



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 – December 2021.



2nd December 2021.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine.

The weather hot and humid.

Now that the year 2021 is drawing to a close and we are learning to live with the virus, lets hope we get the upper hand in 2022. Your

hard working secretary with his optimistic hat on has locked in the dates for our oft cancelled exhibition for March, 17,18, 19 & 20 inclusive. That's COVID & Politicians willing. Thursday 17th March marks our 142nd birthday. It was on the evening of the 17th of March 1880 that we held our first meeting, in the old Town Hall. A big shindig is planned, to be held in the present Town Hall. Ladies polish the Tiara, gentlemen check that the dinner suit still fits! This night will be followed by 3 days of presenting to the public our Transport Exhibition, from the humble shoe to the various modes of transport of today. The Saturday after our last meeting, I met Allen Trousen in the street, he apologised for not being at the meeting. *"I was over at the brothers getting spuds out for McCains, cutting and bailing hay. It looked like it might rain so we worked late to get the jobs finished. When I got home the meeting had already started."* Then he said to me *"gotta go its my 90th birthday, and the family are putting on a do for me."* He looked as fit as a fiddle. Not long ago he rode his motor bike on a rally to Lightning Ridge and back I think, and here he is, still doing hard farm work on the farm with his brother at 90. *"You are a star Allen, a star*"*. Your secretary has a confession to make, *"I got something wrong recently"* (yes folks I do have feet of clay). In the October newsletter there is a picture of an old wood truck with two men standing beside it. I identified them wrongly as the Taylor Brothers. They are in fact

father and son. The Taylor family story is a fascinating one involving the Pioneers, J. Taylor was one of our foundation members, and Robin Taylor is going to give a talk next year on his remarkable ancestors. The Maryborough run was a great success, more later. The organisation was quite busy last month, what with an inspection of the Telegraph Station by a building engineer. A meeting with two officials from D.W.E.L.P. at the telegraph station and a flurry of visitors. On the business side of things, the bills are still being paid. **Now folks a word from your President.**

The Christmas Break Up! *"This year we are going to do something different to other years, by going to a pub. Thursday 16th December (our normal meeting night) at the Five Flags Hotel Campbells Creek starting at 6pm. Please let me know if you are going, by ringing me on 54723285 or 0499723285, or you can ring our hard working secretary 54723186. The First Lady and I, look forward to seeing you all there. Now back to that hard working secretary"*. On the subject of all things nice, the January meeting Pack a picnic-nick tea, chairs and meet opposite the motel in Duke St at 6pm for a mystery destination. The February Excursion. A couple of interesting ideas we floated at the last meeting, which need some investigation. All will be revealed at the January pick-nick. All members will be contacted by phone, email or letter well before the actual excursion date in February. At the last meeting as Guest Speaker, I finished telling the story of *"A Decade From My Life"*. In my case I chose 1951 when I arrived in Australia, to 1959 when I joined the R.A.A.F. It was an interesting story, but I had a hidden agenda. You and I mean all of you, have very interesting life stories. Tell them, don't let your children say when your are gone *"I wish I had asked mum, dad, aunt etc about that"*. Our lives have seen experienced some of the worlds greatest achievements, both good and bad. War (several), space exploration, transport, T.V. radio, work, housing, travel, life style, knowledge, computers, our changing society, the list goes on & on & on



Mid Week Run November 24th 2021
Maldon. Barringup. Maryborough



22 members left Castlemaine car pooling for a social day out. The mission was to coffee, wine, dine and wallow in some local history along the way. First stop Maldon for morning tea. 22 was a bit much for one cafe. However leader Vin had everything under control. A list was produced, names read out of who went where. Service was good, food great, coffee excellent. After a good chinwag it was onto Barringup stopping at the old store, which was once a hotel. The gentleman in charge of the store and adjoining caravan park, was friendly and a wealth of local knowledge. As was a couple of our members, memories of family properties inundated, when Cairncurran was flooded. An old mansion on the hill opposite the store was pointed out. Lois cleverly captured it with her camera. Climbing aboard our trusty steeds it was off to the Maryborough Railway Station. Taking the scenic route, a very pleasant drive through some very fertile farming land. It was interesting to see the wind-rowed stalks of the recently harvested canola. Curved brown stalks on the ground a sharp contrast to the verdant yellow of the crop before harvest. On arrival we were ushered onto the platform, two tables had been set up. Again leader Vin had everything under control. The setting was perfect. The staff friendly and helpful, food and drinks good, with generous servings and nicely priced. I won't go on about the station other than to say that it really is a magnificent building. Design, style and quality of the workmanship right up there at the top. After lunch a member of the local Information Centre welcomed us. Well written and attractive tourist brochures were handed out, one in particular was about the station. Vin had done this tour recently, with a different guide. Going into places and seeing things the general public doesn't see. This is what we were expecting. Our guide in my opinion liked the sound of his own voice. We were all standing expecting an introductory talk and then a tour of the station, as Vin had done. Not so, a long monologue with bad dramatics and a greatly embellished story started. No instruction to find a seat he just launched into his performance. I learnt more about the station when I got home and read the brochures. The final part of the tour more than made up for it. The small private museum at the end of the station building. The owner Mr. Trudgeon opened up for us. The content is an eclectic collection. 100% Australian, Aboriginal and White. Exhibition cases all made by the owner, and the displays, beautifully set up. This museum is worthy of a visit on its own, thanks Vin for a good day out A tired and happy band with mission accomplished, set out over the Malort Plains for Castlemaine looking forward to our next foray into local history.





From our Collection



Sir, Your indulgence is craved for a little in reply to certain uncalled for structures upon the Pioneers and Old Residents Association which appeared in a recent contemporary, and which, in the opinion of the members, should not be allowed unchallenged. Ignoring the cynical tone of the of the remarks, which by the way bordered on the offensive, the writer is altogether at fault in affirming that the P. and O.R.A. is without "object aim or aspiration." This must be admitted on perusal of Rule 3 of the Association which reads:- "The objects" of the Association are to assist necessitous pioneers and old residents (being members) by loan or otherwise. To promulgate facts relative to the early history of the district. To promote the advancement of Victorians, and to encourage friendly recognition of the members." Here are defined the very objects alleged to be wanting, and, as far as limited resources would permit, an effort has been made to promote them. At the risk of being considered egotistical, our critic is reminded that the members are not altogether void of charitable instincts, as was exemplified by the distribution of flour to the poor on Jubilee day, and also by the assistance of needy members whose names are unmentionable. In this respect they have not failed, while keeping within the rules. The Association has, at some expense, commenced the publication of historical facts relative to the early settlement of this district, which is a practical test of its utility. As to its aspirations, it has none more than to take a humble place among hundreds of other kindred societies. Men who have trod this country in its infancy, and watched its transformation from a howling wilderness to a civilised community, with all its luxuries, may be permitted to feel a pardonable pride in its progress, and the small share they had in it, and enjoy the fellowship of those who participated in its early development, without any cavilling at their motives. To the "unknown" who were struck down at the onset, this Association has raised a simple tablet of respect- "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin". This is no false pretence and, I hold, on these grounds alone, the Association needs no apology for its existence.

On behalf of the P and O.R.A.

J.F. Hughes President.

This is a copy of the letter that was sent to the Mt Alexander Mail 30th 10/ 1888. in reply to a letter published in a rival news paper. It got me thinking, and I remembered another report in the M.A.M. published some 8 years earlier 18th March 1880.

A meeting of the old pioneers was called last night at the Town Hall. There were about 30 gentlemen present. Mr. Mitchell, who was voted to the chair, explained the object of the meeting, and called upon Mr. Yandell who had taken a great deal of trouble to get the meeting together. He said that old colonists of the district should be formed into a society. The colonists might be those who were 25 years in the district or 21 years, which would include young people. An organisation of this kind existed, in Melbourne which had £1000 to its credit, evidence of its success. He had 50 names who were willing to join, he moved that a committee be formed to draw up the rules. Mr. Yandell read the 2nd rule of the Bendigonians and suggested it as a basis.

The rule is "That the object of the society should be to bring old residents together, to encourage social intercourse amongst them, and to preserve the traditional history. There being some conversation about the object of the meeting, Mr. Cleaves suggested that the Melbourne rules of the Old Colonists Association should be considered. The objects of it are, to assist necessitous old colonists by loan or otherwise, to promote the advancement of Victorians and to encourage a friendly recognition of the members.

The chairman put a resolution, proposed by Mr. Yandell, seconded by Mr. Taylor, "that it is desirable to form an Old Pioneers Association of Castlemaine and the district'. The motion was carried.

Next year we celebrate our 142nd birthday I thought it a good idea to look back to day one. To look back on what has been achieved in 141 years, to refresh ourselves for another 100 years. Ed.

Finally, A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you all from your Committee. A very special thank you to Liz Sharplin who sends of the email copy of the newsletter.



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We are interested in the past the stories of our ancestors. We save them, talk about them, share them and generally have a good time with them. So lets leave our stories, to our friends families /decedents and society. Get your story down, start small take 10 years of your life and write about it. You have lived an interesting life, your story must be told, preserved and marvelled at by future generations. **DO IT NOW!!!!**

100 YEARS AGO 21st December 1921.

Mr. Eacott apologised for the absence of the President Mr. Goldsmith, who was in Melbourne. A ballot for membership was taken Mr. W. Peele was unanimously elected and welcomed by the chairman. Mr. Borland and Mr. Fogarty acted as scrutineers. The secretary made reference to the satisfactory manner Mrs. Eacott to the cleaning of the hall and premises. The secretary moved that Mrs. Eacott be given a Christmas gift of £1-1-0.

The chairman tendered the Seasons Greetings to the members.

50 YEARS AGO 9th December 1971.

A letter was received from the Castlemaine Art Gallery regarding the proposed us of a painting on the front of the book. Mr. R. Bradfield asked for permission to photograph some of the Pioneers old photographs for use in a book intended to be released next year. Mr. Ralby moved that no photographs be lent for reproduction in the interests of the Pioneers, no seconder could be found. E. Hardwick moved that Mr. Bradfield be allowed to use 10 photos, T. Nesbit moved an amendment that copyright of such photographs remain in the hands of the Pioneers and suitable acknowledgement be made, also Mr. Bradfield pay a copyright fee of \$2 per photo, seconded F. Cappy. The President closed the meeting and all adjourned to the hall for the Christmas festivities.



**Castlemaine Pioneers
and Old Residents' Association Inc.**
Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday December 16th 2021
Our Christmas Breakup
the Five Flags Hotel at Campbells Creek
6pm start.

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

