



Celebrating 100 years



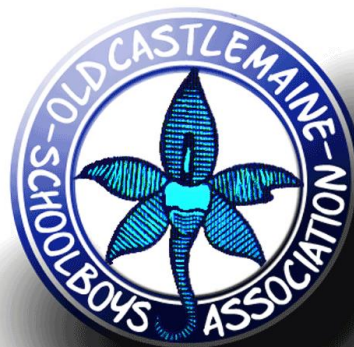
Reunion Dinner held at the  
Castlemaine Town Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October each year

When knights of old some emblem chose,  
On banner bright to place,  
Fierce animal, or bird perhaps,  
Was given pride of place.

No doubt they thought such creature might,  
If seen upon their shield,  
Strike fear into opponent's heart  
And make him meekly yield.

But when old schoolboys of our town,  
An emblem fit they sought,  
They found a graceful orchid blue,  
Most suited to their thought.

The friendships formed in boyhood days,  
This flower would represent,  
As it recalled those happy times,  
In scented bushland spent.



History of Castlemaine Old Boys Association  
Notes from a presentation made by William (Bill) Webb to the  
Committee in 1982 or just thereafter.

(Compiled for history by Ronald William Webb in April 2012)

The original idea of forming the Association came from Mr Joe Anderson with some help from My Percy Baker.

A meeting was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1912, and from this meeting a committee was formed with the following office bearers. President Doctor J L Thompson, Vice Presidents G Emery and S Cornish and Secretary/Treasurer P C Baker. The committee further consisted of 2 groups. From Castlemaine and District, J Tolstrup, C Hasler, G Clark, H Hill, H Lawson, W Seddon and J Field. From Melbourne, A Laver, T Holmes, G Carter and I Evans.

It was decided that those eligible to attend this Castlemaine Old Boys Reunion had to be 35 years old or older and had to have attended any school within 4 miles of the Castlemaine Post Office.

The first reunion was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1912, in the Castlemaine Town Hall with 124 past students attending.

At this 1912 reunion meeting, a sub committee was formed consisting of Colonel Jack Field, Doctor J Thompson, S Cornish, J Yandell, J Anderson, F Tolstrup and P Baker to draw up a Constitution of Aims.

- The name of the Association would be the Castlemaine Old Boys Association and the Headquarters would be in Castlemaine.
- To stimulate and keep alive interest in schools in the Castlemaine and District.
- To bring members together at least once a year by means of a reunion.
- To create a trust fund which shall provide prizes each year for schools in Castlemaine and District and also provide Honor Boards for each school.
- Membership shall be open to Old Schoolboys for 30 years of age and who have attended a school within 7 miles from the Castlemaine Post Office.
- Annual subscriptions to be fixed by the committee from time to time.
- The committee shall be made up of a president, 2 vice presidents, secretary/treasurer and a committee of 12 members, 6 for Castlemaine and 6 for Melbourne.
- All past presidents would be ex officio members for both the Castlemaine and Melbourne committees.
- 5 members shall constitute a quorum.

- The president is to hold office for only 12 months.

The rules and constitution were adopted at this meeting???? As the reunion was the annual meeting.

The Girls from the Grammar School decorated the tables.

Membership at this time was 320 with a member's ticket being 1/- (1 shilling) and a further cost of 2/6 (2 shillings and a sixpence) to attend the reunion.

At the 1913 reunion was 156 attended; a membership medallion was approved by the members. The medallion was designed by Mrs Newall who was presented with one of the medallions. A medallion was also presented to Miss Brotherton. The medallion features the Orchid flower which commonly grows in the Castlemaine area. As the reunion was the annual meeting. It was moved and accepted that each committee have a further 6 committeemen besides the 6 officers which is the same as today.

A gold medal was presented to the President of the day. The gold for the medal was donated by Mr Bart Ford. A canteen of cutlery was presented to the secretary/treasurer in recognition of the work carried out in the formation of the association.

In 1914 the high school was opened on the 27<sup>th</sup> may.

At this meeting it was moved and agreed that members donate 10/- (ten shillings) to cover the cost medallions as the association was in the red. 127 attended the reunion.

No reunion was held in 1915/16/17 on account of the war.

In 1918, 185 members attended the reunion and a motion to extend the radius to 7 miles was accepted at the meeting. It was moved and accepted that the Secretary be presented with 2 easy chairs and a couch for services rendered. The 1<sup>st</sup> reunion held in Melbourne was at the Melbourne town hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> February.

1920, with over 200 being present. The cost was 3/- (3 shillings).

In 1921 another reunion was held in Melbourne at the masonic lodge on 16<sup>th</sup> February, with over 250 attending. There was also a reunion in Castlemaine in 1921 with 170 being present. The dinner cost was 3/6 (3 shillings and sixpence).

In 1922 the back to Castlemaine celebrations were held with 255 being present at the reunion. Sir John Higgins donated 2500 pounds to the Castlemaine hospital.

In 1923, 163 were present and it was moved that a scholarship be endowed annually in turn to each of the districts primary schools in the 7 mile radius of Castlemaine.

In 1921, 212 were present. The 970 members, old boys, were asked to subscribe to install an honour board in each school. The first honor board would be presented to the Fryerstown School and would have the orchid symbol painted on the board.

A design for an honor board was submitted by Mr G Smyth and was accepted. The technical school would be approached to make an honor board.

Pioneer old residents association members living outside the 15 mile radius were to be made honorary members.

In 1925 it was decided to allocate 20 pounds to the Fryerstown School and the secretary/treasurer would be trustee of the funds.

In 1929 a joint effort was made by the old boys and the old pioneers in fencing the pennyweight flat cemetery.

In 1931 we saw the unveiling of the commemorative cairn at Barker's creek for the finding of gold on the 20<sup>th</sup> July in 1951.

In 1933 the retiring president moved that the amount be held in trust did not give sufficient interest to enable a reasonable prize to be given and wanted the trust increased to 30 pounds.

In 1941 Doctor Frank Newman be requested 500 pounds to the old boys association.

There was no reunion held in 1942 and 1943 due to the war.

In 1945 presentations of a sound system were made to both the North and South State Schools. A picnic was held at Vaughan Springs.

In 1949 a petition signed by 350 members was presented to council who were talking about selling the market building or pulling it down.

In 1951, 500 members were present at the Castlemaine Centenary.

In 1953 on June 29<sup>th</sup> over 11 acres of land at barker's creek was reserved as a site for the preservation of native flora. On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, old boys Charles Franklin, Ern Franklin and George Hogarth were appointed as the committee of management of the reserve for 3 years. After each term of 3 years, the same 3 were appointed again until 1970 when the department of conservation and forests decided it should be managed by the department.

In 1954 councillor Nellie Sheehan was the Mayor and it was the first time that a lady had attended and spoken at the old boy's reunion.

In 1961 a plaque was unveiled at the Garfield Water Wheel at Chewton. The plaque was made by Thompsons Foundry Castlemaine.

In 1962 the Sam Hobson memorial fund was created with the interest from the fund to be donated to the school visited by members of the reunion day. The 10 remaining schools were:

Castlemaine South, Campbell's Creek, Elphinstone, Fryerstown (closed), Guildford, Winters Flat, Faraday (closed), Harcourt, Tarilta (closed), Chewton, Woodbrook (closed), Muckleford, Moonlight Flat (closed), Barkers Creek (closed), Yapeen, South Muckleford (closed), Castlemaine North and St Marys.

In 1963 the association purchased crockery to cater for 300 persons. A cupboard was made and donated by Mr Jim Armstrong to be located in the back of the town hall.

In 1964 a new school was opened at Winters Flat.

In 1970 Fryerstown School closed.

In 1971 Dinner cost was increased to 2 pounds.

In 1972 the question of Life Members was brought up by the committee, believing that none had been granted, but if records had been checked it would have shown that in 1918.

Walter Peeler VC was made the first life member. To be a life member the person must have 20 years or more as a committeeman.

In 1973 Faraday School was closed after the kidnapping of the head mistress and pupils.

In 1974 the committee received a letter from the teachers stating that they were no longer setting examinations for the old boy's prizes and wanting a meeting with the committee to find a suitable alternative.

After various meetings it was decided that the nominated school for that year would receive a sum of money and books on the day of the reunion and the other schools would receive books in December. This means that from now on there would be no more Honour Boards at Schools.

The nominated school would receive 150 pounds and books to the value of 100 pounds. The other schools would receive books to the value of 100 pounds.

We also have a life member board and past presidents board in the town hall.

In 1979 the radius of participating schools was increased to 10 miles.

In 1980 the Sunday barbeque was started in the botanical gardens.

In 1982 Ken Martin resigned as treasurer but he still has the job after 18 years of service.

I can speak highly of our ladies committee who over the years have worked hard in setting tables and getting meals ready.

William (Bill) J Webb OAM

This was printed and reproduced for the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebrations



*The Oldboy's Poem*

*There's a lift to the Old Boy's step tonight,  
And he's feeling young and gay;  
His eyes are bright and his heart is light,  
And his thoughts are far away.*

*Back in his dear old Castlemaine,  
Or out in the hills around,  
Living the days of his youth again -  
Feeling his pulses bound.*

*For he's just answered the call that comes  
To the loyal hearts every year -  
Insistent, clear as the beat of the drums,  
It falls on the listening ear.*

*So the Old Boy went and his mates went too,  
Back home in their hundreds strong,  
And years were bridged in that long day through,  
In story and speech and song.*

*Out at the bush school loved so well  
He gathered with comrades gay,  
Old lads and lassies with tales to tell  
Of memories tucked away.*

*And bright-eyed children had joined them there  
Their happy young faces shone,  
As they showed old scholars their pride and care  
In the school that was handed on.*

*Around them the bushland was bright with flowers,  
And the dear little orchid blue  
Bloomed there with pride, in the sunlit bowers -  
For it is our emblem true.*

*So the old boy dreamed through that day again,  
And it lifted his heart like a song,*



*Then night came down on the old home town  
And the hall, with its happy throng.*

*In long brave lines they had mustered there  
As they had from the days of yore,  
And they answered the roll - but the years take toll -  
There were mates who would come no more.*

*The toasts were called and the speeches were made,  
When, trooping into the hall,  
With faces bright, and their eyes alight,  
Came the girls - the toast of them all.*

*So they broke up and wandered and formed into groups,  
While many had time for a song,  
But bashing the ear was permissible here,  
And they kept at it - steady and long.*

*So the hours fled by on the happiest notes  
Of memory's sweet old refrain,  
Old friendships renewed - past doings reviewed,  
The old boy was feeling the strain.*

*For his ears has been punished, his hand had been wrung,  
His voice was as hoarse as a crow.  
With an ache in his jaw - "I can't take it anymore,  
While I'm all I one piece, Mates, I'll go."*

*With Auld Lang Syne's singing they broke up and parted,  
"Next year we will see you again,"  
When the message goes ringing, their thoughts will go winging  
And calling them back to the Maine.*





*The 89<sup>th</sup> Reunion 2002*

*Old Castlemaine Schoolboys' First Re-Union.*



*Flashlight Photo., Castlemaine Town Hall, Sept. 18th, 1912.*

**THE AIMS OF THE OLD CASTLEMAINE SCHOOLBOYS ASSOCIATION**

- **TO HOLD AN ANNUAL REUNION OF OLD SCHOOLBOYS'S (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October each Year)**
- **TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE FRIENDS WE HAD MADE FROM OUR SCHOOL DAYS**
- **TO FOSTER AND CHERISH THE TIE OF AFFECTION FOR CASTLEMAINE**
- **TO ASSIST THE SCHOOLS WITH NEW BOOKS FOR THEIR LIBRARIES**
- **TO FINANCIALLY ASSIST THE CASTLEMAINE SECONDARY COLLEGE CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM**
- **TO FINANCIALLY ASSIST ONE SCHOOL ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS EACH YEAR**
- **TO BRING TOGETHER HISTORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS FOR OUR ARCHIVES**

