

Mareeba Memoirs

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The Rising Sun. Australia's most famous badge.



The Rising Sun. Version 3. The General Service badge of the AIF and the 2nd AIF. The badge that saw victory in two World Wars.

Mareeba Memoirs is published quarterly by the
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345 Byrne Street, Centenary Park Mareeba 4880

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MEETINGS

Committee meetings held on the **SECOND** Saturday of each month at 8.30 am.

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Due 1st July each year.

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From the Editor

Hullo again and welcome to the first Mareeba Memoirs for 2014. This is going to be a big year for the society, with 2014 being the 100th anniversary of the commencement of WW1. We have planned a variety of displays throughout the year that will reflect a period of time that altered the fabric of our society. It is hard for younger generations to imagine the effect on our society of so many Australians going off war and how their absence over those years affected the lives of everyday people; not only those who went off to fight, but those who were part of the support structure. Families waited, listening to radio broadcasts and doing what they could for the war effort. Organisations such as the Red Cross and the CWA, the nurses on the front line, and ambulance bearers were all part of the heroic tragedy that was World War 1. This war affected all levels of society in one way or another, and life was never the same for those who lived through it, and those who waited for loved ones to return, and did what they could for the war effort on the home front. In this edition you will see the words from the memorial stone (our original photo didn't scan well) for Reverend Arthur Ernest White 44th Bn. A.I.F. who on April 25 1923 was one of those who established the tradition of the Dawn Service to commemorate the ANZACs who fought and died on the beaches at Gallipoli, in France and on foreign shores far from home. He is buried in Herberton Cemetery.

While going through our library I discovered a wonderful book of all of the reprints of the journal, "*Aussie*", the Diggers own paper of the battle field 1914—1918, *Aussie* was given life at Fletre (France) on January 18, 1918. 10,000 copies of the first issue were printed, applications from C.O.'s for the second issue numbered 60,000. *Aussie* will be on display for all to see during our WW1 displays this year. Come and appreciate the great Aussie humour of our diggers.

We urgently need more members and volunteer to work at the many tasks that keep our organisation growing and moving forward. Those of us who work here on a regular basis know that there is always more to be discovered and that many hands make light work. None of the volunteer work is overly taxing, but it is interesting, lots of fun, and will add to your general knowledge of the history of our special place in the sun. I hope that you enjoy the Memoirs. Cheers from your Editor.

ADJACENT TO, AND ON THE RIGHT OF,
THIS MARKER LIES THE GRAVE OF THE
LATE REV. ARTHUR ERNEST WHITE,
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND CLERGYMAN
AND PADRE, 44TH BN., FIRST A.I.F.

ON APRIL 25TH, 1923, AT ALBANY, W.A.,
REV. WHITE LED A PARTY OF FRIENDS
IN WHAT WAS THE FIRST EVER
OBSERVANCE OF THE DAWN PARADE ON
ANZAC DAY, THUS ESTABLISHING A
TRADITION WHICH HAS ENDURED,
AUSTRALIA WIDE, EVER SINCE.

Above are the words inscribed on the memorial stone of Reverend Arthur Ernest White 44th Bn. A.I.F. who on April 25 1923 established the tradition of the Dawn Service to commemorate the ANZACs who fought and died on the beaches at Gallipoli. Reverend White served for two years as a padre on the battlefields of France He is buried in Herberton Cemetery.

From the Heritage Scotsman News Update of 2008 the sobering figures of casualties from the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops on the Gallipoli Peninsular in 1915. 8,709 Australians and 2,701 New Zealanders lost their lives. Over 21,000 British and Irish troops died, nearly 10,000 French troops and over 1,300 from India. There were 86,000 Turkish dead. Altogether over 130,000 troops from all sides were dead and Gallipoli remained in Turkish hands. Website: heritage.scotsman.com

Cairns Post Wednesday 4 May 1927, Page 4.

Wreaths at Mareeba

Amongst the wreaths placed on the Mareeba Soldiers Monument on Anzac Day was one "A tribute in Memory of Wolf-ram Boys.: (Mrs A. Davidson).

The Dead Man's Penny

The history of the Dead Mans Penny
(*Australian Family Tree Connections*)

In 1916, the British Government realized that some form of an official token of gratitude should be given to the fallen service men and women's bereaved next of kin. Because of the enormous casualty figures, in 1917 it was decided that a competition would be held to design a suitable plaque. There were 800 entries from all over the empire, the Dominions and from troops on the Western Front. Mr E Carter Preston of Liverpool, England was the eventual winner. The design was a 12

centimetre disk cast in bronze gunmetal which incorporated an image of Britannia and a lion, two dolphins representing Britain's sea power and the emblem of Imperial Germany's eagle being torn to pieces by another lion. Britannia is holding an oak spray with leaves and acorns. Beneath this was a rectangular tablet where the deceased individual's name was cast into the plaque. No rank was given because it was intended to show the equality in their sacrifice. On the outer edge of the disk the words, "He died for freedom and honour" are inscribed.

VALE

Sydney Beck

Sydney was born in Townsville and developed an interest in Australian military history that grew into a hobby of collecting military equipment. He developed the Beck Military Museum in Townsville and relocated it to Mareeba. This move took 200 semi-trailer loads to achieve and the museum is recognised as one of the major privately owned military collections of the world. He had a great knowledge of military history, especially of World War 11 in the Pacific region.

The Society will miss his visits.

World War I - Collecting the History through Stamps

World War I provided the largest disruption of postal services experienced since the advent of the international postal system and has long been recognised as a philatelic subject worthy of investigation by collectors.

Both during, and in the immediate aftermath of the war, the changing nature of international boundaries, and alliances, caused a huge problem for the postal systems of both the major protagonists and the countries occupied and re-occupied throughout the period.

Shipping losses, censorship and constantly moving battle fronts meant that mail movement slowed to a crawl and in some areas ceased completely. Stamp production came low in any nations list of priorities creating the need for the large numbers of surcharged and overprinted issues of the time.

As countries were occupied it became common either to surcharge that country's issues with the currency of the occupier (e.g. Romanian Bani surcharges on Hungary issues) or to surcharge the invading country's stamps with the currency of the occupied territory (e.g. Belgian Franc surcharges on German stamps). The large numbers of these modified issues, together with the emergence of new countries (such as Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia & Poland) and the many special stamps created (Red Cross, 'War Tax' & War Orphans and other Charity types plus many local issues) make this a vast and interesting area for philatelists.

Remember that the *Lions Organisation* collects used stamps as a fund raising venture. The stamps are processed and sold at auction and ALL proceeds are donated to the Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation to assist in the purchase of walking aids for children born with cerebral palsy. Please leave a 1/4 to 1/8 inch of paper around stamps when you cut them out. The address to send stamps to is: *Secretary, Ross Paine, 10 Balgownie Drive, Peregian Springs 4573.*

SAYINGS FROM OUR SECRETARY.

Welcome to a new year, 2014. Hope everyone is set to put in a years hard work.

For those who didn't attend the Xmas BBQ, you certainly missed a grand evening. Table and patio was decorated beautifully, courtesy of Ann, Jordan and Samantha. Lots of laughs, lots of talk and good tucker, good company, what more could anyone ask. Mark it down in your calendar for this Xmas.

This year is going to mean a huge amount of extra work and it would be great if all members would be involved. We have applied for a grant from the Anzac Centenary Grant which I started in Jun, 2013 and submitted in December, 2013. Now we wait! For those members not up to speed, we plan on putting on a 12 months WW1 photographic and information display plus a small memorabilia display. This display/exhibition will go for a full 12 months commencing in May, 2014. The displays will completely change 4 times in that year. It is planned that the Centre will be open more days that it is now, we aim at opening all week for a while just to see how it goes. So a few more bodies on the ground will be most welcomed. Even if only for a couple of hours, any day.

Our **Significance Assessment** should be completed by the time you read this. Should be interesting with no big shocks, only good ones. As this is some 45 paged long, if you wish to see it come on in to the Centre and read it there.

This has been part of the 12 months Standards Program David Foster and I undertook in 2012. Without having our collections assessed, it will be nearly impossible to receive grants and without any grants we cannot maintain, conserve and preserve any of our collections correctly. Items that we need to assist in our preservation efforts cost heaps.

Which brings me to **MONEY MATTERS**

And I can assure you it does. Who has some great ideas buzzing around in their head? How about letting them out and telling us all about them. We would dearly love to have a few new and good ideas about money raising. Such as: raffles, Silver Circles, etc. These are a couple of well-used ideas, but there must be other methods. **SO LET THE IDEAS RIP.**

DO YOU KNOW?

A small band of workers, working at the Centre over the last 12 months managed to work over 3385 hours. This equates to over \$88,000, put into the community.

WE CERTAINLY ARE A WORTHY ORGANIZATION. VALUABLE TO AND FOR THE COMMUNITY.

Considering we are also a not-for-profit and self-funded body, we deserve a hefty pat on the back.

Thank you to all those who put in time to assist.

Talking of which, our Society has need of the following:

- Membership Officer
- Maintenance Person - Light duties only eg smoke alarms etc.
- Grant Writer
- Fund Raising Officer
- Purchasing Officer
- Admin person (Easy computer work etc).
- Cleaner/washer person.
- Anyone interested in and/or up to date with computers for updating our FaceBook page.

Most of the positions could be covered by 1 or 2 people. We will train if necessary. If I can do it, ANYONE can.

Early Days of Mail Delivery in the North.

Spare a thought for the early day Australian mail carriers who were usually lone horsemen who had to contend with the weather, floods, fast-flowing rivers, wet seasons, hot and steamy weather, and hostile aborigines to deliver the mail. Many were injured trying to make their way to the mail recipients, their horses were often overloaded, some drowned when urging their horses to cross flooded rivers. The mail delivery men were adventurous, had to cover long distances under less than ideal conditions, and did not travel light.

In the far north, mail services were not commenced until gold was discovered on the Palmer River in 1873. The major port for the north was Cooktown, as Cairns had not then been founded, so mail arrived by ship and was taken from there out to the gold fields. The cost of mail delivery was high. In April 1876, the government agreed to run a weekly mail service from Byerstown on the Palmer to the new Hodgkinson fields and the first mailman was Chinese. Once a track was found down over the range, Cairns was developed and Smithfield became a major port of call.

DID YOU KNOW. Taken from Australian Family Tree Connections November 2002.

If you have relatives who served in WW1 or the Boer War and enlisted in Queensland, you may find previously unseen photographs of them in the *Queenslander*, a weekly newspaper that was published from 3 Feb 1886 to 1 April 1939. The *Queenslander* can be viewed on microfilm on Level 3 of the Queensland State Library, South Bank Brisbane. The index is located at the John Oxley Library on level 4 of the State Library Building. The library can search the WW1 Index for you if you are unable to make the trip to Brisbane.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

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

NON-MEMBERS: A minimum fee upfront 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

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2014

January	11
February	8
March	8
April	12
May	10
June	14
July	12
August	9
September	13
October	11
November	8
December	13

From the WW1 Aussie Soldiers Dictionary

IMSHI: - Means "go", "get out quickly". Used by the speaker, the word implies quick and noiseless movement in the opposite direction to the advance.

**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 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.
RUTH KERR	John Moffatt of Irvinebank
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	

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MAREEBA PUBLICATIONS

WW2 Diggers Book of Poetry Compiled by Helen Kindt

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.
MULLIGAN, J.V.	A Journal of Exploration <i>Republished Aug 24, 2007</i>