

Mt Molloy Hotel

WITH RUMOURS OF HAUNTED PUBS IN THE ATHERTON TABLELANDS, WE THOUGHT WE'D SEND OUR NEW CONTRIBUTOR ON A TOUR, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HE HAS SO MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH SPIRITS...

Now readers, right from the get-go I'm going to state that I do not do ghosts, ghouls, wraiths or any other form of supernatural floggery. My only real experience with things that go bump in the night generally has been staggering around my house while going for a piss at 2am in the morning.

After putting a hole through half a dozen beers and a bottle of Bundy with my mates Fish and Hoon, the conversation gravitated towards talk of the undead.

It may have been Fish's poor BBQ cooking skills that prompted the turn in conversation, but I can't be sure. The words 'unholy burnt sacrifice' were used once or twice, but I digress.

Hoon mentioned that it was well known that there were a number of pubs in the Atherton Tablelands area that supposedly had long dead punters lurking around the rafters.

How many pubs are we talking about I asked sheepishly. "Four, maybe five," Hoon replied.

This got me thinking, here is a ripper opportunity to string together a poorly disguised pub crawl around a story about haunted Nth Qld Pubs.

"Fuck me, I'm way over qualified to write this," I thought to myself.

Here's me with a shed load of experience with both pubs and spirits, and in some cases I have had the publican damn near perform a full-on exorcism to get me to vacate the premises.

There was no argument and it was decided we were going to suss out some haunted pubs.

The following week, Lilly, Fish and I saddled up and headed off to the Kuranda Range, across the Tablelands and along the Mulligan Highway to the Heritage Listed Mt Molloy Hotel.

Seems we were not the only one's interested in the supernatural doings at the pub that weekend. The local Triple MMM radio station had rolled in enmasse complete with their own Medium. This should be interesting...

Talking to the owner and licensee Shane, he filled us in on the local spirit named 'Lesley'.

Mt Molloy Pub late afternoon



Coast road leading to Mt Molloy turn off

Fat Boy at Mt Molloy



Drink like a Fish ...my mate Fish talks with publican Shane



Cairns radio Personality Maddi talks with Local Cairn Medium

At first, I thought that Shane would have been a little shy about discussing ghost and hauntings at his pub.

Not so... Straight up, Shane listed a string of events that he couldn't explain.

Before that yarn, here's a bit of a background on 'Lesley'.

Apparently, she was an elderly woman that died in Room 8 in the old pub many, many years ago of an apparent drug overdose.

"Well at least between Marilyn Monroe and Witney Houston, you will have a heap to talk about," I thought to myself.

On the day she died, the local Police / Coroner rolled in, removed her body and placed her remains on the couch in the guest common room (which is now a TV room).

Once they inspected the room, they decided there was no foul play and they took her earthly remains away.

Since then she has been lurking around the premises and making her presence known according to the new owner.

Staff over the years have felt a chill run through them when passing the couch which remains exactly where it was when she stepped off this mortal coil. The kitchen staff have also complained of shadowy figures and an odd feeling when working. Do not know about any of that, all I can say is the Mt Molloy Schnitty and Chips is a ripper – ghost or not in the kitchen area.

Shane went on to say that he has had odd issues with ceiling fans turning on, lights that have not been connected lighting up and the sense of someone else being in the room. Interestingly, they're the same stories the previous owner shared...

Before you start yelling 'bullshit', I'm just telling you what I know.

At 8pm that Saturday night, the Medium and a small group of us climbed the stairway and entered the common room where Lesley was laid out briefly all those years ago.

This is what happened next...

The Medium claimed to contact not only the spirit of Lesley, but also two other spirits that had swung by.

One apparently was a deceased ex-drinker at Mt Molloy Pub known as 'Forex LITE Dave'.

This aroused my suspicion about authenticity immediately as I struggle to believe that any lite beer drinkers would ever be allowed to hang around any North QLD Pub for long periods of time, alive or dead.

If it was a Bundy Bear Bob, or a Crazy Black Jack Morgan, I would have worn that. So, colour me sceptical right here!

Ok, the Medium did single out individuals in the room and spoke directly to them, including myself at one point.

I'm not going into what was said, however earlier on in the evening, my partner Lilly took pictures of my mate Fish and I sitting on the 'Couch of Death' using Fish's Camera. The resulting image was odd and that's all I'm saying.

When Fish showed the image to the Medium, she said that was the spirit of Lesley.

Readers, I know what you're saying, 'unhand yourself Pyro', but I'm just reporting what happened, no more, no less. Trust me when I say I'm still not sold on any of this sort of stuff at any rate...

So where did all this land by the end of the night?



Pyro on the couch of Death (with mystery light Orb apparently)

The Medium sent Lesley back to the 'other side', apparently her Dad came and took her back. She did want us to know that she did not commit suicide, it was just an accident with the whole overdose thing.

The other two ghosts including Forex LITE Dave are still lurking around the Mt Molloy Pub.

Fish, Lilly and I stayed the night in the Hotel without any incident, and definitely no out of body, spooky fuck wittery. We hit the road around 6am the next day.

The sum total?

At \$40 a night, great locals, cold piss and great food, we'll be back at the Mt Molloy Pub – ghosts or not. It did not change my mind either way and I'm still suss on Mediums and the like.

So with inconclusive evidence, we thought it best to keep hunting. And around another 100km down the road is the Peermon Hotel, which has somewhat more of a much darker shade to it I believe - keep an eye out in an upcoming issue to see how that one goes... LTR