



# 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.castlemainepioneers.org](http://www.castlemainepioneers.org)

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## Newsletter – June 2020.

June 10<sup>th</sup> The Old Telegraph Station Castlemaine. Weather, another big frost and another great day. Good news folks, after some deep thinking by your president and secretary and some heavy scrutinising of the relaxed Covid 19 rules, we decided that we will re-commence our meetings in July. Yes folks, I am a glutton for punishment. The July meeting is our Annual General meeting, so I have opened up myself to the usual annual bun fight, where I am inundated by members clamouring to get on the committee. Application forms along with membership renewal forms are attached to this newsletter. Those of you who receive your newsletter by email, will receive them in the mail. It is important that you return the membership form, filled in for legal reasons. To be eligible to contest for a position on the committee, you must be financial, have your application form signed by a financial seconder and have it returned to the secretary by Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. The meeting will be held in the Faulder Watson hall with all social distancing rules being observed. It will be a members only meeting, No visitors or friends. Now on to a new subject, the large photo. The latest bank statement is in, and your response has been magnificent. The purchase price has been covered with a little left over, which will be spent on re-furbishing the frame. Now a little about this photo, its origin. At the moment is unknown. It was bought about 40 years ago in a Melbourne auction room by the vendor, and it lived at his home in a Melbourne suburb. 30 years ago he and his wife discovered Castlemaine, bought a few acres of bush and set up home. The photo measures in the old language 6 feet wide and 4 feet high, a little large to hang over the mantelpiece. It was relegated to a nice workshop wall and lived there happily for the last 30 odd years.. One day many years ago a local happened to see it, and told the owner that the photo had been taken in Castlemaine, pointing out various landmarks. The owner was very chuffed to discover this, as he had grown to love this area very much. Time and age has caught up with the owner, and it is time to down size and

move into town. Maryborough is the town he has chosen. He was anxious that the photo stay in Castlemaine where he believes it belongs. Now the subject matter, is for another time, BUT, if you come to the Annual General meeting, there will be a sneak preview. The big unveiling will take place at our next exhibition. The committee had a meeting via email in April, there were a couple of matters that needed to be attended too. They are, the new spouting on the Telegraph Station and the sanding and polishing of the Telegraph Station floor. After an email and postal hookup, the committee has decided, that when one of our investments becomes due at the end of June, \$3000 will be withdrawn (the balance will be re-invested) and added to our working account with work to commence in early July. Speaking of money, we have been successful in obtaining a \$2800 Community Grant from councils Community Grants Scheme. Some background as to why we applied for this grant. *When I took on the position of secretary back in 2009, I took over from an excellent, devoted and dedicated secretary. (the organisation hasn't had a lot of secretaries in its 140 history, and all have been excellent). My predecessor had a terminal illness and died soon after I took over. He did a lot of Pioneers work at home on his own computer, (we did not get our first computer until late 2011). When Caesar died, well meaning friends cleared up his estate (he had no family in Australia), and some important secretarial knowledge and records were lost. President Graehame and then Treasurer Barry were a huge help in my early days. I had a very steep learning curve in those early days. I also re-invented the wheel a few times. With this in mind when I saw the ad in the good old Castlemaine Mail, calling for groups to apply for funds we thought we would apply. The idea was to document: who we are and our place in the community, What we do and how we do it, Why we do what we do. What we see as our obligations to the community we live in. To produce an "Operations Manual", that outlined all procedures, and guides required to perform the management, administration and historical*

**100 YEARS AGO 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1920.**

The secretary read a reply which was received at our address, of welcome that was presented to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales on the occasion of his visit to Castlemaine on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1920, to the meeting. Mr. Fogarty spoke saying, "he considered that the Mayor had shown scant courtesy to the Association, in not inviting the President, or some other representation to attend at the Railway Station on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, to present the Associations Address of Welcome to his Royal Highness. It was resolved to have the address and reply framed, and hung in the Associations rooms. Ballots were taken for Messrs A. Welch and F. Brebner and each candidate was unanimously elected to membership. Trophies in the Euchre Tournament were presented to Messrs Mitchell & Kermon. The first named receiving half a dozen cups & saucers and tea spoons. Mr. Sermon received a silver mounted pipe and tobacco pouch. Each recipient returned their thanks.

**50 YEARS AGO 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1920.**

President Mr. Jack Wilson in the chair and 15 members present. A letter from Mr. Robertson requesting rental of the hall, for Saturday night dancing for the young people of Castlemaine. Also a letter from the Labour Party wanting the projection room on Friday Nights. It was moved by E. Franklin seconded H. McQueen that the President & Secretary see Mr. Robertson and receive more information on the proposed hire of the hall and their decision be accepted by the committee. The charge to be \$3 per night. A donation would be acceptable for a one month trial. F. Edwards moved seconded J. Mussy that the projection room be rented to the Labour Party at 75cents per Friday under the conditions proposed by Mr. R. Bradfield. Moved Mr. H. Holm sec T.Venville the members action be accepted in sending a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday card to Mr. A.Blume senior.

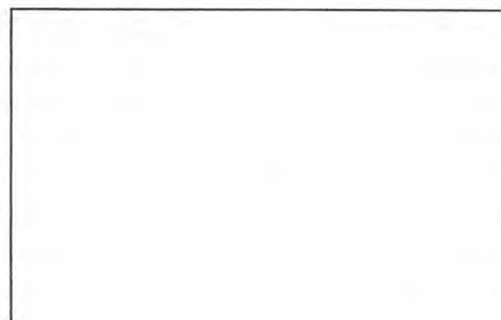


**Castlemaine Pioneers  
and Old Residents' Association Inc.**

*Next Monthly Meeting:*  
**CANCELLED**  
Due to the Covid 19Virus

**BACK IN JULY**

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



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*the management, administration and historical preservation functions that our organisation is currently using.*

To put it in a nut shell, we aim to produce a workshop manual that is easy to read and understand. A submission was prepared and submitted. The selection committee agreed that it was a worthwhile project, granting us \$2800. If this is to be done properly, so that it that puts in place a strong organisational base, making it easy for members to easily slip stress free into a committee role. With all the ropes laid out and easily read and understood, this, requires outside expert help. (having spent part of my former life, writing curriculum and teaching notes, both State and nationally, I know how important it is to get it right). Today's world is so very different from the world that our organisation was born in. My old schools motto is "Knowledge is Power". This manual of power I hope, will help our organisation to continue on for another 140 years. I believe knowledge should be shared and made freely available to all, or the place where it resides. As I am growing old (aren't we all), and moving along the perch. This is a good time to get the knowledge that is in old heads, onto paper, computer etc, freeing up future members brains to grapple with today and tomorrow's problems, and not have to keep re-inventing the wheel.

On a serious note, all the things that your "hard working secretary" does is all part of the job and he enjoys every moment. It's all part of helping to making our world and community a nice place to live in.

There are a couple of heavy responsibilities that the organisation has resting on its shoulders. 1. Membership. We have over 70 financial members, and the word to describe them is "old". We are not Jack Robinson in this area, but something needs to be done. 2. The Faulder Watson hall. The roof has been done, the floor is good as are the kitchen and toilet. The interior of the hall needs some T.L.C. Years of use without any proper maintenance, has taken its toll. It requires some hard plastering work and re-painting. We have a full Dance Sheet as they say, for the next couple of years.

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Another little snap shot from the past, from Russell.

*The Argus 28<sup>th</sup> April 1856.*

*No letter or reports of the period disguised the fact that life was tough and rough in August 1852. The Times published a letter from a medical man written from Fryer's Creek, near Castlemaine, which must have frightened many prospective emigrants; "the state of society at this part of the diggings is low in the extreme" he wrote, the greatest insecurity, of life and property exists. Bands of the greatest ruffians under the sun are prowling about unmolested by the police or the diggers, and every night, and even in the broad of day, the most impudent robberies are committed." You will be surprised to hear that I never venture from my tent by night or day without my revolver in my hand; that I never lie down to sleep without it at my side, that we watch the tent by turns to save our property from ruffians, who, knowing that we have a considerable sum of money in the tent, keep a bright look out*

Upon us". "We keep our tent all ready prepared for siege – muskets, pistols, bayonets and revolvers always ready. My medicine chest, which weighs about 2 cwt, is elevated to the post of the treasury box, and to each handle we have a fierce dog attached". "The night is generally enlivened by the cry of Murder, the muffled cry of some poor devil being gagged, the barking of dogs, and the occasional report of some description of fire arms . . . We dare not stir".

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"Now a little snippet from more recent times".

I was writing earlier about the age of our membership. Here is a picture from a 1971 Mount Alexander Mail, relating to the now defunct Apex Club. 1971 I remember well, it was the year Barbara and I, along with a dog and 3 children, took up permanent residence in Castlemaine. Apex played a very prominent role in our community in those days. Running two very successful Antique Fairs in the newly re-furbished Market Building. Another of their activities was the Annual Christmas Toy Run. Apexian's collected toys made by inmates at the Castlemaine Gaol, for the apex club to distribute on Christmas Eve. On the Apex toy list this year are at least 100 children's names, who will be visited by Apex Santa Clause this Christmas. On the right is a picture of well known District Governor of Apex, trying out one of the toy horses. Several magnifying glasses later, I concluded that, yes, the gentleman in the picture is our own Vice President, Keith White. Nearly 50 years ago.



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Now a little run around the traps. Firstly I have the sad duty to tell you, that yet another of our members has died, Reg Forster. Reg, a well known person about town, a popular and well respected teacher, and a long time member of the Pioneers. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. No sick reports have come to my attention from my nightly ring around, please keep it that way.

**ABC-TV** Tuesday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 1971. 8.am Sesame St.  
10.10. Play School.  
10.35. Test Pattern & Music.  
7pm. News  
7-30 Summertime Cinema.  
9-15 Special Branch  
10-20 Ed Sullivan Show.