



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: Russell Sheehan 54723285. • 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 – March 2022. The next meeting to the day, is our 142th birthday.

March 3rd The Old Telegraph Station Barker St. Weather, lots of rain and rather tropical.

I am writing this newsletter in a rather sad mood, the world does not seem to be in good shape. Ukraine, Covid, closer to home, the floods in Queensland and New South Wales. The pictures on T.V. showing the scale of destruction, both in the Ukraine and back home sadden me greatly. Human nature and nature's power have no time or thought for the human race. We have a lot to learn about living with nature and ourselves, if this world is to survive. The end of my ranting. Once again much to write about. The excursion, exhibition, a report from the quarterly committee meeting, a bronze bust and more, so read on. The 3rd Wednesday in February, the day set in concrete many, many years ago the day, for our Annual Excursion. A convoy of cars set off on a tour called Reservoir's from the north to the south. Leaving Castlemaine travelling through Elphinstone, Taradale and the Old Drummond Rd we arrived at the Malmsbury Res for a brief look. Then through Malmsbury with a scenic drive to the Lauristone Res for morning tea. Valentines day was fairly recent and Melva our resident bush poet, regaled us with three poems dedicated to her beloved Andy. It turned out we got a sneak preview, because on the following Sunday Macca of Australia All Over fame broadcast one, for all Australia to enjoy, below her shortest poem.

My Valentine

*O my love has a red nose;
His skin's a wrinkled prune.
He sings of his undying love;
But cannot hold a tune.
No Romeo or Lancelot,
Bald, paunchy tho' he be,
I love this bloke with Passion;
He is my ecstasy. Melva.*

The others are 6 and 7 verses long and will be available at the exhibition. Now that was a nice Segway*, to the subject of our much postponed Transport Exhibition. Yes, once again Covid got in the way and our displays were put away, again.
* lead into, (the editor being smart).

Looking for a four day continuous hire in nice weather that included a weekend, has taken the date to the end of October. Mark these dates on your calendar, Thurs 20th, 21st, 22nd, & Sun 23rd, of October. Thursday is setup day with our monthly meeting that night amongst the displays. After a brief meeting there will be a special opening ceremony and show, followed by a light supper. So members both far and wide "this will be a night to remember". *It would be "oh so awfully nice", if you could come and share your company with us.* The train has been in the news lately. The newly restored Pullman carriage looks great. This train is certainly a great asset to both Castlemaine and Maldon. Now onto more mundane matters. July and our A. G. M. is only 3 months away. We have an excellent committee which has a lot of nice, good & wholesome work ahead, requiring help from you. This is a good position to be in, work in hand, work we like doing, with more to come. We as an organisation, among the many things we do, is to give to the society we live in some tangible assets, that enhance and improve its well being. Back in the 1970's we installed some plaques on some of the historic old buildings in our town. These plaques gave visitors, as well as locals a thumbnail sketch of its age and history. The plaques are 50 odd years old, and now look a little shabby. At the February meeting they were discussed, a motion was moved, seconded and carried to refurbish or replace them. When the project is finished, the plaques will once again be pleasing to the eye, and remind people that they are in a town, that is very rich with Australia's early history. Members will be asked to form a small working party to carry out this project. There will be a bit of prop work for the exhibition, no aeroplanes this time, but things related to all things transport. Your help will be sought soon! At the last quarterly committee meeting an exciting gift relating to our districts historical past, was offered to us, which we accepted with alacrity (the editor being smart again) read all about it on the next page. (I have bought a huge & very old dictionary, so look out).

From our Collection

Castlemaine Market Old Courthouse Chewton Post Office Chewton Town Hall
Duke of Cornwall Battery House Old Flour Mill Building South Barker Street Castlemaine
Old Music Hall Guildford Public Viewing Balcony in the Town Hall

These are the historic buildings preserved as a result of campaigns and action taken by the late Felix Cappy OAM. Felix was a very active member of Pioneers, elected President in 1973. Felix was also involved in another 18 local organisations, giving freely of his time. His all too short life is studded with many major achievements he helped happen, that made this fine Shire of ours a much better place. They will be on display when we unveil the exciting gift I wrote about earlier. Below are a few pictures of buildings that owe their lives to Felix and his band of helpers.

Castlemaine Market Building



Old Music Hall Guildford

Over the years I have lived in this area (over 50) the Barkers Creek area has always interested me. I believe that in the early days the district started just under Skew Bridge. Now I believe the boundary between Castlemaine and Barkers Creek is somewhere around Black Jack Rd. However it is the pleasure garden, the garden nursery situated on the bank of Barkers Creek around the Merrifield St, along with the slate quarry that interest me. Last week while visiting one of our old members, she showed me a painting that she was entering into the Harcourt Applefest art show. It was of the old slate walls that were situated near the slate quarry, (they no longer exist as the slate has been knocked off and used elsewhere around the district, I have been lead to believe) that got me fired up. We have a beaut picture of the quarry complete with workers, which we have tarted up and enlarged. I would like to get a photo if one exists, of those walls. Can anyone help? Now that is another Segway leading into the flyer below:

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BOOK LAUNCH

On SUNDAY MAY 1st from 12-4 pm
at the Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre
(ANA Hall, 7 High Street, Harcourt)



A History of
WOODBROOK
formerly
Chinaman's Creek

By Ken James, Judy Eastwood, Ian Robins, Judy Wardlaw.

This 292- page book includes a surname index and many photos and stories of local colour settled over 150 years ago. (Books \$35.00)

Being a limited edition, it is highly recommended that copies be pre-ordered and paid for via the following, Judy Eastwood:

Email: judyacastwood@gmail.com
Mobile: 0417 149 251

There will only be a small quantity available for purchase on the day.

The final day for ordering will be Sunday March 13.

Books will be available for pick up on the day.

For those travelling to the region from distant places, refreshments and grazing platters will be available at the ANA Hall from 12 pm.

The official launch will be at 2 pm with refreshments to follow while catching up with family members

A donation to help cover catering costs would be greatly appreciated.

If possible, could you bring your own name tag.

If you have memorabilia of the Woodbrook/Harcourt area that can be photographed or scanned on the day these would be highly appreciated to add to the Harcourt Valley Heritage and Tourist Centre's collection.

Please RSVP to Judy Eastwood your intention by Friday 22nd April

100 YEARS AGO, 29th March 1922.

Messr Goldsmith (President) in the chair. The treasurer reported that the balance in the current account was £22-7-0.

The secretary said that acting on instructions he had engaged Mr. A. R. Taylor to renovate the memorial stone in the Old Pioneers Cemetery at Diamond Gully. He then read a letter written by Mr. Taylor stating "*it had been a pleasure to him, so much so that he would only charge for the amount of gold leaf used*". The President would convey to Mr. Taylor that he had the kindest of feelings towards those who in the early days of the diggings, had "*swirled wash dirt in a pan or participated in the more arduous task of blow drying*". (this is a carry on from last month Ed). Accounts to be paid. Mrs. Eacott cleaning £2. Mr. Newham. Papers 10/-6d. Petty cash 2/-4d. cost of the gold leaf used on the monument 10/6d. A very nice story, in fact the whole Diamond Gully cemetery story is a nice one. Ed.

50 YEARS AGO, 11 March 1972.

12 members were present and Mr. Ottery was in the chair. There was no correspondence and the treasurer reported that income for the month was, Rent \$28. Subs \$1-80. Bills to be paid were Rates \$61-79c. Water Rates 425-81.

Hall Keepers Salary \$20-00.

J. Edwards moved that all unfinancial members who were pensioners, have their subscriptions paid in the next financial year from the Thompson Bequest and for the payment to be carried on in future years, seconded by J. Harrison.

Things that happened in March over the years

March 1st 1873 Production of the first typewriter
2nd, 1969 Concord has its maiden flight.

3rd Australia's first newspaper was published
The Sydney Gazette.

11th 1931 Media Baron Rupert Murdoch born.

17th 1850, American Express founded.

20th, 1886 Coca Cola developed.



**Castlemaine Pioneers
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Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday March 17th 2022

7-30pm Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker

At the moment I haven't a clue, just 5 minutes ago the guest speaker our own President rang to say he can't be there. So once again Trust Me.

Family and friends welcome.

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

