

From the collection at Caroline's

Special features at Caroline's include the garden.

By R. I. Nagy

If you have ever enjoyed a meal at Caroline's you will be well aware of the many fascinating objects displayed within the restaurant.

But did you also know that the restaurant's gardens also contain items imbued with personal meaning?

Much like the restaurant interiors, the garden courtyard has evolved continuously over the past 40 years.

It is now a verdant sanctuary as well as an additional display space for some of the more weatherproof items from Michael Turton's collection.

From the old peppercorn trees standing sentry along the fence-line to the flowers and plants brightening the space, the garden is the part of the restaurant that Sally Turton loves the most.

Today we share stories about three items in the garden at Caroline's that hold



personal meaning for Mrs Turton.

Above: Cohns lemonade sign

Cohns was a small cordial company founded in Bendigo during the Gold Rush that later expanded into fruit preserves, beer and hotels.

In 1964 the children's television program 'Cohns Cobbers' Teleclub' was launched in Bendigo.

Mrs Turton and her broth-

ers became regular viewers, and she remembers that renowned cartoonist Ian Glanville (OAM) played a character called Strawberry Scarecrow in it.

She also recalls attending a taping of 'Call for Cohns' with her brother; despite practising to speak into the microphone she succumbed to stage fright, while her brother managed to win a prize pack containing little bottles of Cohns lemonade.

Right: The "Chloris" rose

Chloris Prime from Prime's Discount Store once asked Mrs. Turton the name of this rose after seeing its beautiful pink, peony-like blooms.

Mrs Prime was surprised to learn that it shared her first name, so this sparked a special significance for the rose from that point.

Commercially, the rose derives its name from the nymph or goddess in Greek mythology associated with spring, flowers and new growth.

Mrs Turton's Chloris rose is planted in a small garden bed near a birdbath that visiting birds love to splash around in.



Below right: Honeysuckle

Mr Turton's friend Sybil Gray was a keen gardener who was involved with Caroline's Colonial Restaurant during its earlier times.

Mrs Gray gave them some honeysuckle cuttings from

her own garden to plant in the courtyard garden at the restaurant.

Over the years these cuttings have grown into a lush cascade of greenery that is dotted with fragrant, curling yellow-white flowers in the spring.

Mrs Gray ran the Carisbrook Roadhouse at one point, and also taught Mrs Turton how to adjust her gardening style to better deal with Carisbrook's different weather conditions, which included severe frosts.



Independent candidates welcomed by Voices For Mallee

Advocacy group Voices For Mallee has welcomed two independent candidates, Claudia Haenel and Sophie Baldwin, who have chosen to stand in the upcoming Federal Election.

"It takes courage to step up into the public arena and Voices For Mallee pay tribute to all candidates having a go," a spokesperson for the group said.

Mallee is the largest electorate in Victoria, covering more than one third of the state.

Voices For Mallee is calling on the people of the Mallee electorate to take this opportunity to have their voices heard by contributing to local Kitchen Table Conversations.

"This is a great opportunity for the people of Mallee to have a real voice in parliament," the spokesperson said.

"But we cannot wait until election day to speak up."

"Now is the time for the people of Mallee to let their candidates know what they want from their elected representatives."

Voices For Mallee is an advocacy group responding to the current disappointing political process and its reflection on our democracy.

Inspired by the success of Voices For Indi, the group

was established to provide a simple, effective process for the people of the Mallee electorate to have a voice.

"We believe everyone can play a part in supporting candidates to focus on ideas and policies for stronger representation and to prioritise the electorate, not the party," the spokesperson said.

Voices For Mallee is conducting a series of Kitchen Table Conversations to hear and capture the Mallee electorate voices.

It is a chance for anyone and everyone to say what they want from their elected representatives.

The 'kitchen table' could be on Zoom, at the pub, a park, a local cafe or wherever works for people.

Conversations will be respectfully – and anonymously – collated and made available to all candidates and the general public.

Ahead of the election, candidates will have the opportunity to make their case for endorsement by Voices For Mallee.

Members will decide which candidate they will endorse or may decide not to endorse any candidate.

More Information about Voices For Mallee is available on website www.VoicesForMallee.net.

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