



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.

Newsletter – April 2019

APRIL 1st APRIL FOOLS DAY, but the following is all fair dinkum. Weather? A typical autumn day. Cool night, cold morning, blue sky with a few fluffy white clouds and jumper or cardigan off, by lunchtime. Now to bring you the latest on some of our sickies. It was a nice surprise to see George Showell turn up at our last meeting. George who is no spring chicken was rushed to hospital recently in what could only be described as ‘very poorly’. Good to see him back on his feet and thankyou Gail (a devoted daughter) for bringing him in from Yapeen and returning later to take him home.

Les Chapman is back in hospital. After having five weeks at home, he had to return to rehab. Our fingers are crossed Betty. Allan Trounsen, who pulled up well after a big Heart op, is waiting for the final O.K. I have heard that he has been looking at his motorbike, with a gleam in his eye. Joy Lovelace is travelling well after her op, I saw her in fine form on the Red Cross stall in Mostyn Street recently, wooing the public and catching up with old friends. This is all good news, please keep up the good work. Speaking of good news, our highly esteemed Vice President will have turned 85 by the time you read this news letter. Happy Birthday from us all Keith.

The Train, the train, the beautiful train. Well, your editor and his good lady took a return trip on it last Wednesday. Poked around the J class engine, as it sat in the station gently hissing and snorting as steam engines are won't to do. Smelt the smoke and felt the gentle heat, before entering a carriage and stepping back in time. With a blast of its whistle the J gently pulled out of the station right on time, 12 noon. The weather was perfect as we rattled our way to Maldon passing our house on the way. Arriving in Maldon we strolled into town, had a leisurely lunch a poke around the shops before returning to the train. It was a beaut trip down memory lane. To when I was a lad in the early 50's. Catching the 8am Bendigo train on Sunday at Sunshine, to spend the day at Castlemaine's swimming pool, returning on the evening train. Bliss perfect bliss. Saturday we watched the Royal Train go by our

house, it was a shake down run, for the “Big Weekend” on the Queens Birthday weekend in June. It looked fabulous. Now on with the news.

The last meeting was well attended, business was speedily conducted. In the Around the Table segment Lyn Timmins (a famous lady in her own right) spoke about the deplorable state of Forest Creek. From Best's garage right down to Winters Flat the creek is choked with weeds and rubbish. The stone walls so beautifully hand built by our forefathers can hardly be seen. Lyn asked that members sign a petition that her sister has organised to remedy this eyesore, and to give those pioneers who built it, recognition. In 2009 this was a project the Pioneers looked at, work was done, but we ran into local and government bureaucracy and put it on the back burner It was pleasing to see that everyone present signed. The President offered our full support asking that we be kept fully informed. We got down to the subject of the night, 1880 – 2019. “What Happened?” Old stuff had been brought out of storage for members to see, touch and to get acquainted with. The first item was our first minute book and the first minutes dated 17th March 1880 were read. The second item was a hand written copy of Major Mitchell's notes written as he travelled through this area. Now I know that these notes are readily available on line, but what makes these special, they were copied from a copy when there were only 3 copies around. This copy was owned by a prominent Elphinstone resident. Item number three concerned Lord Hopetoun, first Governor General of Australia when visiting Castlemaine made a speech to the Pioneers. That speech in a black leather folder with a coloured satin interior is in our collection. Item Four was a letter in the most beautiful hand writing I have ever seen. It was written by one of our Presidents Mr. Thimbleby in 1905 to Mrs. Yandell on the death of her husband. His command of the English language along with his gentle way of expressing our sorrow at the loss of her husband is a great piece of writing. I stand in complete awe of this man's Penmanship and humility. Sadly today' we

Just type on the computer and hit the send button, often without reflection and are surprised at the reaction. The point of this exercise was to show what depth our collection has. We have started to digitally save, preserve and store it. The next question is "What's next?" Stay tuned.

100 YEARS AGO 26th MARCH 1919.

Letter was received from the Returned Soldiers Association asking for the loan of some tables. Permission granted on the usual terms. The treasurer reported the credit balance as £14-0-4d. Mr. Docking was authorised to order six tons of wood. Trustee. On the motion of Mr. Fogarty, the appointment of a Trustee in place of Col. Atken (deceased) be deferred to the Annual meeting. The Presidents action in forwarding a letter of condolence to the family of the late Mr. W.M. Butler approved. New Member Mr. Frank Docking was balloted, and he was elected a new member as an Old Resident. The action of the President in sending the associations congratulations to Mr. D. McLean on his election as Chief President of the Australian Natives Association, was approved.

50 YEARS AGO 13th MARCH 1969.

Meeting was held in the Faulder Watson hall. President Mr. J. Wilson was in the chair. Treasurers Report. Rent \$45.15c. Subs \$1.20. Donation 40c. Total \$46.75c. Bank Bal \$390.14c Accounts. Hall Keeper \$16.00. Town Rates \$67.71c. Water Rates \$41.02c Total \$124.73c. General Business. Moved E, Venville sec R. Hall that the Technical School be approached to see if our old photo frames would be of any use to the students. (Don't ask me what happened to the columns, I haven't a clue, the computer just decided that this is the way it was going to be). Ed.

An interesting snippet from yesterday. M.A.M. Oct 7th 1875. A young boy named August Ritzaeu, 13 years of age of Yandoit, was admitted to the Hospital yesterday suffering from a severe wound to his hand, caused by the careless use of a pistol. While shooting at board to amuse himself with a small pistol, by some oversight he placed his left hand over the muzzle. He was taken to Dr. Case in Yandoit who could not find the bullet. and was sent to the Hospital.



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208 Barker Street, Castlemaine 3450

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Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday April 18th 2019 at 7-30pm
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker

Cass Ewing (A Solutions Junkie)
Starting us on our journey of What Next?

Family, friends and anybody else welcome.

