WELCOME:

To Mesdames K. Durkin and M. McNamara, both of North Wollongong, who joined us in August.

QUEEN’S HOTEL, 1865:

The proprietor of the Queen’s Hotel wanted to let his hotel and so placed the following advertisement with the Sydney Morning Herald, which published it on 30th September, 1865. This advertisement gives us not only one man’s notion of the kind of place Wollongong was becoming but is interesting in establishing the place of a hotel in the life of a small community in the ’sixties. Amenities such as billiard tables, bar and ballroom suggest it served as a place for entertainment as well as accommodation. The provision for horses shows a regard equivalent to the modern ‘off-street parking.’ One wonders how many stars water closets received in any nineteenth century traveller’s accommodation directory.

The ways of the world are not very different. It is interesting to observe how the advertiser makes some efforts to ensure he cannot be accused of misrepresentation if his tenant does not succeed in running the hotel profitably.

TO LET

THE QUEEN’S HOTEL WOLLONGONG

The Hotel is situated in the best part of Wollongong, and is replete with everything that the most fastidious could desire, containing 30 rooms on the ground floor; bar; parlours; dining-room; billiard room, table, cues and complete; pantry and store rooms and very superior kitchen with 2 excellent stoves. On the second floor two handsomely furnished sitting rooms, 20 bedrooms, a large ballroom capable of accommodating several hundred persons, water closets and three bathrooms. Below are capital yards, stables, out-houses, small garden with good paddocks—in fact nothing has been spared by the proprietor to make the Queen’s Hotel certainly the most comfortable and fashionable hotel in Australia.

Wollongong (is known) not only as the garden of the colony, for its healthiness and beautiful scenery, but also for the respectability and wealthiness of its neighbourhood and (it has) the patronage of the elite of Sydney who are anxious to avoid unpleasantness in watering places immediately near Sydney; no doubt can be held that the patronage should ensure [prosperity] in a short time to the tenant, particularly if saddle horses and vehicles were kept at the hotel always ready at a small expense for visitors to view the neighbouring scenery, bearing in mind that civility, cleanliness and a rigid attention to moderate charges are to be the motto of every landlord at any hotel.

Bruce Pennay