



Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents' Association Inc

Reg. No. A 0006803 W Est. 1880.

Faulder Watson Hall & Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker Street, Cas

• 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 Su

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Newsletter November 11th 2023 Only 44 Sleeps to Christmas.

The Old Telegraph Station Castlemaine. Here we are 19 days away from summer and 50 days from the start of 2024. The weather, mixed. Warm to hot, humid, a cool change and rain on the way. This newsletter is going to be short because you will be getting a bumper Christmas edition in a couple of weeks. The last newsletter had a couple of mysteries to be solved, believe it or not, one was, and another has a possible explanation. The 35 feet long wooden spar with a series of hand cut oblong cutouts. From 3 sources, part of a foot bridge, possibly the one that crossed Campbells Creek upstream from where Max found it. When the bridge was finally washed away in a big flood, the spar was buried in the mud and the recent big flood brought it to the surface. The bridge in question was still around in the 1920's as there is a picture of it in our collection. The other, 3 old maps of Major Mitchell's expedition through this area in 1836 presented to the Pioneers by Sir Harry Lawson. One of our members has a rare book with a copy of the map showing some of Major Mitchell's expeditions. He very kindly allowed us to make a copy which will be framed and hung in the telegraph station. I feel sure that Russell and Vin will be looking for final numbers for the Christmas breakup at the next meeting. The new administrative computer has arrived, making for a very happy treasurer. The other Tuesday 11 members spent \$5 each buying a return ticket to Rochester. Catching the 8-30 am train to Echuca as it stopped in Castlemaine. We had a nice run arriving at Rochester about 10-30 am. It took about the same time as the car. Same scenery because often the road and railway line run parallel to one another, but to me, from the train it looked totally different. First stop was the bakery for morning tea. Good coffee, sausage rolls and vanilla slices. This was followed by a nice stroll through the rose garden next to the bakery and a look at the painted silos. The artwork consists of the threatened Squirrel Glider, an Azure Kingfisher eating a Yellow Belly fish and a Platypus with the most amazing eyes.

I have often looked at our yucky faded yellow painted wall on the back of the Faulder Watson hall and thought, "just the place for a Pioneers Mural". Then it was back to the station to look at the museum. Inspirational is the word that best describes it, on many levels. Personal integrity by two men, who put doing the right thing above money. The short film you see before you get the tour, brings a lump to the throat. Then as Hoppy's story is told, how on his first big bike race in France he was sabotaged by the official French team and went on to beat them, winning over the French public. The two gentlemen who looked after us at the museum, could not do enough for us. They offered to get the community bus to take us out to the Historical Society to look at the full Hopperman museum. However they were having their A.G.M. So one of the gentlemen gave us a tour of his old home, An old two storied brick E.S.& A. bank recently restored. Fantastic. His wife took an unexpected group of strangers invading her house, in her stride. The interior of the bank with its strong room and safes along with the decor of the times was a bonus. After an excellent lunch at one of the Hotels we walked the town. In a small alley way is a mural based around a man who is recognised as probably Australia's greatest detective a 98 % success rate. The mural is very inspirational, highlighting personal honesty and integrity, of treating everyone with respect, and always doing the right thing. After a walk down to look at the river that caused so much damage, it was time to spend some money in the town and get back to the station for the 3-30pm train. I am going to suggest that next year we make a return trip in our cars visit the Historical Society, the Hopperman Museum and take a look at the murals that line the towns approaches. It has to be by car or coach, because the train time table only allows enough time to do the town tour. At the last meeting Alesha was only able to wet our appetites re- here metal detecting finds (the computer and projector did not talk to one another). They do now. Don't miss this meeting.

140 YEARS AGO 1st November 1883.

Mr Cornish the treasurer reported that one of the oldest members of the Association Mr Robison (both names are listed as foundation members) had been flooded out with the last storm and a quantity of his fences had been carried away by the overflowing creek. Unless he had his fences up immediately, the goats would destroy his vegetable garden. It was decided to give him an order upon Mr. Grose (also listed as a foundation member) for some posts, rails and palings.

50 YEARS AGO 9th November 1973.

Meeting held in the Faulder Watson hall with 12 members present. The treasurer reported that \$4500 has been invested at the interest rate of 7% with the State Savings Bank of Victoria. A letter from the Apex club, asking if the Pioneers could

hold an exhibition in conjunction with the Art And Antique Fair, to be held in the Castlemaine Market on the Labour Day weekend?

It was moved by Mr. Ottery seconded Mr. Sharp that the following report be carried and all accounts be passed for payment, carried.

Hall Keeper \$20,

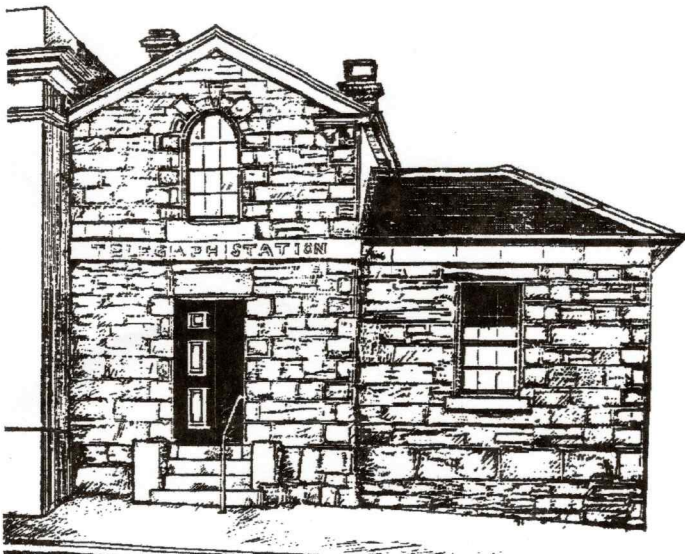
Castlemaine Mail \$1-56c,

Beards Hardware 90c,

S.E.C. \$22-91c,

Eagle Star Insurance \$25-12c.

Moved by J. Gaulton seconded by W. Sharp that the prizes for the annual raffle be left the same as last year, and that the cost of tickets be 20 cents each. It was decided that the Picnic Committee buy the refreshments for the Christmas Breakup.



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

Next Monthly Meeting:

Thursday November 16th 2023

At the Old Telegraph Station 208 Barker St. castlemaine.

Guest Speaker

Alisha Brown finishing off her metal detected relics

Family & Friends most welcome.

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

