



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 547

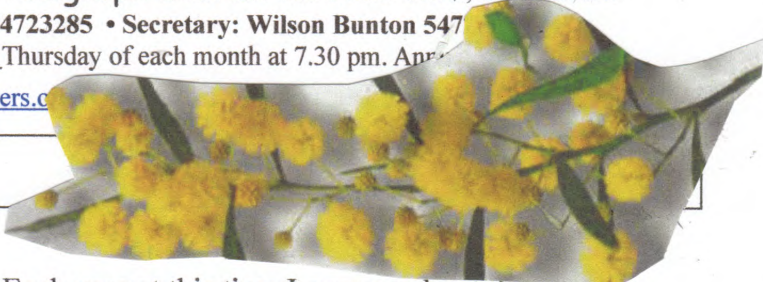
All welcome to meetings held on third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Ann

W: www.castlemainepioneers.com

Newsletter – August 2022

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine

A very wet cold wintry day. Well readers, there is much to write about this month and the first cab off the rank is; the A.G.M. All positions were easily filled bar the position of secretary. The hard working secretary (unpaid) of the past 14 years was rolled, to put it another way *done like a dinner*. In spite of a passionate speech where he pleaded old age, a fast failing memory and having a very expensive spending habit (over the past 14 years he has spent well over \$90,000. of the Pioneers money. That it would be sheer madness to pass up the opportunity to give the position, to someone much younger. Alas to no avail. Doug Cracknell supported by the members hit me head on, resulting in another year of servitude. Oh woe, woe is me. The leaders of our organisation are as follows: President. Mr. Russell Sheehan. Vice President. Mrs. Judy Eastwood Judy is a daughter of past Treasurer the late Dr. Ken Leversha and a direct descendant of one of our founding fathers Henry Leversher. Treasurer. Mr. Gary Hood. Secretary. Mr. Wilson Bunton. The other very important members of the Executive Committee are, Mr. Graeme Barry, Mr. Chris Simmins, Mr. Trevor Shill and not forgetting Mr. Vin Cappy. A very sound and likeable group if ever there was one. The 2022/23 year looks to be a full on year with the oft postponed Transport Exhibition, several visits to other like minded organisations, the February bus excursion and some community service. A letter was received from one of our far flung members suggesting, that we hold an occasional afternoon meeting. Where members who lived a fair stance away from Castlemaine could attend without having to stay over night or drive home in the dark. The answer is yes and it will be soon. Christmas will also soon be upon us what would you like to do to celebrate our yearly breakup & where would you like to go? Over to you, bring your suggestions along to this months meeting, or email to the address at the top of the page (I do not like involving the computer) so ring the President with your ideas.



Each year at this time I rave on about the beautiful Wattle Trees that abound in our area. Why we don't still make a big deal about our national emblem, blowed if I know. There are so many days celebrated in the calendar these days, some more important than others. I believe non should be more important than our national emblem, the Wattle. Bring back Wattle Day I say. I took a drive the other day checking out the Wattle for a car run. From Castlemaine to Kyneton, Heathcote, Maldon, Daylesford, Bendigo & Maryborough, the bush is alive with the vibrant yellow of the Wattle, its breath taking in its beauty. It is quite some time since I have mentioned the train, and I report that *all's good on the line*. The recently restored Pullman carriage called the Acheron named after the river of that name in the South Eastern Highlands, that runs through Taggerty, and Alexandra before flowing into the Goulburn river. Posh, very Posh indeed. Perhaps we should take a trip on the train, one Wednesday have lunch and visit the Maldon Museum before returning to Castlemaine. Two days ago Tuesday our President and your hard working secretary hosted 75 grade four students (three groups of 25 at a time) from the North School in our Telegraph Station. They were studying Morse code its development and associated matters at school. One of the teachers contacted me to see whether, we would let the students come for a visit? When I told her yes, that they would be continuing an old practice, because up to a curriculum change in the 1960's, students from both the North and South schools used to come to the Telegraph Station and the Pioneers to learn about some of Castlemaine's early history. They were three very delightful groups, as were the teachers and teachers aids. The kids were knowledgeable and had been well prepared by their teachers. They were polite and very well behaved. It was I believe a real learning experience for all involved, not just a day out from school. We got a couple of enquiries about joining from the students.



L-R Mr Brian Medbury and Mr Don Macdonald examine one of the old headstones at Campbells Creek Cemetery which the Pioneers and Old Residents Association are making efforts to preserve.



Previous Page: bending over is the late Mr. Don Macdonald who was a member and President of the P.&O.R.A. This picture was taken by the Mount Alexander Mail 27/3/97. The story **Initiative to Preserve Headstones** The headstones were some of the earliest in the Campbells Creek Cemetery, laying on the ground sadly neglected. The Pioneers put up the money preserve the head stones and put them into a wall. The other gentleman with the glasses is the late Brian Medbury secretary of the Cemetery Trust at the time. (Brian was a tireless worker for many organisations)
 Article & photo courtesy Jack Dinnithorne.

Roma Ivetic one of our members and one of her sons Marco, receiving her O.A.M. recently. Roma for many years ran a dancing school in our Faulder Watson hall. Each year at Christmas time Roma held her Annual Christmas Concert, where her students could perform before their parents, family, friends and the public. These concerts were Big Time, eagerly looked forward too and a sell out. When they were over Roma donated the proceeds to many charities in town. A quiet unassuming lady who gave so much pleasure and social skills to the youth of our town.



Harvey, Sidney, Quinton and Evelinka check out a morse code training aid which was used by students learning morse code. A teacher would stand alongside the student listening to make sure their signals were correct.



Students Ava, Luca and Sidney chat to CP&ORA president Russell Sheehan about his 1920 telephone which features a modified modern dial.



Castlemaine North Primary School Grade 2/3 students and staff enjoyed a visit to the Old Telegraph Station on Monday to enjoy a talk with members of the Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents' Association secretary Wilson Bunton and president Russell Sheehan. The students are currently studying communication and learnt about early communication in Castlemaine including morse code and telegrams, telephones and early switchboards.

100 **YEARS AGO** July 25th 1922.the A.G.M. that year, was held on the 12th of July. At a general meeting called for the 30th of August, not enough members turned up to form a quorum. (these notes are from a meeting called for the 4th of September)

The President Mr. Goldsmith in the chair. The treasurer reported a credit balance of £13 and that the August accounts had been paid by order of the President. The secretary reported having received a very valuable oil painting from Mr. Philpot representing the late Joseph Williams the Town Crier. He had sent a letter acknowledging and thanking Mr Philpot for his generous gift. The members expressed their satisfaction of the gift and endorsed the secretaries actions. Tuesday 12th was fixed as the date for the return card night with the Castlemaine branch of the Castlemaine A.N.A. *Strange goings on meeting wise, and no explanation. Ed.*

50 YEARS AGO August 10th 1972. held in the \ Faulder Watson hall. 14 members present with President Mr. Gaulton in the chair. Moved by Mr. F. Cappy seconded by Mr. Edwards that a letter of appreciation for the cheque of \$35 donation be sent to the Castlemaine Council. A letter was received from the Traders Association of Castlemaine saying they have decided they do not wish to continue to pay a yearly sum to the P.&.O.R.A., to keep out outside businesses from operating in the hall. The agreement was cancelled. A discussion took place to set a rate for outside businesses to hire the hall. The new rate \$25.

A small anecdotal story from Vin.

The Cappy family have run a business in Castlemaine constantly for over 80 years. The first was Milk Bar next door to the Theatre Royal. The Castlemaine Mail had its office nearby, and on Thursday nights when the paper was being printed, Vins dad (old Joe), would at 3am take over a billy of hot coffee. He was up early to make sure everything was ready when the shop opened. Some of our present members have happy memories of time spent in the milk bar.



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

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

Guest Speaker.
Marion Orr.
Growing up as a Teenager
in Belfast Ireland.

Family and friends welcome.

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

