



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.

September News Letter 2019.

Castlemaine Sept 1st. Wattle Day. Weather, rather frosty for the last few days, followed by a beautiful spring day. Time for my annual spring and wattle rave. Breathtakingly beautifully so, these words do not do justice to how the bush with its golden wattles wherever one looks, accompanied by the white and pink blossoms on the Cherry and Almond trees our forefathers brought with them, all those years ago Daffodils, jonquils, blue bells, etc springing up around old ruins, all make the bush a veritable visual treasure chest. I often stand and marvel at the courage those pioneers showed. A new wild land, children and livestock dependant on them. No social security if things went wrong, neighbours often hours away, they really were on their own. Yet many flourished and prospered. The fine and beautiful old houses and cottages, wide streets and infrastructure they left attest, to this. We are so fortunate to live here, we must keep their memory alive and give them their due credit for laying the foundations of this great place we call home. The last meeting, was a doozy. McShanags light fruit cake, accompanied by Harcourt Sparkling apple juice were a fitting accompaniment to the launch of our web site. Cass "Madam Boss of Circleworks, which celebrates its 4th birthday this month (along with Cass), has done a fantastic job in design and all the nut and bolt jobs required to get us up and running. The response from the public has been very good. It will be regularly updated with new content, your response in supplying new content has been great. www.castlemainepioneers.org are the magic letters to type into your computer or smart phone, to enter another world of yesterday, today and tomorrow. The rest of the meeting went as usual. Bills paid letters answered, the treasurer was allowed to buy another computer. We kept the business local buying from Top End Technology. 30 seats have been booked for the History Week trip on Wens 16th October, leaving 25 seats to sell to the public. Why not bring a friend or two? Now onto the subject of money and annual subs. This modern banking in my view leaves a lot to be desired, I have to wait for the monthly statement, to find

out who has paid in the previous month. Gone are the meeting nights of mayhem, money and receipts everywhere, but at the end of the evening I knew who had paid. I now have to wait for the postman So if you have not renewed your subscription, please do so now, or next month the **Dreaded Black Spot** will appear, Long John Silver will be on your tail and it will be a case of "shiver me timbers lads". Back to the meeting, permission was granted for the secretary to organise a weekly one hour radio show, based around our organisation, members and stories. Starting late September or early Oct. Chris Simmins and myself will be the first two, to undergo training, with others to follow. In the Around the Table segment of the meeting, an interesting story was told by Chris Simmins. I thought that it should be passed on. It has no connection as far as I can tell, with our organisation, but it concerns ordinary Australians like us. The story involves a passenger ship, sailors and the second world war. The Story. *"I was out the back of an Op Shop in Maryborough. There sitting on top of a pile of junk destined for the tip was a small battered metal mug. On the side was a metal badge of a ship with the name Manoora under it. I was familiar with the name and I could not let it go to the tip. The Manoora was a passenger ship built in 1935 for one of Australia's fine old shipping lines the Adelaide Steamship Company. It sailed the Fremantle to Cairns coastal passenger run. She was 500ft long and had a Draft of 24ft, the Navy requisitioned her for naval service in 1939. The name Manoora was derived from the name of a large sheep station in S.A. owned by Sir Walter Duncan, a Director of the Company. It was converted as an armed merchant cruiser and it was fitted out to allow a small light Seagull V aircraft to operate from it. It had a crew of 345. As a warship, its earned 6 Battle Honours protecting our northern shores. It took on enemy warships much bigger than itself, withstood many kamikaze attacks, and at the end of the war it quietly returned to civilian life."* This is a fantastic true story, check it out.

September 1919, 100 years ago.

No record of a September meeting has been entered into the minute book, and there is no explanation, very interesting. Now I have a theory as to why. In the August newsletter in the "100 years ago" segment, mention was made of the secretary asking for a wage rise, which seemed to have been agreed to, the raise was £1 a month. There was however an item of interest dated 29th August after the monthly meeting, that the secretary's salary be £4. I reckon the secretary spat the dummy, refusing to write the minutes. There is more to come about this wage saga. I guess I can consider myself fortunate, that I am unpaid with no need to keep a solicitor on side to recover any short or unpaid wages.

11th September 1969. 50 years ago.

September seems to be a bad month for reporting, the notes are very sparse. 16 members present. Money in \$58.40, Money out \$19.65c. (No mention of a wage for the secretary.)

The following a few small segments taken from one of the old books concerning the early days on Forrest Creek. 5th Nov 1851, *the correspondent of the Argus reported that Ballaarat was nearly deserted. All the miners were leaving for Mount Alexander. Hundreds forsook rich claims in the hope that they would find more valuable spots at Forest Creek. Some impressive figures of finds. The surface and shallow workings were undoubtedly very rich. Three persons got, in 19 days 360 ozs, of gold; one party of 5 washed over 2lbs in one day; another party of four weighed 11ozs from morning to three o'clock; and another set of three got £1000 worth of gold in fourteen days. On the 27th September 1851, the escort from Mt Alexander brought 10,428 ozs of gold to Melbourne, leaving about 6,000 behind. A bright future lay ahead for our area. Many thanks to Lindsay Dale for the donation of this great book. To the sickies out there, we are thinking of you and are looking forward to seeing you soon.*



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

Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday 19th September 2019 7-30pm.
at the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine
Guest speaker? Come along and see.

Family and friends welcome.

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

