



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

## Newsletter – November 2021.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. Old Telegraph Station Barker Street. Weather: a blue sky with a few fluffy white clouds and a S. breeze. No waffling this month its straight down to business. No meeting last month but your hard working secretary saw to it, that all bills were paid on time, new ones received and the wheels still turned smoothly. And folks, a nice day out was arranged. Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct a convoy of 6 cars left from outside the old Information Centre opposite the motel in Duke St for a look and brush up on some of the plaques and monuments in the Shire (pictures next page). After leaving Castlemaine, passing through the Avenue of Honour at Newstead the convoy turned left heading for Strathlea, the country side looked absolutely magnificent. Paddocks of yellow canola and paddocks of green cereal crops the wind gently caressing the wheat and barley into waves, like the waves at the beach. Freshly shorn sheep gathered under the canopy of the big old river gums that dotted the paddocks, showed just how rich the soil of this valley is. Those early squatters of Plaistowe and Glen Gower certainly knew good country when they saw it. Reaching the Black Duck pub, it was a right turn. About a mile later a left turn into Deep Creek Rd entering an area that has changed little since the 1950's. The road, narrow old bitumen soon turning to gravel twisted and wound its way along the valley beside the creek. It was very easy to imagine horse and jinker taking farm goods to the Castlemaine market, or milk and cream to the Newstead Butter Factory, or the family to Church.

All along the creek there was evidence of old settlement. After every twist and turn a beautiful view unfolded, travelling up and along a ridge the panoramic view, just took one's breath away. On reaching the Yandoit-Werona Rd it was a right turn, towards Werona and Kooroocheang. Still fantastic views on both sides. Arriving at the local cemetery we stopped for a late morning tea, which became lunch. After setting up tables and chairs we sat in the shade munching our sangers, drinking tea and coffee having a good old chin

wag. President Russell has a very soft spot for this area because his First Lady was born and bred, just a few hundred yards from our lunch stop. With his interest in old pubs he has become quite knowledgeable about the ones in this area, and of some of the stories attached to them. One such story was printed in the news letter a year or so ago, concerning the accidental poisoning of a child. The story made it to our web site where it was read by an Australian lady in England. She was related to the mother of the child, and had written a book about the mother's extraordinary life. A young newly married couple with no prospects in rural England in the 1800's emigrate to Australia. First two husbands are killed, the third, a lazy drunk. Sarah Bacon a remarkable woman, she is buried in this cemetery. So after lunch we found her grave, put some flowers on it, took some pictures to send to England. When this was over the Gentlemen were asked "to start their engines", and we pressed on. Through Kooroocheang, wended our way to Blampied finishing up in the Wombat Gardens at Dalesford. The gardens are beautiful, after a stroll around, it was time for afternoon tea, before heading for home. There was another two monuments to visit on the way home, but next time. We all slept well that night. Looking to the December & January meetings some decisions have to be made by you the members. Where to go? What to do? How to do it? Suggestions, suggestion, suggestions. Here are a couple.

**Christmas:** Picnic in the Gardens. A run to Colibinabin view the painted cylos and have a meal there. Find a local venue that can fit us all in or some other suggestion you may have.

**January Meeting:** (we always visit somewhere historical in Jan). Suggestion wanted. Vin Cappy has come up with an idea for another nice day out for us share together: A tour of the Maryborough Railway Station, lunch there, then a guided tour of the town and some of its points of interest. Then a scenic run home. Vin recently did this tour and highly recommends it. Date Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>. Numbers next meeting. Start time 9-30am.

SUPPLEMENT for the NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER.

Some pictures from the Monument Run. People and places. Trevor Shill and Keith White over the last year set about finding, photographing and researching as many, historic monuments, plaques, statues, and honour boards etc in the Shire. The work is ongoing, we selected a few to visit on this social day out, enjoy.

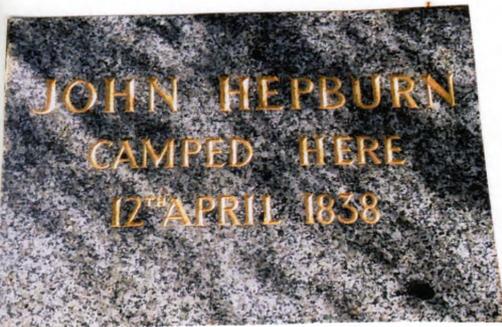
DIAMOND GULLY CEMETERY



One of the our early projects. 1886  
Monument made by one of our  
founding members stone mason  
Mr. J. Redfearn.



CLOSE UP & INSCRIPTION



ON THE N. RETAINING WALL  
ANGLICAN CHURCH MOSTYN ST.



NEAR THE MAIN GATE  
CAMP RESERVE.

A SAD GRAVE SITE AT CAMPBELL TOWN.

3 souls rest here, a cook speared by the natives.

A 14 year old worker, died of natural causes.

An old swagman arriving after dark and the dogs  
tore him to pieces.



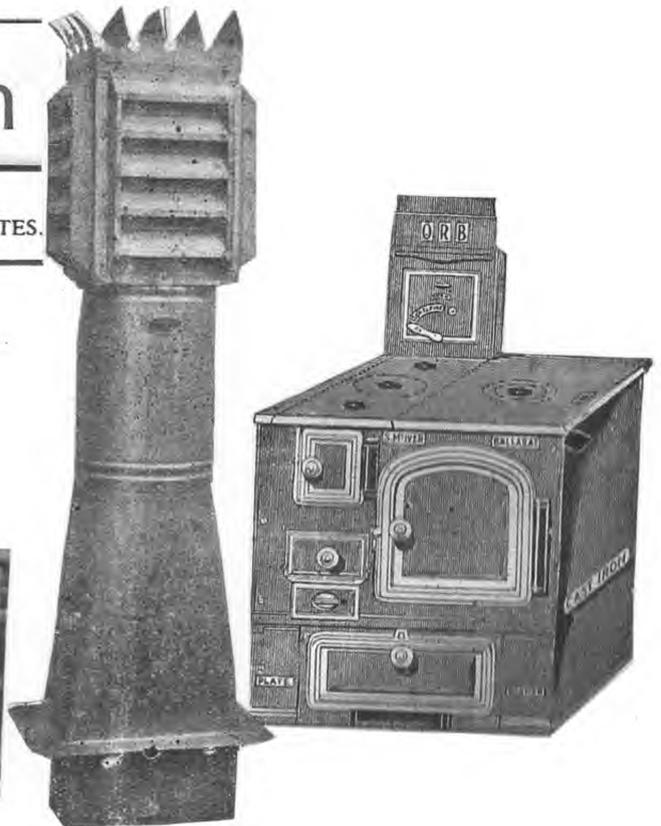
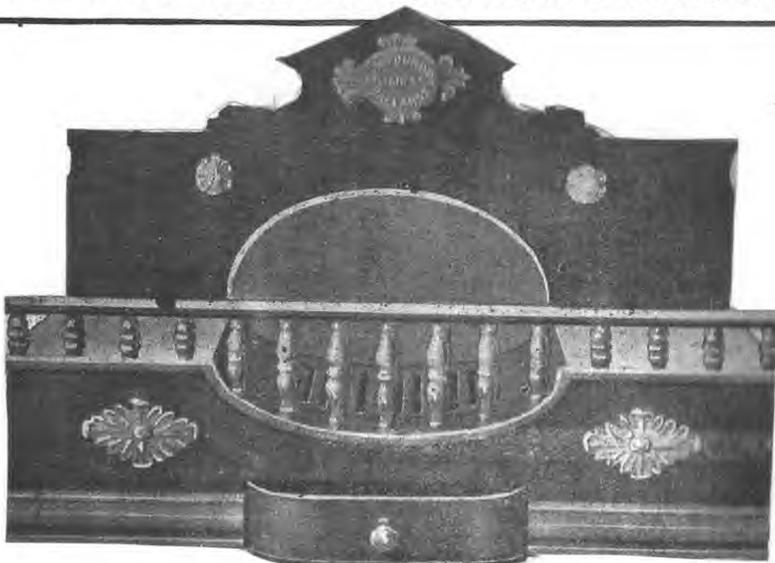
SARAH BACON'S GRAVE

## FROM OUR COLLECTION.

Cup day and I did my dough, a whole \$2 in the local butchers sweep. The first Melbourne Cup I remember was as a first year apprentice at the Newport railway workshops. Five minutes before the race started a deafening silence descended, the huge steam hammers in the blacksmith shop stopped. The hammering and banging in the copper shop ceased and the overhead pulleys and belts that ran the heavy machinery stopped. Then the sound of clandestine radio was heard. We listened to the horses being put into the barriers, then the start the running of the race and the roar at the finish. When the places were confirmed the radios went silent and the workshop sounds started up again. Sweep winnings were paid and this year the Pioneers won big time. How many of you remember Cowlings Hardware shop at the bottom end of Barker St? In the early seventies it came up for sale, didn't sell and quietly closed down. One of our members heard that a lot of its history was looking for a home, he suggested that the Pioneers was good place, and on Cup day I took possession of 3 large boxes of Castlemaine history. Not only shop history but a local man's story as well. I have only skimmed through it, below are a few titbits:

### Dr. to H.D. Cowling & Son

LICENCED TO SELL FIREARMS. AMMUNITION. EXPLOSIVES  
GENERAL HARDWARE. TAUBMANS PAINTS. HORTICULTURAL REQUISITES.

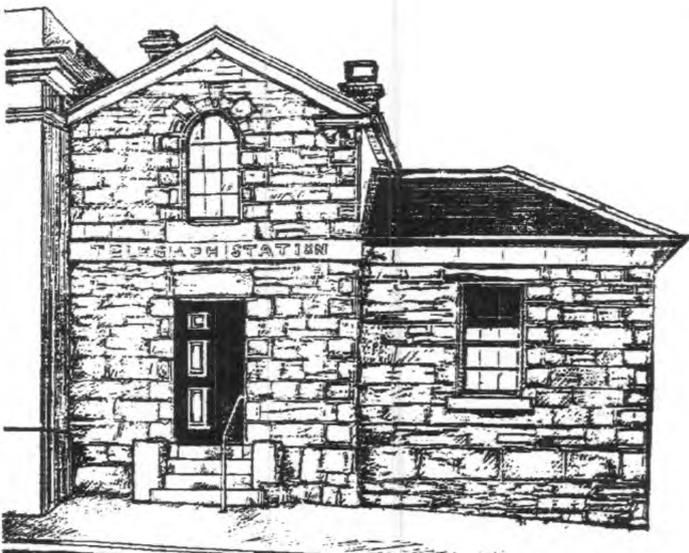


**100 YEARS AGO** 30<sup>th</sup> November 1921.

The action of the President in authorising payment of the October accounts was endorsed after the secretary explained that the October meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. A letter from Messrs J.G. Yandell & A. Harris was read, which was an appeal for a subscription on behalf of Mr. E.L. Bull, who was in extraneous circumstances through old age and ill health. On the motion of Mr. Elvish seconded by Mr. Heron, the sympathy of the Association was expressed on Mr. Bulls behalf, and regret was voiced that the rules of the Association did not warrant the committee to take further action. However, the Hon Secretary stated his willingness to receive any donations from members towards assisting Mr. Bull. The following accounts were passed for payment:

Mrs. Eacott, 2 weeks salary	£2-0-0.
Gas. Co.	12/10d.
Treasurers Refund.	10/-.
Secretary Petty Cash.	2d.

Some Homework: add up the pounds, shillings and pence.



**50 YEARS AGO** 11<sup>th</sup> November 1971.

President Mr. Ottery & Mr. H. Barnes reported on attending the council meeting about the Kalimna Reserve. A member of the P.& O.R.A. was asked to accept a position on the newly formed Kalimna Committee. Mr.J. Harrison was appointed. Moved F. Edwards, sec E. Ottery that a vote of thanks and admiration be expressed to the Picnic Committee, for the great picnic at Jubilee Lake. Moved by F. Cappy that the Picnic Committee donate 1 nine gallon keg of beer, 6 bottles of Courage beer, 6 bottles of Stout and 6bottles of Lemonade for the annual Christmas wind up at the December meeting. Treasurers Report: Income.

Rent \$25.	Out. Hall Keeper	\$20.00.
Subs \$15.60.	Workers Comp	\$4.18c
Donations \$4.60c	(an adjustment for the increase in wages).	

Wages! Wages! What wages, I want to know? I have been on about them for years, to no avail. ed.

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

*Next Monthly Meeting:*

**Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> 2021 7-30pm.**

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

**Guest Speaker**

**Second and final part of A Decade in the life  
of the Hon Secretary.**

**Family & Friends most welcome.**

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

