



# 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.

W: [www.castlemaine pioneers.org](http://www.castlemaine pioneers.org) E: [castlemaine pioneers@gmail.com](mailto:castlemaine pioneers@gmail.com)

## Newsletter – September 2020. Happy Wattle Day.

Castlemaine (at home) September 1<sup>st</sup>. Weather a beautiful spring day. The wattle's from the low ground cover ones, to the majestic full grown trees & the in-betweens have turned our area into a huge rich seam of gold. Remember when the classrooms were decorated with sprigs of wattle, when we celebrated Wattle Day at school. When sprigs of wattle and colourful badges were sold on Wattle Day to raise money for the Red Cross? Wattle Day dates back well over 100 years. Our founding fathers used the wattle blossom as the background on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, it wasn't until September 1<sup>st</sup> 1988 that the Golden Wattle was declared officially, as Australia's National floral emblem. The first celebration of Wattle Day was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1910 in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. By the way, the Australian name Wattle is an early colonial term which relates to the use of the springy strips as wattles (i.e. interlaced rods) in Wattle-and-daub huts. *This information and more, came out of a Commonwealth publication written by Rod Panter in 1995 titled Australia's Wattle Day.* Most of you would have listened to Australia all Over, that has run on the A.B.C. radio for the last 30 or 40 years, hosted by Ian MacNamara. How many of you heard our own Melva Graham chat to Ian the other Sunday, and give Australia a small glimpse of a very full, exciting, interesting and a good life? We all have similar stories to tell, we have all lived full and exciting lives, whether you believe it or not. I know you all, true some better than others. But I listen, and I have heard many an interesting comment or story told at a meeting. In the past I have asked for your stories, and some of you have responded, and there are quite a few to be digitised on the computer. However, a lot of you say "my life story would be of no interest to anyone". "Not true" I say. The amount of interest that has been shown in our collection of old tapes that talk about the life and times of some of our old members in the 1950's is quite staggering. Our audio collection is a great window into the past, for future generations to look at, study and

to even bond with us, when we are gone. I bet each and everyone of you has, said on more than one occasion "I wish I had asked dad, mum, uncle, aunty etc, so and so before they died, and it is to late now". Get your stories into our computer. If you don't want to write it down, see me and I will record it on tape. It will be edited to clear any pauses etc, and your story is there for posterity. Occasionally in my early days as your hard working secretary, I played the odd old tape from yesterday. You the members listened intently and over a cup of tea later, your memories waxed lyrical. **So do it.** On the back of the newsletter there is a picture, and folks it is a picture of that great huge (6ft x 4ft in the old language) Iconic Castlemaine street scape some of you bought sight unseen on my say so, back in March. The picture is of a great Australian explorer Frank Birtles, not as well known as some. Contact Mr Google for a run down on this man and some of his hair raising exploits. I have read a couple of books on the man. They describe him as brave, tenacious, foolhardy and flawed. It was one of our lady members Shirley Anderson who wrote to me and suggested that I show you members this picture that I had raved about. Also Shirley suggested that some pictures and stories of some of our treasures, make their way on too our website. Another great old picture has come our way. The year 1936, the subject, half a dozen or more 5 & 6 drought horse teams working constructing a huge irrigation channel near Yarrowonga. Why did I grab a copy of this far distant land, I hear you ask? "A local connection" I reply, the teamsters are names well known around Yappen & Guildford area. I will say no more, at the moment it is being framed and will be on the wall when we are able to resume our meetings. On the subject of the Annual General Meeting change of date still not a word from anyone, so we will give the President his wish when he moves a motion to change the date to coincide with our foundation date. A smile? Helen got a ladder in her tights! All the other shoplifters were so jealous!

**100 YEARS AGO** September 29th 1920.  
Mr. Docking President in the chair. A letter from Mrs. Cook thanking the Association for its sympathy on the death of her father was read and received. An application from the hall cleaner for an increase of salary was received. After some consideration it was decided that the request could not be complied with.

The meeting voted a bonus of £1-1-0 to Mr. Mitchell for services rendered.

The treasurer reported a credit balance of £6-11-9 and bills for payment, Hall cleaner 4 weeks £2.

Gas Company 9/2d  
Taylor Bros wood 14/-.

**50 YEARS AGO** September 10th 1970.  
Mr. Ottery President in the chair and 15 members present. A letter was received from Mrs. Caffin requesting permission to start a Ballet School and to conduct classes in the Faulder Watson hall. She also requested permission to attach a rail along

one wall for training pupils. It was decided that an electrician be contacted to get all the power points in the hall working, and that the meter box be marked in the foyer.

Moved by K. Holm, seconded H. McQueen that new members W. Sharp, R. Jammerson, D. Mobbs R. Minnaham, B. Leysaman, K. Hall, G. Hookey and J. Green be accepted as members. (8 new members at one go, suggests that a lot of shoulders had been tapped Ed).

Moved by F. Cappy seconded by G. Hogarth that the Annual Picnic be at the Lauriston Reservoir and a tentative date be set for the 25th of October.

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My psychiatrist told me to follow my dreams. So I went straight back to bed ! Just a few words from our late Dr Ken to cheer us up in these troubled times.



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

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#### *Next Monthly Meeting:*

I refuse to use the dreadful word that is on just about everyone's lips, but it has caused our September meeting to be cancelled.  
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

