

## ***The Maryborough Highland Society -A True Friend***

As the old saying goes “old friends are good friends”. 1857 marked the establishment of municipal government in Maryborough and the establishment of the Maryborough Highland Society by Scottish settlers. We now get ready to enjoy the 150<sup>th</sup> year celebrations for the Maryborough Highland Society in conjunction with the official opening of their newly completed renovations.

150 years indeed marks a long friendship. That friendship began in the heady days of the gold rush and we can only imagine the excitement of the gold rush community at the first Highland Gathering. That wonderful sports event has been brought to us by the Maryborough Highland Society not only to our own community but to so many visitors from near and far over the countless decades since that time. The thrill and excitement is the same today as it was then.

Friends often work towards the same ends. Council and the Maryborough Highland Society have both had a commitment to serve and support the community. That support has always been there –in good times and bad. The Maryborough Highland Society continues to do that in so many ways –through sport, recreation and entertainment and its fine hospitality and dining services. Over time so much has been returned to the community either directly in gifts and other support or by generously assisting the many community organisations in their work and activities.

Friends also share the same values. Council and the Maryborough Highland Society both share a rich and proud heritage. That heritage is something that both celebrate and take forward together. At the same time both institutions realise that new times require new solutions. The Maryborough Highland Society continues to develop its facilities to provide top quality facilities for its members, guests and the community. The completion of the current renovations including a TAB, outdoor lounge area, new dining facilities and various other improvements represent a real and significant achievement.

On behalf of Central Goldfields Shire Council and its staff I wish the President and Committee of Management, the General Manager and staff and all members of the Maryborough Highland Society very happy 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations. I know the fine friendship between the Society and Council will continue well into the distant future.