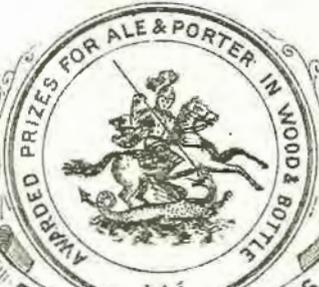


V.B.L.C.S.

CASTLEMAINE BREWERY. NEWCASTLE.

NEWSLETTER.



*Mr J Hollingworth
Grafton Hotel*

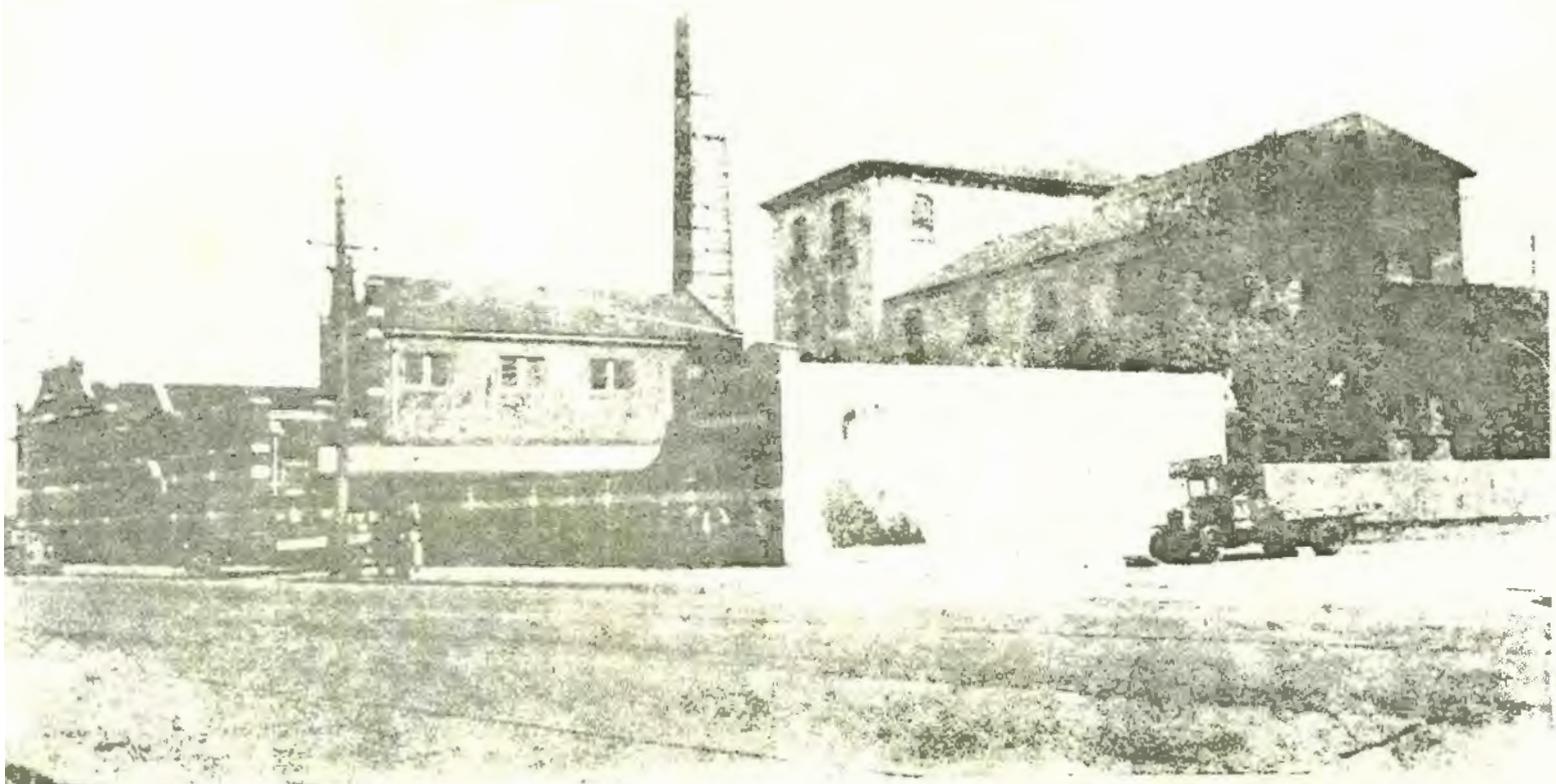
*Dec 9th 1899
1904*

To The Castlemaine Brewery & Wood Bros & Co Newcastle N.S.W. Ltd

BREWERS & WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TERMS.
CASH. MONTHLY.

CASKS
TO BE RETURNED.



CASTLEMAINE WOODS BREWERY LABELS.



PRESIDENTS NOTES.

As I have been relected to the position of President for the next 12 months, I would like to thank the various Breweries for their generous donations of labels to the V.B.L.C.S.
Also thanks to all the members who sent in clippings for the newsletter and labels for the raffle.
Many thanks to Grant Hoffmeyer for the well set out Wine Section, also Laurie Godden who helped out in so many ways.
To my two right hand men (or should I say hench men) George Crompton and Brian Atkins who helped out with the Newsletter, many thanks. Without their help the Newsletter would have folded long ago.
I think that the Society is very lucky to have George as Secretary as he has put a lot of spare time in to do all the letter writing to the Breweries for labels etc.
If there was a medal given for this type of work, I'm sure that George deserves at least 3, so George, many, many special thanks for a job well done. (now where will this get me, George).
To the guys that were on the old Committee;
Bill Patten, Tom Athony, Stewart Spencer.
Herb Wooding, Brian Atkins, Laurie Godden.
Thanks fellers for a job well done.

ELECTION RESULTS.

Dan O'Neil regretfully withdrew his nomination for the Committee so he and Scotty MacKenzie were appointed Returning Officers and retired to count the postal votes plus the votes recorded at the meeting.

The results were as following;

President. N.J.Long.

Vice President. L.Godden. (appointed after the other nominees withdrew their nominations).

Secretary. G.Crompton.

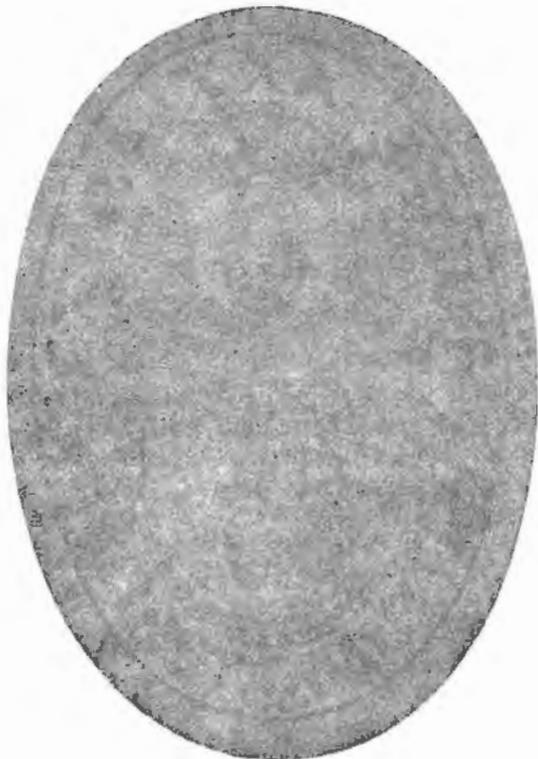
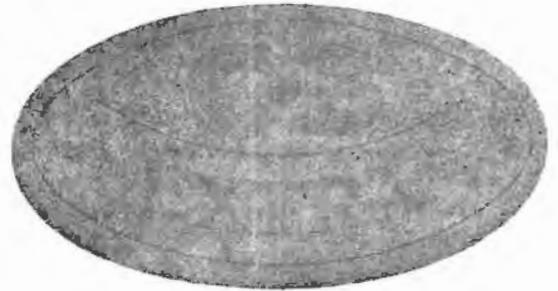
Treasurer. S.Spencer.

Committee. B.Atkins, K.Wittenbach, T.Athony.
L.Godden.

NEW ISSUES.

The Secretary would like to thank the many members who keep him posted on the new issues from the various breweries; it has not been possible for him to individually write to them but they are doing a good service to the Society and it is appreciated.

CASTLEMAINE (TOOTHS) LABELS.



CASTLEMAINE BREWERY AND WOOD BROTHERS AND
CO. LIMITED, NEWCASTLE, N.S.W.

In this newsletter we look at one of Australia's largest brewing companies that operated in the period 1860--1928, the Fitzgerald's breweries -- better known as the Castlemaine Breweries Ltd. Fitzgerald's operated breweries in the following Cities and Country towns.

Castlemaine. Vic.	Newcastle. N.S.W.
Melbourne. Vic.	Brisbane. Q.L.D.
Sydney. N.S.W.	Perth. W.A.
Adelaide. S.A.	

In all the Company operated 12 breweries throughout Australia, and was one of the foundation breweries of C.U.B. Melbourne. Also the Company is still operating the Castlemaine--Perkins Brewery in Brisbane.

The above company was floated in 1887, the prospectus, extracts from which we give below,

Capital £250,000 in shares of £1.00 each.
of this number 150,000 will be retained
by the Proprietors, 50,000 to be sold to
the public, 50,000 to be held in reserve.

The company was formed to take over and continue the lucrative and long-established business of the Castlemaine Brewery, hitherto on under the style of Prendergast, Wood and Co., and Wood Bros. and Co., merchants and importers.

The Castlemaine Brewery was erected under the personal supervision of Mr. Fitzgerald in 1874, and it formed one of the most complete establishments in Australia. It has been under the management of Messrs. Wood Bros. and Co. as the resident partners.

The business Messrs. Wood Bros. and Co. was established in 1865, and was one of the largest in N.S.W. The head office was in Bolton St. Newcastle, with a branch in Maitland.

The freehold properties were highly valuable, that of Messrs. Wood Bros. and Co., with the large brewery in Bolton St. The Castlemaine Brewery is situated on the main highway in the City proper.

On this merger J.&J.R. Wood were bound down not to brew beer or be connected with a brewery or wine and spirit business in N.S.W. for a period of 10 years from the formation of the company.

In 1920 the Sydney brewer Tooth. and Co., purchased the Castlemaine Brewery and operated the brewery for 4 years before stopping production.

From 1924 the brewery was used as a depot for Tooth's, but all good things come to an end, and the old brewery was ear-marked to be demolished in June-July 1974.

On my way home from Queensland last year I visited the brewery in my quest for old labels, I was lucky, because I found a few, also I saw old mirrors and advertising material also I must not forget all the old ledgers, these ledgers went right back to 1870.

All these ledgers showed the profit and loss accounts and the shareholders of the company.

All this material is now at the bottom of the local Newcastle tip, thanks to a few people.

The labels reproduced are from the collections of J. Long, and H. Wooding.

OLD-TIME VICTORIAN BREWERIES.

Looking Backward, Reminiscences of the Fifties and Sixties, The Castlemaine District Contained a Number of Breweries, The Old "Phoenix" at Campbell's Creek, Construction of the Bendigo Railway Line, A Thirsty Crowd.
Part I of a 3 part article.

Castlemaine and the adjacent district has probably contained more breweries than any other town of its size in Victoria.

The first to start a brewery there, were the Messrs. Wheeler Bros. who commenced at the Phoenix Brewery, Campbell's Creek, where Mr. E. J. Bavelly is now brewing and managing for the Standard Brewery Pty. Ltd. That was in 1854.

The next brewery to start, was the Loddon Brewery, built by Mr. B. Edhouse in the latter part of 1854.

He commenced by making "sugar beer", as it was then called (it would be hop ale now) in a 50 gallon copper, with a brandy hogshead open-head for a gyle. His beer became popular and a demand was created for it, and this 50 gallon copper was the nucleus of a 40-hogshead plant. The main store was turned in to a brewery and a brewer was engaged on the recommendation of Mr. R. McCracken.

Things boomed, and the plant had to be extended until it had a 60-hogshead capacity. The boiler then used was sold to Fitzgerald's South Melbourne Brewery.

Edhouse made and lost a fortune, as he was a few years before the times, as he built a malthouse, although no barley was grown in the district, and wheat was malted, but with poor success and he finally came to grief.

The next brewery to start was the Crown Brewery, Church's Flat, Fryer's Creek, by Mr. E. Siddall who was afterwards joined by his brother, when they moved their brewery to Winter's Flat, Castlemaine, and had Mr. N. Barron brewing for them.

They made good beer, but finally succumbed and afterwards started a brewery in Collingwood or Fitzroy.

In 1857 Mr. E. Fitzgerald started the Castlemaine Brewery (we will deal with this brewery in the next newsletter), at this time many small breweries started viz- Shepard, Andrews, Bell, and Holmes--but all came to grief.

Shepard opened a brewery, and Andrews started at Fryerstown, Bell and Holmes also started at Fryer's Creek, and W. Ryan--who was connected with the Siddalls--started a brewery at the Camp Reserve, Castlemaine. As mentioned earlier, these firms came to grief.

There was a brewery started on Forest Creek, Castlemaine, which Mr. J. S. Oddy an old-time brewer was connected with. Mr. Oddy was at one time brewer for Edhouse, and afterwards at the West End and Aitken's breweries, Melbourne.

I have forgotten to relate that Mr. Dickinson, who was manager at the Standard Brewery, started a brewery on Winter's Flat, Castlemaine. One of the last old-time brewers to commence was Mr. J. Barnes who started a brewery at Chewton in 1873, he had Mr. E. Siddall brewing for him, who turned out a very good beer,

After this Barnes started a brewery in Trentham, where the Nation Bros operated from.

So you could see Castlemaine was noted for the number of breweries it could boast of.

WINE SECTION.

New on the market (Feb-March) was McWilliams Robinvale Lexia which the maker feels is so outstanding that it decided to create a completely new distinctive label for its introduction. The wine is made from the grape variety known as Lexia, grown in the Robinvale district of Victoria. Because of its normal low acidity great care is taken to ensure that the grape is harvested at an optimum maturity with a good sweetness acid ratio, if harvested too early the resulting wine would be lacking in aroma and flavor while late harvesting results in a wine lacking crispness and freshness on the palate. McWilliams has successfully determined this optimum sweetness-acid ratio and on receipt at the winery a careful selection is made to ensure the most suitable grapes are reserved for Robinvale Lexia. In addition the establishment in the Robinvale winery of new juice separation techniques which was previously developed by the production director, Mr. Glen McWilliam and perfected in the Company's Riverina Wineries has helped to give this wine a touch of sweetness and an even greater spicy aroma and fruitier flavor than that evident in previous McWilliams Lexia.

Once again confirmation of our rapidly expanding wine industry--a record 1294 entries were received for this year's Sydney Show. This was about 240 up on last year's record. An arduous task for the judges who began their tasting and appraising on February 4th, and I believe that they are still at it...7 months later. Oh to be in Len Evans' shoes.

RAFFLE.

As mentioned in the Meeting Notes the Raffle was unavoidably held over until the next meeting, so this gives you extra time to make sure you get your tickets and give yourself a chance to win some old; RICHMOND, SWAN, TOOHEYS, etc. Remember that each prize is made up to 12 labels and there are 4 prizes.

STOP PRESS.

=====

MEETING NOTES; Yet another successful meeting was held on Sunday ~~14th July~~ at Carroll & Richardsons showrooms in High St. Preston. Again we had a very good attendance of members and friends. Brian Blackham brought along a very good (and valuable) collection of old beer bottles to the envy of all present; many of Brian's bottles were from the pre-crown seal era, and we hope that Brian will contribute an article on this aspect of the hobby before long. George Crompton showed the progress of the Anniversary label from the first rough notes, the artists preliminary sketch, the accurate large scale design, the final artists full colour make-up, the three colour separation negatives, to the final print. For many members this was their first introduction to the complexities of the Printing Industry.

John Long caused a stir by producing two old beer bottles complete with labels; a horizontal Abbotsford Invalid Stout with neck label and a Richmond Pilsener, both in perfect condition.

The election of Office Bearers for 1974/5 was completed, (announced elsewhere). during which it was pointed out that the Constitution was rather loosely worded in respect of calling for nominations for official positions and it was decided to amend the wording to clarify the position.

It was also moved from the floor that it be made clear that the only person authorised to approach Breweries for donation of labels on behalf of the V.B.L.C.S. was the Secretary, and that no other member could claim to represent the Society in this respect.

It was also moved that should any member of the Committee or the Society, by virtue of his position obtain donations of labels from any source then those labels become the property of the Society and must be used for the benefit of all members.

This did not preclude any Committee member from exchanging or accepting a gift.

The mover pointed out that this motion was not intended to reflect in any way on the behaviour of the present Committee but was intended to clarify the situation for the future.

While on this subject, the Secretary would like the Ex-Committee member to hand over the SWANKY Labels from Coopers and all other Society labels held by this person.

John Long outlined some of the problems which had arisen in producing the Newsletter and the steps he had taken to overcome these. Hopefully there will come a time when we can establish regular arrangements for the printing of the Newsletter at an economical cost. John would like to see more members sending articles to him for publication in future issues.

The issue, Vol.3. No. 2, will probably be the last on quarto size paper, and the next will be on A4, metric size.

RAFFLE.

The drawing of the Raffle was held over to the next meeting as George (he apologised) forgot to bring along the tickets butts of those who had ordered tickets by mail.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence from members was then tabled and discussed then the meeting was formally closed.

STOP PRESS.

NEXT MEETING.--- Will be held at 1.30pm on Sunday 8th September at Carroll & Richardsons showrooms, 150 High St., Preston. Bring your albums, your spares, and your refreshments and make this another successful meeting.

=====
NEW MEMBERS.--- A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members whose applications to join the Society have been approved by the Committee.---

- (207). R.Gillard. 8 Bunting Court. Lalor. 3075
- (208). T.A.Batten. 857 Glenferrie Road. Kew. 3101. Phone. 81-5716.
- (209). B.Blackham. 19 Fraser Street. Glen Waverly. 3150.
(Beer Bottles Only).
- (210). G.Hellyer. 52 Gascoyne Street. Launceston. 7250.
- (211). W.M. Hollyman Social club. c/o. T.Kirkpatrick. Brisbane Street. Launceston. 7250.
- (212). M.Winter.
- (213). J.Muir. 14 Mayona Street. Montmorency. 3094.
- (214). S.Green. 64 Morris Street. Williamstown. 3016.

=====
CHANGE OF ADDRESS.--- The following members wish to notify other members of their change of address.

- S.Pridham. c/o. C.U.B. Drawing Office. 16 Bouverie St. Carlton.
- R.S.Grace. 2 Karan Court. Noble Park. 3174.
- L.G.Haynes. 55 York Terrace. Salisbury. 5108.
- Capt. P.Hardy. 24 Plant Street. Malvern. 3144.
- I.Duffner. H.M.A.S. Betano. c/o G.P.O. Warship Section.
- L/Cpl. M.J.Pinkard. Gravelly Beach. West Tamar. 7251.
(from Oct. 15. 1974). Phone 944141.
- A.Mackenzie. c/o. Spencer Private Hotel. Spencer Street. Melb.

=====
LABEL DONATIONS.--- The Society would like to thank the following for the donations of labels.

- Breweries.----- Carlton & United Breweries. (Melb).
Grafton Brewing Co. Ltd.
Cooper & Sons. Ltd.
Tasmanian Breweries Pty. Ltd.
Carlton & United Breweries Ltd. (Rockhampton).
The Kalgoorlie Brewing CO. Ltd.
Tooth. & Co. Ltd.
Tocheys. Ltd.

- Members.----- P.Chaplin, K.Wittenbach, H.Armaur, B.Lawson.
J.Hepworth, B.Ronson, B.Langsworth, J.Long.
A.MacKenzie.

CLASSIFIEDS.

WANTED.

Any Hunter Valley Brewery labels.
Tooths. Sydney Bitter Ale. 1ge/rect.
Richmond. Non-Pastuerised Beer.
Any Brookvale labels.
Perkins. Brewery Toowoomba.
Old Qld Brewery Toowoomba.

OFFERED.

Austral Brewing Co. West. Melb.
Tonic Ale. (circa 1890).
Austral Brewing Co. Boz Ale.
(circa 1890).
Superior Dandelion Ale.
(circa 1886).
D.O.Brown. Castlemaine.
Hop Ale (circa 1885).
Richmond Lager. 1ge/states.

SPECIAL OFFER;

I ONLY, BRITISH INDIA PALE ALE FIRST QUALITY.

MALDON BREWERY, SIDE OVAL (YELLOW, RED, PINK). Circa 1886.
Will exchange for I of the following labels ONLY.

N.Fitzgerald. Castlemaine Brewery, Vic. PALE ALE.
Maldon Brewery. TOPAZ PILSENER.
Elliot's Deniliquin. BEST AUST. PALE ALE.
Red Lion Brewery Hay. N.S.W. RED LION STOUT.
J.Wood & Son Yorkshire Brewery. Magpie PALE ALE.
Hunter Brewery. Bendigo. GREYHOUND BRAND PALE ALE.
Barretts Brewery Golbourn. PALE ALE.
Foster Brewing Co. EMPIRE PALE ALE.
Foster Brewing Co. HARLEQUIN EXTRA STOUT.
Foster Brewing Co. FOSTERS LAGER.
Hodges Bros. Geelong. STOUT.

John Long.

Bendigo Bitter Beer.
Bendigo Tempo Lager.
A.T.A. Temperance Ale.
Richmond Stout.
Reschs Vienna Lager.
Richmond Special Lager.
Reschs Select Stock Ale.

Tooths T.B. Ale.
Tooths K.B. Lager. green.
Reschs R.B. Lager.
Cooper & Crabb 2 Seas Ale.
Carbine Invalid Stout.
Tooheys Wheatmeal Stout.
Tooheys Sydney Bitter Ale
Bridge.

R.R.Minto.