

**Henry's Motel - Quirindi**  
**15 February 2022**

Murray Hohnen provides a tale following a stay with Charlie at Henry's in Quirindi during February 2022 and emailed his cousins the following:



Siblings and Cousins:

This will be old hat for some of you but of interest to others.

It arises from an overnight visit Charlie and I made to Quirindi where we stayed at "Henry's", a sort of motel in Henry Street.

Some time back, the old Methodist Church site was gifted by the Church for the construction of an aged care facility. The design incorporated the old church which was designated the "Whitten Room". On the wall of the room is a marble memorial to our Great Grandmother.

The old folk were so happy with the facility that the government moved them all to a newer one up the hill near the hospital that they didn't like!

The abandoned facility was then repurposed as accommodation for travellers.

Murray told them the story of the Commemorative Plaque on the wall to Charlotte Whitten.

*Subject: Charlotte Whitten*

*Last week my wife and I stayed at your motel on our way back to Melbourne. We were delighted to discover the Whitten Room and memorial to Charlotte Whitten in the old Methodist Church annex.*

*Charlotte is my great grandmother.*

*I thought you might be interested in a brief summary of her life.*

*Charlotte Mason was born in Bathurst on 17 July 1842. She was the fifth of ten children but the first in the family born in Australia.*

*Her parents Richard Mason and Jane Armitage both from Tipperary, Ballingarry in Ireland married in County Clare in 1831.*

*In 1841 Richard and Jane and their four Irish born children emigrated to Australia aboard the Woodbridge that arrived in Sydney in March 1842.*

*On 30 March 1865, Charlotte married Anthony Whitten a farmer who had emigrated from Fancroft, Roscrea, Offaly in Ireland in about 1860. Anthony travelled first to the United States where he spent two years at St Charles on the Missouri before travelling on to Australia where he started farming around Tamworth.*

*Anthony and Charlotte were married on 30 March 1865 and their first child (the first of thirteen) was born early in 1866. The family farmed around Quirindi and Wallabadah. The main connection was to a property called Lowestoft though Lowes Creek and Gaspard also appear in the record.*

*Charlotte, widowed in 1914, died at Lowestoft on 8 October 1927 and is buried beside Anthony in the Wallabadah cemetery.*

Tim Hobson also stayed there in May 2022 whilst riding a motor bike home from Warwick.