



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.

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Newsletter – October 2018

Tuesday Oct 9th. The Old Telegraph Station Castlemaine and it is a wet and cold day. Lots to say as usual, so on with the motley. Seniors Week and we have put on a display to be proud of. The meeting room is resplendent with old morse code equipment, dating back to the Telegraph Station's early days, the starting point of today's "Flash Harry" smart phones and Ipads etc. Also on display is a mixed collection of Olden Day's type telephones and early model Mobile phones. On the subject of communications Russell has a fine collection of Old Radio's on display, Radio 88 is coming in loud & clear, playing great music. Songs set to a beautiful melody, Singers who pronounce the words clearly, so that you can understand and follow the story. Radio 88 is a great station. It is said that things come in 3s, well how's this? A couple of months ago the Colonial cedar dining setting returned to Castlemaine, where it started life. Last week an old gentleman and his wife from Stawell were brought into the Telegraph Station and introduced to me. They had a large folder containing the life story of a man who had befriended them many years ago. This man had started his life in Castlemaine at the start of the 1930's depression. His grandfather was President of our organisation in 1915, his father in 1927. He has called his story One Pair of Boots & No Pyjamas. I have only read the first few chapters, and it is fascinating. The third thing, today in the mail we received a complementary copy of a book in two volumes written by past Mt Alexander Shire Engineer Mr. John Wind titled The Castlemaine Connection, another Family History and its connections with Castlemaine. Again, more fascinating reading. Train Report. This online booking seems to be working a treat, 6 carriage trains mainly full and today, a double header with 7 carriages. Very impressive. Sick Parade. Max Kay has just spent six days in hospital with deep vein thrombosis. He is home now and recovering well. Clive Sharplin has gone home and is recovering from a stroke. Lin Macdonald is settling into Penshall and getting used to life in a much smaller place. Now everyone, keep well and vertical.

At the July meeting a suggestion was made, that we all tap someone on the shoulder who we thought would make a good member, to join our organisation. Since then we had 4 young people join our ranks, so members keep up the good work and keep touching those shoulders. Guest Speakers come in all different shapes, sizes and subject matter. August it was Bill Chapman & his beloved model Steam Engine Pamela. Last month we went from the hiss of steam to the hiss of old time radio. John Rolland of Golden Days Radio spoke about the early days of radio, when it was "pleasing to the ear". John started by telling us how radio changed his life and that of his 2 brothers. Radio has been going on for 94 years, and that he had been involved with it for the last 55 years as have his brothers. 1923 the first radio broadcast in Australia went to air, on station **2SB** (which later became **2BL**). Broadcast officially began in Victoria with Associated Radio Company **3AR** in Jan 1924. Radio started rather awkwardly in Australia it took until 1924 to find its feet. A grade and B grade licences going to all sorts of people. Some early licences were granted to some Castlemaine people, (we know of Doveton St and Greenhill Ave). John told us how some of the Stations we know today got their names. **3LO** named after **2LO** London. **2UE** Sydney Electric Utilities Supply. **3AW** (1926, some say 1932) the AGE, Allans music & Theatrical Family JCW. **2CH** Council of churches Sydney. **2SM** licence granted to Catholic priest Fr Meany, named after his church in Drummoyne Sydney St-Marks. **3UZ** started in 1925 (it began in a back room of an electrical store, Oliver J Nilson in Burke St. **3KZ** took four years 1926-1930, to get full government approval it was a Trade Union run station. Commercial radio had a rather bumpy start and the Government intervened, starting a National Broadcasting service. John gave us a glimpse of how he and his brothers followed their dream, promoting themselves to early television shows, such as Happy Hammond, remember him? They proved that childhood dreams can come true. A talk bringing back happy memories.

100 Years Ago 8th October 1918.

Mr. Colbert electrician attended the meeting and gave the following particulars relating to an electric lighting installation. A 200 watt lamp burning for 5 hours would cost 7d. A 100 watt lamp burning for 10 hours would also cost 7d. A 200 candle power lamp would consume 100 watts in 10 hours. The lighting of the hall would cost 7d per hour with 8 lamps on. Each lamp costs 10/6d and a fair life would be 1000 hrs 4 hours would cost 2/8d without the anti-rooms. Each room would cost 1d per hour. The estimated cost of installation is about 25 Guinness.

30th October 1918.

The treasurer reported a balance of £33-14- 8d. The Trustees were authorised to draw sum of £10 when necessary for the boat deposit in connection with next years excursion. The sum of £1 was ordered to be taken from the bank account and be placed in the excursion account, to keep it open.

50 Years Ago 10th October 1968.

A letter was received from Mr. Smith the Town Clerk explaining that our request for a donation has been referred to the Estimates Committee for consideration. Also a letter was received from the caretaker of the Lauriston Reservoir, granting our request for permission to hold a picnic on Nov 10. It was moved by T. Nesbit sec R. Bradfield that a sub committee of 4 be formed to look after and protect the artefacts and pictures in the rooms. Those chosen, T.Nesbit. M.Blume. W.Bower and R.Bradfield.

Mr. Bradfield representing the Historical Society asked permission to display the old pictures of the Market at the coming Trades Fair. Permission granted.

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Dec our last meeting to cap of a successful year, will be up stairs at Run Rabbit Run, Hargraves St. Fully catered for by member Peter Bottomley \$40. Show & Tell, plus a Very Interesting Speaker.



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

*Next Monthly Meeting:*  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7-30pm  
At the Old Telegraph Station Barker St

**Guest Speaker Melva Graham & You.**

**Family and friends welcome**

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

