



Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents' Association Inc.

Reg. No. A 0006803 M 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.

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Newsletter – September 2021. A very happy Wattle Day to you all.

Monday 7th a cold southerly wind and a blue sky with some fluffy white clouds. Many thanks to you all for your phone calls and get well cards. I am mobile again looking rather odd though. Long black compression stocking, a size 13 soft slipper (swollen foot) on the right leg. A black ankle sock and conventional size 9 shoe on the left foot with both legs extending out of a pair of shorts. I walk with a distinct list to starboard, to make matters worse my walking stick has a bend in it. No one wants to walk with me. A'h well that's the way the cookie crumbles. Speaking of crumbling cookies, the "Newsletter". I have been secretary for the last 12 years and during this time I have produced 132 newsletters, and I say "not one", has been free of multiple faults. Bad spelling, grammar, articles out of sequence etc ,etc Over the years I have built up a very, very angry relationship with our computer and its resident gremlins. Almost suicidal at times. Last months newsletter produced from my sick bed, was given a lot of thought and attention to detail. After proof reading it half a dozen times, I thought that finally I had come close to perfection. Now, because of Covid our regular printer was closed. So I prevailed on the Chief to drive me to Office Works in Bendigo. Four pages a front back and two middle pages all numbered. Gave them to the person at the counter with my instructions. Picked them up an hour later and as you all know ,the page sequence was wrong, wrong, wrong! I am sure that the Gremlins in and around this newsletter are out to drive me insane, but I will prevail and one day you will get, perfection. On the Home Front. After much discussion the plumbers finally got around to digging up concrete and replacing the blocked drain out the back. Our highly esteemed President Russell has taken on the task of replacing the paver's, and concrete. This new age. When a plumber lifts pavers, cuts concrete to get to a job, they Don't relay the pavers or pour concrete (not in their job description), they just remove the rubbish. Two young plumbers declined to do the job, if we can't use a digger, "not interested". Changing

times. On the theme of changing times, our financial Guru's have prepared the paperwork for our annual audit and return for Consumer Affairs. Reading over them one item caught my my eye. There has been the recent Royal Commission into the banks. A lot of their shortcomings were brought to light, they just said "sorry, we will change our ways", no one was punished and life went on. The banks have just reported making huge profits. One of our investment accounts holding a not inconsiderable amount showed that interest earned in the year \$10.08c. I yearn for those heady years when I used to report in this newsletter that the bank had paid us anything between 3 to 7 cents on the money in our working account. Those heady days of a bygone era. **Our forth coming Transport Exhibition!** You can stand easy, Council has very generously given us the option to hold it sometime in 2022 and they will continue to give us their generous support. On your behalf I accepted this kind offer. So,Covid willing, Autumn next year and It's On. On the Well Being front, some of our members are not travelling well. George Showell, Andy Graham, Clive Sharplin, Trevor Shill, and those who keep their ills to themselves, we wish you all a speedy recovery. One bright note though, is past President Graehame Barry. After a visit to the doctor for a cheque up. A quick trip to hospital and the removal of a kidney, he now seems to be well on the road to a full recovery. Very good news. Only drawback, he has gone off steak & kidney pie. All accounts passed for payment at the August meeting, and we are still solvent. Recently someone suggested that it would be nice if some of our present oldies were to write about a decade (10 years) in their life. I floated it with a few oldies and here is a short piece taken from George Showells contribution: *soon after starting school in the early 1940's I recall standing on the edge of the railway cutting just behind our home with my parents, it was about 8 o'clock at night. The whole of Mount Alexander was on fire from end to end. The intense glow of red and orange was brilliant and frightening, we were worried about our relatives living in* **CONT**

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OBITUARY.

George Douglas McLean. June 20 1870 – October 10 1945.

Copied from the Castlemaine Mail, Saturday October 13 1945.

Mayor of the Borough of Castlemaine for three terms, Councilor for 21 consecutive years. Justice of the Peace since 1912 and Secretary of the Castlemaine Branch of the A.N.A. for 47 years are among the highlights of a notable career. It is a safe assumption that no other citizen did more for the advancement of Castlemaine than did Mr. George Douglas McLean, whose death has been mourned by all sections of the community.

A man of many parts, Mr. McLean during a long and useful life extended over 75 years, leaves behind him an enviable record of service. Born at Harcourt the scene of his early education at the local State School and his boyhood days, he took up permanent residence in Castlemaine at the age of 19, and commenced business as an agent for the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Coy. It is recalled that he traveled the district by horseback and in those early days had many adventures on the road. At 23 he married Miss Amelia Ely of Harcourt, thus uniting two pioneer families. His original office was a modest one room, situated in premises now occupied by Messers. Philpott and Coakley. Later he transferred to the office in Lyttleton Street where he was known for many years as Register of Births and Deaths, Estate Agent and Auctioneer. Mr. McLean died in harness. To those who had occasion to visit his place of business frequently it had been obvious for some time past that he was fighting against odds, but the spirit and courage of this remarkable man was such that he refused to quit. He was on duty on the day prior to his death. When his condition forced him to enter Strathearn the end came quickly, and it is on record that he had the hope and ambition to "work until he dropped". Other positions he held were President of the Football Club, Secretary of the Pioneers Excursion Picnic, and Legal Manager for the various Dredging Companies. He was delegate for the Castlemaine Branch of the A.N.A. to the annual conference since 1899, Chief President of the A.N.A. in 1919-20, and a member of the Board of Directors for many years.

He was instrumental in forming the Harcourt Branch of the A.N.A., and in the sporting arena, was a prominent Bowler on the old Lyttleton Street Bowling Green. In his early days Mr. McLean was a noted district athlete, his favorite pastimes being Cricket and Football. He was a vocalist in the one-time famous Pierrot Show, and will be remembered by the contemporaries for the special act, the cake walk associated with the old-time song hit, "Walking Out With Angelina".

To his widow and bereaved family of two sons and one daughter the heartfelt sympathy of the Town and District residents has been spontaneous and sincere. Their sorrow has been shared, their loss has been our loss and their pride in achievements of a devoted husband and father has been a solace to grief and this, has been shared by the community.

The funeral on Thursday was from the family residence to the Harcourt Cemetery. Long before the appointed time of departure mourners from all parts of the district commenced to assemble. Floral tributes, in such profusion, as to necessitate a special floral car for transport, had arrived since early morning. The massed beauty of these completely covered the casket and floor of the hearse. No more eloquent tribute to the memory of a man greatly loved by all could be imagined. Rev. J. Symington conducted a family service, following which the Ash Casket was borne from the house by Messers. Stan and Cecil McLean (sons), James and Murdoch McLean (brothers), Ronald McLean (grandson) and Jack Barry (son-in-law). Members of the A.N.A. and Old Boys Association had, meanwhile taken up their position ahead of the hearse. At the signal these comrades marched, the route being via Mostyn and Barkers Streets. At the summit of the hill this vanguard opened up its rank and the marchers stood to attention as the hearse passed through. At the moment that the cortege moved off the Fire Bell tolled announcing to the citizens the final departure of an ex-Mayor of the Borough of Castlemaine.

Over 40 cars, each filled to capacity, made up what was one of the longest funeral procession ever seen in the town. Mourners, representatives of all sections of the community were present to honor the memory of a departed brother who had ranked as the friend and counsellor of all and who recognized no class distinctions in the daily routine of business transacted. At North Castlemaine State School pupils were assembled in the school yard to pay their tribute to a distinguished townsman notable for his love of children. At Harcourt the simple, but impressive homage by the pupils of the State School under their head teacher, Mr. Larter, provided a moving spectacle, Marshalled by the roadside, these children stood with bowed heads as an ex-pupil passed by for the last time. On arrival at the cemetery, a peaceful and very beautiful resting place, the final scenes of this poignant drama were enacted. Borne from the hearse to the graveside by Senator J. Sheahan and Messers. Geo Douglas (Harcourt Cricket Club), Alex McGibbon (Old Boys Association), Norman Fisher (Harcourt A.N.A.), Chas Gaulton (Castlemaine A.N.A.) and Skene (Colonial Mutual Fire Assurance Coy), the casket was placed in position, the pall being supported by Messers. Les Armstrong (President Old Boys Association), Frank Cocking (Castlemaine A.N.A.) Albert Staples (representing Chief President and Board of Directors A.N.A.), Cr. Frank McEwan (Mayor of Castlemaine), Reg Butler (Old Pioneers Association), and W. Peeler (President Castlemaine A.N.A.)

Rev. J. Symington conducted the burial service. All differences of opinion, all the petty affairs of everyday existence were forgotten as the preacher delivered the message of the Christian faith shared in common by believers of all denominations, stressing

the fact that mortal existence is only a temporary matter, insisting that the ultimate end of man lies in the Spiritual realm and that the phenomenon known as death marks not the end, but the beginning.

Not a man in that large concourse did not experience a sense of deep personal loss. And then following the committal to the earth of the mortal remains of a deceased brother. Mr. Albert Staples, a Director and Representing the Chief President and Board of Directors A.N.A., delivered a panegyric both eloquent and sincere.

And then following the benediction, the company dispersed. In the brilliant sunshine of a perfect spring day and in the hallowed atmosphere of the spot set aside as a place for sleep and rest the final tribute had been paid with reverence and dignity befitting the occasion.

Amongst the profusion of floral tributes were wreaths from Castlemaine Police and Clerk of Courts, Directors, Staff and Shareholders Harcourt Fruitgrowers Progress Association, Old Girls' Association, President and Members Harcourt A.N.A., Combined Melbourne and Castlemaine Old Boys' Association, Officers and members A.N.A., Harcourt Cool Store, Old Pioneers Excursion Committee, Mayor, Councillors and Burgesses Borough of Castlemaine, President and Directors A.N.A. Association, Pupils Harcourt State School, Staff of State School No. 800 Ararat, Castlemaine Dads' Association, Members Harcourt Presbyterian Church, S.S. and A Mothers' Association and the Staff, McCreery and Hopkins.

A memorial service will be held at the Presbyterian Church, Castlemaine at 7pm tomorrow.

The funeral arrangements were conducted by Messers. Chas. N. Flowers & Son.

From Our Collection

An Obituary to one of our past members and a great man.

Recently a photograph was donated to our organisation by the grandson of this great man Mr. Graeme Barry and his wife Lois. The elegant choice and flow of words tell a great story and paint an evocative picture of a bygone era.

Harcourt. Next morning the fire had burned out of sight. It had gone through Sutton Grange, eventually stopping near Sunbury.

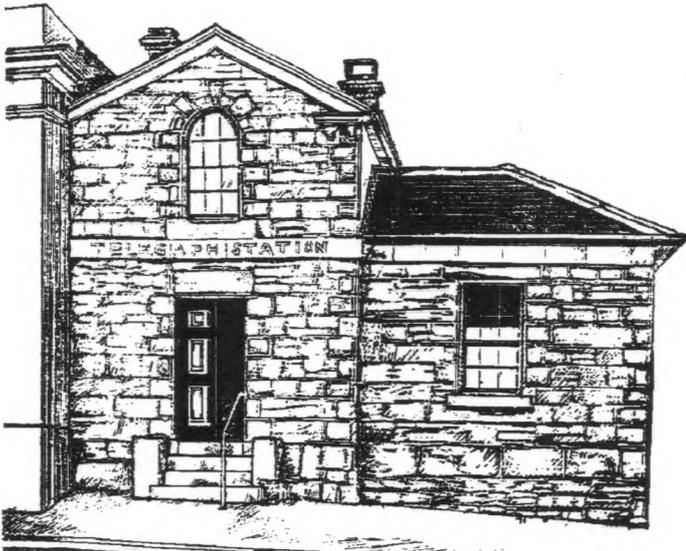
George is still working on his story, I have about 15 pages of his chosen decade and it is a cracker. Would any other members like to contribute a decade out of your life? We are always reading about the "old timers", Our stories are just as interesting for future generations to enjoy.

100 YEARS AGO. September 2nd 1921.

A letter was received from Miss McDonald terminating her rent of the hall for her dancing class, & enclosing payment up to 18th July. Mr. E. Taylor hon sec reported that Mr. Wm. Winefield had deposited the sum of Ten Pounds with him, for the purpose of defraying his Mortuary Exspenses on his death. The amount had been handed to the Trustees, who had banked same in a Trust Account. The action of the secretary and Trustees was approved. The

secretary further reported that Miss Scotson of Yapeen had presented the Association with a map & plan showing the mine leases of Fryers in 1872.

FIFTY YEARS AGO. September 9th 1971. 9 members present, Mr Holme in the chair. A letter from Mrs. B.W. McKean regarding a reduction in her rent for the hall during the School holidays, owing to poor attendance due to activities organised by others. After some discussion, F. Cappy moved that no action be taken, seconded by J.Chapman. The secretary to inform Mrs. McKean of the decision. The working bee on the exhibition room be passed over to the next meeting owing to the lack of members able to attend at present. F.Cappy seconded N. Barnes that the Annual Picnic be held at Jubilee Lake on the last Sunday in October 24th. Treasurers Report: rent \$29, subs \$6, don \$1-60c Expenditure Stonemans goods \$1-41c, Bank Bal \$318.37c.



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

Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday September 16th 2021.
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker
Part Two of the secretaries decade

Family and friends welcome.

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

