



# 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.

## Newsletter – May 2020.

Castlemaine Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The weather is extremely cold, wet & wintery. I am writing this newsletter in the comfort and warmth of my own home, sitting at the window looking out at the brilliant Autumn colours of the deciduous trees contrasting with the freshly rain washed trunks and leaves of the gums. A shaft of bright sunlight has just burst through the clouds, making a dazzling picture of nature at its best. This coupled with the smell of freshly baked bread and fresh peculated coffee, it can't any get better than this. My window overlooks the Castlemaine/Maldon railway line, and boy has it been busy these last couple of weeks. First two blokes put a white mark on all the crook sleepers. Next another two blokes removed all the spikes holding the line to the sleepers, then along came a machine worked by one man, that grabbed one end of the sleeper pulling it sideways and out. Previous to all this happening, diesel Y133 had been busy hauling loads of concrete sleepers, depositing them at various places beside the line. The discarded sleepers were take back to the Castlemaine yard and another one man operated machine appeared. This machine picked up a concrete sleeper at one end, holding it horizontal it lined it up to where a red gum sleeper had been removed. Slipped it under both rails, let it go grabbed again in the middle, giving jt a shake and a wiggle, job done. Not a drop of sweat raised in the whole operation When all the sleeper have been replaced my railway correspondent informs me, the light rail line will be replaced by a heavy one enabling heavier engines to use the line. I miss the trains steaming by on Wednesdays and the weekend, as does the railway itself, no cash flow. This virus is very serious and is going have some lasting effects jnto the future. Well all you train buffs, I think you are up to date on the happenings of our little railway. Now moving right along, in last months newsletter I put my street cred and your trust in me on the line. That I had bought what I considered to be an iconic Castlemaine old photo measuring in the old language six feet wide and four feet high in a nice frame. I and four other members had put in half the asking price and I

in my position of treasurer had taken the balance out of our check account. I then went on to suggest that if any member wish to contribute, they could via a direct deposit. Well the monthly bank statement has not come in yet, but I can tell you phone calls and cheques under the door, you have responded magnificently. Thankyou. As you know we have only had one meeting this year due to this beastly virus and that was in February. At that meeting we fine tuned our 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash, all to no avail because the virus forced its cancellation. However we still turned 140 (Time stands still for no one), but we still have the rest of the year to celebrate. The exhibition and dinner will happen. Also time has not stood still in the Telegraph Station, bills are still being received and paid. We have come to an arrangement with our hall tenant at his request, that we think is fair to both sides in these uncertain times. Now I turn to a sad note. A very long time and a past President of our organisation Jack Wilson has died, aged in his 80's. Jack lived a long and good life. Going through the minute books Jack's name is mentioned often, both as a committee member and President. He exerted a lot of influence for the good of the organisation and made some sound decisions in his active years. Our thoughts go out to his wife Joy and family. There is never a dull moment in the life of a hard working secretary, After a night of heavy rain last month, I went down to the Telegraph Station to check the mail and let a service man in. There outside the office door was wet patch on the carpet. There was no sign of a leak on the ceiling, nor any sign of water coming down the wall. With the aid of the serviceman who was in to service the hall air conditioners, we discovered that the culprit was the autumn leaves from the trees in Barker St. The serviceman removed two large bucket fulls, that were blocking the water causing it to flow over the edge of the gutter and down the wall between the Telegraph Station and the Faulder Watson hall. Solution, clear the gutter out two or three times each autumn and early winter each year. "Simple" I hear you say, "Yes"

but in today's world its not so simple

Two men are required to handle the ladder, if one has to get up on the roof, scaffolding becomes necessary along with a permit. What was once a simple straight forward job, has now become a major operation and a financial nightmare. A'h the trials of a hard working secretary, (u.p). Each befor tea I ring a couple of members to check how they are travelling, what with dreadful virus. I am pleased to report that all are travelling well, apart from the usual ailments of new knees, hips bladder repairs pace makers etc. Some members report that their gardens have never looked so good, nor the cupboards so tidy. Golf swings have improved and waist lines shrunk due to walking. It has also been said that this slower pace is very relaxing and enjoyable, that life is like it used to be. A downside is that we are unable to hold our meetings and enjoy each others company. When the restrictions will be lifted is any ones guess. This months meeting is cancelled, but your newsletter will keep you informed.

**100 YEARS AGO** 25<sup>th</sup> May 1920.

It was resolved to charge Mrs Bosworth £1 for the use of the hall. It was resolved that attention be given to the roof gutters & spouting. As the current account was low the Trustees were authorised to add sufficient funds to cover costs. On the motion of Messrs Heron & Evans it was decided to start a Cribbage Tournament.

Accounts for Payment. Gas. £0-13-9d  
Caretaker. £2-0-0. Borough Rates £6-6-8d  
Workers Comp. 5/-. Fire Insurance 7/11d

**50 YEARS AGO** 14<sup>th</sup> May 1970.

1 minutes silence was held for past members, Mr. J. Franklin and Mr. Les. Lobb. A letter was received from Mr Tibbets of the School of Architecture Melbourne University, asking if it were possible for three students to measure up the Old Telegraph Station & Faulder Watson Hall? Mr. Barnes wanted to know how many members we had in the year 1969 / 1970? Last year 111, this year 108.



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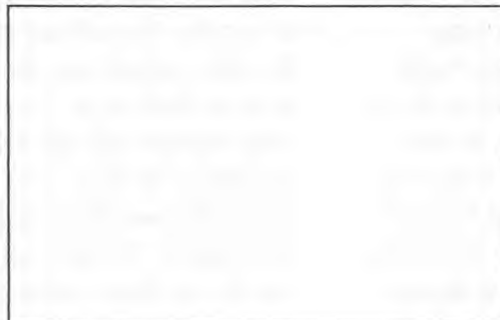
*Next Monthly Meeting:*  
Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2020

**Meeting Canceled.**

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

**Guest Speaker**  
**Family and friends welcome.**

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



G'day folks, being in lock down due to this pesky virus, and not much is happening in our Pioneers world, lets take a trip down memory lane. Some of the following "Bibs & Bobs" have been provided by Russell Sheehan. Interesting titbits he has come across as he researches his interest on the beer, wine and associated industries of the Shire, its villages and Castlemaine. Thankyou Russell. But first I wish to share a magic moment or two with you. Yesterday I went to Kyneton. Passing through Taradale, I was struck by the brilliant Autumn colours of the trees, and after climbing out of the valley towards Malmsbury, that panorama that unfolds always takes my breath away, whatever the season. No one goes through Malmsbury without stopping at the bakery. Coffee and Eccles cake (an English delicacy) in hand I crossed the road and headed over to a vacant seat on the village green. Sitting with the warm sun on my back watching the world go by, in such serene surroundings I thought, life doesn't get much better than this. Looking at the old buildings of this old village that was on the main road to the Mt Alexander Diggings, it had seen a lot of our forbearer's with their dreams of a golden future, pass by. In this reflective frame of mind I thought, What a lot we owe to those hardy pioneers. The gold has now gone. The pioneers have toiled hard and also gone, leaving a wonderful legacy behind for us to enjoy. We have a lot to learn from those tough, hardy and wise pioneers, who went before us. Wilson Ed.

### Snippet no 1.

1 Dec 1894 Pioneers & Politics at Castlemaine.

The Patterson Government some time ago granted to the Pioneers & Old Residents Association a valuable block of land adjoining the post office, on which stood the old telegraph office. For the purpose of erecting a hall. Mrs. Faulder Watson, of South Yarra, a former old resident of Castlemaine, who donated £250 towards the erection of the hall, laid the foundation stone today with much ceremony, being presented with a handsome silver trowel and silver mounted mallet for the purpose, and also with the gold medal of the association. Speeches were made by the Mayor and several leading townsmen, among them Mr. R. Mitchell, Sir James Patterson's acknowledged henchman here, who, while in general, bewailed the fact of it, being so politically divided in its Parliamentary representatives. Mr. E.D. Williams, M.L.A., later on made a spirited reply to the attack, averring that his three week's in the House had shown him the advantage of having two parties in the House, and Castlemaine interest would not suffer thereby; the laws of the country would be poorly enacted if there was not a wide diversion of opinion. Mr. William's remarks were heartily cheered. At the conclusion of the ceremony the president (Cr. Yandell) banqueted the visitors and members.



2<sup>nd</sup> Snippet. Castlemaine Mail Jan 2003. The Burke & Wills Monument which stands proudly above the eastern Castlemaine skyline overlooking Mostyn St, is set to receive a long awaited facelift. The monument was built as a tribute to the ill fated Burke & Wills Expedition. Member for Bendigo West, Bob Cameron announced in December that the Pioneers & Old Residents Association in Castlemaine will receive \$4000 in State Government Heritage funding to oversee the much needed restoration works on the structure, which celebrated its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002.

Mr Cameron said the granite memorial will receive a face-lift with re-pointing works, base cleaning, replacement of curbing and re- application of gold leaf to the inscriptions on the four faces of the monument. These restoration works will greatly enhance the appearance of the monument and will assist with future maintenance.

The Pioneers are not responsible for the upkeep of the monument, but members recognised it was in dire need of restoration and applied for funding. The monument is an important part of Castlemaine's historic past. The Shire and the local Lions Club have pledged a further \$500 each towards the project. The monument was built back in 1862, the same year as the Castlemaine Market Building and the completion of the train line to Castlemaine. Secretary, Caesar Gordon said construction of the monument was quite an achievement for the time. Money for the project was raised via subscription and the structure erected within a year of the disaster. (The Pioneers kept their connection with the monument. In the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the expedition, they installed at the foot of the monument, a large cast iron map of Australia mounted on a block of Harcourt granite outlining the route Burke & Wills took).



\* **Facelift planned:** Pioneers and Old Residents Association President, Cliff Sheehan, Secretary Caesar Gordon and Treasurer Barry Sheen are pictured alongside the Burke and Wills monument.