel, extending the frontage to 49 feet and with a private entrance for lodgers off Eastern Road and a dining room of 25 by 14 feet, which the Chairman suggested "was very small if the public are to be profitably catered for".

The new plans encompassed ten bedrooms and expenditure of £1,700 was budgeted. From the current structure, it seems almost certain that the building was demolished and the hotel rebuilt from scratch at a more substantial cost.

Around eight hotels in the immediate vicinity extending up to Moray Street were closed during the hearings which extended from 1908 to 1926, amongst them such forgotten names as the Regatta Club, South Park, and Munster Arms. The corner of Moray and Raglen streets is today a relatively benign intersection, but in the early 20th century had a pub on three of the four corners - the Robert Burns, White Horse and Vine Hotels. All three were close during the hearings - the former pair later emolished for housing, the Vine building converted into office space.

Today:
The Rising Sun still functions as a traditional hotel, the clientele appearing to be a mix of business people during the day and locals after hours.

11 A private entrance for lodgers was a new requirement under the Licensing Act which require a high percentage of the older hotels to be re-modelled in some form.
**Royal Hotel, 67 Bendigo Street, Prahran**

**Location:**
South-western corner of Bendigo and Princess Streets. Note that since our time, the latter has had a sex change and is now Prince’s Close - I think the operation is called an addadichotomy!

**Memories:**
As vague as. John O’Neil raised faint memories of a pub to the east of Chapel Street amongst a number of high-rise public housing estates - I recalled something there, but like John, more because of the area.

**History:**
The history is a little bit tangled - it commenced operation as the Emu Hotel and (like Bendigo Street and much of this section of East Prahran, it doesn’t show in directories until 1868, the licensee then William Edward Stone.

This, however, is somewhat misleading as the hotel appears to have been trading for a considerable time prior to that, seeking the supply of a bagatelle in January, 1860, mentioned in the suicide of a tenant the following year and in a number of advertisements for staff prior to 1868.

Like many, the hotel underwent a couple of name changes.

In 1874 and its last days as the Emu, there were letters to newspapers when the Prahran Licensing Court refused to grant a transfer to a Mrs Emma Crocock whose late husband was the licensee before his death, on the grounds that she was a single woman and deemed not capable of running a hotel, yet in the cases immediately preceding and succeeding her hearing, licenses had been granted to single women.

(Single women had to be over the age of 25 years unless immediately family of the owner - running a hotel was one of the few working options for women and estimates suggest about 40% of Melbourne’s suburban hotels were licensed to women).

Markings on the current building reveal it was erected in 1894, by this time simply known as the Royal - like the Commercial, Station and Railway in every suburb, totally nondescript and difficult without an immense amount of work to trace later history.

The only other real incident of note appears to be in 1894 when an application was made to transfer from William Forsyth to his step-son, John O’Rourke. Police vigorously opposed the application as on several occasions had been seen outside the hotel acting as a “spotter” to warn patrons illegally on the premises of an impending raid (one constable suggesting he had seen 17 men enter the hotel within a 20 minute period on a recent Sunday. The application was ultimately withdrawn, but eventually the hotel was transferred to O’Rourke’s mother, Margaret who appears to have been one of the longer-term licensees.

Being of substantial construction and located a good distance from the cluster of hotels in Chapel Street, the Royal survived the License Reduction Board hearings in Prahran and Windsor in 1910 and again in 1926.

**Today:**
Predictably the hotel of 1894 has been totally modernised and now trades (from around 1998) as the Flying Duck.

John recalled that main reason that Control Data used the establishment was because of its extensive beer garden, which any Google search will show remains a feature today.

Certainly the images show a rather more substantial hotel than in my forgettory.

Most of the images are undated, but in what is certainly later than that shown above. The building is grey, but with appears to be two four-story apartment blocks under construction in Bendigo Street immediately adjacent to the hotel.

Given these are to the south and we look to the north for our sun, hopefully the beer garden won’t be overshadowed by the new structures.

Given the hotel was only used on a few occasions, further research into its history is hardly warranted - which is a nice way of saying I don’t give a Flying Duck!
Station Hotel. 96 Greville Street, Prahran

Location
South-eastern corner of Greville and Porter Streets, Prahran

Memories
A regular lunch time spot, but personally I can’t recall much of the hotel itself - I seem to remember the dining room accessible from Porter Street on the right, but the 1983 image has it in the single story section to the right which appears to be a later addition converted from a terrace house. I’m guessing this would have been regular haunt of the Computer Weekly crew.

History
Exploring the “Station Hotel” is a somewhat horrendous task as there were probably fifty throughout Victoria.

Licensing records reveal that the Prahran site was originally established in 1865, the first licensee William Buchanan, but it was then known as the Railway Tavern given its proximity to Greville Street Station.

The station opened on 22 December 1860 as Greville Street and was part of the Brighton line. The line to Brighton was then an extension of the St. Kilda line, looping back on a trestle bridge across southern part of the Albert Park Reserve and St. Kilda Rd via a railway bridge near Union Street to Prahran and hence to Brighton. The station was renamed as Prahran in 1867.

There were plans presented during the License Reductions Board hearings in 1926 for construction of a new hotel as evidenced by the undated plans above.

The building emerged as the Station Hotel in directories of 1929, meaning it probably opened in 1928 as they were generally compiled in September and October of the previous year.

Depending on the completeness of the architect’s drawing, the single-story section along Greville Street appears to have later incorporated one or perhaps two small shops and became the dining area.

Today
Known from the early 1980s as the Station Tavern and Brewery, it was a prominent rock music venue throughout the 1980s and 90s; Captain Matchbox’s Whoopee Band is advertised in the middle image and others online suggest the Skyhooks also played regular gigs there.

The dining area was converted into a restaurant (Cafe Byblos) circa 1995.

How long the hotel remained open is unknown, but at the time of writing (July, 2013) it was being converted and heavily promoted as 41 "boutique" apartments (i.e. "boutique" = "small").

Despite a rather imaginative promotional gimmick, the two single fronted terrace cottages at 102 and 104 survived the train crash and are now combined into yet another of the trendy coffee shop/cafes that pepper the eastern end of Greville Street.

Oops! I’ve been subsequently informed that multi-story extensions have been added and the café section and train wreck cottage demolished for more apartments. Valé, Greville Street, soon much of the character will be gone.
Southside Six (630 South Road, Moorabbin)

Location:
South-western corner of South and Brignell Roads, Moorabbin

History:
Added July, 2015, along with the limited history of what is known of the background of the various manufacturing plants in Cheltenham and later in Moorabbin.

Earlier correspondence with a couple of people suggested that it was a favourite with those in the Manufacturing section, especially in Nellbern Road. In retrospect, they probably didn’t have a lot of choice other than travelling some distance west to the Nepean Highway.

Although I did do some contract work with Control Data Business Products at the manufacturing plant in nearby Sullivan Street, I don’t think I ever set foot in the place.

It is probably one of those sites that could equally be classified as “Eats” as I’m sure it would have been used fairly regularly in that capacity given the sparcity of other dining facilities of any size around the area.

It was - and probably still is in a slightly more refined sense - one of the “beer barns” that sprang up in what were then “outer” suburbs of the late 1960s after six o’clock closing laws were repealed.

The earliest reference I could find on-line is advertising for a concert on 13 January, 1973 featuring the band Mississippi, with a pretty impressive list of other well-known acts over the next few years including Skyhooks, The Little River Band (pretty regularly), AC/DC, Cold Chisel and the Jim Keays Band.

Today:
Not sure of when the name changed - probably at the time of a major facelift - but the old beer barn now trades as the Sandbelt Hotel, with a bistro seating 270, regular live entertainment and an over-28s night - or as one blog succinctly put it, “plenty of mature crumpet”.

Other than that and the fact I find crumpets tend to go mouldy after a week or so, I’ll let those regular little funsters from monthly lunches sign off in lieu of any Feedback....
Windsor Castle Hotel, 89 Albert Street, Windsor

Location
North-eastern corner of Albert Street and Upton Road, Windsor

Memories
One of the more out-of-the-way hotels, the Windsor Castle was tucked away in a largely residential area and virtually overlooked the northern end of Dandenong Road (Queen’s Way). It was very much the traditional pub counter-lunch and usually very quiet. I seem to remember a roaring log fire warming the dining area.

History
Although the opening in 1871 is confirmed, the background is somewhat confusing as there was also a Windsor Club Hotel around 200 metres away to the north.

Further clouding the issue is that directories up until 1907 have today’s Upton Road as Hotham Street between High and Union Streets, then St. David Street to Wellington Street.

The Windsor Club was delicensed at the Reductions Board hearings of 1926, but the Windsor Castle survived on the back of plans being presented for extensive renovations.

The Argus (below) in 1935 following completion of renovations mentioned the retirement of Mrs. J. Rankin, owner and licensee for 35 years.

Today
The immediate surrounds have changed dramatically with the extension of Queen’s Road under St. Kilda Junction into Queen’s Way and then Dandenong Road in the early 1960s. This swallowed up Nelson and Vine streets, the hotel now overlooks Queen’s Way per the lower image.

The original restrained dark green exterior has radically changed, the Windsor Castle is now a lurid bright green with two rusty-orange horizontal stripes just above and below the first floor windows and three pink elephants on the roof. (They were still there AFTER a few pots)!

Her Majesty is not amused!

Regardless of the optics, the Windsor Castle remains a favourite with locals, especially in warmer weather with an extensive outdoor wining and dining area. The interior has been renovated with an Olde English feel.

The Argus, 6 June, 1935 on hotel reconstructions following the Licence Reduction Board hearings...

“In many Instances complete rebuilding has been carried out, but because most of the old hotel buildings were substantially constructed in the first instance it has been possible to make structural alterations which, with additions, have met modern requirements. Such alterations are being made at the Windsor Castle Hotel, at Windsor. The accompanying illustrations provide a rather interesting contrast between the old and modern architectural treatment of hotel buildings.

The Windsor Castle Hotel which was erected in 1871 is probably one of the oldest licensed premises in the district. The work being carried out is transforming it into a modern suburban residential hotel. Additions are being made to the existing building on both frontages. To comply with the requirements of the Licensing Court that the entrance to the residential portion of the hotel be free from contact with the bar a separate residential entrance is being formed in the new section. A large dining-room with kitchen and service departments will be provided in this section. On the first floor in the new section there will be four double bedroom, bathroom, toilet and linen-presses; also an additional double bedroom at the north-west corner above the new storeroom on the ground floor.

Very little structural alteration has been found necessary in the existing building, but the bar portion will be completely remodelled to provide efficient service in the public saloon and lounge bars. The fittings will be designed on modern lines and will include a continuous bottle rack, stainless steel sinks and refrigeration. A new block of outbuildings will include garages, fuel store and laundry”. 
The Restaurants

These are the cafes and restaurants that come to mind as fairly regular eating spots.

Athol’s Abbey could probably be equally classified “Hotels” as it was part and parcel of the Case de Manana, but it did operate independently of the main hotel.

What is surprising is that I cannot remember ever frequenting an Asian restaurant (which would have meant Chines, I don’t think there were any other Asian cuisines back in the mid-1970s).

The Red Pepper and/or Old Pepper in Chapel Street (assuming one of these is the correct name) has me stumped.

I know it was used regularly by 493 St. Kilda Road staff some years after I left and gave the culinary world the Sparky Special and I remember just one visit, but for the life of me I can’t find a restaurant Red Pepper or Old Pepper in any 1980s telephone directories to confirm the address.

What did make the Sparky Special Special???

The Third Friday

Location

La Porchetta, 392 Rathdowne Street, Carlton (1) (see page 54)
La Trattoria Ristorante E’ Pizzeria, 406 Rathdowne Street, Carlton (2) (see page 55)
Sofia’s 857 Burke Road, Camberwell (A) (see you the third Friday)

Memories

September, 2012 saw the twentieth anniversary of the famous Third-Friday lunches, so perhaps we might drift back in time and have a quick look at how they all started.

Way back in 1992, I was working on a contract at Telecom - the “Telstra” name was still several months away - in Little Collins Street - nothing special insofar as the contract goes, but somewhat unusual as it was a comparatively rare assignment for me in the Central Business Directory.

Mike Spark was lecturing at R.M.I.T. and at some point we agreed to catch up for lunch one Friday at a pizza place on the corner of Elizabeth and Therry streets, just next to the shopping strip adjoining Victoria Market - Mike may remember the name of the place, but my forgettory has set in.

(As a matter of interest, the building appears to have been the first home of James McEwan & Co., then listed as ironmongers and metal merchants, later better known just as McEwan’s in Bourke Street before being taken over by Bunnings around 1990. The site was a bank before being divided down the middle and the restaurant occupying the northern half - the dividing wall was removed after the restaurant closed and the entire building is now, horror of horrors, a McDonalds).

Lunch finished with “same time and place next month” - third time round I walked in and Mike was sitting with a tallish, grey gentleman who on closer examination turned out to be someone called David O’Connor, who I hadn’t seen since probably fifteen years earlier when he headed off to the Middle East to fill a C.D.C. post.

The fourth month (I think August) saw the tradition begin in embryo form - Mike called on the Friday morning and said that the Elizabeth Street spot had closed, but to meet him outside R.M.I.T. on the corner of Elizabeth and LaTrobe streets because he had somewhere else planned.

I’m not sure whether he mentioned whether he had someone else coming, but as I got into the lift in Little Collins Street, I bumped into Kevin Walsh who was working in the same building, and after I mentioned D.O’C. and explained where I was off to, he asked if could tag along.

We found Sparky and George Crawford on the corner and Mike mentioned a new place in Carlton called La Porchetta, so we after arming ourselves with a bottle red each, we piled into Mike’s Fairlane and headed off.

The crunch came we arrived at La Porchetta and they wanted to charge (from memory) $2 a head for corkage (remembering a large pizza was only around six bucks at the time), so it was “up you for the rent/corkage” and we wandered a few doors up and found La Trattoria around thirty metres up the street.
All had a great time and I’m not sure whether we discussed it at the time, but George took on board the task of contacting a few others and the network started to spread - I should probably add that George at the time had an Aloe Vera franchise, so I suspect that after two or three minutes of extolling Aloe Vera in its various forms, the real question of “... wanna come to lunch Friday?” was finally popped!

Or maybe it was the other way round!

But regardless of motive, George at that stage was the only one of us not working full time and it was his efforts that established the base for the remarkable history of the Third Friday.

La Trattoria hosted us until around September or October, 1999.

I hadn’t been for several months because of the Y2K rush, but was a bit surprised when George’s monthly reminder revealed a move to La Porchetta - I don’t recall whether he provided a reason in the email, but after making a special effort to get along, I found the La Trattoria building totally gutted and obviously under full renovation.

For around 13 years, I naively believed this was the reason for the move until the twentieth anniversary lunch in September, 2012 when Geoff Hipwell asked me to give a brief presentation on the history to date.

I mentioned the move, only for someone with a bit of giggle to ask me the reason; and although suspicious that this was a bit of a set-up, I mentioned that La Trattoria had been closed and renovated, only to become rather more suspicious when there were one or two stifled laughs.

Someone quietly mentioned a few minutes later that regardless of the renovation, the ex-Control Data crew had been told to take their business elsewhere due to some misbehavior of one or two that shall remain nameless as long as their monthly cheque keeps arriving.

Regardless of the reason, the move would probably have happened anyway - La Trattoria’s replacement, whilst they may have served pizza, went somewhat up-market and as La Porchetta had advantages of being cheap, BYO - with corkage by then a thing of the past - and capable of holding a reasonable number of people, especially for the pre-Christmas lunch, it was a logical location - the assumption being, of course, that Carlton remained the suburb of choice.

Although there were great times for many years there, the twentieth anniversary lunch may have been the beginning of the end for La Porchetta - the service started to drop off dramatically (even to the point where Bob Jensen used his mobile to order coffee and after being told that they didn’t do take-away, subtly reminded the staff that we were the table of twelve down the back), and with no improvement after the management were told of our concerns, there was a quick round-table early in 2013 as to alternatives and a couple of people suggested Sophia’s.

From Carlton to Camberwell seemed a quantum geographical shift, but with the majority of likely attendees now retired and no longer bound by work commitments to central Melbourne, a group of around eight of us decided on a trial run to check the food, service and convenience of the location.

The latter was of concern to me in Albert Park and reliant on public transport, but the reality is that it is quicker and less hassle to travel via Flinders Street with two lines serving Camberwell Station than to traverse through the city, and several others on the eastern side of town have found public transport very much a convenience.

Number-wise, the group has expanded from an average of maybe eight or ten in Carlton to probably 15 or 16 in Camberwell, although strangely enough, the 2013 Christmas lunch attracted only around 16 or 18 compared to upwards of thirty in previous years.

The lunches will probably continue until the last of us drops, and special mention must be made of the efforts of the late George, Geoff Hipwell and Bob Jensen who have put in the hard yards over more than twenty years to keep things running smoothly.

See you on the Third Friday of next month...
Barbarino's (The Place For Ribs), 474 St. Kilda Road

Location

Originally Barbarino’s Bistro, which replaced McClure’s at 454 St. Kilda Road [p60], but from 1985 at 474 St. Kilda Road on the south-western corner of Leopold Street, originally the site of Control Data Australia’s first office in Eton Square [p13]. There was a city outlet at 130 Bourke Street which was the McClure’s Cinema Centre outlet.

History

(See page above for the site history). Barbarino’s was on the interchange bench for the first release, only because it opened a few years after I left C.D.A. and I couldn’t recall any company involvement there, but given its proximity to 493, I’m fairly certain that it would have been used in the mid- to late 1980s.

The name, of course, is taken from Vinny Barbarino, John Travolta’s first role in the mid-1970s series “Welcome Back, Kotter”, although I don’t think this was used as a theme.

It picked up valuable game-time for the Daily Life team after I discovered a review in the Epicure section of The Age published in September, 1986. The reviewer, Kevin Childs hit instantly on the one thing that Barbarino’s will always be remembered for ...

“Let me say straight away that there is something appalling about going to a restaurant where you must don a bib ... my heart did not rise when I saw the bibbed diners, but if you are going to get stuck into pork spareribs and sauce, it is not going to be a genteel operation ...”.

And that’s the way it was! Fairly standard entrees, soup, oysters, pasta or salads around the $7.95 mark in 1986 money, the latter including an offering called “Eat Your Spinach” - for $6.95, spinach leaves, chopped egg, bacon, tomato, mushroom and avocado in season. A bottle of Brown Brothers Cabernet Malbec, $11.95.

Mains were Barbequed Ribs, Barbequed Chicken Wings, Rib’n Wings (all $11.95), or Tournedos and Ribs ($13.95), all with the same barbeque sauce and anything other than that had to be a up-sized entrée. Not sure about dessert - it would have been a brave man or woman to want to eat further, but there may have been Barbequed Apple Pie!

It was a bit of a surprise to discover Barbarino’s operated as a standard bistro before the ribs craze started, originally in 1980 replacing McClures, then with 130 Bourke Street shown in 1983 and first advertised as “The Place For Ribs”, and with 454 under the same heading the following year.

Bourke Street was the restaurant reviewed - by this time, the St. Kilda Road outlet was in a spanking new building at 474, described by the reviewer as “more stylish with a reputation for great, busy Friday lunches and lively Saturday nights”, and with a hint the city outlet catered primarily for pre- and post-theatre crowds.

The review went on to reveal how the rib fad spread from the poor blacks of the American South to Melbourne, the owners, Julian and Jeanette Abrahams were on a skiing holiday in Aspen, Colorado around 1978 when they found ribs on a restaurant menu and they were so taken with them that they allegedly dined on them for ten nights running with the ribs cooked several different ways and with various sauces.

Back in Melbourne, the first trick was to find pork carcases which had been cut for ribs, the carving technique apparently the same as for lamb. The brief interview with Jeanetta Abrahams suggested it took some time to get the sauce right, but by that time (1986) they were earning accolades “from American connoisseurs of ribs” and cooking over a tonne of ribs a week.

“And because they add to the terrific diversity of Melbourne’s cuisine, if it has to be “bibs for ribs”, give it a go”! Kevin Childs generously concluded. (The Age, 23 September, 1986)

Today

The restaurant appears to have closed in 2011 when then called Barbarino’s and Wong. Not sure what went Wong or even Why it was Wong - from a couple of web reviews, the menu seems to have remained largely unchanged with mentions of the Ribs Platter, Rib and Chicken Marriage and Tournedos and Ribs.

474 now carries the name of Clemenger BBDO (Advertising) - John Clemenger Pty Ltd. were listed as have pre-committed to the space in 1983 when Eton Square was demolished. The old Barbarino’s on the mezzanine level on the southern side is now Cinnamon’s, one of Melbourne’s few Sri Lankan restaurants. 130 Bourke Street is now a Japanese restaurant, Ajisen Ramen serving raw fish, tofu and a vegetarian menu. With barbeque sauce!
Fairy Stork Restaurant, 89 Acland Street, St. Kilda

Location

Western side, around 50 metres south of the joint intersection of Acland Street with The Esplanade and Shakespeare Grove.

Memories

None for me, but the name was certainly familiar. Ron described the owner of the restaurant during his visits there as "a jolly rotund Chinese man who I thought did a good job of impersonating Benny Hill impersonating a Chinese gentleman". This was in all probability Bob Fong, attributed in a history of St. Kilda as one of the more significant restaurateurs in the suburb.

History

To say that the southern section of Acland Street now famed as a cosmopolitan shopping and restaurant precinct has changed over the last hundred years would be a massive understatement.

The section from The Esplanade through to Barkly Street has for the last sixty or seventy years been wall-to-wall retail or food outlets, but it was originally a fairly exclusive residential street with many large houses similar to those surviving at northern end starting at Fitzroy Street (if it isn’t already, this stretch should be one of inner Melbourne’s most compelling ‘walking tours’).

The 1900 directory shows on the western side (where the Fairy Stork was situated) just 12 properties running from number 78 at The Esplanade-Shakespeare Grove intersection to 107 at Barkly Street.

The original 89 Acland Street appears to have been a fairly substantial residence known as ‘Wairona’. - although I couldn’t locate a description of it per se, a hint as to structure comes in 1918 with an advertisement for the removal of its neighbour at 87, "Northampton", described as a seven rooms, bathroom, slate roof and double-fronted with an iron balcony.

It appears to be around this time that this section of Acland Street started to be commercialised. Wairona is known to have been used as a boarding house in 1922 and is still shown as a private residence in 1924 (then with Margalos brothers Oyster Saloon at 85-87), but by 1928 and 1932 (under different proprietors), 89 is shown as a confectioners and tea rooms.

But the problem is that 89 in those years wasn’t the original Wairona, with the number of subdivisions of the larger estates forcing a renaming of the street.

The new number 89 was from at least 1936 being conducted as a specialist eating-house, shops at 91-93 shown as under construction.

Perhaps as a portent of things to come, it appears that it may have been one of Melbourne’s early Chines restaurants - although only described as “café”, the proprietor was one B. A. Lee Gow.

By 1940, but probably earlier, it was specialising in an American tradition, the name - which it carried for just on 30 years - the Hamburger Bill Café (never Hamburger Bill’s, just Bill. By the time it closed, there was also Hamburger Max at 4 Punt Road, Prahran - I haven’t checked Births, Deaths and Marriages to see if Bill and Max were brothers).

I also haven’t checked the exact year that the Bill arrived in Acland Street, but as the accompanying report from The Argus of 18 April, 1942 tells us it was one of a chain of restaurants, the first of which opened its doors in North Melbourne in 1934.

"HAMBURGER BILL" BANKRUPT

The failure of the business of William Godwin Bailey of Merriwoola-street East St Kilda, proprietor of the "Original Hamburger Bill" cafes was attributed by Bailey in his examination in the Bankruptcy Court yesterday to falling off of business and to his affairs becoming so tangled that no one could make head or tail of them. Bailey’s estate was sequestrated at the instigation of Mr S. W. Garside, trustee of an estate under a deed of arrangement.

Bailey stated that he began his hamburger business in Victoria-street, North Melbourne in July 1934 with a capital of £200. Later he opened cafes in Acland-street. St. Kilda; Swanston-street, city; and at Moonee Ponds, Caulfield, Seymour, Puckapunyal and Belgrave.

For the Swanston-street premises, he paid £45 a week rent, plus rates and taxes. His average turnover in that cafe was £250 a week so it proved profitable. Business however declined and he also lost £1,000 on a kiosk at Puckapunyal camp and a cafe at Seymour.

After having been in the Seymour cafe for 6 months he received notice from the Canteens Board to quit and his cafe was declared out of bounds for soldiers.

In a statement prepared by Mr O L Jones acting official receiver, Bailey’s assets amounted to £819/18/7 and his liabilities were £1,251 15/10 There were 31 unsecured creditors.

Bailey told Mr C E Troyahn, official receiver that he had not been pressed by any creditors but that he had made a frank statement of his financial position to them.

The Argus, 18 April, 1942
Despite Bailey's misfortune, Hamburger Bill in Acland Street continued trading (advertisements appeared for the sale of shop fittings for at least three of the stores in 19410. The proprietor in 1944 was one Henry "Harry" Saunders (who had problems of his own with a warrant being issued in 1946 for his arrest on charges on non-payment of alimony and child-support), although for around the last ten years of its operation under the Hamburger Bill name, it was listed under Mrs Mabel Robinson.

It first appeared as the Fairy Stork in 1970 directories - which means Bob Fong probably opened the doors in 1969. Acland Street by this time had assumed the cosmopolitan look for which it was famous with a number of Eastern European cafes, coffee houses and cake shops, but the Fairy Stork had its own competition with two other Chinese restaurants, albeit on the eastern side.

P.S. The research reveals Acland Street took its name from Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, a British baronet and politician who owned the schooner Lady of St Kilda between 1834 and 1840. The area was named when the vessel was moored off the beach during a visit to Melbourne in 1842.

"The Oxford Dictionary of Saints" describes St. Kilda as "virtually unknown" - perhaps he was virtually unknown because he never existed!

St. Kilda's name is believed to be derived from a rocky island off the west coast of Scotland. Seamen from the Scandinavian countries commonly travelled around the island, and an old Norse word "Skildar" meaning "shield" is thought to be some historians as being the true name of the island based on the contours of the island at sea level resembling a shield.

Today

I couldn't identify a definitive date as to when the Fairy Stork closed, but I did find an article in The Age in 2003 bemoaning the gradual loss of the ethnic tradition of Acland Street which noted the Fairy Stork as one of the Chinese businesses "about to close". It certainly existed late enough for a number of business directory web sites to still include the company name, although the currency of these, like many other sites of this ilk must be a question mark.

The site's current use proved a little hard to determine, given that premises in most crowded shopping strips in inner Melbourne areas seem surprisingly reluctant to actually display the street number unless it is part of the advertising pitch.

Fortunately, the Jewish/Continental cake shop immediately to the south shows 91, and hence 89 is now the southern section of the double frontage of Rococo, an up-market home decorating store. The façade (along with a third shop at 85 being renovated in December, 2014 as part of the same Rococo) has been totally modernised and bears no resemblance to a restaurant, albeit the Hamburger Bill Café or Fairy Stork.
Ging Wah Restaurant, 198 Chapel Street, Prahran

Location
Eastern side of Chapel Street, approximately 80 metres north of High Street.

Memories
One the three additions from Ron Bird following the 2014 Christmas lunch. I have some recollections of dining there a couple of times. I think it was a favourite of Barry and Jan Wells, and Ron suggests some of the girls from the fifth floor, the print room and the site planning department lunched there 2 or 3 times a week (which suggests it was at the time inexpensive or that they were overpaid!)

History
Working backwards under the leap year system, I got back to 1916 which shows Fred Davies as a fruiterer, raising the assumption that no eatery had existed before then, but thank heavens for a copy of the 1904 Sands and MacDougall directory on my local drive which tells me that Hugh Glover was already operating dining rooms on the site in 1904 (the address is shown as a fancy goods repository in 1892, a tobacconist in 1896, and vacant in 1900).

Under our leap-year scheme, 1920 reveals that John Colas was still selling fruit (coupla days, bootiful ...), but the entry carries the additional appellation "and dining rooms".

By 1928, number 198 was showing as "confectioners and dining rooms", but in 1932, it appears to be a specialised eatery as the Scotis brothers’ dining rooms. In 1936, it was simply Con. Scotis, but in 1940, the site was operating as the Regal Café (unfortunately no proprietor was listed and it is not clear whether the Scotis family were still involved).

It retained this name until at least 1952, but by 1956 had changed to a Chinese restaurant under the name of the Double Dragon. It first appeared as the Ging Wah in the 1961 directory and in all probability opened in 1960 as directories were usually compiled about October of the preceding year.

P.S. Because we gave a brief history of the origins of "St. Kilda", it is only fair to do the same for "Prahran"... which is tricky, because a 1910 history of the area suggests the real name should be “Pur-ra-ran”, a native term apparent meaning “a place of two waters”, possibly meaning the Yarra and the sea, but the same history suggests that Chapel Street was once a stream running into the Yarra.

And the aristocrats next door in Toorak need not look down their noses. The history also suggests that this should be “Tarook”, meaning “a black crow”, and called such because these birds were abundant in the district.

Today
The site appears to have refurbished around 2005 and now trades simply as the Ging Restaurant, although I’d suggested that if asked any of the locals where the “Ging Wah” was, you would find it pretty quickly.

Regardless of the sad loss of the Wah, reports have it as being run by Henry and Soo, direct descendants of the original owner (whose name I have yet to trace).
The Iliad, 23 Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda

Location
Southern side of Fitzroy Street, four doors west of Acland Street.

Memories
None for me, other than a general recognition that it was one of the earlier, if not earliest Greek restaurants in Melbourne. Attendance record: nil.

History
Although the earliest years are a little unclear, it appears that the site at 23 Fitzroy Street has operated (perhaps with the exception suggested by Ron Bird below of a couple of recent years as a hairdressing salon) as a café/restaurant since its inception somewhere between 1916 and 1920.

Under the “leap year” system, there was no mention of the site in 1916. In fact, given one would have assumed that Fitzroy Street would have been fully developed well before the turn of the twentieth century, it comes as a surprise that in that year, there were only seven properties listed between The Esplanade (number 1) and Acland Street - the Prince of Wales Hotel on the eastern corner then shown as 21-19.

In 1920, what became number 23 was shown as the Summerland Mansions Restaurant, listed amongst a number of unnumbered properties extending from 11 to the Prince of Wales. Number 15 in press advertisements at this stage was shown as “Summerlands House” (below), suggesting the Fitzroy Street frontage was not built upon.

Fitzroy Street was re-numbered over the next few years; the Prince of Wales was officially stripped of its Fitzroy Street address and re-allocated to Acland Street and the “Summerhill Mansions” Café named after the large block of flats still existing today on the western side of Acland Street just south of the Fitzroy Street corner officially became 23 Fitzroy Street.

Whether there was any link between the flats and restaurant is unknown (an early ‘loyalty card’ system?), but the site continued under the Summerland Mansion name under a variety of owners until around 1948 when it was known for a few years as the Sydney Café.

By at least 1950 and perhaps reflecting the post-World War 2 influence of American culture, it became known as the Saratoga Café and Coffee House (the original proprietor was noted as Aristides John Nicolades, suggesting a Greek influence was already in play).

It still bore that name when it was refurbished around 1969 by Harry Partos as The Iliad. Partos was somewhat famous during the 1970s as one of the leaders of a local campaign to clean up both St. Kilda Beach and several of the drains flowing into the Bay, at one stage claiming the smell from the Cowderoy Street drain (some 600 metres to the north) was putting his diners off his food.

Today
I was somewhat shocked to discover that the Iliad closed around 1980, because it seems to be one of those iconic places that seemed to have existed long enough to claim fame as a “Melbourne institution”, but who am I to argue with what contemporary telephone directories of the day reveal.

Ron suggested in his email that he believed it was currently operating as a hair-dressing salon, but my wanderings “twixt Christmas 2014 and New Year, 2015 suggest it, along with 25, 21 and 19 Fitzroy Street have all been extensively modernised and combined into a (probably 200-plus seat) restaurant called Miss Fitzy’s, the external advertising “modern Australian cuisine”. It wasn’t open when I wandered past early one morning, but from what could be seen, not a traditional Greek plate to be smashed in sight.
The Hot Pot Shop, 436 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne

Location
West side, just north of the corner of Thompson Street (about 100 metres north of Albert Road)

Memories
The Hot Pot Shop was opened early 1970s by Tony Rogalski, whose brother Max was one of the pioneers of computing in Melbourne. Max left N.C.R. about a year before I joined in 1966; from memory, he was largely responsible for establishing the N.C.R. Data Centre on the first level of the Southern Cross Hotel. He moved to another of the early computer companies for around five years, but later chucked it all in in favour of a stint in the restaurant trade.

The Hot Pot Shop was in a double fronted shop, from memory, three small dining areas that would not have held more than about 20 people at best.

The formula was initially simple: Tony worked alone, there were six large crock-pot style cauldrons, four for the “hot pot” or casserole of the day, the other two for soup.

It was fixed price and self-serve, all Tony did was keep the pots boiling. From memory, at lunch around 1975, it was about $3.50 per head, dessert was a dollar extra and generally was ice cream, apple pie, or apple pie and ice cream!

Perhaps a little unfortunately, the exercise was a bit too successful and Tony subsequently poured thousands into upgrading the premises with a liquor license, cellar and new kitchen as a four-star restaurant called Rogalski’s which featured in The Age Good Food Guide’s top-ten a couple of times.

Although it won critical acclaim (including being listed in the top ten restaurants in The Age Food Guide of 1989, I suspect the place was just too small and it closed mid to late 1980s.

As a strange coincidence, one of those I remember visiting the shop was Neville Guest who worked for me at C.D.A. as an analyst for about a year. Neville was later the long-term partner of Max’s sister, Sue-Ellen.

Today
The site has been used over the years as a number of specialty and antique outlets - its distance from the main Clarendon Street shopping strip to the north limits its use as a general retail outlet.

Tony Rogalski and his wife Adrianna have since the late 1980s run the Bay View Hotel in Cecil Street, South Melbourne, renowned for quality dining, at one stage trading as Locanda Veneta and now as Lamaro’s
La Trattoria Ristorante E’ Pizzeria, 406 Rathdowne Street, Carlton

Location

West side, approximately 20 metres south of Fenwick Street, 12

Memories

Anyone who attended the first eight or nine years of our Third Friday lunches (and that strangely seems to include many of those lining up for our 23rd year in 2015) will remember our original meeting place, selected almost at random after the original Fab Four were threatened with corkage charges at La Porchetta, Sparky’s original suggestion (See The Third Friday, page 47).

History

Maps of the late 19th century suggest that 402-404 and 406-408 Rathdowne were both double-fronted blocks.

406 appears to have been developed in the 1880s as a grain and produce store, but by the turn of the century was shown as a greengrocers, although the two uses may have gone hand-in-hand.

Given Rathdowne Street was well and truly settled along its length by 1890, it comes as a surprise to find 408 to the immediate north did not appear in directories until 1921, some 30 years after the street was settled pretty much wall-to-wall and it seems 408 may have been the produce yard of the original business.

406-8 in the early 1920’s was then listed as Milland and Gooch, greengrocers. Arthur Gooch had been listed at 406 for several years previously, but it appears he had business interests other than apples and bananas given he was convicted in 1925 on a charge of running a common gaming house on the premises!

The site was listed in the last Sands and Mac directory of 1974 as a clothing manufacturer, but had been vacant for three or four years prior.

I disavow all knowledge of the events that terminated what was an otherwise harmonious relationship between La Trattoria and the CDA group.

While giving a brief rundown of the history of the lunches in September, 2012 at our twentieth anniversary, I mentioned there had been a change from our original site to La Porchetta around October, 1999 at a time when I had been tied up on Y2K projects.

Someone set me up and when asked the reason for the change, I suggested that La Trattoria was closed and under renovation - which it was when I finally made it a couple of months later - and this was the reason for the move, only to be greeted by a couple of titters of laughter before someone quietly mentioned that there had been some rowdy behaviour at an earlier lunch, including whistling for and/or at the waiters and CDA had been told to find another venue (probably irrelevant as the restaurant closed anyway).

Today

I ’fess I did not take much notice of the original home of Third Fridays during the decade or so we frequented La Porchetta and it came as a bit of a surprise when compiling the 2015 slide show that 408 still trades under the same name. With the omnipresent La Porchetta just a few doors down, the owners appear to have have moved the emphasis from trattoria to mainstream Italian and probably pushing up into a price range that we may not have been all that excited about.

12 Trattoria : "An informal restaurant or tavern serving simple Italian dishes"  http://www.thefreedictionary.com/trattoria
Porchetteria, 392-4 Rathdowne Street, North Carlton

Location
West side, approximately 50 metres south of Fenwick Street, aka La Porchetta

Memories
Just about anyone who has attended a Third-Friday lunch in the last 15 years will have them. See The Third Friday, page 47.

History
Given our aborted attempt to link up with La Porchetta in 1992 not long after the franchise started, it was something of a surprise to come across a Porchetteria Restaurant at 392 Rathdowne Street as early as 1974. "Porchetta", as the word perhaps suggests, is Italian for "roasted pig", thus roasted pork - "teria", I'm guessing, is somewhere along the line related to café-teria.

Regardless, the rather convoluted name seems to have proved too much for the Anglo-Saxon tongue and by the late 1970's, the "pizza" restaurant had become La Porchetta.

It was at that stage just 392 Rathdowne Street, North Carlton (which was listed separately from Carlton as it was a distinct postal district). Like most of Rathdowne Street, the site dates back to the 1880s and probably earlier with directories before then not showing numbers.

The usages of the site are too numerous to detail over a hundred years - during the 1890s, it appears to have been a grain and produce store for some years and one of the major tenants around World War One was a Herb Becker, a tailor who advertised extensively.

Immediately prior to the opening of the "Roasted Pig", it was somewhat unusual for that section of Rathdowne Street in that it appears to have been used for several years as the residential address of a G. Costa.

It's next-door neighbour to the north at 394 was also notable as a tailor's during the Great War years, but through the 1920s appears to have been a pawnbrokers offering quick cash loans.

Rocky and the franchise
What became the restaurant chain had its origins when in 1985 Rocco ("Rocky") Pantaleo and partner Felice Nania bought what is described as the "dilapidated" La Porchetta restaurant at 392 Rathdowne Street, eventually expanding to the north at 394 (just when is not known).

The franchising operation commenced in 1990 with a La Porchetta opening in Reservoir.

"Rocky" as most will remember was tragically killed in a motor cycle accident at St. Kilda Junction on 26 March, 2010 when heading to watch one of his greatest loves, the Ferrari team race in the Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park. He was 53 years of age and had four children. Born in Calabria, Italy, he arrived in Australia to find work with no knowledge of English in 1977 at 21 years of age.

Other than his penchant for mixing and being photographed with celebrities from all walks of life, he attracted unwelcome attention of his own when in 1996 he shot dead a man who attacked him in his Niddrie restaurant while alleging Pantaleo had sexually assaulted a teenage waitress working for him.

It was alleged by the girl's family that their daughter was promised a restaurant on her 18th birthday which she celebrated that year, but Pantaleo had not come good on the pledge.

Pantaleo was later cleared of any criminal responsibility, but received a suspended sentence for possessing the illegal pistol used to shoot the man, Keith Desmond Lane, and was convicted and fined $10,000 on contested charges of indecently assaulting the waitress.

He also had a raft of driving convictions, including speeding, drink-driving and driving while disqualified and in fact had only regained his license just three weeks before being killed after being suspended for six months after recording a reading of .065 in 2009.

Today
Various web site entries suggest that there are now over 80 restaurants in the chain, including some opened in recent years in New Zealand and Indonesia (serving Nasi Goreng pizza)?.
Le Chateau, 48 Queen's Road

Location
South-eastern corner of Queen's Road and Roy Street (originally Queen's s Place South)

Memories
I wondered about Le Chateau while wandering down Memory Lane, but originally didn’t include it as it would have been well out of the price bracket for regular use.

Ron Bird, however, suggests that it was used occasionally (along with Bernardi’s at St. Kilda Junction) at the executive level to celebrate significant sales wins, and that Graham Smith organised a couple of Engineering functions there, although Ron did add that it was usually the company that paid!

History
Still a little work to do, but the building was originally known as Fife House.

It was, however, more famous during the first half of the twentieth century as the home of the Brockhoff family, well-known Melbourne socialites descending from the founders of the famous biscuit company and flour millers.

The patriarch of the family, Adolph, migrated to Australia from Schwerin, Mecklenbourg, Germany in 1862 unaccompanied and 22 years of age. He originally settled in Belfast (since 1887, Port Fairy), but appears to have moved to Melbourne around 1870, living in Gipps Street, East Melbourne.

The famous Brockhoff’s trademark came into being in September, 1880 when Adolph and a partner named Stewart bought an existing biscuit factory on the corner of Miller and Anderson streets in West Melbourne.

The name (as per the image) was A. F. Brockhoff & Co. but after Adolph’s eldest son Frederick became governing director of the company, it was renamed Brockhoff’s Biscuits Pty Ltd.

From around 1904, 48 Queen’s Road was the home of Frederick, born in Melbourne in 1868, and his wife, Lola, who by coincidence was born into the well-known family of undertakers, the Sleight family (see Travelodge p82). (I also need to check further as there was a Sleight listed for several years as living at 598 St. Kilda Road).

Frederick died in 1962 at 93 years of age and the property was taken over for a year by his son Jeffrey before being transferred in 1964 to John and Benjamin Gishen. The mansion appears to have been converted into Le Chateau in 1968 and was first shown in directories the following year.

Today
Le Chateau was still functioning as a French restaurant, but as an adjunct the Racquet Club, which appears to be a nightclub (there is a restaurant of this name operated by the Lawn Tennis Association at their Melbourne Park Function Centre),

Strangely for such a prominent building and well-known restaurant, I’m yet to locate a photograph of the original site, an it came as quite a shock when compiling the mi-2015 slideshow that Le Chateau ha disappeare, replace with yet another apartment block.

On Bernardi’s: Bernardi’s was officially 34 Punt Road, Prahran, effectively overlooking St. Kilda Junction. It opened under that name around 1967-68, the site previously operating as Zampelli’s Restaurant. Given numbers around that area changed during the reconstruction of the Junction in the late 1960s, I haven’t attempted to trace the site.
Leo's Spaghetti Bar, 55 Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda

Location
South side, just east of the opposite intersection of Park Street

Memories
Again I don't have any recollection of "official" Control Data functions, although there were certainly few late night feeds after a pot or twelve at the Light Car Club.

Ron Bird suggests it was a favourite an convenient spot for engineers working at night - and, let's face it, any compilation of Melbourne eating establishments could never be complete without "The SpagBar".

History
We'll got out on a limb here and suggest that the SpagBar may be the oldest restaurant functioning outside of the central business district (this proviso eliminates Florentino's and a couple of others in the city that date back pre-World War Two).

(Although of vastly different cultural backgrounds, its main rival was Scheherazade, established in Acland Street in 1958, but which closed early in 2010 after an unsuccessful move to North Caulfield).

Leo's first appeared in directories in 1957, but actually opened in time for the 1956 Olympics and was frequented by many of the games participants, while at the same time giving Melburnians perhaps their first exposure to home-style Italian (perhaps even European) cooking.

The original restaurant was some eighty or so metres to the east of the current site at 81B Fitzroy Street (the phone number was XJ 5026, which gives an inkling of the era).

It moved to 55 Fitzroy Street around 1964, telephone then 94-5026, and has remained there ever since.

It was expanded in 1972 with the addition of a 100-seat fully licensed bistro.

During the original research, it was something of a mystery to me as to whether a "Leo" actually existed, but post the 2014 reunion Ron Bird confirmed Leo was an Italian immigrant, a short balding man with horn rimmed glasses who was always sitting at a small table against the right hand wall at the back of the restaurant just about every time Ron went there.

Ron recalls a report of Leo's death appearing in newspapers, but suggests he was still there around 1971-72. He adds that all pasta meals in the 1960s were seven shillings and sixpence (now $15.00).

Following Ron's confirmation of a Living Leo, I uncovered why it was simply called "Leo's Spag Bar"... A sign promoting "Pantaleo Mastrototara's Rigatoni Saltati Ristorante" would have brought the Victorian power grid to its knees and meant a menu three feet wide!

According to "St. Kilda : The Show Goes On", an 1980s update of two volumes of the history of St. Kilda published circa 1930, "Leo" M. arrived in Australia in 1928 and was interned during the Second World War. Digging into Victorian registrations reveals his full given name - he died in Caulfield General Hospital in 1974 at 64 years of age, parents Tommasco and Ersilia (nee Cassandri).

There are no other traces of the family name in Victorian Birth, Death and Marriages records, suggesting he arrived in Australia alone and never married OR the original name was Anglicized. On the basis of the historical work, he would have been just 18 when he came to Australia

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13 Ron's favourite dish at Leo's. Actually, Ron may have set eyes on Mr. Mastrototara prior to 1962. After I emailed Ron with Leo's background and mentioned he was interned during the war, Ron recalled as a whipper-snapper being on holidays with his parents in Balcombe on the Mornington Peninsula in 1944. The camp in which the interned Italians were kept was nearby, and Ron remembers around 5,000 being marched to the beach for a swim first thing each morning, and, as Ron said, Italians being what they are, they all sang loudly as they marched, the noise as they passed the holiday house being more reliable and possibly more malodorous than your average alarm clock!
Today

Unchanged - and probably unlikely to ever be failing nuclear explosions or a tsunami. I haven’t been there recently, but I’d guess that other than a few daily or weekly specials, the menu hasn’t changed either (except perhaps for the price column).

Ron’s Favourite Dish: Rigatoni Saltati: For D.I.Y. chefs:

Caratteristica di questo piatto è il connubio di carni domestiche e selvatiche, tra cui il ghiro che in calabria, così come in alcune località dell’entroterra campano, è largamente stimato. In un ampio tegame di coccio versate l’olio e la sugna, soffriggetevi la cipolla affettata finemente e unite le carni tagliate in pezzetti ma non disossate.

Bagnate, poco alla volta, col vino rosso.

Quando sarà del tutto evaporato, aggiungete un po’ d’acqua, il mazzettino di prezzemolo e l’alloro ben legati con un filo di cotone, il sale e i peperoncini tagliuzzati.

A completa cottura eliminate il mazzettino.

Lessate al dente i rigatoni in acqua leggermente salata, sgocciolateli, versateli nel tegame, rigirate accuratamente, informaggiate di pecorino, fateli saltare sul fuoco per qualche minuto e serviteli riuniti alle carni.

ENJOY!

Hoof Note (for horse lovers): Perhaps by including Leo’s, we might have done an injustice to one of its great rivals around 100 metres to the east - Topolino’s at number 87.

Perhaps not quite as long-established as Leo’s but certainly very prominent during the 1970s and 80s. Unlike Leo’s, I think it has always been at the same location - obviously also modernised inside and out in recent years.
McClure's Restaurant, 454 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne

Location
South-western corner of St. Kilda Road and Arthur Street

Memories
Usually promoted as McClure's Come As You Are! Restaurant - I don't recall ever being there with Control Data, but given its size and relative proximity, it seemed likely that it was used at times.

Ron Bird confirmed that it was often used for breakfast and lunch during the early days when the office was based just to the south at 474, but I'm still guessing it would have been used from 1966 after the shift to 598.

The restaurant was somewhat revolutionary for its time, open eighteen hours a day with the advertising slogan "Come As You Are" (don't accept lunch invitations while relaxing in the bath), with telephones to order direct from the kitchen, and as Ron remembers, a pop-up toaster on every table at breakfast time to ensure the toast was always hot.

History
Originally known as "Hinemoa", this was another fine mansion that has been lost over the years.

A fair guide to the building's grandeur comes in April, 1925 when it was placed up for auction:

"Lower level; fine entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, breakfast room, library, billiards room and ballroom, along with cloak room, lavatory, pantry, scullery, kitchen and maid's sitting room; while up a "magnificent flight of stairs" were five bedrooms, two bathrooms, lavatory, shower room, two maid's bedrooms and bathroom".

The grounds themselves boasted an asphalt tennis court complete with its own pavilion with lavatory, shower an changing rooms on land 100 feet by 250 feet (which appears to have been the standard block size in this section of St. Kilda Road).

The building was later turned into four apartments under the name "Roslyn Court" and by the mid-1950s was being used for commercial use, a quarrying company and estate agents noted among the occupiers.

McClure's opened in February, 1962, the brainchild of Les McClure, the creator of one of Australia's most famous icons, the Four 'n Twenty pie (originating in 1947 in Bendigo, later produced in Union Road, Ascot Vale). McClure sold his interest to Peter's Ice Cream in 1960.

Upstairs at 454 operated as "Oriana", a more formal function room.

Under the management of Ken McClure, Les's son, the company also took over the restaurant at the Cinema Centre in Bourke Street in 1969, then one of Melbourne's largest with seating for 200 and up to 16 waitresses (hamburgers, 60 cents, fried chicken, $1.65, steaks, $1.75, house red or white, 65 cents a large carafe).

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The St. Kilda Road restaurant closed around 1979 and a recent (2015) discovery reveals it became the original Barbarino's Bistro. McClure's Ltd. by the time of the closure still had the Cinema Centre site, plus catering rights for both the Royal Showgrounds and Flemington racecourse.

14 Australian Dictionary of Biography, Leslie Thompson McClure
Now
I originally had 454 as a 2 or 13 story glass and chrome office tower, largely indistinguishable from any other along that stretch, but a recent check shows I had the wrong corner and it as now a 20-22 story glass apartment block named Balaencea. The restaurant/coffee bar apparently carried the same name but in the last 12 months or so had changed to Hunter’s Kitchen and Bar. Now I have the right corner, I recall around 1985-86 a small cafe and outdoor eating area on St. Kilda Road and a building along the Arthur Street stretch,

Not a pie in sight, unless it’s in the sky!

Pepe's Pizza Kitchen, 147 Commercial Road. South Yarra

Location
Northern side, around 40 metres east of the railway bridge.

Memories
This was the one addition to the archive emanating from the August, 2013 lunch.

I believe it became a regular lunch spot in the late 1970s and 1980s after I had left Control Data and may well have been the forerunner of later days at the Old Pepper, but I distinctly remember it as post-College Lawn late-night feed accompanied by the presence of our great friend of the time, Al. K. Hole.

In fact, the outstanding (if that’s the right word) recollection I have is after a heavy drinking session with ex-N.C.R. workmates where three disappeared over the back fence (the toilets were in the back yard) and after a suitable get-away time, the two of us that remained went up to the counter to tell them we had seen customers trying to climb the fence. The staff rushed out to investigate, we casually wandered out the front door, also sanspayment!

History
Although always known as Pepe’s, the official name was Pepe’s Pizza Kitchen, and when it opened in 1968, there was already a restaurant of that name in Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda.

Both restaurants disappeared from directories in 1980 - undoubtedly there would have been a connection, but to date, I haven’t been able to determine whether they shared common ownership or alternatively were part of a planned chain that never quite got off the ground.

It was a rather small restaurant converted from a single-fronted confectionery and milk bar of earlier years, but we’ll let Mike Spark’s recollections tell the real story

“Firstly, I cannot recall who found Pepe’s Pizza and got everyone from CDA to go there - if no-one else owns up, I’ll take the blame, as usual! Pepe’s was owned and run by an Italian-descent guy, Frank, and his lovely Aussie wife. We used to take over the narrow, long upstairs room if there were enough of us, otherwise we’d eat downstairs if only a few turned up. They made their own chili sauce which was put in small jugs on the table, and self-applied to fit one’s own “hot” taste. If you wanted Frank to put it on the pizza while cooking (the chili flavour infused better), you ordered a ‘number X’, X being from 1 to 10. The latter would blow your mind and mouth, and not many managed to eat a full ’10’ - Ian Good, one of the Accountants, was one such marvel, I recall. Personally, a #7 was enough to know that you had had a hot chilli pizza!

After Frank (and Diane??) sold out to a couple of younger Aussie males who thought they knew everything, the service and the happy atmosphere went down, and we looked around for an alternative, finding the Red Pepper just around the corner in Chapel Street. Parking in Chapel St. was near impossible, even then, but I do remember I had a knack of getting a park outside the front door with monotonous regularity, much to the chagrin of the other customers.

The Red Pepper may have been started by Rob de Fazio and a couple of mates, although Rob could have been a staff member when we first went there - he certainly became the manager and boss of the place”.

Today
During its years of operation, Pepe’s was immediately adjacent to the Market Hotel to the west. The hotel has closed in recent years and at the time of writing (August, 2013) was vacant, although with some signs of internal work being undertaken (now trading as The Emerson Hotel).
Strangely, with the Argo Inn changing name a couple of years ago, 147 Commercial Road filled the void and has become the Argo Bar. A De Fazio restaurant is still functioning in Whitehorse Road, Blackburn although there is some doubt as to whether the family connection remains.

THE Red Pepper Pizza, 363 Chapel Street, Prahran

Location
Chapel Street, west side, around 40 metres north of Commercial Road.

Memories
This was the “in” Friday pizza spot well after I left - I went there once while on a brief contract at 493 mid 1980s and of course remember the “Sparky Special”.

Mike mentioned when documenting the twentieth anniversary of our third-Friday regulars that that the Old Pepper lunches were an ad hoc event - just “Let’s go pizza” rather than a regular schedule.

History
Somewhat confusing, but sorted after more research than most of the restaurant entries.

When I loaded this section of the site mid-August, 2013, I believed the restaurant was called the Red Pepper, but after a couple of fruitless searches of telephone books of the 1980s, realised it must have operated under a similar, but subtly different name.

At the expense of some shoe leather and after being assured by Bryan Gardiner that it was still operating, I discovered it’s actually now called The Old Pepper (I guess if a Pepper is 20 plus years old ... anyway, it’s probably a better name than The Mouldy Pepper or The Shrivelled-up Pepper).

But there was still a problem as there is no telephone directory entry in the 1980s under Old Pepper either and it wasn’t until the subject came up briefly at the July, 2014 lunch that I had a hunch which proved correct - it wasn’t the Red Pepper, it was THE Red Pepper, and, der, guess what, under “T” in directories).

When the name changed is unknown - the restaurant’s web site has all the usual hoo-hah and the menu reveals that the Sparky Special still survives, but the home page suggests that they have been ’serving the Melbourne community since 1991 and is renowned for making the best pizza in Chapel Street’.

Whether this means that during the 1980s they didn’t regard Control Data staff as “Melbourne Community” or perhaps there was a change of ownership I’m not sure. There’s certainly a hole in the calendar somewhere, my best guess is that 1991 was the change of name and both a New Beginning and a New Old Pepper!

Mike suggests that the Red Pepper may have been started by Rob de Fazio and a couple of mates, although Rob could have been a staff member when Sparky first went there - he certainly became the manager and boss of the place, before moving on another restaurant in Toorak Road and then Whitehorse Road, Blackburn. The latter is still functioning although there is some doubt as to whether the family connection remains.

The last trace of 363 Chapel Street in the 1974 Sands and Mac directory has it being used as a travel agency.

Today
Somewhat flashier that what I remember from one visit and now with the mandatory gleaming chrome coffee machine, but all in all, not much to distinguish it from a dozen other similar establishments in Chapel Street ... or perhaps with just one exception ...
Taco Bill's, 379 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne

Location
North-eastern corner of Clarendon and Napier Streets (originally 181 Clarendon Street)

Memories
A favourite Friday spot. I seem to remember that it was Barry Wells who knew the restaurant as a local and initiated the move there as he had spent time in Mexico, although he always claimed the fare was definitely American-Mexican rather than Mexican.

I seem to remember that on early visits when it was still unlicensed, we weren’t sure what to drink with “Mexican” - the guy at South Melbourne Cellars across the road (still there, same Batsilas family) recommended Scumpy, a rough and ready cider then marketed by Wynvale in two-litre glass flagons - it went well with the food until one tried to stand up and realised just what the alcoholic content was.

It was called the Mexican Cantina when we first went there, later becoming Taco Bill's and managed by a five-foot nothing who was definitely more Tex than Mex (not sure whether he was a Bill).

History
The building was originally the Forester's Arms Hotel, first licensed in 1865 when the address was 181 Clarendon Street.

The Forester's Arms was de-licensed as part of the first examination of the South Melbourne district by the Licensing Reductions Board in May, 1909, when it was noted that there were five other hotels within 200 yards.

Two others, the Britannia on the corner of Clarendon and Dow Streets and the Rose of Denmark (in Napier Street) adjacent to the Taco Bill’s car park were closed by the 1920 hearing, the other three, the Limerick Arms on the corner of Park Street and the Cricket Club and Emerald (then Hill’s) to the east survived.

After closure, the building was listed with dual occupants until the late 1920s when it housed a printing works for many years. In the 1960s and early 1970s, it was used as a bakery before being refurbished and re-opening as the Mexican Cantina.

The Cantina also embraced 375-77 Clarendon Street, last noted in directories as a radio shop.

Today
Like Leo's, the College Lawn and a couple of others, "if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it" seems to be the successful principle applied to the entire Taco Bill chain.

The building however carries a fairly dubious sign claiming to the "the first of the chain" and having opened in 1967 - sorry, Mr Taco, it was definitely still the Mexican Cantina when our photo was taken in 1980.

The "original" Taco Bill's appears to have been in Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda, first noted in directories in 1968, but as the sign says, probably from 1967.

Remarkably, South Melbourne Cellars is still run by the Batsilas family, originally of Spanish descent. Equally remarkable is that I discovered during earlier research into the Britannia that my maternal great-grandfather once ran a fruit shop in the Cellar building in the 1880s and 90s - the building then hosted two shops, the pair combined into one as some later stage.

The Rose of Denmark has its own moment of glory in the historical sun - although there was an Albert Park football club in existence, an Emerald Hill football club was formed in 1874 at the Temperance Hall further west in Napier Street. Members were not happy with the name and a later meeting at the Rose resolved to change to South Melbourne. South Melbourne and Albert Park merged in 1880, using Albert Park’s colours of red and white, but the South Melbourne name, The rest, like everything else that "just happened", as they say in the classics, is history!
The Motels

Although there were no hotels and not a lot of restaurants immediately accessible from 598 St. Kilda Road, we were well served by a number of motels (although “Motor Inn” appears to have been the preferred title) that provided relatively cheap lunch-time dining facilities.

The 1960s were a boom time for motels along Queen’s Road, a number of rather grand but probably run down houses being demolished to make way for the cheaper alternative to hotel accommodation. Most of the blocks, like those in St. Kilda Road, were 100-feet frontages with a depth to Queen’s Lane of 250 feet.

We must state at this point that there is a very remote chance that one or more of these motels may have been used on odd occasions by one or more C.D.A. employees of either or both sexes accompanied by consenting Control Data or non-Control Data employees of either or both sexes for purposes other than lunch, but this is a family-friendly publication, so everyone back to their own beds!

The history of the sites that later became motels and thus part of C.D.A’s heritage is in fact much more difficult to trace than that behind the hotels for two reasons.

Firstly, they were all built originally as rather grand private residences, the inaugural land sales of what was originally Queen’s Terrace in 1875 restricting development to either a single brick or stone villa or an approved two-story (minimum) terrace and thus were not covered by the licensing requirements and laws from which much of the history of the latter establishments has been derived, and secondly, rather like St. Kilda Road, Queen’s Road was not numbered until 1904, and even then, the St. Kilda section south of Lorne Street went another ten years before numbers were extended along the full strip.

Most of the properties, both before and after that year were primarily known by name but unfortunately, the directories only rarely showed these.

Hence the back-tracking to the earliest origins of some of the sites can only be traced by family name as given with numbers in 1904- and, of course if the property was sold or transferred to another name, the link is well and truly busted!

The major surprise that came out of the research is not related to our section on motels, but it was a real shock to discover number 1 Queen’s Road, tucked away in the little stretch arcing upwards toward St. Kilda Road and which was acquired in 1975 for expansion of T.A.B. headquarters. The site was not built until 1953 and was barely twenty years old when demolished (and remained in the same family during its somewhat brief existence)!

Just what the site was prior to this remains a mystery - the best guess is that it may have been part of number 2, but given it was a corner block (on Queen’s Lane), it seems remarkable that it was never utilised for any sort of accommodation when its neighbour at number 2 existed at least from 1883 and remained in the family of S.G. Staunton for over thirty years.

Overall, the research covered the following sites:

1, 2, 3 T.A.B. headquarters
4, 5, 6 Commodore Motel
23 Dirty Dick’s
48 Le Chateau
52 Noah’s Palm Lake
63 President Motor Inn
69 John Batman Motor Inn,
71 the original home of CDI and later joined by External Consulting Services, and
81 Koala Queen’s Lodge

(This list could have perhaps included 61 Queen’s Road, home for a few years of The Musician’s Club, but C.D.A.’s use of it is a little obscure, so it remains in the “to-do” basket).

The John Batman and the Koala Queen’s Lodge are the only two buildings remaining that bear any resemblance to the original; Queen’s Loge functions as a combination of motel accommodation and residential apartments; the role of John Batman is a somewhat obscure - it bears no signage and is secured at the ground level an the best guess is that it continues in its post-motel life as a training centre for Victoria’s Emergency Services, although no vehicles of such nature have been in the car park on a couple of visits.
Beverley Crest (aka Montmatre), 47 Barkly Street, St. Kilda

Location
Western side, mid-way between St. Kilda and Alma Road

Memories
Chicken or the egg? Or in the case of the Beverley Crest, the seminar or the lunch?
I remember attending a seminar there and the dining room, I remember lunches there, but not which came first.
I think Alan Rodda may have been the connection (probably convenor of the seminar) and from what I remember of the C.D.A. lunches, they were fairly large affairs in the restaurant on the first level.

History
Like St. Kilda and Queen’s Roads, most of Barkly Street was originally lined with large two-storey mansions, although most of there had been replaced with the ubiquitous “flats” by 1960 as much of the northern end of St. Kilda was redeveloped.

The other thing it had in common was that it was not numbered until after the turn of the century, the first identifiable occupier Mrs E. Dickenson. She was listed over the next ten years, but not shown in earlier directories. Barkly Street, however, appears to have been fully built up by around 1890.

Other than that, about the only thing known is that the building had a close connection with Melbourne’s Dutch community, firstly as the Netherlands Australia Society, and then the Abel Tasman Dutch Club.

Whether he was Dutch is uncertain, but the Crest was developed by a Cecil Gertz and opened in 1971, featuring the Ki-Ki Bar, Society Room and Montmatre Restaurant.17

Today
Now known as the Crest on Barkly, the exterior has been modernised in recent years but is still fairly reminiscent of what I recall as a fairly bland cream façade. I couldn’t locate an image of the older design.

Initially the first thing that struck me was that the prominent entry up a flight of stairs to the reception area (that section of Barkly Street climbs fairly steeply to Alma Road).

The more I think of it, the more I believe that may have the entrance way back in the 1970s, although less prominent - the car park is behind the building, main guest access to the left of the access via reception.

Checking their web site suggests the Crest was “recently renovated”, but nothing specific date-wise.

Their advertising suggests the Crest still concentrates heavily on the seminar/conference market.

17 The restaurant took its name from a hill outside Paris, renowned for its connection to the bohemian underworld, perhaps best known as the location of the Moulin Rouge cabaret immortalised in Baz Luhrmann’s 2001 movie. One dictionary definition suggests Kiki means “gathering, an informal term meaning a social gathering primarily for gossip or generally having a good time”, but significantly the term does not appear in ten volumes and almost a linear metre of the Oxford English Dictionary. The Montmatre was advertised as “a French atmosphere, the Land of Love (continental staff)” Nice one, Cecil!
Commodore Motel, 4-6 Queen's Road, Melbourne

Location
Eastern side, one door south of King's Way.

Memories
The jury is still out on the Commodore - it was a little too far for the 598 crew, but I'm pretty certain it would have been used both by the Control Data people stationed at the T.A.B. and the CRISP team in Illoura House.

I have a recollection of one lunch with the latter, the restaurant like most of the motels in Queen's Road accessed from the rear car park via Queen's Lane.

The Commodore was unusual in that it was one of only two that occupied a triple frontage onto Queen's Road, but unlike its compatriot, the Palm Lake, it was only two storeys; this may have reflected a building restriction of the time as little of the high-rise development along Queen's Road had then taken place.

History
The first reference located in Trove to number 4 is in 1916, when an article in The Argus noted the death of Mr Roy Mungovan, private secretary to the Minister of the Navy, Sir Joseph Cook, with sympathy expressed to his parents at 4 Queen's Road.

The family over the next few years placed a number of In Memoriam notices which identify the property as “Langcyde” and some further digging reveals the owner as Major Patrick Mungovan. He must have been relatively new to the house - embarkation records of another son in 1914 place the Major at the Waverley Hotel in Melbourne.

The house was originally built around 1889, the original occupant Mrs H. M. Moore who appears to have remained for around fifteen years before the name of Nicholas appears, believed to be the family responsible for development of the "Aspro" brand of aspirin and forebears of Hilton Nicholas, for many years chairman of the Victorian T.A.B.

In 1928, it appears the original building was demolished, the directory in this year noting 'flats being built’ and later advertisements suggested that the building was then a combination of one and two bedroom units.

Number 5 appears to have been built a few years later and in 1921 was converted into the Avonhurst private hospital run by a Sister Burt, the following year by the Misses Telleson and Moffat. The hospital was still operating when the Commodore opened in 1964, one of several that sprang up along Queen’s Road around that time.

The Commodore appears to have been built in two stages - the motel is shown as number 4 in 1964 with the hospital at number 5, but by 1966, the Commodore was 4-5 and the Avonhurst no more. The second phase also incorporated number 6.

Oddly enough, even after the Commodore opened, the south-western corner of the intersection was shown as offices at 3a and 3b Queen's Road, despite number 3 itself being on the other side of King's Way and eventually part of the T.A.B. headquarters! Unfortunately the image is inconclusive, but I do have a recollection the motel was a little south of the corner with a two or three storey block in between, possibly flats converted to offices.

Today
Although the Commodore closed in 1988, it came as a surprise to discover that the name re-emerged the following year at 81 Queen’s Road as the Commodore Queen’s Lodge, apparently bought from the Koala chain, although Commodore’s head office was listed as in Toorak Road.

The motel is long since gone, the site now the rear driveway entrance to a multi-storey office block facing the corner of Queen’s Lane and King’s Way.

[18] Cecilia Annie Telleson embarked for England as a 26 year-old Staff Nurse with the Australian Army Nursing Service in July, 1917 after earning her three-year Certificate as the Austin Hospital. She served in British hospitals in Salonika and Greece and returned to Australia in May, 1919. Born Moama, New South Wales, later married name BELL. There is no record of the Misses Burt or Moffat having enlisted.
John Batman Motor Inn (aka Eliza's), 69 Queen's Road, Melbourne

Location
South-eastern corner of Queen's Road and Lorne Street

Memories
Despite being the closest motel (or indeed dining spot of any description), we didn’t seem to use the John Batman nearly as much as, say, the Palm Lake.

Eliza’s Restaurant was on the first floor along the Queen’s Road side.

History
The site first appeared in directories (under St. Kilda) in 1893, then shown as the corner of Fraser Street, the latter changed to Lorne Street around 10 years later. The earliest occupant noted was Albert G. Smith who seems to have resided there for around ten years.

In the first reference to the site in Trove in 1915, the building is called “Merrileas” and was owned for many years by Mr and Mrs Rupert Hart. Subsequent family notices place the family there as late as 1946, Rupert noted as dying in August, 1945 and a son-in-law, a former Army captain of war wounds in August of the following year.

The John Batman when it opened in 1964 (shown as the head office of Capital Motor Inns Pty Ltd), replaced the building, then shown alternatively either as a guest house or block of flats.

Like the later President Motor Inn, the John Batman was one of the works of renowned Melbourne architect, Robin Boyd.

Just to the south was a private hospital that appears to have operated from the 1920s and was still functioning when the John Batman opened. I think this building remains.

A precise date of when the motel ceased operations is a little difficult to establish - it appeared in the 1977 telephone directory and not in the following release. 1978 and 1979 for some odd reason were combined into a single directory and the actual date of compilation is unknown.

Today
69 Queen’s Road now presents a mystery to casual observers.

The entire building is secured and there is nothing externally to indicate its function. There is no reception area, but there are doors marked “Staff Entrance”, indicating some sort of non-residential use.

After the Motor Inn closed, the site was purchased and used by the ANZ Bank for a staff training and acquired in the mid-1980s by the Victorian Government as an Emergency Services Training Centre, but this was usually immediately apparent as there were usually three or four ambulances in the car park, and I haven’t sighted vehicles of this nature on two recent occasions I’ve wandered past.

It is most probably a Government centre of some description and possibly still used for training purposes, but just why all the secrecy? Perhaps a Watergate style break-in may be in order.

Other than the absence of any signage that might identify the buildings use, the exterior is identical to the 1964 image above.

19 The name came from one of the early owners, John Merrileas who resided there circa 1899, but not for very long. I couldn’t trace an earlier name when Albert Smith was in occupancy.
Noah’s Palm Lake (aka Outrigger’s), 52 Queen’s Road, Melbourne

Location
Eastern side, about 40 metres south of Roy Street (and the Light Car Club).

Memories
One of the favourites during my time, the Outrigger Restaurant was on the ground floor at the rear, virtually overlooking the swimming pool. I seem to remember that we actually accessed the restaurant from the Queen’s Lane entrance.

As the name Outrigger suggests, the dining area featured a pseudo-tropical decor of the plastic palm style.

The Palm Lake was one of the motels that Control Data used for interstate and overseas visitors - I remember a late-night party there after one of our visitors checked out on the Friday afternoon but managed to somehow hold on to the key.

History
The first of very few references to 52 Queens Road are to an attempted break-in in 1924, the occupants Mr and Mrs Charles W Chapman.

The Chapmans were earlier noted at "Lillimur", Queen’s Road in 1916 when they were lauded for donating two automobiles to the Red Cross for the use of returning wounded soldiers. The property at that stage was new, not appearing in directories until 1915.

Although not a permanent installation, number 52 was one of several private residences in St. Kilda and Queen’s Roads taken over by the Army during the Second World War. The building was used as the headquarters of the Army Military History Unit.

(For many years both before and after the Palm Lake was built, the mansion immediately to the south was an Defence installation for the 3rd Division Army Directorate).

By 1947, there are references to number 52 being known as “Glendower” and the building was being used as a function centre with a number of wedding receptions, dinner dances and parties noted, but there also appears to have been a small section let as accommodation.

It continued as function centre until at least 1957, but in the three years leading up to the motel appearing in 1963, directories show the site as “not available” (either the building unoccupied or land vacant).

Little is recorded of 50 Queen’s Road. It was constructed a few years after 52 and in 1934 there is reference to a Miss J. Lewis as secretary of the Victorian Women’s Baseball Association, but not whether it was a family home, apartment or office. Certainly the building was used as offices immediately before the Palm Lake was extended, one tenant noted as The Diner’s Club.

The motel was constructed by The Palm Lake Motel Limited, but later transferred to the Noah’s chain. The original building appears to have been extended by 1966, when number 50 disappeared and the Palm Lake was listed as 50-52 Queen’s Road.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Palm Lake and other interstate motels including the Noah’s Lakeside International in Canberra were owned by the A.M.P. Society and operated on their behalf by Noah’s Ltd.

Today
The building has been remodelled, the major change from the Queen’s Road aspect is that balconies are now enclosed as part of the rooms. It now functions as Bayview on the Park, and I’ve just taken a note to check out whether the swimming pool and dining area still exists in Queen’s Lane.
President Motor Inn, 63 Queen's Road, Melbourne

Location
Eastern side, midway between Beatrice and Roy Streets

Memories
I know we used it fairly regularly, but I confess to having no specific recollections of the restaurant or whether it had a name. There is no trace of it in street or telephone directories and obviously primarily operated principally for use by guests in residence.

History
Number 63 appears to have been built around 1897 and was originally occupied by William J. Vance.

As early as 1903, there are references to the building as "Waitemata", but oddly in just advertisement in 1933 when the site was already apartments, it is referred to as "Lillimur", the same name as given by the Chapman family during their time at 52 Queen's Road, the later site of the Palm Lake Motel.

It appears to have been one of the earliest in use as apartments, the 1903 ad seeking "four gentlemen, billiards, good table, stabling, pianola, telephone, moderate tariff".

Apartments of four and five rooms continued to be advertised until April, 1955 when it was announced that Chevron Pty Ltd had bought the property along with its southern neighbour "Rameta" extending to Lorne Street at 65 and 67 (a total frontage of 457 feet) for a total of £436,000 with plans to convert them to a private hotel with an additional central block to house the office, lounges, dining rooms and a swimming pool.

Advertisements appeared in 1956 for two large auctions of furniture from the site "to the Order of Chevron Hotels Pty. Ltd., Park Lake, and Stanhill Pty. Ltd". One of the advertisements includes "250 modern dining chairs", suggesting strongly that the furniture was not from Waitemata itself and more probably from the Chevron which was bought by Stanhill around this time.

It appears the plans never eventuated; Rameta was still at the rear of Control Data well into the 1980s and number 65 continued as apartments, then known as the Town House and later converted to small office accommodation with directories listing as many as 40 tenants including in 1974, the last published, Computer Power Pty Ltd.

Number 63 however remains something of a mystery with directories from 1956 up until the opening of the first appearance of the President in 1969 simply listing the site as "Not available" with no hint as the whether the building was left vacant, demolished awaiting redevelopment, or perhaps tenanted, but the occupants for some reason unknown.

The President was designed by famous Melbourne architect, Robin Boyd and was the newest of the motels Control Data used, opening early in 1968 - it in turn survived longer than those closed, last noted in telephone directories in 1990. It was in fact one of Boyd's last works before he died in 1971; he also designed the John Batman Motor Inn.

Today
Although the private hotel never eventuated, the three sites appears to have remained in the hands of a single owner up until the present day, the entire stretch from just south of Beatrice Street through to Lorne Street now dominated by three interconnected buildings offering strata title apartments and five-star hotel accommodation, two labelled as the Carlton Crest, The Sebel and the Mercure Hotel on the Lorne Street corner

I haven’t been able to trace any use of the site immediately after the closure of the President in 1990 - the building of today looks to be only of couple of years old at best and it may be that the motel was converted into residential apartments over the intervening twenty-odd years.

Not sure about the eating facilities, but you can bet your bottom dollar we couldn’t afford it for regular lunches now!
Koala Queen's Lodge, 81 Queen's Road, Melbourne

Location
South-west corner of Queen's Road and Union Street. Although officially 81 Queen's Road, the main frontage is along Union Street to Queen's Lane.

Memories
Like your average ruckman of the 1960s, tall and skinny, although it is the height of the building that gives that impression; the block's frontage to Queen's Road at 133 feet is wider than all the other single-block motels at 100 feet.

I don't have many memories. In fact, none until I did a Cook's Tour of Queen's Road and spied a refurbished building that seemed vaguely familiar with a drive-in entrance at an angle off Union Street. If the forgettory isn't working overtime, the restaurant was on the ground floor of the right hand side with reception on the left.

The restaurant doesn't seem to have been heavily promoted for patronage outside of the visiting guests; there is no trace of a name in street or telephone directories.

It wasn't until later when checking past versions of Flash that the name Queen's Lodge suddenly appeared as one of the three motels in Melbourne that Control Data had special tariff rate agreements with.

Some of the older C.D.A. people will probably remember the Queen's Lodge as I believe it was the site chosen for Bill Norris's address to the troops when he visited Australia in February, 1970.

History
The first reference located in Trove is a Death Notice for a Mrs Mary Power in 1923, the building then known as "Manresa". 20

The original building was possibly the oldest of any of the sites later frequented by Control Data, Mrs Power's presumed husband shown in directories as early as 1876 when the building was listed under Emerald Hill. 21

An auction advertisement in January, 1926 refers to the property as "Chundurloo" and suggests the site was wider than most in Queen's Road at 133 feet with the standard 250 depth to Queen's Lane. Seven main rooms were noted along with kitchen, pantry, server, entrance hall and a separate outbuilding comprising a garage and servant's room", but this is the only sighted reference of the building under that name.

The Queen's Lodge opened in 1969, replacing a building of slightly confusing use.

In the years prior to 1967, the address was shown as belonging to a Mrs. G. D. McKenzie with the Lister Private Hospital at 82; in 1967-68, 81 and 82 were shown together as flats, with no hospital, but in 1969, the motel as at 81 and the hospital had returned to 82!

The motel was built part of the U.S.A. based Welcome Inns chain. Never having stayed there, I couldn't comment on the quality of the accommodation, but there was a very noticeable difference in room charges - $40.00 compared to $62.00 and $51.00 for the Travelodge and Palm Lake respectively in the example noted.

Today
The building appears to be of mixed use - now officially The Connaught (part of a U.K. chain). Bryants @ The Connaught offers studio style apartment accommodation, but there appears to be a number of floors sold off as strata title apartments.

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20 Shown in directories around 1900 as "Marviesa", but "Manresa" was correct, seemingly named after an important manufacturing town in the province of Catalomia, in Spain

21 William Power died in April, 1885 and the property was already Manresa - he was sixty years old, and although there may have been an age difference between the couple, Mary Power must have been a fair age when she died some 38 years later
Travelodge (aka Georgiana’s). St. Kilda Road, Melbourne

Location
South-western corner of St. Kilda Road and Park Street, Melbourne.

Memories
This was another recommended stopover for interstate and overseas visitors, but was also used for a number of 'official' celebratory lunches of various types.

Some of the motels we used advertised their restaurants separately - the Travelodge didn’t, but it was well-known as Georgiana’s.

History
Rather surprisingly for such a prominent site, the Travelodge was one of the later motels to open along the St. Kilda and Queen’s Road strips.

At the time of opening, here were already Travelodge motels in Royal Parade in Carlton, Canterbury Road in St. Kilda, and one in Oakleigh, which I think I’m right is saying was the first ‘motel’ to use the term in Melbourne.

The one in Canterbury Road was somewhat infamous as a location for what we might delicately refer to as “short term dalliances”.

Perhaps more surprising is that for at least twenty years before the motel was constructed, the corner was occupied by one of Melbourne’s largest funeral homes conducted by A. A. Speight Pty Ltd. (the company itself traced back to at least the 1890s). There was a family of this name residing at ‘Charlton’ at 598 St. Kilda Road but I haven’t as yet followed up on whether there was a connection.

Given it’s odd location at the intersection of St. Kilda Road, Park street and the northern lane of Albert Road, it is a surprisingly difficult site to research. Immediately south of the Royal Domain Hotel, directories up until 1910 show Park Street, Albert Road and then Princess Terrace (15 entries) before Bowen Terrace.

Later, a Boer War Memorial appears - this seems to have been in the garden reserve between the two carriageways of Albert Road (now near the Shrine perhaps 600 metres to the north).

Today
The Travelodge closed as a motel around 2000 and was extensively redeveloped into high class strata title apartments with the addition of four floors and a rooftop gymnasium, sauna, pool and entertaining area to the original eight levels of public accommodation.

The complex is now called The Hallmark and houses several well-known members of Melbourne society. Which does not included any Old Farts attending Third Friday lunches.

Somewhat, incongruously, Cherry Blossom, the "knock-shop" next door at 7 Park Street continues the traditions of the oldest profession and apparently profitable, despite the Travelodge no longer being on the list of Control Data’s preferred motels!
The Others

Murphy’s Law (section 4, sub-section IX, paragraph A.2) says that any time anyone attempts to categorise a group of diverse entities, there will always be some that don’t fit and thus officially will be called “Others”. And begosh and begorrah, Murphy was right!

These are our current Others, but depending on responses, there may be Other Others to come!

Athol’s Abbey, 376a St. Kilda Road

Location
Near the north-western corner of St. Kilda Road and Park Street

Memories
Athol’s Abbey wine bar and grill restaurant was a favourite lunchtime spot underneath what was then the Casa de Manana Hotel (aka ‘Case of Bananas’) on the north-western corner of Park Street and St. Kilda Road.

The staff were gay and proud of it; as for the customers, well, the room was usually dark and crowded, so you paid your money and took your chances!

Although I doubt anyone from Control Data visited on weekends, it was a regular haunt in the 1970s for legendary Melbourne jazz musician, Frank Traynor, his band then known as the Jazz Preachers.

The entrance was on the far right of the building, roughly opposite the rather bare tree in this image from around 1980.

On the ground level between the entrance and the hotel itself was Flanagan’s Restaurant, which I don’t recall ever visiting, but there infersences on a couple of web sites that it was also a gay bar done up in a dance-hall style of the 1890s.

The hotel itself had a first-floor traditional pub dining-room in the hotel - very much of the traditional ‘meat and three veg’ variety - which I recall one large group at some sort of celebratory or farewell lunch, but don’t think it was used on a regular basis.

History
See page 82 for the full historical entry for the Royal Domain.

The Computer Club, 46 Queen’s Road, Melbourne

Location
South-eastern corner of Queen’s Road and Roy Street

Memories
We’ve included The Computer Club as a separate entity from The Light Car Club as the premises were probably the only one that could truly qualify under both ‘Drinks’ and ‘Eats’, although the former probably took precedence.

Different people having different recollections of the origins of The Computer Club, but the most common belief is that it was started up by Bruce Smith and Peter Noonan from Olivetti who were both bona fide Light Car Club members.

My memory is that Alan Power from Computer Weekly mentioned the proposed formation to a few of us late one Friday night in the College Lawn, the immediate attraction of course was that the club was licensed to one a.m. in an era where most pubs closed at 10 p.m.
The plan was for a separate Computer Club to be formed and with those that joined to be taken up as Associate Members of The Light Car Club with full access to the social facilities, but no voting rights or rights of involvement in club car events. The Lakeside Golf Club based in Albert Park had had a similar arrangement for several years.

I was immediately interested as an ex-girlfriend had been a member and we had been there a couple of times after normal closing hours, so the following Friday I organized a group of four or five analysts for lunch, the net effect, four or five new Computer Club members and the start of a tradition.

The attractions of somewhere to drink after hours of course meant that many Control Data people joined, perhaps the largest contingent from any individual computer company in the balmy days when most of the industry was in St. Kilda or Queen’s Road and Computer Club membership was up around 300.

In the early days, there was an odd equation at lunchtime: the number of bread rolls on the table always equated \((2n - 1)\); i.e. if two people ordered a table, there were three rolls, if six booked there would be eleven!

I also remember around 1979 along with, I think, Wilson McMillan, organizing an all-afternoon barbeque on the roof, the requirement for attendance being that you had to be an ex-Control Data employee, although current employees were invited to join us in the bar afterwards.

Kevin Walsh turned up, and when being reminded it was only for ex-Control Data employees revealed that had resigned that morning so Wilson and I awarded him temporary membership for the afternoon!

There was also a reunion circa 1985 of C.D.A. people who had worked on T.A.B. projects, although this was in the restaurant - the rooftop activities were by this time curtailed after a couple of incidents where glasses were knocked over the ledge onto Queen’s Road and there were also some concerns as to whether the rather dilapidated roof was a safety hazard.

In the early 1980s, the scene changed a little when Irene Morgan took over as restaurant manager and Mike Spark and myself started up a monthly lunch club (or should I say "yet another" monthly lunch club?)

The in-thing at the time for the In-Crowd was for Beef and Burgundy lunches and wine tastings - naturally ours became the Booze and Belch Club.

The format was pretty simple.

Irene would come up with a masked bottle of wine and ask four questions of the “expert” clientele; variety, source, special characteristics and further tasting notes - to which the answers were typically "red", "grapes", "ripper turps" and "more, please".

Irene was ably assisted by Mad Eric Ettridge the Chef, and subsequently started up a similar exercise on Saturdays which attracted L.C.C.A. members as well as The Computer Club.

The Computer Club contributed to the L.C.C.A’s wellbeing by not only supporting the bar and other social events (normally involving much alcohol, of course, with anything up to 80 people in the bar of a Friday night), but by putting up several timekeeper volunteers (including Mike and Wendy Spark) at their Sandown and Winton race meetings for some years.

Time, drink driving laws and the movement of the computer industry away from the St. Kilda Road area eventually took its toll and by the mid-1980s, membership had, like that of the Light Car Club itself, dwindled to a shadow of its former levels, and despite various attempts to rekindle interest, numbers dropped to around 20.

Around 1988, and as the current President, I proposed winding up The Computer Club and with the agreement of The Light Car Club, having the current 20 or so members simply transferred into the L.C.C.A. books directly as Associate Members. After intensive and emotionally-charged negotiations that lasted, from memory, about two and a half seconds, the L.C.C.A. agreed.

By this time, of course, Control Data had also gone, but a few regulars continued to use the Light Car Club until it too closed in 1992.

See page 89 for the history of the Light Car Club and the building itself.
Dirty Dick's, 23 Queen's Road, Melbourne

**Location**

23 Queen's Road (about 30 metres north of Leopold Street)

**Memories**

As the name obviously suggests, Dirty Dick's was a boisterous theatre-restaurant of the thigh-slapping, double-entendre style at night, but some little time after opening, it also catered for the lunch-time trade with soups and roasts at very reasonable prices (I seem to remember you could stuff yourself senseless for around three dollars).

It was pretty much serve-yourself, although there were a couple of maidens (?) in period costumes to take drink orders.

Although it was eminently suitable for loud and somewhat bawdy group evenings, I can remember three or four visits at lunch and probably no more than a couple of other tables being filled.

**History**

The history of the building is a little obscure with the site not identifiable as a corner block.

It appears to have been constructed around 1898 and remained under the ownership of a family named Duckett for at least twenty years and there are some references to the original property being called Castleberry or Castleberg.

They may well have been the only family to occupy the building - there is a suggestion in 1919 that the Norwegian Consulate-General had moved to the site, but other references to the Consulate over the next year or two place it in the central business district and apartments were being advertised at 23 Queen's Road by 1921.

The restaurant was in a large single-storey mansion (which may have precluded it from being remodelled into apartments), but for some reason, number 23 was not shown in directories from 1960 to 1965, although whoever was occupying the site had some rather genteel neighbours with the Royal Commonwealth Society at 20-22 Queen's Road during and after these years.

Whether the building was unoccupied during this time or just an oversight from the directory isn't known, but in 1966, it suddenly appeared as the Stagecoach Inn Licensed Restaurant operating at the upper-end of the market and probably in competition with Le Chateau.

Around 1974, it was converted to Dirty Dick's, and survived for a number of years. Given the site is currently a minor part of an apartment block in Queen's Lane, the original building may have survived a few more years, but it's function during that time is unknown.

**Today**

The site today is at the rear of Brooklands, a seven or eight story apartment block fronting Queen's Lane, but rather strangely, neither vehicle or pedestrian access is available from Queen's Road. The site does not show the number.

The Musician's Club, 65 Wellington Street, St. Kilda (1972)

**Location**
The Musician’s Club was in one of the old mansions at 61 Queen’s Road (one door south of Beatrice Street) from 1956 to until around 1972.

It then shifted to 65 Wellington Street, St. Kilda (north side, about 30 metres west of Upton Road) where it occupied the entire third of the fourth floor.

Memories

Someone brought up the Muso’s Club at the July, 2013 lunch when we started discussing some of the old haunts. I have a vague recollection that the Queen’s Road premises were in a two-storey house and actually accessed from Queen’s Lane, but that may have just been a shortcut taken by someone that knew the ropes.

My memory from one later visit was that the Wellington Street premises were in a four-story office block where they seem to have occupied an entire floor with several billiard/snooker tables which corresponds with what seems to have been a tradition of the club.
Colin Elliott’s recollection is that it was used at times for after-work drinks, rather than lunches - given it was a private club, this infers that either Colin or one or two of the drinking crew must have been a member to sign guests in.

(Bill Beath may be able to throw some light on the Wellington Street address as I think he and Sandra lived almost opposite, although the street numbers are somewhat out of whack).

History

The Musician’s Club is known to date back to at least 1906 when it is noted as having rooms in Russell Street. Around 1920, they were based in Exhibition Street and through the 1930s, 40s and early 50s at 188-92 Little Collins Street where there are many references to billiards tournaments where they appear to have been one of the leading teams around Melbourne.

There are references to Musician's Club and Musician’s Union of Victoria being at that address as late as 1956, so their tenancy of 61 Queens Road must have been relatively short.

Today

Now with a black exterior, the 55 Wellington street building has been modernised and converted to 12 apartments spread over the four floors.

I need to research further to determine whether The Musician’s Club still exists, and if so, where it is located.

There is a web site under their name with links from the Musician’s Union of Australia site, but it has been "Under Construction", apparently since 2003 which is probably not a positive sign!

Jimmy Watson’s, 333 Lygon Street, Carlton

Location

West side, around 30 metres south of Grattan Street.

Memories

Ron Bird suggested that this was a favourite spot for a few, principally George Crawford, but I suspect there were others from Control Data with links to Melbourne University where much of Jimmy Watson’s trade came from that may well have been regulars.

Ron also suggested that a visit to Watson’s probably meant a "no appearance, Your Worship" for the rest of (usually) Friday afternoon.

That may have impacted the only time I went to Jimmy’s while at Control Data - I’m pretty sure George was involved along with a Cybernet salesman, name forgotten - we arrived after the kitchen had closed and lunch was an olive and two lettuce leaves (we shared), accompanied by about seven bottles of vin ordinaire upstairs overlooking the lane-way at the back.

Can’t recall whether we made it back to 598, which means the answer is probably NO. (Again, this is a site whether others may be able to provide feedback)

History

Jimmy Watson’s was first established in 1937 when he bought the freehold of a property in Lygon Street from a man who died soon after at 101 years of age.

James Calixte Watson himself was originally a professional musician, but his father had extensive experience in the hotel trade, his parents Jimmy senior and the Italian-born Giselda running a wine shop at 243 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy from 1920 to around 1956 (see page 99, Ardroy’s).

His unusual second name came that from Calixte Denat, Giselda’s brother and a renowned Swiss French restaurateur in Exhibition street.

Watson both served and built up a formidable collection of Australian table wines; the only liquor he was allowed to sell under the licensing system of the time and before they became popular.
He specialised in collecting one-year old wines - it was estimated in 1952 that the cellar at Watson’s contained 4,000 bottles (or enough for six Third Friday lunches).

After Jimmy died in the East Melbourne Hospital in 1962 at 58 years of age, his only son Alan continued the tradition, establishing a much larger and new-look Watson’s in 1962 after extensive remodelling with three old shops made into one modern structure designed by noted architect Robin Boyd.

Alan also created the Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy for the best one-year old Australian wine in the same year in honour of his father, the first winner, Stonyfell’s Metalia Cabernet Shiraz Claret Type 1961. (The prestigious award still attracts some criticism for its restriction to one-year old wines, some of which have never developed to any great degree).

Although famous for the iconic Carlton wine bar with its strong connection to Melbourne University and what we might think of as the bohemian set, the Watson family moved to Ascot House in Ascot Vale in 1947 where his wife Essie ran its reception rooms; the food from Ascot House credited with raising the quality of catering at the wine-saloon.

Today

The classically simple exterior is pretty much unchanged from 1962, although the Moran and Cato grocery store that then sat between Watson’s and Grattan Street has long since gone. It is perhaps a tribute to Boyd’s architectural skill that the classic plain facade on Lygon Street still looks as modern today as it looked in 1963.

Internally, Watson’s (now nominally run by Jimmy’s grandson, Simon) is somewhat more upmarket than the bearded hippie types of the 1970s, the restaurant now rather more prominent than the old wine bar trade.

Also


Jimmy Watson Trophy Winners (page 109)

**Accounts Department Barbeques**

I was perhaps remiss in not including these when compiling "Control Data Australia - Daily Life" back in 2013, primarily because I’d forgotten how they operated and I think became more of a tradition after I left.

Fortunately, Garry Pearce in his interview with Tom Misa in November, 2013 provided some details and Accounts Barbeques were mentioned by two or three other during their session.

I’ll let Garry tell the story ...

“I think one of the big factors in Control Data being the success they were in Australia, was the linking and bondage, if you like, between the employees. And one of the things that epitomizes that, perhaps, were a thing we used to do in Melbourne. We had a football ground only about five minute drive, at most, probably even three away. And every Wednesday, we would put up in the personnel department first thing in the morning, a chart saying “Barbecue: sausages, steak so much, fruit juice so much, red wine, white wine, beer; giving the prices; you wrote your name down, you put your money in the bag, and the Accounting Department sent two of their people out just before lunch to the local shopping arena, purchased provisions, brought them down to the barbecues, and the staff turned up at one o’clock. And the finance director was the chef for the barbecue.

**Misa:** That was you. **Pearce:** Yes. And that happened every Wednesday. **Misa:** So the barbecue was on Wednesday, too. **Pearce:** Yes, the barbecue was on Wednesday, and we did that every week. That enabled the different areas of the company to come together and meet, and discuss, and actually get to know one another a lot better. And that was very, very popular; and the good part about it was the discipline about it was, as I was given to understand by an American visitor when he came down and was with us there, he said, if we held this in Minneapolis they wouldn’t be back at their desk just after two o’clock. **Misa:** So it would be 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. So an hour. **Pearce:** Yes. **Misa:** Not a long time. **Pearce:** An hour fifteen was all right. You might be five minutes late coming back. There was no abuse of it at all. And there were no people who imbibed to make their afternoon ineffective. **Misa:** So it was a good time for getting . . . **Pearce:** It was a good time for bonding, cross communication, understanding what other divisions were doing perhaps better than would’ve if that were not the case”.

I think Garry may in his opening remark may have meant “bonding” rather than “bondage”, but heck, it was the Accounts Department and anything goes . . .
I can recall barbecues across Queen’s Road and occasionally in Catani Gardens on the St. Kilda foreshore, and know in later years they were in Fawkner Park behind 493. I think I have also seen references to some on the banks of the Yarra.

Ian Downie also suggested that they were regularly held at the Repair Centre in Collingwood, but didn’t suggest a location.

Each of the interviewees emphasised that no one took advantage of the barbeques to “make an afternoon of it” - perhaps it as well that Tom Misa had never heard of Jimmy Watson’s!

Wine and Cheese Nights

Again, the Friday evening Wine and Cheese Nights regularly put on by the Social Club rated a mention in two or three of the Misa interviews as one of the regular events that brought the various divisions together.

Rather strangely, despite the evenings being mentioned as a common thread, none of four or five people that I spoke to and who were prominent attendees could actually remember where in the building they were held! Too much wine, too little cheese!

Like a few others, I had a vague recollection of them being in a recreation area on the second or third floor towards the Queen’s Lane end, but Back To The Future and an in-depth check of the Between Ourselves newsletters scanned by David Lee reveals the true location as the first floor, the area first used for an Arts and Crafts exhibition staged by the Social Club in August, 1974.

This appears to be the space earlier occupied by the Data Services customer services area, another Between Ourselves in August of the previous year noting the pending removal of this facility from the western end of the building to a similar location on the ground floor behind the reception area.

The September, 1974 article suggests that were over 100 exhibits from 21 contributors, highlighting silverware and jewellery by Jan Lippold, a doll’s house made by Jack Tucker, a Spanish-American saddles made to Alan Brown and a series of underwater photographs taken by Peter MacGregor.

“The Club plans to furnish the recreation area with tables an chairs an to provide such facilities as a pool table, chess, draughts, cars, etc. for members’ amusement during lunch hours. The possibility of providing some form of food facility is also being examined”.

Apparently some time after I left, there was an alternative Scotch tasting night where a few people didn’t appreciate the difference in alcohol strength between wine and spirits and things got a little messy late in the evening. Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of a few missing bottles of Scotch please contact the author (we’ll go halves).

The Between Ourselves report also announced the first activities of the Sydney office Social Club; the president Bill Shepherd, vice-president Paul Wylie and with Heather Hogan and Barbara Barry-Scott as joint secretaries (the Melbourne luminaries were not mentioned).

There was no suggestion of a recreation area in Miller Street, but it was noted that theatre parties, fishing trips, a visit to the Hunter Valley vineyards and a children’s Christmas party were being planned, along with regular golf days and a squash club.

I couldn’t locate any specific reference to the first Wine and Cheese Night in Melbourne - certainly there were regular events at the time I left in mid-76 an given the regularity with which they were mentioned in the Misa interviews, they must have continued for some time afterwards.

I know the Accounts Department barbeques continued in Fawkner Park, but am not aware if there was a recreation area at 493 to allow the Friday night tradition to continue. Again, Feedback welcome!

As for the Social Club itself, its origins remain unclear.

The second issue of Between Ourselves in November, 1970 noted plans for a children’s Christmas Party at Lower Eltham Park with a nominal charge of 0 cents per child to help offset the cost of a visit by Santa, a puppet show, pony an train rides and refreshments.

“Membership of the Social Club is open to all Victorian employees and there is no annual subscription. As members of the Club, employees can take advantage of the many benefits available, including not only the entertainment side, but a varied list of wholesalers offering considerable discounts on goods”.

The president was listed as Peter Ansell [not known to me], vice-president, Les Jordan; and secretary Liz Bourke who I’m pretty certain continued in the role as Liz Walton after her marriage.
Daily Life : Drink

“Drinks” could equally apply to all of the sections as there was a fair chance of alcohol popping up, but these are major places I remember as being after-hours watering holes.

Certainly during my time in the early 1970s the profusion of computer companies in St. Kilda and Queen’s Roads meant some territorial wars as to where different groups rank. Again, there may well be others.

I seem to remember around the time I left in mid-1976, there was a brief move from the College Lawn to the Beaconsfield Parade (from forgettory, perhaps initiated by John Hill who had a family connection somewhere along the line), but I can’t recall whether that lasted as The Computer/Light Car Club was pretty much in full swing by then.

Whether others were established after my time is up to you to advise.

Given drink driving laws were becoming much stricter, the Friday evening five to ten o’clock sessions may well have been heavily curtailed by the 1980s.
Beaconsfield Hotel, 341 Beaconsfield Parade, St. Kilda

Location
South-eastern corner of Cowderoy Street

Memories
I’m not sure whether the Beaconsfield really belongs, but I remember that just after I left Control Data there was a move away from the College Lawn, brokered in part I think by John Hill, whose family may have been involved with the Beaconsfield in some way.

I can remember a couple of nights there when we used a bar off Cowderoy Street, but not whether it really took off, I suspect because it’s rather awkward location meant car travel at a time when many of us lived to the immediate east of 598 and relied on legs or public transport.

I can also remember a lunch or two there, but I wouldn’t rate it as a major eatery in the overall picture.

History
Like the Esplanade, Hotel Victoria and lesser extent Bleak House, the Beaconsfield was built to attract tourists and visitors the pleasures of the Bay and the baths that were once dotted along the South Melbourne and St. Kilda foreshores.

The hotel was designed by architect William Pitt and first licensed by James F. Hay, probably in 1879 (the hotel shows under his name in 1880 directories. The original design is believed to have been a single storey open colonnade between the two towers with the second level was added a few years later.

The construction of the hotel was a brave move - the section of today’s Beaconsfield Parade between Sandridge (Port Melbourne) and St. Kilda, then referred to as the Sandridge Military Road commenced in the autumn of 1879 but wasn’t completed until the end of 1881.

The embankment of the railway loop in the Albert Park Reserve mentioned in Charlton (598 St Kilda Road, p 10) dismantled and used for filling parts of what was then the Western Swamp as a foundation for the road.

Records show that the hotel was constructed on behalf of a William Vail, Melbourne tailor, at a cost of £4,033; Vail was declared insolvent the following year, quoting the cost of mortgages on the hotel as one of the reasons for his difficulties.

Although not under any real threat from the License Reductions Board, the building was extensively altered and extended in 1927 by the architect Harry R Johnson (1892-1954). The front colonnade was probably enclosed at this time, it now forms part of (I think) the main dining area.

The hotel was further expanded in 1969 by the then-owner Dan Curtain at an estimated cost of $250,000 to include three new lounges.

Today
Perhaps unfairly remembered today as the venue of the tragic death of cricketer David Hookes, the Beaconsfield has retained its name and functions as a traditional hotel, featuring weekly comedy nights and musical entertainment.
Casa de Manana (aka Royal Domain), 84 St. Kilda Road

Location
North-eastern corner of St. Kilda Road and Park Street, Melbourne

Memories
The main bar was on the corner, Control Data never used it, but Mike Spark will confirm it was aka as 'Honeywell Head Office' and I remember a couple of visits therewith him pre-joining Control Data. Tony Bell suggests it was also a regular spot for engineers at the T.A.B.

See also Athol's Abbey (page 73)

History
The Royal Domain Hotel opened in 1874, being first shown in the 1875 directory as on the corner of Albert Road and Park Streets.

The location appears impossible by today’s geography, but at the time the hotel opened, the section of St. Kilda Road from today’s Park Street corner to perhaps 75 metres north was considered Albert Road.

The original publican was William Prosser, but like several proprietors of new hotels, he lasted just one year before handing over to a long-term operator in Anthony Rivers who was shown as the host for 14 of the next 15 years until his death in September, 1890 at 63 years of age.

Although not reported in the daily press, a database of coronal enquiries reveals that Rivers’ death was attributed to a fall from a building – whether this was the hotel and the circumstances are sadly unknown. He left a sizeable estate valued at £5,033, his widow later running the hotel as Mrs Thomas Strickland after she married the new licensee in 1892.

The hotel was advertised for sale in 1906, the land 40 feet to St. Kilda Road and 100 feet along Park Street, two-story brick, three parlours, six bedrooms, kitchen and offices, let at £6 per week.

No mention was made of the condition of the hotel, but some twenty years later at the 1926 Licensing Board hearings, Inspector Brown testified it “was the worst he had inspected” and that he did not think the hotel necessary for any purposes and that it should be the sixth hotel in the area to go. He also added that the nearby Fawkner Hotel in Toorak Road was also not needed.22

However, in the real estate world, the usual catch-cry is “Location! Location!” and thus it proved the hotel’s saviour; remarkably, it was the only hotel in St. Kilda Road before 1954 when the Chevron, previously a private residential hotel, took out a licence seemingly against their will.

The Royal Domain survived after plans for the construction of a new three storied building

Today
The Swingin’ Sixties saw the hotel become La Casa de Manana - literally “house of tomorrow”- but invariably, “Case o’Bananas”, although by the time it closed in 1986 for office redevelopment, it had reverted to the Royal Domain.

The site is now a multi-storied glass tower extending further down Park Street to Wells Street and encompassing the terraces shown of the left of the image - the current complex retains the Royal Domain name.

22 The latter remark was actually irrelevant to the hearing - the Royal Domain was within the Port Melbourne Licensing istrict, the Fawkner Club under Prahran and thus subject to a different hearing.
Chevron Hotel (Back Bar). 519-535 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne

Location
South-eastern corner of St. Kilda and Commercial Roads. The Back Bar was ground level on the southern side of the main building and accessed from St. Kilda Road.

Memories
This was the main after-hours drinking venue when I joined early in 1971.
We primarily used the Back Bar, a single story ground level structure with from memory, the bar at the St. Kilda Road end, tables along either side and a couple of pool tables along the centre section which you had to negotiate to get to the toilets at the rear.
The Back Bar was definitely "beer barn" more than "lounge bar", although we did sometimes use either the Lounge Bar on the ground floor of the main building or the small beer garden to which it was attached on occasions, usually when female company was present.
And although it was well before my time at C.D.A., the Chevron also offered a major advantage to the "single digits" then operating out of Eton Square.

Pre-1966 and the repeal of the "temporary" Licensing Act of 1916 which restricted hotel trading to the general public to 6.00 p.m. (aka "the six o'clock swill") and before the advent of motels along Queen's Road, the Chevron was used to house the occasional interstate visitor - which meant that when the warning bell went at six signalling the imminent closure of the public bar, the Control Data team could legally retire to the Guest's Lounge which did not have the same restriction! (Sadly, the Act required the *bona fide* guest to have travelled more than twenty miles from his or her previous overnight stay - thus preventing a "single digit" from just booking a room for the night at, say, ten minutes before closing time).

History
Like many of the later buildings in St. Kilda Road, the Chevron site was for many years a large two-story mansion alternatively described as flats or a guest house.

Although the building had certainly existed for many years prior, the "Chevron" is first sighted in 1926, although when plans for the hotel were released in 1934, it was suggested the name had been used "for many years".

In April, 1934, plans were announced for the formation of a company with capital of £100,000 to purchase the site with a frontage of 288 feet to St. Kilda Road and 211 feet to Commercial Road and to construct a non-license hotel with accommodation for 189 guests, each bedroom with its own bathroom, and in the grounds, a swimming pool and tennis court.
The site was purchased for £11,500, the estimated cost of the building was £66,000 and fixtures and fittings, £16,500.

In what must have seemed a highly optimistic prediction for such a large project, directors announced that they hoped to have the hotel complete for the Melbourne Centenary Exhibition opening in October.

Amazingly, the building’s roof structure was in place just nine weeks after construction commenced and the hotel was officially opened by the Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons on October 8, just six months after the company was formed.

In 1937, Chevron Ltd bought the St. Ann's Guest House in Commercial Road between the hotel and the Alfred Hospital for £12,225 and announced plans to demolish it and build a six or eight storey building on the basis that height restrictions in place on St. Kilda Road would not apply.
The restrictions were in fact imposed, but the company extended the existing four story building by 140 feet along Commercial Road at a cost of £59,000, adding another 60 rooms and 3,000 additional square feet of lounge space.
There are some suggestions that Chevron Limited was reluctant to apply for a liquor license given its thrust towards short and long-term accommodation, but in April, 1954, approval was granted on completion of a gymnasium area being converted to a public bar area facing St. Kilda Road (this was probably to have been the Back Bar that we used) and a lounge bar “with a waterfall setting” and a deck garden court facing St. Kilda Road.

Just fifteen months later, plans were announced for the expenditure of £150,000 to expand the bar and to provide a reception room and upstairs dining room, the application suggesting that 12 barmen were unable to cope with the Saturday afternoon rush, and that by moving the existing toilets, extensions allowing 24 barmen to operate at peak periods could be made.

By 1956, the Chevron was owned by Stanhill Pty. Ltd, who bought the block of 31 flats at 541 St. Kilda Road, giving the company a frontage of 500 feet along St. Kilda Road, the site covering four acres.

At the same time, the company bought much of the block between Beatrice and Lorne Streets in Queen’s Road (including the site of the later President Motor Inn, p70) and Rameta Flats (p17) with plans to erect another substantial hotel, although this project never got off the ground with the two-storey flats on the Lorne street corner surviving until well into the 1980s.

Today

539 to 541 St. Kilda Road is now a seven-floor ablock of modern apartments under the name of Chevron Green.

The Back Bar area is now built over with yet another extension to the hotel as shown to the right of the image right.

Most of the structure of the extended building of 1939 remains largely unchanged, although the section along Commercial Road has taken on something of a retail image with a 7-11 grocery immediately next to the corner of St. Kilada Road.

O, of course, the swimming pool and tennis courts have long since gone.

Ron Bird remembers …

Well, just about everything, but following the initial release of Control Data Australia - A Stroll Down Memory Lane, the first cut of a full history of the local subsidiary, he mentioned that the Chevron Lounge was also a lunch spot for the early employees then based at Eton Square or 474 St. Kilda Road.

He adds that Bob Hawke, Albert Monk and other comrades from the ACTU were also regulars at the Chevron Lounge in 1964 and had their own little corner.
College Lawn Hotel, 36 Greville Street, Prahran

Location
South-western corner of Greville and Perth Streets, Prahran

Memories
Mine are from around 1973 onwards when the catch-cry in the lounge bar was "Four more gin and tonics, please, Mrs South", but Ron Bird’s go further back to 1960 when the College Lawn was the favourite watering hole for I.C.T. (later I.C.L.) people after the English company relocated to St Kilda Road from Lonsdale Street.

The Lawn was also popular with staff from Peter Isaacson Pty Ltd, the publishers of Computer Weekly, and at times all one needed to do to start an industry rumour was a stage-whisper of a few well-chosen words close to the Isaacson circle.

History
The first thought that comes to mind when thinking about the background of the College Lawn is that the name was derived because of its relative proximity to Wesley College. That may well hold true, but what is surprising is that the name was used for the surrounding district BEFORE the hotel came into existence!

The first reference to the term comes in The Argus, Thursday, 21 September, 1871 - obviously as a "come on" for an upcoming land sales, the agent at this point keeping himself to himself, but with no less than four separate notices appearing in succession:-

"ANNOUNCEMENT.-Saturday Afternoon.-Holiday folks ATTEND great Auction, College-lawn, between Wesley College and Prahran Railway Station" ... "A BEAUTIFUL LOCALITY - COLLEGE-LAWN. AUCTION, Saturday and Monday. Cottage and villa allotments. Suitable for everyone" ... 'A Delightful walk through the Government Domain Park to COLLEGE-LAWN. High and beautiful, new neighbourhood' ... 'A Pleasant and cheap Railway Travelling Arrangement. COLLEGE LAWN, by monthly ticket, about 1d. each journey'

Later ads revealed a total of 130 lots were to be auctioned on the Saturday and Monday by Knipes, George & Co. and the area was Crown Land. Despite the estate appearing to extend to High Street, the advertisements were restricted to Greville Street in the north, and Perth, Donald and Albert Streets running from east to west

"... within the last decade the site of that collection of nice cottages known as College-lawn was almost entirely vacant ground. The land used to be a market garden. There are very few vacant gaps in it now ..."

Melbourne - Its Infancy and Growth, The Argus, 6 September, 1884

"College Lawn" continue to be used intermittently for the area of Greville, Perth, Donald and Alfred Streets way through to the 1940s.

The hotel was first licensed in March, 1876 to James Holt, who may well have been the free-holder of the property. Early notices of licensing applicants reveal it was of ten rooms exclusive of the landlord’s private use.

The College Lawn was fortunate in that had two long-term tenants who maintained a strict level of conduct with only one or two minor discretions - Anton Frisch who remained from 1877 to 1886, being replaced by Henry L. Racke, 1886 to 1895 (this could be compared to one hotel noted in South Melbourne that had eleven licenses shown in annual directories in twelve years, and there were two or three others that lasted less than a year).

The original hotel was advertised for sale in 1903, when it was noted as a two-storey brick building with a 31-foot frontage to Greville Street and stretching 103 feet along Perth Street to a right-of-way. The purchase price was £3,200, but neither the seller nor purchaser were named.

The hotel survived the License Reduction Board hearings in 1926 where eight of the 31 hotels in Prahran and Windsor were closed, but seems to have been exceedingly fortunate.

The Reduction Board was chaired for many years by Robert Barr, and many owners of hotels brought forward plans to modernise and expand their hotels to ensure their survival. Reports on the Prahran District suggested "several hotels should be rebuilt"; almost certainly the College Lawn, then 50 years old and licensed to Daniel E. Smith, was one for which plans were submitted.
We'll let The Argus (18 September, 1928) tell the story:

"Chairman's Long Memory.

"Martin White made application to the Full Licensing Court yesterday for the transfer to himself of the licence of the College Lawn Hotel, Greville Street, Prahran, from Daniel E. Smith. Mr J. Mahon appeared for the applicant.

"When the matter came on the chairman (Mr R. Barr) said that he thought he remembered that plans were approved at the deprivation sitting in 1926 rebuilding of the hotel. Mr Mahon - I was not aware of that. The Chairman - If plans are approved by the Court and the work is not gone on with, the licence will not be renewed. Mr Mahon - On looking into the matter, I find that extensive plans for alteration were approved, but by an oversight they were not gone on with.

"The Chairman - When plans are submitted there is a contract on behalf of the owner that if the plans are approve, the work will be put in hand. The application will be adjourned".

There is no surviving evidence as to what work was carried out, but it is noted that an approval for additions and alterations to the College Lawn at a cost of £2,700 was granted in October, 1937.

This remodelling was obviously the renovations referenced by The Argus when it reported the sale of the hotel to a Mrs Lucy M Peasley in July, 1939. She retained the license until passing away in April, 1946.

**Today**

Before commencing this exercise, I hadn’t been past for about ten years, and when Ron Bird suggested that while lunching there recently, he ventured into the front bar and reckoned that it hasn’t changed since his early visits in short pants way back in 1960!

I was almost prepared to leave it at that, but fortunately decided to have a quick look and discover that perhaps the College Lawn has changed more than any other hotel in our archives still functioning in that role.

While the shell of the 1970s is largely unchanged, a bottle shop and ultra-modern dining area are now accessible from Perth Street, the dining room extending across the back of the hotel, old bottle shop and a single-storey cottage next door. The bottle shop in Greville street and front of the recently acquired property at 40 Greville Street are now an outdoor garden setting linked to both the hotel proper and dining area.

Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any surviving photos of the College Lawn as it may have looked in the past. Since the original version of aily Life, an interesting new feature has appeared on the wall of the beer garden, originally covered with ivy - don’t know who she is, but she’s done me a power of good!

![College Lawn today](image1)

![The new restaurant section](image2)

![The courtyard in Greville Street](image3)
Hotel Esplanade, The Esplanade, St. Kilda

Location
Eastern side, occupying the block between Pollington and Victoria Streets.

Memories
Personally, I don’t recall ever visiting the Espy, but Ron Bird assures me it was much favoured by the early engineering group for after-work drinks - and was Bob Hammond’s favourite pub around 1964-65.

History
Perhaps rather surprisingly, the Esplanade was one of the later additions to the inner-southern hotel scene, first licensed to James Hay in 1878 who remained until at least 1895.

The site, had, however been used for an earlier hotel, initially The New Baths Hotel when licensed to William H. Johnston in April, 1857; amongst other interests, he was part-owner of The Argus newspaper. This hotel was also known as the Criterion from 1861 to 1862.

The building then appears to have been used by a group calling itself the Victorian Hydropathic Institution in conjunction with the sea-water baths until early 1867 when it was sold at auction "substantial buildings to be removed".

The current-day hotel was designed by Smith and Johnson Pty Ltd whose other works included the Victorian Law Courts and was completed in 1878, one report suggesting that the site was bought by a James Orkney who originally commissioned the architects to design a row of terrace houses, but was convinced instead to build a new hotel on the site.

The Hotel Esplanade like its later counterparts the Hotel Victoria and the Beaconsfield was designed very much for the accommodation of visitors to the sea baths that line the beach front through this section of St. Kilda.

The hotel was modernised in 1974 at a cost of $50,000.

The Espy’s current fame as a venue for live music is far from new.

The hotel was taken over around 1920 by businessman Thomas Carlyon, then also the proprietor of Melbourne largest taxi company; Carlyon’s tastes were very much influenced by time he had spent in the U.S.A. and during the forty years he remained licensee the hotel became a premier jazz venue. During the 30s and 40s, big bands provided weekly entertainment; traditional jazz and be-bop took over in the 1950s and 1960s, and disco in the 1970s.

The building was extended in 1930 with the addition of another 29 rooms, or 169 in total, the new features including an electric pressing room for lady guests, a library, writing room and a telephone and hot and cold water bathroom attached to each guest room. (it was noted the Espy then had 90 permanent guests and resident staff, this level maintained through to the 1960s).

Today
For several years, the Espy has been at the centre of planning battles between developers wanting to demolish the building and erect a further high-rise tower and community groups that demand its retention both as an historical landmark and as a bastion for alternative musical acts.

As the images show, the hotel itself has hardly changed over the last fifty years, but the surrounding environment is virtually unrecognisable from the days when the Espy nestled in a shallow vale overlooked by two and three story apartment blocks. See also The Espy, 1890 (p112)
Fawkner Club Hotel. 218 Toorak Road, South Yarra

Location

North-eastern corner of Toorak Road and Hope Street, South Yarra

Memories

Other than rumours that if you wandered in and dropped a baggy green Australian XI or a Qantas pilot’s cap on the table, you had to beat the female customers off with a stick, I personally don’t have any recollection of a Control Data link other than a couple of casual Saturday afternoons sessions with fellow employees.

That qualifies the Fawkner Club more for the “Play” section, but Ron Bird recalls it was in favour for a while in the mid-60s as one of the engineers of the time (later after returning from Canae, Manager of the N.S.W. office), Wally Cavill lived nearby in Hope Street.

Of the premises in the 70s, I most remember a large crowded courtyard consisting mostly of plastic - the people and occasional surgery) - the furniture was steel and glass!

History

The hotel went head-to-head with the Mount Erica to be the oldest in our archives.

The original name was the South Melbourne Hotel, the premises first referenced in April, 1853 when a license application from a William Stevenson was refused on the grounds that “the house is not required”. Undeterred, Stephenson tried again in September, the application this time suggesting the site as “on the south side of the Yarra, near the Botanical Gardens”, again refused.

At some time over the next few months, the license must have been granted but Stevenson’s worries were far from over - in March of the following year, he was before the Supreme Court (where he was noted as man “of considerable means”) on a charge of slander after he refused to honour a bill for £300 drawn on a Melbourne merchant named Pye, claiming the signature on the acceptance had been forged. Despite being “of considerable means”, Stevenson claimed he was almost illiterate and “could barely sign his own name”; he was ordered to pay Pye £400, a long way short of the £5000 claim.

The hotel at that stage was listed in Gardiner’s Creek Road, South Melbourne. Gardiner’s Creek Road 23 was renamed as Toorak Road in the early 1870s.

The hotel was advertised for sale in January, 1855, ”... with 5½ acres of rich market garden land, stables, out-offices, &c., within one mile of Prince’s Bridge and ten chains of the junction of the St. Kilda Road ... the hotel stands on a frontage of 70 feet to Gardiner’s Creek Road ... built of the best bricks ... an extensive and well-arranged bar, with bedroom off the bar, 3 large parlours and a cool cellar ... on the upper level will be found a large withdrawing room and five best bedrooms ... detached kitchen, servant’s quarters, stabling for eight horses, hay loft, fowl house, piggeries, water closets and a fine well-cropped garden of one acre”.

Up until 1884, the hotel was usually referred to as being in South Melbourne, the area that we know by that name then officially Emerald Hill. The South Melbourne Hotel adopted the more appropriate name of the Fawkner Club from October, 1887.

Although no detailed description of the hearing remains, the hotel was lucky to escape the Licensing Reductions Board of 1926, where, despite its relative isolation from other hotels, both the Fawkner Club and the Royal Domain (Athol’s Abbey) were described by the police witness Inspector Keevil as “unnecessary” with a recommendation that both premises be de-licensed.

The Fawkner Club survived, however, and certainly would have been substantially renovated if not totally rebuilt around that time.

Today

Around the early years of this century, the Fawkner Club closed its doors for the last time and was converted into apartments, probably 15 from a quick count of letterboxes. The Fawkner Bistro still operates from the ground floor Toorak Road section, alternatively as 52 Toorak Road West. Not sure about the water closets, but definitely no sign of a hay loft, fowl house or piggeries!

23 From John Gardiner, one of the first overlanders from New South Wales, in 1836. Gardiner was the first settler to live and build in Hawthorn; his house was on the river bank very near the present Scotch College. South Yarra Railway Station opened in 1860 as Gardiner’s Creek Station and was renamed in 1867.
The Light Car Club of Australia, 46 Queen's Road, Melbourne

Location
North-eastern corner of Queen's Road and Roy Street (formerly Queen's Place South).

Memories
Far, far too many to document ... gone, but not forgotten.

History (The Light Car Club of Australia)
The Victorian Light Car Club was formed late in 1924 as a spin-off from the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, the first president, Mr. A. W. Bernadou. Its initial operations including endurance rallies, reliability trials and hill climbs for "light cars", these defined as cars with an engine capacity of less than 2,000 c.c.

The club took over the running of competitive motor sports events from the R.A.C.V. and in 1928 organized a long-distance event at Phillip Island, introducing a long history of motor racing of various types on the Island. The event eventually became known as the Australian Grand Prix and it was run at the Phillip Island until 1936 when it was decided the share the annual event with other states.

As well as the glamour keynote event, the club was also intensely involved with reliability trials (the first held in 1926 over a distance of 627 miles and sponsored by The Herald newspaper, the event still held today), petrol consumption tests and hill climbing at temporary sites at Glenroy and Wheeler's Hill before establishing a permanent venue in 1937 known as Rob Roy at Christmas Hills in Melbourne's north-east.

Access to the Rob Roy site was destroyed by bushfire (although later restored and still used by sporting car clubs today) and the Club established a new venue, Lakeland, near Lilydale.

The L.C.C.A. also conducted short-course racing at several sites, including the Aspendale and (briefly) Richmond horse racing courses and the Motordrome speedway in Swan Street, Richmond, later the site of the Olympic Park complex.

The Club had its first flirtation with Albert Park in 1934, but was eventually refused permission to race there because of concerns over noise levels. The link to Phillip Island commenced in 1960 with long-distance racing when the Club initiated the Armstrong 500 on the island circuit, the event later transferred with a slightly different format to the Mount Panorama circuit at Bathurst and damage to the track halted racing at Phillip Island.

The Club was originally based in the city but later moved to premises at 17 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy and then to the Queen's Road site previously the home of the Albert Park Golf Club in 1960. The golf club in the interim had acquired a property which is now the Keysborough Golf Club.

The L.C.C.A.'s links to horse racing courses continued with the establishment of a track at the Sandown Park course in 1960s, this becoming the club's primary circuit for racing.

In 1984 and 1986, the club ran the World Sports Car championship at Sandown, then upgraded to Formula One standard, but sadly, what should have been the highlight of the club's existence turned into a financial disaster with a recent ban on cigarette advertising forcing several leading competitors out of the event, the problems intensified by the Victorian Government sponsoring a free V.F.L. match at the M.C.G. in opposition to one of the events.

The combination of the losses from these events and a rapid dwindling of support for the clubrooms in Queen's Road with the introduction of stringent drink-driving rules and a massive shift of the computer industry from the area saw the club forced into liquidation in 1992.
History (46 Queen's Road)

Until around 1962, today’s Hannah and Roy Streets to the north and south of the Albert Ground were known as Queen’s Place North and Queen’s Place South. Hannah Street was the original section of King’s Way from Park Street to the Yarra, Roy Street ran from Park Street south across Albert Road to link up with St. Kilda Road.

The Crown land site that became 46 Queen’s Road was first shown in 1919 as the clubrooms of the Albert Park Golf Club, which had existed since around 1900 and who were credited with constructing what was then a private golf course on the Crown lands in the Albert Park Reserve, the area originally a rubbish dump.

The Albert Park Golf Club retained occupancy of the site until 1960, despite the course itself being reclassified as a public course just after the Second World War. Under Government pressure to relinquish control of Albert Park, members of the club had by this time acquired 200 acres of land in Melbourne’s famed sand-belt to erect a new course, the name subsequently changing to the Keysborough Golf Club.

For many years, the Light Car Club of Australia had operated from premises at 17 Brunswick Street, Eastern Hill (now regarded as Fitzroy), but moved to the vacant premises in Queen’s Road in 1961 (when still the corner of Queen’s Place South).

The origins of the building we remember are a little sketchy - notes with the only photograph of the building suggest the image was taken in 1936, but when the Kirner Government ordered its demolition in 1993, the project ran something like four times over budget because no one realised that it was constructed from reinforced concrete when it was erected as a Civil Defence Headquarters during the Second World War.

(To be politically impartial, the Kennett Government struck a similar problem when removing the basketball courts in Albert Road two or three years later - the land where the courts sat was used as a depot during the War for Army tanks and had a four or five-feet thick concrete base to support the weight).

A few years after the LCCA moved to the premises, a working-bee of members re-constructing part of the building to add a wine cellar found a collection of disused PMG telephone lines, later discovered to have been installed in 1956 when the building was used as a media centre for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. (A rather strange choice - there were no events held in or around the Albert Park).

There were boom times in the 1970s and early 1980s, patronage significantly boosted by The Computer Club, but with the move of many technology companies away from the St. Kilda and Queen’s Road areas, an ageing membership, changes to drink-driving laws and a rapidly deteriorating building saw a significant drop-off in bar and restaurant takings, compounded further by a couple of financially disastrous motor race meetings, the Light Car Club closed in 1992 after the existing lease expired.

The premises were offered by the Kirner government to the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria as a support facility for the practice courts for the Australian Open then located on the north side of the Albert Ground, but the L.T.A.V. rejected the offer and 46 Queen’s Road was demolished the following year.

For a couple of years prior to the end, the building was sub-let to a group conducting a post-midnight dance venue dubbed Razor’s.

Perhaps the classic description of the decline of the club and premises came in a review of trendy Melbourne late-nightspots which described Razor’s in the early hours of the morning as “delightfully outdated and decrepit ... you half-expect to see Humphrey Bogart walk through the door wearing a trench coat ...”.

All that remains are the memories and a plaque on the corner commemorating the wonderful times. The bulk of the site is now enclosed as part of the Albert Ground.
Palmerston Hotel. 51 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne

Location
South-western corner of King’s Way (originally Roy Street) and Palmerston Crescent (western section)

Memories
I need some confirmation on the Palmerston as it was mainly used by T.A.B. staff, but with some involvement with Control Data engineers stationed at 2 Queen’s Road.

Tony Bell confirmed that it was a regular after-hours drinking spot, but suggested that it wasn’t used that often for lunches as the T.A.B. building had a fully serviced cafeteria on the seventh floor. As a result, the Palmerston has shifted categories from its original “Eats” to “Drinks”.

History
The Palmerston was first licensed in 1876 to Margaret Lawrence, although it is not clear whether she was the freeholder. Some licensing records refer to it as the Palmerston Crescent Hotel.

The establishment of the hotel was a brave move – Roy Street was the southern end of today’s King’s Way, from Park Street to Albert Road, but both it and Hannah Street which connected northwards were little more than dirt tracks alongside Hannah’s Drain which took much of the storm water from South Melbourne to the Yarra.

There were one or two houses on either side between Park and Cobden Street, but this eastern section of South Melbourne grew rapidly over the next few years.

The hotel was in poor condition when examined at the 1926 Licenses Reduction Board hearings, but was granted a reprieve with the construction of Hannah-Roy Streets and the construction of tramways sheds nearby. The original hotel was rebuilt over the next couple of years.

Sadly the hotel itself was never advertised for sale or lease and no description of the original building appears to survive. (In fact, after researching around 110 hotels known to have existed in Emerald Hill and South Melbourne, the amount of material garnered on the Palmerston ranks in the bottom ten).

Given the swampy nature of the lands to the east of Eastern Road, the original hotel was in all probability single-story. Although a significant part of the area has become commercial, from the residential sections that remain, it is doubtful whether a two-story building from around 1880 ever existed in the surrounds.

Today
Never a hotel with any great pretensions, the Palmerston is largely unchanged from the 1980 version.

The facade has been modernised somewhat with a monotone render and the shutter effect around the windows removed. There is now to be a new single story bistro section extending some 15 metres along Palmerston Crescent; three small single-fronted cottages appear to have been demolished in the 1980s to make way for the extension.

The location of the Palmerston imposed on a 1920 street directory. King’s Way replaced Hannah and Roy streets in the early 1960s. The names were not lost, however – for some reason they were then used to replace Queen’s Place North and South which ran either side of the Albert Ground between Queen’s and St. Kilda Roads.
Last, but by no means least, we conclude with the three sites used up until 2014 for our two-yearly Melbourne reunions (the 2016 gathering was at Sophia’s, currently Work In Progress).

The three venues present an interesting contrast: two - the Geebung Polo Club and the Carringbush - now bear names other than their original, and both coincidentally are derived from literary works of vastly different eras. The third, the White Horse Inn (possibly the oldest in our archive) is rather surprisingly not the catalyst for the naming of Whitehorse Road or today’s City of Whitehorse.

By the early 1850s, there was a White Horse Inn on the north-eastern corner of Elgar and White Horse Roads, “Nunawading”, which then encompassed Hawthorn eastward to today’s Vermont. The City of Whitehorse web site attributes both the city’s name and Whitehorse Road to this White Horse Inn which was delicensed on 21 October, 1920 as a result of a Local Options Poll and the builing demolished in the early 1930s. The third, the White Horse Inn (possibly the oldest in our archive), lent its name to both Whitehorse Road and today’s City of Whitehorse, although the hotel strangely does not lie officially in either.

**Geebung Polo Club. 85 Auburn Road. Hawthorn East**

**Location**
North-eastern corner of Auburn Road and Victoria Road, Hawthorn East.

**Memories**
The site of the first great reunion in 1996 when around 150 packed the pub. The image below shows the bar that we used. (Like everything else, it’s a long time ago, but I seem to remember plans for the re-union were hatched at one of our regular Friday lunches, then at La Trattoria).

It was a sensational afternoon; the only drawback and one that saw us shift to the White Horse was that they didn’t have a suitable room which could be more or less blocked off for a private function.

**History**
The hotel was originally (and unimaginatively) simply the Auburn Hotel. The hotel including 32 bedrooms was constructed in 1888 after new licensing laws in 1885 imposed stricter standards on hotel dining facilities and accommodation.

The freeholder and first licensee was R. C. Allan, who is said to have spent £7,280 on constructing the hotel on land he bought for £1,000 and then refused an offer of nearly double his outlay “as he had too high an opinion of Auburn to let it go”.

The structure probably hasn’t changed much over the years: the hotel was offered for sale in 1894, described as three-storey and 42 rooms, with a kauri and pine staircase and frontages of 123 feet to Auburn Road and 200 feet to Victoria Road.

For a period from 1945 through to the 1960s, the hotel was one of the best-known around Melbourne when it was run by former footballer and popular sports commentator, Ted Rippon, who employed several League stars including John Coleman (licensee from 1954) and Jack Dyer, both of whom went on to establish their own hotels.

**Today**
I last called in about five years ago and to be truthful, I couldn’t see very much that had changed, either internally or externally.
Geebung Polo Club (1893)

The Geebung Polo Club took its name from a famous poem penned by A. B. "Banjo" Paterson which was first published in *The Antipodean* in 1893.

It was somewhere up the country in a land of rock and scrub,
That they formed an institution called the Geebung Polo Club.
They were long and wiry natives of the rugged mountainside,
And the horse was never saddled that the Geebungs couldn’t ride;
   But their style of playing polo was irregular and rash -
   They had mighty little science, but a mighty lot of dash.
And they played on mountain ponies that were muscular and strong,
Though their coats were quite unpolished, and their manes and tails were long.
   And they used to train those ponies wheeling cattle in the scrub:
   They were demons, were the members of the Geebung Polo Club.

It was somewhere down the country, in a city’s smoke and steam,
That a polo club existed, called the Cuff and Collar Team.
   As a social institution ‘twas a marvellous success,
   For the members were distinguished by exclusiveness and dress.
They had natty little ponies that were nice, and smooth, and sleek,
For their cultivated owners only rode ‘em once a week.
   So they started up the country in pursuit of sport and fame,
   For they meant to show the Geebungs how they ought to play the game;
And they took their valets with them - just to give their boots a rub
   Ere they started operations on the Geebung Polo Club.

Now my readers can imagine how the contest ebbed and flowed,
When the Geebung boys got going it was time to clear the road;
   And the game was so terrific that ere half the time was gone
   A spectator’s leg was broken - just from merely looking on.
For they waddied one another till the plain was strewn with dead,
   While the score was kept so even that they neither got ahead.
And the Cuff and Collar captain, when he tumbled off to die,
   Was the last surviving player - so the game was called a tie.

Then the captain of the Geebungs raised him slowly from the ground,
Though his wounds were mostly mortal, yet he fiercely gazed around;
   There was no one to oppose him - all the rest were in a trance,
   So he scrambled on his pony for his last expiring chance,
   For he meant to make an effort to get victory to his side;
   So he struck at goal - and missed it - then he tumbled off and died.

By the old Campaspe River, where the breezes shake the grass,
There’s a row of little gravestones that the stockmen never pass,
For they bear a crude inscription saying, "Stranger, drop a tear,
   For the Cuff and Collar players and the Geebung boys lie here."
And on misty moonlit evenings, while the dingoes howl around,
You can see their shadows flitting down that phantom polo ground;
   You can hear the loud collisions as the flying players meet,
   And the rattle of the mallets, and the rush of ponies’ feet,
   Till the terrified spectator rides like blazes to the pub -
   He’s been haunted by the spectres of the Geebung Polo Club.

*The Antipodean, 1893*
White Horse Inn, 5 Burwood Road, Hawthorn

Location

South-western corner of Burwood Road and Barton Street, Hawthorn (adjacent to St. James Park).

Memories

Home of our second and third reunions in 1998 and 2000, but personally, not a lot of recollection because I got tied up at work and didn't arrive until around 4.30 at the first and could only stay for about an hour at the second because of football club commitments.

I probably have more memories from the mid-1960s when a mob of louts from Preston posing as a football team had regular stoushes with the ex-Public School boys of East Hawthorn on St. James Park - they always won the footy, we always won the fight, but to be fair they always invited us across to the White Horse (their sponsors) afterwards.

(Although he had retired from the football field by my time, I think the hotel was run by former Collingwood player Ron Richards, brother of Lou. Ron was captain-coach of East Hawthorn for several years).

I also have a recollection from the same period of playing with a brand new Preston Technical College against Swinburne Institute on the same ground.

History

What became the White Horse may be the oldest hotel site in our archive. There is evidence of a John Connell being granted a license for the site as the Hawthorne Hotel in September, 1853, but there are also references to him allowed a license for an unnamed house 'on the opposite side of the Richmond punt' in April, 1851 after being refused permission for the same in September of the previous year.

(Connell in fact operated the punt, which functioned from 1840 until 1852 when a rough-and-ready wooden bridge was built - so precarious that it was tied to trees by heavy ropes when the Yarra was in flood! It was replaced by the later brick and stone structure in 1860.

One history of Hawthorn suggests that in its early days, the hotel was "...an establishment frequented as much for the prize-fighting as for the beer", but regardless of the truth of that claim, it was a substantial building, advertised for sale in 1865 as "brick and bluestone, bar, cellar, six sitting rooms, six bedrooms, large billiard room (for which an additional license was required), kitchen of 16 by 20 feet, servants room, and six stables".

By the early 1850s, there was a White Horse Inn on the north-eastern corner of Elgar and White Horse Roads, "Nunawading", which then encompassed Hawthorn eastward to today's Vermont. The City of Whitehorse web site attributes both the city's name and Whitehorse Road to this White Horse Inn which was closed as a Local Options Poll on 21 October, 1920. The building was demolished in the early 1930s.

Like the suburb, the Hawthorne Hotel gradually lost its "e", and after the demise of the earlier hotel, the name was changed to the White Horse Inn in July, 1938.

Today

The hotel was demolished around 2003 and replaced with a modern glass fronted office block. Despite this, a White Horse Tavern is included on the ground floor of the office building, the entrance just to the right of the image of 2015, but the prize-fighting is no longer a feature!
Carringbush Hotel, 228 Langridge Street, Abbotsford

Location
North-western corner of Langridge and Raphael Streets, Abbotsford

Memories
Most of us have been there, so there’s little to add.

History
Like the Geebung Polo Club, the Carringbush owes its current name to a literary source, although controversy still rages as the accuracy of the original.

"Carringbush" was the name used for Collingwood by Frank Hardy in a highly controversial 1950 novel “Power Without Glory” which was a thinly-disguised version of the life of Melbourne businessman and Australian Labor Party power-broker, John Wren ("John West" in the novel).

Maybe there was something about the Collingwood name, but Carringbush has become a favoured alternative, even to the point of the City of Yarra which encompasses Richmond, Collingwood and Abbotsford having a Carringbush Library.

Our current re-union venue was originally The Langridge Family Hotel which dated back to around 1870 under the stewardship of John Grant who maintained the original hotel under this name until 1889.

The original building was demolished and rebuilt to the design of architect James Wood in 1889, the new licensee William Nicholls. One report puts Nicholls as being a member of six Friendly Societies, thus the new name of to the Friendly Societies Hotels. Nicholls remained publican for ten years, at the same time an active member and vice-president of the Licensed Victualler’s Association.

The new structure had a shop on the Langridge Street side (probably the small dining room where our memorabilia is displayed, in most years shown as a fruiterers) and featured a room 40 by 60 feet for lodge and society meetings, believed to be the room used for our reunions.

("Friendly Societies" or "lodges" were communal organizations collecting subscriptions and offering welfare services to their members, long before this became an accepted role of Governments. One estimate from the mid-1880s suggests there were over 300 such societies across Melbourne serving something in excess of 70,000 members and many hotels had "lodge rooms" set aside for meetings).

"We paid a visit to the Friendly Societies Hotel... and found that brother Nicholls has done his best to provide accommodation for lodges. It is a splendid building from floor to roof. Electric bells and speaking tubes are fitted in the lodge-room, and raised platforms have been erected for the officers. We hope soon to hear that some of our lodges have moved to these commodious premises... a smoke night will be held this evening". (The Oddfellow, 2 December 1889, p.11)

"Carringbush" perhaps owes its name more to the ABC television adaptation of Hardy's novel - in line with its screening, the Friendly Societies Hotel adopted the name around 1984, although it was several more years before it was modernized to today's standard.

... perchance to dream.

The list below is taken from one of the Flash bulletins scanned by David Lee and available via the ex-CDA site. This was from 1984, but unfortunately I didn’t note the exact - a quick check suggests that while there were a few variations in prices, the recommended motels/hotels themselves didn’t change much.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name/address</th>
<th>Phone/telex</th>
<th>Agreed Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MELBOURNE</td>
<td>QUEEN’S LODGE 81 Queen’s Road</td>
<td>Ph: (03) 51 8581</td>
<td>Single: $40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MELBOURNE Vic 3004</td>
<td>Tx: AA62150</td>
<td>Twin Deluxe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TRAVELODGE Cr. Park St &amp; St. Kilda Rd</td>
<td>Ph: (03) 6999 4033</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MELBOURNE Vic 3004</td>
<td>Tx: AA30069</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NOAH’S PALM LAKE MOTEL 52 Queen’s Road</td>
<td>Ph: (03) 629 7233</td>
<td>Single: $51.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MELBOURNE Vic 3004</td>
<td>Ph: (008) 22 6466 (toll free)</td>
<td>Twin: $58.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KING VILLAGE TOURIST &amp; SPORTING COMPLEX 137 Mountain Highway WANTIRNA Vic 3152</td>
<td>Ph: 221 6044</td>
<td>Single: $36.55</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tx: AA32048</td>
<td>Twin: $40.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNOXFIELD</td>
<td>NEWCASTLE PARKROYAL Cr. King and Street Streets NEWCASTLE NSW 2300</td>
<td>Ph: (049) 26 3777</td>
<td>Single: $56.00</td>
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<td>Tx: AA32048</td>
<td>Twin: $56.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEWCASTLE</td>
<td>NOAH’S NORTHSIDE GARDENS 54 McLaren Street, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060</td>
<td>Ph: (02) 922 1311</td>
<td>Single: $49.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tx: AA21173</td>
<td>Twin: $54.00</td>
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<td>SYDNEY</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ph: (008) 225455 (toll free)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADELAIDE</td>
<td>ADELAIDE TRAVELODGE 209-233 South Terrace ADELAIDE S.A. 5000 (2.5 km from office)</td>
<td>Ph: (08) 233 2744</td>
<td>Single: $54.00</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tx: AA89232</td>
<td>Twin: $54.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRISBANE</td>
<td>THE CREST INTERNATIONAL Ann Street BRISBANE Qld 4000 (1 min walk from office)</td>
<td>Ph: (07) 229 9111</td>
<td>Single: $62.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tx: AA89232</td>
<td>Twin: $62.00</td>
</tr>
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There were obviously others, but I’ve misplaced my original and couldn’t recover the digital edition of Flash that the list appeared in as David’s files reflect numbers and not dates - make your own arrangements for Canberra, Perth and New Zealand!

Compare these with an announcement in Between Ourselves of August, 1974 which announced completion of negotiations between C.D.A. and Noahs Lt. for accommodation in seven Australian cities - the Palm Lake was quoted at just $12 per night, with an alternative, the Hotel Melbourne (location unknown) at $15. It was suggested that the deal would save Control Data $25,000 per year.

This more or less corresponds with a vague recollection I have of being queried by Accounts after paying something like $16 for a couple of nights in Canberra around this time doing some work on the ATO installation - the basic rates appeared to have trebled or more over a ten-year period!
In this section, I've included a few spots where some of us twenty-somethings of the early 1970s spent some leisure time - not at anything that could remotely be interpreted as an "official" Control Data function (maybe with the exception of Peanuts), but simply as an informal get-together of a few of us that live around the South Melbourne, South Yarra, Prahran, Armadale and St. Kilda area.

Many of the memories probably trace back to no more formal organisation that perhaps something like a quick "... Argo? Two o'clock?" as we broke up from the College Lawn or Computer Club, but more often they happened, and usually with one or two people who hadn't been part of the original group turning up.

I'm sure many others will have recollection of such gatherings.
Ardroy's Winery, 243 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy

Location
One door east of the north-eastern corner of Gertrude and Little Smith Streets. Although not on the corner of Little Smith Street, the site is an L-shape with a rear courtyard (formerly stable area) entrance from the laneway.

Memories
There was just one famous, or perhaps infamous, afternoon in early 1985 when the Control Data Social Club and The Computer Club joined forces by organizing a wine bottling afternoon and barbecue at Ardroy's, then one of Melbourne's leading suppliers of "clean-skin" wines.

I remember a couple of us (Mike Spark, myself plus one forgotten) venturing out to the wilds of Fitzroy one lunchtime to try a few samples from the barrels and to undertake a crash course on the filling, corking and sealing of bottles before we advertised the upcoming gala Saturday afternoon bottling.

The response was sadly predictable.

A heap of people ordered wine - mostly red, but some white and port, labelled Chateau de Shiatsu after The Computer Club Syndicate's horse at the time - but made excuses for not being able to turn up and actually contribute anything to the actual work - four or five of the Loyals bottled around sixty dozen, finished up covered from head to foot in el-cheapo wine and had a great afternoon thanks to Ardroy's hospitality; the peasants just coughed up their $30 per dozen without contributing anything else to the cause.

Did the wines we eventually bottled have certain natural additives, rarely, if ever, disclosed on a wine label? That's for the workers to know and the stay-at-home drinkers to worry about!

History
For a small operation, 243 Gertrude Street had a remarkable history, having first been licensed to sell Australian wines as early as 1886 when it was adjacent to the Freemason's Hotel on the corner of Smith Street.

This was not unusual for the times - a different license was required to sell wines (Australian only) and many hotels established smaller outlets with a separate license. The site between the wine shop and Little Smith Street was for many years shown as occupied by a farrier, the stables perhaps later the courtyard extending from behind the wine shop.

Small it may have been, but the shop did have some breeding in terms of management, being run for some 35 years (circa 1920-55) by the parents of Jimmy Watson - Jimmy senior and his Italian (or perhaps Swiss) born wife Griselda (nee Parelli), whose uncle Calixte Denat was a renowned Swiss French restaurateur in Melbourne with somewhat of a reputation for disregarding the laws of the day relating to the consumption of wines with meals. The shop was always under the name of "Mrs G. Watson" who must have still be running it when she was in her late 70s - she passed away in 1960 at 83 years of age. The shop became Ardroy's in 1979, perhaps a combination of two given names as there was no family named Ardroy in that years telephone directory.

The Freemason's Hotel was closed by the Licenses Reduction Board in 1925 and the building converted into shops - hardly surprising as there were thirteen hotels in Gertrude Street when the Board first sat in 1907! The wine shop would also have been subject to a hearing, but no details remain.

Today
Ardroy's continued for a number of years under that name and as a wine bar until recent times, but with no self-bottling facilities. The old farriers was for many years a printing shop and at the time of the bottling, the Aboriginal Dental Health Centre.

243 Gertrude street is now The Fitzroy Beer Cafe. I'm pretty sure that it has expanded to a double frontage - my ancient recollection is that it wasn't that big from the street side and directories showed it as 243 with 245 separate. Regardless, the cheeseburger and pot at ten bucks comes highly recommended!
Argo Inn, 64 Argo Street, South Yarra

Location
South-western corner of Argo and Hyland Streets

Memories
This was one of a couple of hotels which those of us living around the Prahran-South Yarra-Armadale area used for a few Saturday afternoon get-togethers.

Like most of them, there rarely any official call to arms, it was usually just someone suggesting "Argo, two o'clock?" when leaving the College Lawn or Light Car Club.

As per the history, it was fully modernised at the time we used it in the mid-1970s. I can't recall ever having eaten there and couldn't locate any images of the Argo - I have a vague recollection it was dark green, pretty much an "in" colour for hotels of the time.

History
The Argo Inn has a fairly unique history.

Dozens of hotels in the 19th century carried the names of the licensee, but more often than not, the name only lasted as long as the publican was in tenure of the premises with new tenants usually introducing a new name.25

Just who Timothy Sheppard of 1866 was remains largely unknown, but remarkably, the name of Sheppard's Hotel remained for over 100 years until 1971, when the humble hotel was modernised and became the Argo Inn.

The premises may well have been expanded - earlier directories have another building on the corner of Hyland Street which appears to be incorporated into the current structure.

Today
Mainly due to its somewhat out-of-the-way location, it's not one I've sighted recently, but some Web magic tells me it is now called Vin (not The Vin or Vin Hotel, just Vin, saves on printer cartridges, folks).

Although there is reference on their Web site to a bar, the venue now appears to be one of those functioning more as a restaurant than a traditional hotel and certainly not a spot where a few people would get together for a sherbet or four on a Saturday afternoon.

I'm not sure whether there is a connection through ownership, by coincidence the old Pepe's Pizza Kitchen is now the Argo Bar.

Footnote :

Argo

1. **Greek Mythology** The ship in which Jason sailed in search of the Golden Fleece.

2. Formerly, a constellation in the Southern Hemisphere, lying between Canis Major and the Southern Cross, now divided into four smaller constellations, Carina, Puppis, Pyxis, and Vela

(just in case you thought it was short for "arrgh, go and get ......").

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25 Bell's Hotel in South Melbourne is another interesting exception. It was Freer's Family Hotel when established by Henry Freer in 1874, and retained the name after the Bell family took it over in 1935. It didn't become Bell's Hotel until 1974 when "Billy" Bell took over; it retains the name despite being sold in 2013.
Bay 13, Melbourne Cricket Ground

Location
Roughly between Bay 12 and Bay 14 (clever Dick!)

Memories
David O’Connor was the main ringleader of a group of around eight or ten C.D.A. people who were regularly part of the infamous Bay 13 at Melbourne home games during the winter months in the early 1970s.

I only attended a couple of matches where the pathetic Dees took on the mighty Fitzroy, although there may have been a Collingwood game as well - I vaguely remember meeting up at a pub somewhere and having a ten or fifteen minute walk to the ground.

History
That’s about it - for a full history of Bay 13, consult numerous Court records for cases of drunkenness, assault, and general misbehaviour!

Today
I may be wrong (I was once, I remember it was on a Tuesday afternoon, but I might have that wrong), but I don’t think the old Bay 13 and the current one are quite the same location (although it’s difficult to tell with the massive change in the grandstands of yesteryear and today).

A couple of sites I checked put Bay 13 today immediately opposite the Member’s Stand, but I seem to recall in our day, it was fairly close to the latter. I think the Southern Stand extended to about Bay 16, there was the old scoreboard and then the Member’s - on an arc, it would have been perhaps 30 to 40 degrees rather than the 180 degrees implied by ”directly opposite”.

Oddly enough, I couldn’t find a definitive picture of Bay 13 (I didn’t check Police files), but I do know where the original enamel sign is!

It was souvenired by the brother of an acquaintance at the Preston Football Club Social Club.

He (the acquaintance) was a security guard at the G when the stand was bulldozed and his brother worked as part of the demolition team.

The latter saw the sign screwed into a lump of concrete rubble about to be loaded onto a truck and decided that at that stage, obviously nobody wanted it and with a few quick twists of a screwdriver, “Bay 13” was liberated. The security guard was conveniently distracted at the time.

It now lives happily in a garage in West Preston and is believed to be writing a book of memoirs which may or may not include the Control Data Australia crew.

Go ‘ROYS!
Botanical Hotel (aka The Bot), 169 Domain Road, South Yarra

Location
South-western corner of Domain Road and Park Street, South Yarra

Memories
The Botanical was an occasional Sunday lunch gathering spot for a few that lived locally. It was and remains in the super-trendy class, but perhaps had an air of intimacy that the larger Fawkner Club lacked. It may have been used on occasion for Control Data gatherings, but I can’t recall any and suspect the difficulty of car parking during the week may have ruled it out as a regular rendezvous.

History
When the hotel opened is a little hazy. The first surviving mention of a license is in May, 1854 to Charles Roger (noted as later of the London and Manchester Store, Forest Creek), but just a month later, David Mallett, who appears to have been the original freeholder was already issuing tenders for extensions to the building. Like the nearby Fawkner Club, the Botanical was originally listed as being in South Melbourne, today’s suburb of that name being Emerald Hill and nobody had then come up with South Yarra.

Roger advertised the hotel regularly (“superior board and residence, 35s. per week”), and by January, 1855 had attracted a new clientele “… a few Gentleman Players are invited to join the South Yarra Cricket Club. The Committee meet at the Botanical Hotel, Domain-road, South Yarra, every Saturday afternoon, at six o’clock to elect members”.

(We should clarify by saying the horse was known as Sydney Tim; remarkably there were two horses of the same name in that year’s cup - referred to as Sydney Tim and Melbourne Tim. The conflict appears ludicrous today, but the previous year, two horses named Falcon ran in the Cup. The name came from a verse penned by Adam Lindsay Gordon which relates to a dream in which the Melbourne Cup winner was called Tim Whiffler.

… They’re neck and neck; they’re head and head,
They’re stroke for stroke in the running;
The whalebone whistles, the steel is red,
No shirking as yet nor shunning.

One effort, Seagull, the blood you boast,
Should struggle when nerves are strained;
With a rush on the post, by a neck at the most,
The verdict for Tim is gained.

Tim Whiffler wins! Is blood alone,

26 Melbourne’s Botanic Gardens was established in 1846 by Lieutenant Governor Charles La Trobe, but most of the credit for their world-famous design is attributed to Ferdinand von Mueller who was appointed Director of the Gardens in 1857. Coincidentally, he was also the designer of Flemington racecourse.

27 Legend has it that Sydney Tim wasn’t entered for the Cup until about three weeks after Melbourne Tim. Neither owner would agree to a name change, hence bookmakers added M or S to the names to differentiate bets, but many punters who had backed “Tim Whiffler” before the Sydney horse was known about demanded to be paid out, claiming they had backed the Sydney horse. For the record. Sydney Tim started favourite at 5 to 2, Melbourne Tim was an outsider at 50 to 1 but ran well to finish fifth. The other story is that Melbourne Tim’s owner, Mr Walter Craig, a well-known Ballarat hotel keeper and racing man as well as substantially backing his own horse had £100 on Sydney Tim as a “saver”. The bookmaker refused to pay out after the race in the belief that Craig would not bet against his own horse. Craig was eventually received his money after a couple of racing club committee members verified that Craig had informed them of his intent to back Sydney Tim.
The sine qua non for a flyer? "Hippodromia" (aka "Whiffs from the Pipe In Five Parts")

Today

Haven't been inside for yonks, but externally, it seems pretty much unchanged with the bottle shop fronting Park Street and the main bar section in Domain Road.
Bourke County Beefhouse, 272 City Road, South Melbourne

Location
Northern side of City Road, about 50 metres west of the King Street-King’s Way overpass.

Memories
A real dark horse that I wouldn’t have remembered or probably even have bothered about, except that I walk past it just about every time I head off to the State Library.

If any of the current collection of Old Farts recall it, it will be Julie James or John Baxter, because the night I remember was an annual dinner for about 50 Professional Services Division staff and partners in 1975.

The year I am certain of - the dinner came about three weeks after I transferred from P.S.D. Operations Manager to the Vic TAB project, but Tom Kopp insisted I attend as my name had been on the original list.

Whether it was ever subsequently used by C.D.A., I have no idea.

The Bourke County was a two-story double-fronted restaurant (perhaps theatre-restaurant given it would have comfortably held 150 people if both levels were in use).

Very much catering for groups rather than intimate dining, it followed a late 19th century Western theme with rootin’ tootin’ cowgirls as waitresses and wagon wheels adorning the walls (the spoked and steel-rimmed variety, not the yummy chocolate-coated ones who incidentally were introduced into Australia in the early 1950s by a distant relative of mine).

History
The other thing of note about the Bourke County is that it was owned and operated by the well-known sports broadcaster and late-night chatshow host, Tony Charlton (who passed away 17 December, 2012 after a long battle with cancer) and his family.

I haven’t fully pursued the history of the site, but it was an unusual location for a restaurant when it opened in 1974; on a busy street and surrounded by light industry, mostly vehicle trade and engineering, although the old Trades Hotel (demolished in the last year or two) a few doors up had been used as the headquarters of Dulux Paints for a number of years.

From a quick scan I had of 272’s previous tenants, they included plaster products, sheet metal manufacturing, a distributor of printing machinery and immediately before the Bourke County opened, as Connell’s Wine Merchants, the only retail outlet for probably 400 metres on either side.

Today
The Bourke County continued until around 1988 and there are suggestions that by this time, the Charlton family were operating a second restaurant. Of the site’s later use, nothing is known, but it seems likely that it continued as an entertainment venue of some description as for the last five of six years, it has functioned as a night-club - “night” may be debatable as there is often security staff at the entrance at 6.00 p.m. of a Thursday or Friday.

For the last two or three years, it has been the Fabrique Night Club - I tried to get in to discover whether there was any rootin’ or tootin’ still going on, but the security guards said I was too young - especially for any tootin’.

EDWARD MURPHY Modeller,
272 CITY ROAD, SOUTH MELBOURNE


Record (Emerald Hill), 1912-13
Peanuts, 389 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Location
389 Lonsdale Street, south-western corner of Lonsdale Street and Niagara Lane, roughly midway between Swanston and Queen Street (alternatively 459-61 Swanston Street, western side on the southern corner of Franklin Street).

Memories
Peanuts came up during our chat on old Control Data watering holes at the July, 2013 lunch with a couple of people recalling the rule was that you ate peanuts from the bar and threw the shells on the floor, but no one could recall where it was!

Perhaps the reason wasn’t advancing forgettory after all, but simply the fact that there were two Peanuts (let’s face it, you can never have just one peanut, especially Salted).

The one that I remember was on the first floor of the Hotel Francis at 389 Lonsdale Street on the south-western corner of Niagara Lane.

It was here that I organised a night for around eight people (and partners) who worked for me in Sold Analyst Services under the “employee welfare” system where I think $50 per annum per employee was allocated for such occasions. We also had one at Smacka’s Place in North Melbourne, but I’m sure which was the chicken and which was the egg.

BUT Mike Spark cannot place either an upstairs or of the hotel (always dark green) in connection with Peanuts Restaurant. This could be because, like all of us at lunch, he is a fully-qualified Old Fart, but perhaps more so because there was an alternative Peanuts Gallery and Restaurant at 459 Swanston Street, on the west side on the corner of Franklin Street.

They almost certainly would have been owned in the same interest, but what difference a Gallery made and which came first remains something of a mystery

History (389 Lonsdale Street)
Haven’t checked this fully, but the Hotel Francis was originally called the Niagara Hotel which appears to have been first licensed in 1856 to W. K. Chisholm.

It was examined in the 1916 Licenses Reduction Board hearings, and although it survived, there is little remaining to suggest whether the building was upgraded as a result of the hearing.

The name change to the Hotel Francis appears to have occurred in the late 1930s and from what I can gather remained until a just a few years ago when it reverted back to the Niagara.

Today
Again I’m not sure when this occurred, but I was a little surprised to see it under the old-new name when I confirmed the site late in 1913, so I’m guessing it would be within the last four or five years.

The Lonsdale Street facade now continues west across the four-story building shown in the image, this section now a nightclub, but I know not whether this is officially part of the hotel or operate under a separate license.

UPDATE:
At the 2014 reunion, Dick Bament also had recollections on Peanuts being on the ground floor at the northern end of Swanston Street, so it seems pretty certain that different divisions of C.D.A. on at least one occasion used different Peanuts.

I haven’t applied the full blowtorch to 459 Collins Street - the first mention in Trove is in 1910 when it was the head office and showroom for Cyclone Fencing Co. and there are a number of other uses noted including a dairy products distributor and an extensive period in the 1950s where it appears to have been used as a manufacturing plant for women’s clothing.

Whether the directory was strictly accurate is problematical, but 459-61 was shown in 1971 as “development site”, but the building survived and was shown as office of Carte Blanche P/L, an early credit card company.

Peanuts appeared in 1973, with the upper floor now Carte Blanche and the head office of Federal Hotels, but in 1974, the last directory published, the alternate to Peanuts was a Mr E. A. O’Dea with no hint of occupation of use of the site. The building remains largely unchanged today with the exception of some modernised windows and entrance and is now officially Building 40 of the R.M.I.T. University.
Watchamacallit Theatre (aka Amaro Theatre?, 44-46 Errol Street, North Melbourne

Location:

44-46 Errol Street, North Melbourne (eastern side, midway between Victoria and Queensberry Streets) (The name will come!

Memories:

The Amaro (?) theatre was a craze that lasted about six weeks for a group of seven or eight of us.

It suddenly escaped from the forgettory around March, 2014 when I came across a video of an Abbott and Costello (not Tony and Peter) routine which featured the immortal “Who’s on first, Watts on second” baseball sketch which featured on one of the nights we were there.

I think it may have been Bob Easson that uncovered this Friday night one-man wonder in a somewhat dilapidated old theatre set behind two shop fronts in Errol Street, North Melbourne.

About the only visible indication a theatre even existed was an A-sign out the front advertising in chalk whatever the night’s 1930s or 40s movie was, always with “Central Heating” and “Live Entertainment” thrown in.

Access was via a dimly lit arcade which opened up into a lobby on the left behind two shops - “Central Heating” was a kerosene heater precisely in the middle of the lobby with a guy of about fifty selling tickets from a box.

But you couldn’t enter straight away, because he was also the door attendant, and about two minutes before the show started, he closed the ticket box, opened the theatre doors and collected the ticket you bought a minute beforehand.

I say two minutes, but there was generally a short delay before anything screened, because, of course, he was also the projectionist and it took a little time to get up the stairs to the projection room.

The movies were always black and white and at least 25 years old - other than Abbott and Costello, the one I can recall was a Mae West classic with the line “Why don’t you come up and see me sometime”.

There were also a couple of old-fashioned Westerns of the “good guys are the ones in the white hat” variety, names long lost in the forgettory.

“Live Entertainment” started about three minutes after the curtain came down at interval - just long enough for fifty-something to get down from the projection room, roll out an old piano and belt out a few tunes - if he was in a good mood and the crowd exceeded perhaps thirty (it rarely did), then there were giveaways, usually a couple of blocks of chocolate, a pair of pantyhose for the ladies or socks for the men tossed into the audience at random before he headed back for the second session.

All great fun after five or six G and T’s at the College Lawn, but after around three visits, it was a phenomenon from outer space that saw an end to the frivolity.

Fifty-something also ran marathon Star Trek sessions starting around midnight when we were all tucked up in bed (sometimes even our own) - they were a bit of a craze with the university student set and “our” movies were suddenly dropped and the Star Trek marathon moved into what was obviously a more convenient and I’m sure profitable evening session.

Which was a pity, because we had reached the point where we had decided to share the secret and organise a larger party via the Social Club.
History:

This really should be a very short section as according to both Sands and McDougall directories and the Cinematography And Theatre Historical Society (CATHS) database of Australian theatres it never existed!

Directories through the 1930s show the two shops, sometimes under the same name, being used for a variety of purposes, but mostly as drapery stores.

In 1941, however, the occupancy changed to the North Melbourne Methodist Mission, which appears to have owned the site until around 1970 when it became the Lithuanian Club.

The Mission was founded in May, 1926 on a property at 66 Howard Street, North Melbourne, adjoining a Methodist Church established in 1853 (there are references to this being at the corner of Queensberry Street, but it is not clear whether this was the Mission or the Church itself. (My "Mission" for post-2014 reunion - is the church still there? The intersection now appears to be a large roundabout).

In March, 1935, there was a minor controversy when it was announced at a Methodist conference in Melbourne that the North Melbourne branch of the Church was considering selling three properties in their area, the most valuable of which was stated to be the Mission, valued at £20,000, the proceeds to be used to fund the costs of a new building.

Just when these plans came to fruition is uncertain and the Mission continued to operate from Howard Street until 1940, when in May, it was announced that it was to spend up to £15,000 on a property it had previously acquired in Errol Street for £8,000 (noted as formerly Fitzgerald’s drapery store).

It was revealed in October that plans had been drawn up by the leading Melbourne architects, Bates, Smart and McCutcheon with the cost now estimated at £23,000.

“This will give Sunday school accommodation, a chapel seating 110 people, a central hall for religious and social services seating 495 people, a small gymnasium and social hall, modern kitchen, relief rooms, a fumigating plant for treatment of used clothing, clubs for men, youths, and girls, a rest-room for women and caretakers quarters. The section for which a tender has been accepted includes the modernising of the shop fronts and building above a shop, Sunday school accommodation which will also be available for a girls club during the week”

The Argus, 12 October, 1940

Just when the Mission opened in Errol Street is not known, but there are references in September, 1941 to an Annual Fair being held at the new premises and in May of the following year, a club for serviceman with a lounge, reading and writing room was officially opened by the Lady Mayoress of Melbourne, Mrs Beaurepaire.

The Mission continued in Errol Street until around 1970, when the site became the home of the Lithuanian Club, who remain there today, although undoubtedly modernised inside (oddly enough, the site is in the last directory published in 1974 shown as Copyright Printers Pty Ltd, perhaps reflecting the shop front usage rather than the extensive area behind.

With all that revealed, it seems that the theatre we visited was almost certainly “the central hall seating 495 people” (which the forgetory says is about right), perhaps later modified to add a stage and screen after it became the Lithuanian Club.

Today

I’m not sure how long the movie venture lasted - even university students stoked up on pot get tired of Star Trek after a while and I think the venture either closed down after a few months or fifty-something decided the evening sessions were not worthwhile and shifted the Star Trek marathon into its timeslot.

For the last ten or so years the site has been used as a live theatre known as the Aramo, shared with the Lithuanian Club, and although the Aramo hosts live performances as part of the Melbourne Fringe and the Comedy Festivals, I doubt whether Mae west struts her stuff anymore!

Was it the Aramo during our few visits?

The answer is a definite “possibly” - before discovering today’s functionality of the site, I had a nagging feeling in the back of my mind that is was a short name commencing with “A”; “Astor” kept bobbing up, but so did a nagging feeling that it was an unusual name, so we’ll settle for Aramo for the time being.
Daily Like: Think

Time to meditate - not of the Hare Krishna candle and incense style, just some feedback required as to whether or not we actually used any or all of the sites below on a regular basis. In most cases, logic says we probably would have, but I can't confirm it personally - in some cases, it may well have been by staff working away from St. Kilda Road (Vic TAB as an example), by the Accounts or Engineering groups for informal get-togethers, or more likely after my departure.

493 St. Kilda Road
I know the shift was largely co-coordinated by Doug Watkins, but the whole 493 exercise was way after my time, so any further info most welcome. I'm not sure whether CDA had the whole building, and my memory is pretty hazy. From Flash bulletins loaded by David Lee I believe there was a Word Processing operation there before the bulk of Control Data shifted. MORE INFO PLEASE!

Accounts Barbeques
A couple of people recall these as just over Queen's Road, but there is also a suggestion there may have been some of the foreshore in St. Kilda, probably in the Catani Gardens to the south of Fitzroy Street and perhaps also opposite the Middle Park Hotel. And certainly in Fawkner Park after the move to 493.

The Musician's Club
The name came up at the July, 2013 lunch when we first started discussing the day-to-day history of Control Data life. The Muso's Club up until around 1971 was at 61 Queen's Road, an old mansion which they had sole occupancy of for around ten years. I have the vaguest memory of entering from Queen's Lane.

They then moved to 65 Wellington Street, St. Kilda, where I think they-occupied the whole floor (much of it devoted to a billiards room) of a four-storey building, now modernised and converted to apartments. Bill Beath may be able to add something on this as I think the club was pretty well opposite where he and Sandra lived.

Rob's Carousel (or just Rob's)
I thought that this rather trendy restaurant was located within the Albert Park Golf Course opposite Roy Street and The Light Car Club, now known as Lago Restaurant and Bar. I certainly remember Rob's as it hit on the unique idea of having a wall telephone in each of the dining booths from which you rang through your order, but I'm not sure whether the equation ('memory' = 'Control Data') necessarily holds true.

A few of the regulars from the L.C.C.A. used it briefly for Friday night drinks after the club closed, but it suffered badly because of the difficulty of pedestrian access across Queen's Road and this may have limited use by C.D.A.

UPDATE: Ron Bird suggests this was simply Rob's, with Rob's Carousel and its rotating restaurant and telephones on the other side of the lake. This location of the Carousel kind of rings a bell - I hadn't realised there were two restaurants of similar names.

Barbarino's
Opened 1984 on the site of Eton Square, the home of C.D.A.'s first office prior to the move to 598. Paper aprons insisted on by staff as barbeque sauce went in all direction!

The Duke of Windsor Hotel (south-west corner of Commercial Road and High Street)
I remember this from a very private lunch (with some delicious overtones), but not sure whether it was used on a regular basis, probably again because of restricted car parking. I remember a juke box in the dining room, but the rest of the afternoon/evening remains censored.

The Max Hotel (Commercial Road)
I know the long-lamented Ray Sharp used the Max to wine and dine T.A.B. staff, but not whether Control Data used it. I remember it being somewhat upmarket and possibly out of the price range for regular dining.

The Railway Hotel (Commercial Road)
Just east of the Max - again I recall one lunch there, but not whether it was used regularly

The Octagon Motel (corner Commercial and Punt Road)
I know we used this occasionally, but not to the extent that it warranted a full walk-out. From a very quick look, it appears to have been a residential site before the motel, I’d guess the motel perhaps came in their boom years on the early 1960s.

ONE-OFF's
Baron of Beef, Fergusson's, Smacka's Place, 9 Darling Street, The Cuckoo, South Side Six (Manufacturing)
### Jimmy Watson Trophy Winners

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<td>1974</td>
<td>Wolf Blass Wines</td>
<td>Black Label Dry Red Claret 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Berri Co-op Winery &amp; Distillery</td>
<td>Cabernet Shiraz Dry Red 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>B Seppelt &amp; Sons Ltd</td>
<td>Cabernet Sauvignon TTI 47 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Gramp’s Orlando</td>
<td>Barossa Valley Shiraz Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Claret 1970</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Basedow Wines</td>
<td>Bin 15 Dry Red Cabernet Sauvignon 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>F E Osborn &amp; Sons Pty Ltd</td>
<td>d’Arenberg Cabernet Sauvignon 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Penfolds</td>
<td>Claret Type (Grange) 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Saltram Wines</td>
<td>(Cabernet component of Saltram Mamre Brook Cabernet Shiraz) Burgundy Type 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Penfolds</td>
<td>Claret Type (Grange) 1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>B Seppelt &amp; Sons Ltd</td>
<td>Seppelt Great Western Shiraz 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Penfolds</td>
<td>Bin 64 Kalimna Cabernet Sauvignon Claret Type 1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Hardy’s Tintara</td>
<td>Mildara Cabernet Sauvignon 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Stoneyfell Wines</td>
<td>Metala Cabernet Shiraz Claret Type 1961</td>
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E. L. Heymanson & Co. Ltd.

E. L. Heymanson & Co. were the original agents for Control Data Corporation before Control Data Australia Pty. Ltd. was formed as a subsidiary of the U.S. parent.

The company was formed in July, 1938, when the founder, Ernest L. Heymanson resigned after 26 years with Brown and Dureau, the previous eight and a half as ‘governing director’.

The new company were listed as ‘factory representatives and import and export agents’ without revealing the particular products or disciplines that the organization would distribute. Ernest’s rise to prominence was rapid with his election to the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce just three months later.

Early advertisements for staff (mostly stenographers and typists) place the company at least until the end of 1954 at 368 Collins Street, the telephone number as MU8571.

The Heymanson family, Ernest, his wife Louisa, son (Dr.) Frank and daughter Fay were prominent in the Melbourne social scene, residing for many years at 10 Monomeith Avenue, Kooyong.

By the end of the Second World War, the company was intimately involved in the aviation industry - at least with the Wright Aircraft Corporation in 1945 and in later years, the company is known to have had extensive facilities at Moorabbin Airport, several commercial photographs circa 1960s of well-known aircraft noted as being taken at their hangar when they were agents for Lockheed.

Ernest Heymanson for many years sponsored the ‘Heymanson Prize’ at the RAAF Staff College, for the Best ‘Strategic Studies’ Essay.


The first Control Data equipment to be installed in Australia was a 160a in Heymanson’s offices in Bank House, Bank Place, the installation performed by John Barth of CDC. The company around that time also had offices in Sydney (Royal Exchange Insurance Building, O’Donnell Street) and Canberra (City Chambers, Alinga Street).

Heymanson’s first sale was a 160A to the Post Master General’s Research Laboratories at 19 Lonsdale Street (later Telecom Research Laboratories) in 1963. His was he first computer installation for the P.M.G. (later Australian Post Office) which met three basic needs - small engineering and scientific problems, testing of programs to be run on larger computers, and as a control for other hardware during research experiments.

According to an article in C.D.A.’s staff newsletter, ‘Flash’ in April, 1984, the humble little machine resembled more of a desk than a powerful computer, and consisted of a transistorised central processor, paper tape reader and punch - and believed to be the first true “mini” computer Installed in Australia.

By then, the 160-A had several homes, including the Bureau of Census and Statistics in Canberra (where used to transfer 20-plus years of punch card data to magnetic tape), the Aeronautical Research Laboratory at Fisherman’s Bend, Melbourne and finally, in 1971, to the Australian Bureau of Stats in Adelaide.

After more than a decade quietly humming away to itself in Adelaide, and more than 21 years’ total service, the 160-A was finally decommissioned from the ABS, and went on display in the Melbourne office of C.D.A. - testimony to the genius of Seymour Cray, the designer, the extraordinary standards of our manufacture and the quality of our C.D.A’s Engineering Services

Control Data Australia Pty. Ltd. was established on Friday, 17 May, 1963 as a subsidiary of CDC, incorporating the computer marketing division of E. L. Heymanson and Co. and with Trevor Robinson appointed managing director. The other two employees that moved to CDA were Jim McGeorge and Claire Manuel.

Control Data Australia was awarded contracts for one 3600 and seven 3200 systems to be installed for Australian Bureau of Census and Statistics a few months later - such was the esteem that was held for Heymanson, CDC Chairman Bill Norris agreed to pay the former agent commission on the sale.

Update, December, 2014 from Ron Bird …

"I was at a Xmas party for the RDA charity that Barb works for last week and got talking to one of the other lady volunteers who is 75. It turned out she was the operator for the 160A at PMG Research labs at 10 Lonsdale St. in 1963/4. Later in 1969 she was an operator on the 3400 at DSD in ‘N’ block, Albert Park Barracks, and related the tale of how the previous plugged program machine was pulled apart and staff were allowed to have a small piece as a souvenir. According to this lady, the bulk of the machine was taken out and sunk in the middle of Port Phillip Bay. She knew Robyn Baily but could not remember Alan Bell”.

Ernest Lionel Heymanson

Born in Hawthorn in 1891, the only child of Samuel and Maude Heymanson (nee Frost). Samuel died in 1897, aged just 28 years.
He married Louisa Lydia Fay in 26 September, 1916 at St. Columb's Church of England, Hawthorn, their two children Frank (5 September, 1917) and Fay (26 May, 1926, later Mrs Geoffrey Beck).

Heymanson died at his Toorak home in 1973, aged 82 years; his wife Louisa predeceased him by four years.

**Brown and Dureau**

Brown and Dureau’s company thrived, and was incorporated as Brown & Dureau, Ltd. in 1910. Over the years, as general commission agents, Brown and Dureau handled a wide range of goods.

It was in the 1970s that Brown & Dureau, Ltd. took on a significant role in the history of Australian Paper Mills/Amcor.

Brown & Dureau acquired the Eastern Tool Company, Lukey Mufflers, and Angus Hill Holdings, which would later form the nucleus of Amcor’s automotive division.

AMP began a process of diversification in the late 1970s. One of the most important acquisitions that of Brown & Dureau in the financial year 1978-1979.

This purchase brought APM substantial interests in the fields of international trading, automotive, retailing, and aviation.

(above) Philco’s transact S-2000 (circa 1957), claimed to be the first all-transistorized large-scale computer.

(right) Ramo-Woolridge RW-300 Digital Computer.

(If Ron Bird’s computer census of 1962 is complete, neither company ever sold a computer in Australia.)
The Espy (1890)

78 The Victorian Railways

THE

ESPLANADE HOTEL,

ESPLANADE, ST. KILDA.

FOR FAMILIES AND GENTLEMEN.

This elegant and commodious Establishment commands a sea view of unsurpassed magnificence. It is situated on the Esplanade at St. Kilda, and is but a few minutes by rail from Melbourne. The Hotel contains eighty apartments of varied dimensions, and arranged in suites which are replete with all modern appointments to ensure the comfort of visitors. The Proprietor’s large experience in conducting first-class establishments, among which may be mentioned

The Athenæum Club, Melbourne,

affords the best guarantee of efficiency in all departments.

THIS HOTEL IS CLOSE TO THE FINEST SEA-BATHING IN AUSTRALIA.

THE BILLIARD ROOM

Of the Hotel is supplied with

TWO OF ALCOCK’S BEST TABLES.

JAMES HAY, Proprietor.
The Mitre Tavern. Recollections And Personalities

By H. W. N. WILMOT.

No hotel in Australia is quite like The Mitre Tavern in Bank-place, Melbourne. In all the years I have known it it has never changed. Other hotels have been rebuilt or renovated but The Mitre is as it always has been. You go into the little bar parlour through a low door under the staircase. The doorway is so narrow that there is room only to admit one person at a time and then not a giant. The building is of two stories, surrounded on two sides by lanes.

The front is upon Bank place and the back nestles under the high walls of Temple Court. It remindsome forcibly of some of the little hotels in Fleet street London. It’s history is crowded with reminiscence. It has filled a place in the life of the west end of the city for well over half a century.

Mr. George Ross Fenner, who speaks with personal knowledge of the establishment of the Athenaeum and of the Victorian Amateur Turf Club, can tell of the habitués of The Mitre away back in the ‘seventies. He talks of the Dog Club, which met there more than 60 years ago. He recalls intimately such well-known coursing and racing men who gathered there as the Whittingham brothers28, John Wagner, C. B. Fisher 29 and his brother Hurtle30, A. W. Robertson31, Arthur Blackwood32, Tom Haydon, who was then licensee and was succeeded by H. Greville, the caterer, and George Watson33, the “prince of starters”.

What a wonderful hunting family the Watson’s were! Mr. George Watson was master of the Melbourne until he handed over his whip to his son Godfrey; and, says Mr. Fenner, “at one and the same time, while George Watson was master of the Melbourne, his brother Robert, was master of the Carlo and Island Hunt in Ireland, and another brother, William, was master of the Cotswold in England, and his grandfather and father had been masters of the Carlo before that. His nephew, John, was master of the Meath, in Ireland”. ‘I shall never forget George Watson’, adds Mr. Fenner. I bought several hunters from him and he never sold me a bad one, and never charged me full price’. Hunting and coursing men made The Mitre their headquarters in those days.

The first polo club established in Victoria, in 1874, held its meetings at The Mitre under the presidency of Sir Redmond Barry. Captain Standish was vice-president, and the committee included such well-known men as Robert Power, Reginald Bright, Finlay Campbell, Edward Fanning and Herbert Power. Membership extended far and wide, and the club had many of the members at its headquarters in The Mitre including Hastings Cuningham 34, James Grice, James Graham, Alex Landale, Herbert Henty35, Hickman 36 and Robert Molesworth37 and Robert 38 and Colin Simson

Some Legal Lights

Later The Mitre became the rendezvous of lawyers and business men associated with the law. It was only a step from Temple Court and from Chancery lane; Selborne Chambers had not then been built. J. L. Purves, K.C. - “The Emperor” they called him 40 - and his right hand man Walter Coldham41, were regular patrons. There are many who can recall “J. L.,” surrounded by a little crowd of admirers telling some of his stories - of his first case, in which he defended a girl for shooting at her lover at Benalla, or of his electioneering experiences. With him would be some of the pigeon shooting men, such as William Sayer, Bill Gannon (from Sydney) and Lewis Clarke.

The Mitre was a great haunt for men from Dalgety and Co. Ltd. In those days the lane into Dalgety’s bond, since closed to make room for the Stock Exchange, provided the back entrance to the offices. Every man in the service of the company was given his luncheon free. The staff used to lunch in the office, but later it lunches at the caterer, and George Watson33, the “prince of starters”. 42

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28 Australian Dictionary of Biography, Arthur Herbert Whittingham
29 Australian Dictionary of Biography, Charles Brown Fisher
30 Australian Dictionary of Biography, Sir James Hurtle Fisher
31 Australian Dictionary of Biography, Alexander William Robertson
32 Australian dictionary of biography, Arthur Ranken blackwood
33 Australian Dictionary of Biography, George John Watson
34 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Hastings Cuningham
35 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Herbert Henty
36 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Hickman Molesworth
37 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Sir Robert Molesworth
38 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Robert Simson
39 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Sir Brian O’Loghlen
40 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, James Liddell Purves
41 Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Walter Tomon Coldham

Daily Life at Control Data | Appendices : 113
Day by day, one could see W.G. Watson the manager; Edward Simmonds, the accountant, who was for so many years a member of the Liedertafel choir; George Simpson manager of the produce department; Harry Wood, Harry Brush, the cashier of the wool department; Charles Bucknill, manager of the bond, in top hat and frock coat, and his boon companion Edward Kenny; Joseph Woolf McCheane, who had the reputation of having fished more and caught less than any other man in Melbourne; J.T. Cosgrove, manager of the shipping department and secretary of the chartering firm of Blackwood, Knox, and Brown; T. S. Huggins, who recently retired from the secretariaship of the Royal Melbourne Golf Club; J. T. P. O’Meara, now secretary of the Honorary Justices’ Association; A. G. Leeds, afterwards manager in Perth; Frank Guthrie, later manager at Geelong; David Luke, Tom Borwick, C. E. Howard, afterwards manager of the Melbourne office; George L. Aitken, the present manager; George Officer, Harry Ford, Joe Hallows, W. P. Whitney, still cashier; Tom Cochrane, and so many more. The Mitre was and is a great Dalgety house, for the system of issuing luncheon tickets to the staff still prevails.

Some Politicians

There was one little coterie which one could always be sure to see some time in the day, and usually in the morning- Thomas Bent⁶², then Speaker but later Sir Thomas the Premier, with J. F. Hamilton, H. H. Budd⁶³, Arthur Walstab⁶⁴ and W. Park of the Colonial Mutual Insurance Co., and occasionally A. E. Clarke, especially if there anything to be done for the East Melbourne Cricket Club.

With them, often one would see David Gausson⁶⁵. I wonder how often he played the piano in the old parlour, standing up, and with him on his right hand man John Cullen. Another politician often noted was Joseph Tilley Brown, who represented a constituency in the north-east of the state, and was also in the Federal Parliament, and I recall Cornelius Bannister, in a grey bell-topper, a morning coat, and black tie, followed by two cocker spaniels which never seemed to leave him. A little athletic man with his hat tilted to one side, he always looked like a Dickensian character.

J. G. Pearson, the wine and spirit merchant, sportsman, and athlete, is also recalled. Other names and faces flit across my memory -- Hugh Montmorency, from The Trustees, Executors Company, and his brother Jim, who established a tea agency in Temple Court; O’Hara Wood, the barrister; Fred Neave, W. H. Woolcott and Harry Graves, the solicitors; W. W. Gaggin, cricketer, fisherman and field game shot; Robert John de Courcy Taibot, who lunched there day by day with Hector McDonald, Smith McDonald the land valuer; Fred Saunders, one of the founders of the Savage Club which has its quarters in Bank Place nowadays; Sir Rupert Clarke⁶⁶, who had his flat nearby; Arthur Harston and his partner George Partridge, the law stationers; Scobie Gair, William Jardine, the Irish solicitor, who used to drive a jaunting car; and Claude Hamilton from Gisborne, looking for his brother J. F., whenever he came to town.

One feature of the Mitre Tavern was the number of old associations it collected round it. The “Boobook” Club was composed of barristers, some of whom have been elevated to the Bench, and of University men. The Canoe Club’s existence is recalled by a trophy hanging over the mantelpiece in the bar parlour. The Melbourne Gun Club had its headquarters there for many years, with Arthur S. Woolcote, A. Norman McArthur, Guy Madden, Harold M. Umphelby, and Donald McIntosh as its leading members. What tales of quail and snipe and duck shooting have been told within those old walls! Luncheon at midday and dinner at night attracted their patrons and night by night there was a “smoker” or a “sing song” by some little party, which enjoyed the homeliness of it all.

The Argus, Saturday 23 August 1930

The Golden Mile : St. Kilda and Queen’s Road

Given several of Control Data Australia’s Melbourne offices lay within the “Golden Mile” strip between St. Kilda and Queen’s Roads and we have mentioned standard block sizes of 100 by 250 feet, it might be of interest to detail with the assistance of contemporary reports the circumstances of the early sale of the “Mile”.

The sale of what was generally referred to as “the Albert Park frontages” was not without controversy.

Before being put up for auction in 1875, the strip between St. Kilda Road and what was then known as Queen’s Terrace was part of the Albert Park Reserve itself, the area temporarily reserved from sale on 1 August, 1862, the area described in the Government Gazette as 951 acres, more or less, of the Albert-park (formerly South -park) after deducting that section assigned to the Melbourne and Hobson’s Bay Railway Company for the railway to St. Kilda.

⁶² Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Sir Thomas Bent
⁶³ Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Sir Thomas Bent
⁶⁴ George Arthur Walstab
⁶⁵ Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Sir Rupert Turner Clarke
⁶⁶ Australian Dictionary Of Biography, Sir Rupert Turner Clarke
The key boundaries of the reserve area were established as the junction of the eastern fence of the railway with the three-chain road (Albert Road) - later the site of the South Melbourne Technical school - extending south to Fitzroy-street, hence easterly to the "west side of the St. Kilda and Brighton Road".

The strip in question was part of a comprehensive sale of Government land in 1875, the George Walstab mentioned in the report below appointed as the Government auctioneer.

Predictably, the sale of park land - the Lake itself had just been completed - drew a barrage of criticism, especially from the St. Kilda and to a lesser extent Emerald Hill Councils, but the auction proceeded as planned, although under the threat of a legal injunction to overturn the sale.

We'll let The Argus of 13 and 14 April, 1875 tell the story; of particular interest might be the conditions laid down at the sale for subsequent development of the allotments.

THE ALBERT PARK FRONTAGES.

"The intention of the Government to sell the above frontages has for some time excited a good deal of interest among the large number of persons to whom the existence of Albert Park in its entirety is a matter of some consequence. The sale took place yesterday, and the attendance was so great that Mr Walstab's rooms in Queen street were quite unable to accommodate the intending purchasers. The company therefore adjourned to St Patrick's hall, and before the proceedings commenced there could not have been less than 450 persons present.

Mr Walstab, having read the ordinary conditions of sale, stated that there were special conditions attached. These were-

1. That each allotment shall be the site for one villa residence, with its offices.
2. That such residence and offices must be of stone or brick, and be built in compliance with the provisions of the Melbourne Building Act, and of bye-law No 47 of the Corporation of Melbourne.
3. That the allotment shall not be used for any other purpose than the site of one such residence with its offices, and shall not at any time be sold otherwise alienated in any smaller parcel.
4. Provided that, notwithstanding the condition as to the land being only the site for the erection on it of a terrace of houses of not less than two stories in height, provided that no other buildings or residences save the offices requisite for the houses in such terrace be erected in rear of them, and that such terrace be according to a design to be previously submitted to and approved by the Board of Land and Works.
5. That the four preceding conditions be embodied in the Crown grants as conditions thereof and that it shall be a condition of the grant that the land shall be absolutely forfeited to the Crown in case of the failure in, or breach of, any of the aforesaid conditions.

The lots now to be sold fronted Queen's terrace (Albert park) and the St. Kilda road and were situated north of the Warehousemen's Cricket ground. The land was submitted for competition at the upset price of £3 per foot and he would now put up Lot 1, consisting of 2 roods 11 8ths perches."

Mr S WILKS (of Messrs Bennett, Attenborough and Wilks, Solicitors). "Mr Walstab, before this Sale is proceeded with it is my duty..."

Mr WALSTAR--"I cannot permit any interference with the proceedings on the part of anybody...", ("Oh, oh," and cheers); "... and, moreover, I am astonished that a gentleman who, I believe, occupies the chair of a suburban council, should thus interrupt me. This place is at present my auction room, and I shall order any gentleman who persists in disturbing me in the discharge of my duty to be removed out of the room".

After the uproar which succeeded this declaration had subsided--

Mr WILKS said that everybody who knew him would, he felt convinced, acquit him of any intention of wantonly disturbing the proceedings. He was there, however, to perform his duty as a solicitor to his client and not as a member of the St Kilda Council. As representing Mr Palmer the plaintiff in the action of Palmer v The Board of Land and Works, he would read the following protest against the sale being now proceeded with--

"To the Board of Land and Works and the Hon. J. J. Casey, president of the said board, and John Hall, Esq., the land officer, and Geo. Walstab, Esq., the auctioneer, severally appointed to conduct the sale of Crown lands hereinafter mentioned, and all others whom it may concern--

47 Now the Albert Ground
This is to give you and each of you notice, that I protest against the sale of any portion of the lands now or heretofore known as Albertpark, and formerly called the South park, but advertised by you for sale by public auction on the 13th and 14th days of April instant, and described as -Town lots Emerald Hill, county of Bourke, parish of South Melbourne, fronting Queen’s terrace (Albert park) and the St Kilda road, north of the Warehousemen’s Cricket ground, being allotments 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 of section Q, allotments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 of section U, on the grounds that the said sale is illegal, and in breach of sections 7 and 9 of the Land Act 1869, inasmuch as the time fixed by proclamation of the 19th day of March, 1875, for revocation of the temporary reservation of such lands—namely, after the expiration of four weeks from that date, has not arrived, and the said lands are still subject to the temporary reservation by the Government Gazette of the 1st, 5th, 12th and 19th days of August, 1862, that the said sale is also illegal, as the said land has been permanently reserved and further take notice that I shall hold you and each of you, personally liable for all loss and damage that I may sustain in consequence of such sale, by reason of depreciation to my freehold property facing the said park or otherwise howsoever; and further take notice that a bill in equity has been filed by me, and registered as a lis pendens, in the Supreme Court against you, the said Board of Land and Works, to restrain such sale, and the notice of motion for an injunction has been served in the said suit. Dated this 12th day of April, 1875.

(Signed) "HENRY P. PALMER"

Mr WALSTAB—I shall now proceed—(A Voice:—"Now, will you give him in charge")—with the sale.

Mr HUGH PECK wished to know whether his money would be returned with interest provided the Government lost the threatened suit.

Mr WALSTAB in having consulted the land officer who was present said that the money could not be so returned.

Mr S P LORD asked if the Government were prepared to guarantee that no other portion of the reserve should be sold at any future time.

Mr WALSTAB was not prepared to give such a guarantee, but he supposed that everybody knew that it was not the intention of the Government to dispose of any other portion of the reserve.

The sale then proceeded without interruption. The catalogue included 30 lots, all of which were offered at a uniform upset price of £3 per foot. The majority had frontages of 100 ft, and as the competition was brisk, all the allotments were disposed of at an advance on the starting price. Some lots fetched as high as £7 17s 6d per foot, but the average price reached was about £4 10s per foot. The total proceeds of the sale amounted to £13,900. As evincing the interest which the sale has excited, it may be mentioned that purchasers from Sandhurst and Queensland appended their signatures to the official sale book. The sale of the allotments lying to the south of the Warehousemen’s Cricket ground will be proceeded with today.' The Argus, 13 April, 1875

The sale of the Albert park frontages was proceeded with at St Patricks Hall yesterday. The land offered for sale was situated to the south of the Warehousemen’s Cricket Club grounds and like that disposed of on the previous day consisted almost entirely of allotments having frontages of 100 ft. Before the commencement of the sale Mr S Wilks Solicitor again appeared on behalf of Mr H P Palmer and lodged a protest against the legality of the proceedings. This formality having been disposed of the sale commenced and as the attendance was almost as large as that of the preceding day there was a keen demand for almost every one of the lots offered for sale. The upset price was £3 per foot but no lot fetched less than £4 10s whilst several realised upwards of £9 per foot. The average price at which the land was sold may be set down at about £6 per foot. All the lots found purchasers and the total sum realised amounted to £17,101 10s purchasers an the total sum realised amounted to £37,101 10s.

The Argus, 15 April 1875

(If the “average” price can be extended, a smart investor could have bought what became 598 St. Kilda Road for just under £480 or £960.

There was further sale on 30 June of a small number of lots that were reserved from the original auction; details of prices, etc. were not disclosed.

Henry Palmer, through Mr Wilks later unsuccessfully brought his legal action, but there was still a considerable level of resentment within the Colonial government of the day over the sale, and late in June, Mr Murray Smith, M.L.A. moved a censure motion against the Government over the sale.

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48Lis dependens: a written notice that a lawsuit has been filed concerning real estate, involving either the title to the property or a claimed ownership.
The debate appears to have continued on and off for nearly a week and some observers believed that when put to the vote, the censure motion would be passed (the legal ramifications in regard to the sale are unclear), but in a clever political move, the Premier, Mr. George Kerferd, generally regarded as an honest, but not particularly inspiring politician, called the bluff of the dissenters and declared that he would treat the motion as a vote of no confidence in his Government.

Face with the political upheaval that would have resulted, many of those who privately opposed the sales backed down and Smith’s motion was defeated 37-11.

Kerferd, the M.L.A. for Beechworth, served just one term as Premier - the western end of “the Three-Chain Road” was given his name when lan along that stretch was subdivided into allotments in 1874.

The pre-sale condition of one residence plus outbuildings appears to have been strictly enforce with no exceptions sighted.

Whether it was believed at the time that this would restriction woul remain is, of course, impossible to guage, but there is some circumstantial evidence that purchasers may have thought this would be overturned and that subdivisions would later be allowed.

The Queen's Road stretch encompasses about 45 properties - of these, just six (including what became 3 Queen's Road and then owned by David Syme) were listed in the 1880 street directory. By 1890, some fifteen years after the auction, the number stood at 22.
This document was released in hardcopy format in May, 2014.

Murphy's Law - and begosh and begorrah! ... dat Murphy was an optimist - states that as soon as extensive research is put onto paper, something will change or there will be additional information come to light.

Fortunately, Murphy didn't hang around long enough to see the Internet Age and the most recent version of ozsportshistory.doc documents are always available on line:

www.ozsportshistory.com/cda/downloads.html

The Feedback form on the site can be used for forwarding comments, updates or corrections. Or email to:

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