



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 the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Annual Subs: \$30.00.

March NEWSLETTER 2020.

*Celebrating our 140th

5th March Old Telegraph Station Castlemaine. Weather wet a very welcome drop of soaking rain I think it could be in for an early autumn Our major exhibition is almost upon us and chaos seems to be in control, as per usual. One major problem is "Numbers". Invited guests have all replied yes or no, but I need to know how many of you, are coming. The caterer needs numbers I need to know what helpers will be available so folks 54723186 leave your name and how many will be coming, and any special dietary needs. Speaking of helpers. Wanted: A few blokes with battery operated drills to set up the display boards and exhibits in the town hall, on the 18th 10am start. Last Sunday afternoon three of our members accepted the invitation from the Maldon Athenian Library to attend the opening of their newly built addition, another room. What a beaut unveiling ceremony. Two speeches, both brilliant. Informative, humorous and when they were finished, the audience felt they wanted more. It was standing room only the afternoon tea was out of this world. The quality of the build, the raising of funds, (no government funds involved), the whole project is a great credit to this small group who keep this historic and old library going and very relevant to the local community it serves today. The whole afternoon I felt, was one of those rare moments of perfection. Company, setting, subject and afternoon tea, an absolutely blissful experience. Thank you Athenian. Moving on, last months guest speaker Ann Rittman speaking about her father and his experiences of flying an unarmed spitfire aeroplane in W.W.2. over Germany taking reconnaissance pictures. 90 times in fact kept us on the edge of our seats. The story of an ordinary Aussie living in the bush Leaving school early, working around the area, getting married and starting a family. The war comes along, his wife who had memories of her Grandfather's experiences as a soldier in the

1st World war insisted that he keep out of the Army and join the Airforce. One of those inexplicable events in life. Another, was when flying deep in enemy territory on a Christmas Day, looking along his wing, there flying beside him was a German fighter. They made eye contact, the German mouthed "Happy Christmas" peeled off and flew away. Ann is writing a book about her father when finished it will be a best seller, I'm sure.

I feel so indebted to those who have gone before us. The Pioneers who's foresight and determination built this wonderful country and place we call home. Both world wars saw England fight for democracy and what it stood for. Australia without hesitation went and stood by her side, no matter what the cost until victory was achieved. We owe so much to those who fought and died for us and our way of life. This coming 140th birthday, we will have a good time and say a quiet thank you to those who have gone before us. Last Tuesday I visited the Daylesford Museum, and what a fine time I had. Rooms and rooms of displays. A recent addition to our photographic collection a photo of a 1907 local cricket team playing at Hepburn. I gave a nice A3 copy to Dalesford, quick as a flash they produced the names of the team members. Now our friends out at Newstead are comparing there list of names and trying to put names to faces. It is a beautiful photo of yesterday. We have been invited over for a visit after Easter. Now onto the Home Front. Please bring along as many friends as you can to the exhibition, we can't have too many helpers. The town hall is a big space, with all the displays and exhibits, we need a few people in the hall. Also we need people to man the raffle and book tables. Now I am going to open the minute book of 100 years ago and following the saga of the sacked secretary.

100 YEARS AGO 25th FEBRUARY 1920.

The matter of engaging a hall keeper (*no mention of a secretary. The cunning old blokes, the Treasurer has taken on the secretary's job along with his own and they are going to employ a Hall Keeper for 14/- bob a week.*) The President said that the Annual Excursion had to be cancelled through the failure of the Railways Department to supply trains owing to coal scarcity, due to the Engineers strike. **31st March 1920.**

The secretary reported that Mr. Mitchell had been appointed Hall Keeper, and was doing his work in a satisfactory manner.

The secretary mentioned that Mr. E. L. Bull an Old Resident was in invidious circumstances through having lost all his effects in a recent fire and was in most need of assistance.

Would the Association inaugurate a relief

fund for him. The committee considered it was a matter which should be taken in hand by the Citizens, in as much that Mr. Bull had never belonged to the Association, and it would establish a bad precedent to vote funds of the Association in such a case.

50 YEARS AGO 12th MARCH 1970.

Meeting opened at 8pm with the Vice President Mr. Ottery and 10 members.

Treasurers Report.

In: Rent \$38.00 Out: Hall Keeper \$16.00.

Subs \$3.60. Rates \$49.59.



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

Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday 19th March 2020
at the Castlemaine Town Hall 7pm start.

Guest Speaker
A special meeting to celebrate
our 140th Birthday
Music, Supper & Entertainment.

Family and friends welcome.

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

