



# Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents' Association Inc.

Reg. No. A 0006803 W Est. 1880.

Faulder Watson Hall & Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker Street, Castlemaine.

• President: Graeme Barry 5472 3768 • Secretary: Wilson Bunton 5472 3186 •

All welcome to meetings held on third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Annual Subs: \$30.00.

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Newsletter – November 2020. Happy Days are here again folks, yes they are!

November 5<sup>th</sup> The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine. Weather, a typical spring day with a cool south wind and intermittent heavy cloud. This morning I drove to Trentham via Malmsbury and the hawthorns were just magnificent. Dazzling white with the occasional pink, set against the verdant green of the paddocks. The beauty took my breath away. Crossing the Little Coliban River at Glue Pot Bridge, I passed a paddock where the grass was so lush and deep, only the top of the grazing sheep could be seen. Musing yesterday to one of our members with my memories of Guy Fawkes day in England in the late 1940's. He told me how Castlemaine celebrated the day in the 1950's and 60's. Born and bred in Castlemaine, a Hunter St boy, who's granddad celebrated his birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> November and always had a big bonfire to celebrate. The kids from Lower Hunter St built their bonfire on a vacant block near the North School. Preparations started weeks ahead scrounging wood and building the fire. The foundry and woollen mill scrap heaps were raided right up to the last moment. The kids who lived up the hill in Hunter St built their bonnie on top of the hill. Hall St just up the road had its own bonfire. In fact on bonfire night Castlemaine was surrounded by a ring of bonfires. Then there were the fireworks. Penny bangers, Jumping jacks, Catherine wheels, Sparklers, golden Rain and The Rockets. November in England is cold, often snow and it is dark by 4-30pm. We use to light our fires about 6pm and when it died down, we would bake spuds in the embers for our supper. When we got home mum would give us a hot milk drink and it was off to bed. How about some of your memories of bonfire night. After all our memories are important and history too.

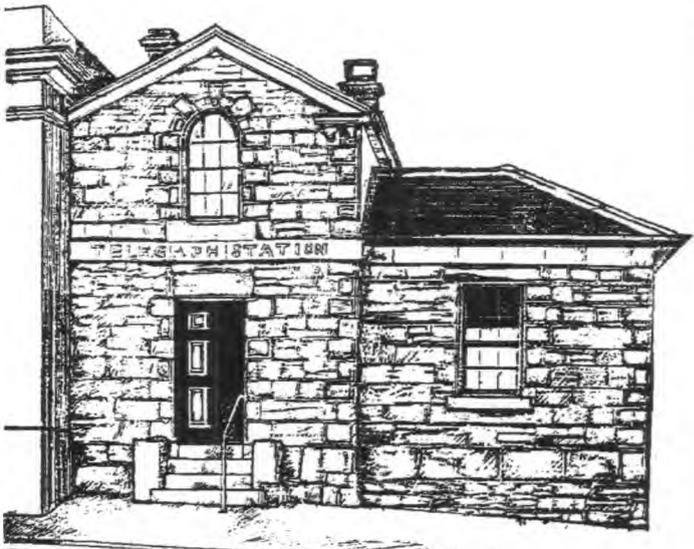
Recently I have had some nice letters from members and they are appreciated very much. From Cheryl a recent member living in Melbourne comes the following; *Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 1893. "Death of Old Pioneers" both of whom were noted to have "expired" on the same day and both had lived to "a ripe age". The first mentioned was the undertaker and furniture dealer of Camp Hill, Mr H. Niebuhr native of Hanover. He arrived in Castlemaine "when the gold fever was at its height in the early part of the fifties....and started a furniture dealing business near Aitken's flour mill". He later took premises in Market Square and carried on the business of undertaker in conjunction with the furniture trade. Some years later Mr. Niebuhr moved to premises below the Theatre Royal. He was a member of the Pioneers and Old Residents Association, and his remains were interred at Campbell's Creek.*

The following excerpt refers to her 3x Great Grandfather. *"The other pioneer, James Brighton Jackson, familiarly called General Jackson, had suffered severely by rheumatic gout. For the past month he has obtained medicine at the Hospital, and left his abode to go there last Friday to procure some more. Though ailing for some time past to an extent as to prevent him following his customary occupation of paperhanger, decorator and painter, he was not confined to bed. Yesterday morning he rose as usual and had breakfast but when in the yard was seized with a violent fit of coughing and falling down suddenly expired. He was a native of London, arrived in the colony in 1852, and shortly thereafter betook himself to the diggings at Forest Creek, choosing for his camping ground Little Bendigo which he never removed. Cont on the supplementary page.*

**100 YEARS AGO, 24<sup>th</sup> November 1920.**  
A letter was read from the Secretary of the Old Colonists Homes Melbourne, stating that accommodation was available for some deserving cases, and asking if anyone from here could be recommended. As the committee was not acquainted with any probable candidates, the letter was simply received. The following accounts to be paid, Mr. Mitchell's weekly salary £2-10-0. Mr. Mitchell 10/- for scrubbing out the hall and Telegraph Station (as instructed) Gas Company £3-13-9d.

**50 YEARS AGO, November 12<sup>th</sup> 1970.**  
14 members present with Pres E. Ottery in the chair. It was moved by E. Franklin seconded W. Grissald that Historical Society appreciation be granted. H. Barnes moved J. Wilson seconded that the Xmas wind up be conducted as in past years.

I have no idea what the words "Historical Society appreciation" means. My only explanation is that the secretary at the time, wrote appreciation, instead of application. The Historical Society in its early days did hold their meetings in our premises I believe. "Jubilation! Jubilation! Jubilation! Folks", as General T. Cornpone said in the musical 76 trombones went to the big parade. The November Meeting our last formal meeting for the year will take place in our own Faulder Watson hall. Lloyd has allowed us the use of the hall, so that we can well and truly abide by all the social distancing rules to conducted our meeting and our Annual General Meeting. All positions on the committee, received only one application, so it will just a motion to confirm. And the various reports received. Chairs will be well spaced apart, face masks will be mandatory, no supper will be served.



**Castlemaine Pioneers  
and Old Residents' Association Inc.**

*Next Monthly Meeting:*  
**Thursday November 19th at 7-30pm**  
**Annual general Meeting (short)**  
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.  
**Guest Speaker**  
**In small groups members can inspect the newly  
decorated Telegraph Station. You will be stunned**  
**Family and friends welcome.**

Pioneers and Old Residents' Association  
208 Barker Street, Castlemaine 3450





This extra page came about from my thinking that not much is happening Pioneers wise for you members, I would sort out a few bibs & Bobs to write about in the newsletter that may be of interest to you. Did that and all hell let loose so's to speak. First a message from the President. Lets try for a General Meeting followed by a belated Annual meeting in the hall. Then the Rotary Truck Show on the last weekend of November. We had been sounded out about showing some of our material we had put together for our postponed Transport exhibition via Zoom. All went quiet so I put it on the back burner' silly boy. Now readers of the newsletter will know that this little black duck has always had a problem with "the computer", so for me it is a case of "into the valley of death I ride" apologies to Tennyson.

A small Bob of information for you; "Lord Tennyson Poet Laureate writer of the poem The Charge of the Light Brigade, had a son who became Australia's 2<sup>nd</sup> Governor General". A Kit Kat for the first person to give me , his name and the years he was Governor General. Now back to Cheryl's interesting ancestor ; *Having reached his 78<sup>th</sup> year, little vitality was left in him to combat with disease. In his earlier days he abounded in animal spirits, and took great delight in political meetings, where he was sure to make himself heard among the audience by firing off jokes and questioning candidates whose views he did not favour. Genial and jocular, he was devoid of animosity, and had many friends among his associates. About the last work which he did was of a decorative kind at the Castlemaine Hotel. Upon inquiry being made at the Resident Surgeon of the Hospital last night for a certificate of death, he was not able to supply this, as a magisterial inquiry will be held today*". A nice "Bib & Bob", relates to our early pioneers who helped shape our organisation. If you read it slowly you get a real feeling of the day, the English used and the context, leaves very little ambiguity. You fully understand what's being said immediately.

As of 19<sup>th</sup> of November there will be some new face at the Top Table, A new President, Vice President and Treasurer. The old faces will be the Secretary and Committee, so all looks well for next year. There are a couple of behind the scene faces that are worth their weight in gold. Liz Sharplin who works her magic emailing out the newsletter and Barbara who has to cope with a know-all husband and his computer.

SUPPLEMENT continued.

Below is an old photograph taken outside the post office at the corner of Barker and Littleton St approximately 100 years ago. It shows the modernisation of a local transport company C. SELOVER, making the transition from horse and cart to the internal combustion engine. I thought it a good picture to include seeing as Rotary's Annual Truck Show takes place on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of this month. Also as I mentioned earlier they will be showing a 30 minute presentation based around our Covid postponed Transport in the Mt. Alexander Shire from Major Mitchell to the Present Day. For you Truck Buffs this years event will be different due to the virus, but it promises to a ripper. I think this will be its 38<sup>th</sup> year and it is one of Rotary's major fund raisers. It is a very important event on Castlemaines calender, raising many thousands of dollars for charity, along with releasing a lot of money into our local economy. Buy a ticket or two.



Now we have to think and make some decisions concerning next year: How do we feel about Coach Travel, our Annual Excursion is in February? How do we feel about eating out in a restaurant, the Christmas Breakup is almost upon us? These are matters that should be decided by you the members, not by the Executive or the Committee. Think about it and let us know. As our 140<sup>th</sup> year enters its last half, there are a few house keeping matters that need attention. It has been many years since we have had a physical Stock Take of our possessions, not our collection just what we have and use day by day. It would be very nice to have someone who is active to volunteer to take this job on.

Also now that the restrictions are easing, we will be open to the public soon each Wednesday 10am – 3pm and another couple of people in the afternoon would be appreciated. In quiet moments you could do some typing on one of our laptops, straighten out some of our display folders. Any offers?

Now to recap: Nov 19 General Meeting the Faulder Watson hall ( its more than big enough for social distancing)

**Don't forget the**

**Rotary  
Castlemaine**



**TRUCK SHOW**