

The Bathhouse Times



THE CORONATION MEMORIAL.

The procession then re-formed and marched via Ballarat street and along the esplanade to the east side of the Queenstown bay, halting a little this side of the mouth of the creek. Here in the presence of a great crowd of people the ceremony of turning the first sod of the Coronation baths was proceeded with. The Mayor in a few brief remarks stated that the proposal to erect a bathing place originated through the handsome donation of a local lady, in the person of Miss Beeby. The Council then took the matter up and decided to contribute a quota and apply to the Government for the Coronation subsidy of £ for £, which had been approved. After a short reference to the value of swimming baths generally, the Mayor gracefully asked Miss Beeby to turn the first sod. This being done, three cheers were given for the lady, and the assemblage struck up to refrain "For she's a jolly good fellow." This concluded the afternoon proceedings.

THE CORONATION BATHS.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

Advantage was taken last Tuesday of the presence in Queenstown of the Hon. T. Mackenzie, Minister of Tourist Resorts to perform the opening ceremony in connection with the new Coronations baths just completed by Mr. J. Salmond. The weather, which was very boisterous in the morning, fortunately cleared up beautifully in the afternoon, thus contributing greatly towards a most successful and happy function. The public, which included a large percentage of visitors, attended in large numbers so that the scene in the vicinity of the new bathing house - an ornament in itself - was a very animated and picturesque one.

The public having formed up in two lines at the entrance of the bathing house, the Mayor, Mr. J. Edgar mounted a temporary platform just inside the door and briefly referred to the object of the gathering. He said it was a great honor and pleasure to have the Hon. Thomas Mackenzie amongst them once more and he therefore thanked him for his visit, speaking on the Coronation Memorial the Mayor mentioned the intricacies that were associated with the procuring of the necessary means and the construction of such a building. They were, however, deeply grateful to the Hon. T. Mackenzie for his efforts in the matter. The Hon. gentleman had always taken an interest in the welfare of the town and he (the speaker) hoped that he would still be given the opportunity of doing what he could for the district. His worship referred to the handsome donation of £20 given by Miss Beeby towards the cost of the building, in commemoration of her late father's often expressed wish. The townspeople had also responded very liberally to the calls made on them for subscriptions and he would like to remind them that there was still some more money wanted. He now had much pleasure.

Breakfast on the Beach Served Daily 9am-12ish

Fresh Fruit Salad (GF)(V)

Natural unsweetened yogurt, house made apple compote
\$16.50

Toast (V)(N)

Artisan bread, fresh butter, preserves
\$10.50

Toasted Muesli (V)(N)(GF)

Macadamia nuts oven baked with honey & maple syrup, natural yogurt, house made apple compote
\$18.50

Scrambled Eggs

Served with tomato, onion, chives, parsley, fig vincotto, dressed rocket, grilled ciabatta slab
\$18.50 (V)
add Bacon \$24.50
or Salmon \$27.50

Eggs Benedict

Toasted English muffin, poached eggs, fresh baby spinach, sauce hollandaise
with Bacon \$21.00
or Salmon \$25.00
or Eggs Florentine \$19.50 (V)

Poached Eggs (V)

Grilled ciabatta slab, roasted tomato, fresh baby spinach
\$18.50

The Bathhouse Breakfast

Two eggs "any style", streaky bacon, potato rosti, roast tomato, ciabatta toast
\$22.50

Pancakes (V)

Fresh cream, apple compote & maple syrup
\$19.50

Breakfast Burger

Fried egg, streaky bacon, potato rosti, garlic aioli, oven baked bun
\$18.00

(V)=Vegetarian (N)=Contains Nuts (G)=Gluten Free

We have gluten free bread & seasonal sides - please ask your waiter for advice

Owing to the extremely warm weather bathing has become quite an institution in Queenstown of late. The favourite spot is in the Queenstown Bay, near the mouth of the town creek. There is a great necessity for a suitable dressing shed and landing, but it seems almost hopeless to get the tourist Department to do anything in the matter. A writer in another column refers to the subject and offers to contribute £1 towards building bathing quarters. Could the council not do something in the direction indicated? No doubt the public would assist.

BATHHOUSE HIGH AND DRY - AND OPEN AGAIN

Queenstown: When Ben Chardome makes a deal, he sticks to it.

Six months ago, the restaurateur accepted a booking for a wedding party at Queenstown's historic Bathhouse Cafe and did not give it another thought.

Then, four months ago, his restaurant was one of the worst hit by the floods in Queenstown.

But Mr Chardome stuck to his deal and assured the wedding party would be ready.

On Saturday, he will keep that promise - just. The Bathhouse is due to open this morning, four months after the floods and two days before the wedding.

"It was a close thing and it's been a hard four months," he said yesterday.

"It's wonderful to have it up and running again. Everything has been out of my hands. Not having the Bathhouse has been a very frustrating feeling indeed."

"I have felt totally useless. I have been totally bored just hanging around town. It's good to have my place back."

More than half a metre of water flowed into the 89-year-old building and it was surrounded by floodwater for a week.

When the water drained away, mud covered the floorboards and stained the walls, the floor was warped and a dirty ring lined the building like a bath.

"It was pretty horrible, but I am an insurance freak and I knew we were covered. I never panicked, I just wondered how long it would take to get it back up and running," he said.

Lease owner and original developer of the Bathhouse, Guy Evatt, returned from Sydney to oversee the refurbishment.



Built in 1911 to celebrate the coronation of George V, the bathhouse on Queenstown's lake shore fell into ruin over the decades and was only saved from demolition a couple of years ago by Guy Evatt.

Magnificently restored with regal bric-a-brac and topped by a crown, it opened in February 1997.

The small, octagonal building with its glass walls has one of the best outlooks of almost any Queenstown eatery.

On warm days the deck is an idyllic place for coffee, lunch or dinner, with the inquisitive ducks testing your generosity, and the polyglot conversations of the tourists wandering past.





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BATHHOUSE RESCUE

The Department of Conservation in association with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, have tendered to restore Queenstown's Victorian style bathhouse for \$22,580.

The Queenstown demolished and a Lakes District Council Reserves Committee recently recommended that the bathhouse be

replica would "mock" the original. "If a replica is built, the integrity of the whole marine parade area would be totally destroyed.

The cost of restoration is just over half the estimated cost of building a replica. DOC are behind the Historic Places Trust. They feel the

building is too sound to be demolished, and found damage to be largely superficial.

Mrs Galer says a building under restoration has a guaranteed result. "There is no guarantee that a replacement will follow demolition," she says.

"There may be a change of heart or the money used for another purpose."

Mrs Galer suggested that the restored bathhouse would have a number of uses apart from providing shade and shelter.

"It could be used for art and craft displays, and bands could use it as a sound shelter," she says.

For the restoration of the building, DOC says all new materials such as the timber cladding and eaves brackets would be matched with the original.

DOC says this would ensure the atmosphere of the historic building remained intact.

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