



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 E: castlemainepioneers@gmail.com

Newsletter – October 2023. Only 79 sleeps until Christmas.

Castlemaine 3rd. I am writing this news letter at home by a warm fire and looking out the window at a wet and bedraggled landscape. I was up at 4am and the rain was pelting down, my rustic rain gauge, an empty Bunnings wheelbarrow was at 1pm half full. In the last newsletter I made a proper dogs dinner of the Christmas Breakup, the President spoke to me in a very firm voice after he read the newsletter. ***So! Date, Thursday 14th December, (the December meeting has been brought forward one week). There is no choice of menus, the top shelf (the \$36 one) has been chosen. Entree, choice from Soup or Garlic bread. Main Course, choose from Roast & Vegetables, Fish & Chips, Chicken & Cesar Salad, Chicken Schnitzel & Chips. Desserts, Sticky Date Pudding, Apple Strudel, Pineapple Fritters and Pavlova with Mixed Berries.*** The President & Vin have spoken. Russell & Vin will be looking for firm numbers at the November meeting, a minimum of 20 is required. Five new members joined last month. Apart from an interest in history they also have an interest in W.W.1. particularly the battles on the Western Front. We have quite an interest and involvement in W.W.1. what with the unique montage of 70 Castlemaine boys all members of the local A.N.A hanging in our Faulder Watson hall, which was presented to the local branch of the A.N.A. by General Birdwood in 1920. The restoration of the montage, the involvement of year 9 students for 5 years from Olivet College in Campbells Creek, researching all the soldiers on the montage. This has given us a very rich slice of Castlemaine history. From the re-unveiling of the restored montage we, that is the Pioneers are working on a book based around the students work and further work by one of the new members Tony Millar. The book 247 pages has got to the stage of being edited, a long and laborious procedure. On the second Thursday of the month at 1pm there is a meeting lasting about an hour of members who are interested in the battles on the Western Front in W.W.1. all are welcome. Telegraph Station 1pm. The upstairs room. President Russell and

Tim had a brilliant idea, a Garage Sale, sometime in the near future, (after the toilet is finished). The top room will be gutted, the surplus goods sold, whats not sold goes to the tip. Changing the subject, Christmas. The breakup is sorted, The Maldon Hotel, as is the January 2024 meeting the Harcourt Heritage Museum. The February Annual Excursion is going to be locally based around Bendigo. If we fill the coach the cost will be \$25 each seat, lunch and entry fees another \$20 - \$25, a nice day out for about \$50 each. So lets fill the bus. Grab Family and friends. The date is Wednesday February 21st 2024. Finally Rochester. The date Tuesday 24th October departing Castlemaine railway station on the 8-31am Echuca train, arriving at Rochester at 10-19am. Returning on the 3.08pm train which gets into Castlemaine at 4-10pm. This gives us approximately 5 hours to look at the two top shelf sporting museums (there is much to interest non sporting members). Have lunch look at the Alleyway and Silo art, as well as browse the shops, all within easy walking distance of the railway station. Now we have outlaid the princely sum of \$6000 to buy the rest of our book Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers held in the Graffiti (the publisher) warehouse. As said in the last newsletter, just the right Christmas present for that difficult person to buy for. At the last meeting Leo Thomas the guest speaker gave us a very interesting talk covering his life as one of Castlemaine's Apothecary's, Over the years Castlemaine has had many, some of them members of the Pioneers. Yandell, Philpot's MacDonald, Bailie to mention a few. Leon came to Castlemaine as a young lad with his family who had bought the Wesley Hill shop in 1973. Finished secondary schooling at Castlemaine High. Attended Victorian College of Pharmacy for B.Pharm degree. Completed his Internship at Warrnabool hospital, then another year as a qualified Pharmacist. Moved to Qld working at United Friendlies Dispensary. Cont back page;

A mystery for you to solve.

Last October we had a big flood with lots of debris being washed down the waterways. Campbells creek well and truly broke its banks. As it travelled through member Max Kay's property at Yapeen it was wider and deeper than it had been for many years. When the water had subsided Max found this (pictured below) stranded high up in a paddock. Can anyone identify what it is and what it came from?



It is wood about the same diameter as a telegraph pole and (in the old language) 35 feet long. The slots are evenly spaced, about 8-10 inches long, 4 inches wide and 4 inches deep. They have obviously been hand cut. It has been well made, it had a definite purpose. Max asks, any ideas, suggestion or thoughts?



A little bit of Trivia.

The first pub in Castlemaine to serve counter meals, was The Goldsmith Hotel in Mostyn St. Cost 2/-.

Another mystery or mysteries to solve.

Recently while fossicking around in one of our boxes, I came across a hand written letter, on some old dusty foolscap pages held together by a rusty paper clip. It is dated 5th June 1960 and is unsigned, it reads as follows:

WHERE ARE THEY

Mr President,

Over the last 12-13 months you've listened as I have drawn attention to various measures aimed at preserving or improving the condition of those artefacts which surround us.

The lamination of photos idea resulted in one photo album being purchased, an enterprise hardly adequate for this collection, and one which will not prevent photos from being removed.

Arrangements were also made with the Castlemaine Art Gallery to P & ORA selected items and for the Gallery to assist with the remedial measures necessary.

This Association responded by rejecting the offer and without courtesy of a written reply.

I arranged for Peter Perry to inspect and value the paintings here. Again rejected.

I suggested membership to the Museums Association of Victoria where for approximately \$12/yr we would have access to Ministry for the Arts, funding & access to the Museum Register for guidelines to Museum registration and cataloguing. Again rejected, although if ever an organisation was in need of funding and professional assistance to preserve its artefacts, it's this one.

In returning the duplicate register, which I recommended on August 8th last year, and received in April this year, I add, for your perusal some public notices, which I hope will better argue my concern for the items well-being, physically and recorded.

The writer obviously had some very serious concern about the health and security of our collection. Thankfully I can report that all the concerns raised by the writer 63 years ago have been addressed. The collection is well on the way too being fully digitised and being properly stored. The paintings have been valued and are being properly cared for, and the complete

collection had been registered as one of Great Historical Importance. The Association is a member of The Royal Historical Society, The Mechanics Institute and The Australian Museums & Art Galleries Association. The notices the writer referred to earlier is where the mystery begins. There is a list of items that the writer was unable to find. Below the list: 3 interesting maps recently presented to the Association by Sir Harry Lawson.

The smaller map showed Major Mitchell's for the whole course of his journey and the site and dates, of his encampments.

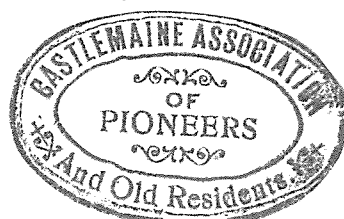
Of the other 2, one showed the enlarged detail of his track from Newstead on the 11 mile journey to his place of his encampment.

Other items listed and not found:

2 verses by Miss Martin, "The Exiles Dream of Home" and "Shall Chewton be a Township". Picture of the Castlemaine Railway Station & a picture of the Geelong Railway Station presented by Mr. Harold Thompson. Photo of the Doveton St Store in the 1860s. A short history of the United States from Mr E. Cox. A framed copy of the poem "Tam Rattray" from Mr J. Martin. Manuscript copies of the research by Mr J. Martin (1) The Story of Major Mitchell, (2) Captain Hepburn & his Experiences, (3) The Story of Castlemaine's Memorials, (4) The History of the Mechanics Institute, (5) Some Old Castlemaine Identities, (6) Dr Preshaw's Reminiscences & the Story of the Churches, (7) Copy of the Records of the Chewton Literary & Scientific Society from 1860 to 1865 presented by Sir Harry Lawson. (8) An enlarged photograph of Mr Bright, pioneer owner of the well known quarries, presented by Mr J, Ely, (9) A map of the Fryers Goldfield from Mr E. Kennedy, and The Illustrated Story of Ball & Welch "From Vaughn to Flinders Street" from Mr Irwin Baker. The writer finishes by writing *In view of the inadequate accountability of the previously listed items, I move that this subject be dealt with at the next meeting and regarded as urgent.*

The mystery? Where are these missing items? I think I have found the map of the Fryers Goldfield. It is a large cloth map more than six

feet long in very poor condition. Another item that is missing, is the metal fish on a pole used by Mr. Pyke as he electioneered, becoming our first elected politician, making a name for himself. He then moved to New Zealand and had another successful career in politics. You may be wondering why I am writing about something that happened 60 odd years ago. These items have gone and that's that. What is done, is done. My thoughts are as follows; each item was the real thing, we have lost some articles of great historical importance. I don't believe they have been destroyed, they are in somebody's collection, but we will never see them again. However I do not believe that most of them were one off items, that there must be other copies around. For instance, surely somewhere there is a copy of *The Records of the Chewton Literary & Scientific Society 1860-1865. The History of the Mechanics Institute* (our neighbour) etc. If we could unearth other copies of what is on the list, and copy them. A wrong would be half righted. I believe that we Sir Harry Lawson a debt, for all he did for our association when he was member, and later when he was our local Member of Parliament and Premier. Finally I think we owe it to our selves, we lost some of our history, so we should try to find it. And Another Thing! (as my mother used to thunder as she was telling me off), the items listed, are not the only things missing. When a study of our collection was done by students from Melbourne University many years ago (it was never finished because the money ran out), a card index was made. Using this index as a guide, there seems to be a few items missing, although I hasten to say a through search has not been undertaken. On a positive note the seal spoken about in the 143 year ago segment I think I have found. Fossicking around in an old dusty box I came across an old stamp, oval in shape, see below. Well that's about it for this month, to all of you who are not travelling too well health wise, we are thinking of you and wish you a speedy recovery. Ed.



ORIGINAL



CURRENT

4
Leon cont. Offered a partnership with Brian Milton back in Castlemaine and the Castlemaine part of his story began. And what a story it is, far too big for my limited space eg, Bran Milton and Leon worked as partners until Brian retired in 2002. Leon takes on Kin Chong as a partner and in the next few years they expanded the business by purchasing another 5 pharmacies, Kerang, Barham, Daylesford, Boort, and started up a pharmacy in Mooroopna. Not bad for a local lad. Sadly for us, Leon has now retired his friendliness knowledge of his trade and cheerfulness will be sadly missed. It was always a pleasant experience being served by Leon. One of Castlemaines first Apothecaries advertised in the Mount Alexander Mail in 1876, his dispensary was located in Mostyn St. Around 1877 or 1878 he moved to Bendigo his ad reads as follows:

Wanted all Inhabitants of Sandhurst to know that Homeopathy is the safest, cheapest, most certain, and pleasant science for the cure of all diseases, and that the Medicine Books containing instructions how to use them, can be obtained at C. Cook's Dispensary, High-Street, opposite Loridan's Mill, where he can be consulted daily.



143 YEARS AGO October 29th 1880. Committee Meeting. Present Messrs Mitchell (Chairman), Holmes, Heath, Yandell, Hodgson & Cornish. Proposed by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Holmes that £25 donated to the association be placed in Deposited Receipt for six months. The secretary was instructed to bring up Mr. Greenwoods letter at the next meeting. It was agreed to consider the desirability to procure a Seal for the Association, and the form it should take.

50 YEARS AGO October 10th 1973. Faulder Watson hall 9 members present. Treasurer Report. Moved Mr. McShanag seconde Mr. Rilen that the treasurers report is correct and all accounts be passed for payment. A social committee was elected J. Gaulton, J. Wilson, K. Holm, F. Cappy. F. Edwards moved that this committee be elected and that it arrange the Christmas meeting, picnic and raffle, seconded Mr. MacShanag, carried. A reminder by W Sharn To confirm the booking of the hall foyer and front room for the Federal member for Bendigo.

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Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday 19th October 2023

Guest Speaker Alesha Brown

Alesha is a collector & fosicker on the local gold fields. See some of her finds and hear about their stories

Friends & Family welcome.

At The Old Telegraph Station Barker St

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

