



# 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](http://www.castlemainepioneers.org) E: [castlemainepioneers@gmail.com](mailto:castlemainepioneers@gmail.com)

## Newsletter – June 2023. Our First Winters Afternoon Meeting.



Castlemaine Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Weather lousy wet & cold, a day to stay by the fire which is what I am doing. This newsletter is being written as I sit at my window looking out at a rather bleak day. A "Driver Experience" train has just gone by with the refrigerated Hutton's Ham van among the mix of rolling stock. The whole train is being pulled by a diesel in National Rail livery which looks garish and out of place for a Heritage Steam railway. I know the K.class is undergoing a major restoration, fire restrictions have been lifted, so where is J149 a steamer? Recently I have been raving about the Shires great Autumn colours heralding the start of winter, but as I look at my wattle trees, they are showing the first tint of gold. A sign of an early spring I wonder? Now down to business. The next meeting will be the first trial winters afternoon meeting, you know the time, 2-30pm. The place The Old Telegraph Station. Next Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> the Association is making a presentation of a half sized replica of the large montage that sits above the fire place in the Faulder Watson hall. This montage has the photo's of 70 young men belonging to the Castlemaine branch of the Australian Natives Association, who enlisted to fight W.W.1. This montage is special, so we are told, by those who know and paid for its restoration in 2015. As part of our charter we thought, that a copy be donated to the local R.S.L. branch for display on their walls, thus increasing its exposure to the public, and its story. Those of you who live local and shop in Mostyn St, will remember the old Video Shop near the fruit and vegetable shop. It closed some time ago the window looked lonely and empty in Castlemaines busiest shopping st. The Pioneers arranged with the owners Castlemaine Fresh to have a rolling historical display in the window. Every month we will, from our collection mount a display of local history with a theme. This months theme is Streets capes, (yes folks we have started) at the request of the owners. Next month President Russell will be on centre stage, Hotels, Wine Bars & Breweries will be his theme.

12 Months ago the guest speaker was a friend of mine, Spike. Whose subject was Ariel Photography and Things. That night those of you who came met a real live Weapons Inspector, a retired R.A.A.F. man who was seconded to the United Nations to search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. That night you extended the sitting time on our hard wooden chairs, by miles such was your interest in his story. You all asked for more, and It was purely by accident that 12 months later I asked Spike for part two. This time he read from a diary that he had written at the time had never read it in its entirety, until I raised the subject the week before. A United Nations inspector at that time operated in a country that was very unstable, where the Americans and English were not liked. The inspectors went in unarmed, their only protection the pale blue beret worn by the U.N. and a small group of armed local militia, who they were not sure they could depend on. A lot of U.N. countries contributed to these searches. The aircraft that moved them around were from Germany, as was a lot of the food. Not only were there language problems, food problems as well. Heavy European food in a country that enjoys high temperatures doesn't fit the menu. As I listened to the narrative unfold, no grand standing just the pages as written at the time, I marvelled at the bravery of our Armed Services personnel who do these jobs at great risk to their own lives to preserve our way of life. President Russell raised the subject of Troves appeal for money to continue its good work. After a short discussion members decided that a donation should be made. Also the secretary raised the subject of the newsletter giving some figures, of hand delivered letters, computer and posted deliveries. The newsletter will be on our first afternoons agenda. If you have thoughts on this, think them through and write them down in a coherent way. Now banging on an old theme, subs, your details, and the A.G.M. in July. and you must be financial to vote.



**From our Collection:** I suggest you read the following slowly, using the punctuation mark as they were meant to be used by the writer, (I don't think punctuation is taught these days, but we old timers should be able to manage). The following comes from the M.A.M. (Mount Alexander Mail) via Trove and I have broken it into three parts, here is part 1. Ed.

*Castlemaine 20<sup>th</sup> May 1854. (16 years before our foundation written by a farsighted group). Ed. All the organs of other diggings have sang their paeon, to their respective localities and devoted leaders to their glorification. Seeing that we are bitten with the same infirmity, and we believe our locality, like everybody's horse, to be the best in the world, it is our intention to devote this article to hastily and faintly describing its past and present, and endeavour to lift the curtain of the future, even if the peep may be considered presumptuous, and, on account of its apparent brilliancy, be illusive. When we speak of Castlemaine, we of course include the district of which it is the centre.*

*Four years ago twenty different people had perhaps walked over Castlemaine – four years ago tons and tons of gold lay hidden under deep hills, in long gullies and in its vicinity, un-dreamt by those who trod heedlessly on amounts of treasure only separated by a few feet, and in some cases a few inches, that monarchs could never hope to be possessed of.*

*The Squatting King made laws ruled his subjects, his servants and his sheep – sent his wool to town and paid his annual visit in order to undergo his periodical immersion in drunkenness and debauchery – in foolery and folly. He was courted, flattered, then caressed; lauded as the pioneer of civilization, though a very limited and interested pioneer indeed. Laws were made by himself, for himself, he was amendable to them if they were convenient!*

*Little did he dream, as he rode with dizzy brain and blood shot eyes back from his Melbourne orgies, that his horse trod on a mine that would blow his system of white slavery into the air; that should, by its destruction, as an impediment to civilisation, progress, and the real settlement of the country, lay the foundation of a great empire!*

*A distant rumour in an adjoining colony was the first warning for him, that his sway was becoming less powerful – rumour became fact, and thanks to Mr. Hargraves, Bathurst gold glittered in the eyes of the incredulous Sydneyites. The plot thickened, and the gold-digging mania was its consequence, resulted in the discovery of Ballarat, Mount Alexander (as Forest Creek was termed) soon followed. Bendigo soon after, hence gold fields have sprung up through the length and breath of the Colony. But to return from this digression and to our subject;*

*After some period it pleased Providence to enlighten our rulers with an intermittent idea (which became a fixed mania) that a strip of land situated on the Gold Fields, if cut up into allotments with a name, would bring in something considerable in the shape of revenue. Whether they thought it would tend to the settlement of our population, we know not; but at all events, owing to some fortunate accident, Castlemaine was thus founded.*

*In their anxiety to form a township they totally neglected the sale of any suburban lands, whereon inhabitants of the township might raise their vegetables and necessities of life. No suburban lots were sold for nearly two years after the Gold Fields were discovered. When they were sold, it was at a season when the land could be turned to no account for some months.*

*From these and other causes, perhaps in some measure a want of enterprise on the part of the purchasers; and also from the fact that many allotments were forfeited to Government by the original purchasers.*

*Castlemaine for some time, made no advance; but when, in November, 1853, the Government gave notice of their intention to resume the land, as a police reserve even though a number of tents and erections had been built at an angle to the laid-out township. Castlemaine began gradually to be formed*

*It took some time however to dislodge the occupants of the old township, and the police had to force the abandonment of the ground. At length this was effected and the town started to grow. Building by building began to rise, two public houses, the Victoria and the Albert with their previously obtained licenses, the tide of population gradually setting in towards them.*



Since the Pioneers were formed in 1880 mid way through the reign of Queen Victoria we have had, up to the start of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II a lot of correspondence with the crown. Sending our condolences on the death of reigning monarchs, congratulations on the accentuation to the throne, giving our full support to the crown at declarations of war etc. In fact our records show a lot of two way correspondence and we have some hard copy. This time with the death of a Queen and the crowning of a new King, our minute book is silent. Is this just an oversight, or the sign of changing times I wonder? Ed.

Now a little bit of modern history of today, to go on the record for the future. Next door to McShanag's pie shop in Barker St is a little shop that was home to an interior decorator Ardare for over 20 years. The shop is now empty, the business moving to the Old Hospital complex. The old empty State Bank building is undergoing some repairs readying its self for a new lease of life. And now a plug for a very vibrant business that is a well known name far & wide for its Puddings. At our Transport Exhibition the raffles main prize was a full size miners wheel barrow of local produce. Many producers of fine foods, wines, fruit, nuts, cheeses & vegetables contributed. Pud for all Seasons was one of them. Recently with another organisation I did a tour of their kitchen and learnt their story (as well as tasting a lot of puddings). *The business was founded in early 2004 by Karen Kelly. This stay-at-home mum moved to Castlemaine from a corporate life in Melbourne and was looking for a "little" part time business to satisfy her passion for fine cuisine, and to exercise her creative mind. A selection of fine puddings was the inspired result.* And what an inspired result, 5 different puds, 4 different sauces to go with them. All hand made here in Castlemaine from local and Australian ingredients. Pud for all Seasons in my opinion, is up there with another three iconic names that have brought national fame to Castlemaine over the years: Barnes Castlemaine Rock, Castle Bacon and The Castlemaine Woollen Mill. Along with the R.S.L. see picture below we should put Pud for all Seasons on our Places to Visit list soon. Ed.

## Pioneers honour our local Diggers

The Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association Inc made a special presentation to the Castlemaine Returned Services League (RSL) on Tuesday.

The association gifting the RSL with a half-size replica of their very impressive 'Australian Natives Association - Castlemaine Branch' montage featuring the portraits of 70 local Diggers which served in World War One.

Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association president Russell Sheehan said the P&ORA felt that it was important the portraits be on public display for all to view at the local RSL Hall in Mostyn Street.

"The montage is not readily accessible in its permanent home at the Faulder Watson Hall in Barker Street. The building is only open for private bookings. So therefore we wanted to make sure the community was aware of its existence and the role these men played in the Great War," Mr Sheehan said.

Castlemaine RSL secretary Barb Templar and treasurer Alan Lane thanked the Pioneers for their generous gift.

"We look forward to proudly displaying it here in the hall where community members can view it on Anzac Day or Remembrance Day or whenever the hall and our extensive collection are open," Barb said.

The original montage created by A Verey & Co Castlemaine was officially unveiled during a visit to Castlemaine by the Commanding Officer of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps General Sir William Riddell Birdwood himself on March 30, 1920.

Over a four-year period Year 9 students from Olivet Christian College worked to research the lives of the 70 soldiers and these have been compiled into stories by local member Tony Millar. You can find out more about these stories and other items in the P&ORA collection by visiting their headquarters at the Old Telegraph Station in Barker Street. The Old Telegraph Station is open Wednesdays from 10am.

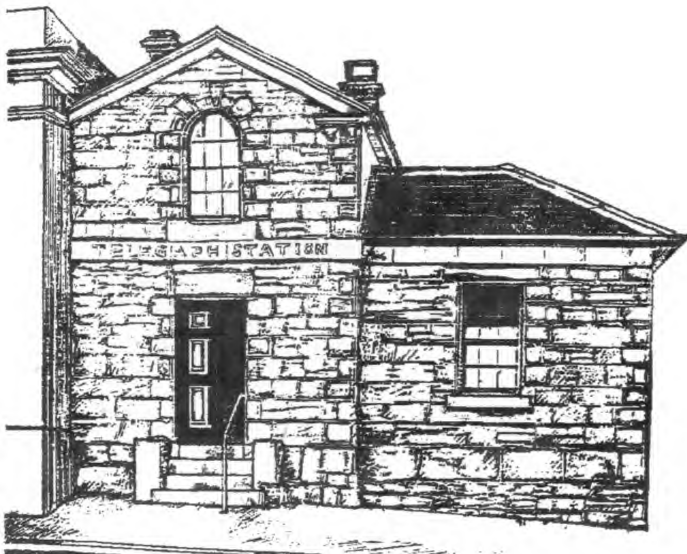


Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association representatives Tony Millar, Barbara Bunton, Wilson Bunton, Lois Barry, Graeme Barry and Russell Sheehan present the replica montage to RSL members Alan Lane and Barb Templar.



**Secretary's Report A.G.M. July 10<sup>th</sup> 1969.**  
*Mr. President & Gentlemen, I hereby present my Annual Report. In August a letter was received from the Develop Castlemaine Committee asking us to nominate a person for the Annual Citizenship Award. It was decided that as our Association met only once a month, we were not in a position to take any action. The secretary was instructed to convey this the committee. In September we had a visit from the President and Secretary of the Historical Society, Mr Bradfield & Mr Blume, who told the members about the work the society was doing. In October a committee was formed to protect the artefacts in the rooms. A picnic was held at Lauriston which was a success, with \$25 added to the restoration fund. In December Mrs. Ivetic held a variety concert to aid our funds, raising \$41.76c. With deep regret we saw the passing of 3 members: Mr J Hunter, Mr D Todd & Mr M Caldwell.*

**Meeting held Faulder Watson hall 14/6/ 73.**  
13 members present, meeting opened 7-45pm. President Mr Gaulton in the chair. He welcomed Mr. John Yandell as a new member, Mr Yandell's great grandfather was a foundation member of the Association. A letter was received from a Miss Mathews (?) asking if she could study the Records of the Pioneers? Permission was granted allowing her the facilities of the Association. R Rilen reported on a visit to the cairn at Barkers Creek, it was in fair condition. Mr Hardwick also reported on a visit to the Diamond Gully cemetery, saying that a working bee was required. Mr Gaulton reported that a working bee was also required at the Penny Weight Flat cemetery. Also he suggested plaques should be made and displayed at each of these historical sites, to help deter any destruction and to define these exact points. The treasurer reported that income from rent & sales was \$322.16c, Bank interest \$71.76c. Expenditure \$35. Bal \$3410.76c



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

*Next Monthly Meeting:*  
Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> (2-30pm afternoon)  
Guest Speaker  
Mr. Jason Shortal  
All Things Verrey (photographer)

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. Castlemaine.  
**Family and friends welcome.**

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

