

MARY DILLON

In 1843, Mary Dillon, daughter of a publican from Bathurst in New South Wales, was granted a licence to open her pub in Brisbane, then a rather rough and ready frontier town. In her application to Governor Gipps in July 1842, Mary wrote that she had been in New South Wales for twenty-five years, but was unable any longer to support herself and her family 'without trade'. Mary produced 'very high testimonials' signed by 'respectable inhabitants of Bathurst'. Mary opened her pub in a former government building, and spent 500 pounds on improvements. The depression affected her business and, in 1844, Mary was unable to pay her licence fee and found herself forced to try to sell her furniture, having 'no prospects What Ever – but the refuge of the Insolvent Court'¹.

¹ Correspondence between Mary Dillon and the Colonial Secretary.