



Diggings



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WORSLEY COTTAGE & RESEARCH CENTRE

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NEWS FROM THE COTTAGE

It's been two years now since our Society was informed by Central Goldfields Shire Council (the property owners) that for health and safety reasons Worsley Cottage would have to be closed to the public (and to our volunteers) pending repairs to the southern wall (pictured below).

Tenders were called in late 2021 and closed in mid January this year. We're hopeful that work will commence shortly, and that the cottage (and its collection) will once more be accessible to visitors and our volunteers. The cottage, one of the most historic buildings in Maryborough, has always been the centrepiece of our complex.

MARYBOROUGH MIDLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on

**Wednesday March 16th
at 2 p.m.**

Research Centre (at rear of Worsley Cottage)

EDWIN ALBERT JOHN (“Ted”) PECK Teacher and Architect 1883-1960

Ted Peck’s name appears on the foundation stones of many buildings and monuments around Maryborough.

Born in Bealiba, Edwin Peck was the eldest of the five children of John and Eleanor (née Balzary). He attended the Maryborough School of Mines, where he became arts master, and remained to teach when the institution became the Maryborough Technical College in 1903. In his spare time, and particularly in retirement, he designed many private houses, public buildings and monuments in the town.

The death of Mr Edwin J. Peck removes from Maryborough a man who applied his talents in the direction of making a unique contribution to citizenship. Many organisations will miss the assistance which he rendered in so many capacities and in most cases without remuneration...

My first association with him was in the days of the First World War when, as boys, we attended the School of Mines at night to undertake the making of wooden stools for the use of the Red Cross in hospitals and convalescent institutions ...

Ted Peck was the teacher in charge, and there he applied all the energy and enthusiasm that was later displayed in so many directions. His chief subjects at the school were engineering and mechanical drawing, a direction that permitted the development of his own natural ability as an architect, where he applied so much of his time to the benefit of Maryborough and its institutions ...

It was invariably the case that where an architectural problem was involved it was Ted Peck who was called to provide the solution. The advice was always given without ostentation and in some instances meant the saving of hundreds of pounds...

There are likewise many buildings around Maryborough that are a memorial to his work as an architect. For some he was paid a professional fee, but in many cases his advice was honorary, and that was especially the case where the work applied to anything of a public or charitable nature.

**“Scribe”
Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser
Monday August 29, 1960**

In 1922 Ted Peck advertised his business in the Maryborough Advertiser.

Mr Edwin J. Peck, architect, Cambridge Street, Maryborough, invites tenders, returnable to him, not later than Wednesday, December 18th, for the erection of two timber framed houses.

One of our members, Tom Woolman, recalls that Ted Peck designed the Woolman family home in Burns Street. It was demolished in recent years to make way for an expansion of Highview College.



The Simson Memorial Cairn in Kennedy Street on Primrose Hill (part of the original Simson run) in Maryborough, officially opened in 1939 and dedicated to the memory of the Scottish born pastoralist brothers and their descendants. Ted Peck designed the memorial, and bluestone blocks from the original homestead and an outbuilding on Charlotte Plains station formed part of the structure.



Maryborough’s art deco swimming pool, officially opened on December 7, 1940 by Sir Frank Beaurepaire, Lord Mayor of Melbourne and in his youth an Olympic swimmer. Ted Peck designed the pool in association with two city engineers, E.J. Muntz and J. Hocking.

The pool features on a number of Art Deco tours and websites.

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VALENTINE SERIES No. 1700 THE PIONEERS' MEMORIAL TOWER MARYBOROUGH

The Pioneers Memorial Tower on Bristol Hill, designed by Ted Peck, was officially opened by George Frost M.L.A. in April 1933.

Ted Peck served as President of the Golf Club and the Highland Society, providing technical expertise and guiding improvements at both organisations. At the Tennis Club he was associated with the development of public tennis courts in Princes Park.

Other documented Ted Peck projects are the R.S.L. clubrooms in High Street Maryborough (remodelled from a house), and the now demolished brick Women's Comfort Station, built in 1956 in Phillips Gardens (where the glass house now stands).



Comfort Station members c. 1950s

Peck designed and constructed a magnificent honour board to commemorate the members of the Bealiba Mutual Improvement Society who served in World War One.

At a meeting of the B.M.I.S. last night the new Honour Roll was unveiled. The roll, which is of very elegant design, and is composed of a frame of Australian blackwood and rosewood, surrounding a panel of Kauri pine, on which the names of our recruits are inscribed in gold lettering ... The upper portion of the frame bears an embossed copper shield ... The whole was designed and executed by Mr E.J. Peck, architect, of Maryborough, and that gentleman is to be congratulated upon the taste and skill which enabled him to produce such an appropriate and beautiful specimen of handiwork.

Bealiba Times, Friday March 9, 1917

Another of his design projects was out of town – the memorial to the pioneers on Wombat Hill in Daylesford, which was opened in 1938. Presumably Peck's connection with the Bristol Hill Tower, opened five years earlier, was well known.

One of Ted Peck's most significant projects was the Maryborough Knitting Mill building, covering two and a half acres on the corner of Tuaggra and Burns Streets. Although the buildings are gone, the chimney was incorporated into the new MKM shopping centre design, and the initials MKM and C Ltd (Cuttle Limited) marked out in white tiles, are still clearly visible.

The chimney proved a special challenge because it was to be built on Blackmans Lead, which had been worked over and was potentially unstable. Reinforced concrete, old railway lines and large boulders were combined as the base for the 82 foot tower.

They laid no less than 55,000 bricks to construct the chimney, which, after reaching an outside scaffolding height of approximately 25 feet, was built from the inside"

Osborn, Against The Odds Maryborough 1905-1961

In September 1945 the Peck family suffered the tragic loss of one of their two sons. Max, a RAAF fighter pilot, was killed in an aircraft accident in Uranquinty near Wagga in N.S.W. Flags in Maryborough flew at half mast as a tribute.

Peck retired in 1950 after 45 years' service. Along with the conventional presentations of leather travelling case, a tray and bowls bag he was also given a slightly more unconventional gift – a double barrelled sporting gun made by the gun engineers of the school. It was reportedly made to the "design of Herr Von Peppem", with a "quick action, elevated sight, two choke barrels, and especially designed to convert to jet propulsion if desired."

(Maryborough Advertiser, March 31, 1950)

FROM OUR ARCHIVES



● Only a few bicycles in the Maryborough bicycle racks . . . these days most people have cars.

Peddalling past . . .

From HUGH HUNTER

MARYBOROUGH. — These almost empty bicycle racks outside the Maryborough Knitting Mill could be said to be a sign of the times — of more affluent times.

The empty racks don't indicate any reduction in the number of the company's employees, in fact the reverse applies.

They're a sign of more affluent times because most of the employees now travel to work by car.

Only a few years ago only a few cars were parked.

Now the streets outside the mill have very few parking spots.

They are all occupied by employees' cars — and the majority of the employees are women.

The bicycle racks were erected about 30 years ago as at that time em-

ployees used to lean their machines against the factory walls and, because there were so many, the footpaths were blocked.

Most people just could not afford cars then.

Changed days, changed times. Now the bicycles are few and far between and cars are everywhere.

The average wage at the mill in 1948 was 7 pounds 5 shillings (14.50).

In the years gone by, the employees who rode their cycles to work were often soaked by rain before they arrived. Now they do the journey in comfort.

The Herald September 22, 1976

Many of the bicycle riders who worked at MKM or the toolmakers Patience and Nicholson vividly recall their experiences at the railway gates (since replaced by the Tuaggra Street underpass). Their recollection is that the person who manned the signal box adjacent to the gates would take great delight in closing the gates before any train was even close. ("The train would still be at Dunolly", one of them joked). This would oblige the cyclists to heft their bikes over the pedestrian bridge, possibly making them late for work or late home for lunch.



THE WAY IT WAS ..

This 1912 picture records an event common enough these days but an innovation to the usual school curriculum at the period: wild-life studies by school groups in the field. These children watched while their teacher, Mr Alexander Chisholm, climbed a small tree in the course of a lecture demonstration. The location is the vicinity of Melville Caves Victoria, said to have been a hiding place used by the colorful bushranger "Captain Melville" (Frank McCallum). This man, transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1856 for the theft of a turnip, escaped from a chain gang, made his way to Victoria and went bushranging.

But the children in this picture were not at the moment interested in bushrangers; they were learning about nature in a way that was to become a regular school exercise. They could scarcely have had a better teacher than Chisholm.

Alexander Hugh Chisholm, OBE, FRZS, CMZS, FRANS, was born in Maryborough Victoria in 1890. He distinguished himself as a journalist, editor and author, and as a naturalist. He wrote a number of books with titles like *Mateship With Birds* (1922), *An Explorer and His Birds* (1945), *The Romance of the Lyrebird* (1960) and others, as well as writing 26 introductions to books by other authors.

**The Australasian Post
December 12, 1976**

*A more authoritative account of McCallum's misdeeds can be found in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* online.

MARYBOROUGH ANNIVERSARIES

NINETY YEARS AGO: *Drinking Fountain installation*



In 1932 the Australian Natives Association drinking fountain memorial was erected in the Botanical Gardens [later renamed Phillips Gardens] to commemorate the foundation of Branch No. 15 at the Golden Age Hotel fifty years before on 29 March 1882. In May 1932 a cylinder containing a copy of the Advertiser of 6 May 1931 (giving a detailed history of the board) and a document outlining the purposes of the monument were embedded in the concrete behind the tablet receptacle ... A.E. Kelly was the contractor, and G.R. Branton the supervisor ...

Osborn: Against The Odds Maryborough 1905-1961

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO: *Knitting Mills established*

MARYBOROUGH GOES UP ONE

We are pleased to be able to announce this morning that negotiations in regard to the transfer of the Clunes Knitting Mill from Clunes to Maryborough have been officially completed, and arrangements are to be immediately made in regard to the formation of a public company. The negotiations, which make interesting reading, are to be given full publicity on Monday, and will give people a clearer idea of the industrial advantage which Maryborough is shortly to reap. Suffice it to say here that it is expected to have the mill, employing some two hundred hands, in active operation within a couple of months.

The successful completion of this piece of business should be gratifying intelligence to all citizens who desire Maryborough to make that progress to which its status and geographical position entitles it. To visualise the importance of the matter it is only necessary to realise that approximately £500, the amount which will be paid in wages, will be circulating in Maryborough every week. That means that Maryborough will be the richer by about £24,000 per year. That is briefly what the knitting mill will mean to Maryborough ...

Maryborough Advertiser, Saturday December 2, 1922



MINING BRISTOL HILL

Craig Roberts, one of our members, has been carrying out extensive research into the history of mining on Bristol Hill in Maryborough. Using old maps, photographs and mining records, he's documenting the location of features such as dams, crushing batteries and mine shafts.

He's finding it frustrating however, that there are so few images of the mining infrastructure, for example poppet heads and boilers *in situ* on Bristol Hill. If anyone is aware of relevant photographs Craig would appreciate hearing from them. His contact email is cjr@optusnet.com.au

Craig has also drawn our attention to aerial photographs of Maryborough taken *circa* 1926 by Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), which are in the collection of the State Library of Victoria. A New Zealander, Pratt served first at Gallipoli, then the Middle East as a despatch rider. In 1917 he joined the Royal Flying Corps. Using his flying skills he later set up a business in Victoria offering joyflights, and taking aerial photographs.



*Booking office for Pratt's aeroplane flights
Image courtesy of State Library of Victoria*



This photograph, which was recently donated to our Society, features a Maryborough Technical School athletics team, possibly around the 1920s. It's believed that one of the athletes was a PROCTOR. The team has won a trophy, possibly the "Eltham Aggregate". We'd appreciate any further information.



*Postcard circa 1940s
Murray Views no. 15 High Street Maryborough*

This *Murray Views* image was forwarded to us from Mount Martha by the niece of a WW2 serviceman, Leonard Dumsday, who is believed to have been stationed near Maryborough. The bank building on the left is still a local landmark, but the historic McIvor Hotel in the distance (corner of Nolan and High Streets) was unfortunately demolished.

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P.O. Box 265 Maryborough 3465***

