



# 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: Graeme Barry 5472 3768 • 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 April 2020. Our 140<sup>th</sup> year & the year of the Coronavirus Bug.

The Old Telegraph Station Barker St Castlemaine 5<sup>th</sup> April. The weather, a cool and wet Autumn day with winter on the way. A word from our President Mr. Graeme Barry.

*As President of the C.P.&O.R.A., on Tuesday afternoon the 17<sup>th</sup> March I instigated the thought of cancelling The Transport Exhibition (19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March) and our monthly March meeting (19<sup>th</sup> March), being fully aware of the importance of these two events. I.E. our 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday which actually fell on our meeting day, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact was made by telephone to the majority of our committee and after discussions it was agreed to the cancellation of these two events, even at this late stage. Apologies to Wilson and his helpers for the amount of investigation and work carried out for the Exhibition. Apologies to our Members and Invited Guests on the cancellation of our 140<sup>th</sup> celebrations. The decision I made was based on the severe restrictions created by the Federal and State Governments relating to the Coronavirus. Further to the above, our future monthly meetings with the scheduled date of 16<sup>th</sup> April will be cancelled until further notice. I.E. until the Virus restrictions are relaxed. Keep referring to our Newsletter. If any Member or invited Guest disagrees with the above, I apologise, however, I firmly believe the correct decision was made because of the severe restrictions. I look forward to your continued support and your attendance at our future meeting when this dreadful virus has passed. We have a whole year in which to celebrate our 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the Transport in the Shire of Mt Alexander Exhibition will go ahead at a later date. To all members and readers of our newsletter, "look after yourselves, friends family and Stay Well" Graeme. President of the C.P.& O.R.A.*

A very good call Graeme and a wise one. Ed. These are strange times that we are living in, surrounded by a deadly virus that we can't see, smell or feel. Growing up in England in the war, and old enough to be aware of and fear the dangers of those dreadful days. At least we

had some physical signs that warned us of danger Air raid sirens, the whistle of falling bombs etc. Today not a birdie, until Wham! The only defence we have it seems is to avoid one another. Keep in touch electronically, (this old secretary is on a steep learning curve). With this in mind your hard working secretary (U.P.) intends to increase the frequency of the newsletter to keep the bonds of friendship in our organisation strong and alive. So that when this is all over we will hit our straps running. Now just to show you that we are still in operational mode and it is business as usual, a bit of business. One of our members alerted the secretary that an iconic (yes folks, iconic) large 6feet x 4feet framed photo of an early Castlemaine street scene was coming on the market. I arranged an introduction with the owner After viewing it I was blown away with what I saw, and the price asked made me gulp, but I thought it was a good price that was fair to both seller and buyer. The owner gave me a few days to consult, yes, folks I do consult (sometimes) with the President etc re- buying it. He was keen for the Pioneers to have it, because he wanted it to stay in Castlemaine. With no meeting in sight to put the matter to members, and a short time frame, 5 of us put up half the asking price (I am not publishing the price in the newsletter. Lots of non members read it and it is in my opinion, our private business), the balance coming out of the bank. Now members, If you trust your hard working secretary, President and 3 of your fellow members and would like to make a donation toward the purchase of this rather large iconic old Castlemaine street scene, you may! How? I hear you all clamouring to know. Just toddle down to your bank and deposit your donation into our bank account: B.S.B. 063 509

Account No: 1002 8096

Account Name: Castlemaine Pioneers & Old Residents Association Inc.

Please use your Surname and the word Iconic as the reference. A receipt will be issued and your name will go into our history book.

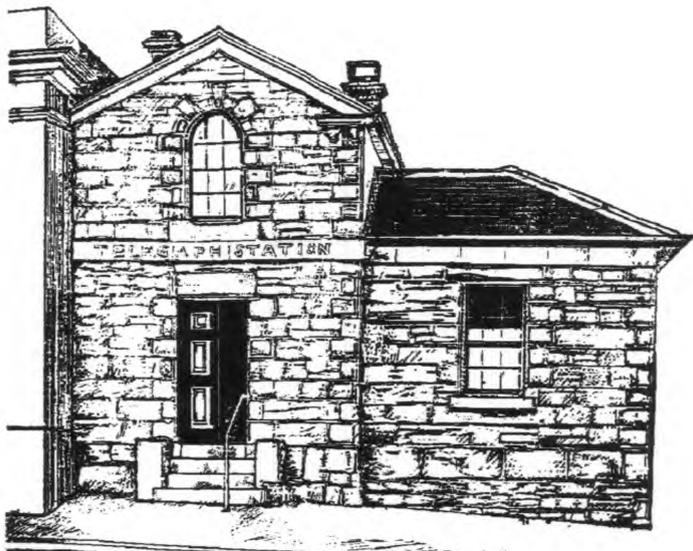
Now I am going to learn, just how much "street cred I have). Ed.

**100 YEARS AGO** 28<sup>th</sup> April 1920.

The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £2-18-6 which included a £2-10-0d advance to the treasurer to meet accounts. The only account to pass, that of the Gas Co £0-15-10d. Caretaker's Salary £2-0-0. (not looking good money wise, not sure it was a good move sacking the secretary) Ed. On the motion of Mr. Eacott seconded Mr. Goldsmith it was decided to send a letter to Mr. Geo. Williamson sympathising with his indisposition. At the suggestion of the President it was decided to hold a Euchre Tournament soon.

**50 YEARS AGO** 9<sup>th</sup> April 1970.

A letter was received from Mrs. Strachan from Cohuna for a booking of the hall on Anzac Day for a family re-union. Secretary to write informing that a \$3-00 deposit was required, paid in advance. A long discussion was held about the hall key. It was decided it be left at the Colour Patch Cafe, with a \$1 key charge refunded on return of the key.



Well folks we have all been hit one way or another with this virus, a lot of us are confined to barracks. All those jobs that need to be done start to pall after a while, and we need a break from them. What to do? Your secretary has the answer. Read a book. Not just any book, but a real hard to put down book. A book that will totally immerse you in Castlemaine's glorious past. Once you start it nothing will get done, until the last page has is read, I promise you. The Title I hear you ask?

**THE ACCIDENTAL TOWN.**

Castlemaine, 1851-1861 written by one of our members Marjorie Theobald. Just as Marjorie was all set to have a public launch of her book. Wham, the dreaded virus struck and every thing went on hold. **But**, you can still get a copy of this cracker of a book direct from Marjorie, just give her a call on 0421 701 651. The cost is just \$30. I really do recommend this book to you, not only does it immerse you in those heady exciting days, it leaves you, with happy and proud feelings. Ed.

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and Old Residents' Association Inc.**

*Next Monthly Meeting:*

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**CANCELED** in fact all further meetings are on hold, until further notice (its the Coronavirus "you know Min, the virus")

# Henry Crumb from the Goon Show.

**Family and friends most welcome.**

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

