



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 – July 2022 A.G.M. & only & 10 & a bit weeks to the Exhibition!

Sunday 3rd July a cold, cold morning and a brisk southerly breeze. This afternoon most of us will be in the Town Hall celebrating the unveiling of a bronze bust. The Cappy family commissioned a head and shoulders bust of the late Felix Cappy, a tireless worker for the preventing some of our iconic and historically important old buildings falling prey to the wreckers ball. It can be said that Felix enjoyed a fair degree of success. Many of the old buildings that we admire today owe their lives to Felix and his band of fearless workers. Felix was also a member of the Pioneers, and a past President. When the ceremony is over, the bust will take up residence in the Telegraph Station. Now for some contrition from the Editor. In last months newsletter I thanked some members who have helped me tremendously in many ways throughout the year. But readers I left out, yes you heard correctly left out TWO very, very important members, Cass Ewing and Liz Sharplin the two computer ladies that keep me sane, please accept my most sincere apologies. I feel a Sorry Day is required to wash my sins away. I will buy you a cup of coffee or a pot of tea. YOU ARE SO SPECIAL! The 21st of this month is the A.G.M. Now members you don't have to stay home to avoid being lumbered with a job. We have a nomination for all positions but one. Late afternoon, same day. Have just returned with a full stomach from the unveiling ceremony which was fantastic, Vin and the rest of the Cappy family turned on show to be proud of. Vin, an excellent Master of Ceremonies and drum player. The large crowd sat entranced as various speakers spoke about their travels with Felix as they battled bureaucracy, councils etc saving some of our iconic historic buildings. (It's ironic that now, those who wanted to destroy, proudly promote these buildings to all and sundry (basking in reflected glory). After the speeches there was A Musical Reflection, where Vin, (drums), brother Burnie (keyboard) and Terry McShanag (vocals) played and sang to the immense enjoyment of all.

The catering was spot on, the Church of Christ ladies did the afternoon proud. A truly great afternoon. Reflected as the music was playing, enjoying the company of so many locals, what a great debt we owe to those pioneers who planned and built this beautiful town we live in. We must not forget them and their achievements. Enough of the sermon, on with the newsletter.

This little news letter never ceases to amaze me. Last month I put in a little snippet from our forthcoming book on old hotels in the Shire. Well no sooner was it out and the phone started ringing from far and wide. One man Had gathered a lot of history about the builder. A lady came up with picture of a large carved wooden Royal Coat of Arms that adorned a hotel The Royal Hotel Forest Creek in 1856 who according to her research was carved by one of our founding fathers A.C. Yandel. This lady also donated to us an old office chair belonging to Mr. Yandel. Both stories seem related and if they are, we will have learned a lot about a well known old Castlemaine family. The guest speaker kept the audience glued to their seats during his presentation and the Any Questions afterwords. Mike served in the R.A.A.F for 20 years and he spoke about his time as a Weapons Inspector searching for Weapons of Mass Destruction. A subject not expected by most people to be raised in one of Victoria's oldest historic societies. Mike now lives here and today's story,s are tomorrow's history. I won't write to much about the subject matter other than to say that it was fascinating and very historically educational. Some of the articles Mike handed around as he talked were very interesting. After an hour the President had to end the questions and discussion, or we would have been there until Midnight. To me it was a reminder that we owe so much to our service men and women, Ed. **STOP PRESS.** The long delayed Transport Exhibition has once again been delayed once again until October 20th - 23rd (hall doubled booked). Ian Braybrook has donated 7 of his best selling books to our library, many thanks Ian.

Felix Cappy OAM

3rd July 2022



Felix at the Castlemaine Market Building

Castlemaine Town Hall



The unveiling
by daughter Claire Banfield
and granddaughter Zoe

Felix Cappy OAM

1941 – 2011

Felix had a great passion and love for Castlemaine, the town he was born and grew up. Felix worked tirelessly to preserve Castlemaine's History and its Goldfields heritage, including several historic buildings from being demolished.

These included the Old Castlemaine Courthouse and the Chewton Town Hall.

After the Castlemaine City Council voted to save the Castlemaine Market Building, Felix took on the position of Chairman of the restoration committee for 20 years, along with his hardworking committee of John Holland, Peggy Smith and many more, who raised the necessary funds to restore and preserve this iconic building of National Significance.

Felix was very active always promoting Castlemaine, his community involvement saw him raising much needed funds for our hospital and many organisations, he chaired the first meeting of the Castlemaine State Festival.

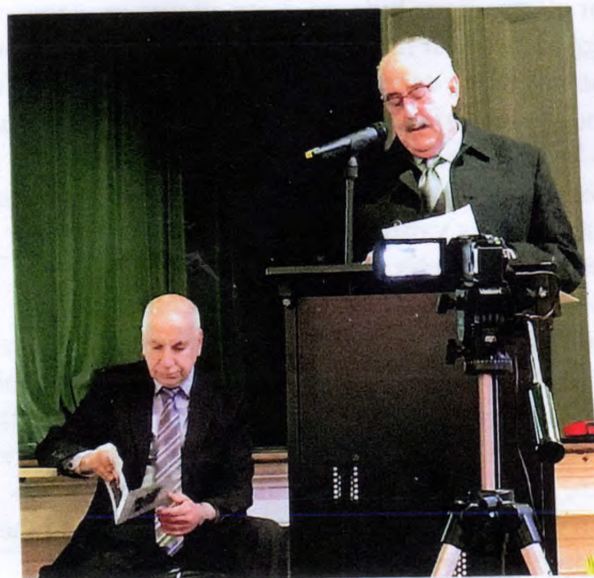
Felix was a leader of many Castlemaine organisations, He was President of the Go Castlemaine Committee, the Castlemaine Art Gallery & Museum, the Castlemaine JayCee's, the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association Castlemaine Tourist & Publicity Association Vaughan Springs Committee The Sun Tour Committee

Felix was awarded the Paul Harris Rotary Sapphire Award for his community service through his work with Castlemaine Rotary and Rotary International.

Served as a Councillor for Mt Alexander Shire for 5 years.

Serviced the community as a Justice of the Peace (JP)

Nominated and received the Order of Australia medal in 2004 for his outstanding volunteer work and saving many historical buildings in the Mt Alexander Shire.



President Russell

A dozen or so Pioneers joined the large crowd already gathered in the warm afternoon sun last Sunday, opposite the Red Hill pub in Chewton. The occasion, to witness the unveiling of a full size wood carving of one of Chewton's iconic citizens, Elaine Appleton. Elaine. Born and bred in Chewton, living in the same street all her life, albeit in 4 different houses. She is a well known, liked and respected member of her community. Long before collecting local history became fashionable, Elaine was beavering away, collecting, collating and storing Chewton's rich history. Involving locals with video, when video was in its infancy. Not only did Elaine do "local" she also did "Shire" history as well. A couple of years ago at one of our major exhibitions, Elaine gave to many local Historical Societies, a copy of all the news items she had gathered over the years pertaining to them, in folders at no cost to them. A remarkable effort when you consider, there are 6 societies in the Shire. We (the Pioneers) have found them to be very popular. Once people open a folder and start browsing, they are off on a voyage of discovery, (we have digitised the folders given to us). Elaine has given us yet more folders. Mayor Bill Maltby in his speech recognising Elaine's great contribution to Chewton and the Shire, mentioned that with the ever growing number of statues in Chewton, they would make a good attraction as part of a local tourist trail and he would float the idea past council. The wood carved statue of Elaine standing proudly opposite the Red Hill pub is a fitting tribute to one of Chewton's iconic and well respected citizens.



Elaine far left.



Elaine and Mayor Bill Maltby.

100 YEARS AGO 4th July 1922. A ballot was taken for messrs S. Heap & Evan Hughes who were elected unanimously as Old Residents. On the motion of Mr. Eacott a letter was ordered to be sent by the secretary to Mr. Fogarty for his generous gift of several packs of cards. The secretary then read a paper written by Mr. Brown, which proved to be a most interesting item, receiving well sustained applause. Mr. S. Heap President of the local A.N.A. branch said that Mr. Brown's paper was full of interesting matter, adding that the Pioneers were worthy of the good that is said of them. The A.G.M. then took place with the usual speeches and elections etc. I have selected a couple of rather unusual items of interest: The sums of £1-10 each be given to the Hospital, Benevolent Home, the Ladies Sewing Committee and the Ladies Benevolent Committee. **A BONUS OF £5/5/0 BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY.** That an increase of 2/6d per

week was recommended to the hall keeper.
50 YEARS AGO 15th July 1972.
 17 members present, Mr T. Ottery in the chair. The treasurer reported an income of \$68-10-0c and an expenditure of \$55-7c leaving a bank balance of \$383-76c. Mr. Barnes reported that some Technical School students had inspected the Telegraph Station. § Now back to the newsletter. Another surprise from England. Some time ago an article was printed about a sad case of accidental arsenic poisoning of a young child out Yandoit way in the 1880's. The mother of the child had come out from England with her husband. Tragedy followed her, the death of two husbands, the death of the child and the third husband, as we would say was, "not much chop". Sarah however made a life for herself and is buried in the Kooroochiang/ Weerona Cemetery. The story made its way to England, a plaque will be displayed in Sarah's home town.



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

Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday July 21st A.G.M.
 At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker
No Guest speaker but ; some very items of interest

Family and friends welcome. 7-30 pm.

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

