

Mareeba Memoirs

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Gladys Moncrieff OBE

Our Glad

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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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Professor Ross Fitzgerald

Professor Ross Ritzgerald is an historian who believes that history is about the story of individual people and that their stories of “*endurance, triumph and disaster*” underpin our history. These days the large events are in the newspapers, televised, and talked about, but the roots of our history are in the stories of people from all walks of life from times past, and these roots need to be nurtured and kept alive. Ross Fitzgerald believes that the Australian education system has kept Australian children ignorant of their history and also of our constitution . At the time of this article by John Hay in 2000, Professor Fitzgerald was a professor in history and Politics at Griffith University, and had written a two volume history of the state and biographies of Queensland Premier E.G. (Red Ted) Edward GranvilleTheodore who founded the first branch of the Amalgamated Workers Association along with a group of supporters and W. 'Bill' McCormack of nearby Stannary Hills. and Fred Paterson, Australia’s only Communist Party member of parliament. Professor Fitzgerald mentions that it was Theodore who decommissioned the Queensland Government ship Lucinda on which the Australian Constitution was written, and believes that the ship, the cradle of our constitution, should have been treated with respect and preserved instead of ending up a hulk.

Editors Note: Another thread connecting our past and present lost because of a lack of understanding of the significance of the “Lucinda” to our history. Don’t let it happen to your family history, or the stories of our town and state. See Helen at the Historical Society if you are in doubt about what to preserve

Sayings from your Secretary.

Busy days ahead people: with Rodeo coming up, ideas and helping hands will be needed if we are to put on a display as we did last year. **REMEMBER!** We did **WIN** first prize for best decorated shop window. Think about your ideas and come in or Email us your brilliant suggestions

Our Centre is undergoing a clean up and we are finding goodies that have been nearly forgotten as they have been stored away for so long. Come on in and take a look!. One of the latest discoveries is a raft of Slaughter Places permission forms. One wrote in for permission to the local Court to be able conduct slaughtering on their property, then different government bodies also had to give permission and so it went on. **RED TAPE.** However these forms do give the name(s) of the people involved and the Station they lived on and where the slaughtering was going to take place and at least one form is signed by that person in their own hand writing. A wonderful research tool.

Dot has done a great job of mounting photographic displays, mainly of the women of the area, all of which draw excellent comments. Most of these women have such strong faces, understandably when you think back of what life was like in the very early days.

The Tobacco Shelves are being added to on a regular basis. Seems tobacco is still being written about if not grown up here. As you may remember, Marjory Gilmore donated her fathers' original papers to our Society, a useful tool.

If anyone can spare a couple of hours per week on any day to assist us in the re-arranging, and cleaning of the premises,

PLEASE contact the sec on 4092 3599 or

sec@mbahistsoc.org.au and she will be pleased to hear from you. Another great help would be to transcribe different pieces of information we have into a form that we all can read and use easily. If wished this can be done at home, at your leisure, placed on a USB Stick and returned to the Centre. We will supply the USB Stick.

Our Significance Assessment is waiting on further information coming from the Assessor, but so far she does seem pleased with all our collections.

NEEDED: donations of your pre-read books for our Book Sale Stall on Mareeba Market Days.

NEEDED: donations of your used plant-pots so we can fill them with plants and sell them at Mareeba Markets.

Call in and say "HI", when you come visit the Markets both of us are worth the trip. You may be amazed at what you will find.

Joan is working diligently on our catalogue database and with Carol assisting soon all our databases will be under the one heading. So much easier to find where items are.

The photographic database under the expertise of Glenda will be on the same line. It is amazing that Glenda does not see photographs in her sleep. We always find more photos for her to enter. Speaking of which, do you have any photos we may be interested in? We can quickly scan them while you are present and return to you, or you may wish to email them, sec@mbahistsoc.org.au or leave them with us for a while so we can scan them and then return to you. If you wish to DONATE the originals, we will be most happy to have that happen too.

Remember: we also collect maps, letters, cards, postcards, old receipts, old invoices, catalogues, phone books, old calendars, any information about mining, cattle and agriculture in this area. Family histories, railway information, any historical books and small items of historical value.

Check out our wonderful website: www.mbahistsoc.org.au



JOHN ATHERTON DAY.

In May people will be commemorating 100 years of John Atherton, Mareeba's founder. It is believed that a service will take place at the private grave site at Mareeba. A booklet is also to be released.

Sometime ago this society hosted a re-union of the Atherton Family and we hold many family trees and a vast quantity of information on this family. Please feel free to come and take a peek at this

wonderful family's past. We also have a grand collection of photos of the various Atherton branches that are worth taking a look at and reading about their exploits. Interesting family and aren't we glad they decided to settle here.

HELPING OUT.

The Society initially agreed to help Weymouth Society in their quest to find living family members of Australian WW1 defense personnel who are buried at Weymouth. However after looking at the amount of work involved and seeing there is only a very small number of members/people who are willing to assist, we had to regretfully say, sorry. Helen emailed 2 pages of information on how to access free newspaper/magazine ads in Australia etc. Very surprising just how many of our Aussie people are buried in foreign lands.

Mareeba Historical Society Website

We have had our first order from our Collectables Page on our Website plus lots of interest as well. Have a look, the site is just great.

SOCIAL DOINGS:

Recently a few of our members met to listen to and rejoice in the melodies of 'Sing Australia' at the local R.S.L. Club. A most enjoyable evening, full of laughter and fun. Mareeba choir was joined by members from Atherton and Cairns and all three groups harmonized well. The singing was interspersed with comedy acts of which dancers and singers of the youthful variety took part. Very professional from all who took part. The evening meal included in the ticket was well done and tasty. There is such a wealth of talent in this area. We should be promoting our very own talent show.

How about it Mareeba Chamber of Commerce?

John has laid some of our excess blocks along the front of the building to prevent splash -back. It looks great, much neater. Thanks John.

THE FIRST SCHOOL OF ARTS BUILDING

An edited extract from Noeleen James' "*Memories of Mareeba*".

These multi purpose School of Arts buildings existed in most of the larger towns across Queensland and were the central gathering place for most significant events.

Mareeba's first School of Arts was built soon after the railway had reached Granite Creek in 1893. It was situated in Byrnes Street, just south of the Byrnes and Middlemass Streets intersection. Built of galvanized iron and sawn timber, it was gable roofed, with a small stage for use by local or visiting entertainment groups and its existence made a valuable contribution to the cultural and civic life of early Mareeba. The first School of Arts found a place, too, in the religious life of the early Mareeba community. Until the various denominations had erected their own place of worship, services were conducted there at regular intervals by visiting clergymen.

These were the days of Robert Philp and William Kidston, and their respective supporters would come to the School of Arts Hall to hear their political views, but the annual Mareeba Hospital Ball, held with a children's night to follow overshadowed all other entertainments

This wonderful event raised much needed funds for the hospitals which were then dependent upon house-to-house collections, benefits, plus a limited subsidy.

A Penny Savings Bank operated for a while: It truly was for Penny Savings and pennies, not shillings, predominated the deposits. Mareeba children of the day knew the real value of money. They saw so little of it.

The School of Arts building became a general store for many years. When the decision to erect a new School of Arts was made, a site in Walsh Street almost directly behind the old building received preference. It provided for library and reading rooms in front, a large assembly hall with a stage and two dressing rooms. The School of Arts incorporated a library of books of the period and former times, and provided a place for religious services, with visiting clergy providing services at regular intervals.

Simple in architectural design, high walled, gabled roofed, and built of timber, the new structure cost slightly under 1000 pounds

A dance was held to open this second School of Arts and a cheerful account of how the town was progressing appeared in the local newspaper, the 'Walsh and Tinaroo Miner'.

Through the years this community hall reflected the civic activities and general advancement of the town. Then on a Saturday night in late March, 1954, it vanished in a spectacular blaze leaving behind almost half a century of memories.

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.

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 at 2.30pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month excluding December.

MEETING DATES FOR 2013

May	22
June	26
July	24
August	28
September	25
October	23
November	25
December	No Meeting

In 1909 Mareeba was the venue for a band contest. The mining towns were then at their peak – Chillagoe, Irvinebank, Stannary Hills, Watsonville, and Herberton all had fine brass bands and these took part in the contest and a wonderful street march so everyone could enjoy their music. .

**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>

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MAREEBA 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.