

HISTORY



Gracious Victorian Lindsay Room & Balcony with forest views.



The current proprietors Wendy and Brendan Smith are committed to the future of Creswick and the continued refurbishment of the American



The Garden



Superior Rooms



Exquisite catering



Weddings, Celebrations & Conferences
A stylish venue, innovative cuisine and attentive service will ensure a memorable event whatever the occasion.

Not only does the American have the longest lineage of any public house in the district, but witnessed within its earliest walls the genesis of much of the borough's civic and sporting development. The American also housed, from 1859, the first thirty years of Creswick's Havilah Lodge, and accommodated many of the district's fledgling, but influential, organizations - the hotel was the unchallenged venue for banquets, political gatherings, major social functions, and meetings - annual and general - of spurious business, sporting, and civic bodies. Where else did the Borough Council adjourn when speeches and toasts, and farewells, were decreed? For over 15 decades significant social and political development took place in the American, which faces - across Market Square. At all times, the American contributed goodwill and care to a country town later famous for nurturing a remarkable number of national leaders, academics, businessmen, and artists. Prior to the opening of the railway line, the American's role in communication was emphasised by housing the Cobb & Co. depot, for stages between Ballarat and Dunolly, and Ballarat and Castlemaine. Early in its existence, the American became the centre for miners' rallying points, political gatherings and speeches. On one occasion, local electioneering included a Public Bar exhibition of appropriate cartoons drawn by a teenage Percy Lindsay.

During the last 150 years, the American Bar has attracted its measure of characters: barflies, touts, dipsomaniacs, free-wheelers, and honourable men. But one person stands out - an unpretentious politician, who was a member of Victoria's Legislative Assembly for 44 years. When the train dropped him at Creswick at the end of each parliamentary week, he headed for the American to meet with his cronies, and catch up on local affairs and gossip. It mattered not whether he was a backbencher or, at times Minister for Public Instruction, Labour, or Forests, and then Premier and Treasurer. Sir Alexander Peacock K.C.M.G. was a habitu  of the American - yet remained a total abstainer. This open welcome has been an integral factor in the longevity of the American, which has remained Creswick's dominant hostelry, despite an average of nineteen hotels in the town during the 1870-90s; augmented by several licensed grocers and at least one colonial wine license.