

PIERRE'S MILL – REDCLIFFE

1969-1985



Pierre Bové and his wife Clazina (Stien), my parents, together with my sister Paula Bossard and her husband Cees owned Pierre's Mill, a restaurant and take-away shop in Redcliffe from October 1969 until December 1985, when it was sold to developers and consequently demolished.

Pierre was born in 1917 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. As a young man he started working as a sailor on large ocean liners such as the New Amsterdam. It was on this ship that he met Stien in 1938, who was employed as an ironing maid for only one voyage. For Stien, this was an attempt to escape from the trauma and heartbreak of losing her fiancé, who was killed in a motorbike accident.

Stien and Pierre were married in 1939. During the war, Pierre did not sail, resuming again as an ocean liner barkeeper after WWII. During that time, these passenger ships transported many migrants to Australia and New Zealand. In 1959, he said farewell to the life on the big seas, which had always taken him from his family for many months at a time.



Nieuw Amsterdam 1936

A new chapter started for the family when Pierre bought a Café (Pub) Restaurant called Café De Sport in the small seaside town of Terheyde, situated between The Hague and Hook of Holland. For 10 years he ran this business together with my Mum and my sister Paula and her husband Cees (pronounce Case) Bossard.



Café De Sport 1964



Hotel Elzenduin 2014

Pierre's dream of building a 5-storey hotel to replace the restaurant was rejected by the local council. Ironically, a multi-level hotel now sits on the site where the Café De Sport was, this was built around 20 years after Pierre sold the business in 1969.

The disappointment of not realising his dream made Pierre think back to the fifties, when he had considered options for migrating to Australia. After talking to his family, and at age 52, he decided to take that step. Together with their son Dick, daughter Paula, her husband Cees and their two children, Janet 8 and Rene 5, they migrated from the Netherlands on the migrant ship SS Australis, arriving in Brisbane in July 1969.

For a few days the family were separated. The Bossards were required to live at the Wacol migrant centre and Pierre and Stien had to look for their own accommodation.

Shortly after, the families rented a house in Greenslopes where they lived until October 1969.

Pierre commenced searching for a new business venture. One of the options was a lemonade factory in Stanthorpe which he considered. He then stumbled across a brand new restaurant which also included a house for sale on the beautiful Redcliffe Peninsula. The restaurant had never opened as the owners' wife was seriously ill, and therefore they had to sell. And so, Pierre's Mill Restaurant and Take-Away, complete with Dutch windmill on the roof, had its official opening day on October 21, 1969.



Pierre, Stien, Paula (and Penny the dog) in 1970



Stien, Pierre, Paula and Cees in 1977

Those first years were very difficult especially for Stien and Paula. Stien missed her youngest daughter Wil and the grandchildren who were still living in Holland and Paula became very ill with homesickness. Through hard work the Mill grew in popularity. Pierre's Mill was the only licensed restaurant at that time and the large variety of great quality meals for cheap prices drew many locals to the restaurant. The take-away was very popular by the schoolchildren from the opposite Kippa-Ring State School, serving a variety of sweets and ice-creams.



The interior in the early years



The interior after renovations in 1978

Next door was the drive-in theatre, popular with young and older and what better things to do after watching a good movie in the open air, to meet at the Mill for a hamburger, chips and a milkshake!

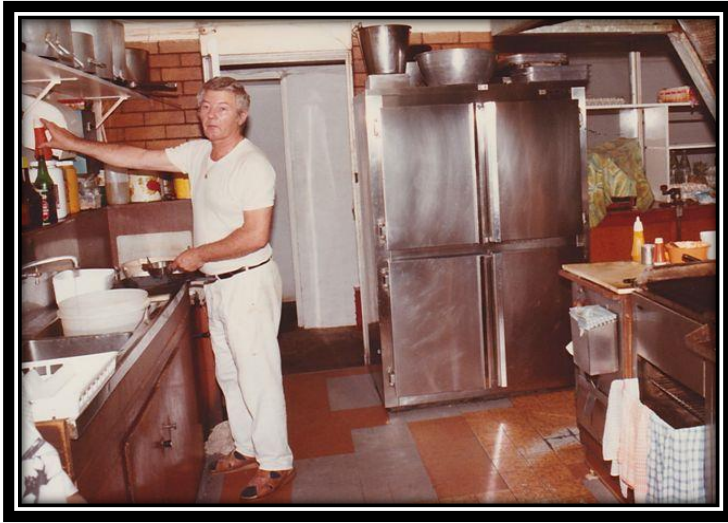


The house, with drive-in theatre in background

In 1974, Pierre invited us over to Australia for an extended holiday and reunion. My husband Henk, being a carpenter, was also able to help finish the building of Paula and Cees' new house opposite Pierre's Mill (corner of Elisabeth Ave and Korsch street).

We stayed for six months and this eventually led to our migration in February 1976. Pierre asked us to also work in the family business, but Henk chose to stay in his profession. He received his builders licence and worked in Redcliffe for many years, building renovations, extensions and houses. I worked as a waitress at the Mill from 1978 until the closing down in December 1985. My brother Dick did not work in the business, returning to the Netherlands in 1979.

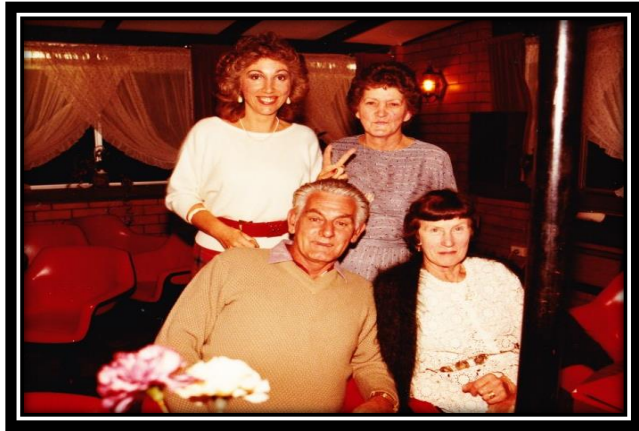
My sister Paula and her husband Cees worked long hours for 7 days a week, which was particularly difficult in the first years. Cees, the chef/cook, was quiet, hard-working and the backbone of the business. Paula assisted with the menus, and was an excellent cook of sauces. The Indonesian Nasi Goring and the Dutch croquettes were two of many specialties. These, and the home made hamburgers, are remembered fondly by Redcliffe locals even to this day.



Cees at work in the kitchen

My mum Stien did not work in the business, but she looked after Paula and Cees' two young children. My Dad generally worked in the very early hours, opening the take-away, doing preparation work, the bookkeeping and the ordering/buying of supplies.

He and the local milkman Bill Barrett became great friends. Most mornings, very early, they had a chat (and a beer) after Bill had finished his milk run.



Front: Bill and Irene Barrett Top: Wil Looyen and Pat Curtis

Pat and Cliff Curtis worked at Pierre's Mill in a permanent position from 1972 until March 1985, when Janet took over Pat's job for the last 8 months. Pat's role was that of manageress. Our families became close friends with each other. Their daughter Sandee grew up with our children Paul and Nathalie.



Sitting: Paula Bossard, Sandee Smith (nee Curtis) and Paul Looyen

Standing: Henk Looyen, Pat Curtis, Cliff Curtis, Wil Looyen and Nathalie



I have fond memories of my time as a waitress during this time. Our families, the staff, the customers - we shared many laughs and we are all united through our shared memories, experiences and stories.

Wil Looyen and Joanne Hoogwaerts in 1979

One staff member, I became good friends with was Joanne Hoogwaerts, another Dutch migrant. Joanne worked at the Mill from 1979 to 1985. Even today, we still share many laughs when we recall the many funny stories of our time working together.

Earlier in this story, I mentioned the Mill served quality meals at cheap prices.

Following are two advertisements placed in the Redcliffe Herald. One was for the first Christmas dinner after the Mill opened in 1969. The second one is from December 1971.

REDCLIFFE HERALD, DECEMBER 17, 1969

It will be Christmas before you know it
BOOK NOW FOR YOUR

PIERRE'S MILL

Special....
XMAS DINNER

Soup:
CONSOMME ROYALLE
CREME OF CHICKEN

Entree:
WHITING CAPRICE
ASPARAGUS VINGARETTE

Poultry:
ROAST TOM TURKEY, CRANBERRY SAUCE
ROAST DUCKLING, ORANGE SAUCE
ROAST SPRING CHICKEN GARNI

Sweets:
OLD ENGLISH PLUM PUDDING AND BRANDY SAUCE
TROPICAL FRUIT SALAD AND CREAM
NUTS, LOLLIES, ETC.

\$4 Per Person
Bookings from 11 a.m.

84 7684 PHONE 84 7684
(OPP. KIPPA-RING STATE SCHOOL)

There were four sittings to choose from and they all sold out. It's hard to believe a six course meal cost just \$4.00 in 1969 and \$5.50 in 1971!

Enjoy your Xmas dinner
at . . .
PIERRE'S MILL

We still have places available for our
SIX COURSE MEAL AT
\$5.50 PER ADULT
REDUCED PRICES FOR CHILDREN
UNDER 10 YEARS

You will be entertained by renowned
ORGANIST DESLEY LEHMAN

Avoid Disappointment
by booking as soon as possible
Deposit required — \$2

SITTINGS:
11.30 a.m. 1.45 p.m.—5.30 p.m.—7.45 p.m.
TELEPHONE — — 84 7684

Pierre's Mill Restaurant
407 ELIZABETH AVENUE, KIPPA-RING

In 1985, Pierre decided to sell the restaurant to developers. This was not without some sadness, which is reflected in the following article in the Redcliffe Herald of December 1985.

Pierre's Mill demolished

Pierre's Mill, Redcliffe's first licensed restaurant, was demolished this week.

Located beside the Redcliffe drive-in theatre, in Elizabeth Ave, Mr Pierre Bove's restaurant was popular in its 16 years.

"People from Brisbane used to come here just for our nasi goreng," he said.

Times have changed since Mr Bove and his family came to Redcliffe from Holland to open the restaurant. "In our first years we were very busy,

with people waiting in line outside," Mr Bove said.

"Over the years there came so many restaurants to the peninsula ... the mill needed renovating, too, so we decided to sell it to developers."

Mr Bove, 69, and his one-time chef at the restaurant, Mr Coes Bossard, saw the windmill's sails dismantled on Saturday.

"I was a little sad. It was the end of the last leg of my working life," he said.

Mr Bove started his career in food at 17. He has cooked in many places around the world, including Malaysia, and made the mill well known for its international menu.

His daughter, Mrs Wilhelmina Looyen, was a waitress there for many years. "It was such a landmark on the peninsula. Things won't be the same without Pierre's Mill," she said.

Mr Bove plans to retire on a hobby farm.



• PIERRE Bove and his daughter Wilhelmina Looyen take a look at photographs of Pierre's Mill, being demolished in the background.

A farewell dinner was held for the staff of 1985 and some who had worked previously at Pierre's Mill.



Standing (L to R):

**Clifford (Monty) Montgomery, Sue Brand, Cliff Curtis, Paul Looyen,
Jenny Curtis, Cees Bossard, Jo Hoogwaerts, Eileen, name unknown,
Donna, Teresa Kerridge**

Sitting (L to R):

**Wil Looyen, Janet Miller, Sandee Smith (nee Curtis), Carol Montgomery
and Pat Curtis**

After the Mill was demolished, a Red Rooster was built on the site and a fruit shop was built where the house had stood. At the time of writing, this has now become a carwash business named WashWorx Hand Car wash Café & Annie's Diner.

Ian the owner also keeps the memory of Pierre's Mill alive by displaying some photos in his Cafe. The house of Pierre and Stien was not demolished but removed to Ward Street at Scarborough.

Pierre's Mill was indeed a landmark on the peninsula. Not easily forgotten by the people of Redcliffe. This became apparent when Paul Looyen placed a 1970 photo of Pierre's Mill on the Lost Redcliffe Facebook page in October 2013. Many people responded with expressions of fond memories.

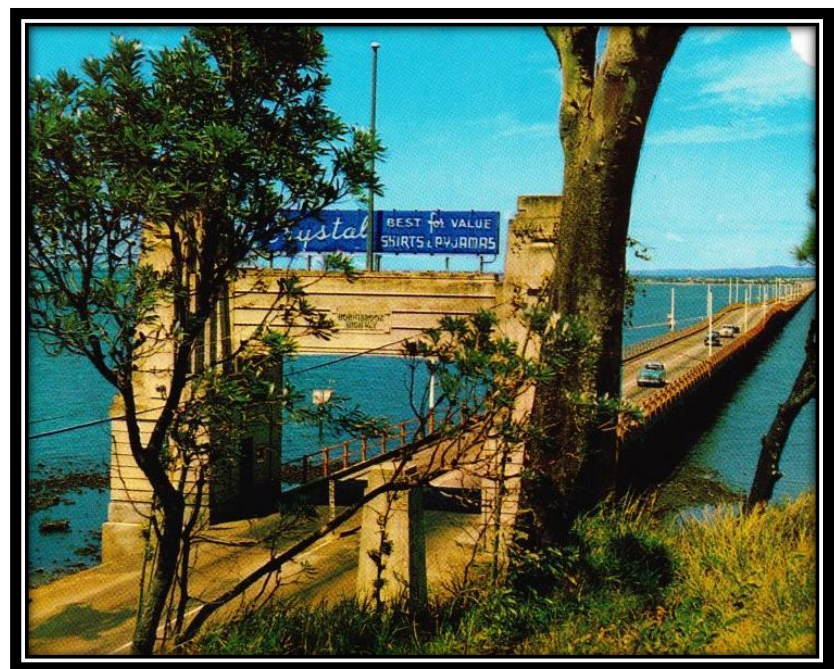
Pierre and Stien, together with Paula and Cees and their youngest daughter Corina, moved to Morayfield in 1986. Pierre past away in May 1993, followed by Stien in January 1997. As he said himself, *'Pierre's Mill was the end of the last leg of my working life'*.



Pierre Bové

It is with gratitude and pleasure that I, as Pierre's daughter, thank the many patrons and customers of this establishment, for keeping alive the memory of

Pierre's Mill.



Redcliffe 1974

Text by Wil Looyen, 2015