



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.

W: www.castlemainepioneers.org E: castlemainepioneers@gmail.com

Newsletter – June 2022. 3 Months 12 weeks to the Transport Exhibition!

May 30th The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine. The day is cold, a portent of the onset of winter. Last months meeting was a corker, in more ways than one. President Russell welcomed two new members into the fold Mr. Jack Donnithorne and Mr. Justin Shortal. He then introduced Robert Cowling, of the late Cowlings Hardware Shop, our guest speaker. Robert painted a wonderful picture of his late father Dexter and the shop. Sharing some of his memories by showing family photos via, a power point presentation. He gave glimpses of the Mostyn end of Barker St in the 50's, 60's & 70's although the shop had been around far longer. Roberts grandfather worked for W. Wilson, Ironmonger and then, possibly purchased the business in the partnership of Carter & Cowling {Horticultural Ironmongers} in 1911. Upon the death of his partner, the store was renamed H.D. Cowling, when Dexter became involved, it was renamed H.D. Cowling & Son. Older members of the audience those born and bred here (the real locals), memories quickly kicked in. Back to the good old days. We blow in's (me, 1951 included) listened intently to story's of major local events, old characters, happenings and gossip of those olden days. The shop had a cellar under the floor at the back of the shop. The cellar was used for storage, it was also used for testing firearms that Dexter used to sell. Some of the present company spoke of their first rifle or shot gun bought at Cowlings, back when you could strap a rifle on your back, ride your bike out of town and come home with a few rabbits. As Robert told his story it became very apparent that Dexter was a very clever man, he loved making things, both from a mechanical and electrical point of view (he would much rather have been an engineer than a hardware merchant). As Robert was speaking he was producing items and books from a goodies bag, passing them around finally donating them to our collection. These items when added to the three very large boxes of memorabilia he had given us earlier, make a very complete history of one of Castlemaine's very early families and

businesses. Robert had also put together a collection of stuff he thought would go well with the Thompson Foundry Collection that the Maldon Machinery Museum is putting together asking us to pass it on, which we have. Now by this time, you know that Roberts dad, was a man of many parts. A large photo taken in 1935 at the Army Base at Puckapunyal shows a large group of soldiers in uniform, one of which is Dexter Cowling. This was given to us, to pass on to the local R.S.L. branch. Roberts dad joined the Militia Forces on 1st of July 1934 (18yo). In World War 2 he served in New Guinea as a signalman. He was discharged in Aug 1945. He was proficient in Morse Code, receiving a distinguished pass in signalling school with a top pass of 97% in 9 subjects, also he was a crack shot with the Bren Gun. (a light Machine gun) Dexter also had a strong commitment to his community, giving service to Apex, Rotary, Castlemaine Hospital, the Art Gallery, North School, High School and the Traders Association. He was also a member of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows. To sum up, Dexter Cowling was a very remarkable man who in his short life of 58 years, left a remarkable legacy. My experience with Cowling's Hardware was with Miss Cowling, Dexter's sister. I had no idea of the history and story. Thanks Robert for sharing it with us and for your generous gifts to add to our collection. The Cowling name of Castlemaine will live on in perpetuity. Now on to the mundane The bank balance is still in the black. Nomination forms for a position on the committee, sent out. Already quite a few have been returned from members wishing to serve on the committee. However not one so far, for the position of Honorary Secretary (unpaid). This is The PLUM job, the work load is not very onerous now. The biggest part by far of my work load is the newsletter, which I am happy to continue. We have never had a separate of position for Editor since David Bailie was secretary, he just did it. Over the years many wise decisions have been made by some very wise committee members.

Hello readers, readers, a lot to report this month so a few changes to the format. The 100 & 50 years ago segment will appear in the middle page. The continuation of the meeting report on the back page. Ed. Starting the Supplement with a tantalising glimpse from our next book, "Castlemaine's Old Hotels". One of our late members George Rilen started to list them many years ago. The late Felix Cappy used this list to make a very good Town Walk which was very popular at Festival time, adding to our coffers handsomely. President Russell has taken up their legacy by adding to it, a lot more information and stories both Tall & True.



JAMES FARRELL,

IN returning thanks to his Friends and the Public for the support he has received since opening the COMMERCIAL, the first Hotel in the Colony, out of Melbourne, begs to assure them that nothing shall be wanted to make it worthy of their patronage.

This Hotel, erected at a cost of upwards of £20,000, having been entirely refitted, is now replete with every convenience, and will be found to contain all the requirements of a first-class Establishment.

To Commercial Travellers, this Hotel will be of the utmost value: in it they will have show-rooms for their goods; an accommodation they cannot have elsewhere.

This FAMILY HOTEL contains handsomely fitted double and single-bedded rooms, large and well ventilated, in which the comforts and privacy of a home may be obtained.

J. F.'s guests will be attended to with the utmost civility. His table will be second to none; and his Wines, Spirits, Ales, and Liquors will speak for themselves. The strictest cleanliness will be observed.

EXTENSIVE STABLING, AND EXPERIENCED OSTLERS, ATTACHED TO THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

THE ARGUS ROYAL MAIL COACHES

Start from this Hotel at half-past 5, a. m., arriving from Melbourne and Bendigo at 5, p. m. Refreshments provided for passengers by the coaches.

Above are copies of 2 ads taken from the M.A.M. of the day for the Commercial Hotel on the crn of Urquhart & Mostyn St.

One showing just how grand it looked, a sign of a vibrant and prosperous town. Sadly it is no longer with us.

The other promoting a rather Unusual raffle, GOLD NUGGETS.

As prizes. Speaking of raffles, there are some unusual and different prizes to be won, in our transport exhibition in September.

* A not unexpected result but disappointing never the less, our application for some help in paying for this project was not successful. So we will have to pay the \$5000 our selves. If there are any benevolent members out there who would like to help, you will be Feted, Honoured and Revered by all and sundry. This recognition we are seeking is all part of the protecting our collection process. The organisation seems to be travelling well, 3 new members since covid ended. A lot of local memorabilia donated, but I use the word "seems" advisably. When ever I start to think I have beaten the gremlins in the computer, they can come in from left field, and strike Hard, so I say "touch wood". Well readers this is the end of a rather rather dis jointed newsletter. Letts see what July brings! Ed.

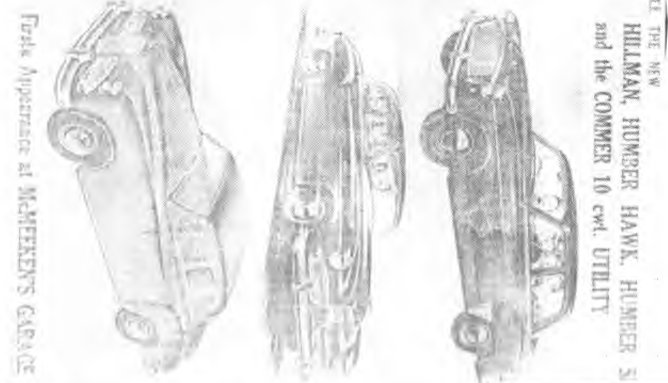
THE Castlemaine Nuggets

THESE NUGGETS, found in the vicinity of Castlemaine, will be drawn for (on the principle of the Art Union) at an early date. The Tickets will be £1 each. Limited to 600

The following are the weights of these very handsome
NUGGETS:—

First prize	-	-	-	54ozs	9dwts.
Second do	-	-	-	35ozs	14dwts.
Third do	-	-	-	25ozs	9dwts.

The Putter-up to spend Twenty Pounds; the winner of the first prize, Ten Pounds; and the winners of the second and third prizes, Five Pounds each. Tickets to be had on application to J. FARRELL, Commercial Hotel, where the Nuggets may be viewed for a short period . 423tc



100 YEARS AGO 28th June 1922.

The action of the secretary in sending a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Pearson & family in their recent bereavement was approved. The secretary reported that Mr. Fogarty had donated 4 new packs of cards for the card room. The treasurer reported a credit balance in the current account of £10-3-9d. & the following accounts for payment Mrs. Eacott salary £2-0-0, Taylor Bros wood 16/- Gas Co 15/- & Newham, papers 10/4d.

FIFTY YEARS AGO 8th June 1972.

Meeting held in the Faulder Watson hall with Mr. Otterey in the chair & 13 members present. A report on the working bee on the exhibition room was given. The room received its second coat of paint & is now ready for artefacts to be displayed J. Harrison reported that he had painted the stairway & hallway. A letter from Rigby's LTD to Felix Cappy, indicated that the "Pioneers Book" would consist of 248 pages, with 16 illustrations. It would be 9 inches deep by six & half inches wide and sell for \$5.75c. Felix also had been asked by Rigbys to write a summery of the book, to be inserted on the back page. This is normally done by the author. The summery was read to the meeting, and was approved. It was moved by Felix Cappy that a fee be paid to post office of \$3.33c for a post box no, seconded J. Harrison. It was with regret that a letter of notice of resignation from Mr. F. Edwards from the position of Treasurer & Assistant Treasure. Mr. Edwards said that advancing years made it time for a younger member to take on the position. Mr. Barnes reported that the fence between the Post Office and the Faulder Watson hall had been demolished by the P.M.G.. This exposed the back of the buildings to the public. A letter to be written and the matter to be investigated by the secretary. A surveyor's Chain Link, used by Mr. Mark Amos, A Pioneer and the first land Surveyor of the Fryerstown district, was presented to the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association by Felix Cappy. A party from Mt Gambier will call in over the long weekend to view our collection.

Mr. Barnes reported that the stage floor needed some attention. It was moved by F. Cappy that for the A.G.M. 2 doz party pies, 2 doz party pastes, 2 trays of sandwiches, 1 dozen bottles of beer, 6 bottles of Courage beer, 2 bottles of stout and 2 bottles of lemonade be purchased for the refreshment after. Mr. Sharp & Mr. Otterey volunteered the tea & coffee.

BACK TO THE PRESENT.

Two VERY SPECIAL dates coming up. Sunday 3rd July. The unveiling of The Felix Cappy Bronze Bust at the Art Gallery. See the accompanying flyer.

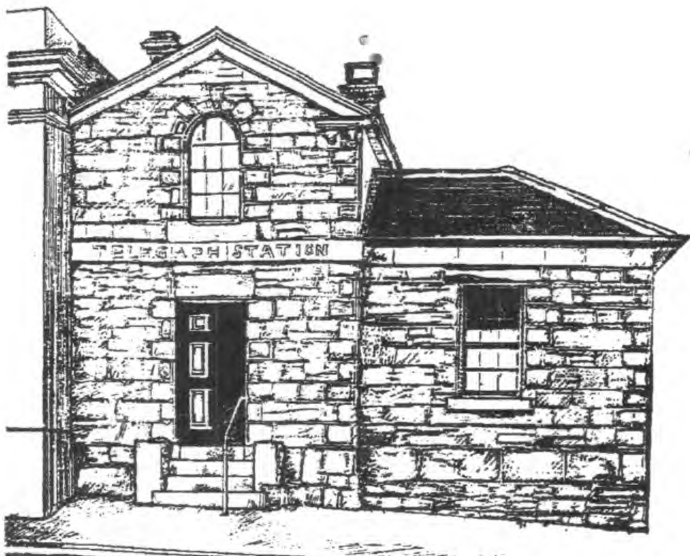
AND A WEEK LATER on the 10th of July, at 2-30pm the Pioneers are invited to the unveiling of another Chewton Wood Carving of yet another, Chewton notable person, Elaine Appleton local historian Extraordinaire The unveiling will take place at the front of Elaine's house in Eureka St Chewton. Bring a plate to share at the afternoon tea, which will be in the Chewton Town Hall.

Now a bit of Goss on some of our members, both good and some not so good. First cab off the rank George Showell has is feeling a little better, after a chance encounter with one of his specialist while visiting hospital. Tom Luke who celebrated a birthday in the high 80's recently is not travelling to well at the moment, nor is Andy Graham. There are a few more who have slowed down a bit. As they should in my opinion, after all we are no longer 40, trim taught & terrific, handsome or beautiful (me included) and this cold weather bites. So hang in there, the first month of winter is almost over. As to the Pioneers I can report, the hall doors have received their first coat of paint on the inside. We still have received no reply re funding for the oft bursting water pipe re funding for the repairs. The Building Plaque project is well in hand. Also the recognition of our collection as One of Historical Importance is well underway with the final report due in December.

*Now cast your eyes to previous page**

To have an official newsletter was, in my opinion one if the wisest. A good newsletter helps to hold the membership together and generates interest. If the committee at the next quarterly meeting (June) agrees to formally form, create the position of editor, I will apply for it. Now the following is *True Dinks, Fair Dinkum, Rigi Didge & No Bull Dust.* I have gone back over the minute book to well before Covid, examining my work load. In the beginning it was very large. Not one computer, no phone, a large valuable collection of local history, little knowledge of how to catalogue, store or preserve it. We were very lucky to have some members who had these skills , Libby & Tom Luke, Libby in her day job, had been involved with the Australia Post's large important National Stamp Collection. Her Knowledge of digitising, cataloguing and storage, combined with the computer knowledge of the late John Wagstaff and the willingness of Barbara Bunton & Joy White too enter new territory "AND HAVE AGO"

got us well and truly on our way. The Pioneers owe these few people a great debt of gratitude. Also there was one other person who made this all possible, the treasurer. The late Dr. Ken Leversha. Ken was a very enlightened & generous man. He loosened the purse strings and at times when money was a bit tight, he opened his own purse. Unfortunately age and ill health took its toll and this A.Team was sadly depleted. However Keith White who as Vice President and too support wife Joy, was always working stepping into the breach of *Chief Technical Support Officer*, helping Trevor Shill another wiz bang computer guru. So all is well again. With archiving under control, the Treasury in the capable hands of Gary Hood my load has considerably lightened. The actual time I have spent doing real secretarial work is about 2hours a month. I kid you not. A nice warm office, a large desk & a comfortable chair, computer & scanner nice surroundings with a salary that defies belief, all go with the job. **The Jobs Open!**



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

Next Monthly Meeting:
 Thursday June 16th at 7-30pm
 Guest Speaker
 Mr. Mike Bettega. Ariel Photography
 and Things

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.
Family and friends welcome.

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



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Reg No. A 0006803W Founded 1880



Honorary Secretary

Wilson Bunton

Tel (03) 5472 3186

Old Telegraph Station
208 Barker Street,
Castlemaine VIC 3450

INVITATION

*The Cappy Family & the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association
warmly invite you to the unveiling of a bronze bust to commemorate and
recognise the huge contribution of the late Felix Cappy OAM to the Mount Alexander Shire*

*His achievements including the preservation and saving of several
historic buildings within the shire and a lifetime of community service
including counsellor and Justice of the Peace. Also, his involvement
in many organisations and his continuous promoting of Castlemaine.*

Date: Sunday, 3 July 2022

Time: 2pm.

Place: Castlemaine Art Gallery

14 Lyttleton St Castlemaine Vic.

Afternoon tea provided.

RSVP: 24 June 2022.

Vin Cappy 0418 535 257.