



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: Graeme Barry 5472 3768 • Secretary: Wilson Bunton 5472 3186 •

All welcome to meetings held on third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Annual Subs: \$30.00.

Newsletter – February 2018

The old Telegraph Station, 5th February 2018.
Weather: very, very hot and humid. I know I'm growing old when these days, my best friends are the air conditioner and fan. Recently I was reading an editorial in an English magazine, where the editor was writing about his childhood days. Of friends knocking on the door asking him to come out to play. Playing Cowboys & Indians, wandering in the fields, woods, alongside the river and streams, climbing trees and all the things that kids did in the green countryside. I am sure many of you remember growing up in the bush, roaming free with friends and your dog. It was just after the war, and looking back, for most of us, what good times our generation have enjoyed. Early romances, starting work, a car marriage, the first house, children. Holidays be it in a tent or caravan by the sea, up in the mountains or just travelling. It was all good. Most of us worked a 40 hour week (what a treat some overtime was), with 3 weeks holiday at Christmas. Today we have watched our kids grow up, giving us the pleasure of grand children and in some cases great grand children to enjoy. We certainly have enjoyed the best of times. Yes some may have had some setbacks along the way, but on the whole, we have a host of happy memories. "Where is this going?" I hear you ask? "WELL" I reply, the Pioneers celebrate their 138th birthday on March 17th this year. During this time the organisation has given a lot of pleasure and satisfaction to a lot of people, both members and the general public. Me, your editor, treasurer and secretary (unpaid), has enjoyed all the above and a whole lot more as a member of the Pioneers, I have learnt so much of the past. Being a member of this organisation has been a very enjoyable experience, socially and intellectually. I am sure that goes for you all. So, I propose that you all write down the highlights that live in your memory, of your time with the Pioneers. Lets strike while the iron is hot, and do it for our 138th birthday. Once again, it has been brought to my notice, that there was no mention of the train in the December newsletter, this is proof that some people do read it (very gratifying).

"Well Folks)! Just before Christmas the train was doing an evening run. On its way back to Maldon just past my place on the steep incline, in the language that Roles Royce owners use when their car embarrasses them, they say "it failed to proceed". In other words it stopped and would not go. My railway contacts are all very tight lipped about this incident, but I gather it had something to do with lack of steam. Apart from that hiccup, all seems well with lots of passengers over Christmas, and I believe there are major plans for this year. Now, the Buda picnic tea and tour. What a delightful evening it was 16 members turned up and enjoyed their picnic tea in a beautiful cool breeze way. There was heaps of iced water, iced, flavoured mineral water, for those wanting a sugar fix, among the crushed ice were bottles of cola, finally there was a cup of tea that can only be described as; "nectar" fit for the gods. We then got down to the main business of the evening "The Leviny Collection". Our guide Loretta was introduced, telling us a little bit about herself She is a fully qualified curator and that in 2016 she won a very distinguished scholarship to attend the Copland School in the United Kingdom, she was the only one taken from Australia. Going back a few years Loretta was employed by Peter Perry at the Castlemaine Art Gallery, and it was there that she cut her teeth on all things old and beautiful. Namely, our great collection, the Art Gallery and Buda. What a coincidence. As I wrote earlier 16 was just the right number, 1 more would have been 1 to many Buda can take many times that number at any time, but I felt 16 gave the right amount of intimacy. The house exhibits art works from two generations, covering 118 years of the Leviny family. Ernest a Hungarian born silversmith can only be described as a master craftsman, the word genius would not be out of place describing this man. Studying his work, his attention to detail and his ability to create it, shows just what a genius he was. Not only did he produce some great artistic pieces, he and his wife Bertha had 10 children. Four sons (2 died young) and

six daughters. Only one of the daughters married and moved out of Buda, the other five remained. Each one had great talent in some form of art or craft. Looking at the embroidery, photography, woodcarving, metal enamel work etc, showed that they were a very talented family indeed. When I looked at the depth and variety of colours used in various pieces of glass, the intricacies of the enamel work, and knowing just how hard this is to do, it just took my breath away. Lauretta is a brilliant guide who knows her subject well, her presentation made an already interesting subject, even more so. After the tour as we sat around reluctant to leave such an enchanting place, and all agreed it was a fantastic evening. In a quiet moment the next day as I sat reliving the previous evening, I thought just how lucky are we, to live in Castlemaine. To be able wander up to Buda and walk amongst these beautiful things whenever the urge takes us. Lots and lots of thanks to Liz & Clive Sharplin who made this great night happen.

100 YEARS AGO 16th February 1918.
Mr Taylor moved that two of the free tickets donate by Sir W.A. Zeal for the forth coming excursion be given to Mrs. A. Robins and Miss. S. Murphy with 5/- cash, in each case seconded by Mr. Redfern. On the motion of the President the sum of £1-0-0 was voted to the Secretary and he was granted a fortnights leave. (What great days they were). Ed.

50 YEARS AGO 11 Jan & 8 Feb 1968.
Accounts: Workers Compensation \$16.
Public Risk \$9-19c
S.E.C. \$5-14

Moved by Mr. Ottery sec by Mr. McManus that a discussion take place re raising the subscription fees. After a fairly lengthy debate, it was decided t the secretary, contact the appropriate authority for permission to run a raffle. The money to be used for improvements to the hall. (2008) There are still a few seats available for the excursion' coerce friends, family etc. \$40 each.



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

Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday February 15th 7-30pm

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker

SOME GHOSTS OF THE PAST

Family and friends welcome.

Pioneers and Old Residents' Association
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