

Mareeba Memoirs

Edition Number 53
February 2012



Pelham Ernest Pearsill (Slim)

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345 Byrne Street, Centenary Park Mareeba 4880

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Mareeba Historical Society

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MEETINGS

General monthly meetings held on the **FOURTH** Thursday of each month **EXCEPT** December.
Meeting dates on Page 9.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Due 1st July each year.

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Three enemies of personal peace: by *William Arthur Ward*.

- Regret over yesterdays' mistakes
- Anxiety over tomorrow's problems;
- Ingratitude for today's blessings.

From the Editor

I hope the saying above helps you prepare for the year ahead.

Welcome to our first Memoirs for 2012. I hope you had a good break over the Christmas period, and that the New Year will bring good times. It is the beginning of a busy and productive year for the Historical Society.

The wet season is upon us again, we watch the skies anxiously as storms gather and the creeks rise. There are so many blessings in the wet season—the taste of mango and pawpaw, the storms that build up and the cool wind that comes before the rain, the rich green countryside! The downside of course is the rampant growth of the weeds! There are other benefits to this time of year of course. Cricket is underway here in Australia and we don't have to sit up until all hours. Tennis is also a bonus, and this years final of the Australian Open was a cracker. Isn't satellite coverage wonderful?

I like this little quote from *The Pepper Box*:

"You are richer today than you were yesterday if you have laughed often, given something, forgiven even more, made a new friend or made stepping stones of stumbling blocks, if you have thought more in terms of "thyself" than "myself" or if you have managed to be cheerful even if you were weary, if a little child has smiled at you and a stray dog has licked your hand, or if you have looked for the best in others and have given others the best in you".

Cheers until next Memoirs. Joan

SOME SAD NEWS:

Vale

The Society lost a good and generous friend the other day. Pelham Ernest Pearsall passed away on Wednesday 18th February at Mareeba hospital. His funeral at Atherton crematorium was a packed house, with many of us standing on the outside. This was not unexpected as Slim, as he was known as, was a most popular and well-loved person. I am sure every organisation in Mareeba area were represented. I know I will miss his cheerful face and never-ending courtesy. Slim and Betty, his wife, donated many items of interest to the society. To Betty and family our sincere condolences.

"Do you think I'd shed tears over his departure?"

NAY! A smile, that I had walked with him a little while."

Pelham Ernest Pearsall (Slim) July 8th 1925 — February 18th 2012.

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Wishing both Pat and Natalie God speed with their recovery from that terrible foe., CANCER..

Keep up the good fight girls. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

Have you seen the new magazine **HISTORY QUEENSLAND** that your society is now selling from the Centre? Comes quarterly, is full of interesting stories, pictures and facts. It is a high class publication and the cost is ONLY \$5.00. First edition came out in November and as we still have one or two left, some lucky person can snap one up and then get the February issue. You wont regret it.

From your Secretary's Pen.

Well, the year has certainly burst forth in a hurry. I had hoped to take life a bit easier for a while, after participating in the year long Standards Programme, but it seems this is not to be. At the Centre it is planned to do a little re-arranging of the place, making research easier for all concerned. Do drop by and give us your opinion.

Some where in the body of this newsletter, will be a questionnaire, please read and fill it in and get it back to me ASAP. Questions are numbered so if you wish to email them in do so. Just do Q1 (answer)

I will appreciate your input.

Member Ann has left us for a short while she is busy giving support to her daughter's family in Western Australia who has recently lost their husband and father to cancer. Our thoughts are with them all.

Another find recently given to your society were a few maps which map out the Aboriginal boundaries for the whole of Australia. This complements the books and files also given recently on Aboriginal history. This section in your library had grown immensely. Come on in and check it out for yourself.

Also joining our files is a small booklet called "Local and Family History Internet Assistant" compiled of heaps of Internet Addresses to assist historian and family historians to suss out only part of the vast amount of information that is out there.

So members, will I see some faces that I haven't seen for some time, it will be great to meet up again over a cuppa and do some catch-up. Till then take good care of yourselves, we are all most important people. *HELEN*

RESEARCHERS TO FLOCK TO THE CENTRE

Mayor Tom Glimore joined Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) in congratulating MAREEBA HISTORIC SOCIETY, a group passionately informed about history.

At the Atherton Council Chambers on Friday 2 December, the Mayor heard of the society's achievements and their plan to re-brand the library & archive collections as a *Research Centre* arising from their year-long participation in M&GSQ's Standards Program.

According to M&GSQ's Standards Program Reviewers, Lisa Jones and Christine Jännä, industry experts who played a vital role in providing pro bono professional advice and assistance throughout the Program.

"Members of the Mareeba Historic Society are to be congratulated for their willingness to look at themselves differently, and also for their preparedness to step back from their work to see the bigger picture and a clearer path to ensure the society's future sustainability."

Helen Kindt in particular was commended for "being so open to the Standards process and for the organisation's preparedness to take on board advice and suggestions made by the Reviewers."

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland would particularly like to thank Helen Kindt and the Mareeba Historic Society since it was their successful application to the Regional Arts Development Fund that enabled the Standards Program to come to the Tablelands to work with the five participating organisations.

Helen Kindt reflected on what they had gained by participating in the Standards Program:

"We now realise the program helped to bring new ideas and change our way of thinking in our society. We are very pleased we took up the challenge."

The organisation's profile is attached.

For media enquiries and to obtain print quality images of the organisation and the presentation, please contact:

Mareeba Historic Society commence in July 1993 and over the years we have recorded practically every cemetery in what was the Mareeba Shire. I along with another member have also recorded every monumental inscription of the same cemeteries. We have cleaned and tidied many a cemetery. Over the years the Society has cleaned, repaired and put up various monuments to the pioneers of this district, we have tagged a street showing where shops and houses were in by gone days. We have climbed mountains and wandered down in to the depths of the earth in mines.

In 2004 our greatest wish came true when via a Community Gambling grant of \$30,000 we ventured to build our own home. That + \$15,000 grant from the Mareeba Shire Council and \$10,000 of our own hard earned money we at last had a place to call our own. A few years in due to lack of space we invested in a mezzanine floor over part of the building, again using our own finances. This has proved a boon but storage will always be a problem and an on-going concern.

Another priority noted is our World Wars information. Some has been accessioned. Again it will be a case when time and personnel permit.

The great lesson learnt through the Standards Program in our case is to really look hard at what our society is doing and where it wants to go. We now look twice at every article we have, to see if the relevance is there. If not we deaccession and return to owners if possible.

In years to come lessons learnt from this program will pay dividends and information is slowly being passed onto other members.

Thank you Ann Baillie, her willing helpers and Museum and Gallery Services Queensland for giving of their time, expertise and the sharing of their knowledge.

This is the speech I gave on Friday 2nd December, 2011 at Standards Program Graduation.

Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for attending and supporting this function, in fact for your support for the entire year.

Our key issue for Mareeba Historical Society is to develop a marketing plan to help re-brand our library and archive collections a research Centre. However before this can be done we intend to re-arrange the interior to make it more user friendly and to make access easier. This has commenced by drawing up a to-scale model of the Centre and all the furniture in it. Last general meeting evening all members played around with these models and interesting formations came to light. This will be an ongoing exercise until well after Christmas. Easier to move paper models than the real thing.

Even now our research/resource centre is open to the general public for research purposes. We also have a research officer who is willing to research for those who can't attend the Centre. By the way I was very proud and honoured when the centre was named "The Helen Kindt Research/Resource Centre". Our group has on a Pro Bono basis assisted churches, schools, and businesses in their quest for information about their venues. Usually there is a small charge for this information as we are an autonomous, not-for-profit, non-sectarian, non-political organisation and charging a fee is one of the very few ways we have of making money to pay our bills. Unfortunately no one else does that for us.

David Foster is currently revamping the library layout and while most librarians will probably have a fit, David's system is working for us. All like subjects are being grouped together e.g. all Mareeba town material is together, as are the different towns in what was Mareeba shire. Mining in formation, towns and types are also grouped in the one spot.

Other issues that we will be working on will be to get our database moving more rapidly than what it is now. Illness and holidays have eroded the time spent entering data. I have hand entered all our accessions to date which will be used for back-up. In all, over 17,000 entries.

Our brochure design needed revamping and has been an on-going production for a time now, but the Standards Program has elevated its priority. This is an ALL MEMBERS concern.

Reviewers' Statement

Participating Museum: **MAREEBA HISTORIC SOCIETY** Date: **20.10.2011**

Reviewers: **Lisa Jones & Christine Ianna**

Provide a summary of the museum/gallery's overall achievements.

Where has the museum come from since the start of the program?

Members of the Mareeba Historic Society are to be congratulated for their willingness to look at themselves differently and also their preparedness to step back from their work to see the bigger picture and a clearer path to ensure the society's future sustainability. They have seen ways to better organise what they do on a day to day basis and should be proud of the new storage mezzanine and the ladder which allows safe access to material and objects stored at height.

What would you like to congratulate the museum for in particular?

Members of the Mareeba Historic Society Committee should be congratulated for being so open to the standards process and for their preparedness to take on board advice and suggestions made by the reviewers. The installation of the fan and additional insulation in the mezzanine is a great step towards the preservation and better management of their collections. The Committee's willingness to better connect with the local community is also to be commended.

A - Managing the Museum

What are the strengths of the museum in this area of practice?

Notable strengths in this area include the coordinated approach to reviewing the constitution by compiling input and changes from the whole committee as well as their ability to think up new ways to fund projects such as raising \$800 to buy a scanner through market sales and donations.

What aspects of this area of practice needs development in the future?

The society is aware of the need to ensure that the issue of copyright does not inhibit their ability to reprint books which they have spent time and energy researching.

B - Involving People

What are the strengths of the museum in this area of practice?

The historical society has been successful in identifying the strength of their volunteers and using their skills to advantage.

There are plans to let the community in on Market Days-for behind the scene quick peek tours to better educate the public about what the Society does and what collections it has in its care.

What aspects of this area of practice need development in the future?

The society members and reviewers discussed encouraging new volunteers by advertising tasks on a project basis - pinpointing the skill/s required and getting the word out to the community.

There are plans to target researchers and to position the historical society as a research centre.

C - Developing a Significant Collection

What are the strengths of the museum in this area of practice?

The society is working towards making information contained in the MHS archive and library accessible, such as the cemetery indexes and the Hugh Borland newspaper clipping collection.

The society is to be commended for thinking about the health and storage needs of collection items, for example, covering up the display cases when they are not in use and covering the large map to protect it.

What aspects of this area of practice need development in the future?

A collection policy, which spells out just what objects and other materials are to be collected in the future, should be introduced.

SRS REVIEWER'S COMMENTS FORM

REVIEWER: Lisa Jones
PARTICIPATING MUSEUM: Mareeba Historical Society
DATE: 20.07.2010

COMMENTS ON OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Mareeba Historical Society (MHS) are enthusiastic custodians who exhibit a powerhouse of organisational skills. The MHS website is informative and accessible. The Jack and Newell website is fantastic and I could see a great traveling exhibition coming from this great resource of information.

Very smart of them to forgo a "museum" to concentrate on collecting the history of the Mareeba, although a bit more work toward making the collections and information more accessible to the general public is required.

I rather think that if the MHS wants to attract volunteers and members, they need to make documentation, such as the Annual report, available on their website (A2.4.3). Their willingness to mentor each other and new members is admirable (A3.3.5).

The current MHS members have aspired to emulate the national museum standards and will need to maintain their focus into the future so that decisions about acquisitions, deaccessioning and the care of collections are informed by significance assessments (C1.2.1) and collection information is backed up and future proofed.

Its great to see a collection policy and a five year plan, both of these documents need to be regularly reviewed. The skill audit is a fabulous idea.

Its fairly plain see that the Mareeba Historical Society will make take as much as they can from the standards experience to inform the management of their collections.

'Did You Know?'


- Did you know that the Mareeba Historic Society holds images of all the local men who went to fight in World War I?
- Did you know that the Mareeba Historic Society holds a wealth of information on local store owners Jack & Newell and profiles information about this business on a specific website?
- Did you know that the Mareeba Historic Society holds a significant collection of World War II memorabilia and related research archives?
- Did you know that the Mareeba Shire included 38 cemeteries and that burial lists and monumental inscription data are available through the Mareeba Historic Society?
- Did you know that Mareeba Historic Society can tell you why the town was once known as the sanatorium of the north?



David Foster, Sam Newell,
Helen Kind

Credit:
Michael Marzik

Hard at work on original
boardroom table
Credit:
M&GSQ staff



Part of the Maxwell Road
Collection
Credit:
M&GSQ staff

Our Profile

The Mareeba Historic Society was formed in 1993 to seek out, preserve and conserve the history of all areas encompassed by the original Mareeba Shire as well as neighbouring towns and shires.

Our research centre holdings include images, objects and archives, which describe the social, economic, industrial and agricultural history of the area.

We are an excellent resource for researchers and family historians. Our holdings include lists of burials and monumental inscriptions and cemetery lists for most of the 38 cemeteries; a large image collection; a maps and plans collection; an extensive library and archive which includes published works on Mareeba history.

The collections also include artifacts and information concerning the first and second World Wars. Our website about Jack & Newell, concerning local storeowners from 1893 to the mid-1970s, is well worth a visit.

What the Standards Program has meant for our organisation

While we had started on up-dating all our documentation, the Standards Program helped us to focus fully on what was needed and to implement changes to it made when necessary.

Standards Program made us focus on what is significant in our collection and how to care for it.

MAREEBA HISTORIC SOCIETY
345 Byron Street, Cantenary
Park, Mareeba Qld 4880

P: 07 4092 6599
E: soc@mbahstsoc.org.au
W: www.mbahstsoc.org.au

Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday
8am to 4pm
2nd Saturday of the month
7.30am to noon
Or by appointment

Contact: Helen Kindl, Secretary

Key Areas for Future Achievement: Brainstorm a List of Key Issues, then agree on a number 1-5 to indicate a priority against all issues

3 Key Areas of Museum Practice	List of Key Issues	P
Managing the Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of constitution, collection policy & strategic plan • Reassessment of layout of furniture to make it more user friendly • Development of business case for MHS to be known as a research centre • <i>How to</i> lists for volunteers as part of succession plan 	1
Involving People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening audience to include researchers • Use community events as promotion and recruitment tool • Increase community profile • Increase involvement in community events with exhibitions • Develop targeted exhibitions - community events • <i>How to?</i> Lists for volunteers • Add research library into ALIA Special libraries list • Big Boys' Toys day 	2
Developing a Significant Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue development of Disaster Plan • Review constitution objectives to reflect collection management plan • Implement ongoing digitisation program • Undertake significance assessment research • Implement ongoing preventive conservation program • Continue contemporary collecting program 	3

8	Council planning maps	Extensive and comprehensive
9	Jack Struber Biography	Outlines history of mining in Herberton and Mareeba

'Did You Know' 1

Did you know that the Mareeba Historic Society holds images of all the local men who went to fight in World War 1?

'Did You Know' 2

Did you know that the Mareeba Historic Society holds a wealth of information on local store owners Jack & Newell and profiles information about this business on a specific website?

'Did You Know' 3

Did you know that the Mareeba Historic Society holds a significant collection of World War II memorabilia and related research archives?

'Did You Know' 4

Did you know that the Mareeba shire included 38 cemeteries and that burial lists and monumental inscription data are available through the Mareeba Historic Society?

'Did You Know' 5

Did you know that Mareeba Historic Society can tell you why the town was once known as the sanatorium of the north?

Museum Profile: Key Features of Museum & Collection

The Mareeba Historic Society was formed in 1993 to seek out, preserve and conserve the history of all areas encompassed by the original Mareeba Shire as well as neighbouring towns and shires.

Our research centre holdings include images, objects and archives which describe the social, economic, industrial and agricultural history of the area. We are an excellent resource for researchers and family historians. Our holdings include lists of burials and monumental inscriptions and cemetery lists for most of the 38 cemeteries; a large image collection; a maps and plans collection; an extensive library and archive which includes published works on Mareeba's history. The collections also include artifacts and information concerning the first and second World Wars. Our website about *Jack & Newell*, concerning local store owners from 1893 to the mid-1970s, is well worth a visit.

No.	What are the most interesting objects in your museum?	Please tell us why
1	Glass plate negative collection	
2	Monumental inscriptions	
3	WW1+2 related collections	images of Mareeba war airfield for launch of bombers to New Guinea; copy of visitor's book from a local householder who hosted American and Australia service personnel; model submarine; leather dog-tags;
4	Mareeba Roden banners	paperwork; scrap books; banners; posters; donor still alive and gives information
5	Tapestries	c1890; made by local woman Mrs Frank Cobold
6	Survey maps	Includes first survey of Mareeba 1887, town and mine survey maps;
7	Dairies of Bill Crowther	Outlines workings of Mt Carbine mine

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Assistance: A research officer may assist by searching Society records.

NON-MEMBERS: A minimum fee of 40 for a 2 hour search then \$20 per hour or part thereof afterwards for researcher to search. \$15 per day for D.I.Y researchers.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES: If a visit to a cemetery or other library is deemed necessary, traveling expenses will also apply.

ENQUIRIES All enquiries should be in writing and include a stamped self-addressed envelope. If via Email, no research will be undertaken until the

Mareeba Historical Society meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month excluding December.

MEETING DATES FOR 2012

February	28th
March	28th
April	25th
May	23rd
June	28th
July	25th
August	22nd
September	26th
October	24th
November	28th
December	No Meeting

**BOOKS FOR SALE AT
MAREEBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CENTRE**

Author	Title
LENNIE WALLACE	Dead Mans Gold Wild Jimmy Camels, Camelmen and Abdul Wade The Palmer Poltergeist Mt Mulligan's Highway Wheelbarrow Way Nomads of the 19th Century Goldfields Cape York Peninsula: A History of Unlauded Heroes: 1945—2003 The Battlers of Butcher's Creek From Nanango to Cooktown Bitten by the Bull Bug
JACK STRUBER	Jack's Book: 75 Years and Perfect Health: a true story of faith, believing and determination.
MULLIGAN, J.V.	A Journal of Exploration <i>Republished Aug 24, 2007</i>

MAREEBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Riches of Wolfram Camp Compiled by John C Hay.
 WW2 Diggers Book of Poetry Compiled by Helen Kindt
 The Lone Wolf: Last of the old-time prospectors; The autobiography of Sam Elliott.
 Edited by S.G. St Clair-Kendall and John C Hay

HARRIS, Ken	Bullock Hearts
HAY, John C in association with Colin and May Jones	Demise of the Typewriter: Recollections of a Queensland Era.
CLOW Margaret	The Mecca of our Desires—Kuranda and the Famous Barron Falls. First published. in 1914
RIMMER, Mike	Up the Palmerston: a history of the Cairns Hinterland up to 1920. Vol I, II and III.