



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 •

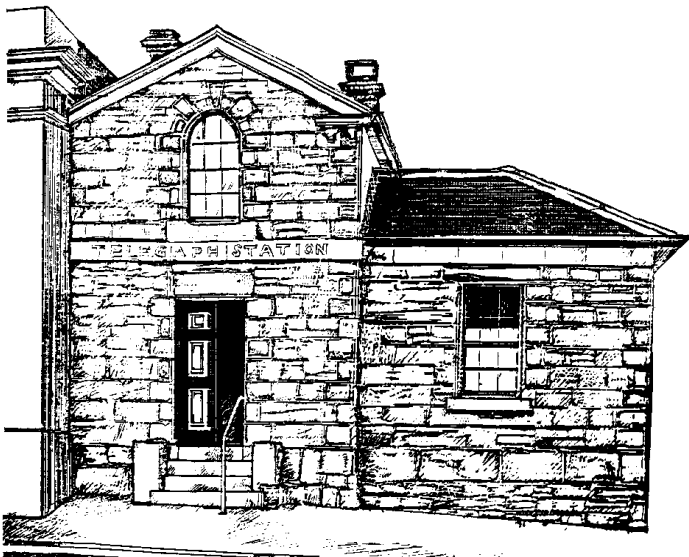
All welcome to meetings held on third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Annual Subs: \$30.00.

Newsletter – March 2019. The month of our 139th Birthday

The Old Telegraph Station Castlemaine. Weather, coolish with a gentle south breeze, a welcome relief from the last few days, but rain is sorely needed. “He must have been away with the fairies when he wrote the newsletter last month” a member remarked to my wife, just after it was delivered. When this was reported, I hurriedly grabbed a copy, read it and saw he was right. The first few paragraphs made no sense what so ever. There is a good logical explanation, but I won't bore you with it, other than to say “Bungling Incompetence” on my part. 8am the coach pulled smoothly away from the curb outside the Market, the Annual Excursion was under way. As the coach left Wesley Hill your red faced secretary, had to ask the driver to return to the Market building. He had just remembered that there was 2 people he had forgotten to contacted about the earlier departure time. Once again the coach pulled smoothly away from the curb, this time with a full compliment on board. A delightful morning tea provided by the drivers wife, was enjoyed at Gisborne, and we arrived at Rippon Lea right on time. We were divided into 2 groups, each with a guide, From opposite end we were given an hour long guided tour of the house. I won't even attempt to describe what we saw, other than to say “Wow” with a capital W. The place is sensational. The light lunch that Rippon Lea provided along with hot coffee or tea was scrumptious. Then it was off to Science Works via the Westgate Bridge. As we travelled over the bridge President Barry told us of our Thompson's Foundry, involvement with the building of it. At the Science Works Museum we dispersed to follow our own interests. My interests were the early sewerage pumping station, built in those far off days by Thompson's. The 7 metre diameter model of the moon, and quite by accident I came across this mirror, that analysed the muscles of your body. The sight and analyses of my stomach muscles for a brief moment made me think about a diet. However the report from the scan of my calf muscles gave me a lift, the are “Turbo Charged” Arriving back in Castlemaine at 5-15 we all agreed that it had been great day.

Not having had a meeting since November, a few word on how we are travelling in the real world. All bills to date have been paid, and we still have money left in the bank (not a lot). A five year lease has been signed by the tenant in the hall. Council generously allowed us to move the date of the cancelled December exhibition to the first weekend in May, using the money we had already paid. Our last book is selling well, and the Biro's and badges have been well received. Speaking of badges, the other day rummaging through some old bits and pieces in an old box that hadn't been opened for years I came across a report on the arrival of Lord Hopetoun's in Castlemaine. It described the scene outside the railway station, the crowd, school kids, and the various dignitaries and groups. Describing the Pioneers, it mentioned their “nice new badges”. It has been quite awhile since I have mentioned the “Train”. It is going gang busters. My trusted railway correspondent tells me that there is a lot going on behind the scenes, and my observations report, the train is full most days. The February meeting was a little constrained, because it was opened to the public, who wanted to hear the guest speaker, speaking about finding 60 lost graves in the Guildford Cemetery. They arrived early and we were packed in like sardines in a tin. So we got on with the meeting and then handed over to Mr. Ray Pattell. Ray held our attention describing the bulldozer with the blade set to remove the top 2” of soil, (this enables you to see whether a grave has been dug or not). The geophysics survey, the archaeologist survey, and the power point presentation, made for an unusual and very interesting evening. The cost of the exercise was not cheap and another scrape is planned along the fence line, where local legend has it “that many children were buried there illegally by parents, who could not afford to pay for a proper burial”. He read an article of those early days where a family had paid to have grave dug, when they came to use it, it was not big or deep enough. When confronted the grave digger replied “the money you gave me, only digs a hole that size”.

100 YEARS AGO January 9th 1919.



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

Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday March 21st 2019.
at the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine
**Guest Speaker Ghosts of the Past
1880- 2019. What Happened?
Family and friends welcome.**

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

