

MONUMENTS IN THE MAREEBA SHIRE

by John Hay and Helen Kindt

Monuments perpetuate the memories of past events that might otherwise be forgotten. They recognise individuals and groups of people whose achievements and deeds become noteworthy. Monuments often timeframe construction projects of special significance. Whatever the reason they are meaningful structures.

In this edition we deal with monuments only. Although there are a number of plaques fitted to buildings and grave sites, etc, these have not been included as monuments.

Please note that not all monument wording has been transcribed.

Anthill Park in front of the Mareeba Heritage Museum and Tourist Information Centre is a monument dedicated to **James Venture Mulligan**. It was moved from Tinaroo Creek Road turnoff on southern side on Mareeba to Cairns Road. *In memory of James Venture Mulligan Prospector and Explorer 1837-1907. Unveiled by C. L. Davies esq. Chairman Mareeba Shire May 29th 1954*

Centenary Park: 100th Archway. Erected by the Mareeba Lions Club 1997. *This archway – the gateway to the peninsular – is dedicated to those pioneers who paved the way for the settlement of Mareeba and the opening of the Kennedy and Mulligan Highways 1877 – 1977*

Anzac Park, Pacific Victory Wall, Byrnes Street Mareeba: *1945-1995. Dedicated to the Pacific Victory and the end of the War 15/8/1945. Erected by the Mareeba Shire Council. This plaque was unveiled by W. W. Hastie Esq. Ex 62nd Battalion and 2/15 Battalion, to officially dedicate this Anzac Park site.*

Another small plaque further in the park reads, *This tree was planted by Eric Moore Esq as a living symbol to remember those who have served Australia in times of conflict*

Granite Creek: John Atherton Cairn located on the beginning (bottom end) of Byrnes Street, Mareeba. *John Atherton 1837 – 1913. Pioneer of the Tableland. Settled at Emerald End Station In the 'Barron' 1876. Discovered tin and named locality Tinaroo. Led party to the Wild River, Herberton where he had previously discovered tin. Erected Mareeba's first house near this site in 1880*

John Jones Memorial Cairn and Direction Dial, Groganville. A tribute to his preservation work on and around the Palmer River Goldfield. *Dedicated to the memory of John Robert Jones. Erected by his mates in 1990*

Mount Carbine Cairn. *Unveiled by the Queensland Premier Hon J. Bjelke-Petersen MLA May 5, 1978 to mark the official opening of the Open Cut Treatment Plant by Queensland Wolfram Pty Ltd.*

Mount Molloy (in the main street): *Dedicated to the founder of Mount Molloy, Patrick Molloy 1840-1923 Pioneer, Teamster, Miner and Grazier. Tested and successfully worked copper mine which led to the founding of Mount Molloy*

Mount Molloy (in the main street): *Bearing the names of six fallen soldiers during World War II 1939-1945. They gave their lives for their country. Australia remembers 1995*

Mount Mulligan Monument. In 1986, a plaque was erected at the base of the ageing brick stack: *Dedicated to Mount Mulligan and its people for old langsyne from Darby Fletcher. In 1996, the 75th anniversary, a monument bearing the names of the official seventy-five victims was erected in front of the stack. This memorial records the names of those killed at Mount Mulligan mine September 19, 1921. Erected by the Mines and Energy Union*

The **Bunny Seary Lookout**: *In Memory of Arthur Francis "Bunny" Seary 1916-1997. Mareeba Shire Councillor. Monument on Chewko Road eight kilometres from Mareeba*

Sorensen Monument. Located before the Big Mitchell River Crossing alongside the Mareeba to Mount Molloy Road. *In Honour of our Pioneering ancestors Gabriel and Doretta Sorensen. Doretta ran the halfway staging house while Gabe operated a packing team. They both contributed in a major way helping weary travellers and transporting food and materials from the coast to the minefields in the North. The unveiling ceremony was officiated by Cr Mick Borzi OBE, Saturday 22nd July 2006*

Tobacco Monument, Dimbulah (main street): *Erected by the Lions Club 1963 as a tribute to the old-time battlers in tobacco workers and growers who pioneered Dimbulah*

Stannary Hills Monument marks the centre of the former town of Stannary Hills. *With the construction of a tramway to Rocky Bluffs from Boonmoo on the Chillagoe railway line in 1902, Stannary Hills became a small but important centre of industry and commerce for a short period prior to the Great War.* Plaque donated by the Reef 'n' Hinterland Seniors Travel Club in 2002

Edmund Kennedy Monument adjacent to Emu Creek, a tributary of the Walsh River. *A tribute to The Kennedy Expedition of 1848, and the blazing of camp KXXXIII on August 29.* Erected by the Eacham Historical Society in 2004

Emerald Creek Monument. Located adjacent to the Emerald Creek Bridge. This monument has three plaques: 1) *dedicated to the people who farmed tobacco etc at Emerald Creek;* 2) *the Srhoj family reunion 25th September 2006, to the senior families and commemorate the pioneers of our generation in Northern Queensland;* 3) *coinciding with plaque number 1, Erected by the Emerald Creek Social Club. Unveiled by Mr Tom Gilmore M L A 4.5.1991*

To Commemorate a **National Arterial Project:** A monuments at the turn off to Speewah Road on the Kennedy Highway. *(Groves Creek – Speewah Road). A Federally funded National Arterial Project Officially opened By Mr J. Gayler M.P. Federal Minister for Leichhardt, 15 May 1992*

Barron Bridge at Kuranda: Located at the southern end, eastern side of the roadway. *In memory of Lionel Moody and Alexander Lucuz who died in the construction of the first high level bridge over the Barron River at Kuranda in November 1962. Unveiled by The Honourable Ken Hayward M L A Minister for Transport and Dr Desley Clark M L A Minister fro Barron River On 9 May 1995*

Irvinebank: A monument in front of the **School of Arts Hall** building (additional information unavailable)

Mareeba Hospital: *This foundation stone was laid by the Hon William Forgan Smith MLA Premier and Treasurer of Queensland. October 15, 1939*

Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade (QATB) Monument to mark the building redevelopment of the Mareeba Centre. *Opened by G. S. Moore Esq, September 2, 1989*

Monuments at Chillagoe, **William Atherton:** 1) *This plaque commemorates the centenary of the pioneering of Chillagoe Cattle Station by William Atherton in 1888. C.O.B.F. 2.7.1988*

Pioneers: 2) *This plaque commemorates the pioneers who settled this district 1878-1978*

Chillagoe: **Patricia Kinnear Memorial Park** *named and dedicated – in her honour – erected by her family and residents of Chillagoe. Opened 24 October 1982*

Watsonville Cemetery: Erected by the Western Progress Association to commemorate those interred (additional information unavailable)

The **William Hambling Bridge** over the Walsh River near Dimbulah was named after this legend of the Wolfram track. An on site monument was dedicated December 13, 2003 and the bridge officially opened by Cr Mick Borzi OBE. *In memory of an old-time Wolfram Camp carrier*

Wolfram Camp Monument was unveiled October 15, 2006 by Cr Mick Borzi OBE. The monument is located alongside the Tully and Morrow Hotel site at Bottom Camp, Wolfram. *Dedicated to the memory of those who lived and worked at Wolfram Camp. Erected by Mareeba Historical Society and their supporters 15 October 2006*

Mareeba Aerodrome. Large monument with five plaques: *This aerodrome played a decisive part in keeping Australia free from invasion during second World War-1939-1945*

The remaining four plaques are dedicated to: No 5 Squadron RAAF, No 100 Squadron RAAF, the memory of ten (10) U.S. servicemen who lost their lives when their Flying Fortress bomber crashed, and to the memory of Andrew Kendall Duke, Mississippi USA, who was killed when his Lockheed P38 fighter bomber crashed near Bibohra.

A small monument in the car park, *Commemorates the decisive part this aerodrome played in maintaining Australia free from invasion 1942-1945*