

# 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 2024. The month of the A.G.M! And the new A Team.

Well readers here it is almost mid July and mid winter. Six or more very good frosts in a row, which in my case keeps me inside until mid morning and brings me back inside early afternoon. Anyway I hope all is well in your world, that loved ones are all well bright and chirpy. There is an old song "that into each life some rain must fall but there is too much falling in mine". The resident gremlins in my computer have launched a major attack, and I found myself defenceless. They have taken away the tool bar. No spell check (now don't be like that, you uncharitable types saying who are saying "you never use it anyway), can't save what I have typed, nor print it out and no Mr Google. My computer guru is away minding grand children for school holidays. Well meaning friends say "no problem just do this and this, job done". After some days passed and much thumping of the keyboard, success at the top of the screen, the tool bar appeared and all is well in my world again. (unfortunately if it happens again I have no idea what I did to get it back). Enough of my problems, after all moaning is not what you pay me for. Now on with the newsletter. July 18<sup>th</sup> is the date we celebrate our 144<sup>th</sup> birthday and A.G.M. We can look back with pride at our achievements over those 145 years. The number of Pioneers is easy to calculate, there names were listed when the Pioneers was formed. To become a Pioneer, you had to have resided in the district for 15 years and lived within a 25 mile radius of the Post Office Clock when gold was discovered in 1851. To be an Old Resident you had to have lived in the district (25 miles radius from the Post Office Clock) for 15 years, be 25 years of age or over and be invited to join. Those old timers were forward thinkers, they realised that the Pioneers would die out, by introducing a category Old Residents, there would always be a pool of potential members of maturity and be interested in the work the Pioneers did. Women were also welcomed as members, the first two Life Members were members of the fairer sex, Mrs Faulder Watson and Mrs Fitzgerald.

At the last meeting a brief report was given of a meeting between the Pioneers and Coliban Water. It concerned our Diamond Gully cemetery which sits next door to the sewerage plant. Coliban Water are putting in more pumps and upgrading the site. They also intend to open some of the site up to the public, by putting in bird hides for bird watchers. Apparently a lot of rare migratory birds stopover at Castlemaine on their travels. Also there are plans to form some frog ponds and do some landscaping. Our cemetery, a little over one acre is making things difficult for them. The cemetery was established first and later surveying boundaries were vague. To cut a long story short we are working with Coliban Water, as good neighbours do to work things out. I came across the following article in one of our old minute books, taken from the Mount Alexander Mail

### **THE CASTLEMAINE MAIL**

Monday May 23 1921

Burial of Pioneer's Remains

Interment in Old Cemetery

Action by Pioneers Association

Yesterday afternoon the remains of the early pioneer, which were unearthed during sluicing operations in Forest Creek during the first week in February, were re-interred in the old Pioneer's Cemetery at Diamond Gully, in the presence of pioneers, and also the president (Mr. Shelton) and representatives of the Australian Natives Association. The remains were enclosed in a neat box, covered with the Pioneer's flag. Along with the remains, two glass jars were deposited containing copies of the "Castlemaine Mail" in which the report of the discovery of the remains appeared, and also the report of the inquest; likewise a written statement of the re-interment of the remains. Previous to the lowering of the remains, Mr. E. Taylor, hon sec of the Pioneers spoke as follows:- Fellow Pioneers: We are assembled today for the sacred and solemn duty of re-interring the remains of one of the early pioneers, who like many others, left the old country in the prime of manhood to seek his fortune on the Victorian goldfields, but probably

Like many other kindred adventurers his health

*Broke down under the hardships of the primitive days, and he ended his life here in the early fifties to rest in what is commonly termed an unknown grave. However he was the son of some fond parents who never knew his fate, for we have no record or even his name, nationality, his death or his burial, but our association has deemed it fitting to allot his remains a place alongside others who succumbed during the early period of the diggings, and were buried and were buried here, and to whose memory our association has erected a memorial stone. We are pleased to notice the attendance of representatives of the Australian Natives Association to join with the Pioneers in according these remains due reverence and respect. We consider it a filial duty of the new generation to revere the memory of those who blazed the track and performed the pioneering work which has helped to make Australia the finest country in the world; therefore we trust that after the Pioneers have past away the Australian Natives will ever continue to hold sacred the last resting place of those who bore the burden and heat of the day, and left their descendants such a glorious inheritance. Now we can do nothing further than consign the remains of this pioneer to the earth, in the hope that his spirit has returned to Him who gave it. I got quite a buzz when I read this. The pioneers have been looking after this cemetery for well over 100 years, it was one of our members Mr. Redfearn Monumental Mason who built the monument, re-building it when vandals broke it in two. Way back in the early days the government of the day saw fit to deed to the Pioneers some Crown properties. The Pennyweight Children's Cemetery at Winters Flat, the Gold Cairn at Barkers Creek. (It is of local interest to note that the first discoverer of gold in the Castlemaine district was a hut-keeper named C.T. Peters, who was in the employ of Dr. Barker a squatter, also the hut he lived in. The Burke & Wills monument and of course the Diamond Gully cemetery. For well over the past 120 odd years the Pioneers and Old Residents have looked after these special places. Mostly out of our own pocket, with a small amount of grant money and a lot of local support from local business. In the early 2000's government decided to take back control of the Gold Cairn and hut along with the children's cemetery. We are still custodians of the Burke & Wills monument and Diamond Gully*

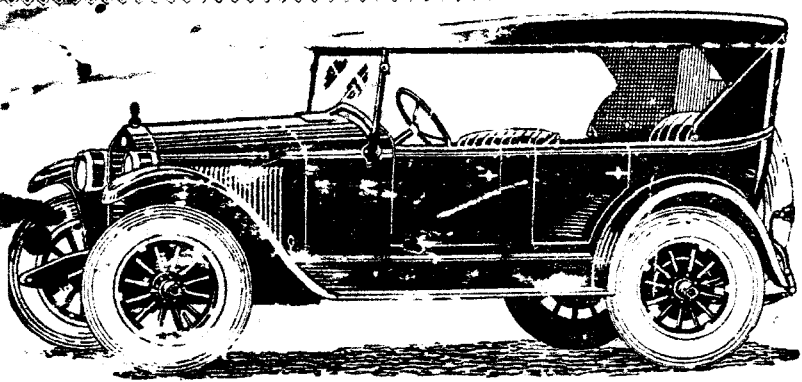
Next month about the the early days of the Diamond Gully cemetery. At the last meeting some very important matters were thrashed out, very important. Put these dates in your diary **NOW!** Christmas breakup; **DECEMBER 19 AT THE GUILDFORD HOTEL.** (Russell in charge). January meeting: **JANUARY 16 AT THE MALMSBURY GARDENS 6pm START, B.Y.O. PICNIC** (everything, Wilson charge). February Excursion: **FEBRUARY 19 Destination Port Arlington** The plan is to catch the train to Melbourne, walk across to the wharf at Docklands (10 min) catch the ferry across to Port Arlington Have the local golf club courtesy bus pick us up. Lunch at the club, a look around town. Ferry back to Docklands and home (Wilson in charge). That folks is the "very important business" dealt with, now on with the rest of the show. From the Around the Table segment Lindsay Dale suggested that we up date our 1930 Jubilee Book. Some additions were made in 1984 that's 40 years ago' perhaps its time we updated it again. President Russell said that we have several hundred in stock. After some discussion ranging from selling the off at \$1 each, giving a copy with each new membership (which we do anyway) to taking a stock take of all our book for sale. That idea prevailed, treasurer and secretary have it under control. The word book is a nice segue into the subject of a Liberian. So far nothing, it is as if my request for someone to take the job on, fell on that dreaded "Barren Ground". It is not a hard job, we don't have dozens of different books. There are our own reference books and about half a dozen titles for sale. One hour on a Wednesday morning or afternoon would see the job done. It's an old saying often said as a joke, "I never go to A.G.M's because I might get a job. But are people joking I ask? Most organisations are looking for committee members today. What has happened to Australia's society that makes people not want to belong, I further ask? I am not the only one asking these questions and I don't have the answers either. Fortunately the Pioneers have had a good response to go on the committee this year. And it promises to be a bumper year with so much to do. Window displays, building maintenance, a small exhibition for Heritage Month. Some ideas have been tossed

around with some of the ladies expressing interest in putting on a display, on a lower scale than a Town Hall job, but bigger than a widow display. There is much to do and much pleasure to be gained from doing it together with friends. I wrote a little earlier how forward thinking the original Pioneers were, forming The Old Residents organisation, and using the word Castlemaine as the first word in our title. Immediately our tribe is identified and is respected. We have a very large pool to draw from. Lets see what happens this year. Recently a box of ephemera came our way, containing the large part of a locals life story. He lived all his life in Castlemaine, only worked at Thompson Foundry, only worshipped at the one church and had life long affiliations with many social groups. It was fascinating emptying the box and laying out this mans life on the table. In a future newsletter his story will be told. Below are a couple of old advertisements of old Castlemaine businesses taken of the back of a note book.

LETTERS  
**REPAIRERS**  
 FRASER).  
 "Do not KEEP the best material. We put in on your Boots."  
 Opp. Faulderwatson Hall,  
 CASTLEMAINE.

PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIALISTS  
**Polpits & Coakley,**  
 CHEMISTS.  
 PHOTO GOODS, PHOTO CHEMICAL SUPPLIES  
 CASTLEMAINE, PHOENIX

Phone 227.  
**J. H. COLBERT**  
 FOR WIRELESS BATTERIES,  
 TORCHES—EVERYTHING  
 ELECTRICAL.  
 WIRE FOR ME & WIRE FOR YOU  
 Station St., CASTLEMAINE



**ESSEX SIX** BUILT BY HUDSON **£275**  
**ARTHUR'S GARAGE.**  
 PHONE 117. DAY OR NIGHT.  
**• TEMPLETON ST., CASTLEMAINE**



Wattle Gully Gold Cup, several of which were presented by the society at various shows. The cups were donated in the early years of the society by Wattle Gully Gold Mines.



Cattle teams, such as these Ayrshires owned by Mr. J. M. Robertson, Shepherd's Flat, have attended Castlemaine Show from all parts of the State.

Some teams have visited the show from as far north as Swan Hill. The society awards a challenge cup to the

**101 YEARS AGO 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 1923.**

Annual General Meeting opened with the annual balance presented and adopted on the motion of Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Heron.

A photo of the Old Pioneers Cemetery at Diamond Gully was received from the executors of the estate of the late Mrs. H Smart. On the motion by Mr. Yandell seconded by Mr Owens the secretary was instructed to acknowledge the gift. On the motion by Mr. Yandell seconded by Mr. Sheldon that the public be invited to the meeting, whenever a paper by one of our Pioneer members was to be read. A report from the Auditors was received and adopted on the motion of Mr. Reid , seconded by Mr. Sheldon. The election of office bearers for the ensuring year took place.

President Mr. Eacott.

Vice Presidents messrs Martin and Heron.

Secretary & hon Treasurer Mr. Taylor.

Committee, messrs Williamson, Owens, Shelton Yandell, Cameron, Neems and Reid.

Mr. Fogarty was elected honorary member. The outgoing committee were thanked for their past service. The new committee thanked members for their support.

**The secretary was voted a £5 honorarium.**

The sum of £1-1-0. was voted to the following:  
The Castlemaine Hospital.

Castlemaine Benevolent Home.

Ladies Benevolent Society.

Hospital Servicing of Linen Committee.

*Well folks that's it from your hard working secretary (unpaid), but before I go, a word lifted out of that great Harcourt newsletter THE CORE "APRICITY" the warmth of sun in winter. Only found in the Oxford English Dictionary.*



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

*Next Monthly Meeting:*

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 2-30pm (winter time).

**A.G.M.**

And after the new A team is elected, some nostalgia from Lois & Graeme Barry, you won't to go home

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

