

Thursday 15th October 2026. Making this our celebration day for Probus (50 Years)



Blampied, Victoria... a small town in Australia's central highlands.

[Swiss Mountain Hotel in Blampied](#). Established in 1865 by Louis Blampied, originally named The Manchester, Established in 1865 by Louis Blampied (after whom the town is named). It is recognized as one of Victoria's oldest licensed hotels and the oldest remaining weatherboard pub in the state. It is one of Victoria's oldest “continuously” licensed weatherboard pubs, though it actually closed for three years during the restorations of later years.

Renaming it The Swiss Mountain Hotel, Swiss immigrant Andre Lafranchi (and subsequent generations like Margherita and Florida Lafranchi) took over and operated the iconic country pub, running it for roughly 80 years. The family trace its regional roots back to the Swiss Italian immigration wave of the 1850s Victorian gold rush.



Bought in 2012 by hospitality icon Jim Frangos, he entirely renovated it over four to five years and added a function facility. This included constructing hand built stone walls, restored tables and building a new kitchen and bathroom. The property features the hotel, function facility, three-bedroom cottage, vineyard and beer garden on about 5000 sqm of land. He was in the process of renovating the cottage before his death on July

24, 2023, aged 77, after a long illness. Following his death his beloved Swiss Mountain Hotel was put up for sale. Offers of between a high \$2 million and low \$3 million sought.

Good luck to the latest owners of one of the most atmospheric hotels in regional Victoria. Speaking to “Will,” he showed us a couple of scrap books they were compiling. Full of history about the Swiss Mountain Hotel. I’ve never seen such a concise collection of information. All about the previous owners and their family histories. Even the emigrant ship Marco Polo (built 1852) gets a mention. It puts my humble summary to shame. They have big plans for the hotel. When you go there, enjoy the music playing whilst reading their scrapbooks. The food was pretty good too!

