



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 – April 2023. Only May & June then it is the Big A.G.M.

Good Friday The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine. The weather, thunder lighting and heavy rain. Last week the President & I travelled to Rochester, meeting up with some charming ladies of the Rochester C.W.A. (a nice photo later in the newsletter). As you know the Executive Committee decided to donate some money to one of the many flood relief appeals. It was decided to keep the money local and not see it go into a big pool. The C.W.A. has a good reputation of knowing what is going on in their communities, so we gave the money to them To give to 2 suffering families in Rochester. We gave money, but got back gold. Arriving at the Rochester Railway Station meeting up with the ladies, it was full on. First stop the Sports Museum right on the station. Through local contacts within the Rochester Lions Club a friendship was formed with a gentleman by the name of John Forbes, a long time Mitiamo resident, who sadly passed away in 2021. John was employed as National Promotions Manager under Herb Elliott MBE AC for PUMA for 22 years. It was during this time he amassed a private memorabilia collection from varying sports and sporting personalities. The Lions Club were gifted access to the collection and housed in the railway station. I won't say too much more other than to say there are 2 collections, the other the Sir Hubert Opperman collection. Both start with a 15-20 minute video guaranteed to bring a tear to the hardest heart, I recommend that you see both videos twice, to appreciate the sheer honesty, integrity, loyalty and courage of the communities and people involved. The \$5 entry fee is very small for the feelings of wellness and pride you will get from viewing the collections. Both Russell and I were blown away. Then it was a tour of some of the flood affected shops and homes, as we walked to our lunch destination. On the surface, driving through the town all looks well, except for the empty shops. It looks clean, neat and tidy. The flood entered most buildings up to a depth of 2ft in the old language. The water then was sucked higher up the plaster board. As we looked in the

empty shops, they all looked the same. Flooring and stumps removed, often 3 to 4ft of the wall joists being replaced and a smell of dampness. Poor buggers. Yet there was an air of optimism and harmony all around. They have a job to do, and they were jolly well doing it. Lunch was a very nice affair in a smart cafe. We learnt a little about our hosts. All were flooded out and living out of town, bar one. After the waters receded she placed a caravan in her driveway and is supervising the drying out of her house. A least expected consequence from the flood was the damage to cars. Most modern cars have a lot of flash harry gismoes compared to the cars of old, all electrically driven. All the wiring is under the floor. When the floor goes under water, the car becomes U.S. and has to be replaced. One of my last projects before leaving the post of Secretary, is to arrange a trip to Rochie. With the new cheap rail tickets, we catch a train to Bendigo, 25 minutes. Catch the Echuca train 1 hour, (train time tables match up). Coffee view the sporting museum a walk around town plus lunch. A nice inexpensive day out. Yes folks I am serious when I say I will not be secretary after the A.G.M. It is time for this old bloke to hand the pen to someone else. New blood, new ideas and the organisation continues to grow. When I took over the position of secretary 14 years ago, I was fortunate in having some very strong support from some old, nice and wise elders of the tribe, and the strong support of the members. Very quickly four passed away and two got old, leaving me to soldier on. I did however learn a lot from them. Keep things simple and don't overload people. With this advice in mind knowing that we have a very good committee, I have made the position of secretary very easy. Details in the following page.

Now a serious note. Annual Subs. They are due in June so that you are financial and able to cast a legal vote at the A.G.M. With the May news letter a renewal form will be included, along with a form to stand for committee.

To those of you who did not receive a news letter last month or received it late, please accept my humble apology. The month of March saw my wheels come off completely. The Gods lined me up along with the resident Gremlins in my computer. When the new order takes over in July, I will put my hand up to continue the news letter. Now a little history on the position of Secretary & Editor. In the early days of the Pioneers our administrative structure was based around The Old Colonists, which was based around the English Gentleman's Club. There was some paid positions, mainly a hall keeper and secretary. Neither were committee positions, they were paid positions. The Faulder Watson hall used to be open from 10am-11pm daily to members. (eventually 11pm was reduced to 10pm due to complaints of rowdy behaviour when the hall closed). As times and the population changed the use of the hall changed too. The hall keeper was a paid employee until there was a blue between a President & Hall Keeper. David Bailie as far as I can fathom is the founder of our news letter. Prior to Davids news letter the local papers were used to inform members what was going on right up to the second world war. In the old days the Pioneers were important enough to have newspaper reporters attend their meetings. When Davids started the news letter there was no shortage of people wanting to get on the committee. However times and culture were changing numbers started to fall, however the needs of the organisation did not change, and a greater load fell on the secretary's shoulders. We have a new President with new ideas, a new treasurer with a good blood line connecting him to the Pioneers plus a strong dedicated Executive Committee. Now I believe is the time to give a current job description to the position of Secretary (unpaid).

Once a week check emails. Answer those which fall into the secretary's basket passing on the rest to the President and Treasurer.

Write up the monthly minutes, prepare the agenda and write any official letters, unless they needed to come from the President or Treasurer.

Keep the filing cabinet tidy, keep track of the keys, sort the mail.

Ensure that Consumer Affairs and all insurances are paid ahead of time.

Keep the membership list up to date.

Two hours a month max, which can be done on an Archiving Day when others present if you wish.

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The Heritage Month Exhibition

Greg & Marli have put together a very good display. Some members offered to do some research at home on the telephone and the mobile phone. If you have done so, please put it into an envelope and pop it through the letter box in the telegraph station door, or bring it in next Wednesday. Also they would like to know who and when people will be available to help man the exhibition.

Monday 24th April- Saturday 29th April 10am-3pm.

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The recent working bee was a great success. Vin & Vice President Judy did a great job of painting around the doors in the Faulder Watson hall, so much so that they have decided to paint the foer of the hall. President Russell and Treasurer Gary got stuck into the weeds and brick paving out the back, work is still in progress on this project. Another working bee is planned to tackle the two front rooms in the hall. The computer in the meeting room died and could not be resurrected, so a new one was bought from Top End Technology at the top of Barker St. Looking at various deals that appeared on the surface cheaper and rejecting them, because when push came to shove the local firm was much cheaper. On the subject of a good buy, our "Solution's Junky" Cass has come up with a special price for Pioneers for her Yellow Folder, \$165.

Last news letter I published a couple of poems with the promise of more on the subject this month. Alack & Alas readers, my source of this fascinating story has not come good, with the goods. This is what I know so far. Prominent Castlemaine husband and wife, for years jostled poetically in the Mount Alexander Mail and The Castlemaine Leader. Both had their followers that helped increase the sales of both newspapers. The gentleman I believe was a member of the Pioneers, and his wife would have been also by association. So until I unblock my source, a little more from our past:

February 12th 1981. A letter was received from the Castlemaine Historical Society requesting permission to hold their regular meetings in the Pioneers meeting room. Permission was granted. The secretary stated that the hall keeper had reported that there had been unauthorised entry into the committee rooms. Mr. Peter Perry spoke at great length on the preservation paintings, pictures and art work. He also made an urgent appeal for two pictures in particular; 1. Castlemaine from Ten Foot Hill 1840 by Stocqueler. 2. The Fire in Mostyn St Castlemaine 1860 by Cuthbert Clark. The latter from the late L. C. Cowling, to be made on permanent loan to the Castlemaine Art Gallery under certain conditions, re- insurances and suitable acknowledgements attached to the paintings, so that they may be put on open display. Mr J. Harrison moved and Mr. J. Gaulton seconded "that the request be granted immediately". Mr. Perry thanked the President and members for their cordial welcome and highly satisfying response to his appeal.

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I wrote earlier about how the Pioneers attracted the press to its meetings. Well we also attracted the attention of the church: Sunday 6th February 1906-Trove.

Maldon 5th February 1906. During the progress of his discourse at the Holy Trnity Church on Sunday evening, the vicar (the Reverend J. Tyssen) drew attention to the fact that Ash Wednesday fell this year on the 28th instant; and he regretted very much to notice that the annual Pioneers Excursion to Queenscliff and Sorrento from the Castlemaine district took place that day. He thundered from the pulpit "It was a lamentable thing, that amusements were allowed to take place at such a solemn time, and he trusted it would not occur again".

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13th October 1962. Mr. Edwards reported on a meeting between the Trustees and Mr. Lawson re- Deeds and the Trust Fund etc. Mr. Ebcott moved that the back room be cleaned and it be rented out at 1/- a week to the Old Boys Association to use as a store room, seconded by Mr. Edwards.

8th November 1962. Mr Blume moved that a letter be sent to Mr. S. Stoneman thanking him for his generous donation of paint that enabled us to have the hall renovated. Often the Stoneman name crops up in our records, both old and current, helping us along our way. Recently I came across the name emblazoned across a brand new supermarket at Strathe Village Bendigo. It was a blast from the past. How many years was the name Stoneman synonymous with grocery shopping in Castlemaine? How often was the phrase "I'll just slip down to Stoneman's uttered. It was great to see the name still alive and well. Still on the subject of Stonemans in the minutes dated 11th April 1964 (60 years ago) it is recorded that *re- the purchase of 6 new chairs, Mr. Stoneman had offered to make up the difference between the £20 we were willing to pay, and the purchase price of £27-10-*



Excerpts Secretaries Annual Report July 1966.

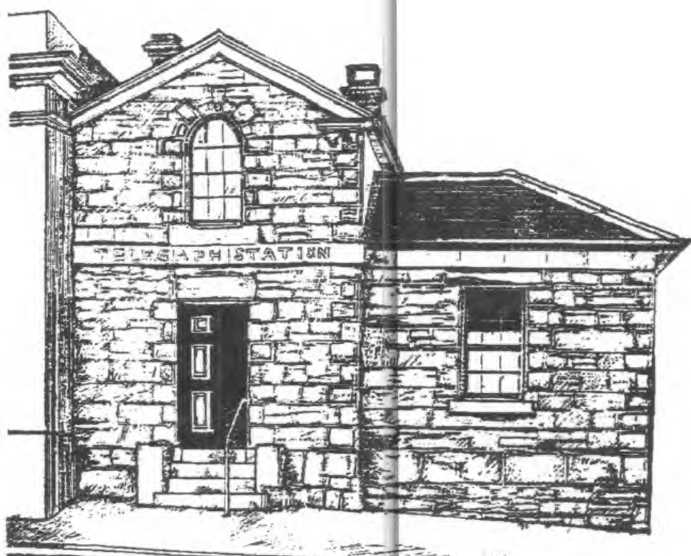
Early in the year Mr. Becton (?) was approached with the view of obtaining a grant for possible improvements to the committee rooms, but unfortunately it was found that no assistance could be expected in this respect, as there was no fund from which a grant of this nature could be made. In August Mr. Edwards was appointed Press Correspondent. The working bee at the Barkers Creek Cairn was attended by 13 members and a splendid job of cleaning up resulted. The plaque was replaced by L. Edwards & A. Cooper, Unfortunately it was once again shattered 1 week later. The damage was inspected by the President & Constable Cooper. Mr. Bower resigned as hall keeper in May after having carried out these duties for 9 years. Mr. Venbill (?) was elected to this position. It is pleasing to report that our membership has grown to 94. My thanks to Mr. Edwards for his valuable assistance during the year, to the auditors Mr. Newton & Mr Franklin,

also to the Booking Clerk Mr. O. Felstead for a good job well done. In conclusion may I express my appreciation to the members who have attended the monthly meetings and shown an interest in the welfare of the organisation & I trust that the same support will be given to the incoming secretary signed, *C. J. Rilen.*

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12th April 1973. Faulder Watson Hall.

Meeting opened with the President in the chair & 9 members present. A letter was received from Queensland regarding the purchase of our book, *Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers.* Mr. Gaulton suggested we should hold a general cleanup at the Pennyweight Cemetery, the Cairn at Barkers Creek and the Diamond Gully Cemetery. Mr. Barnes spoke about the need of lights in the foyer. Moved J. Ottey that an electrician be contacted to install Lights in the foyer, at the top of the stairs and to replace the globe in the light over the hall doors. Meeting closed at 9pm.



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Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday April 20th 2023 – 7-30pm

Guest Speaker
Alan Nettlefold

Speaking about the history of the
Chewton/Castlemaine Cycling Club

Family and friends welcome.

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208 Barker Street, Castlemaine 3450

