

Mareeba Memoirs

Edition Number 57

February 2013



Grading girls? Central Tobacco Growers.

Back row. Nellie Cleary, May Carr, Danny O'Leary, Lola Wright, Lily Hope,
Fiona McLeod and Ellie Richardson

Front Row: Caroline Woolley, Jean Girle, Joyce Jeanston, Ethel Richardson

March is the month of the Woman.

Let's celebrate those women who have contributed so much to our society, our economy, and the lifestyle that we are free to enjoy.

Did you know that the first pension for women in the world was brought in by the New South Wales government in 1926?

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Market Saturday 8-12
Mareeba Markets 2nd & 5th Sat

Mareeba Historical Society

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MEETINGS

General monthly meetings held on the **FOURTH** Wednesday of each month at 2.30 pm. **EXCEPT** December.

Meeting dates on Page 9.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Due 1st July each year.

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From the Editor

Everyone is waiting for the wet season to arrive, or the monsoon trough to reform after the devastating events that have caused such heartache all down the Queensland and New South Wales coast. And this on top of continuing bushfires still threaten in our southern states. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people who have been affected so badly by this weather system that has caused chaos and heartbreak. At times like this I am reminded of a particular verse of Dorothy McKellar's wonderful poem "My Country".

*I love a sunburnt country
A land of sweeping plains,
Of rugged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror—
The wide brown land for me!*

2013 has arrived and at the Historical Society we are about to commence a very intense year of action. I believe that many of our members and friends would be astonished at the depth of our collection, and this year all will be revealed as objects are dusted off, examined and their significance to our collection is debated and decided. We are fortunate to have help with this enormous task, and Helen will talk more about that in her article.

The Cricket season is in full swing, and as you probably know by now, this is my favourite time of year. I love watching the West Indies in action. Their love of the game, and their exuberance' combined with their powerful hitting is just special. I read a story by Mike O'Callaghan about another era of cricket when Herberton played Irvinebank at the Wondecla Showgrounds in 1920. Mike was a member of the Irvinebank team and his recollections of that game are on the next page. It was an intense contest, a hard fought sporting event for all who played. The spirit of the game combined with local competitiveness and the camaraderie of the players made for a wonderful day.

Cricket on the Tablelands in 1920

This is an excerpt from a story by Mike O'Callaghan who was a member of the Irvinebank team that played against Herberton at the Wondecla showgrounds. Mike was an avid cricket fan, and a keen player. Herberton was probably the first place in the Cairns and Hinterland where cricket was played.

The Irvinebank team in that far off day was skippered by **Frank Robinson**, with **Vince Henry, Paddy Murphy, Jack Speirs, Bill Hoult, George Keirnan, Jack Berghoro, Joe Lloyd, Mike O'Callaghan, Bill Emslie, and Bert Bavinten.**

Mike couldn't remember the names of the entire Herberton team, but knew that **Bunny Newell** was the skipper and the team included **Jack Ledlie, and Clarrie Willis.** **Bunny Newell** won the toss for Herberton and elected to bat first. Playing time was from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a lunch break, and 10 minutes between innings. Herberton compiled 140 runs in their first innings. Irvinebank also had a fairly strong batting side, and did not think the 140 runs was beyond them - but cricket is a sport in which the totally unexpected often happens, and accurate bowling, and good fielding had Irvinebank out in it's first innings for 70 runs. Herberton again batted very strongly in their second innings, **Bunny Newell**, the Herberton skipper closed the Herberton innings at 7 wickets down for 170 runs, very shortly after 4 p.m. leaving Irvinebank with a total of 240 to make to avoid defeat, and with only an hour and three quarters in which to do the seemingly impossible. It seemed like a hopeless task, but **Frank Robinson** and **Vince Henry** opened the second innings and set about at a fiery pace, and had thirty runs on the board in very few overs, and the succeeding batsmen accelerated the pace of their scoring with scores of 68, 69, and 70, made up mostly from sixes and fours, and with three minutes to spare the score had reached 242 runs for the loss of five wickets, and turned what looked like a hopeless task into a magnificent victory for Irvinebank by five wickets. The 242 runs were compiled in a shade less than one and three quarters of an hour, or equal to 138.28 runs per hour, which must be considered very fast scoring in any class of cricket.

The Beauty of the North. Editorial ramblings.

The most memorable aspect of the Atherton Tablelands is the beauty of the changing landscapes— the contrasting colours and formations, the crisp air, and the diversity of the different areas. I try to imagine how it looked before settlement, when it was covered in rich dark , deep and brooding forest. Oh to have been able to look down on it then from above as we can now look down on our planet with the help of Google Earth. Or better still, to soar over it like a bird.

The early migrants on the Tablelands established farms by felling trees and clearing large amounts of fertile land, a labour intensive job done with the available tools of the day. The history of dairying on the Tablelands goes back as far as the mid eighteenth century, when the settlers carved out their farms from the rainforest, battling the denseness of the foliage, the stinging, biting and recalcitrant nature of the land. Many of the Chinese who had originally been drawn by the lure of new land and the promise of wealth from mining returned to home down south, some were too old to establish farms and moved on to other enterprises in more civilized areas. Of those who did have leasehold land, many of the leases were resumed by the government for soldier settlers. Dairy farms were established and their owners strived through hard work and perseverance to meet the needs of people in the north. In the late 1800s, butter was still being imported in barrels from the south until the dairying industry in the north became self sufficient and could begin to supply miners and the general population - and so the Atherton Tablelands became the major source of produce for the north. Maize also flourished and the Maize festival in Atherton is a recognition of the importance of this crop to the economy and self sufficiency of the region. Much is written about the miners and the hardships they suffered, but the farmers also worked hard to establish their livelihoods, clearing the land and building their farms and raising their families. They persevered and succeeded through sheer grit and determination. It seems that today though, farmers still have to struggle to make a decent living and keep going in the current economic climate and one can only wonder how long it will be before a once thriving and resilient industry becomes less so and those generations of hard work are forgotten.

SECRETARIAL SAYINGS.

Well Christmas and the New Year have been and gone, and those who missed last years Christmas BBQ missed out on a treat. Once again the place was decorated by the Hyde family who certainly went all out and did a great job. Mark on the calendar NOW December, 13th 2013, Mareeba Market Day. Helen Kindt's home. 9 Toll Close. Mareeba and come and join in the fun, laughter, and have a good get-together. Excellent social time.

HAPPENINGS AT OUR CENTRE.

We have started the year with a bang. First month began the Significance Assessment of our collections. Big and hard days of showing, finding, talking, researching. Jo, our Assessor is impressed with the collections she has viewed so far. This assessment will take twelve months to complete and then more hard work to follow, keeping, preserving and generally looking after all our collections.

To assist with this important and interesting work, how about volunteering a few hours a months to transcribe some documents we hold. Talk to Helen

DO YOU KNOW?

The significance assessment has started last month. While hard work, it has made our members look at our holdings and I can assure you they are quite extensive. Our Society does hold many original documents specially those in the mining field, so we may have a collection that's worth being very proud of. And this is only ONE aspect of our Collections. There is more!

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WEBSITE.

Carol is doing a great job on our up-dated website. It should be on the air something this month. Check it out and check the inside front page of our Mareeba Memoirs to get the address. I'm sure you will be impressed. Both Carol and daughter Natalie have worked long hours getting this to 'just right'. Your opinion will be appreciated. This site will have to last us a while, as money for these happenings is getting tighter and tighter.

Anyone have any suggestion regarding raising monies for the Society ? Please pass them on ASAP.

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NEW LIBRARY ACQUISTATIONS.

- Many plans of the Rodeo grounds.
- Plans of Basalt Gully being made into Bi-Centennial Lakes
- Book: Smoke & Mirrors (Tobacco industry.)

Did you know that there is an annual Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse? In 1970 the newly-established Winton Tourist Promotion Association published “Matilda-Matilda: a Whole Swagful of Local Verse”. The idea of the Bronze Swagman Award was conceived and the number of entries soars every year and come from all over the world.

Winton has a long-established link with bush verse. It was at Dagworth Station near Winton that “Banjo” Paterson wrote “Waltzing Matilda. Look up the Bronze Swagman Award event online by searching under...you’ve guessed it! Bronze Swagman Award Winton. Winton was featured on *The Great Southeast* on Saturday and it looked like great place to be. Outback towns have a life and character all of their own, mostly because of the people who live there and love their lifestyle.

With another round of voting coming up, this time damalgamation—for or against, I thought you might be interested in hearing just how lucky we are to be allowed to vote! We are fortunate indeed that we can freely cast our vote, even though some of us think it a jolly nuisance that cuts into our weekends!

These gems of information were in Alex Martins’ “Passage of Time” Cairns Post, Tuesday February 23, 1993. After Queensland became a self-governing colony in 1859, no women were allowed to vote, every man had to be 21 years or over to cast a vote, and could only vote if he had lived in the district or town for 6 months, owned a freehold which had to be worth above 100 pounds, occupied a tenement worth 10 pounds, held a lease of 10 pounds per annum of which three years were still to run or have already ran, held a pastoral licence, enjoyed a salary of 100 pounds per annum, paid 40 pounds per annum for board and lodging or 10 pounds for board only.

As stated at the time “the nomad tribes of wandering labourers or wandering beggars are excluded from the register”. Governor Bowen wrote in 1860 that these men were regarded as servants “living in houses belonging to their employers”.

We are lucky nowadays to be able to have our say regardless of our

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

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

NON-MEMBERS: A minimum fee of \$44 for a 2 hour search then \$22 per hour or part thereof afterwards for researcher to search. \$15 per day for D.I.Y researchers. Pr

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 Wednesday of each month at 2.30 excluding December.

MEETING DATES FOR 2013

February	27th
March	27th
April	24th
May	22nd
June	26th
July	24th
August	28th
September	25th
October	23rd
November	27th
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
Republished Aug 24, 2007

MAREEBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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 1, 11 and 111.