

A REVISED HISTORY
OF LITHGOW'S
**ZIG ZAG
BREWERY**

1888 – 1958

Note that this is an interim version,
it is not intended to be definitive at this stage.

Corrections, suggestions, feedback and
new information are gratefully requested.

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TIME LINE

- 1874/5 William Mills arrives in Lithgow
- 1876 Harry Corbett arrives in Lithgow
- 1881 Mills and Corbett build the Imperial Hotel
- 1888 Death of William Mills. First brewing licence granted to Harry Corbett and Alfred Goodare
- 1897 J.A.S. Jones appointed Brewery Manager
- 1906 Jones buys business and freehold from Corbett
- 1915 Death of Harry Corbett
- 1927/8 Jones sells to Lithgow Brewery Ltd.
- 1929 Sydney Brewery Ltd. float fails.
- 1930 Arthur Bodimeade takes control of Lithgow Brewery Ltd.
- 1931 Lithgow Brewery Ltd. wound up and put into receivership.
- 1932 "Gale and Henry" and "Cornell and Bond" recorded by Deutsher in *Breweries of Australia*.
- 1932 Zig-Zag (Lithgow) Brewery Ltd. formed
- 1933 Zig-Zag (Lithgow) Brewery Ltd. declared bankrupt and put into receivership.
Death of J.A.S. Jones.
- 1934 Lithgow Zig-Zag Brewery Co. Ltd. formed. Excise swindle and forfeiture.
Blue Mountains (Lithgow) Brewery Ltd. purchases at Sheriff's Auction.
Lanfear appointed Brewer, Wyld as Manager.
- 1935 Blue Mountains (Lithgow) Brewery Ltd. bankrupt.
Continues trading under Lanfear/Wyld management.

- 1936 Wingate Terry forms Terry Brewing Co.
- 1937 Terry bankrupt, business continues under receivers' supervision; Lanfear 'proprietor', legal status unclear
- 1939 Death of W.F. Lanfear, Norm Wyld purchases Terry Brewing Co.
- 1941 Norm Wyld purchases freehold from Mrs. Vida Jones
- 1950 Stout wins Best Empire Bottled Stout in London.
- 1951 Terry's Brewery Ltd. floated with shares to employees and locals. Death of Norm Wyld. W.Z. Black appointed Managing Director.
- 1956 Mudgee Federal Brewery closing. Zig Zag becomes NSW's last operating country brewery.
- 1958 Terry's Brewery Ltd. wound up. Brewery closes.

THE HISTORY OF THE ZIG ZAG BREWERY

Lithgow's Zig Zag Brewery operated for over 70 years. This alone is a rarely equalled achievement in Australia where the average life of a brewery has been well under 10 years and where failure is ten times more likely than success. It survived the first Federal Government Excise Bill of 1901 which demolished $\frac{3}{4}$ of all Australian breweries at the time; it survived (only just) the Depression and two World Wars. It carried the honour of being the very last surviving NSW country brewery. There is no doubt that its survival rested on the working men of Lithgow and the district; the coal, iron and steel workers, the railwaymen, whose hard physical labour needed the celebration of beer in the good times, and its comfort and condolence in the bad.

All the more impressive because this brewery does not stand in an industrial suburb of one of our great cities, but literally 'in the bush', in a beautiful cosy gully overhung by sandstone bluffs that catch the morning and afternoon sun and is fed by a spring which delivers perfect rock-filtered water.

The current tranquility of this lovely site is enough to lull us into forgetting that for all of those 70 years this was a

place of bustling activity, providing a living for many Lithgow families, profits for a lucky few and, most importantly, a first-rate product that lubricated the lives of Lithgovians and, at times, of those all over NSW.

It has seen years of spectacular success and a few spectacular failures, a rich history of heroes and villains and of wise managers and four great brewers, often stuck in-between, but who always provided continuity when management failed.

THE BEGINNINGS: 1888 – 1897

Marriage is a beautiful thing. In the case of the first two holders of the brewing licence (25th July 1888) it might be said that marriage also brought fame and fortune. In 1888 the brand-new brewery was known as “Corbett and Goodare's”, but how did a millwright and a haberdasher come to be running a brewery?

Henry Philip (Harry) Corbett arrived in Lithgow Valley around 1876, just as the town began to prosper. It had been just a scattered farming district (Hartley was bigger and more important) until the construction of the Western Railway (and in particular the spectacular Zig Zag Descent) brought hundreds of workers to the area which subsequently became “The Gateway to the West”, in railway terms at least. The railway opened up the demand for Lithgow's coal reserves, up until then only sporadically used for purely local needs. After 1869, Lithgow took off. The population rose, other industries sprang up and a real town was born. In particular, Australia's first successful iron industries began here, and it was the construction of this new industrial infrastructure that would have brought Harry the Millwright to Lithgow.

Earlier, in 1875, another builder, William Mills – a most remarkable and energetic man – arrived in the new town following, as had been his lifelong habit, opportunity (see

separate article). It is probable that the two men worked together, formally or not, on the construction of the new Eskbank Ironworks and at least one of the town's churches (Mills had come direct from being the principal builder at the copper-mining town of Currawang, near Goulburn). Accompanying Mills were his widowed daughter, Eliza Jones and her children, Sarah (8) and John (4). Two other young daughters were left buried at Currawang and Eliza's husband William was found floating face-down in Darling Harbour in suspicious circumstances. It was not a happy time.

But in 1881 the relationship between Harry Corbett and the Mills family was cemented by Harry's marriage to William's daughter Eliza. Together Mills and Corbett built the new Imperial Hotel, opposite Eskbank Railway Station and Harry gave up building to become the nominal licensee.

And the other brewery partner, Alfred A Goodare? Well, newly-arrived in Lithgow with his brother (Benjamin Watson Goodare), this shopkeeper married Eliza's daughter Sarah (now 21) in December 1888 and so also became a part of the Mills family. (Goodare's role in the brewery only lasted eighteen months. Things may not have been too rosy as by 1895 Alfred and Sarah, by then operating the Hydora Hotel up the road in Blackheath, had separated and subsequently divorced in bitter circumstances).

It is likely that William Mills himself was the true instigator of the Brewery business. It is he who would have had the capital and the experience. It is likely (yet to be proven) that he was the builder of the Belfast Brewery in Port Fairy, Victoria, and had many, many major buildings to his credit in the Wollongong district – including the state's first purpose-built coal-loading jetty at Bellambi.

Given that the first licensee partnership (the licence was granted just 5 days after William's death on 7th August 1888) consisted of the husbands of his daughter and his grand-daughter, it is looking like a family business with “Mills” stamped all over it. And, as we shall see, in the subsequent years the patterns of ownership and business activity all devolved to his children and grand-children. Even during his lifetime, Harry Corbett became increasingly marginalised.

There was already an established brewery in Lithgow at that time, the Eskbank Brewery of Richard Jeffree Inch (from a Cornish family already in the brewery game from Hill End, Bathurst and Blayney). Inch's had been very successful for over a decade, supplying most of the district's pubs and taking out awards at various competitions, but by 1888 Inch was in financial trouble and sold out to a new consortium of local publicans and traders, The Burton Brewing Company. This sale seems to have precipitated the founding of the Zig Zag Brewery

which started within a month. Mills and Corbett, running the Imperial Hotel, may have been an unsuccessful bidder for Inch's Brewery.

Richard Inch staged a short-lived comeback in 1902 as The Blue Mountains Brewery, but even he could not make a third Lithgow brewery work. Another brewery in Blackheath had opened in 1884 but failed in 1889. There is an unconfirmed story that some of its brewing equipment came to Zig Zag, but it is more probable that it went to Burton's since Zig Zag had just opened with new equipment and Burton's (Inch's) was running a 10 year old plant.

By 1897, having done a brewing apprenticeship at Waverley Brewery in what is now Bondi Junction, Eliza's son John Jones was appointed Brewery Manager, and Harry Corbett, after guiding the brewery (perhaps as a sort of regent for the young Jones) through its initial decade moved to Queensland to pursue a mining venture. Harry Corbett returned to Lithgow, taking up hotelkeeping first at the Court House Hotel and later building The Grand Central in 1902.

THE FIRST GOLDEN AGE: 1897 – 1928

John Alexander Stammers Jones was born in Currawang, a copper mining village near Lake George, in 1870. His parents (William and Eliza) chose elegant middle names perhaps to counterbalance the rather plain John Jones (Alexander Stammers was, in fact, his father's brother-in-law, a respected Welsh clergyman, educator, and poet).

At some stage, probably very early on, Jack A S Jones became known (always very affectionately) as Jackass Jones. Whether prompted by his parents' aspirations or by determination to prove himself no jackass, J.A.S went on to become a very high achiever. He was just 11 when his mother remarried*, so he became in every sense Harry Corbett's stepson and when the new brewery opened in 1888, at the age of 18 he would have been completely involved in the new business.

After being educated at Lithgow Public School and the Coerwull Academy, around 1892 he was sent to Sydney to learn the art and craft of brewing at Bladen and Burrows' Waverley Brewery, the third largest Sydney brewery after Tooth's and Toohey's. This was located on the ridge of what is now Bondi Junction with a fine view down to Sydney Harbour. Whether or not his apprenticeship at Waverley included management aspects in addition to practical brewing is not yet known but is likely and, for whatever reason, when J.A.S

returned to Lithgow and his parents turned the responsibility of managing the brewery over to him, his tenure of over thirty years led to great success, the first of two Golden Ages.

In 1906, J.A.S. (who was, remember, William Mills' grandson) bought not only the brewery business†, but also the freehold of the land. His sister, Sarah, now divorced from Alfred Goodare, was well into a career of hotel ownership and management (which would include the Hydora at Blackheath and the famous Stammers Hotel at Newnes). She eventually re-married more wisely (into the prominent Cripps family of Blackheath) and went on, like her mother Eliza, to become a powerful and very successful businesswoman in her own right until the time of her death in 1946. William Mills' strategy for the ongoing prosperity of his family came to its fruition.

* His father, William Watkin Jones, had emigrated from Wales as a mining engineer and surveyor who had married Eliza Mills, 1866. By 1867 he was working for the Currawang Copper Co Ltd and later, prospecting independently, discovered a new copper ore body at Michelago near Cooma. This was developed in 1870 by a controversial consortium from Melbourne and much disputation occurred including a Supreme Court Action in March 1872. Exactly one month later, Jones was found floating face-down in Darling Harbour with some evidence of foul play. The Coroner's Jury, with a startling lack of interest, did not find a cause of death.

DEPRESSION AND DISASTERS: 1927 – 1937

With exquisite timing, after 30 years of running the brewery and at the ripe but still active age of 57, J.A.S cashed in. In October 1927, with four others¹, he floated The Lithgow Brewery Limited and sold the business to it for £70,000. What share he held in the new company is not yet known (probably 1/5). He and his wife, Vida, left Lithgow in February 1928 to live in their Darling Point home until his death on 3rd May 1933.

The new company started optimistically with plans for equipment upgrades and brought in a very experienced brewer, John Breheney from Queensland to take the role of Manager and Chief Brewer. But without J.A.S.'s great experience at the helm and with the western world tottering on the edge of financial suicide (and soon after going over into the Great Depression) the next ten years of the Brewery's life can only be described as chaos. There were five) changes of ownership, intermittent closures (at least twice), bankruptcy and receiverships and the greatest excise swindle since Federation. Somehow – somehow! – the ship stayed afloat. Battered, swamped, becalmed, marooned, she was never wrecked, always rising to sail on another day when the weather

¹ The others were: J. Felix Booth, Eric Campbell (THE Eric Campbell of New Guard fame) Michael James Dillane, all of Sydney, and Arthur George Bodimeade, the successful Lithgow baker and storekeeper.

turned fairer. Indeed to the credit of all concerned, by 1937 Zig Zag was one of only two country NSW breweries left standing (the other being the Federal Brewery, Mudgee). It had outlived the Bathurst and Orange breweries, even outlasted the mighty breweries of the Hunter Valley.

The Depression was severe for Lithgow; thousands out of work, mine closures and the subsequent union unrest, work-for-the-dole schemes. Hoskins' Australian Iron and Steel closed its Lithgow Works, moving to Port Kembla. Proud working men who had survived the hardships of the mine and the steelworks found themselves unwanted and (in their own eyes) humiliated. Beer, which might have been increasingly a comfort, became a luxury; consumption dropped, profits dropped.

In response, in October 1929, the directors of The Lithgow Brewery Ltd (including Jones) attempted a public float (The Sydney Brewing Limited) to raise £200,000, but this did not succeed. As the Depression bit deeper, the Brewery kept on working but clearly under difficult conditions. In 1930 one director, Arthur Bodimeade (a very successful baker from Wollongong who had re-settled and set up in Lithgow) took a more prominent role, taking over the management and probably buying out many if not all of the other directors.

After some more attempts at restructuring, The Lithgow Brewery Ltd was wound up and the business put in the hands of receivers, only three years after the departure of Jackass Jones – no Jackass after all. The world had changed very quickly and he had sold at the top of the market.

In September 1932, a consortium of 7 mainly local men² headed by the formidable Dr. Grove Johnson, Government Analyst and consultant to the major city breweries, formed the Zig-Zag (Lithgow) Brewery Limited and purchased the brewery for a mere £10,000. It must have seemed a bargain and Grove Johnson was no fool, but the new consortium must have encountered unforeseen problems. Perhaps they thought the Depression was soon to end and things would pick up. They didn't. Nothing happened, and the brewery ceased operations for the first time in almost 50 years. The new consortium was declared bankrupt and the brewery put

2 Deutsher's *The Breweries of Australia* records the names of 1) Gale and Henry and 2) Cornell and Bond, as licensees in the chain of ownership. The Lithgow Mercury of 28.09.1929 reports "Mr F W Gale is the head of the new firm" and this is presumably Walter Frederick Gale, a banker and astronomer and manager of Hoskins Investments Ltd (1925-38). Frank Henry is not yet known. Subject to further research, it appears most likely that they were acting as administrators appointed by the Receiver. Of Cornell and Bond, George Bond had been appointed as Managing Director in 1930/1, and "Cornell" is most likely Mr A. C. Connell, the Bathurst Sheriff's Officer who conducted the Sheriff's Sale of the assets in 1934.

in the hands of receivers.

In March 1934 a new company, The Lithgow Zig-Zag Brewery Co Ltd and its Managing Director, Valleck Cartwright Mallan, took over the operation. It is not entirely clear, but it seems that Mallan was the sole proprietor, and his stake in the brewery amounted to no more than £1,400, perhaps not that surprising for a business in such dire circumstances. This was probably the lowest point in the entire history of the Zig Zag Brewery.

Mallan arrived fresh from a string of legal proceedings in Sydney for dubious business dealings in highly speculative ventures. Curiously, the Mallan family was a respectable and wealthy one in Adelaide but Valleck seems to have been a 'black sheep', perhaps remitted off to racy Sydney from pious Adelaide.

But from Day 1, Mallan decided that he did not need to pay the Government excise on his production. He under-reported the brewery's output and substituted low-strength figures for his full-strength beer. He corrupted hoteliers by offering to split the savings. This only lasted a matter of months before he was caught by an Excise Audit – most likely instigated by a tip-off from an honest employee or customer. His Head Brewer, Mr Alex Laing, gave evidence at Mallan's trial that he (Laing) had tried to dissuade Mallan from his actions.

(In July, August and September of 1934 a series of trials were held at Lithgow Police Court to prosecute the company, Mallan and associated hoteliers for various fraud and evasion crimes. Mallan was convicted and fined heavily but somehow evaded a prison sentence.)

The brewery was confiscated from the short-lived Lithgow Zig-Zag Brewery Co Ltd, placed in the hands of the Bathurst Sheriff (Mr A.C. Connell) and quickly (in August 1934) snapped up at auction, apparently at the bargain-basement price of £500, by a Mr Hyman Wolfensohn and a group of colleagues who rapidly incorporated The Blue Mountains (Lithgow) Brewery Ltd. to raise another £4500 for necessary expenses and applied for a licence.

This venture again came to absolutely nothing. While his son's³ autobiography suggests that it was more a country retreat and hobby for Sydney dilettantes than a real business venture, it emerged that Wolfensohn had been a senior employee of the disgraced Mallan! Was this some elaborate money-laundering scheme or a scheme to cover his (Mallan's) losses by raising a capital float from a fresh set of investors? As late as 1950, Mallan was still facing courts for tax evasion.

³ Hyman's son James Wolfensohn, went on to be President of The World Bank 1995-2005. He was a young child during the time of Hyman's weekend retreats in the Brewery House! Perhaps drinking the pure Lithgow Valley Springs water at a developing age contributed to his later brilliance.)

As with Mallan's venture, Wolfensohn did get the brewery producing again under the long-suffering abilities of head-brewer Laing and manager MacAviney. But this time it was too much. In 1934, Alex Laing – for six long and difficult years the mainstay of the brewery, and Jackass Jones's right-hand man since 1905 – walked. After nearly 30 years at Brewery Gully he secured a position with Tooth and Co. in Sydney and, with his family, turned his back on Lithgow and the brewery he had helped make such a success. It must have broken his heart. The great Alex Laing ended his working life as a barrel-washer.

Wolfensohn was bankrupted in 8 months but he had, however, made two very good decisions that were to outlast him. To replace Alex Laing, he had engaged (25th Oct 1934) Mr. Walter Frederick Lanfear as Head Brewer, and at about the same time employed A. Norman Wyld as manager and/or secretary.

In 1936, the last of the between-wars entrepreneurs to try his hand brought a name that stuck, even though he personally fared no better than his predecessors, Claude Norman Wingate Terry. Terry, who had lived the life of a wealthy grazier and socialite at Yass and Bowral, including marriage into the prominent Clark family, may have been brought in by Wyld who also came from a grazier background. Terry was divorced by his wife in

1935 and soon after (April 1936) sought a licence to restart the Blue Mountains Brewery, now to be known as the Terry Brewing Company. This started with some fanfare on 15 June and by 10th July, the first 18-gallon keg was broached at the Lithgow Workingmen's Club.

Again, in a very short time, the latest endeavour failed financially and the Terry Brewing Company was soon in the hands of the receivers. But this time, something was different. Terry had, while personally failing, sown the seed for future success, indeed for the brewery's second Golden Age, by his astute choice of personnel. The receivers could see this and appointed Lanfear and Wyld to continue running the company. Lanfear had been described in a newspaper report of April 1937 as the 'proprietor' of the brewery and beer labels of the time carried his name.

THE SECOND GOLDEN AGE: 1938 – 1958

Norm Wyld invites parallels with Jackass Jones. What any business needs is a long period of stability with a steady hand at the lead. It cannot be denied that larger influences are at hand as well. In this case, the outbreak of a new war was kind to Lithgow. As the nation went on to a war footing, industry was required to play its part and Lithgow answered the call. The Munitions Factory expanded massively, coal and electricity were in demand. Work flowed into the area and with it, money.

Even after the long war, things began to improve with the post-war reconstruction boom. This was a good time to be in business.

Walter Lanfear died in May 1939 at only 52 years of age. But his contribution was such that, just 3 months later in August, the Receiver considered the brewery in a sufficiently recovered state to relinquish the Brewing Licence back, now to Norman Wyld. The new Head Brewer was Allan Wolfenden who had been working at the Brewery since at least 1930, for much of that time as Assistant Brewer.

The actual freehold of the property had remained in the hands of the Jones family since the beginning (another indication that it was in fact Eliza (Jones) Corbett who

instigated the brewery in the first place) but in 1941, Jackass' widow Vida finally sold the brewery property to Norm Wyld. And while initially, after Walter Lanfeair's death, Norman Wyld seems to have been in a partnership with a Mr P Newdick, by 1945 he had bought him out to become sole owner of both property and business.

And now the brewery was really able to take off as a modern business. There had been a severe undersupply of beer immediately following the end of the war. Zig Zag Brewery had always been the main supplier of beer to the district, competing fiercely against the Sydney breweries, and especially to the Lithgow Workmen's Club but in early 1946 a much bigger customer emerged. The NSW Branch of the RSL was unable to purchase enough beer for its many sub-branches, and so a deal was locked in to take the whole of the brewery's production – as much as it could make – to ensure supply. Production at that stage was about 20,000L per week and the RSL said it could take ten times that amount! It was even mooted that the RSL might purchase the brewery!

Of course the 'dream come true' was in fact too good to last long and the big Sydney breweries (Tooth's, Toohey's and Resch's) with their massive capacity were not going to let that situation go on for too long. The beer shortage came to an end, but Zig Zag had had a huge confidence boost.

In October 1950, at the hands of the then Head Brewer Allan Wolfenden, the brewery entered its best Stout into the Brewers' Exhibition in London and was awarded First Prize in the "British Empire and Commonwealth Bottled Stout" Division. The remainder of the dozen bottles sent was offered to HM King George VI. It is not known if he drank them!

Allan Wolfenden was, like Alex Laing a generation before him, a home-grown Lithgovian brewer. He is listed in the 1930 electoral roll as a Brewery Hand

In mid-1951, Norm Wyld, again following Jackass Jones' example, decided to float the business into a company, Terry's Brewery Ltd. Employees were offered shares in the business, other major investors included William Zealand (Billy) Black, the mayor of Lithgow, but Norm Wyld retained the Managing Directors role and, presumably effective control.

Just as this new order was settling in, the unforeseen happened and Norm Wyld died in August 1951, aged just 56. Billy Black took over the Managing Directorship (in addition to that of the Workmen's Club).

Another milestone was reached in 1956 with the closure of Mudgee's Federal Brewery, thereby making Terry's Zig Zag Brewery the last of NSW's country breweries left

standing – a very proud distinction indeed. That distinction was only to last another two years. Improved transportation meant that the giant Sydney breweries could distribute their product ever more cheaply and efficiently. Lithgow itself had begun a slow decline with the winding down of its engineering and power-generating industries. Coalmining was becoming more and more mechanised and was moving out to the larger modern mines away from the town centre.



CORBETTS & GOODARES' BREWERY LITHGOW
—1889—

PART TWO

Terry's Brewery post-war; 1939 – 1958

After the death of the then licensee Fred Lanfear on 30th May 1939 (he suffered a heart attack in the adjacent Brewery Cottage, now Linden Tree Manor) the brewery became solely managed by Norman Wyld who had been employed by Wolfensohn in about 1935. The Assistant Brewer Allan Wolfenden took on the position of Head Brewer, a position he faithfully and competently held right through to the brewery's last day. In fact he continued brewing at his home in Brook Street for many more years! Under Norm Wyld's steady and capable hand the brewery continued on as an excellent business for the next nearly twenty years. There were no more dramas, no more scandals, simply a solid business making and trading. Wyld was eventually able first to lease and then to purchase (in late 1941) the business from the Official Receivers and then to further consolidate by eventually purchasing (29 September 1943) the freehold to the brewery property from the widow and daughter of J A S Jones – a historic change.

One noteworthy fact is the continuous and optimistic upgrading of the brewery plant and equipment under Wyld's term. Much of the brewery's profit was allocated to modernising and enlarging the brewing process and equipment. The output steadily increased, year on year for his whole period.

In July of 1951, approaching 56 years of age, citing the growth of the business and no doubt with a view towards retirement, Norman Wyld decided to sell his business to a newly floated company, Terry's Brewery Ltd, that was effectively a co-operative venture. The new owners were in fact the workers of the brewery and the citizens of Lithgow. In one of those ironies of fate, Wyld only lived another two months to enjoy the fruits of his wonderful work. He died unexpectedly and quickly on 25th August 1951. William Zealand (Billy) Black was appointed manager and continued on "business as usual".

As they say however, 'the writing was on the wall'. It really already had been for many years. The economics of brewing was changing fast in the post-war boom of Sydney. With population increasing and people's prosperity growing, the big Sydney brewers – Tooths and Tooheys – were massively increasing their production. Transport and roads were getting better and more efficient. It was economics in the end that spelt the end for Terry's Brewery in 1958, but with the proud achievement that of all the regional and country breweries of NSW, Terry's had outlived them all, the last to close after 70 years of beer-making.

From 1958 to today.

Soon after the demise of the brewery, the premises were purchased by Dale's Brewed Beverages Pty Ltd in 1960. This operation continued into the 1970s, after which the property fell into disuse and disrepair. In 1981 the property was purchased by Mr Wilhelm Schindler as a weekend retreat and, in 1991 after prompting from a Sydney supplier of spring water, began first selling bulk spring-water and then decided to begin bottling and selling the water himself. And so Lithgow Valley Springs was born. Some five years later (1996), the operation of Lithgow Valley Springs was handed over to his two children, Adrian and Malina, under whose care the business grew and prospered.

In 2008, with the water business stabilised and profitable, Adrian turned his mind to the history of the site as a brewery and so the dream emerged of restarting beer-making, ever mindful and respectful of the past but in tune with modern ideas and trends. He could see the site, not only as a business premises, but for its cultural and touristic possibilities. In September of that year Zig Zag Brewery was registered as a business name.

In 2012 Adrian began experimenting more seriously with brewing, but without the background and with the demands of the day-to-day running of LVS, the synergies were not right. The breakthrough came in 2014 with the

appointment of Colin Wiggins as Brewer. Colin developed a range of five beers, still produced today by current Brewer Ian Anderson.

In 2018, having achieved the renewal of the Zig Zag Brewery both in regard to its wonderful history and its exciting future, Adrian and Malina sold Lithgow Valley Springs (Aust) Pty Ltd to Australia Blue Mountains Water Group Pty Ltd, a short-lived venture which has now (February 2020) gone into liquidation.

