



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: \$

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Newsletter – December 2023. 24 days to Christmas & 1 month to 2024

Well here are, the first day of summer, the weather anything but stable and the longest day of the year looming on the horizon. Looking through the windscreen I see a lot of traffic ahead **Important Stuff.** This page of the newsletter should be kept pinned to the fridge, **AT EYE LEVEL**, it contains important information on three important upcoming events! This is the last newsletter until February 2024.

Event 1. Date 14th December (the December meeting has been brought forward by one week) for our Christmas Breakup. Make your own way to the Maldon Hotel for a 6pm start. A 3 course Christmas meal with the works \$36. Good food, Company, Christmas frivolity and three Hampers to be won, all in the hands of Two Masters of Ceremonies President Russell and Vin.

Event 2. Date 18th January 2024 (our first meeting for the year). Make your own way to the Harcourt Heritage Centre (the A.N.A. Hall) with a picnic tea. After tea we will be given a guided tour of the completely re-furbish hall and display, along with an entertaining talk by George. Be there by **6pm**, so that we can eat together. Got It?

Event 3. Date 21st February 2024. The Annual Excursion. For this years excursion we are keeping it local, Bendigo orientated. The Chinese Museum with an emphasis on the Castlemaine Chinese. A visit and tour of the new Law Courts, which will be working and finally we will visit the R.S.L. museum in Pall Mall. Lunch will be at the Botanical Gardens Hotel at White Hills. Cost. The coach hire is \$950 if we fill the 48 seats that works out at approximately \$20 each. There is a cost of \$12 concession for a tour of the Chinese Museum and Gardens and \$9 for the R.S.L. The Pub meals start at \$8.90 to \$46.90, average \$20. If all seats are sold you can have a nice day out Castlemaine to Castlemaine in an air conditioned coach, visit three very different and interesting places with a partial tour of Bendigo, plus a nice meal for about \$60. A cheap day out with no driving. So far we have 15 who have signed up for a seat. We now need to get out and sell some seats. Friends, family, who ever.

The new admin computer has arrived, and what a nice surprise I got when I opened the box. We told Lyn at Top End Technology what our needs were, leaving her to come up with the goods. The end result, a computer made in Australia, with a system bigger than we need to allow for the rapid changes in technology, and folks; we had change from our budget. I was delighted (I believe in buying Australian whenever I can, even if it is a little dearer, and shopping local). I was also a little sad Lyn had sold the business. After 22 years it was time to retire. (its time you gave this old secretary the boot and let him retire) The guest speaker Alisha Brown a new member, (we have gained a few new members this year) whetted our appetite at the October meeting with her stories of arty-fact detecting with a metal detector. This month we managed to get her computer to talk to our computer and Alisha gave us a magic slide show showing some of her finds on our big screen. The time span covered by the arty-facts ranged from a Chinese coin of 1640 through the late 1700's, the 19th century up to today. She spoke about magnetic fishing, where you throw a large magnet attached to a stout rope into a dam, slowly pull it along the bottom and see what comes out. In America, a lot of modern guns (one used in crime) come out, whereas in England, its often a bomb. Alisha recently tried her hand at magnetic fishing out Glenluce way, her magnet got caught in a snag on the other side of the creek. While walking down the creek to find a crossing, Alesha found a complete embossed old lemonade bottle with a Kyneton manufacturers name clearly embossed on it. How long it had been in the creek is anybody's guess. At least 100 years, a lucky find. Somebody asked a question about the detector which opened up a completely new area. How many, the different types etc. Alesha has three and she has tuned them in to ignore gold. I found the discussion fascinating, the question asked and the answers given she is a girl well on top of her hobby. Eventually the President called time and another good and interesting meeting came to an end.



Looking Back over the past year 2023
(the secretary's report)



The year started with a picnic tea in the gardens at Maldon, after which we had a guided tour over the completely refurbished Maldon Historical Museum which is a credit to our district. President Derrick showed of their new Flash Harry photo copier. It can print off booklets and books from one copy to multiples. I am envious. Then came our annual excursion down to Queenscliff, the destination for the first some 137 years ago. The lunch was excellent, could not be faulted. The out door Art Show on the old pier I thought was great, some 40 paintings catering for all tastes. As we walked the old pier looking at the paintings I thought of that first band of Pioneers on that first excursion. What were their thoughts as they disembarked and walked down this very same pier. The thought behind that first excursion *was to introduce the country people to the seaside*. What a success story it has been. At the February meeting the secretary reported that the new hall doors had been installed in January. He also reported that the recognition of our collection as Being One of Significant Historical Importance project had been completed, paid for and accepted. It was decided to open the Old Telegraph Station for the Australian Heritage Festival, Greg Plancke and Marli Wallace offered to set up a display using material from our archives. Our new advertising banner was unveiled courtesy Lindsay, Fay and daughter, Dale. Finally at long last the wires have been sorted and we joined the world wide web. The Telegraph Station is talking to the world again. The Pioneers joined the Museums & Galleries Association now that we are recognised as having a serious historical collection, which has opened up a completely new world, for funding and ideas. We have started to tackle the thorny problem of newsletter delivery, trying to get rid of hand deliveries, cut back on postage costs, but make sure everyone still gets a newsletter at least 7 days before a meeting. This problem is 'Still Work In Progress'. The organisation moved the winter months meetings to the afternoon, which was well received. The Australian Heritage exhibition was a success. The Executive Committee set the 24/25 subs the first rise in a





few years. In early November we travelled by train to see the Lions Club Sporting Museum located on the Rochester railway station, and to spend some money in the town. It was a very successful day, wonderful people, a great morning tea and lunch. The film and display exposed us too a very high degree of honesty and integrity. So much so we are going back next year to visit the Historical society. Over the past 12 months we have picked up nine new members, and the treasurer has a smile on his face. But lets not not get complacent, a lot of our members are old we need new members to make sure that we continue on for another 144 years (yes folks we celebrate our 144th birthday in March). But just in case the wheels come off, as good corporate citizens we have drawn up a last will and testament to make sure our collection goes into good hands. Our next big project is the bi- annual (every 2 years) major three day exhibition in the Castlemaine Town Hall, next Anzac Day weekend. The theme is, *Sporting History in the Shire 1837 to the Present*. There is very full year ahead of us in 2024, if the world stays sane. It will be a year in wine speak "A Very Good Vintage". Moving on, The Sick List. I won't dwell to much on the subject, other than to say this year has been a hard year for some of you. To those of you not travelling too well and to the other half looking after you, you are not forgotten, our thoughts are with you. There are some unfinished projects, a couple going back too pre covis days. 1. A new sign at the Diamond Gully Cemetery with our name erased from the Pennyweight Flat Cemetery signboard, which was dedeed to us many years ago. The government took back control some 15 years ago and has allowed it to fall into a state of neglect. Our name is still on the signboard and we cop flack from some visitors for what they say is "*its neglected condition*". At the moment President Russell and Tim are re furbishing our old toilet (the Executive Throne Room), President Russell is also involved with treasurer Gary in relaying the bricks in the back yard displaced by the plumbers, when replacing a blocked drain. I think we can say 2023 was a good year for us. Finally, the Top Table wishes all members A Very Merry Christmas & A Happy & Healthy 2024



W. J. Bunton
Secretary December 2023.



143 YEARS AGO NOV-Dec 1880.

(our first Christmas meeting)

Mr. Holmes moved And Mr. Walker seconded that as Mr. Cornish has offered to photograph all members at the rat of 1/6d each, the mount them on cardboard 34 inches by 27 inches, that the secretary to recommend that they get it done.

A letter was received from the "Sports" Centre, the secretary was instructed to reply "that the Association could take no part with them".

Mr. Holmes proposed, Mr. Leversha seconded that 20/- be passed for petty cash, carried.

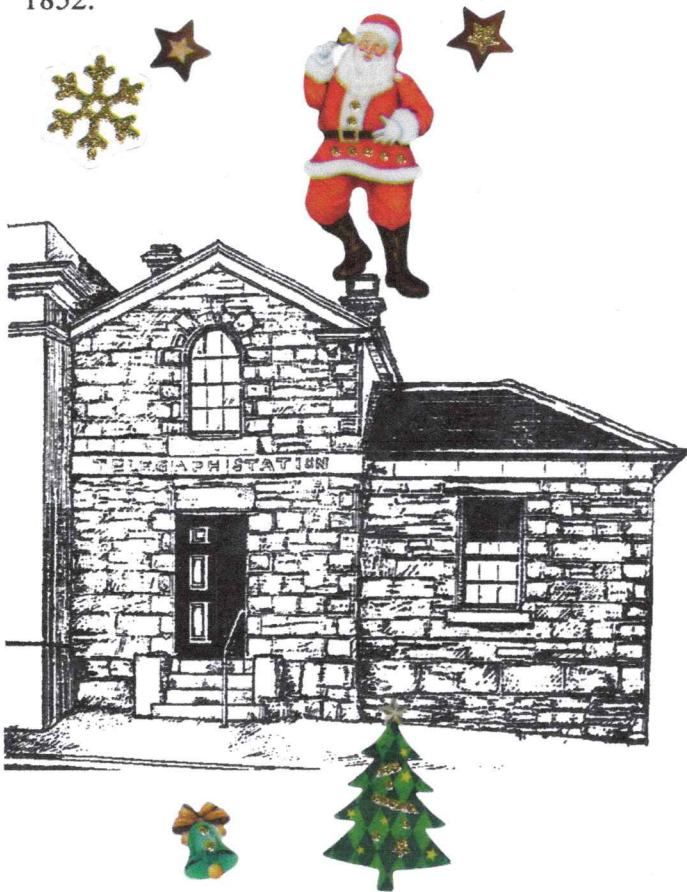
Mr. Dunston proposed that Expedition Pass be selected for the picnic. Mr. Yandell then read his paper giving a description of the Gold Fields in 1852.

102 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 1922

the secretary reported that the Annual Sea Side Excursion had been confirmed to take place on the 21st February 1923 (almost 100 years ago). On closing the meeting the President Mr. Eacott wished all members the compliments of the season.

58 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 9th 1965

The President Mr. McManus opened the meeting with 18 members present. Several members reported on very successful working bee at the Barkers Creek Cairn. Six new members were welcomed. An enjoyable evening followed with many members contributing vocal and musical items. Donations of goods for the barbecue to follow were received with thanks, as were cash donations. S. Normington and E. Daw prepared a magnificent supper. F. Edwards And W. Bower offered to clean up on the morrow.



**Castlemaine Pioneers
and Old Residents' Association Inc.**
Next Monthly Meeting:
Thursday December 15th 2022.

Christmas Breakup The Maldon Hotel
High St Maldon 6pm Start

Family & Friends most welcome, but please
let Russell or Vin know for final numbers.

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

