



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

## Newsletter – September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Wattle Day and the first day of Spring.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine Spring already, only 116 days to Christmas then it will be 2024. By all accounts we have had a mildish winter with a predicted a hot summer to come. My observations nature wise, the garden, local bush and the birds tend to make me believe this is a possibility. There are a pair of Top Notch Pigeons nesting in a climbing rose at home. The magpies have been busy nest building for weeks in the big old gum trees opposite. The cherry plum, almond and apricot trees are chock a block with blossoms, a sign of a bumper harvest. Nature often gives an abundance before hard times. Speaking of abundance we have abundance of work ahead of us. A major working bee to clean out the upstairs room, this will be at least one tip run. Paint and refurbish the toilet. Set up one of the front rooms as an office on Barker St. The town hall has been booked for our next major exhibition, pencil into your diary these dates 25<sup>th</sup> (Anzac Day) set up, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The Maldon Hotel has been booked for the Christmas breakup, another date to pencil in, not forgetting the Annual February Excursion next year (21<sup>st</sup>). The shop window display in the old Video Land shop in Mostyn St is proving to be very popular with the locals and tourists. By the time you read this Trevor and Keith will have mounted their display, *A Pictorial Display of some of the Old Gold Mines in the Shire*. It is planned to change these displays every 6 weeks. If you would like to plan and set up a display using material from our archives, have word with our hard working secretary (up). 12 months ago Larry O'Tool of Graffiti Publications, a name synonymous with Castlemaine passed away, a great loss to the Hot Rod fraternity and Castlemaine, Larry and Mary his wife were great supporters of the Pioneers. When the original publishers Rigby of our book *Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers* closed and we wanted to print a second edition Larry gently pulled a book to pieces page by page and photographed them. This was well before today's Technologies and digitisation

He then produced our second edition, which is still selling well. Mary has decided to wind the business up, a very hard and sad decision to make but life has to go on. At the last quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to buy the remaining 300 books. In the second line of this newsletter I mentioned, only 116 days to Christmas. The book makes an ideal Christmas present for that *Hard* person to buy for. *Every chapter in this book is a true and colourful picture of the uproarious days when Australia was like a great golden magnet. It consists of the recollections of pioneers on the central goldfields of Victoria from the 1850's.* To members a bargain price of only \$30. non members \$35. Available from the Pres, Treasurer and Secretary. The oft put off train trip to Rochester to view the sporting museum and to spend some money by perusing the shops and buying lunch; to support our flood ravaged neighbour is on at last. The date Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Train times at the next meeting. The guest speaker Rob Nash took me down memory lane as he talked about one of his passions The Jindivik a Weapons Target. In hind sight it was the forerunner of the Cruise Missile. Having been in the R.A.A.F. I was very familiar with them and later while working at the Government Aircraft Factory building the Mirage Fighter, the Jindivik was still being produced, a far more advanced model than that I had worked with. During Rob's presentation, (which was brilliant, he had his own projector with sound) he listed the aircraft manufactured and the numbers, the number of missiles, in excess of 2750 (see the accompanying list. All this with a much smaller population and in the time before globalisation. We stood on our own two feet, we had to. We built a solid manufacturing base that served us well. After the war our industrial base was protected with tariffs and life for the ordinary family was pretty good. House, car, furniture and holiday expectations were modest and we had more time. Big business moved in saying we must modernise, join globalisation and prosper.



Margaret and John Conn enjoying their trishaw ride with Cycling Without Age pilot David Tuck.

What a nice picture. The couple two of our members. The wife has gone into care in Alexander here in Castlemaine. Margret worked as a Charge Sister at Alexander for many years. It was a nice thought of John to take his wife for a trip around our beautiful botanical gardens in a rickshaw. Some of the walkers recognised Margret greeting her with "hello Sister", the greeting and the familiar gardens made their day. It was also a nice thought of the Castlemaine Mail to publish it, a nice "Good News story". Now folks, this electronic delivery of the newsletter is not working as it should. Not everybody has sent in their email address. Many of you have with your \$15 postage, and for that we thank you, (some of the bits of paper put through the letter box were a bit scrappy to put it kindly, and the writing left a bit to be desired), but I soldiered on as only a hard working secretary (U.P.) does. If you have been a little forgetful and want to keep up your membership call me 0354723186 (evenings). Now a little bit of house keeping. The Christmas breakup at the Maldon Hotel. In the next column there are 3 menu's and prices, they are for a minimum of 20 people, which means we need at least 20 people to choose one. Over the years the breakup numbers have hovered around the 40 plus, so we should get consensus on one fairly easily. At the November meeting the Pres and Vin will be looking for final numbers.



**Maldon Hotel**

BAR - BISTRO - ACCOMMODATION - TAB

58 MAIN ST MALDON Vic 3463  
[www.maldonhotel.com.au](http://www.maldonhotel.com.au) [info@maldonhotel.com.au](mailto:info@maldonhotel.com.au)

03 54752231

## ENTREE'S

**OPTION 1 - \$22**  
 All the same Entree & Main  
 Or  
 All the same Main & Dessert  
 With tea & coffee

Soup  
 Garlic Bread

## MAINS

**OPTION 2 - \$24**  
 Choice of Entree & Main  
 Or  
 Choice of Main & Dessert  
 With tea & coffee  
 (Choices below)

Roast & Vegetables  
 Fish & Chips  
 Chicken Caesar Salad  
 Chicken Schnitzel & Chips

## OPTION 3 - \$29

All the same Entree, Main & Dessert  
 With tea & coffee

## DESSERTS

Sticky Date Pudding  
 Apple Strudel  
 Pineapple Fritters  
 Pavlova w/ mixed berry

## OPTION 4 - \$36

Choice of Entree, Main & Dessert  
 With tea & coffee  
 (Choices below)

The January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 will take the form of a picnic tea in Harcourt, followed by a tour of the re – designed and re- furbished Heritage Centre. Moving onto the February 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 Annual Excursion. Melbourne is the destination, visiting some places of historical importance and we will be travelling in an air condition coach. Prices have gone up (as has everything else), so it would be nice to involve friends, family and the public to defray the coach cost, (the Biscuit Tin account can only stand so much). A return trip in a 48 seat coach Castlemaine Melbourne Castlemaine with some running about, if all seats are sold will cost \$49 each. Taking our own morning tea stopping at a nice place on the way down leaves only lunch and some modest entry fees. Work on venues still in progress.

From our collection.

**A WELCOME TO MR. HUGHES J.P.**

The Pioneers and Old Residents Association met at their hall last night and gave a hearty welcome to Mr. J. F. Hughes, manager of the Bank of Australasia, and their late President, on his return to the colony. After partaking of light refreshments, provided by Mr. Woodward. Mr. Archdale, President proposed the toast of "The Queen" which was loyally responded to. The Parliament of Victoria was next honoured and responded to by Mr Ottey. The Chairman next proposed the health of their guests, in doing so, he expressed the sentiment of all members of the association in regard to Mr. Hughes, which was, that the longer they knew him the better they liked him. They all welcomed back heartily from his return journey to England, and were glad to learn that it had greatly improved his health. They all wished him long life, health and prosperity. (cheers) The toast was drunk with musical honours. Mr. Ottey mentioned that Mr. Hughes had been energetic in his endeavours to procure the property they now occupied, he now informed them that the Crown Grant was being prepared. Mr Elliot said that the Pioneers had one general feeling of respect and regard for Mr. Hughes and had great pleasure in meeting him again. (cheers). Mr. Hughes, who was received with cheers, said he was highly flattered at their reception of him. Absence had only made his heart grow fonder for Castlemaine and its people. He scarcely felt he had been away at all. It was only six weeks since he stood on a London pier. The voyage home was pleasant, and his return trip still more so, the water being smooth all the way until he came towards Cape Otway, where there was a breeze and a rough sea. He visited several places in London which he spoke of, amongst which was the Tower, where he saw the Crown of the Queen and the regalia. Westminster Abbey, the resting place of England's greatest men, warmed the heart of the visitor. He lingered over Tennyson's tomb for some time, on which were wreaths and a simple inscription. He enumerated on several tombs, of the poet's statesmen and heroes he saw, and related incidents connected with them. In going to the House of Commons he saw Mr. Gladstone, but was disappointed in hearing him. It was a treat however to hear Mr. Balfour

speak and to notice the warmth of Irish members over the Home Rule Bill. In Australia one did not like being sat upon, so he did not take to what happened to him on leaving the House of Commons. Seeing a door open, he went down a flight of stairs, but was stopped by a policeman, who would not allow him to go in as he was not a member, so he reluctantly had to obey and retrace his steps. This rule was to guard against dynamiters. This precaution against dynamiters was observed in another form at Westminster Abbey. In the Victorian Institute he was shocked to see so poor a display by Victoria. At the Agent - General's office he saw Br. Pearson, from whom he asked for information as to places he wished to visit, but there was much difficulty in procuring orders to go anywhere. The Agent - General was out, and had no particular recognition in London, or influence. The office might as well be abolished for all the guidance or usefulness it was to visitors from the colony. He enjoyed his visit greatly to Hampton Court. When in London the colony was in the shade of depression and bank stoppages. He compared London with the broad streets of the colony, and the antiquated buildings of the former compared with those of the colony. When coming down the Red Sea he brought a bottle of water from it to show his children, who believed the water must be red. At Aden he took a chip of the rock, and at Colombo a twig from the sacred tree. He thought of setting up a display show with the curios he had collected. He thanked the members for their kindness to him, and hoped he would always be connected with the Association as long as he was in Castlemaine. After several toasts and songs, the health of the Chairman was drunk, after which the party came to a close by singing Auld Lang Syne.

DISTRICT POSTAL STATISTICS.

In a return issued by the Government in June, 1861, appeared the following statement of letters and newspapers received during 1860 at post offices within the electoral district of Castlemaine:-

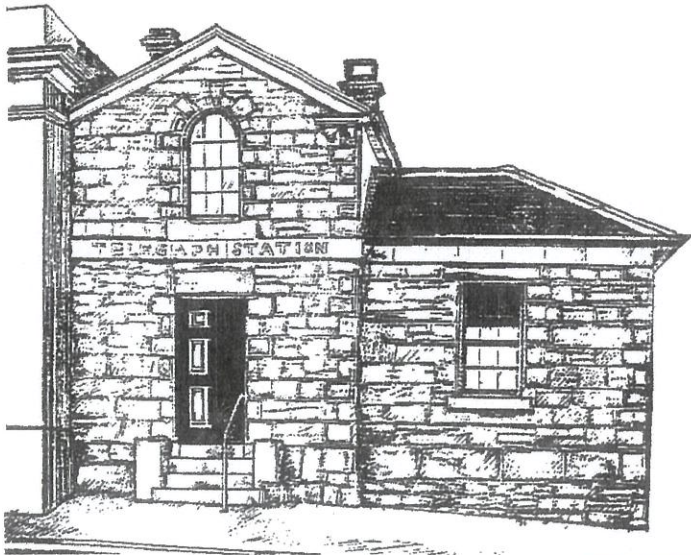
	Letters	Papers
Castlemaine .....	410,241	153,815
Chewton .....	39,898	11,411
Taradale .....	38,840	17,254
Fryerstown .....	25,621	7,397
Campbell's Creek .....	16,006	2,817
Vaughan .....	11,374	2,403
Elphinstone .....	10,844	7,418
Harcourt .....	8,953	2,201
Strathloddon .....	8,847	1,840
Barker's Creek .....	7,987	1,995
Muckleford .....	3,095	1,604
	581,616	201,255

**50 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> 1973.**

Meeting in the Faulder Watson hall opening 7-45 with 11 members present and Mr. Hardwick in the chair. It was moved J. Wilson seconded F. Edwards that the following account be passed for payment, hall keeper \$20. Income: for the month rent & sales \$40.10c. Subs \$9.40c, Royalties from the book \$4,548.35c. Bank balance \$4,550.52c. Cheque Account \$362.94c. A motion was made by Mr. J. Gaulton to invest \$4000 instead of the \$3000 which was moved at the last meeting. A discussion on members being now able to have their subs paid from the Thompson Bequest. A letter to be sent to Miss. Kaarcher (not sure of name writing hard to read Ed) apologising for her no to be able to get the Associations rooms. Meeting closed 8-45pm. *These minutes are interesting, no seconder for the \$4000 motion and no word of it passing. The royalties of the book are extremely good, also the move to pay the members subs from a bequest.* Ed.

**124 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1893** Aprox.

At the monthly meeting of the Association last night a letter was received from the Lands Department, intermating that the Crown Grant for the land had been approved by the Governor. The names of the trustees to be put in the grant to be furnished by the secretary. Messrs Jas Thompson, J. Aitken and Robert Mitchell. The case of decayed pioneer Robinson, was brought under notice and aid was given. Mr. Yandell's opinion was that he would be best taken care of in the Benevolent Asylum (Alexander), as he was much neglected in his own abode. A notice was given by Mr. Yandell for the next quarterly meeting that £25 be drawn for the annual excursion. A letter will be written to Mrs. Watson respecting her promised gift. The members of the Australian Natives Association, have resolved to again participate in the New Year's Day Carnival Procession. They will give a representation of Federation – a question that has been before the Public for some time.



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

*Next Monthly meeting*  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 **7-30 pm**

Guest Speaker Mr. Leon Thomas

Some of the Apothecaries of Castlemaine

*Friends & Family welcome.*



**Government Aircraft Factories (GAF)**

<b>Aircraft:</b>	Beaufort Bomber	700	Mirage III-O
	Beaufighter	364	Mirage III-D
	Lincoln MK30	73	Nomad
	Glas II Glider	1	FA-18A Hornet
	Canberra MK20	48	Pilatus PC9
	Canberra MK21	7	
	Pika	2	

100	<b>RPVs:</b>	Jindivik	540
97		Turana	23
170			
73	<b>Missiles:</b>	Malkara	1000
65		Ikara	1200
		Winnin	2