

Bar/Cafe reviews

Amanda Tisler, Tress Cocks & Maddox

The Colonial Hotel

At the Colonial Hotel you will be tempted by a wide variety of excellent food. A selection of dips, green curry soup with roasted vegies and egg noodles and smoked chicken nicoise salad are some of the offerings of the starters menu.

The Colonial's Hamburger, roasted duckling, aged porterhouse and chicken parmigiana are included in the mains menu.

The venue itself is a warehouse, built in the 1800's with period features which add to the ambiance of the Hotel.

The service is good and the venue caters well for large groups. Expect much more than your average hotel meal.

Starters from \$4.50 to \$13.50

Mains from \$10 to \$25

Fully Licensed

Mon - Thurs 11am till midnight

Fri - Sat 11am till 3am (with live entertainment in the evening)

Address: Cnr Lonsdale & King Sts.

Phone: 9670 8599 ●



Legals Cafe Bar & Restaurant

Easy cafe by day, cool chill-out bar on Friday night. Legals is conveniently located next door to the new County Court. Here you will find a tempting selection of salads, pasta & risotto, foccacias and turkish breads. The meals are tasty and fresh and the service is prompt, which makes Legals a great place to meet for a 'quick lunch' or coffee. Get in early for one of the 'booth style' seats. Licensed.

Starters from \$6

Mon - Thurs 7 am till 5.30pm

Address: 456 Lonsdale St.

Foccacias and turkish bread all \$7.50 Mains \$12 - \$14

Friday 7am till late (complimentary finger food provided from 6pm)

Phone: 9600 0819 ●

Video review: Beneath Clouds

Maya Parbhoo, Articled Clerk, Tress Cocks & Maddox

Beneath Clouds is the story of two young Aboriginal teenagers who, for different reasons, find themselves hitchhiking along the roadway to Sydney.

Lena (Danielle Hall) is a young schoolgirl who sets out on a journey to escape her dreary life and to try and find her father. Vaughn (Damian Pitt) has escaped from a country detention centre to visit his dying mother.

They cross paths by chance and while both have an innate distrust of each other when they first meet at a bus shelter, a trust and mutual respect develops between them.

The performances of first time actors Danielle Hall and Damian Pitt are remarkable. Their characters are real and complex and it is their 'realness' which draws us into the film. The most powerful scenes in *Beneath Clouds* are due to the characters' movements and silence.

The film was written and directed by Ivan Sen, a young Aboriginal film maker who grew up in New South Wales in an Aboriginal community. Like the character Lena, Ivan comes from a diverse and mixed background. His mother is Aboriginal and his father half-German and half-Hungarian. It is Ivan's own experiences of growing up in a culturally diverse family, which are mirrored in Lena's own search for identity. In the film, Lena's mother

is Aboriginal and her estranged father is Irish. With photos of her Irish father and of Ireland, Lena embarks on a journey to Sydney to escape her life, which is driven by small-town desperation.

Vaughn is on the run from the police after he escapes from a detention centre and Lena hides his identity in a few close incidents with the police. Vaughn is an angry teenager, desperate to break free from his life in the bush and his life in detention. When Vaughn first meets Lena, he is wary of her because she looks white and she gives him no reason to contradict this, until an elderly Aboriginal woman asks Lena where her people come from.

Beneath Clouds recently won director Ivan Sen the best first feature award at the Berlin International Film Festival. It is a subtle yet powerful Australian movie about the search for identity, belonging and understanding. Lena and Vaughn struggle with themselves and the film compels us to share their struggles. Their road trip is set amongst the harsh Australian landscape; the road is flat and the countryside dry and unforgiving. They are figures in a landscape, figures beneath clouds.

Beneath Clouds will be released on video around Australia on 4 December 2002 ●