

# Malone's Irish Tavern

## Sunday Star Times Editorial, 1 July 2001 Invincibly Molly (A8)

FIRST of all it was litigation over the Invincibles shirt, now it's a bar called Molly Malone's. Or Molly Malones, depending which Molly Malone's - or Molly Malones - you happen to be in.

Confused? You should be. In which case blame Molly Malones. Or Molly Malone.

The bizarre business began when Molly Malones, no apostrophe please, in Wellington got its barmaids' aprons in a twist over Molly Malone's joint on Waiheke Island.

Molly Malones, that's the Wellington bar, claims that Molly Malone's, that's the Waiheke Island restaurant and bar, is trading on its good name. And that will, as one news agency could not resist pointing out, result in a courtroom Donnybrook when the case is called to the bar.

The Courtney Place pub calls itself "the one and only Molly Malones", possibly overlooking the fact that there are thousands of Molly Malone bars dotted throughout this thirsty planet. For example there's one in Portsmouth, England, not a particularly Irish port. There's one, begorrah and mein gott, in Berlin, Germany.

All in all, a nice little earner for the legal profession.

Why, you may ask, does the boozier on Waiheke call itself Molly Malone's. Well, its owner Ita Malone, says she is always known as "Molly". And she was born in County Offaly, "where the Malone name originated".

In other words, on yer barrow.

## Ita agrees to name change after confidential settlement

Surfdale's Irish bar *Molly Malone's* is about to become known as *Molly* (the Irish simply *Malones*, after an out-of-court settlement between proprietor Ita Malone and a Wellington company also using the name.

The dispute between the two companies has been going on since the Irish-born Ita opened her restaurant and bar in August 2000.

She believes the Wellington *Molly Malone's* intends to open a sister pub in Auckland and for that reason asked her to change the name of her Waiheke establishment.

But Ita - born Ita Mary Malone

A PUB BY ANY OTHER NAME, WOULD BE AS SWEET, TO BE SURE.



what's-in-a-name case.

- at first refused, having been known as Molly (the Irish diminutive of Mary) since she was a child.

"Molly is what my family and friends call me. It's what my customers call me. It's my name."

Almost two years and countless lawyers' letters later a High Court hearing was set down to once and for all settle the



Proprietor Ita Malone, who will have to change even the staff tee-shirts.

Just two days before it was due to get under way, however, the two parties came to an agreement that Ita, bound by a confidentiality clause, can only say was "to my satisfaction".

She is now removing all reference to *Molly Malone's* from the business and associated merchandise and soon Surfdale's Irish bar will be known (through streets broad and narrow) simply as *Malones*.