

## The Little Shop

Isobel Geeves

In these days of hustle and bustle and somewhat impersonal shopping, searching for articles on constantly shifting shelves, one could be forgiven for recalling days past and a different sort of service. Orders were called for and delivered, and there was always a little something extra tucked in for the children: sweets or biscuits. Such a service was given by successive owners of the "Little Shop", now 199 Channel Highway, opposite the "Taroon Hotel", although when the shop was first opened the Hotel was not even thought of.

Taroon was a small village which like Topsy "just grewed". There was one little store run by Mrs Mary Fitzpatrick who lived in what was known as the Old Coaching House, now 235 Channel Highway. This became too much for her in her declining years and she closed. Mrs Betty Hinsby bought the stock for her own shop.

In 1935 Mrs Hinsby opened a store and Post Office on the Channel Highway, near its junction with Taroon Crescent. This was originally the Taroon Tea House built in 1898 and is now 162 Channel Highway.

In 1939 a house was built on the upper side of Channel Highway by Messrs. Adrian and Winston James for Mr and Mrs Mick Hinsby. Two or three weeks before the second world war was declared Betty Hinsby opened a shop on the premises to cater for the growing community. This became known as the "Little Shop".

Mrs Hinsby stayed there until 1948 when the house was sold to another Taroon resident, Mr Norm Cook. He was followed by Mr R. Douglas and then Mr Terry Cashion, known to many Tasmanians as a prominent sportsman.

From 1950 to 1954 the business was owned by Mr Doug Doust. By this time Taroon was really growing and business expanding. Mr R. (Pat) Geeves became a member of staff and Mrs Betty Hinsby also returned. Mr C.B. Sibley became the next owner and he appointed Mr Geeves as manager.

The next and last owner of the business was Mr C. Diamantis who operated the store until the supermarkets were established. He then closed and the dwelling became a private home once more.



*The Hotel 1949. Note the telegraph pole in the middle of "Jenkins Street".*

PHOTO ROB BETER.



*The Hotel, 1986.*

PHOTO ANDREW LORD.

All of these various occupiers of the "Little Shop" carried on the same friendly and helpful service begun by the first owner. One remembers the delicious hams, cooked on the premises, which drew customers from

far places. No one ever really learnt the secret recipe. And the cheeses - who could resist the offering of a sample? What a happy atmosphere was everywhere in those days!



*Looking south over the Churchill Road Gully, with the "Little Shop" now 199 Channel Highway, in the centre background, 1949-50.*

PHOTO BOB BESTER.



*Looking south.*



*Looking north.*

*The old coaching house, now 235 Channel Highway, at one time the home of Mrs Mary Fitzpatrick. Taken 23rd November 1950.*

PHOTOS G.M. (BILL) SHELLEY



## The Old Shopping Centre



*Site of the old shopping centre with the Taroona Tea House on the left, 1949-50*

PHOTO BOB BESTER.

*The old shopping centre which extended from numbers 160 to 164 Channel Highway, 1972. Looking south.*

PHOTO AMY ACTON.



*The old shopping centre which extended from numbers 160 to 164 Channel Highway, 1972. Looking north.*

PHOTO AMY ACTON.