



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 E: castlemaine pioneers@gmail.com

Newsletter – May 2021.

Point Lonsdale. Weather, a force 10 gale straight from Antarctica, rain bucketing down and the natives all tucked up warm, and snug by the fire. Yes folks your hard working secretary (unpaid) has taken a few days off. But I am still on the job. Earlier this morning I took a call from our council informing us that we had been successful with a grant application to help with the costs of our October Transport Exhibition, & belated birthday celebrations. Council has been very kind to us recently, what with a grant to produce our Operations Manual. This manual contains the *holy grail of what we do, why we do it, how we do it and importantly why we do it, in the way that we do it.* Got it? This manual makes the organisation fully responsible for its self. It has been designed so that on the sudden demise of one person on the committee (death, changed circumstance or just spitting the dummy etc.), the organisation will carry on with hardly a blimp. Organisations some times become too dependant on one or two individuals. Whether it be by laziness of the members by not putting up their hands and sharing the load, or a loud voiced individual /individuals, who want to own the organisation for their own purposes. Often when things go wrong, the survivors have to re-invent the wheel. There appear to be no clouds on our horizon touch wood, and we have a good crew on deck. However your committee thought that our almost unique collection needed some extra protection. 142 years of collecting and still collecting did not happen by accident, many individuals with a common interest were involved, much knowledge has been garnered, a little bit of thought and effort for the future now, to help us safely navigate the next 142 years will not go astray. On a sad note George Shill is not travelling too well at the moment. George has been an active member. Right up to his last stay in hospital, Gail, his daughter would bring him along to a meeting, wait for him and take him back home again and put him to bed. Truly a saint that girl. To all you other sickies, our thoughts and good wishes are with you.

New column new subject. Vice President Graeme an avid ebay tragic, came across something he thought the Pioneers should buy for our archives. A 3 months consecutive collection of early Argus newspapers with many references to Castlemaine. They were up for auction. He asked “should we bid, if so, how much”? The President, Vice President & Treasurer (all the Top Brass” plus the hard working secretary said “go for it Graeme” which he did, with a successful result. Now folks the afore said gentlemen have all kicked in a few dollars, and cordially invite other members to do so, if they wish. (pay through the usual channels, direct to treasurer or to the bank). On the subject of money, June is almost with us. SUBS TIME. Still \$30. Also this year is CENSUS TIME and I would like all membership re-newel forms fully filled in. This is our official census, to comply with officialdom. Your best hand writing, please. Something I haven't mentioned recently is, The Train, from my observations it is going well. On a couple of Saturdays last month it used the very old carriages. There have been quite a few 'driver experience' trains & the heavier rail line from the old Maryborough line is being laid out, ready to replace the lighter line presently in use. The last meeting opened with a minutes silence in respect of the death of Prince Philip. It was decided that the much delayed Annual Excursion will take place on Wednesday 26th of May, that we would give the Grand Stupa a miss for now and add another attraction in its place. Departure time 9am from the Burke & Wills monument. B.Y.O. morning tea, lunch at the Bendigo Pottery at your own expense. A table will be booked, so I need to know numbers at the next meeting (May 20th). From the Around the Table segment Doug Cracknell asked about our insurance policies. A very good question I thought, so at the next meeting a copy of them will be on the table for all to peruse, (peruse, not a bad word eh, it means *to read or scan.* Hereby ends the English lesson. But honestly I think it a good idea to let members know some of the details on how we run. Time for a look at the past

100 YEARS AGO 24th May 1921.

In opening the meeting the chairman feelingly referred to the death of Mr. Docking, President of the Association. They had known each other for 30 years and in that time, and in that time Mr. Docking had become President and a Trustee. He had been an energetic member of the Excursion Committee. The chairman further stated that the decease of Mr. Docking was so sudden that he (Mr. Goldsmith) had been unable to express his feelings at the prior meeting. A letter was read from the Public Health Department consenting to the Associations application for permission to re-enter the remains of one of the early pioneers (which were recently discovered at Wesley Hill during sluicing operations) in the Pioneers Cemetery at Diamond Gully. It was decided to have the internment on the 15th May (Sunday). Arrangements left to the Hon. Secretary. The secretary said he had represented the Association at the Jubilee celebrations of the A.N.A. Lodge

and had been cordially received and treated. Mrs. Ward (nurse) of Templeton St forwarded per Mr. Eacott a photo of the late Lieut Colonel Samuel Windridge Commander of the Prince of Wales Light Horse Troop Kyneton, a position he relinquished in August 1875. Also she gifted to the Association several documents relating to Colonel Windridge and the Kyneton Troop. Likewise the music of "The Night March" composed by Mr. John Carrs and dedicated to the late Major Anderson Commanding the Regiment of the Prince of Wales Volunteer Light Horse. Mr. Borland handed in the Charter and Honour Board of the now defunct Caladonia Lodge of the Order of St. Andrew (Scottish Constitution) No.11 Accounts totalling £10-1-9d passed for payment.

50 YEARS AGO 13th May 1971.

Mr. Ottery in the chair and 11 members present. F. Cappy moved seconded M. Blume that new member Mr. David Bailie be accepted into the organisation, carried.



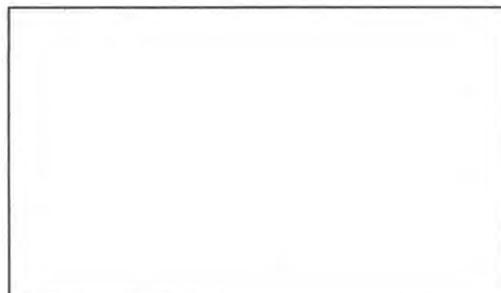
**Castlemaine Pioneers
and Old Residents Association Inc.**

Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday May 20th at 7-30pm
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker
Mr. Noel Taylor talking about his times.

Family and friends welcome.

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



MAY 2021 SUPPLIMENT

From our Collection.

The M.A.M. 3rd July 1914 collected by the Late Doug Ralph.

Castlemaine Pioneer's Hall & Fine Collection of Old Relics. Early Historical Records. The Gold License. A Ticket of Leave.

The members of the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association are a jovial lot, numbering between 70 & 80, and their club room in the Faulder Watson hall is conducive to joviality, for it is a most popular place, and each night sees it crowded with card players and draught players, while occasionally a game of chess is indulged in. It is a club room in the true sense of the word, and the fraternal feeling among the members is something unusual, and pleasing to see. Several daily papers are provided by the committee, and when necessary, there is always a good fire in the room. The members mostly are men of mature years, but some of the more recent recruits are quite young, for although the title would lead one to expect non but grey beards within the precincts, others are eligible for membership. The qualifications are:- Pioneers – those who arrived in this district not later than 1855; Old Residents- those who have resided for 15 years within a radius of 25 miles of Castlemaine; and honary members can be elected.

The subscription is the very small sum of six shillings yearly. Members always extend a hearty welcome to strangers. It is strange that although the room is so popular with its members, its attractions are very little known to others, even old Castlemaine residents are unaware of this rather remarkable collection of local historical and curios objects, contained within these four walls.

Here a couple of hours, or even an afternoon, can be spent with the greatest possible pleasure in viewing relics of the early days of Castlemaine. The walls are simply crowded with framed mementoes of the stirring "fifties," and on the table is an album containing numerous old tickets, pen & pencil sketches relating to the early days of Forest Creek, an auctioneers general licence of 1853, and numerous miner's rights. Talking of the "miner's rights" reminds one of the obnoxious gold licence that preceded it, and the enforcement of the conditions of which led to much rioting, the first at Forest Creek, then at Bendigo, and finally at Ballarat, where it culminated with bloodshed. Some of these historical documents can be seen in the club rooms, and below is a copy of one of the very earliest, for it was issued on December 3rd 1851, while the first was printed only a few months before. Its wording is as follows:-

VICTORIA GOLD LICENCE. No, 209A. Dec. 3, 1851.

The bearer, Henry Lillycrap, having paid to me the sum of one pound ten shillings on account of the Territorial Revenue, I hereby licence him to dig, search for, and remove gold on and from any such Crown Lands within the District of Upper Loddon, as I shall assign to him for that purpose during the month of December, 1851. his licence to be produced when ever demanded by me or any person acting under the authority of the Government, and to be returned to me before another licence is issued. W. J. WRIGHT Commissioner.

Old Pennyweight Hill G.M .Co Fryers Creek 1855.



And this is not the most interesting of the relics of the early days of Victoria. There are pictures, including "The First House in Castlemaine 1852". True the word "house" seems a misnomer, for the structure is only a slab hut, but no doubt the residents of those times watched its erection with a very live interest, probably with even more

than was given to the building of our High School by present day inhabitants. Then there is a small sketch of the **Old Pennyweight Hill Gold Mining, Company., Fryers Creek, 1855; the First Registered Gold Mining Company in Victoria; Charles Rogers, Mining Manager.** A local newspaper printed in gold on blue, and so on ad infinitum. The Association has been in existence for many years, but it was only in 1898 that the club-room came into being. In that year a permanent secretary was secured, and he also acts as caretaker for the larger hall adjoining which is also the Association's property. The chief sources of revenue are the subscriptions and the rent of the hall, so that it can be readily imagined they are not overburdened with money. However, that does not matter, they have "Enough for their wants and a little to spare," and are ready always to welcome any who might desire to explore the treasures of their comfortable home.

2021 and nothing has changed. We are still friendly, still welcoming, still enjoying what we do, each others company and, we are still not "overburdened with money". That's all from Our Collection for this month Folks Ed.

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The website has brought us a lot of attention, fielding enquiries from England, South Korea, America and a lot of Australia. In fact some website (for want of a better word) friendships have been formed, with knowledge and information flowing both ways. Some very interesting local information has been sent to us from England regarding the Yandoit Creek area, and a local Chinese Apothecary circa 1856. And I am saying publicly, Sorry to Cass, who dragged me kicking and screaming into the Internet world. Her patience and perseverance has paid off big time for us. But folks, I have dug my heels in though, and the telegraph station is not connected in anyway to the internet, or in "the clouds" whatever that means, and I have been assured that the only way to enter our data base is by using Mothers (the name we have given to our master or perhaps I should say mistress computer), keyboard and a fiendishly clever series of pass words known only to a highly vetted select few. I sleep easily at night now.

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SUBJECT MATTER: The October Transport in the Shire of Mt Alexander 1836 – 2021. As this is a major project and will be open to the public over 4 full days plus a day to set up, a lot of man and lady power will be required. Each day is divided into 2 shifts 9-30am, 30min before the doors are opened to check everything is alright, until 1pm. 1pm until 4-30pm with 30 minutes to check and lock up after the doors are closed at 4pm. Two shifts a day x 4 days = 8 shifts, a minimum of 4 people each shift = 32 people. So this is an appeal to All members to give freely of their time for this period. Before Covid numbers on a meeting night was always between 20 & 30, so, its a case of "all hands on deck" **The Association Needs You**".

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From our Latest Acquisition, The Argus Saturday January 28th 1860.

The Victorian Parliament: Mr. M'Culloch moved £27,000 be voted for charitable institutions. Among them Castlemaine District Hospital would receive £3000 and the Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum £1500, on condition that a third of the sum be raised by private contributions.