



# 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) E: [castlemainepioneers@gmail.com](mailto:castlemainepioneers@gmail.com)

Newsletter – October 2020. Month no 8 without a meeting, but still alive & kicking.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine  
Weather: A big white frost this morning and cold. After the frost had gone the Chief & I went for a walk in the bush. The recent good rains has set the scene for a wonderful display of wild flowers in the near future. The bush was going gang busters, birds, bees, blossoms, insects all busy, busy, busy. Nature's wonderful. After the walk it was time for the Pioneers. Climbing those old granite steps up to the telegraph station, my thoughts often turn to those who have trod these steps before me. The first telegraphists in 1857 who were at the cutting edge of modern technology of the day. Our Foundation Members, J.B. Patterson, Yandel, Fitzgerald, Leversha, Gaulton, Odgers, Taylor, H.S.W. Lawson to mention just a few. Then of course us, today's members. Many good men and women have trod these well worn steps, and still do. What stories they could tell, (could be an opening for a budding author here). I threw open the door and immediately wanted to shut it again and go back home. There in front of me, stacked one on top of the other was the contents of our meeting room. Tables, chairs, display cases etc, with just enough room to get to the meeting room door. On opening the door, I was sure that I should have gone back home. There before me lay the long table, upside down all six legs pointing to the ceiling in a very undignified way, like a dog lying on his back wanting his tummy scratched. There was evidence of some very traumatic operations in the past, involving large rip saws, hammers, 4" & 6" nails, along with an assortment of braces and brackets to hold the poor old table together. It was evident that some very major surgery was required to get it through the next 140 years. Ah the the problems of a secretary. Your committee is still beavering away, keeping the wheels turning with the future in mind. When will we meet again, the Christmas Breakup, where will we hold the January 2021 meeting, along with the Annual Excursion next February? Its full on. If anyone has any suggestions on any of the above, please send them in.

From ringing around and meeting members in the street, you all seem to be in fine fettle and coping well, in these rather strange times. Archiving is going well, although the flash harry scanner has just told us via its screen, "that it is feeling crook. An appointment with our resident expert has been booked. Keith & Trevor over the last few months have done a power of investigative work. Each Wednesday they head off into the Shire, photographing and researching various items and places of historical interest. An unexpected bonus from this exercise is, I have built up a list of the coffee shops and bakeries dotted around the Shire. Speaking of items of interest, the silver plated trowel Mrs Faulder Watson used to lay the foundation stone of our hall, has been taken out of its glass case. It has been cleaned, the case done up by Russell and it looks a million dollars. The horse teams picture I wrote about last month has come back. Enlarged, tarted up and framed, it looks magnificent. On the subject of photos, last week I received a phone call, "those old photos, on the wall of dad's shed, you can have them this arvo, photo copy them or whatever you do and return them straight back". I had known of these photos for some time, the owner was one of our members. Well there went my afternoon, the grass didn't get cut the list of home jobs got longer. The joys of being a secretary. They are away being cleaned (many years of shed dirt), & enlarged. I am giving the archiving budget a bit of a hammering lately but then again, I did warn you, I was a treasurer you couldn't afford. Over the page is a picture from 1956 the year of the Olympic Games held in Australia. It struck a nostalgic cord with me, of a time when we were so young and the world was so different. Some interesting stats: from 1955 **1700 patients admitted. 200 babies born. 500 operations performed. 1700 outpatients treated. 80,000 meals served. £1 maintains the Hospital for 8 minutes. £1 makes you a voting contributor – a shareholder. Appeal starts October 29<sup>th</sup>. Chairman, Cr. R.T. Morrissey Mayor. Costs are rising could you increase your gift?**

**100 YEARS AGO. October 27<sup>th</sup> 1920.**

The meeting opened with the President Messr Docking in the chair and he reported that the Citizens & Pioneer Excursion to Queenscliff & Sorrento has been set for the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 1921. The following accounts were passed for payment: Water Rates £3-0-0. Gas 14/ Mr. Mitchell £2-0-0. Newham (papers) 7/7d.

*Leader (printing) 8/3d. R.H. Smith (repairs) £1-16-1d. Secretary (petty cash) 2/1d.* The secretary was instructed to have the hall and passage scrubbed.

**50 YEARS AGO. OCTOBER 8TH 1970.**

10 present, Pres. E. Ottery in the chair and the meeting opened at 7-45pm. The treasurer reported that income for the month was: Rent \$43.95c. Subs \$21.60.

Donations \$4. Costs for the month were K. Hall \$4 (lettering). Hall Keeper \$20. Eagle Star Insurance \$9.6 and \$7.55 Workers Compensation. Bank Bal \$290.42c.

General Business: The Annual Picnic Raffle was drawn and the meeting closed at 8pm.

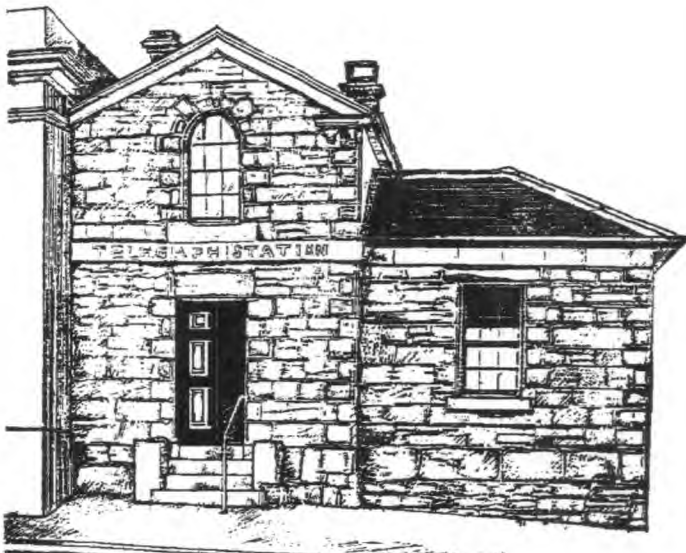
*No mention of the winners or a report on the success of the picnic. Some secretaries are very sparing with their words. Perhaps the Castlemaine Mail has a report if anyone wishes to check the winners. Ed.*

**CASTLEMAINE CITIZENS  
1956 OLYMPIC  
ANNUAL APPEAL**

for



**CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**



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

*Next Monthly Meeting:*

Thursday ~~October~~ 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

Again due to these strange times the meeting is once again cancelled.

But there is a small possibility for a November meeting (if the gods are kind) Keep well, and gentlemen get the black tie suit ready, buy the Good Lady a new dress.

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

