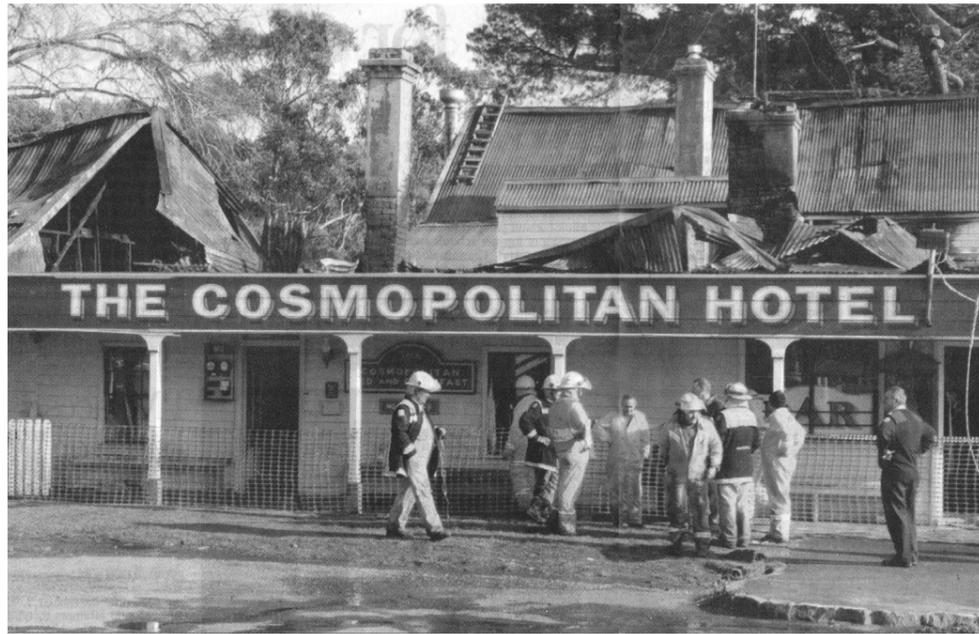


# By the Trentham & District Historical Society

With thanks for the invaluable assistance of Bruce McKenzie, Amanda Curran and Ian French for providing photographs, documents, artifacts and stories.

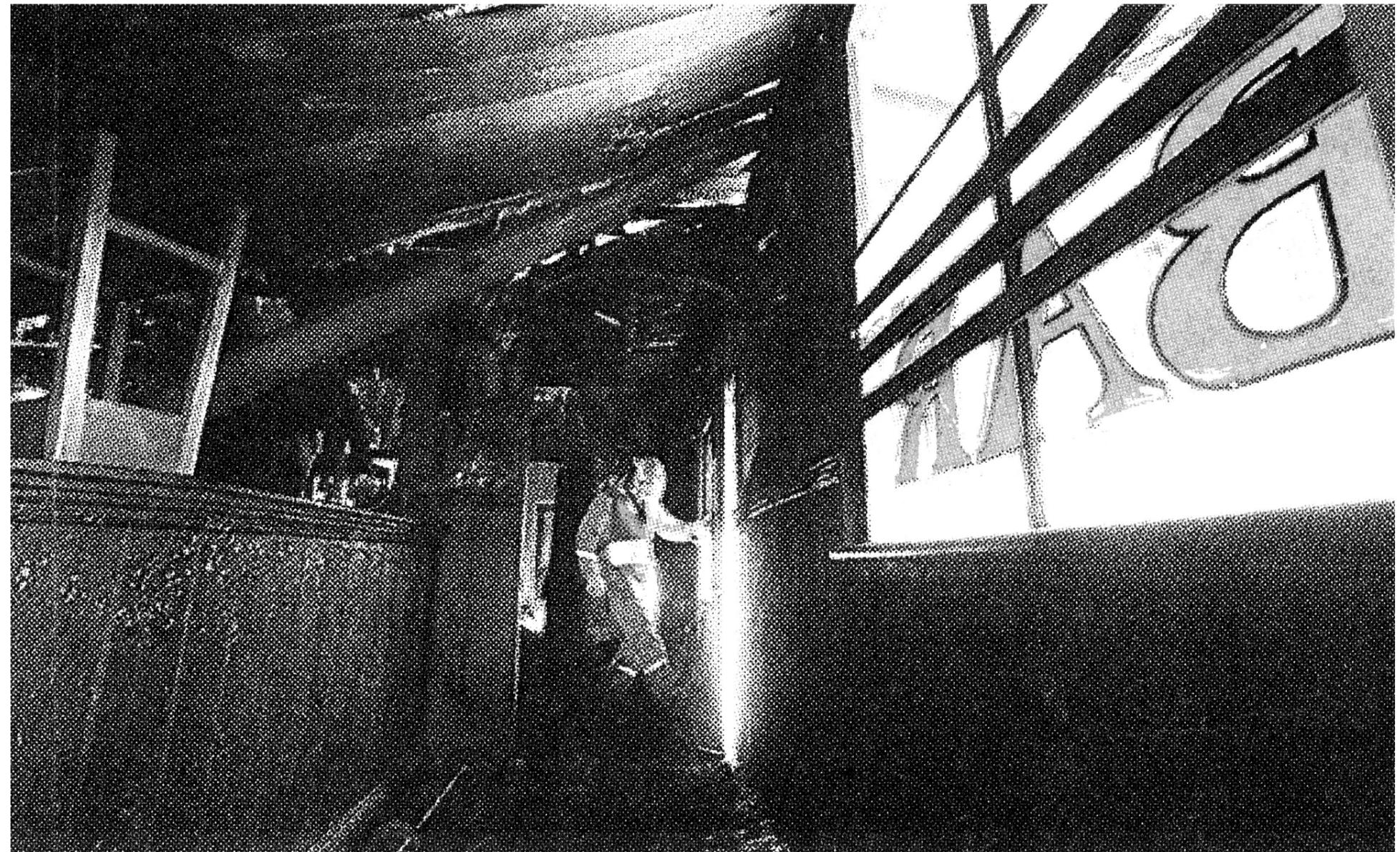
## Time LINE ▶

- 1857** John Wrigglesworth made a survey of land in the southern section of 'Woodside' which was to become the Parish of Trentham.
- 1862** Mining in Trentham.
- 1864** Important sale of the land surveyed.
- 1866** The town of Trentham was proclaimed. Joseph Bickley bought land and began to build his Hotel.
- 1882** William Byrne, son-in-law of Joseph Bickley, became the licensee of the Cosmopolitan.
- 1889** Joseph Bickley left the town, transferring the hotel title to his daughter, G.E.(Bickley) Byrne.
- 1895** Sarah (Pye) Bickley died in the Bickley Cottage. Byrne family members continued to run the hotel.
- 1937** The hotel was delicensed.
- 1960s** The Cosmopolitan continued to be owned by descendants of the original owner.
- 1989** The Cosmopolitan was relicensed.
- 2000** Ian French leased The Cosmopolitan.



- 2005** Bill and Lissa McIlldowney took possession of the Cosmopolitan. Fire caused major damage to the Cosmopolitan Hotel on 26.06.2005.
- 2007** Subdivision of the hotel site was opposed by some Trentham residents.
- 2009** Rod Hughes and Peter Griffin purchased the property and opened 'The Cosmopolitan Gardens'.
- 2010** The old Cosmopolitan stables were refurbished as a Bar and Restaurant. The current owners plan to repair and retain the exterior and largely rebuild the interior as a new Cosmopolitan Hotel.

▲  
Fire fighters and locals could do little to save the interior and the precious artifacts on the night of the tragic fire, June 26th, 2005.



The old Cosmopolitan Hotel is a local landmark due to its location on the corner of High Street and Cosmo Road and it is one of the town's largest buildings. The building exemplifies the timber hotels built in pioneering settlements in the late nineteenth century. These buildings were often constructed in stages and relatively few now survive.

The Cosmopolitan retains its original corner bar room windows and early verandah paving tiles and bricks. The western two storied section is of a brick nogged construction, which is unusual in Victoria.

The scalloped verandah frieze to Cosmo Road is a feature. The main roof continuing down to form a verandah is a characteristic of simple early (1850s, 1860s) buildings.

The dilapidated weatherboard cottage which has a double shingled roof, now known as Bickley Cottage, is of the same period and is situated close to the old Cosmopolitan Hotel. This building is important in combination with the old hotel as well as being one of, if not the oldest, house in Trentham.



▲ Towards Quarry Street in the winter of 1943.



▲ Bickley cottage, where Sarah Bickley died in 1895.



The Cosmopolitan Hotel on the corner of High Street and Cosmo Road, Trentham is a unique, historical landmark. It has been the focal point at the heart of the town for over 140 years.

Throughout summer's heat and winter's snow the hotel has reflected the life of the town, its people, its heroes, villains and even its spirits!

◀ The first owner and publican, Joseph Bickley. c1850.



THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

DINING ROOM

▲ The Cosmopolitan, 19th of October, 2004.



▲ The original Bickley's Hotel, around 1868.

Sarah (Pye) Bickley, Joseph's wife, the first of a long line of capable women who managed the hotel. ▶



▲ Sarah's grave in the Trentham cemetery which Amanda Curran, her descendant, felt compelled to restore. Amanda had dreams about Sarah until the restoration was complete.