



'Mareeba & Dimbulah Bendigo Community Bank Tobacco Display' to be officially opened on 26th January 2012

Credit: MHC



Converted AEC powered rail motor used from 1949 to the mid 1970's as a Rail Ambulance by the Mareeba Hospitals Board.

Credit: MHC



Cork Sizer integral to an Apothecary's Work c.late 19th century

Credit: MHC

MAREEBA HERITAGE CENTRE

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Hours: Open daily 8.00am to 4.00pm, except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

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Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the Mareeba Heritage Centre.

'Did You Know' – The museum's intriguing objects include:

- A rare example of a handmade vintage wireless station made in Mareeba by Marcus Brims and in Feb 1914 the recipient of the first experimental wireless licence granted in Queensland.
- An ant-bed shovel, an example of ingenuity of farmers who adapted a shovel to solve a specific need where no commercial solution was available.
- A rocking chair used by John Atherton, the founder of Mareeba from 1877.
- A wagon wheel from John Doyle, one of the early explorers of the Mareeba area in 1870s.
- A Russian lemon squeezer brought to Australia in the 1860s by Russian migrants and an example of the diverse multicultural community that makes up Mareeba.
- A cork sizer for changing the size of the corks to suit the bottle, c.late 19th century.

Our Profile

Mareeba Heritage Centre is a vibrant museum and tourist information centre established in 1995 and well supported by its diverse multicultural community. Its collection of over 5,000 items owned, used and proudly donated by members of the community form the basis of its comprehensive and ingenious displays reflecting the heritage and culture of Mareeba and its district.

Mareeba Heritage Centre is the custodian of Australia's best tobacco industry collection. Mareeba-Dimbulah was the centre of tobacco growing in Australia. A new display tells this powerful story of hard work, ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit. Anonymous donations of homemade tobacco 'chop-chop' and the farmers locally invented machine, used to chop tobacco for home use and in some cases for the black market, capture the reality of local experiences of cat and mouse with authority.

Another rare item of state significance is the Mareeba Hospital Board's Rail Ambulance, which continued to operate until the 1970s. Of the 29 operating in Qld, it is a surviving example all the more significant because of its original condition.

The Museum presents a timeline of their district through their Heritage Walkway including Aboriginal artefacts, early explorers and settlers, early 20th century school room, the railway, mining, tobacco, timber, WW1, elegant living between the wars, the Mareeba rodeo and Mareeba Hospital Board's Rail Ambulance. Also included are the early 20th century local businesses such as the blacksmith, butchery, saddlers and the Jack & Newell Trading Store.

What the Standards Program has meant for our museum

Refocusing our Museum on its key strategic objectives and guidelines to formulate a 'Strategic Management Plan' for the next three years.

The Standards Program has given us guidance with regard to our museum policies and procedures, which will be reviewed and included within our 'Strategic Management Plan'.