

News Release

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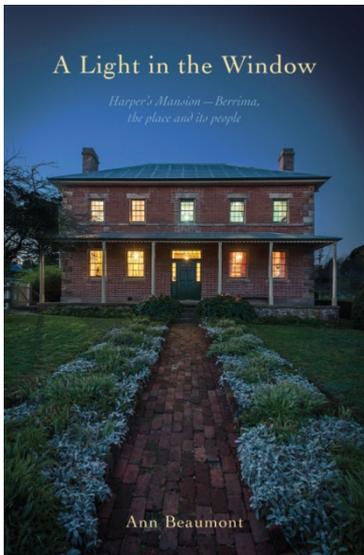
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22 May 2014

***A Light In The Window, Harper's Mansion Berrima* WINS PRESTIGIOUS NSW HERITAGE AWARD**



A prestigious NSW Heritage Award has been awarded to a book published about Harper's Mansion in the Southern Highlands.

Eric Savage, Chair of the Harper's Mansion Management Committee, said he and "fellow committee members were delighted when the news came through that historian Ann Beaumont was the winner of the Education and Interpretation Community and Individual category for her book *A Light in the Window, Harper's Mansion Berrima – the place and its people*. There was stiff opposition for the award with nine nominations".

The award was made at the 20th National Trust Heritage Awards in Sydney on Wednesday. The new NSW Minister for the Environment and Heritage Rob Stokes was guest speaker at the function which was attended by several hundred members of the heritage community from around Australia.

Dr. Savage said "the award was well deserved as Ms. Beaumont had donated her time over a two year period to research and write the much needed story of the National Trust Berrima property. The book was partially funded with a federal government grant. Ann has donated all proceeds from the sale of the book to fund an archaeological dig of the brick 1830s detached kitchen on the site. The dig is expected to start in September".

He continued, saying “the resulting publication is a lively narrative that brings to life the Harpers who built the house, as well as the priests and nuns who had lived and worked at the property when it was owned by the Catholic Church. From 1910 the house was tenanted until 1970, with the property becoming very run down over these years”.

The National Trust acquired Harper’s Mansion in 1978 and the books continues the story of the restoration, the creation of a heritage style garden and the work of volunteers at the property over the last 30 years.

Eric also said “that the book is a wonderful addition to the story of Berrima, which is the best preserved colonial era village on the mainland of Australia”.

It can be purchased at Harper’s Mansion and outlets in the Southern Highlands or through the website www.harpersmansion.com.au

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MEDIA INTERVIEWS & HIGH RES IMAGES

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