



# 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 •

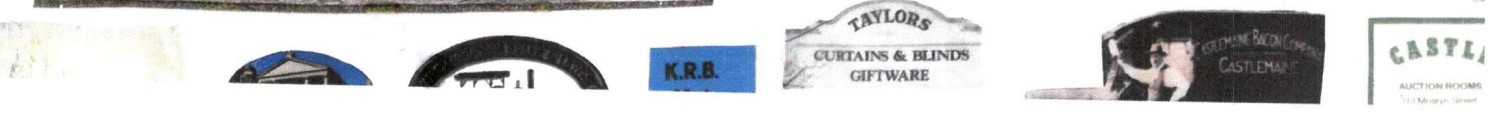
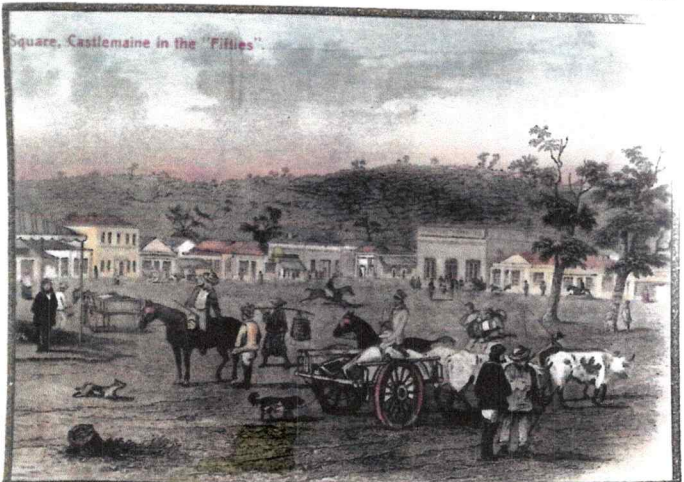
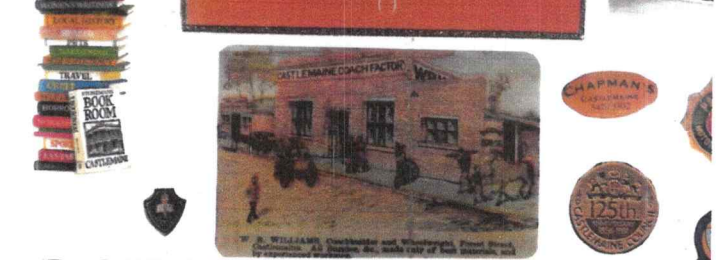
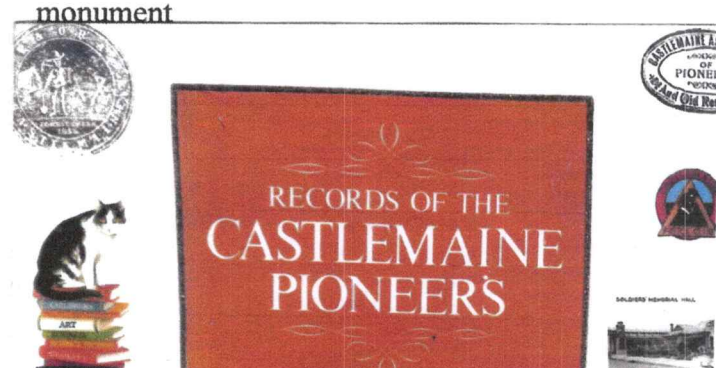
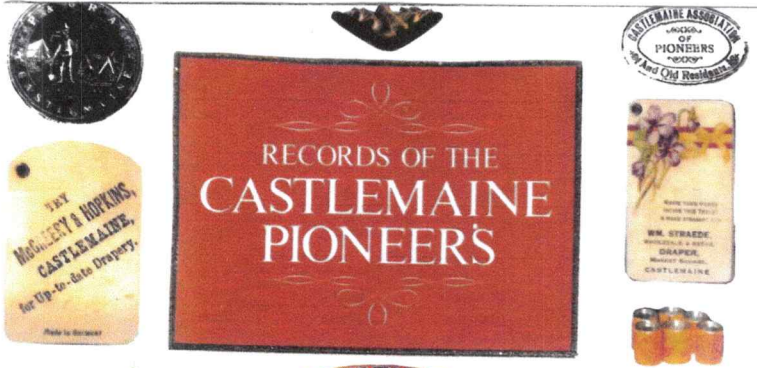
All welcome to meetings held on third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. Annual Subs: \$30.00.

W: [www.castlemainepioneers.org](http://www.castlemainepioneers.org) E: [castlemainepioneers@gmail.com](mailto:castlemainepioneers@gmail.com)

## Newsletter – August 2024. One month to National Wattle Day. 140 days to Christmas.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine  
The weather is very cold and frosty but, *“the hills and gullies are alive with sight and smell of Golden Wattles, spring is just around the corner”*  
It is that time of the year when our national floral emblem the Golden Wattle comes out in all its glory. Speaking of glory the Wattle is flowering well on the Olympic stage. By now you will have noticed that the front page is a little unusual and I hear you asking why? Well, when the foundation stone in the Faulder Watson hall was removed to reveal the time capsule behind it, The pioneers made a big deal of the occasion. Local dignities were trotted out, horse and carriages to carry them to the hall from the station were engaged, everyone was dressed up in their finery.

The media turned up as did a large crowd of onlookers, among them was Graeme & Lois Barry. Graeme was using a hand held video filming the whole event. As the proceedings went on Lois & Graeme got to know a bit about the Pioneers, what they did and what we stood for, and they joined, becoming staunch members. Since joining all those years ago they have recorded every major event the Pioneers have been involved in, both internally (breakups, awarding Life Memberships and awards etc), externally (major and minor exhibitions) etc. Lois in her own right is a very skilled craftswoman and has put together five beautiful A4 folders, recording some of these momentous occasions. Starting when the Pioneers had the Burke & Wills monument





Cleaned and the gold lettering renewed. (the Pioneers are still the official custodians of the monument). There are pictorial records of the Annual February excursions (still going after 140 years), Christmas breakups, Town Hall exhibitions, along with outings and presentations. Over the past 20 odd years the Pioneers have done a lot of things in preserving our home, the Old Telegraph Station and the Faulder Watson hall. Keeping the memories alive of the pioneers who built Castlemaine and promoting our Shire far and wide, while at the same time having a whale of a good time. And, we are still collecting "stuff". The pictures on the front page are miniature copies of the front cover of two of the five folders. Each folder has a different picture of Castlemaine on its front. Each folder is a time capsule plus a work of art in itself. But folks there is more, much more. With our deep relationship with Castlemaines Burke & Wills monument, Graeme and Lois have put together a very large folder on Burke & Wills. Graeme & Lois have also donated that folder to the Pioneers as well. Now I must remind you all that there is a very firm, rule "that nothing leaves the premises". So members you are welcome to sit in the meeting room and read these folders on a Wednesday our open day between the hours of 10am & 2pm or arrange a time with the secretary. Now on with the motley. The July meeting and the A.G.M. The meeting opened at 2-30pm as planned, then the plans went out the window. The secretary (me) found himself in a cleft stick, there was funeral at 2pm that I wanted to attend. It was a friend who was my last tangible link with my growing up in Sunshine when I first arrived in Australia. I went, telling the President I would sneak out early but I was still late. The President solved the problem by starting the meeting at the, Around the Table segment. From this segment Barbara Bunton drew members attention to an article in the previous Saturdays Weekend Australian newspaper's Arts Review. It concerned a display of early Australian Artists in the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum. One of the pictures on display was our painting "Castlemaine from Ten Foot Hill" painted by Edwin Stocqueler in 1858. I don't remember this exhibition being advertised in the local press nor, as we owned the painting, were the Pioneers invited to come along and view it.

The painting a true view of what Castlemaine looked like in 1858 fits the museum claim of being a historical museum. As a painting, it fits the art gallery's claim, of being an Art Gallery. Rather churlish I think.

On my late arrival the meeting went back to the top of the page. The President and Treasurer read their Annual Reports. Past President Graeme Barry took the chair, thanking the outgoing committee for its hard work over the last 12 months etc. The new committee was elected. (Big Drum Roll)

- President: Mr. Russell Sheehan.
- Vice President: Judy Eastwood.
- Treasurer: Mr. Gary Hood.
- Members: Mr. Mr. Graeme Barry.
- Mr. Vin Cappy.
- Mr. Trevor Shill.
- Mr. Lindsay Dale
- Mr. Wilson Bunton Editor.

A very good line up. Seven tried and true members all dedicated to keeping the Pioneers going for another 145 years, keeping our collection intact and in the district, Also keeping our history alive and front and centre.

As the Sages say "*it is a wise mane who knows his history and where he came from*".

The secretarial duties were handled with aplomb by the Vice President at the Executive Committee Meeting held a few days later. My days of unpaid hard work are over.

At the last meeting a the decision to replace the television was made, with an all singing and dancing one. One that will display all media and is simple to use, the Executive has taken this in hand. It will also make it easy for guest speakers, they will just plug in their device, and Bob's your uncle. "*There is movement at the Old Telegraph Station and word has got around, President Russell and his crowd are on the prowl*". (Sincere apologies to Banjo Patterson).

With spring around the corner it is time to look at our planned visit to the Rochester Historical Society in late September, early October. At the next meeting I would like numbers to to arrange travel arrangements, (community bus) and to give Rochester an indication of numbers.

On the Diamond Gully Cemetery project with Coliban Water, President Russell has much to tell you at the next meeting.





Diamond Gully Cemetery. My understanding based from our first minute book 17<sup>th</sup> March 1880 to 17<sup>th</sup> April 1893. The cemetery site for unknown reasons was chosen where the monument stands today. The site covers an area a little over an acre.

It seems to have been a nice place to bury the dead before there was any proper civil law and order in the very early days of the gold rush. It was a nice spot under a huge yellow box gum. Apparently the Pioneers thought this to be a sad state of affairs for it to be there, not recognized and unloved. It was the actions of Sir James Patterson and Sir Zelman Zeal, both members of the Pioneers and men of great importance and standing in the community, along with the general members of the Pioneers that had the area fenced. A small area where the monument stands had a substantial post and rail fence built around it. A less substantial fence marked the outer boundary. The whole area was clearly defined. Through the efforts of Sir James And Sir Zelman the government of the day deeded the cemetery to the Pioneers and made the organisation trustees, which we still are today. In recent newsletter I wrote about the burial of an unknown digger by the Pioneers in the Diamond Gully Cemetery and wrote verbatim the main speaker made. I thought it to be very serious and meaningful piece capturing the moment well. The general public took the unveiling of the monument to its heart and the following courtesy of Trove is very enlightening.

#### **UNVEILING THE MEMORIAL STONE AT DIAMOND GULLY.**

Yesterday was a red-letter day in connection with the Pioneers and Old Residents, and indeed, in the history of Castlemaine. It being the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association and also the unveiling of the memorial stone to the memory of those buried at the Diamond Gully 35 years ago. In the afternoon, shortly

before three o'clock, the members of the Association to the number of 45, assembled at the Town Hall, and everything in readiness, they took their seats in cabs from the stables of Messrs Crowder and Goldsmith, others following in their private vehicles. After about a quarter of an hour's ride, the procession arrived at the Diamond Gully Cemetery, the route, took them as far as Maloney's Bridge, then turning in the direction of Winter's Flat State school, and after for about three minutes along a road made under the direction of Mr. Angus Cornish, the Borough Surveyor, for the occasion, a halt was made, Pioneers walking the remainder of the journey, which altogether is about two and a half miles from Castlemaine.

On arriving at the Cemetery- it was seen that a number of persons of both sexes had congregated to witness the ceremony. The Union Jack was flying on either side of the Cemetery. The stone as a matter of course, was concealed by a flag. The Pioneers took up positions around the memorial stone, a very handsome one-off Harcourt granite, and the greatest credit is due to Mr James Redfearn, the monumental mason for the excellent workmanship he has displayed. As will be seen from the remarks of the speakers here, that it was noble gift on the part of Mr. Redfearn to erect the stone for the small price he claimed from the Association. The epitaph on the obelisk reads "*There works live after them,*" so also it may be said of Mr. Redfearn in this respect. Trees of the pinus insignis variety are planted around the Cemetery, in which there is also a tall and well grown King of the forest, that no doubt was on the spot when the interments took place 35 years ago a huge yellow gum (the base is still there). From further reading, it appears that Diamond Gully was a very big area in the old days, stretching from Martin St to Anderson's Mill at Winters Flat. If the plans of Coliban Water come to fruition, the old Cemetery will have a new lease of life and give a lot of pleasure to people to many years to come.  
**September 26<sup>th</sup> 1884.**

Mr. Cornish then moved that the society appoint a committee to apply for a piece of land for the purpose of building cottages upon it, ten to let them for the use of old pioneers, he had no doubt if they applied to the Government for assistance, it would be accorded.. Mr. Mitchell thought that the matter required more consideration. If they got the land they had n money to erect a building upon it without exhausting their funds. Mr. ? (illegible name) said, he did not like to see land procured by false pretences. Mr. Freebody was of the opinion that if their money was expended in building cottages, other necessitous members would be unable to procure assistance. Upon the motion being put, it was declared to be lost.



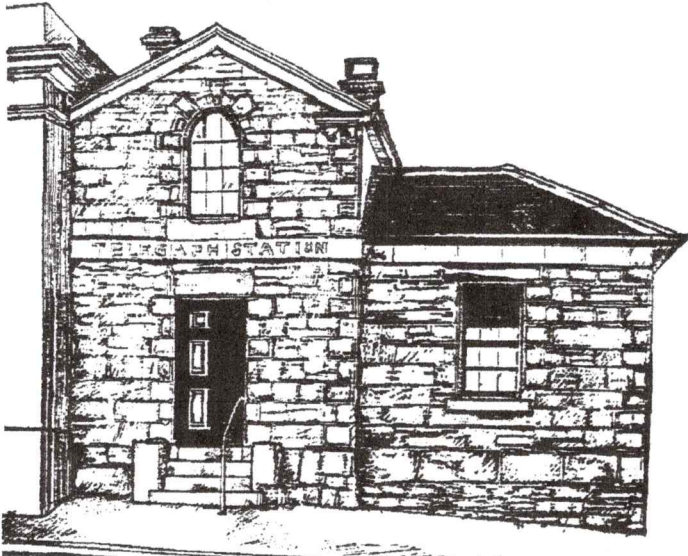
30<sup>th</sup> September 1891 Mr. Yandell moved a motion that the Association took a trip on the Bay.

**From the minutes of the A.G.M. 8<sup>th</sup> July 1904.**  
There were 9 applications for the position of Caretaker and an exhaustion (sic) ballot was taken. On the motion of Mr. Armstrong sec by Mr. Robins it was carried "that the caretaker sleep on the premises. Mr. Thomas Coggin was elected by 11 votes to 3 at a salary of £5 a quarter. For the position of Hon. Secretary was elected 11 votes to 5.

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*(Editor: The minute book records the name as both Coggin & Coggon on the same page but our Jubilee book reads Coggin and he was paid £12 a year for his secretarial duties. He has an increase and sleeping accommodation. This is the first time this requirement was made so I wonder for what reason; where the man slept, maybe upstairs also did he have a wife and family elsewhere?)*

The 2024 editor speaking now: No one has stepped up as Liberian, Nor has anyone asked about the vacuum cleaner now that the secretary is no more.



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

*Next Monthly Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> August 2-30pm  
Guest Speaker.*

*The afternoon will be spent taking a closer look at some of our older "Bits of Stuff" through different eyes, stuff in the collection we see every day and yet don't see it.*

*Friends and Family welcome*

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