

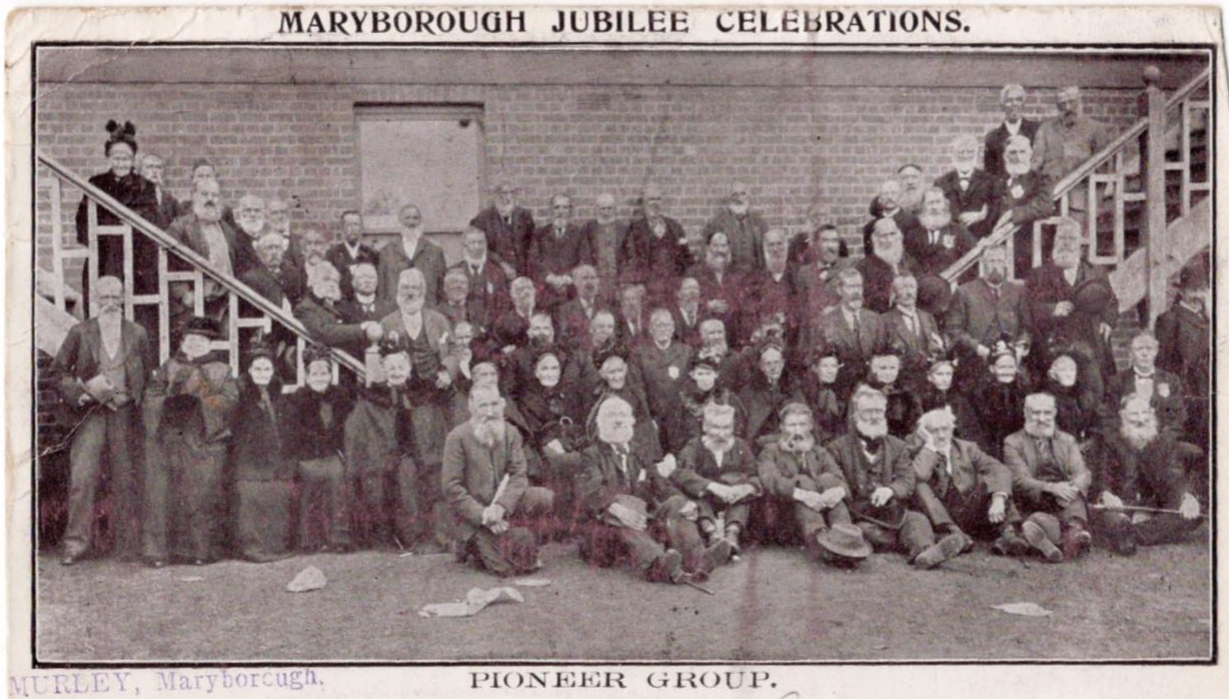


Diggings



THE JOURNAL OF THE MARYBOROUGH MIDLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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MARYBOROUGH'S JUBILEE 1904: 120 years ago

Spring weather was experienced for the jubilee celebration of the establishment of Maryborough in July 1854. The proceedings, though of modest dimensions were characterised by great enthusiasm. From all the public buildings bunting was flying and streamers were freely displayed in all the principal streets. The day was observed as a close [sic] holiday, and the town presented an animated appearance. Shortly before noon the children of the state schools and the Roman Catholic School assembled in the Market square, [former High School site] and headed by the Citizens' Brass Band and marshalled by Mr F. Harling, marched to Princess Park. Nearly two thousand children carrying bannerettes, flags, &c, took part, and on arrival at the park the National Anthem was sung.

Councillor Thomas Casey who has been a member of the municipality since 1859 and Mr F.J. Field, ex-M.L.A, who has been prominently identified with the town since its earliest days, delivered short speeches appropriate to the occasion. The mayor (Councillor Hubble) was unavoidably absent through illness.

The arrangements for the opening ceremony were very complete and were carried out by a committee of towns people amongst whom were prominent Councillors H.E. Williams, J. McLennon, R.J. Crooks, T.C Miners and the town clerk (Mr H.N. Phillips) The members of the board of advice, Messrs Fred Harling, R. Hubble, O.H. McDonagh, J. Coutts, and W. Robinson were greatly assisted by Mr H.W. Carter the head master of the local state school; Mr D.R. Bilton of the East Maryborough State School: and the respective staffs; and Mr J.P.Kennedy, representing the Roman Catholic School.

All present on the ground, including upwards of one hundred old pioneers, were entertained, the attendance being estimated at considerably over 4,000 .

Photographs of the school children seated in the grand stand, also of members of the jubilee committee, old pioneers &c were taken. Shortly after 3 o'clock the ceremony of planting an avenue of trees in the park took place, the participants being Mr Outtrim, M.L.A., the borough councillors, the town clerk and Mr C. J. Rogers, the Government representative on the Waterworks Trust.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Thursday July 21st, 1904

150 YEARS OF RAIL

Queen Victoria (aka Rachel Buckley of Dunolly) arrived at Maryborough Station on July 7th, disregarding the Quiet Carriage policy and launching into “God Save The Queen”.

“The Queen” joined in the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the rail connection from Castlemaine to Maryborough. In 2024 the sun shone, but the opening in 1874 was a dismal failure. The original station building was unfinished, and the entire area was a sea of mud.

“The railway from Castlemaine to Maryborough was opened for passenger traffic yesterday in a very quiet and melancholy fashion. In consequence of the unfinished state of the railway station and the approaches thereto, there was no celebration of any kind, and but a few people thought it worth their while to wade through the mud to the station to see the first official train move off. A few of the Maryborough councillors were present, but only in their private capacity, and none of the public bodies entered an appearance”.

Maryborough & Dunolly Advertiser, July 8, 1874



The Royal Arrival



MMHS members Gary & Maree Green joined the crowd

THE ART OF GOLD EXHIBITION and ROWENA GOUGH

The Central Goldfields Art Gallery is currently hosting an exhibition of gold jewellery items on long term loan from the National Gallery of Australia, under the “Sharing the National Collection” initiative.

The items date from the mid 19th Century gold rush period, and relate to the Maryborough area. Images from our Society’s photographic collection form part of the information display.

Included in the exhibition are contemporary items – a necklace and two rings – created by jeweller Rowena Gough, who was born in Maryborough and spent her early childhood here. Rowena’s work can be found in many Australian galleries, including the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

While visiting Maryborough for the exhibition opening, Rowena took the opportunity to visit the MMHS Research Centre to locate and share images and information about her ancestors, many of whom are well-known district pioneers, including the Pascoe, Bursill, Shugg, Cheney, Robinson and Trevithick families.

QUOITS: The Forgotten Sport

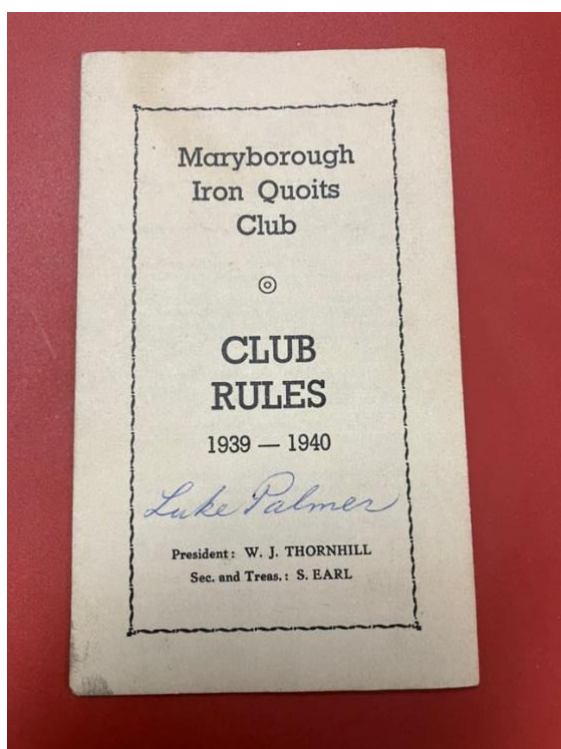
This ancient game that dates back centuries has traditionally been played in England, Wales and Scotland, particularly in mining areas. It's not surprising then, that miners in the Central Victorian goldfields may have brought the game with them. It's reported that the quoits themselves were made from left over iron from local forges. The game requires players to throw the heavy metal quoits up and down an eleven yard pitch, aiming at a short wooden stake four inches high (the "hob") that's embedded into a specially prepared clay "pit" three feet square.



*Luke Palmer's quoit
The pen indicates the scale
The quoit is held on the narrower side*



*Photograph owned by Luke Palmer of an unidentified quoits club or match
Probably in the Maryborough area*



Descendants of the late Luke Palmer recently donated to our Society a fascinating collection of quoit-related memorabilia that together tell the story of the sport in the Maryborough. Luke won competitions at Talbot and Maryborough, and was a regular competitor in tournaments conducted throughout the district. The New Year's Day Highland Gathering programs in Maryborough included quoits competitions. Luke first competed at the Gathering at the age of fifteen. One of his trophies is included in the collection. Cash prizes were also offered.

Maryborough Iron Quoits Club Rules stated that the quoits were to be not more than eight and a half inches in diameter, and were not to exceed ten pounds in weight. When an opponent was throwing, the competitor at the opposite end was required to stand beyond the clay area. Furthermore, "Any person using bad language in the enclosure may be removed by the official in charge". At one period the Maryborough Club had 90 members. The quoits pitch was located in Princes Park near the football scoreboard. MMHS member Bruce Duncan remembers watching matches there. Traditional "Northern" quoits is still played in the north of England, for example Whitby and the Yorkshire Moors, and variations of the game exist in Scotland and Wales. Modern quoits are more regular in shape and are usually made of steel.

The sport's popularity in Australia peaked in the late 19th and early 20th Century but interest had waned by the 1950s.

TRACES OF GIRLHOOD : TILLY ASTON AT COMO HOUSE



MATILDA ANN 'TILLY' ASTON (1873-1947)

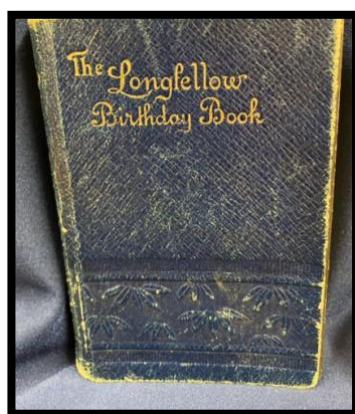
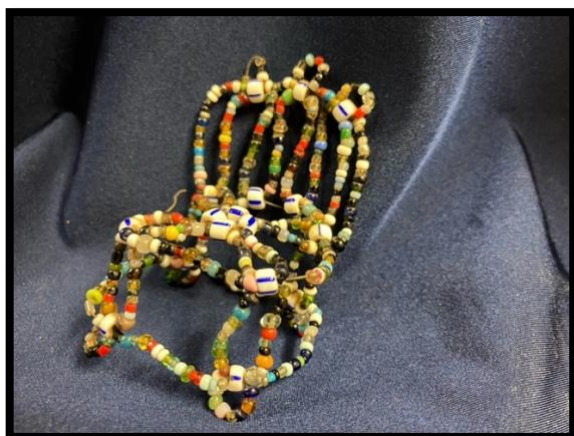
A number of objects from Maryborough Midlands Historical Society's Tilly Aston collection will feature in an upcoming National Trust exhibition to be held at Como House in South Yarra from August 23rd to October 20th.

Tilly's birthday book, her special pocket watch (with raised numbers), her doll, a tiny beadwork chair that she assembled, plus a signed copy of her book of poems entitled "Songs of Light" will be loaned to the National Trust.

Tilly, the youngest of eight children, was born in Carisbrook, where her father Edward was a bootmaker. Undeterred by low vision then total blindness from about the age of seven, Tilly, who was obviously very bright, went on to challenge popular perceptions of the role of the vision impaired in Australian society by forging a career as a writer, poet, teacher, Esperanto enthusiast, community worker and campaigner for the blind community. The federal electorate of Aston in Melbourne is named in her honour.

The **"Traces of Girlhood"** exhibition features the handwork, writing, scrapbooks, artefacts and photographs of girls and young women in 19th and early 20th Century Victoria, illuminating their work and play, learning and opportunities, and the expectations placed upon them.

Left: Tilly at 16 years.



Clockwise from top left:

A tiny bead chair made by Tilly.

Her special pocket watch with raised figures.

Her Birthday Book.

Tilly's home-made doll.

It's suggested that she may have helped to make the clothes.

"CHARLIE" FARR'S PIONEER PORTRAITS (1904)

To celebrate Maryborough's Golden Jubilee, Charlie Farr, a Maryborough photographer, created portraits of 300 local citizens who had been living in the town in the 1850s. Farr, born in Durham Lead near Ballarat in 1866, had bought the business from James Weller in 1892. An entry published in **Cyclopaedia of Victoria** described his work and studio:

Maryborough possesses, in Mr Charlie Farr, of High Street, an accomplished artist in photography. He has been in Maryborough many years now, and from the start showed an artistic excellence which soon obtained him favour.

His studio is a prettily appointed one, the windows of his shop being all set off with some of his artistic triumphs. There is no doubt that Mr Farr has the true artistic instinct, all his pictures being splendidly posed.

To the eminent advantage of the sitter. Mr Farr does every class of photographic work, groups, wedding parties, presentation pictures etc. In addition to producing splendid specimens of portraiture, Mr Charlie Farr has established a wide reputation for instantaneous photography, which is a special branch requiring considerable skill and costly appliances.

The snapshots of events taken by Mr Farr are generally to be seen (enlarged) in about one hour afterwards, and never fail to evoke favourable comment from the large crowds who view them... Mr Farr's charges are very reasonable and his artistic work is famed throughout the Commonwealth.

The Cyclopaedia of Victoria



Charlie Farr

Maryborough

Farr also supplied many of the Maryborough portraits in the Cyclopaedia (including his own), for example Frederick Outtrim, James Hugh Gearing and Henry Williams, as well as images of local workshops and houses.

THE PIONEER PORTRAITS

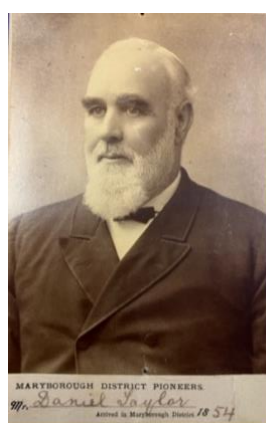
These are just four of the 300 Farr portraits of Maryborough's early settlers. The majority were men, and the women, as was the custom, were identified only by their husband's family name. Apart from their biographical significance the portraits give a fascinating insight into the fashions of the time. Viewers often comment on the serious demeanour of the subjects. While it was customary to look serious, the lack of teeth was often the reason.



Thomas Casey
Long serving Fire Brigade
Captain



Mrs Backway
The Backway family ran
a dairy farm



Daniel Taylor
Tea, wine & Spirit
Merchant



Mrs [Daniel] Taylor

Charlie Farr sold his business in 1904 and moved to Western Australia, where he pursued photography. He is credited with a photograph, taken in 1909, of a group of Aboriginal Australian men and boys wearing body paint and carrying spears and shields on a playing field in Perth. He died in 1922. He and his wife Lina Blanche Gude had one son, Harry.

MEMBERSHIPS

Thank you to all our friends and supporters who have renewed their memberships.
If you're unsure of your membership status please contact us by email or phone (see below).

2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP:

Individual \$25

Family \$35

Payment can be made via:

Cheque: Made out to MMHS and sent to our postal address:
Post Office Box 265 Maryborough 3465, or delivered personally.

Cash: In person during our opening hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10-12, Sunday 2-4.

Direct Deposit: Commonwealth Bank
BSB 06 3519
A/C 0090 1319

WORSLEY COTTAGE: Garden



The dedicated and hard working members of our Garden Committee have braved the winter weather to do battle with the jungle that grew up during last year's renovation and extra wet winter, when we didn't have access to the property.

The "to do" list for this group of multi taskers has included brick cleaning, weed control, pruning, and garden design. As Spring finally approaches, new plantings are under way.

Much of the cost of the garden renewal has been covered by a grant from The Bendigo Community Bank. The Society is grateful for the Bank's support.

Image left: The grape vine, planted over 100 years ago by Arthur Worsley, can be seen on the pergola.



MARYBOROUGH MIDLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We're also on Facebook/Meta

The Maryborough Midlands Historical Society acknowledges the ancestors and descendants of the Dja Dja Wurrung, traditional owners of the land on which we live and work.