



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 – May 2023. 2 months to the A.G.M. Next month June winter hours!

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine May Day the last month of autumn. The turning leaves are spectacular, the yellowing of the poplars, the deep red of the creepers, looks so fantastic. The drive along Johnstone St to Campbells Creek then onto Guildford, at this time of the year takes my breath away. Taking the road to Newstead running alongside the plateau with its mixture of very old Red Gums and the European trees planted by the settlers is a sight to behold. JUNE, JULY & AUGUST are 3 very important months to remember. WHY, I hear you ask? Because they are the winter months. We are trialling afternoon meetings to avoid coming out on cold, wet & wintry nights. Still the third Thursday of the month, starting at 2-30 in the afternoon, commencing at the June meeting. Our latest exhibition "From Morse Code to the Smart Phone"(our contribution to Heritage Month) is done and dusted. Greg & Marli did a great job in designing and mounting the display. All unsolicited comments from those who saw it were very complimentary, "very professional, educational without being boring, bringing back happy memories", were the main comments as people left. The opinion of your hard working secretary (UP.) is, that it was very successful on many fronts. A lot of our books were sold, the raffle tickets sold well, all 3 prizes went to Castlemaine people. We raised our profile not only in Castlemaine but out in the wider world too. Greg & Marli got to show us their exhibition designing & display skills, which we no doubt will tap into in the future. Finally we all enjoyed working together to produce something that so many people enjoyed and we enjoyed too. Last month I waxed lyrical about the Sport Museum on the Rochester railway station. A number of you became enthused so much so, that a date was set and the secretary instructed to arrange a trip using the trains. Alack & Alas folks the railways have cancelled all train travel on the Echuca line, replacing them with busses until late June or early July. I made an executive decision to shift it to spring time. It is still a goer, just deferred.

Our President Russell met an unusual man on one of his stints manning the exhibition. The man was so struck by the Telegraph Station and the display he said to Russell "*this is great and I am moved to write a poem to the Pioneers*". With that he sat down and wrote the following;

The Telegraph Station.

*Welcome to the Castlemaine Telegraph Station
where you are greeted with a smile
where you can browse and relax
and chat all the while.*

*Castlemaine Telegraph Station
is a friendly place where
joy and laughter are common place.*

*We're always glad to see you
whenever that may be
at the Castlemaine Telegraph Station
steeped in history.*

*Bless you all for your sharing,
your caring and love for people
and for your love for our history.*

Kenny Nichols.2023.

Written spontaneously on the spot. (Poetry last month and more this month, you will be thinking I am going potty). Now onto more serious things the month of May is when you are reminded that memberships are due in June. The Executive Committee has decided to keep the fee at \$30 for the 2023/24 year. Please fill in your membership forms fully, names, address, phone no & your email address. The latter very important. We have over 70 members some in far distant places, we spend quite a bit each month in postage, which we have no quarrel with, but with the way Australia Post is going ie dearer stamps and fewer deliveries the executive has so thinking to do. Over 30 local newsletters are delivered by hand, 4 members walk, ride a bike, or drive we are very grateful to you wonderful people.

Now a few musings from “*Our Collection*”. *The Castlemaine Leader* was a daily afternoon paper. It has not been digitised by Trove as far as I know. Therefore what you read here is not generally available.

The Castlemaine Leader 1st July 1893.

Woodbrook.

(from our own correspondent)

At the usual weekly meeting of the Mutual Improvement & Debating Society, a discussion took place on the quality of the “Mental Capacities of the Sexes”. Mr. Fogarty opened to the affirmative, and in a very neat discourse showed that each were destined to perform special duties, no rivalry could exist, but it was plain to see that each in his or her sphere of life had to exercise equal powers.

Mr. Robinson replied in a most eloquent manner, tried to show the superiority of man. Many of his amusing instances elicited great applause. Several members took part in the discussion, and on the vote being taken, Mr. Robinson had a majority of one.

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History in the Making

Mr. Graham thought some effort should be made towards the writing of a History of Castlemaine. Bendigo had its history, Maryborough was preparing one and he did not think Castlemaine should be left behind. It was decided to look up some of the Old Settlers, with view in compiling historical records.

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Two of Castlemaines Historical Moments.

The Criterion Hotel, a two storied building, which was erected by Messrs Dorman & Dawes in the year 1853, was totally consumed by fire on May 21st 1883.

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In 1860, when Messrs. Robertson & Wagner took over Cob & Co coaching business at Castlemaine from Messrs. Watson & Ewart the transaction was celebrated by Driver P. Jackson taking the largest coach drawn by 22 grey horses to Elphinstone and back to Castlemaine without a mishap.

Now back to some Serious Stuff, the A.G.M.

Where all positions are declared vacant and a new committee is formed to guide the organisation through the coming year. Our Executive Committee is a good committee having steered us through some strange times. New blood and new ideas are always welcome. They are very necessary for the continued growth and good health of any organisation, ours included. Think about throwing your hat into the ring, don't hang back, give it a go.

More Serious Stuff. Vin Cappy at our next meeting will be wearing his Raffle Ticket Selling Extraordinaire Hat. Bring plenty of money \$\$\$\$ so Vin can well and truly fleece you on behalf of the Annual Rotary Art Show. A little about newsletters. The newsletter in my opinion plays a very important part in the life of any organisation. Post, Computer and Foot are our means of delivery each month. Computer is the way to go, I hear the “computer Nerds” say. “NO” say I, “stick to the hard copy”. “Then print them on your printer” I hear the Nerds reply. Research shows that there are a lot of people who don't have a computer, or if they do the printer has died, the ink cartridges are too dear, or its a hassle to start the computer and find the newsletter. A hard copy kept handy is the way to go. If we were to print and post everyone's newsletter it would cost for 11 months, fifty percent of a \$30 membership. Postage is going to go up, deliveries are going to go down. How long can we rely on our volunteer Posties? *They grow old and age does weary them.* If we were to post the whole 70 newsletters each month, it would cost \$84 or over \$900 a year. We need to talk, because I believe that a newsletter, not to long nor to brief should be made easily available to all members. Now folks remember that the secretary retires at the A.G.M., he has pared the job back to a doddle, it's a Plum Job to be plucked off the tree Please fill in all forms so that they can be read. Governments and Insurances can be very pedantic. This coming Sunday 14th May AVA Bibby will be playing for the Sandhurst Dragons in Castlemaine. She will be making a piece of Castlemaine's AFL history. Ava is a direct decedent of William Charles Bibby who helped form the first Castlemaine AFL team in April 1853, he was also the first Captain. (supplied by a proud grandfather & fellow Pioneer)

From the Exhibition.

One of the display boards so ably don by Greg & Marli,



I was surprised at how many people remembered the talking clock, "on the third pip it will be precisely". It was a free service and most kids on the way home from school used it.

People seemed to remember it fondly, as they did the old party line. The working morse code keys entertained both kids and dads in equal proportions. The very early mobile phones made an impact on some of the older people, while the younger ones could see no similarities with today's smart phones.



Our own Gower Bell

Saturday 24th April 2023.

Just as the Post Office clock started to strike 10am the double doors of the telegraph station were flung open and the first members of the public welcomed in. Two ladies from Central Queensland looking for information on a relative who had owned a pub in this area in the 1860's. Russell with his vast knowledge of all things alcoholic was able to answer a lot of their question, and show them where in the street the pub had stood. In-fact it could be seen in one of the large photos of the town, we have on our walls. Trade was brisk with lots of people in town

Yes folks we got the old phone out of the vault, (its handy having a long blood line. Since the days of when Sir Harry Lawson was a member of the Pioneers we have used the same firm for our legal matters, and have been able to use their vault.

Raffle tickets and books sold well and many locals came in to have a sticky beak. We gained 3 new members plus a couple of new phones.



More of the Display.

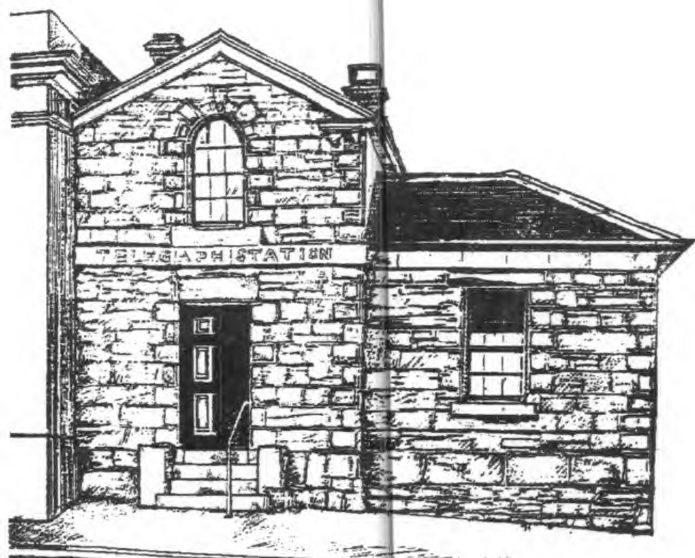


Secretary's Report A.G.M. July 11th 1968.

Mr. President, Gentlemen I hereby submit my report of the activities of this organisation during the 1967/68 year. Early in the year a letter was received from council wanting to lease part of our premises as a temporary home for the library. It was advised to council, owing to permanent leases it was impossible to lease to any sole tenant. An invitation was received from the Develop Castlemaine & District Committee to attend the unveiling of the plaque at the base of an old oak tree planted in the gardens by H.R. Prince Alfred Duke of Edinburgh in 1867. A working bee was held at the Cairn at Barkers Creek. The Christmas meeting was well attended by 54 members. After closed drinks and refreshments were well received It is pleasing to report an increase in membership from 94 last year to 126 this year. I would like to thank Mr. G. Rilen & Mr. F. Edwards plus all the members who helped me in the year. R. CONN.

Faulder Watson Hall 10th July 1973.

11 members present and the meeting opened at 7-50pm. The secretary was instructed to write a letter to Viking Books Pty. Ltd. ,to assist them in acquiring copies of the *Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers* book. The treasurer reported a bank balance of \$3161. Income was rent & sales \$93.65c, subs 42.40c, donations \$8. Expenditure: Hall keeper \$20, J. Wilson \$14 for repairs, F. Cappy \$4 for stationary. A leak in the roof of the telegraph station was reported, this was left in the capable hands of Mr. Wilson. A coin was given to the association relating to the Transvaal War by Mr. Sutcliff. Meeting closed 9p Market report 1st July 1893. Eastern Market. Butter 11d-1/3d. Eggs 11d-13d, Cheese 6-7d Fowls 2/- Ham, Legs 8d, Rolls 7d, Sides 6d. Apples 3d-9d, Quinces 9d, Honey 3d. Western. Butter 10d- 1/2d, Eggs 1/- 1/1d. Ham 9d Bacon 7d, Honey 3d Fowls 1/9d, Turkey 7/-.



Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association Inc.

Next Meeting May 18th 2023

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.

Guest Speaker.

**Part II, Seeking Weapons of Mass Destruction
Spike.**

Family and friends welcome. 7-30 pm.

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

