

The Captain Cook: Peek inside



Above: Captain Cook Tavern, taken between 1871 and 1878 by A.H. Allen. Photo courtesy of Collection of Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. Photo also used in 2015 to remodel and reopen the Cook.

The Captain Cook is set to re-open soon! We offer you a photographic sneak peek inside.

Renovations to the Captain Cook Hotel – the legendary ‘Cook’ – have been underway in Albany Street for some time now, and things are shaping up. The student pub that you may fondly remember from your time at Otago is set to re-open in the new year. Below we share photos of the redeveloping Cook.

After 159 years of service to Dunedin and students, the Cook was closed in June 2013. The pub was loved by so many, that people travelled from around the world to attend the last day of the Captain Cook.

Although closed, the Captain Cook has remained the most famous pub in New Zealand, remaining strong in the hearts and minds of students with national records set for beer sales and notoriety gained for outrageously popular events such as the infamous Cookathon.

The upcoming re-opening is being celebrated by many, and includes an impressive upgrade to the former traditional scarfie pub. Although being extensively renovated throughout, the design is staying true to the Cook's unique personality and history.

Please send us your recollections and photos of the Cook! Sheldon Lye, who is refurbishing the Cook and bringing it back to its former glory, plans to feature some of the Cook's colourful history on the walls. We'd love to include your photos, recollections, memorabilia, or even your poetry on the walls of the Cook.

Below are some photos of our sneak peek inside the new and improved Cook.

But first, some poetry celebrating the Cook:

Poverty and Happiness

I mused perhaps
An afternoon – “at home” – at Captain Cook’s hostel,
Discussing politics and other roguery,

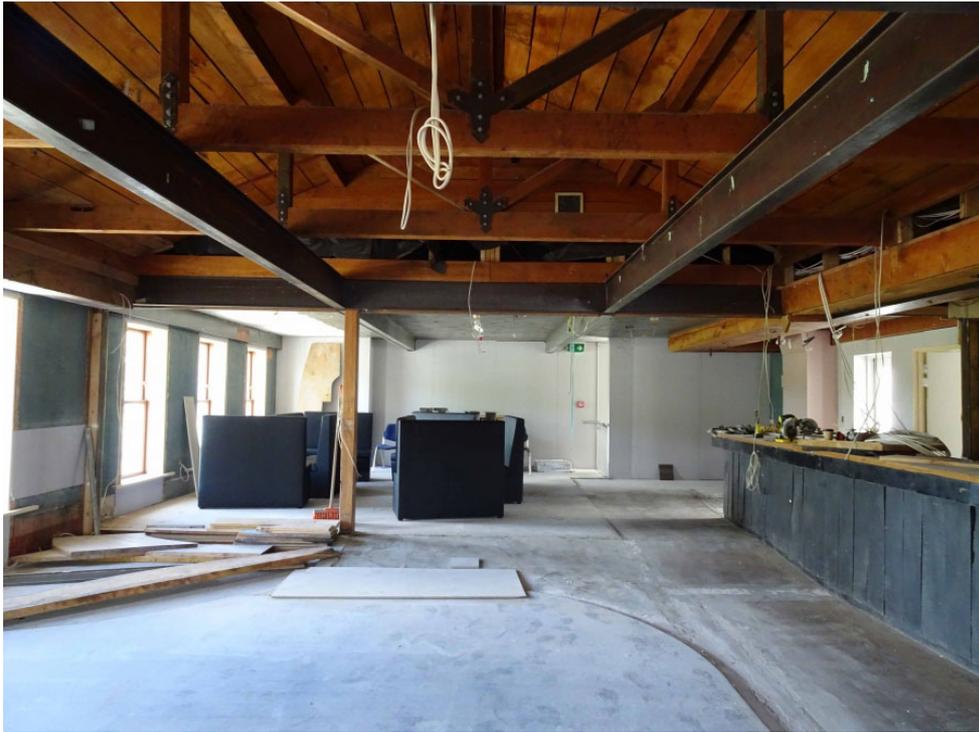
With a few kindred and beer imbibing spirits.
1923, *anonymous*



Above: Sheldon Lye, Manager of the Captain Cook Tavern, standing in the ground floor bar, beside one of two old fireplaces that have been discovered during renovations.



Above: Sheldon standing in the relatively new Garden Bar, which will be remembered well by alumni studying in the 1990s and 2000s. The Garden Bar will not be part of the refurbished Captain Cook. However a new sunny courtyard is part of the redevelopment.



Above: Breathing life back in to the old Upstairs Bar, where thousands of alumni have danced the night away or listened to live gigs. The distinctive wooden bar believed to be from the 1970s will remain.



Above: In the downstairs bar, which is being refurbished and designed to cater more for alumni patrons. In this photo, you can also see the replica pressed tin ceiling featuring the lion rampant and the scotch thistle harking back to the English and Scottish heritage in Dunedin's early settlers. Pictured with Sheldon are Philip Kearney and Rustica Lamb of the Development & Alumni Relations Office. Thank you for the tour, Sheldon!

Will we see you at the re-opening?

We'd love to hear your memories of the original Captain Cook – email us at alumni@otago.ac.nz or send us a message on **Facebook!**

And watch this space - we are planning a story on people's recollections of the Captain Cook. **Please send us your recollections, if you want us to include them.**

Thank you to The Collection of Toitū Otago Settlers Museum for kindly supplying the historic Cook photograph.

If you are visiting Dunedin, Toitu is not to be missed! It is a gorgeous, interactive museum that gets rave reviews, and is staffed by many Otago alumni. Check out the **Toitu Otago Settlers Museum** website and their **Archives and Research website**.