



# Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents' Association Inc.

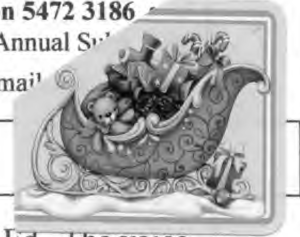
Reg. No. A 0006803 W Est. 1880.

Faulder Watson Hall & Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker Street, Castlemaine.

• President: Russell Sheehan 54723285 • Secretary: Wilson Bunton 5472 3186

All welcome to meetings held on third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Annual St...

W: [www.castlemaine-pioneers.org](http://www.castlemaine-pioneers.org) E: [castlemaine-pioneers@gmail.com](mailto:castlemaine-pioneers@gmail.com)



## Newsletter – November 2022. only 7 weeks to Christmas.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine November 1<sup>st</sup> Melbourne Cup day. Last year I described this day as *fine and warm with a few white fluffy clouds*, the weather today cold and wet, with an occasional burst of sunshine. Now I have been a bit remiss, (yes, the editor does have feet of clay) by not welcoming some new members who have joined the Pioneers recently. So a big welcome to Justine Shortal, Max Coxhead, Alice Matthiesson, & Sharon Lovelace. may your stay be long and enjoyable. Also readers it was extremely slack on my part, to not put on public record, the extremely generous gift from Graeme and Lois Barry of a bound copy of *The Castlemaine Leader Jan - June 1895*. Before making their donation they had it rebound a great big thank you to you both. As I write the Exhibition has been and gone, photos etc in the following pages. The November meeting will see the trial of an afternoon meeting. Polish your dancing shoes, ladies iron *your ballerina dress*, gentlemen your *slacks & blazer*, for this special occasion. There will be a light afternoon tea, the speaker will be thought provoking and there will be a trip down a memory lane. On the subject of a daytime meeting, at the exhibition a member far younger than me said, "Wilson most of our members are retired, or wealthy and don't work". "Why don't we stay home in the cold months and meet in the daytime"? A good question, so lets hear your views at our **Afternoon Meeting 17 Nov** The October meeting fell on the night of our exhibition set up, so it was held among the exhibits in the town hall. All present had a very enjoyable time and the guest speaker had us riveted to our seats. Justine Shortal, remembered by a lot of you, either as a teacher, teaching your young or as a student yourself. Drama was one of the many subjects he taught. Using one of his many voices Justin read *The First decade of My Life*, written one of our members George Showell. this is one of the stories written by members in answer to my request for a story from all of you I am still waiting for more stories

covering a decade of your life) Ed. The voice, accent and style of Justin's reading was just perfect. As the story unfolded, the sighting of a snake, the Elphinstone water race and swimming pool. His first day at school. Complete with school bag, slate and pencil. Lunch wrapped in grease proof paper and then in a serviette, mum took me down to the *corner and handed me into the care of older children*. *About six or eight of us and we all set out in the care of the older girls to plod the three kilometres along the sealed road to Campbells Creek State School* *Motor cars and horse drawn vehicles were rare, in any case we were well lectured not to accept rides from strangers. My saddest early memory is of Colin Tierny. Col was a Ward of the State fostered out to a family in Yapeen. When he turned 14 the law said he was on his own, Col came to the Showell farm on Showell Hill, worked for some years before getting a job at Wattle Gully. I only met Col once in my life. After three months training in the Army he came to a social tea one night whilst he was on his final leave, before leaving for overseas. It was a special event, mum had created a feast, something like a Christmas dinner. Col gave us a photo, head and shoulders which sat on our dining room mantle for as long as Mum lived. We never heard from Col again, we believed he sailed to Singapore and the troops were taken prisoners practically from the ship. One Monday morning we were surprised to find trenches dug in front of the school, no explanation was given, just "keep away from them". We made camouflage netting, collected paper and cardboard along with scrap metal for the war effort. One morning the school bell was rung vigorously to signal the end of the war, we rushed from school and hurried home. During the next week we celebrated. A procession, sports meeting a concert in the Fire Station and a huge Church Service on Sunday. One item I shall remember forever, our local policeman stood up on a chair and recited THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER.*

Now some "house keeping stuff". The exhibition. The treasurer mentioned "I had gone over budget", with a smile on his face. Not sure whether it was a, not enough to worry about smile, or the smile on a mafia Don's face as he pulls the trigger. The common consensus from members and the public was "it was great". We had no expectations when the doors opened on the first day. We did not know whether people were prepared to come into a public hall with other people, or the public had become blasé, as this was our third attempt at staging this exhibition due to covid. However all turned out well. The public came, most staying for an hour or more, and going out of their way on the way out, to tell our members in the foyer "just how much they had enjoyed it". The three groups of students from the North School were absolutely fascinated by the push bikes, cars and old radios, Bill Chapman's large working model steam and diesel engines, were a hit with both young and old. I overheard one school student ask Russell who was on his old radio stand where an old radio was playing a song from the 1950's "do old radios only play old time music"? We sold a lot of our books and merchandise. I was surprised that so many students and adults knew so very little about Major Mitchell. I think an exhibition like this helps us to understand the community we live in, and to appreciate our rich historical heritage. The raffle was well supported the winners were reasonably local. Prizes going to Taradale, Lauriston, Yapeen, Wesley Hill, and Castlemaine. A magic touch were the paper flowers made by Renee Thompson. They were made from old road maps and pages from old street directories. The intent was to use them as decorations but when they arrived they were exquisite. We decided to give a flower to each adult who came through the doors. What a hit that was, people were genuinely touched and some asked for a second flower to take home to a loved one. Thank you Renee, the Pioneers got a lot of public brownie points from your beautiful flowers based on our transport theme.

The November meeting starts at 2pm 17<sup>th</sup> in The Old Telegraph Station. A light afternoon tea will be served. GOT IT?

I can report that the bills are still being paid that life is ticking along as usual. The final details for our Christmas Breakup are as follows:

Date. December 15<sup>th</sup>

Venue. Buda.

Cost. \$40 each pay cash on the night you will still have to pay Buda bills coming let the President or Secretary know by the 12<sup>th</sup> December.  
 Time. 6-30pm for a 7 pm start.  
 Table nibbles, cordial lucky spots after dinner mints courtesy of the Biscuit Tin

**B.Y.O GROG.**

night to the treasurer, if you book and don't turn up you us on the numbers given one week before. If you are secretary know by the 12<sup>th</sup> December.



**Castlemaine Town Hall Lyttleton St.**

Cars, veteran, vintage, classic modern, electric.



Old cars & trucks



Steam (train, Paddle steamer)



Planes



**Electric Cars Friday 21<sup>st</sup> - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

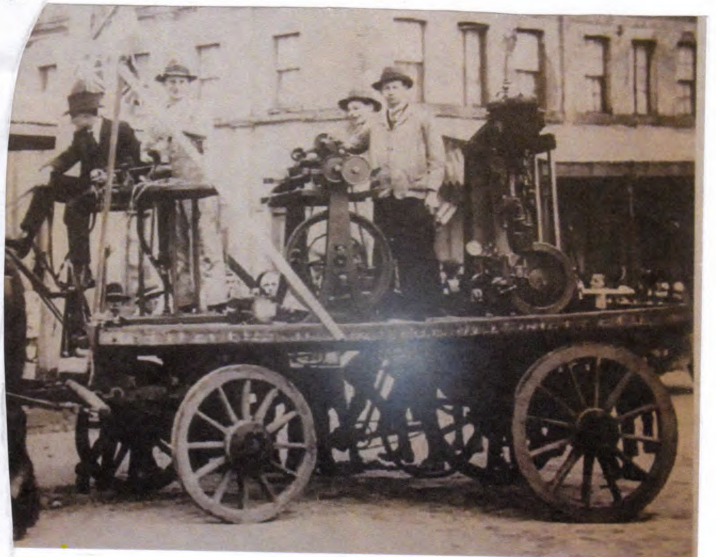


A few words about the exhibits. The red truck loaned by the Maldon Machinery Museum is made entirely wood springs, tyres lights etc.

§ Old Pop Chapman & his first truck 1949.

Family photo § Collection of bicycles Penny Farthing to the 1950's.

§



Old horse drawn lorry (our collection), farm worker / station hand travelling from station to station on his trusty velocipede. Old wireless collection showing how sound was transported, (working, a private collection). The full story of this exhibition will be in the December newsletter. Ed.



It was spine tingling. Almost eighty years later I find the poem so "moving". Well readers I will stop there as the story fills 14 foolscap pages. Justin's reading was just so perfect.

**100 YEARS AGO. 29<sup>th</sup> November 1922.**

President Williams opened the meeting referring to the death of Mr. William Piele, which the Association sincerely regretted, the action of the secretary in forwarding a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Piele was endorsed. It was decided to have the hall piano put in order. The secretary stated that the approximate cost to be £12. The following payments were authorised,

Mrs. Eacott £2-10-0

Mr. Penny £1-0-0

Gas Co 15-6d

Secretary 4d

The Treasurer reported the balance in the current account was £6-3-0.



**50 YEARS AGO 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 1972.**

The meeting was opened in the Faulder Watson hall at 7-45pm, with President Mr. Gaulton in the chair. Mr Franklin asked about the framing of the old map in the display room. Mr. Jack Taylor President of the Old Boys Association has generously offered to pay for the framing of same. A quote for framing was \$90. A letter of thanks had been sent to Mr. Taylor. A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Cappy thanking him for his donation of a stall at the Trades, Industry Fair, to help the sales of our book, Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers. Mr. C. Hood was duly accepted into the Committee. It was decided to conduct a survey of the costs for repairs to be done to the hall and telegraph station. Treasurers Report:

In. rent \$907-40c Out. hall keeper \$20.

donation \$2. secretary \$19-20c

subs \$9-60c health dpt \$5.

Bank Balance \$3262.97c.

(I want to know how the secretary got so much!)

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

*Next Monthly Meeting:*

**Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm**

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

**Guest Speaker  
Cass Ewing**

**Family & Friends most welcome.**

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



Railway model steam & diesel engines



1909 Shacht early car.