



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 Buntun 5472 3186** •

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

Newsletter – March 2018. Happy Birthday Pioneer's 138 on 17th of this month.

Castlemaine 5th March 2018. Birthday Edition. Weather beautiful, with a nice cool S breeze and the odd fluffy white cloud. From our minute book March 1880. *After some canvassing and a few private conferences a number of the early arrivals in the Castlemaine district convened a meeting, which was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening March 17th, 1880, at which were present: Messrs R. Mitchell, A.C. Yandell, A. Cornish, T. Odgers, J. Robertson, J. Taylor, C.H. Zercho, G.N. Lloyd, H.C. Thorburn, W. Cardwell, L.H. Seedorf, J. Lewis, J. R. Webb and many other others.*

This was our beginning, one of the original aims was, *To collect and treasure reliable accounts of the life of the town and district.* We have been hugely successful over the past 138 years. Long may our success continue. Over the years there have been good times, and sad. New members join, sharing their friendship & knowledge, on this note welcome to new member Laura Keogh and family, Also members leave us. 99% of those that leave, pass on. Leaving us very sad, which brings me to John Wagstaff. John only joined our organisation a few years ago, and immediately threw himself whole heartedly into our archiving project. His enthusiasm, knowledge and drive made us fly. His character was always cheerful, he had a way of explaining things that did not make one feel a dill, (his common touch I guess I am trying to say), almost made him indispensable. But fate has stepped in, on February 17th a good man passed away. The funeral was beaut, a huge crowd, his family did him proud. It was a great celebration of a good life, well lived. Long will John be remembered. To all members young and old: in our archives there is a folder of Funerals of past members. Since becoming your hard working secretary,(u.p. I have added to it, quite a bit. It would be nice if you could all give me a break. Now onto other things. The last meeting produced nothing of note. The bills were paid, the bank balance is still getting smaller, no changes there. Ah! Yes a letter from the Goldfields Historical and Arts Society, inviting us to send a member, to sit on panel to

enquire into the location of the Monster Meeting site at Golden Point Rd Chewton. There appears to be an attempt to change history by the Heritage Council of Victoria, according to the letter. The Excursion was I think a success, apart for a longer than promised lunch, a couple of disappointed Parma eaters (not real good), and the two or three who missed out on sweets. We won't go there again as a group) However it was a great day, the morning tea at the Kyneton Gardens was delicious, the layering of the Hawthorn hedges was very interesting a fitting place for it to be, in the home of the Rare Trades Fair. The dramatic decent from the Great Dividing Range to the Coastal Plains, just out of Gisborne on the Melton Rd was dramatic and beautiful. The tour guide gave a very informative talk about Castlemaines involvement with the formation of the R.A.A.F. through Eric Harrison, known as the Father of the R.A.A.F. Eric (Ricky) piloted the first military flight in Australia in 1914. Eric did an apprenticeship as a Fitter & Turner at Thompsons Foundry. Eric was one of two pilots appointed to teach Army Officers to fly. His eldest brother Harold opened a cycle shop that went on to be a Motor Garage in Barker St in 1904 near where Harry & Georges were, now known as the Dot. The run from Melton for us Bushie's was an eye opener. Cars, trucks, free-ways, huge warehouses, paddocks of cars and seemingly unlimited houses. (when I was in the R.A.A.F. in the late 50's and 60's) the known world in those days ended at Footscray, starting again near Geelong, with a small settlement at Werribee. From the air it was all paddocks, the only break was the Air Force base at Laverton. Point Cook was both a land and seaplane base, it is steeped in aviation history as we all saw. Our coach pulled in at 2pm over an hour late (lunch you know). Some two hours later we left for home. Two hours of feasting on and learning of Australia's aviation history. Most of us today have flown in modern day aircraft, to look at the first planes that were the building blocks of today's aircraft fills one with wonder. The brains that designed them, the courage of those that flew

them, in modern parlance “ they were’ simply
“AWESOME”

100 YEARS AGO 27TH March 1918

Mr. C. Taylor in the chair. Letter from the Borough Council re - the Governors Visit, from Mr. Pedler - relating to the High School playground, from Mr. Beaufort re- hiring the hall. It was resolved to comply as far as possible with councils request on the occasion of the Governors visit. The sum of £1-1-0 was voted to the High School. The action of the secretary in letting the hall at 30/- per quarter was approved. The treasurer reported a credit balance of £23-11-9d The chairman reported that the recent Rail and boat excursion had proved a financial success. On the motion of Mr. Eacott seconded by Mr. Redfern, that a congratulatory letter be forwarded to the Hon. H.S.W. Lawson on his attaining the position of State Premier.

50 YEARS AGO 14TH March 1968

Meeting held in the Faulder Watson hall
Meeting opened at 7-45pm with the President Mr Daw in the chair.

The treasurer reported an income of \$48 from rent, and accounts to pay of:

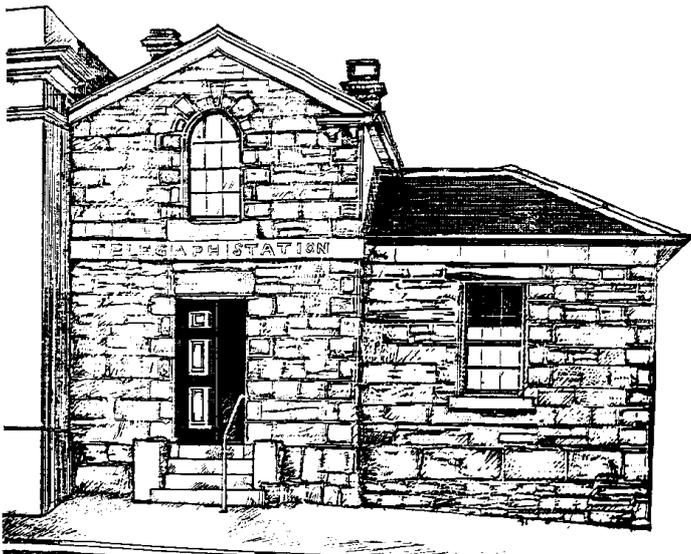
Secretary’s Salary \$24

Sewer & Garbage Rates \$63.53. Hall Rates \$4.20

Moved Mr. McManus sec Mr.Hardwick that a sub committee be formed regarding arrangements for a picnic. Meeting closed at 8-15pm

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At the last meeting I mentioned a fund raiser A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon in the Faulder Watson Hall. Some very old historical films from our collection, a couple of World War 1 readings from our collection, followed by a cup of tea etc. Date Sunday April 15th 2pm – 4pm
Helpers, etc’s required. Talk about it at the next meeting. *Your Hard working Secretary etc.*



**Castlemaine Pioneers
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Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday 15 March at 7-30pm

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker

**Johnathon Granny Smith Cox’s Pippin
Peter Wilson & All Things Harcourt**

Family and friends welcome.

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

