

newspaper went on to say that the bricklayers were to start work after the Christmas holidays. It also said that the brick building was to have about fifteen rooms, including large billiard and dining rooms on the Evans Street frontage and bedrooms and a 'commercial' room on the Station Street frontage. The bar was to be located on the corner of the two streets.<sup>9</sup>

A few months later in April 1902 the newspaper reported that the hotel was nearing completion, the bar and an adjoining room having already been opened by Millett. The article remarked that the new hotel building 'is certainly one of the most imposing edifices in the town and shows no lack of enterprise on the part of the owner' and added that 'from almost any point the splendid two storey building can be seen and is a very creditable addition to the hostels in Sunbury'.<sup>10</sup>

In late May 1902 another article on the new Railway Hotel appeared in the local newspaper. It described the hotel as a credit to the town, which stood out prominently as 'one of the most attractive hotels in the place'. The exterior was noted as being of red brick, which was 'relieved' with six wide cement bands in a buff colour, the lowest one arching over the windows and the doorways; the sills and steps were noted as being of bluestone. The arches and sills of the main doors were described as having been decorated with 'marquise [sic] glass of a rich green hue, the design being very much out of the ordinary'. The wall under the projecting eaves of the roof was described as having been finished with decorative cement mouldings and a decorative cement frieze.<sup>11</sup>

This description indicates that the original building featured the decorative and stylistic trends of Federation architecture. It had an appearance that was characteristic throughout Melbourne and country Victoria to many commercial, institutional and residential buildings of the era. The former Railway Hotel also appears to have been the first and only commercial building of this style to have been built in Sunbury. Later buildings to be built in Sunbury in this architectural style, and still standing, were the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (1904) and a number of institutional and residential buildings erected in Macedon Street from 1911 - 1916.

Until 1902, James Millett had a number of different publicans run the hotel for him, but from that date a Mary Agnes Millett was the publican for many years.<sup>12</sup> Even into the 1980s, the hotel was owned and run by descendants of the Millett family, a prominent family of hotel proprietors in the district. George Millett with his wife Susan had come to Australia from England in the early 1830s and they built the Bald Hill hotel which was once located beside the present Calder Highway directly opposite Mitchells Lane. The Bald Hill was delineated in 1911. Many of their descendants ran hotels in Sunbury and the surrounding district and amongst these were Thomas Millett who owned the Rupertswood Hotel; Mary Anne Williams (nee Millett) who owned the Royal Hotel; and Frank Millett who ran the Bald Hill after his father's death in 1890.<sup>13</sup>

#### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the former Railway Hotel (Olive Tree Hotel), 111 Evans Street Sunbury, be included in the Heritage Overlay of the Hume Planning Scheme.

1944 fire  
6 April - fire in bedroom

George M. Millett & Son  
George M. Millett died. Lived 67 Dec 1899

Frank son of George Millett

delineated in 1911  
opposite Mitchells Lane

1,500 pounds  
80,000 to build

Bald Hotel Bald Hill Hotel  
Bathbyone

<sup>9</sup> *The Sunbury News* 21 December 1901, p.2.

<sup>10</sup> *The Sunbury News*, 12 April 1902, p.2.

<sup>11</sup> *The Sunbury News*, 24 May 1902, p.3.

<sup>12</sup> Kate books, *op cit*.

<sup>13</sup> I.W. Symonds, *Bald Hill: An Illustrated History of the Shire of Bald Hill*, Spectrum Publications, Melbourne, 1985, pp.81-85.

Melbourne. Religious tensions still ran high at the time and, well aware that Catholics could become targets, Gus would position the family near Swanston Street and instruct the children that if any trouble broke out they were to run as fast as they could to St Paul's Cathedral — the nearest Anglican church — and stay put.<sup>84</sup>

Kathleen Gilligan was nationally renowned as a horsewoman in the 1930s, '40s and '50s and would undoubtedly have been an Olympian had women been allowed in equestrian teams at the time.<sup>85</sup> As well as innumerable showjumping awards, Kath also won the Alice Laidlaw Trophy (a cross-country equivalent of the prized Garryowen Trophy) at the Melbourne Show in 1952. She became a skilled racehorse trainer and it was largely through her efforts that the Victoria Racing Club finally allowed women to hold trainers' licences in the 1960s. Kath's sister Gertrude was also a noted sportswoman, excelling at tennis and golfer. Known to the family as Gertie but more widely as Trudie, she ran a roadhouse on the Millett Road-Calder Highway corner at South Gisborne through the 1940s, '50s and '60s. The roadhouse, where a ceremony was held to mark the connection of electricity to Couangalt about 1950, was replaced by a small petrol station before being abandoned when the Calder Freeway replaced the highway in 1995. As of 2008 the old petrol station still sat, derelict, on the bypassed corner. Through the descendants of Gus and Maud Gilligan, today's South Gisborne residents have the Gilligan Reserve on Millett Road, once home to the Gisborne Pony Club and now home to South Gisborne Tennis Club.

Gertrude Gilligan on the course at Gisborne Golf Club, 1935.



Picture courtesy GMMDHS

## MARTIN GILLIGAN

died Thursday June 19 at  
Oaklands Junction, 84.

"Victoria has lost another of those grand old pioneers by whose industry, grit and perseverance Australia has become the great nation that it is.

The deceased as a boy of 8 years came with his family to Victoria from Ireland in 1854. The family settled at Gisborne in 1857. There were three brothers, Austin, John and Martin, and four sisters — Mary (Mrs James Williams, Riddell), Brigid, Elizabeth and Susan. They lived at Mt Magnet and carried on general farming and contracting. In 1872, '73 and '74 they had the whole of what is now 'Sunnyacres' under such an excellent crop of wheat that interested residents who remember it still speak of it with pride...

In the early 1870s he married Miss Annie Hughes of New Gisborne. They had 14 sons and daughters, of whom 12 survive:— Thomas (Oaklands), Augustine Joseph (Shire President), Margaret (Mrs Redden, Tullamarine), Elizabeth (Mrs M. Haire, Gisborne), Annie (Mrs Dillon, Sunbury), Martin (Sunbury), Susan (Cowarr, Gippsland), Gertrude (Mrs H. Morrow, Gisborne), John (Oaklands), Evelyn (Mrs Duggan), James (Oaklands) and Monica (Oaklands). The large funeral was attended by members of the legislature, shire councillors, businessmen, landowners and others. (The procession) ... had 62 vehicles and was about 2 miles long. The deceased was interred at Bulla. Great regard was held generally for Martin and his brother Austin."

Gisborne Gazette, 27 June 1930

Bald Hill Hotel 1920 - 1900.  
Mr Frank Nuttall

### FINA CAFE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Gisborne South's one and only local corner store, the Fina Service Station Cafe, is under new management.

Bullengarook's popular couple, Sonya and Norm Huxtable, have taken over the business and are already making it a 'hit' with the locals and passing motorists.

Sonya and Norm, along with their daughter, Donna, have added a few other items to the regular ones such as milk, bread, the morning papers and cigarettes.

As well the take away items such as hamburgers fish 'n' chips, etc., the Huxtables carry a wide range of everyday groceries and a superb range of drinks, lollies, cakes and some extra special take away or cafe items such as hot roast beef sandwiches.



<sup>1</sup>Luebbers, 'An Archaeological Investigation of the National Hotel: a Mid Nineteenth Century Roadhouse on the Calder Highway between Millett Road and South Gisborne Victoria' (Report prepared for VicRoads, Melbourne, Nov.1994), p 57.