

# **BILLIARD SALOONS**

By Mick Roberts

For many years now I have been fascinated by the history of the liquor industry in Illawarra and, in particular, hotels.

The colourful story behind the growth of the industry from sly-grog shops to the thriving club and pub industry we have throughout Illawarra today makes intriguing research. I am currently working on the history of hotels and the liquor industry in Illawarra and am making steady progress.

However, researching hotels also brought to light many associated industries that 'grew up' with local pubs.

One such industry was billiard saloons. What places they were!

They were often fronts for exclusive clubs which supplied many illegal benefits to financial members.

I am including a chapter on billiard saloons in an updated print of "Little House on the Hill, a History of Hotels and the Liquor Industry in the Bulli District of NSW."

Photographs of these saloons, especially around the Bulli district, are impossible to find. I would love to include a photograph of a local billiard saloon or hall in the book and hope a reader may be able to help me with either a photo or information.

The following extracts are from research I have completed so far on billiard saloons in the Bulli district.