



1872

**London
Family Hotel
1861**

Corner of Beach and
Princes Streets

Of all our waterfront pubs the *London Family* held the best position, next to the Station and nearest to Railway/Station Pier. There was a time when this 28-room hotel was the most grand in Sandridge, which can be attested to by valuations of over twice as much as that of any other hotel (four times that of the *Cosmopolitan*).



2006

Simply a cafe/restaurant today, it began as, and still is, the *London* – although various licensees have from time to time briefly utilised their own names, or removed or added the words ‘*Family*’ or ‘*Tavern*’. These included original licensee James Garton. Others were *Cohn’s*, 1867-69, *Weber’s* in 1870 and Urquhart’s *London Family*, as seen at page top in 1872.

Publican Alfred Lewis Nathan, even though he remained here 35 years from 1887, refrained from adding his name, as did the McCluskys.

John and Eileen McClusky owned the *London* from the 1920s to the 1940s. Their children grew up here. Son John McClusky later founded Port Melbourne’s long-standing firm of Bay Street solicitors, McClusky’s, which currently owns and occupies Bay Street’s historic Sandridge watchhouse and bluestone lock-up, utilising the latter for storage.

Several members of the family, including John and his sister, can be seen in the c1939 photograph on the opposite page (young John at far right). This group

COHN’S FAMILY HOTEL

H. COHN has much pleasure in inviting the favourable attention of Seaside Visitors and Families from Town and Country, and the Public generally, to his handsome and commodious Family Hotel.

THE SITUATION cannot be surpassed and the distance from the suburban railway is inconsiderable

THE VIEW is lovely, commanding a fine view of the bay and shipping
THE ACCOMMODATION is of the best description. the wines and spirits carefully selected and the charges moderate.

H.C. who is also the lessee of the Hobson’s Bay Railway Refreshment Rooms at Melbourne and Sandridge, has lately effected such improvements as will render those places a desirable rendez-vous for parties either awaiting the arrival of friends or bidding those taking their departure by sea, farewell. Hot, cold and shower baths

EXCELLENT STABLING ATTACHED



1941

of anti-prohibitioners. all wearing their *NO* buttons, are about to attend a club social event.

John Sr. died in 1935, and Eileen continued to run the *London*. She later married William Gregson (seen in shirtsleeves on the left above), who joined her there. Eileen Gregson was later licensee both at the *Flower Hotel* and the *Fountain Inn*.

The *London* is one of the Port pubs that were done up toward the end of the 1930s in Moderne, art deco style. Compare the two photographs on the opposite page to see how these quite decorative Victorian structures were simplified, often rounded at the corners, to create the streamlined flavour of the times.

In the c1939 image above, note the renovator’s sign on an upper window: exterior alteration of the hotel to Moderne style was just commencing when this photograph was taken.