

Palm stand from the Hotel Cecil

When the Hotel Cecil, Cronulla was undergoing refurbishment in the late 1970s local resident William Hart had the job of removing unwanted furniture. His daughter Helen Gorman saved this wooden palm stand from going to the tip and has now donated it to Sutherland Shire Museum.

Donor: Helen Gorman

Hotel Cecil

Located on Gerrale Street and adjoining Cronulla Park, the hotel was developed in 1927 by local real estate agent and politician COJ (Joe) Monro when he transformed Monro Flats into a stylish hotel.

Monro's aim to attract a middle class clientele was successful, as local woman Edna Laycock testified. Only 'a very good class of people' came to stay at the Cecil as 'no riff-raff' was admitted, she recalled. In the nine years she worked there, 'no nonsense was allowed when Mr Monro was there, I can tell you'.

Dorothy Monro, Joe's third wife, described the hotel clientele in these terms:

A lot of country people booked in year after year, asking for the same room. The hotel was only ever full to capacity in summer months - until Easter. After that it was just weekenders but people dropped in for Sunday dinner and afternoon tea and had a look around the district.

Monro eventually sold the Cecil and it became a brewery-owned pub. By the 1970s it had gone 'down market' and was known locally as the 'cesspit'. It was demolished in 1988 and the site is now occupied by the Cecil Apartments.

Reference:

- Paul Ashton, Jennifer Cornwall, Annette Salt, *Sutherland Shire: a history*, UNSW Press, 2006
- Dorothy Monro's interview with Pauline Curby, 15 October, 1991