



# *Wattle Bark*



Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Maryborough Family History Group Inc.

Volume: 29  
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Winter, 2023

# Maryborough Family History Group Inc.

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## Office Bearers for 2022-2023

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

## Meeting Schedule for 2023 –2024

Meetings are held at 1:30pm on the **4th Wednesday** of each month in the Research Room at The Community Hub 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 12 - 22 Nolan Street, Maryborough. Visitors are most welcome. No meetings in December. Room opens for Research most **Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm.**

**June 28** Meeting @1.30  
**July 26** Meeting @ 1.30  
**August 23** Meeting @ 1.30  
**September 27** Meeting @ 1.30

Please note Charity Night at Maryborough Highland Society, Friday September 22nd from 5.30pm.

All welcome to this Fundraiser

### **Front Cover**

*Olympic Swimming Pool,  
Princes Park, Maryborough  
Photo January 19, 1959*

*Thanks to The Maryborough District Advertiser*

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## Membership Fees:

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 Fees 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 or preferably emailed.
- Full members have access to our extensive research facilities in the Community Hub for *personal* research.

## Research Fees:

### 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*.

Maryborough Family History Group Inc. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and emerging leaders.

**My apologies for publishing the following article in the middle of a very cold winter. Ed.**

## MARYBOROUGH SWIMMING POOL AND SWIMMING CLUB

Mid 2022, time to advertise to do some needed updates and repairs to the Maryborough Olympic Swimming Pool. Central Goldfields Shire Council announced that the Maryborough Swimming Pool would undergo extensive renovations and repairs.

A press release from CGSC stated that “Council will work with Heritage Victoria to use the \$2 million in funding to upgrade the octagonal pool, the plant room and the main entrance building – which will contribute to preserving this significant heritage complex.” The actual 50m Olympic Pool was in desperate need of repair, and it has been recently stated that “Council continues to work behind the scenes to plan and advocate for the money needed to restore the entire precinct so that it can be reopened for the community to enjoy.” CGSC website – current

A contract has recently been awarded for work to start soon on the small octagonal wading pool and entrance, which will swallow up most of the original grant money of \$2million.

The present Art Deco designed swimming pool and entrance pavilion situated in Princes Park is an imposing sight set amongst the green surrounds of large trees and gardens and backing onto Lake Victoria, in Princes Park.

It was opened on 7 December 1940 by Frank Beaurepaire, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and a former Olympic middle- and long-distance freestyle swimmer. The cost of the pool was £8000, also reported to be £8700, included a children’s wading pool, and the Art Deco entrance and facilities.



2021 Maryborough Swimming Pool from the front, and seen from the Lake Victoria end.

Maryborough situated in Central Victoria usually experiences quite hot and dry summers. The need for a swimming facility in the area was recognized very early in white settlement times. There is no river close by, although there are several creeks which still have water during summer.

Known waterholes around the district are often deep and dangerous and may have been the remains of gold mining and dredging.

As early as 1864 there were Swimming Baths in High Street in Maryborough, although I couldn’t find anything mentioned in the Maryborough Rate Books.



Trove: Mary borough and Dunolly Advertiser Dec 2, 1864.

It is difficult to decide what is meant by swimming baths and swimming pools in some older newspaper articles. Often baths were referred to as somewhere to wash and there were also Turkish baths, but they also advertised swimming. Swimming seems to have been encouraged for a long time. Lessons were encouraged from as early as the mid 1800's.

Some towns in the district formed Swimming Clubs. As early as the 1860's a Swimming Club was established at Tarnagulla, and held competitions. Many schools had swimming programs in nearby creeks and waterholes; however, these were usually a boys only activity.

In 1899, a poll of ratepayers showed a majority were in favour of the construction of a swimming pool. In 1900 plans and specifications were presented to Council for the proposed swimming baths, and estimated to cost £600. A resolution was passed to reduce costs to £500. To cover costs the Council decided to float a loan, with debentures to be paid back in 1937. The new pool was constructed opposite the Technical College and was open for use in November 1901. This included a shop that was on the street line. The first operator and caretaker was W.H. Smith. The baths were open for about six months of the year from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., except Sundays. Ladies Day was Tuesday from 2 p.m. till 8 p.m. Let's hope that most Tuesdays were warm!!!

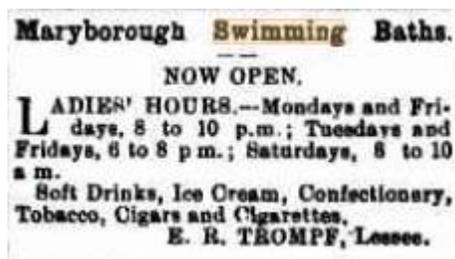
Although the pool existed in a central part of town and was well patronised, it was like many of that era with sand and muddy surrounds, although the sides were of concrete or bricks. The surrounding sand/soil was carried into the water, and there was usually a soil bottom. The water was often dirty and slimy. Definitely a need to swim with your head above water!!

In 1908, the installation of gas burners allowed for swimming at night, and Night Carnivals.



Trove: Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser Jan 28, 1914

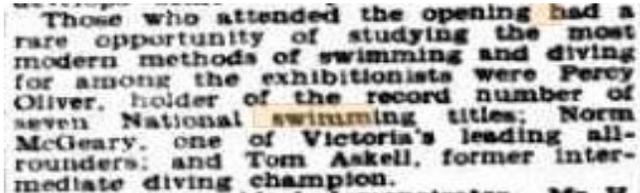
Betty Osborn wrote that the Swimming Club "Membership was large with no less than 150 adults and fifty children being listed in 1912". The Maryborough Advertiser in February 1914 mentions past "quality swimmers produced in the town", namely W.H. Finney (2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Championship in Breaststroke), Fred Heriot, Alf Outtrim, Alf Monke, Jim La Roche, Wm. Smith, and currently Eric Bain. At a recent swim meet (1914) the 100yds Club Handicap Championship was won by W. Skane with B. Morse second. Roll on to the "war years" and ladies were given a lot more access to the pool.



Trove: Mary borough and Dunolly Advertiser Nov 24, 1916.

The Swimming Club introduced learn to swim lessons, and eventually mixed bathing was approved in 1934.

In 1938 a proposal was mooted for a new swimming complex at Princes Park. This was to include a long-awaited paddling pool for children. By 1939, Council decided to built an Olympic size pool on the southern end of the lake on the site of the old dock. The complex was designed by local architect E.J. (Edwin) Peck and city engineers E.J. Muntz and J. Hocking. The construction was started early in 1940 and completed and officially opened by December 1940.



Those who attended the opening had a rare opportunity of studying the most modern methods of swimming and diving for among the exhibitionists were Percy Oliver, holder of the record number of seven National swimming titles; Norm McGearry, one of Victoria's leading all-rounders; and Tom Askeil, former intermediate diving champion.

Trove: Sporting Globe Dec 11, 1940

Representatives from many other towns visited before, during and after the construction of the modern Olympic Pool. Maryborough Pool was a showpiece and seemed to lead the way in country Victoria; they were also consulted on prices for admission and the costs of running the pool and canteen.

In the summer of 1945/46, the Swimming Club organised the 220yds Freestyle Championships and a Night Carnival with exhibitions from VASA Diving and Swimming teams. At the time F.C. Warnecke was the Club Secretary. The Maryborough pool hosted the Victorian Country Championships several times in the 1940's and 50's. A young Bill MacKenzie was traveling from Ballarat to practise diving on the one metre and three metre boards, as the local Ballarat facilities were not suitable. Note that both diving boards have been removed in the last few years.

In a booklet produced for Back to Celebrations for Easter 1948, officials mentioned for the Swimming Club were: Cr. P.E. Outen (President), Mr. W.H. Eley (Hon Secretary) and Mr. R. Long (Hon Treasurer, 27<sup>th</sup> year). To this day Perpetual Club trophies are awarded in honor of these officials. Title Holders were: Dot Waller, CVDASA Ladies 110 yds Freestyle and 110yds Junior Freestyle; Dawn Duggan, CVDASA Ladies 110yds Breaststroke and 110yds Junior Breaststroke; Elaine Stewart, CVDASA Ladies 3 Metre Dive; Robert Harris CVDASA Boys under 14 years 55 yds Freestyle; Lois Waller CVDASA Girls under 12 years 33yds Freestyle; CVDASA Ladies 220yds Relay – J. Sinclair, H. Long, D. Duggan, B. Mackley. I understand that CVDASA would stand for Central Victorian Districts Amateur Swimming Association.

I wonder if there are any descendants currently associated with the Swimming Club?

Helen Ritchie  
June 2023

References: Trove website  
PROV website  
Central Goldfields Shire Council website  
Maryborough A Social History 1854-1904 – Betty Osborn & Trenear Du Bourg  
Against The Odds 1905-1961 – Betty Osborn  
The Maryborough District Advertiser (black & white photos)

**2 X 30 = 60 YEARS.**  
**WHAT AN**  
**ACHIEVEMENT!**

We held a Presentation afternoon tea recently, complete with lace tablecloths and vases of flowers. This was to celebrate the achievements of Cheryl Lovel and Coralie Hutcheon. Both wonderful ladies had been inaugural members of the Club, joining the Maryborough and District Genealogical Group, back in March 1993. The local paper was in attendance and interviewed them both; a great photo and article was in the next publication. Thanks for all your time, effort and dedication Cheryl and Coralie.



*Wattle Bark*

**Publication Dates & Deadlines**

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Closing dates for contributions</b>	<b>Planned publishing dates</b>
Autumn	21st February 2024	12th March 2024
Winter	21st May 2023	12th June 2023
Spring	21st August 2023	12th September 2023
Summer	21st November 2023	12th December 2023

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter. In the event that errors occur the Editor/s apologise for any inconvenience caused.  
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**THIS NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY MARTHA HAYLETT MP AND FUNDED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET.**

## History of Burnt Creek Bromley School- Part 2

*Continued from previous Newsletter*

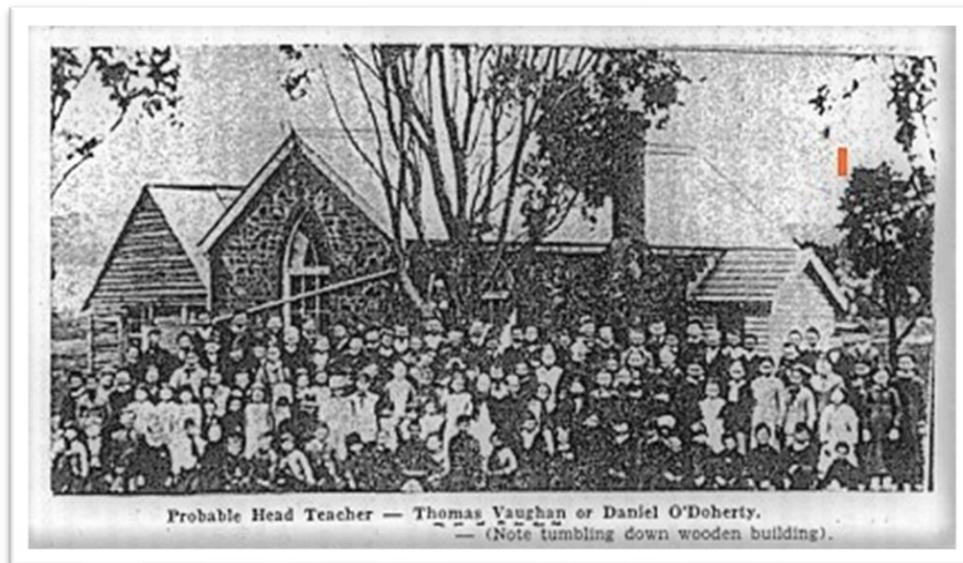
Bromley's community maintained a sufficient population for the school to celebrate its centenary in 1968. The school celebrated with many old students and teachers making the return visit. Through 100 years of fluctuating fortunes the school had maintained a fairly stable enrolment reaching a peak in 1867 of 200 pupils and the lowest in 1961 when pupils numbered just 13. With the decline in enrolments the school finally closed in 1976



Students taken around 1904-1908



Students taken 1923



School building pre 1899 as the original slab building is still standing

Compiled from Bromley School Centenary Booklet, 1968 – Barb Humphrey

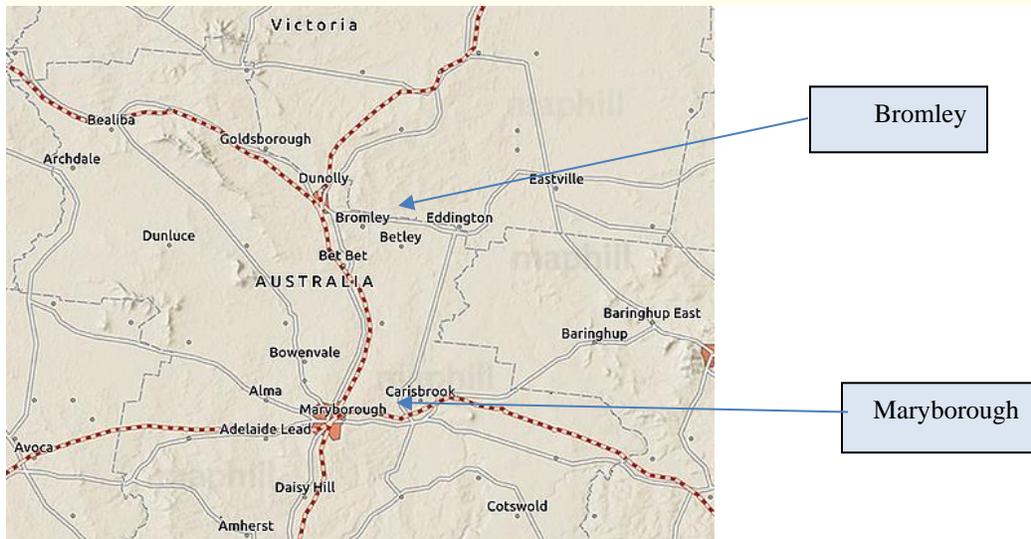
## From Victorian Places online

Gold was discovered in 1854 at Burnt Creek, the original name of Bromley until 1864, attracting a rush of about 400 miners. As Burnt Creek was set in the midst of various alluvial diggings, miners were drawn away to better prospects and back again when new finds occurred at Burnt Creek. A peak mining population of 3000 was reported in 1856.

An Anglican school was opened in 1857 and the Bromley village was surveyed in 1864. It is thought that the name was inspired by Bromley in Kent, England. *Bailliere's Victorian gazetteer* (1865) stated that Bromley had two quartz-crushing mills and a population of about 500 people. A Methodist church was opened in 1870, and the Chinese mining community had a joss house.

Bromley was described in the 1903 *Australian handbook*:

**BROMLEY** (36° 53' S. lat., 143° 43' E. long.) (BURNT CREEK, a post town in county Gladstone, shire Bet-Bet, electoral district of Dunolly, and north-western police district. The communication with Melbourne, 120 miles SE., is by coach to Dunolly (3 miles) or Maldon, and rail thence. The Burnt creek runs through the township. Hotel: The Man of Kent. A State school (No. 55), and a Wesleyan church. There is a little agriculture, but mining is the chief industry. The land is highly suitable for fruit-growing, and for viticulture. Lighted with kerosene. Formation: volcanic sandstone, quartz, and trap rock. Population. about 150.



The Bromley School and surrounds had a very active population and contributed considerable funds to various community endeavours including the 1914-1918 Bromley School District Honour Roll to commemorate the 54 past students who served, some of whom did not return. A large gathering assembled in the school room where the President unveiled the memorial to loud applause on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1918.

The Honour Board was relocated and is housed at the Dunolly Museum along with the School Centenary plaque.

Lawrence Polinelli	William Kick
Leslie Turnbull	Alfred Barnett
Arthur May	Charles Britten
Arthur Richards	*Raymond Wilcox
James Taylor	*Cecil Atherton
Stanley Joseph Loftus	*John B Hughes
Albert Treble	Herbert Treble
*James Henry Hogan	Rex Willcox
Alfred Taylor	Leslie Roy Leach
Albert Cairns	Edward Hogan
Leslie Hewitt	*Alfred Watts
David Watts	George Edwards Watts
Charles Anderson	Maurice Treble
Andrew Anderson	Thomas Watts
*Andrew Rose	Joseph Mitchell
Henry Barber	Robert Wakefield
Henry Barnett	*Arthur Treble
John Alderson	*George Treble
Maurice Davies	James Norman Hawkins
William Smythe	Leslie Tolmie
George Hill	Bramwell Atherton
William Thurloway	Clement Barnett
James Jenkins	*Bartholomew Battalanni
Edward Hawkins	George H Flett
William Lyndon	Arthur Hancock
William Nicholls	Frank Hancock
William H Birkett	*Arthur Hecker
Stanley Leach	

### Names from the Bromley School District Honour Board



### **THE FIRST RULE IN COOLING OFF!**

That St Arnaud man who went for a swim in a dam, and had the misfortune to have his horse and gig bolt with his clothes, has registered a vow. Next time he goes for a dam dip, he'll have someone hold the dashed horse. A three-mile dash au naturel, with the glass at 104 in the shade, is a bit over the odds. A contemporary heads the item, "Before the fall" – "After the deluge" would suit it too.

Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser, Feb 25, 1916

## THEN AND NOW – 1959 AND 2022



The Wading Pool December 5, 1959. (Photo from The Maryborough District Advertiser)  
The Intermediate pool (photo below) was built between the pool and the change room in 1973. Cypress trees are no longer there, but an umbrella tree either side of the main building remain, and provide useful shade.  
Shade cloth has been built over this wading pool, and shade shelters were built on the side of the 50m pool in 2021.  
Note no diving boards which are just visible in the photo on the cover, taken in 1959. Photo below taken in 2020.





## *Wattle Bark*

Newsletter of the Maryborough Family History Group Inc.

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