



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.

W: www.castlemainepioneers.org E: castlemainepioneers@gmail.com

Newsletter – October 2021 Transport Exhibition cancelled, but there is 2022.

Sunday 10th cool, the air is clean, and I can see far into the distance sitting in my 1963 Humber Vogue on the edge of Fords Rd North Harcourt, feeling a little on the sad side. What with the millions of words written about Covid since this pandemic started and the hundreds of million words spoken by “so called” experts, my Australia seems to be in a bit of a pickle. The country that took me in, in 1951 was large. Six states and two territories. Yes, there were Banana Benders, Crow Eaters, Taswegians, New South Welshman, Territorians Sand Gropers and Victorians. There was rivalry but it was friendly. We were all of the one tribe. Today Australia seems to be eight different countries in the one island, ruled by eight would be Emperors. Instead of one united team with one Captain, we seem to be a rabble, with eight Captains hell bent on destroying ourselves. Adversity is only beaten by team work. I see little evidence of that. When I feel a little down, my pick me up is to take a drive in the wonderful countryside we live in, hence Fords Rd. Looking South down the Harcourt Valley to far distant Mt Franklin near Daylesford, sheer beauty. It just takes my breath away. This view would have to be among the top 10 of the best views in the state, if not Australia. Turning around and looking north is another spectacular view. Coupled with the huge granite outcrops and tors on the slopes of Mt Alexander and knowing that the source of Barkers Creek is near by, restores my spirits. Wedge tail eagles gracefully soaring on the thermal currents overhead is icing on the cake. Well I have had my whinge, thanks for listening and yes you’r right; “get on with it, stop whinging”. Right then. Ringing the bell of one of Castlemaine’s early Town Criers “Old Black Joe” (his titled portrait hangs on the East wall of the meeting room), “ring, ring ,hear ye hear ye”. Historian Dr Marjorie Theobald (one of our members) wishes to inform the public of the release of her latest book, **Mount Alexander mountain of Gold 1851-1861**. *This book is a social history of the*

first ten years of the Victorian gold rush that began Victoria’s transformation from a colonial squatocracy into a modern nation. It tells the stories of the gold rush generation, those thousands of fiercely independent men and women who came to the Mount Alexander gold field, looking for gold in 1851. Book available from Chewton Domain Society, Castlemaine Tourist Information Centre, Stoneman’s Book Room Castlemaine and The Book Wolf Maldon. The price I hear you ask? \$39-95. A great read about those early days of Castlemaine. It is I believe, a bargain. Now the train. During Covid, when it was running, the J class was being helped by the diesel and they were hauling 8 carriages. This was to allow passengers to social distance. I do believe that the steam engines have a personalty, because when it steamed up the incline in front of my house, it looked very sheepish with the diesel pushing from behind. Last week with only 3 carriages it failed to reach the top and had to stop for a rest. looking downright ashamed, standing there puffing and panting while the fireman stoked the boiler getting up more steam before trying again. But, when day is done, the carriages safely tucked up in the nice new shed at Castlemaine. The engine steaming back to Maldon without a load it flies up the incline as if it has wings, looking very smug. The replacement of the light line with a heavier one is well underway. Looking at the two lines is like comparing a matchstick with a pencil. But all seems well with our train. Keeping well brings to mind the organisations wellness. No meeting last month, no meeting this month, I need some “time together time”. Now Trevor and Keith over the last couple of years have visited photographed, researched and recorded all the monuments and plaques in our Shire, (they think). So at the last committee meeting it was decided to spend a day out together, social distancing of course, with a self drive scenic tour visiting some of these plaques and monuments, taking along with us a full, cont back page,

From our Collection

The letter box in the front door of our Old Telegraph Station apart from bringing bills, sometimes brings some very nice surprises. A couple of weeks ago through the letter box came a letter from one of our members, containing a photograph of an old truck. On the back of the truck was a 5 piece band and on the door was an old Castlemaine name, Taylor Bros and telephone number. This photo was taken recently at an open air event at Collibinabin.

a bell rang. This coming week was to our Transport Exhibition and the were one of the features, also decedents of this famous family membership. Taylors Home Home Mostyn St and Taylors in Forest St



Immediately have been Taylor Bros we have among our Wares in are well

known to we Castlemainians. There are many in the Shire with the name Taylor, but not all related. The esteemed ancestor of this famed Taylor dynasty, was Richard Taylor. He emigrated from Yarm, Yorkshire, England to Victoria in 1855, with his wife, son and father. (I know this because in our collection, is a beautiful 85 page Family History book compiled by his great-grand-daughter Mrs. Pamela Strijder and donated to us, to go into our archives). The arrival of Richard, his wife Ann, two year old son John George was the start of something big in Castlemaine. Grain Store, Wood Cutting and of course the Wesley Hill Bake House etc. The guest speaker at our June meeting was Noel Taylor and yes he is related to the said



Taylor line. He spoke about his early days, working with family learning the wood cutting trade. Coincidentally the July guest speaker, local born and bred artist and teacher Robert Cue in his talk, spoke of his early days in the Muckleford Forest, working with family learning the Wood Cutting Trade.



An early photo of a couple of Talor Bros taken with a freshly cut load of wood for the many boilers in Castlemaine.

There are many photos to go on display at the exhibition to be held next year Covid willing. The council has very generously allowed us to roll over our grant money into the next financial year. There will be much to see, both new, old and down right ancient, which will satisfy most interests. However I am looking for some old photos of old caravans, old cars towing vans and old caravan holidays generally.

Some Interesting Happenings in old Castlemaine.

§

In 1860, when Messrs Robertson and Wagner took over Messrs Cobb and Co coaching business at Castlemaine from Messrs and Ewart, the transaction was celebrated by Driver P. Jackson taking the largest coach drawn by twenty two grey horses and drivr to Elphinstone and back to Castlemaine without a mishap.

§

The Mount Alexander Mail was issued on May 6th 1854. Several other news sheets were subsequently published, including the "Miners" Right, "Yarner", "Advertiser", "Our Daily News", "The Daily News", "Representative", ad the Castlemaine Leader", but these have passed away, leaving the pioneer journal to continue under its new title "The Castlemaine Mail".

§

"Our Daily News," established in 1862 by Mr. Chas, E, Glass in Market Square, Castlemaine, was the first penny newspaper published in the Australian colonies. Taken from our 1930 Jubilee Book.

B.Y.O. morning tea and picnic lunch. Chair, hot water and warm clothes. The date Wed 27th Oct. Departure Time and Place: 9-30am opposite the Motel in Duke St. (near the proposed new supermarket). Approx 100k's, mostly sealed Rds.

100 YEARS AGO 26th October 1921.

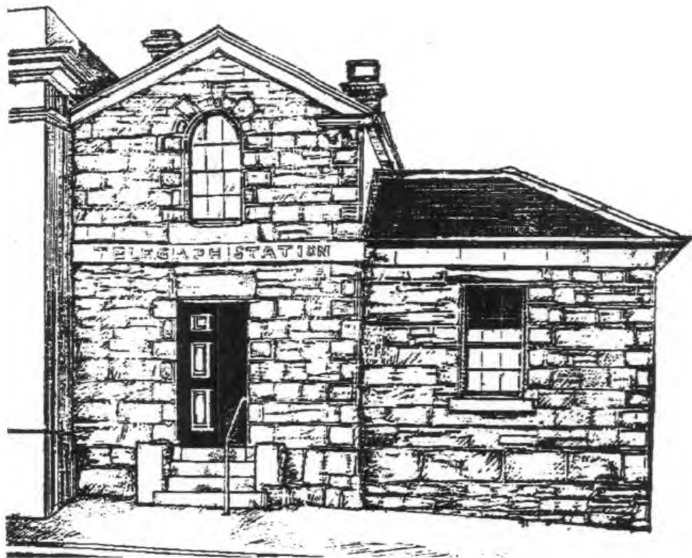
The meeting that was to be held, lapsed for want of a quorum. On the authority of the President; the following accounts were paid by the treasurer; Water £3-0-0. Gas 14/-. Taylor Bros wood 16/- Newham papers 10/3d. Mrs. Eacott. salary £2. Secretary. petty cash 1/5d. Total. £7-2-5d. (no explanation of the lack of a quorum ed).

50 YEARS AGO 14th October 1971.

14 members present, President Mr Ottery in the chair. A letter from Mr. Stuart Tompkins

regarding the old photographs in the possession of the Pioneers was read and passed over to general business, where it was discussed at length. It was decided that owing to the nature of Mr Thompkins request to procure such photographs, that no action be taken, that the secretary write a letter to Mr Thompkins advising him of this. This decision came from a motion of Mr. T. Nesbit seconded Mr. F. Edwards. A progress report on the Pioneers Book was given by F. Cappy, which will be available at approximately \$6 sometime in 1972. It was decided to hold a Working Bee on Sunday November 7th starting at 9am. Work will commence at the Barkers Creek Gold Cairn and then move on to the Pennyweight Flat Cemetery. Moved by F. Cappy seconded E. Ottery that the secretary write a letter to both Council and the Castlemaine Mail protesting against any part of Kalimna Reserve being sold for private use.

* * * *



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

*Next Monthly Meeting:
"Canceled Min Canceled, the dreaded virus
you know Min, the dreaded virus"
however folks, don't forget the Monumental
and Historic Plaque Run.
Wednesday 27th October 9-30am start
from opposite the Motel in Duke St
B.Y.O. everything.*

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

