

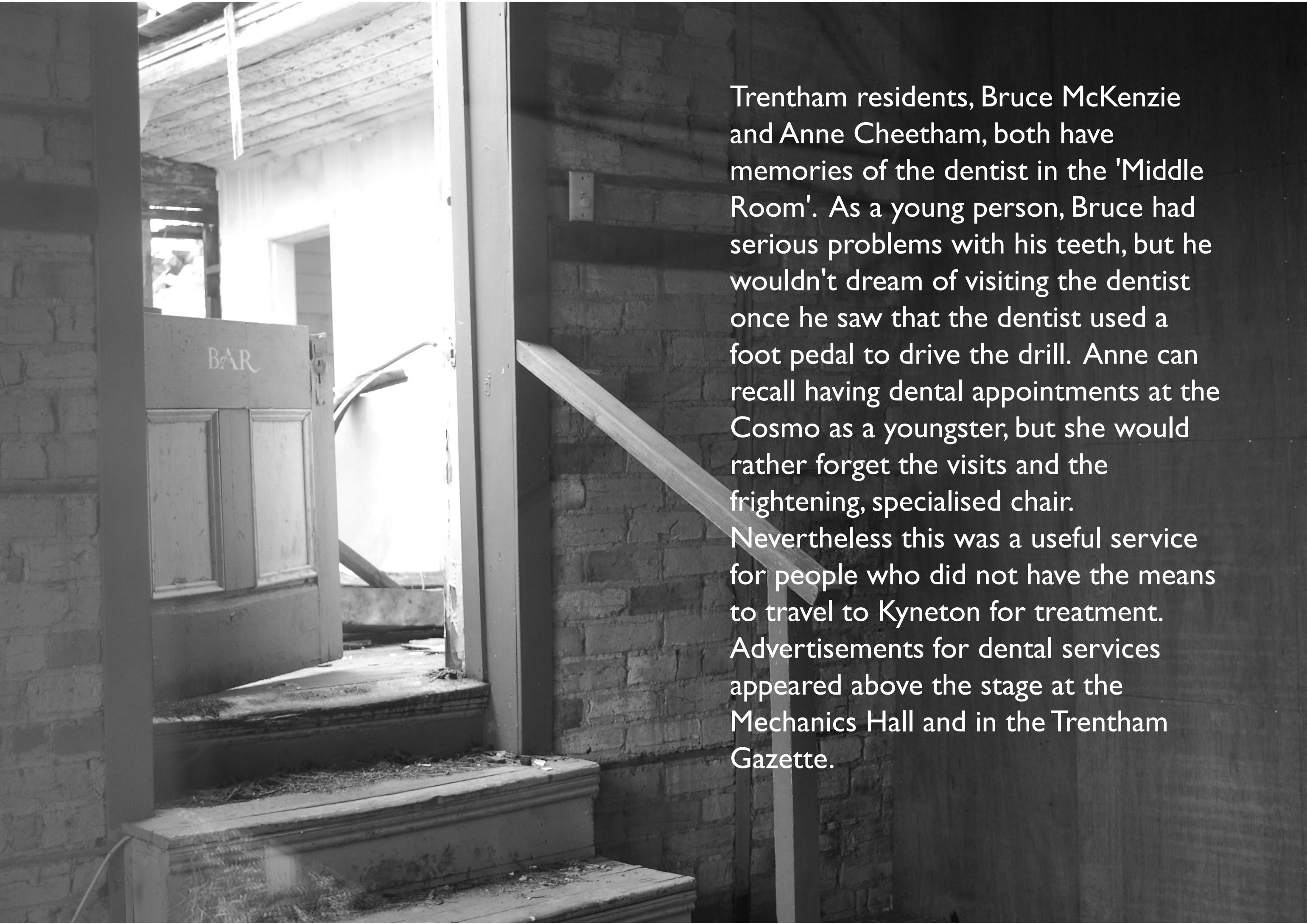
---

THE COSMOPOLITAN - A PLACE FOR ALL REASONS

# A place for **APPOINTMENTS**



At the Cosmopolitan, between the Bar and the Billiard Room, there was a small room known as the 'Middle Room'. It was to this room that a series of visiting Dentists came to Trentham years ago.



Trentham residents, Bruce McKenzie and Anne Cheetham, both have memories of the dentist in the 'Middle Room'. As a young person, Bruce had serious problems with his teeth, but he wouldn't dream of visiting the dentist once he saw that the dentist used a foot pedal to drive the drill. Anne can recall having dental appointments at the Cosmo as a youngster, but she would rather forget the visits and the frightening, specialised chair. Nevertheless this was a useful service for people who did not have the means to travel to Kyneton for treatment. Advertisements for dental services appeared above the stage at the Mechanics Hall and in the Trentham Gazette.



▲ Rooms for appointments and meetings at the Cosmopolitan as they appear today in 2010. ►

Even a death may involve an appointment at the hotel for a post mortem if the Coroner thought fit. This would be performed by the local doctor. In early days “there was a compulsory clause in every hotelkeeper’s licence which obliged him to provide a room when police demanded, for the purpose of making such an examination”\* When people passed away in Trentham, it was probable that such post mortems were carried out at the Cosmopolitan. The post mortem reports would be sent by the examining medical officer, via the police, to the Coroner.

\* (Gweneth Wisewould, ‘Outpost, a Doctor on the Divide’).



▲ At a performance in the Mechanics' hall, an advertisement for a visiting Trentham dentist appears top right of the rolled up stage 'curtain'.

### **Newspaper on 14th December, 1863**

**FATAL ACCIDENT - A farmer named Ferguson, was found dead in a two-foot hole at Trentham, on Wednesday. He has long been in low state of mind, and was for some time in Kyneton Hospital; he was discovered by two diggers, who were surprised by an immense quantity of blow flies arising from the putrid corpse. On removing deceased to Bickley's Hotel, a large cut on the back of the head was discovered, which indicates foul play, and may be elucidated at the coroner's inquest, which will be held this day. Deceased had no friends in the colony, but is supposed to have money.**