



CASSOC Bulletin

Autumn, 2023

It's been a busy time (already) for our new group as we have organised a number of public events over recent months, and the committee continues to meet monthly.

Our 1st Birthday

Castlemaine Society Incorporated (CASSOC) celebrated its first birthday late February at the Botanic Gardens Tearooms. Members and friends attended with tasty food provided by Sue Turner and Marli Wallace. President Colin Moore provided an overview of achievements so far, and other committee members gave updates on partnerships and future plans.



Castlemaine Society President, Colin Moore (left), addresses the membership.



Foundation member Bryon Cunningham and CASSOC Secretary, Barbara Ashworth lighting (approximately) 12 candles.

Tour of the Gold Commissioner's Camp

On Sunday April 23, CASSOC and Gold Camp Castlemaine hosted a combined event. It was a small pilot tour of the Government Camp bringing together expert historians and advocates for goldfields history. The purpose was to discuss ways in which the wider historian community can help in advocating for the Camp Reserve and the Gold Commissioner's Camp precinct that it sits within. We were fortunate to host experts from Bendigo and Ballarat as well as our leading local historian Dr Marjorie Theobald.



The former Powder Magazine Keeper's house

The itinerary covered: Former Court House, Camp House, Sheriff Colles house, the Former Military Quarters, Broadoaks, the Survey Tree, the confluence of the creeks, Sheriff's Bridge, the Farnsworth St cluster of the Powder Magazine and its Keeper's house, the Old Gaol, Christ Church, and of course our own Camp Reserve. We thank all of those homeowners who allowed access to their properties. In the afternoon our Bendigo visitors showed CASSOC members Archbold's Ore Treatment Plant. It was a fascinating guided tour.

The group visiting the (outside of) the former military quarters. The structure is privately owned.



Wattle Gully Mine (Chewton)

In January some of the CASSOC committee met with Doug McCann and Martin Harris to discuss the potential for the disused Wattle Gully Mine to become a Gold and Mining Museum. Doug and Martin are passionate about the extraordinary, world class, Mt Alexander goldfields geology. They are striving to reactivate FOMAD (Friends of Mt Alexander Diggings). CASSOC sees merit in their ideas which provide protection of heritage assets through sensitive adaptive reuse. Doug McCann sees potential tourism and economic advantages for the Shire, while fostering appreciation of its mining history and relics.

CASSOC meets Peter Cox, National Trust, Bendigo

In March, CASSOC had a productive meeting with Peter Cox, President of the National Trust Bendigo Branch. This active branch covers Castlemaine heritage assets. The branch also acts for Castlemaine National Trust members. Some may remember that Castlemaine used to have its own branch of the Trust. CASSOC welcomes an opportunity to rebuild a relationship with the National Trust and hopes to collaborate into the future. The pilot tour of the Camp, a pub lunch then a tour of Archbold's Ore Treatment Plant was the first collaborative event. We hope to expand the pilot into much larger events.



Peter Cox

Membership

This is a gentle reminder that membership fees are now due. Reminder emails have been sent.

Please send your renewals to the Membership Secretary on cassocmembership@gmail.com, and please refer this address on to friends or family who may be interested in joining.

CASSOC AGM !

Our first **Annual General Meeting** is coming up and we seek your attendance and support.

The AGM will take place at—

Botanic Gardens Tearooms

7pm, Wednesday 19th July .

Our guest speaker will be **Christine Brooke**, recent recipient of an Order of Australia Medal for service to the environment and to community, both locally and in her prior role as Councillor and Mayor of Loddon Shire.

Please mark it in your diaries!