

In 1989 Justice McHugh joined the High Court. The US invaded Panama but didn't catch the bad guy immediately. The Berlin Wall fell. Reagan walked out of office alive, the first president since 1840 to be elected in a year ending with a zero

to do so. When we walked out of the readers' course we were walking out to the unknown. Had we our time again, the consensus seems to be we wouldn't change our decision. Most of us would *say je ne regrette rien*.

Circuit Food

The Kaiser Stub'n

On Friday I took the former party of the second part, sadly confined in a nursing home, out to lunch. Nearby was a previously untried Austrian restaurant which had been recommended by one of the Winter Swimmers.

What a pleasant surprise it was! Nestling in McCarr's Creek Road where it meets Mona Vale Road, it has bushland on three sides and is bright and cheerful, with very pleasant views.

Every table had freshly cut flowers and there were fresh flowers in vases around the room. Red and white checked tablecloths completed the Tyrolean atmosphere.

The service was nothing short of excellent with the chef and proprietor and the proprietor's wife all taking part in the waiting. We were scarcely seated at the table when drinks, which included a Bitburger on tap, were offered. The beer came in two sizes: 300 mls and 500 mls and is as nice a continental beer as I have ever drunk. Warm bread rolls followed whilst we chose three entrees: first, the special of the day, fresh warm asparagus with shaved Black Forest ham and a frothy, hollandaise sauce. Next we shared dumplings, stuffed with pork crackling, and salad. The dumplings, somewhere between a squash ball and tennis ball in size, were delicious and filled with the crunchy pork bits. The sauce was, again, creamy but light, frothy and apple cider-flavoured. A real delicacy.

Last we shared veal kidney quickly sautéed with shallots in a tasty brown sauce. These were served with German-style fried potato sliced thin and cooked crisp. To my mind the kidneys were a little bit tough as if they had been cooked and reheated, which is fatal with offal, but overall it was a nice dish.

One glass of Margaret River sauvignon blanc rounded off what was a wonderful meal.

I know Terry Hills hasn't got a circuit court, but if anybody is on a view on the Mona Vale Road, The Kaiser Stub'n is *the* place to go for lunch. Booking is recommended because on the Friday we were there, the restaurant seemed to be filled with local Austrians and Germans.

The Kaiser Stub'n

302 McCarr's Creek Road

Terry Hills

Ph: 9450 0300

Open for dinner: Tuesday to Sunday

Open for lunch: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday

Credit cards: All major cards

John Coombs QC

25 March 2003

