

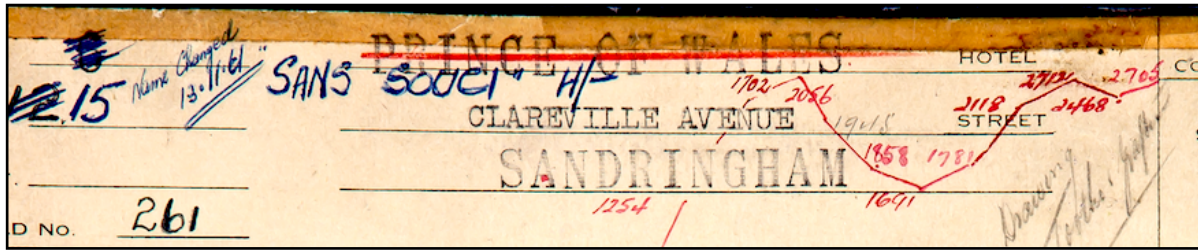
6. The Hotel Sans Souci, 1961-1966



“The Moylan Lovelies” - 1 January, 1962

These ‘showgirls’, as they were known in the 1960s, were a dazzling part of the entertainment and typified Mick’s approach to the spectacular. They were prominent at the ‘new’ hotel and were part of a prevailing idea about ‘Las Vegas’ or ‘Parisienne’ style entertainment. In Sydney the Tivoli Theatre near Central Railway tended to specialise, very successfully, in this ‘glamorous’ format . (see p.78) At Sandringham the patrons were spellbound !

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



This is a section of the top of a Tooth's business record card relating to the hotel. We can see the name 'Prince of Wales' crossed out in red and the words 'Sans Souci' written in blue ink.

To the left of that is the date, 13.11.1961 and the words, 'Name Changed'.

His decision made, Mick aimed to demolish the old hotel in 1961. Given his positive nature - it was 'full steam ahead' with the new and glamorous hotel.

The name of the new hotel was to be "The Hotel Sans Souci" and that was officially adopted and changed on 13 November 1961. ⁷⁰

This hotel was to have accommodation, a spacious public bar, dining room and an extensive saloon lounge overlooking the water. (see the architectural drawing p79)

During an interview in 2012, Rea Moylan Hewitt revealed just why one factor played a huge part in the decision to stay, continue and expand. She commented,

Dad always knew that the surroundings for the new hotel were the most beautiful in Australia. ⁷¹

Women were not allowed in the public bar in those days but the Moylans wanted to cater for everybody - it was part of their 'master plan'. Accordingly they envisaged a very large saloon lounge or beer garden overlooking the bay and beach - women and

children welcome. The hosts genuinely welcomed families and wanted them to feel at home in a place where they could relax and chat with friends.

However his plans were inevitably discussed by Rockdale Council who had other ideas for the historic building.

1962/3:

Mick rarely advertised in the Sydney press but the opening of the new hotel in February 1962 warranted a special mention.

He announced;

Sans Souci Hotel

Metropolitan

Clareville Avenue

Sans Souci

This beautiful brand new hotel right on the beach at Botany Bay, now offers the best accommodation and congenial hospitality. All modern conveniences,

*rooms with private amenities, ample
parking, nightly entertainment*

*excellent meals
moderate tariff*

for information and bookings:

M. Moylan (Licensee)

Ring or write 58 7888

*

As it emerged piece by piece, the new “Sans Souci Hotel” was quickly adopted by patrons. By early 1962 some 200 Sans Souci residents had formed themselves into the Sans Souci Hotel Social Club and ran bowls, darts, pin-ball and cricket competitions for patrons.

In a special supplement in the Sunday Mirror at that time it was reported that,

Once a month some 200 of them scoot off to an island in Botany Bay for a picnic, and boat-owners who belong to the club ferry the people back and forth. ⁷²

Mick was asked, at that time, ‘what is it that transforms a hotel from a drinking house to a community centre?’ He replied,

Good beer, service and an interest in the people. I have big things in store for this hotel and some of

them will be realities within the next six months. ⁷³

At that time Mick was building a beer garden from the hotel to the shoreline to hold around 700 people. The existing lounge, said Mick, held about 300 people and was crowded out almost every night.

Big plans revolved around the planned jetty. (see illustration p79). Mick enthused,

When the jetty is built, it will be the rallying point for all craft that use the bay - yachts and power boats. At present there is no place for the boat owners to call in if he wants a drink - the jetty will supply that place. In addition we will have boats and will organise fishing trips from the hotel. ⁷⁴

During this interview Mick spoke about the overall, grander plans for this venture, saying that he aimed to capture part of the Sydney tourist trade. He was, he claimed, going to have a ‘unique’ hotel experience to offer visitors. Mick, obviously enough, was a very positive character who firmly believed that ‘bigger was better’.

The project was described as having 4000 square feet of outstanding beachside land which would hold modern hotel rooms, bars, and lounges overlooking Botany Bay and its entrance, with the river lapping the boundary of the hotel's backyard. Mick's promotional brochure (pp82-84) played on the idea of a ‘new luxurious seaside hotel’. More than 1000 cars could be parked on

site, allowing many people to watch the weekend's power boat and sailing racing.

The drive-in bottle shop rated a special mention as it was a spectacular facility for locals and travellers alike. Interestingly, Mick also claimed that, 'no motel in Australia will be able to match the competition.'

The iconic department store Anthony Hordens was responsible for supplying carpets, furniture and curtains. G.W. Hutchinson were the builders while S.A. Pollard were the electrical contractors and engineers. A local firm from Russell Avenue, CMI supplied a wall and floor safe while the all important cash registers were from the National Cash Register Company.

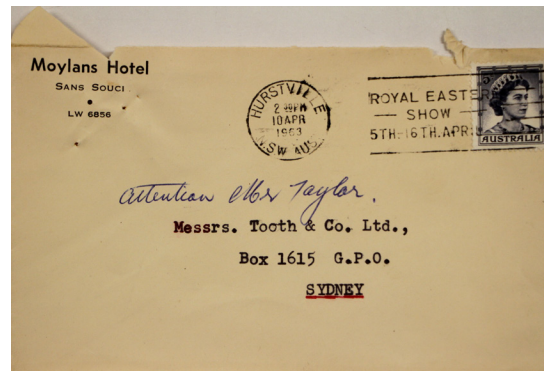
Some of his grandiose plans came to fruition and some did not. The jetty was never built and the plans for a ten room motel were rejected in 1966 by Rockdale council.

The development of motels in Australia had begun in the early 1950s and by 1966 were an entrenched part of the accommodation industry here. By 1962 NSW had an estimated 260 motels. Mick, ever the promoter, believed that a motel at beautiful Sandringham would be an attractive proposition to a range of travellers.

A significant part of the overall development of the site was construction of the "Silver Seas Lounge" and "Pine Lounge". The latter included air conditioning and pool tables. One could have a counter lunch there every day of the week, and by then, a choice of Tooth's or Resch's was offered.



It must be pointed out that this is not an ad for Mick Moylan's. Nevertheless it is indicative of the times - May 1962



A letter envelope from Moylan's Hotel to Tooth & Co. in 1963



This concept drawing for the new hotel was made, at Mick's request, by the Greenwich based architect B Noble. We see an exotic visualisation of a beachfront property with a jetty extending into Botany Bay. To the left is an accommodation block and to the right the hotel complex. It is interesting to see the architect incorporating the famous Norfolk Pines into the landscape. Presumably these were existing trees that helped set both the tone and shape for the new buildings. This resort style hotel, as envisaged here, is a far cry from the days when "Lousy Les" Ritchie ran the hotel on this site and also from the cobbled-together hotel, with its dirt-floored beer garden that Mick Moylan ran there from 1952 to 1961.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



The new, huge, beer garden begins to take shape in early 1963 - however progress was slow and this building was not completed and opened until December that year. This photograph shows the outstanding view across Botany Bay that delighted so many of the hotel's patrons.

With his chosen architect and builder, Mick worked steadily towards completion of this section of the new hotel. However, finance was not unlimited and Council regulations and requirements had a way of getting in the way of progress. Nevertheless the huge potential for the place was obvious to all.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



Further progress is in evidence here as Mick and his team worked hard to provide a venue that many of the clubs and other hotels in the surrounding district simply could not match.

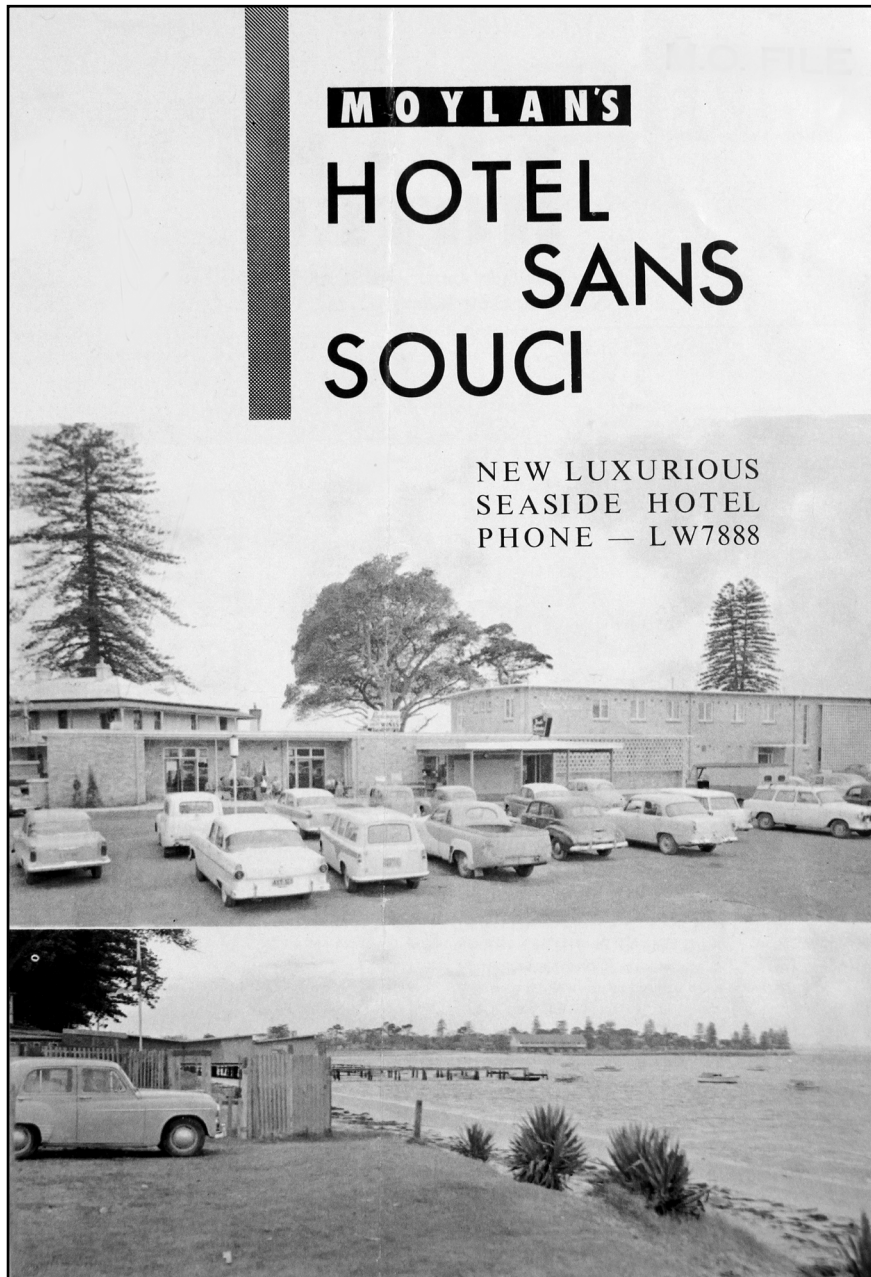
Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

The Promotional Campaign:

In some cases photographs can tell a story far better than words. Consequently on the following pages are images from Mick's 1963 advertising brochure with which he promoted the new hotel.

These show that this new enterprise was a far cry from the 'old' pub. Some lamented

the bygone days while others really looked forward to the stylish new surroundings that Mick was in the process of providing. Although there was new accommodation, greatly improved dining facilities, a new drive-in liquor store and much more it was the forthcoming beer garden that most were looking forward to. This was to stretch from the main body of the building which was set back but ran parallel to the beach, to almost





MEALS

. . . . MENU
A LA CARTE

. . . OUR CHEF

Provides an A la Carte Menu which will astound you with his Excellent Continental Dishes.



OUR CHEF

Presents his Counter Lunch every day in the Pine Bar



THE PINE BAR

With its Pool Tables, window seats, Air Conditioning, serves both RESCH'S and TOOTH'S Beer by means of the Modern refrigerated Beer drawing system to make sure that you enjoy every glass.



DRIVE-IN BOTTLE DEPT. The Quickest and most Efficient bottle sales service is available on our main Driveway.

ADDRESS ALL INQUIRIES TO:

MOYLAN'S HOTEL, SANS SOUCI

Phone LW7888

Remember, THERE'S ALWAYS A WELCOME FOR YOU AT THE HOTEL SANS SOUCI



* this new luxurious . . .

SEASIDE HOTEL

This New Luxurious SEASIDE Hotel right on the beach overlooking Botany Bay and Georges River, now offers first class Accommodation in Suites, Twin and Single rooms. Recreation for the whole family includes:

- NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT
- SWIMMING
- SUN BATHING
- PICNICS
- WATER SKIING
- GOLF
- TENNIS
- ETC.



CATERING

*no place on earth
will you love
more
sincerely than*

HOTEL SANS SOUCI

The new Hotel Sans Souci specialises in Birthday Parties, Smokos, Wedding Receptions, Conventions, Ladies' Luncheons, Businessmen's Luncheons, Office Parties, and all Social functions. Our widely experienced CONTINENTAL CHEF is always available to organise your function to be a wonderful Success. Another service includes facilities for private Cocktail Parties and late evening Suppers. You may book your table NOW for Christmas Dinner, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Celebrations.



ACCOMMODATION — SINGLE AND DOUBLE SUITES

ACCOMMODATION

Within only TWELVE minutes from Mascot Airport the NEW HOTEL SANS SOUCI can now offer luxurious Accommodation in Suites containing wall to wall carpet, hot and cold water, shower and toilet, heater and fan, radio, TV, telephone and 24 HOUR ROOM SERVICE.

TARIFF

From £2/2/- per night. Early morning tea inclusive.



WEDDINGS

Sunday Weddings are catered for by special appointment.



ENTERTAINMENT



THE HOTEL SANS SOUCI HAS ALREADY A FINE REPUTATION FOR THE

BEST ENTERTAINMENT IN SYDNEY

The Silver Sands Lounge presents on stage every night Leading Entertainers, together with Concert Organ, BALLET Girls, Top Line Variety Guest Artists. Our Entertainment is staged in both our Lounge and Beer Garden.



While entertainment had always been a priority for Mick, he took on new departures with both accommodation and catering. Going well beyond local diners, the new hotel catered specifically for wedding receptions, birthday parties, smokos, conventions, ladies luncheons and office parties. Cocktail parties and late evening suppers were also offered. Mick made capital out of the fact that his chef who, 'provides an à la carte menu which will astound you with his excellent Continental dishes.' The accommodation now offered was partly directed at drawing air travellers. Mick pointed out that he was only 12 minutes from Mascot airport and that suites, twin or single rooms were available for all travellers. Rooms were equipped with telephone and TV. The tariff was generous, starting at just 2/2/- per night. He coined a new motto too - 'Remember there is always a welcome for you at the Hotel Sans Souci.' All of that was bundled up into his, 'New Luxurious Beachside Hotel'. The old Mick's was gone and in its place was to stand the grandest hotel complex in the district.

MOYLAN'S SANS SOUCI HOTEL

ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE
NEW BEACH LOUNGE



- ★ FIRST CLASS ENTERTAINMENT ★ BEAUTIFUL WATER VIEWS
- ★ RIGHT ON THE BEACH AT SANS SOUCI
- PARTY NIGHTS ● LUCKY DIPS ● NOVELTIES, Etc.
- ★ KEITH ANGLE AT THE ORGAN ★ DANCING
- ★ SPECIAL NIGHT XMAS EVE 12 MIDNIGHT
- ★ NEW YEARS EVE 1 P.M.
- XMAS PARTIES & SOCIAL FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR
- FREE DELIVERY RESCHES DRAUGHT ALE, ALL TAPPING EQUIPMENT

JOIN IN THE FUN AT

MOYLAN'S SANS SOUCI HOTEL

CLAREVILLE AVENUE
SANS SOUCI 58-7888

Wednesday 11th December, 1963, p5 - St George & Sutherland Shire
Leader

**THE HOTEL FOR TRAVEL—
WISE MEN AND WOMEN**
Now available at the Beautiful New



TWIN DRIVE-IN LIQUOR SERVICE

HOTEL SANS SOUCI
SANS SOUCI (MINE HOST, MICK MOYLAN)

COMPLETE & MODERN SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR THE TOURIST—Ideal room location overlooking beach, ocean and Botany Bay—close to swimming, fishing and all sporting activities—Handy to Mascot Aerodrome. Excellent Dining Room, Modern Lounge Bar. Nightly entertainment. Tariff from £2/2/- per night.

Phone 58-7888

Phone 58-7888

43 SUNDAY MIRROR, MARCH 4, 1962 43

This press cutting emphasises the importance Mick placed on bottle sales. “Twin Drive in Liquor Service” was the catch cry. His efforts here were rewarded as records show that he made strong increases in bottle sales at this time. The peninsula had never been so well catered for and Mick regarded this as one of his hotel’s top money makers. He made a point of emphasising the proximity of the new hotel to ‘Mascot Aerodrome’ in an attempt to tap into the interstate and international tourist market and to some degree he was successful.

Sunday Mirror, March 4, 1962, p43

reach the sandy shore in front of the hotel. Publicans from Rust’s time onwards were all very conscious of the beach and its attraction for tourists, visitors and regular patrons - particularly those who enjoyed a

swim or simply a sunbake as they sipped a cool drink from the bar.

Mick remained ever aware of his competition in the area and was, during this period often at loggerheads with the

Mick Moylan's Pub - Chapter Six



Mick delivered on his promise to provide some very exciting facilities for his 1962 hotel. Something of this nature, a top class dining room, was undreamed of in the 'old' pub and was certainly a move towards a more sophisticated experience.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

Rockdale Council. These problems, which in the long run, had a devastating effect on Mick will be discussed in chapter seven.

Mick Moylan's Pub - Chapter Six



The aerial photograph (opposite) gives a very clear idea of the situation of the 'new' hotel on Sandringham Point and its proximity to facilities for boating and swimming.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

The ancient "Prince of Wales" building is gone without leaving a trace.

It is apparent that the exotic conceptual drawing for the new hotel was never realised. The jetty, for example, was never built. However, Mick's pride and joy, the twin drive in bottle shop is realised.

Ancient Pine and Moreton Bay Fig trees still stand sentinel over the site.

It is apparent just how much parking space was available for hotel patrons.

The proximity to the pristine Sandringham Beach is shown here and confirms just what an asset it was to successive publicans.

Clareville Avenue, once an important part of the Kogarah/Sandringham tram route, stretches in a straight line at the left of the photograph.

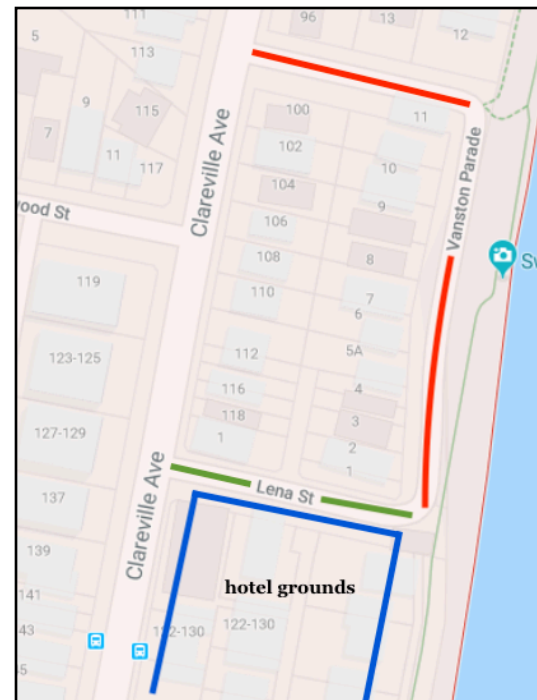
Vanston Parade and Lena Street are marked on the map (right).

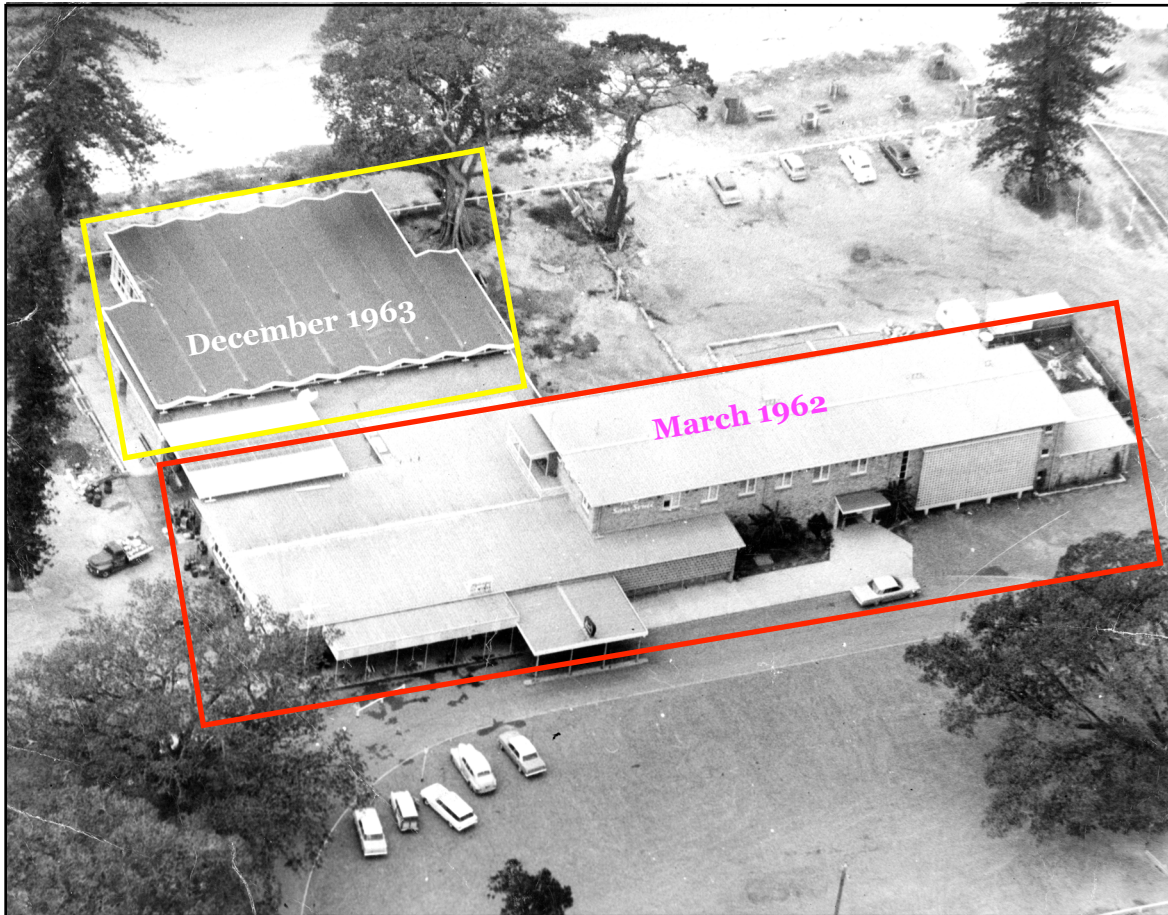
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The boatshed built over the water was owned successively by the Selmon family, the Pilgrim family and, when this photograph was taken the proprietor was local builder, Fred Ward. The shed was twice destroyed by fire. Once in 1954 and again in 1968.

*

The Sandringham Baths, adjacent to the boatshed were established by Alex Pilgrim and Rockdale Council in October 1931.





This 1963 photograph, commissioned by Mick, shows the 'new' hotel which was renamed the "Hotel Sans Souci". The beer garden, completed late 1963, stretches almost to Sandringham Beach while at the opposite side of the hotel the drive-in bottle shop and approach is clearly evident. The two-storey accommodation and restaurant block, opened in March 1962, extends to the right. Here there are just a few parked cars scattered around but one of the great assets of this hotel was its extensive parking area. The beer garden accommodated up to 700 people and was a major entertainment site within the hotel complex which, according to Mick had cost £ 200,000.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

Big Cars and Power boats:

Mick had a great passion for big, American cars. He had up to six of these at any one time and liked to show them off in the grounds of his new, stylish hotel. This was, perhaps, also a signal of prosperity and success. Pictured right, he stands with one such car and his power boat "Miss Moylan". Given his situation by the water Mick made good use of this boat on Botany Bay but was also known to tow it to the Hawkesbury River at Windsor which was a popular water ski venue in the 1960s.



Above: Mick in the driveway of the Hotel Sans Souci with his power boat "Miss Moylan"
Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



Mick enjoyed owning and driving big American, imported cars which were fairly rare in Australia at this time.
Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



Launching "Miss Moylan" on Botany Bay
Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

7. Competition & Pressure Rockdale Council:

November 1962 - Mick stood for 5th Ward in Rockdale Council elections. In a large field he received just 2.5% of the total vote - not enough to see him gain a place at the Council.

His motivation for standing is not clear but it may well have been to do with the growing presence and influence of clubs and the planning that was taking place for the Captain Cook Bridge.

Mick's response was to forge ahead with the new "Sans Souci Hotel" - he would make it a showpiece - a place where international visitors and locals alike could relax and enjoy the magnificent surroundings. This notion carried over from the early times and the epithet of 'The Playground of the South.'

*

One 'ugly' side of life came into play around this time. The Rockdale Council, quite rightly, began a crackdown on broken bottles and glass along the beaches of Botany Bay.

Clearly, this was something that involved Mick at Sandringham Beach. He had little or no control over his patrons as to where



This debate occurred in 1971 - well after Mick's time. Nevertheless, he had faced similar problems during his 14 years at Sandringham. St George & Sutherland Shire leader February, 1971 p1

they drank and disposed of empty bottles and glasses.

By April 1962 it was reported that the Council was 'baffled' by this perennial problem and had become 'gravely concerned' about the associated safety issues. There were even suggestions that a 'deposit' scheme be introduced on beer and wine bottles. This proved to be impractical and, at that time, the Council decided to simply note the problem.

However, almost a decade later the glass problem was raised once more. During the Summer of 1971 Alderman S. Thomas ignited the issue when he unveiled two 25 gallon drums at a Rockdale Council meeting. These were filled with broken

bottles and glasses that he and his daughter together with a Park Ranger had recently gathered from the beach at Sandringham Point.

While this debate raged at Council meetings, letters of complaint also increased. Indeed, one letter in February 1971 pointed an accusing finger directly at the hotel. Mr H Olsen of Cook Park, wrote, drawing attention to the disgraceful state of the area between the hotel at Sandringham and the beach. Mr Olsen pointed out that there were glasses, bottles, beer cans and other litter deposited in this area by patrons of the hotel. Going further, Mr Olsen suggested that the hotel should not have been allowed to be built there and offered that if the Council had the power, it take over the property and turn the area into a park. ⁷⁵

Two resolutions were made by Council. They decided to *'keep the beach under constant surveillance, particularly at the weekends'* and *'invite the management of the nearby Sans Souci Hotel to co-operate.'* ⁷⁶

Of course, by this time, Mick has passed away but one imagines that such a difficult and dangerous problem would have plagued him, probably for the complete duration of his fourteen years at Sandringham. There was however, no public show of concern from anyone at the hotel.

*

Well before Mick's time two sailing clubs graced the foreshores of Botany Bay. One, the nearby Georges River 16ft Sailing Club, (established 1927) had been severely



One of Mick's closest competitors was the Georges River 16' Sailing Club which was situated at the end of Sandringham beach and just in sight from the hotel.

On the night of 4th May 1962 a raging fire broke out there and caused more than £100,000 worth of damage. The fire started in the ceiling of the club and was thought to be caused by an electrical fault. Firemen from Marrickville, Rockdale, Hurstville, Mascot and Headquarters attended the blaze and pumped seawater from Botany Bay on to the flames. Firemen climbed to a first floor balcony where they smashed windows to get more water to the seat of the fire.

Lost in the blaze was an electronic organ, a fully equipped stage, a grand piano and furnishings.

Sydney Morning Herald 5 May 1962 p1

damaged by fire on 4 May, 1962. (see photo above)

This club, with its strong local membership, had been considered by Mick as one of his strongest competitors in the district.

*

However, by early September 1963 work commenced on the rebuilding and the new club promised to be bigger and better than ever.

A.W. Edwards won a £98,700 contract for the two-storey construction which was planned to include a gymnasium, meeting rooms for the sailing crews and committees, a reading room and sports room.⁷⁷

The Sailing Club was described as being 'one of the 'most modern of its type in New South Wales', situated in the 'lovely setting of Dolls Point and overlooking Botany Bay'.⁷⁸

The imminent arrival of the club, which was clearly insight from Mick's establishment, would not have eased his growing concerns about rivalry for local patronage. However, in other ways prosperity was in the air and the St George and Sutherland Shire areas were booming. Local press reported that retail sales in the area had increased from £54m in 1956-7 to £87m in 1961-2.

St George Leagues Club:

Quite apart from the difficulties he faced with local council, Mick, in the 1960s, faced a rapid and enormous expansion of clubs in the area.

With their wonderful facilities, poker machines and extended trading hours, the clubs posed a worrying threat for the Sans

Souci publican. The Georges River Sailing Club has been discussed but none presented a greater threat in his St George area than the new St George Leagues Club at Princes Highway, Carlton.

Dubbed the 'Taj Mahal' by locals the club had absolutely everything. In fact, in those times, it was so dominant that some even suggested it was 'too big'.⁷⁹

With more than 5 acres of floor space, it was the biggest of its type in New South Wales and was, more or less, in Mick's backyard ! It had everything from its own bowling greens to a barber shop. There were several bars of course, but the male only bar itself was 120ft by 80ft and had its own snack bar, kitchen and toilets and opened on to an 80ft long balcony.

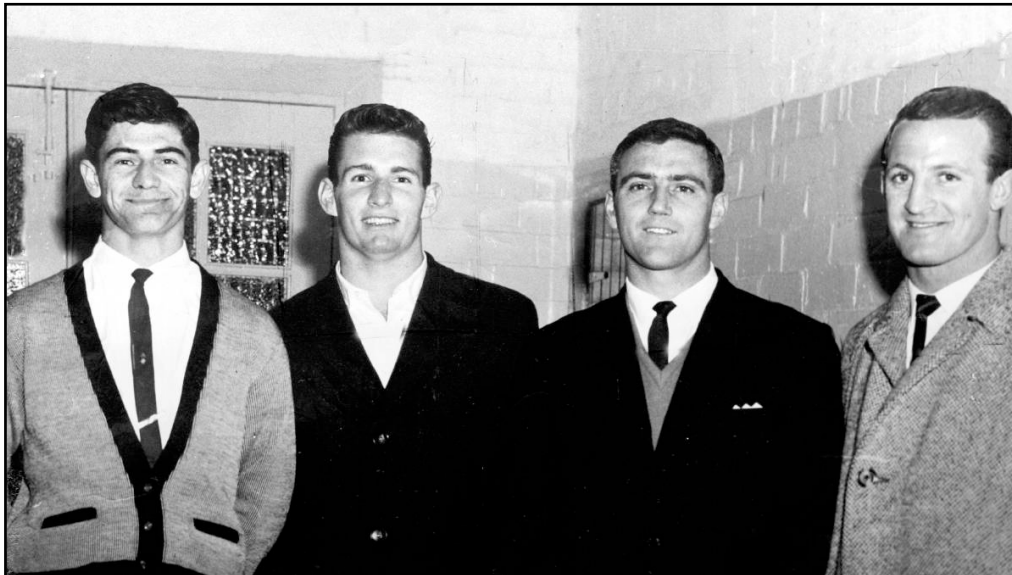
Furthermore, The Leagues Club was inextricably linked to the St George Rugby League Club which was to boast legends of the game like Johnny King, Graeme Langlands, Reg Gasnier and Johnny Raper.

The club represented big business and in 1964 reported a gross profit of £827,173.⁸⁰

The Rockdale Council: 1962-1963:

On February 18, 1963 Mick made two undertakings in relation to the new hotel building.

The promises were made to 5th Ward Aldermen of Rockdale Council and to a Court hearing. Mick said that he would complete the demolition of beer garden at the old Prince of Wales hotel and submit



Top: The St George Leagues Club under construction in 1960. Below Legends of the St George Rugby League club, Johnny King, Graeme Langlands, Reg Gasnier and Johnny Raper: 1966

plans for a new beer garden within a stipulated time.

In early April of that year the Council claimed that, 'Mr Moylan has blatantly ignored' those promises. Plans for the new beer garden had been submitted too late for council consideration. The undertakings mentioned above had induced the council to allow for the continued operation of the 'old beer garden' until April 30. ⁸¹

Back at the end of January 1963, Mick had asked the council to allow him to continue the use of the old hotel beer garden until the end of April to 'accomodate an overflow of patrons from his new hotel'. That is, both 'old' and 'new' hotels were operating at the same time. Mick had promised that he would complete the demolition of the old hotel building by the end of February. In the event demolition of the old beer garden did not commence until 16 April 1963. This clearly pit Mick at odds with the Council.

Consequently, in February, the council had contacted the Licences Reduction Board to take 'appropriate action' against the owner/licensee of the Sans Souci Hotel as a matter of urgency. That is, Mick's licence was to be cancelled !! The legend could have ended there and then.

There were other threats that would have changed the future of the great hotel. The council, with its nose clearly out of joint, decided to survey the boundary of Mick's property to see if 'spoil from the partial hotel demolition had been dumped on the beachfront'.

From its very beginning, in William Rust's time, beach access had always been an

exceptional quality of the hotel. Now the council threatened to, 'erect a fence between Mr Moylan's property and the beach'. ⁸²

These council threats, in the end, came to nothing. Mick was overseas when this ruckus erupted. He had been invited, by a friend who was a pilot with Cathay Pacific airline, to holiday in Hong Kong. Mick took up the invite and the whole family, Mavis and their two daughters made the trip.

Back on the job in Sandringham Mick became deeply concerned about the council's attitude and its aggressive threats.

He had a lot a stake with the new hotel rapidly taking shape, budgets were blowing out and expenses mounting. Of course Mick had Mavis to confide in but there were suggestions that he should form a company, engage management expertise and share some of the decision making. As the workload increased Mick found himself more and more out of his depth, especially when it came to financing the ambitious plans which were well underway at that time.

He saw Rockdale Council intervention and 'red tape' as both aggravating and frustrating, believing that he simply was not receiving the 'fair go' that he had anticipated. After all, he reasoned he was providing a significant 'social hub' in the area that would attract visitors from far and wide. Plus a range of local families in the immediate area would enjoy the wonderful new facilities he was providing.

Ramsgate RSL, just 2km to the north of Sandringham, unveiled some dramatic expansion plans in May, 1962. They

announced that their 'ultra-modern', two-storey building would cost in the vicinity of £130,000 and be completed within nine months. They expected to close their books when they had acquired 950 members. This represented an increase of 550 over the existing membership. Lawn bowls would be a big attraction but the club would also offer a ballroom, games rooms, dining room, and shower and change rooms for men and women. ⁸³

Yet another significant threat loomed in March, 1965, when the Sutherland Council approved a 3 acres hotel development site in Parraweena Rd., Taren Point. Even though this hotel did not open for trading until 29 September 1966, two months after he sold out at Sandringham, Mick included it in his 'basket' of worries. It's presence in the northern section of the Sutherland Shire bore out his idea that the 'the bridge' would cost him customers and would prove to be to the detriment of the Sans Souci peninsula.

When the Taren Point Hotel finally opened in early October 1966, the advertising announced, "Wrap Around Parking for 300 Cars". The proximity to the new, Captain Cook Bridge was emphasised. Also included adjacent to the hotel was an eleven-unit motel; something Mick had been denied by the Rockdale Council earlier in that very same year. None of this made him any more contented.

Council threats and looming competition from giant sporting clubs and new hotels in the district was all becoming too much for the Denman dairy farmer's son.

8. Mick & The Bridge

The predecessors of the bridge.

Since the time of the 1880s there had been discussions about bridging the Georges River at Sans Souci. It seemed inevitable that the population of districts south of Sydney, including what is now Sutherland Shire, would thrive on road access being made available to them.

By 1929 the river had been spanned, first by a punt at Tom Ugly's Point and later by the bridge which was opened at that time. Both superseded the crossing at Lugarno.

The Sans Souci/Taren Point crossing was more problematic and only came about in 1916 when the first punt service there began.

However, well before that George Hughes, a Sans Souci builder also operated a boat shed at the Sans Souci waterfront, realised the potential of a reliable crossing there. His son, Sid commenced a service whereby he would row passengers to the southern side of Georges River for 1/- per head. Some years later his father introduced a steam launch, the "Sans Souci" to the run, making the short crossing all the more comfortable.

Both of these were preceded, however, by a very dignified Aboriginal man named 'King Albert' who lived in the Aboriginal camp near 'Ellesmere' on Kogarah Bay. Albert stationed himself beside the Sans Souci boat shed operated by Peter Baalman and offered to row travellers across the river in either direction for 1/- per head.



3 September, 1963, - Progress on the bridge was consistent and Mick Moylan, at Sandringham was concerned that he would suffer a loss of trade to "The Shire" when it opened.

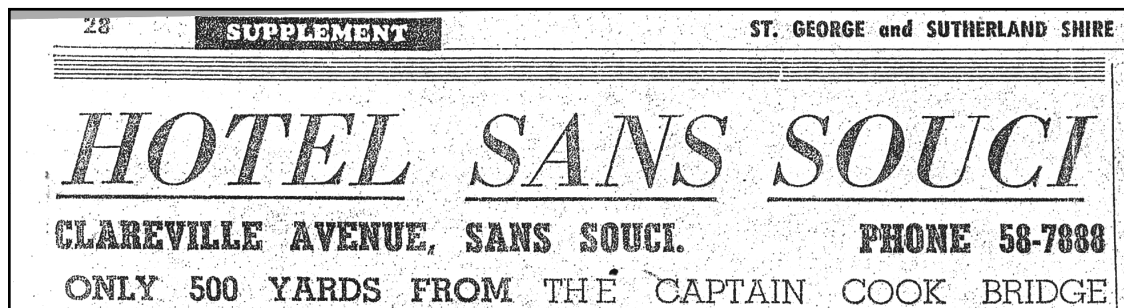
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By July 1963 it was announced that the final phase of the bridge was underway. At that time the forecast completion date was March 1965.⁸⁴

That estimate was not far out.

The early river crossings in this area were a far cry from the modern marvel of engineering that was the "Captain Cook Bridge" opened by then Governor Sir Eric Woodward on May 29, 1965.

This bridge was not just another river crossing. In the minds of local people it was a construction which disturbed forever the



Mick Moylan advertises - "only 500 yards from the Captain Cook Bridge".

Wednesday St George & Sutherland Shire Leader 2 June, 1965 p28

tranquility of the area and in the process violated 'Rocky Point'.

The Sans Souci peninsula, from the time of colonisation, had been regarded as a rustic and charming playground. The approaches to the bridge on the northern side slashed through an area on which had once stood, from 1843, 'Rocky Point House', the home of Robert Cooper Jnr. After Coopers' death in 1848 this historic home became a hotel bearing the name 'Sans Souci Hotel' and it stood proudly on the point until it was demolished in 1921. The name of this iconic establishment was brought back to life by Mick Moylan at Sandringham in 1961.

Along the peninsula rumours about progress of the bridge abounded. Newspapers reported many of the rumours. However, by March 1962 it was apparent that there was no turning back for the bridge. Money had been allocated and work was to start immediately a tender was accepted.

The hope was that only nine buildings would have to be demolished to clear the bridge approaches. The ferry wharf would be shifted to keep it clear of bridge pylons. Mr Stan McDonald, proprietor of the 'Sans Souci Boatshed' said he had not yet been served with a final notice to quit by the Department of Main Roads. This iconic boatshed had stood on the same site since 1896 and had been built by German Master Mariner, Peter John Baalman (1852-1934). From 1916 the shed belonged to the Delaney family and most older Sans Soucians associate this shed with them.

As it transpired the boatshed remained on the same site and was only demolished in 1972 - 7 years after the bridge opened.⁸⁵

The area near Delaney's boatshed was widely known as 'Gun Point'. The name followed after a cannon which had once belonged to the HMS "Wolverine", built at Woolwich in 1863. She had 21 guns. The ship was decommissioned in 1893. The cannon was originally placed by John Frater



May 29, 1965, Governor Sir Eric Woodward, cuts the ribbon



The Sans Souci peninsula is bisected by the approach to the new bridge

at his Sans Souci Hotel & Pleasure Grounds. In March, 1962, a concerned Mr M S Hirst, of nearby Tuffy Avenue wrote to the Rockdale Council enquiring about the looming fate of the old cannon. With the advent of the Bridge in 1965 the cannon was re-sited near the entrance to the St George Sailing Club.

*

By the early 1960s as the rumours swirled around the area, Mick came to believe that the bridge, and the consequent flow of

traffic direct into the Sutherland Shire, would do great harm to his hotel which was, of course, just around the riverside at Sandringham. Another concern was the exodus of permanent residents to the newly accessible Sutherland Shire.

Mick actively pursued the idea of an 'off-ramp' from the bridge which could deposit patrons to his area.

Preliminary work on the bridge began in July, 1962, when John Holland (Construction) Pty Ltd., the successful tenderer, commenced clearing work.



This Moylan family photograph of the last crossing of the Taren point punt on 29 May 1965 was taken from the newly opened bridge. It suggests that Mick may have been present on that occasion to witness the arrival of the bridge that caused him so much concern. Australian flags fly from the bow and stern of the ferry as it crosses.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

Then, in 1965 when the bridge opened, Mick still clearly paranoid about the matter, chose to advertise that his "Hotel Sans Souci" was, 'only 500 yards from the Captain Cook Bridge.' The Department of Main Roads had handed him a 'lemon' but Mick was determined to make lemonade with it.

9. It Wasn't all Rock and Roll

There were many 'headline' acts at Mick's hotel throughout its history. Indeed one of the great names in Australian jazz, Graeme Bell, one of Australia's greatest traditional jazz men, with his "All Stars" was a regular there.

Mick, always the great promoter, liked to claim that Bell 'got his start' at the Sandringham pub.

This however was not quite accurate. By 1947 Bell and his band was playing regularly in Melbourne. He found sponsors that funded his Australian Jazz Band's participation in the 1947 World Youth Festival in Prague. So popular was the band they remained in Czechoslovakia for more than four months. His band also undertook a European tour in 1951, all before Mick had started at Sandringham.

Nevertheless, Graeme Bell made many appearances to packed houses at Sandringham. He often played on Saturdays when the hotel crowd lapped up the happy dixieland-style jazz for which he and his band was famous.

One reviewer in *The Age*, Melbourne, hailed his music for its "distinctive Australian edge", combining "nice larrikinism" and "a happy Aussie outdoor feel".⁸⁶ That description could have been applied equally, and with great accuracy, to Mick and his pub at Sandringham. I imagine that he and Graeme would have got along wonderfully well.

*



The great star of Australian jazz, Graeme Bell made regular appearances at the Prince of Wales during the late 1950s

So, it was not all rock and roll at Mick's, although that genre was hugely popular.

The entrepreneur, Mick, staged talent quests, beauty contests, 'lovely legs' contests and, as was demanded in those times, some



1966 - The Stagecoach - was a very popular kids ride in the grounds of the Sans Souci Hotel in the mid-1960s. It had always been Mick's policy however to entertain the children of his many patrons. Accordingly, Mick's lives in the memories of many Sans Soucians who recall those days with great joy.

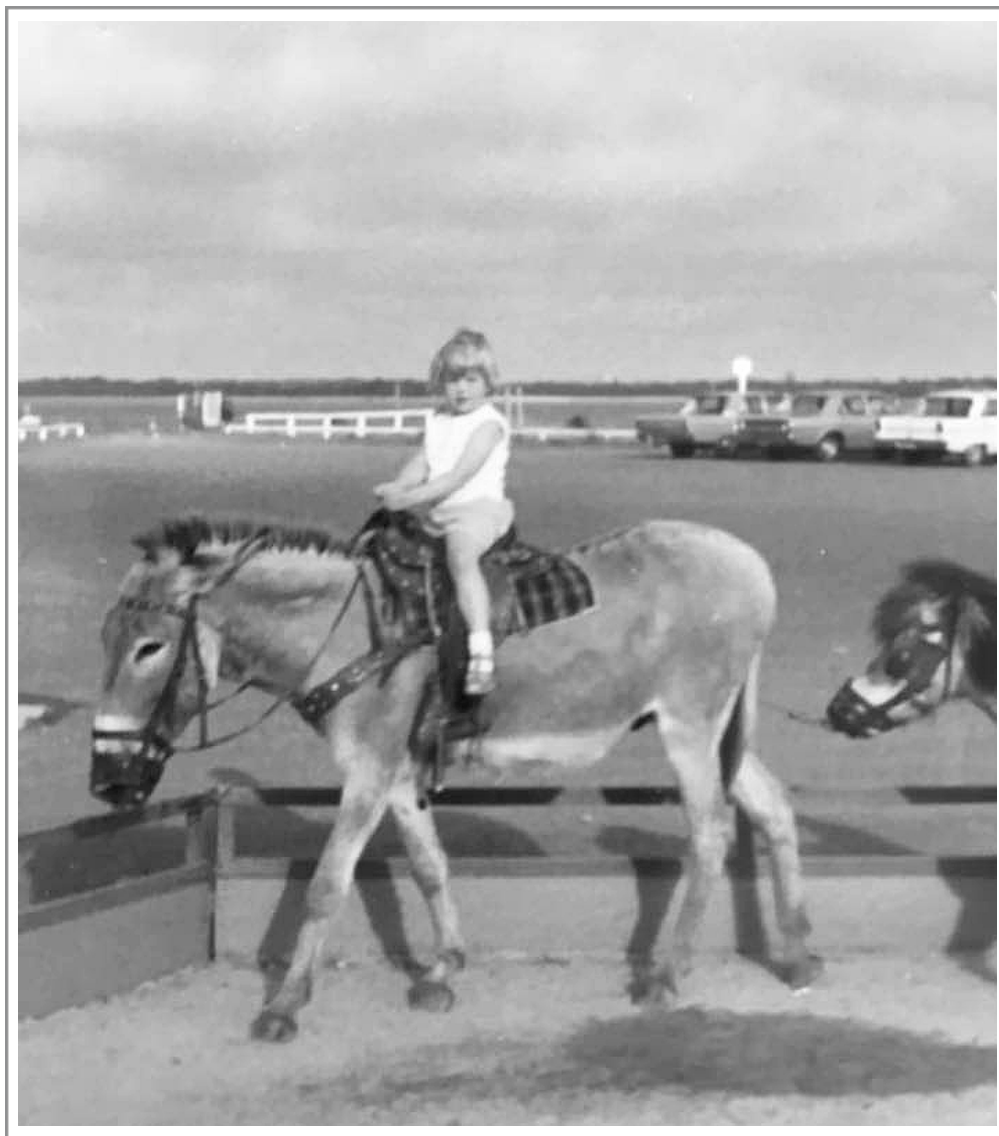
Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

of the best rock and roll bands available in Sydney.

The stagecoach, pony and donkey rides and circus acts were, of course, all pitched at the children. Hundreds, if not thousands of them still remember being entertained in the grounds of Mick's hotel while Mum and

Dad had a cool drink in the beer garden on a hot summer's day.

Nevertheless, the focus was not entirely on children although it was a great drawcard for adults to know that the kids could be well and safely entertained while they taking their enjoyment elsewhere. Indeed,

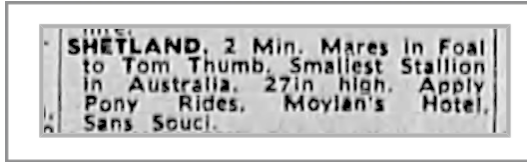


Kids were not neglected at the Moylan pub and many still remember the
shetland pony and donkey rides.
photograph courtesy of L J Schwebel



The first two Shetlands are ridden here by Jim Goodwin and his sister Lynne. Jim recalls that the pony man used to call out 'pony rides ... 'pony rides' and it seemed to echo around the area. The ride was situated under the large Moreton Bay Fig tree in front of the hotel. This tree is now the last remaining one on this site. It is 1962 and we can see the old hotel (top right corner) still standing when this photograph was taken. These rides provided memories for many people in the area.

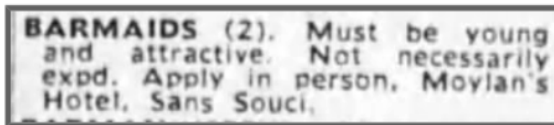
Photograph by Jim Goodwin Snr., courtesy of Jim Goodwin Jnr



Sydney Morning Herald
Saturday 1 January, 1966, p24

keeping the nearby beach and baths in mind, Mick's in those days might easily have been classified as a place of entertainment for all the family.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Mick was aware of the benefits of having 'attractive' barmaids.



Sydney Morning Herald, 9 April, 1964,
p22

The 1950s and 1960s were the decades that introduced the 'sexual revolution'. Hugh Hefner's 'Playboy' magazine led the way after its commencement in 1953. By 1964 the magazine was heading for dizzy heights in circulation numbers as the revolution steadily progressed to a pinnacle. The best-selling 'Playboy' edition was published in November 1972 when a staggering 7,161,561 copies were sold. The edict that 'sex sells' was not Mick's alone.



The Bee Gees performing on Dutch
television in 1968

Indeed, Mick also staged striptease shows (male and female) which, in those times, proved a huge attraction at Sandringham.

*

Patsy Ann Noble performed at Mick Moylan's in the early 1960s. She was sometimes on the same 'bill' as her father, Buster Noble. She had performed in both Australia and England before becoming an actress 1960s. Patsy became a regular performer on Brian Henderson's 'Bandstand' and a recording contract with HMV Records followed.

Other performers at Mick's who were, or became, prominent in the entertainment world, some on the world stage, included

the Bee Gees and the Allen Brothers and Ugly Dave Gray.

Ugly Dave Gray (real name Graham David Taylor), appeared at Sandringham at the beginning of his Australian career. Later he became well known as a regular panellist on Graham Kennedy's Blankety Blanks TV program. A laconic comedian, his style was wonderfully well suited for the pub situation where his material blended well.

The Bee Gees had formed as a very young Brisbane group in 1958, just at the time when Mick's pub was at its 'roaring best' in the old building at Sandringham. From 1963 to 1966 they lived and performed in Sydney. History shows that their international careers took off after early 1967 when they sought fame in England and Europe. The Australian born producer, Robert Stigwood became manager of the group and promoted them as, "The Most Significant New Talent of 1967". This



Patsy Ann Noble, who had an international career both as a singer and actor, made appearances for Mick Moylan at his Sandringham hotel. Needless to say this very talented young lady was a big hit with the local crowd, many of whom forecast her big career that was to follow



Many professional musicians and singers were regularly employed in the old beer garden.

accolade invited their comparison with the Beatles.

One entertainer that made a tremendous hit there was the great Australian comedian Austen Tayshus. His brand of humour was greatly appreciated by, and very much suited to, the Sandringham audience.

Austen captured the Australian sense of humour, lingo, and rhyming slang - enough to make any comedian a hit with an already happy mob.



The Australian comedian Austen
Tayshus

In later years and into the 1990's, the entertainment scene in Sydney was strong with stars like the up and coming jazz trumpeter, James Morrison and country legend Slim Dusty performing throughout Sydney and at times in the St George area.

At Sandringham the entertainment centre was initially titled "Mick's Shades Bar" with a delightful retro reference to Mick Moylan.

An interesting and surprising ad from that time read:

**AMUSEMENTS
COCKTAIL PARTY**

Come along and dance the night away sipping cocktails and Champagne. 7.30 p.m. Along the South of the Bay at Mick's Shades Bar San Souci Hotel. 122 Clareville Ave. 529 7888. ⁸⁷

From unexpected cocktail parties to cool jazz - Sandringham had it all. In January 1987 Serge Ermoll played there. Pianist Serge Ermoll was very prominent in Australian jazz for nearly 40 years. His group 'Free Kata' was formed in the 1970s. Ermoll played with some of the greats of the international jazz scene, such as Dudley Moore, Art Pepper, Herb Ellis, Ray Brown, Sonny Stitt and Dizzy Gillespie.

So, it wasn't all rock and roll even though regular press advertising announced an endless parade of bands and singers with a very strong emphasis on rock music. Some of these were exotically named, 'Colour Blue', 'Summerhouse', 'Love or Money', 'The Shout Bros.', "One Hit Wonders", "The Spacemen", "Voodoo Lust", "Break the Bank", "Glass Garden", "Psychotic Turnbuckles", and "Raw Deal".

At that time the 'surf craze' was at its height with commercial names like 'Billabong' and 'Rip Curl' attracting huge attention.

Over at Tom Ugly's Point the hotel there echoed Elvis and became "Heartbreak Hotel" featuring 'Benz' bikini parades much to the delight of their faithful following.

The new owners at Sandringham made good use of their idyllic location and in December 1988 opened the "Billabong by the Beach" - the 'ultimate in family dining.



Not all Rock & Roll indeed !!! - Variety, and local marching bands had their place at Mick's hotel. Notice the sign at far right proclaiming "Rock and Roll" Every Wednesday night. For Mick there always need to be a heavy emphasis on 'young' music.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



The Recorders, June 1965 - this popular and animated group performed at the hotel when Mick was promoting harder than ever to compete with increasing competition. Mick always saw quality entertainment as a key factor in the success of his enterprise and kept a close watch on the response to the acceptance and popularity of his show people, musicians and dancers

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



Big crowds can be seen here on the beach front in the hotel grounds. Promotions such as this were a regular feature for the hotel when Mick was in charge. The fact that he made such wonderful use of the huge, beachside grounds meant that a 'country village' atmosphere prevailed. Others have likened it to being in a small country town when the circus or carnival arrived. Chances were that you had been at school with, or worked with many folks that were there.

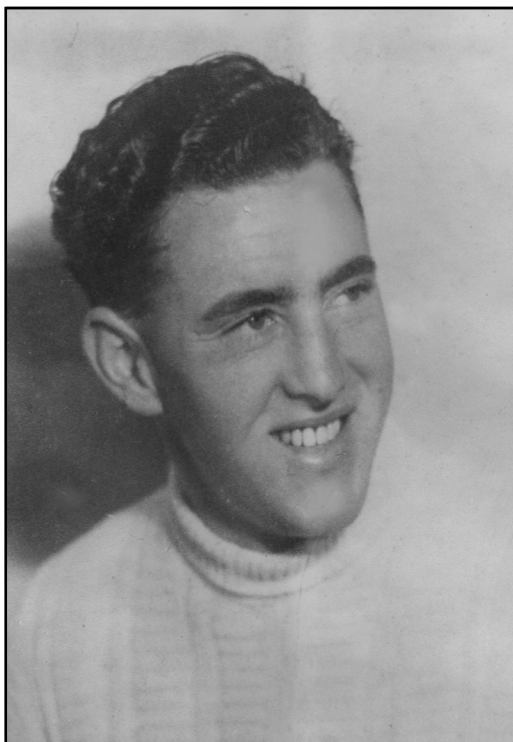
Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



This wonderful shot of the crowded car park also reveals the popularity of the pony rides that took place under the large fig tree. A circle of parents surround the activities. Mick took special measures to entertain children and by far the most memorable times were made with the Shetland ponies

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

10. 1969: Mick's Death



Michael Eugene Moylan (1918-1969) was a planner who always had one eye on the future and lived a life where everyday was an endeavour for further success.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

Mick's final three years could be considered tragic. The continual infighting with the council and rapidly increasing competition all around him led him to drink more than was in any way reasonable.

When the Moylans left the pub they bought a house at 20 Vista Street Sans Souci, near the corner of Endeavour Street. For the previous fourteen years they had lived on the premises at Sandringham.

Between 1966 and his death, three years later, he was disconnected from the things he loved most. His family, business success, mateship at the pub, big shiny cars, speedboats, the fast life and the limelight.

He always was generous to a fault but his drinking made this a very hazardous trait.

Mick and Mavis had worked hard and smart over a fourteen year period at Sandringham and before that in milk runs, a news agency and two, smaller, less profitable, inner city pubs.

Right from the time Mick had been at school at Neutral Bay he was ambitious. He sought success on a daily basis.

Accordingly, they both deserved the success that came their way. They deserved the fame that accrued at the "Prince of Wales" and, later, at the "Sans Souci Hotel." And there were plenty of happy days and nights. They did indeed turn the hotel at Sandringham into an entertainment destination for many thousands of people.

He died from a heart attack on April 19th, 1969.

There never was and there never will be another phenomenon like "Mick Moylan's Pub."

Hotel “Sans Souci Sold” - The Final Years.

In a surprise move, early in 1966, Mick made application to Rockdale Council to build a 10 unit, self-contained, first floor motel with car parking underneath. The motel was to be on a site beside the hotel.

By this time Mick was having some reservations about the future of his hotel and was casting around, seeking some new directions.

The Council continued to frown on his plans and rejected the proposal out of hand saying, the site proposed was reserved for development as an open space.’⁸⁸

Their decision added another level of concern for Mick who, by this time, was drinking heavily. The “Hotel Sans Souci” was losing money and the future for this wonderful Moylan business which they had operated for the fourteen years was looking bleak.

Hotel Sale:

Mick and Mavis sold the Hotel Sans Souci to Fredmont Pty., Ltd., on 26 September 1966. This company listed its shareholders as Laurence Frederick & Marjorie Jane Beaumont. The company name seems to have been derived from (Fred)-rick and Beau-(mont). They nominated Mr Ray Grigg as Licensee.

It was this combination that took the “Sans Souci Hotel” into the 1980s. They did a remarkable job in building on the sales that Moylan had recorded. The hotel was,

indeed, more popular and more successful than ever before.

It must be said that Ray Grigg did a great job in continuing the emphasis on music, dancing and entertainment. There were sometimes references to a former publican named Mick Moylan.

11. The Moylan Family History

Grandfather - Michael Moylan (1839-1910)

A popular World War One song was "Its a Long Way to Tipperary". Indeed it is a long, long way from Sans Souci, Australia, to Tipperary, Ireland.

Nevertheless, Michael Eugene Moylan (1918-1969) was a famous product of a family line that goes back to that county in the south of Ireland.

The second largest city of Tipperary County is Nenagh. During the 19th century it was a significant market town and, interestingly, brewing was one of the major industries, some sort of signal of things to come perhaps.

When Michael Moylan was born there in 1839 the population of Nenagh was about 8,500. He was a farmer who was to become Mick Moylan's Grandfather.

Like so many other young Irish men, Michael, aged 25, decided to emigrate to Australia and arrived in Sydney aboard the "Ocean Princess" in January, 1864.

He joined the NSW Police Force on 22 September, 1864 and was stationed at Woollogorang, a tiny community 35km south west of Goulburn near Collector. In that district he met and married Elizabeth Byrne (1852-1926). Their wedding took place in Goulburn in early March 1871.

During the following 20 years they were to have 11 children.

Pursuing his career, the family moved to Crookwell and later to Singleton. At Singleton Michael built an outstanding reputation and at his retirement tribute night he was heaped with praise.

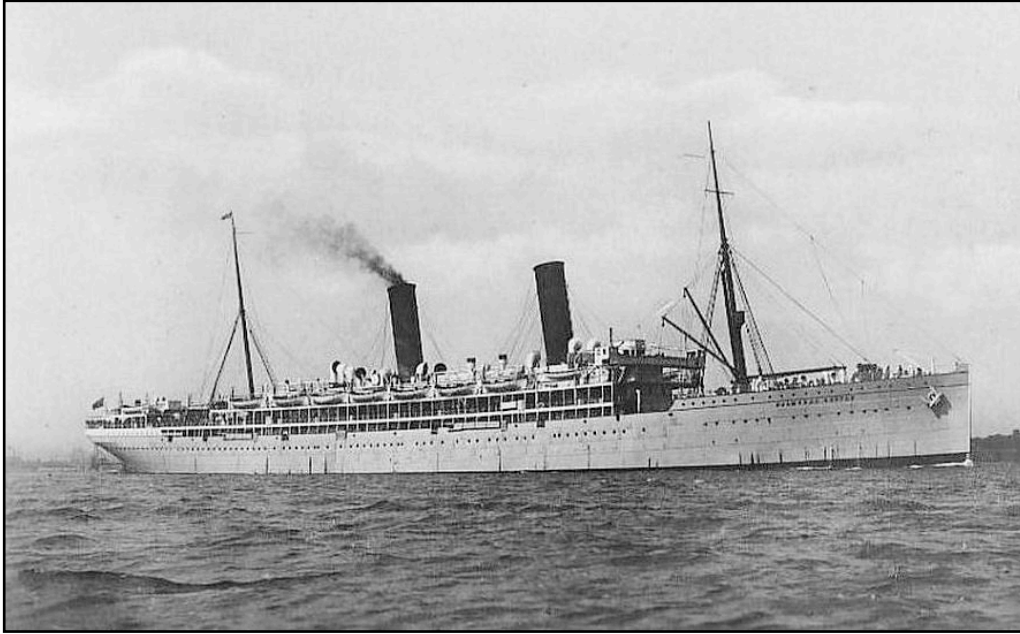
The purity of his ideals. his culture, his evident desire to understand people, and his tact in many matters are all widely appreciated.⁸⁹

Following his retirement from the force, in June 1901, he ran cattle on a small property at Clydesdale, near Singleton and later moved to the Sydney suburb of Manly. By September the couple had opened a grocery and ironmongery store, registered in Elizabeth's name, at nearby Mosman.

Their 8th child, a son, who had been born at Crookwell, NSW, was Michael Eugene Moylan (1885-1950) - 'Mick' Moylan's father.

Father - Michael Eugene Moylan Snr. - (1885-1950)

Mick's father - one of 14 children - led a romantic and interesting life. Although born at Crookwell, NSW, in 1885, he was only a toddler when the family moved to Singleton in the Hunter Valley.



The “Balmoral Castle” - the ship that brought the young “Mick” Moylan to Australia (with his mother and father) in early 1919.

Consequently he spent his youth there but was still only 17 years old when his father retired from the Police Force after a 35 years career, and moved away to Sydney.

Michael Eugene stayed behind at Denman in the Muswellbrook area and was 30 years old when World War One broke out.

When he enlisted in the AIF at Denman in 1915 it was recorded that he was a farmer and was unmarried. He had had previous military training with the Royal Australian Artillery and the NSW Lancers. He was

assigned to the 35th Battalion which left Sydney on the “Benalla” on 1 May 1916.

Prior to his departure for the front a large valedictory gathering was held at The Royal Hotel, Denman to farewell him. It was said at that meeting that Sgt Moylan was, ‘that stamp of a man that will make a name for himself’.⁹⁰

His father had died 6 years previously and his mother, Elizabeth, was living at 31 North Steyne Street, Manly, NSW.

Two of his brothers, John Bede and Septimus died during World War One. Suffering gun shot wounds to his back in October 1917, Michael was sent to the Norwich War Hospital, Thorpe, England to recover.

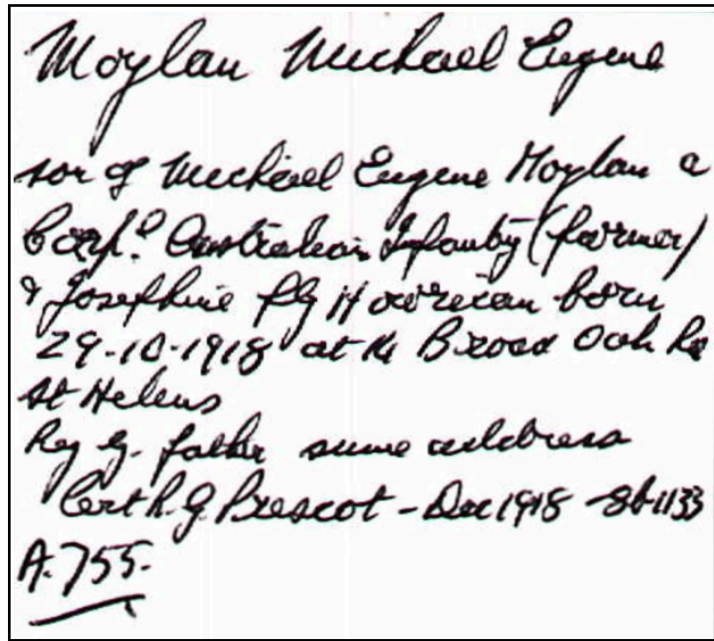
At that hospital he was cared for by a 27 years old staff nurse, from Lancashire, Josephine Howrigan (1890-1976) The pair fell in love and were married at Fishergate, Norwich, on the 28 January, 1918. Josephine quickly fell pregnant and gave birth to a son, Michael Eugene "Mick" Moylan, on 29 October 1918.

He arrived at their residence at number 14 Broad Oak Road, St Helens, Lancashire, England.

Young "Mick" was just over 3 months old when he and his parents set sail for Australia. His father wanted to continue his life on the land but this time in Australia - the land of opportunity - with his new wife and child.

The family departed Liverpool, England, on 25 February, 1919 aboard the "Balmoral Castle" and "Mick" and his Mum and Dad set foot in Sydney, Australia, on 16 April, 1919.

Michael Snr., with Josephine and young baby "Mick" resumed life on the land at Denman, near Muswellbrook in the Upper Hunter Valley.



A photograph of a handwritten birth record on a piece of paper. The text is written in cursive ink. It reads: "Moylan Michael Eugene", "son of Michael Eugene Moylan & Corp. Antilean Infantry (farmer) & Josephine Rg H Howrigan born 29-10-1918 at 14 Broad Oak Rd St Helens", "By J. father same address", "Cert. G. Prescott - Dec 1918 - 86-1133", and "A. 755." with a horizontal line underneath.

This is a record of "Mick Moylan's" birth.

Handwritten, it is a transcription from Andrews Newspaper Index Cards 1790-1976 in England. This is a rare, and for Sans Soucians, significant, genealogical treasure.

Andrews Collection. Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Canterbury, Kent, England.

Michael was able to lease wonderful dairy farm land which had been part of the famous "Merton Estate", Denman. He received a substantial loan under the Soldier Settlement Act which incorporated the Closer Settlement promotion.

The advertisement for the sale was laudatory:

There is no better land to be procured in New South Wales. It has been held by one family (Ogilvie) for close on a century, and this Sale affords a rare opportunity of securing land which has for so long been held from public competition. Dairymen, Farmers, Stud Masters and Fatteners, should not overlook this Important Sale. The land is rich and well watered; the climate is good; the rainfall abundant. ⁹¹

Commander William Ogilvie with his wife and four children had arrived in 1825 and almost immediately applied for a grant of land in the Hunter Valley. He was allotted 4,000 acres near the present town of Denman, and named it Merton after the house of Lord Nelson in Surrey.

In early April, 1919, the Denman community staged: 'the greatest event of its kind held in Denman' when it welcomed back Corporal Michael Moylan and 8 other returning soldiers from the local area. ⁹²

Young 'Mick' Moylan, the future publican at Sandringham, was just 6 months old at that time. He settled quietly into his new surroundings. He was, however, never short of company and growing up I am sure he would have been told about the historic significance of his close surroundings.

Michael Snr., and Josephine were to have, apart from 'Mick', 8 other children, 6 girls and 2 boys. They were, Eileen, Betty, Margaret, Noreen, Kathleen, Violet, Bill and

Frank.

The Moylans of Denman enjoyed life on their small holding with Michael recording good cattle sales in the local auctions soon after his return. Michael was a member of the Denman Racing Club where he became a committeeman and race official. From time to time he had horses of his own which he raced there.

However, this idyllic life was rudely interrupted at the end of the 1920s. Like so many others across Australia the Moylans were very much affected by the Great Depression.

The Moylan family moved from 'Yarawa', Denman to Sydney's north shore in 1929. The depression was beginning to bite and was a major factor in Michael and Josephine's leaving the land and heading to the city where he found work on the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

By 1930 Michael Moylan Snr., was living at No.1 Northcliffe Street, Milson's Point adjacent to the future sites of Luna Park (1935) and the North Sydney Olympic Pool (1936).

When the family arrived in Sydney their eldest son, "Mick", was just 11 years of age. He therefore grew up in a large, working class family and his sustained will to succeed in life stemmed from those times. In later life one of his favourite sayings was, "money isn't everything - but it is a long way in front of whatever is second".

Mick did his schooling between 1929 and 1933 at Neutral Bay, continuing to live at 61 Undercliffe St.

His teenage years were spent at Neutral Bay (1934- 1938) with his extended family.

Mick's life, like those of so many others was transformed by the advent of World War Two. His father, Michael Eugene Snr., had served in the AIF during World War One and in some sense it was automatic that Mick would follow suit after 1939.

However, it was not until January 1940 that young Mick made a move and joined the Citizens Military Forces, enlisting at North Sydney.

Undergoing a medical test, Mick was ruled fit for service but unfit for active service. The examining medical officer declared that he was in the second class because he could not fully flex his right knee joint. However, at that time Mick was still delivering milk on a daily basis for the Fresh Food and Ice Co.

He was trained at North Sydney as a lineman for the signals corps.

He remained with the CMF until 14 October 1942 and on the following day enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces. He was assigned to the 1st Australian Division, Signals. Mick was to see overseas service in his capacity as signaller but not until March 1945.

This meant that when he met and fell in love with Mavis Wesley at a dance in Neutral Bay he was free to marry her when the time came. That time was Saturday, 3 July 1943 when he and Mavis Emilie Wesley (1920-2012) were married at North Sydney.

Mavis was the daughter of Percy Arthur Wesley (1882-1921) and Maria (nee

Scott)(d1945) who had married in Queensland in 1914. Percy was a young engineer in the Merchant Marine Navy.

Tragedy struck the young family on 9 August 1921 when Percy was killed in a work place accident at the brewery. He fell 20 feet from a staging while helping a workmate. His spine was fractured and doctors at Sydney Hospital could do nothing for him. The city Coroner, recorded a finding of accidental death. ⁹³

Little Mavis Wesley, just over 12 months old, was without a father. The family home at Sutherland St., Cremorne passed to Maria.

*

Twenty four years later, in December 1945, Maria passed away and Mavis Moylan (nee Wesley), by then aged 25, inherited the family home. At that time, of course, she had been married to Michael Eugene "Mick" Moylan, for more that 2 years.

*

Through 1944 Mick remained a permanent member of the AIF stationed in Australia.

Then on 10 March 1945, after being regraded fit for active service, he was transferred to 4th Beach Signals, a unit that was eventually despatched to Balikpapan, a seaport on the east coast of Borneo.

In Borneo, Mick was transferred out from 4th Beach Signals to the 7 Division Signals in early December 1945. The Australian 7th Division had taken a pounding from Japanese forces in the earlier Battle of

Balikpapan in July 1945, one of the final battles of World War two.

The boy from Denman returned, unscathed, to Australia in December 1945 and was discharged from the AIF on 25 January, 1946. He had spent 1400 days of his life in army service.

Mavis Wesley, his bride of just 2 and a half years was waiting for him at 70 Sutherland St Cremorne. Together they began to plan the future that would, by a circuitous route, bring the Moylans to Sandringham and the "Prince of Wales Hotel".

*

Right at that time, with his army life behind him, the now, 27 years old Mick, ambitious and energetic, was looking to get on with establishing himself in a profit earning business.

Mavis had sold the family home to the Moylan family - Eileen - and with part of the proceeds Mavis and Mick invested in their first business - an established news agency at 89 Glebe Rd., Glebe.

To that point in her life, Mavis Wesley had always been financially comfortable but now she became a 'working wife'. Mick, on the other hand, was the boy from the bush who had finished school at age 14. Now he was standing at the beginning of his own, real, independent, 'business career.'

We have seen that just a few years prior, Mick had worked hard in his own small business, as a milk vendor for the Fresh Food & Ice Co., at Neutral Bay, the suburb where he had spent his teenage years.

At that time there were few opportunities to start a business, with limited finance, from scratch.

Indeed it was well recognised then, and for some years later, that a milk run was a great starting point. Mick had been there. The other avenue which required no specialised skills, but more capital and certainly harder, more demanding work, was the suburban news agency.

This was the land of opportunity wasn't it? Post-war Sydney was Mick's 'stamping ground' where a heady mixture of relief and hope mingled to produce the notion that 'anything was possible'. His pursuit of success, and the money it generated, was to stay with Mick through the coming years.

Not too many years later, patrons of Mick's pub at Sandringham would be witness to, and supporters of, his energy, flair and determination that planted him so firmly in local folklore.

The Sydney Morning Herald was full of both types of business for sale every Saturday and one can easily imagine the restless Mick, full of promotional ideas, scouring the columns to find the right one. Occasionally, too, he would take a step into the future and glance at the 'hotels for sale' section of the newspaper. However, common sense prevailed at that time and a news agency it was.

The shop at 89 Glebe Rd had been operating as an established news agency for some time and seemed to fit well with the Moylan's needs.



Michael Eugene Moylan and Mavis Wesley were married at North Sydney in 1943.
Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

Mick and Mavis worked the news agency profitably but they were both ready to take on bigger challenges.

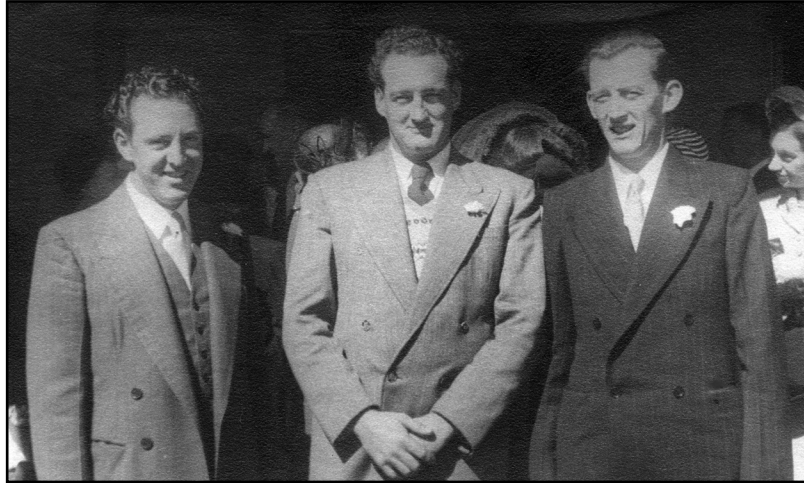
We need to go back to Chapter One now as we track the path they took to Sandringham. The next step in the small business formula of those time was to buy a pub. We have seen that they did this with success and in record time they had operated two suburban hotels prior to the "Prince of Wales" at Sandringham.

The publican who had the hotel was Les Ritchie, and he was ready to sell after spending 28 years there. Many said that the pub 'would never be the same' if Les departed. Many said the same about Mick Moylan in 1966.

While the locals loved the Prince of Wales, through the 1940s and 50s many also acknowledged that Les had let the hotel run down. I am not sure but I think Mick may well have seen this as a challenge.

Then, during November 1952 a deal was struck, and the Moylans took over at Sandringham.

It was not apparent at that time that this relatively inexperienced publican who hailed from Sydney's north shore would become an absolute legend in the years ahead.



This family photograph from April 1951 shows Mick (left) with his two brothers, Frank and Bill (right). Bill later played an important role at the hotel.

Photograph: courtesy of Colin Moylan

Mick's daughter Rea Moylan Hewitt, has said that her father was an 'ideas' man and that her mother 'behind the scenes' worked diligently to control accommodation, food and service and a lot more. Together they, with the family support already discussed, made a perfect team for the task ahead.

12. Mick Moylan's Enduring Fame

Mick Moylan made a huge and seemingly everlasting impression on the Sans Souci Peninsula. We have seen that the 'old' hotel was a highly recognised site for a meeting, a quiet beer or indeed a landmark for safety or action in times of emergencies.

The change to the 'new' hotel in the early 60s did nothing to diminish this widespread recognition.

Indeed one of the other great business landmarks of the area, the boatshed that had belonged to the Selmons from earliest times and later the ubiquitous Pilgrim family, advertised in this way in September 1964,

LAUNCH 14ft carvel, motor. O.K., hull needs rep. £40. Botany Bay Boatshed. near Moylan's Hotel, Sans Souci. ⁹⁴

The iconic boatshed, had been re-built by that time and was then owned by local builder, Fred Ward.

By great misfortune the Pilgrim's shed had been destroyed by fire in 1954. Ward (1916-2004) took over the 100 year lease on the boatshed area in 1955. He went about demolishing the ruins and rebuilding the shed, living quarters and cafe to his own requirements. He also renamed the business "The Botany Bay Boatshed".



Ward's "Botany Bay Boatshed" - pictured here in 1964 - stood alongside Mick Moylan's Hotel. Ward cited his proximity to the hotel when advertising.

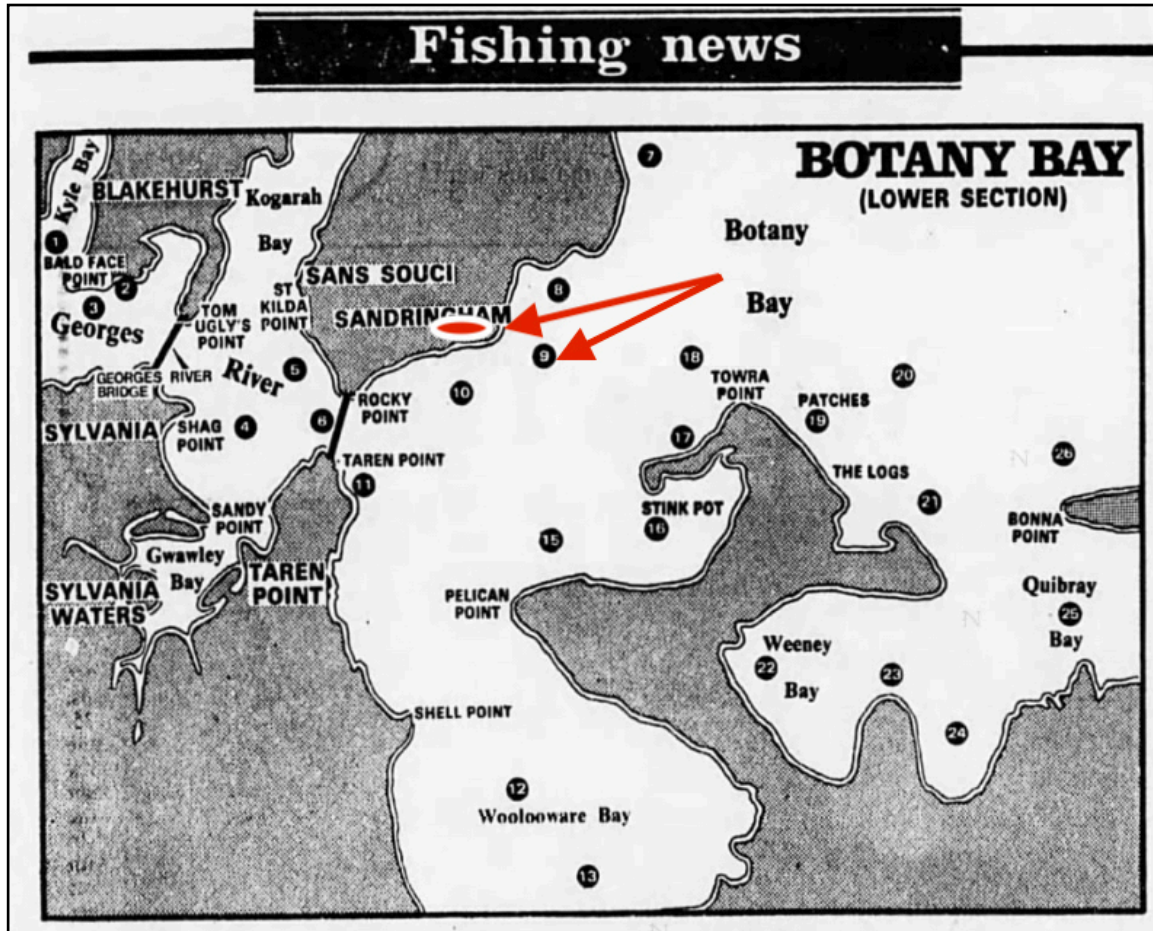
This structure was destroyed by fire in 1968.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt

Ward had 35 launches as well as rowboats that he had built for hire. For some 13 years the business flourished with the new building gracing the waterfront, adjacent to the 'Sans Souci Hotel' at Sandringham.

Then, in June 1968, on 'cracker night', Ward's boatshed was burnt down after an intruder had been disturbed there in the early hours of the morning. Sydney press reported;

Fire swept through a Sandringham boat shed early yesterday destroying 27 boats and causing nearly \$200,000 damage. Kogarah



This map, published in 1981, shows the relative positions of recommended fishing grounds off “Mick Moylan’s Hotel”. The interesting thing about this is that Mick had passed away 12 years previously and the hotel mentioned had been in new hands since September 1966. The accompanying photographs (on pages 127-128) show the idyllic site where a hotel had stood since 1872.

Sydney Morning Herald, 1 May, 1981, p19



This 1979 photograph gives a wonderful view of Sandringham Point and Bay. By this time Ward's boatshed is gone but the baths remain. The Sans Souci Hotel is clearly shown in the bottom left of the photograph. Stretching in front of the hotel is the productive fishing ground mentioned in the 1981, Sydney Morning Herald article. The wide expanse of beach in front of the hotel is most inviting and was one of the great assets that Mick had and enjoyed.

photograph courtesy, Bayside Library Rockdale



This photograph was taken 10 years after Mick Moylan's death in 1969. The fact that virtually everybody on the Sans Souci peninsula and many beyond the area still referred to this as "Mick's" is lasting testament to the two hotels he operated there between 1952 and 1966. On display here is the extensive car park and the immediate access to the wonderful beach that was wide, sandy and inviting at that time. Has progress improved this site ?

photograph courtesy, Bayside Library Rockdale

detectives and the C.I.B. Scientific Section are now probing the blaze. The boat shed, in Vanston Parade, is owned by Mr Fred Ward. The 100ft long timber and fibro building was empty when the fire was first seen at 3.40 a.m. The first call brought 24 firemen from Kogarah, Rockdale Hurstville and Caringbah under District Officer S. Haynes to the scene. They found the building blazing fiercely. Small explosions shook the building as fibro cracked and drums, of fuel inside caught fire. The firemen found that a shop at the front of the main boatshed building was also well alight. They went into action with water from hydrants and soon had several hoses pouring water into the flames. However, the building was gutted. The firemen had the blaze under control at 4.26 a.m. A check of the burnt shell revealed 27 boats destroyed as well as many motors and boating equipment. Kogarah detectives and a Scientific Squad officer checked through the debris for some clue to the cause of the blaze. ⁹⁵

This tragic event spelled the end of boatsheds on this historic site. A resident's petition was raised against the rebuilding of the premises and Ward's lease was not renewed.

Thirteen years later a Sydney's leading newspaper which ran a weekly fishing column reported that,

Flathead and bream are about, but are generally small. Good sized bream though have been taken off Moylan's Hotel. Good jewfish are around Tom Ugly's. ⁹⁶

The map, reproduced on p126, shows the relative positions of the hotel described as "Moylan's Hotel" and the promising fishing area, designated #9. Fisherman on the bay from the very earliest times had fished this area and netted from Sandringham Beach to the north of the hotel site. Furthermore a substantial oyster industry was conducted by the Selmons and others along the banks of the river and bay to the south west of the hotel site. Much of the fishing catch and large quantities of oysters were sold in the grounds of the 'Prince of Wales', and from 1952, at Mick Moylan's pub.

Actually the article describing these fishing grounds is a remarkable tribute to Mick's enduring fame - he had passed away 12 years prior to the appearance of this article and had not owned the hotel for 15 years.

*

Even later, Mick's name was still enshrined in the press. In November 1985, 16 years after Mick Had passed away, the Sydney Morning Herald, in a survey of beachside hotels in Sydney, published the following piece.

The Sans Souci Hotel (known affectionately to the locals as "Mick Moylan's") is virtually part of Botany bay. Between it and the



1965 - This great aerial photograph shows the situation of the hotel at Sandringham very clearly. From left to right, Napoleon Street, Waldron Street and Clareville Avenue run more or less from south to north. Towards the bottom left Bado-Berong Creek empties into Botany Bay, flowing across Douglas Flats. The Douglas fishing family launched their boats from there. Riverside Drive is prominent as it follows the shoreline then curves away into Clareville Avenue. The playground and park on the corner of Riverside Drive and Napoleon street has not yet been made. Ward's 'Botany Bay Boatshed' is still standing and the Sandringham baths are clearly shown. By this time the 'Sans Souci Hotel' was well settled and the large beer garden was in full swing. The following year Mick was to sell the hotel, ending his fourteen year stay.

Photograph courtesy Bayside Library, Rockdale

water is a strip of sand, a patch of grass and the odd bit of seaweed.

If one's idea of heaven is drinking by the water, sans cars, concrete and *souci*, then this is it. Various watercraft constantly glide by, and there is no objection to taking the ankle-biters along. Moylan's also provides a good, inexpensive seafood buffet most days of the week. ⁹⁷

Canadian Couple:

Other references to Mick's were plentiful and some referred to it as their residential address. The couple who penned the advertisement below were obviously living at the brand new 'Sans Souci' hotel at this time when they sought other accommodation nearby. They have simply assumed that everybody knew where the "Moylan's Hotel, Sans Souci" was situated. Not in Clareville Avenue, not in Sandringham but maybe in Sans Souci.

Of course, it was most likely that the postman of the time was a patron of Mick's hotel and would have had no problems delivering correspondence to the Canadian couple.

Wanted to rent by Canadian couple: Bright, clean, Elect.-equipped house, 2-mile radius Ramsgate, will lease. Contact Simpson, Moylan's Hotel, Sans Souci. ⁹⁸

Those who grew up in the Sans Souci/Sandringham area between the 1950s and the 1980s still have many memories of the place in its various iterations. Consequently the 'old Mick's' and the 'new Mick's' and later the 'Sans Souci Hotel'



Mick's fame lives on largely because of his jovial nature and his ability to get along with people from all walks of life.

Photograph: courtesy of Rea Moylan Hewitt



BILLABONG
BY
THE BEACH
FAMILY BISTRO

**BEN & BINDI WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU
AT SANS SOUCI'S LATEST FAMILY RESTAURANT**

ULTIMATE IN FAMILY DINING

Billabong Family Restaurants are bringing the fun
back into food for the whole family.
One big party the whole family can enjoy.

- BALLOONS, PRIZES AND GIVE-AWAYS**
- COME ALONG AND JOIN THE PARTY**
- RIGHT ON THE BEACH**
- CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**
- FULLY LICENSED**

**Caters for all functions —
FORMAL TO CHILDREN'S SPECIALISED BIRTHDAY PARTIES**

PRESENT THIS ADVERTISEMENT AT THE BILLABONG BISTRO FOR A
"FREE" CHILDREN'S DESSERT after 21/12/88

122 CLAREVILLE AVENUE, SANS SOUCI 529 7888

This family bistro was established as part of the Hotel Sans Souci, a place that was forever associated with Mick & Mavis Moylan. Some regulars at the hotel from the 'old days' had difficulty in accepting the changes that had occurred there after Mick sold out and, later, passed away. Opened in December 1988 by the new owners, 'Billabong by the Beach', Family Restaurant came along nearly 20 years after Mick's death. However, locals still referred to it as, 'that new place that has opened at Mick's'.

owned by Fredmont Pty Ltd and others, has become something of a blur.

To confuse matters and memories even more some still refer to the overall hotel as "Lousy Les' " - this, of course, is a reference to Les Ritchie who operated the hotel for there 28 years between 1924 and 1952. Les' fame also lives on. Indeed one or two locals have even confused Les with Mick, ending up with the erroneous "Lousy Mick's" !!

Indeed, one needs to have been born between 1906 and 1934 to have had a 'legal' beer there when Les Ritchie was in charge.

Those memories when brought together in one place (here) develop into a consolidated, wonderful and evocative insight into what the place meant to individuals across several generations. I asked a range of people that were there - "what do you remember and value about Mick's", and the range and variety of answers astonished and delighted me. Consequently, a selection of those replies are presented here beginning on Page 139.

13. The 1990s - Opposition to the development

In late March 1990, a public meeting was held at the St George Sailing Club. It was organised by the Quantam Property Group : 'The aim was - 'to gauge public opinion on its proposal to transform the hotel area into a 'Doyles-style' beachfront restaurant and luxury high-rise apartments'.⁹⁹

The reference to the 'Doyle's style' was connecting to the fame of the Watson's Bay iconic seafood restaurant owned by the Doyle family. The majority of Sydneysiders would have been familiar with "Doyles" as it had a stellar reputation in the Sydney restaurant world. Tourists flocked to Doyles to enjoy not only the food but the superb views of Sydney Harbour. Had this notion come to fruition at Sandringham it would have been a sensation in the area.

Alderman Peter Bryant, who chaired the meeting, said, 'We neither support nor oppose it - we're awaiting the public's response.' Bryant then claimed, 'As a hotel site it is a goldmine, being one of only two remaining commercial beach frontages in Sydney.'¹⁰⁰

At that time no development application had been lodged with council.

The Quantum push to develop the site continued and in August 1990 they released an artist's idea of what the development might offer. The graphic part of their submission is reproduced on page 138.

Had the Council agreed this is what might have eventuated on the former site of 'Mick Moylan's Pub', and it would have been a world away from the dirt floors, rock and roll and pony rides in the carpark !

*

By 1992 some agreement had been reached. It was reported that Fernwood Holdings Pty Ltd had agreed to submit a plan for 14 lots on which dwellings of up to two-storeys could be built.¹⁰¹ Fernwood also agreed to provide a 3 metre strip of public land on the water-front side of the site off Clareville Avenue.

This proposal was the one finally accepted. However, the council had rejected several others including one which sought to erect eight and five storey blocks of units, involving a total of 87 units, and a second proposal, five three-storey residential flat buildings.¹⁰²

The Trees:

Mick Moylan and his successors at the Sandringham hotel site really valued the presence of what some described as the 'ancient' trees in the vicinity.

Right from William Rust's time in the 1870s through to the sale to Fernwood Holdings in 1992, the Moreton Bays figs and Norfolk pines had been an outstanding feature of the landscape there.

As the clearance of the hotel site continued in March 1993 a flood of protest letter appeared in the local and city press about the removal of these trees.

An article headlined "Hypocrisy claim on old trees" in the St George Leader was typified the debate that was conducted at the time. In part it said,

Earlier this week, two Moreton Bay figs and four pines were felled, sparking rumours that more would go. ¹⁰³

In reply Alderman Ron Rathbone said that independent botanical experts had declared the trees had to go. ¹⁰⁴

This didn't appease one correspondent who claimed that, 'council had one rule for developers and another for residents who wanted to remove trees from their gardens.' ¹⁰⁵

By October 1993, five of the fourteen blocks in the new estate had been sold. The remaining 800 to 900 sq.m blocks were selling for between \$400,000 and \$800,000.

The community title, which had been established, allowed people to own both the land and house they bought. They had pro-rata ownership of shared services and amenities.

A security precedent had been set at Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast in Queensland. Sandringham on the Beach Estate followed suit and the back to base security system proved a popular selling point for John Greig, the highly respected owner of First National Real Estate, Sylvania Waters.

Eight blocks had direct beach frontage while the remaining six had beach access through the the estate's private laneways. ¹⁰⁶

Sale offers continued into the following year when agent John Greig composed some fine words describing the lifestyle on offer at Sandringham.

The advertisement was convincing and read,

Down a path from your secure property is the freedom of the sea.

To buy a large block on the beachfront sounds like you'd have to go at least 100 kilometres north or south of Sydney. But Sandringham on the Beach, with 14 building blocks averaging more than 875 square metres is as the

JOHN GREIG **FIRST NATIONAL** **522 6633**
12 MURRUMBIDGE AVENUE, SYLVANIA WATERS (AH: 522 9251)

SANDRINGHAM

ON THE BEACH
122-130 CLAREVILLE AVENUE, SANS SOUCI

A rare offering of 14 large residential building sites within a private security estate with absolute beachfrontage or beach access. This is for the privileged few who seek to build their home in a unique environment, which promises a way of life most dream of but few experience.

Drive through the signature gates under the welcoming canopy of Sandringham's majestic Moreton Bay fig into a private world secluded within distinctive perimeter fencing. The cobbled lane which wanders past the generously proportioned residential lots, is for the exclusive use of residents, as is the tennis club.

PRICED FROM \$400,000

SANDRINGHAM IS AN OASIS IN THE CITY
VISIT OUR ON SITE OFFICE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 1pm-4pm

49 St George & Sutherland Street Lower, Turville, Apr 6, 1993 For Community Circulated Advertisements Phone 7965 9111

The tree became the recognisable symbol for that area - a legacy of the 'Prince Of Wales' pub.

St George Leader 6 April 1993 p46



The OLD FIG TREE at
**"MICK MOYLAN'S PUB"
SANS SOUCI**
will continue to be a welcoming canopy to
a unique beachfront estate to be known
as
SANDRINGHAM
A rare offering of 14 prestige building
blocks within a distinctive perimeter
security estate.
**PHONE FOR DETAILS NOW:
JOHN GREIG FIRST NATIONAL — 522 6633**

SANDRINGHAM
• ON THE BEACH •

Real Estate Agent, John Greig, had a keen sense of tradition when he arranged this advertisement for "Sandringham on the Beach Estate" in the St George Leader on 16 March, 1993, p42 - long after the Moylan's had departed the scene.

agent describes it "where the white sands of Georges River meet Botany Bay."

In one of the most beautiful settings in Sydney, on the Sans Souci peninsula, each block has direct frontage or access to the beach.

Five blocks have already been sold at prices from \$400,000 to \$870,000.

There are no steep treks to the waterfront - the boutique estate offers level terrain and clean white sands rolling on to grassy lawns.

Sandringham is also just a short run to the offshore marlin fishing ground known as The Peak. The development is registered under

community title which means you own the block with shared ownership and management control of the private paved roadway, security entrance and fencing, avenues to the beach, and the tennis court and gazebo.

There are only five beachfront blocks left, priced from \$800,000.

The marketing agent, John Greig, said Sandringham will have special appeal to those who seek an active waterfront lifestyle: playing tennis, swimming, windsurfing, fishing or boating from the beach.

The foundations are also being laid for two architect designed, spacious townhouses, he said. Inquiries phone 570 3000. ¹⁰⁷



During 1990 the Quantum Property Group, tried, unsuccessfully, to entice local residents to approve of a high-rise, luxurious development on the site of the former Moylan pub.

St George Leader 21 August, 1990, p36



Vanstone Parade, Sandringham, 2018. The pine trees which stand where Pilgrim's boat shed was situated are still a prominent feature of this part of the waterfront at Sandringham.

Photograph: Garry Darby

14. 'Let's Reminisce' - 'in their own words.'

John Delagarde: "GOOD LUCK, IT WAS A GREAT PUB"

Amongst the reminiscences encountered many refer to "Pilly's", the boatshed beside the hotel at Sandringham. Those memories go hand in hand with hire boats on the bay and fishing from the beach with parents and grandparents.

Many recall sitting in the car park, perhaps with a pink lemonade - and on special occasions a packet of Smith's chips. Lucky kids rode on the Shetland ponies or even in the fascinating, small stage coach that operated in the car park.

Some remember, 'a few beers there after football training' in the late 1950s and early 60s. Others recall the 'talent quests' and the 'strippers' that kept them well entertained.

Indeed, some have gone as far as to say that Mick's - with all its many attractions - was part of the local culture, and moreover it was an important part of growing up in Sans Souci. Others went beyond the local area by declaring it to be the 'best pub in Sydney'.

The advertising crews who came along to sell the Real Estate in the 1990s pursued the theme of it being the 'Doyles' of the south - a reference to the legendary restaurant at Watson's Bay.

Other lingering memories centre around being able to have a cold beer, lunch, a swim

and a sunbake all within 20 metres and in idyllic surroundings .

Paul Player - now living in South Australia, retains memories of the great culture that surrounded Mick's. He recalled. "My first jobs were there. I used to sell papers for Martins newsagents and also worked on Hoppys fruit truck in the carpark then of a Saturday night we used to climb the Morton Bay fig trees that hung over the beer garden and watch the fun unfold."

John Clingan - In May 2018, wrote; "Sunday summers in the beer garden. I still have one of the plastic schooner glasses at home."

Lola Oakes - recalled that her father, Les Sutton, drank down there c.1950. He used to take his white mouse down there and play with it at the bar to show how it could go through his ring, while drinking his beer. Lola added, 'Im sure people were amused, not sure if the barman was though.'

Bob Dines - Mick and his wife ran a good pub, both the newer and older structures. Mick was a great bloke. I believe it would be very hard to write about a more iconic, loved and remembered pub. It catered for the workers, the younger set, and the more dignified through the years. I was there, about to leave to go home, when that horrific storm hit that brought about the loss of 15 people when their flight crashed on take-off at Kingsford Smith Airport - 30/11/1961.

Fred Tedub - I can remember going there in the mid 60's as a kid with Dad & going on the Shetland pony rides. Dad ended up

buying 1 of them off the guy who ran it. We kept him for 10 years.

Ian Newell - (I remember) pulling up next to the big palm with glass basket on it in the FC Holden. My Dad & Mum in car while we had a swim in the baths there (can't remember name). (Pilgrims ed) Staff brought beers out & empties went in basket.

Jane Mouk - Wow my grandfather, Des Foster, lived his life at Mick's every afternoon he was there with the boys. Nan had to wait to put dinner on the table. A Man doesn't want to have a cold meal you know.

Lisa Williams - My dad will be interested as he was a bouncer there when he was 17 and has some 'interesting' yarns. Maybe not all publishable.

John Power - I sold the last race paper on Saturday afternoon at Micks. My family lived there most of their lives and helped sell fish under the big Morteon Bay fig.

David Lidbetter - I lived next to Harry Eden in Vanston Pde in the early 80's. was old school Windsurfer heaven.. sail up to the beergarden for a beer and some eye candy on a Sunday arvo .. That place was a magnet for all the good sorts from far and wide.

Doug Reid - A part of my windsurfer mast was imbedded in the front of the bottle shop drive through. Good driving from mate Darren. Well spotted by me. More drinking and less sailing that day.

Janelle Maree Honey - Great bands on a Sunday arvo after being at the beach so

good the atmosphere was great and we could dance in our bikinis.

Nola Crompton: If only the walls could talk

Mitchell Sim - A friend of mine always said he saw the Bee Gees at Micks. (Obviously when they were very young.)

Ross Kolts -

I grew up in Sans Souci as did my wife. We have a very good knowledge of Sans Souci and consider that Sans Souci was and remains the best place on the planet.

The following comments may be relevant to the book you are writing on Mick Moylans Hotel. We always knew the hotel as "Micks" or "Lousy Les". I played Soccer with the Sans Souci Soccer Club for nearly 20 years.

When we entered the senior ranks namely the All Age Division of the St George Soccer Association in the mid 1960's we used to go to Mick Moylan's hotel on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings after training.

After the Competition matches held on Saturday afternoons and [mostly played on Scarborough Park] the team would go Mick Moylan's Hotel and have some drinks. This went on for some years and in 1967 the Manager of Mick Moylan's said he would provide a complimentary 18 gallon keg of beer for the team if we won the Competition. Sans Souci Soccer All Age A Division won in 1967 and the keg was duly provided.

From 1967 until 1971 the Sans Souci All Age team won the St George Soccer Association All Age A Division for five years in succession [1967 to 1971]. Moylan's provided a complimentary 18 gallon keg of



Typical of the sporting teams that frequented Mick Moylan's Pub was the Sans Souci All Age A team -1969.

The team members pictured here at Scarborough Park are:
Back Row: S Moses, H Kolts Manager, G Brydon, K Davis, W Passlow, D Gardner,
K Moses, Coach.

Middle Row: R Kolts Vice Captain, J Harris, R Pitt, A Hicks, K Kolts
Front Row: D Passlow, B Dunn, K Furner, A Kittle, R Anderson Captain.

Ross Kolts describes (p 144-146) the great times they had at the Sans Souci Hotel

photograph: courtesy of Ross Kolts

beer for the five years. After I retired in 1971 the Sans Souci All Age team continued to win.

The team set a record of 12 consecutive premierships for the St George Soccer Association [1967 to 1978].

The team also went to Moylan's after representative matches such as Champion of Champions. The team continued to drink at Moylan's and I think the complimentary kegs continued for a few years after 1971.

The Soccer club appreciated the gesture by Mick Moylan's Hotel and later other senior teams from Sans Souci soccer club commenced drinking at Mick Moylans Hotel. I remember one barman [unable to recall his name but a long serving man] who always wore a white shirt and black bow tie.

He had a habit of taking a bottle of lemonade [Blue Bow] out of the fridge and then throw it into the air and catch it on the way down. Well it had to happen and on one occasion the bottle slipped through his hands and the bar erupted into laughter.....!!! I did not see him ever throw a bottle up again. Moylan's Hotel was well located and apart from the beach front people could purchase fresh oysters/fish from sellers under the big fig tree. It could have been developed into a very attractive Hotel/Motel/Resort as the location was excellent with a beach facing Botany Bay and it was sufficiently away from nearby residential homes so as to minimise any noise.

Moylan's was the only Hotel on the Sans Souci peninsula during the 1950/60 period and later the Intersection Hotel in Ramsgate was established.

Sheena Didio - used to meet my friends there to listen to the bands there and loved the beach atmosphere.

Mark Jordan - So many great stories every Wednesday night and Sunday arvo 4 years

Lola Oakes - Just talked to my husband he remembers it was called Lousy Les's before it was Mick Moylan. Moylan built the new one. Cullen Bros where my husband was an apprentice supplied the steel work for the new pub. Also he remembers that there was an SP bookie beside the pub on the road leading to the boat shed. My husband is Eddie Oakes, he says they also had strip nights. And good singers in the old beer garden with the old tin roof. He remembers hearing Patsy Ann Noble there. He was his mates rode motor bikes down there.

Corinne Hurst - I remember t going there and Dad would go inside get our drinks and bring them out to us. In summer we would be on the sand and Mum would be sitting in the shade with the round table with the holes to put your drinks in. Then in winter we would sit in the car and there was that little table that attached to the car door/window.

Craig Gardner - My Mother worked in the Public Bar from 1962 through to the closure of the pub. Her name was Mary Gardner, but at the time there were 3 ladies who worked there so Mick asked them to change their name so she chose to work as Lea. She and her work buddies pushed for a Female Drinking Area,

hence the area that became The Anchorage Bar.

Col Arnold Our band, 'No Return' did the last Sunday arvo gig there before it closed.

Cam Ward Hava told me once, he was in there having a drink, got a little drunk, security or management, threw him out, so he went back to the nearby paddocks, grabbed a horse and rode it back into the bar and ordered a beer from on top of the horse, he rode it around a little while inside, leaving horse poo everywhere, finished his drink, then rode home.

Janice Barnes: Best place ever. I used to love taking my 5 children there to the beach and then into the pub for lunch. Great food.

Chick Osgood

It's proper name was Prince of Wales Hotel. I sold papers there in 50s six o'clock closing etc. later they could open at 7. They had famous acts in the new beer garden, well it was then..I remember the Allen brothers of which Peter was one half they were not brothers - I think and were only average singers but Peter went on to better things. I remember a latticed structure in the car park that was some type of ballroom we weren't allowed in there and it was pulled down probably to make room for the eventual new pub. As a paper boy I had a couple of near misses as there were some bad types around after dark.

Denise Christian

It was a great old pub, full of character and full of characters.

We always knew that pub as Lousy Les's and it seemed to be a name that was known throughout the district although I haven't seen that anyone else has called it this on this thread.

Melissa King We both worked there. It was our first job. My mum worked there too and trained us. Holy crap the stories. I can still smell it. That hideous fountain outside they never finished.

Wayne Mills Flatten the houses and bring it back...

Chick Osgood Early it was known as Lousy Les'

Adrian Morris I worked/drank there from 1984 till 1990/91?? Best time of my life!

Dallas Lafou Had many great Sundays, cook your own bbq, drinks, laughs! Great spot

Wayne Miller Many good times were had at Mick's. Met lifetime friends there and I wish it was still there, Sadly missed

David Toyer Yes definitely a very ordinary pub but it was part of the culture of growing up in Sans Souci. Everyone has their stories and memories and thats what brings us all back to talk about it . . . it was part of our youth and like almost everything else in Sans Souci it is now gone. Pub culture is different today but back then it was under age drinking, SP Bookies and pub bands.

Gail Murray ... I've just been thinking about those wonderful days growing up in Sans Souci. They were times when your father worked, you had one car, no

computers, no mobile phones but a landline if you could afford it! On the other hand, you had the beach with Mic Moylan's pub, and it was heaven on earth for parents and children.

Peter McLachlan - Great place from Bands on Sunday to fresh fish out the front from Jimmy Douglas (Always caught the same day) beer was always cold not to mention the wonderful Sergeants Pies, I also remember the Old Boat shed before the fire not to mention the SP Bookie on a Saturday afternoon

Mitchell Sim - In the early 60's, Sunday morning after mass my Grandparents always took us down to the carpark for the pony rides.

Scott Cole - My father was in the Salvation Army and they would go there on a weekend night with their donation boxes. All I remember was the smell of cigarette smoke on his Salvo uniform when he came back. This was late 70's.

David Ellis - My dad, Ron Ellis, drank there thru the 1950s thru to the 70s, I started drinking there in 1974 thru to Feb 2nd 1993, the next day the doors were boarded up.

Graeme Lanham - I came first In A hula hoop competition. Won some beer.

Michelle McAuliffe - So many fun memories .. I even won the (team) beer sculling Comp under age.

Matt Ralph - I have vague memories of it from the early 1990s, i would have been 6 when it closed, but my sister and I loved

going there for dinner because there was a playground inside. Would love a copy of the book when it's done

Joy Dean - Brings back Saturday arvos with my Dad & Uncles near the Moreton Bay fig in the 50's. They would buy prawns & oysters & we would sit on the beachfront & eat them. Also have vague memories of the S. P. Bookies. Life was so simple back then.

Rob Waller - I started working in the kitchen at mics when i was 16 and had the absolute time of my life i learned so much from the chefs got hit on by a few of the 'friendly' ones but is was all in good fun . i dressed as the billabong bear and even managed to pull beers for people before i was 18 . it was always to attention when the Beaumont's came but they were great owners and mrs Beaumont always had some great stories .. as I got older maybe legal maybe not we used to go down for the early opener on the weekend when there where cheap beers between 10 and 11 I worked there for around 4 years on and off . it was a really sad day the pub closed i may have even shed a tear plenty of good times laughs and learned so much about how a pub ran i have plenty of stories about the times there to many to type

Lyn Kerridge - Ahh the good old days my friends entered me in their "lovely legs" competition and I won a few times haha !!

Pamela James - Back in the fifties my late husband and many others participated in talent quests in the beer garden which had a dirt floor and drums with fires in them for warmth what a great time we had even if

some of us were under age such great memories

Cheryl King - I remember going there with my dad 50 Year's ago every Friday night he would help haul the nets in out the front and we would get fresh oysters, prawns and fish, dad would have a beer and I would have a sarsperella we lived in Sans Souci. Ten years later we used to spend every Sunday arvo and night drinking and listening to bands and cooking a steak on the bbq. Good times great memories can't wait for your book.

Robert Micallef - Good old Micks being going there since I was 16 years old then some years later worked in the bistro brings back memories, good times with the boys in the snooker room and mixing serving family meals from the bistro on a summers day. It was a sad day when they closes it down for everyone including seeing the Wilson to who managed the pub back then.

Robyn Spinks - We used to stop there while we were out in the boat for a lemon squash with Grandpa Jack and the kids would play in the sand

academic progress. Teachers say these fears have proved groundless.

Until the arrival of the girls, said one ex-student, the social life of the school took place mostly in all-male company on the football field or in **Mick Moylan's** pub (only for those over 18, of course). "Now at least they can talk to a girl without first asking if she'd like a drink." *Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday, July 24, 1985*

BOYS (one girl) with their shirts off (she usually keeps it on) playing loud music. Mantissa (formerly Killing Time) launch their Mossy God album in Sydney this weekend. Five double passes to tonight's Marquee Club show, along with five copies of the album, to the first callers on 310 2800 between 10 and 10.05 am. Also, five doubles to the Sunday show at Micks, San Souci Hotel, 6-10 pm, to the first callers on 529 7888, 11-11.15 am. *Sydney Morning Herald, Friday, November 13, 1992*

Marist Brothers Kogarah:

Social: Since 1982, Years 11 and 12 have been coeducational. The verdict is that the girls have quietened down some of the more aggressive elements. Cynics say the girls were brought in mostly for the fees (about S 100 a term), and fears were expressed about the effect they would have on the boys'

Conclusion;

Well what is left to say ?

Throughout this book we have seen in written and pictorial form compelling evidence that Sandringham was once the home of a unique community gathering point for a wide range of people.

Some came simply to drink, while others came to be entertained. Some came to play. They played in the sun and on the beach. Some came in search of romance - and many found it. Kids from the era remember other things, the pony rides, the warm Christmas night when the place lit up like fairyland. Kids also recall drinking red lemonade and eating chips in their parent's car while they waited patiently for them to return.

Times were more simple. People looked at each other instead of at their smart phones. 'Selfies' were not yet a persistent pre-occupation. Photographing exotic drinks and food as it arrived at the table was not then contemplated.

The publican provided the entertainment and one needed to join the 'rush' for the best seats. In the 'old days' those seats were pretty basic, but who cared ? Times were more simple then. People came in their thousands.

We simply do not have a place to match that one now.

Mick Moylan, we have seen, had two plans - A and B. He endured the 'old' pub - it was a run down legacy from Les Ritchie.

From his very beginning he wanted to build something better, something more modern. In due course he did. But in the process legends grew up around the old place - it had its own memorable character. There are now fewer and fewer people still with us that experienced the old times. They are the lucky ones.

Everything changed in the early 1960s. Gone were the earth floors and the log-burning braziers in the wintertime. Gone were the deposits on beer glasses and suddenly there was a Chef - there was a twin drive through bottle shop - new accommodation and a flash dining room - and a huge beer garden stretching almost on to Sandringham beach. Could it be that plan B was going to be successful ?

Do you remember what Mick said about his future plans in 1962 ?

"Good beer, service and an interest in the people. I have big things in store for this hotel and some of them will be realities within the next six months".

Mick said a lot of things - he was a relentless promoter - but none of them rang as true as that. The important bit there is - *an interest in the people* - how true.

Its all gone now - the 'new' pub was a howling success and the generation that enjoyed it are largely still with us - but the pub has gone. Mick has gone, Mavis has gone, things are not what they used to be.

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“Good beer, service and an interest in the people. I have big things in store for this hotel.”

Mick Moylan 1962



About the Author

Dr. Garry Darby has lived in the Sans Souci/Kogarah district all his life. Born in 1939, his earliest years were spent with his family living on the corner of Harris Street and Water Street, Sans Souci. Educated at Sans Souci Primary School, Kogarah Boy's Intermediate High, and the universities of Sydney and New England, Garry has worked for many years as a university lecturer in Art History. He has lectured nationally and internationally about the Art of Aboriginal Australia. He is now writing local histories.

