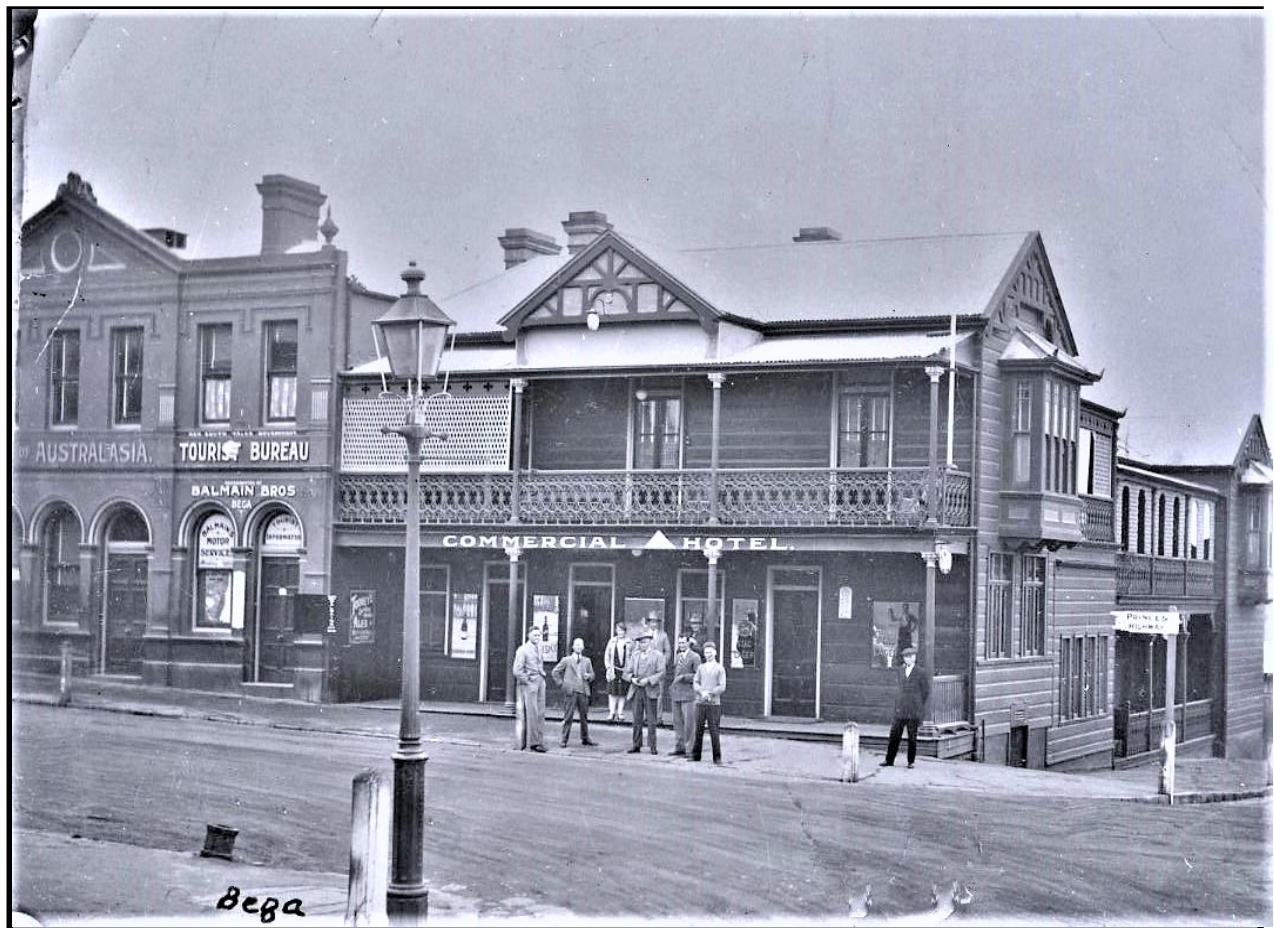


The Bega Pioneer

Voice of the Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.



The Commercial Hotel, Bega

March 2021 Edition



MUSEUM NEWS

VALE.

The committee was saddened to hear of the passing of John Richardson. John was the treasurer for two years and in that time he updated and created the policies and procedures pertaining to the society as well as establishing the website. His contribution to the daily working of the museum was extensive and greatly appreciated. Our condolences are extended to his family.

BUILDING LEASE WITH BVSC.

We have received the lease agreement from BVSC and are currently getting legal advice on our options before signing the lease

OTHER NEWS

MERIMBULA OLD SCHOOL MUSEUM.

Has reopened with revamped displays. On Wednesday March 31st they opened a new exhibit featuring Oyster Plates from many different countries donated by Trevor Kennedy. This museum is well worth a visit.

*Have You Changed your
Email Address?*



*Please let us know
call 64921453 or
email museum25@tpg.com.au*

NEW VOLUNTEERS

We welcome to our volunteers **Shirley Sproats**. Shirley is working with Anne Ducray on cataloging the newspaper archive that the museum received from the BDN.

Yvonne Burman. Yvonne is taking on the cleaning of the cabinets and artefacts.

NEW MEMBERS.

Jean Schad. Cheryl Alcock. Andrew Doyle.

Check us out on



MUSEUM OPENING HOURS.

The days remain the same but we are closing at 2pm.

TELEPHONE.

The telephone/NBN issue has been resolved and we are back in touch with the world. Call us on 02 6492 1453

Hotels of Bega

Information for Merimbula-Imlay Historical Society, June 2005

Chronology of Bega Hotels

1. Annie & Isaac White were reported to have a 'shanty' on Yarranung Hill, Bega, 'the first public house between Moruya and Pambula', reported the NSW Government Gazette in 1851.
2. Samuel Mead had a **Traveller's Rest Inn** on the northern side of the Bega River, in 1854. Samuel died in 1860, and a Mr Thomas took over the Inn.
3. The Victoria Inn was the next hotel in Bega, built by Annie White after Isaac's death c1854. She applied for a change of name on the licence and built on the southern side of the river in Auckland Street – the buildings still survive opposite the public school and next to the Pioneers Museum.
4. The Family Hotel (now the Pioneers Museum) was built by Surveyor Bransby in 1857-8, and Mr & Mrs Needham were the first licensees.
5. The Bank Hotel was built next in 1860's by Charles Ellis.
6. Britten's Hotel was mentioned as being in Carp Street, on the site of Rixon's Office (in 2005).
7. The Commercial Hotel, on corner of Carp & Gipps Sts, was built by William Thomson and run by James Rixon after he left the Family Hotel in 1864.
8. The Club Hotel, also known as the Rose Hotel, was built in the early 1870's by the McNamara family.
9. The Royal Hotel in Gipps Street was built in 1877 by Mr James Kiss
10. The Imperial Hotel had been a 3-storyed business house named 'Victoria House', built by William Thomson, and was converted to a hotel by Mr J T Murphy in 1882.
11. The Occidental Hotel was built in 1875-6 by Mr William Britten, who owned the land.
12. The Imperial Hotel in Carp Street was set up by Mr Murphy in 1882.
13. The Metropolitan Hotel dates from the 1880's and was renamed as the Bega Hotel in the 1930's, (Brownies in 2005)

The Bank Hotel in Church Street Bega was built by Charles W Ellis in 1860's, with bricks kilned on site, a shingle roof, and a balcony over the footpath. Charlie's father died before the hotel was built so Mrs Ellis held the freehold and her sons ran the business. Charlie married Lillie the daughter of 'Blayney' Allen of the Imperial Hotel, Bega.

The Bank was first kept by Mr Friberg, then Mr Peter Daly from the Central Hotel, and then taken by Henry Underhill in 1866 until his death in 1912. In January 1882, William Rowley, late of the Empire Hotel in Young, kept the hotel. Mr Everingham and then Mr George Boddington held licences, until Boddington's death in 1894.

Mr Frank A Hall came from Sydney and was proprietor in 1897 and added a dining, lounge and 6 new bedrooms.

Mrs Ann Kelly and family came from Junee and bought the business in November 1899, and Miss M Kelly was the proprietress.

After Henry Underhill's death in October 1912, the licence, lease, stock & trade of the Bank Hotel was sold to Mr James C Behl, who had been conducting the Tathra Hotel, and later died in Sydney in 1914, aged 43. Mrs Fuchs also came from Tathra Hotel to run the Bank and married Harold Menser a commercial traveler, in October 1913. Mr C O Fox, late of the Hotel Bega was licensee for some years, then Mr Marriott and Mr W Chapman, who went on to the Robbie Burns at Wyndham.

Mr & Mrs Jim Kelly had the hotel until Jim Clancy arrived in 1923.

Mr James J Clancy bought the freehold and had to remove the balcony to conform to council regulations in 1924, and Thatcher & Sons built more bedrooms. Mr Clancy kept the freehold, but sold the business to Mr Les Elliott, who ran the hotel until 1935

Mr Clancy sold to Mr De Gruchy of Sydney in July 1928.

Charlie Rowley took over in 1948, only to die the following year.

Other names associated with the Hotel are Story, Britten, Jack Wallace, McKechnie, Billy Snedden (not the MP), Kevin Reidy, and Josie Richardson.

In 1986 Paul & Pauline Rixon moved from Corryong to keep the hotel in the family name for another 18 years – Henry Underhill was Paul's great uncle.



The Bega Hotel (Brownie's in 2005) in Carp Street, was known as the **Metropolitan Hotel**, dating back to the 1880s.

In September 1897, the Bank of NSW applied for an ejectment order against Michael Mooney, licensee of the Metropolitan Hotel.

Mr John Gay sold the hotel to Mr St Leon in 1899. The famous circus owner Walter St Leon owned the Metropolitan so that his children could attend the Bega Primary School. Mrs St Leon ran the hotel for a while until transferring the licence to her parents, Mr & Mrs F Russell. The Russells later sold the Metropolitan to the McGuire family in 1903.

Mr Charles Fox of Bega Hotel bought buildings of the Hergenhan Estate adjoining the hotel in order to build extensions to the hotel in November 1923.

Mr Lynch, an ex-policeman from Wyndham, took over the Bega Hotel in November 1936, replacing Mr Harris and family. Mr Bertram Webster sold the Bega Hotel in May 1937 to Leopold Trow from Victoria. By 1944 when Cliff Reagan was the publican, the Metropolitan was well known as the Bega Hotel.

The licence was transferred in June 1947 from Mr N Ingall to Mr Gordon S Rowley, ex Moree.

Central Hotel in Gipps Street was built by Mr Daniel Gowing as an investment for his daughters. It was converted to an hotel with an extension of an existing 2-storey store built by Mr John Connolly in the 1870's.

The hotel was opened officially in June 1895 and the first licensee was Mr Dickson. The licence was transferred to Mr J A Payten in January 1897. Mrs Rafter was the new manager of the Central in December 1899, and she moved to the Commercial in 1901. Mr & Mrs T Murray arrived to take over the Central in September 1909, taking over from Mr & Mrs Harry Cockerill, who had the honor of hosting the Governor-General in 1908. A motor garage was erected at the Central in 1910. Mr Beresford had the billiard room made into five roomy bedrooms when he was at the Central in 1912.

Mr Andy Morgan was proprietor of the Central in 1921. Walter Victor Day was licensee of the Central in October 1925 when he gave evidence at a trial in court.

Leila Dwyer bought the hotel when the licence was transferred by the brewery in 1947 and ran it as a private hotel until her death in 1992.

The Club Hotel was built by the McNamara family, pioneers of the Bega Valley, in the early 1870's. The Beresford family ran the hotel, and then the Goward family, and McPhees.

Mrs Jones, late landlady of the 'Free Selection Inn' at Nerrigundah, was running the Club Hotel in 1882. Mr J T Murphy was granted a licence to the Club Hotel in June 1897.

Mrs Cameron of Victoria bought Mrs Goward's Club Hotel business in May 1902. Elizabeth Thompson appeared before the licensing court in June 1903 and was castigated for having no

bolts on the doors and the windows needed fasteners, and the staircase had not been attended to. There was a private sale of the late Mrs McNamara's Club Hotel and other properties in town in September 1903. Mr H Alexander died in September 1907 while owner of the Club, after leaving the Occidental in 1904. The hotel closed in 1908 and became a drapery shop and then became the Neon Café.

The building was demolished in July 1988 after 100 years of trading as the Club Hotel and Neon Café.

The Commercial Hotel on the corner of Carp and Gipps St's was built in about 1870 by William Thomson, an ex-teacher of Bega, who owned all the land along Carp Street. James Rixon, from the Crown & Anchor, Eden, was the first licensee, after he sold the Family Hotel in 1864. James died in 1873 and the hotel was managed by his daughter Maria & husband George Underhill until the licence expired in 1879. Thomas Mooney from the Royal Hotel took over for a while and Edward Brown from Moruya then leased the hotel until his lease expired and he bought the property until his death in November 1895. Mrs Rafter came from the Central for a year until Mr Marcus Hume from New Zealand arrived. Mr Hume added a second storey to the building and stayed until his death in about 1904, after which his wife Margaret and her sister Miss Winifred Bell ran the hotel.

Mr H A Watson from the Delegate Hotel was the new proprietor in August 1906.

Mr Joseph Solomon of Cathcart took over the Hotel in January 1916. Mr & Mrs Jack Searle managed the hotel about this time.

A very popular Monty Burke became proprietor in January 1921 until about 1934, when James & Susan Brady arrived from Goulburn to manage the hotel for Toohey's brewery who had rebuilt the new brick hotel in 1935.

The Family Hotel – built on corner of Auckland and Bega St's in c1857-8 by Mr Bransby, managed by Mr Needham, then owned by James Rixon, who sold to Henry Underhill in 1864 and run by his parents Thomas & Jane Underhill, then his sisters Mrs J Rixon & Mrs T Rixon. Following the Underhill/Rixon dynasty of 58 years, Mr Con Buckley from Nimmitabel bought the hotel in 1922 and was farewelled in July 1927. He was followed by Mr Edwards, then by an ex-Lord Mayor of Sydney, Patrick Stokes. Ex boxing champion, Tim Land held the licence for several years before Mr Maurice Stevens became the last publican in 1938. He took the licence with him when he moved to the Grand Hotel.

Mr Harry Scanes operated a boarding house and private home until selling to the Bega Valley Historical Society in 1976 for a Museum.

Grand Hotel – ex Occidental Hotel.

The Occidental was built in 1875-6 on the corner of Carp and Auckland St's by Mr William Britten and run by Mr Bruce, until Mr Edmund Mears took over for 17 years until November 1893 when Thomas Dunn replaced him.

In 1900 it was known as 'Alexander's Occidental Hotel' until he sold in 1904. Then a Mr Mitchell ran it, followed by the last licensee Mr John Coffey.

Mr Joseph Phillips ran the old hotel as Phillip's Temperance Hotel, a boarding house. Mrs J R Smith took over in November 1912, and then sisters-in-law, Mrs Barwick and Mrs Howard took over the boarding house in 1935.

Toohey's then bought the hotel in 1937, demolished it and built the present Grand Hotel, with Maurie Stevens from the Family Hotel providing the licence.

Imperial Hotel – a former business house in Carp Street, it was made into the Imperial Hotel by Mr J T Murphy in 1882. Mr 'Blayney' Allen kept the Imperial for many years, and then moved to the Roan Horse Inn at Pambula. He sold out to Mr Thomas Peace (not Pearce) in about 1900

who after about 9 years sold to Mr J H Beresford. The Hotel was sold as part of the estate of Mr P Cahill in April 1910, although Mr Beresford's licence did not run out until May 1911. Once the licence was gone, the 3-storey building was taken over as the Morgan Imperial Stores by Mr A Morgan. It was later demolished and rebuilt as Howard's Building in Ayres Walkway.

The Royal Hotel (on the site of the BP Garage in Gipps Street Bega) was a 2-storey premises built by Jimmy Kiss in 1877.

The Mooney brothers, first Thomas, than Mick, were the following licensees.

James Hutton was the licensee in January 1882.

Thomas Dunn took over until moving to the Occidental Hotel (now the Grand Hotel) in 1893. Mr Joseph McKee junior, of Nimmitybelle, took over in November 1893.

The licence was transferred from Michael McNamara to John Gay, from the Northern Rivers, in July 1986, and Mr Gay had a billiards licence.

By October 1913, the licence had been removed and The Royal premises became a new boarding house run by Mrs Lambert, then Mrs Beveridge, until the 1930's when it was demolished.

Tathra Hotels.

Tathra's first hotel was the Brighton Hotel built in 1870, by the daughter of Mrs White of the Victoria Inn, Jane, but burnt down in 1880.

The New Brighton was built by J W Twyford, after the fire, near the post office. This hotel was owned for many years by Mr John Gleeson, and was conducted by Mr Abbott, who left to take over the Roan Horse Inn at Pambula.

The old hotel premises was used as a guesthouse, store & post office by Mr C A Lawrence, and was bought in 1937 by Mr J F Allen of Candelo, when his son-in-law Mr Peck conducted the store and post office.

The Ocean View Hotel was built by Mr Twyford in the early 1880's, who left and set up a produce store at Tathra in May 1885, with lucerne & maize from Sydney.

Mr Edward Bofinger had his licence renewed at Tathra in September 1897.

Joseph W Twyford was the licensee in October 1899.

By 1907, Thomas Rixon was the licensee.

Mr James C Behl from Pambula purchased the hotel from Thomas Rixon in January 1910.

Mrs Fuchs took over from Mr Behl in September 1912.

Mr George Carpenter sold the Ocean View to Captain O V Williams, ex Empire Hotel, Brisbane, in February 1924.

Mr Bob McDonough had the hotel from 1928 -1933, when Timothy Dwyer took over as manager.

The Victoria Inn. Also known as the **Queens Hotel**, in Auckland Street, beside the Bega Pioneers Museum, was built by Mrs Annie White in about 1858. Mrs White managed the hotel with her family until her death in November 1888.

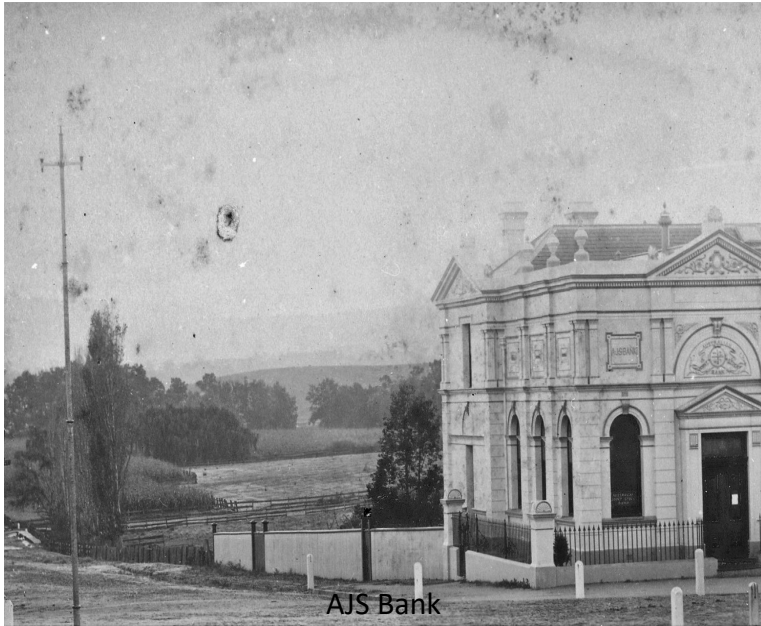
Mrs Agnes McPhee ran the Yowaka Inn (1872) and Roan Horse Inn at Pambula (where her husband died), and moved to the Queens Hotel, Bega, before moving to Sydney in 1906.

Mr Edwin Meares and his family moved from the Queens Hotel at Candelo and renamed the Victoria Inn the Queens Hotel.

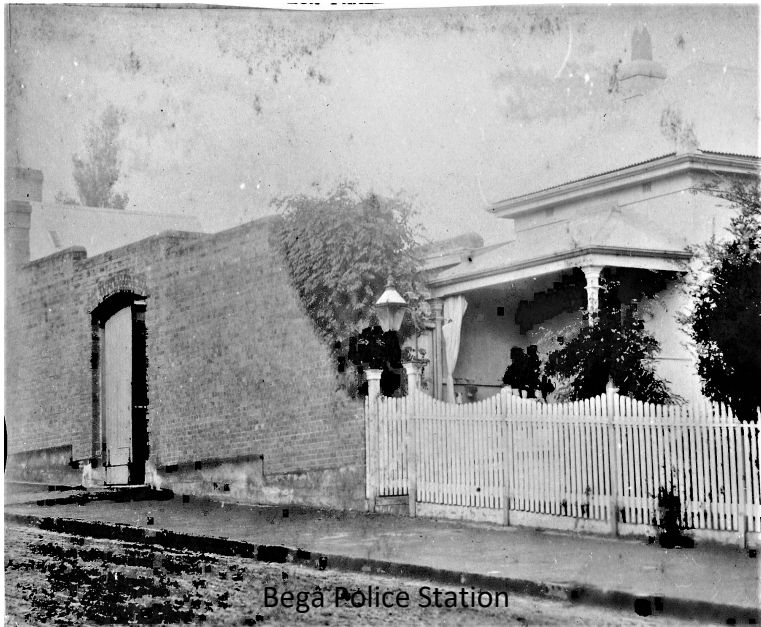
The old hotel was bought in 1901 by James Cochrane, who divided it into two cottages for rent.



T. Davis Photographs



AJS Bank

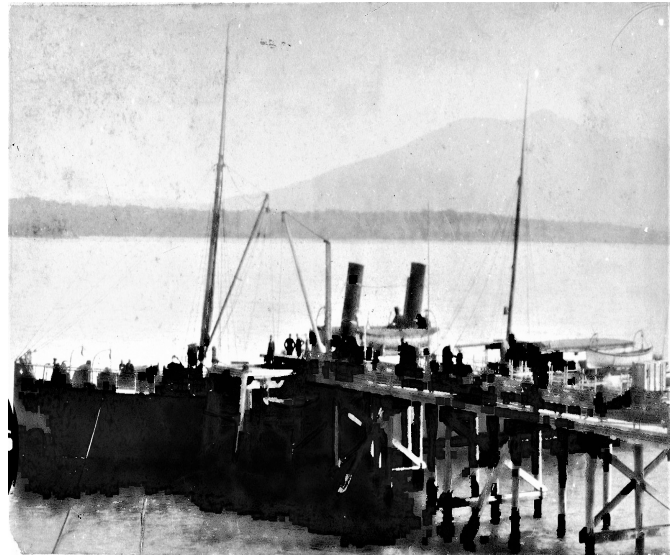


Bega Police Station

T.DAVIS PHOTO 1889 - BEGA FAMILY MUSEUM COPY - 2/4/2001 - Cat.#



Bega



S.S. Alloway - Birmaguy



Bermagui *Birmaguy*



Sergeant Haslam

ACQUISITIONS.

The WW2 medals of A E Pearce have been donated to the museum by Ron Pearce.

The following books have been donated by Grant Hayes.

Master Muster Monaro Pioneers

Spindler Family

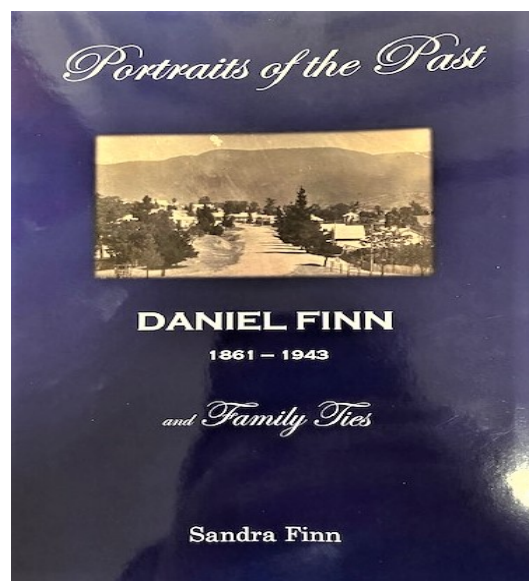
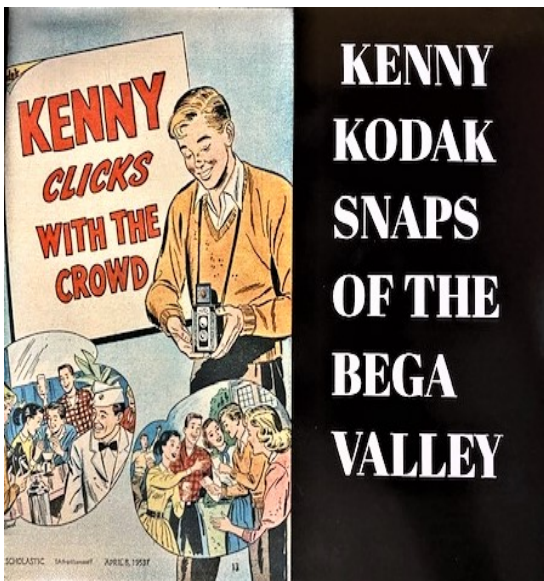
Images of Pioneering Families of the Bega District - Hayes and Spindler.

History of Rock Music in Sydney.

The History of the South Coast and Monaro Hotels

Kenny Kodak Snaps of the Bega Valley.

Portraits of the Past - Daniel Finn 1861 -1943 by Sandra Finn



Publications for Sale

Bismark House	\$20
Bega District Band	\$5
Bega High - 50 years Bega	\$5
Primary 1860-2010	\$10
They Made this Valley Home	\$25
Illawarra Steam Ship Company	\$25
The Bushfires of 52	\$20
Bayleys History of Bega	\$25



Bega Valley Historical Society Inc.

Incorporating

Bega Pioneers' Museum

87 Bega Street, Bega NSW 2550

Committee

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Treasurer : Helen Jauncey

Research Officer: Margaret Sly

Committee Members:

Doug Russell

Bill Fletcher

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MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

10am to 2pm.

The Society's Newsletter is published quarterly and is free to all members and to kindred societies.

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