



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 5472 3285 • 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.castlemaine-pioneers.org E: castlemaine-pioneers@gmail.com

Newsletter for February 2022. 7 weeks to our 142nd Birthday Celebrations!

The Old Telegraph Station Castlemaine. 2nd Feb. A cool & cloudy day with a nice southerly breeze a huge relief from the hot humid weather of late. The year is starting off on a bright and breezy note, with more good melody to follow. One of our long time members Roma Ivetic has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community of Castlemaine. Roma was owner and teacher of the Roma Ivetic School of Dance for 60 years finally retiring in 2017. Roma conducted her classes in our Faulder Watson hall. Each Christmas she hired the Town Hall, holding a concert displaying the dancing skills of her students. These concerts were a sellout, many of you will remember them. At one of our displays in the Faulder Watson hall I struck up a conversation with a grandma, daughter and grand daughter, who were standing next to the ballet bar on the north wall doing some leg swings. *Grandma caught me watching and said "I as a young girl, my daughter and grand daughter have many fond and happy memories of Roma, her classes, concerts and this rail"*. After the concerts Roma would make very generous donation to the Pioneers and other local groups. To me it was a very heart warming and well deserved award. From 1957 until 2017 Roma gave so much pleasure to so many young people. Which also gave pride to the parents and the general public who came in droves to her concerts. In today's world where the past is quickly forgotten, it was nice to see that our society had not forgotten one of its "Oldies" who had done so much for their society. **Well Done Roma.** Still on the bright & breezy note, our Christmas break up at the Five Flags was a great success. Our President booked the the main floor and 42 members filled it. Good food, the importance of the event and the good company, made for a very enjoyable evening. Still breezing along at the January meeting, disaster struck. The place chosen became unavailable, but your hard working secretary in his unpaid capacity, rose to the occasion. Travelling through Chewton, up

through the twists and turns on the narrow road to Expedition Pass Res, (seeing what a monster has been unleashed opening the res to swimmers without adequate parking), we made our way to Elphinstone and Taradale. Here we stopped for a B.Y.O. picnic tea in the beautiful park there. The best damask table cloths, family silver, crystal glasses, were produced along with oodles of good food and wine. What a lovely evening it turned out to be, the setting was just right. President Russell struck gold when treasurer Gary (a resident of Taradale) gave him a list of old pubs & hotels of Taradale to add to "the book". Various stories were told awaking old and happy memories. We all toddled off home, well fed, watered and contented. The very heavy rain we just had did not enter our building, "touch wood". I always touch my head when I make that statement, (I have no wish to tempt the gods). When the weather gets a little cooler there is much work to be done. The backyard, storage racks, felt pads to be put on the feet of the chairs in the meeting room. New labelling for the display cases a complete stock take, (that my friends will be a major undertaking). All this along with our leaking water main saga, the forthcoming Transport exhibition. Also its time I believe, to look at our next community project. Some of us well remember the days of the Pennyweight Flat and Diamond Gully cemetery W B's. The identification and marking with a plaque of the graves at Pennyweight Flat. Maintenance the shepherds stone hut and gold cairn where gold was first discovered in at Barkers Creek. These have now been taken over by the government The Pioneers had the Burke & Wills monument cleaned and the lettering re-gilded back in 2002, adding the granite block at its foot in 2010. In the past we have designed and printed in conjunction with Castlemaine Mail tourist brochures promoting the history and tourist spots of the area. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels, I have noticed that a lot of the historic plaques we were instrumental in

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100 YEARS AGO 25th January 1922.

The treasurer reported that there was a credit balance in the current account of £23-17-7d. Correspondence: from Perpetual Trustees a cheque for £2-2-0. being the half yearly allocation of the late Sir W. A. Zeal. From Mr. A.R. Taylor, monumental mason offering to re-gold the lettering on the foundation stone on the hall, free of cost. The offer was accepted. Mr. Taylor to be thanked for his generosity. The Honorary Secretary stated that he had accepted Mr. Taylor's offer on behalf of the organisation that the work had been carried out satisfactorily. The action of the secretary was approved by Mr. Eacott, seconded by Mr. J. G. Yandell. From Fine Art Society 100 Exhibition St Melbourne, offering 2 coloured lithographs of the Forest Creek & Mt. Alexander Diggings in 1862, from a sketch by S. T. Gill at £7-10-0d. Letter received and no action taken, as the price was considered too high. The secretary reported that as the hall was not much in use, at the present time, he had engaged a woman to scrub out the hall, passage and the meeting room at the cost of 5/-. The action of the secretary was endorsed.

50 YEARS AGO 12th January 1972 held in the Faulder hall with 7 members present.

The treasurer's report. **In.** Rent \$44.50. Subs. \$4.80c. Donations. \$15.80. total \$65-10c. **Out.** Hall Keeper \$25-0-0. Health Dpt \$5-0-0. W. Brumby (electrician) \$3-75c. Postage 37c. General Business: Moved by Mr J. Gaulton sec Mr. H. Barnes that a sympathy card be sent to the late Charlie Gaulton's family, regarding the event of his recent death.

10th February 1972, at the Faulder Watson hall. F. Cappy reported that the Pioneers book would still be ready in June, that he had the proof copy. It had been perused by himself and other members of the P.O.R.A. A letter was received from the Art Gallery approving the use their painting of the Hanover Mine at Malmsbury, on the dust cover of our book, for a nominal fee. The secretary was instructed to draw up a list of pensioner members who would be eligible for assistance from the Thompson Bequest, repayment of their annual fees. It was moved by F. Cappy that the Sun News Pictorial, be allowed the use of two photographs for reproduction in an article on Castlemaine (the Old & New), in such newspaper in the near

future, seconded by Mr. G. Ottery. (this was written only 50 years ago, and how the style of the written word has changed. Has anyone out there in reader land have a copy of the aforesaid newspaper, that we could copy for our records? The date would be around February, March, April 1972 Ed.

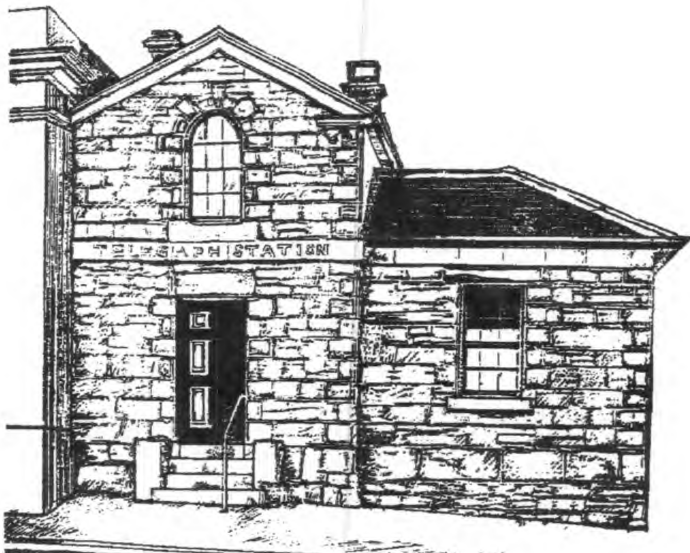
Well now folks it is time to talk to you about The Annual Excursion. *It was inaugurated on the 4th of March 1884, Castlemaine to Williamstown by rail, thence to Queenscliff and Sorrento by the steamer "Lonsdale". This rail and boat excursion has ever since been an annual outing, and its profits have been largely distributed among local charitable institutions and other worthy objects. Over 1,000 pounds has been thus allocated, while the committee holds a reserve of over 200 pounds as a safeguard against failure. The townspeople look forward to this enjoyable outing, and the weather seems to have little effect on the patronage. The third Wednesday of February is a good day, as fine weather is almost assured. After having patronised the Lonsdale for some time the excursion was transferred to the "Ozone", but when the crowd got too large for that boat, the "Hygeia" was resorted to with satisfactory results.* (All this from our 1930 Jubilee Book). These excursions went on into the early 1940's, using the largest bay paddle steamer "Weerona" carrying 2000 passengers. The excursion was a place where many "Castlemaineians" who had left Castlemaine for the city, could get on the steamers and spend the day on the bay, with friends and family from Castlemaine and district. The cost of 3 seven carriage trains and the days hire of the boat had to be paid, before the excursion (the treasurer of the day must have had nerves of steel ed). As you can see those early days had a 'Water' theme. Trips involving water, Echuca, Williamstown and Queenscliff were well patronised, so its a "water" theme again. A fully Self Catered B.Y.O. morning tea and lunch + chairs and table. For a tour with spectacular scenery, taking in 2 beautiful reservoirs and some culture. The excursion article doubled for the From Our Collection Segment. By the way did you know that, on February 5th 1869 "The Welcome Stranger" gold nugget, weighing 65kg was found?

re-searching and installing on some of the old buildings in town, are looking a bit jaded and tired. Perhaps we could look at re-doing them and even encouraging more owners of old buildings to become involved. As you can see we have a full and exciting road to travel in the next few years. In 8 years time the Pioneers will celebrate their 150th birthday. Some of us alas, will not be around to celebrate it, now is the time to lay out a plan for our future with everyone being involved. To start the ball rolling, after the exhibition, a Sunday meeting will called with a light lunch supplied (by the biscuit tin account), with the purpose of giving everyone a chance to give their thoughts and ideas on our future. To encourage some lateral thinking. we live in different times now, our values and culture is still the same and won't change, but we need to remain relevant to today's society. This meeting will be chaired by a person who has had a lot of experience doing this sort of think tank successfully with some big Australian company's.

Now, The Pioneers Need You! When?????

At the exhibition 18th, 19th & 20th March.

Duties: Manning the door, being in the town hall as ushers / stewards etc, selling merchandise from our stall and raffle tickets. The exhibition will be run with all the relevant covid restrictions in place. The town hall is spacious, with a more than adequate ventilation system. This exhibition is our contribution to our society. To restore some sort of normality to life and give our fellow citizens a look at our past, today and the future. Our community today is a far different one, to that of 100, 50 or even 20 years ago. In the last 20 or 30 years there has been a surge of newcomers who's diversities and histories are most welcome. This exhibition will show case what a power house culturally, economically and socially this area has been. When the three days are over, I hope some of the newcomers say "wow, what a talented and tough bunch those pioneers were", and you will say " A wonderful trip down memory lane ".



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

Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday February 17th 2022 at 7-30pm

Please bring your mask.

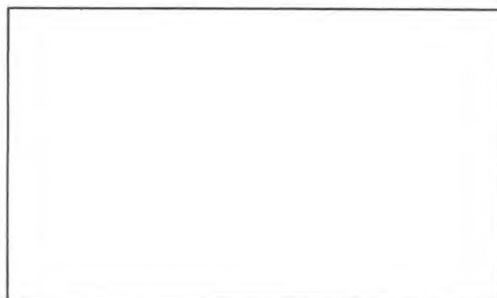
At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker

**At the time of going to print, I don't have
a clue. So many uncertainties these days.
But I promise you it will be a Doozy.**

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

**EXCURSION WEDNESDAY
16th FEBRUARY 2022
LEAVE FROM THE OLD
INFORMATION CENTRE
OPPOSITE THE CASTLE
MOTEL DUKE ST.
9 AM FOR 9-15 start.**



IT WAS A VERY MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS.



LAZING AROUND AT TARADALE



CONGRATULATIONS ROMA



TO THOSE OF YOU WHO DID NOT GET IN A PICTURE SORRY, YOU HAD GONE HOME.