



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.

W: www.castlemainepioneers.org E: castlemainepioneers@gmail.com

Newsletter – August 2021

Tuesday 3rd August the weather, a cold winters day. I am sitting in front of my window at home looking out over some early daffodils and red japonicas, spring is well on the way. The J class has just steamed by in a very business like way. I wax lyrical every year about how beautiful the Australian wattles look at this time of the year. 2021 is no different to past years, in spite of Covid. Your hard working secretary unpaid, is poorly. having just spent a week in hospital with a crook leg and foot. Intravenous drips in both arms every 6 hours, laid flat on the bed on my back. The polka dot shorty pyjamas, not a pretty sight. However, my experience at our hospital Alexander, (yes I know the correct name is Castlemaine Health, but to us oldies it has always been Alexander and always will be) was a very enjoyable experience. The nurses and staff were wonderful, and the meals could not be faulted. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful place here in Castlemaine. Back home, still flat on my back unable to read or write, there is yet another great Castlemaine institution to help ease one's pain and suffering, FM Radio 88 and Ian Braybrook. The station is devoted to playing music from the 1940's to the 1980's. Music you will all remember, Big Bands, Mantovani, Ray Conniff, Jerry Vale, Connie Francis, Johnny Mathis etc, etc. Lying there listening to music from my youth, music from a slower paced and what I remember to be a nicer world, was pure bliss. Well enough about me, on with the job. Last month's meeting I was sure would be a disaster. Heaps of apologies, cold miserable weather, no one would turn up. What a doubting Thomas I was. President Russell had gone down at 5pm and turned the heaters on. When I hobbled in just before the meeting started, the telegraph station was warm and there was a nice hum of voices, you had turned up. After the usual apologies, correspondence, treasurer's report, yes all bills were paid and we are still solvent (just) etc, it was time for general business. The first item was a very nice and unexpected surprise. One of our members Mrs. Shirley Anderson

related to the Yandell family, had donated her collection of Yandell memorabilia to our collection. The Yandell name is very special to us. 142 years ago when our organisation was formed, Mr. A.C. Yandell was one of our foundation members in 1880. He was elected President in 1882 & 1894. In 1914 and 1929 his son J.G. Yandell was elected President and finally his son, John Yandell, the last of the direct line was elected President in 1977. Sadly John passed away in May 2018. The Yandell name has been widely known and respected in Castlemaine since the very early days. A few years ago I wrote a story John told us at one of our show and tell nights. It concerned two young men, the first privately owned aeroplane in Castlemaine, a ships compass and £2000 of Yandell generosity. I used to deliver John's newsletter to him at the old Yandell home in Campbell St. On the floor of one of the rooms was an open large leather suit case. It was full of old Castlemaine photos, papers and documents, he would always point to it and say "thats all for the Pioneers when I go". I would reply "why not give it to me now?" "Because I am not ready to go now". Sadly he died before handing it over, and we never got it. This gift of Shirley's is great, and on behalf of everyone Shirley, a GREAT BIG THANKYOU.

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The next item on the agenda was the Annual General Meeting. This year it was different from previous years, in that at the May meeting the secretary had moved "*due to Covid the elected committee for 2020/2021 had not had a chance to govern. That they should be re-elected unopposed for the 2021/2022 year if they so wish*". This motion was passed at the May meeting. Non of the elected members wished to withdraw so all were re-elected for the 2021/2022 year. President Russell Sheehan, Vice President Graeme Barry. Treasurer Gary Hood, Secretary Wilson Bunton. Committee: Judy Eastwood, Trevor Shill, Chris Simmins & Vin Cappy. The Executive: President, Vice President and Treasurer.

100 YEARS AGO July 27th 1921. (ed's note.

There are no minutes for August 1921 & no evidence of pages being removed. The next lot of minutes are dated 3rd September 1921. I have assumed that as this date was so close to the end of August they didn't bother with a meeting in August).

The meeting opened with Mr. Goldsmith in the chair. The treasurer reported a credit balance in the current account of £8-6-4d. Correspondence of a routine nature was read and received. A letter from Mr. Mitchell giving a weeks notice, but as the organisation had already given him a months notice, no further action was taken. The secretary reported that he had engaged Mr. Eacott temporarily as hall keeper. His action was approved and Mr. Eacott was appointed hall keeper and cleaner. The secretary further reported that Lieutenant Colonel Field offered the members a lecture on his travels in Egypt during the war period. His offer was accepted and the following Tuesday appointed as the date on which the lecture would be delivered. (There should be a copy some where, in our archives ed).

Accounts for payment: Mr. Mitchell £1-10-0. (sacked) Mr. Eacott 10/- one weeks salary. Auditors £1-1-0. W. Penny catering £1. Taylor Bros Wood 15/-. Gas Co. 15-8d. Refund to treasurer £1. Donation to the Hospital £1-1-0, the Benvolent Home £1-1-0.

50 YEARS AGO August 12th 1971.

Mr Ottery in the chair and 12 members present. There was no correspondence. It was moved by F. Cappy that one gallon of paint be purchased and the Exhibition room be re-decorated. A working bee to be held 9am Sunday 15th August. Moved by J. Harrison that the members book be written in ink at each meeting, he said that pencil lead deteriorated over time. The Annual Picnic was discussed and it was decided that the Picnic Committee hold a meeting at 5pm on August 16th.

Back to the future: It has been decided that we will still press ahead with the Transport Exhibition in October. Covid permitting. Repairs underway are slow. Not enough available trades people, but we are getting there. Thats all folks from my sick bed. Ed (up).



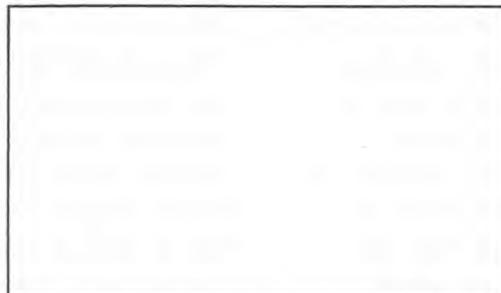
**Castlemaine Pioneers
and Old Residents Association Inc.**

Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday August 19th 2021
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker
Your secretary, his decade 1951- 1959.

Family and friends welcome.

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



Guest Speaker

Robert Cue born Castlemaine 1949

Occupation: Art Teacher & Artist (Painter)

The Cue connection with Castlemaine began in a Magistrates Court in Reading, England. A George Cue was sentenced to be transported to Van Diemen's Land for stealing a shirt, a pair of trousers, a pair of boots and some rum, arriving in Van Diemen's Land in the 1830s. After completing his sentence, George, known to the family as George the 1st, moved to what we now know as Castlemaine, settling in the Gaol Hill area and making a good living from wood cutting in the Muckleford Forest. A generous yet hard man, George became wealthy enough to give a house to each of his 7 children.

Over the years George's son became known as George the 2nd, tragically dying young after a hot day in the forest working with his father in heat wave conditions. On the way home he jumped from the wagon to slake his thirst at a waterhole where, unknown to him, there was a dead sheep. George the 2nd died from this poisoned water. The next generation produced George the 3rd and Robert had many stories to tell on each of these ancestors. Three in particular come to mind. One involved a magpie which would delight in scratching out newly planted seedlings in the family vegie patch, a stick of dynamite and a crooked chimney. Two, some stacked firewood laced with dynamite to deter firewood thieves. An explosion in a house a few doors down blew the back of the kitchen stove and chimney out. Three, business was good so a brand new wagon was ordered. When it arrived it looked a treat with everything shiny and new. The next week George 1st went to the Bendigo horse sales for a new horse to pull this magnificent wagon. The first day out, the wagon loaded with a large load of stringy bark. On the way home he felt grand. New wagon, grand looking horse and a big load of timber. Life was good. They came to the first hill, the horse stopped and refused to budge no matter what was done to make him go. After a while George 1 said "I know what to do that will move him, I will light a small fire behind the wagon. That'll shift him". So a small fire was lit and the breeze blew some smoke towards the horse, but unfortunately it also blew some embers onto the stringy bark. Pandemonium broke out in the rush to unharness the horse and they watched as the brand new wagon burnt to ashes. Next week, the horse went back to the Bendigo horse sale yard.

Robert spent many hours with his family listening to their stories and learning about the bush. His father became a butcher yet working as a wood cutter on weekends to help the family coffers, with Robert's help.

As a youngster Robert attended the old Winters Flat state school before moving to the high school, now the Big IGA but was never interested in sport. Art was his thing and the high school fostered his artistic talent with its collection of National Geographic magazines, and from the glossy motor advertisement in these, he discovered another great and passionate love of big Yank Tanks. Those big cars of America. Ford, Chev, Oldsmobile. Robert told us how he used to climb up into one of those Irish Strawberry trees to eat his lunch and plan his future. To earn a living as an Art Teacher, to develop his own style as an artist, and to buy a good Ford Thunderbird. He has been successful, teaching art for over 50 years, developing his artistic skills, and he has the car of his dreams, a magnificent white Thunderbird. People like his style and the Swan Hill Art Gallery is going to have a major exhibition of his works next February/March. His work reflects the bush he loves so much.

In Robert's life journey he has been able to achieve another boyhood dream. While reading those magazines up the tree, he came across the story of the Kon-Tiki Expedition, a 1947 journey by raft across the Pacific Ocean from South America to the Polynesian Islands lead by explorer and writer Thor Heyerdahl. So in 1984 Robert decided to visit the Marquesas Islands, which could only be visited very infrequently by boat which left from Papeete, the capital of Tahiti. Arriving at the port with only 2 hours to spare, unable to speak French and having no French money, he had a mountain to climb, which he did. After finding the boat which was the smallest, dirtiest, rust bucket tied up at the pier, he went aboard. He was offered either a berth below decks or a spot on the deck. He chose the deck, not knowing that he had to have his own bedding and eating utensils. A fellow traveler helped him out and sold him his rubber mattress and eating irons when he left the boat. The voyage took a week island hopping and was horrific with violent storms, giant seas and wondering whether the old tub would sink under the next wave, and a permanently drunken skipper. But he got there unscathed and it was so worth it. Robert has been back several times since with his wife, travelling conditions greatly improved. A great story that entranced us all, yet so much more to tell. It has been suggested that we visit Robert's exhibition next year.

From our Collection

Just a tiny glimpse of yesterday from the
Yandell collection recently donated by
Mrs. Shirley Anderson.

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M. Yandell

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