



Midsummer Ice

—1850—

In spring 1850, an exciting new kind of ad appeared in the local newspaper – *ice creams for sale*. They were the first ice creams in Tasmania. And they were sold right here.

One of the early landlords of this hotel, John Webb, was a former convict and an extremely ambitious, and talented, confectioner.

The ice creams were shaped and flavoured with cucumber and fruits. Not surprisingly, they became extremely popular!

Before this, ice had been brought to Tasmania by ship. Webb had a special machine to freeze ice making his ice creams an exclusive treat.

As the demand for ice, increased, the governor arranged for ice houses to be built by convicts on kunanyi/Mount Wellington. Webb was to manage the ice houses. Before long, Webb had a larger stone house built to store summer ice.

Ice creams soon became affordable to all. And Webb found a new way to profit from ice — exporting it to Sydney. The newfound profits enabled Webb to focus on running his hotel. Years later in 1881, his son, Alfred, became a pastry chef and set up an ice cream shop right next door to the hotel.

References:

Ice creams were advertised in *Courier*, 30 October 1850 p4c5 and every week thereafter.

Hobart Daily Mercury, 10 July 1858 p5c5.

Grist, M. 'A brief history of the Ice Houses on kunanyi/Mount Wellington', Version 3. 17 June 2016, www.mtwellingtonhistory.com, accessed 1 December 2020.

Mercury, 7 December 1881 p2c1.