



# 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.

W: [www.castlemaine pioneers.org](http://www.castlemaine pioneers.org) E: [castlemaine pioneers@gmail.com](mailto:castlemaine pioneers@gmail.com)

## Newsletter – July 2021.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine July 5<sup>th</sup> the weather? A typical winters day, a small frost followed by fog, finishing with rain But folks, the wattles. My trees are bursting with buds as are those in the bush. Some of the early ones are out now and the bush is ready to explode A spectacular display awaits us. Last meeting started with a minutes silence for two of our old members, a past President Colin Stratton and Joan Wishart. As I stood there I reflected on how lucky I was to be a Pioneer and to have known them. The meeting followed the usual format, in a fairly quiet mood. Things sparked up when we discussed the venue for our Christmas Break Up. Run Rabbit Run was the popular choice. With the important decision of the night made we moved on to the guest speaker, A remarkable women who is also one of our members. A women who is a widow, mother, (4 kids) and a grandmother. She has worked tirelessly as a fund raiser for the various organisations she is involved in to mention a couple, Disadvantaged Mothers and the Anti Cancer Council. It was cancer that took her husband. Her name Maree Edwards M.P. Your hard working secretary (u.p.) was working one Saturday, eating scrumptious Harcourt finger food and drinking apple juice, on your behalf I hasten to add, at a book launch. The guest speaker was Maree. Her talk touched a nerve with me. It was not a political speech of party line or policy. It was about democracy and communities The book, *The People's Hero, The Career of Henry Hayden BA in Colonial Victoria*. A man born into an upper-class Irish family, he became an advocate, and worker, for democratic ideals in his adopted country, Australia. As I listened to Maree's speech I thought, here is a great guest speaker. And I was not wrong. Maree held everyone's interest throughout. Coming from a family that talked politics, taking leadership roles at school and being aware issues, becoming a politician seemed natural. Maree didn't say how it actually came about. When asked, her reply was "*that's a story in its self and for another time*". (the secretary has been instructed

to make sure it's told). You could have heard a pin drop when she was speaking. Question time was full of good questions, non about party politics, they were question based around how our democratic system works. The President had to finally pull the plug, or we would have been there until midnight. It was a great night, enjoyed by all. We all look forward to Part Two. Now back to last months newsletter. I left the rest of our Annual Excursion story, hanging in the Bendigo Pottery, having lunch. Apart from the start, nothing had gone to plan. We got lost, arrived late at George and Jeanette's place, got so engrossed in their fantastic collection, so much so that the Art Gallery got the flick. With lunch over, which was very nice, the coffee was excellent, it was time to sally forth into the Antique Market. Well what an eclectic collection. The members scattered, the wheels came off once again. It was decided to give the Tram Museum and ride, the flick to give the market a good going over. Finally we headed for home via the back road and over the north face of Mt Alexander. Another great day out, (in spite of the secretary). Later I reflected on how different an excursion it was from those of yesterday. The Pioneers hired 3 seven carriage trains, 1 of Port Phillip's bay steamers for the day. 2000 men, women and children would fill the Hygia or Weeroona to capacity, with a mixture of locals from around the Shire and district, and also locals who had moved to Melbourne. It was a day where the locals met the sea, and caught up with family and friends who had moved away. A further reflection was, *I am glad I was not secretary then, I have no idea how I would have coped, if the wheels had come off then*. Now a word about the train. It is going gang busters. The last few weekends have seen the Jclass and Diesel working in tandem and pulling 8 carriages with lots of passengers. This months newsletter is a short one with no from Our Collectio or nice photos. The hard working secretary / editor is poorly, a crook foot. So far 4 learned gentlemen have pondered over it, to no avail. Work is still in progress.

**100 YEARS AGO** 13<sup>th</sup> July 1921. a compilation of 3 meetings, committee, general & annual. The treasurer reported a credit balance in the current account of £1-19-0. It was moved by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Heron that the hall keeper be given one months notice on account of the unsatisfactory manner in which his duties have been performed for some time past. The motion was passed. A ballot of new members was held for the following, who were duly elected. Arthur. J. Cocks, James Martin, Alfred Miles, Walter Macartney, Henry. W. Shelton Old Residents. James Dunn and Theodore Henry Frank, Pioneers. Moved Mr. Goldsmith seconded Mr. Thompson that the following be recorded in the minutes of this meeting; “ *This Association deeply deplors the death of the President Mr. Geo Docking who died suddenly on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1921. Mr. Docking was a member of long standing and occupied the President's chair in 1909 and 1919. When he was*

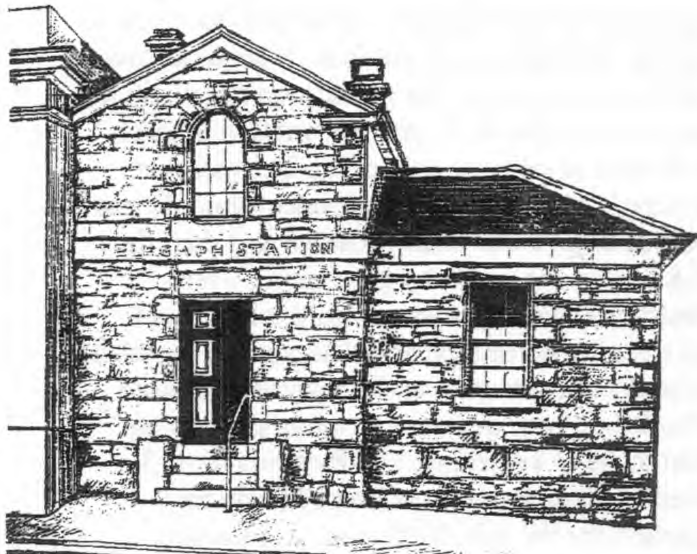
*re-elected for the year of 1920, he was one of the Associations Trustee's, & an energetic member of the Excursion Committee. Mr. Docking took a deep interest in the welfare of our Association & his loss is regretted by the members.*

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**50 YEARS AGO.** 8<sup>th</sup> July 1971, held in the Faulder Watson hall with the President Mr. Ottery in the chair. The secretary made a report on the activities and affairs of the Association covering the last 12 months. The treasurer presented a balance sheet covering the last 12 months and reported the bank balance was \$388.57c. The auditors reported that the books balanced and were in order.

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I know that some of you are wondering how a crook foot can effect the newsletter. This is my 136<sup>th</sup> newsletter since becoming secretary. So surely by now, you would know that I am not of the ordinary coventional editor type.



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

*Next Monthly Meeting:*  
Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Guest Speaker Robert Cue.  
from the Bush, back blocks & paint brush.  
A story covering three generations

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

**Family and friends welcome.**

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

