

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.

Newsletter – July 2023. the A.G.M. month. All Positions Up for Grabs!!!

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine Saturday 1st July, a wet and overcast day. Second month of winter and I noticed a couple of wattle trees out in full bloom at Barkers Creek and one out near the hospital. The Manchurian Pear street trees where I live, the buds are showing tinges of white looking ready to burst open, I wonder if this is climate change and nature is telling us something? The newsletter is early this month as there is much to tell. Firstly the “Train.” The J.class, my correspondent reliably informs me that it is having the boiler tubes replaced which is quite a big job, (I know this, because the Coppersmith has a bit to do, in this operation), it should be back on the rails late August. The K. is still in a million bits as part of its re-build. The June meeting, our first winter afternoon meeting designed to allow us to stay at home snug and warm on cold winter nights was a success, just. The guest speaker (a member) forgot about the change, remembering at 3-45pm when the meeting was well underway. Living just a couple of streets away, some fast footwork he made it just in time. Giving a very interesting talk on Verey the Photographer. Another hiccup. I did not put the change of time up on the website. Result emails, saying “we came along at 7-30pm to hear the talk on Verey, where were you?” At the meeting the newsletter was discussed. Cost, \$1.20 to post & to go up soon. (11 copies a year \$13.20.) \$8 a year to cover insurance = \$21.20 comes out of your present \$30 yearly subs. Hand Delivery, an ageing workforce and it costs the delivery people money. The members asked the Executive Committee to discuss the newsletter at its quarterly meeting later in the month. Which they did. The outcome, and I, the hard working secretary (U.P.) was instructed to report back to you via the newsletter the following: *No more hand deliveries. If you want your news letter posted it will cost you \$15 a year. If you don't want to pay postage, the news letter will be available to be picked up from the Telegraph Station on the Wednesday, the week before the meeting 10am – 2pm. Emails will still be sent Free. Changes as from next month August 2023.*

While on the subject of money the committee went on to set the membership fees for the 2024/2025 year, once again instructing the hard working secretary (U.P.) to convey, via this newsletter to you, the following: FEES 24/25.

IT IS RECOMMEND THEY BE INCREASED It has been many years since membership fees have been increased, the committee recommends the following: *A single membership will be \$35. A Family membership will cost \$40. This recommendation is to be put before the members at the 2023/24 A.G.M. for ratification.*

Signed W.F. Bunton Secretary.

Still more money matters, treasurer Gary raised the subject of “Electronic Banking”. As the government intends to phase out cheques in the near future, and some business no longer take cheques, the organisation has to look at how we pay our bills. He recommended that we embrace modern technology. So folks, The Old Telegraph Station, after all these years is stepping into the modern world by embracing Electronic Banking, (not to closely I hope). Now that the Equinox has passed and we are well into the second half of the year and the start of our year. It is time to start thinking about our Christmas Breakup. Where will the January meeting take us, the Annual February Excursion, where too? As mentioned earlier the next major exhibition is scheduled for 2024, the theme? So, folks get those thinking caps on. Feedback from the Mostyn St shop window has been very positive, sold some books and had a lot more visitors on Wednesdays. Russell's display of the old pubs in Castlemaine and district, has now filled the window generating a lot of interest. Go along Moystyn St to the old video shop Next to Frest Taste Kitchen and be wowed. If anyone wants to set the theme for the next display to start 28th August, please step forward and see me or Russell, we have a stack of material to choose from. Speaking of lots of material, is there a person out there who is able and willing to give us a couple of hours on a Wednesday to get our folders in order and make up some new ones? We are open 10am -3pm with pleasant company, required a soft cushion.

From our Collection: as suggested in last months edition read the punctuation marks to get the real meaning. *The large building of Mr, Hitchcock, The Hall of Castlemaine, was now finished and open for business; another public house, the Criterion ,soon after; and after awhile Castlemaine, in some measure, gains the appearance of a township. Such was Castlemains past- now for the future and present. Gradually the inhabitants have settled down steadily-- they have found that though, business may and does fluctuate, that still there is ample room, and a fine opportunity for doing well; and this feeling of confidence has abated much of that feverish and unhealthy activity that, formerly pervaded the township. Mostyn St has now become nearly a perfect street, and is headed by the Hotel of Mr. Aberdeen, which is a perfect credit to Castlemaine, containing we believe thirty-five rooms, in stone and brick; adjoining it, is to be erected we understand, a handsome and commodious theatre, by the same party. We also have two banks of issue and deposit, The Bank of New South Wales, and the Bank of Victoria, a local press, and six hotels, either licensed or just about to be. There are five places of public worship viz.: Church of England, the Catholic Church, Wesleyan's, the Scotch Church, and the Independents. A scheme has also been originated, and is now under discussion, to light Castlemaine with gas An enterprising townsman having started the idea and proving its practicability by lighting his own premises with gas procured by an extempore gasometer, of his own construction, on a small scale. Our Buildings are assuming a more substantial form—wood stone and brick gradually supplanting the more frail canvas. Some new and extensive stores have recently been erected in brick by Messrs Butterworth, and near them, in the Square, some well adapted premises of the same have been opened as a restaurant, by Mr. Barnes. Our streets are, however, in statue quo, stumps and all, and we are free from anything like rates on their account, as yet. We, therefor, may sum up in saying that we have concertised uniform newspapers, churches, restaurants, hotels, and this is a feeble sketch of the present Castlemaine. For the future we must look too*

develop our external resources. We are almost in the centre the greatest goldfields viz: Bendigo, Taringower, McIvor, Mount Franklin, and Avoca. Immediately around us, in our own district lies Campbells Creek, Forest Creek, Barkers Creek, and Fryers Creek with their respective gullies, well known to fame, and which for years to come promise to furnish an abundant yield to the exertions of the hardy and industrious individual digger: after which they will yield to companies, whether composed of diggers themselves, or of employers of labour, if worked properly and economically. Returns and dividends only existing in the prospectuses of bubble companies, concocted in the dark dens of the back streets of London, by penniless and needy adventurers may be possible. We have in our immediate vicinity some of the richest and most fertile land in the colony, water in abundance in all seasons- land that can compete with Adelaide or Sydney's choicest spots, and we know how of late , Adelaide's wheat has been appreciated in England. The tyrannical and despotic squatter influence, has alone prevented us from being already self supporting as far as produce of the soil goes, but the lands are now "unlocked," thanks to the Duke of Newcastle. The squatter obstruction is gone forever, we may now soon expect to see golden grain and waving meadows dotting the land around the gold fields. We feel confident of finding our land capable of growing the heaviest wheat, the finest hay and the choicest fruits and vegetables in the world. We therefor may, unhesitatingly prognosticate a most brilliant future for ourselves and our township, surrounded as we are by the richest Goldfields, the most fertile land, and peopled by an industrious and thriving population; we may reasonably hope that under our own institutions, unfettered by Government restrictions, Castlemaine may look forward someday to be spoken of in the worlds history as one of the largest and most populous towns in the gold districts of Victoria, in the United States of Australia. Quite a lengthy article written in 1854, I would say Castlemaine has well and truly lived up to the prophesy of those far seeing pioneers. Ed.

Listening to the news and watching it on the T.V., Seeing graphic pictures of what today's police have to contend with as the go about their duties, show me a world so different to the one I grew up in. Listening to Australia All Over last Sunday with Macca talking to a man who runs camps in the Outback for our front line workers. Police, Ambos etc who have been traumatised by the horrors of their work, regain a bit of sanity, peace and quiet, brought to mind an article I came across while going through box of old papers last week. It comes from the Castlemaine Mail written I think in the 50's because I recognise a couple of names. The article paints a vast contrast between policing 70 Or more years ago and policing today.

Seven men protect interests of 6000 Castlemaine citizens.

Since the first days of Castlemaine law and order has been kept a small body of men – the Police Force. Today there are seven members of the force in Castlemaine – to suppress crime amongst almost 6,000 people.

That only seven men are needed to do this is a tribute not only their ability, but also to the people of Castlemaine. Senior member at the Castlemaine Station is Sergeant I. A. McNiven, who has been here, almost a year. Next in seniority is Senior Constable D.A. MsKinley, a member stationed here for two years. Other members, all first Constables, are G. Hookey (17 years), M. Boal (7 years), B. Annand (7 years), A. Timmins (three years), and A. Davi (eight years).

There work seldom includes any serious crime, petty offences occupy most of their time. They appear regularly in Castlemaine Court of Petty Sessions giving evidence. Typical cases in which they take part are minor breeches of the Road Traffic Act such as no lights on bicycles, no tail lights on cars and trucks, and charges of negligence or dangerous driving arising out of accidents in Castlemaine and district. The work of the Castlemaine Police was not always as easy. In the early days of the goldfield they had to contend with sly-grogging, assault, drunkenness, robbery, and disorderly conduct. The following words engraved on the marble tablet on the wall of the present police station in Hargreaves St give a concise history of the police station, and names two notable figures who helped keep the peace in days gone by:

Castlemaine Police Station 1851 1851

Established on Camp Reserve.

1875 transferred to State Savings Bank Site, Barker and Templeton Streets. 1921 transferred hence to this site. This building was erected in 1855 for the Savings Bank for 66 years. Robert O'Hara Burke was in charge of the station 1858 – 1860. T. O. Callaghan, Chief Commissioner of police 1902 – 1913 was stationed at Castlemaine 1872 – 1875.

(how about the scroll?). More from the past.

§. December 3rd 1853. Mass meeting of diggers at Castlemaine to protest against the gold licence fee.

§. April 4th 1855. Nugget weighing 1,023 ounces found at Fryer's Creek.

§. October. 1860 First parade of the Castlemaine Volunteer Rifles.

§. December 17th 1884. Last parade of the Castlemaine Volunteer Rifles.

§. January 4th 1885. Castlemaine Salvation Barracks officially opened.

§. June 21st 1901. New firebell erected in Templeton Street, the former bell broken through vigorous ringing at the relief of Mafeking celebrations.

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Members of the current Executive Committee.

President: Russell Sheehan.

Vice President: Judy Eastwood.

Treasurer: Gary Hood.

Other members: Graehame Barry, Trevor Shill, Chris Simmins, Vin Cappy.

Secretary: Wilson Bunton. The secretary is not a member of the committee, as we were formed with Trustees who died and were not replaced causing problems. Legal advice was sought. Make the Executive Committee the Trustees, keep the Secretary position separate.

Minutes of the A.G.M 11th July 1923. 1922

Minutes of the 1922 A.G.M.were read and accepted on a motion by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr Heron and carried. A photo of a group of Old Pioneers at the Diamond Gully Cemetery was received from the executors of the estate of the late Mrs. Smart. On a motion moved by Mr. Yandell seconded by Mr. Shelton that members of the public be invited to meetings whenever a paper written by one of the Old Pioneers is to be read carried. On a motion moved by Mr. J. G. Yandell, seconded by Mr. Burns that a complementary vote of thanks be given to the Trustees. That a £5-5/- honorarium be **Given to the Secretary.** Carried.

Elected Office Bearers for the ensuring year, President Mr. Eacott, Vice President Mr. T. Martin & Mr. W. Heron. Treasurer Mr. E. Taylor. Committee Messrs, G. Williamson, J. Owens, W. Shelton, J. G. Yandell, Cameron, Neems, and Reed. Mr. T. Fogarty was made a Life Member.

Secretary's Report July 23rd 1972.

Mr. President, Gentlemen. Perhaps one of the most important decisions ever made by this Association is that of having the *Historical Records of the P. & O.R.A.* published in book form Now nearing completion the association is deeply indebted to Mr. Felix. Cappy, for his untiring efforts, which have undoubtedly taken a great deal of time and thought. The Annual Picnic held at Jubilee Lake Dalesford was once again voted a great success. During the year a small room has been repaired and painted by voluntary workers and is to be utilised as an exhibition room. It is pleasing to report that attendances at meetings this year, has been on par with last year. I feel that the few younger members who are showing an interest in the welfare of the association, will prove to be of great benefit in future years. Some difficulties have been experienced in retaining the services of a hall keeper; fortunately one of our active members Mr. Barnes has offered to help.

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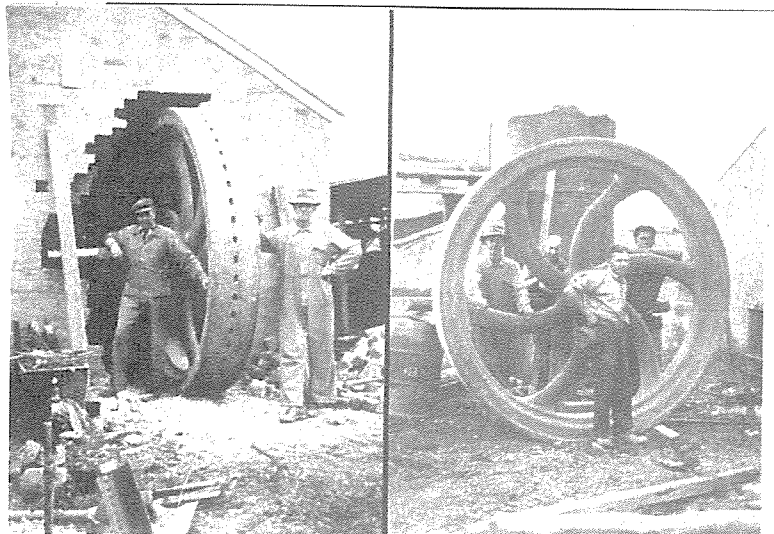
Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday 20th 2-30pm (winter time).

A.G.M.

All Positions up for Grabs **first in best dressed**

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



Removal of 5 Ton Fly Wheel
Brick Works Change to Electricity 1948.