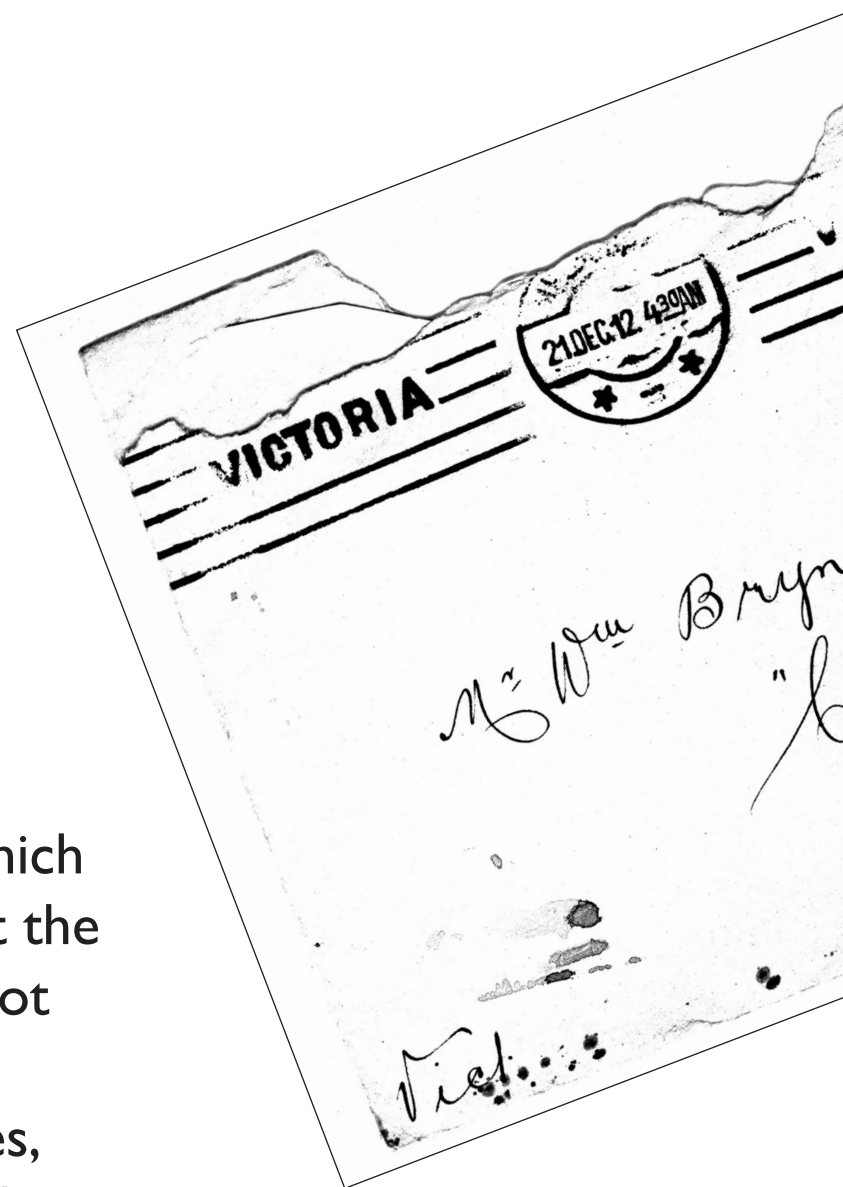


THE COSMOPOLITAN - A PLACE FOR ALL REASONS

A place for GHOSTS

While having no skeletons which we can reveal at this time, we do have some mysteries and a plethora of ghostly goings on.

A enigmatic note sets out an agreement which seems likely to have involved two people at the Cosmopolitan. Exactly what it signifies is not known, but it seems to be an agreement between someone with the surname Byrnes, possibly M. Byrnes, and Mr J.R. Webb regarding long-term care, or adoption, or maybe a marriage.



Agreement between
Miss Byrnes & Mr J.R. Webb
entered into this day
13-11-99. whereby Miss
Byrnes vows that she
will look after the
aforesaid J.R. Webb
and also remain
true till death,
And J.R. Webb also vows
in return that he
will remain true
true no matter
what may come between
signed this day in
the presence of a witness
Witness Maggie Byrnes

▲
The gilt-edged note with an envelope of a different date.



▲ The stairs which lead to the 'haunted' bedrooms of the Cosmopolitan.

"Agreement between M. Byrnes and Mr. J. R. Webb entered into this day 13 -11-99 whereby M. Byrnes vows that she will look after the aforesaid J. R. Webb and also to remain true till death. And J. R. Webb also vows in return that he will remain true, true, true no matter what may come between. Signed this day in the presence of a witness.

▲ Transcription of the note above with agreement unto death between M. Byrne and Mr Webb. The witness signs as Maggie. The other signatures appear to be those of M. Byrnes and J. R. Webb.

The name is spelt 'Byrnes' with an 's' in this document although the more commonly accepted spelling is 'Byrne'. We believe that the year in the date refers to 1899.

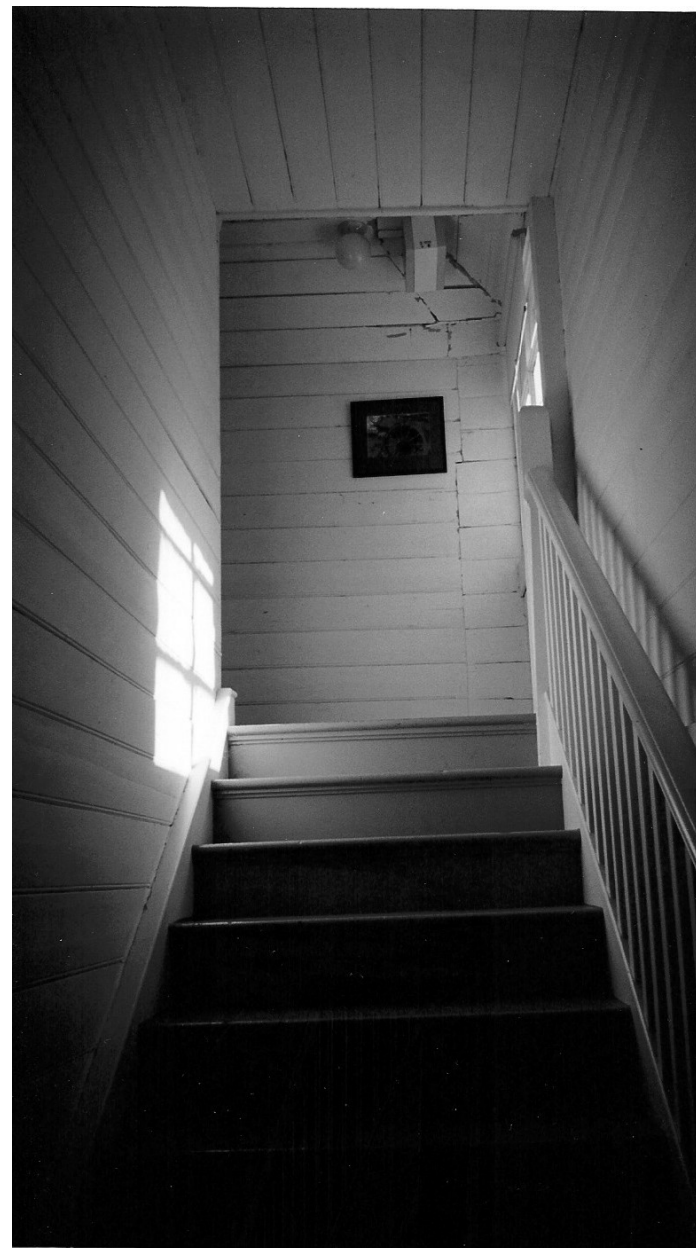
The tragic deaths of both the wife and daughter of Mr. Hall, the General Storekeeper, may have given rise to stories suggesting the identity of the ghostly presence of a woman and young girl at the Cosmopolitan, but there are many other possibilities. Sarah Bickley, the wife of the original owner, died in the old cottage. Other people are known to have died at the hotel. Post mortems were sometimes held in the room made available for this purpose.

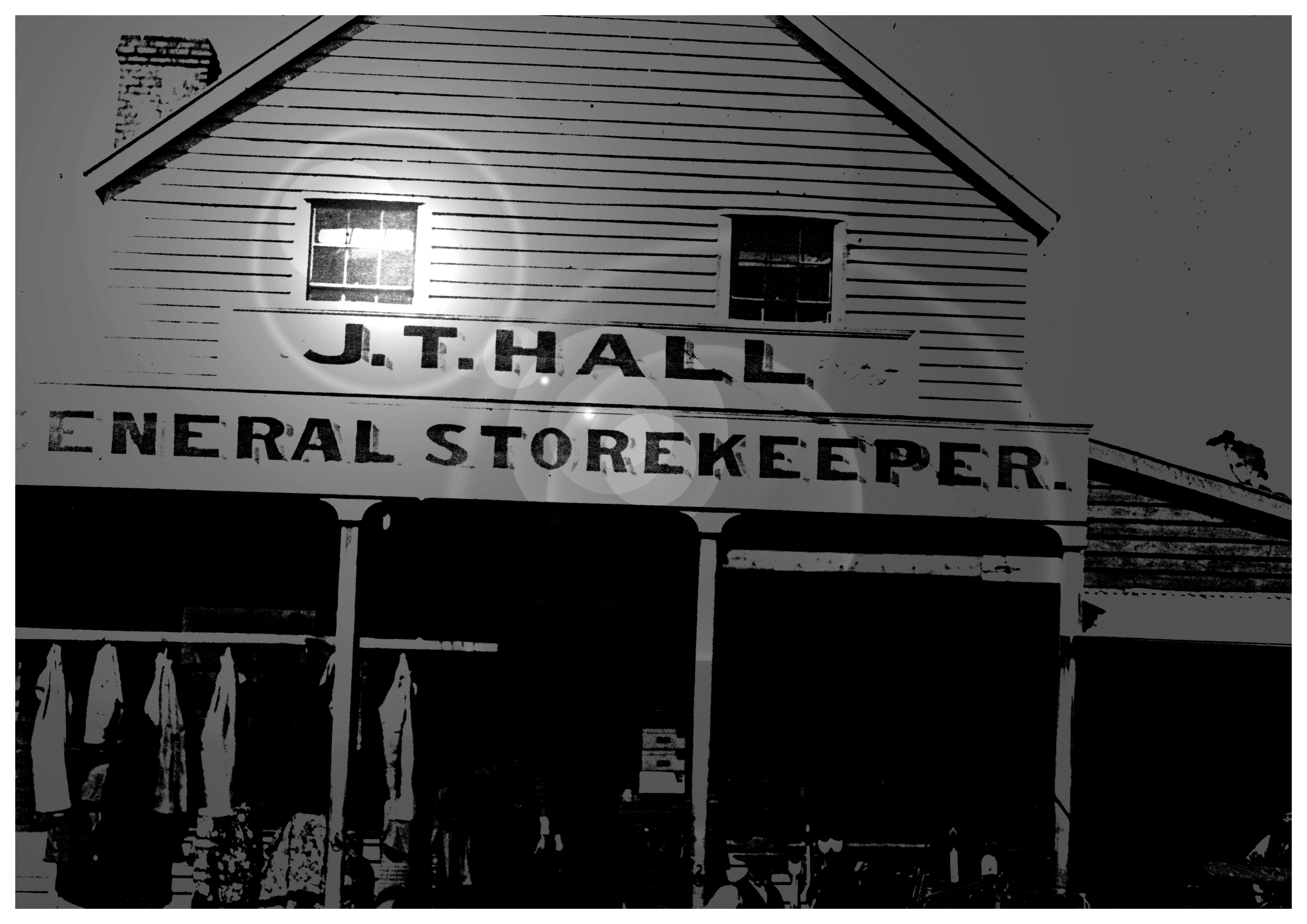
Bruce McKenzie, was once asked to check on the security of the Cosmopolitan premises whilst the owners were away. He was given a massive key to let himself in and as he walked through the passageways he felt an extremely eerie sensation which gave him quite a fright! Although he saw nothing, and although he does not believe in ghosts, he could not get out quickly enough!

The stairs at 'Byrneside' where the ghostly woman appeared.



The stairs and the upstairs hallway at the Cosmopolitan.





J.T. HALL

GENERAL STOREKEEPER.

▲ The ghosts of the woman and a little girl appeared at these windows.

Bruce's daughter often played with her girlfriend who lived at the Cosmopolitan. This little girl's father told stories about how the ghost of a young girl walked through his upstairs bedroom.

Reg Scott, who once lived opposite the Cosmopolitan, mentioned seeing what appeared to be ghostly females at the upper floor windows.

Ian French remembers that his guests who slept in the upstairs bedrooms of the Cosmopolitan, frequently reported that they had seen a ghosts in the upper rooms. Quite often, he found guests huddled in their doonas, sleeping in the downstairs lounge room after a 'troubled' night. A young woman who worked at the hotel during this time simply refused go upstairs unaccompanied. Ian also recalls the two couples who stayed at the hotel one Friday and Saturday night. On the way home, the women dared to mention the eerie sights that they had experienced on the previous nights. They were so intrigued that they immediately returned with their husbands to the Cosmopolitan to further explore their ghostly encounters.

One day several years ago, Bruce McKenzie was talking to Bob Byrne, who was the last Byrne to live at the family farm 'Byrneside'. In all seriousness, Bob told Bruce that a ghost inhabited the old house out at the farm. Bob said that the ghost was a young woman who stood at the top of the stairs. Bob just mentioned this in passing, as though it was a matter of fact every day event! He had seen her often!

Amanda Curran and her sister-in-law, Julie, arrived at The Cosmopolitan to stay for a week and were talking to Ian French at the foot of the stairs when Amanda had an awful feeling as if a cloud of doom was coming down the stairway. It was such a depressive, horrible feeling that Amanda turned to Julie to ask if she could also feel it. Julie looked at Amanda in horror and ran out, up the street, to a telephone box to call her mother. For the rest of that week Amanda and Julie stayed close together at all times.

Research into the story of the Cosmopolitan is never-ending. An answer to one question raises a dozen others. It is a story of a family, a business a legend and a tradition.