



# Wattle Bark



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CIVIC CENTRE, MARYBOROUGH.

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Maryborough Family History Group Inc.

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# Maryborough Family History Group Inc.

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\*\* indicates key holder for "The Hub", Research Room

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## Meeting Schedule for 2021 –2022

### Committee Meetings

Unless otherwise advised, committee meetings will be held in the Research Rooms, at 7:00pm, prior to the General Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

There will be no committee meeting in the months when the General Meetings are rescheduled.

### General Meetings

General Meetings are *usually* held at 7:30pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Research Rooms at The Community Hub 12 - 22 Nolan Street. Visitors are most welcome.

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## Membership Fee's:

Full Single Membership	\$25.00
Full Joint Membership	\$40.00
Newsletter only membership	\$8.00

- A Joining fee of \$5 applies to all new membership applications (including lapsed memberships)
- Membership Fee's cover the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of March to 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> of February.
- Any subscriptions received from *new members* between 1 December and 28/29 February will include the membership for the following year.

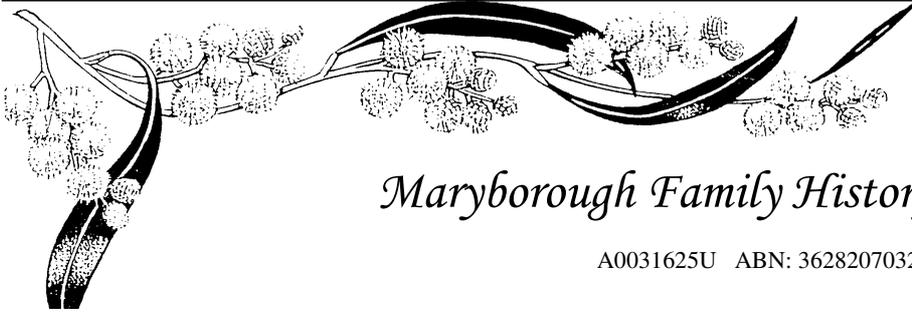
### Benefits:

- The annual subscription includes our quarterly newsletter "Wattle Bark" posted to your home address.
- Full members have access to our extensive research facilities in the Community Hub 12 - 22 Nolan Street for *personal* research.

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## Front Cover

Civic Centre Maryborough  
From Kevin Spokes Collection



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## Research Fee's:

### Postal Research:

- Deposit: \$20, non-refundable
- Hourly research fee: \$10 for each hour or part thereof
- Photocopying and Computer print-out: 50 cents per sheet side
- Additional costs: as advised.

Upon receipt of the deposit we will complete the research as requested. The applicant will then be advised of the costs applicable. The results would be posted upon receipt of the balance. *[The rationale behind the non-refundable*

*deposit being that it takes just the same amount of time (or even longer) to come up with a nil result.]*

**Enhanced Research:** For a fee of \$15 per grave we will provide a full monumental transcription as well as a photograph of the grave.

**Visiting Research:** The fee is \$10 per hour or part thereof; the minimum fee is \$10. and is for the purposes of *personal research only*.

Visitors *must* be accompanied by a financial member who will *only* provide assistance to access the records but *will not undertake any research per se*.

### MEETING TIME TABLE

**Wednesday 28th July @ 7.30pm**  
Cancelled due to Covid lockdown

**Wednesday 25th August @ 7.30pm**  
Cancelled due to Covid Lockdown

**\*\*Wednesday 22nd September @ 7.30pm**

**\*\*Wednesday 27th October @ 7.30pm**

**\*\*Subject to current Covid lockdown restrictions at the time of the scheduled meetings**

*The most beautiful discovery*

*True friends make is that*

*They can grow separately*

*Without growing apart.*

# Charles Daniel Pratt

Charles Daniel Pratt was born in Wellington, New Zealand, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1891, eldest of seven children born to Elizabeth Margaret Pratt and Justin Percival Pratt. He was the proud owner of a Bradbury motorcycle, and adept with things mechanical. A keen shooter and cadet member of the Wellington Volunteers and Territorials Militia, when war broke out he enlisted on 9 December 1914, age 23 (single, grocer clerk) and saw action in Gallipoli, and was classified as an “artificer” and promoted to the rank of corporal and served as a mounted motorcycle despatch rider in Egypt and Palestine. He reached the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and in 1917 he volunteered for the Royal Flying Corps and quickly found his calling. He was a natural pilot and soon began teaching others.

After the war, Charles boarded the Steamer “Cooee” for the voyage back to New Zealand along with four crated aeroplanes and intentions of establishing an aviation business. However, a dock strike saw him stranded in Melbourne. Charles had become friendly with the Captain of the “Cooee”, and persuaded him to unload one of the crates containing a DH-6 aeroplane onto wharf 10. From there he proceeded to assemble it on the Central Pier of Victoria Dock in December 1919 and, once ready, took off from that very wharf, the subsequent flight off the wharf was directly to Carey’s Port Melbourne aerodrome.

During the enforced stay in Melbourne, Charles explored the region and realised that there was potential for his business here. A visit to Geelong and the possibility of setting up on the Geelong Common appealed, and this is where he remained until his move to Essendon in 1938. Soon after setting up in Geelong he convinced his three brothers to join him. Two of his brothers, Percy and Len, were taught to fly and helped with the business, while the third brother, Alf, was to operate a motorcycle courier business. Charles Pratt together with his brother Percy, established a hangar, workshop and airstrip on Belmont Common in the 1920’s

Lesser known is the fact that the Pratt brothers sold a popular low-cost glider and that in 1937 Percy Pratt made history by completing the first aeroplane-towed glider flight in Australia and also the longest glider flight (from Belmont Common to Melbourne’s Albert Park).

This incident was reported in the Geelong Advertiser. Friday, 13 March, 1936, was definitely not a good day for this cow on the Belmont Common.



Obviously cows are slow learners or they wearing camouflage so pilots couldn’t see them!

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the government took over the aerodrome and Pratt’s aircraft, and Pratt, went on to train Royal Australian Air Force pilots. The common aerodrome remained until the early 1950s. Charles married Amy Jane Blakiston later in life and had no children. Amy died in 1967. He was teetotal and a non-smoker. Prior to marriage he involved himself in his flying, his photography and the Geelong Photo Club, a member of the Masonic Lodge, and was an active member of Legacy. Charles Daniel Pratt died 1968 at St Kilda Victoria.

One of the best legacies Charles Pratt has left is his collection of aerial photographs. These are mainly of Melbourne and Victoria but go through to the building of Canberra and south to Tasmania. He did his own film processing and enlarging and was in demand for aerial photography from 1922, when he flew throughout Victoria in his Avro 504K, G-AUCJ, offering pictures of towns, factories and farms on request along with passenger flights. One of his passions in the 1930s was in making and showing to charitable groups his collection of home movies, especially that of his travels to England in 1935. At the outbreak of WW2 his services were offered to the RAAF but as his age was now 50 years, they showed little interest despite his impressive record as an instructor. He was offered a position as pilot with A.N.A. in 1942 and he flew DC2 and DC3s with them through to his retirement in 1947 as a commercial pilot.

Continued Page 9

**The histories of these following schools, given to the Group by Donald Historical Society, are believed to have been compiled early 1970's for the Department of Education for the publication for the Vision and Realisation Volumes.**

*Dear Stebbins*

*Please find enclosed copies of school histories for Cotswold and Rodborough as completed by my predecessor, Miss G Walker. No previous mention of School No 448 McCallums Creek being the responsibility of this school is recorded in the file. However mention of it appears in a report about Craigie's history. Apparently this was a private school and in 1859 the owner, Mr Byrne asked the National Board of Education for assistance. This initiated petitions for a larger school and is the beginning of Craigie No 1062*

*Hope this is of some help*

*Yours Sincerely*

*John Williamson*

*Headmaster*

*History of SS No 1765 Rodborough*

*In July 1873, a committee consisting S Lloyd, S Bucknall, E Bucknall, R Meddicoat, C Hodgins, J Davies, R Galloway, K McIvor, and C O'Leary applied for a school for the children of Rodborough. The school opened on 12 9 1876 the first head teacher being Annie Robertson. In its opening year the school had an enrolment of 27.*

*The building was a wooden porloole with quarters of two rooms attached. It was erected by the Department on a 1 acre 1 rod 7 perches site, part of allotment 16, section 3, Parish of Moolort, County of Rodborough Vale Station. The building cost £183.*

*No 1765 was closed on 1-3-1894. The school continued to be used as a Post Office for some time after this*

*Yours Faithfully*

*Gail K Walker (HT)*

*History of SS No 3442 Cotswold*

*In 1902 the residents at a cost of £63, erected a lined 20' x 15' building on a half acre site on the S.E corner of Allotment 3F, Section 1, Parish of Rodborough. The school was opened on the 22-11-1902.*

*The first head teacher was Eliza Kershaw. In 1906 there were 32 children enrolled because of overcrowding a new building had to be erected in 1908.*

*The school closed on 24-8-1948.*

*The last head teacher was Seymour Treloar (1939-1948)*

*Yours Faithfully,*

*Gail L Walker (H.T)*

**RATHSCAR NORTH STATE SCHOOL No 2849**

*The first school was built of slabs and partly lined with hessian and was built on what was known as Broom Hut Water Hole in 1898, which was about thirteen miles from Maryborough on the Maryborough-Natte Yallock Road. The school was built by Mr Young and Mr McArdle and the first teacher was Mr George Wilkins.*

*The Education Department paid the teachers. Other teachers were Mr Slater, Mr Thomas and Miss Head, who later married Mr Ralph Rowland of Wareek. In 1902 while Miss Head was teaching the school closed and another school was shifted from the Wedderburn district and placed at the foot of Broom Hill. The first teacher was Miss E M Davies followed by Miss Ward, Mr Croft, Miss Cousins, Miss Owens, Miss Moyle, Miss Marshall and in 1914 Miss D Sutherland came and taught for six years. Next to teach was Miss Ethel Marshall, sister to the first one, and later Miss Mary Sutherland, sister to Miss D Sutherland. This takes us alone to 1930 when the school was closed and the children who were attending went to Wareek school.*

*In 1933 the school reopened with Mr Lawson as the teacher. He was followed by Miss Rafter, Mr Marks, Mr Morris, Miss Dawe, Miss Floyd, Miss Foot and Mr Carless. Most of the teachers boarded at different homes around the district. For some time Miss Ethel Marshall drove a horse and gig from Durnolly each day.*

*In December 1935 a heavy wind storm completely wrecked the shelter shed and blew the verandah*

over the top of the school and bent the iron chimney on the eastern side. This was later repaired. In 1945, while Mr Ron Carless was teaching the school closed for the last time. The main reason for the school closing was the small number of pupils and the difficulty in obtaining board for the teachers. The school building remained on the site until 1955 then it was sold to the Young Farmers Club and shifted to the Maryborough Show Grounds where it still stands.

Miss E M Davies died in the year 1909 while teaching at the school and a photo was placed in the school in her memory and remained there until the school closed.

The Rathscar West State School 1535, was situated 5 miles from Avoca on the Natte Yallock Road. The site of the school play ground is now almost unrecognizable. It was bought by the Elliott Brothers. It is a triangle block of land on the bend of the Avoca river, on the west side of the road going to Natte Yallock and ¼ mile from the Rathscar West Church.

It is estimated that the school was commenced in 1870's and the first school was built of bark. There was some sort of residence because the first teacher and here husband lived there. She was an educated lady, Mr Quillian, from Ireland. The Education Department in those early days employed educated migrants as there first teachers. Some of the first teachers were, Mrs Quillian, Miss M Williams, Miss Opie, Miss McDonald, Miss Sadler, Miss Camerson, Miss Ainsworth, Miss Marshall, Miss Field, Miss Hardy, Mr Clifford, Mr McCallum, Miss Hawkins, Mr Munro. There were others for short periods. When Miss Field had charge of the school the attendance was 30 pupils. The school building consisted of three rooms, one large and two small ones which were meant to be used as a residence. It was used as such on only one occasion by Miss Cameron. Miss field left from the school to travel overseas as one of the first exchange teachers. She taught in Canada and England. Miss Opie was responsible for planting pine trees all around the school ground and they could be seen for miles around. Days to be dreaded were the days when the truant officer visited the school and the parents had to appear to explain why the children missed school so often. Sometimes they were fined. When the District Inspector visited the school, pupils generally knew he was coming and great was the preparation. Two of the Inspectors were a Mr Bothroyd and a Mr Livingstone.

#### 953 WAREEK

School No 953 Wareek was known as Wareek Common School and was opened in 1867

As the settlement of Wareek grew it was decided by the community that a school was needed. Some of the older children had been attending School at Norwood, 3-4 miles to the North East

The School was built on the reserve 1 ¾ miles from the present main road about 8 miles west of Maryborough. The school was a one room building, built of sawn timber which was carted from the nearest saw mill; this was on the further slope of the Pyrenees some seventy miles away.

The School began in 1867 and the teacher was appointed and paid by the people. The first teacher was Mr Brennan, who occupied the position for five years, in fact till the education act came into force in 1872. The School then became State School No 953 and Mr Edwin Smith was sent as a qualified teacher to take charge.

As mining languished many people left the district and this depleted the community and in 1893 the school closed and the few children travelled to Rathscar some five miles to the North West. The old school was later destroyed by fire.

Today, much of the land is still in the hands of the representatives of those old Pioneer families eg. Porteous, Ross, Fitzgerald, Dafontes and Rowland.

#### WAREEK

School No 1419 Wareek was opened in 1902

The area settled down to agriculture and the number of school aged children increased. As the old school had been burnt down an officer of the Education Department recommended the removal of a school building form Rathscar

The school was placed on a site eight miles from Maryborough adjacent to the main road about ¼ mile from the Bet Bet creek. The school and residence were combined at Rathscar and were split to be transported to the new site. The school was one room and the residence was placed away from the school. The school and residence are both of weatherboard construction. In September 1967 because of increased enrolment a second classroom come into use.

The first teacher at Wareek No 1419 was Miss Fraser who shifted here from Rathscar.

## MOORES FLAT SCHOOL No 1575

*This School No 1575 Moore's Flat was opened about 1877*

*The site of the school is half mile south east of the Pyrenees Highway about eight miles from Maryborough. The ground of three to four acres is still maintained by the Education Department. The original school had a bark roof. While the second school was being built the school was conducted in a shed near the present site. The building was 24ft long, 12ft wide with verandah on two sides and porch on the other side.*

*The first teacher was Miss Embleton followed by Mr Matthewa, Miss Bailey, Mr Dew, Mr Miles, Mr McCarthy, Miss Stevenson, Miss O'Donnell, Mr Walters and later by other teachers.*

*One of the great days for the school children was to go to the Bung-Bong Railway Station to see the first go through on the opening of the Maryborough-Avoca line about 1878. during the school life the greatest number of pupils was 36.*

*The school closed in 1934 and the building was sold in 1945 and removed by a local resident.*

## RATHSCAR

*School No 1419 Rathscar was opened in 1875 and was built because the people settled in the area found that a school was needed. The sit of the school was about eleven miles from Maryborough on the Maryborough-St Arnaud road.*

*The building wa one room eighteen ft by thirty-four ft. built of pine weatherboard which had a four room residence attached. The residence was also built of pine weatherboard.*

*The enrolment was about thirty-five children and the first teacher was Mr Flynn who had grades one to eight.*

*The school continued on until about 1902 and because of falling enrolment the school was transported to a new site at Wareek and became know as Wareek State School No 1419*

## ALMA

*School No 23*

*The school was located four miles from Maryborough on the Maryborough StArnaud road near the Timor Creek. Opposite the school was the Golden Gate Hotel. The school building was of timber frame and covered in tin. The inside walls were not lined. There was no residence and the teacher boarded locally of lived in Maryborough.*

*Date school began not known*

*Enrolment not known*

*Teachers not known*

*The school became a second room for the new Alma school and later became the shelter shed.*

## ALMA

*School No 848 was built and opened in the early 1860's. The school was built near the old school No 23 which became a room of No 848. The site was near the Timor Creek four miles from Maryborough.*

*The building was made of brick and was of one room with a porch. The school room was about 80ft. by 40ft.( estimated by local knowledge) and had a gallery. The old school was also used as a room. The enrolment reached well over the 100 mark and was from Grade 1-8. The school was built to cope with the population of the gold mining area which was about 6 to 7 thousand.*

*No residence was built for this school and the teachers boarded locally or lived in Maryborough.*

*The school closed in 1931 when enrolment fell to 9 and opened again in 1933. It eventually closed in 1937 because of low numbers. The school was sold and demolished. Some of the teachers were Mr Howard, Miss Newton, Miss Kay, Mr Downing, Mr Weary, Miss Cation, Mr Persal, Mr Knight and MrMclean who was the last. Mr Lawry and Mr Gill were two of the inspectors who visited the school in horse and buggy.*

# VALE DAWN RICH



Clara Dawn Brown was born on the 21st November 1935 in Warranambool. Dawn was the only but much loved child of parents Eva May (Crowe) and Cyril Norman 'Bunty' Brown. Bunty was a station hand so this saw he and Eva with young baby Dawn, move to many farms in the Warranambool District. Growing up on a farm allowed Dawn to have a menagerie of animals; dogs — her favourite, Border Collies— horses and young lambs that had often lost their mother. Dawn cared for all. She was known to sell puppy Border Collies much to the horror of her mum, she informed her mum that it was pocket money.

Bunty was a lover of horses and Dawn followed suit. Her transport to school from day one was not the norm with her riding a horse from Hawkesdale to Bessiebell, she parked the horse at a near by property in the morning and picked it up at the end of the schooling day.

Another farm position saw the Brown Family move to the Ross property at Natte Yallock. The Ross children provided company and adventures to an only child.

Her secondary schooling took place at the Maryborough Technical School. However the riding the horse to Maryborough was not an option on this occasion with Dawn having to replace her horse with the local school bus.

At school she was in a class with a young 'Ron Rich', they told their children they weren't a couple at school, so it wasn't love at first sight. The children think it must have been the Black FJ Holden with the Fox Tail on the aerial that caught Dawn's eye later on.

On finishing school Dawn relocated to Ballarat to take up Nursing Training at the Ballarat Base Hospital. Dawn married Ron on May 3rd 1958 at the Church of England Maryborough and this year they celebrated 63 years together.

Dawn drove the bus for the disabled children in the district and bought them into Wattle House, she also did podiatry which she did until she retired.

Dawn travelled to, Canada, China, New Zealand, England, Ireland & a lot of travelling around Australia.

Dawn was a very community minded person, she was a member of Red Cross Branch in Maryborough volunteering if anyone needed a helping hand Dawn was always there to help.

Dawn loved doing her Family Research, also helping others finding their Relatives.

Positions Dawn held were Secretary, Vice President, Treasurer and Distribution Officer.

Dawn passed away peacefully on 23rd June 2021 at the Maryborough Hospital.

We extend our deepest Sympathy to her Husband Ron, and children Helen, Ian and Families on the passing of their much loved wife, mother and grandmother.



One of **Charles Pratt's** business endeavours was aerial photography- Airspy. The State Library of Victoria holds a vast collection of his aerial photographs as well as family photographs and albums of photographs depicting his time at war. Of his aerial photographs, over 1,300 can be viewed on-line.

Of this collection of 1300 photos there are 8 of the Maryborough township believed to have been taken about 1928.

### June Meeting Highlight:

At the June meeting we had guest Campbell Latch who spoke of the erection of the Memorial Drinking fountain in honour of Gerald Massey Ivor Wilkinson (Jinx) who died 1901 in the Boer War. He was the first local to be killed in battle. Campbell dressed the part in old army Uniform with all the gear. Even borrowed his mums gardening boots to complete the outfit. It was a pleasure to see a young lad who had so much interest in our war history. Gerald was the son of Robert and Anderina Wilkinson, born in 1883 and enlisted when he was just 17 years old

After his death a public appeal quickly resulted in the funds to erect the memorial and Council were requested for a suitable position and a site in front of the Town Hall was chosen.

**MARYBOROUGH DISPENSARY,**  
**HIGH-STREET, MARYBOROUGH.**  
 And at Scandinavian Crescent, Back Creek.

**W. D. READY,**  
**WHOLESALE DRUGGIST AND STATIONER,**  
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**READY'S VEGETABLE PILLS OF HEALTH.**

The Wilkinson family had Chemist Shops in the area and adverts in the local newspaper showed the diversity of the Druggist or Chemist in 1860. Catering for humans and animals, as well as all stationery needs and reading material for sale or loan. Why not try some VEGETABLE PILLS OF HEALTH! "PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY DISPENSED". This advertisement has been taken from Trove, Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, 29 June 1860. WD Ready and RW Wilkinson had been in partnership in Back Creek (Talbot) and Lamplough, but dissolved their partnership in April 1860. Both men and their respective wives are buried in the local cemetery

Edition	Closing dates for contributions	Planned publishing dates
Autumn	21st February	12th March
Winter	21st May	12th June
Spring	21st August	12th September
Summer	21st November	12th December

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter. In the event that errors occur the Editor and Committee apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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Disclaimer: Contributions to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Editor and Committee do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information in submitted articles, nor opinions expressed.

## FINAL WORD

Let us be grateful to the  
People who make us happy:  
They are the charming gardeners  
Who make our souls Blossom.



*Wattle Bark*

Newsletter of the Maryborough Family History Group Inc.

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From:  
Maryborough Family History Group Inc.  
PO Box 59.  
Maryborough, Victoria 3465

To: