



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 Subs: \$30.00.

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Newsletter – April 2022.

The Old Telegraph Station Castlemaine. Sunday 10th a cool nip in the air this morning, winter is on the way. The brilliant red and the gentle yellow of the turning leaves on the deciduous trees those early settlers planted, look stunning. Castlemaine is a beautiful place especially in autumn. Now the newsletter starting with a word from the President!

First of all I would like to wish everyone a late happy healthy New Year. We have had several functions recently. A walking / driving tour of Castlemaine which was informative particularly to members recent to Castlemaine. The Christmas wind-up at the Five Flags Hotel was popular and well attended. There has been several working bees, unfortunately not well attended, even so a lot was achieved. While our interest is in preserving the past, there is no reason why we should not make use of modern technology to achieve this. We are doing this to a small extent with our archiving project which is progressing slowly with our dedicated group. This is an area where help would be welcome. We have several projects planned for this year and it would be nice to have a group to assist in the planning and promotion, as if people don't know it's on, they don't come. My first Presidential address Russell.

The last meeting, I attended wondering how it would go. If you remember the newsletter said under Guest Speaker "Haven't a Clue", (the guest speaker had to pull out at the last minute), and there had been a lot of apologies via the phone. Arriving at the telegraph station which was open, the President the first to arrive, I wondered what sort of evening it would turn out to be. Well what a night it was, it really was. The previous night I received a call from a member offering to be a fill in guest speaker. My prayers had been answered. Despite the number of apologies attendance was good. The guest speaker was brilliant taking us on the female line of her family, from very early paper making on the Yarra River opposite Flinders St Station to the Castlemaine Woollen Mill. The following is a taste of a great story.

The Kerr family of Castlemaine and Australian Paper Mills. Heather Juniper.

The young colony of Victoria and its regions urgently needed paper. Rags collected locally were shipped to England, processed and returned as paper. In the 1860's a vastly increased population and wealth, resulting from the discoveries of gold, the conditions were ripe for a local paper making industry. Over a number of years several attempts to start a paper making industry were made, without success. In 1853 an ad appeared in the Melbourne press "A thorough practical Papermaker is desirous of meeting with a capitalist to join him in establishing a paper manufactory near Melbourne. Neither this or other attempts over the next few years were successful. A paper making project was started by a Thomas Kenny, brother in-law and business partner to John Sands (a well known name in stationary today). In 1867 a local flour miller Samuel Ramsden became interested in the project. He employed Nathaniel Kerr (the Castlemaine connection) to set up and run the mill. May 4th "The Evening Star" newspaper published an edition of 100 copies on the first 100 sheets of newsprint produced. The paper mill enjoyed much success in the paper making field, winning many awards, both locally and internationally. Nathaniel and his wife had 9 children, the second child William was Heather's maternal grandfather. Heather continues, *my maternal grand father, born in 1865 trained as an accountant. On the 22nd of August 1896 the Mount Alexander Mail reported that there "were 65 applicants for the position of Secretary to the Castlemaine Woollen Company, after careful examination William Kerr was selected for the post".* He was employed there for 40 years, on his retirement he was widely lauded for his services, positive qualities, and was clearly held in high regard by all. The story goes on, his involvement in the local community is huge, and deserves a separate edition of its own. This grandfather of Heather's was a "mover and shaker" who contributed greatly to our society.

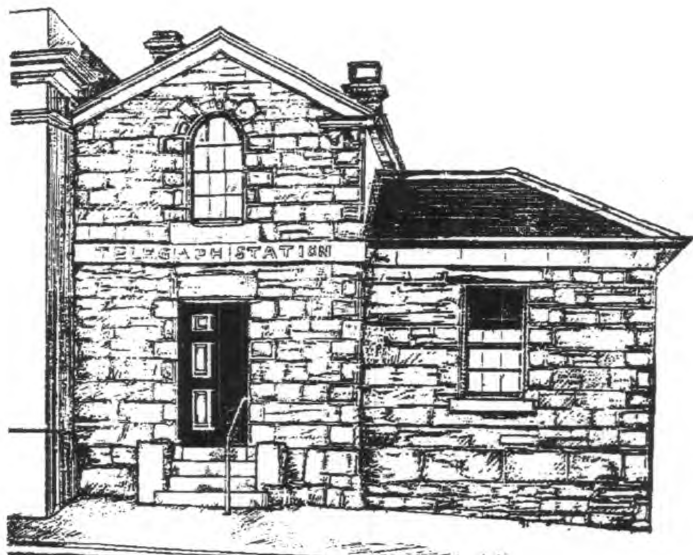
100 YEARS AGO 26th APRIL 1922.

It was resolved to have the water's (I have no idea what the first letter of this word is) Ed, room put in order, the matter to be left in the secretary's hands. The treasurer reported a credit balance of £23-3-1d. Accounts for payment £2-0-0 wages to Mrs. Eacott. £1-13-3d gas mantles Gas Company A very sparse minute report that month Ed.

50 YEARS AGO 3rd APRIL 1972.

A letter from the Castlemaine City Council re new curbing to be installed in Barker St was read out by the treasurer, stating that such curbing would cost the Pioneers \$165 – 65c. After some discussion of what the duties of the Hall Keeper were to be, and who would ensure they were carried out, Felix Cappy and Jack Wilson seconded that the control of the hall be left in the hands of the secretary. It was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs. Yandell for her donation of the World War 1 Honour Roll of the Castlemaine District.

The secretary advises all members that the vote to be taken in respect of Proposed Amendment to rule 4 will not take place at the April meeting. The secretary made a blunder when typing up the form sent out, by not including the Presidents and Secretary's signatures. New notices will be sent out in May and the matter will be on the May agenda. Also in May membership renewal forms will be sent out. Please everyone, return a hard copy to me, even if you no longer wish to be a member. In to-days very regulated and legal world, the dotting of I's and the crossing of T's, can be of vital importance when making a claim or settling a dispute. With the membership form will be a nomination form to stand for a position on the committee. It is at this point I sadly, but firmly say that my time as secretary is up. I have been privileged to serve you as Secretary for the last 13 years. Thank you. But now I feel it is time for the greater good of the organisation, that new blood, ideas and energy be introduced. *Wilson.*



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Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday April 21st at 7-30pm

Guest Speaker.
Robin Taylor, a glimpse of the Taylor Story

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Family and friends welcome.

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

