

Mareeba Memoirs

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August 2012



Samantha , one of our youngest and newest members designed, and was responsible for the art work on our new sign that sits proudly out the front of the Historical Society when we are open.

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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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From the Editor

What a lovely winter it has been. I love the smell of the countryside when you first venture out into the cold morning air, and the crisp sunny days are beautiful.

The rodeo has been and gone for another year, and a good time was had by all. The Rodeo is one of our major Mareeba events and the town undergoes a character change at Rodeo time. At the society we have joined in the rodeo excitement by using the vacant shop at IGA for a Historical Society of Mareeba display. Our blue ribbon for first in our section has pride of place on the wall of the Historical Society.

I have been scanning photos and adding them (along with their relevant information) onto our Kalimages database starting with our photos from our Cemetery Headstones series. The names on these headstones give us a postcard view of the names and nationalities of those hardy souls who came here to make a living in a harsh outback environment. Costin Street Cemetery is a fascinating place to browse through, it is well worth taking a picnic lunch and spending a few hours examining the headstones. You can't help but wonder why and how people ended up in this part of the world. I am always interested in why people come to Mareeba, so in this edition there is a story from Lorraine Edwards about her great grandfather Charles Sherwood who came out to Australia in 1862, and his son Charles Harold (Charlie) who came to the North in 1910 and farmed at Boar's Pocket near Yungaburra, and was overseer and paymaster on the Gillies Range construction.

Our country is a wonderful patchwork of nationalities, and this is reflected in Mareeba. The multicultural festival is on again soon and is a celebration of our culture and endurance.

My great grandfather Charles Sherwood was born in London in Oct 1839 into a family of builders and bricklayers. He emigrated to Sydney in 1862, a young civil engineer. He was quite successful and acquired a number of rental properties over the years in addition to his foundry work. He was a member of the NSW Volunteer Rifles, I have copies of his attendance records to 1872.

The photo was taken 140 years ago, he is standing in the centre.



His sister Jane had married James Callon in London and emigrated to Christchurch New Zealand and in the late 1860's Jane,

James and young daughter boarded the bark "Village Bell" at Invercargill enroute for NSW, no doubt to visit Charles. The boat never arrived and seven years later, all were officially declared lost at sea. I have not yet discovered anything else about the "Village Bell", but what a terrifying way for lives to end.

In Dec 1872 Charles married Jane Bennett at Woolloomooloo Presbyterian Church, a harbourside area of Sydney. There were six surviving children, of whom only two had children. My grandfather Harold Charles left Sydney in 1910 with his young family to settle in FNQ, which was being opened up to land speculators. Grandad (known as Charley) farmed at Boar Pocket near Yungaburra, and was overseer and paymaster on the Gillies Range construction.



This photo shows Charles and Jane at home aged about 60. In one letter from Jane to my grandfather she complains of hard times and how Charles had not had work for some time - he was 80! He died in Oct 1923 at Croydon Sydney, and Jane in 1939 aged almost 98.

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 fee is paid.

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

MEETING DATES FOR 2012

August	22nd	September	26th
October	24th	November	28th
December	—No Meeting		

YA HOO!

Our Society won FIRST prize in the rodeo window dressing competition during Rodeo Week!

Many thanks to all who assisted in this venture which was a last minute decision. John, Lorraine, Joan, David and Helen all took part in the design and the erecting and taking down afterwards. The display was in a vacant shop on the corner of Byrne and Atherton Streets. Guiliانا Cordenos was most kind to let us "borrow" this space for the event. Thanks go to others who allowed us to borrow their treasures so as to enhance the display. Sponsor Bill Fossett was chuffed about the prize as it was his donations of Rodeo Posters that clinched it.

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Another surprise for our Society as Coralie, a travelling RVer volunteered her expertise once again to digitally repair some of our older photos that have been in dire need of T.L.C. This is the second time Coralie has assisted us, as three years ago she did the same. A lovely, kind-hearted person. Our grateful thanks and may you return to sunny Mareeba and the Historical Society of Mareeba very soon. Safe travelling.

Our Committee recently spent a weekend discussing our Website with our lovely Web Master Carol and her talented journalist daughter, Natalie. Lots of interesting and great ideas came from this get-together. John, Joan, Helen and David adding their twopence worth. There is a bit of research to go into this before it will be up and running. We really need photos, stories about ALMADEN. I can't find much on "Cow Town" as it is now known except it was railway motivated. CAN YOU HELP?

Contact Helen if you have ANYTHING.

Our new website will take us a long way into the future and will be viable for some time to come. It needs updating and our NEW LOOK is to be worth waiting for.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

YES!

Our Society DOES DO research for other members and/or people. There is a small charge as we do need to pay our bills, see the Secretary for updated charges. Helen prides herself on giving great value for money.

YES!

For those who wish to do their own research, a small charge is also made, Our resources are available to interested members and members of the public.

We consider ourselves the custodians of the history of the area. One of our aims is to conserve, preserve and have available for research all that our Archival Library holds. Each week we are being donated more and more resources. The latest being about the tobacco industry.

Photos are being loaned to the Society so we may scan and place them into our photographic database. This is also a safe guard as if anything happens to the originals, we have back ups and will be only too happy to give replacements. This has happened already as one person lost a few photos and we were able to replace them. Happy donor, happy Society.

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Last Mareeba Market Day we held a wonderful, exciting and interesting GEM DISPLAY to coincide with the Gold Panning Championships. We have done this every year they have been held at Centenary Park, changing themes every year.

**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.